



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
March 3, 1969

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RE: INVADERS, also known as
Black Organizing Project,
Community Organizing Project,
Black United Front;
RACIAL MATTERS

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157-1067-978D

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RE: INVADERS

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FORM OF ORGANIZATION

The title of captioned matter has been carried by Black Organizing Project, also known as Invaders, Afro-American Brotherhood, Downtown Association, LeMoyne Intercollegiate Chapter of NAACP, and Black Student Association."

The complexion and organizational structure have appreciably changed in recent months.

For example, as recently as February 20, 1969, Sources One, Two, Three, and Four advised that the name Invaders has become the dominant militant, violence-prone Black Power group in Memphis. The original umbrella organization, Black Organizing Project, has become defunct for all practical purposes. Its original leaders, such as Charles Laverne Cabbage, John Burrell Smith, Edwin Beannetta Farrell, and James Elmore Phillips, are all in jail. The Afro-American Brotherhood cell ceased to exist when Owen College merged with LeMoyne College in September, 1968. There is no longer any LeMoyne Intercollegiate Chapter of NAACP. Another original cell, the Black Student Association (BSA), consisting of black students at Memphis State University (MSU), is completely independent and autonomous. For all practical purposes, the Invaders is now the sole remaining activist Black Power organization. For strategic and "public image" reasons, Invaders sometimes refer to themselves as Black United Front and Community Organizing Project, but the latter two names exist in name only.

These four sources added that since late August and September, 1968, there has been a marked change in the inner structure and active membership of Invaders. The original group of Invaders, so active during the spring and summer of 1968, have largely ceased to operate, mostly turning to crime as an avocation. A new younger group has taken their place, most of whom are not overtly bent. This new group is primarily under the leadership of Lance (Sweet Willie Wine) Watson, Melvin Smith, Roy Lee Turks, Maurice Lewis, and Cacheatun Smith.

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Characterizations of Black Panther Party, Students for a Democratic Society, and Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, mentioned hereinafter in this communication, are set forth in the Appendix.

II. INVADER HEADQUARTERS

On December 17, 1968, Source One stated Invaders were moving from Clayborn Temple, AME Church, 280 Hernando, to a rented store front at 271 Vance. The Bishop of AME Church ordered Dr. H. Ralph Jackson, Director of AME Minimum Salary Division, 276 Hernando, and overseer of Clayborn, to get them out. Jackson, in order to pacify and at some time "use" Invaders, conferred with Reverend Ezekiel Bell, newly elected President of Memphis NAACP Chapter, to pay their rent. Jackson supplied the money, at \$120 a month rent, ostensibly from the treasury of Community on the Move for Equality (COM-E), a group of Memphis Negro ministers. Bell, who is active in COM-E, along with JACKSON, gave the Invaders cash money with which to pay the rent.

The new building is rented from Alvin J. Beckenbacker, who operates a small furniture store at 275 Vance. The original lease showed Reverend Ezekiel Bell as lessee, showing the rental group not as Invaders but as a phantom group, "Community Organizing Project." He later deleted his name and listed two Invaders, Ron Pigford and Marrell McCollough, as the lessees. The lease runs from December 23, 1968, to June 23, 1969.

Later on January 5, 1969, Sources One, Two, and Three advised the Invaders had moved into 271 Vance and obtained a telephone, number 527-5130.

They added that records are maintained by Cachetuh Undre Smith and Shirley Young and that Melvin Smith sleeps at the headquarters.

On January 6, 1969, Source One added that prior to moving to 271 Vance, Invaders, through the help of Reverend H. Ralph Jackson and Ezekiel Bell, had planned to move to 351 Vance and that Bell had rented the building from Van Court

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Health Company, but after the December 12, 1968, arrest of Lance Watson, who was trying to break into the building, this arrangement was dropped.

On February 10, 1969, Source Two advised that as of February 8, 1969, Invaders office, a store front at 271 Vance, had two couches; two desks; two filing cabinets; an A. B. Dick mimeograph machine (inoperative), rented for them by Grant Harvey, male Negro, an assistant to Reverend Dr. H. Ralph Jackson, Director of Minimum Salary Office, AME Church; a rented Xerox copying machine, rented from Cooper Office Supply Company; a Coca Cola machine; plus pictures on the walls of Eldridge Cleaver, a fugitive from Oakland, California, and leader of Black Panthers.

III. INVADER FINANCES

As recently as February 20, 1969, Sources One and Two advised that Invaders have a small bank account at Tri-State Bank, a Negro-owned and operated institution, under the name of "Invaders, Inc. - Community Relations." Signers of checks are Donald C. Pigford, Cacheatub Smith, and Lance Watson. This account is very small, averaging about \$33. To date Invaders have received no big contributions. Reverend Ezekiel Bell, in an effort to improve their "image," has arranged for them to sell, each Saturday, 1,000 to 2,000 copies of "Tri-State Defender," Memphis weekly newspaper, a Negro paper owned by Sengstacke Publications. It is significant that the "Defender" has recently given Invaders a "good press" by denying that they are young hoodlums and saying that both the black and white communities should listen to them.

IV. OFFICERS

On November 26, 1968, Sources One and Two advised that current officers of Invaders are:

Chairman: Lance (Sweet Willie Wine) Watson
Co-Chairman: Lewis Welch

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Minister of
Public Relations: Roy Lee Turks

Minister of
African Culture
and History: Melvin Smith

Secretary: Cachenah Undre Smith

Minister of
Defense: Robert Lewis Taylor, also
known as Robert Louis Taylor

Assistant
Ministers of
Defense (3): George Hall;
Robert Lee "Corn Bread" Wilson;
John Charles Cabbage

Minister of
Internal Security: Maurice Lewis

Joint Treasurers: James Pegues;
Donald C. Pigford

Business Manager: Donald C. Pigford

Frank F. Mitchell was Minister of Finance but
resigned in November, 1968, and no replacement has been named.

On January 27, 1969, Source Eight advised that
the telephone 527-5130 is listed in the name of Donald
Pigford, 1778 Keltner Circle #11, wife Mary Pigford, a
teacher at Lincoln Junior High School. This telephone is
listed in the name of Black United Front, Community
Relations Office, which formerly had telephone number
525-9745 at Clayborn Temple, in name of Malcolm Douglas
Blackburn, pastor of Clayborn Temple.

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V. - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On February 20, 1969, Source One advised that the up-to-date list of Board of Directors of Invaders consists of:

Coby Vernon Smith - Southwestern College student, residence 2240 Brown Avenue;

Roy Lee Turks, unemployed, legal residence 2376 Dexter, born March 10, 1949, at Tunica, Mississippi;

Melvin Smith, unemployed, residence - sleeps in Invader Headquarters, 271 Vance, born May 19, 1939, at Sherard, Mississippi;

Maurice Lewis, unemployed, residence 939 Maple Street, Memphis, uses alias Maurice Keyes;

Cacheatuh Undre Smith, unemployed, residence 172 West Person, Apartment 6, born December 17, 1949, at Memphis, Tennessee;

Marrell McCollough, student, MSU, residence 1445 Clementine, age 23;

Charles Laverne Cabbage, unemployed, currently in Shelby County Jail awaiting State trial on carrying pistol, third degree burglary, and Federal charge of failure to report for Armed Forces induction, born April 8, 1944, at Memphis;

John Burrell Smith, unemployed, currently in Shelby County Jail, recently convicted of inciting riot at Carver High School May 17, 1968, and awaiting trial on charge of possession of marijuana and legend drugs, born January 13, 1943, at Darling, Mississippi;

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Lance (Sweet Willie Wine) Watson, unemployed, currently in Shelby County Jail in lieu of Peace Bond and on charges of carrying a pistol, born August 19, 1938;

Donald Clarence Pigford, student, NSU, residence 1778 Keltner Circle;

Lewis Welch, part-time employee at Midwest Dairy Farms, residence 1429 Greenwood, born July 27, 1941.

VI. CURRENT ACTIVE INVADERS

As recently as February 20, 1969, Sources One, Two, and Three advised that the following is the basic current membership of Invaders, many of whom are new, and that the membership is highly fluid with a constant turnover in membership.

This has been basically verified by Lieutenant E. H. Arkin, Intelligence Bureau, Memphis Police Department, who on February 20, 1969, assisted in compiling the following list, based on current information in the Police Department files:

Carl S. Armstrong, born February 19, 1947, (not verified), residence 236 Ashland, Memphis Police Department [REDACTED] unemployed;

Leroy Bledsoe, also known as "Red," born March 5, 1950 (not verified Bureau of Vital Statistics)(NVBVS), residence 817 Lewis, employed E. H. Crump Hospital;

Joe Lee Burns, Sr., also known as King Jewell, residence 1116 James, FBI [REDACTED], age 48;

Joe Lee Burns, Jr., also known as King Jewell Sonny, Joseph Lee Smalls, and Lavelle Marion Smith, FBI [REDACTED] Memphis Police Department [REDACTED], born May 5, 1945 at Chicago, Illinois (NVBVS);

Curtis L. Davis, Jr.

Earl Davis, Jr., residence 2382 Manchester, Memphis;

Thomas "Tom" Davis.

Johnnie Lee Frierson, residence 1916 Foster, born June 25, 1945 (NVRVS).

Raymond Fuller, 853 Ioka, age 21 to 22;

Frank Gerald, Jr., 24 West Colorado Street, Apartment 3, Memphis Police Department [redacted] born October 14, 1937 (NVRVS).

James Edward Griffin, 1057 [redacted] Avenue, Memphis Police Department [redacted] born October 16, 1949 (NVRVS).

Horace Hall, 1423 [redacted] Memphis Police Department [redacted] born July 11, 1949, or July 11, 1950 (NVRVS);

Mack Charles Hardin, also known as M. C., 366 1/2 Vance, #1, and 497 Linden, Memphis Police Department [redacted] born December 25, 1952 (NVRVS);

Marlene Herron, residence 1389 Tunica;

Emmett House, 276 South Parkway, Memphis Police Department [redacted] born June 1, 1942 (NVRVS);

Nathaniel Nesbitt Johnson, also known as Spider, Memphis Police Department [redacted] born February 16, 1938 (NVRVS).

Anderson Jordan, Jr., also known as Stroll, Memphis Police Department [redacted] born May 16, 1941, or May 16, 1942 (NVRVS);

Maurice Edward Lewis, residence 937 Maple, born December 20, 1946 (NVRVS).

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Brenda Joyce Major, residence 535 Vance,
born March 2, 1952 (NVBVS);

Marrell McCollough, residence 1445 Clementine,
student, NSU;

Winston Lee Middleton, residence 617 Alice,
Memphis Police Department [redacted] born
April 27, 1941 (NVBVS);

Frank W. Mitchell, residence 2559 Monette;

Eddie Morris, Jr., also known as Eddie Tate,
age 17, born February 22, 1952, at Millington,
Tennessee (per his mother, Henri Lee Morris),
residence 7751 Reese Road, Shelby County,
Tennessee, claims to be older, claiming born
February 22, 1946;

Michael Eugene Mountain, 3465 West Horn Lake
Road, Memphis Police Department [redacted]
born August 1, 1950 (NVBVS);

James Harold Norman, 1439 Leland, born
July 13, 1950 (NVBVS);

Otis Parnell, also known as Elijah Parker,
1533 Marjorie, born June 6, 1948, at New
Albany, Mississippi (NVBVS);

James Pegues, residence 638 Suzette, employed
as driver for Curb Meat Market, born September
3, 1914, at Oxford, Mississippi;

Donald Clarence Pigford, 1778 Keltner Circle,
#11, NSU student;

George Edward Pryor, also known as Lepricon,
born May 27, 1950 (NVBVS), residence 280
East Trigg;

M. C. Scales, Memphis Police Department [redacted]
born August 4, 1941, or July 4, 1941, (NVBVS),
residence 931 Knight Place, operator, Twilight
Zone Lounge, 299 Vance;

Cacheatuh Undre Smith, born December 17, 1949
(NVBVS), residence 172 West Person, Apartment D

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Coby Vernon Smith, residence 2240 Brown, student, Southwest College, born July 17, 1940 (NVBVS).

