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This file was reviewed in response to the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018.

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Sep 18 2024

SHAW-WALKER 910-47432

Department of Justice

FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE

FOR
A
BY *Donna Henderson*
84,164
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BUREAU

FBI - CENTRAL RECORDS CENTER

HQ - HEADQUARTERS

Class / Case # Sub Vol. Serial #

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OPEN

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RRP003KTH0

62- HQ-102602

SERIALS 1-



62-HQ-102602-1A

SECTION 1

INVESTIGATION

SERIAL-30



MADE UP

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call 421

ATTENTION

The following documents appearing in FBI files have been reviewed under the provisions of The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552); Privacy Act of 1974 (PA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a); and/or Litigation.

☐ FOIA/PA☐ Litigation☐ Executive Order Applied

Requester: _____

Subject: _____

Computer or Case Identification Number: _____

Title of Case: _____ Section _____

* File _____

Serials Reviewed: _____

Release Location: *File _____ Section _____

This file section has been scanned into the FOIPA Document Processing System (FDPS) prior to National Security Classification review. Please see the documents located in the FDPS for current classification action, if warranted. Direct inquiries about the FDPS to RIDS Service Request Unit, 202-324-3773.

File Number: 62-HQ-102602 Section 1Serial(s) Reviewed: ALL

FOIPA Requester: _____

FOIPA Subject: HOWARD, THEODOREFOIPA Computer Number: 1021335

File Number: _____ Section _____

Serial(s) Reviewed: _____

FOIPA Requester: _____

FOIPA Subject: _____

FOIPA Computer Number: _____

File Number: _____ Section _____

Serial(s) Reviewed: _____

FOIPA Requester: _____

FOIPA Subject: _____

FOIPA Computer Number: _____

THIS FORM IS TO BE MAINTAINED AS THE TOP SERIAL OF THE FILE, BUT NOT SERIALIZED.

ATTENTION**DO NOT REMOVE FROM FILE**

ATTENTION

FILE SCANNED BY
DOCLAB ON 9-7-2021

FILE # 62-HQ-102602

SECTION 001

CURRENT LAST SERIAL IN SECTION 45

PLEASE PLACE ALL NEW MAIL AND/OR
EXISTING CHARGED OUT SERIALS ON TOP OF
THIS FORM

Please note that mail on TOP of this form may be out of

SEQUENTIAL ORDER

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: Sept. 26, 1955

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/tmf

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

The attached clipping from the Baltimore Morning Sun of September 26, 1955, reports the address of Dr. T. R. M. Howard, a Mississippi Negro leader who lambasted the Bureau and questioned the conduct of Southern Agents of the FBI and asserted that it is strange the FBI can never seem to work out who is responsible for killings of Negroes in the South. He referred to the Reverend Walter W. Lee and Lamar Smith cases which we investigated. Our reports were submitted to the Department and the Department ruled there was no Federal violation. He also referred to the Till case in which the Department ruled at the very outset that it was not a violation of Federal law.

I received a call from INS late Sunday night and stated that we would not comment. However, since INS had previously carried stories, I saw no reason why INS should not revive the stories on the Lee case and the Till case and point out that we did investigate the Lee case and the Department ruled there was no Federal violation and that we did not make an investigation of the Till case since the Department ruled there was no Federal violation.

This morning Jack Carley called me from Memphis. He was exercised and stated that he thought serious trouble was in the offing. I personally think we should make an issue out of Howard's statements. We can do this by one of two ways, either write a strong letter to the Executive Secretary of the NAACP and point out the exact facts and release this letter to the press or I could call Thurgood Marshall, who is familiar with the facts, and point out to Marshall that while we wish to avoid a public controversy with the NAACP, we must insist that the record be kept straight and see what Marshall's attitude is before clarifying the statement of Howard. If Marshall is not inclined to do anything, then we could issue a short statement to the press as to the two alternatives. I favor a strong letter to the Executive Secretary of the NAACP which could promptly be made public.

cc - Mr. Boardman
cc - Mr. Rosen
cc - Mr. Jones

Enclosure

LBN:ptm
(5)

RECORDED-92 SE-1762-102602
INDEXED-92

801-X suggest letter to Marshall.

Files are being checked on Howard

1 copy auto
10-12-55 (100)

9/30/55
9/29/55
Memo Jones to Marshall
with letter to Marshall
P.H.

FBI FILES

PROBE OF SOUTH'S FBI AGENTS ASKED

2,500 Hear Negro Leader
Who Figured In Till Case

Dr. T. R. M. Howard, Mississippi Negro leader who played a prominent role in the recent Emmett Till murder trial, yesterday called for an investigation into the conduct of Southern agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"It's getting to be a strange thing," said Dr. Howard, "that the FBI can never seem to work out who is responsible for killings of Negroes in the South."

Urges Conference

He made reference to the unsolved killings of the Rev. Walter W. Lee and Lamar Smith, both active in the movement to get more Mississippi Negroes to vote.

He urged that the President, the Attorney General "and J. Edgar Hoover, himself" be called into a conference by national Negro leaders.

"We must find out," he said, "why Southern investigators of the FBI can't seem to solve a crime where a Negro is involved."

Dr. Howard, who acted in a liaison capacity between some witnesses and the State's attorney of Sunflower county, Mississippi, during the Till trial, said, "The wave of terror has hit the South; it is in Mississippi."

He cited several examples of race difficulty which he claimed

(Continued on Page 17, Column 1)

PROBE OF FBI AGENTS ASKED

Negro Leader Refers To
Southern Ones In Talk

(Continued from Page 28)

represented daily happenings in Mississippi.

Dr. Howard told the audience of 2,500 attending the membership meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at the Sharp Street Methodist Church, that he is "a marked man."

"I keep two bodyguards on duty at my home 24-hours a day," he shouted in a heated speech given from the church's altar. He spoke for almost two hours.

Dr. Howard spoke bitterly of the difficulties Negro groups in Mississippi have in "just getting simple justice from State officials."

"A Roman Holiday"

He branded the charge that 14-year-old Emmett Till insulted the wife of a white store owner in Money, Miss., "a lie . . . that stinks."

"Everytime they get ready to lynch a Negro in the South, he told the group in what seemed to be a departure from a prepared script, "it's got to be about a white woman."

He described the Till trial, in which the two white defendants accused of killing the Chicago youth were acquitted, as "a Roman holiday."

Interrupted Frequently

Dr. Howard, frequently interrupted by comments from the audience, branded the newly formed Mississippi Citizen's Council as "the start of an organized campaign of violence."

In closing, Dr. Howard cited four points necessary to successful integration and desegregation. They were: Equality in education; unrestricted balloting; maintenance of racial identity, and religion.

He also asked for a \$5,000 donation to the N.A.A.C.P. to finance school desegregation court cases in Mississippi.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Sizoo _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

Wash. Post and Times Herald _____
Wash. News _____
Wash. Star _____
N. Y. Herald Tribune _____
N. Y. Mirror _____
Daily Worker _____
The Worker _____
New Leader _____
Baltimore Evening Sun 28 _____
Date **SEP 26 1955**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4bjt/f
#361841

ENCLOSURE

62-102602

Negro Leader Criticizes FBI Work in South

BALTIMORE, Sept. 26 (AP).—A Mississippi Negro leader who played a prominent role in the recent Emmett Till murder trial, has called for an investigation of the FBI's Southern agents.

"It's getting to be a strange thing," said Dr. T. R. M. Howard, "that the FBI can never seem to work out who is responsible for killings of Negroes in the South."

The speaker appeared before a meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People which drew 2,500 persons here yesterday.

Dr. Howard made references also to the unsolved killings of the Rev. Walter W. Rife and Lamar Smith, both active in a movement to get more Mississippi Negroes to vote.

He said he, himself, was a "marked man" and added that he kept "two bodyguards on duty at my home 24 hours a day."

In a heated two-hour speech, Dr. Howard urged that President Eisenhower, the Attorney General and FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover be called into a conference by national Negro leaders.

"We must find out why Southern investigators of the FBI can't seem to solve a crime where a Negro is involved," he said.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Sizoo _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy FWB

Wash. Post and Times Herald _____
Wash. News _____
Wash. Star B2 _____
N. Y. Herald Tribune _____
N. Y. Mirror _____
Daily Worker _____
The Worker _____
New Leader _____

Date SEP 26 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja tnf
#361841

62-102602 -1

ENCLOSURE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

DATE: September 26, 1955

FROM : M. A. Jones

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/tmfSUBJECT: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD
MR. THURGOOD MARSHALL
NAACP

Tolson	✓
Boardman	✓
Nichols	✓
Belmont	✓
Harbo	✓
Mohr	✓
Parsons	✓
Rosen	✓
Tamm	✓
Sizoo	✓
Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holloman	✓
Gandy	✓

There is attached a summary of information appearing in Bureau files concerning Dr. T. R. M. Howard. There is also attached a suggested letter to Mr. Thurgood Marshall of the NAACP.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be forwarded to Marshall.

Enclosures (2)

cc - Mr. Nichols

DGH:meb
(7)

RECORDED - 39

INDEXED-39

ADDENDUM, 9/29/55 FCS:mmh

During the last 10 fiscal years 86 convictions were obtained in civil rights cases. This figure, because it appears small, is not being used in Mr. Marshall's letter.

64 OCT 13 1955

62-102602-2
2 OCT 5 1955

CRIME REQ.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols *tnf*

DATE: September 26, 1955

FROM : M. A. Jones *✓*ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIEDDATE 9-5-96 BY SP4 bja tnf
*Summary*SUBJECT: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD
NEWSPAPER STORY IN BALTIMORE MORNING SUN
FOR SEPTEMBER 26, 1955
HEADLINED "PROBE OF SOUTH'S FBI AGENTS ASKED"

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

SYNOPSIS:

The story stated Dr. T. R. M. Howard, Mississippi Negro leader, called for an investigation into the conduct of Southern Agents of the FBI. Alleged they can never catch the persons responsible for the killing of Negroes in the South. He urged that the President, Attorney General "and J. Edgar Hoover himself" be called into a conference by national Negro leaders. Dr. Howard was speaking to an audience of 2500 people attending membership meeting of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at the Sharp Street Methodist Church. Bufiles reflect that as of April, 1946, Dr. T. R. M. Howard was Surgeon-in-Chief of the Howard Clinic at Mound Bayou, Mississippi. In April, 1955, secretary to Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr., of Michigan, contacted Bureau and advised the Congressman was speaking in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, before "Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership" on April 29, 1955. Congressman worried because he had heard allegations of "unrest" in that area. Asked for location of nearest FBI office in event of trouble and was furnished address of Memphis Office. We contacted Memphis Office, and they advised "Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership" organized in 1950, for purpose of teaching and encouraging Negroes to become better citizens and to do everything possible to better the position of the Negro. Dr. Howard of Mound Bayou was organizer and President since its organization. Dr. Howard, according to Memphis Office, also runs the Friendship Clinic, a hospital and insurance plan in Mississippi. No derogatory information in files of Memphis Office. In talk at Baltimore, Dr. Howard referred to Emmett Till, Reverend Lee and Lamar Smith Cases. Details of these cases and Bureau position in them set forth below. In connection with the Reverend Lee case, information was originally received that Dr. Howard had received threatening letter reminding him of the death of Lee and warning him to cease his activities regarding registration of Negro voters. Dr. Howard was interviewed May 9, 1955, by Bureau Agents and denied receiving any threats of this type prior to interview. While being interviewed, he allegedly received a phone call wherein caller asked Howard's view on integration and made the statement "You better go slow if you want to live long." In connection with Lee Case, also Department furnished memorandum prepared by Miss Ruby Hurley, Southeastern Regional Secretary of the NAACP to Mr. Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary, NAACP dated April 8, 1955, and captioned "Mississippi Situation." This memorandum contains the following paragraph: "I will not include the details of the part Dr. Howard has been and is playing in this matter, but I would recommend very strongly that extreme care be exercised in relations with him and that he not be called upon any more than absolutely necessary. He is not, nor do I believe he ever will be, a friend of the NAACP."

cc - Mr. Nichols

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948 DEC 11 1964

RECORDED - 39

INDEXED - 45

OCT 5 1955

DGHLMeb
(7)

Memorandum to Mr. Nichols

September 26, 1955

Howard also tried unsuccessfully to inject himself into the Till Case.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

✓
T. J.
van

DETAILS

BACKGROUND:

The "Baltimore Morning Sun" newspaper for September 26, 1955, carried a story headlined "Probe of South's FBI Agents Asked." The newspaper story stated that Dr. T. R. M. Howard, Mississippi Negro leader who played a prominent role in the recent Emmett Till murder trial had the previous day called for an investigation into the conduct of Southern Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Dr. Howard is quoted as stating, "It's getting to be a strange thing that the FBI can never seem to work out who is responsible for killings of Negroes in the South."

According to the story, Howard made reference to the unsolved killings of the Reverend Walter W. Lee and Lamar Smith, both active in the movement to get more Mississippi Negroes to vote. Dr. Howard urged that the President, the Attorney General "and J. Edgar Hoover, himself" be called into a conference by national Negro leaders.

Dr. Howard was speaking before an audience of 2,500 people attending the membership meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at the Sharp Street Methodist Church in Baltimore. He indicated that he is "a marked man" and keeps two bodyguards on duty twenty-four hours a day.

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

It is pointed out that on the name T. Howard there are more than one thousand references in bufiles. Accordingly, a search for purposes of this memorandum was limited to the full initials of Howard. A review of files of this search reflects the following information.

A summary of Intelligence information put out by the headquarters of the Second Service Command, Governors Island, New York, and dated April 1, 1946, under a subheading "Racial Situation" states that Representative Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., in communications to President Truman and others urged them not to alienate more Negro votes. Powell asserted that he was opposed to the Veterans' Administration's present plan of building a Veterans' facility in Mississippi. He urged, however, that since the Administration was determined to go through with the project that it be built in Mound Bayou. Powell quoted a letter he had received from Dr. T. R. M. Howard, Surgeon-in-Chief of the Howard Clinic at Mound Bayou, in which it was pointed out that no city in Mississippi offered the educational, health and recreational facilities that Mound Bayou offered. (100-7660-3758)

In a memorandum to Mr. Belmont dated April 28, 1955, and captioned "Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership, Internal Security - X," Mr. Cleveland advised that on that date Miss Quarker, Secretary to Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr., of Michigan telephonically

September 26, 1955

contacted Cleveland and advised that Congressman Diggs was leaving Washington that day for Mound Bayou, Mississippi, where he was scheduled to address the annual meeting of the Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership. Miss Quarker stated ten thousand people were expected to be present, and Congressman Diggs was worried as he had received reports from persons expressing concern regarding "pressure against Negro groups in that area." The Congressman wanted to know if we had any report of "unrest" in that area. Miss Quarker further advised that Congressman Diggs would speak on "Economic Security for the Mississippi Negro" and was concerned because she believed there was a state law in Mississippi against such speeches. Miss Quarker asked for the location of the nearest FBI office, and she was advised that the Memphis Office covered Mound Bayou.

Inasmuch as no information could be located in the files regarding the Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership, the Memphis Office was telephonically contacted and advised that this organization came into being in 1950, and had for its purpose the teaching and encouragement of Negroes to become better citizens and to do everything possible to better the position of the Negro. Dr. T. R. M. Howard of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, was the organizer of the organization and has been President since its organization. Memphis advised that Howard also runs the Friendship Clinic, a hospital and insurance plan in Mississippi. The organization claims ten thousand members in Mississippi, and there was no derogatory information concerning it in the files of the Memphis Office.

It is further noted that Diggs is Michigan's first Negro Representative, and after our call to Memphis, Miss Quarker was recontacted and advised the FBI had no information which would be helpful to Congressman Diggs. (105-37895)

The newspaper story referred to in the beginning of this memorandum mentioned the Reverend Lee and the Emmett Till cases. These cases are summarized below. In regard to these cases, it is noted that in connection with the Reverend George Wesley Lee case information was originally received that Dr. Howard of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, had received a threatening letter reminding him of the death of Lee and warning him to cease his activities regarding the registration of Negro voters. Dr. Howard upon interview stated he had not received any letter, note or any type of threat prior to the time he was interviewed by Agents on 5-9-55. While being interviewed by Bureau Agents, Dr. Howard received a call in which the caller allegedly asked Howard his views on integration and made the statement "you better go slow if you want to live long." The extortion matter was closed by the Department.

In ordering investigation of the George Wesley Lee matter the Department furnished to the Bureau correspondence which had been received from the NAACP. It is noted in a memorandum prepared by

September 26, 1955

Miss Ruby Hurley, Southeastern Regional Secretary of the NAACP, to Mr. Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary, NAACP, dated 4-8-55, and captioned "Mississippi Situation" reference is made to Dr. Howard. The memorandum contains the following paragraph: "I will not include the details of the part Dr. Howard has been and is playing in this matter, but I would recommend very strongly that extreme care be exercised in relations with him and that he not be called upon any more than absolutely necessary. He is not, nor do I believe he ever will be, a friend of the NAACP."

While Roy Bryant and Milam were being tried for the murder of Emmett Till, Dr. Howard notified state authorities he could produce witnesses to testify that Till had been slain near Drew, Mississippi. The trial was delayed while these witnesses were identified and their testimony considered. It is noted that Drew, Mississippi, was not in the jurisdiction of the court hearing the case against Bryant in Summer, Mississippi, and the witnesses apparently did not establish that the victim had actually been killed outside the jurisdiction of that court.

W.H.

CASES REFERRED TO BY DR. HOWARD:

Murder of Emmett Louis Till

Till, a Negro youth from Chicago, abducted from the home of his uncle near Money, Mississippi, on the early morning of 8-28-55, because of "ugly remarks" he had allegedly made to the wife of Roy Bryant, white. Body believed to be that of Till found in Tallahatchie River in Mississippi 8-31-55. Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, were indicted and tried for the murder of Till in State Court and were acquitted of the murder charge on 9-23-55. They are being held for arraignment on kidnaping charges in Leflore County, Mississippi. Upon receipt of information that Till's body had been recovered, the facts were immediately presented to the Civil Rights Section of the Department on 8-31-55, and the Bureau was advised no investigation was desired as the facts did not indicate a violation of any Federal statute. The Bureau has not conducted any investigation in this case.

Unknown Subjects;
Reverend George Wesley Lee - Victim
Civil Rights

On 5-7-55 Lee, a colored minister of Belzoni, Mississippi, was murdered. Allegations received that Lee killed because he refused to remove his name from list of registered voters. On 5-24-55 Criminal Division requested full investigation into death of victim Lee and limited investigation regarding alleged coercion against Negroes to cause them to remove their names from registration lists. All investigation requested by the Criminal Division has been completed and a final report reflecting attempts to interview possible subjects in the coercion against Negro voters in the presence of their attorneys furnished to Criminal Division by memorandum 9-16-55. On 9-26-55 Mr. Caldwell, Chief, Civil Rights Section, advised this matter was still under consideration and a final determination had not been made.

Two suspects developed and information received these individuals had been in a car similar to that used by the killers of Reverend Lee. No witnesses developed who could identify the suspects, Joe David Watson, Sr., and Marion Edward Ray, as being at scene of crime.

Noah Smith, et al;
Lamar "Ditney" Smith - Victim
Civil Rights

Victim Smith, a Negro, was active in the Mississippi Primary Elections in Lincoln County, Brookhaven, Mississippi. Victim Smith was shot and killed on 8-13-55, on the courthouse lawn following an alleged argument involving three white persons and himself concerning victim's activities in the election. Facts presented Criminal Division which advised no investigation to be conducted by the Bureau but local developments to be followed. Three individuals have been arrested and are presently at liberty on bond. State grand jury has heard portions of facts concerning this matter but has recessed and will consider further facts later.

PROBE OF SOUTH'S FBI AGENTS ASKED

2,500 Hear Negro Leader
Who Figured In Till Case

Dr. T. R. M. Howard, Mississippi Negro leader who played a prominent role in the recent Emmett Till murder trial, yesterday called for an investigation into the conduct of Southern agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"It's getting to be a strange thing," said Dr. Howard, "that the FBI can never seem to work out who is responsible for killings of Negroes in the South."

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He urged that the President, the Attorney General "and J. Edgar Hoover, himself" be called into a conference by national Negro leaders.

"We must find out," he said, "why Southern investigators of the FBI can't seem to solve a crime where a Negro is involved."

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He cited several examples of race difficulty which he claimed

(Continued on Page 17, Column 1)

PROBE OF FBI AGENTS ASKED

Negro Leader Refers To
Southern Ones In Talk

(Continued from Page 28)

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"I keep two bodyguards on duty at my home 24-hours a day," he shouted in a heated speech given from the church's altar. He spoke for almost two hours.

Dr. Howard spoke bitterly of the difficulties Negro groups in Mississippi have in "just getting simple justice from State officials."

"A Roman Holiday"

He branded the charge that 14-year-old Emmett Till insulted the wife of a white store owner in Money, Miss., "a lie . . . that stinks."

"Everytime they get ready to lynch a Negro in the South, he told the group in what seemed to be a departure from a prepared script, "it's got to be about a white woman."

He described the Till trial, in which the two white defendants accused of killing the Chicago youth were acquitted, as "a Roman holiday."

Interrupted Frequently

Dr. Howard, frequently interrupted by comments from the audience, branded the newly formed Mississippi Citizen's Council as "the start of an organized campaign of violence."

In closing, Dr. Howard cited four points necessary to successful integration and desegregation. They were: Equality in education; unrestricted balloting; maintenance of racial identity, and religion.

He also asked for a \$5,000 donation to the N.A.A.C.P. to finance school-desegregation court cases in Mississippi.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Sizoo _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

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Wash. News _____
Wash. Star _____
N. Y. Herald Tribune _____
N. Y. Mirror _____
Daily Worker _____
The Worker _____
New Leader _____
Baltimore Morning Sun 28
Date **SEP 26 1955**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4bjatnf

Jones to Nichols
9-26-55
DGN
WB TOHER

62-102602-2 ENCLOSURE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen *Rosen*

DATE: 9/26/55

FROM : F. L. Price *FLP*ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4 bja/tf

SUBJECT:

ALLEGATION AGAINST BUREAU
PERSONNEL BY DR. T. R. M. HOWARD,
SEPTEMBER 25, 1955.

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

The "Evening Star" of 9/26/55, reflects that Dr. Howard, Negro leader from Mississippi, in speaking before a meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Baltimore on 9/25/55, urged that President Eisenhower, the Attorney General and the Director be called into a conference by national Negro leaders because "We must find out why Southern investigators of the FBI can't seem to solve a crime where a Negro is involved." Dr. Howard further commented that it was strange "The FBI can never seem to work out who is responsible for killings of Negroes in the South." He made reference to the murder of Emmett Louis Till and the unsolved killings of "Reverend Walter W. Lee" (undoubtedly Reverend George Wesley Lee) and Lamar Smith, allegedly active in movement to get more Negroes in Mississippi to vote.

Murder of Emmett Louis Till

Till, a Negro youth from Chicago, abducted from the home of his uncle near Money, Mississippi, on the early morning of 8/28/55, because of "ugly remarks" he had allegedly made to the wife of Roy Bryant, white. Body believed to be that of Till found in Tallahatchie River in Mississippi 8/31/55. Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, were indicted and tried for the murder of Till in State Court and were acquitted of the murder charge on 9/23/55. They are being held for arraignment on kidnaping charges in Leflore County, Mississippi. Upon receipt of information that Till's body had been recovered, the facts were immediately presented to the Civil Rights Section of the Department on 8/31/55, and the Bureau was advised no investigation was desired as the facts did not indicate a violation of any Federal statute. The Bureau has not conducted any investigation in this case.

Unknown Subjects;

Reverend George Wesley Lee - Victim
Civil Rights

On 5/7/55, Lee, a colored minister of Belzoni, Mississippi, was murdered. Allegations received that Lee killed because he refused to remove his name from list of registered voters. On 5/24/55,

cc: Mr. Nichols

RECORDED - 14

CLM:ush

(7)

62-102602-3

7 OCT 11 1955

50 OCT 18 1955 9/26/55 CLM

EX-113

Handwritten initials and marks

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen

Criminal Division requested full investigation into death of victim Lee and limited investigation regarding alleged coercion against Negroes who caused them to remove their names from registration lists. All investigation requested by the Criminal Division has been completed and a final report reflecting attempts to interview possible subjects in the coercion against Negro voters in the presence of their attorneys furnished to Criminal Division by memorandum 9/16/55. On 9/26/55, Mr. Caldwell, Chief, Civil Rights Section, advised this matter was still under consideration and a final determination had not been made.

Two suspects developed and information received these individuals had been in a car similar to that used by the killers of Reverend Lee. No witnesses developed who could identify the suspects, Joe David Watson, Sr., and Marion Edward Ray, as being at scene of crime.

Noah Smith, et al;
Lamar "Ditney" Smith - Victim
Civil Rights

Victim Smith, a Negro, was active in the Mississippi Primary Elections in Lincoln County, Brookhaven, Mississippi. Victim Smith was shot and killed on 8/13/55, on the courthouse lawn following an alleged argument involving three white persons and himself concerning victim's activities in the election. Facts presented Criminal Division which advised no investigation to be conducted by the Bureau but local developments to be followed. Three individuals have been arrested and are presently at liberty on bond. State grand jury has heard portions of facts concerning this matter but has recessed and will consider further facts later.

