

Thursday pk 44-38861

Dear Jim, C.A.75-1996: Invaders; Compliance; WFO missing 10/8/77

MFO#157-1067, the main Invaders file, Serial 2055 is the last record by date, in fact as delivered to me, and is classic FBI practise of Orwell, as to a degree I spell out. The reason for noting WFO is that while numerous political records are noted with copies to the Washington Field Office, this is one case in which I'm pretty sure FBI HQ made at least a call there to see what they knew and had on file. WFO has been a political-file adjunct of HQ for very long. An example of sure forwarding in this part of the Memphis files is Serial 2027.

One has to presume that NYFO did not inform MFO and that the response was sent to HQ prior to MFO knowing the contents of the story rather than the wire service condensation.

Or we presume that the wire service copy provided more means of appearing to deny and refute what is in no sense refuted and is confirmed.

The stories were facsimiled to MFO. I'm not checking to see when because it is not worth the time.

The story appeared Sunday, the wire copy was on the wire Saturday night. I do not believe that nobody in the FBI waited until Monday, the second day after the FBI had the wire copy, to make any inquiries. Les had been in touch with DJ and with Jensen and Holloman, so there is every reason to believe the HQ knew in advance of the coming story.

Correction: the wire copy says it was on the wire p.m. 1/31. But the basic situation is as above, with the direction to send to Memphis undated. Notes at the bottom of it are illegible.

It required until 1:38 Memphis time, an hour after that in Washington, for the teletype to be sent 2/1 - and then in code of all things!

At the bottom of page 1 there is reference to the five "informants" the MFO was "operating...who were furnishing information regarding extremist activities at Memphis." That "none of these informants was on a policy making level is utterly immaterial."

This clearly refers to only numbered informants. And it omits those who were designated as "criminal" informants who provided Invader and related information. I have the records.

What the FBI means by "policy" one can only guess but its sources provided all kinds of internal records, including financial, organizational and other purely internal and unpublished records.

The limitation to this formulation of "informant" eliminates many other sources of the FBI, of whom and which I have records. Some of the reports cite 10 or perhaps more.

That only on FBI informant was an Invader member is meaningless. Others were connected and informed the FBI, as did the MPD's.

Whether McCullough, not named on page 2, could "formulate policy" is immaterial. He was always with the Invaders and had much input. Any one of them or their associates could have prompted the 3/28/68 violence. My information, prior to these stories, is that McC. did do this. The FBI would lie if it knew but it is obvious that it has no authentication of whether or not he or the other "sources" cited at the top of p.3 did anything. This is limited to turning the Invaders against King at the top of p.3. That is not the same as suggesting or contributing to the violence.

That the MFO never "publicly" reported agents within the Invaders or that they had sources inside also is immaterial. Les did not say this. He did say that Jensen, no longer in the FBI but retired, confirmed it. What he did say is neither addressed nor refuted.

Last graf p. 2 can be used out of context. The right context is that Les reported it and that it was publicly reported at the time of the assassination - in the papers.

Page 3 fails to report what was in the files, that there was at least one other policeman undercover and on the inside, after McCullough was exposed at the least. In saying McC. was no longer with MPD the MFO fails to say where he was working for federal government.

The FBI anywhere has no way of knowing that the (names obliterated) four of the five finks it admits did not "advocate riots" or take part in the "planning." Who said the Invaders "planned" what happened 3/28/68?

Even the wire copy does not quote Les as saying FBI "special agents" had penetrated the Invaders. So the MFO confirms even this part of his story. It admits four penetrations. Or, nothing refuted. astily.