Aary kay Date: 03 N. S. Peparimeni of Iusiice

Screened By: Mary Kay Schmidt Date: 03-28-2013 FOIA CASE: NW 39061

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU

DO NOT DESTROY: HISTORICAL VALUE, NATIONAL ARCHIVES!

INVESTIGATION

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Bureau File Number

See also Nos.

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NR 9008 DocId: 59165323 Page 1

- Prospere 6-14-66

DHAW-WALKER 18-5802

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Volume Number

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 9, 1967

Mrs. RALEIGH J. (LAVONIA) GLOVER, contacted at her rural residence, Route 3, Kentwood, Louisiana, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents by SA REESIE L. TIMMONS who also advised her that she did not have to furnish any information, that any information she did furnish could be used in a court of law and that she could contact an attorney or anyone else at any time.

Mrs. GLOVER advised that she did not desire to talk with the FBI about anything. She stated that she had furnished the interviewing Agents at Vidalia, Louisiana, some two or three months ago all she knew about the activities of her husband on February 27, 1967.

She advised that if the FBI did not have a warrant for her arrest, she had nothing more to say.

Mrs. GLOVER advised that she was aware that the FBI had searched the residence of her son, "PETE" WATTS, in Vidalia, Louisiana. She stated that she has never seen the painting that the FBI mentioned in connection with the search of her son's residence and is certain that it was never there.

She advised she is also certain that there has never been explosives of any type at the residence of her son.

She advised she has never seen any explosives of any type in the possession of her husband. She advised that there have never been any guns in her residence at Vidalia or Kentwood, Louisiana. She advised that to her knowledge the only gun in their house is a .38 caliber pistol that she keeps for protection as her husband works the "graveyard shift" and is now staying in Vidalia, Louisiana, through the week, returning home on Saturday morning and remaining until late Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. GLOVER advised that she has no reason to believe that her husband has ever been associated with any

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On	5/8/67 at	Kentwood,	Louisian	a	_File #	SEARCHED INDEXED SEPJENIZED PI40-2($-\Omega$
	SA BENJAMIN	F. GRAVES	and	· · · · · · · · ·	н н 	MAY 1 5 1967	
by	SA REESIE L		RLT/acp		-Date di	FBI - JACKSON	
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Klan type organization, the Silver Dollar Group, or any other organization. She advised that she has never seen him in possession of a silver dollar or a bag of silver dollars.

Mrs. GLOVER advised that RALEIGH J. GLOVER's 83 year old mother has resided with them for the past 12 to 13 years. She advised that during the past 2 or three weeks she stayed with a "grand niece" until they got settled in their new residence and she has now moved in with them. She advised that she and her husband's mother are alone at the residence from Sunday night through Saturday morning.

Mrs. GLOVER advised that she was born and raised in the Kentwood, Louisiana area. She stated that her mother's maiden name was BLADES, she married a BURT from the Brookhaven, Mississippi area, and divorced him when she, Mrs. GLOVER, was an infant.

She stated she moved to the Natchez, Mississippi area when she was a teenager, met her first husband and RALEIGH JACKSON GLOVER at the same time when both of them were in a "C.C.C. Camp" in Southwest Mississippi. She stated her first husband was killed in World War II and thereafter she married RALEIGH JACKSON GLOVER.

Mrs. GLOVER viewed photographs of the following individuals and made the following comments concerning each:

(1) ERNEST B. PARKER - Unknown

(2) E. D. MORACE - a close friend of her husband. She has known him four or five years, and his family often visited the GLOVER residence in Vidalia, Louisiana.

(3) JAMES SEALE - Unknown

(4) JAMES LEE SCAROBOROUGH - Her husband has known him some three to five years; he is a welder by occupation. Her husband tried to get him to do some work for him in the past. He has visited the GLOVER residence in Vidalia several times.

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(5) JAMES F. LEE - She has known him for three to five years; he works at Armstrong Rubber Company, and is a friend of her husband. She did not go to a fish fry at his residence in 1965. She stated she has never accompanied her husband or anyone else to a fish fry.

(6) WOODROW HOLLOWAY - Unknown

(7) ERNEST AVANTS - Unknown

(8) T. L. TORGERSEN - She has known him three to five years, met him and his wife with TOMMIE LEE JONES and his wife at the Moose Lodge in Natchez, Mississippi. He has visited the GLOVER residence in Vidalia on occasions.

(9) MYRON WAYNE SEALE - Unknown

(10) JOE DANIEL HAWKINS - Unknown

(11) "BUCK" HORTON - a good friend of her and her husband. His family visited at the GLOVER residence in Vidalia frequently. His wife worked with her at the Ben Franklin Store in Natchez, Mississippi.

(12) TOMMIE LEE JONES - a good friend of her husband. She met him and his family at the Moose Hall in Natchez, Mississippi. He has visited the GLOVER residence in Vidalia, Louisiana, on occasions.

- (13) L. C. MURRAY Unknown
- (14) JAMES E. BLANEY Unknown
- (15) O. C. POISSOT Unknown

(16) ELDEN GLEN HESTER - a good friend of her husband who did live near Baskin, Louisiana. He and his family have visited the GLOVER residence in Vidalia, and the GLOVERs have visited at his residence near Baskin, Louisiana, on several occasions.

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(17) WALTER GENE HALL - Unknown

(18) DONALD HOLLAND - Unknown

(19) JAMES H. TAYLOR, JR. - She advised he lives "way out in Louisiana," and is a good friend of her husband. She has known him some four to five years. Her husband hired him to help them move to the Kentwood, Louisiana area as he had a commercial driver's license and could drive the "U-Haul It Truck."

(20) KENNETH NORMAN HEAD - a friend of the GLOVER family whom she has known some six to seven years. They have visited "back and forth" many times in the past.

(21) RAYMOND SCOTT WRIGHT - Unknown

(22) JEWEL LEE BURT - her uncle who resides near Fayette, Mississippi. She and her husband are not close to JEWEL LEE BURT and his family.

- (23) W. G. WILSON Unknown
- (24) E. L. MCDANIEL Unknown
- (25) JOE LEE HARDY Unknown

157-2044

Copies to:

157-2444 (RALEIGH JACKSON GLOVER) 157-512 (ERNEST B. PARKER) 157-7543 (E. D. MORACE) 157-950 (JAMES SEALE) 157-7479 (JAMES LEE SCAROBOROUGH) 157-4168 (JAMES F. LEE) 157-7545 (WOODROW HOLLOWAY) L157-958 (ERNEST AVANTS) 157-405 (T. L. TORGERSEN) 157-815 (MYRON WAYNE SEALE) 157-3307 (JOE DANIEL HAWKINS) 157-4662 (BUCK HORTON) 157-613 (TOMMIE LEE JONES) 157-2179 (L. C. MURRAY) 157-7640 (JAMES E. BLANEY) 157-1617 (ELDEN GLEN HESTER) 157-1042 (WALTER GENE HALL) 157-7519 (DONALD HOLLAND) 157-7589 (JAMES H. TAYLOR, JR.) 157-6266 (KENNETH NORMAN HEAD) 157-7639 (RAYMOND SCOTT WRIGHT) 157-5151 (JEWEL LEE BURT) 157-486 (E. L. McDANIEL) 157-2778 (JOE LEE HARDY)

4/19/67

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, JACKSON (44-2044)

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-572) P

SUBJECT: WHARBOM

Re Jackson airtels dated 4/8/67 and 4/10/67.

A review by IC R. DOUGLAS KING on 4/18/67 of the military records on file at the Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Mo., revealed JOEL RAY FREEMAN, Serial Number 3.48 38 44, entered into the U. S. Navy on 5/29/51 at Little Rock, Arkansas. On 5/27/55, he was honorably discharged as a Commissaryman Seaman at New Orleans, La. by reason of expiration of enlistment.

He had foreign service in Korea. There is no record of courts-martial or absence without official leave. Medical records indicate he was treated on 5/2/53 for venereal warts and on 3/18/54 for gonorrhea.

There is no record of specialized training in or specific knowledge of firearms, demolition or electronic devices.

The following background information appears in the record:

Date, place of birth Address

11/4/31, Lumberton, Miss. 1715 McCreight St., Bastrop, La.

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED 4

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A INDEXED

APR 2 1 196 FBI - JACKGON

- Jackson (RM) - New Orleans (RM) 1 - St. Louis RDK:pdp (5)

SL: 44-572

Relatives

Parents

Employment

Nilitary Occupation Selective Service No. LDB Education Photograph JULIUS ALSWORTH FREEMAN and CLANA BELLE FREEMAN, residing at 405 Mc Creight St., Bastrop, La.-(6/49-5/51) SOL SNYDER, Toggery, Bastrop, La., as clothing salesman Apprentice Cook 16 37 31 159 #37, Bastrop, La. 4 years high school None in file.

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS, Serial Number US 53 092 353, was inducted into the U.S. Army on 9/25/51 at Jackson, Miss. On 6/24/53, he was honorably released from active duty as a Sergeant at Camp Chaffee, Ark. and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve to complete his military obligation.

On 8/10/53, he enlisted in the Army National Guard of Mississippi at Natchez, Miss. On 9/14/55, he was honorably discharged as a Corporal at Natchez, Miss. due to "incompatible occupation", and reverted to the U.S. Army Reserve to complete his military obligation. On 3/31/62, he was honorably discharged from the reserve by reason of expiration of term of service.

He had foreign cervice in Korea. There is no record of courts-martial or absence without official leave.

There is record of specialized training in or specific knowledge of firearms, demolition, or electronic devices.

The following background information appears in the

récords:

Date, place of birth Address Relatives Parents

1/23/31, Bogue Chitto, Miss. 513 N. Union St., Natchez, Miss. ESTON and BERTHA AMY AVANTS, both residing at above address

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SL: 44-572

Employment

Selective Service No. LDB Veterans Administration Claim No.

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Photograph

(1950-51) Paper worker, International Paper Co., Southern Kraft Division, Natchez, Miss.
22 47 31 10 #47, Brookhaven, Miss.

C-17 47 50 12, VARO, Jackson, Miss. None in file.

Identification Record Request	~~
FD-9 (Rev. 3-5-64)	(
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			INSTR	UCTIONS			
 This form may be submitted in legible hand- printing. Use separate form for each individual on whom record is requested. Make effort to furnish FBI Identification Number or Law Enforcement Identification Number. Furnish descriptive data and fingerprint clas- sification only when FBI Number not available. DIRECTOR, FBI Attention: Identification Division Marke BOM Furnish The Known Identification Record of the Following: 							
Name		C		FBI No.	in the period wing.		
_	ERNEST HE	NRY AVANTS	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Other No.	·····		
Aliases			4-13	ful			
Sex	Race	Birth Date	Birthplace		Residence 114 R	ushing,	
Male	White	1/23/31	Lincol	n Co. Miss.	Natchez, Miss	5.	
Height	Weight	Build	Hair .	Eyes	Complexion	Age	
5'11"	186 t Classification	stocky	sandy	gray Scars, marks and tat	ruddy		
Also Furnish: Photo Fingerprints Handwriting Specimens							
On b unob	ble to identify:	ation furnished,	$\left(\right)$	Return Reply to: SAC, <u>JACKS(</u>	<u>DN (44-2044) (</u>	<u>157–</u> 6253)	
F		Civil All Files Files		Send Copies To:	IFT GE	8-76	
	o Attached			157-958-76			
Photo Not Available							
Photo Not Available Fingerprints Attached Handwriting Specimen Attached H-28-67 Fingerfrints being substitled 57 mHSP & Solent Divide 67 mHSP & Solent Divide							
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JN 157-958 JN 44-2044 JDC/bgj 1

On April 18, 1967, IC R. DOUGLAS KING advised that a check of the military records at the Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri, reflected that ERNEST HENRY AVANTS, Serial Number US 53 092 353, was inducted into the U. S. Army on September 25, 1951, at Jackson, Mississippi. On June 24, 1953, he was honorably released from active duty as a Sergeant at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, and transferred to the U. S. Army Reserve to complete his military obligation.

On August 10, 1953, he enlisted in the Army National Guard of Mississippi at Natchez, Mississippi. On September 14, 1955, he was honorably discharged as a Corporal at Natchez, Mississippi, due to "incompatible occupation", and reverted to the U. S. Army Reserve to complete his military obligation. On March 31, 1962, he was honorably discharged from the Reserve by reason of expiration of term of service.

He had foreign service in Korea. There is no record of courts-martial or absence without official leave.

There is no record of specialized training in or specific knowledge of firearms, demolition, or electronic devices.

The following background information appears in the records:

Date of Birth: Place of Birth: Address:

January 23, 1931 Bogue Chitto, Mississippi 513 North Union Streat, Natchez, Mississippi 157-958-75

Relatives: Parents:

ESTON and BERTHA AMY AVANTS both residing starcher Filed W address. APR 2 6 1967

FBI - JACKSON

Employment:

Selective Service Number: Local Draft Board:

Veterans Adminis-

Photograph:

(1950-51) Paper worker, International Paper Company, Southern Kraft Division, Natchez, Mississippi

22 47 31 10 Number 47, Brookhaven, Mississippi

tration Claim No.: C-17 47 50 12, VARO, Jackson, Mississippi None in file

Cover Sheet for Informant	Report o	terial
FD-306 (3-21-58)	`T	

	FOIA(b)(7) – (D)
Date received Received from (name or symbol num 3/29/67	ber)	RSA JOHN D. BRADY and SA WILLIAM E, DENT, JR.
Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)	<u> </u>	lan an a
	XXorally	recording device 🛄 written by Informant
If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:	,	Date of Report
Dictated 4/5/67 (rd) to lrs	· •	3/29/67
Transcribed 4/10/67	ł	Date(s) of activity
Authenticated by Informant	· .	1965 - 1967
Brief d scription of activity or material		
Background re Silver Dollar Gro	up and son	ne
activities of members in La. and	d Miss.	File where original is located if not attache
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Remarks:		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1: 1: 105-1057 (OKKKK, LA.) 1: 157-SILVER DOLLAR GROUP 1: 157-R, J. GLOVER 1: 157-HORACE TAYLOR 1: 157-JAMES F. LEE 1: 157-FERRIDAY UNIT, OKKKK 1: 157-E. D. MORACE 1: 157-BILL BLONEY 1: 157-GERALD BLANEY 1: 157-GERALD BLANEY 1: 157-ELDON HESTER 1: 157-JAMES SCARBOROUGH 1: 157-JAMES SCARBOROUGH 1: 157-DON STRINGER 1: 157-LEE CALHOUN 8: JACKSON (RM) IOLOMAY	S	152-958-73 EARCHED ERIALIZED APR 1 5 1967 FBI-JACKSON
WED/Irs (24) Ernest Serry avants		Block Stamp SearchedIndexed SerializedFiled APR /10 1967 FBI - New Orleans

Alexandria, La. 3/29/67

R. J. "RED" GLOVER first approached "SONNY" TAYLOR about joining a new exclusive group of klansmen which GLOVER referred to as the Silver Dollar Group, about six months prior to the fish fry which was held on 6/26/65, at the residence of JAMES FREDERICK "RED" LEE. GLOVER approached TAYLOR at a regular meeting of the OKKKK in Ferriday, La., and stated that TAYLOR had been recommended by klan leaders as a klansman. GLOVER stated that he was checking out TAYLOR along with other prospective members of the group and would contact him later in this regard.

