

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-1067)

DATE: 7/5/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP), aka  
RM

On 6/14/68 [redacted] orally advised SA's HOWELL S. LOWE and WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE that the Black Organizing Project people in Memphis, headed by CHARLES LAVERNE CABBAGE, may go to Washington, D. C., 6/19/68, to participate in the Poor People's Campaign march headed by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and are trying to get a ride with RICHARD NEELY of 521 East McLemore, who has a yellow Buick and whose brother DON is a member of BOP. RICHARD NEELY is on vacation and works for the KB Photo Supply. JOHN B. SMITH has recently been driving the green and cream Cougar owned by his girlfriend, MARVA CUNNINGHAM.

SCLC is trying to get JAMES BEVEL back to Memphis to stimulate interest in the 6/19/68 march.

- 1-157-1067 - BOP
  - 1-157-556 - Possible Racial Violence, Major Urban Areas
  - 1-170-70-Sub - [redacted]
  - 1-157-957 - [redacted]
  - 1-157-1253 - [redacted]
  - 1-157-1104 - [redacted]
  - 1-157- [redacted]
  - 1-157-1190 - Poor People's Campaign
  - 1-157-166 - SCLC
  - 1-157-1070 - [redacted]
  - 1-100-4528 - [redacted]
  - 1-157- [redacted]
  - 1-157-1125 - [redacted]
  - 1-157- [redacted]
  - 1-170-1024 - [redacted]
  - 2-170-New - [redacted]
  - 1-157- - COAL
  - 1-157- [redacted]
- WHL:wp  
(19)

*Lawrence*

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One of the local leaders in the SCLC campaign is BISHOP TROTTER, who is no kin to the TROTTER who ran for City Council. BISHOP TROTTER is one of two brothers raised in the Binghampton section of Memphis. His sister is married to a Rev. DREW in Clarksdale, Mississippi, who is a member of the Executive Board of SCLC and has been active in civil rights activities in Mississippi. Both of the TROTTER brothers are particularly close to HERMAN O'NEAL, a football coach at Lester High School who has been actively working in behalf of the SCLC campaign. BISHOP TROTTER was one of those Negroes who was beaten by the police during the 3/28/68 race riot. He was one of those people who was in the Big M Cafe following the riots.

BISHOP TROTTER has been going to college some place. He is about 23 to 24 years of age, and he has a brother who is a minister in either the CME or AME Church.

BOP member EDWINA JEANETTA HARRELL is not working.

CHARLES L. CABBAGE, head of the BOP, stated that he is looking for a lot of money for his organization from three sources, including the Memphis War on Poverty Committee, plus two other sources, probably private sources, in the form of grants.

CHARLES CABBAGE and his cohort, JOHN B. SMITH, think that WASHINGTON BUTLER, a Negro who is head of the WOPC, is stalling them and does not want to give them any money or support.

Informant advised that WASHINGTON BUTLER belongs to the Monumental Baptist Church, pastored by Rev. S. B. KYLES, who is active on behalf of SCLC, and that CABBAGE and JOHN B. SMITH indicate that they get more support from some of the young white workers in WOPC than they do from WASHINGTON BUTLER.

CABBAGE is busily out trying to recruit members into the Invaders and the BOP group.

West Tennessee Director of the Tennessee Council on Human Relations GERALD FANION recently got a job for one of the Invaders and BOP troublemakers JOHN HENRY FERGUSON working in behalf of public relations for the Union Protective Insurance Company on Mississippi Boulevard headed by HAROLD WHALUM. He just got the job on or about 6/12/68 or 6/13/68.

On 6/13/68 FERGUSON was with informant when they ran into one WARREN LEWIS, a barber with a shop on North Thomas Street around 887 Thomas across from the Loeb's complex on North Thomas Street, and FERGUSON talked to some length with WARREN LEWIS and later told informant that WARREN LEWIS has a group in North Memphis known as the Black Knights, which is a part of the city-wide BOP group, and that CHARLES CABBAGE has also developed a cell of BOP, name not known, in the Douglass area of Memphis, which would be in northeast Memphis.

Informant stated that WARREN LEWIS is a clean-cut male Negro about 30 years of age, about 5' 10", thin, is an active member of the Pentacostal Church of God in Christ, of which Bishop J. O. PATTERSON is the pastor, he being the father of J. O. PATTERSON, JR., member of the Memphis City Council. WARREN plays drums for the choir in the Pentacostal Church of God in Christ, has always been active with young people, has a good public relations image, and allegedly lives in North Memphis.

