

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MEMPHIS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 6/10/70	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 3/24 - 6/1/70
TITLE OF CASE INVADERS		REPORT MADE BY SA BURL F. JOHNSON	TYPED BY mnr
		CHARACTER OF CASE RACIAL MATTERS	

REFERENCE:

Report of SA BURL F. JOHNSON dated 3/31/70 at Memphis.

Handwritten: the -P-

INFORMANTS:

Identity of Source

File Where Located

ME T-1 is [REDACTED]

ME 170-70-Sub

ME T-2 is [REDACTED]

157-1067-1812, 1814, 1833,
1846, 1847, 1850

ME T-3 is [REDACTED]

ME 170-1040-Sub

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED *[Signature]* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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- 1 - USA, Memphis
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- 1 - G-2, Ft. McPherson, Ga.
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- 1 - 111th MI, Nashville
- 1 - OSI, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- ② - Memphis (157-1067)

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[Handwritten signatures and stamps]

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	Request Recd.	Date Fwd.	How Fwd.	By

Handwritten: copy destroyed

Notations

Handwritten: B. Johnson

Handwritten: 1895

Handwritten: 157-1067-1859

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ME 157-1067

Identity of Source

File Where Located

ME T-4 is [REDACTED]

ME 157-1067-1854

LEAD:

MEMPHIS DIVISION

AT MEMPHIS, TENN.

Will continue to follow and report on the activities of the Invaders.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

This report is classified "Confidential" because it contains information from sources of continuing value whose identities, if revealed, might compromise their effectiveness and adversely affect the security of the United States.

Copies of this report are being furnished to the U. S. Secret Service and U. S. Attorney, both Memphis, and to the regional offices of the intelligence agencies of the Armed Forces, pursuant to Bureau instructions.

Careful consideration was given to the use of T symbols, and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where it was necessary to conceal the sources.

LANCE "SWEET WILLIE WINE" WATSON has been placed on the Security and Agitator Indexes.

Cases have been opened on the following:

[REDACTED]

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ME 157-1067

Background information will be developed regarding these persons and, where appropriate, reports will be submitted.

A report has been submitted on WILBERT JAMES, JR., and the case has been closed. A review of this case does not indicate that additional investigation is warranted at this time.

[REDACTED] therefore, no investigation of him is being conducted.

The investigative period of this report predates referenced report because information set forth in this report had not been channelized when the referenced report was prepared.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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- 1 - U. S. ATTORNEY, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
- 1 - U. S. SECRET SERVICE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
- 1 - C-2, FT. MC PHERSON, GEORGIA
- 1 - NISO, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
- 1 - 111TH MI, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
- 1 - OSI, MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA

to: SA BURL F. JOHNSON
JUNE 10, 1970

Office: MEMPHIS

Office File No.: 157-1087

Bureau File No.: 157-8460

INVADERS

Subject: RACIAL MATTERS

Summary: Invaders, a black militant organization, was formed in Memphis, Tenn., in the summer of 1967. The Invaders had an active membership of approximately 15 as of 6/70. In 6/70 the Invaders had no headquarters address and maintained no bank account. LANCE "SWEET WILLIE WINE" WATSON continues as Prime Minister of the Invaders. WATSON plans to run for Governor of Arkansas in 1970 to show the white power structure the extent of the Negro protest vote. In 4/70 WATSON planned to organize a group called "We the People" which was to function as a consumers cooperative in the black community. WATSON made a trip to Washington, D. C., in 5/70 to present charges against President NIXON to the U. S. Department of Justice.

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DETAILS:

I. ORGANIZATION

A. Origin

As previously reported, a militant black nationalist group of young Memphis, Tennessee, Negroes, now known as the

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~~Excluded from automatic~~
~~downgrading and~~
~~declassification~~

Invaders, was originally formed in the summer and fall of 1967 by three Memphis Negroes, COLLETT VERNON SMITH, JOHN BURRELL SMITH, and CHARLES LAVERNE CABBAFF. During the fall of 1967 and spring of 1968, it assumed the name of Black Organizing Project (BOP), with subsidiary cells known as Afro-American Brotherhood (AAB) at Owen College; Black Student Association (BSA) at Memphis State University; LeMoyne College Inter-collegiate Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (LIG, NAACP) at LeMoyne College; Invaders, primarily consisting of high school students and school dropouts; and City Organizers, consisting of young non-student adults; all having a combined average membership of about 100. The ostensible purpose was to create pride in black identity, to teach black culture and black history, and to obtain employment for young blacks.