About two months later, GLOVER contacted TAYLOR, giving him a silver dollar and told him that he had been accepted as a member of the group. GLOVER stated that he had hand picked men for members of this group from La. and Miss.

"SONNY" TAYLOR stated that he considers E. D. MORACE of Ferriday, La., as a number two man under GLOVER in this organization and further believes that MORACE actually recruited the BLANEYS, BILL and GERALD.

For a period of time in 1965, E. D. MORACE and GLOVER had some differences and at one time MORACE turned in his klan equipment, sold his guns and said he was quitting the klan and the Silver Dollar Group. However, a short time later MORACE was back active in the klan and the Silver Dollar Group and MORACE and GLOVER have been very close ever since that time.

GLOVER and ELDON "SCRAPMAN" HESTER have a reputation for breaking into Negro homes and stealing guns from these homes.

On one occasion in early 1966, GLOVER talked "SONNY" TAYLOR into accompanying him to the Woodville, Miss. area at which time GLOVER said they were going to steal some guns from a Negro's home in that area. When they arrived at the Negro's house it was observed that the Negro was at home and they did not attempt to steal guns at that time. GLOVER told TAYLOR that they would return when the Negro was not home; however, TAYLOR never went back to this location with GLOVER.

In connection with the fish fry held by the Silver Dollar Group on 6/26/65, at the home of JAMES FREDERICK LEE, there were approximately 17 to 20 men present and three of these brought their wives. SONNY TAYLOR brought his wife and another man, name unknown, who lives in the Wildsville, La. area. He, at that time, drove a Mercury automobile and lived across the road from the big store at the main boat landing on Horse Shoe Lake in a big house. This man brought his wife. The only other wife there was LEE's wife.

Several others present at this fish fry arrived early on the morning of 6/26/65, to prepare the food and began cooking

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the fish for the others who were to arrive in the early afternoon. The three wives were busy in the kitchen of the house and several of the men were assisting them and were in and out of the house during the day. There were several in attendance who came early in the afternoon and several left early; however, the majority stayed until just before dark.

During the afternoon, GLOVER and ED MORACE were experimenting with some explosive ingredients stating they were trying to invent an explosive and were stiring a mixture on the table in the back yard. On at least one occasion, and possibly on two or three other occasions, they took the mixture out in the woods behind LEE's home and stated they had lit a fuse, but were unable to get an explosion or any reaction from this mixture. It was unknown who brought the explosive ingredients or fuse to the fish fry.

On viewing photographs on suspected members of the Silver Dollar Group, the following is information concerning photographs displayed:

L. C. MURRAY - positively identified and was at fish fry, and was believed to be driving black Mustang at the time and was later suspected by GLOVER as an FBI informer.

REGGIE P. CARTER - could not identify.

JOE DANIEL HAWKINS - could not identify.

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NW 9008 DocId:59165323 Page 17

JAMES K. GREER - could not identify.

ELDON GLEN "SCRAPMAN" HESTER - could not identify photograph shown, but is known as klansman.

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JAMES F. SEALE - identified.

R. J. GLOVER - identified.

TOMMIE LEE JONES - identified.

JAMES FREDERICK "RED" LEE - identified.

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS - could not identify.

JACK SEALE - could not identify photograph, but is well known as klansman.

WOODROW "BLUE" HOLLOWAY - identified.

JAMES SCARBOROUGH - identified.

THOR L. TORGERSEN - could not identify.

O. C. POISSOT - could not identify.

BILL BLANEY - identified.

RAY HUDNALL - could not identify.

E. D. MORACE - identified.

ERNEST B. PARKER - could not identify.

There is no Silver Dollar Bar in Ferriday; however, the Bonanza Club near Ferriday may have been called the Silver Dollar Bar at the time E. D. MORACE operated the Bonanza Club.

O DON STRINGER is not known to be a member of the Silver Dollar Group.

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In connection with the arrest and alleged bailing out of TOMMIE JONES, who was arrested by Ferriday PD on 6/26/65, "SONNY" TAYLOR did not go to the Ferriday Jail after the fish fry. However, SCARBOROUGH, MORACE, GLOVER and several others who were at the fish fry had stated they were going to the Ferriday Jail to release JONES immediately after the fish fry and subsequently stated that LEE CALHOUN had put up the money for JONES' bail.

A rumor has circulated among several klan associates of R. J. GLOVER that he has a girl friend and from his wife's remarks and actions, it appears obvious that she knows about this girl friend inasmuch as she raises "hell" with GLOVER about his "running around". The identity of this girl friend is not known.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date _____ 3/14/67_

157-958-66

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS was interviewed on the front porch of his residence located at 114 Rushing. AVANTS was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the inquiry by SA ROBERT F. BOYLE. SA BOYLE advised AVANTS that he did not need to make any statement or furnish any information, and that any statement or information furnished by him could be used against him in a court of law. He was also advised by SA BOYLE he had the right to consult with an attorney or anyone else before furnishing a statement. AVANTS advised that he knows his rights and he is presently represented by an attorney in a state matter currently pending; however, he did not desire for that attorney to be present during the interview.

AVANTS stated he does not have possession of any information concerning the murder of a Negro by the name of WHARLEST JACKSON and that if he did possess any information concerning this matter he would not furnish it to the FBI. He stated, in his opinion, JACKSON was killed by another Negro to create an incident wherein the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People could raise funds as a result of national publicity attached to that type of crime.

AVANTS stated that he is not a member of any klan type organization nor has he ever been a member of such an organization. He stated he is a segregationist and definitely believes in most aims and projects of the Ku Klux Klan.

AVANTS said that in the event he receives any information in the future concerning the identity of the individual responsible for JACKSON's death he would not furnish this information to the FBI unless the individual responsible was a Negro. He stated that if he determines that a white man killed JACKSON he, AVANTS, would shake his hand and congratulate him.

AVANTS stated he does not believe in integration of the school system, restaurants, theaters, etc., and he definitely does not believe in mixing the blood of the whites and "niggers."

		•			SERNILIZES 7 9558 PD
0n	3/13/67		<u>Mississippi</u>	File #	JN MAR 213 1967
	SA ALLAN N.		k.		FBIAT JACKSON
hv	SA ROBERT F	. BOYLE/raj		Date dictated	
~J				Date dictated	۳ <u>()</u> ۲) ۱

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AVANTS stated he would not stand for any "nigger" to come into his school, church, or home and that he would use violence if necessary to prevent such a happening.

AVANTS stated that he thought it was fruitless to burn any Negro churches, but rather they should burn them when they were full of "niggers" as this was the only time it would do any good.

AVANTS further advised that be thought it was stupid to kill a "nigger" when the real enemies are the big shot politicians, both white and Negro, and that the present Governor of Mississippi was an enemy of the white people.

Although AVANTS stated he was not a member of the Ku Klux Klan or any klan-type group, he did state that he had taken several secret oaths, but declined to identify the organizations or reasons for which these oaths were taken. AVANTS did state, however, in this connection that he was a member of the Masons.

AVANTS stated that he believed the Negro civil rights movement was Communist inspired, and that he had participated in the erection of large billboards in the Natchez area on which photographs reportedly depicting MARTIN LUTHER KING in a Communist training course were displayed. AVANTS also stated it is his belief. that WHARLEST JACKSON was killed at the direction of CHARLES EVERS because of some irregularities in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People funds on the part of JACKSON.

AVANTS stated that he was generally familiar with the use of dynamite in that he had used it many years ago when he was farming to blow out tree stumps, but he had not handled dynamite in many years and would be reluctant to do so because it was extremely dangerous. AVANTS stated while he was in the Army he had learned to use the "C3" plastic explosive and that this had been subsequently improved upon as "C4" in recent years. AVANTS denied any knowledge regarding the death of WHARLEST JACKSON.

It is noted the above interview was conducted on AVANTS' front porch, and that the relationship between interviewing Agents and AVANTS was friendly and cordial through the interview.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date _____3/13/67

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS was interviewed in connection with another investigative matter on the front porch of his residence located at 114 Rushing Street, Natchez. He was advised of the identity of interviewing Agents by SA ROBERT F. BOYLE. He was advised by SA BOYLE that he did not have to furnish any statement or information to the interviewing Agents, and that any information or statement furnished by him could be used against him in a court of law. AVANTS was also advised by SA BOYLE that he had a right to consult an attorney of his own choosing at any time he desired, and that he had the right to terminate the interview at any time he desired. AVANTS stated he is being represented by an attorney on state charges and that he is well aware of his rights and does not desire to have his attorney present during this interview.

During this interview the interviewing Agents discussed with AVANTS the numerous shootings and beatings that have occurred in the Adams County, Mississippi, area in the past several years, including the murder of BEN WHITE.

SA BOYLE inquired of AVANTS as to when his trial in connection with the BEN WHITE murder case was scheduled for court. AVANTS replied that he has been unable to get a speedy trial as guaranteed him under the constitution of the United States as the District Attorney kept getting delays. He stated he was ready to go to trial today.

AVANTS stated he felt confident that he would be acquitted of the murder charge as the sheriff has only one witness against him and it was his word against this one witness. AVANTS then corrected his remarks, stating it is the "word of only one witness against two of them." He stated that the only witness against him "is out of his mind," and was taken to Whitfield last Friday or was to be taken today, March 13, 1967.

• 5	AVANTS furth WHITE and he explained						six
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On	3/13/67	., Mississij	ppi		157m1519	HOAKAMS, C	o.UKA)
bv	SA ALLAN N. KORNBLUM SA ROBERT F. BOYLE/ra:	j			MAR 23	31967	
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FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

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times in the heart, then paused for one minute. FULLER then shot WHITE several times in the head, paused for another minute and then shot WHITE in each arm. AVANTS stated that FULLER then turned to him, AVANTS, and requested AVANTS to shoot WHITE. AVANTS stated he asked FULLER, "Where should I shoot him?" FULLER replied, "shoot him in the God damn head," which AVANTS did.

AVANTS stated that he has been advised by his attorney that he, AVANTS, could not be convicted of murder because all he did was shoot a corpse. It was pointed out to AVANTS that WHITE might not have been dead when AVANTS shot him to which AVANTS replied "he had to be dead because of the number of shots fired into him by FULLER."

AVANTS did not volunteer any information regarding where this shooting occurred or any further details concerning the shooting.

AVANTS again stated he was ready for trial any time and that any delay is being caused by the District Attorney.

INSPECTOR SULLIVAN (44-2044)

SA ROBERT F: BOYLE

WHARBOM

On 3/16/67 check surveillances were conducted in the area of the residence of ERNEST AVANTS, 114 Rushing Street, Natchez, Miss., and at the residence of CLAUDE W. FULLER, Box 313, Kingston, Miss. At 2:26 p.m. on that date a 1962 white Cadillac bearing Miss. license plate 1D1446, was parked in front of the residence of AVANTS. At 4:01 p.m. on the same date a 1955 blue Buick, Miss. license 1-4817, was observed parked in front of the residence of CLAUDE W. FULLER.

It was ascertained that Mississippi License 1D1446 was issued to JIMMY H: WHITE, Route 1, Box 515, Natchez, Miss., for a 1962 Cadillac, VIN 621073774.

It was ascertained that Mississippi License 1-4817 is registered to ODIS L. GOOD, Route 3, Box 337, Natchez, Miss., for a 1955 Buick, VIN 6B6005859.

2 - 44-2044 1 - 157-6253 (BEN CHESTER WHITE case) 1 - 157-958 (ERNEST AVANTS) 1 - 157-796 (CLAUDE W: FULLER) 1 - 157- (ODIS L. GOOD) 1 - 157- (JINMY H. WHITE) RFB/acp

157-958-62

Hatches



NW 9008 DocId:59165323 Page 24

3/20/67

12/16/66

AIRTEL.

TO: DIRECTOR, FEI (44-33209)

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-6253) (P*)

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS; CLAUDE W. FULLER; JAMES LLOYD JONES; BEN CHESTER WHITE - VICTIM CR

Re report of SA JAMES R. MCCEE at Jackson, 12/13/66 and Jackson airtel to Bureau, 12/14/66.

Enclosed for the Wureau is the original and ten copies of an LNM dealing with captioned matter.

One copy furnished USA, Jackson; Secret Service, Jackson; and two copies furnished INTC, Jackson.

3-Bureau 5-Jackson (2-157-6253) (1-197-796) (1,4197-958) (1-157-6254) JRM/skm (8)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Jackson, Mississippi December 16, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS, CLAUDE W. FULLER, JAMES LLOYD JONES; BEN CHESTER WHITE - VICTIM CIVIL RIGHTS

On December 16, 1966, District Attorney Lenox Forman, Natchez, Mississippi, advised an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that on December 16, 1966, Circuit Judge James A. Torrey ordered Ernest Henry Avants released from the custody of the Adams County Sheriff's Department on \$20,000 bond. Mr. Forman advised that Avants was released over his objection.

He further advised that James Lloyd Jones is still being held without bond and that all three subjects are scheduled for trial commencing during the March, 1967 term of Circuit Court.

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.

11-Bureau (44-33209) 1-USA, Jackson 1-Secret Service, Jackson 2-INTC, Jackson 5-Jackson (2-157-6253) (1-157-796)

> (1+157-958) (1-157-6254)

JRM/skm (20)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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ERNEST HENRY	AVANTS; 157-958	CHARACTER	OF CASE	···			
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WHITE - VICT			CR	ж. ¹ .			
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REFERENCES:

Reports of SA JAMES R. MC GEE at Jackson, 6/17/66 and 7/15/66; Jackson airtel to Director, 11/14/66. Bureau airtel to Jackson 12/7/66.

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LEADS:

JACKSON DIVISION

At Natchez, Mississippi

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JN 157-6253

Will follow and report local prosecutive action commencing in the March, 1967, term of court.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

This case is still being maintained in a pending inactive status in lieu of the fact that no further local prosecution is anticipated until March, 1967. The Bureau will be kept advised of any pertinent developments in this case should they occur prior to March, 1967.

> B* (COVER PAGE)

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1-USA, Jackson 1-Secret Service, Jackson 2-INTC, Jackson

Report of:SA JAMES R. MC GEEDate:December 13, 1966

Office: JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Field Office File No.: JN 157-6253

Bureau File No.: 44-33209

Title:

Copy to:

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS; CLAUDE W. FULLER; JAMES LLOYD JONES; BEN CHESTER WHITE - VICTIM

Character:

CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: Subjects were arraigned before Circuit Judge JAMES A. TORREY, during the November-December, 1966, term of court at Natchez, Miss., and all subjects entered a plea of not guilty to the charge of murder and were remanded to the custody of the Adams County SO without bond. On 12/9/66 District Attorney LENOX FORMAN advised that the trial for all three subjects had been continued until the March term of Circuit Court in 1967.

