

FBI

Date: 2/16/68

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Via AIRTEL _____
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TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (157-New)
SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE,
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
RM

J.R. [Signature]
Trotter
C.P. [Signature]
D.M. [Signature]

Re Memphis teletype to Bureau captioned as above 2/16/68.

Enclosed for Bureau are 11 copies of LHM captioned as above and dated 2/16/68.

Source 1 is [REDACTED]
Source 2 is [REDACTED]
and source 3 is [REDACTED]
all contacted by SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE.

Copies of LHM are being furnished to regional offices of Military Intelligence and to the office of the U. S. Attorney and U. S. Secret Service, Memphis, Tennessee.

Memphis will continue to follow captioned situation and report pertinent information as obtained through racial informants and sources and through liaison with the Memphis Police Department which is giving this matter extremely close and continuous attention.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc-11) **ENCLOSURE** **REC-43**
- 8 - Memphis (1 - 157-New) **157-9146-XI**
- (1 - 157-566) (Possible Racial Violence, Major Urban areas) **FEB 19 1968**
- (1 - 100-662) (NAACP)
- (1 - 157-276) (Liaison with Groups sponsoring integration)
- (1 - 170-46) (JESSIE H. TURNER)
- (1 - 170-83) (MAXINE SMITH)
- (1 - 66-1687 Sub) (Dissemination)

Agency G-2 WHL/acp CRD 5575

Date Forw. 2/21/68

How Forw. _____
By [Signature] **MAR 11 1968**
AUG 30 1968 Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

RACIAL INT. SECT.

100-9146-11
9/11/68
[Signature]



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Memphis, Tennessee
February 16, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 3

SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE,
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
RACIAL MATTERS

The "Commercial Appeal" newspaper, Memphis, Tennessee, page 1, February 13, 1968, issue, reported that beginning February 12, 1968, approximately 1,000 sanitation workers employed by the City of Memphis Department of Public Works, whose prime duties were to collect garbage and trash in the city of Memphis, had gone on strike and that Mayor of Memphis, Henry Loeb, had stated that if the striking workers did not return to work immediately others would be hired to take their jobs. It quoted Charles Blackburn, Director of Public Works, as saying that only 170 of over 1,100 sanitation workers had reported to work February 12, and that they kept 34 of the Department's 180 garbage trucks operating. Also out on strike were approximately 214 laborers working in the streets and drains division and at the City asphalt plant, all operated under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works. The big issue involved was a requested wage boost which the union - Local 1733 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, presented to Mr. Blackburn asking for pay increases from \$1.80 per hour to \$2.35 per hour and for pay increases of crew chiefs and truck drivers from \$2.10 an hour to \$3.00 an hour. Also time and a half for all work over 8 hours a day and for checkoff of union dues.

Since that time, up until February 16, the strike has not been settled and the "Commercial Appeal" newspaper, February 16 issue reported that 51 new workers had been hired on February 15 and that negotiations were still continuing with the striking workers and Local 1733. The union is now demanding exclusive recognition of the union

157-9146-X1

Re: SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE,
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as bargaining agent, setting up grievance procedures, wage improvements, payroll deduction of union dues, and a promotion system as well as a pension and hospitalization and life insurance program.

This news article on page 1 reported that the Memphis Branch of the NAACP was scheduled on February 16, 1968, to deliver to Mayor LOEB a strongly worded message calling for higher wages and better working conditions and adequate for airing grievances for the workers and threatened a series of protests, including massive telephone campaign to City Hall and Fire and Police Departments that would tie up all their telephone lines.

Generally, squad cars of the Memphis Police Department are following the few garbage trucks which are making pickups, manned by nonstriking workers. As of February 16, 1968, there has not been any injuries or serious incidents resulting from the strike.

On February 16, 1968, Lt. E. H. Arkin of the Inspectional Bureau, Memphis Police Department, advised that the City of Memphis is most concerned due to the intervention of the NAACP under the theory that this may well give strong racial overtones to the strike inasmuch as all of the sanitation workers, excluding drivers, are Negroes and that this can become a highly emotional issue which conceivably could result in some form of racial violence.

Lt. Arkin stated that to date the only outsiders who are participating in the strike are P. J. Ciampa, International Field Staff Director of the union from Washington, D. C., a white male; William Lucy, a male Negro, International Director of Legislation of the union from Washington, D. C.; and Joseph Paisley, International Organizer of the union currently assigned to the State of Tennessee. Lt. Arkin stated that prior to the intervention of the NAACP, the only outside support of the strike had come from the AFL - CIO Labor Council in Memphis which has gone on record as supporting the strike.

Re: SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE,
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On February 16, 1968, Sources 1, 2 and 3, all of whom have furnished reliable information in the past, and who are most familiar with the inner workings of the Memphis Branch of the NAACP, advised that the NAACP has no alternative but to inject itself into the strike since practically all of the strikers are members of the Negro race. The NAACP currently plans, if sufficient personnel and volunteers can be obtained, to have a march in downtown Memphis beginning at the NAACP hall, 236 Hernando, and terminating on the Main Street side of the Memphis City Hall, to take place around noon to 1:00 p.m., Saturday, February 17, 1968.

Also early in the week beginning February 19, 1968, the NAACP plans to have a massive telephone call campaign whereby its members and supporters and sympathizers would on a continuing basis make phone calls to the Memphis City Hall, including Memphis City offices, to the Memphis Fire and Police Departments, which would tie up their incoming lines. Also the NAACP plans to have a massive all-night vigil at the Memphis City Hall to begin 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 19, 1968, and to subsequently form massive boycotts and picketing of, as yet unspecified but key merchants in the city of Memphis. The purpose of the boycotts and picketing is to bring economic pressure, not unlike a secondary boycott, on these merchants to force them to bring political pressure on Mayor Henry Loeb and the new Memphis City Council to accede and give in to the union demands.

Sources 1, 2 and 3 pointed out that these tactics would be highly emotional in nature and could feed the flames of racism in the city of Memphis, although this is not their purpose. They emphasize that they have not invited any of the incipient black Nationalists or black power movement oriented toward the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in Memphis to join in this effort and that to the best of their knowledge this will be strictly an NAACP sponsored event. They pointed out that they are sure that many members of organized labor in the city of Memphis

re: SANITATION WORKERS UNION,
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

will join in their efforts as will many, if not all of the 1,000 odd striking sanitation department employees.

On February 16, 1968, the above obtained information was orally furnished to the office of the U. S. Attorney, Memphis; to the office of the U. S. Secret Service, Memphis; to the 11th Intelligence Corps, Third Army, Memphis; and to Lt. F. H. Arkin of the Inspectional Bureau of the Memphis Police Department.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.