4-596 (-31-56)

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

7- HQ-7714
SERIALS 59-
SECTION 2

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

SUB A MADE UP

INVESTIGATION

Box 224

SECTION 2
SERIALS 59-

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call 421

454 Washington Avenue
West Haven, Connecticut
November 11, 1955

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

Sir; EMMETT TILL

I believe I must be one of many American mothers who plead with you to investigate the Till case.

Surely the F. B. I. has as its main purpose the protection of all citizens of the Republic.

While there is any reasonable doubt that the Mississippi juries erred against truth and justice,

wmd
ack 11.21.55

CRIME REC.

it is our duty as Americans to try to establish the facts.

Veray truly yours,
(Mrs.) Margery Zimmerman

Zimmerman
454 Washington Avenue
West Haven, Conn

NEW HAVEN
NOV 11
4 PM
1955
2
CONN.

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

107

RECORDED - 18 1-2214-59

EX. - 124

21. NOV 28 1955

G. I. R. - 1

7-7714-59

November 21, 1955

RECORDED - 18
INDEXED - 18

Mrs. Margery Zimmerman
454 Washington Avenue
West Haven, Connecticut

Dear Mrs. Zimmerman:

EX - 124

Your letter dated November 11, 1955, has been received.

For your information, the FBI is charged with the responsibility of investigating persons who violate Federal law coming within the scope of this Bureau's authority. In the case you mentioned, the facts surrounding this matter were presented to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, and its decision was that there had been no violation of Federal law. For this reason, the FBI can take no part in this case.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

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

DCL:age
(3)

50 DEC 1 1955

COMM - FBI
NOV 22 1955
MAILED 31

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI DATE: 11/22/55

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (79-0)

SUBJECT: EMMETT TILL;
MISSING PERSON

10-1

On 11/18/55, Reverend JOHN ICKES, 470 East 161st Street, Bronx, New York, telephone, CY 2-6713, telephonically contacted the New York Office, at which time he identified himself as Executive Secretary, Bronx Division, Protestant Council. Reverend ICKES stated he was calling on behalf of the Board of Managers, Bronx Protestant Council, who have decided that the murder and kidnaping trials in Mississippi in the EMMETT TILL case were not handled properly and that they believe the FBI can find out the true facts in the case.

Reverend ICKES requested that the FBI conduct a missing persons investigation with respect to TILL since the jury hearing the TILL case in Mississippi found that the body recovered could not be identified as being TILL. Reverend ICKES stated that an FBI investigation would bring out the true story of the TILL murder.

It was diplomatically pointed out to Reverend ICKES that this Bureau does not conduct missing persons investigations, but in some cases a missing persons notice will be placed in the files of the Identification Division on behalf of law enforcement agencies or close relatives of the missing person.

Reverend ICKES stated he thought there was a seven-day presumptive clause of some kind under which the FBI conducts missing persons investigations. He was again informed that this Bureau does not conduct missing persons inquiries.

For the Bureau's information.

TJB:MEW

RECORDED - 58

INDEXED - 58

NOV 28 1955

EX-124

52 DEC 5 1955

JOB:WEM

MISSING PERSON
EWWELL LITT;

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (0-97)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI DATE: 11\25\55

On 11\18\55, Reverend JOHN ICKES, 940 East 161st Street, Bronx, New York, telephonically contacted the New York Office, at which time he identified himself as Executive Secretary, Bronx Division, Protestant Council. Reverend ICKES stated he was calling on behalf of the Board of Managers, Bronx Protestant Council, who have detected that the window, and kindred crimes in Mississippi in the EWWELL LITT case were not handled properly and that they believe the FBI can find out the true facts in the case.

Reverend ICKES requested that the FBI conduct a missing persons investigation with respect to LITT since the only recent contact the LITT case in Mississippi found that the body recovered could not be identified as being LITT. Reverend ICKES stated that an FBI investigation would prove out the true status of the LITT matter.

If was diplomatically pointed out to Reverend ICKES that this Bureau does not conduct missing persons investigations, but in some cases a missing persons notice will be placed in the LIFES to the Identification Division on behalf of law enforcement agencies or close relatives of the missing person.

Reverend ICKES stated he thought there was a seven-day presumptive clause to some kind under which the FBI conducts missing persons investigations. He was again informed that this Bureau does not conduct missing persons inquiries.

For the Bureau's information.

RECORDED-48
INDEXED-48
7-7714-61
EX-124

November 25, 1955

Mrs. Vergil Luchene — Mrs. Vi Luchene
617½ Spring Street
Michigan City, Indiana

Dear Mrs. Luchene:

Your letter postmarked November 15, 1955, has been received, and I appreciate the concern prompting you to write. For your information, the facts relating to the case you mentioned were presented to the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice, and its decision was that there had been no violation of Federal law; consequently, this Bureau has no authority to take part in this case.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Emmet Louis Till

COMM — FBI
NOV 25 1955
MAILED 28

NOTE: Bufiles negative as to correspondent.

CEM:vjs
(3)

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

50 DEC 1 1955

F-467

RECEIVED-MAIL ROOM

FBI

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Nov 25 7 57 PM '55

I do not mean to start a revolution or a race riot, nor do I approve of the death penalty, but I do like to see justice done. I am referring to, if I remember the name correctly, the Till Case.

Now let's don't think about race. This is a Son and a Mother. And there a Case in Chicago of 3 Sons and 2 Mothers. This is 2 vile Cases, and something should be done. Our Nation is stirred up, but not over 2 Cases, just the one.

So, where and what is white Man's justice. Even those placed in charge to execute justice can really be vile. Is this what Abraham Lincoln and the North fought for? Was the battle lost.

I saw the mother of this Colored boy on TV and she's what I call a lovely woman, a good woman. And they rejected her identification of her own son, and accepted the testimonies of men who never even saw, fathered, mothered, or gave birth to the boy. Is that sound wisdom of Court justice.

They dropped the kidnapping charges even, and said the case is closed. Now listen, those men admitted they took the boy (they confessed to the charge, that alone is kidnapping) and that against his will and the will of those ~~committed~~ in. Now listen, they took that Smile Son from his bed. Did they return him to that good place?

11-17

Nov 17 11 07 AM '55

REC'D, RECORDS SEC

MR. JONES

Nov 17 11 51 AM '55

RECEIVED
F B I
U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

They claime if they turned him loose naturally, but was it proven? And anyhow the kidnapping charge was confessed to, whether or no he was released. Those men stand condemned. That case can't be closed.

Now listen, I'm a mother with 3 sons I'd demand justice were this thing done to me and my sons. And so would any liberty loving parent. Can't we accord the same to other hearts, regardless of color?

I don't think any state such as the Calibre Mississippi has should be privileged to try a case like that. Everyone knows they are prejudiced. That case can't be closed. What are freedom loving people going to do about it?

If that wasn't her son, where is her son? Locate him for her. Deliver her from this torment of not knowing the things she above anyone else on this earth has a right to know.

I ask you please to consider a mothers heart and see that justice is done, regardless of color.

It isn't the colored man's fault he is here. Tyrannic white man brought him here, becau

he was too lazy to do his own work
The Civil War was proof of it. Many
lives lost, much Blood shed and
many homes destroyed as proof of it
Is this common sense? I
fear we thrash around needlessly.
What has been gained? Has opinions
been changed? It does not appear
so!

Mrs. Vergil Luchene
617½ Spring St.
Mich. City, Ind.

Sept 29, 1955

TO ALL DISTRICTS

Dear Comrades:

Subject: Emmett Louis Till Lynching

The freeing of the murderers of 14 year old Emmett Louis Till in a so-called Mississippi "trial", and the marked increase of anti-Negro terror in the Deep South as well as in other parts of the country during the past months must become the immediate concern of the entire membership of the Communist Party: every district, every club, every member. The Emmett Till murder highlights the ends to which the Dixiecrats will go to defeat the growing desegregation and right to vote movement in the South. Popular indignation is widespread. Negro organizations, Negro leaders and the Negro press have sounded the alarm. If this important struggle is to be won, however, the Communist Party, and the American Left, in the first place, must be fully mobilized.

Notwithstanding important work already being done by the Party and the Left around the Emmett Till case, the de-segregation, and right to vote movement, we must frankly state that the initiative of the Party on these vital struggles is far from satisfactory. Thus far, insufficient leadership, consciousness, planning, follow through and check-up are being displayed on the part of Party and Left leadership at all levels. If victory is to be achieved in this crucial fight, these weaknesses must be speedily overcome.

We submit below a number of proposals and suggestions for consideration and action by the Party:

1.--Fundamental issues of great importance to the American labor movement, the Negro people, the fight for democracy and peace are involved in this fight. No attempt will be made here to examine these issues. Such an examination is being made in a basic statement of the National Committee on the Till lynching. This statement will be issued this week, and is one that should be given thorough consideration by the Party Leadership and membership in every District. The National Committee Statement, in addition to being published in the Press, is being reproduced in leaflet form. These leaflets may be secured from the National Office at a cost of $_____ per thousand. We urge the widest possible distribution of the leaflets, and that all Districts order as quickly as possible.

2.--Develop the Movement to Force the Eisenhower Administration to Intervene: This requires hundreds of thousands of postcards, telegrams, letters, petitions and resolutions to the President and Attorney General Brownell from individuals and organizations. This means trade union bodies in the first place at all levels, labor leaders, and rank and file members; it means, likewise, involving, at all levels, church and religious institutions, the major Jewish organizations, Democratic Party organizations; the youth movement; cultural groups; as well as the major organizations of the Negro people. In addition, full support should be given to delegations now being organized to visit Washington. Many leading Negro people and their organizations are working on such delegations. In addition to this, the Party and the Left should stimulate in every way possible the organization of such delegations. Particularly is this desirable from nearby points in the East.

An important aspect of this movement is to petition City Councils in all parts of the country to urge Brownell to act. There is no doubt whatever but that many City Councils will act if the necessary efforts are made, and if the broadest possible approach is developed. Likewise, the movement to force action from the Department of Justice will grow still further, if leading personalities

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE 9-9914-62

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

in Negro life, from the labor movement, etc., were to purchase newspaper space in the metropolitan and Negro press to address open letters to the Attorney General and the President. In addition hundreds and thousands of memorial meetings are required. Already, Chicago, Cleveland, Harlem, Baltimore, and Detroit have witnessed large protest rallies involving tens of thousands. But these meetings must be seen as only the beginning. They must spread, until all major cities are included, as well as smaller towns and communities throughout the country. Likewise, organizations of all kinds should take up the Till murder in one or another manner -- a small memorial meeting; a brief discussion on an action program, or a resolution, etc.

3--Project this struggle into the center of the preparation for the convening of Congress in January and of the 1956 elections, as well as for a special session of Congress: Among other things this requires a movement to challenge the right of Eastland to sit in the next session of Congress, as well as the Congressmen from Mississippi. They are in Congress illegally and should be ousted. The Eisenhower Administration must be forced to yield to the demands of the Negro people for a special session of Congress to pass anti-lynch and other civil rights legislation without delay. To win this demand the Democratic Party high command, still silent, must be compelled by the Labor and Negro people's movement to speak out in support of the demand of the Negro people for a special session of Congress. In this connection special emphasis should be given to the Henning's Committee hearings on Civil Rights. Also it is necessary to insist upon the intervention of the Judiciary Committees of both the House and the Senate.

4--We are informed also that the newspaper Freedom is publishing a pamphlet on the Till murder and related issues, and that it will be off the press in a few weeks. Undoubtedly, this will be a pamphlet deserving of the support of those forces most concerned with this question.

5--Develop still further the militant initiative of the Party and the Left: While fighting for the broadest possible unity of the Negro people and their allies in respect to this issue, we must avoid the error of construing this to mean tagging along after the reformist leadership in the labor and Negro movement. We must find the way, in the broadest and most flexible manner to advance the Party analysis of these events, showing at all times the need for a greater focus on Brownell, and a more rounded program of demands. The huge protest rallies thus far, while marking a high point in the unity and militancy of the Negro people, reflect at the same time certain important weaknesses in regards to the program of demands being advanced, and in regard to the all-important matter of demanding immediate action from the Department of Justice. A central responsibility of the Party and the Left is to work with this movement to overcome these negative factors.

The Party and the Left at the same time must speak out independently, finding the most suitable forms for independent actions. One of these forms would be to give full support to weekend Worker mobilizations that are being organized in a number of cities, where the fight for Worker circulation is tied up with house-to-house or street corner canvassing of telegrams, etc. on the Till murder. Another form is through the organization of mass meetings of a Left or advanced character. There are a number of leading Negro and white progressive leaders who are no doubt available to participate in such meetings. In addition the Party and Left forces must intensify many times the publication and distribution of material on the Till murder and related issues. There are some Districts where practically no material has been issued. In still others the few leaflets issued have been confined primarily to the Negro communities.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Till Memo--3

We urge all District Boards and other leading Party Committees and Commissions to examine fully the work of the District thus far in respect to the struggles around the Till murder, with the aim of overcoming whatever errors exist, and hammering out a full District program of action for the period ahead.

Please be sure to send us copies of whatever material you issue in this matter.

Comradely yours,

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

cc - Liaison Section
cc - Mr. JT Harrington

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY SP-1 GSK/JCG 5/14/80
REASON FOR EXTENSION FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2 2
DATE FOR REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 6/14/90
Comp # 93919

G. I. R. -7

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

November 22, 1955

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~
BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable Dillon Anderson
Special Assistant to the President
Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

My dear Mr. Anderson:

Reference is made to my previous communications calling to your attention agitational activity in connection with the death of Emmett Louis Till, fourteen-year-old Negro Chicago boy who was allegedly murdered in Mississippi.

I thought you and the President would be interested in the attached copy of a letter dated September 29, 1955, directed to all Communist Party districts from the headquarters of the Communist Party, USA, which sets forth the proposals of the Communist Party's campaign to exert pressures against the Eisenhower Administration and Attorney General Brownell to intervene in the Emmett Louis Till lynching.

This information has been made available to the Attorney General and the intelligence agencies of the Armed Forces.

7-7214-62

EX-126

21 NOV 28 1955

As additional pertinent information is received in this regard it will be furnished to you promptly.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 CLG/GW ON 5-21-97

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

ENCL. 77

BY COURIER SVC.
03 NOV 23
COMM - FBI

Enclosure
JTH:ejf:mmf
(4)

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

NOTE: This information was made available by 4(4) and was furnished to the Bureau under the caption, "CP, USA, Underground Operations."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

REC'D BELMONT
FBI - JUSTICE

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F B I
Nov 22 11 21 AM '55

RECEIVED - BOARDMAN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Nov 22 3 48 PM '55

Nov 22 12 51 PM '55

RECEIVED-MAIL ROOM
F B I
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE
Nov 23 10 31 AM '55

COMM - FBI
03 NOV 33
BY COURIER SVC

Nov 22 2 03 PM '55
RECEIVED - TOLSON
F B I
DEPT OF JUSTICE

ENCL

Nov 25 1 48 PM '55

RECEIVED - NICHOLS
F B I

DECLASSIFIED BY

OTHERWISE
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

DECLASSIFICATION
DATE OF REVIEW FOR
FROM U.S.D.J.
REASON FOR EXTENSION
EXTENDED BY
CLASSIFIED AND

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

DATE: November 25, 1955

FROM : M. A. Jones

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

SUBJECT: J. D. SMITH
35 NEW ROAD
SAWSTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, ENGLAND

On November 22, 1955, the Director received a large-sized envelope containing 2 copies of an English newspaper, "Daily Mail," from the captioned individual, along with a letter which begins, "What (other than to play politics) are you going to do about the Emmett Till case?" The remainder of the letter is in the same vein.

It will be recalled that this case was presented to the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice, and its decision was that there had been no violation of Federal law; therefore, the Bureau has no authority to enter the case which involved the alleged kidnaping and murder of a 14-year old Negro in Mississippi.

Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles, and it is believed, therefore, there is no purpose whatsoever in acknowledging this letter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That correspondent's letter not be acknowledged as no purpose exists.

7-2214-63

RECORDED-61

INDEXED-61

24 NOV 28 1955

EX-126

CRIME REC.

CEM:meb
(2)

65 DEC 5 1955

Office Law
11/30/55
one

Nov 25 2 47 PM '55
RECEIVED - TOLSON
F B I
DEPT OF JUSTICE

MR. JONES

Dec 2 3 48 PM '55
RECEIVED
F B I
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

Nov 25 1 26 PM '55
RECEIVED - NICHOLS
F B I

Nov 25 4 00 PM '55
RECEIVED - NICHOLS
F B I

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: 11/13/55

FROM : F. L. Price

Time of Call: 10:15 AM

SUBJECT: ATTORNEY GENERAL'S VISIT TO CHICAGO

Emmett Till

SAC Hostetter, Chicago, advised that he desired the following information furnished to Mr. Holloman regarding the arrival of the Attorney General in Chicago. The Attorney General arrived in Chicago 11/12/55 in the afternoon on schedule and was taken to the Chicago Club where he was joined by Luther Huston, a newspaper correspondent from Washington, D. C.

Later Mr. Hostetter took the Attorney General from the Chicago Club to the Sheraton Hotel. Carl Mason, Agent of the Chicago Office, waited at the Sheraton Hotel and at 11 PM drove the Attorney General back to the Chicago Club.

Mr. Hostetter mentioned that on arrival at the airport, the Attorney General invited Senator Dirksen, United States Senator from Illinois, to ride in with them from the airport and Dirksen was driven to the La Salle Hotel.

Mr. Hostetter took the Attorney General to the airport on 11/13/55 and he departed on American Airlines plane at 8:15 AM for Washington, D. C.

NOT RECORDED
188 DEC 1 1955

The Attorney General mentioned three items which may be of interest: (1) The Attorney General stated he was coming back to Chicago on November 27 or 28 to make a speech and would like Mr. Hostetter to meet him. (2) The Attorney General mentioned the Till case (murder trial in which Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam were acquitted and later the state grand jury returned a no bill on kidnaping charges). Governor Stratton of Illinois publicized a letter to the Attorney General asking the Department to take action in this case. The Attorney General presumed he would have to give consideration to declaring the "Council"* in Mississippi on the Attorney General's list which includes the Klu Klux Klan. Hostetter could not elaborate on the meaning of "Council," but stated he got the impression the Attorney General would not place it on the list at the present time. (3) At the airport the Attorney General mentioned the United Airlines accident (in Colorado). He said he understood we were investigating that accident but he was not certain as to our jurisdiction.

The above is submitted for information purposes.

Mr. Holloman was advised at 11:45 a.m., 11/13/55.

cc: 1 - Mr. Nichols
1 - Mr. Holloman
1 - Mr. Belmont

*Association of the Citizens' Councils (of Mississippi).

EHH:ate (8)

51 DEC 2 1955

ORIGINAL FILED IN

RECORDED - 69
INDEXED - 69

7-7714-64

November 23, 1955

EX-118

Miss Eloise Metcalf
3745 Woodlawn Avenue
Los Angeles 11, California

Dear Miss Metcalf:

Your letter dated November 15, 1955, has been received.

For your information, the facts relating to the case you mentioned were presented to the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice, and its decision was that there had been no violation of Federal law; consequently, this Bureau had no authority to take part in this case.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - Los Angeles, with copy of incoming

NOTE: It is not deemed advisable to deny or further discuss the "double standard" referred to in the correspondent's letter inasmuch as she stated that she herself did not believe it. Eloise Metcalf is not identifiable in Bufiles.

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

COMM — FBI
NOV 23 1955
MAILED 25

DEC 6 1955

TED:frk
(4)

Chr 18/5

3745 Woodlawn Ave.
Los Angeles, 11,
1015-55

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

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Washington, D. C.

Emett Till

EMMETT TILL

Dear Mr. Hoover,

Last August the nation was shocked b the death of the fourteen-year old boy from Chicago, Illinois who was brutally murdered by two Mississippi residents. These men were also guilty of kidnapping!! We the American public want to know why hasn't the F. B. I. intervened in this obviously gross miscarriage of justice. It has been said that it is because the F. B. I. practices "double standard." That is, if the person that is kidnapped is a Caucasion person the F. B. I. investigates, if the person kidnapped is a Negro the F. B. I. closes its eyes conveniently. I can't sincerely believe that this is true; nor can I believe that the F. B. I. if not going to investigate. This is a principal that not only involves the freedom of Negroes in the United States, but it involves the freedom of people everywhere. We feel that this act makes void the Bill of Rights."

Mr. Hoover, if this crime is allowed to go unpunished no Negro will ever again be safe in any section of the south. It further means that Negroes can be killed by whites, kidnapped by whites, with no consequences.

We must not let this continue!! I ask you in the name of freedom loving people everywhere, do not let this continue!!!

Sincerely,

Eloise Metcalf

Eloise Metcalf

SE 42

RECORDED - 69 7- 7214-64

EX-118 NOV 29 1955

EXP PROC. NOV 18 1955

mme
ack 11-23-55
T.E.D.

1 Copy Typed
11/21/55

Director
11-18
Kathryn Grazier

RECEIVED
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
Nov 25 5 14 PM '55

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F B I
Nov 18 3 06 PM '55

Nov 18 2 31 PM '55

REC'D, RECORDS SEC

RECEIVED-ROSEN DIV
F B I
DEPT OF JUSTICE

MR. JONES

Nov 21 7 58 AM '55

Nov 18 7 08 PM '55

RECEIVED
F B I
U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED - NICHOLS
F B I

Nov 18 4 50 PM '55
RECEIVED-TOLSON
F B I
DEPT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
Nov 29 9 20 AM '55
INTERNAL SECURITY SECTION
FBI

RECEIVED - BOARDMAN

Nov 18 5 18 PM '55

RECEIVED
CRIMINAL SECTION
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
Nov 25 3 15 PM '55
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
ROSEN
Nov 25 1 46 PM '55
FBI
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

7-7714-65

November 22, 1955

RTT-X3
RECORDED-39
INDEXED-39

Mr. Irvin Sills
2800 Midvale Avenue
Los Angeles 64, California

Dear Mr. Sills:

Your letter dated November 10, 1955, has been received.