- P* -

DETAILS:

The following investigation was conducted by SA JAMES R. MC GEE at Natchez, Mississippi:

On November 15, 1966, District Attorney LENOX FORMAN advised that JAMES LLOYD JONES was arraigned before Circuit Judge JAMES A. TORREY on the same date and entered a plea of not guilty. FORMAN advised it was anticipated that subject JONES may ask for a continuance of trial.

JN 157-6253

On November 29, 1966, Mr. FORMAN advised that subjects ERNEST HENRY AVANTS and CLAUDE W. FULLER were arraigned before Circuit Judge JAMES A. TORREY, Natchez, Mississippi, on the same date and both subjects entered a plea of not guilty.

FORMAN advised that all three subjects were remanded to the custody of the Adams County Sheriff's Department without bond.

FORMAN advised that the trial for JAMES LLOYD JONES was passed until December 9, 1966.

On December 9, 1966, District Attorney FORMAN advised that the trial for all three subjects had been continued until the March, 1967, term of Circuit Court.

FORMAN advised that JAMES LLOYD JONES was to be tried first, however, the lawyer representing JONES is a member of the State of Mississippi Legislature which is presently in session and under the Mississippi Statute, cannot be expected to represent JONES while the Legislature is still meeting.

Cover	Sheet	for	Informant	Report	or	Mc	Ιć
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November 22, 1966

MURDER TRIAL OF AVANCE AND FULLER IN NATCHEZ

Source advised that the leaders of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, State of Mississippi in the Natchez area believe that the only successful way to defend AVANCE and FULLER in Natchez in their pending murder trial involving their alleged murder of a Negro is to do the following:

1. Get as many secret members of the Klan placed on the jury as possible.

2. When Sheriff ODELL ANDERS is put on the stand, he should be asked if he swore the Klan oath and still abides by it in order to discredit his veracity, because ANDERS previously had joined the Klan for political reasons.

3. Get a white woman, still not identified, who will testify that the victim had raped her.

RAFFLE OF TIRES FOR SUPPORT OF FAMILIES OF AVANCE AND FULLER

Source advised that about two weeks ago a raffle of a set of tires obtained by the WKKKK members from Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company in Natchez was held in order to get funds for AVANCE, FULLER and their families. The Klansmen known to have sold several tickets for the raffle are DOYLE MURRAY, JOE HARDY, REGGIE CARTER, and a man named DAVISON (First Name Unknown).

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

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KLANSMEN CAPABLE OF VIOLENCE

Source advised that DOYLE MURRAY, upon learning of a theft of dynamite from one of the oil fields, had speculated that JOE HARDY, REGGIE CARTER, and DAVISON are the type of men who would do such a thing and would be capable of blowing up a Negro school or causing similar types of trouble for the Klan.

DAVISON works for International Paper Company in Natchez, his wife works as a teacher at the Natchez Private School, and both live on Magnolia in the Brooklyn Subdivision of Natchez. REGGIE CARTER lives on Pine Ridge Road.

HARDY, CARTER and DAVISON are close friends and, according to DOYLE MURRAY, have constantly criticized E. L. MC DANIEL because E. L. MC DANIEL has not given militant enough leadership to the WKKKK.

INFORMATION CONCERNING CLYDE CLARK

Source advised he knows of no Klan affiliation with CLYDE CLARK, who lives in Natchez and owns the Vidalia Trailer Park, but that his brother, CALVIN CLARK, who presently is in Oregon, was a member of the WKKKK.

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JAP - cst

INFORMATION CONCERNING J. D. RICHARDSON AND JOE MC PHAIL

Source advised that according to statement by E. L. MC DANIEL, J. D. RICHARDSON of Vidalia, Louisiana, who runs the house of prostitution in Deer Park, Louisiana, tried to buy a house in Vidalia from a woman with the intention of turning it into a house of prostitution, but the woman learned about it and refused to sell it to J. D.

who is a close friend of RICHARDSON, then bought the house for RICHARDSON from the woman, and RICHARDSON has one of his women in the house now.

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Identification Record Request FD-9 (Rev. 4-28-65) • INSTRUCTIONS 1. This form may be submitted in legible hand printing. 5. Indicate office for reply in lower right corner only. Also list in lower right corner all offices 2. Use separate form for each individual on whom which should receive copies of available records. record is requested. Include carbon of FD-9 for each office receiving copies and forward with original to Bureau. 3. Make effort to furnish FBI identification number, law enforcement identification number, or 6. Do not fill in block in lower left corner. military service number. 4. Furnish descriptive data and fingerprint classification only when FBI number not available. Date Attention: Identification Division To: DIRECTOR, FBI Re HENRY ERNest ANTS & M/KLAN) Field File No Furnish The Known Identification Record of the Following: Name FBI No. HVANTS ERNEST Other No. Aliases Birthplace Residence Sex Race Birth/Date ATChez, Miss LINCOLN Co. Miss. Hair Complexion Age Weight Height 51 Чeд. GRA MeD. Fingerprint Classification Scars, marks and tattoos JUN 23 1966 8 NO ARREST RECORD - FEI IDENTIFICATION DIVISION Also Furnish: A Photo Fingerprints 🗔 Handwriting Specimens Reply to: Identification Division's Reply JACKSON On basis of information furnished, unable to identify: Criminal Civil All Send Copies To: Files Files] Files I.S. P. JACKSON Miss. Record Attached Photo Attached Photo Not Available S.O., NATCHEZ, Fingerprints Attached SEARCHED 🖂 Handwriting Specimen Attached SERIALIZED 281966 FBI JACKSON

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-6253)

6/21/66

DATE:

FROM : SUPERVISOR SAMUEL N. JENNINGS

SUBJECT: ERNEST HENRY AVANTS, ET AL; BEN CHESTER WHITE - VICTIM CIVIL RIGHTS

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

SA RICHARD H. HAMILTON, Natchez RA, telephonically furnished the following information received from on 6/20/66:

J. K. GREER, Natchez, Miss., was recently in conversation with ED FULLER, a brother of CLAUDE FULLER, one of captioned subjects. ED FULLER is a gambler from Vidalia, La., and was a former member of the WKKKKOM. ED FULLER furnished GREER information on about 6/15/66 relative to an alleged incident which took place about two years ago at Natchez, Miss. This incident involved an unidentified Negro or Negroes who were allegedly bringing guns into the Natchez area by hauling them in an ambulance which belonged to the Curtis Funeral Home, Natchez, Miss. The guns were allegedly taken to the home of a Negro who lived on Liberty Road near Natchez. Subsequent to this incident, information is believed to have been developed indicating possibly BEN CHESTER WHITE's house is the place where the alleged weapons were being stored. (it is noted no confirmation has ever been reported to the FBI that any weapons were, in fact, being brought into the Natchez area by any Negro or civil rights group)

2-157-6253 1-157-6254 (JAMES LLOYD JONES) 1-157-796 (CLAUDE FULLER) (1-157-958 (ERNEST H. AVANTS) 1-157-18 (SAMUEL H. BOWERS, JR.) 1-157- ("TINY" LEWIS) 1-157- (DON WILKINSON) 1-157- (TOMMY BROCK) 1-SNJ/sjw (13) 1-157-(GEORGE NOSSER) 1-157-(ED FULLER) 1-157-(J. K. GREER)


GREER furnished the definite opinion during his conversation with ED FULLER that the killing of WHITE was not a Klan job or project. GREER claimed he would know if it had been a Klan project due to his high ranking Klan position.

ED FULLER was known to have been in the company of GEORGE NOSSER, son of Mayor JOHN NOSSER, Natchez, Miss., during the past week and NOSSER was asking ED FULLER if the officers got anything out of the search of CLAUDE FULLER's house, after CLAUDE FULLER was arrested for the murder of WHITE. ED FULLER allegedly told GEORGE NOSSER that he got to CLAUDE FULLER's house before the sheriff got there, implying that he possibly removed some evidence from CLAUDE FULLER's house but did not specifically state this as a fact. GEORGE NOSSER offered the opinion it was a good thing ED FULLER got to CLAUDE FULLER's house before the sheriff got there.

J. K. GREER was recently reported to have said there were only two M-2 carbine weapons in the Natchez area of the type allegedly used by CLAUDE FULLER to kill WHITE. A few months ago, these two carbines were reported in the possession of "TINY" LEWIS, a former Exalted Cyclops of the WKKKKOM who runs a barbecue drive-in on Highway 61 north near Natchez. The other carbine was in the possession of DON WILKINSON, not further identified.

J. K. GREER was overheard commenting that he believed ED FULLER either had the murder weapon or had obtained it at CLAUDE FULLER's house and destroyed it or disposed of it.

The informant learned that SAM H. BOWERS, JR., Imperial Wizard of the WKKKKOM, Laurel, Miss., and his attorney, CHARLES BLACKWELL, also a member of the WKKKKOM from Laurel, Mississippi, were visiting in Natchez on Wednesday night, 6/15/66 and were observed

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NW 9008 DocId:59165323 Page 37

at the barbecue drive-in of "TINY" LEWIS on Highway 61 north near Natchez. They were attempting to locate ERNEST H. AVANTS' lawyer who is believed to be JOE ZUCARRO and another lawyer, possibly his partner. BOWERS and BLACKWELL were unable to locate ZUCARRO Wednesday night and left Natchez without contacting him and drove to the residence of Judge TOMMY BROCK who lives on a farm near Raymond, Miss., and has been reported numerous times as a Klan bursar and/or the chief Klan bursar of the WKKKKOM for the entire State of Mississippi. The informant was not familiar with BOWERS' and BLACKWELL's visit with BROCK but was of the opinion that BOWERS would be contacting BROCK relative to Klan funds.

Informant also reported that about two weeks ago, ERNEST H. AVANTS, who has been drinking very heavily lately, was observed at "TINY" LEWIS' barbecue drive-in under the influence of alcohol and was bragging to some of the Klansmen that he had been in on the killing of a Negro at a shoe shop in Ferriday, La., across the river from Natchez a few months ago and also that he had been in on the killing of two Negroes whose bodies were found floating in the old Mississippi river near ERNEST PARKERS' island about two years ago. The informant advised that while AVANTS has made these statements while in a drunken condition, it should be noted that AVANTS is prone to lie and the informant does not know whether there is any truth to this information or nct.

Informant advised arrangements have been made during the past few days at "TINY" LEWIS' barbecue drive-in near Natchez to establish an alibi for ERNEST HENRY AVANTS on the day that BEN CHESTER WHITE was murdered. "TINY" LEWIS's twelve-year-old child and several Klansmen are believed willing to testify that AVANTS was observed in their presence at the time the killing allegedly took place.

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Informant advised that JAMES LLOYD JONES possibly was sworn into the WKKKKOM about two or three weeks ago since CLAUDE FULLER was overheard asking J. K. GREER at the International Paper Company about procedures to be followed in swearing a person into the Klan. Another unidentified individual was overheard talking to GREER and indicated that it was JAMES LLOYD JONES whom CLAUDE FULLER was interested in swearing into the Klan. Informant advised that ERNEST HENRY AVANTS was known to have made a trip to see SAM H. BOWERS, JR., Imperial Wizard, WKKKKOM a few months ago. Informant was not aware of the purpose of AVANTS' visit to BOWERS. Informant is attempting to determine the exact motive for the killing of WHITE if, in fact, there was any clear-cut motive. Informant recalls vaguely an incident near Natchez, Miss. about two years ago which involved a shooting into a Cadillac automobile or possibly from a Cadillac automobile which, it was believed involved CLAUDE FULLER and

who are well known in the Klan circles at Natchez, Miss. and are former members of the WKKKKOM there. Informant will attempt to check back on this information to see if there is something which would make the motive of the killing of WHITE more explainable.

Above information was discussed with SAC ROY K. MOORE on 6/20/66 and he advised that it should be suitably paraphrased to protect the informant and that the portion which would be of assistance to Sheriff ODELL ANDERS, Adams County, Miss., should be orally furnished to ANDERS. SA RICHARD H. HAMILTON was advised of instructions relative to dissemination of information to Sheriff ANDERS and indicated he would handle it immediately.

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SAC, JACKSON (157-6253)

6/14/66

SUPERVISOR SAMUEL N. JENNINGS

UNSUB; MURDER OF BEN CHESTER WHITE ROUTE 1, ROXIE, MISSISSIPPI 6/12/66 - VICTIM RM

Attached hereto is a copy of a memo by SAC MOORE dated 6/14/66 in captioned matter. This memo sets forth details regarding the murder of BEN CHESTER WHITE by known Klan members ERNEST H. AVANTS and CLAUDE FULLER as well as JAMES LLOYD JONES who, during interview by MMSP on 6/14/66, admitted Klan membership.

Intensive investigation by Sheriff ODELL ANDERS, Adams County, Miss., during the past three days has definitely established FULLER, AVANTS and AVANTS as persons who committed this murder. Sheriff ANDERS and MHSP Investigator DONALD BUTLER are presently on route to Adams County, Miss. to arrest FULLER and AVANTS. JONES is already in custody and has admitted his participation in this murder.

The Klan files on FULLER and AVANTS should be reopened for active investigation and a new 157 Klan file should be opened on JAMES LLOYD JONES.

The Bureau has been advised of a summary of information developed to date and requested a teletype summary of this matter later to day. $(14)6^{6}/(1+16)^{6}$

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6/14/66

SAC ROY K. MOORE

(a Seconday, a/li/of, at shout 8 P.N., an audnymous atlaphone call new rate to a belenhous operator at Netwherunsub; MURDER OF BENCCHESTER WHITE lier stid to the operatoroute 1; ROXIE, MISSISSIPPI SCHURLER just abot a Magro." 6/12/66 Sevictimic yet identified, include cry called Shermit and HES, related the information and ANDIES import in the car and raced to the socyles starter where the course adopted after the constantified the constantion details of the constantified the

At 9:50 A.M., today, I furnished Assistant Director AL ROSEN, General Investigative Division, with a resume of information supplied by SA RICHARD H. HAMILTON as obtained from Sheriff ODELL ANDERS, Adams County, Mississippi, concerning the death of WHITE. Fullet had just life the state in the death of WHITE. Fullet had just life the state in the death of WHITE. Fullet had just life the state in the death of WHITE.

Sheriff ANDERS has advised SA HAMILTON that a new car was burned on Friday night, 6/10/66, which belongs to one JAMES LLOYD JONES believed to be a Klansman and employed at the Attaitions Tixe Company, Natchez, Miss. ANDERS relates that JONES and CLAUDE FULLER, a known member of the Old Sligo Unit of the WKKKKOM are definitely involved in the killing of WHITE. In support of this statement, ANDERS said that CLAUDE FULLER went into the hospital at Natchez, Miss., on 6/13/66 with a nervous attack, apparently after learning that ANDERS had taken JONES to Jackson, Miss., to give him a lie detector test at MHSP Headquarters.

