

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-1067)

DATE: 9/18/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP), aka  
Invaders  
RM

Re: Firebombings by Invaders, Night of  
9/10/68; BUF Meeting 9/10/68

- 1 - 157-1067 (BOP)
- 1 - 157-556 (Possible Racial Violence, Major Urban Areas)
- 1 - 157-1423 (Black United Front)
- 1 - 157-957 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1351 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1019 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 170-1024 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1116 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1277 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1258 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1263 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1181 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1349 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1125 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1230 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1372 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1418 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1312 (Black Knights)
- 1 - 100-4528 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 25-14636 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1173 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1275 [REDACTED]
- 2 - 157-NEW [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1341 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157- [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1133 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 170-1145 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 170-1040 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1018 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 170-61 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 170-70 Sub [REDACTED]

WHL:gmh

(32) *gmh*

*2,943 copies*

*157-1067-452*

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| SEARCHED      | INDEXED |
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| SEP 19 1968   |         |
| FBI - MEMPHIS |         |

*Lawrence*

MOS 157-1067

On 9/12/68 [REDACTED] and Lt. E. H. ARKIN, Intelligence Unit, Memphis Police Department, furnished the writer with a copy of the Memphis Police Department memorandum dated 9/11/68 re "Activities of Invaders 9/10/68," as furnished by Police Department undercover officer, code name [REDACTED].

One Xerox copy of [REDACTED] is attached to each copy of this memorandum.

The [REDACTED] mentioned were 95-101-105 Ingle, being renovated by H.O.M.E., operated by Negro attorney A. W. WILLIS, and financed by Supreme Mortgage Company.

(The above-mentioned "H.O.M.E.," means Housing Opportunity, Memphis Enterprises.)

On 9/12/68 [REDACTED] called the writer to say that on 9/5/68 a [REDACTED] (and dilapidated) across the street from 95 Ingle burned and that he had noted that it was owned or rented by A. C. Antle Realty Company, which was the original rental agent at 1310 Florida (Neighborhood Organizing Project field office) where the Invaders had their headquarters. The Invaders were angered at being ousted at 1310 early in September.

Informant said HARRIS ROBINSON of Monique Funeral Home, Ingle and Kansas, indicated to the informant that he knew who burned the houses at 95-101-105 Ingle on the night of 9/10/68 but did not elaborate.

RECOMMENDATION:

[REDACTED]

# DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

ASD 4

TO: Inspector G. P. Tines,  
Inspectional Bureau

FROM: Lt. E. H. Arkin,  
Intelligence Bureau

SUBJECT: Activities of Invaders,  
9-10-63.

DATE: September 11, 1963

At 2:30 PM informant states that MARCEL MCCULLOUGH went to 1644 Hanauer, Apt. 2, and that the only persons present in the apartment at that time was MAURICE LEWIS, who was sleeping. Informant states that he along with MARCEL MCCULLOUGH then proceeded downtown to the Voter Registration Office in the County Building and while en route met CHARLES HARRINGTON, who was driving the family white/grey Oldsmobile headed south on Riverside Drive at Georgia. Those observed in the car with Harrington were VERDELL BROOKS, CHARLES BALLARD, LEMMET HOUSE.

Upon arrival at the County Building everyone was gone so they then proceeded back to 1644 Hanauer, Apt. 2, which is known as the Crib. Those present at the Crib at this time were HARRINGTON, HOUSE, BROOKS, BALLARD, WILLIE WINE and CEDRIC MOORE. Also present was a female Negro JOYCE (LNU) who is WILLIE WINE'S girl friend, and it was brought out that she is probably going back to Marks, Mississippi, this coming Saturday, as she is a high school senior there.

LANCE WATSON aka SWEET WILLIE WINE wanted to go and get some money and food. Informant stated that WILLIE WINE, his girl friend JOYCE, MARCEL MCCULLOUGH, ARTHUR NORWOOD and VERDELL BROOKS all drove in MCCULLOUGH'S car to the Post Office at Calhoun and Second. WINE got one dollar from some unknown person.

After leaving there WINE went to the beauty shop on Hernando just north of Vance on the east side of the street to get some money there but was unable to. They left and went to Fourth and Walker to the Chinese store on the corner. ARTHUR NORWOOD wanted to go into the store, sack up a bag of groceries and just walk out, but VERDELL BROOKS, who went into the store with NORWOOD, talked him out of this, as the Chinese grocer was watching them and BROOKS was afraid he might shoot them. While waiting for NORWOOD AND BROOKS to come back to the car, informant states a group of young kids in the neighborhood came up to the car wanting to know if they were all Invaders? These kids then stated, "Why don't you come over to LaRose School and tear it up?" SWEET WILLIE WINE then told these kids that they, too, were all Invaders. The kids wanted to know where they had their machine guns hidden, etc. Informant states as they left this area, WILLIE WINE gave one of the kids a piece of paper and told him to get the names of all the kids who wanted to be Invaders and get the list back to him.

