

SAC (157-1516)

11/4/68

SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY
AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
(MEMPHIS CITY HOSPITAL STRIKE
STARTED 9/21/68)
RM

On 10/8/68 Lt. [REDACTED] Intelligence Bureau,
Memphis PD, furnished writer a photostat of PD memo dated 10/4/68
entitled: "Investigation of Hospital Strike," which is attached
heretb for copy for ME 157-1067. This PD memo mentions Inva-
ders and LANCE "SWEET WILLIE" WATSON.

1 - 157-1516
1 - 157-1067, BOP (Attachment 1)
1 - 157-1258 [REDACTED]
WHL:LF
(3)

157-1067-550

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 4 - 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION
MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

October 4, 1968

Mr. W. P. Huston, Chief of
Criminal Investigation Division
B U I L D I N G

Re: Investigation of Hospital Strike.

Dear Sir:

After being informed by yourself and Captain W. R. Spears with regard to this investigation, Lieutenant J. P. Talley and Detective J. L. Stone did conduct the following investigation.

On October 2, 1968 we contacted Mrs. McCarver, secretary to the Administrator of the John Gaston Hospital, and she was able to furnish us with a list of employees that are working and have been threatened or received threatening phone calls.

We made several attempts to locate and interview Gloria Higgins, 2503 Keen, but were unable to do so as she was not at home. We were able to contact her on October 3, 1968, and she stated that she knew of her name appearing on a hand out bill but that she was not afraid of going to work. The reason she did not report to work on October 2, 1968, because she had some business that she had to attend to and just took off. She stated that she would continue to work during the strike.

We did locate and interview Argie Pruitt, 989 Lewis, LPN, John Gaston Hospital, and she stated that she had received threatening phone calls from an Unknown Male threatening to burn her house and harm possibly her father or daughter if she continued to work. She stated the reason she didn't go to work was the threatening phone call and her name appearing on a hand out bill titled the "Black Liberation". She did not want to come to police headquarters and give a written statement; however a hand written statement was taken from her and is hereto attached and self explanatory.

We did locate and interview Evelyn Hendrix, 2493 Judson, phone 743-0791, LPN at John Gaston Hospital, and she stated that the reason she did not report for work since the strike started that she had received a threatening phone call from an unknown Male. She stated that the next she knew, her name appeared in a hand out bill and that she was scared and this was her reason for not going to work. She did not want to come to police headquarters and give a statement but a hand written statement was taken from her and is hereto attached.

The other parties listed on this hand bill are on vacation or on regular day off or they are working.

The name Erna Mitchell appearing on the hand bill, a check of the records show that there is no such person employed at the City Hospital Complex by this name.

October 3, 1968, we interviewed Carrie S. Ison, PC, LPN at Crump Hospital, 1180 Greenwood, 948-4235. She stated that she had been working her regular shift at the Crump Hospital and that after her name and address appeared in a hand out bill titled the Black United Front, she stated that this was the reason she failed to report to work as she was scared. She stated that she had received a phone call from a friend of hers who told her she had better be careful about a Mrs. Winter riding to work with her. It was learned that Mrs. Winter is a union employee not on strike; however she said the main reason was her name appearing in the hand bill. She did not want to come to police headquarters and give a written statement; however a hand written statement was taken from her and is hereto attached and self explanatory.

The name Mary Parker and Mrs. Carpenter appearing in the Black United Front hand bill do not appear as being employed by the City of Memphis Hospitals. The other employees listed on this hand bill are all either on their regular days off or working their regular shift.

A attached list of the employees whose names do not appear on either of these two hand bills and are all working at the John Gaston Hospital, Bowld Hospital and Crump Hospital and have received threatening phone calls about them not going to work and supporting the union. However all with the exception of four are working their regular shift.

All of the people's names that appeared on the hand out bill that we interviewed and that were not working stated that they could not identify the voices of the people calling them and threatening them on this phone. Nor had there been any physical contact with any union people or people out on strike. Most were reluctant to come to police headquarters and give a written statement, all being afraid, didn't want to have to face anyone or get involved.

October 3, 1968, 1 AM, we were instructed by you and Captain Spears along with Lieutenant Holcomb and police photographer Calvin Elliston to go to the John Gaston Hospital at the change of shifts at 2 PM and observe what was happening.

Upon our arrival at 1:30 p.m., there was no type of activity around the John Gaston Hospital. At 15 minutes till 2:00 p.m., several cars pulled up on Jefferson Street Entrance and approximately 25 to 30 PC's got out of these cars. They stationed themselves in groups of three and four at both the entrance and exit to John Gaston Hospital and the entrance and exits of the hospital parking lot. They remained on the sidewalk leaning up against parking meters. Two PC's walked up the alley between the parking lot and hospital complex on the NE side. All of these women had what appeared to be a small pad of writing paper and a pencil. These women did not stop or talk to any of the employees as they made their exit from the hospital or to the parking lot. The women only asked each other pointing at each employee as they came out "do you know her?" and the answer was "Yes or No". And they appeared to be writing the employees' or some name down.

