

JN 174-27

knowledge of the bombing of the METCALFE car. Mr. PRIEST felt that it is entirely possible that this could also have been done by a Negro.

Mr. PRIEST was also questioned concerning any knowledge he might have of the beating and murder of Mr. EARL HODGES. Mr. PRIEST stated that he knew who Mr. HODGES was but could furnish no information concerning him inasmuch as he was not intimately acquainted or associated with HODGES. He has heard no rumors or other gossip in the area concerning this murder.

By way of background information, Mr. PRIEST stated he was formerly employed by the New Orleans Public Service as a lineman for 18 years. After leaving New Orleans Public Service, he has worked for the Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company for the past 17 years. He has three children consisting of one son and two daughters. Mr. PRIEST stated that he has succeeded in paying all of his three children through college. Mr. PRIEST was born on May 27, 1914, at Nevada, Missouri. He is a white male, single, 5'7" tall, and weighs 175 pounds. He has gray hair and blue eyes. He is currently employed as a foreman in the tire department of the Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/9/65

Mr. ARTHUR PICKENS CRIMM, also known as "DICK", was interviewed at his place of business, Pure Oil Station, Meadville, Mississippi. Mr. CRIMM was advised of the identity of the agents and the nature of the inquiry. He was also advised that he did not have to talk to the interviewing agents, that he had the right to consult with an attorney but that anything he did say could possibly be used in a court of law.

Mr. CRIMM was asked if he was now or ever had been a member of the Ku Klux Klan, the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi or any other Klan type organization. He replied that he has never been a member of such an organization and is not now a member of such an organization.

He was asked if he knew anything about a Klan meeting being held at his service station on Friday, August 13, 1965, the Friday night before the murder of EARL HODGES. Mr. CRIMM stated he was positive no such meeting ever took place in his service station.

Mr. CRIMM was questioned concerning his knowledge of EARL HODGES. Mr. CRIMM stated he formerly worked for Mr. HODGES for seven years and feels that he knew HODGES very well. He stated Mr. HODGES was a well liked individual who never harmed anyone but who through marital difficulties subsequently turned to heavy drinking which resulted in the loss of his business. He feels that VIRGIE MAE MILLER, HODGES' old girl friend, was the primary cause of EARL HODGES' marital and drinking problems. After she had apparently obtained all the money she could from HODGES, she left him. It should be noted that at the time of this interview CRIMM appeared extremely reluctant to talk and volunteered nothing. In fact, at the beginning of the

On 9/4 & 9/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27  
Jackson 157-3830 ✓  
Jackson 157-1044  
 by SAs ROBERT F. COOPER, JR. and  
JAMES A. ABBOTT/JAA:elw

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interview he was visibly upset in that his hands and arms shook and quivered. All information obtained from him had to be extracted by specific questions, with him volunteering nothing.

On September 8, 1965, Mr. CRIMM was again interviewed after having first been warned as set forth above. He was specifically questioned concerning the alleged Klan meeting which reportedly happened on Friday night, August 13, 1965, in the rear of his Pure Oil Service Station in Meadville, Mississippi.

According to Mr. CRIMM there was a Masonic Lodge meeting directly across the street from his place of business on the night of August 13, 1965. He attended this lodge meeting as did several other individuals. As is customary, many individuals park their cars in the service area of his service station while attending lodge meetings. He stated that the lodge meeting started at approximately 7:30 p.m. and broke up at approximately 10:30 p.m. His car was also parked in front of his service station. He entered the service station and got a drink of water and feels that it is possible that one or two others may have entered the station to get a pack of cigarettes. He does not recall but it is possible that several of the men could have stood around the Coke machine outside the service station and possibly drank a Coke before going home. However, he did not open his service station to allow a meeting to take place inside.

He was specifically questioned as to who had keys to his service station and to the best of his knowledge only he, his wife, and his brother-in-law, DOUG MC INTOSH, have keys to the service station. He feels certain that neither of these individuals have loaned their keys or given their keys to anyone else.