The burned car mentioned above is a 1966 Chevrolet, gray or blue in color, and was found in the driveway of BOYD SOJOURNER, a farmer in the Natchez area, near where the body of WHITE was found. 1.57-958-37

CLAUDE FULLER allegedly threatened SOJOURNER a few weeks ago and told him, among other things, to get the Negroes off his place. One of the Negroes who apparently lived on the SOJOURNER farm was BEN CHESTER WHITE. FULLER also suggested to SOJOURNER that he fill the Negro houses with hay after moving the Negroes out. (It is not be the solution of the Negroes of the Sojourner that he fill the Negroes of the solution of the Negroes of the Sojourner that he fill the Negroes of the solution of the Sojourner that he fill the Negroes of the solution of the Sojourner that he fill the Negroes of the solution of the Sojourner that he fill the Negroes of the solution of the Sojourner the solution of the Negroes of the solution of the s

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On Saturday, 6/11/66, at about 8 P.M., an anonymous telephone call was made to a telephone operator statly. at Natchez, Miss., from a pay phone. The caller said to the operator, "Get the Sheriff - BOYD SOJOURNER just shot a Negro." The operator, not yet identified, immediately called Sheriff ANDERS, related the information and ANDERS jumped in his car and raced to the service station where the call was placed, after the operator identified the location for him. The call was made from a pay station at Billups No. 3 Station, Highway 61 South, Natchez, Miss. ANDERS arrived about four minutes after receiving the call and after some difficulty, got the employees at the station to admit that CLAUDE FULLER had just left the station in his car which had been parked near the pay phone. The service station attendants allegedly know FULLER personally.

The Victim WHITE, according to witnesses known to Sheriff ANDERS, was observed being taken from his home on Friday night, 6/10/66, by three white males, not further identified, in a 1965 turquoise Oldsmobile with a whip antenna.

JONES was picked up by Sheriff ANDERS and transported to Jackson, Miss., on 6/13/66 and given a lie detector examination by SAM IVEY, MHSP Headquarters. After the lie detector test, ANDERS arrested JONES and charged him with arson of his own car since IVEY was of the definite opinion JONES involved.

Further information regarding the Victim reflects that he was shot many times in the arms and chest with what appeared to be 30 caliber bullets and shotgun.

ANDERS is presently en route to Jackson to discuss case further with SAC.

I recommended to Assistant Director ROSEN that in absence of any Civil Rights activities on the part of the Victim it appeared that this was purely a case of murder to be investigated by local authorities. Mr. ROSEN agreed with this. I advised Mr. ROSEN that we proposed to render assistance to the Sheriff in the preparation and forwarding

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of any evidence to the FBI Laboratory and Identification Divisions. Beyond that, we would advise Sheriff ANDERS that there appeared to be no Federal jurisdiction; consequently, we could not assist in the open investigation.

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At 9:50 A.M., today, I furnished Assistant Director AL ROSEN, General Investigative Division, with a resure of information supplied by SA RICHARD H. HAMINTON as obtained from Sheriff ODELL ANDERS, Adams County, Mississippi, concerning the death of WHITE seen of the state of the second state of the second

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Sheriff AMDERS has advised SA HAMILTON that a new over was burned on Friday night, 5/10/66; which balongs to one JAMES ILOYD JONES believed to be a Klanzman and employ at the Interford Time Company, Natchez, Miss. AMDERS relative that JONES and CLAUDE FULLER, a known member of the Cli Silet Unit of the WAKKKOM are definitely involved in the killing to WHITE. In support of this scatement, AMDERS said that CLAUS FULLER went into the hospital at Natches, Miss., on 6/13/66 with a nervous attack, apparently after learning that AMDERS had taken JONES to Jackson, Miss., to give him a lie detector test at MNSP Headquarters.

The burned car mentioned above is a 1965 Chevrolet, gray or blue in color, and was found in the driveway of BCV SCJOURNER, a farmer in the Natchez area, near where the body of WHITE was found.

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CLAUDE FULLER allegedly threatened SOJOURMER a few weeks ago and told him, smong other things, to get the Negroes off his piece. One of the Negroes who apparently lived on the SOJOURNER farm, was BEN CHESTER WHITE. FULLER alto suggested to SOJOURNER that he fill the Negroes builded with hey after moving the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent with hey after moving the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent with hey after moving the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent with hey after moving the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent with hey after moving the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent with hey after moving the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent with hey after moving the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent with hey after moving the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent with hey after moving the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent with hey after moving the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent with hey after moving the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent with hey after moving the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent with hey after moving the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent with hey after moving the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent with hey after moving the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent with hey after moving the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent solution of the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent solution of the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent solution of the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent solution of the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent solution of the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent solution of the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent solution of the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent solution of the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent solution of the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent solution of the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent solution of the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent solution of the Negroes outles (It is no will dependent solution of the Negroes outles (It

Director, FBI (157-3701)

SAC, Jackson (157-958) (¢)

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS RM (KLAN)

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9 mit 6/15/60 Sit

Re report of SA CLARENCE G. PROSPERE, Jackson, dated 7/19/65.

A review of the Jackson file in this case on 2/11/66, discloses that no information has been developed on ERNEST HENRY AVANTS, either through Racial Informants or other sources since the submission of referenced Summary Report, which shows any Kan activity on the part of AVANTS. FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

On 9/3/65, advised that ERNEST HENRY AVANTS "was kicked out of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (WKKKKOM) immediately following his arrest by the MHSP in November or December, 1964." Informant stated it was the opinion of the Klansmen that AVANTS had "shot his mouth off" and talked too much thereby causing the arrest of the other three individuals.

On 9/26/65, divised that ERNEST AVANTS was recently arrested in Jonesville, Louisiana, after he broke into the home belonging to the Mayor of that city. Members of Klan organizations in the Jonesville, Louisiana, area have indicated that they are tired of AVANTS' coming to that city and causing trouble and have indicated that if he does not stop these activities he will be delt with in a severe manner.

In view of the absence of any Klan activity on the part of AVANTS and in view of the fact he is reportedly no longer a member of the Klan, this case is being closed.

2 - Bureau (RM) 1)- Jackson CGP/ves (3)

Ser.

157-95.8-36

Searched Serialized Indexed Filed



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

DATE

RECEIVED

RIS 1112/66:

BY

New Orleans, Louisiana December 13, 1965

SILVER DOLLAR GROUP

A source advised on July 20, 1965, that on June 26, 1965, a fish fry was held at the home of James Lee on the Lismore Road south of Wildville, Louisiana. Source advised that those in attendance at this fish fry were believed to be members of Ku Klux Klan groups in either the State of Louisiana For the State of Mississippi.

Source advised that each person present was a "member" or being considered for "membership" in the "Silver Dollar" Group. Source advised that he believed that the "members" of the "Silver Dollar" Group were responsible for most of the acts of violence that had occurred in the Natchez, Mississippi and Ferriday - Vidalia, Louisiana areas. Source advised that he believed that those who are part of the group

carry a silver dollar with an ampersand stamped on the face of the silver dollar. Source advised that those in attendance at this fish fry attempted to make black powder; however, they were not successful. Source advised that the following individuals were present at the fish fry:

Jimmy Scarbrough,⁰

E. D. Morace, 157-63-13/2

Woodrow "Blue" Holloway (all known to be nembers of the Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Ferriday, Louisiana),

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED SEILED.

FBI-JACKS

DEC 1 6 1965

"Buck" Horton, 157-4662

SILVER DOLLAR GROUP

Norman Head, 174-27-85

R. J. Glover of Vidalia, Louisiana, 157-2444

T. L. Torgenson,

Ernest Finley, 157-787

Ernest Parker, 157-512

Ernest Avants, 157-958

Jack Seals and 157-815

James Seals of Natchez, Mississippi, and 157-950

O"Sonny" Taylor, Harrisonburg, Louisiana.

Source advised that Tommy Jones of Natchez, Missis-Sippi, was arrested at Ferriday, Louisiana, while on his way to the fish fry and, therefore, did not make it there.

A characterization of the Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan is attached hereto.

ORIGINAL KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (LOUISIANA) (OKKKK)

A source advised on October 25, 1963, that an organization known as the Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (OKKKK) had been organized in the State of Louisiana at Shreveport, Louisiana, in December of 1960.

A second source advised on March 23, 1965, that this organization continues to be active and that the aims and purposes of this group are to continue to promote Americanism, the supremacy of the white race, and the continuance of segregation between the races.

APPENDIX

9 (Rev: 5-22-64)

FBI

Transmit the following in

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via Airtel

(Priority)

Date: August 31, 1965

To: SAC, Jackson

From: Director, FBI

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES KLAN INVESTIGATIONS RACIAL MATTERS (KLAN) BUDED: SEPTEMBER 7, 1965

The House Committee on Un-American Activities has advised that additional names are being added to their list of potential witnesses for the State of Mississippi. The individuals included are as follows:

Ernest Henry Avants John Dawson Byron De La Beckwith H. L. "Cotton" Delk Kelly Dunaway Ernest Finley Ernest S. Gilbert Mordant W. Hamilton Donald Lee Mathieu Rex Henry Pierce, Jr. Charles J. Seal Myron Wayne "Jack" Seale S. T. Shook Charles Stewart Thomas Bryan Thrasher, Sr. Berrell Lindsay White Wayne Hutto Reverend James C. Brown Paul Wilson

Peri

In connection with the above, the Bureau has been furnishing the Committee a write-up on each individual. This write-up contains pertinent background information as well as a summary of the Klan activities in which the individual has participated. Specific membership and positions held are, of course, included.

Jackson should advise the Bureau by return airtel whether it has any objection to the above-mentioned individuals being called as witnesses by this Committee. If there is any objection, the Bureau should be so advised along with specific reason. Airtel to SAC, Jackson RE: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES KLAN INVESTIGATIONS

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Jackson should also prepare for submission within seven days blind memoranda concerning each of the above-named individuals. These blind memoranda should contain information set forth above.

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(7) - Jackson (RM)
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1 - 157 - (ERNEST FINLEY)
1 - 157 - (ERNEST PARKER)
1 - 157 - (ERNEST AVANTS)
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1 - 157 - (TOMMY JONES)

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NW 9008 DocId:59165323 Page 51

Natchez, Mississippi July 20, 1965

FISH FRY AT HOME OF JAMES LER, JUNE 26, 1965

On Saturday, June 26, 1965, a fish fry was held at the home of JAMES LEE on the Lismore Road south of Wildsville, Louisiana. There were about twenty persons in attendance at this fish fry and all that were present are believed to be members of the Ku Klux Klan in the State of Louisiana or Mississippi. It is further believed that each person present was a member or being considered for membership in the "Silver Dollar" group. It is believed that members of the "Silver Dollar" group are the ones responsible for most of the acts of violence that have occurred in the Natchez, Mississippi, and Ferriday-Vidalia, Louisiana, area.

Present at this fish fry were JIMMY SCARBROUGH, F. D. MORACE, and WOODROW "BLUE" HOLLOWAY, all known to be Klan members at Ferriday, Louisiana; "BUCK" HORTON, NORMAN HEAD, and R. J. GLOVER of Vidalia, Louisiana; T. L. TORGESEN, ERNEST FINLEY, ERNEST PARKER, ERNEST AVANTS, JACK and JAMES SEALS of Natchez, Mississippi; and SONNY TAYLOR from Harrisonburg, Louisiana.

Those in attendance attempted to make black powder, however, they were not successful. It is believed that each member of the "Silver Dollar" group carries a silver dollar with an ampersand stamped on the face of liberty on the front or heads side of the dollar. E. D. MORACE was given a silver dollar at this meeting, however, his dollar did not have the ampersand stamped on the face.

TOMMY JONES of Natchez was arrested in Ferriday, Louisiana, while on his way to the fish fry.

FD-338 (Rev. 5-22-63) OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10 MAY 1962 EDITION GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27 5010-104 UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT Memorandum : SAC JLLKSON, (157.958) DATE: 7-13-65 то FROM : SA Clarence G. Prospere SUBJECT: Ernest Henry Avants In connection with the destruction of channelizing memoranda, the information contained on the ed below was incorporated in a report dated 7 - 19 - 65, The review for serials listed below was incorporated in a report dated 7 - 19 - 65. The review for this report was made from serial <u>DNE</u> through serial <u>treety</u>. serials listed below was incorporated in a report dated In accordance with the above, the following serials are to be destroyed: Volume Serials (List by serial or serial scope.) FOIA(b)(7) - (D)22 23 24 25~ i 1 11 26 11 27 5 SEARCHED . INDEXED SERIALIZED MC_FILED M JUL 2 9 1965 No. of copies ____ Approved _ 0/1- R.i. reliat 8/5 Date <u>7-29-65</u> Destroyed by _

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ADMINISTRATIVE

This case is being placed in a Pending Inactive status in view of the fact an informant has advised that due to the alcoholic tendency of AVANTS he has been ignored by the Klan.

Any information coming from informants and other sources will be made a matter of record in this file.

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VINITED STATES DEPARTMENT JUSTICE

Secret Service, Jackson, Mississippi ONI, 6th Naval District, Charleston, South Carolina Copy to: OSI, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana INTC Group, Fort McPherson, Georgia

Report of: SA CLARENCE G. PROSPERE Date: July 19, 1965 Office: JACKSON

Field Office File No.: 157-958

Bureau File No.:

Title: ERNEST HENRY AVANTS

Character: RACIAL MATTERS (KLAN)

Synopsis: ERNEST HENRY AVANTS, born January 23, 1931, Lincoln County, Mississippi, presently resides Route 1, Box 75A, Highway 61 North, Natchez, Mississippi, and is employed as "Washerman", International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi, where he has been so employed since 1950. U. S. Army records show ERNEST HENRY AVANTS, Serial Number US 53-092-353, was inducted in the U.S. Army September 25, 1951, and was Honorably Discharged as Sergeant on June 24, 1953, at which time he was transferred to U. S. Army Reserve to complete his military obligation. On March 31, 1962, he was Honorable Discharged from U. S. Army Reserves. No disciplinary action was noted in the military record. Informants report AVANTS was member WKKKKOM but due to his alcoholic tendency he has been ignored. Informants reports AVANTS in possession of On October 22, 1964, two affidavits filed by firearms. Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Investigator against AVANTS. Both affidavits charge AVANT with Assault and Battery with Intent to Murder and Kill. AVANT has been interviewed and denied membership in Klan organization.

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DETAILS:

1) BACKGROUND

The following background information was obtained

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.

through interview by SA's RAYMOND D. STOELTING and TIMOTHY M. CASEY on October 21, 1964, unless otherwise indicated.

A. True name and aliases

True Name: ERNEST HENRY AVANTS Aliases: None

B. Residence address and mailing address

Route 1, Box 75A, Highway 61 North, Natchez, Mississippi.