(ME T-1, 3/18/70)

B. Headquarters

As of June 1, 1970, LANCE WATSON, Prime Minister of the Invaders, resided at 1031 North Watkins, Apartment 3, Memphis, Tennessee, where business matters relating to the Invaders were handled. The organization maintained no space for meetings or an office.

(ME T-1, 6/1/70)

C. Officers and Staff

LANCE "SWEET WILLIE WINE" WATSON is the Prime Minister of the Invaders and is assisted by WILLIE BELL. MICHAEL STARKS acts as WATSON's legal adviser and secretary.

(ME T-1, 6/1/70)
(ME T-2, 6/1/70)

D. Finances

As of June 1, 1970, the Invaders maintained no bank account and had no known source of income.

(ME T-1, 6/1/70)
(ME T-2, 6/1/70)

E. Membership

As of June, 1970, the membership in the Invaders was composed of approximately 15 active members.

(ME T-1, 6/1/70)
(ME T-2, 6/1/70)

II. ACTIVITIES

On March 24, 1970, LANCE WATSON, Prime Minister of the Invaders, said that he was going to run for Governor of Arkansas. He stated if he was elected in Arkansas, he will return to Memphis and run for Mayor.

(ME T-3, 3/25/70)

In March, 1970, WATSON indicated that the Invaders were unable to operate effectively and that it would be necessary to reorganize. WATSON indicated at the time there were only 8 to 12 persons active in the organization and could be depended upon as workers. He stated that the organization was not putting out any printed material and that their only activity was the picketing of the Memphis Police Department protesting police brutality. He stated that he intended to run as an independent candidate in the State of Arkansas for the position of Governor of that state.

(ME T-4, 3/25/70)

On March 30, 1970, a meeting of the Invaders was held at 1331 North Watkins, Apartment 3, Memphis. At this meeting WATSON led a discussion on police brutality.

(ME T-2, 3/31/70)

It was learned in March, 1970, that MICHAEL STARKS and LANCE WATSON planned a breakfast program for needy children in the Memphis area. At the time they were searching for some agency to fund this program.

(ME T-2, 4/1/70)

In late March, 1970, WATSON stated that he planned to run for Governor of Arkansas. He stated he had no chance to win but wanted to run to show the white power structure the extent of the Negro protest vote.

(SI 1-1, 4/7/70)

On April 6, 1970, WATSON stated that he was going to commence his campaign for Governor of Arkansas on May 23, 1970. He stated he would work on police brutality in Memphis before he goes to Arkansas to start his campaign.

(SI 1-2, 4/7/70)

On April 8, 1970, WATSON conducted a workshop on the news media at 1031 North Watkins, Apartment 3. At this workshop WATSON stated that the black people never get anything printed in the newspapers and that information printed in the newspapers regarding the black people is not forth in the manner the white people want it printed. WATSON stated that the only thing for the black people to do is to publish their own daily newspaper.

Later on this date WATSON participated in a press conference at the Press Club, Union Avenue, Memphis. On this occasion he told the newsmen he was not a racist, that the only thing he wanted was freedom. He said he was not free socially, economically, or politically. He stated that President NIXON has the whole country tied up in an unjust war in Vietnam and that those who say the United States is winning this war are lying. He also commented that he could not understand why President NIXON sent blankets to Africa because it is so hot in Africa that people do not wear clothing. Regarding the busing of school children in Memphis, WATSON stated that black people are not interested in busing their children across town but are interested only in a quality education for their children. He said the educational problems in Memphis can be solved by putting the same textbooks, technical assistance and aids in the black schools as are available in the white schools. Regarding the generation gap, WATSON stated that the generation gap was "your forefathers telling you about black people all your lives." He concluded by stating that he was constantly harassed and intimidated by the police and that a parallel between himself and PAUL, a Biblical character, who he stated was victimized by the police when he started preaching the truth.

