

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MEMPHIS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 11/9/70	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 6/1/70 - 11/3/70
TITLE OF CASE INVADERS		REPORT MADE BY SA BURN. F. JOHNSON	TYPED BY JAP
CHARACTER OF CASE RACIAL MATTERS			

REFERENCES:

Memphis report of SA BURN. F. JOHNSON, 6/10/70

INFORMANTS:

Identity of Source

ME T-1 in [REDACTED]

File Where Located

157-1067-1892, 1892, 1901, 1902, 1906, 1913, 1913A, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1928, 1930, 1931, 1937, 1937B, 1939A, 1942, 1943, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1984, 1993, 2000, 2008.

ME T-2 in [REDACTED]

170-70-Sub

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					(X) NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:	
CONVICT	AUTO	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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157-1067-2028

Examiner Record of Attached Report

Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
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By				

Notations

FORM 0-1
 DATE REC'D. 11-18-70
 DATE REP. MADE 11-18-70
 REPORT BY Sent re above #214
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ME 157-1067

Identity of Source

File Where Located

ME T-3 is [REDACTED]	170-1233
ME T-4 is [REDACTED]	170-1040-Sub
ME T-5 is [REDACTED]	134-543-Sub

ADMINISTRATIVE:

This case is being placed in a closed status because the Invaders organization has split into two organizations, "We the People," and "Peoples Revolutionary Party." Cases have been opened on these two organizations and reports are in preparation.

This report is classified "Confidential" because it contains information from sources of continuing value whose identities, if revealed, might compromise their effectiveness and adversely affect the security of the United States.

Copies of this report are being furnished to the U. S. Secret Service and U. S. Attorney, both Memphis, and to the regional offices of the intelligence agencies of the Armed Forces, pursuant to Bureau instructions.

Careful consideration was given to the use of T symbols, and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where it was necessary to conceal the sources.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Report of: SA BURL F. JOHNSON
Date: November 9, 1970

Office: MEMPHIS

Field Office File #: Memphis 157-1067

Bureau File #: 157-8460

Title: INVADERS

Character: RACIAL MATTERS

Synopsis: Invaders, a black militant organization, was formed in Memphis, Tenn., in the Summer of 1967. In August, 1970, it was learned the Invaders had split into two distinct organizations, one called "We the People," led by LANCE WATSON, and one called "Peoples Revolutionary Party," led by HELVIN SMITH and WILLIE WARFORD. The Invaders is no longer a functioning organization.

- C -

DETAILS:

I. ORGANIZATION

A. Origin

As previously reported, a militant black nationalist group of young Memphis, Tennessee, Negroes, now known as the Invaders, was originally formed in the Summer and Fall of 1967 by three Memphis Negroes, COBY VERNON SMITH, JOHN BURRELL SMITH, and CHARLES LAVERNE CABERGE. During the Fall of 1967 and Spring of 1968, it assumed the name of Black Organizing Project (BOP), with subsidiary cells known as Afro-American Brotherhood (AAB) at Owen College; Black Student Association

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~~GROUP~~

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(BSA) at Memphis State University; LeMoyne College Inter-Collegiate Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (LIC, NAACP) at LeMoyne College; Invaders, primarily consisting of high school students and school dropouts; and City Organizers, consisting of young non-student adults; all having a combined average membership of about 100. The ostensible purpose was to create pride in black identity, to teach black culture and black history, and to obtain employment for young blacks.

(ME T-2, 3/18/70)

In August, 1970, it was learned that the Invaders organization had split into two distinct groups, one known as "We the People," led by LANCE "SWEET WILLIE WINE" WATSON, and one known as the "Peoples Revolutionary Party," led by MELVIN SMITH and WILLIE WARFORD. The Peoples Revolutionary Party follows the ten-point program of the Black Panther Party (BPP). The Invaders organization is no longer a functioning group.

(ME T-2, 8/5/70)

A characterization of the Black Panther Party is set forth in the Appendix pages.