John Charles Smith, 2430 Valentine, born October 12, 1948, at Memphis (NVBVS), FBI [REDACTED]

Melvin Smith, born May 19, 1940, at Sherard, Mississippi (NVBVS), residence 271 Vance;

Ethel Mae Staples, also known as Ethel Mae Taylor and Mrs. Robert Lewis Taylor, residence 1505 Monroet, born January 19, 1952 (NVBVS);

Melinda Taylor, residence 601 Gannoy Thomas Boulevard, born September 10, 1952 (NVBVS);

Robert Lewis Taylor, Jr., born December 3, 1947, or December 3, 1949, or December 3, 1950 (NVBVS), Memphis Police Department [REDACTED]

Carolyn Thomas, born February 17, 1950 (NVBVS), residence 435 East Vance;

Roy Lee Turks, born March 10, 1949, at Tunica, Mississippi (NVBVS), residence 2376 Dexter;

Evelyn Turner, girlfriend of Roy Turks, born December 31, 1948, at Proctor, Arkansas (NVBVS), student, Henderson Business School, residence 40, South 9th Street, West Memphis, Arkansas;

Lance Watson, also known as Sweet Willie, Sweet Willie, and Willie, born August 19, 1938 (verified Verna May [REDACTED]), Memphis Police Department [REDACTED] said to be [REDACTED]

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Robert Andrew Webster, also known As Super Cool,
1595 East McMlore, born March 25, 1949 (NVBVS),
Memphis Police Department [REDACTED]

Lewis Welch, also known as "The Lock," residence
1429 Greenwood, born July 27, 1941 (NVBVS),
Memphis Police Department [REDACTED]

Gwendolyn White, also known as Guindolyn White,
born August 28, 1945 (NVBVS), residence 373
Pontotoc;

Robert Lee "Corn Bread" Wilson, born August 7,
1949 (NVBVS), residence 139 West Fields,
Memphis Police Department [REDACTED]

George Edward Winfrey, born January 30, 1935,
or January 29, 1934 (NVBVS), residence 904
North 2nd;

Shirley Young, born February 13, 1955 (NVBVS),
residence 1311 McMillan.

VII. OBTAINING OF GUNS AND ADVOCACY OF CRIMINAL ACTS

On January 20, 1969, Source One stated that Invaders are trying to expand forces, recruiting teenagers, and want to train them in Karate. At a January 14, 1969, Invader meeting, 271 Vance Avenue, Melvin Smith made an emotional speech in which he claimed the whites were doing everything possible to destroy the Invaders. He said, "The FBI has commissioned Guardsmark to ride around and shoot black people if they get out of line. That is all they are in Memphis for." (Guardsmark is a private guard-type security agency operated by Mark Lipman and Company, 22 South Second Street, Memphis.) Smith added, "The United States gives everybody guns to fight black people with. If you don't believe white people are dangerous, ask those Arabs what the Jews did to them in seven days."

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At this meeting Lewis Welch said, "We are going to launch a campaign and call it 'Get It.' That means getting money or anything else we can use through any means possible." He warned Hoy Lee Turks and Eddie Morris, Jr. also known as Eddie Tate, to give no more stories to the newspapers, adding, "The next time you give out any information about the organization, we are going to put you in the middle of the (Mississippi) River and station people on each bank to see how well you can swim. That water is cold out there this time of the year and when they bring the bodies up, they are usually frozen." He added, "The Blackstone Rangers have their territories organized like we should have ours. Those people are together. The police don't patrol their territory so we are also going to get down on 'Operation Pigs' and drive them out." (Source One said Pigs is a derogatory term used by Black Powerites and the New Left to stigmatize law enforcement officers and the term was popularized by the Black Panther Party.) Welch added that "We are going to take over Vance Street and then start down Hernando. As to how this is going to be done, only certain people are to know right now. We are going to get some pieces and we need some responsible people to issue them. If you want to leave your name and address with me for a screening to get one of these pieces, then you will be issued one after the screening." (Source One said pieces means guns.)

Source One added that on January 15, 1969, at a meeting of the inner circle of Invaders at 271 Vance, Lewis Welch commented they would start their "thing" tonight, by taking a stroll down the street to check on the prostitutes. He said the Invaders would soon do all of the pimping for the Vance Avenue, Beale Street, Hernando Street prostitutes, all located in the area surrounded by 271 Vance. He said if the prostitutes want to continue to operate in this area, they will pay off or get off the streets. Welch added that the Invaders would soon start hitting the business houses in the area, stating that they would either pay off or close up. He said if the proprietors called the police, "we will burn them out or off." (Source One said the blacks use the word "off" meaning "kill them.")

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As recently as February 20, 1969, Source One stated that most individual members of Invaders had one or more firearms hidden at home or with friends. The Invaders as of February 20, 1969, owned or controlled two carbines, several shotguns, several miscellaneous varied-caliber pistols, three .22 caliber rifles, plus a .22 caliber rifle with a scope. Invader Carl S. Armstrong, as recently as February 19, 1969, claimed some of the Invaders had procured six machine guns. Source One had no proof regarding the machine guns. Source One added that on or about February 19, 1969, Invader Leroy Bledsoe brought several .22 caliber rifles to Invader headquarters, 271 Vance. Lewis Welch, fearing a police raid, directed Roy Lee Turks and Don Pigford to hide them. They were taken to Turks' mother's house on Dexter Street.

VIII. REVELATIONS OF INVADER BEN HEARD BERRY AND WIFE
JOHNNIE MAE BERRY REGARDING INVADERS AND THEIR
AUGUST 24, 1968, SHOOTING OF POLICE OFFICER

On January 16, 1969, Lieutenant E. H. Arkin, Intelligence Bureau, Memphis Police Department, made available a lengthy legal-size copy of a statement made by Invader Ben Heard Berry, male Negro, residence 17 East Farrow, Apartment 1, made in the office of the Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennessee, in the presence of his attorney, Russell X. Thompson; Investigator E. L. Hutchinson of the Shelby County Attorney General's Office; Lieutenant Tommy H. Smith, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department; Lieutenant E. H. Arkin, Intelligence Bureau, Memphis Police Department; and Jewett Miller, Assistant Attorney General, which was taken on January 2, 1969, at 10:30 a.m. This was typed by M. E. Fortinberry. It was with regard to the shooting by several Invaders of Patrolman Robert James Waddell and Lieutenant J. D. Moore of the Memphis Police Department on Saturday, August 24, 1968, at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Berry has indicated a willingness to turn State's evidence in this case, implicating himself in the process, after consultation with his attorney, Russell X. Thompson. He stated that with him in the shooting were John Gary Williams, Womax Stevenson, Osee McKenzie, and a female (John Gary Williams' girlfriend, whose name he did not know). (It is noted that this is Gloria Faye Goodman.)

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He said that the plans to shoot the police officer were made following the earlier arrest of John Henry Ferguson near the Invader headquarters, then located at 1310 Florida Street, when he was arrested after menacing motorists with what turned out to be a toy rifle. He said he had been at the Neighborhood Organizing Project office of the War on Poverty Committee, which is also being used as an Invader office, at the time the word was received that John Henry Ferguson had been arrested, and that initial plans to ambush an officer in retaliation were made at that time. He said a large number of Invaders were present at the time and that the initial idea to ambush the officer in retaliation was that of Oree McKenzie and that thereafter Oree McKenzie, John Gary Williams, Womax Stevenson, and Ben Perry decided to go through with the operation. He stated that the Invaders were using the Neighborhood Organizing Project office for their headquarters at this time.

He said that they had learned of Ferguson's arrest at approximately 8:30 p.m. and that some of the Invaders had made the statement if he was not turned loose within an hour, all hell would break loose. He stated that this statement had been made to a Lieutenant of the Memphis Police Department. He stated that John Gary Williams was not actually present when this statement was made but arrived shortly thereafter with a young woman, since identified as Gloria Faye Goodman. He stated that the five individuals, including himself, then went around to his apartment at 17 East Farrow, and picked up some firearms and rifles, specifically three rifles, one a 7.62 millimeter Russian make rifle, the other a .303 British carbine, and a 22.250 Remington, all three having bolt actions. He stated that his wife and son then lived with him at 17 East Farrow and that he had had the weapons most of the summer off and on but that the only one belonging to him was the .303 carbine. He stated the 22.250 Remington belonged to John Burrell Smith, Chairman of the Invaders, and that the 7.62 millimeter Russian rifle belonged to Charles LaVerne Cabbage, Program Director of the Invaders.

He stated that he came into possession of the rifles of Cabbage and Smith because they had both been in the habit

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of keeping their rifles in the same place and that at one time they kept them at Cabbage's mother's house, 234 Ingle, but they were afraid the police would find them, and decided to keep them at Berry's place because the police did not know his address at the time. He claimed that he bought his rifle at the Woolco Store in Southgate and he assumed that Cabbage and John Smith got theirs by stealing them. He stated that the ammunition for these rifles was purchased at various places, such as Woolco, York Arms, and other hardware stores.

He stated that Womax Stevenson and Oree McKenzie carried the rifles out of his apartment and that John Gary Williams drove his car around to the apartment, picking them up in the rear thereof. He said it was a green Camara (a small Chevrolet) and that Gloria Faye Goodman was with Williams at the time.

They put the rifles in the trunk of the car. They went back to the Neighborhood Organizing Project office, 1310 Florida. Oree McKenzie and Ben Berry went into the office, leaving the others in the car. The purpose of going inside was to get some ammunition, which was located on a shelf in the back of the Neighborhood Organizing Project office. They remained there for about five minutes, during which time Oree McKenzie got a "firearms piece" from John B. Smith, which he said looked like a .45 caliber, but is actually a 9 millimeter hand gun. Thereafter, John Gary Williams, Womax Stevenson, Oree McKenzie, and Ben Berry decided to ambush a police officer somewhere in South Memphis since this is the location where John Ferguson had been arrested earlier that evening. He said Gloria Faye Goodman did not enter into the discussion but was present when the discussion took place. They decided to ambush from the railroad down near the lumberyard in Southwest Memphis. It was understood that Gloria Goodman would make a phone call to the Police Department, saying something to the effect that there was a fight in the vicinity or a drunk, requesting that the police come to this location immediately. They did not plan to ambush any specific squad car, merely any squad car which might come along.

It was decided that Womax Stevenson, Oree McKenzie, Gary Williams, and Ben Berry would stay at the scene while Gloria Goodman went to make the phone call to Police

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Headquarters to draw a squad car into the area. It was a dead-end street, running into a railroad. Gloria Goodman would remain in the car nearby so that they would have a means of getaway.

He said they remained there about 10 or 15 minutes before the squad car which they shot at came by. He said that when they finally shot at the squad car, each one of the four males shot one time. Everyone thought it was a miss, so they left. He said that the purpose of firing at the squad car was not specifically to kill one or both of the occupants, just to take aim at the car in general. He pointed out that one young man came in the vicinity and saw them, either before or during the actual shooting, and that he ran with them after they had shot, but later disappeared.

