

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-1067) (P)

DATE: 1/6/69

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP),
aka
RM

On 12/13/68 Det. [REDACTED] Intelligence Bureau, Memphis, Tenn., PD, furnished SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE a copy of PD memo dated 12/13/68 captioned "Activities of Black United Front aka Invaders for Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1968, report of [REDACTED]". A xerox copy of this PD memo is attached to each copy of this memo.

ATTACHMENT 1

- 1 - 157-1067
- 1 - 157-1423, BUF
- 1 - 157-1647, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1230, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1563, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1553, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1645, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1471, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1548, [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-
- 1 - 157-1620, [REDACTED]

WHL:LF
(11)

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Attachments

Lawrence 157-1067-1784
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 FBI - MEMPHIS
Lawrence

Dupe of #799

Insp. D. H. Smith

Lt. E. H. Arkin

December 13, 1968

Activities of Black
United Front aka
Invaders for Tuesday,
Dec. 10, 1968, report
of [REDACTED]

At 3 P.M., Dec. 12, 1968, [REDACTED] telephonically informed the Intelligence Bureau of the activities of the Invaders also known as the Black United Front for Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1968.

He stated that at 6:45 p.m. at Clayborn Temple 290 Hernando, he observed the following subjects: MELVIN SMITH, CHIQUITA SMITH, ROY TURKS, JAMES E. GRIFFIN, ROBERT "CORNBREAD" WILSON, and MELINDA TAYLOR. [REDACTED] further stated that no one saw LANCE WATSON aka SWEET WILLIE WINE all that day or night.

At 7:30 P.M. the following subjects were seen to leave Clayborn Temple and proceed to the Tree of Life Baptist Church on McLemore: DONALD PIGFORD, MELVIN SMITH, CHIQUITA SMITH, ROY TURKS, and JAMES E. GRIFFIN. Upon their arrival at the church the following known subjects were already there: REGINOLD FERGUSON, FRANK MITCHELL, CORNELIA CHRENSHAW, GILBERT PATTERSON, and JAMES I. TAYLOR. It may be noted that there were approx. 150 people at this meeting, most of them being middle aged.

Copies of this report to be placed in the following files:

[REDACTED]

The first speaker at the Tree of Life Baptist Church was CORNELIA CHRENSHAW, who stated they were here tonight to let Mr. TAYLOR know that they were supporting him fully. She further stated that Mr. TAYLOR had good ideas and would serve in the legislator in a manner conducive to the people that elected him.

According to Mrs. CHRENSHAW Mr. TAYLOR informed her that he was to attend a conference of elected officials in Atlanta Ga. Mrs. CHRENSHAW stated that she had a lot of contacts in Atlanta and was going to give TAYLOR a list of people to see there, who can help him on matters pertaining to the housing authority and Urban Renewal.

The next speaker was GILBERT PATTERSON, who stated in essence "I agree with Mrs. CHRENSHAW as to what she said about Mr TAYLOR. A lot of people think that our fight is over since the Sanitation and Hospital strikes. Our fight is still going on and there is a lot of work to be done. I think Mr TAYLOR is one of the men who will help us tremendously in the legislature. You should give him your support and tell him what you would like to see done in the black communities. We are tired of people like BERT FERGUSON who has taken hundreds of thousands of dollars out of the black community and put only pennies back into it.

The next speaker was JAMES I. TAYLOR, who stated that he had a long list of proposed legislation that was submitted to the newly elected representatives by MAYOR LOEB. According to Mr. TAYLOR he thought a number of these proposed laws were unjust and unfair, and he wanted to go over a few of them at this meeting. The first proposed law that he talked about was to make resisting arrest a felony. Mr. TAYLOR thought that if it is to be a felony then a law should be passed to make police brutality also a felony. The second proposed new law was to raise the fines for those guilty of prostitution. Here Mr. TAYLOR said he, meaning the mayor, seems to be interested in additional money and not in stopping prostitution, which should be done. Mr. TAYLOR felt that the buyer should also be fined as well as the seller. He further stated that prostitution has been going on as long as anyone can remember and he didn't think by raising the fines that it would be eradicated. The third proposed law was a motel-hotel tax and Mr. TAYLOR stated that he did not believe that people living in hotels or motels on a permanent should have to pay anymore taxes. The next two proposed acts were things that Mr. TAYLOR stated that he would try to get repealed. They are as follows- The fourth act was to repeal the garbage fee and the fifth was lowering the voting age to eighteen. Mr. TAYLOR at this point was open for questions from the audience.

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report of [REDACTED]

MELVIN SMITH stood up and stated "lowering voter age is one thing that we believe is a must". If 18 yr. olds can die in war we feel that they have the right to vote."

ROY TURKS then stood up and said "We are going to circulate a petition to get the voters age lowered."

According to [REDACTED] the Invaders left the church at 10:30 p.m. and returned to Clayborn Temple at approx. 10:45 p.m.

At 11:00 p.m. TURKS, MELVIN SMITH, and DONALD FIGFORD were observed leaving Clayborn Temple and were not seen until 1:00 a.m. when they returned to the Temple.