Dr. T. R. M. Howard

It is noted that in connection with the Reverend George Wesley Lee case information was originally received that Dr. Howard of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, had received a threatening letter reminding him of the death of Lee and warning him to cease his activities regarding the registration of Negro voters. Dr. Howard upon interview stated he had not received any letter, note or any type of threat prior to the time he was interviewed by Agents on 5/9/55. While being interviewed by Bureau Agents, Dr. Howard received a phone call in which the caller allegedly asked Howard his views on integration and made the statement "you better go slow if you want to live long." The extortion matter was closed by the Department.

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen

In ordering investigation in the George Wesley Lee matter the Department furnished to the Bureau correspondence which had been received from the NAACP. It is noted in a memorandum prepared by Miss Ruby Hurley, Southeastern Regional Secretary of the NAACP, to Mr. Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary, NAACP, dated 4/8/55, and captioned "Mississippi Situation" reference is made to Dr. Howard. The memorandum contains the following paragraph: "I will not include the details of the part Dr. Howard has been and is playing in this matter, but I would recommend very strongly that extreme care be exercised in relations with him and that he not be called upon any more than absolutely necessary. He is not, nor do I believe he ever will be, a friend of the NAACP."

While Roy Bryant and Milam were being tried for the murder of Emmett Till, Dr. Howard notified state authorities he could produce witnesses to testify that Till had probably been slain ~~Drew, Mississippi~~. The trial was delayed while these witnesses were identified and their testimony considered. It is noted that Drew, Mississippi, was not in the jurisdiction of the court hearing the case against Bryant in Sumner, Mississippi, and the witnesses apparently did not establish that the victim had actually been killed outside the jurisdiction of that court.

Allegation Against FBI Personnel by
Ruby Hurley, Southeastern Regional
Secretary, NAACP, 9/7/55.

On 9/7/55, in a meeting at the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, Ruby Hurley allegedly remarked that there was an Agent in Mississippi in whom the colored people had no confidence and whom they would not contact. Inquiry was conducted into this matter and it was determined that the source of Miss Hurley's statement was Amzie Moore, President, Cleveland, Mississippi, Branch of the NAACP. On interview it was determined that Moore was referring to the late George Dewey Hall. Moore stated that at conference of the NAACP in either Alabama or Mississippi, he didn't recall which, discussion was held regarding the FBI's use of former police officers in conducting civil rights cases in Mississippi. He stated a question was raised whether such individuals could be impartial in conducting investigations and the meeting discussed making recommendation to the Department of Justice that the Bureau not use former police officers in conducting civil rights investigations in Mississippi but Moore was unable to advise whether any decision had been reached.

SKW
ch
RM

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen *Ruf*DATE: September 26, 1955 *✓*FROM : Mr. Price *Price*ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4bjatnf *✓*SUBJECT: ALLEGATION AGAINST BUREAU
PERSONNEL BY DR. T. R. M. HOWARD,
SEPTEMBER 25, 1955. *and*

Tolson	✓
Boardman	✓
Nichols	✓
Belmont	✓
Harbo	✓
Mohr	✓
Parsons	✓
Rosen	✓
Tamm	✓
Sizoo	✓
Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holloman	✓
Gandy	✓

SYNOPSIS:

On 9/25/55 at meeting of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Baltimore, Maryland, Dr. Howard, Negro leader from Mississippi, complained that Bureau never seems to be able to ascertain "who is responsible for killings of Negroes in the South." He made reference to the murder of Emmett Louis Till and the unsolved killings of Reverend Lee and Lamar Smith. *McGowan*

Till abducted on 8/28/55 allegedly for making ugly remarks to a white woman. Body believed to be that of Till recovered 8/31/55. Case handled by state authorities in Mississippi. No investigation conducted by FBI; Department advised no violation of any Federal statute. Reverend George Wesley Lee was murdered on 5/7/55 in Belzoni, Mississippi. Investigation conducted by Bureau. Last report sent to Criminal Division 9/16/55. Matter now under consideration and awaiting determination by Criminal Division. Two suspects were developed but witnesses could not identify them as being at the scene of the crime.

Lamar Smith killed 8/13/55, Brookhaven, Mississippi following argument involving three white persons and himself. Three individuals have been arrested. No investigation by the Bureau but local developments being followed.

In connection with the Reverend Lee case information received that Dr. Howard had received threatening letter but upon interview Howard denied having received any type of threat except telephone call which occurred on 5/9/55 while Agents visiting Dr. Howard. Ruby Hurley, Southeastern Regional Secretary of NAACP in memorandum to Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary, NAACP, dated 4/8/55, recommended that extreme care be exercised in relations with Dr. Howard as he was not believed to be a friend of NAACP.

On 9/7/55 in conference at Criminal Division Ruby Hurley, Southeastern Regional Secretary, NAACP, alleged Negro people in

Enclosure

CLM:BMM

(7)

cc: Mr. Nichols

RECORDED - 14

EX - 113

7 OCT 11 1955

71 OCT 18 1955

— C —

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen

Mississippi did not have confidence in one Agent. Inquiry conducted into this reflected that NAACP had considered making recommendation to Department of Justice that Bureau not use former police officers in conducting Civil Rights investigations in Mississippi. No information developed as to whether any decision received at that point.

Enclosed is a detailed memorandum regarding the above-mentioned matters.

ACTION:

As the Crime Records Section is preparing a letter of protest to Dr. Thurgood Marshall, general counsel, NAACP, regarding remarks made by Dr. Howard, a copy of the detailed information has been furnished to the Crime Records Section for its assistance.

Since Criminal Division had not furnished final opinion in the case involving victim Lee, Mr. A. B. Caldwell, Chief, Civil Rights Section, was contacted on 9/26/55. Mr. Caldwell stated that the matter was still under consideration by the Criminal Division.

Chen
RW
gmm
Bar

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Roach
Mr. Hallerberg

62-102602

October 24, 1955

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable Sherman Adams
The Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED BY Sp4 bja tnf
ON 9-4-96

My dear Mr. Adams:

This is to confirm the information telephonically furnished to Mr. J. William Barba on October 22, 1955, regarding Dr. T. R. M. Howard.

Dr. T. R. M. Howard is a Mississippi Negro leader. In April, 1946, Dr. Howard was Surgeon-in-Chief of the Howard Clinic at Mound Bayou, Mississippi. In 1950, Dr. Howard organized the "Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership" for the purpose of teaching and encouraging Negroes to become better citizens and to do everything possible to better the position of the Negro. Dr. Howard has been president of the above organization since 1950. Dr. Howard also runs the "Friendship Clinic," a hospital and insurance plan in Mississippi.

According to the "Baltimore Morning Sun," Baltimore, Maryland, newspaper dated September 26, 1955, Dr. Howard addressed 2,500 persons attending the membership meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at the Sharp Street Methodist Church, Baltimore, Maryland, during which he made reference to unsolved killings of Reverend Walter W. Lee and Lamar Smith, both active in the movement to get more Mississippi Negroes to vote. Dr. Howard urged that President Eisenhower, the Attorney General and FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover be called into a conference by national Negro leaders.

Sincerely yours, 27 OCT 27 1955
J. Edgar Hoover

cc - 105-378958 VN .22

NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE 2.

RHH:ejf:gft
(7)

66 NOV 1 1955 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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BY COURIER SVC.

62 OCT 25

COMM - FBI

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 105-37895-5

Letter to Honorable Sherman Adams
The Assistant to the President

NOTE: ON YELLOW:

Mr. Barba called the Bureau at 10:01 A.M. on October 22, 1955, and stated that the White House had received a telegram to the effect that in view of the tense Negro situation in Mississippi a delegation including the sender of the telegram requested an appointment in the near future with Mr. Sherman Adams, Vice President Nixon and Attorney General Brownell to discuss the Negro situation in Mississippi. The telegram was signed "T. R. M. Howard, M.D., President Elect, National Medical Association, also President of Mississippi Regional Council of Negro leadership, Mound Bayou, Mississippi."

The Attorney General

December 13, 1955

62-102602-6

Director, FBI

RECORDED - 26

DR. T. R. M. HOWARD

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/tmf

I thought you would be interested in a news release of the Washington City News Service of December 10, 1955, which I am quoting below.

"Sumner, Miss. --The Regional Council of Negro Leadership prepared to confer with Attorney General Brownell in Washington about acts of violence against their race in Mississippi.

"Dr. T. R. M. Howard, conducting conference preparations at the nearby all-Negro community of Mound Bayou, said his group will discuss five unpunished race slayings.

"Howard said plans for the conference to be held with Brownell in January will be completed later this month.

"Heading the list of grievances will be the sensational 'wolf whistle' kidnap-murder of Emmett Till, 14-year-old Negro boy from Chicago who was visiting in adjoining Leflore County.

"Two other cases have occurred since Till's death aroused world-wide indignation against the State of Mississippi and are still being actively investigated.

"They are the slaying of Negro Clinton Melton of Glendora and the shooting and wounding of Gus Courts, a Negro Civil Rights leader of Belzoni, Miss.

"The list of unsolved race incidents also includes the slayings of Lamar Smith, a Negro political figure in Brookhaven and the Rev. George Lee, a Negro Civil Rights leader of Belzoni.

"The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People issued a statement saying Melton's death confirms its belief that some whites in Mississippi feel they can shoot down Negroes with immunity."

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COMM - FBI

DEC 13 1955

MAILED 20

Memorandum to the Attorney General

December 13, 1955

In regard to this item, the files of this Bureau reflect that the Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership was organized in 1950 for the purpose of teaching and encouraging Negroes to become better citizens and to do everything possible to better the position of the Negro. Dr. Howard of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, was the organizer of the Council and has been president of it since its organization. Dr. Howard operates a clinic and insurance plan in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, which is an all-Negro town.

Dr. Howard has in the past made public statements which indicate animosity on his part toward this Bureau and the Department of Justice. The "Baltimore Morning Sun" newspaper for September 26, 1955, carried a story headlined, "Probe of South's FBI Agents Asked." This newspaper story stated that Dr. T. R. M. Howard, Mississippi Negro leader, who played a prime role in the Emmett Till murder trial, had the previous day called for an investigation into the conduct of Southern Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Dr. Howard is quoted as stating, "It is getting to be a strange thing that the FBI can never seem to work out who is responsible for killings of Negroes in the South."

According to the story, Howard made reference to the unsolved killings of the Reverend Walter W. Lee and Lamar Smith, both active in the movement to get more Mississippi Negroes to vote. Dr. Howard urged that the President, the Attorney General and "J. Edgar Hoover himself" be called into a conference by national Negro leaders.

Dr. Howard was speaking before an audience of 2,500 people attending a membership meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at the Sharp Street Methodist Church in Baltimore.

In view of the unfair allegations concerning this Bureau made in Dr. Howard's speech, I wrote a detailed letter to Mr. Thurgood Marshall of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in New York. I am attaching a copy of this letter for your information and, as you will note, the letter covers the Bureau's position in the Reverend Lee, Lamar Smith and Emmett Till cases which are mentioned in the news item quoted above.

The news item quoted also mentions two more recent cases, the Clinton Melton and Gus Courts cases. For your information, this Bureau conducted no investigation concerning the Clinton Melton case, inasmuch as there was no jurisdiction, and an individual is now

Memorandum to the Attorney General

December 13, 1955

being held on a murder charge by state authorities in connection with this matter. In connection with the Gus Courts case, this Bureau is currently conducting a limited preliminary investigation at the request of the Department.

I thought you would want to be made aware of the above, and for your confidential information, reports have come to our attention which are unverified to the effect that some leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People feel that the activities of Dr. Howard are not in the best interests of the Association.

 Enclosure

cc - Mr. William P. Rogers (with copy of enclosure)
Deputy Attorney General

cc - Assistant Attorney General (with copy of enclosure)
Warren Olney III

NOTE: In connection with the news item quoted in this memorandum, the Director noted, "Is this the same who lied re FBI? If so send memo to A.G., Rogers and Olney." Inasmuch as Howard is identical with the subject of the Director's inquiry, the above information is being furnished to the Attorney General and Mr. Rogers and Mr. Olney.

DGH:nma:rcw

((7)) 

Mr. Tolson ☒
 Mr. Boardman ☒
 Mr. Nichols ☒
 Mr. Belmont ☒
 Mr. Harbo ☒
 Mr. Mohr ☒
 Mr. Parsons ☒
 Mr. Rosen ☒
 Mr. Tamm ☒
 Mr. Sizoo ☒
 Mr. Winterrowd ☒
 Tele. Room ☒
 Mr. Holloman ☒
 Miss Gandy ☒

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/nf

*Is this the same who
 lived in FBI? If so
 send memo to a.g.; Rogers &
 Olney. &*

(VIOLENCE)

SUMNER, MISS.--THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO LEADERSHIP PREPARED TO CONFER WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL BROWNELL IN WASHINGTON ABOUT ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THEIR RACE IN MISSISSIPPI.

DR. T.R.M. HOWARD, CONDUCTING CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS AT THE NEARBY ALL-NEGRO COMMUNITY OF MOUND BAYOU, SAID HIS GROUP WILL DISCUSS FIVE UNPUNISHED RACE SLAYINGS.

HOWARD SAID PLANS FOR THE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD WITH BROWNELL IN JANUARY WILL BE COMPLETED LATER THIS MONTH.

HEADING THE LIST OF GRIEVANCES WILL BE THE SENSATIONAL "WOLF WHISTLE" KIDNAP-MURDER OF EMMETT TILL, 14-YEAR-OLD NEGRO BOY FROM CHICAGO WHO WAS VISITING IN ADJOINING LEFLORE COUNTY.

TWO OTHER CASES HAVE OCCURRED SINCE TILL'S DEATH AROUSED WORLD-WIDE INDIGNATION AGAINST THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND ARE STILL BEING ACTIVELY INVESTIGATED.

THEY ARE THE SLAYING OF NEGRO CLINTON MELTON OF GLENDORA AND THE SHOOTING AND WOUNDING OF GUS COURTS, A NEGRO CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER OF BELZONI, MISS.

THE LIST OF UNSOLVED RACE INCIDENTS ALSO INCLUDES THE SLAYINGS OF LAMAR SMITH, A NEGRO POLITICAL FIGURE IN BROOKHAVEN, AND THE REV. GEORGE LEE, A NEGRO CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER OF BELZONI.

THE NATIONAL ASSN. FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING MELTON'S DEATH CONFIRMS ITS BELIEF THAT SOME WHITES IN MISSISSIPPI FEEL THEY CAN SHOOT DOWN NEGROES WITH IMMUNITY.

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EX-107

62-102602-6

10 DEC 28 1955

The Attorney General

January 16, 1956

Director, FBI

DR. T. R. M. HOWARD
MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I am sending today to Doctor T. R. M. Howard, Mound Bayou, Mississippi, as a result of his continued practice of issuing false statements pertaining to the FBI. In view of the fact that his false charges have been widely publicized, it is contemplated that copies of my letter will be made available to the local press in line with the discussion between Mr. L. B. Nichols of my office and Mr. Mullen.

Enclosure

cc - Mr. William P. Rogers (with enclosure)
Deputy Attorney General

Assistant Attorney General (with enclosure)
Warren Olney III

Mr. G. Frederick Mullen (with enclosure)
Director of Public Information

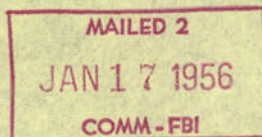
LBN:fc
(10)

cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Jones

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja tnf

Cover memo to Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols, LBN:fc, 1/16/56.

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EX-121

17 JAN 18 1956

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SAC, Memphis

January 16, 1956

Director, FBI

PERSONAL ATTENTION

DR. T. R. M. HOWARD
MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

32
33
I am transmitting herewith copies of a letter which I am sending to Dr. T. R. M. Howard, Mound Bayou, Mississippi, complaining about misstatements which he made and which have been widely publicized. It is desired that a copy of my letter be made available to the Memphis Commercial Appeal on the late afternoon of Wednesday, January 18, 1956, for release in the a. m. paper of Thursday, January 19, 1956. Copies of the letter can also be made available to the other newspapers in Memphis and to the wire service in Memphis as it is not contemplated to release the letter here in Washington.

A copy of this communication is also being directed to the Special Agent in Charge in New Orleans with a copy of the letter to Dr. Howard which will be available in the event the New Orleans Office receives inquiries. There will be no objections to the New Orleans Office releasing the letter.

Enclosures (4)

cc - SAC, New Orleans (enclosure)

cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Jones

LBN:fc
(8)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja tn f

62-102602-8

RECORDED - 91

20 JAN 17 1956

EX-126

cover memo to Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols, LBN:fc 1/16/56.

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JAN 16 1956
COMM - FBI

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FBI
JAN 16 5 13 PM '56

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson ✓

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD

DATE: January 19, 1956

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Belmont _____

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With reference to the letter of January 16th to Dr. Howard, I discussed with both ASAC Halter of Memphis and ASAC Felt of New Orleans the matter of handling the Howard letter. I also authorized Halter to furnish a copy of the letter to the Resident Agents at Tupelo, Columbus, Greenwood, Clarksdale and Greenville, Mississippi, and to advise the Resident Agents that if the local press should ask them for a copy of the full text, it would be permissible to furnish it for release to the Thursday a.m. papers, January 19th.

Jack Carley called and we talked about the Howard letter and Jack was very happy that we were following the course of action we are and in effect stated he would suggest handling just as we are.

cc - Mr. Boardman
cc - Mr. Rosen
cc - Mr. Jones

LBN:ptm
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja tnf

RECEIVED - NICHOLS

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62-102602

9

EX-125

17 JAN 23 1956

60 JAN 25 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols *WTF*

FROM : M. A. Jones *MAJ*

SUBJECT: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD *①*

DATE: January 9, 1956 *✓*

Tolson _____

Boardman *✓*

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Belmont _____

Harbo _____

Mohr _____

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Tele. Room _____

Holloman _____

Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja tnf

SYNOPSIS:

T. R. M.Summary

ILL. Md.

Dr. Howard runs clinic and insurance plan in all-Negro town of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. Howard in 1950 organized Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership and has been its president since inception. Howard has been critical of the FBI in speeches. Baltimore Morning Sun newspaper September 26, 1955, carried story headlined, "Probe of South's FBI Agents Asked." Dr. Howard quoted as stating, "It's getting to be a strange thing that the FBI can never seem to work out who's responsible for killings of Negroes in the South." Suggested President, the Attorney General and "J. Edgar Hoover himself" be called into a conference by national Negro leaders. Howard was talking before the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). As a result of this, we wrote to Thurgood Marshall of the NAACP, and advised him Howard's statements showed total disregard of the facts. Indications are some of leadership of NAACP do not trust Howard. News release 12-10-55 reflects Regional Council of Negro Leadership planning to confer with Attorney General sometime in January, 1956. We advised the Attorney General to this effect and also furnished him background of Howard. Howard on December 28, 1955, in speaking before Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity convention in Chicago again criticized FBI stating, "Confidential information usually leaks from the local FBI offices and witnesses in Negro slaying are subjected to pressures as a result." It is believed we should take strong exception to Dr. Howard's statements, particularly that alleging a leak from FBI offices. It is felt we should write him a strong letter with the thought in mind that this letter can be published and will clarify the Bureau's position on civil rights matters, particularly in Mississippi as far as the public is concerned.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) That we consider the advisability of writing a strong letter to Dr. Howard taking exception to his various remarks concerning the Bureau. If you agree, a proposed letter is attached.

Enclosure

EX-125

DGH:nma

RECORDED - 3

17 JAN 20 1956

64 JAN 24 1956

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memo to Mr. Tolson from LBN, 1/16/56
let to Dr. Howard, Thurgood Marshall, + AM, 1/16/56
SAC, Memphis

January 9, 1956

(2) That if we forward this letter to Dr. Howard we also consider the advisability of releasing it to Southern newspapers.

ADDENDUM, LBN:gjm:1-12-56

(1) I recommend that the letter to Dr. Howard be cleared with Mullen and that Mullen be advised that we contemplate releasing it to the press in the South.

(2) I recommend that we send copies of this letter to our Memphis Office and permit the Memphis Office to release the letter to the Memphis Commercial Appeal, other Memphis papers, and the wire services in Memphis one day after the letter would normally be received by Dr. Howard. If this is approved, we would have to check the mail schedules and fix the time of release.

(3) I think we should send a copy of this letter to Thurgood Marshall, of the NAACP in New York, at the time we send it to Dr. Howard.

*I think this is
worth while.
If approved,
the letter should
be redated
and cleared
with Mullen*

1-14

*with
Clear Mullen &
then let me know.
H.*

January 5, 1956

DETAILSPURPOSE:

To set forth salient information concerning captioned individual and derogatory remarks he has made concerning the FBI and to recommend that we consider the advisability of writing to Dr. Howard. interviewed concerning the remarks he has made in the past.

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Howard is a Negro doctor from the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. He runs a clinic and insurance plan in Mound Bayou. In 1950, he organized the Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership which has for its purpose the teaching and encouragement of Negroes to become better citizens and to do everything possible to better the position of the Negro. Dr. Howard has been president of the Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership since its organization in 1950.

According to newspaper articles, Dr. Howard has been giving numerous speeches throughout the country which have been critical of the situation in Mississippi and which have been critical of the FBI.

The Baltimore Morning Sun newspaper for September 26, 1955, carried a story headlined, "Probe of South's FBI Agents Asked." The newspaper story stated that Dr. T. R. M. Howard, Mississippi Negro leader who played a prominent role in the recent Emmett Till murder trial, had the previous day called for an investigation into the conduct of Southern Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Dr. Howard is quoted as stating, "It's getting to be a strange thing that the FBI can never seem to work out who's responsible for killings of Negroes in the South."

According to the story, Howard made reference to the unsolved killings of the Reverend Walter W. Lee and Lamar Smith, both active in the move to get Mississippi Negroes to vote. Dr. Howard urged that the President, the Attorney General and "J. Edgar Hoover himself" be called into a conference by national Negro leaders. Dr. Howard was speaking before an audience of 2,500 people attending the membership meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) at the Sharp Street Methodist Church in Baltimore. He indicated that he is "a marked man" and keeps two body guards on duty 24 hours a day.

January 5, 1956

As a result of this news article, we wrote a lengthy letter to Mr. Thurgood Marshall of the NAACP and pointed out to Marshall Bureau policy in civil rights matters and pointed out the actual facts in the killings referred to by Howard in his speech. Marshall was advised that the statements of Dr. Howard criticizing the FBI showed a total disregard of the facts.

In connection with Howard's appearance before the NAACP, it is noted that in ordering investigation of the George Wesley Lee case the Department furnished to the Bureau correspondence which had been received from the NAACP. It is noted in a memorandum prepared by Miss Ruby Hurley, Southern Regional Secretary of the NAACP to Mr. Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary of NAACP, dated 4-8-55 and captioned "Mississippi Situation," reference is made to Dr. Howard. The memorandum contains the following paragraph:

"I will not include the details of the part Dr. Howard has been and is playing in this matter, but I would recommend very strongly that extreme care be exercised in relations with him and that he not be called upon any more than absolutely necessary. He is not, nor do I believe he ever will be, a friend of the NAACP."

A Washington City News Service release of December 10, 1955, stated that the Regional Council of Negro Leadership prepared to confer with Attorney General Brownell in Washington about acts of violence against their race in Mississippi. The item stated Dr. T. R. M. Howard, conducting conference preparations at the nearby all-Negro community of Mound Bayou, said his group would discuss 5 unpunished race slayings. Howard said plans for the conference to be held with the Attorney General in January would be completed later on in the month.

By memorandum dated December 13, 1955, we advised the Attorney General of the details of this news release and also set forth salient background concerning Dr. Howard and the Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership. We also advised the Attorney General of the details of Howard's talk in Baltimore, details of which are set forth above.

The Chicago American newspaper for December 28, 1955, carried a news item headlined, "FBI 'Leaks' Hit in Till Acquittals." The story stated that Mississippi's acquittal of two white men in the slaying of Emmett Till was denounced that day by Dr. Howard who was in Chicago to receive a civil rights award at the Trianon Ballroom that night from Alpha Phi Alpha Negro Fraternity. According to the news article, Dr. Howard criticizes the FBI in respect to its operations in Mississippi and stated, "Confidential information usually leaks from the local FBI offices and witnesses in Negro slaying are subjected to pressures as a result."

[redacted]ary 9, 1956

OBSERVATIONS:

It is apparent from the information set forth above that Dr. Howard is antagonistic toward the Bureau and our investigation of civil rights matters. It is also obvious that he does not know what he is talking about and makes unfounded statements. From the information set forth above concerning the memorandum from Miss Ruby Hurley to Roy Wilkins, it is apparent that he is not in good standing with the leadership of the NAACP. It is noted that Dr. Howard was interviewed by Bureau Agents on May 9, 1955, in connection with the Reverend George Wesley Lee case. He was interviewed because investigation reflected that Howard had allegedly received a threatening letter reminding him of the death of Lee and warning him to cease his activities regarding the registration of Negro voters. Dr. Howard upon interview stated he had not received any letter, note or any type of threat prior to the time he was interviewed by the Agents. While being interviewed, Dr. Howard received a telephone call in which the caller allegedly asked Howard his views on integration and made the statement, "You better go slow if you want to live long." The extortion case was closed by the Department.