B. Headquarters

As previously reported, in June, 1970, LANCE WATSON, Prime Minister of the Invaders, resided at Apartment 3, 1031 North Watkins, Memphis, Tennessee, where meetings and business matters relating to the Invaders were handled. The organization maintained no space for meetings or an office.

(ME T-1, 6/1/70)

C. Officers and Staff

As previously reported, in June, 1970, LANCE "SWEET WILLIE WINE" WATSON was Prime Minister of the Invaders, and MICHAEL STARKS acted as his legal adviser and secretary.

(ME T-1, 6/1/70)

(ME T-2, 6/1/70)

D. Finances

As previously reported, in June, 1970, the Invaders maintained no bank account and had no known sources of income.

(ME T-1 and ME T-2, 6/1/70)

E. Membership

As previously reported, in June, 1970, there were fifteen active members in the Invaders.

(ME T-1 and ME T-2, 6/1/70)

II. ACTIVITIES

On June 4, 1970, ME T-2 furnished a copy of a mimeographed newspaper entitled "We the People," published by the Invaders. On Page 1 of this publication under caption "The New United Front," the following information was set forth:

"A new organization is being formed to implement the New United Front. Its name is 'We the People' and it means just what it says. The only racial identity its members assume is that of human beings. The organization plans to direct itself politically and economically. 'We the People' is headed by LANCE 'SWEET WILLIE WINE' WATSON, a long time nationally renowned black activist who intends to run for governor of Arkansas." This publication was dated May 11, 1970.

A meeting of the Invaders was held on May 13, 1970, at Apartment 3, 1031 North Watkins Street, Memphis. At this meeting LANCE WATSON and others discussed a trip they planned to Knoxville, Tennessee.

(ME T-1, 5/26/70)

On June 1, 1970, a meeting of the Invaders was held at Apartment 3, 1031 North Watkins Street, Memphis. At this meeting LANCE WATSON discussed a forthcoming trip to Louisville, Kentucky, where he was going to make efforts to have an underground newspaper published.

(ME T-1, 6/3/70)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on June 2, 1970, at Apartment 3, 1031 North Watkins Street, Memphis. At this meeting LANCE WATSON led a discussion on communism. He commented "I used to think communism was some kind of evil

government where they went around killing people, but I've found that all they want to do is to feed people and make sure that one person doesn't have more than the other. For instance, I have some potatoes and beans and you have some milk; I give you some potatoes for milk; what do you call this?" WATSON indicated he feels that when he starts publishing the newspaper, which will include information concerning the control of the country by 218 families, he will be placed at the head of an assassination list. He indicated that this was what happened to the late Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, stating that at that time Dr. KING was talking about not only feeding black people but feeding all poor people.

(ME T-1, 6/5/70)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on June 3, 1970, at 1031 North Watkins Street, Memphis. At this meeting there was a discussion concerning a newspaper to be known as "We the People."

(ME T-1, 6/5/70)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on June 8, 1970, at 1031 North Watkins Street, Memphis. On this occasion LANCE WATSON advised that he had received a letter from the U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., wherein the U. S. Attorney and the U. S. District Court suggested that the charges against President NIXON be dropped.

(ME T-1, 6/10/70)

On June 4, 1970, LANCE WATSON, Prime Minister of the Invaders, commented that he was attempting to form a new united front in order to enlarge the scope of the activities of the Invaders. WATSON indicated that he was attempting to recruit both blacks and whites, including members of the Communist Party and the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), into the Invaders. He said that in order to attract and keep white people in the organization he believed the Invaders organization would have to operate under the name "We the People" or "Peoples Party." He stated that the central committee, headed by MELVIN SMITH and HAURACE LEWIS, was to be the action arm of the Invaders, and that this group was to be all black to satisfy the demands of MELVIN SMITH and other members of the central committee.

(ME T-2, 6/4/70)

A characterization of Students for a Democratic Society is set forth in the Appendix pages.

On June 9, 1970, LANCE WATSON again commented that the central committee, led by MAURICE LEWIS and MELVIN SMITH, is the action arm of the Invaders.