For your information, the Federal kidnaping statutes are applicable only when certain elements, including the interstate transportation of the victim, are present. The case you mentioned was presented to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, and its decision was that there had been no violation of Federal law. For this reason, the FBI is precluded from taking any active part in this case.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Correspondent may be identical with the person of same name who applied for position as SA in September, 1940, while residing at River Edge, New Jersey. The individual was interviewed by former Inspector L. R. Pennington and was recommended unfavorably. (67-170510)

Tolson
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Belmont
Harbo
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Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

DCL:age:RGE:jh
(3)

52 DEC 5 1955

COMM — FBI
NOV 22 1955
MAILED 25

November 10, 1955

(4)

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

Dear Sir:

I am writing to urge your organization to conduct an investigation to determine who kidnapped and murdered a boy named Emmet Till in the State of Mississippi.

It would be a terrible thing to consider that such a crime could be committed in our country and go unsolved. It is my understanding that kidnapping falls within the jurisdiction of your department and certainly your able investigators could ferret out the truth.

Respectfully yours,

Irvin Sills

cc 10-1

Irvin Sills
2800 Midvale Ave.
Los Angeles 64, California

mel 22
ack 11-23-55
DCL - mge

30 NOV 1955

MR. JONES

Nov 15 10 06 AM '5

RECEIVED
F B I
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

Nov 15 9 00 AM '55

REC'D, RECORDS SEC

RECEIVED
CRIMINAL SECTION
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Nov 23 10 46 AM '55

F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

DO-6

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

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

Rec'd ack 11-25-55 HEH

1 autograph made 11-23-55 [illegible]

EXP. PROC.

NOV 22 1955

Nov 22 2 09 PM '55

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

Nov 22 10 50 AM '55

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

Nov 22 4 28 PM '55

RECEIVED
ROSEN

RECEIVED--BOARDMAN

Nov 22 3 24 PM '55

November 25, 1955

7-7714-66

RECORDED - 39

INDEXED-39

Reverend John D. Ickes
Executive Secretary
Bronx Division
The Protestant Council of
the City of New York
470 East 161st Street
New York 51, New York

Dear Mr. Ickes:

Your letter of November 21, 1955, with enclosure, has been received, and I appreciate the interest which prompted you to write.

For your information, all the facts concerning the Emmett Louis Till case were presented to the Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice, and an opinion was received that this matter did not come within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI. This Bureau is therefore precluded from taking any action.

Sincerely yours,

COMM - FBI
NOV 25 1955
MAILED 28

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - New York, with copy incoming and enclosure.

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of Ickes and no record identifiable with the Protestant Council of the City of New York.

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

HEH:vjs
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65 DEC 6 1955

Candy
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Mohr
Harbo
Belmont
Nichols
Boardman
Tolson

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HEP:nls

NOTE: Bulfiles contain no record of Hedges-Mailroom records identifiable with the professional conduct of the City of New York.

cc - New York, with copy incoming.

FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
Nov 25 7 57 PM '55

THE PROTESTANT COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

REV. PHILLIPS P. ELLIOTT, *President*
CLEVELAND E. DODGE, *Chairman of the Executive Committee*
HOWARD E. ISHAM, *Chairman of the Board*

BRONX DIVISION

REV. H. MELVIN WAMPLER, *President*
REV. JOHN DAVID ICKES, *Exec. Secretary*
CONSTANCE CAROTHERS, *Associate Secretary*

470 East 161 Street, New York 51, N. Y.
CYpress 2-6713-4

November 21, 1955

Attorney General Herbert Brownell
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

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

Gentlemen:

The enclosed resolution was adopted by the Board of Managers of the Bronx Division of the Protestant Council of the City of New York on Thursday, November 17th.

It is the understanding of the Board of Managers and of the Christian Social Relations Committee which sponsored the resolution, that based on the decision of the jury in the trial of the alleged abductors of Emmett Till, that Emmett Till is still legally missing. If this opinion is correct, and we believe that it is, then on the basis of previous Federal Bureau of Investigation policy, further investigation would be warranted at this time.

Millions of Christian Americans are deeply concerned over what is commonly regarded as a deplorable miscarriage of justice in the State of Mississippi. It has caused a recognizable increase in racial tensions even in many areas of the country where integration is the accepted pattern of living. It is our firm conviction that the vast majority of American citizens are not sympathetic toward the manner in which the case has been handled by the State of Mississippi.

It is our sincere hope that the case is not considered a closed one.

RECORDED - 39

Very sincerely yours, 7-2714-66

John D. Ickes

NOV 30 1955

Rev. John D. Ickes
Executive Secretary

JDI:as
Enc.

EX-118

INDEXED-39

RECEIVED
NO. 1 MAN
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
Nov 28 5 20 PM '55

MR. JONES
Nov 23 7 58 AM '55
RECEIVED
F B I
U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Whereas Emmett Till, a Negro youth, visiting in Mississippi, was abducted on August 28, 1955;

And whereas, a trial jury has acquitted two men accused of his murder on the basis that the body found could not be proven to be his;

And whereas, a grand jury has not returned an indictment for kidnapping against the two men on the same basis;

And whereas, it has been the policy of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to enter cases where a person has been missing for seven days on the presumption that he has been carried across a state line;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Bronx Division of the Protestant Council of the City of New York in its Christian concern for justice, strongly urges you to begin an immediate F.B.I. investigation concerning the abduction of Emmett Till.

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

DATE: November 29, 1955

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: ALICE WHITE

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

For your information, the attached letter postmarked November 23, 1955, in New York, New York, was received from "Alice White and friends." No return address is indicated on this letter concerning the Emmett Till case, and no acknowledgment can be forwarded to explain the Bureau's position. The writer can not be identified on the basis of information furnished.

RECOMMENDATION

None. For informational purposes.

ENCL.

Enclosure

DCL:ivs.
(2)

RECORDED - 44

INDEXED - 44

2-7714-67

DEC 2 1955

71 DEC 9 1955

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DEC 7 1955

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DEPT OF JUSTICE

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INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

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F B I
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
ROSEN

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

EXP. PROC.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

What is the F.B.I. doing about the Emmett L. Till murder in Mississippi

Is this what you call Freedom and justice for all? The negroe citizens of the United States would be much better off if they all lived in Russia.

I have never heard of such a horrible disgraceful murder. The F.B.I. is supposed to help and protect all citizens of the United States regardless of race or color. This was a brutal murdering kidnaping of one of our younger citizens

RECORDED - 44 7-7747 67

ENCLOSURE

1955

Director
11 25
Bernice Cooper

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F B I
Nov 25 12 16 PM '55

Nov 25 11 33 AM '55
MR. JONES

Nov 29 7 54 AM '55
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RECEIVED - NICHOLS
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NO. 1 MAN
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Mr. Hoover you personal should see that the guilty parties are punished to the full extend of the law. It is also the F.B.I. responsible to see that such Lynching murders dont happen again. Come on Mr Hoover lets stop all this Lynching in the south. Federal investigations were clearly in order under the broad powers of the Lindbergh kidnaping law. But our Federal Government did not act in this case as it did in the Greenlease kidnaping case in Missouri Why??? The American people demand to know why. Mr. Hoover.

Jones to Nichols memo 11-24-54

Your truly
Alice White & friends

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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

TO : The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: November 22, 1955

FROM : Warren Olney III, Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division

WO:IIIM:SP

SUBJECT: Letter from Mr. Jesse F. Perrin, Secretary, Board of Directors, Congregational Conference of Southern California and the Southwest

144-49116

Los Angeles, Calif.

Emmett Louis Till

Reference is made to your memorandum to the Attorney General dated November 17, 1955, on the above subject.

We appreciate receiving a copy of your reply to Mr. Perrin's letter. A similar communication was received by this office, and attached herewith is copy of our reply thereto.

Enclosure No. 146556

1 ENCL.,

RECORDED - 15
INDEXED - 15

1-1114-68

20 DEC 1 1955

EX-118

EXPEDITE DEC 1 1955

No ack necessary - 4-cem
See Bu memo 11-17-55 to AG

50 DEC 8 1955

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MR. JONES
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INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
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EXTRA COPY

ENCLOSURE

No 146556

FROM

Department of Justice

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—71087-1

WO:ILB:MFF
144-40-116

November 21, 1955

Mr. Jesse F. Perrin
Secretary, Board of Directors
Congregational Conference of
Southern California and the Southwest
3125 West Adams Boulevard
Los Angeles 18, California

Dear Mr. Perrin:

This acknowledges your recent letter concerning the alleged kidnapping and killing of Emmett Louis Till recently in the State of Mississippi. Your letter indicates that you feel that this Department should institute prosecution against the person or persons responsible therefor.

While we fully understand the motive prompting this appeal to us, available information indicates that since Mr. Till was not transported across state lines, this regrettable kidnapping and killing involves violations of Mississippi laws only, and not of any federal statute. This Department, therefore, has no authority to undertake any action in connection with the matter.

Sincerely,

WARREN OLNEY III
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

By:
ARTHUR B. CALDWELL
Chief, Civil Rights Section

7-7714-68

ENCLOSURE

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 11-17-55

FROM : SAC, Memphis

SUBJECT: ATTACKS AGAINST FBI AS A RESULT OF CIVIL RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS, STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

EMMIT TILL

Transmitted herewith is an article clipped from the "Clarion-Ledger - Jackson Daily News," Jackson, Mississippi, issue of November 6, 1955, which has just come to my attention.

I believe the Bureau would be interested in this article inasmuch as it is typical of the misinformed and scurrilous type articles being written for publication in the State of Mississippi as a result of Civil Rights investigations conducted in that state.

EMMET LOUIS TILL

Enclosure (1)

ENCL.

CEP:MRS

(3)

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INDEXED - 23

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EX-121

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Director
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Bernice Cooper

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FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Miss Gandy

Affairs of State

New Jersey Commie Pleads for Brownell to Put Pressure on "Lynchers" Down in Mississippi

1 ENN

By CHARLES M. HILLS
Clarion Ledger Staff Writer

A clipping from the Star Ledger, of Newark, N. J., comes to this writer this morning, titled "New Jersey Reds change title but not tinge."

Joe Mehan, writer of the article, leads with "The Communist Party in this state is getting around the legal ban of its name on the election ballot by the simple expedient of changing its name"

He then tells how a certain well known Commie, whose name is given as an avowed Communist, has started campaigning for the State Assembly as a candidate of the "People's Party."

Now, that leads us to something of local interest. The candidate's platform includes:

"A call for popular pressure on Attorney General Brownell to start immediate action to punish the lynchers of Emmit Till in Mississippi."

Printed Material

The candidate is appearing with this line of talk on the radio and television and has printed 7,500 pieces of material "based on this lynching speech, through personal contact and the mails."

Even as we suggest that it is a fine how-do-you-do when an avowed Communist can insist on the attorney general of this nation doing anything about anything, we have to recognize that only a few days ago news stories came out of Washington stating that Brownell has the FBI investigating the Till case and others in Mississippi.

These latter stories, of course, bear out a statement made to this writer recently by a member of the legislature that "the FBI agents have been swarming in our county, but we know them the minute they hit town, and no one would give them the time of day."

Respected For FBI

It is regretful that the FBI has to be pulled into investigation into the business of any state. This writer and most Mississippians have always held the FBI in highest respect. In fact, we have felt that it has been the one organization of government that has kept its feet on the ground despite all types of Commie infiltrations in other branches of government and attempts to overthrow our government.

Brownell is earning no love for himself, his party nof the FBI by pushing this fine organization into Mississippi's law enforcement affairs. We recall that only recently our governor elect, J. P. Coleman, called upon the Mississippi legislature for laws by which FBI agents could be arrested for meddling in the law enforcement matters of this state.

Nobody in Mississippi wants to do anything to discredit the FBI in any way, and it would be tragic if that fine organization were to be given a black eye.

All of which reminds us of a conversation with a Washington newsman of some 30 years experience in the nation's capital.

Decries Brownell Act

Visiting here recently, this veteran newsman decried Brownell's use of the FBI to meddle in the South's business.

"The FBI has built up a fine reputation," he told us. "However, we in Washington do not give all the credit to J. Edgar Hoover's men. The fact is, they have received such wholehearted support from local law enforcement agencies that their jobs have been expedited beyond all expectations.

"Actually, an FBI man would have difficulty getting information on culprits if local law officers were no so cooperative," the newsman explained. "How in the world would an FBI agent put the finger on Joe Doaks if local officers didn't help him?"

Then, the newsman went further to say that "meddling in state's affairs may cause this close coopera

9

7-7714-69

ENCLOSURE

Clarion - Ledger
Jackson Daily News
Jackson, Miss.
November 6, 1955

tion to slough off, and, that would hurt the FBI and the country generally."

This writer hears this explanation of a possible deterioration in respect for the FBI with sincere regret. We certainly wish our U. S. attorney general would attend the affairs of the country as a whole and kept sectional hatreds out of his mind.

Some may say that we are "crying wolfe" but, when members of a legislature of a sovereign state boast that "we won't tell the FBI the time of day," and a governor-elect calls for laws outlawing the FBI, it is time to take notice of a situation that isn't at all good.

Now, while we are on the subject of clippings from other newspapers, we have also received in the last several days a copy of a story appearing in the Chicago American.

Seems a Negro policeman got drunk, became embroiled in an argument with a 72-year-old white man and proceeded to beat the old man until he had to be hospitalized "in a coma" after the cop got through with him. Incidentally, the drunken Negro officer was not on duty at the time.

And, another story comes to us in the mails, lifted from the Chicago Tribune, in which a Negro confesses two killings of whites, several beatings resulting in serious injuries to white and other brutalities.

All of these stories are handled, of course, as run-of-the-mill news. Yet, when two men allegedly kill a Negro down here in Mississippi, and they might just as well have allegedly killed a white man who committed the same acts toward a woman, there is a great racial hubbub and our entire state is blamed.

Funds are solicited all over the nation to "beat Mississippi into the dust."

In the fact of such things as are occurring in Chicago, it would behoove Mississippians to start ranting a little against Illinois for mistreating whites. . . .discrimination against whites.

Why, we might even get some of our lawyers who have committed themselves to fight for segregation in Mississippi to go to Chicago and volunteer to prosecute some of the Negroes who are beating and killing whites.

You laugh?

Well, little as you may think of it, this is just what has been happening to us. Why, even Congressmen have been coming down here to participate in the castigation of Mississippi.

PICK-UPS—T. E. Worley, Rankin county retired farmer, is campaigning for a post as doorkeeper of the Mississippi House of Representatives, and remembering that he is the father of one of our best friends and former Sunday school teacher, Herbert Worley, Jackson industrialist, this writer is only too sorry that newsmen can't vote in the legislative sessions. . . .Rep. Don Colmer, legislator newsman, turned public relations man for a cement company, served as moderator for a legislative panel the other day, and took some ribbing from lawmakers on the subject of cement highways. . . George Powell, Jackson, is making a vigorous campaign for sergeant-at-arms for the Mississippi House of Representatives and is being just as vigorously opposed by one of the present lawmakers, J. H. Cherry, of Kemper county, who would have that job also. . . .The Mississippi tax com- Earl Evans, Canton finance chairman, Alex McKeigney, that there are 34,000 sales tax accounts in this state, 28,000 income tax accounts and $360,109 homestead exemption accounts. . . .Incidentally, Senator Earl Evans, Canton, finnce chairman, opening a speech to lawmakers at a legislative clinic the other day, paid tribute to McKeigney as a worthy successor to the late Alf Stone,and predicted that affairs of the tax commission will "operate promperly.". . . .Due to a new law adopted by the 1955 extraordinary session of the legislature, a lot of out-of-state manufacturers and wholesalers are paying use taxes in Mississippi where they once escaped them. . . .Mississippi's new 5 per cent sales tax on illegal whiskey is going to bring in some $70,000 monthly, we are told.

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: December 13, 1955

FROM : SAC, CLEVELAND (62-0)

SUBJECT: EMMETT TILL -
INFORMATION CONCERNING;
WILLIS CLEMON MC DONALD -
COMPLAINANT

On December 2, 1955, WILLIS CLEMON MC DONALD appeared at this office and advised that he was an insurance salesman in Cleveland, Ohio, for Mutual of Omaha, located at 2850 Euclid Avenue. He gave his own address as 7729 Superior and phone number as EN 1-2862. MC DONALD advised that he spent a good deal of his time in the "colored section" of Cleveland.

He advised that in his everyday contacts with the members of the Negro race in Cleveland, in the recent past, he had noted that in general, considerable strong feeling existed in connection with the Mississippi slaying of EMMETT TILL, a Chicago Negro boy. He further stated that he had observed that "Jet" magazine carried a strong story in connection with that case. He further advised that various comments which he had overheard led him to believe that the slaying incident could not be considered as closed in that possible retaliation of some kind might be forthcoming.

In view of this, MC DONALD stated the thought had occurred to him that the recent slaying of three Chicago white boys might possibly have some connection with the case of EMMETT TILL in that retaliation might have been the motive since the newspapers indicated there was no evidence that the three Chicago boys had been killed by a sex maniac or for purposes of robbery.

MC DONALD can provide no specific information other than that which had been intimated to him that "something would be done about the EMMETT TILL slaying." He continued that the statements were not made in a judicial sense but in an "eye for an eye" manner.

MC DONALD stated that one of the individuals who had intimated that "something would be done about the EMMETT TILL slaying" was a LUCILLE WILLIAMS who had gone to Chicago shortly after the three boys were killed and had brought her sister, name unknown, to Cleveland. He advised that he visited the house during the time the sister was staying in Cleveland with LUCILLE WILLIAMS. He said he noticed a definite coolness toward him at that time, whereas previously the WILLIAMS family had been very friendly toward him.

EXP. PROC. X 37

Ricard on McDonald destroyed 2/13/73 MNB

RECORDED-38
INDEXED-38

62-7714-70

18 DEC 15 1955

50 DEC 27 1955

FIVE

GALLAGHER

INV. BRO.

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ROSEN DIV.
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FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
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FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

DEC 20 12 43 PM '55
INTERNAL SECURITY SECT.
FBI

MR. JONES
DEC 15 3 23 PM '55
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U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

REC'D BELMONT
FBI - JUSTICE
DEC 21 10 14 AM '55

REC'D BELMONT
FBI - JUSTICE
DEC 20 10 50 AM '55

Director, FBI

December 13, 1955

RE: EMMETT TILL -
INFORMATION CONCERNING;
WILLIS CLEMON MC DONALD -
COMPLAINANT

MC DONALD stated flatly that he believes the NAACP or persons connected with that organization were responsible for the killing as a retaliatory gesture of the three Chicago boys.

Willis Clemon Ohio

It will be noted that MC DONALD advised that he had done ten years in Atlanta for kidnapping and that his Atlanta Prison number was 54560 and his date of birth March 21, 1914 at Delta, Alabama. He further stated that he had also done fourteen months for parole violation.

MC DONALD also admitted that he had been drinking before he came to the office. He advised that the complaint was not a spur of the moment thing, but that he had thought about the statements at length before reporting them to this office.

This matter is being referred for information. No investigation is being conducted in this office.

2 - Bureau
1 - Chicago (Info)
1 - Memphis (Info)

RPMP:aec
(5)

DIRECTOR, FBI November 29, 1955

SAC, CHICAGO (100-12761)

RACIAL CONDITIONS IN CHICAGO

Emmett Till

On November 14, 1955, SYLVESTER PASCHAL, Chicago, telephonically contacted the Chicago Office in a desire to know what action the FBI was taking on the present TILL case in Mississippi. PASCHAL noted that since the State of Mississippi has failed to condemn the men involved in the TILL case, it is the duty of the FBI to take definite action to see that they get their just punishment. PASCHAL noted that if some action is not taken by the FBI, many of the Negroes on the South Side of Chicago will attempt to assert pressure on the Government to force them to take a stand on the TILL case. PASCHAL pointed out that at the present time, certain Negroes on the South Side of Chicago are planning to make a trip to Mississippi in cars and create a disturbance down there, showing how much dislike they have for the unfair judgment rendered in behalf of the white people involved in this particular case. He stated that the colored people are not going to sit back and allow this situation to pass, but intend to continually keep such an incident before the eyes of the public and demand some action on it.

It was very clearly pointed out to PASCHAL that the FBI has no jurisdiction in such a case as it was purely a local matter and as a result, we could not investigate any such incident. It was further noted that the FBI could not make any comment concerning the TILL case and if there was any indication that a federal violation occurred, that the FBI would be the first one to investigate regardless of the race, color or creed of any individual. At this point in the conversation, PASCHAL reiterated the fact that the FBI must have jurisdiction and

REGISTERED

TJD:BJP/jeb
(4)

1 - CG 100-19874 (GREGORY PASCHAL)

once again stated that the colored people are going to take action and cause a disturbance if something is not done. At this time, PASCHAL hung up the phone.

PASCHAL, a former Security Index subject of the Chicago Office, was interviewed in June and July, 1954, at which time it was determined by the interviewing Agents that PASCHAL was definitely emotionally unstable and that much of the information he furnished was unreliable. During February, 1955, Reverend ROBERT J. JENKS, pastor of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 4427 South Drexel Boulevard, Chicago, advised that GREGORY PASCHAL had for a number of days been in an emotionally unstable condition and had even asserted that the Communist Party was "out to get him" for turning CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT, convicted Smith Act subject, over to the FBI. Reverend JENKS stated that he suggested to PASCHAL that he should perhaps enter one of the local mental hospitals for the time being and that PASCHAL had consented. In view of PASCHAL's consent, Pastor JENKS stated that he thereafter made arrangements for PASCHAL to voluntarily enter the Chicago State Mental Hospital.

