

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-1067)

DATE: 7/12/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP), aka  
RM

On 7/12/68 [REDACTED] orally advised SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE as follows:

On 7/4/68 he saw HURLEY GIPSON of the Invaders and its umbrella group, Black Organizing Project. HURLEY said Invader EMMITT HOUSE had become a veritable "junkie" and almost died within the past couple of days after taking an overdose of Delata (phonetic), a drug which he injected into his arm with a hypodermic needle. This was around 7/2/68, the night of the COME meeting. HURLEY said on that day HOUSE smoked a lot of marijuana, took some white pills, and then had the injection in the arm.

HURLEY was at the home of MARIE LAWSON, Nation of Islam member, who lives at 1830 Orleans. Her son, BOLDEN EUGENE LAWSON, who originally started the NOI Mosque in Memphis around 1960, has for the past couple of years been in Chicago, Illinois. He is home for a visit. HURLEY is not

- 1-157-1067 - BOP
- 1-170-1019-Sub - [REDACTED]
- 1-157-556 - Possible Racial Violence, Major Urban Areas
- 1-157-957 - [REDACTED]
- 1-105-560 - [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1126 - [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1277 - [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1230 - [REDACTED]
- 1-157- [REDACTED]
- 1-157-1312 - Black Knights
- 1-105-160 - NOI
- 1-134-326 - [REDACTED]
- 1-157- [REDACTED]
- 1-66-1687-sub - Dissemination

WHL:wp  
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acquainted with BOLDEN but knows his younger brother, MELVIN LAWSON, who it will be recalled visited JOHN BURELL SMITH's apartment about six weeks ago for a social party.

BOLDEN said that he and a companion from Chicago, a cousin, male Negro, about 23, 6'1", dark complexion, 140 to 145 pounds, low hair, brought ten pounds of marijuana with them from Chicago.

BOLDEN was trying to sell some of it to one ARTHUR ROWE, who was present. ARTHUR ROWE would have nothing to do with it. It is not known if BOLDEN will sell any in Memphis.

Also on 7/4/68 MELVIN SMITH, an Invader, was seen near his uncle's store about 1328 Florida. It is next door to the NOI Mosque at 1324 Florida. MELVIN commented that he had gotten a gun to "protect himself from the white crackers." He did not exhibit the gun or further describe it.

On the night of 7/4/68 at the Rosewood Night Club on South Lauderdale, ISSAC HAYES, writer for Stax Records, was heard to say to one EMMETT JOE WINTERS, who used to be a Memphis policeman and who is now believed to be with Juvenile Court, that he is a leader of the Black Knights, a new Black Power organization. WINTERS seemed interested. HAYES said the Black Knights now have a charter.

The above information was orally furnished to Lt. E. H. ARKIN, Intelligence Bureau, Memphis ED, on 7/8/68.