

Research Notes

Jay McKnight

Source: Lt. Arkin Report . This is a Report submitted by Lt. E. H. Arkin of the Intelligence Section of the Inspectional Bureau of the MPD.

Submitted to Mr. Frank Holloman, Director of Fire and Police.

Title: Civil Disorders(February 12 Through April 16, 1968)

1. Redditt & Richmond surveillance & Report

- 2/13 Redditt Union Hall Mtg. p. 3
2/14 Redditt, p. 5
2/16, Redditt SS Union Hall, p. 5
2/16, Redditt, p. 6
2/17, Redditt & Richmond, p. 7
2/19, Redditt & Richmond Mtg. Union Hall w/ Jerry Wurf,
p. 7
2/20, Redditt & Richmond, Mtg. Union Hall, p. 8
2/21/, Redditt & Richmond re: Mtg. Union Hall, p. 9
2/22, Redditt & Richmond re: SS mtg. City Hall, p. 10
2/23, Redditt & Richmond re: Mtg. Union Hall, p. 11

2/ 23 Richmond, re: report on the mtg. of the Committee
on Public Works of the City Council

Note: p. 18 Report notes that ptlmn. Louis McKay as undercover spy at the Union Hall mtgs. was recognized and manhandled by the crowd. This occurred on Feb, 24th, a day after the macing incident. See that evening when informers were told to leave mtg. held at Mason temple. p. 8 Clear that COME/Strikers felt they were now at war with the city govt. and would tolerate no more spying on their activities.

This reported by Richmond who was at the Temple and who was recognized by some in the crowd. p. 18 (read carefully)

2/28 Redditt, re: report protest marchers and City Council Mtg. p. 20

2/28 Richmond, re: Mtg. at St. Paul's Baptist Church.

Note: At this mtg. reported that Kyles complained about police sur, and said " . . . it is a race issue(now]and we are at war.", p 21

2/28, Richmond, re: mass mtg. at St. James A.M.E. Church,
p. 21

2/29, Richmond & Redditt, re: mass mtg. at Pisgah Church,
p. 22. Notes the harrassment arrest of Fanion and Harris and Holloman dismissal of charges, p.22

3/3, Redditt, re: report on mtg. Parkway Gardens Presbyterian Church. Notes that Rev. Bell tolerated Redditt but was not happy having him at the mtg., p. 24

3/4 Redditt report: mtg. at A>M>E> Church, p. 24

3/4 , Richmond re: report mass mtg. at Eastern Star Church where Richmond picked up literature handed out by John Smith.

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Re: Arkin Report

p. 29 Notes Rsetta Miller threat to Redditt not to attend the mtg. at the Clayborn Temple. Expressed her disgust w/Redditt because he gave testimony before Chancellor Robert Hoffman who issued an injunction against the sanitation workers strike. The COME ministers had a belly full of Redditt and his spying.

Miller also accosted Richmond outside the Temple that same evening. p, 29. (good stuff)

p. 29 Good stuff on use of youth in created protest. Check w/ Blackburn testimony in MSU stuff.

p. 33 sample of MPD squad car sur. of youth marchers. See also Blackburn on this tactic by police.

3/13, Redditt, re: report on pep rally at Clayborn Temple by Rev. Bell., p. 35

Note: Check incidents of valdalism and rising tempers over dates March 10-17th. . . Before Lawson decided to ask King to come to Mempis in the Arkin report. See p. 36 for example

3/18, Redditt, re: report on MLK's speech at Mason Temple Redditt est. the crowd at 13,000., p. 38

p. 41 a phone threat against King to Memphis radio station.

3/21/ Reditt, re: report on Union COME mtg. at Mt. Oliive Church., p. 42

Note: Idea of whether vandalism and other acts directed against property and city govt. officials,etc. dropped off after King's march 18 promise to return^r to Memphis.

3/25, Redditt re: mtg. of strike leaders mtg. at Clayborn Temple, p. 45

Note: p. 45 cites that pres. of black insurance firm in Memphis closing on March 28th to allow employees to attend the march. Same with black restauranteers who ran the chain called Harlem Houses.

p. 47 intelligence infor. recounts MLK's schedule for the March 28th demonstration.

p. 48ff Arkin reports on the early violence at Hamilton HS. (go over) pp. 48 to 54

p. 59 metion mader of the April 1st phone threat

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Re: Arking Report

King's life when he returned to Memphis. Helen Perkins was the woman who took the call.

p. 60 mentions Rosetta Miller threat on Redditt. Is this the 2nd threat made by Miller? It appears so in chronology.

p. 61 notes that Larry Payne funeral attended by thousands of strikers and strike sympathizers.

p. 61 MPD intelligence about mtg, of Invaders and King aides. This was from either "Max" or "Bill" reporting to Arkin

pp. 64 King arriv. in Memphis. Accounts of shaking off any MPD protection.

p. 65 Mass mtg. at Mason Temple on April 3 to hear King, Redditt and Richmond were in the audience. Before King spoke Lawson addressed the audience of 2000 and charged that Larry Payne was murdered by police and that there were two MPD officers in the audience--at which point Richmond and Redditt left. Notes that Ms. Thomas T. Matthews made threat on Redditt at airport earlier that evening when he arrived to pick up King and party. ***

p.66 Story about a threat against Redditt that came in to the fire station where he was spying on King and party. After the call Redditt was removed???

p. 66 mentions an outside report(FBI)that RAM had made threat against Redditt. Clear on this page that Redditt was spying on King at Lorraine to see who was coming and going into his room.

pp. 67 description of the shooting of King. Richmond calls in the report at 6:01.

Remainer of Report deals w/ aftermath of the assassination. Nothing that is needed. Except on last page of Summary. one of the points is that Mace was effective, etc.