

DET. [REDACTED]
LT. O.B. HOLCOM

BLACK ORGANIZING
PROJECT;
WELFARE MOTHERS;

April 23, 1969

The following is a report from [REDACTED]
for April 18, 19, 20, 21, 1969.

[REDACTED]

Melvin said C.B. SMITH had not been down to 271 Vance. Melvin said that Cacheatuh Smith had said that they would be in town Friday night. Tom Davis had a german sheppard dog at 271 Vance, which was not his dog, it belonged to a M/C Jesse. Davis had the dog to help guard the building at night.

At 9pm all left except Tate, Davis and Williams. Later at the Avalon Pool Room on Beale St. nothing was going on. Also nobody at Walkers Lounge on Hernando.

At 10:00am Informant was at the Hawaiian Eye on Bellevue, just south of Kerr which is owned by the same man who owned the U-Ear Lounge. The Hawaiian Eye is a plush place.

On Saturday April 19, 1969 at 11:30am Lance (Wine) Watson called [REDACTED] to let him know that he was back in town.

[REDACTED] Wine stated his trip was fruitful, because he collected a lot of valuable information. He said he found out the best way to get people involved is to organize the Welfare Mothers for a march to Washington, D.C. SCLC is organizing the Welfare Mothers in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana and they are backing me (Wine) in organizing them in Memphis and Tennessee.

It has been learned that Willie Bolden went back to Atlanta, possibly over the weekend, reportedly because he couldn't get along with O.L. Turner.

Watson stated we have got to get down busy and I mean real busy and get these mothers together and then we can draw in masses of people because everybody feels sorry for the hungry people.

JCD/hae

Field Rep
SCLC

Watson stated the first thing we have to do is to find a campaign headquarters. We don't want it at the Invaders office because it might keep people away. SCLC is going to back me financially and also furnish money for transportation and food for the trip to Washington. However, he stated, he was not going to depend heavily upon SCLC for money because they have been known to spend just enough to get you out on the limb and left you hanging there.

At 1:00pm [redacted] those present were JOHN C. SMITH, JOHN B. SMITH, JOHN GARY WILLIAMS, OREE MC KENZIE, CHARLES CABBAGE, MAURICE LEWIS, GWENDOLYN WHITE, ARCHIE WILLIAMS, M.C. CLARK, ETHEL TAYLOR, MARY HOLMAN, BRENDA MAJOR, CURTIS DAVIS, CARL ARMSTRONG, JUANITA MILLER, RISE HELLER, TOM DAVIS, SHIRLEY YOUNG, SONNY AARON and about ten others.

Shirley Young and the M/C Sonny Aaron are supposedly getting married. Aaron is described as M/C, 5'9" to 5'10", 165 to 175 lbs., dark complexion, Afro style hair, large scar on neck, mustache, usually wears loud pants, wears a little cap with a bill, does not work, always has Marijuana, is reportedly suppose to go to the Army soon.

John B. Smith, John Gary Williams and Oree McKenzie left 271 Vance. The others were playing cards and practicing judo.

At 1:20pm Wine and [redacted] went to ABC bonding company to see if his trial was still Monday. Wine did have to go to trial on Monday. They went to 271 Vance and got Cacheatuh Smith and Maurice Lewis, left there and went to Whithers Studios on Beale. Wine wanted some other pictures of himself to sell. Whithers asked what is this I hear about Marrell Mc Collough being a Policeman and I have heard this from more than one person.

Wine said we have been knowing that Marrell was a Policeman for months, he didn't know that much to tell anyway and we just used him for what we could. It didn't make any difference about him being a Policeman, further more I don't have time to get hung up on who is a Policeman or not, because that is not much that a Policeman can learn from us. So like Marrell's case, we didn't let him know that we knew he was a Policeman. We used him to work with SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) when we needed their help. Wine said I heard

that he has not been around for quite a while, but when he does come back, we will just treat him like we did before. We know how to keep him from getting the important information.

At 2:15pm at 271 Vance they had gotten thirty pictures from Whithers, and had a board meeting set up for 5:30pm at 271 Vance.

At 2:45pm Wine left by himself.

At 5:15pm at 271 Vance were JOHN B. SMITH, OREE MC KENZIE and CHARLES CABBAGE. JOHN C. SMITH, JOHN GARY WILLIAMS and WINE were not there.

