



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
February 26, 1968

Re: SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE,
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Reference is made to a communication captioned as
above dated February 24, 1968.

On February 25, 1968, Captain J. G. Ray, Inspectional
Bureau, Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department, advised that
on Saturday, February 24, 1968, Memphis Attorney Anthony
Sabella, representing Local 1733, American Federation of
State, County and Municipal Employees (AFL-CIO), the Union
claiming to represent the striking sanitation workers in
Memphis, the strike now having gone on for two continuous
weeks, surrendered Thomas Oliver Jones, President of Local
1733, after the Police Department had issued a warrant
charging Jones with assault with intent to commit murder,
disorderly conduct, and night riding in connection with
his purported attempt to turn over a Memphis Police Department
squad car on Friday afternoon, February 23, 1968, during
a massive march of sanitation strikers and supporters down
Main Street in Memphis, Tennessee.

Jones has been released on bond and Jones, along with
the other seven strikers who were arrested in connection
with the attempt to upset the squad car, has been bound
over to the State of Tennessee for possible Grand Jury action.

All of the defendants have waived hearings in
Memphis City Court.

The "Press-Scimitar" newspaper, issue of February 24,
1968, reported that the City of Memphis on February 24, 1968,
obtained in Shelby County Chancery Court an injunction signed
by Chancellor Robert Hoffman against officials of the American
Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFL-CIO),
aimed at preventing any strike activity. The injunction does
not name that the 1,375 Sanitation Department men on strike
will return to work or that they have to return to work but it

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ENCLOSURE

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does mean that they are in violation of the Court by continuing their strike. The story continued that if officials of the union and others named in the injunction participate in any marches or other demonstrations, the City can go into Court and the Chancellor could cite the men for Contempt of Court and jail them for up to ten days.

The injunction obtained by Memphis City attorneys is directed against Local 1733, along with Jerry Wurf, International President; P. J. Ciappa, Field Staff Director; William Macy; Jesse Pope; and Joe Paisley, all of the International Staff. It also includes persons who were originally enjoined in a 1966 injunction obtained in Chancery Court against the same union including Pete Brown, who left the union after unsuccessful attempts to picket the Public Works Department when an injunction was granted in 1966 by William Rosenfield, Acting Chancellor.

Thomas Oliver Jones was also cited in the 1966 injunction, along with Nelson Jones, J. L. McClain, Joe Warren, Booker T. Bonds, Oscar Middleton, Lott Willis, Alvin Turner, James Jordan, Lee Washington, and Peter Parker, all described as agents, representatives and officers of the Union. The injunction's bill cites the August 20, 1966, union activity and adds information about the strike which started two weeks ago and contends that Union officials have been carrying on unlawful acts because of the original injunction. The injunction was issued against engaging in a strike against the city, causing, authorizing or inducing employees to strike against the city, picketing city property, and coercing the city by striking, picketing or other means to recognize the Union as bargaining agent.

The same issue of the paper reported that Reverend James Morris Lawson, Jr., Pastor of the Centenary Methodist Church and one of the strike leaders, stated that the Memphis

N-1 BELGIAN
GERMAN C.F.E.H

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Ministers Alliance plans a massive economic boycott against some downtown stores in an effort to force them to bring pressure to bear on the city of Memphis to end the strike. The paper reported that Jerry ~~X~~ Fanion, Shelby County Community Relations Director, stated that, "The feeling in the Negro community against police use of Mace (on February 23) is high." TENN

The February 25, 1968, issue of the "Commercial Appeal," Memphis, quoted Chancellor Hoffman as saying, "No principle of law is more firmly established than the principle that public employees do not have the right to strike." Chancellor Hoffman also stated that the injunction is binding only on persons named as parties defendant in the injunction order. TENN

Also on February 25, 1968, Captain Ray advised that the ~~X~~ Ministers Alliance, the spokesman of which is Reverend James Morris Lawson, Jr., met late on February 24, 1968, at Mason Temple on Mason Street and planned a boycott of downtown businesses and their outlying branches, along with the two daily newspapers, the "Press-Scimitar" and the ~~X~~ "Commercial Appeal," along with Leob's Laundry and Barbecue stands, a chain operated by William Leob, brother of Mayor Henry Leob of the City of Memphis. TENN