C. Marital status

Married, wife, GLADYS.

D. Occupation or business

Washerman, International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi.

E. Employment address

International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi.

F. Education

12th grade graduated high school, Enterprise, Mississippi.

G. Citizenship status (birth)

Born January 23, 1931, Lincoln County, Mississippi

H. Military record

A review by IC R. DOUGLAS KING on January 18, 1965, of records on file at the Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri, show ERNEST HENRY AVANTS, Serial Number US 53-092-353, was inducted into the United States Army on

- 2 -

September 25, 1951, at Jackson, Mississippi. On June 24, 1953, he was honorably released as a sergeant at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, and transferred to the United States Army Reserve to complete his military obligation. On March 31, 1962, he was honorably discharged from the United States Army Reserve. The records disclose that he also served in the Mississippi National Guard under the same serial number from August 10, 1953, to September 14, 1955, receiving an Honorable Discharge.

During his period of active duty with the United States Army, he served eleven months in Korea. His character and efficiency ratings were excellent and there is no indication of courts-martial or absence without leave.

There is no indication in the record that AVANTS had any special knowledge or received special training in demolition or use of explosives.

The following background and descriptive information is contained in the record:

Name Army Serial Number Born Place Race Sex Height Weight Hair Eyes Father Mother Education Employment

Selective Service

Number

US 53-092-353 January 23, 1931 Bogue Chitto, Mississippi White Male 5 feet 11 inches 149 pounds Brown Gray ESTON AVANTS BERTHA AVANTS 4 years high school International Paper Company Natchez, Mississippi

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS

22-47-31-10, Local Board 47 Brookhaven, Mississippi

- 3 -

I. Identification record

Unknown

J. Local criminal check

On December 2, 1964, SA LENARD A. WOLF checked the records of the Natchez Police Department, Natchez, Mississippi, and could locate no record on ERNEST HENRY AVANTS.

K. Credit check

On December 2, 1964, SA PETER R. DURLAND was advised by Mrs. ELLA ATKINS, Manager, Credit Bureau of Natchez, Natchez, Mississippi, that her records contain the following information:

Credit report dated May, 1961, indicated ERNEST AVANTS, wife, GLADYS, resided Route 4, Box 100-A, Natchez, and was employed by the International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi, since May, 1950. His income from employment was approximately \$400 per month. AVANTS rents a house, wife not employed, his age in 1961 was given as 32, and he showed that he is also engaged in farming. The records show AVANTS had several suits for collection.

In November, 1962, credit report shows AVANTS at the same residence, in the same employment, and with the same income. His credit was described as unsatisfactory to slow.

In August, 1963, the Natchez Credit Bureau determined at the Federal District Court, Vicksburg, Mississippi, AVANTS filed a voluntary Petition of Bankruptcy Number 1543 on April 22, 1958, and was granted discharge of debts on December 22, 1958.

L. Automobile

On November 25, 1964, SA's PETER R. DURLAND and LENARD A. WOLF reviewed the Adams County, 1965 Car Registration Records at the Sheriff's Office, Natchez, Mississippi. These

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records disclosed a 1965 Registration to ERNEST HENRY AVANTS for a 1956 Chevrolet, 1965 Mississippi license C-3653 (registered to Mrs. AVANTS, Route 1, Natchez).

M. Available weapons

On October 21, 1964, AVANTS was interviewed by SA's RAYMOND D. STOELTING and TIMOTHY M. CASEY during the course of which interview AVANTS voluntarily stated that he has never resorted to the use of any type of explosive for any purpose and possess no knowledge of the existence of dynamite in this area. However, he added that a large quantity of explosives had been entrusted into his custody and care. He pointed out that he was not a member of the organization who furnished these explosives to him and refused to identify this particular organization. He stated that no weapons were included in this armament and consisted entirely of ammunition, hand grenades, and a quantity of C-3 explosives.

JN T-1 on October 22, 1964, advised that in June of 1964, ERNEST HENRY AVANTS, who was a member of the Mississippi Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and an active member of the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race (APWR), took it upon himself to start a feud within the various Klaverns of the Mississippi Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. He stated that at that time AVANTS was dissatisfied in as much as certain members of the organization were failing to pay dues and were creating an ill feeling among other members of the Ku Klux Klan, became intoxicated one night and that about 3:00 A.M., he went to the Klavern Headquarters on the Morgantown Road, Natchez, Mississippi, and shot the lock off the Klavern Headquarters door with a .44 caliber pistol and sprayed numerous bullets throughout the Headquarters.

On May 18, 1965, JN T-1 advised that on May 16, 1965, AVANTS and his wife and 7 year old son were at a fishing camp out of Vidalia, Louisiana, at which time AVANTS had strapped a .22 caliber pistol and holster on his 7 year old son's hip and was teaching him to shoot at logs floating in the Mississippi River.

- 5 -

N. Physical description

The following is a cescription of ERNEST HENRY AVANTS as obtained through observation and interview on October 21, 1964, by SA's RAYMOND D. STOELTING and TIMOTHY M. CASEY.

> ERNEST HENRY AVANTS Name Race ~ White Sex Male Residence Route 1, Box 75-A, Highway 61 North, Natchez, Mississippi Date of Birth January 23, 1931 Place of Birth Lincoln County, Mississippi Height 5 feet 11 inches Weight 186 pounds Hair Sandy, crew cut Eyes Grey Marital Status Married; wife GLADYS, two minor children Relatives ESTON ALLEN AVANTS, father Washington, Mississippi

> > BERTHA BEATRICE AVANTS, nee WILLIAMSON, mother, Washington, Mississippi

BESSIE ANN CRAWFORD, sister, Brooklyn Sub-Division, Natchez, Mississippi

MARY NELL MERRITT, sister, Steam Plant Road, Natchez, Mississippi, (employed as school bus driver, Adams County, Mississippi)

Education

12th grade; completed high school, Enterprise, Mississippi

- 6 -

Employment

1954-1958, saw mill operator, self-employed (claimed bankruptcy in this operation)

- March, 1960 March, 1963 Farming, Washington, Mississippi
- 1950 present, employed by International Paper Company as Washerman, also presently raising saddle stock on his farm

Physical Disabilities

None

Military Service

Social Security Number Selective Service

Organizations

U. S. Army, Serial Number
53 092 353, enlisted
September 24, 1951, discharged
June 25, 1953, from Korean War,
Honorable Discharge, Rank Master Sergeant in Tank Corps.

427-48-8842 Local Board Number 47, Brookhaven, Mississippi

Emanuel Baptist Church, LaSalle Street, Natchez, Mississippi

Masonic Lodge Number 1, Natchez, Mississippi, Third Degree

AFL-CIO, St. Catherine's Local 699, Paper Mill Workers

Americans for the Preservation of the White Race (APWR), Chapter 1, Adams County, Mississippi, from June 6, 1963,

to present, serving as member of Board of Governors

Scars Tattoos Arrests Admitted 1 inch scar over right eyebrow None

Driving While Intoxicated, Hinds County, Mississippi May 21, 1964, disposition unknown.

0. Photograph

Photographs of AVANTS are available in the files of the Jackson Division.

P. Special abilities

On October 21, 1964, ERNEST HENRY AVANTS was interviewed by SA's RAYMOND D. STOELTING and TIMOTHY M. CASEY, at which time he claimed he acquired knowledge of the use of explosives through his military service and National Guard association. It is pointed out that his military record discloses there is no indication that AVANTS had any special knowledge or received special training in demolition or use of explosives.

Q. Associates

On October 23, 1964, MYRON WAYNE "JACK" SEALE was interviewed by SA's PATRICK J. COLLINS and LENARD A. WOLF at which time SEALE advised that knew the following individuals since they were customers of his sanitation service:

> ALTON ROBERTS MARTIN GREER ERNEST AVANTS

JN T-1 on March 3, 1965, advised the following individuals are former members of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi in Adams County, Mississippi

- 8 -

and either do not attend meetings or have completely left the organization:

ED HINSON, Exhalted Cyclops, Fenwick, Mississippi

Qunicy Hinson, Fenwick, Mississippi

DUANE HINSON, Fenwick, Mississippi

EARL W. STAFFORD, Fenwick, Mississippi

EARL STAFFORD, Fenwick, Mississippi

F. C. KLAR, Fenwick, Mississippi

J. W. BURCHFIELD, Fenwick, Mississippi

ERNEST H. AVANTS, Highway 61 North, Natchez, Mississippi

LOUIS NALL, Church Hill, Mississippi

O. T. PALMER, Highway 61 North, Jefferson County, Mississippi

(FNU) PHARES, Highway 61 North, Jefferson County, Mississippi

CHARLES BELK, Natchez, Mississippi

HAROLD BURKETT, Fenwick, Mississippi

W. T. ALLEN, Natchez, Mississippi

2) CONNECTION WITH THE WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI (WKKKKOM)

Characterizations of the following Klan organizations are being set forth in the appendix of this report:

White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Lousiana - 9 -

FOIA(b)(6) FOIA(b)(7) On September 3, 1964, JN T-2 advised that he knew the identity of several individuals who fired a smoke bomb into the house of KID RUSSELL near Meadville, Mississippi, and they are DALE MC LEMORE, DOUGLAS A. BYRD, and possibly ERNEST AVANTS and JACK SEALE.

On October 22, 1964, JN T-1, as previously set forth under paragraph M, captioned "Available weapons", advised that ERNEST AVANTS was dissatisfied with Klan activity due to the failure of member to pay their dues. AVANTS became intoxicated one night and at approximately 3:00 A.M. went to the Klan Headquarters on the Morgantown Road, Natchez, Mississippi, and shot the lock off of the Klavern Headquarters door with a .44 pistol and sprayed numerous bullets throughout the headquarters.

On March 3, 1965, JN T-1 advised that among the individuals who are former members of the WKKKKOM, Adams County, Mississippi, who either do not attend meetings or have completely left the organization is ERNEST H. AVANTS, an employee of International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi, resides on Highway 61, North, Natchez, Mississippi.

On March 18, 1965, JN T-1 advised that E. L. MC DANIEL has contacted members of the WKKKKOM in Adams County, Mississippi, and has stated he would like to have the entire Cloverhill Unit of the WKKKKOM come into the United Klan of America accept for three members. MC DANIEL considers these three members undependable because of their excessive use of alcohol. These members are ERNEST AVANTS,

On April 26, 1965, JN T-3 advised that he had heard of no recent activity of ERNEST AVANTS in connection with Klan activities.

On April 8, 1965, JN T-1 advised that ERNEST AVANTS, Natchez, Mississippi, is in possession of a number of large billboard size pictures depicting MARTIN LUTHER KING in attendance at a Communist School and it is expected that these pictures will be displayed on billboards.

- 10 -

JN T-1 further advised that ERNEST AVANTS is very interested in the Minutemen organization and talks a great deal about revolution. He does not seem interested in actually joining the Minutemen. It has been brought out that each Minuteman knows only four other members of the organization.

On May 18, 1965, JN T-1 advised that ERNEST AVANTS, a member of the WKKKKOM, Adams County, Mississippi, is believed by many of his associates to be losing his mind. He traveled to a fishing camp out of Vidalia, Louisiana, on May 16, 1965, and had his wife and 7 year old son with him. AVANTS had strapped a .22 caliber pistol and holster on his 7 year old son's hip and was teaching him to shoot at logs in the Mississippi River. AVANTS was extremely drunk and was asked by other members of the fishing camp to leave the area or take the .22 pistol away from the small boy.

3) MISCELLANEOUS

On October 22, 1964, JOHN WILLIAM BARBER, 20 Beachwood Lane, Natchez, Mississippi, was interviewed by SA ROBIN O. COTTEN and during the course of this interview BARBER furnished the following information:

BARBER advised that on or about October 31, 1963, he was at a point on East Franklin Street near Orange Avenue across the street from a Tenneco Service Station in Natchez. At this time, which was in the afternoon, he met a friend, FRANK THURMAN who was in the company of two other friends, ERNEST AVANTS and JAMES GREER. He advised that GREER and AVANTS got into a white and black 1956 Oldsmobile and that THURMAN got into his car. He described his car as a 1959 Ford, creme over pink.

BARBER further stated that while parked at the above described location, he observed a white boy come out of a house occupied by a Catholic priest. He observed this white boy get into a gray Corvair with a Connecticut license. He stated that he followed AVANTS and GREER who were following the Corvair for a few blocks when the white boy stopped at the

- 11 -

home of a Negro. He was unable to state who lived at the house, but he states he observed the white boy look in his direction and make some kind of remark about "You SOB's following me."

Following this they returned to a point across the street from the priest's house and parked for about 15 minutes. He advised they observed the same Corvair return to the priest's house and the same white male enter the house. Shortly thereafter he observed this person come out of the house with some papers in his hands and got back into his Corvair. He again drove to the Negro's house and parked. BARBER stated that he and THURMAN along with GREER and AVANTS followed the Corvair but did not stop on this occasion. After circling the block and returning to the Negro's house he saw the Corvair going in the direction of United States Highway 61 North.

According to BARBER, the two cars followed the Corvair to Port Gibson, Mississippi, where the Corvair stopped at a service station.

The following investigation was conducted by SA WILLIAM F. DUKES on October 22, 1964:

On October 22, 1964, Investigator GWIN COLE signed an affidavit before Justice of the Peace M. C. FOSTER, Port Gibson, charging the following individuals with Assault and Battery with Intent to Kill and Murder, in connection with the October 31, 1963, assault of BRUCE LLOYD PAYNE by four individuals at Port Gibson:

> ERNEST HENRY AVANTS; JAMES KENNETH GREER; JOHN WILLIAM BARBER; and FRANK HYMAN THURMAN.

Judge FOSTER on the same date issued a Justice of the Peace Warrant for the four persons named above.

The above charges were based on Section 2011, Mississippi Code (Ann.) 1942, Assault and Battery - Intent

- 12 -

to Kill. The maximum penalty under this section is imprisonment in the penitentiary for not more than ten years or a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year or both.

On October 22, 1964, Investigator GWIN COLE signed an affidavit before Justice of the Peach THOMAS O'QUINN charging the individuals named below with Assault and Battery with Intent to Kill and Murder, in connection with the November 2, 1963, shooting into the car occupied by BRUCE LLOYD PAYNE and GEORGE GREENE near Fayette, Mississippi:

> ERNEST HENRY AVANTS; JAMES KENNETH GREER; and MYRON WAYNE "JACK" SEALE

On the same date Judge O'QUINN issued a Bench Warrant charging the three persons named above with Assault and Battery with Intent to Kill and Murder.

The above charges were based on Section 2011, Mississippi Code (Ann.) 1942, Assault and Battery - Intent to Kill. The maximum penalty under this section is imprisonment in the penitentiary for not more than ten years or a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year or both.

