

4/3/68

Airtel

- 1 - Mr. Rushing
- 1 - Mr. Glass

To: SAC, Memphis (157-1092)

From: Director, FBI

SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
RACIAL MATTERS

BUDED: 4/19/68

Black Organizing Project

Reurairtel and letterhead memorandum 3/21/68 and your teletype 3/28/68.

Referenced teletype 3/28/68 reported that prior to the start of the sanitation workers' march on 3/23/68, James Elmore Phillips, LeMoyn College student, Memphis, Tennessee, and one Sam (LNU) and others were heard near Clayborn Temple to say that some of the marchers should break windows and loot. Phillips, Sam (LNU) and others went into an alley behind the Clayborn Temple and obtained sticks and bricks. This group remained behind the line of marchers when the march started.

On 2/16/68 Phillips and Charles R. Cabbage advised Agents of your office that they were part of a small governing body of a black power group known as Black Organizing Power which they said is affiliated with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Referenced letterhead memorandum 3/21/68 reported that James Bevel, one of Martin Luther King's key workers, had been in Memphis since 3/18/68 working with Harold Middlebrook in organizing college and high school students to participate in the sympathy march for the strikers. On 3/20/68 Bevel and Middlebrook

REC 22

MCT-25

DUPLICATE YELLOW

NOT RECORDED

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CEG:srs/bff

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1 - 157-NEW (Black Organizing Power)
APR 1 1968

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Airtel to SAC, Memphis
RE: SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

were taken to LeMoyne College by Phillips and Clinton Jamerson, also of Black Organizing Power, where Bevel spoke to some students. Bevel gave a virulent black power talk to the students. Four students from Owens Junior College were also at the meeting. Bevel urged the LeMoyne College students to appear at Clayborn Temple as early as 7 a.m. the morning of the march.

In connection with your inquiries into the disorder that occurred on 3/28/68, you should be alert for any information that subversives were involved or that the disorder was preplanned by militants. Your inquiries should also cover whether LeMoyne College students were involved in preplanning the disorder and whether James Bevel had a hand in inciting the disorder.

Any inquiries concerning students of LeMoyne College should, of course, be conducted in accordance with current Bureau instructions regarding investigations on college campuses.

If you have not already done so, initiate an investigation of Black Organizing Power to determine the basic aims and objectives of that organization, the establish the identities of the leaders, and to develop background information about them.

The inquiries into the disorder should be promptly handled and submitted to the Bureau in a letterhead memorandum. Your inquiries concerning Black Organizing Power should be reported under that caption.