At 5:30pm the meeting was to start. John Gary Williams stated that ~~the~~ the Police were busting a M/C with a thick natural, believed to be John C. Smith, at Third and Beale. Everybody started leaving fast. Cabbage, Maurice Lewis, Juanita Miller and Sonny ~~_____~~ went to Third and Beale. The Police had John C. Smith and Nathaniel Johnson. Wine got into the car on Hernando in front of the Harlem House. Wine said they found out that they can't get us leaders anymore so they are harrasing and intimidating us, just a few days ago the Lueit. and Capt. and three or four others drove up and said Hey Wine, When did you get back in town, We want to talk to you about Black Power. Wine stated he didn't say anything or look at them, because if I had turned around and said Yessir, and I wouldn't say that anyway, they would have arrested me on a trumped up charge and locked me up for several mome months, so to avoid that I kept on walking.

All went back to 271 Vance. John B. Smith and Oree McKenzie have not been seen since.

At 7:00pm Wine, ^{W. Neal.} Pigford, Maurice Lewis and Cacheatuh Smith went to Rev. Neal church. Wine asked Rev. Neal for the use of Warner Temple as campaign headquarters for the Welfar Mothers. Rev. Neal stated they could use it anytime they wanted to. Rev. Neal stated he would join the Invaders and wanted to be on the Board of Directors and also is going to serve on the Board of Directors for the Welfare Mothers.

At 8:00pm at 271 Vance they were planning a meeting for next Friday (April 25) of the Invaders, Black Knights and W.O.M.E.N., the speaker is to be Willie Wine. Eddie Tate is to run off a thousand copies of the literature about the meeting.

[REDACTED]

On Sunday April 20, 1969 at 9:45am [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. They didn't talk much except that they were to get the money. (Money from IFCO) They have got to go back on Thursday. Coby said some progress was made but not enough. Welch went home. [REDACTED] and Coby Smith went to 271 Vance. Those present were ARCHIE WILLIAMS, M.C. CLARK, OTIS PARNELL, MARY HOLMAN, MELVIN SMITH, TOM DAVIS. Coby left two copies of the new program that he had drawn up. Coby and Pigford went to 273 Ayers where Lozene Childers lives, who works at the University of Tennessee.

At 11:30am they went to Coby's house. Coby stated he wanted to clean the dope out of 271 Vance. He stated Sonny brings it there as well as Louis Welch and John Charles Smith. Coby stated he didn't use it and that is why Charles Cabbage and John B. Smith fell out before. Coby doesn't trust anybody, except Pigford and Maurice Lewis.

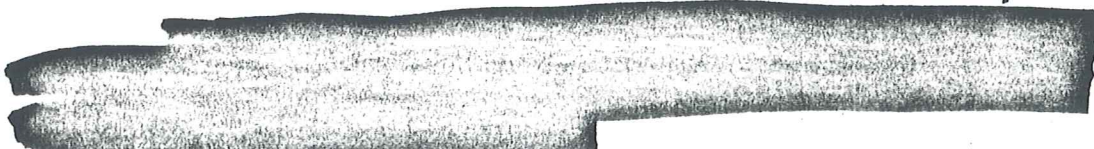
[REDACTED]

Cabbage said that E.A. SMITH who was connected with the INTERRELIGIOUS FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION (IFCO), was at the Lorraine Motel and stated we should talk with him. He said he already told Smith that some one would talk to him. Cabbage said it was no point in him going to see Smith because he would have to go to jail on Monday. Wine, Cacheatuh Smith went to meeting of Welfare Mothers. Coby, Maurice and Donald Pigford went to the Lorraine Motel, room 211 to see Smith. Coby asked Smith we understand that you are in position to know whether you can answer what I am going to say is true or not. We would like to know if \$79,000 has been sent to Memphis by IFCO and on what basis was it sent to Memphis and for whom was it sent.

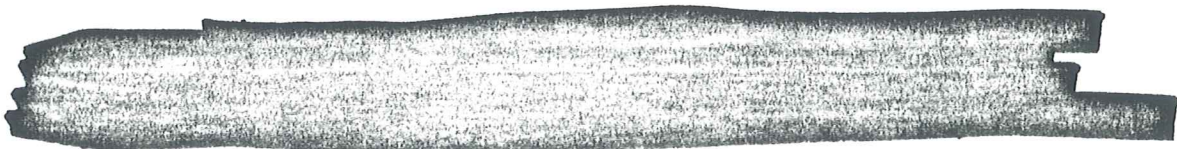
the \$79,000 by Ralph Jacksons group, but would only be sent to Memphis with the understanding that each the Invaders, Black rights and COME would receive one third of the money. He gave Coby a list of people to contact for additional money who are officials of IFCO. E.A. Smith also stated this list of names would help speed up getting any money that you apply for from IFCO. He stated what you should do is write each one of these people and I will write them also to let them know that I have talked with you.