The Chicago State Mental Hospital substantiated information furnished by Reverend JENKS and it was learned that PASCHAL had voluntarily entered this hospital on February 8, 1955, and was released on April 25, 1955. PASCHAL has recently been described by reliable sources as being unstable, shrewd, mercenary individual and a big fake and an opportunist.

G. I. R. 4

RECORDED - 22

INDEXED - 22

7-7714-71

EX-122

January 9, 1956

Mr. James Pierce
523 East F
Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Mr. Pierce:

Your letter dated January 1, 1956, has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I wish to advise that the FBI has the duty of investigating any persons whose activities violate a Federal law coming within our jurisdiction. For your information, facts relating to the case concerning Emmett Till were presented to the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice, and its decision was that there had been no violation of Federal law. For this reason, we have had no authority to take any part in this case.

Enclosed is some material concerning the FBI which you might like to read.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures (2)
Clerical Job Sheet
Special Agent Job Sheet

MAILED 6
JAN - 9 1956
COMM-FBI

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

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71 JAN 16 1956

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RECEIVED
CRIMINAL SECTION
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

C'D MAIL ROOM
FBI

JAN 9 6 50 PM '56

COWW - EBI
JAN - 9 1956
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FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

JAN 10 10 14 AM '56

FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

TRUE COPY

James Pierce
523 East F
Jan 1 1956

29
27

John Edgar Hoover,
Director, Federal Bureau
of Investigation

Sir,

Allow me to exPress my wish and opinion. first Please be kind enough to send me any data, rumors, or what have you about the "Till case of Mississippi State" That is if it legal. Of course you may state whether your Department were interested since it was a Negro murdered. by the way I am a Negro, male, age 27, Discharged from U.S.AF November 2-1955. married and a "Bell Boy." by the way jobs are'nt easy to get would you have one?

Second,

I do believe if you investigated that case "Till," you could have done better, and if you did not investigate would you tell me why not? I have always looked up to your department and longed to be a member of it, that is why I must find out some more about this case.

Of course my opinion may be biased by the "First law of nature." know what I mean? I think it is time for us to do something about this situation of course if we do I know that if we violate any law you will be very much interested in lending a helping hand, but dont you think we have a right to defend our selves.

(over)

I thought murder was your business I mean apprehending murderors. I dont mean to be unfair if I have been unfair in saying do me a favor and explain in detail why. In the mean time I hope you will give this letter your personal attention. until you do I will a confused and waiting lad.

Sincerely
/s/ James Pierce

4 mos
dcl

FIRE-PROOF

Mayfair Hotel

HUTCHINSON'S MOST CONVENIENTLY LOCATED HOTEL

TELEPHONE 2-5471

HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

James Pierce
523 East F
Jan 1 1956

John Edgar Hoover,
Director, Federal Bureau
of Investigation

EMMETT TILL

Sir,

Allow me to express my wish and opinion. first please be kind enough to send me any data, rumors, or what have you about the "Till case of Mississippi State" that is if it legal. Of course you may state whether your Department were interested since it was a Negro murdered. by the way I am a Negro, male, age 27, Discharged from U.S. A.F. November 22 1955 married and a Bell Boy by the way I ~~of~~ isn't easy to get would you have one?

EX-122

RECORDED 22

JAN 11 1956

1-6-56

CRIME REC.

PERS. FILES

1-4

JAN 1 1958

JAN 4 9 12 AM '56

REC'D, RECORDS SEC

MR. JONES

JAN 4 10 01 AM '56

RECEIVED

F B I

U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

FIRE-PROOF

Mayfair Hotel

HUTCHINSON'S MOST CONVENIENTLY LOCATED HOTEL

TELEPHONE 2-5471

HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

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I do believe if you investigated that case "Till" you ~~to~~ could have done better, and if you did not investigate would you tell me why not? I have always looked up to your department and longed to be a member of it, that is why I must find out some more about this case.

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(over)

I thought Mud ~~murderors~~ murder was your business I ~~mend~~ mean apprehending ~~murders~~ murderors.

I dont mean to be unfair if I have been unfair in saying do me a favor and explain in detail why. In the meantime I hope you will give this letter your personal attention. until you do I will a confused and waiting lad.

Sincerely
James Pierce

FD-36 (6-21-55)

FBI

Date: 1/13/56

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

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

From SAC, NEWARK

To: DIRECTOR, FBI

RE: J. W. MILAM; UNSUBS; (TWO),
ET AL, ISS - KIDNAPPING;
J. W. MILAM; A.C. LOVE - VICTIM; CR
(O.O. - Memphis)

Re Detroit teletype to Bureau, 1/10/56.

For information of the Bureau and designated offices, Reverend LOVE telephonically contacted the Newark office on 11/30/55 for the principal purpose of making known his whereabouts. At that time Rev. LOVE stated that he felt it was inevitable that he would be contacted by the press for information regarding instant matter. He inquired whether it would be permissible for him to discuss instant matter with news reporters.

Rev. LOVE was advised that the FBI had placed no restriction on his relations with the press. Rev. LOVE then inquired whether it would be advisable for him to discuss instant matter with the press. He was advised that the FBI could make no recommendation as to what he should or should not do in this regard.

Rev. LOVE stated that he understood the above clearly. He volunteered that in view of his anxiety regarding his sister's welfare and his desire to keep her identity from the public, he would make every effort to avoid further publicity regarding instant matter.

FOSTER

END

3 - Bureau
1 - Detroit (44-225) (info)
1 - Memphis (info)
1 - Newark (44-213)

Mr. Rosen

ARB:JAC
(6)

CC: MR. ROSEN
~~AND SUPERVISOR~~
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

RECORDED - 47

EX. - 118

7-7714-72

23

8 JAN 1956

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 44-9664

Autostated

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

14 JAN 27 1956

Ind Class 1-25 ch.

23 JAN 1956

RECEIVED
ROSEN
JAN 16 1 20 PM '56
FBI
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
FBI
COMMUNICATIONS
JAN 16 4 07 PM '56

RECEIVED
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
JAN 16 4 42 20 PM '56
FBI

RECEIVED - BOARDMAN
JAN 16 12 37 PM '56

RECEIVED
CRIMINAL SECTION
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
JAN 16 1 50 PM '56
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. D. J. Parsons

DATE: January 23, 1956

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

FROM : A. K. Bowles

SUBJECT: ROY BRYANT, et al;
EMMETT LOUIS TILL - VICTIM
KIDNAPING; CIVIL RIGHTS
(Envelope postmarked, Philadelphia, Pa., 1/5/56, 6-PM)

Specimens Q1 and Q2 which are described below were received in the Laboratory on January 13, 1956, with a request for a document examination as set forth in a memorandum from Mr. Price to Mr. Rosen dated January 13, 1956.

Q1 An envelope addressed to "Mr Edger Hoover Department of Justis Washington D C." and postmarked "PHILADELPHIA, PA. JAN 5 1956 6-PM."

Q2 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning "To E. Hoover..." and ending "...can do XXX."

Result of examination:

Specimens Q1 and Q2 were searched through the appropriate section of the Anonymous Letter File. No identification was effected. A representative photographic copy of the evidence has been added to this file for future reference.

It was concluded that the handwriting on Q1 and Q2 was written by the individual who prepared the handwriting on a one-page letter and envelope submitted by the New Orleans office with a letter dated October 24, 1955, and which are contained in the Bureau's Administrative File as an enclosure with Serial 44 in this case. The envelope submitted with New Orleans letter October 24, 1955, is postmarked Philadelphia, Pa., October 10, 1955, 8-PM.

Q1 contains the watermark "U.S. 53." This indicates that the United States Government contracted for the manufacture of this envelope in 1953. Q2 contains no watermark. A record of the physical characteristics of Q1 and Q2 is retained.

The handwriting on Q1 and Q2 in this case was not identified with any of the handwriting contained on the questioned letters concerning this incident which have previously been received in the Laboratory.

One latent fingerprint was developed on Q1. No latents of value were developed on Q2.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that this memorandum with Q1 and Q2 be forwarded to the Investigative Division.

Enclosures (2)

RFC:VL
7-7714
D-219524 HD

RECORDED - 96

1-7714-73

66 JAN 31 1956

EX.-107

JAN 25 1956

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Recorded
1/19/56 VL

NOLAB FILE

Re:
ROY BRYANT, et al;
EMMETT LOUIS TILL - VICTIM
KIDNAPPING; CIVIL RIGHTS
(Envelope postmarked, Philadelphia, Pa., 1/5/56, 6-PM)

File # 7-7714-73
Lab. # D-219524 HD

Examination requested by: Bureau

Date of reference communication: Memo 1/13/56

Date received: 1/13/56

Examination requested: Document

Result of Examination:

Examination by: Campbell

Specimens submitted for examination

Q1 An envelope addressed to "Mr Edger Hoover Department of Justis Washington D C." and postmarked "PHILADELPHIA, PA. JAN 5 1956 6-PM."

Q2 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning "To E. Hoover...." and ending "...can do XXX."

Sherbrooke - Polygraph 1-20

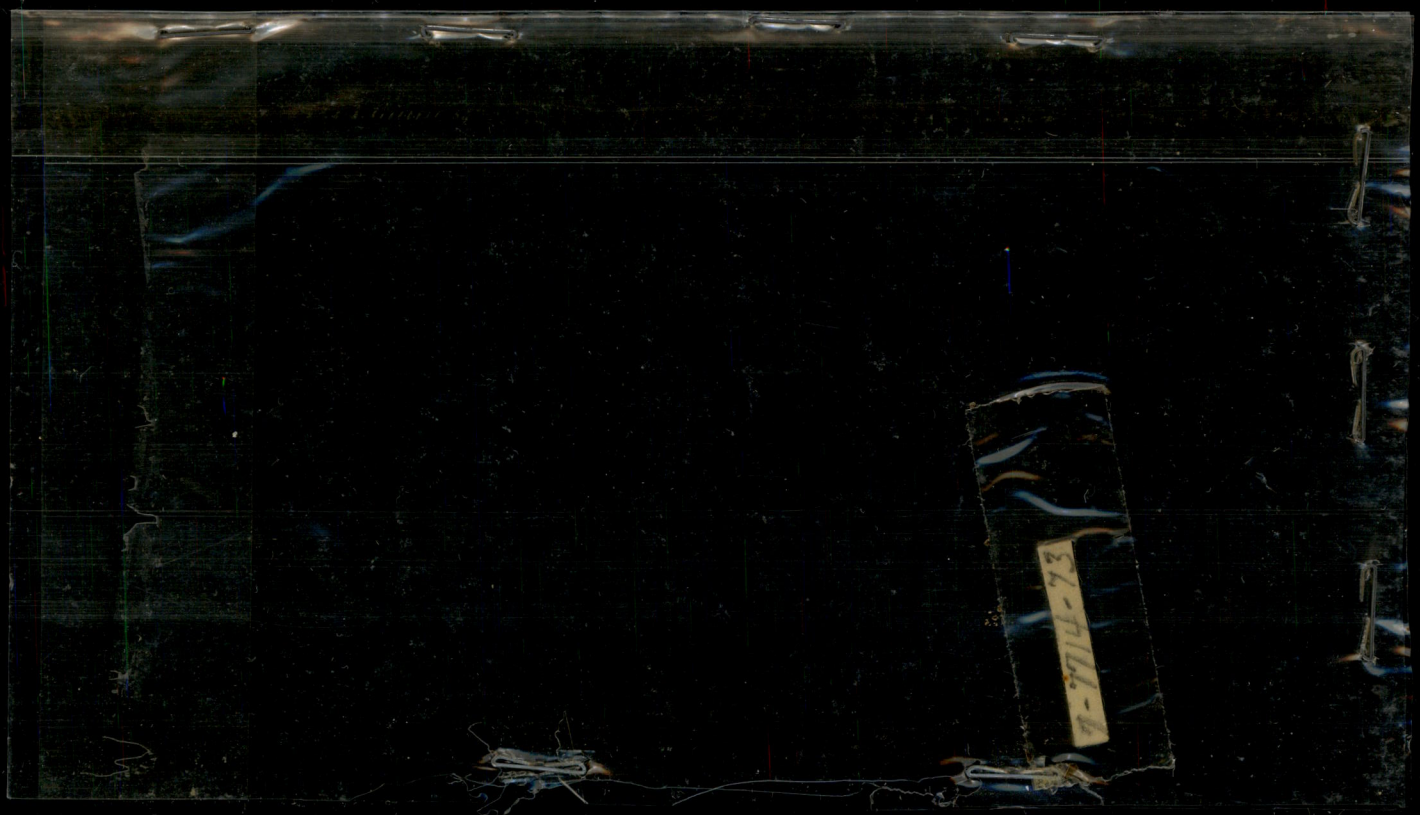
1 ENCL.

ENCLO. ATTACHED

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
JAN 5
6-PM
56

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
THREE 3 CENTS

Mr Edger Hoover
Department of Justis
Washington D.C.



To E. Hoover Washngto D.C.

I like to tell people what
I know. they dont belave
anything I write to them
or you rather I sent you a
letter about the Mississippi
murder telling you how to
get at the botton of it you
put the letter in the trash
Basket & that is what you
done so if I tell you something
I dont Expect you to egnore
it because if you do you will
be sorry I am telling you
this & dont forget that something
will happen to you. you want
like I tell you the truth
but you haven ever sent
any body there so it no
use tell you any thing
more I have done my duty
that is all I can do

XXX

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
JAN 5
6-PM
1956

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
THREE CENTS
3

Mr Edger Hoover
Department of Justis
Washington D C.

To E. Hoover Washngto D.C.

Slick to tell people What
I know. they dont belaive
anything I write to them
or you eather. I sent you a
letter about the Mississippi
murder telling you how to
get at the botton of it you
put the letter in the trash
Basket & that is what you
done so if I tell you something
I dont Expect you to egnok
it because if you do you will
be sorry I am teling you
this I dont forget that somthing
will happen to you. you want
like I tell you the truth
but you haven ever Sent
any body Their So it no
use tell you any thing
more I have done my duty
that is all I can do

XXX

7-7714 Q1 HD

FBI

LABORATORY

4(3) - fingerprint

7-7714 Q1 HD

FBI

LABORATORY

4(3) - fingerprint

PHILADELPHIA, PA. 1
JAN 5
6-PM
1956

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
JAN 5
6-PM
1956

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
THREE CENTS
3

Mr Edgar Hoover
Department of Justice
Washington D.C.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
JAN 5
6-PM
1956

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
THREE CENTS
3

Mr Edgar Hoover
Department of Justis
Washington D.C.

7-7714 Q1 HD
FBI
LABORATORY

ENCLOSURE

7-7714-73

RECORDED - 47
INDEXED - 47
EX - 118

7-7714-74

January 27, 1956

65021

Mrs. J. H. Eaton, Jr.
242 Readvell Drive
San Antonio, Texas

Dear Mrs. Eaton:

Your letter postmarked January 21, 1956, has been received.

Although I appreciate the interest which prompted you to write, I would like to advise that the matter you mentioned does not come within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau. It is suggested that you may desire to bring your observations to the attention of the appropriate local authorities.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

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

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

ELJ:jac
(3)

COMM — FBI
JAN 27 1956
MAILED 24

FEB 3 1956

(3)

Lillie Mae Eaton
242 Readwell St.
San Antonio, Texas

EMMETT LOUIS TILL

65022

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

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

Dear Sir:

Fourteen year old Till, a negro, was murdered about Aug. 28. When is the F.B.I. going to solve this crime? In my heart & the evidence that I have read about — I believe George Lee and Lemar Smith the murderers. God guide you.

Sincerely
Mrs. Eaton

EX-PROC.

RECORDED 47
7-7714-74
JAN 31 1956

ack 1-27-56
ELJ

EXP PROC

RECEIVED
ROSEN
JAN 30 1 33 PM '56
FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTIC

RECEIVED
ROSEN
JAN 24 8 54 AM '56
FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
CRIMINAL SECTION
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
JAN 24 9 20 AM '56

RECEIVED
NO. 1 MAN
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
JAN 23 7 29 PM '56

RECEIVED
NO. 1 MAN
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
JAN 30 2 52 PM '56

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
JAN 23 5 00 PM '56

RECEIVED-BOARDHA
JAN 23 7 03 PM '56

JAN 23 5 09 PM '56
REC'D, RECORDS SEC

RECEIVED-MICHOLS
JAN 23 6 28 PM '56
FBI

MR. JONES
JAN 24 12 45 PM '56

RECEIVED
FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sullivan
Miss Holloman
Miss Gandy

Director
1-23-56
Bergan
Fehrman

G.I.R. - I

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

An Editorial Appearing in LIFE, October 10, 1955

"IN MEMORIAM, EMMETT TILL" Emmett Louis Till

"In Mississippi the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till still goes unpunished. It will be punished, nevertheless, for there is a higher law than Mississippi's.

"Emmett Till was a child. One of the South's traditions is the religion of Jesus, who said: 'But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.'

"Men can be forgiven for prejudice, as a sign of ignorance or imperfect understanding of their religion; no righteous man can condone a brutal murder. Those in Sumner, and elsewhere, who do condone it, are in far worse danger than Emmett Till ever was. He had only his life to lose, and many others have done that, including his soldier-father who was killed in France fighting for the American proposition that all men are equal. Those who condone a deed so foul as this are in danger of losing their souls.

"The soul of Emmett Till himself was known but to few but it was a thing of value. It was fashioned on July 25, 1941 by the Lord God Almighty who placed on it this distinctive seal:

" 'This is My son, akin to all others, but unlike any of them. Like each of My children he is unique, irreplaceable, immortal. I hereby send him among other men, who are his brothers.'

"He went and was slain. In the dark night of this deed his childish cries for mercy fell on deaf ears. But they were heard, nonetheless, and the Hearer made an entry, that night, beneath certain names, writing once more: 'It must needs be that offenses come, but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh.'

"Sleep well, Emmett Till; you will be avenged. You will also be remembered, as long as men have tongues to cry against evil. It is true now as it was when Christ said it almost 2,000 years ago: 'For there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed; neither hid that shall not be known . . . Whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in that light . . . Be not afraid of them that kill the body . . . Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell . . . Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? Fear not, therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows."

IN RE THE ABOVE EDITORIAL

October 24, 1955

Mr. Henry Luce, Editor
LIFE
9 Rockefeller Plaza
New York 20, New York
Dear Mr. Editor:

We have read your above editorial published in a recent issue of LIFE magazine entitled: "In Memoriam, Emmett Till." At first it stirred in us conflicting emotions. You spoke so eloquently of an offense against this little one and then backed up what you had to say with these seemingly appropriate words of Jesus: "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones *which believe in me,* it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." On first blush the statement was arresting and sobering and almost brought conviction. Then it was suddenly recalled that the corpse found in the Tallahatchie River, alleged to be that of Emmett Till, was some six feet in length which is considered good basketball stature in college circles in Mississippi. Then, too, we have been unable to find in word or deed any evidence that Emmett Till believed in Jesus. On the contrary, his reported behavior on one occasion would indicate that he did not. So this thunderbolt which you hurled lost most of its force and effect before reaching its target.

You also raised the question of the lineage of Emmett Till. You mentioned how his patriotic father had died in France defending the flag of his country and who fought so bravely for the "proposition that all men are equal." We were beginning to be moved to tears when it was revealed by the War Department that the father of Emmett Till had been hanged in Italy for the double crime of rape and murder. This revelation, as you would surmise, dried up the fountain of our tears, but we hope not permanently for tears sometimes serve a good and useful service. Also, we have been searching diligently for the authority for your statement: ". . . the American proposition that all men are equal." So far our search has been fruitless. We must confess, however, that we have not consulted the works of Karl Marx nor that of any of his disciples, believing as we do that their philosophy of government is un-American and foreign to our way of life.

7-7214

Then you almost won us over to your side with your demonstrated knowledge and use of Scripture. You softened us up a little to begin with by paying our southern section the compliment of believing in the religion of Jesus, and in this statement you were preeminently correct. We do not even object to being designated the "Bible Belt" of the nation, even though the term is sometime applied in derision. But about the time we were on the verge of capitulating, the thought struck us like one of the female hurricanes that have been roaring up the Atlantic seaboard that even the devil on occasion had shown himself to be a past master in quoting Scripture. You recall well, we are sure, when Jesus was being tempted in the wilderness, old Satan challenged Him to cast Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple, reminding Him that "It is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." You remember also the reply of Jesus: "It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

RECORDED
JAN 30 1956
2-1

The simple facts of the Emmett Till case, Mr. Editor, are these: He was reportedly visiting an uncle in the little town of Money in the Mississippi Delta. He made some insulting remarks and gestures to a young white matron of the community. Sometime later he was reportedly taken from his uncle's home in the middle of the night by two men, and a few days later a body was found several miles above Money in the Tallahatchie River. The husband of the

65 FEB 2 1956

365

file UMA.

CRIM. REC.

aggrieved young matron and his half-brother were arrested, indicted, and tried for murder according to the law and the evidence presented. As you doubtless know, under American jurisprudence every person accused of a crime is presumed innocent until proven guilty by unimpeachable testimony and that beyond every reasonable doubt. You know, as every other fair-minded American citizen must know who followed the case as reported in the newspapers, that no unbiased and impartial jury could be impanelled, north or south, east or west, that would convict a person of murder on the testimony presented at the trial of Milam and Bryant in Sumner, Mississippi. Hardly a day passes but that a trial is held on an indictment for murder in some county in these United States. Some are adjudged guilty, some not guilty. The only thing unusual about the trial at Sumner, Mississippi was the number of celebrities from a distance in attendance and the large amount of space given to the incident by the press of the nation, largely condemnatory of a sovereign state, its courts, and a patriotic and proud people who believe in good government and law and order and the American way of life at its best.