After the shooting, the weapons were thrown in the trunk of Gary Williams' Camaro. They came back north on the interstate expressway to McLeMore and Kansas, where Oree McKenzie and Womax Stevenson got out. He stated that he (Berry) later got out of the car on Florida Street. He said that Oree McKenzie was to destroy the guns after the shooting, but he did not know if this had been performed.

He claimed that he was Vice Chairman of the Invaders at the time and that other officers were Richard Cabbage, younger brother of Charles, who had been the Chairman; Larry Larue Davis, Treasurer; Oree McKenzie, Executive Secretary; Arthur Norwood, Minister of Defense. He said John Henry Ferguson had not been an officer of the Invaders but had been considered a leader by the public since he was always in the limelight.

With regard to others aware of the plans to ambush the squad car on that particular night, he said that John B. Smith was aware that something was going to happen. He did not know what specifically but was bound to have known something was going to happen when Oree McKenzie went in to him to get the pistol and ammunition at Neighborhood Organizing Project headquarters. He said that Charles Cabbage was probably

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aware that something would happen because one of the rifles belonged to him. Queried as to how mere ownership of the rifle would make him knowledgeable of the ambush, Berry claimed that the rifle of Cabbage had been obtained earlier that day, specifically August 24, 1968, from where Cabbage had kept it in Lakeview Gardens.

(At this point it will be recalled that Cabbage and his girlfriend, Edwina Harrell, were, according to Source Three, staying at the time in Lakeview Gardens at the residence of Rick Henry Taylor, located 368 McFarland, and this information was furnished to Lieutenant E. H. Arkin, who has since advised that the Attorney General's Office has interviewed Rick Henry Taylor, who was uncooperative with them in furnishing any good lead information.)

He stated that the rifle had been obtained from Cabbage earlier that day for the purpose of ambushing a squad car at some time but not at any specific time. He stated that the Executive Board of the Invaders, consisting of President Richard Cabbage, Vice President Ben Berry, Minister of Defense Arthur Norwood, Business Manager Thomas "Butch" Clark, Treasurer Larry Davis, and John B. Smith, the liaison between the Invaders and the Black Organizing Project, and Van Cabbage, Minister of Information, and Donnie Delaney, artist of the Invaders, were all aware that ultimately a squad car would be ambushed.

He explained that the first discussion regarding a possible ambush came up right after an incident in Oakland, California, where the Black Panthers and the Police Department had a shoot-out. He claimed that the Invaders had done some corresponding with the Black Panthers and other militant groups throughout the nation, and that since the Panthers had declared war on the police in California, the Invaders had been asked by the Panthers to do the same in Memphis, and that the Panthers had also asked the "Commandos" in Newark, New Jersey, and different organizations throughout the country to do the same type thing, and at this point the Invaders started to build an arsenal for this purpose. He was unable to elaborate.

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He stated that the Executive Board of the Invaders was split, with the President taking one half and the Vice President, namely Ben Berry, taking the other half, and that Berry, being Vice Chairman, took over the militant half, and Richard Cabbage, the Chairman, took over the political half. This was in order not to slow up the processes of the organization so that they could operate more effectively in a semi-independent basis. He said that working with him were Minister of Defense, Arthur Norwood; Donnie Delaney, who had the title of Minister of Arts and Crafts; and Womax Stevenson, who had the title of Assistant Minister of Defense, and that their job was to plan and build up the arsenal.

He stated that they had been in limited contact with Panthers and other militant groups since the last part of 1967. He stated that John B. Smith coordinated the whole movement. He stated John B. Smith was the one who had contacted the people outside the city and that John B. Smith knew some fellow who worked at the Army Defense Depot. He claimed he did not know if he was white or Negro, and that this man had indicated he could probably get them weapons. He said Charles Cabbage had some contact in Atlanta, Georgia, to get rifles, pistols, and ammunition, and that he did not know if Cabbage had ever received any and did not know that any had ever been received from the Army Depot.

He stated that ultimately every member of the Invaders had a weapon of some kind. He stated that he had been responsible for gathering them together, some rifles, some shotguns, most of them obtained through break-ins and burglaries, some taken from cars or trucks, some purchased. He stated that John B. Smith and Charles Cabbage were doing the corresponding with Black Panthers and any other militant groups throughout the country. Some of them were typed, some were handwritten. He said records were kept at various people's houses. Some might be at Larry Davis' house, some were kept at other people's houses. They were purposely kept scattered so that if anyone was captured, police would not find the entire records. He did not know specifically with whom Cabbage and John B. Smith were allegedly corresponding. He said that his mother, Mrs. Jessie Mae Berry, 59 East Trigg, who works at the Health Department, saw them as they were

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going from his apartment back to the Invader headquarters in John Gary Williams' car and could verify the fact that they were all together.

In a separate statement, also dated January 2, 1969, Berry told the above individuals that he had joined the Invaders during the sanitation strike in Memphis, Tennessee. He said he had first learned of it while visiting the War on Poverty Committee office, 161 Jefferson. He said the initial organization had been founded by former Carver High School students Donnie Delaney, Oree McKenzie, and Larry Davis. He stated the Invaders normally met once a week, with a general meeting, and business meetings at least each two weeks, and that most meetings were held initially at John B. Smith's apartment, 1644 Hanauer, Apartment 2. He stated that they would discuss recruiting and benefit shows for raising money, but that violence was not discussed at the regular meetings but was sometimes discussed at business meetings. He stated that Van Cabbage would frequently make notes, and take the minutes of the meetings home with him. He stated they frequently would discuss burning stores in South Memphis such as McGee's on Person, Green's on Kansas, Silver Saver Stores, the service station at Parkway and Expressway which he thought was a Texaco station, Wabash Screen Door Company, on the night of the ambush, August 24, 1968, all of these to be diversion type burnings. (It is known that the Texaco station was burned during the summer, as well as the Wabash Screen Door Company.)

He stated that at McGee's burning, Arthur Norwood and Thomas "Butch" Clark were involved and that Norwood was also involved in the service station burning. He stated that at Green's, Van Cabbage and a new member were involved. At Silver Saver's, Norwood, Delaney, and "Butch" Clark were involved, Delaney being there to watch, Clark and Norwood doing the actual burning, and that at Wabash Screen Door Norwood did the burning. He claimed that this group hoped eventually to commit lots of acts of violence and have supporters commit acts of violence to divert and dissipate the strength of the police. He stated that the over-all group was the Black Organizing Project, an umbrella group, having subordinant groups such as a LeMoynce group,

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Memphis State University Black Student Association, the former Owen College Afro-American Brotherhood, the Invaders, and a group from the downtown area known as the Downtown Association. He stated that the Afro-American Brotherhood, The Black Student Association, and the Black Organizing Project were more political in nature. The rest, he said, would fall into the militant category. The groups were loose-knit but did have some liaison with each other.

He claimed that in the Lamar-Airways Shopping Center, the merchants are paying for protection to the Avengers, the Iron Curtain, and the Invaders. He said that the Invaders did not call it protection; they called it merely a "ghetto tax." He said it was like a business which is in a poorly developed neighborhood will have to pay so much a week or month to help develop that neighborhood; otherwise, something drastic might happen to the business. He claimed that the Harlem House used to pay \$25 a week and that some of the stores in the shopping center, some of the liquor stores, paid as much as \$50 a week. He said a business would have a choice of either moving or paying. He stated that the collectors could be anyone from the Executive Board. He claimed he had never personally collected any money from these businesses. He stated that to the best of his knowledge Larry Davis, Treasurer; Thomas "Butch" Clark, Business Manager; and Arthur Norwood more than likely collected the money. He stated that Larry Davis was the Treasurer and claimed that Davis would occasionally give financial reports and would deposit money in the Tri-State Bank in the name Black Organizing Project. He claimed that the Black Organizing Project purchased an old Rambler. He stated that they opened a business or bought a partnership into a business, the Afro Cleaners at Michigan and South Parkway. He did not elaborate.

He stated that John B. Smith, Charles Ballard, and Emmett House apparently looked into the possibility of getting hand grenades from someone up north, either in Detroit or Chicago, but could furnish no specifics. He claimed that many members of the Invaders use marijuana,

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as well as Robitussin, AC (a codeine base cough syrup). He claimed that most of the users hung around John B. Smith's apartment before he was arrested and that this was known as the "crib." He claimed that John B. Smith, Charles Cabbage, Emmett House, Hurley Gibson, Melvin Smith, Larry Davis, Oree McKenzie, Richard Cabbage, Van Cabbage, and Berry all were heavy users of marijuana.

He claimed that Charles Cabbage had kept his weapons in Lakeview Gardens, that he had two rifles and a sawed-off shotgun there. He did not specify the place. (Again, this is probably Rick Taylor's residence, 368 McFarland.) He claimed that a lot of violence was scheduled for around the time of the first snowfall, feeling that the police would be immobilized during that time, and that any of the militants who had military service would be expected to use those firearms and they expected to receive outside help, once the word got out that they were having trouble. He claimed that the Invaders had never received any help from the NAACP or people such as Jesse Turner or Vasco Smith. He claimed that the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) gave them \$500 as a bonus for what they did during the sanitation strike.

Lieutenant Arkin also furnished a statement made by Johnnie Mae Berry, a female Negro, age 19, made at 59 East Trigg, in the presence of Russell X. Thompson, Jessie Mae Berry, Frances Thomas, and Jewett Miller, on January 8, 1969, Jessie Mae Berry being the mother of Ben Heard Berry. She said she is living at 17 East Farrow, Apartment 1, and that she was at the Invaders headquarters on August 24, 1968, in the evening. She left her husband, Ben Berry, at the Invader or Neighborhood Organizing Project headquarters. She was at the headquarters when John Henry Ferguson had been arrested earlier that evening. She also recalled seeing Oree McKenzie and John Gary Williams at the headquarters on that evening. She recalled that Oree McKenzie and other Invaders made a threat to the police after they arrested Ferguson, indicating they would give the police 30 minutes to release him or else expect trouble. She did recall seeing Gary Williams' car drive up behind the Neighborhood Organizing Project headquarters, around 8:30 or thereabout. She saw her husband in the car.

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She recalled that between 9:00 and 9:30 she saw Womax Stevenson and Oree McKenzie on Trigg at Kentucky coming toward Florida Street. She stated that they looked as though they had been running; they were sweating and seemed out of breath. She stated that Ben Berry later showed up and stayed there until the police came and arrested him. She recalled that he had been expecting John Gary Williams to come to his apartment shortly before he was arrested but did not say why.

She recalled that shortly after Ferguson's arrest, Oree McKenzie had hollered out "If they hadn't let Ferguson go in 30 minutes, the city is going down smoking; the revolution is going to follow through." She recalled that after Ben Berry came home later that night, he kept expecting John Gary Williams to bring some "pieces" to his home. She said the pieces would be guns. She said that her husband, Ben Berry, had been a member or officer of the Invaders and that she too had enjoined around August, 1968. She stated that he had discussed with her the fact that Lance "Sweet Willie Wine" Watson was forming a Black United Front, to be made up of militant Negroes, and that he liked his speeches. She said Ben would occasionally bring written records to her home and that some of those records were at her home as of the time of the interview and that she would be willing to make them available to the authorities.