Approximately 2 PM, we observed three MC's, one of whom is known to us as a member of the black invader groups. ~~Lawrence~~ Watson by sight along with two others whom police photographer Elliston took pictures of. They stayed on the sidewalk and walked around the hospital complex on Jefferson Street and then around the front on Madison. They did not appear to be talking to the women but rather among themselves.

We observed a 1966 Chevrolet, '68 Tenn. BK 4377, driving around the hospital area at this particular time with five or six colored males all having natural type hair cuts and appeared to be looking for someone. However they did not stop after circling the hospital two or three times and left.

Also seen was a 1959 Chev. black '68 Tenn. KP 3962 and this car had five or six colored PC's in it and they drove through the parking lot and it appeared that they were following some of the hospital personnel away from the hospital.

A '63 Chev. white, Tenn. AV 3003 with six MC's stopped at the entrance of John Gaston Hospital on Jefferson and had a conversation with ~~Lawrence~~ Watson and the other two unknown MC's, all seeming to know each other. This car left the hospital area and was not seen again, with the six MC's in it.

A 1968 gold-green Chev., '68 Tenn KS 6554, was observed with five or six women in it and they were pointing at the hospital employees getting into cars on the parking lot and it appeared that they followed some of them when they left there.

At approximately 3:30 p.m., all of the women that were standing on the sidewalk, twenty-five or thirty of them, and those standing in front of the hospital on Madison, got into various automobiles and left. We lost sight of ~~Lawrence~~ Watson and the other two MC's as they had walked back over on the Madison side, and we did not see them again after this. About 3:45 p.m., there was nothing other than usual flow of traffic at the hospital entrance and exits.

Upon return to office, we were notified by Mrs. McCarver, JGH, that an Odessa Smith, PC, 123 W. Dison, had received a threatening phone call and had left her a note and had went home. We attempted to contact Odessa Smith at 123 W. Dison but were unable to do so, at 4:30 p.m., October 3, 1968. We were able to contact her at 5:15 p.m. and she was telephonically interviewed. Odessa stated that she was employed in the laundry at JGH and had been working and planned to continue. She stated Monday she received a call from an unknown man who identified himself as a union man and talking to her about the strike. She stated that on Wednesday, she received a phone call from an unknown colored man who told her he was a member of the invaders, that were going to bomb her house, stating that he was going to throw a bomb through her window. She stated that she received another phone call at 3:10 on October 3rd, stating that they were going to burn her house and told her that they had been talking you out at the hospital, "they are going to protect you and maybe they can, there, but you'll have to come home sometime, and after we get through with you, you'll see what the police will do for you, they ain't gonna do nothing". Odessa stated that she came home from work because she was afraid they would burn her house.

Odessa stated that she wasn't scared of any of them and would continue to go to work. She stated that she didn't want to come to police headquarters and give a written statement nor could she identify any of the persons that called her on the telephone. She stated that she knew some of the black invaders group by sight and would identify and prosecute them if they did anything to her. A copy of this statement is hereto attached and self explanatory.

You and Captain Spears were advised through-out this investigation of the events of our investigation.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED BY:

CAPTAIN IN CHARGE

#7775

J.P. Talley
LIEUTENANT J. P. TALLEY #8687

J.L. Stone
LIEUTENANT J. L. STONE #7784

7784

JPT/lr

Knights
W.O.
S.C.
Memphis Unity League
Memphis Mobilization

BLACK PEOPLE are not Master Loeb's house niggers, Uncle Toms or traitors, such as:

- Mrs. I. Neuborn, LPN 7-3 *wkly*
4871 Oxford
- Mrs. V. Robinson 7-3 *w*
3351 Charlotte Rd.
- Thyria Monger 3-11 *w*
1627 Glenview
- John Rogers 3-11 *wkly*
317 Holly
- Louise Griffin 7-3 *w*
3114 Myrtle Ave.
- Clara Turner 11-7 *T*
~~1435 Breckins~~
1435 Breckins
- Mrs. Cassa Cash 7-3 *RDO*
4 Exchange Street #5
- Josephine Hyser 11-7 *Tout*
525 Cambridge
- Lillie Woods 7-3 *w*
4949 Weaver Rd.
- Mary Carter ?
?
- Mrs. Thelma Hayes 7-3 *w*
Boston St. 1582 *Hubert*
- Thelma Stokes ? 11-7
- Mrs. Clara Clark 3-11 *w*
Agency St. 300 *McKernan #4*
- Hazel Gentry 11-7 *Tout*
146 Dixie St.
- Virginia Rogers 11-7
1804 Keltner Circle #8
- Minnie Bridges 7-3 *wkly*
1120 W.D. Dunlap
- Shirley Magic 3-11 *w*
Frank St. 884 *Datham*
- Frankie Gregory 5-1
~~1877 Patrick Rd~~
- Virginia Brown *Dox - wkly*
1214 E. Demeter
- Mary Partee 7-3 *w*
463 Jacquelyn
- Norma Turner 7-3 *w*
1911 Hubert #18
- Mrs. Bisom, LPN 11-7 *T*
1180 Greenwood 948-4135
- Bernice Cox 8-11 *30 w*
~~N. Turner 1432 Starr~~
- Mrs. Carpenter ?
- Mary Brother ?
Olive St. 11-7 *wkly*
- Mrs. *Hazel* Crowley 7-3 *w*
1942 Carver #1
- Mrs. *Openna* Class 7-3 *w*
2003 Laramie

no niggers in the above list are a danger to BLACK PEOPLE. Don't let our name be next on Loeb's Head House Nigger list.