Mr. CRIMM was asked if he could recall any of the individuals who were at the lodge meeting on the night of

August 13, 1965. He stated that to the best of his recollection the following persons were at this lodge meeting:

1. Mr. CLIFF HERRING - owner of rooming house across the road from Ford Garage, Meadville
2. JAMES T. HEMING, Agriculture Teacher, Meadville High School
3. ALTON PATE - works for California Oil Company - Recycling Plant, Route 84 west of Roxie, Mississippi
4. PAUL HARDIN - operator Mosely Dairy, Meadville
5. PERCY PEELER - band director at Meadville High School
6. HOMER HANIS - works at Franklin Bank, Meadville
7. GENE SEALES - works for International Paper Company, Natchez, lives in Meadville on the road running north past the hospital
8. LEROY CAMPBELL - lives third house on left south of Highway 84, west edge of Meadville, Mississippi - employed Ranger, U. S. Forestry Service
9. GARRICE DILLON - manager, Jitney Jungle Store, Meadville, Mississippi

CRIMM stated that after he left the lodge meeting and his service station he returned home at approximately 11:00 p.m. He was back at the service station at 6:15 a.m. the following morning, August 14, 1965. He was joined by his wife at approximately 7:30 or 8:00 a.m. at which time they departed Meadville, Mississippi, for Warren, Arkansas, where they visited his wife's people. They remained at Warren, Arkansas, until Sunday afternoon, August 15, 1965, and returned to Eddiceton, Mississippi (his home), at approximately 5:30 p.m., August 15, 1965.

He was again questioned concerning his relationship with Mr. EARL HODGES. He stated he worked for Mr. HODGES for approximately seven years in 1949 or 1950 to 1957 at the Gulf Service Station in Eddiceton, Mississippi. He considered Mr. HODGES a fine man who was well liked by practically everyone in Franklin County. He feels that HODGES got wound up with the wrong woman and after his wife divorced him he started drinking heavily and has gradually gone down hill ever since. Mr. CRIMM was still reluctant to discuss the matter and did not volunteer any information. All information had to be extracted with specific questions.

On September 9, 1965, Mr. CRIMM was recontacted and after having been warned again concerning his rights as set forth above he was specifically asked why he had failed to mention that he had been a pallbearer at Mr. HODGES funeral. He stated that he did not think it was important and did not enlarge on this any further.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/12/65

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RAPHAEL LEONARD SCHUCHS was interviewed at the Holiday Inn Motel, Natchez, Mississippi, and advised as follows:

SCHUCHS stated that he could furnish no additional information other than that furnished when interviewed by Agents of this Bureau on September 4, 1965. He stated that he definitely did not see JAMES SEALE on the afternoon of August 27, 1965, and ride with him in his car to downtown Natchez. He said that this was definitely on Thursday, September 2, 1965. He said that he did not recall seeing JAMES SEALE on the date of the explosion, August 27, 1965.

He said that when he did see JAMES SEALE on the Thursday referred to above that as far as he can recall JAMES SEALE did not say anything to him about the explosion of METCALFE's car having taken place and did not refer to the matter in any way. SCHUCHS stated that he realized this is unusual because everyone was talking about the explosion; however, he, SCHUCHS, definitely recalls that SEALE did not mention the matter.

SCHUCHS stated that he had received no information regarding who may have been responsible for the bombing since last contacted by Agents of this Bureau.

SCHUCHS advised that he has received no information as to who may have been responsible for the beating of EARL HODGES at Eddiceton, Mississippi, on August 14 - 15, 1965. He said that he did not condone this action in any way and that he would immediately advise this Bureau in the event he received any information which would assist in determining who the individuals responsible for HODGES' death were.