They then went back to 1644 Hanauer, at which time MCCULLOUGH, BALLARD and HELEN BRIDGES went to the Chicken Villa at Third and Crump where HELEN BRIDGES bought some chicken. They then took HELEN BRIDGES back to 1644 Hanauer, dropping her off, and MCCULLOUGH and BALLARD then proceeded to Carver High School and watched the football team practicing. While there, they met JOHN B. SMITH, WILLIE ROGERS, JOHN HENRY FERGUSON and ORIE MCKENZIE. They all stayed there until approximately 5:00 P.M. and then went back to 1644 Hanauer.

At 7:20 P.M., 9-10-68, MARCEL MCCULLOUGH, MEL SMITH, JOYCE (LNU), WILLIE WINE, JIMEL DAVIS and a female colored (CNU) SMITH, who lives in the same apartment unit as JOHN B. SMITH, described as 30 years old, 5'4", 110 lbs., skinny, with natural hair, all went to Clayborn Temple. Upon their arrival at Clayborn Temple the building was closed, but there was a large group of people outside. Two of the persons recognized standing outside Clayborn Temple were WARREN LEWIS and JOHN COLLINS, both of the Black Muslims.

MARCEL MCCULLOUGH returned to 1644 Hanauer and picked up OREE MCNEEL and WARREN LEWIS and then went by CHARLES HARRINGTON'S on Rife, where they asked HARRINGTON if he was taking his car to stop by the Crib and pick up some of the guys, to which HARRINGTON said he would. Those still left at the Crib were JOHN B. SMITH, CHARLES CARRAGE and MARCEL BROOKS. MCCULLOUGH, MCNEEL and LEWIS then went back to the Crib to advise JOHN B. SMITH that HARRINGTON would pick them up and as MCCULLOUGH, MCNEEL and LEWIS were leaving, they picked up ARTHUR NORWOOD.

While driving down to Clayborn Temple from the Crib, ARTHUR NORWOOD made the comment to MCCULLOUGH, "I have a job to do down in the south end on Ingle after we drop LEWIS and MCNEEL off at Clayborn Temple."

After dropping LEWIS and MCNEEL off at the church, NORWOOD and MCCULLOUGH then proceeded to Johnson's Food Service Station at McLemore and Florida where one of the service station attendants, believed to be the elder Johnson's son, gave NORWOOD and MCCULLOUGH a round, five gallon gas can and NORWOOD wanted \$2 \$1.25 cents worth of gas, but the attendant filled the can up with gas instead of just giving them \$1.25 cents worth and NORWOOD told the attendant if they would be back later to pay him for it.

NORWOOD and MCCULLOUGH left the gas station and returned to 1644 Hanauer. Those present at the Crib at this time were WILLIE ROGERS, ERIC (LARD) HOLMAN and a male Negro (FNU) ROACH. (This subject looks like WILLIE ROGERS). NOTE: All three of these subjects allegedly are getting on apartment at the end of this week, possibly somewhere on Alley Road. They all sat around the Crib while NORWOOD got dressed for the meeting at Clayborn Temple.

At 8:45 P.M., 9-10-68, MCCULLOUGH, NORWOOD, ROACH, WILLIE ROGERS and ERIC (LARD) HOLMAN left in MCCULLOUGH'S car and drove past the houses under construction on Ingle that they wanted to set fire to and parked on Kirk just south of Ingle and then with the exception of ERIC HOLMAN they walked from the car through an alley to the houses under construction. ARTHUR NORWOOD carried the gas can. The houses are situated, according to informant, east and west on the south side of Ingle. Informant stated they went in the first house on the east side of a group of three, where ARTHUR NORWOOD threw gas around the walls and the two by fours on the floor. They then moved to the next house where they had to go in a side door which is almost facing the front of Ingle St. and WILLIE ROGERS poured gas on the walls and two by fours on the floor of the second house. ROGERS had used all the gas in the can and gave the empty can to MARCEL MCCULLOUGH to take back to the car. ARTHUR NORWOOD then stepped into the first house, struck a paper match, and almost got caught in the house by the flames. ROGERS and ROACH lit the second house. They then all ran to the car and went to Clayborn Temple. En route to Clayborn Temple they stopped off at the Esco Service Station at Florida and McLemore and left the empty five gallon gas can in the men's restroom.

