

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-1067)

DATE: 9/13/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT, aka
Invaders
RM

On 9/5/68 [redacted] orally advised SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE as follows:

On 9/4/68 JOY FINSTON, white female, of New Orleans, Louisiana, a staff writer for "Southern Patriot," official publication of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc. (SCEF), described by informant as a communist front headed by CARL and ANNE BRADEN of Louisville, Kentucky, came by bus to Memphis from New Orleans. She spent the night of 9/4/68 with Attorney and Mrs. MARVIN RATNER of the law firm of MARVIN RATNER, RUSSELL B. SUGARMON, JR., ARCHIE W. WILLIS, JR., and LOUIS LUCAS, Commerce Title Building.

She was seeking photographs of the recent 8/14-17/68 annual Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) convention, held in Memphis. She specifically sought out interviews with Invaders, the militant cell of Black Organizing Project (BOP), and was taken to the joint Invaders and Neighborhood Organizing Project (NOP) Field Office, 1310 Florida.

There, on 9/4/68, she interviewed NOP Field Coordinator WILLIE "SCOOP" ROGERS and NOP Volunteer JOHN HENRY FERGUSON, both of whom are leading Invaders. She discussed with them the 8/16/68 controversy of

- 1-157-1067
- 1-170-70-Sub - [redacted]
- 1-157-556 - Possible Racial Violence, Major Urban Areas
- 1-100-92 - SCEF
- 1-157-953 - Black Power Infiltration of WOPC & NOP
- 1-157-1349 - [redacted]
- 1-100-4528 - [redacted]
- 1-157-1125 - [redacted]

WHL:wp
(8)

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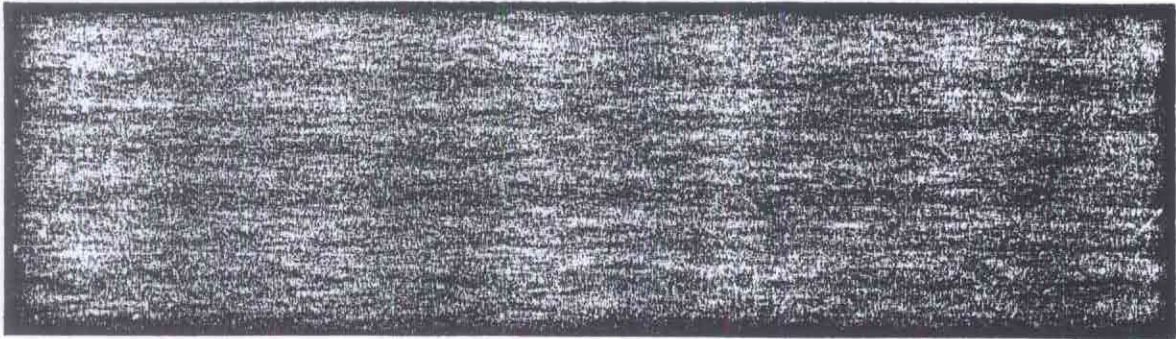
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Invaders with SCLC. They explained to her that at the SCLC convention Rev. ANDREW J. YOUNG, Executive Vice President, SCLC, had accused the Invaders of inciting the 3/28/68 race riot in Memphis which culminated in the 4/4/68 sniping death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and therefore placed blame for KING's death on the Invaders. FERGUSON claimed, "We helped build the sanitation strike and helped solve it and KING, while in Memphis, March and April 1968, promised us much financial help." He added, "We (Invaders) also helped establish and run SCLC's Resurrection City in Washington, D. C., and SCLC didn't live up to its promises to us." FERGUSON and ROGERS said they resented YOUNG's accusations and for this reason tried to disrupt the SCLC convention.

ROGERS told FINSTON that Invaders might start a series of rent strikes among Negro poor who lived in sub-standard housing. He told her NOP was ceasing to pay rent at 1310 Florida, which Invaders had also been using for their headquarters, and that Invaders would not leave; that they would pull a "sit in" and insist on keeping the building "rent free." ROGERS claimed Invaders had painted the building and put up wood paneling. He said an Alperin family, with offices in the 1300 block on Poplar, owned the building and was renting the building to someone else.

FINSTON said she would leave Memphis 9/5/68 en route to Louisville, Kentucky, to see CARL and ANNE BRADEN. She did, however, contact CHARLES L. CABBAGE on the night of 9/4/68. Results of contact are not known.

She told [REDACTED] that none of SCEF people went to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago or to the third annual Black Power conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



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INFO RE HOWARD'S HOUSE OF PLAQUES

Informant added that an African art shop is being operated by HOWARD GRIFFIN, male Negro, teacher in Memphis Public School System. He makes tikis and made some for Invaders. He is making others for various Negro High School groups putting high school insignias thereon.