Dr. Howard's unfounded allegations concerning the FBI received considerable publicity and undoubtedly influences a number of Negroes in their feelings toward the FBI. This is evidenced by the fact that after his talk before Alpha Phi Alpha in Chicago, you will recall that we received a lengthy day letter from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., dated December 31, 1955, calling upon the Director to take action to protect the rights of Negroes and to investigate atrocities, particularly in Mississippi. We forwarded this lengthy day letter to the Attorney General together with a copy of our telegram to Alpha Phi Alpha in which we merely set forth Bureau policy in civil rights matters and suggested to Alpha Phi Alpha that if any individual members of the organization had specific information concerning civil rights violations they should not hesitate to contact our nearest field office. It is felt that such pressure will increase if Dr. Howard is allowed to go uncurbed and, therefore, the recommendation is being made that we write him a strong letter setting him straight and giving him the true facts. This letter should be written in such a way that it can be released to the newspaper media to clarify the Bureau's position as far as civil rights matters are concerned, particularly with reference to the Mississippi "atrocities" cases.

Obv
in
book
QW

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

FROM : *[Signature]* L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD

DATE: 1/16/56 *[Signature]*

Tolson ☒

Boardman ☒

Nichols ☒

Belmont ☐

Harbo ☐

Mohr ☐

Parsons ☐

Rosen ☐

Tamm ☐

Sizoo ☐

Winterrowd ☐

Tele. Room ☐

Holloman ☐

Gandy ☐

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja trf

With reference to Mr. Jones' memorandum of 1/9/56, and my suggestion on the release of the letter addressed to Dr. T. R. M. Howard pertaining to his misstatements regarding the FBI, I wish to advise that I discussed the matter with Mr. Mullen. Mullen thinks that it is necessary to show Howard up as a phony and one who misrepresents the facts. Mullen thought our letter was good and that our idea of releasing the letter to the press in the South was good. Mullen suggested that the last sentence in our letter, "On the other hand, in the event you did not make such statements and was misquoted by the press, I feel that you should have had the decency to set the record straight in each instance," not be included as it would give ideas to Howard and the press might get the opinion that we had some doubt. He stated that if in fact Howard had been misquoted let him raise the issue and let him become embroiled in controversy with the press.

I think that perhaps Mullen is correct because in our letter we do quote the press as the source of the statements of which we complain. Mullen asked if he could have a copy to show to the Attorney General. I told him we would be glad to send the Attorney General a copy and would also send him a copy.

If the letter were mailed tonight and went by regular mail, it should arrive in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, on Wednesday morning. I, therefore, propose that we release this letter Wednesday afternoon for a.m. papers on Thursday, 1/19/56. A letter is attached to the Memphis Office transmitting copies of the letter. There is also a letter attached to Thurgood Marshall with a copy of the letter to Howard. Also attached is a memorandum to the Attorney General, with a copy for Rogers, Olney and Mullen, transmitting a copy of the letter to Dr. Howard. If the foregoing is approved, I will also talk to the Special Agent in Charge in Memphis to be sure that the matter is handled properly.

Enclosures

cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Jones

LBN:fc
(5)

64 JAN 24 1956

RECORDED -4

62-102602-11

JAN 23 1956

CRIME RECORDS

G. I. R. - J

The Attorney General

January 23, 1956

Director, FBI

DR. T. R. M. HOWARD
MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

cc 5-1

I thought you would be interested in the attached editorials which appeared in "The Atlanta Constitution," Atlanta, Georgia, and "The Commercial Appeal," Memphis, Tennessee, on Friday, January 20, 1956.

My memoranda to you dated December 13, 1955, and January 16, 1956, contain background information concerning the unfounded charges made by Dr. Howard against this Bureau.

Enclosures (2)

cc - The Solicitor General (with copy of enclosures)

cc - Mr. William P. Rogers (with copy of enclosures)
Deputy Attorney General

cc - Mr. Rosen (with copy of enclosures)

cc - Mr. Nichols (with copy of enclosures)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/tf

GMP:grs
(11)

NOTE: The Director instructed that copies of these editorials be sent to The Attorney General, Mr. Rogers, and Mr. Sobeloff.

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Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

COMM - FBI
JAN 23 1956
MAILED 19

JAN 26 1956

RECORDED-68

17 JAN 25 1956

62-102602-12

Hoover Defends FBI Against Unjust Charges

The Negro civil rights leader in Mississippi who censured the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its role in probing Negro slayings has been called to task by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, who declares the charges demonstrate gross misinformation or irresponsibility. Mr. Hoover's statement seems to us entirely proper.

Mr. Hoover pointed out that one duty of his organization is to investigate alleged civil rights violations and to report its findings to the criminal division of the Justice Department. He said, too, that the FBI "is doing everything within the scope of existing legislation in civil rights matters."

Criticized in Mississippi for alleged laxity and inefficiency, the same FBI has been severely condemned in Georgia for its investigation of alleged civil rights violations in the workings of the Cobb County jury selection system. In the latter case, reliable sources indicate that when the FBI report on the probe is made public, it will be that the investigators found no evidence to support the charges.

In each case, the FBI was acting on orders and within the framework of the law.

As Director Hoover said in his answer to the Mississippi Negro's allegations, fair and prompt investigations by the FBI have done much to increase public respect for and consciousness of civil rights.

* * *

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja tnf

62-102602-12
ENCLOSURE

memo. AG
1-23-56
gmp

Qualifies As Reckless

Published statements attributed to Dr. T. R. M. HOWARD, Mound Bayou, Miss., Negro physician, criticizing Federal Bureau of Investigation handling of so-called "civil rights" cases has brought an unequivocal demand from FBI Director HOOVER that he produce proof or make public retraction.

Mr. HOOVER chose what for him is the rare method of making public an official letter in which he took up, point by point, the quoted criticisms attributed to Dr. HOWARD by the media in which published.

The FBI director labels the HOWARD statements as "irresponsible" and "intemperate and baseless."

In a telephonic conversation with this newspaper Wednesday night, Dr. HOWARD denied that he had said anything about FBI "leaks" in the EMMETT TILL case. "If the FBI even entered the TILL case I don't know about it," he said. The FBI will probably refresh his memory.

On Dec. 28 last The Chicago American published a news story about the Mound Bayou doctor being in Chicago and said:

"Dr. HOWARD, who is here to receive a civil rights award . . . criticized the Federal Bureau of Investigation in respect to its operations in Mississippi. Dr. HOWARD said: 'Confidential information usually leaks from the local FBI offices and witnesses in Negro slayings are subjected to pressures as a result.' The rest of The American's story on Dr. HOWARD was devoted to his comments on the TILL case.

There is no qualification in Dr. HOWARD's quoted remark that "confidential information usually leaks from FBI offices," and Mr. HOOVER will not be blamed for interpreting the statement as a very serious reflection on the FBI's integrity. He is known to be willing to take on any and all comers and no holds barred when his integrity is challenged.

On the basis of the quotations, Dr. HOWARD qualifies as being completely reckless as well as "irresponsible." The FBI has proved its ability to take care of itself when integrity and efficiency have been challenged. The Mound Bayou physician has taken on a large order.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4bjt/nf

62-102602-12
ENCLOSURE

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL, MEMPHIS,

JANUARY 20, 1956

memo - AG
1-23-56
gmp

January 16, 1956

Dr. T. R. M. Howard
Mound Bayou, Mississippi

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Spubja tn

Dear Sir:

During recent months, a number of newspaper articles have come to my attention which attribute to you statements concerning the functions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Your statements as reported by the press pertaining to the FBI reflect a complete disregard of the facts on your part. You, as an American citizen, have every right to express yourself as you see fit; however, I do not feel that you have any right whatsoever to be wrong in your facts, particularly when they are used in public statements concerning serious matters. Let me cite a few specific instances to illustrate my point.

The "Baltimore Morning Sun" newspaper, issue of September 26, 1955, carried a news story headlined "Probe of South's FBI Agents Asked." This story contained certain erroneous statements which you made before a membership meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at the Sharp Street Methodist Church in Baltimore. You were quoted as stating, "We must find out why Southern investigators of the FBI can't seem to solve a crime where a Negro is involved." You made these statements in connection with the slayings of Emmett Till, Reverend George Wesley Lee and Lamar Smith.

For your information, this Bureau upon instructions of the Civil Rights Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice conducts a preliminary inquiry immediately upon the receipt of information alleging a civil rights violation, and the facts are sub-

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Gandy

NOTE: See Jones to Nichols memo 1-9-56 re "Dr. T. R. M. Howard."

(Note continued on page 3)

68 JAN 27 1956

January 16, 1956

mitted to the Department of Justice for its determination as to prosecution or further investigative action. Full investigations in civil rights cases are conducted only at the direction of the Department of Justice. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is not a policy-making organization, and we merely conduct a fair and impartial investigation and submit the results of such investigation to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. This Bureau is doing everything within the scope of existing legislation in civil rights matters, and our fair and prompt investigations have done much to increase public respect for and consciousness of civil rights. You seem to have conveniently forgotten the work of this Bureau which was largely responsible for the virtual elimination of lynchings in the South and also was mainly responsible for the breaking up of the Ku Klux Klan in the Carolinas and Georgia.

In regard to the specific cases which you mentioned in your talk in Baltimore, I would like you to be aware of the Bureau's position in each instance. As you will recall, when the body of Emmett Till was found in the Tallahatchie River in Mississippi on August 31, 1955, the available facts concerning this case were presented to the Civil Rights Section of the Department of Justice by this Bureau. The Department advised the facts did not indicate a violation of any Federal statute and, accordingly, this Bureau did not conduct any investigation in this case.

In the Reverend Lee case, you will recall that Reverend Lee was killed on May 7, 1955. The Criminal Division of the Department of Justice requested full investigation into the death of Reverend Lee. Such an investigation was immediately conducted by Agents of this Bureau, and the facts as developed were submitted to the Department of Justice.

In connection with the Lamar Smith case, the facts surrounding this matter were presented to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice which advised no investigation should be conducted by this Bureau.

The "Chicago American" on December 28, 1955, carried a news story entitled "FBI 'Leaks' Hit in Till Acquittals." According to the news story, you stated, "Confidential information usually leaks from the local FBI offices and witnesses in Negro slaying are subjected to pressures as a result." As you undoubtedly know, information contained in the files of this Bureau is confidential in nature, and I am deeply concerned as your statement contains a very serious charge. If you have evidence of such a grave dereliction of

Dr. T. R. M. Howard

January 16, 1956

duty, then it is your duty to call it to the attention of the responsible officials of either the FBI or the Department of Justice. From the information available to me, I know of no such incident, and therefore I feel compelled to request that you submit such evidence as you have to sustain your irresponsible charge or that you issue a public retraction.

Irresponsible and false charges can serve no useful purpose in this critical period. In fact, they are a disservice to common decency, and I do not propose to permit false charges made against this Bureau to go unchallenged.

If you were interested in the truth as to the manner in which this Bureau has discharged its responsibilities in any area, you would have made inquiry through responsible channels which are open to every citizen before making your intemperate and baseless charges.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Per instructions, M. A. Jones telephonically contacted Memphis Office 1/16/56 and in absence of SAC spoke with ASAC Halter who was unaware of any "leaks" in that office which Howard might have been referring to.

cc - Mr. Thurgood Marshall, Special Counsel, National Association for Advancement of Colored People, New York City (under cover let)
The Atty Gen (under cover let), with cc to Dep AG William P. Rogers,
AAT Warren Olney III, G. Frederick Mullen, Director Public Info.
SAC Memphis, (4) (with cc - SAC, New Orleans) (under cover let)
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Rosen

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Memphis

SUBJECT: CIVIL RIGHTS MATTERS
MEMPHIS DIVISION

DATE: 1-20-56

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

McGowan

25542

Reference is made to the press release made by the Bureau on 1-19-56, releasing to the press a letter from the Director to Dr. T. R. M. HOWARD of Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

It may be of interest to the Bureau to know that I was in the communities of Greenwood and Greenville, Mississippi on January 19 and 20, 1956, following the release of this letter to the press, and was contacted by a number of citizens in both communities who were delighted with the action taken by the Bureau in this matter. In every instance, the comments from these citizens were extremely flattering, stating that they "had waited a long time for someone to set Dr. Howard straight."

On January 20, 1956, Dr. HOWARD's reply to the Director appeared in the local press in Greenville and Memphis, Tennessee. It received little credence from those citizens with whom I have had contact since its appearance in the paper. However, I have had one or two substantial citizens of Memphis tell me that they believed the Director's statement has had the desired effect and now hope that the FBI will not become involved in any further discussion of the matter publicly with Dr. HOWARD. They believe it beneath the standing and dignity of the FBI to carry on any public quarrel with him.

The above comments are being passed on to the Bureau for such use as the Bureau cares to make of them.

2 - Bureau
1 - Memphis

CEP:MRS

(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4BJA/tmf

REC'D RECORDS SEC

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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JAN 23 8 10 AM '56

62-102602-14

20 JAN 26 1956

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RECEIVED

EX-124

FEB 2 1956

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 44-8949-68

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F B I

JAN 23

RECEIVED
FEB 1 12 15 PM '56
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

RECEIVED
JAN 23 4 55 PM '56
FBI
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

RECEIVED
ROSEN

JAN 24 1 30 PM '56

FEB 1 11 58 AM '56

MR. JONES

FBI

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED-TOLSON
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

JAN 23 6 19 PM '56
FEB 1 9 06 AM '56

1 - Memo
5 - Bureau

has to be made to make of them.

The above comments are being passed on to the Bureau for their

and further contact with him.

They refuse to release the statistics and identity of the FBI to call on
acted in this matter. Discussion of the matter, however, with Dr. HOWARD
has had the desired effect and now hope that the FBI will not become in-
sensitive of the fact that we are still releasing the Director's statements
the substance of the Bureau. However, I have had one of the outstanding
these statements from those citizens who upon I have had contact since
in the past days in Greenwald and Howard's statements. It is stated

On January 30, 1956, Dr. HOWARD's letter to the Director, attached

has been a long time for someone to get Dr. HOWARD's statement.

The first statement was extremely interesting, stating that they had
acted on this by the Bureau in this matter. In early January, the committee
of citizens in poor communities who were disturbed with the
loss of the release of this letter to the Bureau, and was concerned
concerning the Greenwald and Greenwald's statement on January 13 and 30.

It was of interest to the Bureau to know that I was in the

HOWARD of Howard's statement.

1-30-56, regarding the release of a letter from the Director to Dr. I. F. M.
Howard, it was to the Bureau release made by the Bureau on

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NO. 1 MAN
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
JAN 24 3 24 PM '56

RECEIVED
JAN 24 3 24 PM '56
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

SUBJECT:

RE:

TO

ENC. Memo

Director, FBI

DATE: 1-30-56

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson *Viper*

DATE: January 19, 1956

FROM : L. B. Nichols *Wick*

SUBJECT: SIMEON BOOKER
WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE
JOHNSON PUBLISHING COMPANY
EBONY AND JET MAGAZINES
DR. T. R. M. HOWARD

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4 bja tng

Tolson ☒
Boardman ☒
Nichols ☒
Belmont ☒
Harbo ☒
Mohr ☒
Parsons ☒
Rosen ☒
Tamm ☒
 Sizoo ☒
Winterrowd ☒
Tele. Room ☒
Holloman ☒
Gandy ☒

For record purposes, at 12:40 p.m. today, Simeon Booker, Washington Representative of Ebony Magazine (monthly picture magazine) and Jet (weekly news magazine) with temporary offices at 811 Florida Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D. C. (telephone NO 7-6364), telephoned Wick in my office talked with him. Booker said he understood that Mr. Hoover had written a letter to Dr. T. R. M. Howard, and he would like a copy provided that complete text had been made available to the press. Wick told him the letter had been made available to the press and that we would be glad to send him a copy or he could pick it up at the Bureau.

Booker said he would prefer to have us send a copy of the January 16, 1956, letter airmail, special delivery to Mr. Edward Clayton, Managing Editor, Johnson Publishing Company, 1812 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Wick told him this would be done today.

Booker stated Johnson Publishing Company which publishes magazines designed for consumption by colored persons recently established its Washington office for Ebony, Jet, Tan and Hue, and within the near future these offices will be located in the Standard Oil Building. Booker will advise Wick of the exact address and phone number.

Wick took occasion to invite Booker to the Bureau for a tour, inasmuch as Booker stated he hoped whenever the FBI had any news release or feature stories or other material which it desired published or believed would be of interest to his readers, Booker would like to know about it. Booker said he appreciated the invitation and at his next opportunity would call Wick so that arrangements for a tour might be effected.

ACTION TAKEN:~~NOT RECORDED~~

16 JAN 23 1956

The copy of the Howard letter was sent to Clayton airmail, special delivery without cover inasmuch as Booker is advising Johnson Publications Company it is being sent.

cc - Mr. Jones

REW:nl (3) *nl*

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 94-4-64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. F. L. PRICE *flp*

DATE: 1/25/56

FROM : A. ROSEN *RO*ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIEDDATE 9-5-96 BY SP6 bja/tmfSUBJECT: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD
MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI *ph*

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

With reference to the teletype from the Memphis Office dated 1/24/56, at 10:02 a.m., the following is noted. *al*

Memphis states that all Agents who have worked Election Law and Civil Rights matters, State of Mississippi, contacted and all deny any knowledge of Charley Hopkins or any complaint made by him. Indices and files, Memphis Office, entirely negative.

ACTION TAKEN

With reference to the above, SAC Piper at Memphis stated that all Election Law cases were checked and that also all Civil Rights cases were personally gone over by him since the August 2 Primary. In addition, all Agents who were at the Memphis Office in August, 1955, are still there and have not been transferred. Consequently, he was able to check all these men and states that at no time did anyone interview Charley Hopkins.

It is noted that on September 8, 1955, Special Agents Penrod W. Harris and Thomas S. Hopkins went to the residence of Amzie Moore at Cleveland, Mississippi, for the purpose of interviewing him in connection with the Ruby Hurley complaint. In this respect it is noted that Dr. Howard, in his letter of January 20, stated that Moore had been approached by Bureau Agents who questioned him as to whether or not he believed the FBI dealt as fairly with negroes in Mississippi as with whites and had actually asked Moore to sign a statement to that effect.

ACTION TAKEN

With reference to this statement, SAC Piper states that he rechecked on January 24 with Agents Harris and Hopkins and as has previously been noted, Moore was interviewed by them at Cleveland, Mississippi, on September 8, 1955. The results of this interview were set out in a teletype from the Memphis Office dated September 9, 1955, in the Ruby Hurley

AR:LS
(5)RECORDED - 54
EX. - 121

24 JAN 27 1956

68 FEB 3 1956

62-102602-15
Went-6
1/25/56

Memorandum for Mr. Price

case. Both Harris and Hopkins stated that they did not ask Moore whether he believed the FBI dealt as fairly with negroes as with whites in Mississippi..... as is alleged by Howard and both Agents state that they did not ask Moore to furnish a signed statement. This is reflected in a wire from the Memphis Office dated 1/24/56 at 7:30 p.m.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Mason	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 1-19-56

FROM : SAC, Memphis

ATTENTION ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR

L. B. NICHOLS

SUBJECT: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD
MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

ReBumemo 1-16-56 to Memphis, enclosing copies of a letter sent by the Director to Dr. T. R. M. HOWARD, Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

Copies of the Director's letter to Dr. HOWARD were released to the wire services, to the "Commercial Appeal," and to the "Memphis Press Scimitar" in accordance with instructions. There are enclosed an article which appeared in the "Commercial Appeal" January 19, 1956, and an article which appeared in the "Memphis Press Scimitar" January 19, 1956, regarding the Director's letter to Dr. HOWARD.

It will be noted that the article in the "Commercial Appeal" was written by JACK CARLEY. Mr. CARLEY is most interested in this matter and wanted the Director to know that he had handled this matter personally. He plans to write an editorial which will probably appear in the "Commercial Appeal" January 20, 1956.

Mr. CARTHA D. DeLOACH of the Bureau was informed telephonically January 19, 1956 concerning the article in the "Commercial Appeal" and concerning comments made to the "Commercial Appeal" by Dr. HOWARD, which appear in this article.

2 - Director (Encls. 2) (AMSD)
1 - Memphis

COH:AJ
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/trf

62-102602-16

RECORDED - 121
24 JAN 30 1956

66 JAN 31 1956

Dr. Howard Accused By FBI Head

Of False Charges Against the FBI

FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover has accused Dr. T. R. M. Howard, Mound Bayou, Miss., negro leader, of 'false and irresponsible' charges against the FBI's handling of negro slayings in Mississippi.

Hoover made the charges in a letter to Dr. Howard, released by Memphis field office of the FBI.

Dr. Howard, now in Los Angeles, said he bases his statements on "reports brought to me by responsible negroes in various sections of Mississippi." Howard said he has not yet received the letter, addressed to him in Mound Bayou, the all-negro Delta town. He said he would make a full statement after reading the letter.

Hoover made reference to three negro killings—Rev. George W. Lee, shot from ambush at Belzoni last May 7; Lamar Smith, shot to death on the Lincoln County Courthouse lawn in Brookhaven last Aug. 13, and the Emmett Till kidnap-slaying near Money last Aug. 28.

Howard Statement

"If the FBI even entered the Till case, I don't know about it," said Dr. Howard, who helped find new witnesses for the state during the trial in which J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant, half brothers, were acquitted of the Till slaying.

"It is my charge that the FBI failed to find the killers in recent Mississippi murders. If that charge is false, then it is my belief that the murderers of Rev. Lee and the individuals who seriously wounded Gus Courts on Nov. 25 should be brought to justice."

Hoover, in an unprecedented action publicly called on Dr. Howard to offer proof of his charges, or to apologize publicly. He challenged Howard to produce any evidence he might have of a "leak" of "confidential" information by FBI agents.

Cleveland Incident

Dr. Howard said he told in speeches of a Cleveland, Miss., negro who "signed an affidavit that he was intimidated at the polls during the Aug. 2 primary election. He was approached by local law enforcement officers after members of the FBI had consulted him about the affidavit. This individual reported to me it was his belief that the FBI agent had tipped off the local law enforcement agencies," Dr. Howard said.

Hoover's Letter

Hoover's letter in full:

"Dr. T. R. M. Howard
Mound Bayou, Miss.

"Dear Sir:

"During recent months, a number of newspaper articles have come to my attention which attribute to you statements concerning the functions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Your statements as reported by the press pertaining to the FBI reflect a complete disregard of

Turn to Page 2—HOOVER

* * *

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/tmf

FROM: THE MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
JANUARY 19, 1956
PAGE 1.

62-102602-16
ENCLOSURE

Hoover Denies FBI Lets Information 'Leak' Out

(Continued From Page 1)

the facts on your part. You, as an American citizen, have every right to express yourself as you see fit; however, I do not feel that you have any right whatsoever to be wrong in your facts, particularly when they are used in public statements concerning serious matters.

"Let me cite a few specific instances to illustrate my point.

"The Baltimore Morning Sun newspaper, issue of Sept. 26, 1955, carried a news story headlined 'Probe of South's FBI Agents Asked.' This story contained certain erroneous statements which you made before a membership meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at the Sharp Street Methodist Church in Baltimore. You were quoted as stating,

"We must find out why Southern investigators of the FBI can't seem to solve a crime where a Negro is involved."

"You made these statements in connection with the slaying of Emmett Till, Rev. George Wesley Lee and Lamar Smith.

Describes Procedure

"For your information, this bureau upon instructions of the Civil Rights Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice conducts a preliminary inquiry immediately upon the receipt of information alleging a civil rights violation, and the facts are submitted to the Department of Justice for its determination as to prosecution or further investigative action. Full investigations in civil rights cases are conducted only at the direction of the Department of Justice.

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation is not a policy-making organization, and we merely conduct a fair and impartial investigation and submit the results of such investigation to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. This bureau is doing everything within the scope of existing legislation in civil rights matters, and our fair and prompt investigations have done much to increase public respect for and consciousness of civil rights.

"You seem to have conveniently forgotten the work of this bureau which was largely responsible for the virtual elimination of lynchings in the South and also was mainly responsible for the breaking up of the Ku Klux Klan in the Carolinas and Georgia.

Cites Instances

"In regard to the specific cases which you mentioned in your talk in Baltimore, I would like you to be aware of the bureau's position in each instance. As you will recall, when the body of Emmett Till was found in the Tallahatchie River in Mississippi on Aug. 31, 1955, the available facts concerning this case were presented to the Civil Rights Section of the Department of Justice by this bureau. The department advised the facts did not indicate a violation of any Federal statute and, accordingly, this bureau did not conduct any investigation in this case.

"In the Rev. Lee case, you will recall that Rev. Lee was killed on May 7, 1955. The Criminal Division of the Department of Justice requested full investigation into the death of Rev. Lee. Such an investigation was immediately conducted by Agents of this Bureau, and the facts as developed were submitted to the Department of Justice.

"In connection with the Lamar Smith case, the facts surrounding this matter were presented to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice which advised no investigation should be conducted by this bureau.

Quotes News Story

"The Chicago American on Dec. 28, 1955, carried a news story entitled 'FBI Leaks Hit in Till Acquittals.' According to the news story, you stated, 'Confidential information usually leaks from the local FBI offices and witnesses in Negro slayings are subjected to pressures as a result.' As you undoubtedly know, information contained in the files of this bureau is confidential in nature, and I am deeply concerned as your statement contains a very serious charge. If you have evidence of such a grave dereliction of duty, then it is your duty to call it to the attention of the responsible officials of either the FBI or the Department of Justice. From the information available to me, I know of no such incident, and therefore I feel compelled to request that you submit such evidence as you have to sustain your irresponsible charge or that you issue a public retraction.

"Irresponsible and false charges can serve no useful purpose in this critical period. In fact, they are a disservice to common decency, and I do not propose to permit false charges made against this bureau to go unchallenged.