(ME T-2, 6/10/70)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on June 9, 1970, at 1031 North Watkins, Memphis. On this occasion WATSON commented that he would have to go to Louisville, Kentucky, on June 13, 1970, in connection with the publication of the newspaper known as "We the People."

(ME T-1, 6/10/70)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on June 10, 1970, at 1031 North Watkins, Memphis. On this occasion WATSON handed out some literature indicating that the trial of President NIXON would be held on September 6, 1970, in Washington, D. C.

(ME T-1, 6/15/70)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on June 11, 1970, at 1031 North Watkins Street, Memphis. At this meeting there was discussion concerning the proposed firing of the chairman of the Memphis War on Poverty Committee.

(ME T-1, 6/15/70)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on June 12, 1970, at 1031 North Watkins, Memphis. On this occasion WATSON handed out literature soliciting contributions to "We the People," 1031 North Watkins, Memphis.

(ME T-1, 6/16/70)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on June 16, 1970, at 1031 North Watkins Street, Memphis. On this occasion WATSON discussed his trip to Louisville where he arranged to have an issue of the newspaper known as "We the People" printed. He indicated it would be some time before he could get the paper in Memphis because they needed \$300 to pay for the printing and delivery.

(ME T-1, 6/18/70)

On June 15, 1970, JOHN CHARLES SMITH and WILLIE WARFORD commented that they were members of the Invaders, which will be known in the future as the "Peoples Party," and that the official newspaper of the "Peoples Party" will be known as "We the People."

(ME T-2, 6/17/70)

On June 17, 1970, ME T-2 furnished a copy of a poster which LANCE WATSON had been distributing in the Memphis area, which poster was captioned "We the People." The poster contained the following information:

"We, the People, are tired. We are tired of being hungry, poorly fed, poorly clothed, poorly housed, and we're tired of being tired. We've had the white-oriented governmental structure telling us 'There are not available funds at the present'--we've heard that a hundred times too many. We're tired of begging the government to keep us on a demeaning, 'nigger and po' white trash' welfare program that's supposed to help us, but that acts like an addictive drug, sucking away our manhood, our womanhood, our humanity."

(ME T-2, 6/17/70)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on June 17, 1970, at 1031 North Watkins, Memphis. On this occasion WATSON commented that 218 families in the U. S. control the country and exploit the poor and black people. He commented that the ROCKWELLER's, the FORD's, and the DUPONT's and other large corporations were the instigators of the war in Southeast Asia. He stated that people connected with these families and these corporations do not care anything about killing people as long as they can make millions of dollars. He commented that President NIXON is a puppet and that whenever a string is pulled he must react the way these corporations and these families want him to, or they would have him killed, as they did former President JOHN F. KENNEDY.

(ME T-1, 6/19/70)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on June 18, 1970, at 1031 North Watkins, Memphis. On this occasion WATSON announced that he and two of his associates would make a

seven-state tour, including stops at Louisville, Kentucky; Cincinnati, Ohio; Baltimore, Maryland; New York City, and Washington, D. C., in June, 1970.

(ME T-1, 6/24/70)

On June 19, 1970, LANCE WATSON commented that he planned to open an office on Danny Thomas Boulevard in Memphis and set up a drug therapy school, establish a political and consumer orientation organization, and set up an office to handle police brutality complaints.

(ME T-1, 6/24/70)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on June 22, 1970, at 1031 North Watkins, Memphis. On this occasion WATSON mapped out plans for a Memphis War on Poverty Committee meeting to be held on June 24, 1970. He stated that he would get eight buckets, fill them with water, put red dye in them to represent blood, and take the names of eight individuals killed in Memphis by the Police, put one name on each bucket, and present them to the Memphis City Council.

(ME T-1, 6/25/70)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on the evening of June 23, 1970, at 1031 North Watkins, Memphis. Following the meeting, LANCE WATSON and some of his associates proceeded to the Memphis City Hall where a meeting was being conducted regarding the Memphis War on Poverty Committee.