Johnnie Mae Berry continued that she had done limited work for the Invaders, had typed some literature for them, including one of their crude papers called "The Liberator." She said it had something to do about the "pig cops." She stated that some of the material was written by one E. Y. McKinley, that a boy named Roy Turks wrote something, and that "The Lock" (Lewis Welch) wrote something, as did Nancy Watson. Nancy Watson has some connection with "Sweet Willie Wine." She said that she had marched with the Invaders in some of the hospital strike support marches and that she had attended support meetings at Clayborn Temple, usually led by "Sweet Willie Wine" Watson. She stated that Wine had made remarks that the town should be destroyed if they did not get their demands acceded to. Wine even said he would kill his own mother if she got in his way.

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She stated that Robert Lewis Taylor of the Invaders had told marchers to knock people down if they got in their way and that he made statements like "they were going to kill crackers" (black terminology for white race). She stated Robert Taylor and others, not recalled, had made statements that they would kill any white man for any specific Negro. She stated she had seen guns in Robert Taylor's car which they were apparently keeping at Clayborn Temple during the fall of 1968 when they used the rear of that as headquarters. She said Robert Taylor had a pistol and that James Griffin had a big gun of some sort. Some of them were kept under a couch in the Clayborn Temple Office.

She said she quit working for the Invaders in November, 1968. She said they were insincere, that they would collect money claiming they were going to use it for the poor but instead would spend it on themselves. She stated that one time Lance "Sweet Willie Wine" Watson told her to go to the Mosque and help Cacheatuh (Cacheatuh Smith) and Roy Lee Turks. She stated Cacheatuh was Wine's girlfriend now. She said Cacheatuh Smith writes checks for the Invaders and that Willie Wine and Don (LNU) (Donald Pigford) signed them. She said they once had a firebomb on the desk in the Invaders office. She said she had not seen any grenades or gas bombs and that she had not seen any machine guns. She said that the Invaders had talked of doing a lot of arson if and when the Memphis Fire Department went on strike.

She stated that she had seen several white people at some of the Invaders meetings, including Reverend Blackburn (apparently Reverend Malcom D. Blackburn) and one Kitty or Kathy (apparently Kathy Roop), that she had been dating one John Weston. She said another white who came around was known as "Curly Top," but she did not know his name. Actually she said "Curly Top" was probably a girl and she had allegedly married one of the Invaders. (Apparently this is Lennice or Eunice Cole.) She also mentioned that a white male who teaches at Southwestern worked some with the Invaders. She said that some of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) members from Memphis State University had worked on some projects with the Invaders but she did not know their names.

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She said another recent active Invader was one Maurice (LNU) (apparently Maurice Lewis). She went with Wine and Lewis to a meeting at Southwestern where they spoke and told how they dislike "crackers."

IX. HIGH INCIDENCE OF CRIME AND ARRESTS OF INVADERS

The "Press-Scimitar," Memphis, Tennessee, daily newspaper, issue of Thursday, February 20, 1969, page 19, carried a feature story captioned "35 Black Militants in Trouble Since Last Summer, Invaders vs. the Law--Box Score to Date." This was written by staff writer Kay Pittman Black, and is as follows:

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35 Black Militants in Trouble Since Last Summer

Invaders vs. the Law- Box Score to Date

EDITOR'S NOTE: Testimony in Shelby Criminal Court last week revealed that the Invaders, young Memphis black militants, last summer planned the ambush shooting of a policeman in their headquarters — then a Neighborhood Organizing Project office financed by the War on Poverty program.



WOPC considered the NOP project a "bold and imaginative" program to keep militants out of trouble.

With the conviction of three Invaders on the policeman ambush charge this week, *The Press-Scimitar* assigned Kay Pittman Black, who has reported Invaders' activities since they first attracted public attention, to summarize how the black militants have fared with the law in their various activities.

Law enforcement officers assigned to check the Invaders now compare them to the Black Panthers in California and the Blackstone Rangers in Chicago. They say the Invaders' program in Memphis was patterned from 10 points in the Black Panther's platform.

By KAY PITTMAN BLACK

Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

In the summer of 1968, the Invaders came into public view as a black militant youth organization in Memphis.

Today 20 known members are in Shelby County Jail, six arrested yesterday are in city jail, six more are out on bond waiting trial on various criminal charges and four others recently are serving jail sentences.

The 35 individuals involved:

• Greg McKenzie, 19, executive secretary of the Invaders, found guilty of assault to murder in the first degree in an ambush trial of Patrolman Robert James Waddell, sentenced to not less than three and not more than 10 years. McKenzie was convicted in Criminal Court three weeks ago participating in a riot at Carver High School and given sentences totaling six years. The two sentences will be served concurrently. McKenzie was an area coordinator for the War on Poverty's Neighborhood Organizing Project in the summer of 1967. His cousin, John Gary Williams, 23, was found guilty, in the Waddell case, of intent to commit voluntary manslaughter and ordered to serve up to two years.

• No Womax (Speedy) Stevenson, 18, found guilty in the Waddell ambush of assault to murder in the second degree and given sentence of three to 10 years. Stevenson was a volunteer worker with the NOP, a \$20,000 program.

• John Henry Ferguson, 20, whose prank of pointing a toy rifle at passing cars led to his arrest and to the ambush, is under sentence for more than six years for inciting a riot at Carver High School last spring, and awaits trial on five other charges, mostly misdemeanors. He is one of the original leaders. He took part in the Poor People's March on Washington.

• Ben Heard Berry III, 18, charged with assault to murder in the ambush of Patrolman Waddell. Turned state's evidence against three others accused with him in the case. His trial will come soon. In County Jail.

• John Durrell Smith, 25, sentenced to six years for inciting a riot at Carver. Faces charges on possession of marijuana and illegal possession of legend drugs, dating from a raid on Aug. 2, 1968 by the vice squad on his apartment at 1644 Hanauer, Apt. 2. Other militants, including McKenzie, were also arrested in the raid, most were charged with disorderly conduct but the case was dismissed. McKenzie and Charles Ballard were censured by the WOPC, as both were NOP workers. Smith first made news in the summer of 1967 when he and another militant were members of the Black Organizing Project, a forerunner of the Invaders, and were charged by Memphis Area-Project South board members with preaching black power while on the poverty payroll. The other was Charles Cabbage.

• Charles Lavern Cabbage, 24, one of the original leaders of the militants, under federal indictment for refusal to report for induction. Also faces trial on charges of burglary and carrying a loaded pistol. Police said he was found with a quantity of blank checks taken in burglary of the CME Publishing Co., 531 S. Parkway E. Several thousand dollars of the checks were cashed in Memphis. The CME company and church were hosts for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Convention in Memphis, which the Invaders were accused of disrupting by SCLC vice president Andy Young. The late Dr. Martin Luther King was head of SCLC.

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Adrina Harrell, 19, who police say is Cabbage's girl friend, arrested with him in the CME Publishing Co. case, was also charged with burglary and faces trial. She and Cabbage were arrested on Aug. 27, 1968 at the Downtowner Motel. Miss Harrell has been sentenced on other charges to 60 days at the Penal Farm for defrauding an innkeeper, one year at the Penal Farm for unlawful possession of marijuana seeds, and one year jail sentence for robbery with a deadly weapon, the sentences to run concurrently. On Nov. 10, 1968 she was arrested at the Holiday-Inn Rivermont, where a guest reported she was roaming the hallways, and paid a \$50 fine on a prostitution charge. She was a researcher for the War on Poverty summer program in 1968, a former student at Memphis State University and a leader in

the Black Student Association there. Miss Harrell was a female leader of the Invaderettes — the auxiliary to the militant group.

Charles Steven Ballard, 21, director of last summer's NOP, faces charges ranging from first-degree murder to carrying a pistol, in the fatal shooting of another Invader, Anthony Warren, on the night of Jan. 23, 1969. Warren's body was found the morning of Jan. 29 dumped off Weaver Road between Herahan and Cypress Creek. Arrested in vice squad raid on John Smith's apartment in August, charged with disorderly conduct, but these charges were dismissed.

Albert Trison, 20, charged along with Ballard, in the murder of Warren.

Charles Harrington, 20, also present during marijuana raid on Smith's apartment in August, but charges were dismissed. Charged along with Ballard in Warren murder.

Clifford Lewis Taylor, 22, charged with shooting of Lomus Payne, who Taylor said was paying attention to his wife. The three accused of the murder of Warren, police said, had been at Taylor's house the night of the murder and an argument developed. Warren was shot in a car going south on Highway 51 near the Whitehaven Shopping Center. A .33 caliber bullet, police said, pierced his heart. Warren, also known as Roosevelt Howard, also known as Red, was arrested, along with Clifford L. Taylor, on Nov. 7, 1968 by Metro Police in Nashville and charged with carrying a pistol, possession of a stolen automobile and possession of burglary tools. He was arrested under the name of Roosevelt Howard, but police say he and Warren were the same person. He and Lewis were out on bond on those charges.

Robert Lee (Cornbread) Wilson, 19, arrested and charged on Jan. 31, 1969, with robbery of a male Negro, carrying a pistol, robbery with a deadly weapon—a shotgun — and carrying a pistol. He was one of the Invaders who went to the meeting of the National Council of Churches in Memphis asking for funding for the Invaders.

Robert (SuperCool) Webster, 15, arrested on Nov. 30, 1968, charged with carrying a dangerous weapon, fined \$50 City Court for the carrying of the weapon, a razor, and bid to state on \$500 bond. On Dec. 20, 1968, he was again arrested and charged with carrying a dangerous weapon, a shotgun, and with disorderly conduct, bound to state with bond set at \$2,000. Now he is also under \$1,000 peace bond in connection with a disturbance at Jump & Grab Drive-In grocery, 561 E.-H. Crump. Witnesses at the store to the Nov. 7 incident, said Webster and other members of the Invaders, made threats, used abusive language and waved guns and the store.

Horace Hall, 19, also charged in the Jump & Grab incident. Robert L. Marable, night manager of the store,

said Hall waved a pistol and threatened to "blow off our heads and burn us to the ground." He was charged with carrying a pistol and disorderly conduct. At the time of the charge Hall was already in jail unable to make \$100 bond on prior charges of assault with intent to murder and simple assault growing out of an incident in which he challenged police to take the shotgun from him. He is awaiting trial on both counts.

Lance (Sweet Willie Wine) Watson, 30, first in the news during the Poor People's March on Washington. He got national attention while living in Resurrection City as the leader of the Memphis group of the Invaders there who marched on three Washington, D.C., schools and disrupted classes in an effort to address student assemblies. He returned to Memphis and said that he was setting up a Black United Front, patterned after the militant Black Panther organization in California, and that the BUF would serve as the umbrella organization for all of the militant groups in Memphis, the leading group being the Invaders. Says he is the chairman of the BUF and that his associate, Roy Turks, who has no record, is the director. The BUF operates out of the Invader headquarters, 271 Vance. Watson was also held to the state on charges of carrying a pistol and disorderly conduct out of the Jump & Grab incident and has been unable to make bond. At the time of the Jump & Grab hearing Watson had been free under a \$250 bond set on a state charge of carrying a pistol. Watson has three children, two of whom live with their mother in Milwaukee and Lance Jr., who lives with Watson's grandmother in Memphis.

Police records show Watson was released from the state penitentiary at Nashville in 1967 after serving a three-year term on a burglary conviction. Police said he was first convicted in October 1956 at age 17, on a charge of larceny. He received a suspended sentence. He was later arrested on mischief and shoplifting charges. In May, 1961, officers said Watson was sentenced to five years in prison for grand larceny and was paroled after three years. Watson, a high school drop-out, was one of the leaders in the take-over of LeMoyné-Owen College.

