

1/21/65

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (44-1)

ATTN: CRIME RECORDS DIVISION &
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

~~WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE,~~
HARTSELLE, ALABAMA
FREE-LANCE WRITER

Re JN airtel 10/20/64.

HUIE called at the Jackson Office approximately 9:30 a.m., 1/21/65. His previous visits are set forth in the airtel of reference and [redacted] airtel of 7/27/64. (b)(7)(c)

HUIE advises beginning 4/15/65 45 newspapers throughout the U.S. will begin a series of 16 articles, each approximately 1,200 words long, which will be alleged excerpts from his forthcoming book "Three Lives for Mississippi." As the Bureau was previously advised, HUIE had received a \$40,000 advance for a 70,000 word book dealing with the three murdered civil rights workers in Mississippi.

The purpose of HUIE's visit to the Jackson Office of the FBI was to offer several chapters of his book for review. Mr. HUIE was advised we had no desire to review his book. While he did not state, [redacted] feel his purpose in offering the book for review was self-serving. He states there is nothing derogatory concerning the FBI in the book but that he is going to stick as close to the truth as possible as concerns incidents involving the victims and (b)(7)(c)

- 3 - Bureau
- 2 - Jackson
- (1 - 80-0)

(5) [redacted]
- AIRTEL [redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

(b)(7)(c)

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED _____
INDEXED _____
FILED _____

(b)(7)(c) [redacted]

44-1-7930

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members of the local and state law enforcement agencies involved. HUIE has always frankly admitted he is a dramatist, fiction writer and that he "takes more license than the average writer." HUIE advised he had purchased portrayal rights from [REDACTED]. He stated the worse thing that could happen to the movie rights (he inferred he had sold them to MGM) would be that some of the defendants would be convicted of murder which would make them eligible for portrayal rights. He states, however, he frankly doubts this will ever happen. (b)(7)(c)

HUIE states he is going to portray SCHWERNER as a boy who had latent suicidal tendencies and that the reason he exposed himself to dangerous situations was a combination of those tendencies and bad judgment. He expects criticism from the "left" as well as from the State of Mississippi. He is going to state that he has every reason to believe that the two Miss. Highway Safety Patrolmen and their immediate superior had full knowledge of the arrest of the three victims and that he doubts they held it unto themselves but passed it to their superiors, thus, making it the responsibility of the top officials of the MHSP to have taken action. He is going to state that SCHWERNER and those like him have rendered no service but have been a hindrance to the Negro's progress in the South. He is going to compare the "beatniks" to reputable members of the NAACP and explain how the "kooks" have to be eliminated from the rights movement. He stated he has had conversations with [REDACTED] (b)(7)(c)

[REDACTED] and all agreed that the movement in Mississippi and elsewhere had to rid itself of the "kooks." He stated in conversations with [REDACTED] (b)(7)(c)

[REDACTED] he had learned that the Jewish organizations are going to cut off donations to COFO. He stated CORE and SNCC are already in financial trouble and that it is doubtful, irrespective of their forthcoming campaign to raise funds in February, that they will be successful.

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HUIE stated he had conferred with certain attorneys for the defendants in the MIBURN case on the afternoon of 1/20/65 in Meridian. He did not name them. I gathered from his conversation at least one of them was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (b)(7)(c)
His purpose for the conference was to purchase from two of the defendants who took part in the murders their story of what happened for \$5,000. His stipulations were that he hear the story, that he evaluate it for truth and that he would not need a statement, a witness or any other qualification other than being convinced as to the authenticity of the story. At this point, HUIE was very firmly and frankly informed that should he incorporate in any writings of his information that could be construed as evidence or admissions of the principals that we would take those steps necessary to insure that that information was treated as official evidence even if it meant subpoenaing him into court. He asked whether or not he would be allowed the privileged communication enjoyed by newspaper reporters. He was referred to attorneys of his own choice for the legal decision but again it was pointed out to him that we are investigation violations of the Federal laws and that the local officers are investigating violations of the local laws and that certainly we could not speak for the local authorities but he would be granted no immunity by Federal officials.

HUIE desired to know if [REDACTED] might furnish him (b)(7)(c) conversations between SCHWERNER and other inmates of the Neshoba County Jail during the Sunday afternoon they were detained there and prior to their release. He was informed that we could not and would not. He stated he was not asking for evidence but needed to "round out" the characterization of SCHWERNER for drama. Mr. HUIE was very frankly informed that we did not play "favorites" with any news media and that the information supplied by us was that that had been approved

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by the Attorney General of the U.S. as a press release, and only that. Mr. HUIE stated he did not expect to receive preferential treatment but thought it might be possible for him to obtain information of the type indicated to assist in his writings. Mr. HUIE stated that his book in its entirety as well as the 16 articles would be reviewed by the attorneys for the publishers as well as the newspapers that would run the articles. He inferred that he would offer the book for review by members of the Department of Justice for anything that might be objectionable to keep from having the book attacked by the government after it was published which would have a derogatory effect upon its sale and the movie that will be made therefrom.

HUIE commented upon

[REDACTED]

(b)(7)(c)

He inferred, however, that he had developed sources of his own whom he had "paid well" for basic information and stated that he had endeavored to "deal with

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HUIE was given no information nor were any of his ideas or statements confirmed.

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