

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (157-1067) DATE: 7/10/69

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: INVADERS
RM

INFO RE FUGITIVE JOHN CHARLES SMITH

JOHN LEE PARKS, MICHAEL J. STARKS, and WILLIE T. HARRIS all may be hiding him.

- 1 - 157-1067
- 1 - 157-1168 - Racial Situation, Tenn.
- 1 - 170-70-SUB [REDACTED]
- 1 - 170-1040-SUB [REDACTED]
- 1 - 170-New [REDACTED]
- 1 - 170-1191 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1626 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1765 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 170-1190-SUB [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1312 (Black Knights)
- 1 - 157-1292 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-2091 (Committee for Peaceful Co-existence, Forrest City, Ark.)
- 1 - 157-1647 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1548 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-166 (SCLC)
- 1 - 100-4528 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-2112 (Black Arcade)
- 1 - 157-1518 (Black Student Association)
- 1 - 170-1068 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 66-1687-SUB A (Dissemination)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

WHL:cjs
(20)

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157-1067-1381

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Handwritten initials

BASIS FOR ORIGINAL INTEREST IN JOHN LEE PARKS, aka,
"PARKER"

In April, 1969, [redacted] furnished writer with copies of a photo taken on or about 4/21/69 at the Black Student Association (BSA) Office, Student Center, Memphis State University (MSU) depicting one (FNU) PARKER wearing BSA sweatshirt and blue denim jacket who, informant said, works at U.S. Post Office; MSU student, MELVIN SMITH, Minister of African Culture, Invaders; RONALD LOUIS IVY, summer of 1968 chairman of Black Organizing Project (BOP); JAMES E. MOCK of BSA; and JAMES EDWARD POPE of BSA and Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). Later in June, 1969, [redacted] said this was "BIN PARKER", driver of a white Oldsmobile Toronado, who works at the Post Office.

[redacted] on 6/26/69, advised that the person in the photo was JOHN PARKER, driver of a white Toronado, who works at Brooks Road Annex of the U. S. Post Office.

On 6/26/69 [redacted] advised that since 6/4/69 shooting of FREDDIE PRUITT and ROSETTA WEBB by Invader JOHN CHARLES SMITH, he had seen "PARKER" riding SMITH in his Oldsmobile Toronado, and that "PARKER" used to date a girl who worked at White Star Cleaners on South Fourth Street. Informant stated that on the night of 6/20/69, the Memphis PD stopped the Toronado near Fourth and Beale Streets looking for JOHN CHARLES SMITH and on 6/21/69, Invader and Black Knight MICHAEL JEROME STARKS said JOHN CHARLES had, on 6/26/69, been taken by unidentified individuals to Jackson, Tennessee, for hiding. (Note, this information passed on to E. D. ALDERSON, Chief of Detectives, Jackson, Tenn., PD, eve of 6/21/69 by SA ROBERT T. MORAN.

[redacted] added that "PARKER" used to attend Owen College in 1967-68 school year, worked on the Owen College Yearbook, and was not known to be active in the Invaders.

On 7/2/69 [redacted] advised that PARKER, whose real name, he said, was PARKS, used to date ERMA CLANTON, a female Negro drama and speech teacher at Melrose High School, who was going to teach at MSU. (On 7/3/69, Dr. C. C. HUMPHREYS, President, MSU, advised MSU had considered hiring CLANTON but had not as yet done so and, if he could prevail, would not do so.)

ATTENDED MSU, 1968 and 1969

On 7/3/69, [REDACTED] VSU (protect identity), furnished a copy of MSU transcript of JOHN LEE PARKS, Social Security No. [REDACTED] legal and home address 1449 Alcy, Memphis, Tennessee, 38106, reflecting the following:

Mother	Mrs. MATTIE PARKS
DOB	8/9/40
POB	Memphis, Tennessee
Admitted to MSU	Summer semester, 1968 as "Term Special" student
Grade information	Failed German, failed "Sociology and Man", got "C" in Soc. IV, "Sociology and Man", failed Stagecraft. Attended fall 1968 and took German, Logic, Religion, Social Work and Stagecraft but did not complete semester and withdrew. Attended spring semester of 1969 and took elementary German - failed; took Criminology and failed; took Method of Social Work and failed. Now classified "Academic Deficiency" and not eligible to attend summer school. He attended Owen College January, 1964 to June, 1968. School records show he has a white Oldsmobile, Tennessee license BK2964, but county records show this license for a Mustang.

[REDACTED] did not know PARKS.

This record is being retained in the 1-A section of 170- (JOHN LEE PARKS).