Richard Laverne Cabbage, 19, president of the Invaders. Younger brother of Charles Cabbage. He was bound to state on \$250 bond on Aug. 29, 1967 on charges of carrying a pistol in an incident that grew out of a fight at Gilley's Drive in on South Third. On Dec. 20, 1968 he was charged with attempt to commit robbery in connection with the hold up of Kansas Street Package Store. The robbers were shot at and Cabbage fled the scene, police said. His brother, Van Cabbage, is minister of information for the Invaders. Van Cabbage has no arrest record.

Arthur James (Big Doc) Norwood, 15, injured in the Kansas Street Package Store attempted hold-up. He was shot by Abraham Coffee, 77, who came from the rear of the liquor store with a loaded shotgun while three robbers were in the process of holding up the place. He is held on a charge of attempted armed robbery.

Larry Larue Davis, 19, sentenced to six years for inciting a riot at Carver High School last spring. One of the original Invaders, he was also one of those arrested in the vice squad raid of John Smith's apartment last summer, charged with disorderly conduct with the charges dismissed.

Robert Lewis Taylor, Jr. 22, a figure in the shutdown of LeMoyné-Owen College. On Dec. 7, 1968, following arrests for disorderly conduct, one of which was in front of the Neighborhood Organizing Project headquarters—he was charged with assault to murder. He attempted to kill one of his relatives, police said, and is held to the state.

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• James Elmore Phillips, 24, treasurer of the Black Organizing Project, last arrested on Dec. 31, charged with the armed robbery of a drive-in grocery on Lamar. He was also charged with robbery with a deadly weapon and carrying a pistol.

• Carl Stephen (Green Beret) Armstrong, 22, arrested on Oct. 12, 1968 on charges of carrying a dangerous weapon, bound to state on \$250 bond.

• James Edward Griffin, 22, arrested Nov. 30, 1968 on charges of carrying a dangerous weapon — a knife — tried

\$50 in City Court and bound to state on dangerous weapon charge. Out on a \$250 bond.

• Johnnie Lee Frierson, 24, son of a prominent Nashville Negro family, arrested on Jan. 18, 1968, and held to state on an assault and battery charge, and out on \$250 bond. Frierson was accused of slugging and severely injuring a white student at Memphis State. Frierson, also a student, broke the white student's jaw, police said, and so severely injured sinus bones that the student had to undergo plastic surgery.

• Louis (Louie the Lock) Welch, 28, chairman of the Invaders, participant in the take-over of LeMoyné-Owen. He was arrested Nov. 30, 1968, charged with carrying a dangerous weapon—a rifle, held to the state and is out on \$250 bond.

• Winston Lee Middleton, 28, marcher with city hospital strikers. He was noticed for wearing a purple velvet Nehru jacket and carrying a horn under his arm at that time. On Oct. 27, 1968 he was charged with larceny and bound to state on a charge of fraudulent use of a credit card. Police said Middleton was accused of stealing the credit card from another invader and run up \$800 worth of bills.

• Michael Eugene Mountain, 19, held to the state on a grand larceny charge, Sept. 10, 1968, out on \$1,000 bond.

Four militants were convicted Dec. 2, 1968 on charges growing out of the firebombing of a Negro slum apartment building last August and received Penal Farm sentences of from four months to a year.

Sentenced were:

• Roy Williams, 26, of 404 Laclede.

• Edward Houston, 31, of 1748 Preston.

• Charles Murry Key, 26, of 1293 Wilson.

• Arthur Elliott, 21, of 1108 Coppock.

Most of the arrests and criminal activity of Invaders have come since last summer when some were involved in the \$20,000 Neighborhood Organizing Project grant.

Berry, who turned state's evidence in the patrolman ambush case, testified a plot was hatched to shoot a policeman at the NOP headquarters, 1310 Florida. He also said members of the Invaders kept their guns at the headquarters.

The Invaders now are trying to get a more than \$50,000 grant from the National Council of Churches to set up a "Membership Leadership Conference for Black and Poor People."

Coby V. Smith presented the petition to the NCC meeting recently in Memphis.

Smith, along with John B. Smith and Charles Cabbage, was a Map-South worker two summers ago and was accused along with the other two, by board members, of preaching black power. He is now a student at Southwestern and is considered a spokesman for the Invaders.

Invader John Charles Smith, 25, is on parole. Smith was arrested on Jan. 28, on a disorderly conduct charge and forfeited in city court the following day.

He is on parole from California. The California parole came after Smith was ejected from a theater in Los Angeles. Police said he went home, got a gun, drove by the theater and shot into the entrance and hit, but did not kill, a customer.

Six other Invaders were arrested by police yesterday on charges of disorderly conduct in disturbances in front of 591 and 595 Crump Blvd.

Police said the group was stopping cars and customers in front of Gag's House of Spirits of 595 Crump and Jump and Grab Grocery, 591 Crump, the latter where trouble developed in November and led to the arrest of other Invaders.

Police said the six were carrying handbills requesting the release from jail of "Sweet Willie."

Facing city and state charges of disorderly conduct:

• Carl S. Armstrong, who is out on bond on other charges to be found elsewhere in this story.

• Eddie Tate, 21, of 426 Vance.

• George E. Pryor, 19, of 280 East Trigg.

• Gwindolyn White, 23, of 373 Pontiac.

• Carolyn Thomas, 19, of 435 E. Vance.

• An unidentified juvenile.

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Sources One, Two, and Three on February 21, 1969, advised that all of the individuals mentioned in Mrs. Black's story are or have been known Invaders within the past few months, with the exception of Roy Williams, Edward Houston, Charles Murry Key, and Arthur Elliot. Johnnie Lee Frierson is not the son of a prominent Nashville family. Actually he assaulted the son of a prominent Nashville family. Frierson, sources said, lives at 1916 Foster Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. Otherwise, they said the story is most accurate. Lieutenant F. H. Arkin also advised on February 21, 1969, that the story is most accurate and that all except above-mentioned four firebombers have been active Invaders within the past few months.

A review of news stories in the Memphis press during the trial of Oree McKenzie, John Gary Williams, and Womax Stevenson revealed that State's witness, Ben Heard Berry, basically testified to facts outlined hereinbefore in his earlier statement.

The "Commercial Appeal," issue of February 19, 1969, reported that Shelby County Criminal Court Judge Odell Horton, following the convictions of McKenzie, Williams, and Stevenson, refused to lower their bonds from \$10,000.

The "Press-Scimitar," on page one of the February 24, 1969, issue, reported that on February 24, 1969, Ben Heard Berry, Invader who turned States' evidence in the ambushing of Police Officer Richard Waddell on August 24, 1968, was permitted to plead guilty on January 24, 1969, in Shelby County Criminal Court before Judge Odell Horton, a Negro. On the recommendation of the Shelby County Attorney General, Berry received a one-year sentence. He will serve about two months, receiving credit for the six months he has been in jail. The story by reporter Ray Hamilton said Berry was interviewed on January 24, 1969, saying he had "no regrets" for testifying against the others. He said, "I felt I did the right thing. At the rate we were going, we were headed toward total disaster--an all out war, maybe. I hated to do it but I came to the conclusion that violence is not the answer to race problems in our country. The Negro has got to sit and try to compromise and work out the difficulties, otherwise there is no hope."

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On February 22, 1969, Lieutenant E. H. Arkin, Intelligence Bureau, Memphis Police Department, advised that several threats had been received on lives of Kay Pittman Black, writer of above "Box Score" story; Judge Odell Horton; and Mrs. Ben Hooks, Negro, wife of former Criminal Court Judge Ben Hooks. Mrs. Hooks has recently spoken out against actions of Invaders. The Police Department is providing these people protection.

The "Commercial Appeal," Memphis, Tennessee, issue of February 26, 1969, in a front-page story captioned "Community Must Take A Stand," reported that on February 25, 1969, Judge Odell Horton ordered that Ben Berry be kept at Shelby County Penal Farm rather than at the State Penitentiary saying, "The community must take a stand against lawlessness and threats." Penal Farm Superintendent Mark Luttrell had told Horton that Berry would be killed if maintained at the Penal Farm. The story said that police officials had reported threats against Berry, his attorney Pussell X. Thompson, and Judge Horton. Horton ruled that Shelby County must do what is necessary to provide Berry with physical security, adding, "Somewhere along the line this community will have to come to grips with lawlessness and threats."

In addition, a related arrest involves one Anita Lynn Custard, white female, who, according to Lieutenant Arkin, was arrested by the Memphis Police Department on the night of February 21, 1969, after the owner of Jump and Grab Grocery complained she came to his store asking a lot of questions about his having several Invaders, including Lance Watson, arrested in December, 1968. She wanted him to drop charges against Watson. He told her this was a police matter and reported that she replied, "I guess we'll have to show you we mean business." She appeared in City Court February 24, 1969, and was bound over to Shelby County Grand Jury on a disorderly conduct charge, with bond set at \$250. She listed her address as 910 Dempster and, according to Lieutenant Arkin, said she was a "Field Organizer" for Students for a Democratic Society.

Arkin said Custard has recently been a leader in a Memphis Welfare Rights Organization, leading downtown marches and pickets of department stores, demanding more welfare

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payments. The Invaders, he said, have supported her in these efforts.

X. LANCE WATSON STILL DIRECTING INVADERS

On January 20, 1969, Source One advised that Lance Watson is still basically directing Invaders activities from the Shelby County Jail. He is regularly visited by his girlfriend, Cachentuh Smith. He gives her instructions as well as written notes prepared by Watson and his cellmate, John Burrell Smith. Among other things, he is attempting to extort \$10,000 from James Stewart, Manager of STAX Recording Company. He told Invaders to "get word" to Stewart that if he did not cooperate, he (WATSON) could "bust Stewart" with the FBI and Memphis Police Department.

XI. INVADER CONNECTIONS WITH SDS

As recently as February 20, 1969, Sources One, Two, Three, and Four advised that consistently during the past several months a definite rapport and liaison has developed between Invader leadership and leaders of the Memphis-at-Large chapter of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). Invader leaders, such as Melvin Smith, Roy Lee Turks, Marrell McCollough, Donald Pigford, Cacheatuh Smith, and Maurice Lewis, frequently attend SDS meetings; conversely, SDS leaders, such as Katherine Roop (Southwestern College student), Thomas McAllister, Jr., Robert B. Rutman, and James Earl Gaylord (all Memphis State University students), frequently visit Invaders headquarters.

These two groups marched together during the fall 1968 Memphis Hospital strike, cooperated in taking over the Administration Building of LeMoyne-Owen College November 25 and 26, 1968, and in the "Free Willie Wine" campaign, and in an attempted infiltration of the newly formed New Democratic Coalition.

XII. INVADER CONNECTIONS WITH NEW DEMOCRATIC COALITION

On February 1, 1969, Sources One, Two, Six, and Seven advised that the Invaders and SDS leaders actively sought and obtained key positions on provisional committees of the newly formed New Democratic Coalition (NDC), a group

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of dissident Democrats who supported the 1968 Presidential candidacies of the late Robert F. Kennedy and U. S. Senator Eugene McCarthy.

For example, Mary Ann McClure, Memphis State student and active SDS member, was elected as provisional Secretary; James E. Gaylord of SDS was named provisional Chairman of Issues Committee; Roy Lee Turks of Invaders was named as Chairman of Candidates Committee, and Clark Webb, SDS member of Southwestern College, as Chairman of Membership Committee.