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On 9/6/65 at Natchez, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27  
157-3830  
 by SA BILLY BOB WILLIAMS,  
SA JAMES A. ABBOTT &  
SA ROBERT F. COOPER:bkb Date dictated 9/10/65

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SCHUCHS said that he understood his uncle, Mr. FOSTER, was standing in front of the service station as well as FOSTER's Negro service station attendant, at the time the explosion occurred. SCHUCHS said that the Negro, whose name he does not know, quit his job at the service station the day after the explosion and has not returned to work there since. Mr. FOSTER will be able to furnish the address and present employment for this Negro man as well as his name.

SCHUCHS advised that he had heard numerous rumors as to who may have been responsible for bombing the car including the rumor that the Klan may have been responsible. He said he was unable to furnish specifics as to where he heard this rumor but that it was general talk in Natchez.

SCHUCHS stated that he has never been a member of the Klan and is presently not a member of the Klan. He said about a year ago, however, he was approached by individuals who SCHUCHS declined to name and requested to become a member of the Klan but SCHUCHS told these individuals that he was not interested. SCHUCHS said that his wife has told him that if he ever becomes a member of the Ku Klux Klan she will leave him immediately and that she has no use whatsoever for the Klan.

SCHUCHS stated that he has known JAMES SEALE for the past five years and considers him a good friend. He said he did not know whether SEALE was a member of the Klan but that it was apparently assumed that he is a member. SCHUCHS could give no additional information to substantiate this assumption. SCHUCHS stated that he has also known JACK SEALE, JAMES's brother, about five years and considers him to be a good friend. He is also a friend of JAMES LEE and SCHUCHS attends the same church with THOMAS YOUNG, the Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church. SCHUCHS stated that he is the Scout Master for the troop in this church and has gotten to know YOUNG well because YOUNG's sons are in SCHUCHS's troop.

SCHUCHS stated that all of these above individuals are very rabid segregationists but that he would not say that any of them are members of the Klan. SCHUCHS stated that he well realized that inasmuch as he is closely associated and often seen with the above individuals, some persons may think that he, SCHUCHS, would be a member of the Klan.

SCHUCHS stated that he felt it his right to associate with anyone that he wanted to and that he should not be considered as being a member of the Klan in view of this association.

SCHUCHS said that he had no information whatsoever that any of the above individuals were involved in the bombing of METCALFE's car. He said, however, that in the event he received information that anyone was involved in this bombing, he would furnish the information to the FBI.

SCHUCHS related that he does recall as best he can remember, that on Thursday afternoon after the bombing, September 2, 1965, he, SCHUCHS, was at his uncle's Texaco Service Station at which time JAMES SEALE drove by and SCHUCHS rode with SEALE in SEALE's car to downtown Natchez where SEALE went into a laundry, name not recalled, for a few minutes and left some soiled laundry there. SCHUCHS said that the laundry was in cellophane containers and appeared to be shirts, sheets and other such items. SCHUCHS said that he could not actually be sure on thinking of it whether SEALE left the laundry or went into some store near the laundry for a few minutes but that SCHUCHS thinks that this was the case. SCHUCHS stated that this ride took about twenty minutes and that JAMES SEALE dropped him back at the service station. SCHUCHS stated that he realizes this, of course, had no connection with the bombing but that obviously FBI Agents saw SCHUCHS get in the car with SEALE and this would indicate that SEALE and SCHUCHS were close associates.



SCHUCHS stated that he himself is a rabid segregationist but that he does not subscribe to any acts of violence. He stated that the above information is true but that he did not desire to include the information in a signed statement. He stated he desired to assist this Bureau in determining information as to the identities of the individuals responsible for the bombing of METCALFE's car.