There is some justification, Mr. Editor, for the belief that the Till incident was a hoax enacted for the purpose of stirring up the good people of the North to the point of opening their purses to provide the necessary funds to prosecute a campaign to hasten the mongrelization of the white and Negro races of the South. Whether it was so designed or not, post-trial events point strongly in that direction. The Emmett Till incident seems to be following the same pattern as the *Uncle Tom's Cabin* story of a century ago and may turn out to be just as fictitious.

Can you not see, Mr. Editor, that this movement to integrate the white and Negro races is un-American, un-Christian, and Communist inspired? It is not a sin to have pride of ancestry and it is not an unholy ambition to want to preserve racial characteristics and transmit them and their rich fruitage unstained to posterity. We are humbly thankful that we are of a race that has produced a Gladstone, a Lloyd George and a Winston Churchill; a Washington, a Jefferson and a Benjamin Franklin; a Lincoln, a Davis and a Woodrow Wilson; a Spurgeon, a Wesley and a Truett; a Thompson, a Milikan and an Edison; an Eliot, a Harper and a Jordan; a Tennyson, a Browning and a Longfellow; and on and on indefinitely the listing might be extended. We rejoice also that this same race in its purity has given to free men Magna Charta, the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. We rejoice further that this same white race in America whose form of government and way of life has made it strong and powerful, enabling it twice in our generation to blast the heel of the tyrant from the bruised body of humanity, making possible the sun of hope to appear again in their sky.

We have not an unkind word for the Negro race. It has many fine qualities and desirable characteristics. Left free to work out its own destiny without the frustration and repression that would inevitably come with too great intimacy with the superior race, a worthy contribution could be made and until the fateful decision of the Supreme Court was being made. There is one important item which you and your contemporaries are overlooking. The Southern country was ravaged and pillaged from 1861 to 1865. Its property was destroyed and its land laid waste and the flower of its young manhood sacrificed on fields of awful carnage. From our own Mississippi College a company known as "The Mississippi College Rifles" went out to the battlefields of Virginia. So terrific and bloody were the battles that of the 104 who went out, only eight returned to tell the story. These were patriots that engaged in this awful struggle, the one side fighting for states' rights and local self-government and the other for the preservation of the Union.

When exhaustion came, the Southern soldier returned to find his home burned, his property taken from him without compensation, his fortune swept away. To add to the disaster the North that had broken the shackles of physical slavery from the wrist of the African slave now fastened the more galling chains of economic slavery upon black and white alike. And only during the last twenty-five or thirty years has this section been regarded as an equal in the sisterhood of States. And during this brief period great prosperity has accompanied it. And the dominant race has set about to better the conditions of the Negro, to provide better school facilities and better living conditions, creating a happier relationship between the races. This process is now being disturbed by an evil influence appearing upon the scene, aided by a Supreme Court's decision, setting aside all precedent and opening up a Pandora's box of trouble that will plague the nation for years to come to no good purpose.

Mr. Editor, you and your newspaper fraternity can render valuable help in resolving this issue if you will only give all the people all the truth. Freedom of the press is a misnomer if it fails or refuses to give both sides of a controversy. Not to do so is indicative that there is a skeleton in the closet, a Negro in the woodpile, and a yielding to high pressure groups or subversive elements, thus throttling an agency that has played a large part in making America free and strong.

You might want to know, Mr. Editor, who it is writing you so frankly and so fully. To save you time and effort in consulting *Who's Who, American Men of Science* and *Leaders in Education,* we give you this brief autobiography. The writer was born and grew to young manhood in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. His mother came to Mississippi when she was in her early teens from the good state of Ohio. She was of Irish descent and bore grandly the beautiful name, Sarah Isabella Cornick. She soon met a young man of the community by the name of Jonathan Taylor Nelson, whose remote ancestors came west from England. In due time they plighted their troth and joined hands and hearts in holy wedlock. Five children came to this home, the writer being the fourth. The father died early and left the mother with five fatherless children to rear and educate.

The writer learned the rudiments of an education at his mother's knee, then to high school at Charleston he went, then to Mississippi College, then to the universities of the North, receiving his Ph.D. in Physics from Indiana University. He taught in the public schools of Mississippi for five years and has been connected with Mississippi College for 44 years, 24 of which he has been president of the college. He has been in every community of the state, spoken in almost every high school and many of the churches. Hence, he has firsthand knowledge of beautiful Mississippi and can speak authortatively of the beauty of her landscapes and the excellency of her people. Now and then one of us, because of Adam's transgression, strays from the beaten path of right as is done in other states, we are constrained to believe; but, by and large, our people are law-abiding, peace-loving and God-fearing, as is true in most all of the other states.

If, after reading this epistle, Mr. Editor, you are still skeptical and unconvinced, if you will come down, we shall be glad to take time out from a busy schedule and visit with you various sections of glorious Mississippi that you may see for yourself that what we are saying is too conservative. While we do not know you, we are well acquainted with human nature. Most all mistakes are made in not having enough light and enough of the truth. A great Mississippian once said, "Know each other, and you will love each other." Some of the best friends we have live north of the Mason and Dixon line. We should like to win you, too. We believe it not impossible nor too late, for we are reminded by another:

"As long as the lamp of mercy holds out to burn,
The vilest sinner may return."

Sincerely yours,

D. M. Nelson, President

DMN/meg

2-2 WD

7-7714-75

RECORDED - 77

365

63 FEB -6 1956

EX. 107

8 JAN 31 1956

2. That the attached letter be processed by the FBI Laboratory for any identifying information.

3. That the FBI Laboratory compare the attached letter with handwriting contained in the file captioned "Unsub; Henry Clarence Strider, Sheriff, etc - Victim, Et Al.; Extortion," in an effort to determine identifying information regarding the person who executed attached communication.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Recorded
1/19/56 VL

NOLAB FILE

Re: ROY BRYANT, et al;
EMMETT LOUIS TILL - VICTIM
KIDNAPPING; CIVIL RIGHTS
(Envelope postmarked, Philadelphia, Pa., 1/5/56, 6-PM)

File # 7-7714 -75
Lab. # D-219524 HD

Examination requested by: Bureau

Date of reference communication: Memo 1/13/56 **Date received:** 1/13/56

Examination requested: Document

Result of Examination: **Examination by:** Campbell 1/20/56

Q1, Q2 not ident A.L.F. Copy added.
Hdwt Q1, Q2 ident hdwt on ltr and envelope sub by New Orleans ltr 10/24/55 and contained in bur. adm. file as an enclosure with serial 44 in this case. The envelope sub. with N.O. ltr is p.m. ~~[illegible]~~ Phil. PA, Oct 10 55 8-PM.
Q1 has watermark U.S. 53. Q2 has no watermark.

Specimens submitted for examination

Q1 An envelope addressed to "Mr Edger Hoover Department of Justis Washington D C." and postmarked "PHILADELPHIA, PA. JAN 5 1956 6-PM."

Q2 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning "To E. Hoover...." and ending "...can do XXX."

The hdwt Q1, Q2 in this case was not identified with any of the hdwt contained on the quest. ltrs concerning this incident which have previously been held in the lab.

Per Robyak SFPS - 1/20/56 → One latent fprt was developed on envelope Q1. No latents of value developed on Q2.

memo
1-23-56
RJC:N

Q1 White Bond envelope
width 3.75 inches
length 6.75 inches
Thickness .005 inches
Watermark "US 53"

Q2 Sheet of spiral note book paper with holes in top
18 blue green lines
width 4.69 inches
length 8.80 inches
thickness .0032 inches
Distance between lines .049 inches
No watermark

Q1,Q2 H g y that you to
Mississippi murder the Basket
department Samerd

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: 1/13/56

FROM : Mr. Price

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

SUBJECT: ROY BRYANT, ET AL.;
EMMETT LOUIS TILL - VICTIM
KIDNAPING; CIVIL RIGHTS
(Envelope postmarked, Philadelphia, Pa., 1/5/56, 6-PM)

219524

The attached anonymous communication addressed to the Director, postmarked at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1/5/56 states as follows:

"To E. Hoover Washington, D. C.

I like to tell people what I know. They don't believe anything I write to them or you eather. I sent you a letter about the Mississippi murder telling you how to get at the bottom of it. You put the letter in the trash basket & that is what you done so if I tell you something I don't expect you to egnore it because if you do you will be sorry. I am telling you this & don't forget that something will happen to you, you won't like. I tell you the truth but you haven even sent anybody their so it no use tell you anything more. I have done my duty that is all I can do. XXX"

It is noted a letter was received at the Resident Agency, Jackson, Mississippi, on 10/13/55, postmarked at Philadelphia, 10/10/55, and was signed "XXX." This communication is carried as serial 44 and refers to the fact that the body found in the river actually was not the body of Till. Memphis was instructed by airtel dated 10/26/55 to furnish the information to the Sheriff of Leflore County, Mississippi.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the attached letter be forwarded to the FBI Laboratory to be compared with the anonymous communication received at the Resident Agency, Jackson, Mississippi, (serial 44) to determine whether both communications were prepared by the same individual.

COPIES DESTROYED
166 APR 26 1965

Enclosure
cc: Mr. Parsons
7-7714
GMK/jlp
(3)

RECORDED - 77

INDEX LABELED

65 FEB -6 1956

EX-107

7-7714 - 76

8 JAN 23 1956

COPY & SPECIMENS RETAINED IN LAB FOR LAB ACTION & REPORT

RECEIVED
CRIMINAL SECTION
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
JAN 13 3 54 PM '56
FBI
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
FEB 3 3 05 PM '56
RECEIVED-ROSENBERG
FBI
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
NO. 1 MAN
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
JAN 16 9 01 AM '56

TECHNICAL LABORA
F B I
DEPT OF JUST
JAN 17 8 40 AM '56
U. S. DEPT OF JUST

RECEIVED-PARSON
JAN 16 1 29 PM '56
F B I
LABORATORY DIVISION

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGA
NITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF J

Laboratory Work Sheet Recorded 1-20-56 12:00 Noon/ho

Recorded
1/19/56

No lab File

Re: ROY BRYANT, ET AL:
EMMETT LOUIS TILL - Victim
KIDNAPPING: CIVIL RIGHTS
(Envelope postmarked, Philadelphia, Pa., 1/5/56, 6-PM)

File # 7-7714 - 76
Lab. # D-219524 HD

Examination requested by: Bureau

Date of reference communication: Memo 1/13/56 **Date received:** 1/13/56

Examination requested: Document

Result of Examination:

Examination by: Campbell
Robyak

If completed this afternoon for return to lab
Lab will ans + return

Specimens submitted for examination

Q1 An envelope addressed to "Mr Edger Hoover Department of Justis Washington D C." and postmarked "PHILADELPHIA, PA. Jan 5 1956 6-PM."

Q2 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning "To E. Hoover...." and ending "...can do XXX."

Q1 and Q2 submitted for latent fingerprint examination.

Compare latents developed instant case with latents previously developed instant case (Serial # 44).

Also compare latents with latents previously developed on letters submitted under cases entitled, "UNSUB; HENRY CLARENCE STRIDER, SHERIFF, ETC - VICTIM, ET AL.; EXTORTION."

1 lift found on outside of Q1
no latents on Q2
Comp. latents inst case, results reported on X
Called Campbell - will include results in his report 1-20
photo 1-20
File Jan 2

52 FEB 9 1956

SEVEN

Chi 1/30

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

envelope not received
on checkers ok.

Mr. Lincoln
Springfield Ill.
Author Carson
1/6/55

DO-6

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

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

January 6, 1956

The attached anonymous communication addressed to the Director, postmarked at Philadelphia, Pa., 1-5-56 states:

To E. Hoover Washington, D. C.

I like to tell people what I know. They don't believe anything I write to them or you eather. I sent you a letter about the Mississippi murder telling you how to get at the bottom of it. You put the letter in the trash basket & that is what you done so if I tell you something I don't expect you to egnore it because if you do you will be sorry. I am telling you this & don't forget that something will happen to you, you won't like. I tell you the truth but you haven even sent anybody their so it no use tell you anything more. I have done my duty that is all I can do.

Roy Bry

McGhiney
Gallagher

hmb (1)

envelope not included or checked

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

G. I. R. -1

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

DATE: January 25, 1956

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: A. KING
BOX 533
GOLETA, CALIFORNIA

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

The Bureau has received a copy of a letter dated 1-18-56 to Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, Money, Mississippi, from captioned individual. This communication sets forth Mr. King's observations regarding the addressees, who were tried and acquitted of murder in the Till case.

Emmett Louis

Since this letter was not addressed to the Bureau and involves no matter within our investigative jurisdiction, it is not believed it should be acknowledged.

RECOMMENDATION:

That instant letter not be acknowledged.

ELJ:vjs
(2)

RECORDED - 81
INDEXED - 81

2-7714-77

8 JAN 31 1956

EX.-107

68 FEB 3 1956

CRIME REC.

JAN 25 6 18 PM '56
RECEIVED-TOLSON
F B I
U. S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

JAN 26 12 12 PM '56
RECEIVED-JONES
F B I

JAN 25 6 13 PM '56
RECEIVED-NICHOLS
F B I
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

JAN 26 9 13 AM '56
RECEIVED
ROSEN

JAN 25 7 00 PM '56
RECEIVED
NO. 1 MAN
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

JAN 26 4 00 PM '56
RECEIVED-NICHOLS
F.B.I.

FEB 3 1 39 PM '56
RECEIVED
F B I

JAN 26 11 17 AM '56
RECEIVED
CRIMINAL SECTION
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
F.B.I.
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

JAN 26 9 45 AM '56
RECEIVED
NO. 1 MAN
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Box 533
Goleta Calif.
Jan. 18-56

3

Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam
Money Mississippi

Before I go farther let me say that an exact copy of this letter is being sent sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I would have written this letter sooner had I known just where to send it.

Look magazine has printed the story or account of one of the most cowardly, cold blooded murders in our history.

You two men are as bad as any of the Hitler Germans, the Japanese the North Koreans or the Chinese reds.

1-23
13

JAN 23 2 14 PM '56

MR. JON RECORDS SEC

JAN 23 3 05 PM '56

RECEIVED
F B I
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

Two grown men plus two forty five automatics, against an unarmed fourteen year old boy.

I, for one and millions of other people in this country, hope that in some way, if not by law you more then pay for what you did.

I'm a white man and not a negro and an American. My Grandfather was captured by the Confederates during the Civil War and was put in Andersonville prison. He was beaten, tortured and starved and only lived eleven months after his release. Yet you people down there call yourselves Americans, law-abiding and God fearing.

If it hadn't been for other southerners like yourselves there would never

have been any negros here to start with.

If I had been on either of those juryis you can bet you would have hanged. Those jurors are the same type of peoper as you are or they were gutless.

This pretty well sums up how I I feel and if it was possible for me to put a curse on you two you would be cursed till the day you die.

A. King

phone directory does not list.

Calif

P.S. I have also sent a copy of this letter to Look Magazine.

3

(4)

cc

10863 Bloomfield Street
North Hollywood, California
February 2, 1956

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

I recently read a shocking story in a recent issue of Look Magazine concerning the abduction, beating and brutal murder of a young negro by the name of Emmet Till. These crimes were commited in the State of Mississippi by two mad dog southerners. They were brought to trial for murder and found not guilty.

What I am unable to understand is why these men were never brought to trial for kidnapping. Isn't that a Federal offense. Both admitted abducting the boy.

Very truly yours,

Glenn E. Zelezny

Glenn E. Zelezny

M

RECORDED-9

7-7714-79

17 FEB 10 1956

mml
ack 2-9-56
Cem

FEB 6 1 37 PM '56

REC'D, RECORDS SEC

MR. JONES

FEB 6 10 38 AM '56

RECEIVED

F B I

U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

2

C.I.R.-1

RECORDED-91

INDEXED-9

7-7714-79

EX-118

February 9, 1956

Mr. Glenn E. Zelezny
10863 Bloomfield Street
North Hollywood, California

Dear Mr. Zelezny:

Your letter dated February 2, 1956, has been received, and I sincerely appreciate your interest in writing.

For your information, the alleged abduction of the youth to whom you referred was not a violation of Federal law within the jurisdiction of the FBI since one of the elements of the kidnaping statute is that the person so kidnaped has to be transported in interstate or foreign commerce.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent.

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

CEM:mbk
(3)

MAILED 8
FEB 9 1956
COMM-FBI

63 FEB 15 1956

RECEIVED
ROSEN
FEB 8 12 23 PM '56
FBI
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FEB 9 9 54 AM '56
RECEIVED-TOLSON
F B I
U. S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED-BOARDMAN

FEB 9 9 05 AM '56
RECEIVED-MAIL ROOM
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
CRIMINAL SECTION
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
FEB 8 1 30 PM '56
F B I
U. S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

FEB 9 3 40 PM '56

7-7714
Roy Bryant, et al.
Emmett Louis Till - victim
Kidnapping; Civil Rights
(Exc. p.m. Phila 1-5-56)

Photos of latents
Div I file

7-7714
v. photos
1-5-56

Exc

7-7714-80

G. I. R. -1

RECORDED - 96
INDEXED 96
7-7714-80

February 15, 1956

EX-125

Mrs. Laura C. Moore
301 28th Street Drive, Southeast
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dear Mrs. Moore:

Your letter of February 6, 1956, has been received, and I appreciate the concern which prompted your writing.

For your information, the so-called "Lindbergh kidnaping law" only applies in cases where the kidnaped victim is transported across a state line. Since this was not the case in the Emmett Till murder, this Bureau has no jurisdiction to conduct an investigation. The matter was presented to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice under the Civil Rights Statutes, and the decision was rendered that there was no indication that this case came within the investigative authority of the FBI.

In view of your interest, I am taking the liberty of sending you data about this Bureau and its activities which you might like to have.

Sincerely yours,

COMM — FBI
FEB 15 1956
MAILED 26

Encl. attached

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures (3)

The Story of the FBI
Civil Liberties & Law Enforcement: The Role of the FBI.
(Iowa Law Review)
Services of the FBI

FEB 17 9 31 AM '56
FBI
MAIL ROOM

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

NOTE: No record in Bufiles identifiable with correspondent.

52 FEB 23 1956

RGE:rwp:flp
(3)

TRUE COPY

Monday Feb 6.

Mrs. Laura C. Moore

---

301 - 28th Street Drive S. E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dear Mr. Hoover:-

I am not a colored person. I am not affiliated with any advancement or group, I am not a crackpot bothering busy people by writing them letters.

But I am an American who believes in God, our wonderful democracy, and President, the F.B.I. and you Mr Hoover!

For some time now I have waited for an explanation, or some one else to seek an explanation as to why the F.B.I. did not enter a case in Mississippi, where a boy was taken from his bed, and driven around in a truck, beaten, and murdered, by two men. Why, the Lindbergh kidnapping law did not apply to this case!

Since no one else seems interested, and no one else will do it for me, I feel I must find out. Mr. Hoover I am ashamed! I am worried and afraid! I ask my self can this have happened in our United States!

Our schools teach us that we play a vital part, and are responsible for our government. If this be true, tho I am a nobody, I am going to try to cry out against an injustice which I think has been committed.

Tho I have read everything I could find, written about this case, perhaps I have this feeling because I am ignorant of the true facts. Could you possibly tell me how I might find out the truth?

Anything you write me will be held in strictest confidence, this is not an attempt to get publicity. I just cannot believe that God turned his face from that boy, and I cannot believe that you turned your face from a hideous crime that was in your jurisdiction.

You and your department has been the perfect part of our law enforcement body. Money, power, politics has never corrupted the F.B.I. Can the South do it now?

Wont you please answer my letter, it is so very important to me,* to put this out of my mind I will try because I believe in you and because my conscience asks me each day. "What did you do about it?" It is an un happy guilt.

Sincerely,

/s/ Laura Moore

* If you tell me

7-7714 Q1 HD

FBI

LABORATORY

To J. Hoover Washington D.C.
I'll tell people what
I know. they don't believe
anything I write to them
o[illegible] I sent you a
letter about the Mississippi
murder telling you how to
get a button of it you
put it upon the fresh
basket that is what you
done so I still for something
I don't expect you to break
it because if you do you will
very day tell you
yes I don't forget what Dorothy
will happen to you you want
like I tell you the truth
but you haven't even sent
anybody there so it no
use tell you any thing
more I have done my duty
that is [illegible]

To J. Hoover Washington D.C.

I'll try to tell people what
I know. They don't believe
anything I write to them
or else I don't know a
letter about the Mississippi
murder. I'll tell you how to
get a hold of it. You
put it in the trash
basket & that is what you
done so I'll tell you something
I don't expect you to speak
it because if you do you will
be sorry I am telling you
this so don't forget that something
will happen to you if you don't
like I'll tell you the truth
but you haven't ever sent
anybody there. So it no
use tell you any thing
more I have done my duty
that is all I can do

X

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

Emmett Louis Till

CC/0-1

1/Pg

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Sincerely
Laura Moore

FEB 9 3 41 PM '56
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FBI
DIRECTOR
FEB 9 3 31 PM '56
FEB 9 7 17 PM '56
RECEIVED-BOARDMAN

Monday Feb 6.

Mrs. Laura C. Moore
301 - 28th Street Drive S. E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dear Mr. Hoover:-

I am not a colored person, I am not affiliated with any advancement or group, I am not a crackpot bothering busy people by writing them letters.

But I am an American who believes in God, our wonderful democracy, our President, the F.B.I and you Mr Hoover! 7-114-84

For some time now I have waited for an explanation, or some one else to seek an explanation as to why the F.B.I. did not enter a case in Mississippi, where

RECORDED - 96
FEB 20 1956

1 mc copy typed 2.13.56 ewp.

wne
act 2.15.56
RCK

Director 2/9 Margaret Schlegel

a boy was taken from his bed and driven around, in a truck, beaten, and murdered, by two men. If by, the Lindbergh Kidnapping law did not apply to this case!.

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Our schools teach us that we play a actal part, and are responsible for our government. If this be true, tho I am a nobody ~~I am~~, I am going to try to cry out against an injustice which I think has been committed.