"If you were interested in the

truth as to the manner in which this bureau has discharged its responsibilities in any area, you would have made inquiry thru responsible channels which are open to every citizen before making your intemperate and baseless charges.

"Very truly yours,

"John Edgar Hoover, Director."

Heads Association

Dr. Howard is president of the National Medical Association and heads the Friendship Clinic on Highway 61 in Mound Bayou, about 100 miles south of Memphis. He is president of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership, which has held big annual meetings at Mound Bayou, with nationally known speakers.

Dr. Howard, who has said that his life has been threatened in Mississippi, sold some of his plantation holdings for \$150,000 in December, but said he would continue to head the Friendship Clinic. He had also been active in an insurance firm.

Dr. Howard said he will be in California another two weeks, has speaking engagements throughout February in the East and other sections. He says he plans to return to Mound Bayou.

FROM: THE MEMPHIS-PRESS-SCIMITAR
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
JANUARY 19, 1956

FBI Chief Hoover Hits 'Irresponsible' Charges By Negro Mississippian

HOWARD IS ACCUSED

Blasts Mound Bayou Doctor For Claims Growing Out Of Slaying Cases

By JACK CARLEY

Dr. T. R. M. Howard, Mound Bayou, Miss., physician and Negro leader in desegregation activities, has been accused by J. Edgar Hoover of making "irresponsible" and "intemperate and baseless" charges against the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The FBI's director has demanded that Dr. Howard submit evidence to support a claim that confidential information is leaked from FBI offices resulting in "pressures" on witnesses in Negro slaying cases, or that he make public retraction.

Staying In California

In a two and a half page formal letter to Dr. Howard, addressed to him at Mound Bayou, the FBI's leader declared that "irresponsible and false charges can serve no useful purpose in this critical period" and are "a disservice to common decency."

Copies of the letter written Jan. 16 at FBI headquarters in Washington were released through the Memphis FBI Field Division office last night. Dr. Howard left Mound Bayou in December for California and has since spent much of his time there with his family.

Besides citing specific instances in which statements derogatory to the FBI are attributed to Dr. Howard, the FBI director's letter spells out the apparently little understood relationship of that agency to civil rights investigations.

Refers To Three Slayings

Reference is also made to three Negro slayings—that of Rev. George W. Lee, ambushed at Belzoni on May 7, 1955, that of Lamar Smith, shot to death at Brookhaven on Aug. 13, and the kidnap-murder of Emmett Till near Money, Miss., in late August.

Preliminary inquiries were made by the FBI into the Smith and Till slayings, the letter reveals, and an "investigation" made into the Lee death. In each instance the FBI was complying with specific instructions of the Justice Department's Criminal Division.

In the Till case the department, according to Director Hoover, "advised the facts did not indicate a violation of any Federal statute." In the Lamar Smith case, his letter sets out, the department, acting on facts developed in preliminary inquiry, "advised no investigation should be conducted" by the FBI.

No Decision In Lee Case

"The Criminal Division . . . requested full investigation into the death of Rev. Lee. Such an investigation was immediately conducted . . . and the facts as developed were submitted to the Department of Justice."

The attorney general's office has not yet announced what it intends to do about the findings in the Lee case.

Besides the statement about

(Please Turn the Page)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja.tnf

FROM: THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
DATE January 19, 1956

62-102602-16
ENCLOSURE

J. Edgar Hoover Blasts Mississippi Negro

Howard For Charges Against FBI

LETTER DENIES LEAKS BY FEDERAL AGENCY

Mound Bayou Doctor Is Told
To Put Up Evidence

NOT TRUE, IS HIS REPLY

(Continued from Page One)

FBI "leaks," Mr. Hoover takes strong exception to another charge attributed to Dr. Howard in which he is quoted as telling a Baltimore audience that "we must find out why Southern investigators of the FBI can't seem to solve a crime where a Negro is involved."

The FBI director ends his letter with a characteristically blunt assertion that if Dr. Howard had been "interested in the truth as to the manner" in which the FBI "discharged its responsibilities in any area" he "would have made inquiry through responsible channels."

Denies Assertion

Dr. Howard, reached last night in Los Angeles, denied in a telephone conversation with The Commercial Appeal that he had charged FBI "leaks" in the Till case.

"If the FBI even entered the Till case I don't know about it," he said.

"It is my charge that the FBI failed to find the killers in recent Mississippi murders," he added. "If that charge is false, then it is my belief that the murderers of Reverend Lee and the individuals who seriously wounded Gus Courts on Nov. 25 should be brought to justice."

"I have based my statements (concerning the FBI) on reports brought to me by responsible Negroes in the various sections of Mississippi," Dr. Howard said.



DEMANDS PROOF — J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, last night branded as "baseless" certain charges made by Dr. T. R. M. Howard, Negro of Mound Bayou, Miss., against the FBI.

—AP Photo

Concerning FBI "leaks," the Mississippi physician said he had told in speeches of a Negro in Cleveland, Miss., "who signed an affidavit that he was intimidated at the polls during the Aug. 2 primary election."

"He was approached by local law enforcement agents after members of the FBI had consulted him about the affidavit," Dr. Howard added. "This individual reported to me that it was his belief that the FBI agent had tipped off the local law enforcement agencies."

Dr. Howard said he would issue a complete statement on the FBI letter after studying it. He had not received it last night.

Text of Hoover Letter

Neither FBI headquarters nor the Memphis field office would elaborate last night on Mr. Hoover's letter which follows in full:

"Dr. T. R. M. Howard
Mound Bayou, Miss.

"Dear Sir:

"During recent months, a

number of newspaper articles have come to my attention which attribute to you statements concerning the functions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Your statements as reported by the press pertaining to the FBI reflect a complete disregard of the facts on your part. You, as an American citizen, have every right to express yourself as you see fit; however, I do not feel that you have any right whatsoever to be wrong in your facts, particularly when they are used in public statements concerning serious matters.

"Let me cite a few specific instances to illustrate my point.

"The Baltimore Morning Sun newspaper, issue of Sept. 26, 1955, carried a news story headlined 'Probe of South's FBI Agents Asked.' This story contained certain erroneous statements which you made before a membership meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at the Sharp Street Methodist Church in Baltimore. You were quoted as stating,

"We must find out why Southern investigators of the FBI can't seem to solve a crime where a Negro is involved."

"You made these statements in connection with the slaying of Emmett Till, Rev. George Wesley Lee and Lamar Smith.

Hold Preliminary Inquiries

"For your information, this bureau upon instructions of the Civil Rights Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice conducts a preliminary inquiry immediately upon the receipt of information alleging a civil rights violation, and the facts are submitted to the De-

partment of Justice for its determination as to prosecution or further investigative action. Full investigations in civil rights cases are conducted only at the direction of the Department of Justice.

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation is not a policy-making organization, and we merely conduct a fair and impartial investigation and submit the results of such investigation to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. This bureau is doing everything within the scope of existing legislation in civil rights matters, and our fair and prompt investigations have done much to increase public respect for and consciousness of civil rights.

"You seem to have conveniently forgotten the work of this bureau which was largely responsible for the virtual elimination of lynchings in the South and also was mainly responsible for the breaking up of the Ku Klux Klan in the Carolinas and Georgia.

States FBI Position

"In regard to the specific cases which you mentioned in your talk in Baltimore, I would like you to be aware of the bureau's position in each instance. As you will recall, when the body of Emmett Till was found in the Tallahatchie River in Mississippi on Aug. 31, 1955, the available facts concerning this case were presented to the Civil Rights Section of the Department of Justice by this bureau. The department advised the facts did not indicate a violation of any Federal statute and, accordingly, this bureau did not conduct any investigation in this case.

"In the Rev. Lee case, you will recall that Rev. Lee was killed on May 7, 1955. The Criminal Division of the Department of Justice requested full investigation into the death of Rev. Lee. Such an investigation was immediately conducted by Agents of this Bureau, and the facts as developed were submitted to the Department of Justice.

"In connection with the Lamar Smith case, the facts surrounding this matter were presented to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice which advised no investigation should be conducted by this bureau.

Demands Evidence

"The Chicago American on Dec. 28, 1955, carried a news story entitled 'FBI Leaks Hit in Till Acquittals.' According to the news story, you stated, 'Confidential information usually leaks from the local FBI offices and witnesses in Negro slayings are subjected to pressures as a result.' As you undoubtedly know, information contained in the files of this bureau is confidential in nature, and I am deeply concerned as your statement contains a very serious charge. If you have evidence of such a grave dereliction of duty, then it is your duty to call it to

the attention of the responsible officials of either the FBI or the Department of Justice. From the information available to me, I know of no such incident, and therefore I feel compelled to request that you submit such evidence as you have to sustain your irresponsible charge or that you issue a public retraction.

"Irresponsible and false charges can serve no useful purpose in this critical period. In fact, they are a disservice to common decency, and I do not propose to permit false charges made against this bureau to go unchallenged.

Heads Medical Group

"If you were interested in the truth as to the manner in which this bureau has discharged its responsibilities in any area, you would have made inquiry through responsible channels which are open to every citizen before making your intemperate and baseless charges.

"Very truly yours,
"John Edgar Hoover, Director."

Dr. Howard, president of the National Medical Association, has been extremely vocal on the subjects of civil rights, desegregation and Negro slayings. In mid-December he announced he had sold his 720-acre plantation for \$150,000 but would continue as director of the Friendship Clinic which he established at Mound Bayou in 1948. He is also president of the Regional Council of Negro leadership.

He left Mound Bayou for the West Coast soon after the plantation sale and said he would return. He returned briefly but now is back on the West Coast.

Dr. Howard said he will be in California another two weeks, and will fulfill speaking engagements throughout February in East and other sections.

FROM: THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
DATE January 19, 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

DATE: January 26, 1956

FROM : M. A. Jones

Dr. T.R.M. Howard

SUBJECT: HARVEY MCGEEHEE
CHIEF JUSTICE
SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

Under cover of a letter dated January 23, 1956, Harvey McGehee, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Mississippi, forwarded to the Director a column which appeared in the "Clarion Ledger" of Jackson, Mississippi, on January 15, 1956. This column was written by Tom Ethridge and was headlined "State Negroes Ask What Dr. Howard Did With Funds." You are familiar, of course, with our current controversy with Dr. Howard. The article infers that Dr. Howard has been misappropriating funds and converting them for his own private gain. In his letter Chief Justice McGehee was most commendatory of the Director and the work of the Bureau.

Bureau files are negative concerning McGehee.

In connection with this article and letter the Director noted "Send ~~copy~~ to AG and Rogers." You noted on a routing slip "Be sure and send letter and clipping also. Let me have copy of both."

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the attached memo be forwarded to the AG with a copy to Deputy AG Rogers attaching to each a copy of McGehee's letter and the newspaper article.

2. That the attached letter be forwarded to McGehee thanking him for his thoughtfulness in sending the article in and for his commendatory remarks.

Enclosures (2)

cc - Mr. Nichols, with copies of enclosures

DGH:sms
(3)

RECORDED - 3

INDEXED - 3

59 FEB 6 1956

EX - 107

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4 bja/tol

25550

The Attorney General

January 26, 1956

Director, FBI

HARVEY MC GEHEE
CHIEF JUSTICE
SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

I thought you might be interested in the attached Photostat of a letter which I received from Chief Justice McGehee under cover of which he forwarded a news clipping which appeared in the "Clarion Ledger" of Jackson, Mississippi, on January 15, 1956. A Photostat of this news clipping which has to do with Dr. T. R. M. Howard is also attached.

cc - Mr. William P. Rogers (with copies of enclosures)
Deputy Attorney General

Enclosures (2)

cc - Mr. Nichols, with copies of enclosures

Detached

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/tmj

RECORDED - 3

EX - 107

✓ 62-102602-18

17 JAN 27 1956

NOTE: See Jones to Nichols memo dated January 26, 1956, captioned "Harvey McGehee, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Mississippi." DGH:sms (3)

COMM - FBI

JAN 26 1956

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Holloman _____
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59 FEB 6 1956

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05 PM '56

25551

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director

-2-

January 28, 1956

From Letters to Editor column of The Pittsburgh Courier,
January 7, 1956 issue -

"Regarding your open letter to President Eisenhower,
Dec. 10 issue, calling upon him to send U. S. Soldiers
into Mississippi to protect the civil rights of a
million Negro citizens, let me, for one, say BRAVO!"

EDGAR B. ~~X~~KEENER, M. D.

Detroit, Much.

Mich.

As stated before, it is good to know that your
office is giving attention to such people as Dr. Howard,
and I will be interested to read how this matter is concluded.

Incidentally, neither of the daily newspapers I
happen to read . . and one of them is a very good one . .
has, so far as I know, mentioned this matter. Of course
very few of our white people read The Courier, or similar
papers. It might be well if more of them did so.

Very truly yours,



N. G. Sherouse

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja trf

Mr. Tolson ☒
Mr. Nichols ☒
Mr. Boardman ☒
Mr. Belmont ☐
Mr. Mason ☐
Mr. Mohr ☐
Mr. Parsons ☒
Mr. Rosen ☒
Mr. Tamm ☐
Mr. Jones ☐
Mr. Nease ☐
Mr. Winterrowd ☐
Tele. Room ☐
Mr. Holloman ☐
Miss Holmes ☐
Miss Gandy ☐

Sp4 bja trf
M. J. [unclear]
M. J. [unclear]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: 1-27-56

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: T. R. M. HOWARD

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 Mohr _____
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 Sizoo _____
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 Holloman _____
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G.I.R.-1
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9-5-96

BY Sp4 bja tnf

For record purposes, at 10:25 a.m. today, Bob Coll, United Press representative in the Justice Department, telephoned Wick in my office and stated he had a report from Los Angeles United Press Headquarters that Dr. T. R. M. Howard and Mr. Hoover were to meet in the latter's office this morning. He asked for verification.

ACTION TAKEN:

Wick told Coll that for his information the Director has no scheduled appointment with Howard.

cc - Mr. Boardman

cc - Mr. Rosen

REW:nl

(4)

RECORDED-42

INDEXED-42

13 JAN 31 1956

✓
 now do not intend to
 have.
 62-102602-19

55
ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

Dear Sir:

T.R. O
The So called Dr. Howard and his criticism of the FBI being
unable to unravel the Mississippi slaying of the colored boy --- They
have already retaliated by mutilating three white Chicago Boys. It
all points that way.

Just a citizen.

1-20-56.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4 bja tnf

EX-122

RECORDED - 81

62-102602-20

13 JAN 31 1956

SOX

71 FEB 6 1956
for
bul



F.B.I.,

Mr. Hoover

Washington, D.C.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson *Kper*

DATE: January 18, 1956

FROM : L. B. Nichols *pm*

SUBJECT: CITIZENS COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-25-82 BY SP-8 BTJ MA

9-4-96

SP4 bja tnf

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Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Holloman	
Gandy	

T.R. Howard

While talking to Senator James Eastland (D., Miss.) on other matters, he pointed out that the Citizens Councils which we are investigating have already rendered a very stabilizing service in Mississippi and that in his opinion the Citizens Councils will prove to be the medium which will prevent the "hotheads" and "rednecks" which he described as the "white trash" from committing acts of atrocities upon negroes. He further stated that the only approach the Citizens Councils are using is that of economic, although he pointed out there are some 80,000 members. There are bound to be a few of the wrong type who could cast a reflection upon the good people.

see info

The Senator told me that there is a determined effort being made in his state to hold down any incidents, although a feeling is beginning to mount among some of the negroes themselves against the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and others. For example, he stated that the manager of his farm made \$10,000 last year. The NAACP tried to get him to join and make contributions. The manager refused and stated that the NAACP would do more harm than good.

The Senator further stated that the people in Mississippi believe that the shooting of Gus Corts was framed by the NAACP. I asked him how this could be established or proven. He stated he doubted it could be proven and that the feeling was based upon the fact that no one has seen Corts' wounds. Corts was taken to an NAACP doctor thirty-five miles away and then was taken to another place some sixty-five miles away.

IN CONFIDENCE

The Senator further stated that Dr. T. R. M. Howard sooner or later, unless he mended his ways, was going to be taken care of by some of the negroes in Mound Bayou. He stated there is a colored man in Mound Bayou by the name of Greene who graduated from Harvard. Greene recently told him that Dr. Howard was going to get the same thing that "Booze" got sometime ago. "Booze" was a Republican Party National Committeeman some years ago and is a very respected negro. However, he was peppered with bird shot.

cc: Mr. Boardman

Mr. Belmont

LBN:arm

(4)

13 JAN 31 1956

NOT RECORDED
191 FEB 2 1956

ORIGINAL COPY FILED 105-34237-184

21

Memorandum to Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols
RE: CITIZENS COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI

I gave the Senator a copy of our letter to Dr. Howard. He thought it was very excellent and it was high time that somebody was putting Howard in his place. He wanted to know if we were going to release the letter and I told him the letter would be released for Thursday a. m. papers.

While I was sitting in his office, he had a call from an individual whom he called Tom, and in conversation, he told Tom to watch for a letter which Mr. Hoover was sending to Dr. Howard; that the letter was excellent and the Director is pretty strong in his language in putting Howard in his place. The Senator later told me that Tom owned a couple of newspapers in Mississippi.

I believe Tom Hederman is
editor of JACKSON, MISS. CLARION-
Ledger, one of two largest papers
in Miss. with state wide circulation.
~~at~~

January 26, 1956

INDEXED - 64
RECORDED - 64

62-102602-22
Honorable Harvey McGehee
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
Jackson, Mississippi

My dear Judge:

It was most considerate of you to forward me the newspaper clipping which you enclosed with your letter of January 23, 1956. I appreciate your interest. Your commendatory remarks concerning the work of this Bureau, which I am privileged to head, were most gratifying to me.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/tmf

COMM - FBI
JAN 26 1956
MAILED 18

cc - Mr. Nichols

NOTE: See Jones to Nichols memo dated January 26, 1956, captioned "Harvey McGehee, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Mississippi." DGH:sms (3)

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
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Tamm _____
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Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
andy _____

138
FEB 6 1956

JAN 26 2 04 PM '56
RECEIVED READING ROOM
FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Handwritten signatures and initials

HARVEY MCGEEHEE
CHIEF JUSTICE
WILLIAM G. ROBERTS
LEE O. HALL
PERCY M. LEE
JOHN W. KYLE
JAMES G. HOLMES
R. OLNEY ARRINGTON
W. N. ETHRIDGE, JR.
ROBERT G. GILLESPIE
ASSOCIATE JUSTICES

Supreme Court of Mississippi



25548

Jackson, Mississippi

January 23, 1956

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Boardman	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Mason	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Parsons	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Mr. Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Holloman	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover,
% Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I herewith enclose a clipping that might give you some more information about the Dr. T. R. M. Howard who has been criticising your department.

I think that you have one of the greatest departmental agencies that was ever created in this country and that it has done splendid work throughout its history.

I am, with best wishes,

Yours very truly,

Harvey McGehee

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja tnf

ENCLOSURE

HMcG:SM

nml
ack 1/26/56
dgh

EXP. PROC.

JAN 25 1956

RECORDED - 64
INDEXED - 64

FEB 2 1956

McGehee
cont-6

2/2/56

memo to 1-26-56
memo to Mr. McGeehee
1-26-56
f134

Send to a. g. l.
Rogers.
62-102602-22

Mississippi Notebook

State Negroes Asking What Dr. Howard Did With Funds

By TOM ETHRIDGE

The Negro press of Mississippi hints rather broadly that Dr. T. R. M. Howard, fiery NAACP leader, may have appropriated for his personal use certain funds intended to benefit colored people of this state. A certain alleged \$40,000 Negro hospital donation seems a matter of particular speculation.

Without direct accusation of dishonesty, a recent news dispatch from Mound Bayou raises some highly interesting questions regarding Dr. Howard's handling of money entrusted to his care. The item also states flatly that Mound Bayou is happy to be rid of this radical Negro. Like most NAACP agitators, he apparently has placed a high cash value on his services.

IN CASE YOU came in late, Mound Bayou has until recently served as Dr. Howard's headquarters. His inflammatory utterances have seriously threatened cordial racial relations in Mississippi. Thinking Negro citizens, perhaps the great majority, have applauded his decision to leave our state.

The Jackson Advocate, Mississippi's most influential and widely circulated Negro newspaper, ran the following 8-column headline in a recent issue:

"Mound Bayouans Applaud Dr. Howard's Departure."

THIS HEADLINE was displayed above the afore-mentioned Mound Bayou news dispatch, which said: "The citizens of this famed all-Negro town are all but unanimous in applauding the decision of Dr. T. R. M. Howard to leave the town and state and take up residence elsewhere...."

"The doctor has been in the national spotlight since the school desegregation decisions and more particularly during the recent Till Case hysteria as a crusader for immediate integration. (he) has announced the sale of his showplace home, farms and other assets here amounting to some \$200,000, at the same time announcing that he would hereafter spend his time in New York, Washington and California, as his wife and two sons left to take

up residence in Los Angeles."

"Virtually penniless," the Mound Bayou dispatch emphasizes, "Dr. Howard was brought here in 1941 by the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, the state's largest Negro fraternal organizations, to become Chief Surgeon of the Taborian Hospital here...."

"He was ousted some eight years ago after an abortive attempt to gain control of the organization by getting himself elected Chief Grand Mentor to replace Sir P. M. Smith, its founder and principal organizer."

"IT WAS WHILE chief surgeon of the Taborian Hospital here, during which time he also engaged in private practice.... that he was able to get large donations from white plantation owners throughout the delta to aid him in establishing a health center that would reduce the cost and improve the health of Negro plantation workers."

"According to well informed sources, these donations were in a large measure responsible for his many investments and the lavish standard of living set at his home, modeled after the estate of an English squire."

"IN THE YEAR following his ouster from the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, Dr. Howard organized the United Order of Friendship, a rival organization, set out to build a hospital in its name, for which he reportedly received a single donation of \$40,000, although the Friendship Clinic remains just about as it was at the time the United Order of Friendship was organized...."

"What became of the \$40,000 is also a subject of hushed discussion hereabouts."

STATE NEGROES also seem powerfully curious about Dr. Howard's management of the Magnolia Mutual Life Insurance Company which he purchased and organized in Mississippi, originally started at Tupelo. Dr. Howard became its president and board chairman a few years ago.

"During its first two years," the Mound Bayou dispatches sets forth, "the company showed signs

of progress but last year (1954), the State Insurance Commissioner said that conditions of the company were such that if it were not for the fact that he might be charged with doing it because of Dr. Howard's activities as a Negro leader, the Insurance Commissioner would have withdrawn the company license to do business in the state.

"BOTH THE United Order of Friendship and the Magnolia Mutual Life Insurance Company are reported to have a list of unpaid claims, and reports are that reserves of the insurance company have disappeared and its other assets are under mortgage."

The foregoing quotations, taken from the Jackson Advocate, indicate that many state colored people share white distrust and dislike for Dr. Howard, who apparently has not answered these veiled accusations.

STATE NEGROES are slowly grasping the painful fact that many self-appointed "leaders" have a singular interest in personal profit. Having apparently "farmed" this area to the limit, Dr. Howard now sees fit to move into greener pastures.

Like Roy Wilkins, Mamie Bradley and other NAACP agitators, Dr. Howard seems to have made the pleasant discovery that racial leadership has a definite cash value. That's gold in them NAACP hills!

MOUND BAYOU leaders and townspeople have recently served notice that they want no more NAACP agitations and hate meetings. Theirs has always been a peaceful and law-abiding community and those good citizens evidently want to maintain this enviable record.

HOWEVER, it seems premature to hope that Mound Bayou and Mississippi are permanently rid of this notorious agitator. His widely publicized bodyguards, so we hear, have been more for protection from irate Negroes rather than whites. Be that as it may, optimism at Dr. Howard's departure must be tempered with caution. A bad penny has the habit of turning up again.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4bjt/fj

Clarion Ledger
Jackson, Miss.
January 15, 1956

62-102602-22 ENCLOSURE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 1-20-56

FROM : SAC, Memphis

ATTENTION ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR
L. B. NICHOLSSUBJECT: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD
MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

Further reference is made to Bureau 1-16-56 enclosing copies of a letter sent by the Director to Dr. T. R. M. HOWARD, Mound Bayou, Miss.

There is enclosed an article captioned "FBI Chief's Letter Gets Howard Reply," which appeared in the Memphis "Commercial Appeal" January 20, 1956.

There also is enclosed herewith an editorial which appeared in the January 20, 1956 issue of the "Commercial Appeal." The editorial was written by Mr. JACK CARLEY, Associate Editor.

2 - Bureau (Encls. 2) (AMSD)
1 - Memphis

COH:AJ
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/tbf

RECORDED - 30

INDEXED - 30

EX - 107

51 FEB 8 1956

PERS. FILES

25547

Qualifies As Reckless

Published statements attributed to Dr. T. R. M. HOWARD, Mound Bayou, Miss., Negro physician, criticizing Federal Bureau of Investigation handling of so-called "civil rights" cases has brought an unequivocal demand from FBI Director HOOVER that he produce proof or make public retraction.

Mr. HOOVER chose what for him is the rare method of making public an official letter in which he took up, point by point, the quoted criticisms attributed to Dr. HOWARD by the media in which published.

The FBI director labels the HOWARD statements as "irresponsible" and "intemperate and baseless."

In a telephonic conversation with this newspaper Wednesday night, Dr. HOWARD denied that he had said anything about FBI "leaks" in the EMMETT TILL case. "If the FBI even entered the TILL case I don't know about it," he said. The FBI will probably refresh his memory.