BUDDY OF WILLIE T. HARRIS AND MICHAEL J. STARKS

On 7/3/69, [REDACTED] said that it definitely appeared, based on current information furnished and past information already reported regarding JOHN CHARLES SMITH who is currently a PD Homicide Bureau fugitive, that MICHAEL JEROME STARKS, WILLIE THOMAS HARRIS (of Apt. 21, Linden at Harley), and possibly PARKS are the "key" to SMITH's whereabouts.

JOHN C. SMITH STAYING WITH PROSTITUTE ON PONTOTOC STREET

Note, on 7/1/69, [REDACTED] advised that he had learned from MICHAEL STARKS and WILLIE T. HARRIS that HARRIS is separated from his wife on Mahannah Street and he is now living at Turley and Linden. He stated they "run" with black prostitutes at an old house, 3rd or 4th door east of Danny Thomas Boulevard, which has a telephone sign in front, which is where JOHN C. SMITH was staying about 2 weeks ago. It is not known if SMITH is still there.

[REDACTED] stated that MICHAEL STARKS said he had been to Forrest City, Arkansas, to see Invader Chairman LANCE WATSON who, with other Invaders, is working on Committee for Peaceful Co-existence project there, and that MICHAEL resented the recent PD interview of STARKS by Patrolman MARRELL McCOLLOUGH and Det. JERRY C. DAVIS. MICHAEL claimed to have taken a trip to St. Louis, Missouri, over the weekend of 6/29/69 but he did not elaborate. [REDACTED] added that MICHAEL STARKS spends a lot of time at the home of a Mrs. SPENCER, female Negro beautician at Black Knight Chairman WARREN LEWIS's barber shop. SPENCER lives at 2345 Chelsea, telephone 278-9867, and STARKS runs around with her son, FLOYD SPENCER.

This information was given to Det. JERRY C. DAVIS of the Intelligence Division of the Memphis PD.

7/1/69 INTERVIEW OF STARKS

On 7/1/69, STARKS was interviewed by SA's HOWELL S. LOWE and writer, as well as Det. JERRY C. DAVIS and Patrolman AL EMBRY of the Intelligence Bureau of the Memphis PD. STARKS denied knowledge regarding the whereabouts of JOHN CHARLES SMITH and he stated he figured he went back to California. (Details set forth in a separate memo regarding STARKS).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is convinced that MICHAEL is "fishing" but that he is suspicious and he "threw out" the information regarding SMITH being in Chicago as "bait".

[REDACTED]

7/2/69 PD RAID ON PONTOTOC APARTMENTS AND WILLIE AND HARRIS

As a result of information furnished by [REDACTED] on 7/2/69 Det. [REDACTED] said he would have PD Special Services squad "hit" the address on Pontotoc and HARRIS' apartment early a.m. of 7/3/69 in an effort to locate SMITH.

Later on 7/3/69, [REDACTED] said the PD had "hit" HARRIS' apartment, #21, at Linden and Turley, and had hit 500-502 Pontotoc but did not find SMITH. They later saw HARRIS at or near 516 Pontotoc and he claimed he had gone to see a girl in apartment 5 but was evasive. The PD checked apartment 5, 516 Pontotoc and found a young Negro girl, JEANETTE JONES, who said she lived there with one IDELLA THOMAS but THOMAS was not there. The PD, in searching for JOHN C. SMITH, found a chest of new clothes, all labels removed, obviously fruit of a shoplifting venture. Neighbors, identities not known to [REDACTED] told PD officers that JOHN CHARLES SMITH had been staying at apt. 5, 516 Pontotoc, but was no longer there.

Later, around 1:00 p.m., 7/3/69, [REDACTED] called to say he had been accosted by JOHN LEE PARKS and that PARKS was mad and accused him of leaking a photo of PARKS in a BSA sweatshirt which had been taken at the BSA office, MSU, in April, 1969. He claimed a Negro girl had seen it and "showed it to him" and told him it was taken at MSU and that she, or someone not identified, had paid \$15 for it.

[REDACTED] said this whole crew, who have been hiding or helping JOHN CHARLES SMITH, is awfully suspicious and he urged caution in future inquiries, particularly regarding certain photos.