Tho I have read everything I could find, written about this case, perhaps I have this feeling because I am ignorant of the true facts. Could you possibly tell me how I might find out the facts?.

Anything you write me will be held in strictest confidence, this is not an attempt to get publicity. I just cannot believe that God turned his face from that boy, and I

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: 2/17/56

TO : Mr. Tolson

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
STEPHEN DAMMAN - VICTIM
POSSIBLE KIDNAPING

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

Emmett

With reference to Olney's memorandum of 2/6/56, I wish to advise that I saw William Rogers on the late afternoon of 2/16/56. I pointed out to Rogers that one of the Negro delegations calling upon the Attorney General had sought to raise an issue on our failure to investigate the Till case and our investigation of the Damman case. The fact was that we had not investigated the Damman case; that this came up in a conference in the Attorney General's office on 1/5/56; that as a result, we furnished a memorandum to the Attorney General dated 1/9/56, furnishing complete background of the Damman case and in discussing the Damman case, we pointed out the attitude of the Nassau County Police who had taken the position that it was their duty and responsibility to investigate the Damman case and that unless the FBI was prepared to assume full responsibility the Nassau County Police wanted no interference in the investigation by the FBI.

I further told Rogers that to further bulwark the Attorney General's position we had furnished details on the Chillingworth case, the Ferri case and pointed out numerous instances where there had been disappearances wherein bodies were found which were clearly state violations involving murder and related offenses; that we had further pointed out in the memorandum, in an attempt to give the Attorney General a well-rounded picture, the Departmental policy on the Seven-day Presumptive Clause in the Kidnaping Act. I stated that this memorandum was intended solely to furnish information to the Attorney General; that since it involved a subject matter in which he, Rogers, and Olney would be interested in we had sent them copies; that despite the fact that the memorandum called for no action nevertheless, Olney had written a six-page memorandum wherein for all intent and purposes he reversed the Departmental policy, which had been in operation for 21 years and the wisdom and validity of which had been tested, and set up a new policy which would now necessitate our going into the Damman case, probably the Chillingworth case and if there were a Till case today, it would require us to go into such a case; that this new policy now ingenerated by Olney in his memorandum

Enclosures
cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Rosen

LBN:fc (4)

ENCLOSURE

57 FEB 20 1956

74 1714-

NOT RECORDED
76 FEB 20 1956

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

of 2/6/56, to the Attorney General had far-reaching ramifications; that a memorandum had been prepared dated 2/16/56, addressed to the Attorney General pointing out that we would go into the Damman case and requesting advice on the Chillingworth case; that we knew that if we sent this memorandum to the Attorney General and started investigating the Damman case the Attorney General would be put in an untenable position after having advised large delegations of Negro newspapermen and others that we treated the Till case exactly as we did the Damman case and that sooner or later the whole situation would probably be placed in his lap whereupon we wanted to go over the matter with him before sending through our memorandum; that we simply could not understand why Olney would change a Departmental policy which had worked satisfactorily for 21 years and which had carried out the intent of Congress without at least a consultation and that in addition to changing this policy, he had adjudged the Bureau's judgment in handling kidnaping cases as being faulty and wrong; that we, of course, were human and could make mistakes but we would not accept a guilty charge when we knew this was erroneous and unfair without fighting back; that if the Department saw fit to change its policy we, of course, would be happy to abide by the Department's rules but we wanted our position thoroughly documented in the record which we purported to do with our memorandum of 2/16/56, and we wanted to alert him as to the repercussions which I went into so that he could be squared away to meet them.

Rogers stated that he could see no need to change a practice or policy that had been followed for 21 years; that if the Bureau wanted the policy reviewed and a legal ruling that he thought that would be one thing but such a ruling should not reopen cases that occurred in the past but should be directed to future cases; that it would be much better had there been a consultation. I pointed out again that this was gratuitous since our memorandum of 1/9/56, was intended to be informative and that if informative memoranda were to be seized upon by Olney then we would just have to stop sending copies of such memoranda to Olney; that this, of course, would not be good for the Department because Olney could be put in an untenable position should the Attorney General raise some question about the content. Rogers thoroughly agreed with this. Rogers then requested that I return to him Olney's memorandum of 2/6/56, and also suggested that I put a memorandum in our files pointing out that I had discussed with Mr. Rogers this matter and Mr. Rogers was going to take the matter up with the Attorney General and the Bureau should take no further action unless advised to the contrary at a later date.

Memorandum for Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols 2/17/56
RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
STEPHEN DAMMAN - VICTIM
POSSIBLE KIDNAPING

There is attached a typed copy of the Olney memorandum for future reference and the Bureau's memorandum of 2/16/56, which now should not be sent to the Department because we have nothing to answer in view of the Department's recalling Olney's memorandum to the Attorney General; however, this has been placed in an envelope and is attached for future reference should the necessity arise.

4-572 (3-29-55)
STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director DATE: 2-13-56.

FROM : J. P. Mohr

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

Page A247-A249 Congressman Diggs, (D) Michigan, extended his remarks concerning the Emmet Till case. He included an editorial from the New York Post dated January 11, 1956, and an article from Look magazine of January 24, 1956, on the same subject. Mr. Diggs stated "The Attorney General must be granted sufficient power to intervene in those cases where individual States refuse to provide equal protection of the law to all citizens.

Original filed in: 66-1731-1162

7-7714-
NOT RECORDED
138 FEB 14 1956
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for THURSDAY - 1-12-56 was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

7351
FEB 20 1956

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. ROSEN

DATE: February 20, 1956

FROM : F. L. PRICE

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

SUBJECT: THE CIVIL RIGHTS CASES IN MISSISSIPPI

There is submitted for your information a statement as to the status of 4 frequently mentioned civil rights matters in Mississippi.

THE EMMETT TILL CASE

Till was kidnaped on 8/28/55, at Money, Mississippi, and his body was found on 8/31/55, in the Tallahatchie River in Mississippi. No investigation conducted by Bureau as Department advised there was no violation of the Federal statute involved.

THE REVEREND GEORGE WESLEY LEE CASE

Reverend Lee, a Negro, was shot and killed in Belzoni, Mississippi, on May 7, 1955. Full investigation was conducted by Bureau and the results furnished to the Department. By memorandum of January 27, 1956, Criminal Division advised that information developed in connection with this investigation was to be furnished to local authorities in Mississippi. Department has submitted a proposed press release regarding this matter and the filing of the criminal information in the Mound Bayou election case.

THE LAMAR SMITH CASE

Smith was shot and killed on 8/13/55. No investigation was conducted in this matter by the Bureau but local developments have been followed at the request of the Criminal Division. The newly elected district attorney advised on January 25, 1956, that he planned to develop new and reliable witnesses so that additional information can be presented to a grand jury. During the week of January 16, 1956, several witnesses were subpoenaed before the State Grand Jury but nothing was developed to justify an indictment. No investigation being conducted by the Bureau.

THE GUS COURTS CASE

Gus Courts, a Negro, was shot in Belzoni, Mississippi, on 11/25/55. Preliminary investigation was conducted by the Bureau to determine if shooting occurred because Courts refused to remove his name from list of registered voters. Department later requested additional investigation and all investigation completed and final report furnished to Department 1/24/56.

CLM/pam
(7)
cc: Mr. Nichols

RECEIVED
FEB 23 5 02 PM '56
INTERNAL SECURITY SECT
FBI

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F B I

FEB 20 6 13 PM '56

FEB 21 10 07 AM '56

RECEIVED
CRIMINAL SECTION
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
FEB 20 5 53 PM '56
F B I
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED - NICHOLS
F B I

FEB 23 10 41 AM '56

RECEIVED - NICHOLS
F B I

FEB 20 6 13 PM '56

RECEIVED
F B I

FEB 20 6 59 PM '56

REC'D - FBI
INVESTIGATIVE DIV.
MAR 2 12 09 PM '56

FEB 20 6 34 PM '56
RECEIVED-TOLSON
F B I
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
NO. MAN
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
FEB 24 1 30 PM '56

RECEIVED
ROSEN
FEB 24 11 48 AM '56
F B I
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

FEB 23 12 51 PM '56
REC'D BELMONT
FBI - JUSTICE

FEB 24 11 47 AM '56
REC'D BELMONT
FBI - JUSTICE

ACTION:

The above is submitted solely for information. These matters are fully covered in the brief on racial situation and civil rights which has been prepared for the use of the Director in his appearance before the Cabinet.

G. I. R

Mississippi Court Says "No"

Grand Jury Hearing On Kidnaping Charge Sought After National Magazine Article Indicates Bryan and Milam Are Youth's Slayers

GREENVILLE, Miss.—(ANP)—Judge Arthur Jordan told newsmen that "my schedule is too full' to permit calling a special session of the Leflore County Grand Jury to re-investigate charges against J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant, who were accused of kidnapping and killing Emmett Till.

Judge Jordan presided over the kidnap hearings last fall when a grand jury refused to indict the two white men for kidnapping Till. Jordan told a New York newsman:

"I would have to call a special term of court in Leflore County in order to empanel a special grand jury on 20 days' notice, and my schedule is too full to permit that."

Jordan said there will be no court in Greenwood, Leflore County seat, until May, because he must first finish the circuit in Greenville, then in Humphreys, Sunflower and Holmes Counties before returning to Leflore.

Jordan's statement came in the midst of requests for a new hearing on the kidnap charges after William Bradford Huie published an article in a national magazine, supposedly describing in detail the kidnapping and murder of Till. Milam and Bryant were tried and acquitted on charges that they murdered the 14-year-old boy and threw his weighed body into the Tallahatchie River. Under Mississippi law, they can never be tried again for the killing.

They can, however, be brought to trial on the kidnaping charge, if a grand jury would indict them. But Jordan dashed possibilities of a new hearing in May.

"I have no control over a grand jury," he said, "I just empanel them and they can investigate anything they want. But nobody will indict anybody just on the basis of an article in a magazine.

"It will be up to them, though, to decide whether they want to take up the case."

Jordan said a grand jury would not have the power to call Huie from Alabama to testify, but added that if the writer wanted to testify he could volunteer.

"But it would still be up to the grand jury as to whether they wanted to go into the matter."

In another development, Gov. James P. Coleman said in a radio broadcast that Milam and Bryant should have been convicted and elcetrocuted for Till's murder.

Coleman, speaking over a Fort Worth (Texas) radio station said:

"So far as I am personally concerned, they both should have been convicted and electrocuted. And if the NAACP and Rep. Diggs of Detroit would stay out of state and let us alone, we would have got the job done.

"Now that the cold brutal facts about it, and its just one of those things."

An interesting aspect of Look's "expose" was the fact that most daily papers refused to report on it. The major wire services also left it alone.

Some few local radio newscasters reported the story and the reaction to it, but the major networks ignored it completely, because of possible legal repercussions.

file under Emmett Till

The Black Dispatch
January 26, 1956
page 1

17-7714 A.

Regional Council Of Negro Leadership

MISSISSIPPI

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

January 19, 1956

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.

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

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

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,

T. R. M. Howard M.D.

Dr. T. R. M. Howard

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: February 29, 1956

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: Emmett Till

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

For record purposes, the Director met with a delegation representing the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) at 4:30 p.m., February 28, 1956. The meeting lasted until after 6:00 p.m. Those present were Mrs. William Thomas Mason, President of the NCNW; Dr. Dorothy Ferebee; Dr. Margaret Just Butcher, District of Columbia Board of Education; Mrs. James Spaulding; Mrs. Juanita Mitchell, wife of Clarence Mitchell, Director of the Washington Bureau of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); Mrs. Marian Jackson and Mrs. Elsie Keyes.

Mrs. Mason opened the conference by pointing out that the NCNW had been working for the elimination of discrimination; that Mrs. Bethune, for many years President, had set a wonderful example; that they were working to make equal opportunities for the Negro people and to see that their civil rights were secure. She then pointed out at their November convention they had had a long and detached discussion and Mrs. Mason later presented a copy of the resolution to the Director. At their November convention, the voices of the delegates were unanimous in wondering as to what had happened in the past two years to cause a rising tension among the races. She pointed out that their thoughts had centered around the right of Negroes to vote. They were distressed that their Government was inept at handling this situation; that Negroes were not voting. Negroes were being murdered; tensions were growing in the South, and the "temper of the times was swirling to a climax." They were anxious to be sure that their Government took steps to protect the civil rights of Negroes and to insure that the decisions of the Supreme Court remained the law of the land. They had talked to the Attorney General and written letters to the President. Mrs. Mason then stated that she wished to call upon her chairmen to present specific matters. She first called upon Mrs. Juanita Mitchell, Chairman of their Legal Committee, who she said had been in the struggle for years.

Mrs. Mitchell stated there were three points which she wished to discuss, as follows:

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

100-349501

INDEXED - 15

100-7774-82

NOT RECORDED

44 MAR 14 1956

27 MAR 13 1956

INDEXED - 15

SIX

cc: Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Jones

LBN:arm (6)

EX-125

51 MAR 19 1956

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-349501-20

Memorandum to Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols

JAMES HICKS DC, ALA,

1. When they met in the Attorney General's Office last December, they were concerned about the Till Case and the fact that complainants had not been interviewed. She then pointed out that Jim Hicks, then of the Afro-American, now of the New Amsterdam Press, had a meeting at 3:00 a.m. one night with Dr. Howard in Mississippi. At this meeting were three representatives of the Negro press and two of the white press. She only mentioned two names. One individual was named Farnsworth, Jackson, Mississippi, paper, and a reporter for the Memphis Press-Scimitar. At this 3:00 a.m. conference, members of the press were told Sheriff Stider had hidden two witnesses in the Charleston County Jail in Mississippi. She later identified these two as Henry Lee Logan and LeRoy Collins. She further stated that the woman who cooked at the Charleston County Jail knew that the two witnesses were in jail and had served breakfast to them on the morning preceding the 3:00 a.m. conference; that Jim Hicks went to the prosecutor who was appointed by Governor White from Ripley, Mississippi, but nothing was done to produce the witnesses. They asked the Attorney General last December to intervene and enter the case since an officer of the state was involved in keeping witnesses from testifying in a criminal proceeding, but that Jim Hicks claimed that no FBI Agent has ever questioned him nor has Dr. Howard been questioned, and that if a thorough investigation had been conducted, the person who made the complaint at least ought to have been interviewed.

MISS.

By this time, Mrs. Mitchell was developing into an emotional pitch. She spoke with feeling and stated that she wanted to know what kind of investigation was made in the Till Case, what the investigation disclosed and why the act of a sheriff in hiding but witnesses was not checked on.

She then pointed out that she had read the Director's letter to Dr. Howard and that she wanted to say that Dr. Howard voiced the complaints of thousands of citizens around the country.

2. Mrs. Mitchell then raised the question of why we did not have colored Agents and why colored Agents were not used in the South.

3. She then asked whether any consideration had ever been given to removing witnesses from areas of high tension where they could be questioned calmly and coolly.

At this point, the Director started to answer her three points as follows:

Memorandum to Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols

1. With reference to the Till Case, the Director pointed out that we had made a preliminary inquiry, reported the facts to the Department, and there was no Federal violation. The Director went at some pains to describe what was necessary to have a violation of the kidnaping act and pointed out that there was no transportation and that the inquiry showed that no state officers were involved. The Director pointed out that he was not aware that the sheriff had hidden out two witnesses and that this was something that would be checked into immediately; that he wanted to know what the facts were and whether the FBI had ever received a report that the sheriff had two witnesses who were kept in jail and thus prevented from testifying.

Mrs. Mitchell by this time was interrupting the Director. It was rather difficult for the Director to complete his thoughts and I must say that she presented one of the rudest demonstrations of anyone I have ever seen in a conference. Mrs. Mitchell kept pointing out that they had reported this to the Attorney General and the Attorney General had sent them around to the Bureau last December.

I interjected and made the point that Mr. Hoover was not here and they would not talk to me; that had they furnished us with this information, then we could have promptly gotten the facts.

2. The Director then pointed out that we did have colored Agents in the service; that we had some in the South, none in Mississippi. He was then asked how many Agents we had and the Director said more than 5,000. In this the Director was thinking of Special Agents as distinguished from Special Agents and Accountants. We do have 5,558 Special Agents, plus 672 Accountants, making a total of 6,230.

Mrs. Mitchell then asked how many colored Agents we have and the Director told her he could not tell her how many colored Agents we have as we do not keep a record of personnel by race, color or creed, whereupon Mrs. Mitchell pointed out her information was that we only had five or six colored Agents out of 5,000. The Director politely, but firmly, pointed out that she was in error; that we did have colored Agents in Washington, New York, Miami and on the West Coast.

The Director then sought to give an explanation as to the problem faced by utilizing colored Agents in the South. From this the Director pointed out that great progress had been made in improving civil rights up until about two years ago; that there had been no lynchings in the past four years; that since 1939, there

had been 39 lynchings against 317 in the preceding 17 years.

The Director made the point that he had known Mrs. Bethune and she had served on the President's Civil Rights Commission; that Dr. Carver had been a friend of the Director, yet today, despite the progress which had been made, the situation bordered on bloodshed; that there is a need for calm deliberation and understanding. The Director then pointed out that there are extremist comments being made. For example, extremists on the one side have raised the issue of intermarriage. The Director does not feel that this represents the correct situation.

The Director then pointed out that in the past year there had been four convictions in civil rights cases. The Director commented on the generally good cooperation we get from colored people. He pointed out our policy of not utilizing Agents who are former police officers. The Director pointed out what we are doing with civil rights schools. He pointed out that in some areas it was difficult to get information from the white folks and that if a Negro Agent were sent, there was a possibility a Negro Agent would be killed; that in such troubled areas, the Director could not in good conscience ask a colored Agent to jeopardize his life. The Director then referred to James Amos, who investigated the Frank Case in Georgia wherein a white girl was killed; that Jim Amos was then working with the Burns Detective Agency and literally had to flee the state to save his life. The Director then referred to the Reece Case, pointing out the background of the investigation and the subsequent blasts from Congress denouncing the Bureau and the Department for presuming to investigate.

The Director emphatically pointed out the Supreme Court was the law of the land and as long as he was Director, we would uphold the Supreme Court and investigate whenever the necessity arose. In the Reece Case, it was felt Georgia had corrected the situation, and when a statement was made to this effect, the yowling died down.

The Director then pointed out the Bureau had long moved against the Ku Klux Klan. The Bureau had sent the head of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) to prison many years ago on a White Slave Traffic Act charge; that the irony of this was that one of the platforms of the Klan was the protection of womanhood. One of the ladies inquired for the name of the head of the KKK, and the Director pointed out that this was the Executive Secretary of the Grand Kleegle. The Director then

requested that we get the name of the head of the Klan who was convicted. I have asked Mr. Jones to check on this immediately.

The Director then pointed out that he felt strongly on the use of Negro Agents and while on that point, the Director made the observation of the changed attitude in law enforcement; that we are now getting as many if not more civil rights cases in the North as we are in the South. He then related the difficulty we had had with the New York Police Department under Monaghan; that he said the civil rights law was for south of the Mason-Dixon line, but the situation changed with the new Commissioner and we are having less trouble in New York. The Director then pointed out the practice of Chief of Police Hansen of Dallas, Texas.

The Director then commented on the forthrightness of some of the press in doing an excellent job and referred to Buford Boone, Publisher and Editor of the Tuscaloosa News, as a former Agent.

The Director then made the observation that he hoped that groups like the visiting ladies would do all within their power to bring more sanity and understanding into the current situation; that there was a need to bring about a balance between the extremists on both sides.

The Director then referred to the action of the Mississippi Legislature and the action of the Governor. The Director then discussed our policy in handling civil rights cases, pointing out that our offices were instructed to give civil rights cases top priority; that complaints were to be given immediate attention, particularly in the areas charged with emotion. The Director explained the difference between preliminary investigations and full investigations.

At this point, Dr. Butcher, then interjected and pointed out that she teaches literature and she has observed the growing tensions in the past eighteen months; that people talk about immorality of segregation and intelligent extremists feel morally that they are buttressed by the Supreme Court decision

which is the culmination of history. She stated that she has three white exchange students who are far from being extremists and do what the Director suggests that they all do now. She then commented about being in New Orleans recently making a speech at an integrated meeting and an eleven-year-old girl had asked a question pointing out that when the Supreme Court decision came down, she looked forward with excitement to Negro children attending better schools, but now, after two years, no one talks about integration. She guesses it has been forgotten. Dr. Butcher pointed out there is a need for a positive and decisive-like action. She pointed out that Negro people were being misunderstood and that the Supreme Court decision says that integration is not expected overnight, and that the time is now for the NAACP to implement the situation, although Dr. Butcher made the point that she and the Director were in agreement.

At this point, Mrs. Mitchell really began to get emotional. She asked the Director whom he meant by the extremists. She then pointed out that she had four sons, ranging in ages from 1 to 17, and that she doubted that she would want her 17-year-old son to fight for Democracy and have to go South for training where he would not be given the protection of his Government; that she represents the mothers of America.

The Director pointed out that perhaps Mrs. Mitchell misunderstood him; that in talking of extremists he meant the white woman who got up on the campus of the University of Alabama and urged extreme action; that he meant by extremists the two colored boys who grabbed the white student at Tuscaloosa and beat him up, solely because of their emotional outlet.

Dr. Butcher pointed out that the Director was referring to emotional extremists and the Director agreed that this was so. Mrs. Mitchell, however, was not satisfied. She said that a situation is either legal or illegal, and that the present situation had not come about through the good will of Mrs. Bethune and Dr. Carver and others whom the Director had previously asserted, but the advance had come through Charles Houston filing cases in Missouri, North Carolina and the like in establishing their legal rights.