XIII. ADULT SUPPORT OF INVADERS

As recently as February 20, 1969, Sources One, Two, and Three advised that in addition to other manifestations of Negro adult support of Invaders set out elsewhere in this communication, Negro political leaders, such as O. W. Pickett, Realtor, and Cornelius Gresham, former Memphis Housing Authority employee, give a lot of personal guidance and small financial contributions to Invaders.

Source One said that in fairness, Allen Black, Director of NAACP Legal Defense Fund, with offices at 222 Danny Thomas Boulevard, spends much time counseling Invaders, attempting to get them to go straight, get jobs, and stay out of trouble.

Source One said the Invaders distrust H. Ralph Jackson and Reverend James M. Lawson, Jr. They are afraid Jackson might be a police informant and suspect Lawson is withholding financial contributions from them which may have been made by outside groups through Lawson. The NAACP does not support the Invaders.

Source One added that Randolph Fleming, III, a white male, a professor of Sociology, Southwestern College, and an SDS member, gives the Invaders a lot of free counsel and advice. He is sympathetic and is particularly close to Lance Watson and Melvin Smith. It was Fleming who has taken Invaders to give several talks at Southwestern College.

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Other support comes, Sources One and Three said, from the "Paulist" Brothers of St. Patrick's Catholic Church on Linden Avenue. They permit Melvin Smith to teach Afro History and Black Power to 10 to 14-year-olds in the church each Tuesday and Thursday night.

XIV. LITERATURE OF INVADERS

On February 20, 1969, Sources One, Two, and Three advised that during the past two months Invaders have issued several pamphlets, written primarily by Melvin Smith, Roy Lee Turks, and Cacheatuh Smith. Little of the material is original, being copies from other Black Power literature.

One such item entitled "Message to the Invaders" is undated and is shown as being written by Ogundele Iwafemi, the so-called "wabili name" of Melvin Smith, "Minister of African Culture and History, Invaders," in which he calls for the blacks to confiscate, through any means necessary, land in the United States. He calls the United States a "Fascist country." He says, "Our mission in the first moments is to survive, then to act. The perennial example of the guerrilla carrying on armed propaganda in the Vietnamese meaning of the term; that is, the propaganda of bullets, or battles that are won or lost--but which are waged against our enemies. It will be extremely difficult. Every repressive mean, every bit of demagoguery and brutality within the capacity of the oligarchies will be placed in the service of their cause. The great lesson of the invincibility of guerrilla warfare is catching on among the masses of the dispossessed. Hate as a factor in the struggle, intransigent hate for the enemy, which takes one beyond the natural limitation of a human being and converts one into an effective, violent, single-minded cold killing machine. Our soldiers must be like that. A people with our hate cannot triumph over a brutal enemy. We must carry the war as far as the enemy carries it, into his home, into his place of diversion, making it a total war. He must be prevented from having a moment's peace...attack him wherever you find him. Make him feel relentless. Pursuit wherever he goes. Let our Black American Flag under which we fight be the sacred cause of benefiting all humanity. So that to die under it is equally glorious and desirable of and Asian, and Cuban, and even an American.... Our every action is a

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call for war against imperialism and a cry for the unification of black people against the most brutal and the greatest enemy of the human species---the United States of America."

Another mimeographed sheet entitled "A Short Message to the Invaders" and printed on January 7, 1969, reads as follows:

"The Memphis (Pig) Police Department has intensified their efforts to destroy the INVADERS. They have the help of the courts and their Racist Judges.

"This Racist City Administration and its puppet Racist policemen (pigs) are holding some of the Black Leaders of the Black community political prisoners in its jail. Now the only crime they have committed is one of loving their people, and speaking out for them.

"Anytime a blackman is brave enough to speak out against the system, the systematically murders black people. He will be labeled a Radical and his head will be on the white mans chopping block to be jailed and killed in that order,, (that is the case with the peace bond). This thing is for black people who resist this fascist System. This thing is unconstitutional and never forget you might next up there on \$1,000 peace bond for a year. But, we can not let that stop us.

"We must set out to free these brothers at nay cost and to stop this outrageous attack upon our community and leaders; even if it takes mass physically retaliation upon the guilty ones.

"White America has publicized its decisions as to how it plans to deal with black people in this country. Every police department in the contry is stocking up on tanks, machine guns, carbines, mace and God knows what else. We must prepare ourselves mentally and physically, for the major confrontations is yet to come. So, now we must demand their speedy withdrawal from our community for once and for all or else!!!

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"They themselves press us into this struggle. There is no alternative but to decide to undertake it. Our first mission is to survive and then act. The perennial example of the Guerrilla carrying on armed propaganda of bullets or battles that are won or lost, but nevertheless are waged against our enemy. In the beginning it will be extremely difficult, every repressive mean, every bit of demagogy within the capacity of the beast will be placed in the service of their cause.

"This country had a chance to release our rightful share of its prosperity through civil process. Our blood has been spilled around the world in defense, continued expansion, and economic development. Our Reward has been deprivation and poverty. Now, we know that there is no place within this society for us. Our Country 'tis of thee' is their country, we must secure and maintain our own.

"Freedom can only come through Liberation based on land and land is all round us (it must and will be ours). Hate as a factor in the struggle, intransigent hate for the enemy, which takes one beyond the natural limitations of a human being and convert him into a single minded cold killing machine. Our soldier must be like that. A people without hate cannot triumph over a brutal enemy. Our ever action is a cry for war against imperialism and a cry for the unification of Black People.

"We demand that our leaders who are being held political prisoners be set free by January 18, 1969, by order of the provisional Government of the black community. Free them or suffer at the hands of the Black Peoples Army, INVADERS.

"OGUNDELE IWAFEMI,
Minister of Defense.

"(continued)

"Being a man is a continuing battle of ones life and ones loses a bit of manhood with every stale compromise to the authority of any power in which one does not share and believe. To be black in America and be aware of it is to live

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in a constant state of Rage against the most Brutal and the greatest enemy of the human species - - - - - THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

Another document entitled "No Justice for a Black Man in a White Man's Court Room" by Lance (Sweet Willie Wine) Watson, allegedly prepared December 20, 1968, reads as follows:

"FROM BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES - THE SHELBY COUNTY JAIL

"As a Black man, I know there is no hope for me in a white man's court. I stood before the almighty white judge and listened as the lying (pigs) cops plotted and schemed in the name of justice to do me injustice; and, yet, I am a man, because I placed myself in the hands of these white devils so I will be able to fight the case of Black people's injustice in a white man's court from what he did to me directly.

"I am a political prisoner by chose; and I face it with dignity, something the white man will never have. I can look him in his eye and call him a pig, a liar, a theif, a raper and a murdering band of animals.

"

* * *

"I was arrested Thursday at 3:45 p.m. at Main and Court. I was told that a warrant was signed for my arrest by someone at Jump and Grab Drive Inn at 591 E. Crump. I had a state warrant of carrying a pistol and disorderly conduct, against me. I was asked to tell where I was at the time of the incident but I would not answer, because at the time of the incident I was in a business meeting. I wanted to sue those who went through so much trouble to see that I as a proud Black man be placed in jail.

"Yes, I am a man, because it takes a man or a fool to face such odds and, yet, maintain pride and dignity. Am I a fool because I want to see my people free and able to hold their heads up high with dignity. Am I a fool because I am tired of our beautiful Black women being called gals and Black men being called boys? Am I a fool because I am tired of Black people working on jobs that have no future in it for

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Black people? Am I a fool because I am tired of a school system that puts your Black child out of school because he or she is late? Am I a fool because I am tired of Black people being underpaid on these jobs that work them like dogs; and they have to do the work of three people? Am I a fool because I am tired of (pigs) cops harassing Black people? If I am a fool, then, excuse me, because Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King, Medgar Evers and others were fools, too.

"If I am a man, then, we need more men and less boys. I have no fear of jail or death, because, if I let this thing continue to happen, we all are in jail and dead already. If you have nothing to die for, then, you have nothing worth living for.

"

"On Thursday, December 19, 1968, I was arrested and remained in jail until Monday, December 23, 1968 at 2:00 p.m. when I was released on a \$2,000 bond. It was no later than Friday, December 27, 1968, that I was walking down the street when I was arrested due to some Peace Warrant in connection with this same Jump and Grab Drive Inn. A hearing was set for Monday, December 30, 1968 in the General Sessions Court. I knew from the beginning that I would not get justice and after producing five Black witnesses who knew of my where-a-bouts on the night of November 27, 1968, against six other white plaintiffs who undoubtedly had me confused with someone else, or were dealing in a conspiracy to have me arrested for nothing. I was, nevertheless, placed under a \$1,000 Peace Bond. Is this justice? Yes, this is the white man's justice for a Black man.

"I am innocent of these charges. If there be a God, he knows it. Those who framed me know it. And, most of all, I know it.

"The Gods are angry and the white man must pay for the suffering he has caused people.

"White man, you don't stop the movement by stopping me. You only increase it. Black people ain't scared of you anymore, White man.

"DAMN YOU WHITE MAN - DAMN YOU!!!"

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Another item recently distributed by Invaders was dated December 9, 1968, and captioned "A Message from Behind Enemy Line: The Shelby County Jail," written by John Burrell Smith, Chairman of Black Organizing Project, and one of the original organizers of Invaders. It reads as follows:

A MESSAGE FROM BEHIND ENEMY LINE: THE SHELBY COUNTY JAIL

Dear Sisters and Brothers

Those are still on the front lines of battle. I don't know if this letter will reach you; but, I feel, I must try. Being confined and made to live the life of a prisoner, with my only crime being that I love my people and I am guilty, has not weakened my will to resist. My inactivity has not produced a feeling of fluctuation or submission; but, rather, it has served to reaffirm my feelings of being a slave, a mercenary and subjugated by the white power structure of this country.

The Black people of Memphis must be made to realize what it means to be a slave, without liberty or freedom. No Black man, Afro-American, Negro, Colored person or any of the other enslaved people in this country should not be content with anything less than liberation. Yes, liberation: disengagement, released, emancipated, enfranchised. These terms mean liberation: to be set free, unhand, unbind, unchained, let loose, let go, foot loose, one's own master. All of these terms describes something we as a people have never known. Our life in this country has been just the opposite. Our existence here has been monopolized prohibition. We are controlled, restricted and controlled by repression. We suffer, live under subjected dependency, subordination, bondage and vassalage enslavement. We are confined, oppressed, governed over, chained, shackled, limited powerless, vanquished and downtrodden, under the thumb of and tied to the apron strings of the white man. In other words, we are in bad shape. And, the way Black people must begin to look at their situation if we are to survive.

There comes a time when a man must decide what he holds to be most important in his life. He must consider the forces that are opposed him and the possibility of great danger, both physical and mental. All kinds of injustices, for these are the ways in which our oppressors try to try and force us into submission. My deciding to resist the oppression that binds us to a system, which has most deteriorated and will be the eventual destruction of Black people the world over, was one of necessity. Because, we, as Black people, are at a point in our history, where we must not only fight for equality, but for freedom and liberation.

