

*from Sec 7*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-1067)

DATE: 8/28/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP), aka,  
Invaders  
RM

On 8/18/68 [redacted] advised that Black Organizing Project (BOP), also known as Invaders, including "SWEET WILLIE WINE," whose real name is LANCE WATSON, assisted by ERIC "LARD" HOLMAN and WILLIE "SCOOP" ROGERS, both of the latter on the payroll of the Neighborhood Organizing Project (NOP) of Memphis War on Poverty Committee (WOPC), are putting out posters advertising a Black United Front (BUF) meeting to be held in Clayborn Temple, 280 Hernando, Monday night, 8/19/68, at 8 p.m., to feature "Sweet Willie" as the main speaker.

- 1 - 157-1067 (BOP)
  - 1 - 170-1019 Sub [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-556 (Possible [redacted] Violence, Major Urban Areas)
  - 1 - 157-1258 [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-953 (Black Power Infiltration of NOP and WOPC)
  - 1 - 157-1423 (Black United Front, aka Community Unification Program)
  - 1 - 157-166 (SCLC)
  - 1 - 157-1349 [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-957 [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-1019 [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-1229 [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-1125 [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-1116 [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-1173 [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-1384 [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-1351 [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-109 (SNCC)
  - 1 - 100-4492 [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-DEAD [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-1342 (Third Annual Black Power Conference)
  - 1 - 157-1277 [redacted]
  - 1 - 170-1024 [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-1230 [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-DEAD [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-1312 [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-1398 [redacted]
  - 1 - 157-1061 [redacted]
- WHL:gmh (27)

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The Invaders are also going throughout the South Texas and South Main Street areas, south of McLeMore, a run-down tenant house area, putting notices on doors to the effect that if tenants do not move out within ten days in protest of substandard housing conditions, that "they" (The Invaders) will come through the area with bulldozers and tear down the structures.

On 8/17/68 "WILLIE WINE" was heard to say that at the Southern Christian Leadership Convention (SCLC) held in Memphis 8/14-17/68 that he "WINE" had talked with SCLC President Rev. RALPH ABERNATHY and with SCLC Executive Vice President, Rev. ANDREW YOUNG; that he had warned them that the late Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., had promised Invaders \$300,000 and four cars if the Invaders would cooperate with the SCLC. This promise, he claimed, was made in April, 1968, and had never been kept. "WINE" bragged that he scared ABERNATHY and YOUNG and that they apologized and YOUNG gave the Invaders a check for \$500.00. (NOTE: This was corroborated by [redacted] He made this statement at NOP Field Office, 1310 Florida. Present were Invaders WILLIE "SCOOP" ROGERS, JOHN B. SMITH, FINUS BEIHEL, CHARLES "IZZY" HARRINGTON, BEN BERRY, JOHN HENRY FERGUSON, VERDELL "GEE GEE" BROOKS and OREE MC KENZIE.

Others who now regularly meet with the Invaders are LONNIE HENDERSON, aka Lonnie Gibson, half brother of Invaders member HURLEY GIBSON, and one MAURICE LEWIS, who has a sister, JANET LEWIS. The LEWISs used to live on Michigan Street. He went to Carver High School. "WINE" and JOHN B. SMITH claimed they did most of the threatening of SCLC and negotiation with Reverends ABERNATHY and YOUNG on Friday, 8/16/68.

WILLIE WINE claims he helped run SCLC's Resurrection City in Washington, D. C., April, May, and June, 1968; and that while there he developed a rapport and close friendship with STOKELY CARMICHAEL, former Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which has since merged with the Black Panther Party, and that "WINE" wants to pattern a Memphis Black United Front (BUF) by one started by CARMICHAEL in Washington, D. C.



"WINE" claimed that during Resurrection City, ABERNATHY, his SCLC staff, and many of the Blackstone Rangers lived in fancy hotels, "laid up with white women," and generally luxuriated. He claimed Rev. ANDREW YOUNG accused the Invaders of being responsible for KING's 4/4/68 assassination. He did not elaborate.

WINE claimed he had to "get Memphis organized" before the end of August, 1968, at which time he is to go to Philadelphia, Pa., to help set up a big meeting. (This is undoubtedly the Third Annual Black Power Conference to be held in Philadelphia, Pa., 8/29 through 9/1/68.) He said he then might return to Washington, D. C. He said that by October, 1968, he would like to bring STOKELY CARMICHAEL to Memphis. WINE now spends most of his time with JOHN BURRELL SMITH.

ERWETT BOLSE is living with JOHN B. SMITH at 1614 Habauer, Apt. 2.

The NOP and Invaders and BOP want to hold more "Sock Hops" at 1310 Florida to raise money.