RECORD AT U.S. POST OFFICE AND PERSONAL HISTORY
RE JOHN LEE PARKS

On 7/1/69, [REDACTED] U.S. Post Office, Memphis, furnished for review (protect identity) the file of JOHN LEE PARKS, formerly thought to be PARKER, which reflected the following:

Social Security #	[REDACTED]
Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Employment	Currently employed as mail handler, Brooks Road Annex, U.S. Post Office, 1894 East Brooks Road, on 4-12:30 p.m. shift
DOB	8/9/40
POB	Memphis, Tennessee
Height	6'1 1/2"
Weight	150
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Military service	Was in US. Army, SN RA [REDACTED] from 1/22/59 to 6/26/62, as infantryman; honorable discharge
Residence	1449 Alcy Road Memphis, Tennessee
Education	Graduate Hamilton High School, 6/4/56. attended Owen College, Memphis, 3/63 - 7/64 and 9/64 - 12/3/64
Prior work	Caddy, Windyke Country Club, Memphis, 6/58 to 1/59; 7/64 to 9/64, Shoppers' Garage, Front Street; 6/62 to 2/63 unemployed.
Prior residences	8/40 - 7/54 - 2424 LaPaloma, Memphis; 7/54 to 9/58, 1448 Alcy Road, Memphis; 9/58 to 1/59, 2424 LaPaloma, Memphis; 1/22/59 to 6/26/62, U.S. Army; 6/62 to 12/3/64, 1449 Alcy Road, Memphis.

The records show he entered on duty at the U.S. Post Office, Memphis, 12/5/64 and has been there since. He started as a sub mail handler and worked at Butler Annex in 1967.

The file shows a complaint from Dixie Finance Company 6/23/69 charging PARKS was delinquent in payments on a television mortgage and he was warned by the Post Office 4/16/69 for "excessive absenteeism". His current title is Mail Handler, Group Leader, Tour 3.

On 7/1/69, [REDACTED] Brooks Road Annex, U.S. Post Office, advised that PARKS has been absent the last 2 1/2 weeks, is excessively absent, abuses sick leave, does not work too hard, is argumentative, and did have a red Mustang but now drives a white Oldsmobile Toronado, a very expensive car. He did attend MSU.

The 1968-69 MSU Directory lists one JOHN LEE PARKS, a junior student, no street address, telephone 946-3506, which telephone number is shown by the Criss Cross Directory to be issued to Elder WILL H. QUINN, 1454 Alcy. On 7/2/69, the writer called this number. Mrs. QUINN said that PARKS, MSU student and Post Office employee who drives a 1966 Oldsmobile Toronado, lives with his mother across the street at 1449 Alcy and gets messages at QUINN's home. She said she had not seen him in nearly a week.

On the eve of 7/3/69, PARKS called the writer and agreed to come in for an interview at 3:00 p.m., Thursday, 7/3/69.

[REDACTED] IDENTIFIES PARKER'S CAR

Note: on a.m., 7/1/69, [REDACTED] called the writer and said he had ascertained the license number on the white Toronado in which he had seen "PARKER", JOHN LEE PARKS, riding JOHN CHARLES SMITH since 6/4/69. He stated this number is BK 2964, Shelby County, Tennessee. No license plate is on the front and instead the front bumper has a plate reading "Soul Brother". He said PARKS used to have a Red Mustang and he likes to "run around with the girls". He has an MSU sticker on the rear bumper.

On 7/3/69, MARIE LITTLE, Shelby County Court Clerk's Office, Memphis, said BK 2964 is shown as being registered for a 1964 Ford Mustang in the name of JOHN LEE PARKS, 1449 Alcy Road, Memphis. There is no record of this license being transferred to an Oldsmobile.

PD RECORD OF JOHN LEE PARKS

On 7/2/69, Det. [REDACTED] furnished the PD record of JOHN LEE PARKS concerning his arrest [REDACTED] showing that JOHN LEE PARKS, DOB 8/9/40, Male Negro, residence 1449 Alcy Road, was arrested 6/20/69 at 4:30 p.m. He listed his occupation as mail

WT 157-1067

handler, Postal employee. He was arrested on a complaint of EDNA DAVIS, of 400 Foote Park Apartments #D, residence phone 527-5587, charged with "assault and battery". He appeared in Division II, City Court, at 9:00 a.m., 6/21/69 and fined \$20. The following is the narrative of offense: "We arrested this person on a warrant sworn by the above stated complainant", signed W. L. GRAVES, IBM # 30011 and R. J. SANDERS, IBM # 7759, car W-3. No further details are available.

[redacted] also checked the traffic records and found Police record # [redacted] dated 6/27/68 wherein JOHN L. PARKS, 1449 Alcy Road, Business - U.S. Post Office, drivers license #3C74491, DOB 8/9/40, unlawfully operating an auto, a 1966 Oldsmobile Toronado, by "obstructing traffic", in violation of Section 23-2213, City Code. He did not elaborate.

7/3/69 INTERVIEW WITH JOHN LEE PARKS

On the afternoon of 7/3/69, SA's HOWELL S. LOWE and WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE interviewed JOHN LEE PARKS, who came to the FBI Office after being called by SA LAWRENCE in care of his aunt, Mrs. WILL QUINN, telephone 946-3506, residence 1454 Alcy Road.

