

FBI

Date: 9/26/69

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Via AIRTEL _____ AIRMAIL _____
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TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN

On 9/25/69, AUSA R. MACEY TAYLOR, Birmingham, was interviewed, at his request, stating that he had been in conversation with Attorney ART HANES, Birmingham, former defense counsel for subject RAY. AUSA TAYLOR related that the information set forth below, as obtained from HANES, was being passed on for whatever it might be worth.

TAYLOR stated that HANES contends that subject RAY had been engaged in transportation of weapons (rifles and other automatic weapons), and that the reason he was in Memphis was his interest in disposing of such weapons to black militant groups in that city. HANES contends that there had existed a conspiracy in the transportation of such weapons on the part of RAY whom he contends was operating with one [redacted] formerly of Cahaba Heights, a Birmingham suburb, who is supposed to work for [redacted] in Birmingham known as the [redacted], and according to HANES, [redacted] had previously been charged in Jefferson County Court, at Birmingham, by Deputy Sheriff [redacted] on some unknown charge, the status of which he does not now know. RAY and [redacted] were supposed to have been engaged in their gun transportation details by one [redacted], believed from Birmingham, one [redacted] believed to be a Memphis resident, and one [redacted] believed to be of Birmingham. According

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Special Agent in Charge

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to HANES' conjectures, [redacted] and the others were obtaining these weapons through Pascagoula, Mississippi, implying that they were from out of the country.

Aside from the above, TAYLOR stated that during his conversation with HANES, that individual had mentioned that while he was employed by RAY, he had filed a motion in Memphis to observe the physical evidence, and noted that one rifle slug, which had been obtained from the body of the victim, was not mutilated to such an extent that it could not be identified by laboratory examination, although he had been informed that only partial fragments of the fatal bullet were recovered which precluded any positive identification.

As stated above, AUSA TAYLOR did not consider information furnished by HANES to be of material value, but stated that due to HANES' proclivity for publicity, he did not desire to be placed in the position of not having passed on to authorities any information furnished by HANES. He suggested that the Bureau may consider informing the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division of the Treasury Department of information relating to instant transportation of weapons on the part of RAY, [redacted] and others.

The Bureau is familiar with the fact that HANES is very closely allied with the UKA and previous information has been furnished to the Bureau that he received a sum of \$12,500 as an attorney for Klan members charged in North Carolina, and also met with UKA officials recently in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

A file review of this matter fails to reflect any reference of individuals mentioned by HANES.

REQUEST OF BUREAU:

Birmingham does not intend to contact HANES or otherwise institute further investigation in this matter UACB. The Bureau is requested to advise Birmingham whether

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the meager information furnished by HANES regarding instant transportation of weapons on the part of those named by him should be given to the Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms Division.