

LINDBERGH CASE STILL MYSTERY

Governor Hoffman Says "Books Are Still Open" In Hauptmann Case

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 18—(AP)—Governor Harold C. Hoffman reiterated belief today Bruno Richard Hauptmann's conviction did not "close the books" of the Lindbergh baby kidnap murder case.

Hauptmann, under sentence to die the week of Jan. 13 in the electric chair, is preparing a petition for clemency to the Court of Pardons, of which the governor is a member. The governor said the court may meet between Christmas and New Year's.

Questioned about his remarks at Allentown, Pa., last night where he was quoted as saying there were "a number of elements of doubt" in the case, Governor Hoffman said the "doubts" were raised by the defense and other persons and were not necessarily his own.

"You can't quote me," he said, "as saying there is any element of doubt as to Hauptmann's guilt. The courts have passed on that."

Pressed whether he believed the case had been fully solved, the governor, who visited Hauptmann in his death house cell two months ago, said emphatically:

"In my opinion it has not. No state official is warranted in thinking that it has and saying that the books are closed."