Mrs. Marian Jackson, who was sitting at my left, whispered that Mrs. Mitchell was getting emotional; that she was upset over her husband. I told Mrs. Jackson that I deeply regretted Mrs. Mitchell's outbursts because there was no one single man in the entire Government who had done more in his own quiet way to fight for equality and the rights for all people without regard to color, race or creed; that there was no man who had given his life more diligently and conscientiously to protecting the security of this Nation than the Director, and

that it frankly was not in good taste nor even decent for Mrs. Mitchell to be disrupting the conference like she was. Mrs. Jackson tried to apologize for Mrs. Mitchell by stating she was emotionally disturbed.

At this point, Mrs. Spaulding asked if any consideration had ever been given to a white Agent and a Negro Agent working together in the South. The Director stated this was a good thought to be considered.

The discussion then got into the Autherine Lucy case and the Director pointed out that the Chief of Police in Tuscaloosa had made the statement that if a single officer did not do all in his power to protect her that he would remove his badge immediately.

Mrs. Mitchell again got emotional and asked why didn't the police take action at once; that if the police had taken prompt action, the mob would not have formed. The Director pointed out that the police did move when they had authority; that the University authorities would not permit the campus police to take action.

Mrs. Mason then asked if it was correct that the police could not go on the campus and the Director pointed out that they could not go on the campus unless there was a crime committed. Mrs. Mitchell pointed out that they could go on if there was a murder.

At this point, I pointed out that the police could not interfere with the right to assembly, and that there was also a question as to when an assembly became a mob and exceeded the inherent rights of citizens.

Dr. Ferebee pointed out that she was glad that the Bureau was now taking action whenever violations occurred. The Director then went to great pains to prevent any erroneous ideas by pointing out that when instances are called to our attention, we get the preliminary facts, but of course, cannot make a full investigation. The Director reiterated at this point that we conducted a preliminary investigation when facts come to our attention; that our reports are submitted to the Criminal Division; that in urgent instances, United States Attorneys can in unusual cases request full investigations.

Mrs. Spaulding then asked whether the main protection of citizens did not rest with the Department of Justice, and the Director made it very clear

that Federal civil rights laws were narrow and he referred specifically to Sections 241, 242 and 243, and pointed out that the Attorney General has announced that additional legislation would be requested. The Director then referred to the President's request for a Commission on Civil Rights. Mrs. Mitchell referred to the fact that we had already had one, and the Director then made the point that the Commission requested by the President would look into specific situations.

The question of colored Agents again came up and the Director pointed out that colored Agents are invaluable.

Mrs. Mitchell then brought up the Lamar Smith Case and the Director stated we had submitted the preliminary facts to the Department. The Department had ruled this was not a case in which the FBI should take action since it appeared the state was going to take action. Mrs. Mitchell contested this by stating the grand jury had already returned a no bill. The Director pointed out they were still working. At this point, he suggested to Mrs. Mitchell that she might see Mr. Olney since this involved a legal interpretation.

The Gus Coffs Case then came up, and the Director pointed out that we had made the investigation requested by the Department and had submitted our reports to the Department last January. It was suggested to Mrs. Mitchell if she had further questions in the Coffs Case she take this up with Mr. Olney.

The Director then made the point that their group should feel free to contact the FBI immediately should they have any facts in their possession and that we would check at once. Mrs. Mason asked for a list of our offices and the Director requested that a list of the names of the Agents in Charge, addresses and telephone numbers be prepared and made available to Mrs. Mason, although later on it was pointed out that the easiest way to contact the FBI was to look at page one of the telephone book.

Mrs. Mitchell again brought up the Till Case and the failure to investigate the alleged actions of the sheriff. The Director pointed out that the Attorney General had discussed the Till Case in his staff conferences, and again reiterated to me that we should get up a report on the incident as to whether we had any such knowledge; that if we did not have, we would refer the matter to

the Criminal Dvision for advice and would keep them advised of the results of our check.

Mrs. Mason then inquired as to whether the FBI was alert to something that might happen at Montgomery, Alabama, and inquired whether the FBI was in a position to determine whether there were any underground currents. The Director pointed out that we tried to keep our hand on the pulse of the various communities but of course we cannot make investigations involving civil rights matters unless we are so directed by the Department. The Director then commented that the mass arrest in Montgomery, Alabama, was probably a good thing because it would now provide an opportunity for a court ruling.

Mrs. Mitchell then injected into the conference the Maryland situation that arose approximately a year and a half ago wherein a young lawyer found an old law which prohibited anyone from impeding children going to and from school; that the Commissioner of Police went on television that night and stated anyone would be arrested who interfered with children going or coming from school and that the situation in Baltimore was brought under control.

She then commented about difficulties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and referred to a 21-year-old veteran who was the victim of police killing and that a request was made here to have an investigation but they have had no report of the investigation.

It appeared rather obvious that some of the ladies in attendance did not approve of Mrs. Mitchell's carryings on, and as she left the Director's Office and got out in the hallway, I made the statement to Mrs. Mitchell that she was a perfect example of an emotional extremist to which the Director was referring, and Mrs. Elsie Keyes looked at her and said, "Yes, you embarrassed us." I then walked to the elevator to say goodbye and when all the ladies were in the group, I said to Mrs. Mitchell had she told me the facts about the Till Case when they were in the Bureau last December, we could have checked into the matter then, but apparently I was not good enough. Mrs. Mason said "Yes" they should have told me. I then told Mrs. Mitchell that this was a perfect illustration of discrimination and that I felt impelled to report this to my good friend Thurgood Marshall. The ladies all went away laughing.

Memorandum to Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols

Mrs. Mitchell stated she would get me the name of the 21-year-old veteran who was the victim of the police killing on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

She also stated that James Hicks, the colored reporter is now at the H. E. Gaston Motel, telephone number 4-4631, Birmingham, and could also be reached through the NAACP at Birmingham, telephone 34-3887; that he would get on a plane and come up here if we wanted to talk to him.

The following things are to be done and are presently in the process as follows:

1. Get the facts on the incident in the Till Case cited by Mrs. Mitchell. I am informed preliminarily that we did make such an investigation and a detailed memorandum is being prepared now by the Investigative Division along with an explanation of why it was not in the brief.

Approved
H.

2. After we secure the facts of the two witnesses in the Till Case, we must then consider whether any further action is necessary. Since an issue has been made of this, I am inclined to the belief we must interview James Hicks, although I am told there is ample evidence that the two witnesses were not in jail, but I think we have got to put a stop to this story.

Yes interview Hicks once & any other pertinent witness.
H.

memo to Div 2-29-56 HBN

3. We must consider how we will get the facts to Mrs. Mason on the investigation of the two witnesses. I am inclined to write her a letter and take it up and see her personally as some more missionary work needs to be done.

Right.
H.

4. Mr. Jones' office is to get the name of the head of the KKK convicted on a White Slave Traffic Act charge.

5. We must furnish Mrs. Mason with a list of our offices and the names of the Special Agents in Charge. This will be handled when we decide how to handle the case involving the two witnesses.

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director

DATE: February 29, 1956

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: Emmett Till

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

You indicated on my memorandum of February 29 reporting the conference with the delegation of the National Council of Negro Women that we should interview James Hicks at once and any other pertinent witness. Subsequent to submitting this memorandum, a memorandum has been subsequently submitted dealing with the incident of the alleged jailing of two witnesses to keep them from testifying in the Till case along with a memorandum to the Department which you told me to write this morning and which concludes by asking the Department to advise if any further investigation was needed.

After having read the open letter which Hicks wrote and was published in the Afro-American and being subjected to Mrs. Mitchell's emotional tirades, I frankly doubt the advisability of interviewing Hicks unless it is a matter of last resort. The very moment that we interview Hicks we can expect to have a story that we are investigating the Till case. I am wondering if we are on sound ground to send a memorandum to the Attorney General and ask for instructions and then go ahead in the absence of instructions and interview Hicks. It seems to me that if we do want to go ahead and seek to verify whether or not Collins and Loggins were in the Charleston jail as alleged by Mrs. Mitchell, we might do this without interviewing Hicks. After all, Hicks got his information from Dr. Howard and if we interview Hicks we would then have to go to Howard.

If you feel that we should go ahead on this in the absence of a directive from the Department, would it not be better to locate Collins who was interrogated by the attorney for the Chicago defendant and whose statement was published in the papers, interview the cook at the jail who allegedly fed these individuals and verify that Collins and Loggins were working in Mississippi while the trial was going on.

27 MAR 13 1956

NOT RECORDED
44 MAR 14 1956

cc: Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Jones

I suggest we wait for reply from the Department

Yes, wait for Dept's instructions.

LBN:ml (6)

66 MAR 15 1956

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

DATE: November 28, 1956

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: Emmett Louis Till

There are attached excerpts concerning the above-captioned case taken from "The FBI Story, A Report to the People," by Don Whitehead published by Random House, 1956. These excerpts are from page(s) 257, 258 of the book.

The full text of the book may be found in the FBI Library.

Enclosure

7-7714-

NOT RECORDED
4 MAR 11 1957

CRIME REC.

ENCLOSURE

66 MAR 12 1957

7-7714-

Heavy pressure was put on the federal government in 1955 to have the FBI investigate the murder of Emmett Louis Till, a fourteen-year-old Negro youth from Chicago who was slain in Mississippi after he allegedly made indecent remarks to a white woman, Mrs. Roy Bryant, at a country store. Seven days after the incident at the store, Till's body was found floating in the Tallahatchie River. He had been shot through the head. A cotton gin fan had been tied about his neck and his body dumped into the river. Witnesses said Mrs. Bryant's husband and his half brother, J. W. Milam, had seized young Till in the home of his uncle and taken him away with them into the night. The two were indicted for murder, but a jury acquitted them.

The death of young Till was a brutal, savage and shameful murder beyond a reasonable doubt. But the Justice Department's Criminal Division decided that the FBI should not enter the case inasmuch as the available preliminary facts revealed no indication of a violation of federal civil rights statutes.

The reasoning behind this decision was that while murder no doubt had been done, the federal government had no authority to investigate and prosecute murder unless a federal law had been violated. Unless and until Congress passed a law covering such cases, federal intervention would be an invasion of the states' rights.

Excerpt from page 257, & 258 of "The FBI Story, A Report to the People"

7-7714

ENCLOSURE

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum · UNITED GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: October 23, 1956

FROM : L. B. NICHOLS

SUBJECT:

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

Max Rabb called and wanted to check his recollection on the Till case. There is no question in his mind as to the propriety of the action in not investigating. He knew there was a communist angle some place.

I told him this stemmed essentially from attempts by the communists to exploit the Till case. I referred him to the December, 1955, article which appeared in "Political Affairs." He then recalled that he got some warning from Mamie Bradley, the mother of Emmett Till. I told him that an effort was being made to capitalize on the Till case and use it as a fund-raising campaign and that this was where Mamie Bradley fit it.

He said this was what his recollection was.

V.

1 7-2214
NOT RECORDED
176 OCT 31 1956

16 OCT 29 1956

cc-Mr. Boardman
Mr. Rosen
LBN:jmr
(4)

ORIGINAL FILED IN 77-55251-1

58 NOV 6 1956

September 19, 1956

Mr. Robert James, Jr.
662 Robinson Street
Russellville, Alabama

Dear Mr. James:

I have received your letter dated September 10, 1956.

For your information, the FBI entered the investigation of the kidnaping of the Weinberger baby seven days after its abduction under the presumptive clause existing at that time that interstate transportation had occurred. When the baby's body was located and it was determined that no interstate transportation existed, the FBI immediately withdrew from this case and turned the results of its investigation over to local authorities. In the Till case, where incidentally there was no demand for ransom as there was in the Weinberger case, the boy's body was located within seven days of the disappearance and within the same state. The above factors, therefore, clearly prevented the FBI from entering this case under the provisions of the Federal Kidnaping Statute.

As you undoubtedly know, the last session of Congress enacted new legislation which reduced the presumption period indicating interstate transportation from seven days to twenty-four hours. I trust this information will clarify this question for you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Tolson
Nichols
Boardman
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Rosen
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Nease
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

MAILED 6
SEP 19 1956
COMM-FBI

JRH:blh:pjj
(3)

(See Note next page)

SEP 26 1956

FBI - WILLIAMS

ORIGINAL FILED IN 7-2067-1016

Letter to Mr. Robert James, Jr. September 19, 1956

NOTE: In January, 1955, James, who identified himself as a member of the NAACP, inquired whether this organization was on the Bureau's "subversive list." Bulet 1/17/55 advised him of the Bu's position as a fact-gathering agency and of the lack of such a list of organizations.

TRUE COPY

662 Robinson Street
Russellville, Alabama

September 10, 1956

RC

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

As a matter of information, I am writing to ascertain the difference or the similiarities between the Emmit Till kidnapping and the kidnapping of the Weinberger child. It was assumed that your office did not have any right to intercede in the Till Case.

Yet within a few days the Federal Agents had apprehended the kidnappers of the Weinberger Child. This confuses me. I am not accusing the (F.B.I.) of being partial; I just dont understand.

Therefore, as a matter of personal knowledge and clarification, will you please clear me up on this matter? I kindly appreciate any information that you will give me.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Robert James Jr.

7-7714-✓

NOT RECORDED
167 SEP 24 1956

7-8962-1016

4-572 (3-29-55)
STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director

DATE: 7-25-56

FROM : J. P. Mohr

10-1

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

EMMETT TILL

PAGE A5819

Congressman Forrester, (D) Georgia, extended his remarks to include a news item from the Washington Daily News of July 21, 1956, entitled "Chicago Finds Third Gang Victim." Mr. Forrester points out that no pressure groups have become interested in this case in regard to civil rights. References to the FBI, in regard to investigation of matter, were set forth in a memorandum written earlier this date.

7-7714-

NOT RECORDED
126 AUG 8 1956

Original filed in: 66-1731-1281

55 AUG 14 1956 106

In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for TUES, 7-24-56 was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Boardman

DATE: March 6, 1956

FROM : Mr. Rosen

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION AND CIVIL RIGHTS BRIEF

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

In anticipation of the Director's appearance at the Cabinet meeting on March 9, 1956, it was thought desirable to review current periodicals, publications, the "New York Times" indices, and "Congressional Digest" for the purpose of picking up related matters which might have a bearing on the subject to be discussed at the Cabinet meeting.

In an effort to cover the matters which might be recalled by members of the Cabinet as a result of their outside reading, the Agents concentrated on the publications more apt to be read by such individuals, and the "Readers Guide to Periodicals" was reviewed, which covered the following magazines: "Look," "Saturday Evening Post," "Readers Digest," "American Mercury," "News Week," "Time," "Nation," "New Republic," "U. S. News and World Report," "Life," "Harpers," "Foreign Affairs," "National Review," and also "The Congressional Record" was reviewed for information over and above those cases covered in the brief prepared for the use of the Director.

It should be noted in the attached write-up an item written by William Faulkner, 1949 Nobel Prize winner, appeared in the most recent issue of "Life" (March 5, 1956). He has referred to six incidents and these are dealt with in the attachment. In addition, literature propagandizing an incident in Louisville, Kentucky, which occurred in May, 1954, was distributed at the Civil Rights Assembly in Washington on March 4, 1956. This has been dealt with.

It is observed that the review of publications and periodicals covering the period from January 1, 1955, to date revealed numerous items and incidents which have already been dealt with and are duplicative.

A squad of 45 Agents worked over the week-end on this project. There is attached hereto a very brief memorandum covering the items which may be of interest to the Director in connection with his Cabinet meeting.

cc: Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont

Enclosure

57 MAR 20 1956

AR:jh
(8)

NOT RECORDED
76 MAR 15 1956

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 62-102873-53

RACIAL SITUATION AND CIVIL RIGHTS
(DIRECTOR'S APPEARANCE BEFORE CABINET 3/9/56)

A. "A Letter to the North," an article by William Faulkner, 1949 Nobel Prize winner, appeared in the March 5, 1956, issue of "Life" magazine. In this article Faulkner warns against hasty action in forcing integration upon the South and recommends that the proponents of integration stop for a moment. Faulkner mentions several cases in the article. For purpose of identification these cases are as follows:

(1) Miss Lucy. This involves efforts by Autherine Lucy, a Negro, to be admitted to school at the University of Alabama. This matter is covered in the Brief.

(2) The case of three white boys from Mississippi who were stabbed in Washington, D. C., by Negroes. This concerns the case entitled "Unknown Subjects; Wayne L. Ashby, Et Al - Victims, Civil Rights." In early morning of June 4, 1955, five white boys from Mississippi, who were visiting Washington with their high school class, became involved in a fight with two Negroes on Sixth Street, N.W. Three of the white boys were cut with knives and two of them had to be hospitalized. The fight occurred because two of the boys had bumped into each other and an argument ensued as to who should step aside. The Bureau discussed the facts with the Chief of the Civil Rights Section of the Criminal Division and at the request of the Criminal Division obtained a copy of the local police report which set forth the statements that the victims had made to the members of the Metropolitan Police Department. After reviewing the police report, A. B. Caldwell, Chief of the Civil Rights Section, advised that the matter did not indicate a violation of the Federal Civil Rights Statutes and no further investigation should be conducted.

(3) The Till boy and the two Mississippi juries which freed the defendants from both charges. This, of course, refers to the kidnaping and murder cases involving the victim Emmett Louis Till. A Mississippi jury acquitted J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant of the murder charge and a Mississippi Grand Jury returned a no bill in connection with the kidnaping charge. This case is set forth in the Brief and summary.

(4) Garage attendant killed by white man because the attendant, a Negro, filled the white man's tank full of gasoline and the white man wanted only $2 worth of gas. This concerns the case entitled "Elmer Kimbell; Clinton Melton - Victim, Civil Rights." Melton was shot on 12/3/55 by Kimbell. No investigation was conducted by the Bureau and this matter is mentioned in the Brief. Kimbell, who shot Melton, was indicted by a county grand jury in Sumner, Mississippi, on 3/5/56, for the slaying of a "highly respected" Negro service station attendant.

7-7714

ENCLOSURE

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(5) The Negro family who was refused acceptance in the white residential district in Chicago. Donald Howard, a Negro, and his family moved into the Trumbull Park housing project, Chicago, Illinois, on 7/30/53. On August 5, 1953, a group of teenagers threw rocks through the windows of the Howard apartment and on August 9, 1953, a mob estimated between 1,000 and 2,000 individuals gathered at the project and various acts of violence occurred. Chicago Police Department took immediate steps to control the situation and a large number of patrolmen were assigned to insure 24-hour coverage. The Bureau conducted only limited inquiry at the request of the Department of Justice consisting of checking records of the Police Department and obtaining copies of lease and rental agreements. As of February 26, 1954, the Chicago Police Department had expended a total of 582,628 man hours at the project. The Housing Authority later ascertained that victim Howard because of his income was ineligible to occupy an apartment in the project and he was evicted. An article in a Chicago newspaper on November 27, 1955, reflected that 29 Negro families lived in the project at that time. The "Chicago Sun-Times" of December 18, 1955, reflected that a police detail of 260 men is maintained at the project and that 200 adults and 84 juveniles had been arrested since the first violence broke out in August of 1953.

(6) A Korean-American who was refused acceptance into a white community in Anaheim, California. This concerns incident which occurred in August, 1955. Dr. Sammy Lee was a Major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and was the winner of the 1948 and 1952 Olympic high diving championships; was twice refused a home in the Garden Grove community in Orange County, California. The tract in question was known as the Anaheim Village Home Fair. Lee was born in California and claimed that real estate operators had refused to sell to him because of his Korean ancestry. In July of 1955, Major Lee was one of several prominent athletes invited to a luncheon at the White House. The Bureau did not conduct any investigation in this matter. Numerous offers were made to Dr. Lee by various individuals and leaders in California following the publicity which appeared over the refusal of real estate operators to sell him a house.

B. By airtel of 3/4/56 Washington Field Office advised in connection with civil rights leadership conference on that day that individuals had distributed literature regarding the Braden case. This refers to the matter captioned "Unknown Subjects; Andrew Wade IV, Civil Rights." Carl and Ann Braden, leaders in the Communist Party movement in Louisville, Kentucky, who were white, purchased a home for the specific purpose of reselling it to Andrew Wade, colored. In May, 1954, a cross was burned on the property and shots fired into the

window of the house near Louisville, Kentucky. On 6/27/54 the side of victim's house was blown out by dynamite. Department advised that no investigation was desired in this matter but Bureau should follow local action.

Investigation was conducted by Jefferson County authorities and Carl Braden and five others were indicted for violation of Kentucky laws forbidding the teaching, advocating or suggesting the doctrine of criminal syndicalism or sedition. Braden was found guilty on December 13, 1954, and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment and $5,000 fine. A Bureau informant was utilized by the state in prosecuting Braden. Braden has appealed this conviction and is presently at liberty under $40,000 bond. The police suspected that Braden and others may have planted the dynamite themselves. However, Braden, Wade and their sympathizers were not charged with such an offense.

1 Bsu V.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: March 2, 1956

WO:MWH:vmm

144-40-1

FROM : Warren Olney III, Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

SUBJECT: Unknown Subjects
Leroy Collins, et al. - Victims
Civil Rights

Emmett Till

Reference is made to your memorandum of February 29, 1956, To The Attorney General

In our opinion the matter has already been investigated sufficiently to indicate the truth of the situation. Therefore, no additional investigation is desired.

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

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10-1

Brook

7-7714-

NOT RECORDED
44 MAR 19 1956

RECD-FBI

MAR 16 1956

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 44-9540-10

EXP. PROC.

MAR 2 1956

51 MAR 19 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. Olney

March 5, 1956

Herbert Brownell, Jr.

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS
LEROY COLLINS, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

cc 10-1

Emmett Louis Till

I am attaching a memorandum from the Director of the FBI to me, dated February 29, 1956 on the above subject, in which he asks if it is the desire of the Department that any additional investigation be conducted.

Please advise me of your answer to Mr. Hoover in this matter as I will undoubtedly be queried about all aspects of the Till case when it comes to presenting our departmental Civil Rights Program.

