

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-1067)

DATE: 7/16/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT, aka
Invaders
RM

On 6/27/68 [redacted] advised SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE that on the night of 6/25/68 he had seen members of the Invaders, EMMITT HOUSE and CHARLES HARRINGTON, and three other unidentified male Negroes, who stated that they had just come from a meeting of the Community on the Move for Equality (COME) and that they had taken over the COME group and were going to form their own independent committee. They did not elaborate, but later JOHN BURRELL SMITH, OREE MCKENZIE, and VERDELL BROOKS, and MERRELL McCOLLOUGH came in and said that they had been to this meeting at the Clayborn Temple on the night of 6/26/68 where they had met with a new Black Power group, not further named (believed to be the Black Knights) but they had left early as they wanted to hear STOKELY CARMICHAEL on the "hot line" program out of New York City, heard locally through Radio Station WDIA.

Later that evening, CHARLES HARRINGTON went to the Log Cabin Cafe and saw a fellow by the name of PAUL HAWKINS, who said that he had been to the Clayborn Temple earlier that evening and heard LESTER High School Football Coach HERMAN O'NEIL, one of the local SCLC leaders, talk about his experiences in Washington, D. C., at Resurrection City, and that O'NEIL had been somewhat worked up and had allegedly made some sort of statements about getting weapons with which to defend the Negroes from the "white devil."

1-157-1067
1-170-1019-Sub - [redacted]
1-157-556 - Possible Violence, Major Urban Areas
1-170-1024 - [redacted]
1-157-1019 - [redacted]
1-157-1277 - [redacted]
1-157-1275 - [redacted]
1-157-1126 - [redacted]
1-157-1100 - [redacted]
1-157-957 - [redacted]
1-157-967 - [redacted]
1-157- [redacted]
1-157- [redacted]
1-157- [redacted]
WHL:wp (14)

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SERIALIZED FILED
JUL 18 1968
FBI - MEMPHIS
Lawrence

ME 157-1067

On 6/29/68 informant advised that on Friday, 6/28/68, he saw MERRELL McCOLLOUGH, JAMES E. PHILLIPS, CHARLES DALLARD, and HURLEY GIBSON all together on South Florida Street about 6:30 to 6:45 p.m. They were riding in McCOLLOUGH's Volkswagen Fastback.

Informant also recalled that on Wednesday night, 6/26/68, CHARLES HARRINGTON had stated that he (HARRINGTON) has a job with the War on Poverty Committee, a Memphis Poverty Project financed by the City, County, and Federal Governments, and that the WOP thinks that those Black Power advocates working for WOP will teach according to WOP guidelines, but that actually the Black Power advocates, including HARRINGTON and BAIRD, will teach the "black thing," which is the militant Black Power philosophy. HARRINGTON elaborated that if, a few years ago, older Negroes had taught him about the "black thing," "we wouldn't have our current problems now." HARRINGTON stated that a black Mafia was trying to get established in Memphis and indicated that it was a part of the Invaders and Black Organizing Project (BOP) and would operate similar to the renowned white Mafia, which has operated in some of the larger cities for many, many years. HARRINGTON emphasized that his group will form something similar for the purpose of "selling protection to merchants." He said that it may be known as the Et U John Bey (phonetic) Society. He did not elaborate.

Informant learned that one MONROE hangs out at the Log Cabin Cafe quite frequently but is not known to go to the apartment of JOHN BURRELL SMITH at 1644 Hanauer. This individual states that his name is MOSE MONROE DAVIS. He is a male Negro, dark complexion, low hair, 5' 7" to 5' 8", 165 to 170 pounds, 22 to 25 years of age, and lives somewhere in the Southwest Memphis area.

On 6/30/68 informant advised that one WILLIE WARREN, a male Negro, who lives in Southwest Memphis, and who is not known to be connected with the Invaders, commented that ROY FOSTER, aka Duke Foster, proprietor of the Playboy Villa on outer Parkway, allows the Invaders to meet in his place at least once a week and that he recently gave them \$15. WARREN was of the impression that this is "pay off" money aimed at keeping them "off his back." Informant also recalled that on Wednesday night, 6/26/68, JOHN B. SMITH, OREER MCKENZIE, and VERDELL BROOKS had been at JOHN B.'s apartment but did not say where they had been previously.