He stated this helps the cause when you start writing these people for money. They want to know that someone that other than them knows about you.

E.A. Smith was given a copy of the new proposal for a grant by Coby Smith. He said he would take the proposal and study it very carefully and take out or put in whichever needs to be. He also said he would be in Memphis once a month and would write each time and give the date.



Wine said, in regards to the meeting he and Cacheatuh Smith attended, we are making more progress than I expected. We have already received more than twenty dollars in donations. We have someone who is going to get us a phone and pay the bill every month and most importantly these people (Welfare Mothers) are ready to move.



At 9:30pm they left and went to 271 Vance where Wine got out and spent the night.

On April 21, 1969, Monday at 10:am Pigford was at the Baptist Book Store at S. Parkway E. and Lauderdale. He went to see Rev. Cunningham to pick up some rent money for 271 Vance. Coby had said he had talked to Cunningham and it was all set. Rev. Cunningham was not there. Pigford then went to Division I of Criminal Court

which is Judge Sellers, in the Shelby County Office Building. He met and talked with Wine. Wine said he did not have anyone to represent him. The reason was that Walter Bailey was to represent him but he was in Division EI (6). Wine said that they would probably forfeit or raise his bond. He stated that he had talked to Harold Moore (Cabbages Attorney) and he was going to try to get RAP BROWNS Attorney for Wine. Wine said if they do put me back in jail today I'll just start organizing the jail again. You know something must really be going on because the Police Department has come to the point where they have to conspire to keep me in jail. I ain't worried about it though, because what I am about is organizing. If they sent me to prison I will organize there.

At 5:45pm

[REDACTED] . She was saying Wine's bond was raised \$1500 and he was put back in jail. She also said she was going to get busy and get the \$1500 and get him out again. She did not know where she would get the money but the only thing left to do was get on the phone and solicit money. She also said his trial comes up in June 16, 1969.

[REDACTED]

Welch is scheduling a Board of Directors meeting for 6pm on April 22, 1969 at 271 Vance.

At 7:30pm some of the Invaders left.

At 8:30pm at the Parkway Gardens Presbyterian Church, Sen. Albert Gore was to speak to the New Democratic Coalition meeting.

Gore spoke about 15 to 20 minutes on the Anti-Ballistics Missile System. He also briefly touched on the N. Korean spy plane shot down. He condemned it being shot down and said they had a right to be there 100%. Those known there were Anita Custard, Donald Pigford, James Gaylord, the Olsons, of the Grape Boycott, Dick Grago. About 85% of the audience was white.

Olson spoke after Gore. He basically said they would appreciate everyone's help in making the grape boycott a success in Memphis, Tennessee. He said we have

bumper stickers and other badges and literature that we are passing in support of the grape boycott. He said we have an office at 1738 Edwards St. You may come by there anytime you want to. but just don't tell the Police you are coming.

At 9:15pm the meeting was over.

At 9:30pm at 271 Vance same people were present, in addition were Eddie Marshall, Gwendolyn White, Timothy Byrd and James Pegues. They were playing cards.

Welch and Melvin Smith told Pigford that the Police were down earlier and said they came in because there was a car parked outside with only one license plate. They came in seeking the owner. After inquiring about the car the officer was allegedly to have said "If we would quit our jobs tomorrow, the Ku Klux Klan would come down and wipe you out. Of course Sweet Willie Wine and John Ferguson are two people I wouldn't give the spit I spit on the ground for. If we wanted to we could come down here busting heads anytime we get ready. You know what is right and wrong and we know what is right and wrong, but it does not count whether it is wrong or that when we go to busting heads and even if we are wrong and bust your head it doesn't help you a bit to say we are wrong when you get down to the Police station because you are still going to have a busted head".

The Invaders objected to this. They said they also told the police what they would do. Melvin said he was not worried about them because he could kill any two Policemen any day before they could kill him.

Cacheathu Smith [redacted] said SCLC had called about Wine. They want him to handle the Welfare Mothers in West Tennessee, so they will be sending him some money for expenses. Also she said that AL BELL of Stax Records had called and they want Wine to cut his record this week with Ollie and the Nightengales. Stax records will probably get Wine out of jail for him to cut this record.