(SI 1, 4/9/70)

On April 14, 1970, Lieutenant J. W. SRRIS, Intelligence Division, Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that LANCE WATSON was planning to organize a workshop at Overton Park, Memphis, Tennessee, April 15, 1970, on genocide, capitalism, racism, and concent [redacted] crisis.

In April, 1970, MURDER VICTIMS WILLIE WARFORD indicated they were making every effort to reactivate the [redacted] Party. They stated they wanted to gather the invaders after the Black Panther Party (BPP). WATSON stated that he was considering broadening the [redacted] Party, accepting white people into the organization because the whites "have more guns and set up and go" than your Negroes."

(ME 1-1, 4/22/70) [redacted]

A characterization of the BPP is set forth in the Memphis section of this report.

On April 21, 1970, WATSON called a press conference at his apartment at 1031 North Watkins, Memphis. At the press conference he stated that the United States is trying to take over Cambodia, Vietnam, and other countries in Southeast Asia because those countries are rich in natural resources. When asked what he would do if he was given a gun, something he was in the U. S. Army, he replied "I would use the gun to kill the gangsters, such as HENRY FORD, the ROBERTS, and the DU PONTS, because they are the ones to be held responsible for the war in Southeast Asia."

(ME 1-1, 4/30/70) [redacted]

In April, 1970, WATSON stated he was going to form a new group called "We the People." He stated that the [redacted] of this organization would be to act as a consumers [redacted] in the black community.

(ME 1-1, 4/30/70) [redacted]

WILLIE BELL and LANCE WATSON participated in a press conference at Nashville, Tennessee, in early May, 1970.

(ME 1-2, 5/5/70) [redacted]

LANCE WATSON was attempting to enlarge the image of the Invaders in May, 1970, by cooperating with whites. Some of the meetings conducted by the Invaders have included white people.

(PP 1-4, 5/14/70)

On May 11, 1970, Lieutenant E. H. ARFIN furnished a leaflet prepared by MICHAEL STARKY and LANCE WATSON and was distributed by them. In this leaflet they wrote that the FORDS, ROCKEFELLERS, and President NIXON are responsible for keeping the poor and black people oppressed. They wrote that the war in Southeast Asia is being fought at the expense of the poor and the black. They wrote that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was paid by the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations to stay out of large cities in order that the black people would not become aware of what was going on in the United States. They wrote that MALCOLM X was killed because he realized what was going on and started telling people about it. They also wrote that the tragedy at Kent State University was planned by President NIXON. According to their statement, President NIXON indicates that anytime anyone disagrees with him he will send in the "pigs."

In May, 1970, WATSON, WILLIE BELL, member of the Invaders, and KELLY DELANEY, an associate of WATSON and BELL, prepared a written complaint wherein they alleged that President NIXON is guilty of conspiring knowingly, or unknowingly, to deny people their basic rights and dignity afforded humanity under the provisions of the Constitution of the United States. They alleged that President NIXON is guilty of the following charges:

- 1) Genocide
- 2) Immorality. They cited as an example of immorality the forcing of people to go hungry and at the same time paying farmers not to grow food.
- 3) Perversion. They cited as an example of perversion, the invasion of Cambodia under the guise that it is necessary in order to withdraw from Vietnam.

