

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

C

TO : SAC (157-1067)

DATE: 10/2/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT, aka  
Invaders  
RM

On 9/20/68 Lt. O. B. HOLCOMB, Intelligence Unit, Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department, furnished the writer a copy of his Police Department memorandum dated 9/19/68 re "Report from [REDACTED] 9/18/68," (this being one having code name [REDACTED]). A Xerox copy of same is attached to each copy of this memorandum.

- 1 - 157-1067 (BOP)
- 1 - 157-556 (Possible Racial Violence, Major Urban Areas)
- 1 - 157-1230 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1275 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1019 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1116 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-967 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157- [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1351 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-927 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-866 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1181 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1372 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157-1277 [REDACTED]
- 1 - 157- [REDACTED]

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WHL:gmh  
(15) *[Handwritten signature]*

157-1067-476  
*[Handwritten notes and initials]*  
Lawrence  
R

TO: Inspector G. P. Tinsley  
Intelligence Bureau

SUBJECT: Report from [redacted]  
9-18-63

FROM: Lt. C. B. Holcomb,  
Intelligence Bureau

DATE: September 19, 1963

At 2:15 PM MELVIN SMITH, ERIC HOLMAN, and a male colored named JAMES MCGEE, he is 21 to 23 years old, 5'6", 140 lbs., medium build, short hair, dirty dresser, appears to be a bum, were seen by [redacted] walking up Persons toward [redacted] manner. MCGEE is a friend of MELVIN SMITH and he is supposed to be from Jarkadale, Mississippi, where he allegedly beat up a policeman and is wanted there for this offense. At about this same time, MARRELL MCCULLOUGH picked these three up in his car and they were seen to leave and go to Jubert and Rile, where CHARLES HARRINGTON, VER BELL BROOKS and two of their male colored friends were standing on the street. They stopped the car and talked to them and HARRINGTON and BROOKS are known to have asked SMITH and HOLMAN to get out of the car and stay with them, as a white man, who is building some new apartments on S. Main, was supposed to meet them at the Playboy Villa and HARRINGTON was of the opinion that they could get some money out of him, because he is afraid his apartment buildings will be burned down. HOLMAN got out of the car and stayed with them and the others continued on. It is not believed that they met the white man because [redacted] talked to DUKE, owner of the Playboy Villa and at that time none of this bunch was around and DUKE did not notice them being there. At about 3:30 PM, RICHARD FERGUSON and MAURICE LEWIS were seen walking down Jubert. After HOLMAN was seen to get out of the car, the car containing WENDELL BROOKS, CHARLES HARRINGTON, MELVIN SMITH, MARRELL MCCULLOUGH and JAMES MCGEE, continued on to the Minimum Salary Building to see GERALD FAHIG, and he ran out at the time. [redacted] reports that all of the invaders seem cold toward MELVIN SMITH because they say he just wants to ride around and don't do anything. MELVIN SMITH says that he is just watching and trying to get a job so he can make some money and get out of town, and because with the black thing, you are not beating your head against the wall.)

At 3:45 PM this bunch was seen to leave the Minimum Salary Building and go to WOPC headquarters where they all went in and MELVIN SMITH and MCGEE stayed in the lounge while HARRINGTON, MCCULLOUGH and BROOKS went into the office and talked to DIX ARCHER. ARCHER is a male white employee of WOPC and is alleged to be a minister and the invaders all think he is [redacted]. During this meeting BROOKS got into a heated argument with ARCHER in regards to BROOKS, BALLARD, HARRINGTON and MCGEE being suspended from WOPC when they were arrested on a narcotic charge. BROOKS claimed that they were unlawfully suspended and is demanding back pay from the time they were suspended until the WOPC office closed. BROOKS cursed ARCHER badly and used all kinds of filthy language on him and ARCHER did not try to resist him, merely tried to quieten him down in a blasé way. ARCHER told them that he didn't have anything to do with it and they would have to talk to WASHINGTON DUTIER. BROOKS was also on him because they haven't given them a check for the last dance at the Playboy Villa and ARCHER told him that he didn't think they were going to pay it, because two of the men who approved the checks refused to approve this one. While they were there a Negro male named MILLER DOUGLASS, who is employed by WOPC, got MCCULLOUGH off to the side and asked him if he was still with the Force. MCCULLOUGH told him no. DOUGLASS went to school with MCCULLOUGH and knows him, but due to the fact he got him off to the side and asked him, he seems O.K.