On Dec. 28 last The Chicago American published a news story about the Mound Bayou doctor being in Chicago and said:

"Dr. HOWARD, who is here to receive a civil rights award . . . criticized the Federal Bureau of Investigation in respect to its operations in Mississippi. Dr. HOWARD said: 'Confidential information usually leaks from the local FBI offices and witnesses in Negro slayings are subjected to pressures as a result.'" The rest of The American's story on Dr. HOWARD was devoted to his comments on the TILL case.

There is no qualification in Dr. HOWARD's quoted remark that "confidential information usually leaks from FBI offices," and Mr. HOOVER will not be blamed for interpreting the statement as a very serious reflection on the FBI's integrity. He is known to be willing to take on any and all comers and no holds barred when his integrity is challenged.

On the basis of the quotations, Dr. HOWARD qualifies as being completely reckless as well as "irresponsible." The FBI has proved its ability to take care of itself when integrity and efficiency have been challenged. The Mound Bayou physician has taken on a large order.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja tnf

3A

FROM: THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
DATE JANUARY 20, 1956

ENCLOSURE

62-102602-23

FBI CHIEF'S LETTER GETS HOWARD REPLY

Negro Leader In California
Says He Will Continue
Fight For Justice

Special to The Commercial Appeal

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 19.—Dr. T. R. M. Howard, Negro leader of Mound Bayou, Miss., Thursday night struck back at J. Edgar Hoover, who had challenged Howard's "intemperate and baseless" charges against the FBI.

Dr. Howard declared he will continue "to cry out against injustice" in a letter to Mr. Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He released copies of the letter to the press.

Answer To Letter

The Mound Bayou physician said the letter was in reply to a letter from Mr. Hoover, contents of which were revealed Wednesday.

The Mississippian said the letter from Mr. Hoover was not received at his Mound Bayou home until "full 12 hours" after he was notified of the letter by newspapers.

"I can only presume that you released the letter prior to the time it could possibly have reached me and that you wanted the whole matter to become an issue in the area of public controversy. I shall, therefore, follow your example and release this letter to the newspapers.

"The crux of your complaint, as I gather it, is that I have made 'false and irresponsible charges' against the FBI in connection with the murders of George W. Lee, Lamar Smith and Emmett Till, all of whom were killed in Mississippi during 1955," Dr. Howard wrote.

Says Facts Known

"I am sure that you will understand that these murders, all of which have gone unpunished, have excited genuine concern on the part of millions of Americans . . .

"I know, and I am sure that FBI agents know that the facts in the George Lee and Lamar Smith murders are widely known

(Continued on Page 12, Col. 1)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/tmf

FROM: THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
DATE January 20, 1956

ENCLOSURE

62-102602-23

FBI CHIEF'S LETTER GETS HOWARD REPLY

Negro Says He'll Continue
Fight For Justice

WRITES FROM COAST

(Continued from Page One)

in the communities in which they were murdered."

(Lee, a Belzoni Negro minister, was fatally shot May 7, 1955. Smith, of Brookhaven, was shot in downtown Brookhaven Aug. 11. And a body, identified as that of 14-year-old Emmett Till of Chicago, was found in the Tallahatchie River near Sumner last August. Two white men, Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, were tried and acquitted of slaying Till. There have been no indictments in the other two cases).

Dr. Howard said his criticism of the "failure of justice in these cases is a reflection of the feelings of many thousands of persons to whom I have spoken and with whom I have talked in the past few months." He continued: "As I understand your concept of law in these matters, your bureau is required only to make investigations at the request of the Department of Justice. After you have made these investigations, upon request, you lay the facts before the Department of Justice which then determines whether or not prosecution will be undertaken or further investigations will be made."

Letter Continues

"It seems reasonable to suppose that the Department of Justice must depend, for a final judgment as to whether or not prosecution will be undertaken, on the facts as reported by your bureau."

"You say that such investigations were made in the George Lee case. I do not know, of course, the extent of your investigation. I do not know whether or not you determined that this was merely a murder case, falling within the province of the State of Mississippi or whether you determined it was part of a widespread conspiracy reaching across state lines that might have brought him within the purview of Federal Civil Rights statutes."

"What I do know is that a Negro citizen who sought to vote was murdered and that both state and Federal Governments have declined to take any action. I do not know upon what grounds the Department of Justice declined jurisdiction."

Dr. Howard said he sent a telegram to the Department of Justice asking for a conference on the Mississippi deaths and received an answer four weeks later stating that such a conference would be arranged. No date was set for the proposed meeting, he said.

Charge Repeated

Dr. Howard also said, "Whether... the reason lies in the inadequacy of Federal statutes, or restrictive interpretation of such statutes by the Department of Justice or the failure of FBI investigative machinery, the fact remains that the FBI cannot seem to solve a crime where a Negro is murdered by a white man in Mississippi."

"I have the impression that in many instances the FBI has conducted investigations and found facts which were then given to state authorities for prosecution of the wrongdoers," Dr. Howard wrote.

The Negro physician also took issue with Mr. Hoover's assertion that the FBI was, in large part, responsible for virtual elimination of lynching in the South and breaking up the 'Ku Klux Klan in the Carolinas and Georgia.

Dr. Howard contended that these matters were accomplished by action of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and aroused public opinion.

"I cannot recall a prosecution of lynching, as such, by the Federal Government and I suppose that such prosecution would be undertaken only after investigation by the bureau," he said. "I also understand that there is no Federal anti-lynching statute and that prosecution of lynching, as such, is a matter for the states."

"In view of that fact, I do not

understand how the FBI was able to take effective action to 'virtually eliminate' lynching in the light of your statement that the Department of Justice can act only when Federal statutes have been violated.

"If the Federal Government was able to act in the area of lynching, in the absence of a Federal anti-lynching statute, is it possible to undertake similar action in cases such as the George Lee, Lamar Smith and Emmett Till cases in light of a similar claimed lack of applicable Federal statutes?"

Dr. Howard also said he was mailing to the FBI director "a statement of facts" concerning a certain case which would not be revealed to the press.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja trf

FROM THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
DATE January 20, 1956

ENCLOSURE

62-102602-23

1/26/56
DO-6

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

January 26, 1956

Congressman Frank Smith, of Mississippi, has advised me in confidence that Dr. T. R. M. Howard is one of the larger land owners in Mississippi. He stated that Dr. Howard's relations with the Negro tenants on his farm were well-known as being of the "Simon Legree" type. He stated that the tactics employed by Dr. Howard, in relation to his tenants, were much worse than Dr. Howard claims of the activities of the white farmers toward their Negro tenants. He also advised there was a possibility Dr. Howard, in his relations with his tenants, might have violated the peonage laws, although he had no facts to substantiate this statement.

I told Congressman Smith that the Bureau would investigate any violations of the law regardless of the identity of the individual who is alleged to have violated it, regardless of race, color or creed, and that if facts indicating violation of any law on the part of Dr. Howard were presented to the Bureau, he would be treated as any other subject of an investigation.

FCH:eff (2)
1--FCH

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Boardman ✓
Mr. Belmont ✓
Mr. Mason ✓
Mr. Mohr ✓
Mr. Parsons ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Tamm ✓
Mr. Jones ✓
Mr. Nease ✓
Mr. Winterrowd ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Mr. Holloman ✓
Miss Holmes ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

RECORDED - 17

62-102602-24

FEB 2 1956

Mc [Signature]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4bjatnc

71 FEB 6 1956

RECORDED - 83
INDEXED - 83
62-102602-25

January 27, 1956

EX. - 107

Mrs. W. M. Newman
30 East Franklin Street
Natchez, Mississippi

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4bjatnf

Dear Mrs. Newman:

Your letter postmarked January 20, 1956, and its enclosure have been received, and I am looking forward to the receipt of the magazine you mentioned. Your bringing this material to my attention is appreciated, and I thank you for giving me the benefit of your observations.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

RECEIVED READING ROOM
FBI
JAN 27 3 09 PM '56

COMM - FBI
JAN 27 1956
MAILED 18

NOTE: Nothing pertinent in Bureau files identifiable with Mrs. Newman. There is no indication that the January issue of Harper's Magazine which she mentioned sending has been received at the Bureau. The Bureau Library does not have a copy of that magazine. The newspaper she enclosed is the 1/7/56 issue of "News Leader," a Negro newspaper published in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A review of the paper in the Crime Records Section indicates that the item which has been cut out and is attached is the only matter of interest to the FBI contained therein.

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

50 FEB 7 1956

RGE:bs

(3)

RECEIVED

WPN

C
O
P
Y

Natchez, Mississippi
Jan. 17, 1956

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Chief
F.B.I. Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am sending you seperatly the January issue of Harpers Magazine, thought you might have missed it. I am enclosing inside a copy of the all negro newspaper, I got while I was in Baton Rouge, it will be interesting to read, it has a lot about that negro I wrote you about Dr. Howard who left his all negro segreated town in Miss. & went to Baton Rouge, after the negro mayor of that town announced in the Jackson daily News, that he and all the Negros of that town wanted Dr. Howard to keep his meetings out of their town, because of race agitation they tried to stir up in their county of Bolivar, where the negro's out number the whites 4 to 1 -

You can use your own judgement about what you think about him, he is from Kentucky and moved to Miss. & was one of the head leaders in that all negro town, Mound Bayou, Miss. Until the Negros got tired of his outrageous statements about their white friends, they had lived in peace with, so many years.

Excuse this poor writing. My arthritis is so bad when the weather is bad & hurts worse. I cant write too well at those times.

Sincerely & respectfully

/s/

Mrs W. M. Newman
30 E. Franklin St.

1/18/56

Natchez, Mississippi
Jan 27, 1956

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mason	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Chief
F.B.I. Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover: T.R.M. Howard

I am sending you seperately the January issue of Harpers magazine, thought you might have missed it. I am enclosing inside a copy of the all negro newspaper, I got while I was in Baton Rouge, it will be interesting to read, it has a lot about that negro I wrote you about Dr. Howard who left his all negro segreated town in ^{Miss.} & went to Baton Rouge, after the negro mayor of that town announced in the Jackson daily news, that he and all the negroes of that town wanted Dr. Howard to keep his meetings out of their town, because of race agitation they tried to stir up in their County of Bolivar, where the negro's outnumber the whites 4 to 1.

you can use your own judgement about what you think about him, he is from ^{ENCL.} Kentucky & moved to Miss. & was one of the head leaders in that all negro town, ^{named Bayou, Miss.} until the negroes got tired of his outrageous statements about their white friends, they had lived in peace with so many years.

Excuse this poor writing, My arthritis is so bad, when the weather is bad & hurts worse, I cant write too well at those times.
Sincerely & respectfully
Mrs E.M. Newman 30 E. Franklin St.

EXP. PROC.

RECORDED - 83

EX - 101

JAN 31 1956

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
FBI

JAN 23 3 28 PM '56

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
FBI

JAN 27 3 13 PM '56
JAN 20 PM '56

REC'D, RECORDS SEC.

MR. JONES

JAN 24 7 59 AM '56

RECEIVED

FBI

U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

JAN 23 4 06 PM '56
RECEIVED-NICHOLS
FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja trf

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

Howard Raps WCC-SGO, Pressure, Hate Tactics

Before an audience of more than 1,000, Dr. T. R. M. Howard of all-Negro Mound Bayou, Miss. denounced the White Citizens' Councils and Baton Rouge's Southern Gentlemen in their roles of economic pressures and stalling tactics on integration, but said prior to the Emancipation Day program that he plans to lead a delegation of a million Negroes in a march on the nation's capitol sometime this month in an effort to ease tension in Mississippi.

Speaking before the New Years Day crowd assembled for the four point Delta Sigma Theta Sorority program

planned in cooperation with the local NAACP, Dr. Howard said that the white people of Mississippi "know that once the Negro gets unrestricted ballot in his hand there will be some changes made."

Many Unregistered

In the forefront for the battle of civil rights in Mississippi, Howard called attention to the fact that there are some 986,000 Negroes in Mississippi, and added, and only 19,000 registered voters.

Howard decried the Mississippi Citizens' Councils in saying they are carrying out a drive of violence and economic pressures in an effort to run out a half million Negroes in the next ten years. He continued, "And I understand your (Baton Rouge) Southern Gentlemen (Citizens' Council counterparts in La.) are intent on the same program."

The Chief Surgeon of the Friendship Clinic in Mound Bayou said white leaders told him they felt they could stall on school integration and unlimited Negro voting for about 10 years before the federal government moved in to force it.

Plans March

The night prior to the Sunday meeting, Howard told a group of local NAACP officials and Delta Sorority members he plans a delegation of a million Negroes to march on Washington, D. C. to protest the reign of terror which is flourishing wholesale in Mississippi.

Howard did not elaborate on how the march was to be carried out, but added plans are already in motion for the march scheduled sometime this month.

Denies Leaving

In an exclusive interview prior to the meeting, Dr. Howard emphatically denied that he planned to leave Mississippi because he sold more than \$200,000 of his property in the Delta area.

He produced an affidavit signed by a Jim Winters, Negro, of the Delta area, who had been threatened and intimidated by Sunflower Co. officials, confessing withdrawal of derogatory statements concerning the sale of the property. Winters admitted in the affidavit that the officials alleged to have said in effect, they would toss his body in the Tallahatchie River if he confessed.

Winters said in his confession, his conscience and better judgment wouldn't allow him to betray a true Negro leader.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4 bja/tmf

62-102602-25

ENCLOSURE

Miss. to Submit

"Notwithstanding all the violence, all the repression, all the threats, if Mississippi stays in the union—and I'm not always sure she's going to stay—she's going to integrate her school system just like any other state," Howard predicted during his dramatic Mississippi story.

In describing the sordid Till slaying, he brought tears to the eyes of some people in the audience in lambasting the trial where two white men were acquitted in the slaying of the 14-year-old Chicago boy. He described it as a "Roman holiday," amidst intermittent applause.

The husky doctor said the Rev. George W. Lee of Belzoni and Lamar Smith of Brookhaven, had been slain last year in the "wave of terror" spearheaded by the "wealthy planters, bankers and clergymen."

See DR. HOWARD—Page 8A

Dr. Howard -

The bold Mississippi doctor born in Kentucky, said "members of our race were fired from their jobs, refused credit, forced to move from their houses, denied ginning facilities for their cotton for either trying to vote or sign-

ing school integration petitions.

"As mean as they are in Mississippi, as mentally ill as they are, they're not going to kill 986,000 Negroes, but the awful economic pressure will have its effect," the doctor, a director of the Memphis Tri-State Bank, added.

Howard blasted out at the FBI when he ironically said it was a very efficient law enforcement agency, "but they can never find a white man who kills a Negro anywhere."

In the same breath he lashed out at America when he said, "I can't see now the United States can talk about inhumanity behind the Iron Curtain so long as they can lynch a 14-year-old boy in Mississippi and get away with it."

The audience let out with loud applause when he said the "hope of many Americans is that the Citizens' Councils and your Southern

Gentlemen will hear the spirit of God."

He said the mental illness of Mississippians will only mould Negro leadership throughout the South. Earlier he said Mississippi is going to set the example for integration, despite their violent resistance to it now.

The Rev. T. J. Jemison, pastor of Mt. Zion First Baptist Church, gave the invocation and the appeal for funds which netted a total of \$357.23 to be donated to the NAACP by the Delta Sorority.

Rev. Jemison cried out during his appeal as several persons walked out, "You don't need to be free, if you walk out of this meeting with-

out giving to this cause."

Mrs. Audrey Boykin presented the speaker after Miss Clarence Marie Collier, chairman of the Citizenship Committee presented awards climaxed the sorority's voter campaign. Miss Virtle T. Jones, president, presided.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja trf

62-102602-25

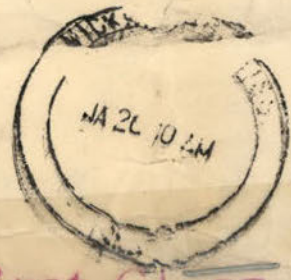
Mrs W. M. Newman,
30 East Franklin St
Natchez Mississippi



First Class

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Chief.
F.B.I. Dept. of Justice
Washington D.C.

*MA Jm
223*



First Class

First Class

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/taf

G. I. R. -1

RECORDED - 30

62-102602-26

January 25, 1956

INDEXED-30

EX - 107

Mr. John R. T. Rives
Earle Hotel
Birmingham, Alabama

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja tnf

Dear Mr. Rives:

I received your letter of January 20, 1956,
and its enclosure. I appreciate your writing to give
me the benefit of your observations regarding this
matter.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

COMM - FBI
JAN 26 1956
MAILED 18

NOTE: Bufiles indicate cordial correspondence with Mr. Rives
in the past. He is a former editor of "Railway Conductor."
The edition of the publication for September, 1943, carried an
article by the Director and had his picture on the front cover.
(94-3-4-1450-3,4,5, 94-3-4-1383-18)

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

RGE: sms

(3)

DO-5

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Ancient and Accepted
Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Birmingham 3, Ala.
Jan. 20 - 1956

Personal

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

It was with pleasure I read the enclosed item
in the Birmingham Post-Herald of Jan. 19th.

We the people of the South have been long
suffering under such negroes as this "Dr." T. R. M.
Howard.

They are arrogant, and insulting in their
attitude toward those of us who have furnish education
and employment to the Negroes of the South. As a
general rule we have no trouble or complaint with the
ordinary Negro. We get along with them and if the
Northern Agitators would keep their nose out of our
affairs we would have harmony and peaceful coopera-
tion.

I wish to congratulate you in calling the hand of
this arrogant Negro mentioned in the clipping.

Yours sincerely,

John R. T. Rives
Earle Hotel
Birmingham, Ala.

Copy
1/23/56

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Boardman ✓
Mr. Belmont ✓
Mr. Mason ✓
Mr. Mohr ✓
Mr. Parsons ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Tamm ✓
Mr. Jones ✓
Mr. Nease ✓
Mr. Winterrowd ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Mr. Holloman ✓
Miss Holmes ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/tw

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED

Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

25544



WALTER M. WHITINGER, 33
Deputy of the Supreme Council
in Alabama
P. O. Box 1274
Mobile 7, Ala.

A. M. REEVES, 33
Secretary
Masonic Temple 6th Avenue and 19th Street, No.
Phone 3-1728

SOUTHERN JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES
VALLEY OF BIRMINGHAM ORIENT OF ALABAMA

BIRMINGHAM 3, ALA.

Jan 20-1956

Personal

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington D.C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

It was with pleasure I read the enclosed item in the Birmingham Post-Herald of Jan 19th.

We the people of the South have been long suffering under such negroes as this "Dr" T.R.M. Howard.

They are arrogant, and insulting in their attitude toward those of us who have furnished education and employment to the negroes of the South. As a general rule we have no trouble or complaint with the ordinary negro. We get along with them and if the Northern agitators would keep their nose out of our affairs we would have harmony and peaceful Co-operation.

I wish to Congratulate you in calling the hand of this arrogant negro mentioned in the clipping.

Yours sincerely

Jno. R. T. Reeves
Earle Hotel

Birmingham Ala

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/tmf

RECEIVED - 30
INDEXED - 30

62-102602-26

RECORDED
29 FEB 2 1956

EXP. PROC.

JAN 23 1956

EX - 107

Signatures
432
PERS. FILES

T.R.M. Howard

RECEIVED-TOLSON
FBI
JAN 27 3 40 PM '56
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

25559

*H. J. [unclear]
Till*

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nichols ☒ _____
Mr. Boardman ☒ _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mason _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen *RP* _____
Mr. Tamm *SM 20* _____
Mr. Jones _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

McGowan

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 byatnr
361841

Birmingham
Post-Herald

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1956

FBI Challenges Negro's Charges

Bureau's Probe Of Racial Killings Hit

MEMPHIS, Jan. 18 (AP)—FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover today accused a Negro leader of "false and irresponsible" charges against the FBI's handling of several Mississippi racial killings.

In a letter to Dr. T. R. M. Howard of Mound Bayou, Miss., president of the Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership, Hoover said:

"I do not propose to permit false charges made against this Bureau to go unchallenged.

Reached in Los Angeles, Dr. Howard told The Memphis Commercial Appeal he would have a full statement later on Hoover's demand that he submit evidence on his charges or publicly retract them.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation chief particularly resented Dr. Howard's publicized statement, in regards to three recent slayings, that:

"We must find out why Southern investigators of the FBI can't seem to solve a crime where a Negro is involved."

Hoover said a full and impartial investigation was made in every case, at the direction of the Department of Justice, and the department decided civil rights were not involved.

"You seem to have conveniently forgotten the work of this bureau which was largely responsible for the virtual elimination of lynchings in the South and also was mainly responsible for the breaking up of the Ku Klux Klan in the Carolinas and Georgia," Hoover said.

Howard is president of the National Medical Assn. He heads Friendship Clinic in Mound Bayou, the nation's only all-Negro town, located in the Mississippi Delta, about 70 miles south of Memphis.

Howard recently sold his 750-acre plantation near Mound Bayou for about \$150,000, but still owns other real estate in the area.

25545

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp/bja/tmf

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62-102602

ENCLOSURE

Birmingham Post Herald
January 19, 1956

42-102602-26

G. S. P. Holland
577 SW 5th St
Miami, Fla
(&Va.,)

This image contains all the
information on the document.

Jan-20th-55

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mason _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover, Chief-
FBI
Washington, DC

25543

Esteemed Sir:

It is most gratifying that someone has awoken to the
attitude of those who are inciting hate and misunderstanding --
when such men as Howard and Powell take our President and YOU to
task it is time to awake -- that is a hell of situation--

He does not mention the civil rights of innocent white mothers
who are raped - incidents created to stir up clashes -- does he
ask investigation of that negro organization that is pushing the
rupture between races and sections-- OR-- how he got so rich in a
section that is so hard? on his people-- AP stated that he sold his
holding for over \$200,000 - and retained as much -- \$400,000 is
a lot in a down trodden land -- he sold a part to go north to join
the campaign of hate and misinformation--

In the South hating LOOK - writer states of that section- that
the two veterans were poor- came back from serving US to struggle
in a shack of a store to sell - even the US was giving the negroes the
stuff they would sell-- and a car load of sex minded negroes drove up
in a car-- poor negroes-- and were talking sex- and having white girls--
and the Chicago alex- son of an executed rapist by US (LIFE Mag) - he
bragged about having white girl - and his grandmother was white--
he went in to saying he would make that pretty little lady-- a mother-
her husband away bucking the tide --and put his hands on her and then his
arm around her waist telling her he had had white girls- in horror she
broke away and ran for her gun--it was stated that there was such a sit-
uation jammed with poisoned black that ladies would not venture out with
out escort and THINK, Chief, - ladies had to have guns--

Am quite sure of what you would have done had your little lady or
daughter been in that black belt and a lust minded black had put his
filthy hands on her-- you would have cured the situation-- so many do
not know- but those people down there do KNOW - and in the past edu-
cated - employed - cared for and loved those dark people until South
hating outsiders ignorantly believed the ranting of part whites and
anti-South folks--

RECORDED - 83

INDEXED - 83

FEB 1 1956

That negro organization needs the investigation - incidents - blacks
purposely intruding - insulting-- more rapes in So Fla- in the last
few months that ever before-- have you ever heard of the KKK protecting
a rapist-- Washington seems so much under the ranting of the niggers and
what not who arent satisfied with what the South gave them now they
want to bespoil this land like a bunch of communists-- The South seems
on the march - organizations everywhere as well as legal moved-- and
will yet save the Nation of Washington, Jefferson, Marshall, Henry-
the Constitution-- Investigations should be made as to what be-
all-- the spirit of '76 and the 60s is not dead - thank God--
problem is HERE - not overseas - Sections and races are being
Congratulations--

Respectfully GSP Holla

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4 bja/bf

T.R.M. Howard

Chanting

March necessary
in Miami, Florida
and Miami, Florida
written

1/31/56
ack 1-27-56
G.S.P.

Am just an old nigger

Mar I-

JAN 23 1956

my
encl
1

A memo
from

IRVING FERNAN *MO LOK*

2/3/56

Dear Louis:

I thought you might be interested
in the conversation I put down in
memorandum form, and which I am
attaching.

encl
51

EX. - 124

INDEXED - 28

RECORDED - 26

56
ENCLOSURE

62-102602-28

16 FEB 9 1956

Compliments of LAW REPORTER PRINTING CO.

193
71 FEB 15 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/nf

sub
in

February 3, 1956

✓ 7.4.1
Yesterday afternoon, in a conversation I had with Norman Thomas, Mr. Thomas informed me of the grave concern some people had in New York over the personality of Dr. Howard of Mississippi. One of the concerns Norman Thomas mentioned was Dr. Howard's naivete', which might lead him to be used by the Communists.

T.R.M.
Mr. Thomas informed me that Dr. Howard was scheduled to speak before a group in New York that consisted of Communist fellow travelers. He further informed me that Rowland Watts and some others got to Dr. Howard and persuaded him not to speak.

The announcement of this meeting appeared, I am told, in the New York Times within the last two weeks.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/tmf

ENCLOSURE

62-102602-28

January 31, 1956

62-102602-

Honorable Clifford Davis
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Cliff:

Many thanks for your thoughtful letter
of January 26, 1956.

Your good words are deeply appreciated,
and it is most encouraging to receive such outstanding
support on matters of this nature. I am looking forward
to seeing you in the near future.

