

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-1067)

DATE: 5/28/69

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: INVADERS
RM

On 5/21/69 Detective [REDACTED] Intelligence Bureau, Memphis Police Department, furnished writer a copy of PD memo dated 5/21/69 re "Black Organizing Project," a report from PD undercover agent [REDACTED] for 5/19/69 activities. A Xerox copy of same is attached to each copy of this memo.

- 1-157-1067
- 1-157-556 - Possible Racial Violence Major Urban Areas
- 1-157-1626 [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1230 [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1744 [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1705 [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1350 [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1886 [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1563 [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1472 [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1776 [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1824 [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1636 [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1647 [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1258 [REDACTED]
- 1-100-4394 [REDACTED]
- 1-170-1114 [REDACTED]
- 1-100-4689 - VISTA
- 1-157-1308 - COME
- 1-170-98 [REDACTED]
- 1-170-83 [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1121 [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1639 - MWRO
- 1-157-1868 - Memphis Community Leadership Training, Inc.
- 1-157-1613 [REDACTED]

WHL:wp
(25)

157-1067-1231-23

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 24 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Lawrence

INSP. DON H. SMITH

DET. M.A. SAMPLE

BLACK ORGANIZING
PROJECT;

MAY 21, 1969

The following is a report from [REDACTED]
for May 19, 1969.

At 7pm at 271 Vance those present were;

JOHN C. SMITH
MELVIN SMITH
ARCHIE WILLIAMS
ETHEL TAYLOR
JOHNNIE FRIERSON
M.C. CLARK
CACHESTUH SMITH

EDDIE TATE
CURTIS DAVIS
MARY HOLMAN
JAMES FEGUES
About 10 to 12 others
7 or 8 teenagers came
to apply for membership

The group was waiting on Willie Wine and Coby
Smith so they could start the meeting.

At 8pm Coby Smith called and asked Pigford to
come out and get him for the meeting. When Pigford
arrived at Coby's home there were two men #1 BILL
POND, #2 BILL POND. Both of these men are with VISTA
(Volunteers In Service To America). VISTA is to set up an office in Memphis but
no date was given.

Bill Ponds said "We are going to bring in 18
community organizers, all are volunteers for VISTA." They
are expected to train 18 other people from the Memphis
community to be organizers within six months after they
arrive. However the 18 that are coming will be here for
one year. After the 18 have been trained from Memphis,
they will be given jobs as community organizers, the
salary is \$32.50 every other week, or \$165 per month plus
6¢ a mile for transportation. Also they put another \$50
per month in the bank for you which you can withdraw only at
the end of the 12 month period, which terminates the job.
What we are interested in now is setting up a governing board that
will consist of at least 14 people from Memphis at work
with 8 other people from VISTA who will serve on the board,
4 of these 8 will be lawyers. We would like for the
board members to come from groups or organizations that are
already established in Memphis. That is why we wanted to
talk with you concerning persons of your choice from the
Invaders. We have been told your group is very active in
the community organizing. We have talked to Ralph Jackson

MAS/nae

and Jim Lawson already. Jackson told us that VISTA scouted like work to him and he didn't want to be involved too deeply, because he already has too much to do. When we mentioned the Invaders to him, he told us he could not talk to the Invaders anymore and threw up his hands and said the Invaders are trying to do everything to him. Also we are going to talk with L. S. WALKER, BILL KEENE, REV. BILL SMITH, EZEKIEL BELL and MARLENE SMITH and we are going to Washington's house when we leave here tonight".

COBY SMITH said " First off, you were dealing with the wrong people when you went to Jackson and Lawson. They aren't interested in organizing the community, they are interested in politics and money only. The Invaders do not get involved with any group such as COME, where the balance of power is already stacked against you. Before anyone can go around preaching politics he must organize the community first. I don't know who told you we were organizers, but they told you the truth. If Jackson or Lawson gave the names of some people to serve on the board, my suggestion is that you should keep one of those names at the most, because what they are doing is putting people on the board who they can control and influence. Our problem with organizing is that the Police know we are getting people together so they put our people in jail when ever they want to ."

Maloy said " Maybe they will be reluctant to put them in jail if they are working for a Federal agency.

Coby stated " Maybe so, but we have a long jail list. "

Coby submitted Pigford and Watson's names and suggested they get two Welfare mothers to serve on the board.

At 9:45pm Ponds and Maloy left saying they were going to Washington's house.

At 10pm Coby and Pigford went to 271 Vance and left 100 copies of literature, "What's really going on".

The literature reads, "Open Communication Forum, Friday May 23, 1969 at 7:30pm at Newman Foundation for all MSMT Trainees, all who have attended the Pine Crest, Paris Landing and Jackson Conference, All members of Black-White dialog groups, and all whom you invite.

(MEMPHIS CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP TRAINING)

Program: 15 minute presentation followed by question periods.

1. MCLT problems and plans , B.O. KEEHART, Director MCLT
2. Memphis State & the BSA - David Acey
3. City employees, the union and the establishment, J.B. TROTTER, MCLT board
4. The Invaders and the Black Knights, selected spokesman
5. N. A. M. E. , a summit program for white suburbanites, Sister Adrain, Pine Crest. "

There had been a small meeting at 271 Vance and they were talking about their summer plans to get more young people to join. Eddie Tate and Melvin Smith did the talking during the meeting.

Also there was a meeting at Clayborn Temple last night, May 19, 1969, this meeting consisted of the 25 people who were fired at Methodist Hospital. Sometime during the meeting Eddie Tate passed out from some sort of seizure.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Coby told about his visit to the Police station. He said when he talked with Marrell and the others he was talking in Marrell's favor and trying to get him a promotion, "but Marrell came out and said what we are doing at 271 Vance was corrupt and so I just stopped talking to him then and there. What we should do is screen every member we have. We are definitely going to do that for everyone coming in in the future. However I am not worried too much about police being in the organization, we have some more in there also according to my source of information. From the information I received Marrell was on loan to the MED from the CIA. Like I said, I'm not going to worry too much about the Policeman until I find him out. If I should happen to get put in jail the cop who had me sent there had better not be around when I get out."