The "Commercial Appeal" issue of February 25, 1968, reported that at Firestone Hall, strike meeting held late on February 24, 1968, Reverend Harold ~~X~~ Middlebrook called for "taking to the streets" in defiance of the injunction and called for the "filling of the jails." TENN At this meeting an undercover Negro officer of the Memphis Police Department was discovered by the strikers, was captured by them, taken to the stage and exhibited to the audience, and his revolver and Mace canister taken from him. He was then led from the Hall and turned over to awaiting police officers outside. Some of the Negro women

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present helped to protect him from strikers who threatened to do him bodily harm. He was not hurt. To date there have been no arrests made in connection with this incident.

On February 25, 1968, Captain Ray advised that Memphis Negro Ministers on February 25, 1968, called for daily marches in support of the strike to commence at 10 a.m., CST, February 26, 1968, in downtown Memphis, this being the first one.

He stated that the police will permit this march but will be forced to make arrests if the marchers violate any of the local laws.

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 Also on the night of February 24, 1968, Captain Ray advised that a reliable individual had received information to the effect that some of the strike leaders, possibly Reverend James Morris Lawson, Jr., who was one of the original founders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) at Shaw College, Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1960 and who has maintained close liaison with SNCC officials since that time, was attempting to bring Stokely Carmichael, renowned black power activist and agitator and former National Chairman of SNCC, to Memphis, Tennessee, to help out with the strike and was urging him to bring 30 or more of his supporters to Memphis to help out with the strike.

Captain Ray stated that it was also learned that Reverend Lawson had sent communications over the weekend of February 24-25, 1968, to some 200 individuals in Memphis and also throughout the United States, urging them to physically come to Memphis and support the strike and to obtain financial support for the strike.

Information received from FBI Headquarters, Washington, D. C., on the night of February 24, 1968, revealed that Stokely Carmichael was last known to be in Los Angeles, California, and would in all probability be

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there over the weekend of February 24-25, 1968, and was scheduled to be in Cincinnati, Ohio, Monday, February 26, 1968, and thereafter would probably go to New York City to help raise funds to support the indicted current SNCC Chairman, H. Rapp Brown.

On the a.m. of February 26, 1968, Captain J. G. Ray, Inspectional Bureau, Memphis Police Department, advised that Reverend James Morris Lawson, Jr., had just advised the Police Department that a march-planning meeting was in progress at Claiborn Temple, AME Church, 280 Hernando; that the march, in support of the strikers, would commence at 11 a.m., February 26, 1968. He stated that the march would proceed west on Beale Street to Main Street and north on Main to Memphis City Hall at Adams and Main, a distance of about one and one-half miles. The marchers, estimated by Reverend Lawson to be 150 in number, will remain on the sidewalks and walk single file on the sidewalks. After reaching City Hall, the marchers will return to Claiborn Temple via the same route.

On February 25 and 26, 1968, sources one through seven, who are familiar with many facets of the strike, the NAACP and the incipient SNCC-oriented black power movement in Memphis, all advised that they have learned of no SNCC people who are coming to Memphis with regard to the strike.

Captain Ray advised that his agency, as well as the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP), has received unverified reports to the effect that two bearded, natural hair-do male Negroes came to Memphis over the weekend of February 24-25, 1968, to meet with Local 1733 President Thomas Oliver Jones and plan to assassinate Mayor Henry Loeb. Jones has moved from Linden Lodge and his current whereabouts is not known. The Memphis Police Department is affording protection to Mayor Loeb.

Captain Ray added that numerous rumors have also been received to the effect that various black powerites and participants in riots in other cities are coming to Memphis to exploit the strike. To date he said these stories are unverified.

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Special Agents of the FBI and representatives of the Memphis Police Department observed approximately 90 to 100 individuals, all Negroes with the exception of a few whites, and about half of whom were carrying placards, leave Claiborn Temple, 280 South Hernando, at approximately 10:50 a.m., February 26, 1968. This group remained on the sidewalk, walked west on Beale Street to Main where they split into two lines, one line walking on the east sidewalk and the other line walking on the west sidewalk, still remaining in single-file order. Some of the placards being carried by the marchers read as follows:

"Stay Away -- No Shopping Today"
"Keep Your Money in Your Pocket"
"Decency and Dignity for Sanitation Workers"
"Jim Crow Must Go"
"King Henry (Loeb), We Will Not Turn Back."