With best wishes and kind personal regards,

Sincerely,

Edgar

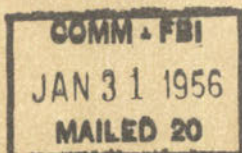
NOTE: Congressman Davis is a staunch supporter of the Bureau.
Bulet 1-26-56 thanked him for having reprinted the Congressional
Record, commendatory remarks re the FBI by Jack Carley,
Editor of the Memphis, Tennessee, Commercial Appeal.

JRH:nma
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4.bja.tnf

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____



51 FEB 6 1956

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 94-4-4161-25

RECEIVED REL. NO. ROOM
FBI
JAN 31 3 37 PM '56

Handwritten signatures and initials: "m. g.", "Jm", "gm", and a large "X" mark.

CLIFFORD DAVIS
9TH DIST., TENNESSEE

CARL LEMSER
SECRETARY

COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC WORKS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

January 26, 1956

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Nease ✓
Mr. Boardman ✓
Mr. Belmont ✓
Mr. Tamm ✓
Mr. Mohr ✓
Mr. Parsons ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Winterrowd ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Mr. Holloman ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Friend:

T.R.C. Congratulations on your positive and fine handling of this Howard report in Mississippi. You are on high ground and it was necessary to nip a thing like this in the bud. This is a serious question in a wide area of the country. I recognize that it requires calm dispassionate thinking, but intemperate actions on the part of anyone are not good.

I hope to see you before too long.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4 bja.tnf

Clifford Davis

162-102602-
NOT RECORDED
191 FEB 3 1956

16 FEB 2 1956

EXP. PROC.

JAN 30 1956

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

only
a.h. 1-31-56
SRH

4/10/56

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: January 26, 1956

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4 bja/tmf

Tolson	✓
Boardman	✓
Nichols	✓
Belmont	✓
Harbo	✓
Mohr	✓
Parsons	✓
Rosen	✓
Tamm	✓
Sizoo	✓
Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holloman	✓
Gandy	✓

In response to the Director's inquiries:

(1) ^{T.R.M.} The data on the Howard letter was sent through late on the afternoon of January 25th.

(2) With reference to the narrative on civil rights and subversive activities, I frankly have not been able to get at these. I hope to do the civil rights one over the weekend. I frankly have not felt up to snuff the last few days and have not been able to burn the midnight oil. I, accordingly, plan to let somebody else take care of the office for the next two or three days and will try to get these out so that they can be submitted, I hope, on Monday evening.

LBN:ptm
(2)

RECORDED - 3

62-102602-29

6 FEB 14 1956

CRIME REC

64 FEB 15 1956

That will be too late for my use at approx. hearings. I can't rearrange testimony at that late date. Better just skip it.

105 1/26/56
Jm
193

25539

February 1, 1956

RECORDED - 8

62-102602-30

EX-107

Mr. Jack Carley
Associate Editor
The Commercial Appeal
Memphis 1, Tennessee

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-5-96 BY Sp4bjt/nf

Dear Jack:

I am indeed grateful for your letter of
January 27, 1956, with the enclosed copy of Mr. Brewer's
letter of January 25.

It is good to know that my letter on the
Dr. Howard situation may help to set the record straight
and convince some of the individuals concerned that we
will not tolerate unfounded and malicious charges against
this Bureau. I was also very pleased to have your comments
on the reception of the new civil rights schools.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Edgar

COMM - FBI

FEB 1 1956

MAILED 25

cc - Memphis

NOTE: Mr. Carley is on Special Correspondents' List, and the
Bureau has enjoyed very cordial relations with him. Writer of
enclosed letter, Ed C. Brewer is former SA who served from
10-20-41 to 9-30-43 as SA. His services were satisfactory,
and cordial relations have continued with him.

JRH:nma

(6)

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

63 FEB 17 1956

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS 1, TENNESSEE

FRANK R. AHLGREN
EDITOR

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mason	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

January 27, 1956

Dear J. Edgar:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/tmf

The enclosed letter is for your own personal and confidential file on Howard. So far as we have been able to learn the statement as to Howard's reasons for having the dogs and bodyguards is accurate.

The writer of this letter is a long-time friend and known to me to be a good friend of the Bureau.

I wouldn't want to gamble on Howard's life expectancy in the Delta. If anything happens to him he will be another phony "martyr."

Publication of your letter had, among other things, the effect of relieving the explosive pressure but it is building up again and it is explosive.

From all I have been able to learn the new civil rights schools are tremendously popular and helpful.

With every good wish always,

J. Edgar Hoover,
Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,

Jack Carley,
Associate Editor.

RECORDED - 8
INDEXED - 8

62-102602-30
23 FEB 9 1956

ENCLOSURE
8

EX-107

PERS. FILES

41711
AUTOSTAT
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COPY

BREWER & BREWER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI

ED C. BREWER
E. CAGE BREWER, JR.
WILLIAM O. LUCKETT
JAY GORE, JR.

January 25, 1956

25541

Mr. Hodding Carter
Greenville
Mississippi

Dear Hodding:

I have just read your article in the Saturday Evening Post headed "Racial Crisis in the Deep South". In the article you mention the fact that Dr. T. R. M. Howard boasted of how he was protected night and day by two armed bodyguards.

If you will have your reporter go to Mound Bayou and other places in Bolivar County and talk with people, white and black, you will probably learn that Dr. Howard has bodyguards to protect him not from the white people but from the Negroes. If you find that this statement from me is true, you might want to write a further statement for publication letting the people know that Dr. Howard is being protected from people of his own race and that he has no fear from the white people in Mississippi.

It is my information that you are a good friend of Senator Estes Kefauver, and the article in the Post may be doing harm to his cause.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Ed C. Brewer.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja tnf

ECB:pb

Miss
D.C.

62-102602-30

ENCLOSURE

Mr. Nichols

January 27,
1956

M. A. Jones

THE "PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE"
CRITICAL EDITORIAL
(94-8-281)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4bjatnf

By letter dated January 25, 1956, the Philadelphia Office forwarded an editorial from the "Philadelphia Tribune" of January 24, 1956, captioned "The FBI And Mississippi." The editorial deals with Dr. T. R. Howard, of Mississippi, and the letter which the Director sent Dr. Howard. The editorial shows that the "Tribune" is on Dr. Howard's side, and it is most critical in questioning the Director's statement to Dr. Howard that the FBI is largely responsible for the virtual elimination of lynchings in the South and for the breaking up of the Ku Klux Klan in the Carolinas and Georgia. The editorial notes, however, the FBI's lack of jurisdiction. It states: "If the FBI needs more authority to act, someone should see that it gets it. If the FBI is hamstrung by the Civil Rights Section of the Central Crime Division of the Department of Justice, then the necessary steps ought to be taken to untie its hands."

The two main files on the "Philadelphia Tribune," together with information concerning the "Tribune" submitted by the Philadelphia Office in its letter of January 25, reflect that it is a Negro newspaper which is published on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Its total combined circulation for both days is 22,000.

The Bureau conducted a sedition investigation of the "Philadelphia Tribune" in 1943-44. This involved "slanted" articles concerning alleged discriminatory acts committed against colored members of the Armed Forces. The Department advised in September, 1944, that the paper was carrying out precisely the same line of activity as other Negro publications; that it was not believed prosecutive action against the "Tribune" was warranted and that the investigation could be closed. (14-1520-10)

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Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

In 1944, the "Tribune" extended congratulations to the "Daily Worker" on the occasion of its Twentieth Anniversary. Other activities of the "Tribune" in the past decade have reflected a sympathetic attitude on its part toward subversive organizations. However, its pages also have contained anti-Communist statements.

Attachment

GWG:pac
(5)

195
71 FEB 15 1956

162-102602-
NOT RECORDED
191 FEB 7 1956

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 94-8-281-13

In March, 1955, the Philadelphia Office ascertained that "Eustace Gay, Editor; E. Washington Rhodes, Publisher, 'Philadelphia Tribune,'...." appeared on a card at the headquarters of the Communist Party in Philadelphia. This card reportedly designated that Gay and Rhodes were considered by the Communist Party to be "progressives."

The Director has written friendly letters to Gay on infrequent occasions in recent years in connection with editorials which have appeared in the "Philadelphia Tribune."
(94-B-281)

OBSERVATIONS:

The "Philadelphia Tribune" has a limited circulation and obviously is very sensitive to the racial issue. Its editorial of January 24, 1956, is critical; however, it shows an understanding on the part of the "Tribune" that the Bureau's jurisdiction is limited. Additionally, it shows that the "Tribune" is familiar with the Director's letter to Dr. T. R. Howard. It is not felt that we should approach the "Tribune" at this time in connection with the critical editorial. This newspaper has a background of subversive-type sympathies and obviously is very opinionated on the racial issue. If it persists in its criticism, it undoubtedly will get itself "out on a limb" and we will be in a good position at that time to discredit it.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be sent to Philadelphia Office instructing that office to carefully review future issues of the "Philadelphia Tribune" for criticism of the Bureau in regard to racial matters--and to forward pertinent items to the Bureau. The Crime Records Section will follow.

4-11 (1-20-56)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED, 1956

TO:

Director 9-5-96

BY SP4 bjatnf

Mr. Tolson, 5744
Mr. Boardman, 5736
Mr. Belmont, 1742
Mr. Mason, 5256
Mr. Mohr, 5517
Mr. Parsons, 7621
Mr. Rosen, 5706
Mr. Tamm, 4130 IB
Mr. Sizoo, 1742
Mr. Nichols, 5640
Mr. McGuire, 5642
Mr. Wick, 5634
Mr. DeLoach, 5636
Mr. Morgan, 5226
Mr. Jones, 4236
Mr. Leonard, 6222 IB
Mr. Waikart, 7204
Mr. Eames, 7206
Mr. Wherry, 5537

Mr. Nease, 5744
Miss Gandy, 5633
Mr. Holloman, 5633

Records Section
Pers. Records, 6631
Reading Room, 5531
Mail Room, 5533
Teletype, 5644
Code Room, 4642
Mechanical, B-114
Supply Room, B-118
Tour Room, 5226

Miss Lurz
Miss McNally
Miss Mathers
Miss Carter
Miss Loper
Miss Cosart

See Me

For your info

Note & return

For appropriate action

L. B. Nichols

Room 5640, Ext. 691

INDEXED - 96

February 6, 1956

RECORDED - 96

62-102602-31

Mr. N. G. Sherouse
Reddick, Florida

EX-124

Dear Mr. Sherouse:

Your letter of January 28, 1956, has been received. I appreciate your interest in writing and giving me the benefit of your observations.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4bj/tf

NOTE: Mr. Sherouse is not identifiable in Bufiles nor is Fred L. Tomlin, whom he refers to in the letter. Bufile 100-417336 refers to Dr. Edgar Bass Keemer, M.D., of Detroit, Michigan, and it is felt that this is the individual to whom the correspondent is referring. Dr. Keemer was a key figure in the Socialist Workers' Party and was on the Security Index in 1946. Upon receipt of information in 1947 that Keemer was no longer affiliated with the SWP, his name was removed from the Security Index. He was arrested by Bureau Agents on July 6, 1943, in connection with the Selective Service Act of 1940. The case was dismissed on December 1, 1943, by the United States Attorney in Detroit, and when Keemer again was reported delinquent, United States Attorney advised that he contemplated no action in his case at that time. (25-194964.)

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Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

RGE: vjs
(3)

COMM - FBI
FEB 6 1956
MAILED 31

71 FEB 17 1956

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-311596

1/5 bja
N. G. SHEROUSE
REDDICK
FLORIDA

January 28, 1956

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Boardman	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Mason	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Parsons	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Mr. Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Holloman	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

5-1
McJ
3/1/59

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

I am much interested to read, in the current issue of The Pittsburgh Courier - January 28, 1956 - a quote from a letter which you addressed to Dr. T. R. M. Howard, Mound Bayou, Miss., saying -

"I do not propose to permit false charges made against the Bureau to go unchallenged."

In the October 8, 1955 issue of The Pittsburgh Courier there was about a half page of the paper devoted to an interview with this man and one of the vicious things he was quoted as saying was -

"I'm not hesitant to say that I feel today that unless the Federal government can be made to realize how extremely serious this situation is in Mississippi with tension mounting by the moment in the hearts of both Negroes and whites . . . that there is going to be outbreak of violence in Mississippi that's going to shock the very imagination of the Americans and of the world."

In addition this man went about the country addressing large gatherings of Negro citizens. It can be assumed that his talks were probably more inflammatory than were the many serious quotes shown in this published interview.

In the Letters to Editor column of The Courier for January 7, 1956 were these two -

"I am an American, but I am ashamed to hear and read how the black race is treated in the South. Since the Attorney General won't interfere, I and many others like me are willing to go down there as a suicide squad, if that would let the people know what I mean."

FRED L. TOMLIN*
New York City

RECORDED - 96

INDEXED - 96

62-702602-31
11 FEB 8 1956
10

EX - 124

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4 bja/tol

EXP. PROC.
JAN 31 1956

(1) Autostat UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

Director
1/31/56
Rose Hayes

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F B I
JAN 31 3 49 PM '56
RECEIVED-ROSEN
F B I
JAN 31 4 08 PM '56
REC'D, RECORDS SEC
F B I
JAN 31 5 45 PM '56

RECEIVED-TOLSON
RECEIVED-MICROFILMS
F B I
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED - BOARDMAN

RECEIVED
JAN 31 7 04 PM '56
CRIMINAL SECTION
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
FEB 7 3 49 PM '56
F B I
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FEB 7 10 48 AM '56
F B I
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
NO 1 MAN
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
FEB 1 10 09 AM '56



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/tmf

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

February 10, 1956

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Boardman ✓
Mr. Belmont ✓
Mr. Mason ✓
Mr. Mohr ✓
Mr. Parsons ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Tamm ✓
Mr. Nease ✓
Mr. Winterrowd ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Mr. Holloman ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Theodore R. M. Howard

While I was recently in Mississippi, I heard several comments which I thought would be of interest.

While I was in Mississippi, because of the circumstances I came in contact with numerous prominent citizens who visited the hospital and comments were made almost without exception by these people, praising your action in writing the letter to Dr. Howard. These people did not take a smug or superior attitude but thought it was disgraceful that Dr. Howard should have the temerity to attack you and all seemed to be exceedingly thankful that you had answered Dr. Howard and had done so in such a vigorous manner. Although the FBI has always been held in the highest esteem in Mississippi, I gathered the very definite impression that this esteem has increased substantially as a result of the letter to Dr. Howard and from the comments I heard I know that our activities in Mississippi have been greatly assisted as a result.

I also heard several comments to the effect that the Negroes in Mississippi resented Dr. Howard's attack on you. It was also stated that the Negroes, who have come in contact with Dr. Howard, bitterly hate him as a result of his defrauding the Negroes out of money and treating them in a very unfair manner. Several comments were made to the effect that the white people in Mississippi are very much afraid that if Dr. Howard returns to Mississippi that he will be killed by a member of his race and, of course, the white people are concerned that they will be blamed for his murder if such occurs. Apparently Dr. Howard made himself hated by the Negroes as a result of his filching them out of monies in connection with his medical activities.

It was also interesting to hear of the case (not investigated by the Bureau) of a Negro by the name of Clinton Melton, who was shot and killed in Glendora, Mississippi, on December 3, 1955, by Elmer Kimbell, a white man. Kimbell was arrested by local authorities and charged with the murder of Melton. Several comments were made to me that the white citizens in Mississippi severely resented this murder and that for a while there was evidence of a possible lynching of the white man by the white citizens. The common belief is that Elmer Kimbell will be convicted for this murder. The white citizens feel very strongly against Kimbell for killing Melton as they believe he had no reason whatsoever for his action.

63 FEB 24 1956

RECORDED-99

INDEXED-99

EX - 107

FEB 16 1956

CRIMINAL

Memorandum for the Director

February 10, 1956

The definite impression received was that the vast majority of the white citizens resent the rash and unlawful acts such as occurred in the Till murder and have no sympathy whatsoever with those responsible. There is no doubt but what almost without exception the white citizens do not intend to comply with the Supreme Court decision on integration. However, they appear to desire to go about it in an orderly and quiet manner. They resent any interference on the part of the Federal Government in what they feel are matters for each State to handle.

There was no indication of any resentment toward the FBI, so far as I could determine, and, as a matter of fact, all comments concerning the FBI were in high praise of your action in writing to Dr. Howard, as the people resented his attack on you and they all have a very high respect for you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'F. C. Holloman', written in a cursive style.

F. C. Holloman

FCH:eff (2)

1--FCH

FBI

Date: 2/4/56

Transmit the following message via

AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, CHICAGO (100-2293)

To: DIRECTOR, FBI

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mason	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

AFRO-AMERICAN CONGRESS OF
CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS
IS - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4 byatn

4(4) [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, orally advised SA DANIEL V. HOGAN on 2/3/56 that Dr. THEODORE ROOSEVELT MASON HOWARD, from Mt. Bayou, Mississippi, was in Chicago during the past week, where he remained at the Sutherland Hotel. Informant mentioned that HOWARD was in Chicago soliciting funds for his organization, the Regional Council of Negro Leadership (RCNL), from a group of doctors and other professional acquaintances.

The informant heard that Dr. HOWARD was in Chicago, contacted him at the Sutherland Hotel where she talked with him on 1/30/56. The informant, 4(4)

4(4) [redacted] knew Dr. HOWARD. It was in this connection that 4(4) made contact with him and not as a member of the SWP. According to the informant, a radical background is completely unknown to HOWARD.

(SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY)

From 4(4) conversation with HOWARD, the informant advised that he collected approximately \$300.00 from the doctors and professional acquaintances for RCNL. The informant got the impression that HOWARD was seeking help

④ - Bureau

1 - 100-

(Dr. T. R. M. HOWARD)

2 - Memphis

1 - 100-

(AFRO-AMERICAN CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS)

1 - 100-

(Dr. T. R. M. HOWARD)

5 - Chicago

1 - 4(4)

4(4)

1 - 100-new (Dr. T. R. M. HOWARD)

1 - 100-8261 (COMINFIL - NAACP)

1 - 100-8009 (COMINFIL - UPWA, CIO)

DVH:jjg

(11)

Mr. Belmont

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

SE-151

NOT RECORDED

170 FEB 15 1956

CONFIDENTIAL

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

CLASSIFIED BY 6676/ab/DP/10/4/73
EXEMPT FROM GDS CATEGORY 2
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

Downgraded
advised of info

3
100-2293-596
antiaf
100-2293-596
antiaf

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following message via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC,

To:

PAGE TWO

from legitimate organizations for the Negroes in Mississippi, but he would accept aid of anyone desiring to help. Continuing, the informant advised that HOWARD feels that J. ERNEST WILKINS, National Chairman of the NAACP has never substantially aided the Negroes in Mississippi. Also, HOWARD feels that WILKINS and other NAACP higher-ups form a corps of Negro professionals who aspire to political, social and economic prominence. They are willing to subordinate the real issues, such as the Negro situation in Mississippi, by not getting too controversial and bringing proper pressure to bear on Congress and other leaders in Washington, D.C., according to HOWARD. X u

HOWARD, feeling that the RCNL had been isolated by the NAACP, and with no influence of his own with Congress, felt that the only police organization whom he respected and could turn to was the FBI. This prompted his letter to FBI Director J. EDGAR HOOVER, and informant advised that HOWARD's impression of Director HOOVER's letter of reply was that it implied the same sort of isolation toward what HOWARD was trying to do for the Mississippi Negroes. HOWARD also told the informant that he has replied to Director HOOVER's letter, furnishing him with specific civil rights cases. Informant felt that HOWARD is now very disillusioned about the FBI. X u

The informant also learned from HOWARD that he is to speak before the UPWA, CIO at Chicago on 2/29/56. Informant believed that HOWARD is politically naive and is unaware of any Communist infiltration in this union. Also, HOWARD eventually contemplates moving to the Chicago area because he feels that by awakening various Chicago organizations to the Mississippi situation, he can raise more funds to give food, clothing, shelter and medical care to Mississippi Negroes. X u

HOSTETTER

UNITED PACKING HOUSE WORKERS OF AMERICA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson ✓

FROM : L. B. Nichols *LM*

SUBJECT: LOUIS E. LOMAX

DATE: 2/8/56

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-9-79 BY SP-3 TEK klfh
9-5-96 Sp4 kja tnf

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen ✓
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

Max Rabb, of the White House, called me on 2/7/56, to advise that Jim Hagerty had sent him a letter from Louis E. Lomax requesting an interview with the President along with a copy of a letter which Lomax sent to the Director. Max stated that he was inclined to see Lomax and he thought the time had come to make the point that the tactics of some of the Negro leaders were ill-advised, were alienating support and were uncalled for. Max then pointed out that he had been watching the developments in connection with the exchange of correspondence with Dr. Howard which the Director had; that he thought the Director had done a very fine job and that it was high time somebody called Howard's hand and that he was inclined to take the same line and really make it crystal clear that the irresponsible agitation on the part of some of the Negro leaders was hurting their cause.

Max then inquired about the Alabama case involving Autherine Lucy who got a court order forcing the University of Alabama to admit her. He thought that this was scandalous and wondered if we were checking into this. I told him that there was no violation of civil rights as yet. I then asked him if he had any information as to what prompted Miss Lucy to suddenly desire to go to the University of Alabama; that it did seem sort of strange, based upon the news story, that a 26 year old secretary should suddenly get the urge to enter the University of Alabama in the middle of the year and that the question intrigued me as to whether she was being paid to force this issue. Max stated that he did not know that she was 26 and if that was the case then this was another agitational stunt.

I asked Max if he had seen the statements of the Alabama Judge (George Wallace) who had threatened to hold FBI Agents in contempt if they made investigations in his district. He had not seen this as yet. Max stated that he thought the situation was very serious and that the issue should not be forced because difficulties might result. I told him that I was certain that his views were sound on this point and there needed to be some pretty calm appraisal of the increasing tensions that are developing that are not helped by some of these incidents. Max stated that this is why he had come to the conclusion he was going to talk rather frankly to Louis Lomax, the colored writer, and urge caution. Max again commented on the Director's action in writing Dr. Howard and making his letter public. He thought this was a well timed thing and very well executed maneuver.

cc - Mr. Boardman

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Jones

L:fc (5)

62-102602-
NOT RECORDED
102 FEB 14 1956

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson *Viper*

FROM : L. B. Nichols *LBN*

SUBJECT: LOUIS E. LOMAX

DATE: 2/9/56

Tolson ☒

Boardman ☒

Nichols ☒

Belmont ☒

Harbo ☒

Mohr ☒

Parsons ☒

Rosen ☒

Tamm ☒

Sizoo ☒

Winterrowd ☒

Tele. Room ☒

Holloman ☒

Gandy ☒

I called Max Rabb at the White House and referred to our conversation a couple of days ago pertaining to Lomax. I told Max that we had done some further checking on Lomax and have now determined that he at one time was a preacher in Valdosta, Georgia; that he had been a complainant in a civil rights case back in 1947 wherein a police officer was alleged to have used too much force on a local Negro for which the Department ruled did not constitute a civil rights violation; that we had also determined that back in 1949 he had rented a car in Indiana, taken it to Chicago, was arrested in Chicago, tried in the State Court and subsequently convicted and paroled, 9/28/54. I told Rabb that Lomax still reports to his Parole Officer and that the Parole Officer had advised Lomax not to marry a white girl (Suzanne Avery) although there was some indication that the two were living together without the benefit of matrimony.

Max stated that he was not going to see Lomax but that he thought under the circumstances we should go ahead and see him as we had originally planned. Max then stated that he had quite a session with Thurgood Marshall two days ago and told Marshall that he was very unhappy about this proposed march on Washington and about the irresponsible manner in which several colored spokesmen were conducting themselves; that he told Marshall that he was very unhappy about the Dr. Howard incidents and that he was glad that the Director slapped Howard down. Marshall told Rabb that he had no use for Howard and nothing would please him more than to see Howard completely crushed. Rabb cautioned Marshall about the conduct of their organization and urged them to be more temperate and not to let themselves be used.

At this point, I told Rabb that Marshall called and that he was coming in today. Rabb stated that there is no question but that Marshall is worried now about the so-called march on Washington and that he thought we ought to lay it on the line with Marshall. I told him that we, of course, would see Marshall; that we also had to be a little on the discreet side and could not start citing page, chapter and verse on the Communist infiltration and use of the NAACP. Max stated that the fact that Marshall would turn around and call us,

cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Rosen

LBN:fc (4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-9-79

BY SP-3 TEK/aff

62-102602-
NOT RECORDED
FEB 14 1956

64 FEB 20 1956

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-102602-1

Memorandum for Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols
RE: LOUIS E. LOMAX

2/9/56

in his opinion, was a good omen. Max also made the observation that he thought the racial situation in the South was one of the biggest problems we had in the country today. I told him that we were very much concerned about it. Max asked me to come over and have lunch with him on Friday. I told him I would do it unless something came up.

✓

~~2-6~~

✓

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson *per DS*

FROM : L. B. Nichols *LBN*

SUBJECT: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD

DATE: February 9, 1956

Tolson ☒

Boardman ☒

Nichols ☒

Belmont ☒

Harbo ☒

Mohr ☒

Parsons ☒

Rosen ☒

Tamm ☒

Sizoo ☒

Winterrowd ☒

Tele. Room ☒

Holloman ☒

Gandy ☒

With reference to the attached Airtel to Memphis with copies to New York and New Orleans instructing that all offices determine if Dr. Howard has any status, official or otherwise, with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), I wish to advise that Thurgood Marshall, the General Counsel of the NAACP, while at the Bureau on February 9th stated to Mr. Rosen and me that Howard has no standing in the NAACP, he is not an officer, he is a member in Mississippi, he will probably endeavor to secure credentials from one of the twelve hundred chapters of the NAACP to attend the Conference on Civil Rights in Washington beginning March 4th and that he cannot secure creditation from the Mississippi delegation. It is the plan of the officials of the NAACP, if Howard does show up with credentials, to endeavor to have the credentials revoked by the head of the state delegation, if it is not possible to have the head of the chapter revoke them.