House Nigger of the Week: Mrs. *Edith* Watkins, 508 Edith. *LPM*

The American System says that traitors must be destroyed, by any means that are necessary. But we say you are brainwashed. You can be saved; go home, House Nigger, before it is too late.

11/10/68
Sunday - man - 1st call and then

Wed - man. regarding to bombing houses
by your co-workers, knowd an member
of dudens - and you knew we gay to do
what we say we going to do. Being to throw
a bomb thru your window

7-330

The man said, "They been telling you
and there of the hospital that going to protect
you, and melys they can there, but you
have to come home sometimes, and after
that you, you see what the police will
do for you, they ain't going to do nothing

Said she isn't scared + will
continue to go to work.

10-3-68 telephonically interviewed.
Did not want to give written statement at FBI

H. J. Colley

3-10-57
Statement of Evelyn Ideating cc. -
2493 Judson 113 0791

I received a phone call from a woman -
and he said "I fear the next in line - and
you have children and you know what
will happen." I hung up - I was
scared. This was before the handbill
had come out. I called Mrs Shepard and
told her I was afraid. I work on 5th
floor, Woodclark Rts. I work at John
Boston. I haven't gotten any call or
threats since this 1st call. Next I know
my name was on the leaflet they put out.
I was scared. I don't know any of
the Blackman people.

Lt J. Callery M.P.D.
Lt J. Stone M.P.D.

Evelyn Ideating

Statement of ²³ ~~the~~ ~~person~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~interviewed~~ ~~on~~ ~~10/3/68~~
1150 Greenwood 48-4235 - Crump Hospital

The reason I didn't go to work was
my name appearing in a bad hill,
the Black Liberation and I was scared.
I received a phone call from a woman,
she said "You better be careful about
Mrs Winters riding to work with you."
I worked Monday Tuesday Wed-
I didn't go Tuesday + Wed night, because
I was afraid that might do something to
near my car. I won't report back
to work till next Monday. I don't know if
I go in then because they had my name
and address + I scared. I heard about them
turning up some cars.

10:00 AM - 10-3-68

H. J. Pally M.P.D.
L. J. Stone M.P.D.

Carrie B. Som

10-3-68
Statement of Angie Pruitt
176-2058102 LPH, 989 Lewis, John Boston Hospital

Last night my father Richard Rivers
60, received a phone call from a unknown
man, and he said "tell your daughter not to
go to work" and then hung up. I also
got a phone call about 3:00 AM. A man
told me not to go to work & cursed her -
she received several phone calls, cursing
her and making derogatory statements
to her.

The reason I didn't go to work was
because of the threatening phone call & my
name appearing in a handout paper
called the Black Liberation listing me by
name and address.

Also during the phone calls, they said
"you or your car get torched or you
get beat up. Your child or your father
may get burned up if you don't catch
on fast. I am scared because of the
phone calls & my name appearing in this
handout paper, The Black Liberation on

Thursday 10-3-68. Angie Pruitt
989 Lewis
H. Kelley M.P.D.
H. Stone M.P.D.

THE BLACK UNITED FRONT
SUPPORTS THE HOSPITAL STRIKE

The Black Knights
W.O.M.E.N.
S.C.L.C.
Invaders
Memphis Unity League
Memphis Mobilization

Black People do not need Uncle Toms and Traitors such as:

Thelma Dickson ^{aa} *unc-works*
225th Shannon

off
Archie Pruitt
989 Lewis

Ann Nelson *on duty*
2419 Sherrie

Gloria Hawkins *off*
2503 Keen

Joe Shepherd *on duty*
632 McKinley

Bessie Payne *and duty*
933 ^H *Lenore m.c. 100*

Beatrice Payne 1800 *Clinton*

Jonetta Doggett 2614 *De. Davis*

Dorothy Nettles 2610 *Sayon*

Willie Olden 603 *Etobicoke R.D.*
Holman 846 Madry R.D.C

Bettye Johnson 2014 *Broad 3-11*

Erma
E. Hendrix 2493 *Jackson*
743-0791 LPN

Jency Mitchell, 573 *Wilson R*

Erma Mitchell
Mo am.

The American System says that traitors must be destroyed.

WE SAY that traitors and Uncle Toms are sick, and they need
to get straight!