

Memorandum to MR. TROTTER
RE: MURKIN

the speech had been quoted too much in detail. Vinson states that it is essential to decisively refute Assistant City Editor's quoted version and anticipated testimony as well as the anticipated testimony of reporters and policemen. He requested that "appropriate measures to assist our full preparation to oppose the contempt charge" be taken.

The trial of subject Ray was scheduled to begin today; however, news reports indicate it will be postponed as subject has reportedly retained a new attorney.* In setting the date 12/6/68 for Bonebrake's appearance to show cause as to why he should not be held in contempt, Judge Battle noted he was doing so as this would be after the trial of subject Ray and to do otherwise would result in unnecessary publicity, defeating purpose of his original order. It was recognized in filing the contempt petition that the Court did not have jurisdiction. Further, it appeared that the committee of attorneys had no sound grounds to substantiate their recommendation and probably took the action against our employee as a face-saving gesture, since they had been severely criticized by Ray's defense attorney, Arthur Hanes, Sr., and a Memphis "Commercial Appeal" reporter, Charles Edmundson, who are both currently under contempt citation by Judge Battle in this case. In order to comply with Mr. Vinson's request, it would appear desirable to have Kansas City Office discreetly interview the 17 officers in attendance at the police school and to identify and interview the major from the Wichita Police Department who is apparently quoted by the newspaper in this matter. It would not appear advisable to interview reporters or other newspaper people in connection with this matter as to do so might attract unnecessary publicity.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached airtel be approved, instructing SAC, Kansas City, to have the officers who attended the police school discreetly interviewed, and to identify and interview the major from the Wichita Police Department who was quoted by the newspaper.

*Judge has now postponed trial until March, 1969.