The group proceeded in an orderly fashion north on Main Street, on which is located the predominate number of downtown stores, and arrived at City Hall, located on Main at Adams, shortly prior to noon. At this point the marchers changed positions, the ones on the east side moving to the west side and the ones on the west side moving to the east, following which they returned to Claiborn Temple via the same route, again remaining in single-file position.

The march was led by Baxton Bryant, Executive Director of the Tennessee Council on Human Relations, a private organization which has interested itself in various racial disputes in Tennessee during the past few years. Accompanying Bryant was Reverend James Morris Lawson, Jr., Pastor of the Centenary Methodist Church, Memphis, a Negro male.

TENN

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The only known young black power member or advocate was observed to be Samuel Carter, a LeMoyne College student, who has been identified by source one as one of the small group of Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) oriented group at LeMoyne College.

Approximately 20 to 25 of the marchers were women; others appeared to be teenagers and from dress and mannerisms obviously were not sanitation workers. **TENN**

Preceding and during the march, some of the participants passed out handbills, stating that the objective of the march was to obtain "justice and jobs" and urged the reader to stay away from all downtown stores and their outlying branches; to stay away from all establishments connected with members of the City Council; and to stay away from any business with the name "Loeb" on it. It urged the reader to purchase no new clothes for Easter and to cancel the reader's subscriptions to the "Commercial Appeal" and "Press-Scimitar," the two daily newspapers in Memphis owned by the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain. It urged the reader to not even read the paper. It further urged the reader to attend nightly mass meetings which would be held indefinitely. It instructed all marchers to be peaceful and nonviolent and to ignore hecklers. It instructed them that if they were arrested they did not have to say anything other than to furnish their names, addresses, and ages, and reminded them that they were entitled to ask for a lawyer.

This bulletin announced that future mass meetings would be held as follows:

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Monday, February 26, 1968,
7:30 p.m. at Claiborn Temple.

Tuesday, February 27, 1968,
7:30 p.m. at St. Paul Baptist Church,
McLemore at Greenwood.

Wednesday, February 28, 1968,
7:30 p.m. at St. James AME Church,
600 North Fourth.

REVEREND JAMES MORRIS LAWSON

On May 9, 1967, source eight advised that on a WHBQ-TV panel discussion on Sunday, April 30, 1967, Reverend James Morris Lawson, Jr., Negro male, Pastor of the Centenary Methodist Church, Memphis, and who has been a leader in April, 1967, demonstrations in Memphis opposing United States policy in Vietnam, was asked by Panelist Clark Porteous, "Press-Scimitar" Reporter, if he, Lawson, was a Communist. Lawson replied that he was not a member of the Communist Party, but he felt that the Communist program had many good points and much to offer the United States.

The first source advised that Reverend James Morris Lawson was one of the original founders of SNCC in 1960 and has since that time been considered as a leader in so-called nonviolent tactics, and source recalled that constantly during April, May, June, and July, 1967, Lawson regularly participated as a leader in demonstrations in Memphis opposing United States policy in Vietnam.

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As recently as February 23, 1968, source one advised that Lawson was preparing to make a trip to Czechoslovakia, a Communist country. On the same date, source nine advised that Lawson had stated on that date that he planned to leave the United States at New York, New York, March 28, 1968, to go to Belgium, Germany, and the Prague, Czechoslovakia, where he would be a delegate to a Christian Peace Conference. The date of the Conference is not known but was presumed by source nine to be probably in late March or early April, 1968.

The pertinent information regarding the planning of the march and other details set forth here in detail were orally furnished to William Bray, 111th Military Intelligence, Memphis, and to Captain J. G. Ray, Inspectional Bureau, Memphis Police Department.

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This confirms information furnished orally to Mr. Albert C. Handen, Interdivision Information Unit on 2/26/68.



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**Memphis, Tennessee
February 26, 1968**

**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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