At 4 PM they were observed to leave WOPC, get into their car, and go to GIBSELL X. THOMPSON's office to get him to file suit against WOPC. He was not in.

From 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM this same group were observed shooting pool at Trigg in Florida. At 5:30 PM HELEN BRIDGES and JEWELL DAVIS were seen to walk up to MCCULLOUGH and talk to him. These three were then seen to leave in his car and about this same time BROOKS, HARRINGTON, MELVIN SMITH and MCCUE were seen to leave, talking amongst themselves. They refused to ride in the car with HELEN BRIDGES because she is known as a tattletale and she tells them that she is going to tell BALLARD that they are not trying to help him get out of jail. It is worthy of note that HELEN BRIDGES is four or five months pregnant with BALLARD's baby. They were followed in their car to the Police Headquarters, where at 5:45 PM, HELEN BRIDGES and JEWELL DAVIS got out of the car, went into Headquarters, and visited BALLARD. MCCULLOUGH returned down to Beale St. and back to Headquarters where he picked these girls up at 5:10 PM. After leaving Headquarters they were seen to drop JEWELL DAVIS off at her house and HELEN and MCCULLOUGH went to the Afro Cleaners on Parkway and it was observed that HARRINGTON and BROOKS were already there. They were arguing with the owner because they had put \$300 into the business, with what was supposed to be a 25% interest in it, and they haven't received any money out of the company. The owner said this was a down payment and they were supposed to continue paying them until they had put in enough to open a branch office. HARRINGTON said that he would either start today or Monday going with the cleaner truck and collecting the money. They now feel that the owner of the cleaners has reported them to the police and that the police are watching the building.

At 7 PM BROOKS, HARRINGTON, MCCULLOUGH and BRIDGES were seen to go to the Playboy Villa. HELEN was overheard to say that CABERGE knew a lawyer that could represent the Invaders for nothing and she had his phone number. HARRINGTON called this number and it turned out to be a number for what they called a Public Defender, who is in the Civil Liberties Building on Mississippi. HARRINGTON is supposed to go down today and fill out an application for representation.

At 7:15 PM HARRINGTON, MCCULLOUGH and BROOKS left and were followed to them and Parkway where they picked up ERIC HOUSE. HOUSE took them to the 700 block of Edith east of Mississippi to the old brick apartment building on the north side of Edith, this is the last apartment before the private dwellings. They drove by this apartment house and were advised that HOUSE and DUKE were renting an apartment on the ground floor for the Invaders. The building number and apartment number is not known at this time. It is believed that they will move in next Monday. They continued on in the car and so they passed Mississippi and McLamore they stopped and HOUSE went back to a male colored he knew as a Dilandid pusher. He might have been from him and he got back into the car and [redacted] advised that they were seen to continue on to the Playboy Villa where BROOKS got out of the car, went in and got two glasses of warm water from DUKE so they could "shoot" the Dilandid. They then decided not to do it on the lot, so they went to 1644 Hanover, the lights have been turned off, so at 8 PM they were seen at JOHNSON's Service Station at Louisiana and Florida, where HOUSE and BROOKS went into the men's restroom and talking to the Dilandid. While they were inside, a squad came up to the service station, HARRINGTON warned them that the police were there, so they all left. It is worthy of note that they don't want JOHNSON, SR., RICK's father, to know what they are doing, even though RICK seems to be in with them on their activities.

At 8:30 PM they were followed to the Avalon Pool Room on Beale where they shot pool until about 9:15 PM, at which time MCCULLOUGH was seen to walk out and go to the Alcazar House on Beale and as he was walking to the door, the narcotics pusher known as HERBERT T. was walking out. [redacted] heard MCCULLOUGH ask him if he had a sack of T. said yes. They left walking together and turned north on Fourth at Beale and as soon as they were out of the light, HERBERT T. reached into his right front pants pocket and took out a nickel bag of marijuana and handed it to MCCULLOUGH. There was as much marijuana in the sack than is generally sold for five dollars, but

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MCCULLOUGH gave him a five dollar bill for St. There was no further conversation between them and E. walked back around the corner and MCCULLOUGH got into his car and left, continuing south.