



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Houston, Texas

December 19, 1963

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT; INFORMATION
FURNISHED BY MRS. LULU BENNETT,
HOUSTON, TEXAS, ABOUT INCIDENT
AT TESTIMONIAL DINNER FOR
CONGRESSMAN ALBERT THOMAS,
NOVEMBER 21, 1963, HOUSTON, TEXAS

On December 19, 1963 Mrs. Lulu Bennett, 5317
Griggs Road, Houston, Texas, advised as follows.

On the evening of November 21, 1963 she attended the testimonial dinner for Congressman Albert Thomas at the Houston Coliseum, Houston, Texas, sitting in the unreserved section at the rear of the coliseum near the organ. Seated to her right was, for a while, a white man, and the second and third seats to her right were occupied by two Negro men. Before the introduction of the guests, the white man left and did not return. After his departure, she heard someone behind her say "It's one hell of a mess." On looking around she observed a white man in some type of minister's habit. This man repeated "It's one hell of a mess" and then spoke to the Negro in the second seat from her.

The only conversation she could hear was when the Negro said "Yeah, you can depend on me."

When the guests were being introduced, shortly after this, everyone in the coliseum, with the exception of the Negro man, rose and gave the persons introduced a standing ovation. When President Kennedy was introduced and the Negro did not stand, the Negro to his right told him to stand, whereon he answered "I don't want to."

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The Negro man then remained in his seat until President Kennedy began his speech, at which time he got up and walked out. This is the last she saw of the man during the evening.

She advised that at the time this was going on, she observed two men dressed in business suits, who appeared to be officers, standing by the organ. She advised these men kept their eyes on the Negro all during this time.

Mrs. Bennett advised that sitting to her left was a friend of hers who went to the dinner with her and who did not hear any of the above because her interest was directed elsewhere.