Since the allegation about the two witnesses received widespread publicity I presume we will want to run down every plausible lead.

CC - Mr. Rogers
Mr. Hoover
Mr. Lindsay

Attachment

7-7714
NOT RECORDED
102 MAR 19 1956

27 MAR 16 1956

EXP. PROC.
MAR 5 1956

50 MAR 22 1956

ORIGINAL FILED IN 44-9740-11

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: 3/1/56

TO : Mr. Rosen

FROM : Mr. Price

Emmett Till

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
LEROY COLLINS, aka "Too-Tight,"
LEVY V. COLLINS; HENRY LEE LOGAN, aka
HENRY LEE LOGGIN, HENRY E. LOGGINS - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

This memorandum is prepared with reference to the Director's inquiry (1) why victims Collins and Logan were not interviewed in the first instance; and (2) why the information was not included in the brief prepared for his use.

Upon receipt of Criminal Division memorandum of 9/30/55, requesting an investigation to determine if a violation of the Civil Rights Statute was involved, and receipt of information from the Civil Rights Section that the victims could be contacted for interview through the "Chicago Defender," a Negro newspaper in Chicago, Illinois, careful consideration was given as to the investigation which should be conducted. The factors involved in this matter were analyzed and the proposed action, including the determination not to contact the victims as it was believed that the Bureau's jurisdiction, with respect to a possible violation, should be established, were set forth in a memorandum dated 10/4/55, which was approved by the Bureau and appropriate instructions transmitted to the field.

The investigation conducted disclosed that the Prosecutor who had been especially appointed to try the Till case had made efforts to check out the rumor that Collins and Logan had been incarcerated and had determined to his satisfaction that such individuals were not in the jail, and had not been held during the trial.

A newspaper article showing a question and answer interview of the victim Collins, in the presence of the General Counsel of the "Chicago Defender" reflected that victim Collins denied having been in the jail in Charleston, Mississippi, and further denied any knowledge of Till or what happened to Till. The results of information obtained by investigation and the newspaper article raised the question as to whether a possible violation within the Bureau's jurisdiction existed, and such matters were, therefore, brought immediately to the attention of the Criminal Division and its opinion sought as to whether further action was desired in this matter. The Criminal Division by memorandum 10/21/55 advised that no further investigation was desired in this matter.

63 MAR 22 1956

cc: Mr. Nichols

CIM:glw;fil
(7)

memo ENclosure to Mr Tolson 3/2/56

NOT RECORDED
44 MAR 15 1956

MAR 1956

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Memorandum for Mr. Rosen

To have proceeded at the outset on a search for the victims Collins and Logan, particularly when such individuals could be located only through a Negro newspaper, might have caused comment that the Bureau had entered the Till case after the Department had ruled that there was no violation of a Federal Statute involved in the Till matter. It is noted that the Department memorandum requesting investigation in the Collins and Logan matter was dated 9/30/55 and Bryant and Milam were acquitted of the murder of Till on 9/23/55. (Only one week before)

The decision not to interview the so-called victims in this matter was confirmed by the Department's memorandum of 10/21/55, that no further investigation was to be conducted. The open letter by James Hicks which appeared in the "Baltimore Afro-American" on 11/19/55, which in effect renewed the rumor regarding Collins and Logan after Collins had according to a prior newspaper release, denied being held in jail, was brought to the attention of the Criminal Division, and it did not request any further investigation.

The Department's memorandum concerning Collins and Logan was concerned with the determination as to whether there had been a possible violation of their rights through unlawful detention without due process of law. It did not concern in any way a violation of the rights of Emmett Till. It was considered as a separate matter by the Department, as the Department had stated that there was not a violation of a Federal Statute involved in the Till murder case. A separate file was opened in the Bureau on the inquiry concerning Collins and Logan.

This is fallacious Reasoning Non-Certainly

In preparing the brief on civil rights matters and the important cases arising in connection with such matters, consideration was given to including the instant case. The matter involving the murder of Emmett Till was included in the brief, but inasmuch as the instant matter concerned only a rumor which had arisen at the time of the Till situation, and as inquiry had disclosed this to be only a rumor, it was deemed inadvisable at that time to include the matter in the brief.

ACTION TAKEN:

In order that pertinent data concerning Collins and Logan may be available, revised pages have been prepared for the summary and brief on the racial situation and civil rights matters. These pages are being forwarded by separate memorandum.

The facts in instant matter related to the Till case and should have been included as a part of the Till write-up in the brief.

L. V. Boardman

Memorandum for Mr. Rosen

ADDENDUM, LBN:FML, 3/1/56:

There is no justification for not including the Collins and Logan matter in the brief with the Till case. It seems to me that the explanations set forth in this memorandum are not satisfactory. It is fallacious to argue that the mere fact we had a separate file on Collins and Logan takes it out of the realm of the Till case. The reference to the Collins and Logan matter as being "only a rumor which had arisen at the time of the Till situation ....." leaves a serious doubt in my mind on the judgment involved in the preparation of this memorandum of explanation. I point this out particularly since I told Supervisor Conroy on Wednesday morning, February 29, that you could not say that the Collins and Logan matter was a separate case. I further pointed this out to Mr. Rosen in a conference with Messrs. Boardman and Rosen on Wednesday morning.

I recommend that this be referred to Mr. Mason to fix the responsibility since this is not done in this memorandum.

Had the supervisors working on this attended the conference in the Director's office on Tuesday afternoon, they would not have termed the Collins and Logan matter as a "rumor."

yes and promptly
3-1

+ promptly

Yes. The Bureau advanced there is so fallacious that it insults my intelligence. I want definite responsibility fixed as I intend to take drastic action to put a stop to such amount of thinking. Deviating at frankness

Memo Examined to Mr. Tolson 3/2/56

This attitude is not satisfactory.

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE~~

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1 CLK/GMW
ON 3-19-99

Airtel
XXXXXXX

FBI, Chicago 100-31900

February 28, 1956

Director, FBI

~~CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY SP-1 CLK/GMW 6/16/80 REASON FOR EXTENSION FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2 DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 5/15/90~~

Comp # 93 919

RACIAL SITUATION, MISCELLANEOUS,
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY - C)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ... SLIP(S) ... DATE

ReBuairtel 2/23/56 instructing Chicago by return airtel to furnish a succinct resume of activities of the CP and front organizations in the vicinity of Chicago in relation to the EMMETT LOUIS TILL case and submit same by return airtel, no later than 2/29/56.

All informants utilized in this resume have furnished reliable information in the past. (u)

To preface this resume it is pointed out that 4(4) advised on 10/28/55 that the CP, after analyzing the reaction of the Negro people to the murder of EMMETT LOUIS TILL, contends that the reaction to this slaying was a unanimous one from the "right to left." The informant said that the Party considers that the scope of this response cannot be compared to anything that has happened in the history of Negro struggle up to the present time. The Party looks on the TILL murder as a historic event, the turning point in the Negro struggle for liberation. This case, as unimportant as it may seem, the Party contends compelled the entire world to focus attention on the Negro situation in the U.S. The Party states that it has to assess this situation from a Marxist point of view so that the Party's perspective takes on a qualitative change and that all demands for the abolition of Jim Crow and for equality take on a different character. (u)

9/1/55 4(4) advised that the CP Illinois-Indiana District planned to launch a huge campaign protesting the killing of TILL which would take the form of leaflets

3 - Bureau
2 - Chicago
1 - 100-18956 (CP, USA, NEGRO QUESTION)
REB:mcc
(5)

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70 MAR 9 1956

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-135-9-367

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

issued by the CP, Civil Rights Congress of Illinois (CRC) and other CP front groups. The CP would also use its influence in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The campaign would involve letters, telegrams and statements to President EISENHOWER demanding the firing of Attorney General BROWNELL for failure to enforce provisions of the U.S. Constitution in the state of Mississippi. The campaign would also involve a scathing condemnation of police officials in the state of Mississippi. (u)

9/2/55 4(4) [redacted] advised that all leading members of the CP Illinois-Indiana District were actively engaged in a campaign regarding the TILL slaying and plans were made by the District to publish and circulate 10,000 leaflets, 6,000 in the South Chicago area under slogans, "Brownellism Must Go" and "Brownellism Is Only McCarthyism in Disguise or With Legal Trimming." District also working and mobilizing for huge mass meetings on the South Side of Chicago, members and sympathizers in process of contacting ministers to ask them to make TILL slaying main topic of sermons on 9/4/55. (u)

9/6/55 4(4) [redacted] made available a press release issued by the CRC of Illinois. The press release contained a statement by CRC Chairman JOHN T. BERNARD in which he demanded that President EISENHOWER "shake up" the Justice Department and put an end to the reign of terror in Mississippi. BERNARD claimed that Mississippi state leaders had openly defied the U.S. Supreme Court and attacked those attempting to live under the Constitution. He requested that BROWNELL be removed for his failure to carry out his oath of office and described the incident of TILL's murder as "child lynching." (u)

9/6/55 4(4) [redacted] advised that as of that time the CP Illinois-Indiana District was preparing another leaflet dealing with the TILL slaying which would be designed to be distributed for persons employed in industry. Party was also attempting to organize delegations to go to Washington, D.C. and as of this time CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT, Chairman of the Illinois-Indiana District, was scheduled

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

to head one of these delegations which was tentatively scheduled to be in Washington, D.C., on 9/19/55. The overall objective of these delegations would be to put heat on Federal authorities and condemn them for not protecting constitutional guarantees in the state of Mississippi. Another objective of these delegations would be an attempt to show that the Federal Government has the duty of supporting the U. S. Supreme Court decision on the desegregation issue. Hearings with President EISENHOWER, Attorney General BROWNELL or the Hennings Subcommittee on Constitutional Liberties were contemplated by the delegations. (u)

9/7/55 4(4) made available a one-page pamphlet entitled, "Punish the Child Lynchers!", described thereon "Issued by Communist Party of Illinois-Indiana, Claude Lightfoot, Chairman." This pamphlet, in referring to the TILL case, asks the reader the following: (u)

> "Demand the Federal prosecution of Ku Klux lynchers and their accomplices -- the Mississippi officials."
>
> "Call upon President EISENHOWER to dismiss Attorney General BROWNELL!"
>
> "Brownellism -- like McCarthyism -- Must Go!"
>
> "End Disgrace of Racism and Jim Crow!"

(u)

9/12/55 4(4) advised that he had learned from CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT that the National Office of the CP had called into New York City either the District Organizers or the heads of the Negro Commissions in several eastern districts of the Party for the reason of organizing a national campaign dealing with the TILL case and to tie this case in with the Party's campaign for the defense of the Bill of Rights. (u)

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9/12/55 4(4) [redacted] stated that he had learned that CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT and RAY TILLMAN, a member of the Illinois-Indiana District Board, had talked with Mrs. CORA PATTON, Head of the NAACP in Chicago, on 9/10/55, and assured her that the CP did not want to take over the campaign on the TILL case but merely wished to offer assistance. (u)

9/13/55 4(4) [redacted] advised that the Executive Committee of the Chicago Women for Peace (CWP) sent a telegram to Governor WHITE, of Mississippi, demanding the conviction of the two men involved in the TILL case. Announcements were made to members of the CWP concerning rallies to be held in Chicago on the TILL case by various organizations and the members were urged to attend these rallies. (u)

9/13/55 4(4) [redacted] made available a one-page leaflet entitled, "In Mississippi -- Union Busting and Lynching Go Hand in Hand", described thereon as "Issued by the Communist Party of Illinois-Indiana, Claude Lightfoot, Chairman." This document deals with the CP's stand on labor, civil rights and legislative issues in light of the TILL case. It calls for the people to: (u)

> "Enforce the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.
>
> "Demand the Federal prosecution of the Ku Klux lynchers and their accomplices -- the Mississippi officials.
>
> "Call upon President EISENHOWER to dismiss Attorney General BROWNELL.
>
> "End the disgrace of racism and Jim Crow. Pass the Federal F. E. P. C.
>
> "End the 'Right to Scab Laws' and Union Busting in the South."

(u)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

9/14/55 4(4) [redacted] furnished a pamphlet entitled, "A Pledge in Honor of Emmett Till 'No Rest Until Jim Crow Is Dead'", described thereon as "Issued by the Labor Youth League of Illinois, Earl Durham, Regional Director." The document states in part, "Jim Crow terror has a special meaning for young people. Many of the lynch victims are youths. The Negroes struggling to maintain their families in Trumbull Park are young people. Police brutality is aimed at young people." (u)

"Who is guilty? Southern officials who campaign openly for white supremacy. Law enforcement agencies who close their eyes to crimes against Negroes. Attorney General BROWNELL who fails to step in. President EISENHOWER who did not propose a single piece of civil rights legislation to the last Congress." (u)

9/19/55 4(4) [redacted] advised that he had learned from CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT that the CP nationally, represented by DOXEY WILKERSON, had a secret conference in New York City with unidentified NAACP leaders at which time an agreement was reached on a plan of work for the campaign on the TILL case. Informant learned that the CP had agreed to stay in the background on this case. (u)

9/20/55 4(4) [redacted] advised that if the court decision in the TILL case had not been reached by 9/25/55 the CP would organize three or four demonstrations in Chicago for the purpose of showing that Civil Rights Laws can be violated. Informant also advised at this time that the collection of money for the purpose of sending delegations to Washington on the TILL case and other matters which would be tied into the CP's defense of the Bill of Rights campaign was continuing. (u)

9/26/55 4(4) [redacted] advised that at a meeting of the NAACP held in Chicago on 9/25/55 to protest the acquittal of defendants in the murder trial of TILL the Party, to maintain a United Front, remained in the background as it had done during the mobilization of this meeting. The only active participation, according to the informant, was the selling of issues of "The Worker" and "Daily Worker" which contained

stories on the TILL case. The informant stated that at this meeting the idea was projected by the NAACP to have a demonstration at Chicago's City Hall to protest discrimination in Trumbull Park, a Federal housing project on the South Side of Chicago. In view of this the informant said that the CP Illinois-Indiana District was making plans for a similar demonstration to be held at the Federal Building in Chicago. The Party demonstration was planned to coincide with the NAACP demonstration, however, the Party demonstration would be based on the TILL case in an effort to show that the Federal Government is responsible for the TILL case, since constitutional rights are not guaranteed by the Federal officials in the state of Mississippi. (u)

9/26/55 4(4) made available a pamphlet entitled, "What Does Constitution Day Mean To You?", issued jointly by the Civil Rights Congress of Illinois and the Lightfoot Defense Committee (LDC). This pamphlet asks, among other things, what Constitution Day means to "the mother of EMMETT LOUIS TILL, brutally murdered in Mississippi because the authorities have permitted and encouraged a reign of terror against the Negro people in the South?" In conclusion the pamphlet states that "If you believe in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights -- Defend Them! Call on President EISENHOWER to enforce the Constitution in Mississippi and throughout the USA." (u)

9/27/55 4(4) made available a pamphlet entitled, "Mississippi 'Justice' Wears the Ku Kluxer's Hood, Lynch Law Won't Hide Blood Stains of EMMETT TILL's Murder", described thereon as "Issued by Communist Party of Illinois-Indiana, Claude Lightfoot, Chairman." The pamphlet calls for the following: (u)

> "Join and support the united efforts of all labor and other organizations which are fighting for justice and democracy.
>
> "Demand the Federal prosecution of the Ku Klux lynchers and their accomplices -- the Mississippi officials.

(u)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"Enforce the Constitution with its Bill of Rights and Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments.

"Call upon the President to dismiss Attorney General Brownell.

"End the disgrace of Racism and Jim Crow."

9/28/55 4(4) made available a leaflet captioned, "Memorandum and Draft Plan of Work for Democratic Rights to Bill of Rights Day, December 15, 1955", issued jointly by the Civil Rights Congress of Illinois and the Lightfoot Defense Committee. This leaflet states in part, "The lynch murder of Emmett Till has become the symbol of the struggle of the Negro people for democratic rights, especially in the South. It has torn the 'cotton curtain' to expose the brutal features of terrorists, racist dictatorship of plantation owners, and industrialists who rule the South. Linked to struggle of the Negro people is the central struggle of labor to win union rights and organization in this major stronghold and spearhead of the union busters." (u)

10/4/55 4(4) made available a memorandum dated 9/29/55 addressed "To All Districts, Dear Comrades: Subject: EMMETT LOUIS TILL Lynching". The memorandum is signed, "Comradely yours, National Administrative Committee." This memorandum urges the development of the movement to force the Eisenhower Administration to intervene and states, "This requires hundreds of thousands of postcards, telegrams, letters and resolutions to the President and Attorney General Brownell from individuals and organizations. This means trade union business in the first place at all levels, labor leaders, and rank and file members; it means, likewise, involving, at all levels, church and religious institutions, the major Jewish organizations, Democratic Party organizations; the youth movement, cultural groups; as well as the major organizations of the Negro people. In addition, full support should be given

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

to delegations now being organized to visit Washington. Many leading Negro people and their organizations are working on such delegations. In addition,to this, the Party and the left should stimulate in every way possible the organization of such delegations. Particularly is this desirable from nearby points in the East." (u)

"An important aspect of this movement is to petition City Councils in all parts of the country to urge Brownell to act." (u)

10/7/55 4(4) [redacted] advised that the CP Illinois-Indiana District had decided that a leaflet be published concerning the Till case and that it should be distributed on 10/7/55 at which time the Jenner Committee was believed to be holding meetings in Chicago. JAMES DURKIN, a member of the CP Illinois-Indiana District Board, was instructed to attempt to get these leaflets published and distributed by a non-Communist organization and if DURKIN was unsuccessful in so doing the Party would then issue a leaflet through the CRC. On 10/7/55 4(4) [redacted] identified a leaflet which was circulated in the vicinity of the Federal Courthouse in Chicago and which was described thereon as being "Issued Jointly by: Chicago Branch of the NAACP and District One, UPWA-CIO", as being identical with the leaflet for which DURKIN was instrumental in having published and distributed. The leaflet states in part, "The Chicago Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and District One of the United Packinghouse Workers of America, CIO, joined with all fair-minded citizens in this city in demanding that Senator Eastland and Senator William E. Jenner take their Internal Security Committee and investigate the following: (u)

1. The reign of terror now going on in Mississippi.

2. The lynch murder of fourteen year old Chicago-born, EMMETT LOUIS TILL in Mississippi and the subsequent acquittal of those charged with his death. (u)

CONFIDENTIAL

3. The 1954 Amendment to the Mississippi Constitution which permits only 8,000 Negro citizens to register to vote out of a total Negro population of 986,500.

4. The un-American anti-Negro activities and the destruction of government property going on for two years in Trumbull Park, a U. S. Government Public Housing Project."

X (u)

10/8/55 4(4) [redacted] advised that on 10/6/55 RAY TILLMAN, of the Illinois-Indiana District Board, and ARLENE WARD, CP Member, contacted the Acting Chairman of the District to inform him that the Afro-American Congress of Christian Organizations (A-ACCO) had a "March on Washington" planned as an aftermath of the TILL case for 10/22/55 and that CLARENCE HARDING, Chairman of the organization, had told WARD, as a representative of the CP, "You can do things, what can you do for me." TILLMAN and WARD pointed out to the Acting Chairman that the A-ACCO needed $100 in order to publish leaflets advertising a meeting. The informant said that the Acting Chairman told TILLMAN and WARD that the CP should assist the A-ACCO in an effort to try to gain influence in their organization and, accordingly, authorized that $100 of Party funds be given to HARDING for the publication of leaflets. X (u)

10/25/55 4(4) [redacted] advised that the CP Illinois-Indiana District called off a demonstration at the Federal Building in Chicago which was aimed at the Federal Government on the TILL case and planned to coincide with a NAACP demonstration picketing Chicago's City Hall on the Trumbull Park situation because: X (u)

1. The delegation to Washington D.C. organized by the A-ACCO had not returned to Chicago, which group would have been utilized in the Federal Building demonstration.