Upon arrival at Clayborn Temple, MARCEL BROOKS motioned to MARCEL MCCULLOUGH wanting to know how the job went. Informant states that they stayed at the church for about five minutes, then MCCULLOUGH, ROGERS HOLMAN and ROACH left the Temple and went to ERIC HOLMAN'S house where HOLMAN changed pants. They then proceeded to WILLIE ROGERS'S house and ROGERS picked up applications for the

Invaders and also by ~~it~~ out to the car a spray of ~~granit~~, which he sprayed the inside of the car, as it smelled of gas fumes.

They then went back to Clayborn Temple, arriving at approximately 9:05 P.M. Upon arrival at the Temple, ISAAC HAYES of the Black Knights was talking about the situation at the Firestone plant here in town and that there would have to be some corrections made. He stated that he thought the Black United Front (BUF) would be able to correct the situation at Firestone, but did not elaborate on it. The next speaker was CHRIS TURNER.

CHRIS TURNER talked about a new organization that he is forming known as TIGER. He stated that they have not gotten any results from peaceful picketing or boycotting and the only way to get results was through violence. TURNER stated his radio program Young America Speaks had been taken away from him and that HENRY HARRISON of Radio Station WDBA had stated the reason was because someone at City Hall had said that if you don't take CHRIS TURNER off the air, something would happen to him. TURNER went on to say that he has been harassed on several occasions by the Police Department stopping him on the streets of Memphis and making such snide remarks to him as, "You're one of those JOHN B. SMITH niggers."

The next speaker was JOHN GRAY WILLIAMS, who is out on bond in the recent shooting of a Memphis Police Officer, who stated he was a member of a local Negro singing group and that they would start telephoning the station, trying to get CHRIS TURNER'S ~~radio program~~ program back for him and if that didn't work, they would start marching.

The next speaker was CHARLES LAVELLE CABBAGE who spoke about the Black United Front. NOTES: Literature in regard to the Black United Front was earlier passed out at Clayborn Temple to those in attendance. CABBAGE thought that they should talk about holding election of officers for the Black United Front, as not all of the organizations were present, and it would be best to wait until there was a full representation. CABBAGE further stated that there was a need to obtain a building where each organization involved with the Black United Front could have an office under the same roof. CABBAGE then introduced the different groups making up the Black United Front. They are as follows: 1. Bop, represented by CHARLES CABBAGE. 2. The Black Knights, represented by ISAAC HAYES. 3. SCLC, represented by CEDRIC MOORE. 4. WOMEN, represented by a female Negro (LILLIAN CATRON). 5. IMACP, represented by an unknown female Negro, who when she stood up to be recognized, was harassed and laughed back into her seat. 6. The Memphis Teachers Union, represented by GEORGE HENRY, who stood up and wanted to know how many teachers were in the audience and approximately 7 people raised their hands. 7. Memphis Mobilization Contingent, represented by CHARLES HENRY. 8. The Black Student Union, represented by an unknown male Negro. 9. The Black Student Alliance, represented by an unknown male Negro. 10. Black Community Organizations, represented by an unknown male Negro. 11. The Invaders, represented by JOHN WILLIE WINE.

At this time someone in the audience stated that none of the offices in the Black United Front should be held by local ministers, to which ISAAC HAYES made the comment that they would welcome ministers in their organization, but that they should not hold official offices in the Black United Front.

JOHN B. SMITH was the next speaker and he gave a real rabble rousing speech, talking about his numerous arrests and saying that he is out on so many bonds that he can't keep them straight. He further stated that the local newspapers write of the activities of the Invaders and their activities, but just tell "Whitey" what he wants to know and does not tell the whole story.

Informant stated the following people were observed at Clayborn Temple on 9-18-66:

ROOSEVELT GREEN, AL WALTON, RAY TAYLOR, ISAAC HAYES, BISHOP TROTTER, CHARLES WENGER, GEORGE HUNT, JAMES PHILLIPS, CLINTON JAMERSON, along with the other members of the Invaders previously mentioned in this report. Those missing from this meeting were: REVEREND JAMES LAWSON, REVEREND H. PAUL JACKSON, GERALD TANNON, CORNELIA CRENshaw, (P) SPARKS, AND REVEREND MIDDLEBEE