

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: SAC (157-1067)

DATE: 8/6/68

FROM: SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT
(BOP), aka
RM

On 7/18/68 [REDACTED] orally advised SA
WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE as follows:

Informant furnished copies of 8X10 photographs taken
back in June 1968 of five self-admitted Invaders and Black
Organizing Project (BOP) leaders for which they willingly
posed. These photographs are of the following:

MURRELL MC COLLOUGH
LARRY LARUE DAVIS
ARTHUR "DOC" NORWOOD
VERDELL BROOKS
JAMES ELMORE PHILLIPS.

- (J) - 157-1067, BOP
- 1 - 157-556, POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE, MAJOR URBAN AREAS
- 1 - 170-70-Sub, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1061, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1000, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1116, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 100-4528, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1114, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-957, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-166, SCLC
- 1 - 62-ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union)
- 1 - 100-4575, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1070, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 25-14636, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1263, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-955, BLACK POWER INFILTRATION, MEMPHIS WAR ON POVERTY
COMMITTEE
- 2 - 157- [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1190, POOR PEOPLES CAMPAIGN
- 1 - 66-1687-Sub, Dissemination

WHL:LF
(20)

ef

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
AUG 7 1968
FBI - MEMPHIS

bell
157-1067-306

NORWOOD is trying to borrow money and claims he is now on the payroll of the Neighborhood Organizing Project (NOP), the BOP phase of the Memphis War on Poverty Committee. NORWOOD was in Washington, D. C., 6/19/68 in the Poor Peoples Campaign and Resurrection City, sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He was seen there with JAMES E. PHILLIPS and ORLANDIS SESSLEY, a big fat Negro and former Owen College student.

Informant furnished copies of photographs taken on 6/19/68 depicting SESSLEY, PHILLIPS and NORWOOD together. These photographs have been cut up and placed in the 1A section of the files on NORWOOD, PHILLIPS and SESSLEY.

On 7/17/68 ARTHUR NORWOOD bragged that on 7/16/68 JOHN B. SMITH, NORWOOD and other BOP leaders contacted Memphis Mayor HENRY LOEB seeking financial support and voting machines with which to teach Negroes to vote.

NORWOOD said he got out of Carver High School about two years ago. He is a militant "hot head."

On the evening of 7/17/68 NORWOOD, JOHN BURRELL SMITH and VERDELL BROOKS went to the Orange Mound, Park Ave., Mt. Pisgah CME church, where they claimed they were to meet with a group of Orange Mound blacks for the purpose of setting up a Black Power unit in Orange Mound. The church was empty so they went across the street to the Harlem House cafe and met with several Negroes, one of whom appeared to be identical with NEWBORN BROOKS, 2571 Park Ave.

JOHN B. SMITH is not working but is "mooching." Enroute to Orange Mound, they stopped at SCLC headquarters in O. W. PICKETT's realty office, Danny Thomas Boulevard and Beale St. to visit with BOP leader CHARLES L. CABBAGE and a "wino," WILLIAM THACKSON or THAXTON. CABBAGE said he was out on bond on his Selective Service charge of refusing to report for induction. He said his mother had made his bond. He is using Attorney RUSSELL X. THOMPSON, as the American Civil Liberties Union and its representative, Attorney DAVID CAYWOOD, gave him only a lot of "hot air" when he sought their assistance.

CABBAGE added that Rev. JAMES MORRIS LAWSON JR., pastor of Centenary Methodist Church, who in the 1950's went to Vietnam instead of the Army, has been giving him a lot of good advice as to how to stay out of the Armed Forces.

JOHN R. SMITH said no black man should, under any circumstances, go into the Armed Forces as he might get killed and the United States was not worth dying for.

DONNE (DON) REELY, BOP member and self-described member of the "Downtown Association" of BOP, is again AWOL from the U. S. Army. He is trying to print some letters to give to businessmen demanding help for BOP, but is having trouble with the big words.

CHARLES L. CABBAGE and his girlfriend, EDWINA HARRELL, the leading female in BOP, spent the weekend of 7/13-14/68 in the Truvel Motel, possibly in Room 53 or 54.

RICK TAYLOR, Negro male who hangs out on Beale St. and who sometimes helps CABBAGE, HARRELL, et al, commented that CABBAGE was "hiding out" as he did not want to be arrested for evading the draft.

On 7/14/68 CABBAGE said he was "sort of hiding out" and told informant that he would like to get a paying job with STIC and wanted money with which to go to Atlanta to see SCLC leader HOSEA WILLIAMS in an effort to get a job.

Another BOP member, CLIFFORD LOUIS TAYLOR, who is now in the "Downtown Association," is married and wants to move out of his parents' home at 2507 Fontaine and get a house of his own. He wants to buy a house.

On 7/29/68 the above information was furnished to Lt. E. H. ARKIN, Intelligence Unit, Memphis PD.