It is no longer enough for us to seek admittance to or acceptance in a society in which, its existence depends upon our enslavement, but, rather, we must seek to destroy the very foundation on which it is based. Revolt, Revolution and Liberation are words that must become special words to us. These are the only ways a man can throw off the yoke of oppression. We must learn to distinguish between riot and revolt. A riot is disorder, confusion. It runs a random, unystematically and without direction, destroying indiscriminately. But, revolt is at the very system under which one lives. It forces economic changes; it displaces social value and demands political reformation. It is the first step in controlling ones own destiny.

Being confined has only increased my will to resist. If I feared incarceration or death, then, I would be a fool to even think of opposing the white man, for he has at his disposal, all of the modern weaponry of this country and a judicial system that can insure my imprisonment for the rest of my life. But, these things, I have accepted as a fact of life or death, which ever comes first. Being a political prisoner, I am a victim of the laws of this country. Laws that are made to fit a particular situation. This does not mean that these laws are just because they fit the occasion. The laws in which I speak of are those made specifically to impede the progress or incarcerate Black people. Laws such as the Anti-Riot laws passed by the legislature last year in less than two days, which I am imprisoned under; because Black people were rioting at the time. But, it takes months, if ever, to pass any kind of law to benefit Black people. NO matter how badly they are needed.

I speak of laws at this time because in the future there are going to be more laws passed and the penalties will be great and they will be made to try and force all freedom fighters to surrender and give up the struggle. This is what the power structure hopes to accomplish by my imprisonment. It is in hope that I will become discouraged. It believes jail will force me to submit, to give up and turn my back on a course which I have devoted my life. I am not a martyr, but to me, there is no fate too terrible or no price too high for me to pay in the defense of my people. And, you who are still fighting, the laws that are to come will be for you; but, do not let this force you into submission, for they can not lock us all up.

Brothers and sisters who are still engaged in the struggle for liberation and are fighting the war of oppression from the front lines, you must not let up for one moment, for if my being locked up can buy the white man for one second, then he has won a majority victory. For, everyone as he locks up, five must rise to take our place and for every one as he kills, ten must rise in their place. We must not allow ourselves to feel comfort. You must let him know in every way that this is a people's war, a United Black Effort and not just a few trouble makers. The burden of the struggle rests with you and if it is to matter, then you must be the standard bearers of the Black race.

So, to all my embattled brothers and sisters, who refuse to surrender I say to you:

SURVIVAL IS PERMANENT;

THE STRUGGLE IS AT HAND.

AGGRESSION IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY:

THE REVOLUTION IS UPON US.

UHURU ! ! !

John B. Smith

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Another item was entitled "A Message....From Sweet Willie Wine," which reads as follows:

"I began to fast on Monday January 13, 1969 to dramatize my innocence and the hunger and injustice Black people receive in the White man's courts, as well as in the city of Memphis. I will not eat anything for 14 days and if my health holds out, I will go 21 days. Today, is Saturday, January 18. I have fast 6 days without any food. My body is weak but my heart is strong, because I know one day Black people will be free. There are people who say that Black people will turn their backs on you, but, yet I have faith in the Black people of Memphis. We have lost enough leaders in the Black community - John Smith, John Ferguson and, then, Dr. King was killed. We do not mind jail if our people will understand we are fighting for their freedom. Some of us will die; we know we will be killed; but, if Black people can die in Vietnam for the White man, we will die here for Black people so they will be free of hunger, police brutality and injustice.

"I was framed by the (Pigs) Police and the Manager of Jump and Grab Drive Inn. I brought the man to court who did what I am accused of and he was denied the chance to say he was the one who is guilty of what I am accused. He has been mistaken for me before. Even, by the Police Department. I was framed because I am a hard headed Field Nigger.

"Black people, 90% of the people in Nashville's prisons are from Memphis and Black. There are nine people on death row and they are Black and from Memphis. The crime rate is going up. Why?? It is not the people in the city; it is this rotten city, itself....

"There is not enough jobs in this city, and those who have jobs are charged so much tax they will never get ahead. I had a program to create more jobs, so that Black people would own businesses in the Black community. I am against white police making Black people who own cafes pay off to operate; and, if they don't they are run out of business through the Beer Board. This is why we want them out of our community. This is why I was framed.

"I was told there is a Campaign going concerning my being in jail. I am grateful to everyone."

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Another item was a mimeographed throw-away dated Wednesday, January 17, 1969, captioned "10 Days Without Food!!!" This item stated "Lance (Sweet Willie Wine) Watson has not eaten in 10 days of his 14-21 days fast, dramatizing his innocence and the hunger and injustice in the black community. You may send your cards and letters of support to:

"Lance (Sweet Willie Wine) Watson
150 Washington Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

"All donations may be sent to:

"Sweet Willie Freedom Fund
P. O. Box 6214
Memphis, Tennessee 38106

"WHURU!!!
(Freedom)"

On January 20, 1969, Source One advised that P. O. Box 6214 is located at McKellar Sub Station, U. S. Post Office, Memphis, and is rented in the name of Mary G. Pigford, residence 1523 Leland, a teacher at Lincoln Junior High School, a relative of Invader Business Manager and Treasurer Donald Pigford.

XV. "GINGER" INTERVIEW OF INVADERS

The winter 1969 issue of "Ginger," Southwestern at Memphis College publication, Volume 11, No. 1, edited by Michael David Patton, class of 1970, on page 7 carried an interview with "Sweet Willy Wine Watson and the Invaders" entitled "What Price Power." Therein Watson said, "We have tried techniques of non-violence, but we've taken it to the limitations, we go into another step. They call it violence, but we call it survival...its all heading for a revolution. The only thing I hate is that I don't think I'll be living when it comes. But I'll have done my part." Watson added, "I hope it will be a type of revolution like the Battle of Algiers; where it would not be a thing of complete destruction for everybody... We're going through a thing now of rebuilding, see; we're going through the

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awareness part of the revolution now. We haven't gotten to the stage of a confrontation between the two races yet. But it's steadily building up. So there will be a final stage, because it's inevitable, you know you can't get around it."

"Ginger" asked, "When you spoke at Southwestern, you said that if a white man were to be any help at all, he would have to be either a 'hippie' or a member of SDS. Do you see these people as allies in a confrontation?"

Wine replied, "Well, if all SDS is like the SDS I know in California, they'll help someone."

Roy Lee Turks stated, "The hippies realize they are oppressed too. They realize that the system is no good for mankind, black or white. This is why they reject all parts of American society. At the present the hippies and the SDS students are the only groups in the white race who can really communicate with blacks, because they feel the same oppression that black people feel. And that's our hangup now; we can communicate but not with the rest of the white race.... There was a young lady last night (at Southwestern) who asked whether she would have to put a shotgun to her momma's head and kill her momma to show that she agreed with us. This is the thing: any person who would not kill his mother, or father, for the liberation of people, is not for the total liberation of any oppressed people. If you want to see a sick society saved, then you must be willing to die yourself. That's the only way any nation, any person, can gain liberty from a dictatorship."

Wine: "Let's take it on this level: you tell me, in your society, that there's a war going on in Vietnam; that people have been oppressed by communists. But you're not concerned about who we kill over there, so why should we be concerned about who we kill over here? We're going through our thing here. You can't fool me into getting a gun in Vietnam to help you do your thing over there! You taught me how to fight, so let me do my thing to free myself! Don't be concerned about how I do it. Or who I kill doing it. Like I said before I'm the monster you created!"

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Wine: "You see what I'm sayin'? What kind of people do they have on the police force? People who are dropped out of school, same kind of people who are for Wallace. You know what they can do to their (obscene) but now you've noticed the black people don't think (obscene) of police. They'll shoot a police in the back before they'll shoot a bird. They know the police is the Army that's against them. In order to destroy the Army, they gotta shoot the police. The first thing we have to do is to destroy the Armed Forces that's in our community--that's the police!"

Beret: (not further identified) "The black, especially is not represented in government. I feel that any time you can be taxed, drafted, and controlled by a system that denies you the right of representation in government, you have the right to overthrow that government, even our own government."

"Ginger": "When is the 'revolution' going to come about? What's it going to take to start it?"

Wine: "Starting tomorrow...no, we're starting it now. This is a stage of the revolution.... Well, you see, this is going to tie in. Some people will be out there looting, and we're going to be out there fighting.... Rap'll tell you, 'Pick up a gun' and I'm gonnah say 'Yeah! Pick up your damn gun.' You know it's very seldom you hear about these 'militant' people getting bumped off. Any more questions."

"Ginger": "What is your viewpoint toward the constitution? It used to be that the constitution was the instrument of black people. Do you think the constitution is of any use any more?"

Wine: "The constitution is good...I like to have it around every time I go to the bathroom and (obscene)."

"Ginger": "What kind of government should be set up when the revolution, bloody, or not, does come? Will it be the same old capitalist-democratic structure, or will it be something closer to socialism, Marxism? What's the philosophy that most of the black leaders follow?"

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Wine: "We have a president in exile, Robert F. Williams. That's the president of the New Nation, or the New African State. But then, my present thing...I'm a socialist. I believe in socialism for people until they get their stuff together."

XVI. APPEAL TO NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES FOR FUNDS

On January 24, 1969, Sources One, Two, and Three advised that the Executive Board of National Council of Churches (NCC) met in Memphis, Tennessee, January 21-24, 1969. The Invaders took an active part; specifically, they marched with NCC representatives from Peabody Hotel to the Lorraine Motel in a memorial march on January 22, 1969, commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr

On the evening of January 22, 1969, one Bob Gore, who, according to Source One said he was with "Jet" Magazine of Chicago, Illinois, met with Invaders, obtained copies of all their literature, and said he would do a story regarding the Invaders in "Jet."

Source Three said Gore claimed to be from New York, New York, connected with United Presbyterian Church, then on loan to the NCC.

Sources One and Three added on January 24, 1969, that on January 23, 1969, the Invaders, led by Coby Vernon Smith, Roy Lee Turks, Melvin Smith, Lewis Welch, Maurice Lewis, Shirley Young, Carl S. Armstrong, M. C. Scales, Nathaniel Johnson, Donald Pigford, and Marrell McCollough, met with the NCC. They demanded financial support from NCC totaling \$51,240 for a program entitled "Memphis Leadership Conference for Black and Poor People." A Mrs. James M. Dolbey of Cincinnati, President of Women of the NCC, and a Robert Chapman, Executive Director of Commission of Social Justice, NCC, promised to help them. Coby Smith and Lewis Welch gave impassioned speeches to the NCC representatives claiming the Memphis police were harassing the Invaders, had arrested many of their members, and the Invaders' total outstanding criminal bonds totaled one-half million dollars.

On January 24, 1969, Source Three furnished a copy of the "Proposal" of "Memphis Leadership Conference for Black and Poor People," listing its Board of Directors follows:

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Chairman of Board: A. W. Willis, Jr. (Memphis Negro attorney)

Members: A. W. Willis, attorney
Russell D. Sugarmon, attorney
Dr. V. A. Smith, dentist
Bobby Doctor, Civil Rights Commissioner
Jesse Turner, banker
Clyde Neal, War on Poverty
James Lawson, Director, War on Poverty, Most Reverend
George W. Cox, Principal
Mrs. Maxine Smith, secretary, NAACP
Irvin Salky, attorney
Otis Higgs, attorney
Marvin Patner, attorney
J. O. Patterson, Jr., State Senator and attorney
Fred Davis, City Councilman
Coby Smith, student
Dr. Darrell Doughty, Professor
I. H. Murphy, State Representative
Walter L. Bailey, Jr., attorney

It listed officers as: (subject to appointment)

President: Walter L. Bailey, Jr.
Vice President: Dr. V. A. Smith
Secretary: Mrs. Maxine Smith
Assistant Secretary: Mrs. Mary Doughty
Treasurer: Otis Higgs
Assistant Treasurer: Irvin Salky
General Coordinator: Coby Smith

Source Three pointed out that basically this is the leadership of the Shelby County Democratic Club, a Negro political organization, the president of which is Walter L. Bailey, Jr. Source Three further pointed out that Willis, Sugarmon, Bailey, Salky, Higgs, and Patner are all members

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of the only racially integrated law firm in Memphis, and that practically all of the above-listed officers and Board members are also active members of West Tennessee Chapter of American Civil Liberties Union.