(ME T-1, 6/25/70)

In June, 1970, it was learned that LANCE WATSON intended to take some of the members of his organization and join in a march on the United Nations at New York City where charges of genocide against the black people of the United States would be made against the government of the United States. It was also learned that WATSON was attempting to improve the image of the Invaders organization by using the name "Peoples Party" and by attempting to form a program directed against the use of narcotics and asking for the removal of Mayor HENRY LOEB, Fire and Police Commissioner FRANK HOLLOWAN, and Chief of Police DERRY LUX.

(ME T-2, 6/24/70)

ME 157-1067

A meeting of the Invaders was held on June 24, 1970, at 1031 North Watkins, Memphis. On this occasion WATSON announced plans to organize a "Mothers March against Police Brutality and the Vietnam War" on June 25, 1970.

(ME T-2, 7/2/70)

An emergency conference sponsored by the Students for a Democratic Society and the Invaders was held on June 20, 1970, at St. Patrick's Church, 333 Linden Street, Memphis. The following topics were discussed at this conference:

- Draft counseling;
- Police brutality;
- Illegal drug traffic;
- Vietnam War;
- Publicity of organizing students and workers into a major party.

(ME T-5, 6/26/70)

It was learned in June, 1970, that KELLEY DELANEY and WILLIE BELL, both close associates of LANCE WATSON, plan to leave Memphis on June 30, 1970, on a seven-state tour. This tour was planned in an effort to get support for the July 25 "Mothers March" against police brutality and the trial of President NIXON in Washington, D. C., in early September, 1970.

(ME T-1, 7/2/70)

In late June, 1970, it was learned that the Invaders organization had split into two branches, one known as "We the People," and one known as "Peoples Revolutionary Party." The two branches held separate meetings on most occasions, and the "Peoples Revolutionary Party" was considered the action group, whereas "We the People" was considered the political arm of the Invaders.

(ME T-2, 7/1/70)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on July 14, 1970, at the Greater New Liberty Baptist Church, 1006 Texas Street, Memphis. At this meeting plans were discussed for the forthcoming march on July 25, 1970.

ME T-1, 7/17/70)

On July 14, 1970, LANCE WATSON advised that he intended to commence a fast that date and continue on this fast, sleeping in a coffin, until the morning of July 25, 1970. On July 25, 1970, he planned to lead a protest march from the Greater New Liberty Baptist Church, 1006 Texas Street, to the Memphis City Hall, protesting the war in Vietnam, police brutality, illegal use of drugs, racial discrimination, and the white power structure in Memphis. WATSON also indicated that he was attempting to improve the image of the Invaders organization by organizing day care centers for children in a hope to obtain federal financing for the day care centers.

(ME T-2, 7/15/70)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on July 16, 1970, at the Greater New Liberty Baptist Church, 1006 Texas Street, Memphis. On this occasion WATSON dictated a letter regarding the proposed march he planned to lead on July 25, 1970. He also announced that a press conference would be held at the church on July 16, 1970, in connection with his fast and the forthcoming march.

(ME T-1, 7/17/70)

A meeting of the Invaders was held on July 17, 1970, at the Greater New Liberty Baptist Church, 1006 Texas Street, Memphis.

(ME T-1, 7/21/70)

On July 25, 1970, LANCE WATSON led a march sponsored by "We the People," commencing at the Greater New Liberty Church, 1006 Texas Street, Memphis, and terminating at the Memphis City Hall. The march was a protest of the Vietnam War, police brutality, crime, poverty, hunger, unemployment, and the illegal use of drugs.

(ME T-3 and ME T-4, 7/25/70)

On August 2, 1970, LANCE WATSON and some of his associates made a brief appearance at a conference sponsored by the Young Workers Liberation League at Clayborn Temple, 280 Hernando Street, Memphis. WATSON and his associates left this meeting and proceeded to the Greater New Liberty Baptist

ME 157-1067

Church, 1006 Texas Street, where LANCE WATSON and GERALDINE
KNOX were married.

(ME T-1, 8/5/70)

A characterization of the Young Workers Liberation
League is set forth in the Appendix pages.