

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (157-1092)

DATE: 4/1/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE,
MEMPHIS, TENN.
RM

On 3/11/68, [redacted] advised that one [redacted] Owen College student, opposed to Black Power, had indicated he would contact the FBI on or about 3/14/68 to discuss his concern about JOHN BURRELL SMITH and associates in the Black Power movement at Owen. He said [redacted] is a fine christian and a sincere man.

[redacted] added that he has known Rev. EZEKIEL BELL, Pastor of Parkway Gardens Presbyterian Church, for several years [redacted] and that BELL is a fiery individual, given to intemperant and exaggerated statements. He stated it is not felt that BELL would actually engage in or conspire to have acts of violence committed. BELL is one of the leaders in supporting the current Memphis sanitation workers strike.

The previously held 3:00 p.m., Thursday, Black Power meetings on the Owen campus, led by CHARLES L. CABBAGE and JOHN B. SMITH, are no longer allowed by the Owen administration. In fact, JOHN B. SMITH has been awfully quiet of late.

JAMES ECHOLS, the crippled follower of JOHN B. SMITH who does some of SMITH's typing, has been quiet lately and has been busy helping as a part time trainer and manager for the Owen basketball team.

It appears that JOHN B. SMITH, CHARLES S. BALLARD, CHARLES HARRINGTON, and VERDELL BROOKS are the "Big Four" of the SNCC oriented Black Power movement at Owen.

- ① - 157-1092
- 1 - 170-117-SUB [redacted]
- 2 - 157-109 (SNCC)
- 1 - 157-957 [redacted]
- 1 - 157- [redacted]
- 1 - [redacted]
- 1 - [redacted]
- 1 - [redacted]

WHL:cjs
(9)



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Lawrence

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