He furnished the following background information:

Name	JOHN LEE PARKS
DOB	8/9/40
POB	Memphis, Tennessee
Residence	1449 Alcy Road, in care of mother, MATTIE PARKS
Employment	Since 1964 as mail handler at U.S. Post Office, step 5, Brooks Road Annex, 1894 East Brooks Road, Memphis. He is a union representative or "shop steward" affiliated with National Association of Post Office Mail Handlers and Group Leaders, AFL-CIO
Military service	Infantryman, Private, U.S. Army, January, 1959 to 6/21/62; honorable discharge, SN RA [redacted]
Graduate	Hamilton High School
Marital status	Single, never married

Education

Attended Owen Junior College, Memphis, off and on from 1964 to May, 1968, graduated from Owen in 5/68 (claims he was on the Dean's List at Owen). He entered MSU 6/68 and attended summer of 1968, failing most courses. Started fall, 1968, but dropped out. Attended spring, 1968, but failed all courses and currently ineligible to re-enroll due to "academic deficiency". Plans to enroll in LeMoyne Owen College Fall, 1969, under G.I. Bill.

He works the 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., shift at the Post Office loading and unloading bulk mail. He claims that for the past 3 weeks he has been on sick and annual leave but plans to return to work Saturday, 7/5/69. He said he "hated" working at the Post Office and there is no future and he does not like some racist bosses but said this was not a big issue with him. He said he could not adjust from Owen, a small all black school, to MSU, a large school, that he asked too many questions in class and he thinks some professors resented this. But he stated that in all fairness he simply did not comprehend the work and failed. He wants to get into public relations or teaching and said he is averse to local law enforcement and feels they "over police" the black areas. He said they use the PD helicopter indiscriminately at night, using the spotlight to light up black areas, and this scares little children. Paradoxically, he then said the police should saturate the "blue light" area of Beale, Hernando, Fourth, and Linden and run out all the black prostitutes, dope peddlers, pimps and leeches who prey on ignorant and thrill seekers, taking their money and corrupting their morals.

He said he owned a white 1966 Oldsmobile Toronado, Tennessee license BK2964, and it is currently being repaired at Cross Holiday Gulf Station with a damaged side, and also, someone had stolen parts from under the hood.

RE: JOHN CHARLES SMITH - MICHAEL JEROME STARKS, ET AL

PARKS admitted knowing JOHN CHARLES SMITH, stating he had met him in April, 1969, at a Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Training Session for marshals for 4/4/69 memorial march for MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. They trained at Clayborn Temple.

He said that JOHN C. SMITH and other Invaders argued with SCLC leaders and said they would not participate in the march. He said that he, PARKS, who works a 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. shift, frequently drives to Beale-Hernando area after work and goes to Culpepper's Bar-b-cue or various downtown night spots. He said that his 1966 white Toronado makes a hit with the "Beal Street dudes" and they all want to ride in his car. He frequently gives both strangers and acquaintances lifts in the car. He denied knowingly riding JOHN CHARLES SMITH in his car since 6/4/69 but he would not categorically deny riding SMITH. He said he frequently rides MICHAEL JEROME STARKS in his car, who is about the same build as JOHN C. SMITH but lighter skinned. He claimed he did not know MICHAEL's friend, WILLIE T. HARRIS, by name. He said MICHAEL was smart, likeable, and associated with Invaders and Black Knights, but he denied any pertinent knowledge. He said he first became well acquainted with MICHAEL about a month ago in one of the downtown Harem House Cafes. He frequently sees MICHAEL at Epstein's Pawn Shop on Beale where both MICHAEL and PARKS loaf.

He claimed that several PD squad cars have followed or stopped him (PARKS) recently looking for JOHN CHARLES SMITH.

PEOPLE WHO USE TORONADO

PARKS said that he has let a lot of people drive or borrow his car in recent weeks. He said one who has driven it is JOHN FORD, male Negro, about 29 years old, who lives on Charlotte Road and works at the Illinois Central Railroad.

Also, he said some "girls" have recently driven his car. When pressed for details, he said one was "COOKIE", who he did not want to further describe; that another was GLORIA THOMAS, a welfare mother who lives in the 500 block of Pontotoc. (Note, information from Det. [redacted] above, shows a THOMAS at apt. 5, 516 Pontotoc, where JOHN C. SMITH reportedly recently lived.) He said he frequently dates THOMAS and seemed reluctant to further talk in this regard.

RE: BLACK ARCADE

PARKS said he had recently visited the Black Arcade, 241 Linden, an outlet for tailor-made dashikis, black art, black jewelry and paintings. He said he had seen MICHAEL J. STARKS there.