



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee  
February 20, 1968

Re: SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE,  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

On February 19, 1968, Lieutenant E. H. Arkin, Inspectional Bureau, Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department, advised that the Sanitation Workers Strike, City of Memphis, which began February 12, 1968, continued; and the Union which is attempting to represent the Sanitation Workers, namely the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFL-CIO), continues its negotiations with the City of Memphis, primarily represented by Mayor Henry Loeb and City Attorney Frank Gianotti. The two factions are still far apart as to wages and particularly on the issue as to whether or not the city should collect dues by means of payroll deductions, said money to be later turned over to the Union.

On the night of February 18, 1968, Jerry Wurf, International President of the Union, arrived in Memphis and is still in Memphis conducting negotiations on behalf of the Union. A limited number of new city employees, hired since the strike began, are picking up some garbage from critical areas in Memphis. There are approximately 150 people working. Normally, the sanitation crew consists of over 1,000 individuals, who are primarily of the Negro race.

No demonstrations occurred over the weekend of February 17 and 18, 1968, nor was there any jamming of any of the city telephone lines, including the Police, Fire and City Hall telephone lines, as had been originally planned by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Memphis. The NAACP has since decided not to attempt to jam the phone lines of the Fire and Police as these are emergency numbers.

157-9146-X3

ENCLOSURE

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To date there have been no boycotts or picketing of merchants in a more-or-less secondary boycott operation to force the merchants to bring pressure to bear on the City of Memphis to settle the strike.

On the early morning of February 20, 1968, Lieutenant Arkin advised that a limited all-night vigil was held at the Memphis City Hall on the night of February 19-20, 1968. The vigil was sponsored by the NAACP and was participated in by the NAACP, by some of its sympathizers, and by a few of the sanitation workers. The vigil began at 6 p.m., February 19, 1968, and ended at approximately 6 a.m., February 20, 1968. There were no arrests and no incidents.

Lieutenant Arkin pointed out that the Memphis Ministerial Association has intervened in the strike attempting to get the City and the Union to negotiate and that the Young Democrats Club of Shelby County has come out in support of the strikers, as have a limited number of Memphis State University (MSU) students.

On February 20, 1968, a first source advised that it is indefinite as to whether or not any of the City Hall telephone lines will be jammed and it is also indefinite as to if and when the proposed boycotts of merchants will occur.

On February 19, 1968, a second source advised that a mass meeting in support of the strikers occurred Saturday night, February 17, 1968, in the Mason Temple operated by the Church of God in Christ. This was primarily a rally consisting mostly of sanitation workers and some of the Memphis Negro ministers who were supporting the strike. Approximately eight MSU students were there and indicated that they were supporting the strike, two being identified as Susan Macdonald and Howard Sidney Chilton III of 145 North Montgomery.

There were no apparent black power advocates present and Reverend W. L. Porter, a minister of the Church of God in Christ, emphasized to the audience that this strike was strictly economic and under no circumstances should its leaders or



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supporters allow it to deteriorate into a racial strike or one which could become a vehicle for the disruptive black power influences in the community.

On February 20, 1968, Lieutenant E. H. Arkin advised that he had learned from Captain J. G. Ray, also of the Intelligence Bureau, Memphis Police Department, that during the all-night vigil mentioned above, during the first two hours from 6 to 8 p.m., February 19, 1968, the vigil participants were led by Douglas Turner Howard, Jr., a white male, and wife Brenda Lois Howard, both of 600 Hughes Street, Memphis, Douglas Howard being an English Instructor at MSU; and that during the second two-hour period from 8 to 10 p.m., among the leaders were Susan Macdonald and Howard Sidney Chilton III.

As recently as February 20, 1968, source three advised that during the past year Susan Macdonald, a white female, and Howard Sidney Chilton III, along with Douglas and Brenda Howard, have been among the leaders of the protest movement on the MSU campus and that heretofore their primary efforts have been to oppose United States policy in Vietnam and that they were among the leaders of a series of downtown Memphis demonstrations beginning April 8, 1967, and continuing periodically until October 21, 1967, opposing United States policy in Vietnam. This source pointed out that all of these individuals are of the type who would like to exploit any situation of contention and use this as a vehicle to gain support from the community for projects in which they might become interested.

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DOUGLAS TURNER HOWARD, JR., and  
BRENDA LOIS HOWARD, also known as  
Mrs. Douglas Turner Howard, Jr.

On December 9, 1966, a fourth source furnished original membership cards of the then current members of the W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of America (DCA) on the west coast. One card read: "Doug and Brenda Howard, 1085 Natoma, Phone HE 1-4423, student and office clerk, SF State - Bekin Van and Storage."

Also on February 24, 1967, a fifth source advised that the records of Memphis State University, Memphis, Tennessee, where DOUGLAS TURNER HOWARD, JR., had been employed in the English Department as an instructor since September, 1965, his wife listed as Brenda Howard, revealed that the Howards had lived at 1085 Natoma, San Francisco, California, in 1966 and that Douglas Howard had attended San Francisco (SF) State College until June of 1966, when he received his Masters Degree.

(A characterization of the W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of America (DCA) is set forth in the Appendix Section.)



W. E. B. DU BOIS CLUBS OF AMERICA (DCA)

A source advised that on October 26-27, 1963, a conference of members of the Communist Party, USA (CPUSA), including national functionaries, met in Chicago, Illinois, for the purpose of setting in motion forces for the establishment of a new national Marxist-oriented youth organization which would hunt for the most peaceful transition to socialism. The delegates were told that it would be reasonable to assume that the young socialists attracted into this new organization would eventually pass into the CP itself.

A second source has advised that the founding convention for the new youth organization was held from June 19-21, 1964, at 150 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, at which time the name W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of America (DCA) was adopted. Approximately 500 delegates from throughout the United States attended this convention.

The second source advised in September, 1966, that Mike Zagarell, CPUSA Youth Director, stated that in Negro communities the Party still supported the plan to build "left" socialist centers and to solidify the Party base through the DCA. This source also advised in September, 1966, that Daniel Rubin, CPUSA National Organizational Secretary, stated the Party believes the DCA should have a working-class outlook and be a mass organization favorable to socialism, socialist countries and Marxism, and in April, 1967, advised that Gus Hall, CPUSA General Secretary, indicated the DCA primary emphasis should be on developing mass resistance to the draft.

A third source advised in September, 1967, that Jarvis Tyner was elected chairman of the DCA on September 10, 1967, at the Third National Convention of the DCA held in New York, New York, from September 8-10, 1967.

A fourth source advised during August, 1967, that Jarvis Tyner is a member of the National Committee of the CPUSA.

A fifth source advised on September 21, 1967, that the headquarters of the DCA is located at 34 West 17th Street, New York, New York.

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Title:           SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE,  
                  MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Character:       RACIAL MATTERS

Reference:       Memorandum prepared at  
Memphis, Tennessee, dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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