X (u)

CONFIDENTIAL

2. The leadership of the CP in the Illinois-Indiana District decided at the last moment that a simultaneous demonstration on the TILL case at the Federal Building might give the impression that both demonstrations were "Red tinged." ¢(u)

10/27/55 4(4) advised that a delegation of thirty-two members of the A-ACCO left Chicago on 10/22/55 enroute to Washington, D.C., to picket the Capitol. Informant stated that the delegation, headed by CLARENCE HARDING and GUS SAVAGE, picketed the Capitol, attempted to see Vice-President NIXON, visited Attorney General BROWNELL's Office, and talked with one Mr. CALDWELL from the Attorney General's Office, on 10/24/55. 4(4) advised on 1/6/56 that in addition to GUS SAVAGE, three other members of this delegation were active members of the CP Illinois-Indiana District. ¢(u)

11/30/55 4(4) advised that the CP leadership in Illinois was engaged in discussion and planning in an effort to devise means of exploiting fully a Leadership Conference on Civil Rights tentatively scheduled at that time for January, 1956, under the direction of the NAACP. It is noted that an officer of the Chicago NAACP Branch in October, 1955, termed the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights as being predicated in part on the TILL case. ¢(u)

1/16/56 4(4) advised that he had learned from CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT that the Party planned to raise the following slogan and bring it to the attention of Attorney General BROWNELL and the Justice Department: ¢(u)

"How Can the Murderers of Till, the Murderers of Reverend Lee and Others Go Scot Free While Those Who Fight for Desegregation and Freedom Are Jailed." ¢(u)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The informant related that in connection with this campaign around this slogan the plan adopted by the Party during the ~~summer~~ fall of 1955 which called for the organization of a delegation from Chicago headed by CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT is being revived. The informant reported that the plan now is for this delegation to go to Washington, D.C., to see Attorney General BROWNELL and some Congressmen on the list to demonstrate at Washington regarding the ideas expressed in this slogan. (u)

2/23/56 4(4) advised that Mrs. MAMIE BRADLEY, mother of EMMETT TILL, had accepted a Chicago Women for Peace invitation to speak at their International Women's Day affair to be held 3/10/56 at Chicago. (u)

The Civil Rights Congress and the Labor Youth League have been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

4(4) advised on May 15, 1955, that the Lightfoot Defense Committee was set up upon the initiative of the Communist Party in 1954 and was made up mainly of Communist Party members and sympathizers. The informant stated that the idea behind the organization was to have an organization separate from the Civil Rights Congress and designed to defend CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT, who was then under indictment for violation of the Smith Act. It was felt that such an organization, which would base its appeal for support and funds on civil liberties issues, would have a greater appeal to non-Communists than would be obtained if the Communist Party worked directly through the Civil Rights Congress in connection with the LIGHTFOOT defense. It was felt that such an organization might draw some people to it who looked upon the Civil Rights Congress as a front group of the Communist Party. According to the informant, a leading committee of the Communist Party in Illinois recently ordered reactivation of the Lightfoot Defense Committee for the purpose of aiding the LIGHTFOOT case in the Appellate Courts. (u)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4(4) [redacted] advised on 5/19/55 that the Chicago Women for Peace was founded in 1950 and was an affiliate of the American Women for Peace until approximately 1954 at which time the American Women for Peace was dissolved. The Chicago Women for Peace decided at that time to work with the American Peace Crusade and subsequently supported the American Peace Crusade through distribution of American Peace Crusade literature and through its program of activities. The informant advised, however, that the Chicago Women for Peace still considers itself an autonomous organization. 4(u)

The American Women for Peace and the American Peace Crusade have been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Concerning the Afro-American Congress of Christian Organizations, it is noted that the Security Unit, Chicago Police Department, advised on 10/19/55 that on 10/3/55 a small group of people met at the Victory Baptist Church, 4747 South Cottage Grove, Chicago, and that the Afro-American Congress of Christian Organizations was an outgrowth of this meeting. At this meeting CLARENCE HARDING, Minister of the Victory Baptist Church, was selected as Chairman of this newly formed organization. Files of the Security Unit reflect that HARDING, who preaches hatred of whites, organized this organization as a result of the slaying of EMMETT LOUIS TILL. RUC.

HOSTETTER

ORIGINAL--DIRECTOR

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: 2/29/56

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

FROM : F. L. Price

Emmett Till

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
LEROY COLLINS, aka "Too-Tight,"
LEVY V. COLLINS; HENRY LEE LOGAN, aka
HENRY LEE LOGGIN, HENRY E. LOGGINS - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

10-1

Mr. Nichols has inquired as to whether the Bureau conducted an investigation of allegations made by James L. Hicks that certain witnesses were held in a Charleston, Mississippi, jail during the Till murder trial and never had a chance to testify. This is based upon comments made by Mrs. Juanita Mitchell of the National Council of Negro Women on February 28, 1956.

The Bureau did not conduct an investigation into the Emmett Till murder case.

The information concerning Hicks' allegations was inquired into and according to the facts as furnished to the Bureau, which facts were subsequently furnished to the Department, it was determined that the witnesses were definitely not being held in jail and had not been held during the trial of the Till case. The information was furnished to the Department, and the Criminal Division advised that no further investigation was desired in this matter.

BACKGROUND:

By memorandum dated 9/30/55, the Criminal Division requested "an investigation in order that we may be in a position to determine whether a violation of the Civil Rights Statute is involved." Department's request was based on letter from counsel of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) which enclosed a news article from the "Afro-American" newspaper. Department memorandum also mentioned a news clipping, not furnished, which indicated that the captioned victims were held in a jail at Charleston, Mississippi, to prevent them from testifying in State Court in the trial involving the death of Emmett Louis Till in Mississippi. A memorandum from Mr. Price to Mr. Rosen dated 10/4/55, which was approved, recommended limited preliminary investigation by the Bureau to specifically determine whether the Bureau had jurisdiction in this matter with respect to a possible civil rights violation, then to furnish results of preliminary investigation to the Criminal Division and to await specific instructions from the Department

Enclosures
cc: 1 - Mr. Nichols
LEC:ate:jh
(7)

17-7714

NOT RECORDED
44 MAR 19 1956

51 MAR 19 1956

8 MAR 16 1956

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 44-9340-8

before conducting additional investigation, the civil rights violation being whether Collins and Logan were detained contrary to any existing rights which were guaranteed to them under the Constitution or being detained without due process.

Instructions to conduct preliminary investigation afforded to the Memphis office by airtel 10/4/55. Memphis furnished results of its preliminary investigation by report of 10/12/55, received at Bureau 10/13/55, and furnished to Department 10/14/55. Bureau's preliminary investigation failed to reveal any information confirming the rumor that the victims had been held in the Charleston jail. Also furnished to the Department was a Photostat of a news clipping which had appeared in the "Tri-State Defender," Memphis, Tennessee, Negro newspaper, on 10/8/55. This news article reflected complete question and answer interview of victim Collins by L. Alex Wilson, general manager of the "Tri-State Defender," and Colonel Euclid Louis Taylor, general counsel of the "Chicago Defender." In this interview victim Collins denied having been held in jail at Charleston, Mississippi, and denied any knowledge of Emmett Till and any knowledge of what had happened to Till.

Investigation by Memphis office consisted of interview of former SA Robert Smith, Special Prosecutor who assisted in the prosecution of the Till murder trial. Mr. Smith advised numerous rumors received by the prosecution among which was rumor concerning the holding of the captioned victims at the Charleston, Mississippi, jail. Mr. Smith interviewed the sheriff and deputy sheriff who denied that Collins and Logan were incarcerated. Smith then had Mississippi Highway Patrol physically search the entire jail premises and interviewed each Negro prisoner in the Charleston jail individually. Officers determined that Collins and Logan were definitely not in the jail and had not been held there during the trial. Memphis report also incorporated pertinent portions of interview of Collins as contained in the "Tri-State Defender" as mentioned above. No further investigation conducted.

In the 11/19/55 edition of the "Baltimore Afro-American," Baltimore, Maryland, there appeared "An Open Letter to U. S. Attorney General Herbert Brownell and FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover," which was signed by James L. Hicks. This lengthy letter reflected the interest of Hicks in solving the Emmett Till murder. Hicks made various suggestions as to how the FBI could obtain information concerning the knowledge possessed by the captioned victims concerning the Till case and also information concerning the holding of the captioned victims in the Charleston jail

during the Till murder trial. A Photostat of Hicks' letter was furnished to the Criminal Division under the above caption on 12/6/55; however, the Criminal Division did not request any further investigation in the captioned matter.

There is attached for your information the memorandum from Mr. Price to Mr. Rosen dated 10/4/55, as well as the newspaper article mentioned above.

It is noted that on 10/21/55 by memorandum of that date, the Criminal Division advised the Bureau that no further investigation was desired in the captioned matter. All of the information available which had been developed had been previously furnished to the Department for its consideration as to the further action which was desired. In view of the Department's decision that no further investigation was desired, nothing further was done with reference to this matter.

ADDENDUM, LBN:FML, 2/29/56:
Memoranda have been directed to the Attorney General, Rogers, and Olney in line with my conversation with the Director this morning, summarizing what Mrs. Mitchell said and what we did, and putting it up to the Department as to whether we should pursue the matter further.

It should be pointed out if we try to interview Henry Lee Loggins, this could be construed as entering the Till case since Loggins works for Milliam, one of the individuals charged with the murder of Till.

G. I. R. -10

esa

7-9714-83

April 17, 1956

RECORDED - 12

INDEXED - 12

10-1

Mr. J. E. Brown
921 Cherokee Street
Maryville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Brown:

Your letter postmarked April 9, 1956, has been received.

For your information, the alleged murder of Emmett Louis Till was not a matter within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI. You may desire to make known your observations to the appropriate local officials.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAILED 12
APR 17 1956
COMM-FBI

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record identifiable with Brown.

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Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

HEH:cag
(3)

68 APR 24 1956

N.E.H.

(8)
HER:cdd

NC

921 Cherokee St.
Maryville Tenn.

F.B.I.

Dear Sirs.

Reading the story in the april issue of Readers Digest of the killing of the young Chicago Negro Emmett Till in Mississippi last summer, recalls the murder and mutilation of the three Chicago white boys which I believe took place shortly after the Mississippi killing.

I wonder if anyone ever worked on the theory that these two cases had a connection. Maybe retaliation.

Yours truly,
J. E. Brown.

7 — 2714 83

RECORDED - 12

EX-101

APR 19 1956

CRIME REC.

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REC'D. RECORDS SEC.

MR. JONES

APR 11 11 53 AM '56

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U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

January 16, 1957

RECORDED-67
INDEXED-6

7-7714-84

EX-108

Dr. Clifford W. Morgan
302 North Third Street
Watertown, Wisconsin

Informant

Dear Dr. Morgan:

Your letter of January 5, 1957, has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I wish to advise that the FBI has the duty of investigating persons whose activities constitute a violation of a Federal law within our jurisdiction. For your information, facts relating to the Emmett Till case you mentioned were presented to the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice, and its decision was that there had been no violation of Federal law; consequently, we had no authority to take part in this case.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: There is no record of Clifford W. Morgan in Bufiles. (Wisconsin)

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64 JAN 23 1957

COMM - FBI
JAN 16 1957
MAILED 20

DR. CLIFFORD W. MORGAN
CHIROPODIST
302 N. THIRD STREET
WATERTOWN, WISCONSIN
PHONE 3163

January 5, 1957

EMMETT TILL

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have wondered why the Federal Bureau of Investigation hasn't done anything about the kidnap murder of Emmett Till by J. W. Milan and Roy Bryant of Mississippi.

I thought that ~~that~~ the Lindberg law made kidnapping and murder, a federal crime.

They admitted kidnapping the boy and from the article in Look, they admit killing him.

Sincerely
Clifford W. Morgan

RECORDED-6 7-7714-84

JAN 11 1957

EX-108

JAN 12 1957

EX. PROC.

3

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ack 1-16-57
C.E.M.

copy typed
1-14-57

TRUE COPY

DR. CLIFFORD W. MORGAN
CHIROPODIST
302 N. THIRD STREET
WATERTOWN, WISCONSIN
PHONE 3163

January 5, 1957

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have wondered why the Federal Bureau of Investigation hasn't done anything about the kidnap murder of Emmett Till by J. W. Milan and Roy Bryant of Mississippi.

I thought that the Lindberg law made kidnapping and murder, a federal crime.

They admitted kidnapping the boy and from the article in Look, they admit killing him.

Sincerely

/s/ Clifford W. Morgan

ack mail 16 1-15-57 CEM

1 copy typed 1-14-57 ocp

H-cmy

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: April 9, 1958

FROM : G. A. NEASE

SUBJECT: EMMETT TILL
CIVIL RIGHTS
CONGRESSMAN ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR.
(D-NEW YORK)
AMSTERDAM NEWS (NEW YORK CITY)

Tolson
Boardman
Belmont
Mohr
Nease
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Clayton
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

With reference to my memorandum earlier today concerning the call from the Amsterdam News for comment on Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.'s request for an FBI investigation, there is attached the clipping referred to.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this memorandum be referred to the Investigative Division for its information.

Enclosure
1 - Mr. Boardman
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Jones

REW:ejp
(6)

Send copy to A.G. & White.

Done 4/10/58

REC- 59 7-7714-85

ENCLOSURE

EX-128

10 APR 15 1958

50 APR 17 1958 EX-128

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RECEIVED
CRIMINAL SECTION
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
APR 14 10 42 AM '58

F B I
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
APR 9 6 06 PM '58

RECEIVED-NEASE
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RECEIVED-BOARDMAN
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RECEIVED-TOLSON
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MR. JONES
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INTERNAL SECURITY SECT.
FBI

CHR
4/16

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. [redacted]
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Nease
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Clayton
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

TILL MURDER

Ask FBI to open probe

By LOUIS E. LOMAX

NEW YORK — Congressman Adam Clayton Powell has asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate charges that the two missing Till witnesses have been lynched and that the wife of one of them is now able to shed new light on the infamous Till murder.

The AFRO learned early Saturday that the Harlem Congressman sought FBI intervention after he learned that Mrs. Collins, wife of one of the missing witnesses, was destitute in Seattle, Washington and had disclosed new details concerning the crime.

* * *

POWELL ASKED the FBI to investigate the following charges:

1. That "Too Tight" Collins and Henry Lee Loggins have been lynched and their bodies thrown in a river.

2. That Mrs. Clara Collins, wife of "Too Tight," is now able to tell where the Till Youth was slain and point out the place where his clothes are now buried.

If the investigation unearths the clothing of the Till youth, the infamous case will again be revived. The missing clothing gave white Mississippians an opportunity to say that the identification of the Till boy was uncertain.

Moreover if Mrs. Collins' information concerning the burial place of the clothing is correct, her further testimony may well make it possible to indict the alleged killers of Till for kidnapping.

THE TWO missing witnesses came into prominence during the trial when it was revealed that there were two colored men who had seen the Till murder. The trial was held up while colored leaders searched for the missing witnesses but they were never unearthed.

Shortly after the trial was completed Collins turned up in Chicago allegedly under the sponsorship of a Chicago newspaper. Collins took ill before he could give a full statement as to what he knew about the crime.

He was placed in a Chicago hospital and was guarded by the Chicago police. Despite this guard, police from Mississippi infiltrated the hospital and persuaded Collins to return to Mississippi. He has been reported missing several times since.

This, however, is the first time his wife has been willing to give a full account of Collins' involvement in the Till matter.

* * *

LOGGINS HAS never been located outside of Mississippi. He was found in a Mississippi jail under charges placed by the alleged killer of Till. Loggins promised this reporter that he would leave Mississippi and give a full account of Till murder. However, after bail had been supplied, the alleged killers of Till appeared on the scene and Loggins refused to leave jail.

Now the families of both Loggins and Collins say that the two men are dead. Both say they have been warned that they — the families—will also be killed if they continue to talk about the Till murder.

In his request to the FBI, Powell asked that the case be thoroughly investigated. The full contents of Mrs. Collins' report cannot now be revealed.

However the AFRO learned that her testimony, if upheld, will show that the murderers of Till are also guilty of a federal violation.

Newspaper article

Miss Till

Miss, alleged to be deceased

Washington Afro-American
April 8, 1958
Pages 1 and 2

memo to AG 4-10-58 DGH

7-7714-85
ENCLOSURE

The Attorney General

April 10, 1958

Director, FBI

NEWS STORY
"WASHINGTON AFRO-AMERICAN"
WASHINGTON, D. C.
APRIL 8, 1958

I am enclosing a Photostat of a news story headlined "Ask FBI to open probe" which appeared in the "Washington Afro-American," Washington, D. C., on April 8, 1958. I thought this would be of interest to you inasmuch as it concerns the Emmett Till Civil Rights case.

Enclosure

1 - Mr. Lawrence E. Walsh
Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)

1 - Assistant Attorney General
W. Wilson White (Enclosure)

1 - Mr. McGowan, Room 4704 (Enclosure)

NOTE: In regard to this news story, the Director noted "Send copy to A. G. & White."

DGH:geg
(8)

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MAIL ROOM

EX-135

REC- 59

F 148

85 APR 15 1958

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COMM-FBI

10 APR 15 1958

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EX-132

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INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
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INTERNAL SECURITY SECT
FBI

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: April 9, 1958

FROM : G. A. NEASE

SUBJECT: EMMETT TILL
CIVIL RIGHTS
CONGRESSMAN ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR.
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Nease
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Clayton
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

At 3:15 PM, April 8, 1958, James L. Hicks of the Amsterdam News telephoned from New York City and talked to Wick. He said the Afro-American yesterday afternoon had a story quoting Congressman Adam Clayton Powell as stating that he had additional information on the Emmett Till case in Mississippi which would probably result in this case being reopened for investigation by the FBI. (The Emmett Till case is that involving a young Negro boy who presumably made an untoward remark to a white woman in a store in August, 1955; was spirited away in a truck by white men. His body was later found within the state near a river bed. We had no jurisdiction and did not investigate it as such.) Hicks asked if we had any comment and just precisely what our position had been in the Emmett Till case.

Comp # 212,592

ACTION TAKEN:

Wick told Hicks as the investigative arm of the Department of Justice we were, of course, interested in receiving information from whatever source respecting a violation of Federal law within our jurisdiction. He was told that in the Till case there had been no indication of a violation of Federal law. In answer to Hicks' questions relating to the FBI's jurisdiction in general, Wick explained to him that we investigate violations of Federal law prescribed by statute and that we are not empowered to investigate violation of state law, local ordinance, murder, etc., as such. Hicks said much of Powell's remarks in the Afro-American appeared to him to be somewhat far-fetched inasmuch as he, Hicks, well knew the FBI would perform its responsibility without prodding from a Congressman.

ACTION:

None, for record.

We are getting a copy of the Afro-American containing Congressman Powell's remarks on the Till case.

1 - Mr. Boardman
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Jones
REW:ejp (6)

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F B I
APR 9 3 23 PM '58

REC'D - FBI
INVESTIGATIVE DIV.
APR 11 4 40 PM '58

APR 9 3 07 PM '58

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

REC'D BOARD
FBI - JUSTICE
APR 9 5 42 PM '58

RECEIVED
ROSEN
APR 10 8 50 AM '58

FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
CRIMINAL SECTION
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
APR 11 11 46 AM '58
F B I
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

APR 10 3 23 PM '58

REC'D - FBI
INVESTIGATIVE DIV.

RECEIVED-BOARD
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
APR 9 4 53 PM '58

DATE
BA
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MT WASHINGTON CONFERRED

RECEIVED
NO. 1 MAIL
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
APR 9 6 49 PM '58

RECEIVED
NO. 1 MAIL
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
APR 11 9 07 AM '58

RECEIVED
APR 14 10 49 AM '58
INTERNAL SECURITY SECT
FBI

SHOES - SOX
ARMY SURPLUS
CLOTHING

OUR BEST ADS
AREN'T WRITTEN
THEY'RE WORN

HARRISON'S ARMY STORE

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
306 - 308 EAST JOHNSON ST
GREENWOOD, MISS.
PHONE GL. 3-3252

Miss Sallie Harrison
1231 Monroe St.
Jackson, Miss

Dear gentlemen;

Will you please give me a full account of the kidnapping and the slaying(?) of Emmitt Till? I am very curious because one of my friends says he is ~~alck~~ alive making speeches all over the U.S. Another says it was all a hoax and that it was "made up" because his motherhad a $100,000 life insurance on him. I really don't know what to believe. Please tell me the truth.

Yours Truly,
Sallie Harrison

nml
ack 8-7-61
RWE

1+c
8-4-61
rw

REC'D-CORR. & TOURS
FBI
AUG 3 4 43 PM '61

REC'D-CORR. & TOURS
FBI
AUG 3 4 43 PM '61

12/6/66

1 - Mr. Fehl

Airtel

To: SAC, Jacksonville (62-896)

From: Director, FBI

UNSUB;
MURDER OF SIMS FAMILY (3),
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA;
10/22/66
POLICE COOPERATION

ReJKairtel to Bureau 11/30/66, two copies of which are enclosed for information of Jackson Office.

In regard to information in possession of Jack Dawkins (NA), Chief Investigator, Leon County Sheriff's Office, that Mrs. Robert Sims may have been the woman who had objected to remarks of Emmett Till in Mississippi during the late 1950's, the Jacksonville Office should bring to Dawkins' attention the following public source material which indicates that the woman involved in this matter was Carolyn Bryant, the wife of Roy Bryant:

1. "Life" magazine dated 10/3/55;

2. "Look" magazine dated 1/24/56; and

3. "Look" magazine dated 1/22/57.

The Bureau has not conducted any recent investigation in the Till case; therefore, the exact whereabouts of Carolyn Bryant is unknown; however, the possibility exists the Bryant family is still residing in the Money, Mississippi, area.

1 - Jackson (Info) Enc. (2)

FCF:sjk
(6)

1 - 7-7714

7-7714-

NOT RECORDED
174 DEC 8 1966

332

56 DEC 12 1966

DUPLICATE YELLOW

ORIGINAL FILED IN 63-0-21154

"Look" magazine dated 1/24/56, on Page 48, contains a photograph of Carolyn Bryant which could undoubtedly be utilized by Chief Investigator Dawkins relative to identification in running out his lead in the above-captioned matter.

7-7714-88

REC-47 ~~44-7714~~ 88

August 8, 1961

AUG 4 15 PM '61
FBI READING ROOM

EX-113

Miss Sallie Harrison
1231 Monroe Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Miss Harrison:

I have received your letter postmarked August 1, 1961, and the interest which prompted your writing is appreciated.

In response to your inquiry, I wish to advise that the facts relating to the Emmett Till case you mentioned were presented to the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice, and its decision was that there had been no violation of Federal law; consequently, we had no authority to take part in the case. Perhaps you can obtain some newspaper accounts concerning this matter in your local library.

I am enclosing some booklets pertaining to the work of the FBI which may be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAILED 30
AUG 8 - 1961
COMM-FBI

Enclosures (3)
The Story of the FBI
Know Your FBI
The FBI Lab
NOTE: No record Bufiles identifiable with correspondent.
The above reply has been forwarded to inquiries of this type in the past.
RWE:rap
(3)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

AUG 16 1961

~~56 AUG 14 1961~~

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

INCONS AUG 15 1961

Auty
8/16/61
Ex

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
FBI

AUG 8 4 37 PM '61

REC'D MAIL ROOM
FBI
AUG 8 7 20 PM '61

TRUE COPY

HARRISON'S ARMY STORE
Wholesale and Retail
306 - 308 East Johnson St.
Greenwood, Miss.
Phone GL. 3-3252

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Jackson, Miss

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Yours Truly,

Sallie Harrison

nml
ack ~~8-7-61~~ 8-8-61
RWE:rap

pub.

1+c
8-4-61
nr