This "Proposal" listed the address to be 525 Commerce Title Building, the law offices of Pailey, et al, its purpose to be non-partisan, civic, educational, and political, in a struggle against racism, poverty, slum dwelling, low income, unemployment, black community economic impotence, poor quality education, lack of political involvement, and sophistication, and finally it would focus on voter registration. It called for workshops in which would be taught: Community Organizing, Voter Registration, Use of the Vote, Political Power, Forms of Agitation, formation of Youth Cadres, formation of a weekly newsletter, and propaganda and communication workshops, and would create a black library. It would have a staff of 13 persons with total six-month salaries of \$12,240, a stipend for 120 participants for 12 weeks totaling \$7,200, books and supplies \$3,500, films and visual aids \$300, and field trips \$500. In addition, rent would run \$2,000; utilities \$300; travel expenses \$2,000; flush fund \$500, automobile rental \$700; radio, TV and newspaper programs \$2,000, for a grand total of \$51,240.

It stipulated that the Project Director, Coby Smith, would "supervise and implement the program and be responsible for all hiring and firing and the fiscal policy, as well as handle the newsletter staff and weekly publication."

On February 6, 1969, a fifth source advised that the above program was concocted by Walter L. Bailey, Jr., new president of Shelby County Democratic Club as an effort to get money. Source Five stated that most of the so-called Board members and proposed officers had not been consulted, and had not given consent for their names to be used. Source Five stated that he knew for a fact that Dr. Vasco A. Smith, wife Maxie Smith, and Jesse Turner had all withdrawn their names and support.

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Source One added that Mrs. Dolbey was so moved by the Invaders' plea for the above program that she promised them that if NCC did not provide the money, she would personally raise the money. A Dr. Charles Spivey, Executive Director of Funds, NCC, was overheard to tell the Invaders that they would get the money. The Invader spokesman throughout was Coby Smith, the most articulate of the group.

On January 25, 1969, Source One stated that Mrs. Dolbey had given Coby Smith a list of 20 influential NCC people to whom to write soliciting financial support, and that they would in all probability get financial support from Inter-Religious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) and the NCC.

Later on January 28, 1969, Source One advised that Coby Smith and Cachetub Smith (no kin) typed a letter to Mrs. Dolbey and other NCC people, asking that they not send "Invader" money to Reverend James M. Lawson, Jr., as they had differences with him. Instead they should send the money directly to Coby Smith and Invaders, c/o P. O. Box 6214, Memphis.

On January 29, 1969, Source Two added that on January 28, 1969, one Armand Duvernay, of IFCO, contacted Invader leaders, as did Clyde Neal, a social worker of MAP-South, an agency funded by Memphis War on Poverty Committee, indicating the Invaders would probably receive the \$51,240 provided they did not use it for bail money.

Armand Duvernay and Neal met with Invader leaders including Coby Vernon Smith, Lewis Welch, Shirley Young, Donald Pigford, Marrell McCollough, and Maurice Lewis. Welch told him that he (Welch) was Acting Chairman of the Invaders, and that if the Invaders received the financial grant, it would be used for a loose Black United Front to obtain jobs for blacks, build black pride, and teach blacks to vote properly. Maurice Lewis told Armand that it would have a Board of Directors consisting of Vasco Smith, A. W. Willis, Jr., and Bobby Doctor, and a staff consisting of: Melvin Smith, Maurice Lewis, Roy Turks,

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John Burrell Smith, Charles I. Cabbage, Coby Vernon Smith, Lewis Welch, Lance (Sweet Willie Wine) Watson, plus about 120 workers. Armand urged them to get white people behind their movement as did the "hippies" and Hughey Newton and Black Panthers on the West Coast. He indicated IFCO might finance the Invaders.

On February 20, 1969. Source One commented that on February 19, 1969, Clyde Neal, supra, said that he now felt sure that IFCO will try to "up" the Invader grant to \$250,000 for a one-year period.

A story in the "Commercial Appeal," Memphis, Tennessee, daily paper, page 17, issue of Saturday, January 25, 1969, by Lloyd Holbeck, entitled "NCC Says Pastors to Decide Issues," said in part:

"The Invaders, a militant Negro group which asked the National Council of Churches General Board for \$51,000 for its version of a community action program, wanted immediate action on its request, but did not get it, and will have to get approval of local church leaders to get anything at all. Dr. Charles S. Spivey, Jr., the NCC Social Justice Director, assured a group of local ministers after the Board meeting ended yesterday that any NCC involvement in Memphis would go through them. The Rev. B. Julian Smith, Bishop of First Episcopal District, CME Church, had complained he was not told that the Invaders would be allowed to present their requests to the Board. And he said the local ministers should decide what needs to be done. Dr. Spivey said the possible procedure would be for money to go to the Inter-Religious Foundation for Community Organization with local people deciding how it would be spent. He said the Invaders were allowed to talk to the Board Thursday (January 23, 1969) because they were going to be there regardless of whether they were admitted freely or not. Bishop Smith said he believed a local council can be organized now as a result of the Board meeting in Memphis. H. Leroy Brininger, another NCC staff member, said the Invader request will be studied, even though no money is available now. The Rev. James Lawson, Pastor of Centenary Methodist Church, said it was too soon to evaluate results of the meeting, but he was aware there has been vigorous debate in East Memphis churches about the Council."

BLACK PANTHER PARTY

According to its official newspaper, the Black Panther Party (BPP) was started during December, 1966, in Oakland, California, to organize black people so they can take control of the life, politics, and the destiny of the black community. It was organized by Bobby George Seale, BPP Chairman, and Huey P. Newton, BPP Minister of Defense. Newton is presently serving a sentence of 2 to 15 years on a conviction of manslaughter in connection with the killing of an Oakland police officer.

The official newspaper, "The Black Panther," which further describes itself as the "Black Community News Service," states that the BPP advocates the use of guns and guerrilla tactics in its revolutionary program to end oppression of the black people. Residents of the black community are urged to arm themselves against the police who are consistently referred to in the publication as "pigs" who should be killed.

"The Black Panther" issue of September 7, 1968, contains an editorial by BPP Minister of Education, George Mason Murray, which ends with the following:

"Black men. Black people, colored persons of America, revolt everywhere! Arm yourselves. The only culture worth keeping is a revolutionary culture. Change. Freedom everywhere. Dynamite! Black Power. Use the gun. Kill the pigs everywhere."

Included in the introduction to an article appearing in the October 5, 1968, edition of "The Black Panther" is the statement. "...we will not dissent from American Government. We will overthrow it."

Issues of "The Black Panther" regularly contain quotations from the writings of Chairman MAO Tse-tung of the People's Republic of China and feature MAO's statement that "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun."

The national headquarters of the BPP is located at 3106 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, California. Branches have been established at various locations throughout the United States.

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), headquartered at 360-362 Nelson Street, S. W., Atlanta, Georgia, is a nonmembership organization, which was born out of the sit-in movement that erupted across the South beginning in 1960.

Today SNCC identifies itself as an organization in the revolutionary vanguard. It advocates that to be successful it is necessary to develop a revolutionary ideology and revolutionary program.

According to SNCC the year 1967 marked a historic milestone in the struggle for the liberation of black people in the United States and the year that revolutionaries throughout the world began to understand more fully the impact of the black movement. SNCC declared that "liberation will come only when there is final destruction of this mad octopus-- the capitalistic system of the United States with all its life-sucking tentacles of exploitation and racism that choke the people of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The realities of black life, together with the recognition instilled in SNCC workers forced its members to further popularize the legitimacy of self-defense and rebellions when oppression became too great."

From May, 1966, until May, 1967, Stokely Carmichael was National Chairman of SNCC. As of July, 1968, Carmichael resided in Washington, D. C., where he was affiliated with SNCC and active as temporary chairman of a black coalition group. In May, 1967, Carmichael was replaced by Hubert Geroid Brown, commonly known as H. Rap Brown, who served until June, 1968.

In June, 1968, at the Staff and Central Committee meeting of SNCC held in Atlanta, Georgia, it was decided to restructure the organization by equalization of responsibility by creating ten deputy or vice chairmanships. The primary purpose for this change is to take law enforcement pressure off any single individual.

STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

The Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), as it is known today, came into being at a founding convention held at Port Huron, Michigan, in June, 1962. The SDS is an association of young people on the left and has a current program of protesting the draft, promoting a campaign for youth to develop a conscientious objector status, denouncing United States intervention in the war in Vietnam and to "radically transform" the university community, and provide for its complete control by students. Gus Hall, General Secretary, Communist Party, USA, when interviewed by a representative of United Press International in San Francisco, California, on May 14, 1965, described the SDS as a part of the "responsible left" which the Party has "going for us." At the June, 1965, SDS National Convention, an anti-communist proviso was removed from the SDS constitution. In the October 7, 1966, issue of "New Left Notes," the official publication of SDS, an SDS spokesman stated that there are some communists in SDS and they are welcome. The national headquarters of this organization as of April 18, 1967, was located in Room 206, 1608 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois.

APPENDIX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: INVADERS

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
March 3, 1969

Title **INVADERS**

Character **RACIAL MATTERS**

Reference **Memorandum prepared at Memphis,
Tennessee, dated March 3, 1969,
and captioned as above**

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FBI

Date: 3/3/69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-8460)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (157-1067) (P) *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: CHANGED
 INVADERS, aka
 Black Organizing Project,
 Community Organizing Project,
 Black United Front
 RM

Title of instant case being changed to reflect true current nature of organization, formerly carried as "BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT, aka Invaders, Afro-American Brotherhood, Downtown Association, LeMoyne Intercollegiate Chapter of NAACP, and Black Student Association."

Re Memphis airtel and LHM 12/4/68.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are 11 copies of LHM captioned as above and dated 3/3/69.

Copies of LHM are being disseminated to U. S. Secret Service, Memphis, and to regional offices of Military Intelligence.

3-Bureau (Encs. 11) (RM)

8-Memphis

- (1 - 157-1067)
- (1 - 157-1423 - BUF)
- (1 - 157-556 - Possible Racial Violence Major Urban Areas)
- (1 - 157-1168 - Racial Situation in Tennessee)
- (1 - 157-1308 - COME)
- (1 - 100-4949 - National Council of Churches)
- (1 - 170-70-Sub - [Redacted])
- (1 - 66-1687-Sub - Dissemination)

157-1067-978E
100-1

WHL:wp
(11) *wp*

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Sources utilized in enclosed LHM are:

Source One - [REDACTED]

Source Two - [REDACTED]

Source Three - [REDACTED]

Source Four - [REDACTED]

Source Five - [REDACTED]

Source Six - [REDACTED]

Source Seven - [REDACTED]

Source Eight - [REDACTED]

The enclosed LHM is classified "Confidential" in order to protect sources of continuing value to the Bureau.

LEAD

MEMPHIS

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Will continue to follow and report pertinent
Invader activities.