RICHARD NEELY definitely wants to go to Washington on 6/19/68 march and wants to get a car load. He is the older brother of DON NEELY. The NEELYS have another brother, who is somewhat younger than RICHARD but still older than DON, who just returned from the U. S. Army, where he allegedly served in Korea. He is a big husky young man and it is not known whether he will show any interest in the BOP movement.

JOHN HENRY FERGUSON told informant that he (FERGUSON) and HAROLD WHALUM have an appointment to see Chief of Police HENRY LUX and Police Director FRANK DOLLOMAN at 10:00 a.m., 6/14/68, in an effort to set up a community relations program with the Memphis Police Department in conjunction with JOHN HENRY FERGUSON and the Union Protective Life Insurance Company and that GERALD FANION had sold FERGUSON on this idea. FANION wants FERGUSON to get experience, and then FANION promised to put FERGUSON to work for the West Tennessee Chapter of the Tennessee Council on Human Relations.

JOHN B. SMITH and CHARLES CABBAGE are trying to get a new apartment, as the apartment at 1644 Hanauer, Apt. 2, of JOHN SMITH is too small.

Another BOP leader, CHARLES S. BALLARD, Owen College student, who lives at 1830 Kansas, loafs a lot at the Harlem House in the 300 block on Beale Street.

Informant has learned reliably that Bishop B. JULIAN SMITH, aka Julian B. Smith, head of the CME Church for Arkansas and Tennessee, and who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Community on the Move for Equality (COME), has told his ministers to be aloof and circumspect with regard to the Invaders and BOP as he does not trust them.

With regard to the rumor that BOP member CLINTON ROY JAMERSON, former Owen College student, may be going to run for City Councilman in Memphis, informant stated that there could be some truth to this in that JAMERSON's mother is particularly close to Mrs. ALMA MORRIS, wife of CHARLEY MORRIS, on Alaska Street, CHARLEY MORRIS being an insurance man and unsuccessful candidate for City Commission in the last election. They are also particularly close to Mrs. KATIE SEXTON, wife of a minister, and the SEXTONS and MORRISes and Mrs. JAMERSON recently formed a JOHN F. KENNEDY Democratic Club in the Klondyke area of Memphis to compete with the Shelby County Democratic Club, which primarily is run by the NAACP, and that this group will try to promote a bus to Washington in connection with the 6/19/68 march.

J. O. PATTERSON, JR., also wants a bus to go to Washington and will use this for political purposes. GERALD FANION stated that he is going to Washington for the march.

Also on 6/18/68 [redacted] advised that the SCLC met at the Lorraine Motel on Mulberry Street on the night of 6/17/68 and (FNU) COTTONREADER, Field Director of SCLC in the State of Mississippi, brought about 18 to 20 young male Negroes with him, ostensibly from one of the two Negro colleges in Holly Springs, Mississippi. This group will be marshals in the parade in Washington on 6/19/68. The group is definitely running short of money and desperately needs \$1,077 for a bus to take COTTONREADER's group to Washington to leave about 6/18/68. Some of the Negro undertakers, along with WALTER LEE BAILEY, operator of the Lorraine Motel, have promised them money. COTTONREADER stated that his group is prepared to stay in jail six to seven weeks if necessary in connection with some of the protest activities of SCLC in Memphis.

Informant also learned definitely that CHARLES F. CABBAGE, RICHARD NEELY, and DON NEELY are going to Washington in a yellow convertible, 1966 model Buick, owned by RICHARD NEELY and that they want to participate in the 6/19/68 march

and then possibly go on to New York City to see someone there about possible franchises to sell and distribute black art in the Memphis, Tennessee, area.

On behalf of Capt. J. G. RAY and Lt. E. H. ARKIN of the Memphis Police Department, it was indicated to [REDACTED] recently that OREE MCKENZIE was thought to be a PD informant. This was done to divert attention from the suspicion of [REDACTED] the PD informant now in existence.

[REDACTED]

The SCLC had a festival at the Paradise Club around 6/14/68 and the BOP group and Invaders were particularly jealous of this as all the BOP wants is action and they do not want to do anything constructive. HERMAN O'NEAL and some of the other Negro school teachers of Memphis have been actively trying to obtain money for the SCLC to go to Washington, D. C., and a recent group of strange Negroes has been in Memphis wearing green berets or bush-type hats with leopard-skin bands and also wearing green T-shirts, going to various merchants doing business with Negro people, attempting to obtain money to support buses to Washington, D. C. A local female Negro singer, ARLENE SANDERS, aka Andrea, has been with some of these people, and she has been particularly with two young militant looking men wearing the green hats. Informant did not know any further details.