[redacted] added that on Saturday night, 8/17/68, at 1310 Florida (NOP Field House) were "WILLIE WINE," CHARLES BALLARD, FINUS BEMEL, JOHN B. SMITH, JOHN HENRY FERGUSON, BEN BERRY, MELVIN SMITH, OREE MC KENZIE, and one "GAY" or "GARY," who is a male Negro, whose true identity is GARY WILLIAMS. WILLIAMS sings with the "Mad Lads," a singing group who sang at the BOP Dance at the Club Paradise 8/13/68. GARY WILLIAMS is about 5'8" to 9" tall, thin, 22-23 years old, with natural hair. He was raised on Rile Street, [redacted]

[redacted] This was on Vance Avenue. The father is WILLIE WILLIAMS, allegedly currently in the Penitentiary. GARY WILLIAMS has a blue Camaro or Firebird.

While at 1310 Florida, a police car went by. JOHN HENRY FERGUSON was heard to say that the 'white police had no business in a black neighborhood and we need to get up on top of buildings and shoot them.'

"WILLIE WINE" was heard to say: "There's going to be violence." He did not elaborate.

Information re FRANKIE LANE

With regard to information received by Memphis Police Department around 8/16/68 that the Invaders were looking for one FRANKIE LANE, [redacted] said that there is one FRANK ROGERS, aka "Frankie Lane," who lives in Orange Mound Section. He used to fight a lot and has been in the penitentiary, and that he should now be in his early 30's age wise.

Information re "Shake Downs."

[redacted] added that during the week ending 8/10/68 CHARLES CABBAGE and EVERETT HAMBRICK, a little Negro male who loafs at Trigg and Florida Street and who went to Carver High School, went to the liquor store at Trigg and Florida. He told the manager, a woman, that she would have to close the store as it was located too close to a church on Trigg just east of Florida. HAMBRICK does, or did, work at Thermo Brook Pack on President's Island. He is about 26 years old.

Also EMMETT HOUSE told [redacted] that CABBAGE and HAMBRICK went to other businesses in the area, a dry goods store and sundry store, and told the white owners that they were not wanted in the black neighborhood. EMMETT also said that "WILLIE WINE" was on WDIA Announcer CHRIS A. TURNER'S "Young America Speaks," program on 8/11/68.

EMMETT also said CABBAGE and others, not named, went to a white grocer, "SAM HOGANINI" (phonetic), at Florida and Olive Streets, and shook him down. He allegedly gave them a \$25.00 check.

Information re Invaders Use of Guns

Also [redacted] said that on Saturday, 8/17/68, one CALVIN JAMERSON, 35-36 year old Negro who works at Transcon Freight Lines and who loafs at the Harlem House, 1300 block of Florida, said that on Friday night, 8/16/68, some of the Invaders came into the Harlem House with some guns. This scared him and he left. He did not know them by name, so he claimed.



Influence of BOP and Invaders in Black Areas

██████████ said that the older working Negroes in South Memphis are afraid of the Invaders, NOP and BOP but that since the WOPC has financed them and provided them a club house at 1310 Florida they have gained considerable influence on young Negroes.

Invaders at 1310 Florida by Dates

8/11/68: ██████████ added that on 8/11/68 he saw Invaders, EMMETT HOUSE, FINUS BETHEL, WILLIE WINE (LANCE WATSON), JOHN B. SMITH, ERIC HOLMAN, WILLIE "SCOOP" ROGERS, and OREE MC KENZIE at 1310 Florida.

8/12/68: ██████████ advised that on 8/12/68 he saw EMMETT HOUSE, WILLIE WINE, JOHN B. SMITH, CHARLES "IZZY" HARRINGTON, CHARLES BALLARD, OREE MC KENZIE, LARRY LARUE DAVIS, and his sister, JEWELL DAVIS, MABRELL MC COLLOUGH, MELVIN SMITH, LONNIE HENDERSON, aka Lonnie Gibson, FINUS BETHEL and MAURICE LEWIS there.

8/14/68: On 8/14/68 EMMETT HOUSE, OREE MC KENZIE, JOHN B. SMITH, CHARLES BALLARD, FINUS BETHEL, CHARLES HARRINGTON, ERIC HOLMAN and WILLIE ROGERS were there.

8/15/68: On 8/15/68 EMMETT HOUSE, WILLIE WINE, FINUS BETHEL, JOHN B. SMITH, VERGELL BROOKS, CHARLES BALLARD, CHARLES HARRINGTON, ERIC HOLMAN and WILLIE ROGERS were there.

8/16/68: On 8/16/68 WILLIE WINE, JOHN B. SMITH, FINUS BETHEL, OREE MC KENZIE, CHARLES BALLARD, MAURICE LEWIS, BEN BERRY were there.

Information re EMMETT HOUSE's Arrest

Source recalled that on 8/11/68 EMMETT HOUSE claimed the police arrested him for being drunk and that this was unfair as he does not drink. He said "BOP," "Invaders," and the NOP were going to "get down" on the white businesses in the all-Negro area of South Memphis and quit taking the finances out of the black community.