- 1) Assault. They cited as an example of assault, police brutality and assaults by National Guardsmen on college campuses.
- 5) Inciting riots. They cited as an example of inciting riots, the speech by Vice President AGNEW.
- 6) Gambling. They criticized President NIXON for permitting large gambling houses to operate for the purposes of collecting taxes and permitting law enforcement officers to arrest men standing on street corners watching pennies.
- 7) Possession of illegal weapons. They cited as an example of illegal weapons, the possession of arms by policemen and members of the National Guard.
- 8) Conspiracy. According to WATSON, BELL, and McLANEY, President NIXON is conspiring with big corporations to promote the war in Southeast Asia in order that the corporations can make money by manufacturing arms and materials used in Southeast Asia.
- 9) Contributing to the delinquency of minors. They stated that President NIXON is contributing to the delinquency of minors by inducting young men under 21 years of age into the Armed Forces teaching them to kill, and by the failure to upgrade welfare standards in order that mothers can support their children and thereby prevent them from going on the street where they steal and rob.
- 10) Extortion. They cited as examples of extortion speeches given by President NIXON and Vice President AGNEW on television and before public groups and permitting segregationists to speak out against integration.
- 11) Cheating.

12) Possession of stolen property. They cited as an example of stealing and possession of stolen property the fact that the early settlers and forefathers of this country stole land from the Indians and that followers still maintain possession.

13) Breach of promise. They cited as a breach of promise the fact that land was promised to various groups of people in the United States, including former slaves, and that these promises were never fulfilled.

WATSON, BELL, and DELANEY planned to take these charges to an attorney in Little Rock, Arkansas, and have a formal complaint drawn up in legal language.

In August or September, 1970, they plan to present the complaint to officials of the U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., and demand that the President be brought to trial. They believe that if the Department of Justice will not use this to bring President NIXON to trial, he will be tried by the people.

(ME 1-1, 5-13/70)

WATSON, BELL, and DELANEY departed Memphis on May 13, 1970, Knoxville, Tennessee, where they planned to contact Attorney WILLIAM RUSSELLER, who was scheduled to speak at the University of Tennessee on May 14, 1970. WATSON planned to confer with RUSSELLER regarding the complaint to plans to lodge against President NIXON.

(ME 1-1, 5-13/70)

On May 21, 1970, LANCE WATSON and two of his associates, GUYMON KNOX and KELLY DELANEY, left Memphis, Tennessee, in a privately owned automobile en route to Washington, D. C. After reaching Washington, D. C., they planned to present a complaint to officials at the U. S. Department of Justice alleging that President NIXON is guilty of conspiracy to deny people their basic rights and dignity provided by the Constitution.

(ME 1-1, 5-21/70)

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APPENDIX

BLACK PANTHER PARTY,
also known as
Black Panther Party for Self-Defense

According to its official newspaper, the Black Panther Party (BPP) was started during December, 1966, in Oakland, California, to organize black people so they can take control of the life, politics and the destiny of the black community. It was organized by Bobby Seale, BPP Chairman, and Huey P. Newton, BPP Minister of Defense. Newton was sentenced in 1968 to serve 2 to 15 years after being convicted of manslaughter in connection with the killing of an Oakland police officer.

The official newspaper, "The Black Panther," which further describes itself as the "Black Community News Service," states that the BPP advocates the use of guns and guerrilla tactics in its revolutionary program to end oppression of the black people. Residents of the black community are urged to arm themselves against the police who are consistently referred to in the publication as "pigs" who should be killed.

"The Black Panther" issue of September 7, 1968, contains an editorial by BPP Minister of Education, George Mason Murray, which ends with the following:

"Black men. Black people, colored persons of America, revolt everywhere! Arm yourselves. The only culture worth keeping is a revolutionary culture. Change. Freedom everywhere. Dynamite! Black Power. Use the gun. Kill the pigs everywhere."

Included in the introduction to an article appearing in the October 5, 1968, edition of "The Black Panther" is the statement "...we will not dissent from American Government. We will overthrow it."

Issues of "The Black Panther" regularly contain quotations from the writings of Chairman Mao Tse-tung of the People's Republic of China and feature Mao's statement that "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun."

The national headquarters of the BPP is located at 3106 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, California. Branches have been established at various locations throughout the United States.

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APPENDIX



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Memphis, Tennessee
June 10, 1970

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Title INVADERS

Character RACIAL MATTERS

Reference Report of SA BUPL F. JOHNSON dated
June 10, 1970, at Memphis captioned
as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose
identities are concealed in referenced communication have
furnished reliable information in the past.

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