He furnished his description as follows:

Name	RAPHAEL LEONARD SCHUCHS
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date and Place of Birth	Natchez, Mississippi, January 6, 1932
Height	5'9½"
Weight	208
Build	Medium
Hair	Brown
Teeth	Even
Scars and Marks	1" scar below knee left leg
Education	High School
Military Service	United States Marine Corps, SN 1220988, Enlisted November 2, 1951, honorably discharged November 2, 1954, given good conduct medal.
Present Employment	- Field Salesman, Scarborough Pump Supply (oil field equipment), Natchez, Mississippi.
Checking Account	State Bank and Trust Company, Natchez, Mississippi.
Marital Status	Married - Wife, NAN FOSTER SCHUCHS.
Children	1 daughter, 9 months, NAN; 2 sons, JAMES - 10; MICHAEL - 8½.
Parents - Father	JAMES LEONARD - Deceased
Mother	RUTH.

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Organizations	Boy Scout Master, Troop 166, Presbyterians
Automobile	Polara Dodge, company car, 1951 Station Wagon.
Weapons	Shotgun, Browning
Residence	Box 566, Route 5, Natchez, Mississippi
FOSTER	Mound Road, Pine Ridge Community.
Residence Telephone No.	445-9851
Business Telephone No.	442-3608
Arrest Record	Claims never arrested.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/65

ALBIE ELMO MC GEHEE, Route 2, Meadville, Mississippi, furnished the following information:

He has been employed at the Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company, Natchez, Mississippi, for 20 years. He is currently employed there as a cure man in Department 26 on the 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. shift. He rides to work in a car pool and on August 27, 1965, he rode to work with F. N. OGLESBY in a 1964 Ford, gray in color.

He stated that he was not acquainted with GEORGE METCALFE and he had never heard of any threats against METCALFE. He stated that he has not heard any reports, rumors or gossip concerning the motives or the person responsible for the explosion which injured METCALFE on August 27, 1965.

He stated that in May, 1964, his pickup truck was shot on a rural road about six or eight miles northwest of Meadville, Mississippi, at about 10:00 p.m. The truck was parked off the road and he was hunting a distance from the truck but he heard several shots. He stated he also heard a car in the area at the time of the shooting but he did not see the car or any other persons in the vicinity. He reported the incident to the Sheriff and Mississippi Highway Safety Patrolman BEASLEY who arrived at the scene and examined the truck and the area. He stated that he gave Patrolman BEASLEY some spent bullets removed from the truck and also some shotgun pellets. Several days later BEASLEY informed him that examination of the pellets, shotgun wadding and bullets indicated that a .12 gauge shotgun, a .10 gauge shotgun and an Army .45 caliber pistol had been used. BEASLEY also informed him that he, BEASLEY, had received an anonymous telephone call indicating that

Jackson 174-27

Jackson 157-3830

Jackson 157-569

On 9/8/65 at Natchez, Mississippi

File #

by SAs FRANK B. WATTS and

HAROLD LEO FABRIZ/FBW:elw

157-3830-22

9/9/65

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the shooting was meant to scare MC GEHEE for keeping company with a Negro woman but there was no intention to injure him.

MC GEHEE stated that he has never been beaten by anyone and has never been threatened by anyone. He stated that a mimeographed sheet was distributed in the area of his home and at the Armstrong Plant alleging that he had been keeping company with a Negro woman employed at a Meadville dry cleaning establishment. He denied any such involvement with anyone. He stated that similar allegations were set out in the mimeographed sheet against BILL SCARBOROUGH, a Ford dealer at Meadville, Mississippi, and FRED DULANY, who resides about seven miles north of Meadville. He stated that he had not discussed the allegations with either of the other men.

He added that he was acquainted with EARL HODGES who was allegedly beaten to death but he asserted that he is not aware of any information relative to the cause of the beating or the persons responsible. He stated that he had heard that a man named WILLIS had been beaten and that another man named HALFORD had been beaten. He related that he knew none of the details concerning the alleged beatings and had only heard a rumor from an unknown source that HALFORD had been beaten by JAMES SEALE.

He related that his wife is related to the SEALE family and he described JAMES SEALE as an idiot. He also opined that the whole SEALE family would have to go to college for four years to be as smart as an idiot.