On April 20, 1965, JN T-1 advised that ERNEST AVANTS has stated that a group of persons in Adams County, Mississippi, have met with the Attorney General LENNOX FORMAN and Judge TORREY and have arranged to assist with the law enforcement operations. These individuals will attempt to spot gambling operations and liquor violations in Adams County. They will then call Sheriff ODELL ANDERS, Adams County, to the scene. They will give ANDERS sufficient time to arrive at the scene and if he does not come they will then call Attorney General FORMAN and advise him of the situation. The individuals will thereafter destroy the equipment themselves, and FORMAN is to later handle Sheriff ANDERS.

4) INTERVIEWS OF SUBJECT

- 13 -

Cover Sheet for Informant Report or Material FD-306 (3-21-58)

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

Date received. Received from (name or symbol number) Received by 4/1/65 SA BILLY BOB WILLIAMS Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks) in person by telephone by mail and orally recording device written by Informant If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:--Date of Report. Date 4/3765 4/1/65 "Brenda G. Jones Dictated Date(s) of activity 4/8/65 Transcribed 3/65 Authenticated by Informant Brief description of activity or material Activities WKKKKOM, Warren Co., Miss. Identity of new Exalted Cyclops, Warren County, Miss. Identity of individuals responsible for recent File where original is located if not attached burning of cafe patronized by members of COFO Vicksburg, Miss. Activities WKKKKOM, Adams Remorks: Co., Miss. Progress of White Christian Protective and Legal Defense Fund. Segregationist activities on the part of ERNEST AVANTS, Adams Co., Miss. 1 . 1 -1 - 157-Warren County, WKKKKOM 1 - 157-H. L. MILLER 1 - 157-JASPER BUFORD 2 - 157-Burning of Cafe, Vicksburg, Mississippi 1 - 157-(FNU) MENDROP 1 - 157-574 (WKKKKOM, Adams County) <u>1</u> - 157-2366 (WCPALDF 157-958-24A (1) - 157-ERNEST AVANTS 1 - 157-63 (WKKKKOM) 1 - 105-14 (OK of KKKK of Louisiana) 1 - 157-606 E. L. LEWIS Block Stamp 3 - New Orleans (RM) SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED Q **FILED** JACKSON

4/1/65 Adams County, Miss.

ACTIVITIES OF WKKKKOM, WARREN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI:

A meeting was held on 3/30/65, at Vicksburg, Miss., in a private home. The owner and exact location of this home are not known. There were 15 members of the WKKKKOM present. The meeting was presided over by the new Exalted Cyclops, H. L. MILLER, who is employed at an "ash plant" in the Vicksburg, Miss., area. The former Exalted Cyclops, JASPER BUFORD, is now the Assistant Exalted Cyclops.

It was noted that H. L. MILLER is a "wild talking" individual and appears to have a potential for violence. In addition to his other employment, he also is in the paint contracting business.

A man named J. K. GREER made a long talk at the meeting against violence and spoke at length about doing things in a legal manner. This was followed by a long question and answer period, during which GREER tried to tell the individuals present what they could and could not do in a legal manner.

PERSONS WHO RECENTLY BURNED A NEGRO CAFE AT VICKSBURG, MISS.:

It would appear from the general conversation conducted during this meeting that the two men who were recently arrested for assaulting a Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) worker in a cafe in Vicksburg, Miss., are the same individuals who later burned the same cafe. The cafe burning followed the beating by a period of only a few days and since the burning these two white males have been tried and placed on two years probation for beating the COFO worker. It would further appear that the local Klansmen in the Vicksburg, Mississippi, area intend to force these men out of the Klan.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)



The meeting place of the Warren County Klavern is rotated among the members and private homes are usually used. The members rendezvous at a central unknown point and are then directed to various private homes where the meetings are held.

JASPER BUFORD has mentioned in the past that the individual whose last name is MENDROP and who operates Mendrop Hardware, has not attended a meeting of the Warren County WKKKKOM since being visited and interviewed by Bureau Agents.

MISCELLANEOUS:

No information has been obtained relating to the bombing of two churches at Meridian, Mississippi, during the weekend of 3/27-28/65, or the burning of crosses in Concordia Parish, Louisiana, during the weekend of 3/27-28/65, or the activities of any individuals in the Jonesboro, Louisiana, area.

THE WHITE CHRISTIAN PROTECTIVE AND LEGAL DEFENSE FUND:

On about 4/29/65, the collection jug which had been placed at the Barbecue Pit Restaurant on Highway 61 North, near Natchez, Mississippi, was opened and a total of \$134.09 was taken from this jug for the White Christian Protective and Legal Defense Fund (WCPLDF). This place of business is owned by E. L. LEWIS.

2 -

A letter dated 3/30/65 was received from the Secretary-Treasurer of the WCPLDF recently. The contents of this letter are as follows:

> "Post Office Box 426 Jackson, Mississippi

"All County Chairman All Workers

NW 9008 DocId:59165323 Page 72


"A called meeting of the Board of Directors at Whitworth College, Brookhaven, Mississippi, on March 24, the Board instructed the Secretary to advise all County Chairman that due to the deplorable condition of some of the placards on the jars, they should be taken up and moneys deposited as per instructions with the exception that all money or checks be mailed to the fund's Post Office Box 426, Jackson, Mississippi, as well as any future correspondence.

"After the jars are in they should be cleaned and held. We will issue a new colored placard in about thirty days that will be eye-catching and the wording changed considerably.

"It will be greatly appreciated `f you gentlemen will do this promptly.

"Most sincerely, /s/ H. H. Heredeer Secretary-Treasurer"

ACTIVITIES OF THE WKKKKOM, ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI:

Most of the individuals recently interviewed in Adams County, Mississippi, and Franklin County, Mississippi, by Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have assumed the attitude that the Agents are letting them know they are still here and that they are watching them.

No members of the WKKKKOM in Adams County, Miss., are known to have gone to the State of Alabama during the recent racial trouble in that area.

- 3 -



MURRAY MARTIN, WINSBORO, LOUISIANA:

MURRAY MARTIN, who resides in Winsboro, Louisiana, presently holds the position of Imperial Wizard in the Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Louisiana.

ERNEST AVANTS,

ERNEST AVANTS has secured a number of billboard size photographs of MARTIN LUTHER KING, allegedly attending a communist function. These photographs were obtained from the White Citizens Council, Shreveport, Louisiana, and in the event KING ever enters this area, AVANTS intends to place the pictures on highway billboards in the immediate vicinity.

AVANTS has stated that he is well acquainted with the segregationist leader PEREZ from Southern Louisiana.

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Remarks:

Information contained in the enclosed report if used in a report being prepared for dissemination, should be suitably para phrased in order to adequately protect the identity of this informant.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D) On March 18, 1965, one copy of a letter to the Board of Directors, all County Chairmen and all Distirct workers of the White Christian Protective and Legal Defense Fund, Inc., from H. H. HEREDEEN, Secretary-Treasurer. This letter has been designated for inclusion in the substantive file relating to the White Christian Protective and Legal Defense Fund, Inc.

1 2 - 62 - 51 -1 - 105-4 (OKKKKOL) 2 - 157-471 (UKA) 1 - 157-293(R. P. 2 - 157-63 (WKKKKOM) "Reggie" Carter) 2 - 157-1519 (UKA, Adams County) 1 - 157-569 (WKKKKOM, 2 - 157-486 (E. L. McDaniel) Franklin County) 2 - 157-2366 (WCPLDF) 2 - Birmingham (RM) 2 - 157-18 (Sam Bowers) 2 - Mobile (RM) 2 - 157-945 (Billy Buckles) 7 - New Orleans (RM) 1 - 157-24 (Paul Foster) BBW:js 2 - 157-574 (WKKKKOM, Adams County) (60)1)- 157- 🗯 (Ernest Avants) 2756 1 - 157- 2)8/ (Henry Moore) 1 - 157-2769 (Monroe Bryant) 2 - 157-(URA, Lauderdale County) 2 - 157-343 (WKKKKOM, Lauderdale County) (UKA, Walthall County) 2 - 157-2 - 157-500 (WKKKROM, Walthall County) 1 - 157- (Percy Nettles) 1 - 157 (FNU Braswell) 2 - 157- 950 (James Seale) 1 - 157- 962 (Dale McLemore) 1 - 157-1819 (Reverend McLemore) (WKKKKOM, Warren County) 2 - 157-267 2 - 157-606 (Tinv Lewis) 1 -1 - 157-984 (WKKKKOM, Lincoln County) 1 - 157-(Ernest Avants) 1 - 157 - 290 (Marion House)

March 18, 1965 Adams County, Mississippi

ACTIVITIES OF E. L. MC DANIEL, GRAND DRAGON, UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC., REALM OF MISSISSIPPI

E. L. MC DANIEL has stated during recent conversations with members of the United Klans of America and the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi that he intends to break up the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in the state of Mississippi, and bring that organization entirely into the United Klans of America. It is his intention to unite the Klansmen in the entire state of Mississippi under the United Klans of America and to further place someone else besides himself in the position of leadership. MC DANIEL has not indicated why he does not intend to continue as leader. During talks with these individuals and the general public, MC DANIEL has "talked away" from advocating violence. He appears to wish the activities of the United Klans of America to be directed toward politics and education as a protest to desegregation.

MC DANIEL states he has "weeded out" the United Klans of America in order to get rid of agitators and to "clean up the outfit". In this regard, MC DANIEL has indicated that the United Klans of America utilizes the services of the wives of Klansmen, and that these women take an active part in Klan activities. They are educated in the Klan programs and are to be included in any Klan demonstrations.

MC DANIEL appears to have a personal vengeance against SAM BOWERS, the Imperial Wizard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi. He has spoken of the pictures of KRUSCHEV, CASTRO, The POPE, and other so-called enemies of the Klan which BOWERS keeps hidden under a sheet in his home. MC DANIEL has spoken of contacts with an individual from Meridian, Mississippi, who has knowledge of these items in BOWERS' home.

MC DANIEL has stated he has developed a unit of the United Klans of America at Meridian, Mississippi, and one of the more prominent members in this unit is BILLY BIRDSONG

On March 18, 1965, the following remark was overheard being made by MC DANIEL to J. K. GREER: "The Klan marched in Montgomery today". During this same conversation, MC DANIEL was overheard to remark that he had no intention of sending Klansmen from Mississippi to Alabama in the near future. He stated he wished he had one thousand men and that if he had one thousand men, he would take them to Alabama.

MC DANIEL has bragged that he tested the feelings of the ladies of the Natchez and Pilgrimage Garden Clubs, at Natchez, Mississippi, recently with regard to Klan activities. He states that these women "backed the Klan and the Klan can have a ticket anytime they want it". It is not known exactly what the test conducted by MC DANIEL consisted of but known members of the United Klan of America, Adams County, Mississippi, have been observed in the area of the various public functions conducted during the Natchez Pilgrimage. To date, there have been no incidents relating to the Pilgrimage in which known Klansmen were participants.

MC DANIEL is known to keep his various Klan supplies and publications in his home at Natchez, Mississippi.

E. L. MC DANIEL has denied any knowledge of the author or distributors of recently distributed hate pamphlets in the Natchez, Mississippi, area.

PLANNED RETALIATION AND DEMONSTRATIONS ON THE PART OF THE UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, MISSISSIPPI, TO PROTEST DESEGREGATION

E. L. MC DANIEL has stated he has written a letter to Governor PAUL B. JOHNSON of the state of Mississippi, in which he told Governor JOHNSON the United Klans of America will stage a large march in the state of Mississippi, if Negroes are allowed to march in the state of Mississippi in the manner in which they have been allowed to march and demonstrate at Selma and Montgomery, Alabama.

E. L. MC DANIEL has outlined a plan by which business houses owned by Negroes will be the target of retaliation against Negroes eating in heretofore segregated white restaurants. Under this plan, the Klan will send five robed Klansmen into a Negro cafe to stay for a period of several hours in an effort to ruin the business of this Negro establishment. The Klansmen will carry their own eating and drinking utensils but will order food in the restaurant. The plan is to consume a period of two to three hours drinking one cup of coffee or a bottled drink.

MC DANIEL has stated that any demonstration on the part of Negroew in the state of Mississippi will be followed or matched by a like demonstration on the part of the Klan.

During his discussions relating to retaliation against Negro business houses and demonstrations on the part of the Klan, MC DANIEL does not make statements which are inconsistent with his other statements advocating non-violence.

He professes to be sincere in his advocation of non-violence since he believes that by participating in violence, the Klan actually helps instead of hinders the desegregation process.

UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC., REALM OF MISSISSIPPI

I. Organization

E. L. MC DANIEL has stated that the United Klans of America training and organization consists of three phases. Phase one is known as Klan Kraft. It is taught to all members and works toward fellowship among the members. The wives of members are included in this training. MC DANIEL has not explained the exact details of this training but he has stated that the ordinary members of the United Klans of America know very little of the organization and structure of the organization and that nothing of any consequence is discussed in open meetings with them. He has stated that an FBI Agent could be present at a meeting, and the Klan would have no fear of this Agent learning anything of value.

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Phase two consists of information which is known only to the Exalted Cyclops of the various Klaverns and to the various state officials. This appears to be the phase or area of the Klan in which acts of violence or "dirty work" are planned and carried out. It appears from remarks made by MC DANIEL that "dirty work" can be planned and carried out by an Exalted Cyclops, and no other members of the organization including the Grand Dragon will be aware of what has been done.

Phase three consists of information which is known only to state officials and appears to be matters dealing with over-all state policy and the association with the National leaders of the United Klans of America.

E. L. MC DANIEL has stated that the handling of funds in the United Klans of America is very strict, and records and receipts are kept on every cent turned in by the various units to the state. The organization does not pay its members' expenses based on mileage. MC DANIEL has not indicated how members are reimbursed for travel on Klan business, only that they are not paid based on mileage.

E. L. MC DANIEL has stated that a state meeting of the United Klans of America will be held during May, 1965, and has indicated that this meeting will probably be held in Jackson, Mississippi.

II. Adams County

E. L. MC DANIEL has stated that the United Klans of America, Adams County, meets once a week, and has a "fair number" of members. Observations of the individual members indicate that this meeting is most probably held on Monday night. PAUL FOSTER is known to be the Exalted Cyclops of this organization which operates under the guise of being a civic organization known as the Adams County Civic and Betterment Association.

FOIA(b)(6)

FOIA(b)(7)

E. L. MC DANIEL has contacted members of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi, in Adams County, Mississippi, and has stated he would like to have the entire Cloverhill Unit of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi come into the United Klans of America, except for three members. MC DANIEL considers these three members undependable because of their excessive use of alcohol. These members are ERNEST AVANTS, and

PERCY NETTLES has attempted to convince members of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi in Adams County, Mississippi, to switch over to the United Klans of America.

(FNU) BRASSWELL who operates a small grocery store on Liberty Road in Adams County, Mississippi, which used to be known as the Davis Grocery and is now believed to be known as the Sandy Creek Grocery, is a known member of the United Klans of America.