It would, therefore, seem unnecessary to have the field make additional investigation.

cc - Mr. Boardman

cc - Mr. Rosen

LBN:ptm
(4)

#260,148
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-15-87 BY SP8BJ/ptc
9-5-96 SP4 bja/trf #361841

RECORDED-99
INDEXED-99

62-102602-33

FEB 20 1956

EX - 107

51 FEB 21 1956

1 AutoTested-UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 61-3176-✓

January 27, 1956

62-102602-34

RECORDED - 1

Dr. T. R. M. Howard
Mound Bayou, Mississippi

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4 BJA/TNC

Dear Sir:

EX-125

I wish to acknowledge your two letters of January 19 and 20, 1956.

The Chicago American of December 28, 1955,
quotes you as saying:

"Confidential information usually leaks from the local FBI offices and witnesses in Negro slaying are subjected to pressures as a result."

In your letter of January 20, 1956, you now state that Charlie Hopkins of Cleveland, Mississippi, complained that he had been denied the right to cast his vote and you cite this as the case of the alleged leak. For your information, no Agents of this Bureau have ever interviewed Hopkins.

Chief of Police Dempsey of Cleveland, Mississippi, whom you charge as having upbraided Hopkins for making the complaint to the FBI, states he could not have done so for he does not know whether representatives of this Bureau even talked to Hopkins.

COMM - FBI

JAN 27 1956

MAILED 18

Your charge that Amzie Moore was asked to sign a statement as to whether or not he believed the FBI dealt as fairly with Negroes as with white persons, is emphatically denied by the Agents who conducted an interview with Amzie Moore on September 8, 1955.

Toison _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Moor _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

cc - SAC, Memphis (webi)
cc - SAC, New Orleans (webi)

LBN/CDD:ptm:jec
(9)

(Memo to Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols, CDD:fc 1-26-56)

51 FEB 29 1956

1/27/56

16. approved by Fred Muller
1/27/56 JRM

Dr. T. R. M. Howard

25553

January 27, 1956

From the established facts above it would appear
that you were incorrect in your original charges.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

RECEIVED
FEB 1 1956
FBI
MAIL ROOM
FBI

RECEIVED
FEB 1 1956
FBI

RECEIVED - MICROFILM
FBI
JAN 31 2 01 PM '56

DR. T. R. M. HOWARD
MOUND BAYOU
PRESIDENT

DR. S. N. BISSON
GREENVILLE
VICE-PRESIDENT

AARON E. HENRY
CLARKSDALE
SECRETARY

ED SCOTT
DREW
TREASURER

REV. ISAAC DANIELS
MOUND BAYOU
ASST. TREASURER

Regional Council Of Negro Leadership MISSISSIPPI

25554

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

January 19, 1956

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VICE PRESIDENTS

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Dr. Clinton Battle, Indianola
Levy Chapple, Greenville
Rev. A. L. Saddler, Marks
Mrs. Lucille Strong, Gulfport
Lee Harris, Mound Bayou
W. L. Eiland, Ruleville
Albert Jones, Meridian
James Gilliam, Clarksdale
R. L. Drew, Clarksdale

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Education: Wallace Higgins, Clarksdale
Health: Dr. H. J. St. Hille, Greenville
Registration and Voting: Levy Chapple, Greenville
Religion: Rev. M. M. Morris, Greenville
Race Relations: Dr. E. P. Burton, Mound Bayou
Court Procedure: Rev. W. A. Bender, Tugaloo
Agriculture: I. D. Thompson, Cleveland
Labor and Economics: James Edwards, Greenville
State and National Legislators:
George Jefferson, Vicksburg
Press, Radio, Television: Charles Watson, Cleveland
Speakers Bureau: Atty. Leonard Hughes, Greenville
Business and Professional:
Carl Thompson, Port Gibson
Fraternalities: I. E. Edwards, Mound Bayou

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Boardman	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Parsons	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Mr. Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Holloman	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

On January 18, 1956, I was called by the Memphis Commercial Appeal, and asked if I had any comment on a letter from you to me which you had released to them. Subsequently, and on the same day, I received similar calls from other newspapers and press associations. Your letter to me reached my Mound Bayou, Mississippi, home at 9 A. M. on January 19, 1956, a full twelve hours after my first call from the newspapers. Since I had not received your letter when I was queried by these newspapers, I was unable to make a complete reply. I can only presume that you released the letter prior to the time it could possibly have reached me because you wanted the whole matter to become an issue in the area of public controversy. I shall, therefore, follow your example and release this letter to the newspapers.

The crux of your complaint, as I gather it, is that I have "made false and irresponsible charges" against the FBI in connection with the murders of George W. Lee, Lamar Smith and Emmett Till, all of whom were killed in Mississippi during 1955. I am sure that you will understand that these murders, all of which have gone unpunished, have excited genuine concern on the part of millions of Americans. That concern has been heightened by the fact that J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant explained in last week's LOOK magazine that they did kill Emmett Till.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-5-96 BY Sp4bjatnf

EX-125

RECORDED - 7

62-102602-34
6 FEB 24 1956

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1-25-56
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UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 44-9327

RECEIVED
T&I DIV.

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
FBI

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
FBI

RECEIVED
ROSEN

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
FBI

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
FBI

JAN 27 10 40 AM '56

JAN 21 3 34 PM '56

JAN 23 11 54 AM '56

JAN 21 6 14 PM '56

FEB 2 1 40 PM '56

Rosemary Johnson

FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED-TOLSON
FBI

DEPT OF JUSTICE

MR. JONES

JAN 24 2 56 PM '56

JAN 23 9 28 AM '56

FEB 14 10 16 AM '56

RECEIVED-NICHOLS
FBI

RECEIVED-NICHOLS
FBI

FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FEB 6 5 13 PM '56

RECEIVED
ROSEN

RECEIVED
NO. 1 MAN
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

FEB 6 9 06 AM '56

RECEIVED
NO. 1 MAN
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

FEB 8 9 17 AM '56

JAN 23 12 08 PM '56

RECEIVED

CRIMINAL SECTION
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

FEB 8 9 17 AM '56

FBI

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MISSISSIPPI
HONORARY MISSISSIPPI
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

MISSISSIPPI

Department of Justice

MISSISSIPPI
HONORARY MISSISSIPPI
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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HONORARY MISSISSIPPI
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
January 19, 1956
Page 2

25555

Since that confession there has been no move to take any further proceedings against them, either by state or federal authorities, so far as I know. As a resident of Mississippi, I know, and I am sure that FBI agents know, that the facts in the George Lee and LaMar Smith murders are widely known in the communities in which they were murdered.

I am a layman, not a lawyer. I do not pretend to know the intricacies of the law. I do know that my own criticism of the failure of justice in these cases is a reflection of the feelings of the many thousands of persons to whom I have spoken and with whom I have talked in the past few months. They are as dismayed as I am that murders can be committed in the United States and that murderers can escape indictment, as in the George Lee and LaMar Smith cases, or win acquittal as in the Emmett Till cases, when, as in all of these cases, the facts are so well known to law enforcement authorities, federal as well as state.

As I understand your concept of the law in these matters, your Bureau is required only to make investigations at the request of the Department of Justice. After you have made these investigations, upon request, you lay the facts before the Department of Justice which then determines whether or not prosecution will be undertaken or further investigations will be made. It seems reasonable to suppose that the Department of Justice must depend, for a final judgment as to whether or not prosecution will be undertaken, on the facts as reported by your Bureau. You say that such investigations were made in the George Lee case. I do not know, of course, the extent of your investigation. I do not know whether or not you determined that this were merely a murder case, falling within the province of the State of Mississippi or whether you determined it was part of a wide-spread conspiracy reaching across state lines that might have brought it within the purview of federal-civil-rights statutes. What I do know is that a Negro citizen who sought to vote was murdered and that both State and Federal Governments have declined to take any action. I do not know upon what grounds the Department of Justice declined jurisdiction. I do know that I sent a telegram to the Department of Justice asking for a conference on these matters and received an answer some four weeks later stating that such a conference would be arranged. No date was set for that proposed meeting.

It was against that background that I voiced my criticism of federal inaction in my Baltimore speech. The quotation attributed to me by the Baltimore Morning Sun is not entirely accurate. In substance I said on that occasion that "We must find out why the FBI cannot seem to solve a crime where a Negro is murdered by a white man in Mississippi." Whether the reason for that failure lies in inadequacy of federal statutes, or restrictive interpretation of such statutes by the Department of Justice or the failure of FBI investigative machinery the fact remains that "the

2

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
January 19, 1956
Page 3

FBI cannot seem to solve a crime where a Negro is murdered by a white man in Mississippi." Of course, I do not know the extent or character of the Bureau's investigation in the Till case. I do not know whether your investigation was made available to Mississippi law enforcement authorities. It is plain now in the light of the J. W. Milam confession in the Till case that the facts lay close to the surface. I have the impression that in many instances the FBI has conducted investigations and found facts which were then given to state authorities for prosecution of the wrong doers.

You say that I have "conveniently forgotten the work of this Bureau...was largely responsible for the virtual elimination of lynching in the South and, also, was mainly responsible for the breaking up of the K.K.K. in the Carolinas and Georgia." Frankly, there is a wide difference of opinion between us on that score. You are as entitled to your opinion that the FBI deserves credit on both these scores as I am to mine that lynching was eliminated and the K.K.K. broken up by persistent action by the N A A C P and by an aroused public opinion. I cannot recall a prosecution of lynching, as such, by the Federal Government and I suppose that such prosecution would be undertaken only after investigation by the Bureau. I also understand that there is no federal anti-lynching statute and that prosecution of lynching, as such, is a matter for the States. In view of that fact, I do not understand how the FBI was able to take effective action to "virtually eliminate lynching" in light of your statement that the Department of Justice can act only when Federal statutes have been violated. If the Federal Government was able to act in the area of lynching, in the absence of a federal anti-lynching statute, is it possible to undertake similar action in cases such as the George Lee, LaMar Smith and Emmett Till cases in light of a similar claimed lack of applicable Federal statutes?

I did charge in my Chicago Press Conference speech that there had apparently been a "leak" of FBI investigations in Mississippi. The complainants live in Mississippi and I believe that you will agree with me that any Negro complainant in that state risks his personal safety when he makes charges that run counter to current public opinion in that state. Therefore, I will not recite the specific case in this letter which will be released to the press. Under separate cover I am sending you a statement of the facts in that case. I know that you will guarantee the safety of the individual involved. One of the things which I wanted to discuss, and tried to discuss, with the Department of Justice was that very matter. Since I was never given a definite appointment I was unable to present it through those channels.

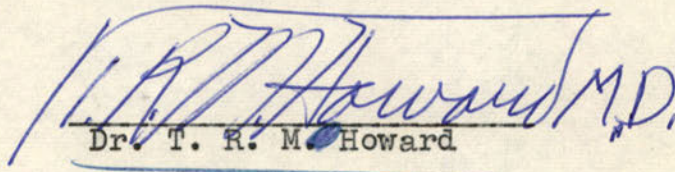
In conclusion, I reject the charge that I have made "false and irresponsible charges." I have exercised my right as an American citizen to criticise governmental functions. I shall continue to exercise that right, even when it leads to a difference of opinion

3

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
January 19, 1956
Page 4

between me and public servants. I regret that this controversy has arisen between us since it tends to obscure the fact that the real issue in the South, and in the Nation and the world for that matter, is not our differences as to FBI action, or inaction, but the fact that American citizens are being wantonly murdered in Mississippi and that their murderers are going unpunished. Since your letter to me was in the nature of an open statement to the newspapers I regret very much that you did not see fit to include in it a condemnation of these murders. Your condemnation might do much to halt this wave of violence. In any event, I shall continue to join with the millions of other Americans and cry out against injustice and against that kind of administration of justice which permits murderers to go free to boast their crimes.

Sincerely yours,


Dr. T. R. M. Howard

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD
MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

DATE: 1/19/56

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/tf

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
 Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

ASAC Halter, of the Memphis Office, called 1/19/56. The Director's letter to Dr. Howard, which was released the night of 1/18/56, has received a good play in Mississippi and Tennessee papers. Halter stated public reaction was very favorable. The Memphis "Commercial Appeal" and "Press Scimitar" carry articles, dated today, reflecting that Dr. Howard was telephonically contacted in Los Angeles at telephone number WEBster 8-7365. He was asked questions concerning the Director's letter. Dr. Howard specifically stated that he would deny that he had made any remarks concerning "FBI leaks in the Till case." Dr. Howard was quoted as saying "If the FBI entered the Till case, I don't know about it. My remarks were meant to imply that the FBI had failed to find the murderer of Reverend Lee in Mississippi and also the individual who wounded Gus Corts. My reports to back up these statements came from responsible Negroes."

Dr. Howard was further quoted as stating "With respect to FBI leaks, I have mentioned in speeches that a Negro in Cleveland, Tennessee, signed an affidavit indicating he was intimidated at the polls on August 22, 1955, during an election. This Negro was approached by local law enforcement agents after the FBI had consulted him about his affidavit." Dr. Howard then implied that obviously the FBI had given local law enforcement agents information concerning the affidavit.

ASAC Halter advised that the Memphis Office had no record of anyone interviewing a Negro concerning an affidavit. Halter thought that Dr. Howard might have in mind the case of Ruby Hurley; Amzie Moore - Complainant, a civil rights matter in which Moore made an affidavit reflecting that economic pressure was brought against him in the operation of a filling station in Cleveland, Tennessee. Ruby Hurley, who is an NAACP representative, reportedly told the story while in conference at the Department of Justice. ASAC Halter reiterated that the public's reaction to the Director's letter was very favorable. He was instructed to send the above mentioned articles in air mail special delivery to the Bureau.

cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Jones

RECORDED - 7

62-102602-35
FEB 24 1956

CDD:fc (5)

64 MAR 1 1956

EX-125

auto copy 5-10-56 UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-102602-35

DR. T. R. M. HOWARD
MOUND BAYOU
PRESIDENT

DR. S. N. JENSON
GREENVILLE
VICE-PRESIDENT

AARON E. HENRY
CLARKSDALE
SECRETARY

SCOTT
DREW
TREASURER

REV. ISAAC DANIEL
MOUND BAYOU
ASST. TREASURER

Regional Council Of Negro Leadership MISSISSIPPI

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

DR. EMMETT J. STRINGER, Columbus
Chairman of the Board
VICE PRESIDENTS

January 20, 1956

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Dr. Clinton Battle, Indianola
Levy Chapple, Greenville
Rev. A. L. Saddler, Marks
Mrs. Lucille Strong, Gulfport
Lee Harris, Mound Bayou
W. L. Eiland, Ruleville
Albert Jones, Meridian
James Gilliam, Clarksdale
R. L. Draw, Clarksdale

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Race Relations: Dr. E. P. Burton, Mound Bayou
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Labor and Economics: James Edwards, Greenville
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George Jefferson, Vicksburg
Press, Radio, Television: Charles Watson, Cleveland
Speakers Bureau: Atty. Leonard Hughes, Greenville
Business and Professional:
Carl Thompson, Port Gipsom
Fraternalities: I. E. Edwards, Mound Bayou

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Nease
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/nf

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In my letter of January 19 in reference to my assertion that there had been a "leak" in information given to the FBI, I said that I was sending you a letter that would not be released to the press out of consideration of personal safety for the persons involved.

Following the August 2, 1955, primary election Charlie Hopkins, a registered voter of Cleveland, Mississippi, complained to the FBI that he had been denied the right to cast his vote. The date of his complaint was early in Autumn, 1955. Mr. Hopkins was visited by agents of the FBI. The following day he was approached by Chief of Police Dempsey of Cleveland who upbraided him for making the complaint to the FBI. Almost immediately, Mr. Hopkins came to my office in Mound Bayou and laid these facts before me. Mr. Hopkins was accompanied by Amzie Moore, president of the Cleveland Branch of the NAACP. It was the belief of both Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Moore that local enforcement agencies would not have known about the complaint lodged by Mr. Hopkins unless such

6 FEB 24 1956

RECORDED - 25

64 MAR 1 1956

25557
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
January 20, 1956
Page 2

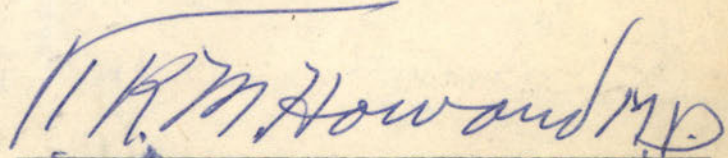
information had been given to those local law enforcement officers by the FBI. My statement in Chicago as to a "leak" from the FBI was made with those facts in mind. In view of the hostility of local law enforcement authorities toward Negroes who insist on their right to vote Mr. Hopkins was very much disturbed to find that his complaint had found its way to them. He told me that he believed that any complaint made by him to the FBI would be held in strictest confidence by the FBI and would not be divulged. If you will grant me an appointment I will be glad to bring both Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Moore with me to discuss this entire matter with you at your office in Washington.

At about the same period of time Mr. Moore was approached by FBI agents who questioned him as to whether or not he believed the FBI dealt as fairly in Mississippi with Negroes as with white persons, and actually asked him to sign a statement to that effect. Mr. Moore refused to sign such a statement.

Frankly, it is a matter of common knowledge among Negroes in Mississippi that FBI agents in that section of the nation are themselves Southerners who hold prevailing views as to racial and interracial relationships. The general feeling is that the feelings and attitudes of these agents subconsciously intrude on their judgments and their attitudes in making investigations in the highly explosive and emotional atmosphere of the South. One of the agents to whom I have referred in the Hopkins matter is himself, I understand, a former local law enforcement officer from the state of Mississippi.

One does not have to charge a flagrant dereliction of duty to believe that the judgment of such men is colored by deep seated beliefs and attitudes. It is my belief that any investigation into this situation will be more adequately conducted by agents who are not themselves residents of the area.

Very truly yours,


T. R. M. Howard, M. D.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: 1/23/56

FROM : Mr. Price

SUBJECT: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD,
MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
 Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja tnf

The Director has stated that "I want a prompt analysis of Dr. Howard's two letters. Either he is right and we are wrong or vice versa."

Letter of January 20, 1956

This letter has been reviewed concerning a possible "leak." Dr. Howard states Charlie Hopkins, a registered voter of Cleveland, Mississippi, complained to FBI he had been denied the right to cast his vote and following that he was approached by Chief of Police Dempsey of Cleveland who upbraided him for making complaint to FBI. Hopkins accompanied by Amzie Moore, President of Cleveland Branch of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), said it was their belief that information had been given to local law enforcement officers by FBI. A review of the file concerning the discrimination against Negroes in Bolivar County reflects that Charlie Hopkins has not been interviewed. Mr. Nichols in his memorandum to Mr. Tolson of 1/19/56 indicates that ASAC Halter had called on that date and in Howard's reply released to the press, Howard had said a Negro in Cleveland had filed an affidavit indicating he was intimidated at the polls and this Negro was approached by local law enforcement officers after FBI had consulted him concerning his affidavit. Halter advised DeLoach that Memphis Office had no record of anyone interviewing a Negro concerning an affidavit.

Howard alleged Amzie Moore contacted about same time and asked by FBI Agent whether he believed FBI dealt as fairly with Negroes in Mississippi as white persons.

RECOMMENDATION:

Attached for your approval is a teletype to Memphis giving background of Dr. Howard's letter and requesting that Memphis advise by return tel whether or not Charlie Hopkins

Enclosure

cc: 1 - Mr. Nichols
1 - Mr. DeLoach

WMA:ecb (8)

RECORDED - 25

EX - 118

62-102602-37

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-102504
UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 44-8949

Auto. copy filed in 62-102602-37
Auto. copy filed in 44-8949

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen

has been interviewed, the identity of the Agent conducting the interview and whether or not results of interview discussed by any Agent with Chief of Police or any member of his office or anyone. This teletype requests Memphis to advise details of interview with Amzie Moore in the event interview of Moore was not outgrowth of complaint made by Ruby Hurley. (Ruby Hurley in September, 1955, made allegation to Department of Justice that Agent of FBI in Mississippi was former law enforcement officer and that statement made by Moore to the Agent had been furnished to outsiders. Moore was interviewed and could furnish no specifics and Department so advised.) New Orleans furnished 8/19/55 article appearing "State Times," Jackson, Mississippi, 8/3/55 which quotes one E. B. Hopkins, Treasurer of Bolivar County, NAACP as saying his vote had been challenged and he, therefore, would not cast his vote at all. This clipping furnished Department 8/25/55.

Letter dated January 19, 1956

This letter has been reviewed and the following allegations have been made by Dr. Howard:

(1) The letter from the Director to Dr. Howard dated January 16, 1956, was allegedly released to the newspapers some 12 hours before letter reached Dr. Howard's Mound Bayou home. Dr. Howard said letter reached his home 9 a.m., 1/19/56. Mr. Nichols' memorandum to Mr. Tolson 1/16/56 states that if the letter were mailed 1/16/56 and went by regular mail it should have arrived in Mound Bayou on Wednesday, 1/18/56. It was, therefore, proposed that the letter be released Wednesday afternoon for the a.m. papers on Thursday, 1/19/56.

This is not material but in future we should be certain we don't make release prior to receipt by addressee of letter from us.

(2) Dr. Howard makes a jurisdictional complaint concerning the murders of Emmett Till, George Wesley Lee and Lamar Smith in Mississippi. The Bureau did not conduct investigation in the Till and Lamar Smith cases and Dr. Howard was so advised in the letter to him of 1/16/56. The Bureau did conduct a full investigation in the Lee case and the facts as developed were submitted to the Department of Justice. Dr. Howard says that he does not know on what grounds the Department of Justice declined jurisdiction in the Lee case. Information has been received that the Department will furnish results of our

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen

investigation to local prosecuting attorney saying no Civil Rights violation involved but it is not known if the information has been furnished by the Department to the local prosecuting attorney and no public release concerning jurisdiction has been made.

(3) Dr. Howard makes mention of statement in the letter that this Bureau takes credit for elimination of lynchings in the South and much of his letter on this point is, of course, argumentative. He states there is, to his knowledge, no Federal Antilynching Law, which is true; however, lynching may and has been investigated by the Bureau where law enforcement officer is involved and there is wilful inaction on the part of law enforcement officers in preventing a lynching.

(4) Dr. Howard makes much of leak having been dealt with in the letter of January 20, 1956, above.

(5) Dr. Howard states the Director should have condemned the murders in Mississippi in his public letter. This, of course, is argumentative.

A number of the above items do not relate to investigative activity of the Bureau but from an investigative standpoint the facts as set forth in the Bureau's letter to Dr. Howard of 1/16/56 are factually correct.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that this memorandum be sent to Mr. Nichols' Office where if a reply to Dr. Howard is deemed advisable, the Investigative Division can work in conjunction with Mr. Nichols' Office in formulating the reply, after the reply to attached teletype is received from Memphis.

*This should
be expedited*

- 3 -

4-22 (6-15-55)

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Section

1-23, 1955

☐ Name Check Unit - Room 6523
☐ Attention _____
☐ Service Unit - Room 6524
☐ Forward to File Review
☒ Return to Alexander Ext. 2028
Supervisor
Room 4260

☒ All References
☐ Subversive References
☐ Main _____ References Only
☒ Restrict to Locality of Miss
☐ Breakdown ☐ Buildup ☐ Variations
☒ Exact Name Only
☒ Exact Spelling
☐ Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

SUBJECT Charles Hopkins
Address _____

Localities Charlie & Charley
Birthdate & Place _____

R# _____ Date 1-23 Searcher Initial Bps
FILE NUMBER SERIAL

W.R. 121-35539

W.R. 44-52-2 (NH)

Charley
nr in loc
Charlie
nr in loc

files have been called
for 9AM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/m

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. L. V. BOARDMAN *LB*DATE: 1/24/56 *2/7/56*FROM : A. ROSEN *R*SUBJECT: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD
MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

In connection with the ^{1/25/56}attached letter which was prepared by Mr. Nichols to Dr. T. R. M. Howard, Mound Bayou, Mississippi, Mr. DeLoach has asked me to indicate the source of the material in the letter relating to the fact that there is no record in this Bureau reflecting an interview with Hopkins and the Agents working in this area (Memphis) indicate that they have not interviewed Hopkins. *eg 51*

This statement is based upon information contained in a teletype from the Memphis Office dated today, January 24, 1956, 10:02 a.m., a copy of which is attached.

With reference to the statement in the letter that Agent G. Dewey Hall died on May 22, 1955, this information was obtained from a memorandum prepared September 13, 1955, in file 62-102524, serial 6, wherein it is indicated that the SAC at Memphis advised that Special Agent Hall was the late Special Agent G. Dewey Hall who died on May 22, 1955, and was formerly connected with law enforcement in New Albany, Mississippi. Hall worked almost exclusively on Civil Rights matters during the last four years of his service, and, according to the SAC at Memphis, was a mature Agent with excellent judgment in Civil Rights matters and in whom he had the utmost confidence. *4*

ADDENDUM, 1-25-55, CDD:jec Facts re interview with Ruby Hurley and Amzie Moore were taken from the following sources; 1) Telephone call from A. B. Caldwell of Department, September 8, 1955; 2) New York teletype, September 8, 1955 re interview with Hurley; 3) Memphis teletype September 9, 1955. cc - Mr. Nichols 4) Memphis teletype dated 1-24-56.