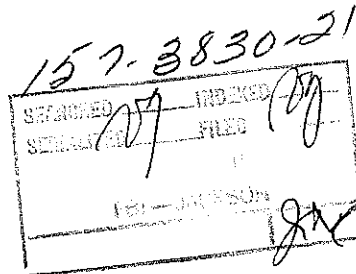
MC GEHEE asserted that he did not know any details concerning Ku Klux Klan activity, members or leadership, in the Meadville area and he has never been approached to join the Klan.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 9/5/65

Mrs. GENEVIEVE BARFIELD, Bude, Mississippi, advised that she is the dealer for the "Jackson Daily" and "The Clarion-Ledger" two Jackson, Mississippi, newspapers. He stated that on the morning of August 14, 1965, at approximately 5:10 P.M., she left Bude to deliver papers in Eddiceton, Mississippi. She stated about 5:45, she picked up JOHNNY WILSON, a thirteen-year old boy who resides between Bude and Eddiceton, to help her deliver the papers. She stated that they delivered papers to a mail box a couple of houses from the residence of EARL HODGES between 5:45 and 6 A.M. She stated these papers were for HARRY MULLINS and BAR BALLARD, who reside in the rural area of Eddiceton. She stated she did not observe anything unusual at the home of HODGES that morning and she did not recall seeing any vehicles around his residence that morning. She stated that she did not recall seeing any vehicles on the streets in Eddiceton that morning.

She stated that she recalled seeing a green truck in the ditch at the residence of J. C. EMFINGER's house, who lives north of Route #84, northeast of Eddiceton. She stated it appeared that the truck had been backed out of EMFINGER's driveway and had gotten too far on one side of the driveway and went into the ditch.



On 9/2/65 at Bude, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27  
157-3830  
 by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS &  
SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES:bkb Date dictated 9/4/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/65

1

Mr. GRAHAM HERRING, Herring Gas Company, advised he was familiar with the location of an old abandoned house place off the McCall Creek Road in the edge of Franklin and Amite Counties. He stated his property line runs right up to a fence adjacent to the house but that the house and property where the house is located is actually the property of one JOEL WESTBROOK. He stated that WESTBROOK lives in a brick house close to the access road going down to the old house place, adding that he believes WESTBROOK is employed at the Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company in Natchez, Mississippi.

On 9/7/65 at Meadville, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27  
Jackson 157-3830  
by SAs WILLIAM F. DUKES and  
J. L. MARTIN/WFD:elw 9/8/65

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/651

Mr. RAY HUST, Assistant Industrial Relations Manager, Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company, advised his records reflect that SIDNEY JOEL WESTBROOK, Route 2, McCall Creek, has been employed as a tire builder for the company at Natchez since 1945. WESTBROOK, who has Social Security Number 427-42-3854, has been a generally satisfactory employee although his personnel file reflected that he has been warned in the past for inefficiency. He stated that according to his records WESTBROOK is presently employed on the 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. shift at the plant and was so employed on August 27, 1965, the date of the METCALFE bombing. In this connection Mr. HUST advised that in order to be absolutely certain of the shift hours it would be necessary to check time cards.

On 9/7/65 at Natchez, Mississippi File # Jackson 174-27  
Jackson 157-3830  
 by SAs WILLIAM F. DUKES and  
J. L. MARTIN/WFD:elw Date dictated 9/8/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/8/65

1

Mr. PERCY KENT, Route 3, Meadville, Mississippi, furnished the following information:

His wife, Mrs. PEARL THORNTON KENT, is presently attending her father who is quite ill in a hospital in Jackson, Mississippi. Mr. KENT stated he had not obtained any additional information to that previously furnished Bureau Agents and to his knowledge his wife has never engaged in any extramarital relations.

On 9/7/65 at Route 3, Meadville, Miss. File # Jackson 174-27  
Jackson 157-3830  
by SAs BILLY BOB WILLIAMS and  
WILLIAM D. HOSKINS/BBW:elw Date dictated 9/8/65

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