R. P. "REGGIE" CARTER who operates a small grocery store on North Pine Street, Natchez, Mississippi, has been spreading the rumor that "TINY" LEWIS, a well known member of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi, in Adams County, Mississippi, is an informant of the FBI. This rumor is apparently being spread in order to cause discord among the members of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi and to get these members to join with the United Klans of America. CARTER is a member of the United Klans of America. A complaint has been made to E. L. MC DANIEL regarding this rumor being spread by CARTER. The complaint has been made by J. K. GREER who is Province Giant for Province Nine of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi.

III. Lauderdale and Walthall Counties

E. L. MC DANIEL has stated that units have been taken into the United Klans of America from the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi in Lauderdale and Walthall Counties. He has stated that the deciding factor which made these units come into the United Klans of America was their dissatisfaction with SAM BOWERS and BILLY BUCKLES. He made a point of the fact that the individuals in this area are "really down" on BOWERS and BUCKLES.

IV. Association with Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Louisiana, Concordia Parish, Louisiana

"TINY" LEWIS, a well known member of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi, in Adams County, Mississippi, has stated that the Vidalia Unit of the Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Louisiana in Concordia Parish, Louisiana, has gone over to the United Klans of America. LEWIS has also stated the Ferriday group at Ferriday, Louisiana, is considering changing to the United Klans of America. Since LEWIS has no known connection with the United Klans of America, the actual truth of this statement is not known.

Members of the Ferriday unit of the Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Louisiana, Ferriday, Louisiana, have indicated that their unit meets in a remote wooded area.

ORGANIZATION OF A NEW KLAN TYPE GROUP AT GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

HOUSTON MORRIS, Zachary, Louisiana, is the individual who recently approached DOUGLAS BYRD with regard to organizing a new Klan type organization at Greenville, Mississippi.

موجع مرجع

JAMES SEALE

Recently, JAMES SEALE who resides in Franklin County, Mississippi, and who was arrested during the Fall of 1964, as a participant in the murder of two young Negroes in Franklin County, Mississippi, approached a group of known Klansmen in Natchez, Mississippi. He told these individuals that in the event any FBI Agent made inquiries regarding SEALE that the Agent was to be directed to the SEALE home in Franklin County, Mississippi. SEALE stated he had something he wanted to try on the Agents. He then described the purchase and training of a large vicious dog which he said would take care of any Agent who came on his property.

The wife of JAMES SEALE is known to have been recently involved in a moderately serious automobile accident.

WARREN COUNTY, WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI

Individual members and officers of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi in the Natchez, Mississippi, area apparently have no knowledge of the person or persons who burned a cafe in Vicksburg, Mississippi, which had been serving members of the Council of Federated Organizations.

BILLY BUCKLES AND SAM BOWERS

BILLY BUCKLES is known to have a small box of alphabetized cards. In this card file, he keeps newspaper clippings regarding racial agitators and demonstrators. BUCKLES goes to great lengths to obtain newspaper clippings and other information regarding these various agitators in an effort to keep up with their activity. After the murder of the white minister at Selma, Alabama, during mid March, 1965, BUCKLES immediately produced a newspaper clipping reflecting racial activities several months prior to the murder on the part of this same white minister.

BILLY BUCKLES has told of having gone to the home of SAM BOWERS to investigate BOWERS' activity. BUCKLES stated that while he was in BOWERS' home, BOWERS was called away on business, and BUCKLES was left alone in the house. BUCKLES then searched the entire house "from top to bottom" and he has stated that all he found was a large amount of anti-communist literature. BUCKLES has stated he found nothing which would indicate BOWERS was a communist.

BILLY BUCKLES has stated that he wonders why BOWERS is such an extremist since he has no family and no close ties to any other individuals. BUCKLES along with many others of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi appear to be losing faith in BOWERS and seeking means by which they could unseat BOWERS as Imperial Wizard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi.

DISPOSITION OF FUNDS, WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI

Many members of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi, and the officers of that organization are becoming increasingly critical of the method by which Klan funds are being distributed and disposed of. The members are becoming increasingly aware that large amounts of money have gone into the Klan Treasury which cannot now be accounted for, and this is becoming a matter of great discontent.

BILLY BUCKLES, EARNEST GILBERT and SAM BOWERS have received large amounts of expense money since the organization of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi in the State of Mississippi.

The White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi is known to have spent approximately \$1,000 on the burial and aid to the family of a Klansman who died in jail at Greenville or Greenwood, Mississippi, after having been caught in the act of burning a cross.



EARNEST S. GILBERT

EARNEST GILBERT is a "smart, smooth, sharp" individual. He is the state Klan investigator for the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi, and is much respected among the individual membership.

Approximately one year ago, the Lincoln County Unit of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi arranged through DOUGLAS BYRD to have an individual residing in Lincoln County whipped because they believed this individual was helping to get Negroes registered to vote. This individual was one "DUDE" MORGAN who operated a billiard parlor at Bogue Chitto, Mississippi. BYRD agreed to furnish the men to carry out this beating from among the members of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi in Adams County, Mississippi.

A crew of men was sent from Natchez, Mississippi, to Bogue Chitto, Mississippi, to carry out the beating. They arrived at a fairly early evening hour at the billiard parlor owned by MORGAN and proceeded to play several games of billiards while awaiting the departure of the other As the crowd slowly thinned and the men waited customers. to approach MORGAN in privacy, an unknown individual entered the billiard parlor and called one of the men from Natchez by name. He asked the individual from Natchez to leave the billiard parlor and go outside to loan him an automobile jack. While outside, the individual told the man from Natchez that he had been sent by EARNEST GILBERT and that GILBERT wanted the whipping cancelled because he, GILBERT had found out that MORGAN had learned of the planned beating and had hired two gunmen to guard him and that these gunmen were upstairs over the billiard parlor waiting for the beating to start. The men from Natchez then left, and the beating was not carried out.

Members of the Klan do not feel that there actually were two men guarding MORGAN but feel that GILBERT had been smart enough to see that MORGAN was "too hot to handle" because of his association with one DOCK LEGGETT, a County

Supervisor in Lincoln County, Missisippi. The Klan feels that DOCK LEGGETT has almost the power of life and death over many individuals in Central Mississippi, and he is not sympathetic to Klan activities.

MEETING OF WHITE CITIZENS COUNCIL, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, MARCH 12, 1965

ERNEST AVANTS and "TINY" LEWIS attended a large gathering of the White Citizens Council which met at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on March 12, 1965. Also in attendance at this meeting was the powerful individual known as PEREZ from Southern Louisiana.

Another person in attendance at this meeting was MARION HOUSE, Adams County, Mississippi. HOUSE was one of the members of a delegation which called on Governor MC KEITHEN of the state of Louisiana in the name of the Citizens Council.

WHITE CHRISTIAN PROTECTIVE AND LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

During the week of March 12 - 19, 1965, the following letter was distributed to the Board of Directors, all County Chairmen and all District workers of the White Christian Protective and Legal Defense Fund, Inc.

> "THE WHITE CHRISTIAN PROTECTIVE and LEGAL DEFENSE FUND, INC., P. O. Box 426 Jackson, Mississippi March 10, 1965

"TO: Board of Directors

All County Chairmen

All District Workers

"To date we have received in the Fund \$2,675.22. This amount is about what could be expected at this stage. Only two jars have been reported and these had donations of \$850. "We have mailed out over 15 000 donation letters, but response from these letters has not been as good as expected and will be discontinued for the time. Solicitation for the present will be by personal contact. This is very effective, since many people would give in this manner who are, for some reason, afraid to have a check in the name of the Fund clear their bank.

"We are having printed in Jackson stickers to place on envelopes that read, "Support the Legal Defense Fund". Also, we will have printed placards to be placed in store windows, etc., something like this: "The Beatniks and Northern trouble makers who are harassing our people have the help of Government attorneys and unlimited financial backing from Madison Avenue, New York."... "The White Patriot has nothing to back him but his faith in God in his stand for decency". SUPPORT THE LEGAL DEFENSE FUND.

"If you have any suggestions, please let us have them. We find that most of the jars are doing well, especially where they are placed in a prominent place and talked up by the owner. We need chairmen in the following counties:

"Carroll	Lafayette	Tate
Grenada	Marshall	Noxubee
Holmes	Panola	Winston
Humphreys	Quitman	Choctaw
Issaquena	Tunica	Oktibbeha
Montgomery	Union	Lowndes
Sunflower	Tishomingo	Clay
T alla hatchie	Alcorn	Webster
Sh ark ey	Prentiss	Jasper
Yalobusha	It awa mba	Madison
Benton	Lee	Forrest
Coahoma	Pontotoc	Perry
DeSoto	Chickasaw	Greene
Tippah	Monroe	Wayne
Pe arl River	Leake	Jefferson Davis
Stone	Neshoba	Lamar
Wilkinson	Kemper	
Jefferson	Newton	
Claiborne	Clark	•

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"When mailing in monies or any correspondence, address the Fund at P. O. Box <u>426</u>, Jackson, Mississippi.

> "H. H. Heredeen Secy-Treasurer

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MISCELLANEOUS, WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI

DALE MC LEMORE, Natchez, Mississippi, was formerly a very active member of the Klan but now has little to do with it. He is a "real tough" individual, and he is employed by the International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi.

Reverend MC LEMORE, Crystal Springs, Mississippi, is the former state Chaplain of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi.

GRIP, WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI

The grip is given with the right hand. The two participants shake hands in the normal manner except that the index finger is bent inward and touches the palm of the hand prior to grasping the other participant's hand.

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7/17/64

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ERNEST HENRY AVANTS, Route 61 North, Natchez, Mississippi, furnished the following information after he was informed of agents identities and official capacity. Prior to the interview he was advised of his right to an attorney by SA STANLEY A. LEWCZYK. He was also advised that any statement he made could be used against him in a court of law.

When asked if he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan, AVANTS said, "You know if I was I wouldn't tell you, but I'm not." He denied present or past membership in the Klan and had no knowledge of their activities. Because of his drinking he did not think he would be acceptable to the Klan. He said he was a member of the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race.

He denied any personal knowledge of the missing three civil rights workers missing since June 21, 1964 in the Philadelphia, Mississippi area.

The following is a description of AVANTS obtained by observation and interview:

30

5' 10"

Age Height Weight Eyes Hair Employment

Remarks

165 pounds Green Brown, receding at the temples International Paper Company, Natchez Broken left front tooth; owner of house trailer in Fenwick, Mississippi, and has an unlisted telephone number at his home.

File ∦

Date dictated

157-2413 157-1962

157-958

7/6/64

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Natchez, Mississippi

SAS WILLIS BENNEPT &

STANLEY A. LEWCZYK/1:

7/6/64

by

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 22, 1964

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS, Route 1, Box 75-A, Highway 61 North, Natchez, Mississippi, was interviewed at the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol (MHSP) office, Natchez, Mississippi, in the presence of J. Y. THOMAS and N. Z. TROUT, officers of the MHSP, and Mrs. AVANTS. AVANTS voluntarily appeared at the Highway Patrol office, having heard that officers of the Patrol desired to talk to him. AVANTS was advised by SA TIMOTHY MICHAEL CASEY that he did not have to furnish any statement and that any statement he did furnish may be used against him in a court of law. He was also advised that he had a right to an attorney before making any statement.

AVANTS stated that he was born on January 23, 1931 in Lincoln County, Mississippi, and has been employed for the past 14 years by the International Paper Company as a washerman at Natchez, Mississippi.

AVANTS stated that he is not nor has he ever been a member of any of the various Ku Klux Klan (KKK) organizations. He advised that to his knowledge there are three different Klans operating within Adams County; one being the United Klans of America of which one ROBERT SHELTON is the leader; one Klan being the National KKK, and one Klan being the White Knights of the KKK of Mississippi. He advised that also operating in Adams County are representatives of the Minutemen and members of the American Nazi Party of which GEORGE ROCKWELL is leader. He advised that he is a member and is the 12th member of the Board of Governors for the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race (APWR), Chapter 1, Adams County, having assumed this position on June 6, 1963.

AVANTS advised that his wife is the president of the Ladies Auxiliary for the APWR, Chapter 1, Adams County,

On 10/21/64 ct Natchez, Mississippi	File# <u>JN_157-1092</u>
SA RAYMOND D. STOELTING and	^{JN} 157-958 ⁹³
by SA TIMOTHY MICHAEL CASEY/rlc	Date dictated10/21/64

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Mississippi. He stated that his organization does not "foster any form of violence against anyone, whether white or colored". He stated that he is an avid segregationist and "a good nigger is a dead nigger". He stated that so far, APWR has a membership of approximately 1600 members in Adams County. He said it is not customary or condoned for any member of the APWR to also be a member of any Klan organization. However, he believed that possibly there are members in his organization who may also be members of one of the KKK organizations. He stated that it was embarrassing to his organization when recently at McComb, Mississippi, one of the individuals arrested pertaining to the bombings in that area was found to be carrying a membership card of his organization and that such form of violence is not condoned by his organization. He stated that if it is known to the APWR that a member of APWR is a member of the Klan organization, the Board of Governors would request removal of the individual from the rolls of the APWR and pick up his card.

He stated that he believed in connection with the United Klans of America, that there are possibly as many as 600 members in Adams County. He said that it is his opinion that the White Knights of the KKK of Mississippi are not involved in any bombings. He advised that it is his opinion that the majority of the individuals possibly involved in the various bombings in the State of Mississippi are members of the United Group of the KKK of which SHELTON is their leader.

AVANTS did say that one E. McDANIEL is the active leader of the SHELTON group of the KKK's operating in Adams County, and that McDANIEL is a driver for the Red Ball Truck Lines, Natchez, and to his knowledge has been a member of the West Side Baptist Church at Natchez for the past three years.

AVANTS further advised that he did not desire to furnish the names of any individuals who were involved in

any of the various bombings. He stated that this group of individuals involved was a small militant group of the United Klan in this area. He said that he knows the identities of these individuals but refused to furnish their identities. He stated that he feels it would be difficult to obtain explosives or dynamite in Adams County; however, he stated that there is available in Pike County all types of explosives which would be readily available to anybody known to the area. He stated that he has no personal knowledge of anyone in Adams County in possession of dynamite or other explosives other than himself.

During the course of this interview he voluntarily expressed an opinion that a small militant group of members of the Klan were responsible for the bombings of the residence of Mayor JOHN NOSSER and the WILLIE WASHINGTON residence at Natchez, Mississippi. He said he has never resorted to the use of any type of explosives for any purpose and possessed no knowledge of the existence of dynamite in this area. However, he added a large quantity of explosives had been entrusted into his custody and care. He pointed out that he was not a member of the organization who furnished these explosives to him and refused to identify this particular organization. He stated that no weapons were included in this armament and consisted entirely of ammunition, hand grenades and a quantity of C-3 explosives.