AR:LS
(7)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4 bja/tmf

RECORDED - 1

62-102602-38

FEB 24 1956

EX-125

53 FEB 29 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD
MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

DATE: 1/25/56

Tolson ✓
Boardman ✓
Nichols ✓
Belmont ✓
Harbo ✓
Mohr ✓
Parsons ✓
Rosen ✓
Tamm ✓
 Sizoo ✓
Winterrowd ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Holloman ✓
Gandy ✓

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja tnf

Dr. Howard's letters to the Director dated 1/19 and 20/56, contain numerous innuendoes and false statements. From the tenor of referenced letters, there does not appear to be a desire on Dr. Howard's part to be correct in his facts. Therefore, no purpose is served in our elaborating on falsehoods. The attached letter is brief and to the point. I suggest its approval.

For information, Dr. Howard points out in referenced letters that "Charlie Hopkins" complained he had been denied the right to cast his vote. He cited this as the case of the alleged leak involving "witnesses in Negro slaying." Our inquiry clearly reflects there is no record reflecting an interview with Hopkins at any time. Agents in the Memphis Office have been questioned and have confirmed the fact they have not interviewed Hopkins.

Dr. Howard, in another portion of his letters, refers to an agent, a former local law enforcement officer from the State of Mississippi, who was involved in the Hopkins matter. Inasmuch as no agents have interviewed Mr. Hopkins, Dr. Howard's claims in this regard are clearly inaccurate.

Dr. Howard stated that Amzie Moore was approached by FBI agents who questioned him regarding whether or not he believed the FBI dealt as fairly in Mississippi with Negroes as with white persons and actually asked him to sign a statement to that effect. Dr. Howard stated that Moore refused to sign the statement. Our inquiry reflects that FBI representatives did interview Moore, 9/8/55, in connection with an official inquiry based upon a complaint made by Mrs. Ruby Hurley, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) representative, who told Justice Department officials, 9/7/55, that a "former police officer in Mississippi offered no cooperation to members of the Negro race" or words to that effect. Upon interview by the FBI, Mrs. Hurley identified the former

Enclosure
cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Alexander (Room 4260)

CDD:fc

(5)

51 FEB 28 1956
memo to Mr. Tolson
from LBN
CDD:fc 1/26/56

62-102602-39
6 FEB 24 1956

Memorandum for Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols 1/25/56
RE: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD, MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

law enforcement officer's name as "Hall." She claimed the source of her information to be Amzie Moore. Moore was immediately interviewed. He could furnish no facts to substantiate Mrs. Hurley's original complaint. To the contrary, Moore advised he had no complaint concerning his interview with Special Agent G. Dewey Hall (now deceased) which occurred 5/16/55. He stated that Mrs. Hurley must have drawn her own conclusions regarding this matter. The agents who interviewed Moore, 9/8/55, have categorically denied that Moore was asked to execute a statement. They also deny asking Moore whether he believed the FBI dealt as fairly with Negroes as with whites in Mississippi.

Was Hall a former local law-enf officer? H.

In the attached letter to Dr. Howard, we are briefly dealing with the "Charlie Hopkins" allegations and closing the letter with a strong sentence as to the falseness of Dr. Howard's charges. There is obviously no purpose in going any further inasmuch as Dr. Howard apparently cannot understand truthfulness or cold facts.

ACTION:

It is suggested the attached letter go forward.

R
EHW
Went
dm
✓

ADDENDUM, LBN:FML, 1/25/56:

In line with Mr. Tolson's desires that we interview Chief of Police Dempsey of Cleveland, Mississippi, whom Howard states upbraided Charlie Hopkins for making a complaint to the FBI, you are advised that SAC Piper of Memphis talked to Chief of Police Dempsey this afternoon and has reported that according to Dempsey, Charlie Hopkins is secretary of the NAACP in Mississippi. Dempsey

Memorandum for Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols - 1/25/56
RE: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD, MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

knows Hopkins well. Hopkins called upon the Chief of Police on election day and asked the Chief about his right to vote. The Chief referred him to the local election committee but did not upbraid him and did not speak harshly to him.

Dempsey stated he does not know whether Agents have ever talked to Hopkins nor does he know if Agents have ever talked to Amzie Moore. At no time has any Agent ever told him, Dempsey, that he intended to interview Hopkins or Moore or that they had interviewed Hopkins or Moore.

Dempsey knows Amzie Moore but hasn't spoken more than a dozen words to him in his life and these have consisted of saying hello at the time Moore called for his mail.

This is further proof of the lying proclivities of Dr. Howard. However, I see no purpose in going into this detail in our letter.

✓ non

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson *per Tolson*

FROM : L. B. Nichols *per Nichols*

SUBJECT: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD
MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

DATE: 1/26/56

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 by a tnf

There is attached a letter to Dr. T. R. M. Howard as revised by the Director. As you have instructed, the facts as utilized in this letter have been approved by Messrs. Boardman, Rosen, Supervisor Alexander, of the Investigative Division, and telephonically with SAC Piper of Memphis. *51*

In my memorandum to you dated 1/25/56, which justifies the facts as used in the attached letter, the Director raised the question "Was Hall (Special Agent G. Dewey Hall who died 5/22/55) a former local law-enforcement officer? H." Mr. Hall's personnel file reflects that from 1930 to 1932 he was employed in the Sheriff's Office, New Albany, Mississippi. He was a City Marshal in New Albany, Mississippi, from 1933 to the time of his entry on duty into the FBI.

In his letter dated 1/20/56, Dr. Howard reflected that it is a matter of common knowledge among Negroes in Mississippi that FBI agents hold prevailing views as to racial and interracial relationship. He added "One of the agents to whom I have referred in the Hopkins matter is, himself, I understand, a former local law enforcement officer from the State of Mississippi." Dr. Howard was undoubtedly referring to former Special Agent G. Dewey Hall, deceased, as mentioned above. Dr. Howard, however, referred to the "Charlie Hopkins incident" as occurring after the August 2, 1955, primary election in Mississippi. Mr. Hall died 5/22/55. We originally intended making our letter even stronger by pointing out that Dr. Howard could have only referred to Special Agent Hall, however, upon checking this matter closely, it was ascertained that Special Agent Thomas S. Hopkins was a former member of the Mississippi State Highway Patrol. He has been used in civil rights investigations. It was, therefore, desired not to indicate in our letter to Dr. Howard that he could only have been referring to Special Agent Hall as "a former law enforcement officer in Mississippi." No agents have, of course, interviewed an individual by the name of "Hopkins," consequently, there is no dispute which would involve the action of Special Agent G. Dewey Hall.

Enclosure *sent*
cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Alexander (Room 4260)

RECORDED-38

62-102602-40

6 FEB 24 1956

CDD:fc (5)

330
MAR 7 1956

EX-125

PERS FILES

Memorandum for Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols
RE: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD
MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

1/26/56

Special Agent Hopkins and Special Agent Penrod Harris did interview Amzie Moore, 9/8/55, and both have emphatically denied asking Moore "If the FBI dealt as fairly in Mississippi with Negroes as with white persons." They also deny asking Moore if he would execute a statement to that effect. As you point out, the Director may have read Mr. Rosen's memorandum dated 1/24/56, which justifies usage of facts concerning no interview with "Hopkins" and the fact that former Special Agent G. Dewey Hall died 5/22/55, and was formerly connected with law enforcement in Mississippi. This memorandum has no bearing on the ^{new} attached letter to Dr. Howard and it is regretted that it was attached to the initial document through inadvertence and possibly confused the Director as to our desires to use former Special Agent Hall's name in the letter to Dr. Howard.

To further clarify the connection of former Special Agent Hall in this matter, the point should be mentioned that when NAACP representative Ruby Hurley visited the Justice Department in September, 1955, she told in effect that there was a former law enforcement officer, now a Special Agent, who was not cooperative in listening to the complaints of Negroes. She did not identify the Special Agent. She was interviewed in New York, 9/8/55, and identified the Special Agent as "Hall." This could only have been Special Agent G. Dewey Hall. Special Agents Hopkins and Harris, as mentioned above, interviewed Amzie Moore, 9/8/55, because Ruby Hurley, as mentioned above, stated the source of her information was Amzie Moore. Amzie Moore told Agents Hopkins and Harris that Ruby Hurley "must have drawn her own conclusions." He stated he had no complaint to make against Special Agent Hall.

ACTION:

It is recommended that the attached letter go forward to Dr. Howard.

✓

for
a

F B I

Date: 2-21-56

Transmit the following message via AIRTELAIRMAIL, REGISTERED

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, DENVER (100-1800)

To: DIRECTOR, FBI

CP, USA, DISTRICT #19, IS - C; T. R. M. HOWARD, INFORMATION CONCERNING. DAYLET.

4(4) [redacted] advised 2-20-56 that SHIRLEY BRAMHALL had urged members of the CP to attend a lecture which was to be held in the New Hope Baptist Church, Denver, on 2-20-56 at which Dr. HOWARD was to be the principal speaker. BRAMHALL described HOWARD as being "very militant."

BELLARMINO J. DURAN, 1265 W. 10th Ave., Denver, a member of the CP from 1948 to 1955, describes BRAMHALL as a member of the State Committee of the CP.

The 2-21-56 issue of the Rocky Mountain News, page 43, reported HOWARD as saying that he advocated the use of Federal troops, if necessary, to put down the rebellion in the South. A copy of the clipping is being furnished the Bureau and Memphis for their information.

BURKE

- 3 - Bureau (REG, AM)(Enc.)
- 2 - Memphis (REG, AM)(Enc.)
- 2 - Denver (100-1800)
- (100-7575 DAYLET)

JCL:eg
(7)

Mr. Belmont

MR. BELMONT
AND SUPERVISOR
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja tnf

RECORDED-32

62-102602-41

1 FEB 24 1956

ENCLOSURE

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mason _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-3-37-1

330 63 MAR 5 - 1956

Rocky Mtn. News 2/21/56 p. 43

Negro Advocates Use of Troops To Put Down Southern 'Rebellion'

A Southern Negro leader Monday advocated the use of federal troops, if necessary, to put down the "rebellion" in the South against the U.S. Supreme Court's anti-segregation rulings in schools.

Dr. T. R. M. Howard of Mound Bayou, Miss., also warned Democratic political leaders that failure to take a firm stand on the civil rights question might cost them the Negro vote in November elections.

NEGRO DOCTOR

Dr. Howard is president of the Mississippi Regional Council of Negro leadership and president-elect of the National Medical Assn., an organization of more than 5000 Negro doctors.

The Negro leader said he does not believe the use of troops would be necessary in the South if President Eisenhower were to issue an "ultimatum," but added:

"If we can send troops around the world to Korea to see that human rights are not trampled upon, we certainly should be able to send them to the South to see that the rights of American citizens are respected."

Dr. Howard was in Denver to address a meeting sponsored by the Denver Federation of Negro Women's Clubs.

POLITICAL ISSUE

He declared, in an interview, that the South's sizzling racial controversy will become "the biggest political issue of the 1956 campaign."

He conceded that adoption of a strong civil rights plank in the national Democratic platform might result in formation of a third political party in the Democratic South, but added:

"If they compromise with the South on this issue, the Democratic Party is going to lose the vote of the Negro—provided the Republican Party takes a strong stand on this question."

INTERNAL THREAT

The 47-year-old Negro leader said economic pressures are being brought against Negro residents of Mississippi by the White Citizens Council.

He termed the organization "the

greatest internal threat to our American Democracy today" and said the Council is "attempting to drive 500,000 of Mississippi's 946,000 Negroes out of the state."

The White Citizens Council fears, Dr. Howard said, that Negroes might dominate Mississippi politics if ever allowed to exercise their right to vote. Negroes outnumber whites by three-to-one in 18 of that state's 82 counties, he said.

Much of the racial friction now searing the South could have been avoided if federal officials had served notice they would strenuously back up the Supreme Court, Dr. Howard said.

BACK UP COURT

"It's up to the United States to find ways and means of backing up the Supreme Court decision—or else we might as well abolish that branch of our judiciary," he added.

* * *



Dr. T. R. M. Howard

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
Denver, Colo.

FEB 21 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4bjatnf

62-102602-41

ENCLOSURE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, BOSTON (62-0)

DATE: February 23, 1956

SUBJECT: T.R.M. HOWARD, MD
INFORMATION CONCERNING

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4 bja/tbf

Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Boardman ✓
Mr. Belmont ✓
Mr. Ladd ✓
Mr. Parsons ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Tamm ✓
Mr. Nease ✓
Mr. Winterrowd ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Mr. Holloman ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

The following is being furnished for the information of the Bureau:

4(4) [redacted] on February 21, 1956 advised that the above captioned, reportedly an NAACP leader in Mississippi, had been the guest speaker at an NAACP sponsored public meeting held February 16, 1956 at the New Lecture Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Informant advised that Dr. HOWARD's topic, "Murder in Mississippi", concerned the individual Negro "murder" cases which had taken place in Mississippi between May, 1954 and December, 1955, and the current desegregation issue.

According to the Informant, Dr. HOWARD during his talk made reference to a recent exchange of personal letters between himself and the Director. He stated that in his letter he had praised the FBI's brilliant, quick and accurate investigation and solution of the case of the sabotaged airliner. He further stated that in his letter to the Director he had set forth that he was unable to comprehend why the FBI allegedly has not been able to solve, nor to bring to justice the murderers of certain of the Mississippi Negroes, "all victims of known white segregationists".

Informant advised that Dr. HOWARD implied that the FBI has failed to solve the above-mentioned murder cases in Mississippi because the Justice Department has ordered the FBI to follow a policy of "non-participation" on cases pertaining to the segregation issue and on cases in which its investigations would be detrimental to the cause of the "pro-segregationists". Informant also advised that Dr. HOWARD criticized the EISENHOWER Administration and the President personally for his failure to execute and enforce the legal ban on segregation.

Informant advised that Dr. HOWARD had stated during his speech that he was returning to Mississippi on February 17, 1956.

AVS:plb
Registered Mail
(4)

RECORDED - 51

EX-108

20 MAR 9 1956

68 MAR 1 1956

4246
J
J
INT

(p) Hanning 4246
3/8 390
20

Director
2-25-56
Rosemary Johnson

RECEIVED
FEB 27 3 45 PM '56
INTERNAL SECURITY SECT
FBI

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
FBI

REC'D
FEB 27 9 30 AM '56
MR. JONES

RECEIVED-TOLSON
FEB 27 3 59 PM '56
MR. JONES

RECEIVED
FBI
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

REC'D BELMONT
FBI - JUSTICE

FEB 27 1 37 PM '56

MAR 1 11 42 AM '56
REC'D - FBI
INVESTIGATIVE DIV.

MAR 2 3 53 PM '56
FBI

RECEIVED
FBI
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED

MAR 14 10 10 AM '56

INTERNAL SECURITY SECT

FBI

FBI
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

FEB 28 10 17 AM '56

RECEIVED
ROSEN

MR. JONES

MAR 14 12 19 PM '56

RECEIVED
FBI

U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED - BOARDMAN
FEB 27 1 07 PM '56

MAR 1 9 42 AM '56
REC'D - FBI
INVESTIGATIVE DIV.

Enclosed is a copy of a letterhead memorandum dated and captioned as above.

EX-100
EX-101
EX-102
EX-103
EX-104
EX-105
EX-106
EX-107
EX-108
EX-109
EX-110
EX-111
EX-112
EX-113
EX-114
EX-115
EX-116
EX-117
EX-118
EX-119
EX-120

BS 62-0

The Indices of the Boston Division contain no additional information concerning Dr. HOWARD.

By separate communication, the New Orleans and Memphis Divisions are being furnished information concerning the above meeting and Dr. HOWARD's speech.

4(4) [REDACTED] has furnished reliable information in the past and is a highly sensitive source in the Boston Division. Accordingly, information furnished by this Informant must be handled with the utmost discretion.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

c - Williams

G. I. R.

3/6/56
Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

March 3, 1956

Director, FBI

DR. THEODORE R. M. HOWARD
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(Internal Security)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/tmf

3/6/56
FBI
CENTRAL RECORDS
MAR 3 10 10 AM '56
The March 3, 1956, edition of the "Michigan Chronicle," a weekly newspaper published in Detroit, Michigan, included on page 24 an announcement captioned as follows: "Mammoth Mass Meeting With Dr. T. R. M. Howard Speaking on 'Mississippi's Challenge to Democracy.'"

According to the announcement, a meeting is to take place on March 4, 1956, at 3:00 p.m. at the Hartford Avenue Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan. It was indicated that the rally is to raise funds, clothing and canned goods to aid "our people" in Mississippi.

A confidential informant of the Detroit Office of this Bureau who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that Pauline Solomon, Recreational Secretary, Michigan Labor Youth League, announced at a State Organizational Committee meeting of the Michigan Labor Youth League held on February 20, 1956, that Dr. Howard would be at the Hartford Avenue Baptist Church on March 4, 1956, and urged that everyone bring food, clothing, toys and money to help the people in Mississippi. According to the informant, Solomon stated that it was important for as many Labor Youth League members as possible to be present at this affair.

The above is being furnished you for your information. Any additional pertinent information received relative to this matter will be furnished you promptly.

cc - Memphis (Information)

cc - New Orleans (Information)

CFW:rvk:amc
(6)

63 MAR 15 1956

COMM-FBI
MAR 3 - 1956
MAILED 248

RECORDED-EX-121

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

62-102602-43
MAR 12 1956

25558

3735 Anza Street
San Francisco 21, California
February 28, 1956

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover

The safety of Dr. T.R.M. Howard of
Mississippi must be assured. You are the responsible
person who can see that he is safe.

The honor of this country at home and
abroad is at stake.

It does not seem possible that he
could be in danger, but you can see to it that he is
not in danger.

Sincerely yours

Helen Miller

Helen Miller

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja/tf

RECORDED - 12

INDEXED - 12

2 MAR 14 1956

62-102602-44

319

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mason
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Winterrowd
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

EXP.
MAR 2 1956

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T.E.D.
3-9-56

④ TAD

Director
3-5-56
Looney, John

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
FBI

RECEIVED
ROSEN

MAR 5 5 01 PM '56

MAR 5 5 10 PM '56

MAR 5 10 56 AM '56

MR. JONES

REC'D. RECORDS SEC
MR. JONES

MAR 9 8 00 AM '56

FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MAR 8 9 29 AM '56

RECEIVED-TOLSON
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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED

FBI

MAR 7 1 56 PM '56

RECEIVED

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MR. JONES

MAR 12 8 01 AM '56

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MR. JONES

MAR 6 2 56 PM '56

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MAR 6 10 46 AM '56

RECEIVED
MAR 6 4 39 PM '56
INTERNAL SECURITY SECT
FBI

RECEIVED

MAR 13 9 29 PM '56

INTERNAL SECURITY SECT
FBI

RECEIVED
NO. 10
NEGATIVE DIVISION

MAR 12 11 34 AM '56

MAR 6 12 43 PM '56

REC'D REIMONT
FBI OFFICE

MAR 9 3 52 PM '56

RECEIVED-MICHOOLS
FBI

Sounds

The following is a copy of my reply to J. Edgar Hoover
D. T. R. M. Howard

January 19, 1956

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bjatnt

5560

#361841

Dear Sir:

On January 18, 1956, I was called by the Memphis Commercial Appeal, and asked if I had any comment on a letter from you to me which you had released to them. Subsequently, and on the same day, I received similar calls from other newspapers and press associations. Your letter to me reached my Mound Bayou, Mississippi, home at 9 A.M. on January 19, 1956, a full twelve hours after my first call from the newspapers. Since I had not received your letter when I was queried by these newspapers, I was unable to make a complete reply. I can only presume that you released the letter prior to the time it could possibly have reached me and that you wanted the whole matter to become an issue in the area of public controversy. I shall, therefore, follow your example and release this letter to the newspapers.

The crux of your complaint, as I gather it, is that I have "made false and irresponsible charges" against the FBI in connection with the murders of George W. Lee, LaMar Smith and Emmett Till, all of whom were killed in Mississippi during 1955. I am sure that you will understand that these murders, all of which have gone unpunished, have excited genuine concern on the part of millions of Americans. That concern has been heightened by the fact that J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant explained in last week's Look magazine that they did kill Emmett Till. Since that confession there has been no move to take any further proceedings against them, either by state or federal authorities, so far as I know. As a resident of Mississippi, I know, and I am sure that FBI agents know, that the facts in the George Lee and LaMar Smith murders are widely known in the communities in which they were murdered.

I am a layman, not a lawyer. I do not pretend to know the intricacies of the law. I do know that my own criticism of the failure of justice in these cases is a reflection of the feelings of the many thousands of persons to whom I have spoken and with whom I have talked in the past few months. They are as dismayed as I am that murders can be committed in the United States and that murderers can escape indictment, as in the George Lee and LaMar Smith cases, or win acquittal as in the Emmett Till case, when, as in all of these cases, the facts about the cases are so well known to law enforcement authorities, federal as well as state.

As I understand your concept of the law in these matters, your Bureau is required only to make investigations at the request of the Department of Justice. After you have made these investigations, upon request, you lay the facts before the Department of Justice which then determines whether or not prosecution will be undertaken or further investigations will be made. It seems reasonable to suppose that the Department of Justice must depend, for a final judgment as to whether or not prosecution will be undertaken, on the facts as reported by your Bureau. You say that such investigations were made in the George Lee case. I do not know, of course, the extent of your investigation. I do not know whether or not you determined that this was merely a murder case, falling within the province of the State of Mississippi, or whether you determined it was part of a wide-spread conspiracy reaching across state lines that might have brought them within the purview of federal-civil-rights statutes. What I do know is that a Negro citizen who sought to vote was murdered and that both State and Federal Governments have declined to take any action. I do not know upon what grounds the Department of Justice declined jurisdiction. I do know that I sent a telegram to the Department of Justice asking for a conference on these matters and received an answer some four weeks later stating that such a conference would be arranged. No date was set for that proposed meeting.

It was against that background that I voiced my criticism of federal inaction in my Baltimore speech. The quotation attributed to me by the Baltimore Morning Sun is not entirely accurate.

- more -

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MAR 23 1956

In substance I said on that occasion the "We must find out why the FBI cannot seem to solve a crime where a Negro is murdered by a white man in Mississippi." Whether the reason for that failure lies in inadequacy of federal statutes, or restrictive interpretation of such statutes by the Department of Justice or the failure of FBI investigative machinery, the fact remains the "the FBI cannot seem to solve a crime where a Negro is murdered by a white man in Mississippi." Of course, I do not know the extent or character of the Bureau's investigation in the Till case. I do not know whether your investigation was made available to Mississippi law enforcement authorities. It is plain now in the light of the J. W. Milam confession in the Till case that the facts in that case lay close to the surface. I have the impression that in many instances the FBI has conducted investigations and found fact which were then given to state authorities for prosecution of the wrong doers.

You say that I have "conveniently forgotten the work of this Bureau. . . was largely responsible for the virtual elimination of lynching in the South and, also, was mainly responsible for the breaking up of the K.K.K. in the Carolinas and Georgia." Frankly, there is a wide difference of opinion between us on that score. You are as entitled to your opinion that the FBI deserves credit on both these scores as I am to mine that lynching was eliminated and the K.K.K. broken up by persistent action by the NAACP and by an aroused public opinion. I cannot recall a prosecution of lynching, as such, by the Federal Government and I suppose that such prosecution would be undertaken only after investigation by the Bureau. I also understand that there is no federal anti-lynching statute and that prosecution of lynching, as such, is a matter for the States. In view of that fact, I do not understand how the FBI was able to take effective action to "virtually eliminate" lynching in light of your statement that the Department of Justice can act only when Federal statutes have been violated. If the Federal Government was able to act in the area of lynching, in the absence of a federal anti-lynching statute, is it possible to undertake similar action in cases such as the George Lee, LaMar Smith and Emmett Till cases in light of a similar claimed lack of applicable Federal statutes?

I did charge in my Chicago Press Conference speech that there had apparently been a "leak" of FBI investigations in Mississippi. The complainants live in Mississippi and I believe that you will agree with me that any complainant in that state risks his personal safety when he makes charges that run counter to current public opinion in that state. Therefore, I will not recite the specific case in this letter which will be released to the press. Under separate cover I am sending you a statement of the facts in that case. I know that you will guarantee the safety of that individual. One of the things which I wanted to discuss, and tried to discuss, with the Department of Justice was that very matter. Since I was never given a definite appointment I was unable to present it through those channels.

In conclusion, I reject the charge that I have made "false and irresponsible charges." I have exercised my right as an American Citizen to criticize governmental functions. I shall continue to exercise that right, even when it leads to a difference of opinion between me and the public servants. I regret that this controversy has arisen since it tends to obscure the facts that the real issue in the South, and in the Nation and the world for that matter, is not our differences as to FBI action, or inaction, but the fact that ~~American~~ citizens are being wantonly murdered in Mississippi and that their murderers are going unpunished. Since your letter to me was in the nature of an open statement to the newspaper I regret very much that you did not see fit to include in it a condemnation of these murders. Your condemnation might do much to halt this wave of violence. In any event, I shall continue to join with the millions of other Americans and cry out against injustice and against that kind of administration of justice which permits murderers to go free to boast their crimes.

Dr. T. R. M. Howard