According to AVANTS, this quantity of ammunition and armaments would be utilized only upon the instructions and command of the Governor of the State of Mississippi or the Sheriff of Adams County. At that time he indicated he would also receive instructions as to the ultimate disposition of these explosives. He described these explosives as being contained in metal containers of unknown sizes and power of detonation. Upon receipt of this ammunition and explosives he stated he personally concealed it in numerous locations in this area. He claimed he acquired knowledge of

the use of explosives through his military service and National Guard association. He identified his wife as the only other person who is in the possession of information as to the specific location of the explosives and ammunition originally concealed by him. He said he was unaware of the fact that this ammunition consisted of stolen U.S. Government property but indicated that the mark "U.S." appeared on a large quantity of this ammunition. He said that he believed that there are other caches throughout the country which contain the weapons to fire the ammunition in his possession, and that in case of an emergency these caches would be joined together for use.

AVANTS advised that he has knowledge as to the delivery and receipt of this ammunition; however, did not desire to divulge how this ammunition or arms had been turned over to him. He stated that he would be most happy to talk to the Governor of Mississippi on a personal basis, of whom he is a personal acquaintance and that if the Governor requested that this ammunition as such be made available to the State Police authorities, he would furnish such information to the State Police at the Governor's request.

AVANTS claimed the reason why he was entrusted with this ammunition was by reason of the fact that he was a member of the Masonic Lodge and he could be trusted completely with this material.

AVANTS stated that he did not desire to furnish a signed statement.

The following descriptive and background information was obtained_through observation and interview:

Name Race-Sex Residence Date of Birth Height Height ERNEST HENRY AVANTS White Route 1, Box 75-A, Highway 61 North, Natchez, Mississippi 1/23/31 Lincoln County, Mississippi 5°11"

> Weight Hair Eyes Marital Status

186 lbs.

Relatives

Sandy (crew-cut) Grey Married; wife GLADYS, two minor children

ESTON ALLEN AVANTS, father, Washington, Mississippi

BERTHA BEATRICE AVANTS, nee WILLIAMSON, mother, Washington, Mississippi

BESSIE ANN CRAWFORD, sister, Brooklyn Sub-Division, Natchez, Mississippi

MARY NELL MERRITT, sister, Steam Plant Road, Natchez, Mississippi (employed as school bus driver, Adams County, Mississippi)

12th grade; completed high school, Enterprise, Mississippi

1954-1958, saw mill operator, self-employed (claimed bankruptcy in this operation)

March, 1960 - March, 1963 Farming, Washington, Mississippi

1950 - present, employed by International Paper Company as Washerman, also presently raising saddle stock on his farm.

Physical disabilities None

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Education

Employment

Military Service

U.S. Army, Serial Number 53092353, Enlisted 9/24/51, discharged 6/25/53 from Korean War, honorable discharge Rank - Master Sergeant in Tank Corps.

Social Security No. 427-48-8842 Selective Service Local Board

Local Board #47, Brookhaven, Miss.

Organizations

Emanuel Baptist Church, LaSalle Street, Natchez, Mississippi

Masonic Lodge No. 1, Natchez, Mississippi, Third Degree

AFL-CIO, St. Catherine's Local 699, Paper Mill Workers

Americans for the Preservation of the White Race (APWR), Chapter 1, Adams County, Mississippi, from 6/6/63 to present, serving as member of Board of Governors

Scars Tattoos Arrests Admitted 1" scar over right eyebrow None Driving While Intoxicated, Hinds County, Mississippi, -5/-21/64, disposition unknown.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 23, 1964

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS, Route 1, Box 75-A, Highway 61 North, Natchez, Mississippi, was arrested at 2:55 p.m., October 22, 1964, at his residence by J. Y. THOMAS, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol (MHSP), in the presence of observing Agents ROBERT F. SAVARD, LENARD A. WOLF, and TIMOTHY M. CASEY, JR.

AVANTS signed a consent to search waiver for Officer THOMAS immediately after his apprehension. AVANTS was transported by Officer THOMAS in the company of SA CASEY to the MHSP headquarters at Jackson, Mississippi. AVANTS was advised by Officer THOMAS of his right to obtain an attorney before making any statement. He was also advised by Officer THOMAS that any statement furnished by him could be used against him in a court of law. AVANTS furnished the following voluntary information:

AVANTS advised that on or about October 31, 1963, he was distributing pamphlets promoting Governor JOHNSON in the Mississippi state election. He stated that on this day he observed a white male also distributing pamphlets promoting the election of one AARON HENRY, a Negro from Clarksdale, Mississippi. AVANTS stated that they had several heated words between them and the individual he now knows as (FNU) PAYNE spat at him. He stated that he chased PAYNE down the street in Natchez and PAYNE ran into a home housing a local Catholic priest. He said that at this time he was in the presence of JAMES KENNETH GREER, JOHN WILLIAM BARBER and FRANK THURMAN. He advised that PAYNE eventually came out of the house of the priest and entered a red 1963 Chevrolet (Hertz Rent-A-Car). PAYNE was accompanied by a Negro male and a Negro female both unknown to AVANTS. AVANTS advised that he followed PAYNE when he departed from the residence of the Priest. He stated GREER was driving

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On10/22/64	Jackson, Mississip	piFile#JN 157-958
by <u>SA TIMOT</u>	HY M. CASEY, JR./rlc	Date dictated <u>10/23/64</u>
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the car in which he was riding, which was a 1956 Oldsmobile belonging to GREER. He said also following PAYNE was a 1959 Ford driven by BARBER with THURMAN as his passenger. He stated that they followed PAYNE to Port Gibson where PAYNE stopped at a service station. AVANTS walked over to PAYNE who was standing near his vehicle and had words with PAYNE and he struck PAYNE with his fist and a fight ensued. He stated that he hit PAYNE several times and that PAYNE hit him on two occasions and cut the skin on his head. He advised that the Negro male and Negro female traveling with PAYNE were present during the fight and at one time the Negro male started toward AVANTS to offer assistance to PAYNE when at this time GREER, who was backing up AVANTS, told the Negro male"to stay where he was at". AVANTS stated that during this fight he broke his fist while hitting PAYNE. AVANTS told PAYNE after the fight was finished "don't come back to Adams County and show your tail any more". AVANTS said he also told the Negro female the same thing and she stated "Thank you, sir". AVANTS stated that at no time did GREER, BARBER or THURMAN strike PAYNE or either one of the Negroes accompanying PAYNE. He stated that evidently PAYNE did not heed his advice as to returning to Adams County, as upon his return to Adams County, he saw PAYNE in Natchez. He stated that when he, GREER, BARBER and THURMAN left PAYNE at the gas station at Port Gibson, Mississippi, they did not follow him from Port Gibson back to Natches and he was actually surprised to see PAYNE had returned to Natchez, Mississippi.

AVANTS further advised that he has not observed PAYNE or the Negro male and female in the Natchez area since the day of the beating.

AVANTS stated that he has had nothing to do with the shooting which occurred on November 2, 1963 into the 1963 red Chevrolet driven by PAYNE, however, stated that he had heard that this automobile driven by PAYNE was a rented car and that another car, a blue Chevelle driven by unknown individuals, had hemmed in PAYNE's car after a chase on a

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highway near Fayette, Mississippi. He stated that it was his understanding that another car also assisted this blue Chevelle in running PAYNE's car off the highway. He stated that PAYNE drove the car down an enbankment against a fence running along the highway, and that the two pursuing cars believed they had PAYNE's car hemmed in when suddenly PAYNE's car took off back up onto the highway. He stated that while PAYNE's car was near the fence, an unknown individual who had a gun in one hand and a chain in the other hand was approaching PAYNE's car when it drove away at a rapid speed. AVANTS advised he had not been told where the shooting had taken place as PAYNE's car returned to the highway or whether the shooting occurred while one of the pursuing cars was chasing PAYNE's car down the highway. AVANTS advised that he would not disclose the identity of the other individual involved in the incident nor would he divulge the identity of the individuals involved in this shooting. He stated he had heard that PAYNE's car had been hit by some of the shots fired. AVANTS stated he knows that this shooting took place on a Saturday as he knows the beating of PAYNE took place on the Thursday before this Saturday. AVANTS stated that he did not desire to say if he was present during the shooting and declined to state if MYRON SEALE or anyone else participated in the shooting.

AVANTS advised that he could recall no further information pertaining to either the beating or shooting involving PAYNE and that he would not under any circumstances furnish a signed statement; however, he advised that all the facts mentioned above are true.

NW 9008 DocId:59165323 Page 98

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 24, 1964

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS, Route 1, Box 75-A, Highway 61 North, Natchez, Mississippi, was interviewed by Officer J. Y. THOMAS of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol (MHSP) and in the presence of SA TIMOTHY M. CASEY, JR., at which time AVANTS, after being advised that any information he desired to furnish would be voluntary on his part and that statements made by him may be used in a court of law and that he had the right to obtain an attorney prior to making any statement, furnished the following information pertaining to his knowledge of the activities of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) in Adams County, Mississippi:

AVANTS said that he is not a member of the United KKK, the National KKK or the Mississippi KKK and stated that he has never been a member of any of the above organizations. AVANTS stated that he would be willing to furnish the identities of individuals whom he believed possibly members in any of the above organizations and as such advised that the following individuals to his belief are members of one of the above organizations:

ERNEST FINLEY, is now a member of the United Klan and is a close associate of MYRON WAYNE SEALE, also known as JACK SEALE, and is, in AVANTS' opinion, one of the leaders of the United group.

PAUL L. FOSTER, a member of the United group and former member of the Mississippi KKK and considered one of the leaders in the United KKK.

FRANK S. GASTON, former member of the Mississippi KKK, now an active leader in the United KKK.

(FNU) HANEY "OLE MAN", custodian of building where the Mississippi KKK formerly held their meetings on Morgantown

Road, Natchez, Mississippi, and believed to be now active in United KKK.

10/22/64 _____ Jackson, Mississippi File # IN 157-958 O_{n}

SA TIMOTHY M. CASEY: RLC

Date dictated <u>10/23/64</u>

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CHARLES E. JAMES, a former member of the KKK who is now one of the leaders of the United KKK; has a brother on the Natchez Police Department.

TOMMY L. JONES, former member of the Mississippi KKK; now one of the active members in the United KKK.

ED MC DONALD, open active leader of the United KKK at Natchez, Mississippi. MC DONALD has written letters to editor of local newspaper at Natchez promoting the organization of the United KKK in Adams County.

CECIL ROBERTS, former member of the Mississippi KKK who about the time of the bombing of Mayor JOHN NOSSER's residence at Natchez, departed from Natchez to the state of Alabama. Roberts was a member of the United KKK prior to his departure for Alabama. ROBERTS was employed by CHARLES E. JAMES, one of the active members of the United KKK prior to his departure for Alabama.

MYRON WAYNE SEALE, also known as JACK SEALE, former member of the Mississippi KKK and one of the most active leaders at the present time of the United KKK in Adams County. SEALE would at present possibly be in possession of dynamite which he (AVANTS) believed to have been received from the United Klan at McComb, Mississippi, in the recent past.

According to AVANTS, the above-named individuals are all active members of the United KKK in Adams County and all are capable, according to him, of utilizing violence to accomplish their ends in the segregation issue at hand.

AVANTS advised that during the Spring of 1964 in a fit of anger while intoxicated he, by himself, went to the Mississippi KKK meeting house on Morgantown Road and shot up the building with a .44 caliber pistol. AVANTS said he' does not know the extent of the damage inflicted by his shooting at the Klan house but he feels that this incident

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led to all of the above individuals leaving the Mississippi Klan and joining the United Klan. AVANTS stated that he would not furnish the information as to why there was the break-up in the Mississippi Klan and that his shooting up of the Klan house was for personal reasons which he did not wish to discuss.

AVANTS said he has heard from various sources that members of the United Klan have made statements to the effect that "they are going to hang me if they get a chance". AVANTS stated that the members mentioned above of the United Klan are "vicious".

AVANTS advised that although he is not a member of the KKK, "I'll have to fight for what the KKK stands for". He stated that he has a quantity of ammunition and explosions in his possession, however, stated that he would not furnish any information as to their whereabouts to any investigative agency, either Federal or State.

AVANTS advised that he has no knowledge of any individuals involved in any of the acts of violence committed outside Adams County.

In addition to the above information furnished, he furnished the following information when questioned as to various individual names.

CLAUDE FULLER - On one occasion some Negroes shot at him and set his car on fire.

ED FULLER - Operates juke joint, Natchez, Mississippi.

EDWIN B. KNOX - member of the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race (APWR)

ALLEN MC CALLISTER - "scared of his shadow"

CHARLES MARSHAL (believed to reside in Meridian), was involved

FOIA(b)(6) FOIA(b)(7) - (C)

> in automobile wreck near Fenwick which wreck was investigated by Officer Beasley of the MHSP who recovered two Klan robes in MARSHAL's car.

R. L. PARKER III and ERNEST B. PARKER (brothers) - extremely wealthy individuals. Own an island outside of Vicksburg. AVANTS has hunted on several occasions on this island.

J. G. WISNER (Negro) - AVANTS said Negroes killed his brother.

- Shot a Negro at HAYWOOD DRANE's place.

AVANTS stated that he did not work at the International Paper Company on September 24 or 25, 1964, however, went to work at 7:00 a.m. on September 26, 1964, and worked the 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. shift. He said that he heard about the bombing of Mayor NOSSER's house while at work on September 26, 1964. He stated that he could not recall his whereabouts on the previous evening; however, he believes he was at his residence.

AVANTS advised that he ordinarily reads the newspaper prior to going to work, however, could not recall on this morning of reading about the bombing of Mayor NOSSER's home and as best he recalls, somebody mentioned the bombing to him at work.

AVANTS said he believed the bombing was done by one of the members of the United KKK. He stated he possibly has a good idea who may have done the bombing but declined to furnish any names.

AVANTS stated he would not furnish a signed statement as to the facts set forth above.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date December 16, 1964

File # Jackson 157-958

Date dictated

12/11/64

DERNEST HENRY AVANTS, Route 61 North, was interviewed regarding the publicized and proposed integration of public accommodations and facilities in Natchez, Mississippi, by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on December 11, 1964. AVANTS said that he personally and people he had contacted in the matter, had all stated it was best to leave those integrating facilities alone and stay away from the areas. He advised he did not believe members of the Klan would attempt any violence of interference with the integration attempt and advised the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race in Natchez, have publicly informed local citizens to leave Negroes attempting integration alone and to stay away from the area. He said he believed the Klan's big idea at this time is to keep things quiet so the Federal Bureau of Investigation will leave town.

AVANTS said that he and other subjects arrested in connection with the assault case on BRUCE LLOYD PAYNE were released on \$2000 bond, weived preliminary hearing, and bound over to Grand Jury to convene at Port Gibson, Mississippi, during the first week of January, 1965.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency;

"Natchez, Mississippi

SA'S PETER R. DURLAND and

TIMOTHY CASEY: js

On_12/10/64

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

APPENDIX

ORIGINAL KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (LOUISIANA) (OKKKK)

A source advised on October 25, 1963 that in December, 1960, a group was organized at Shreveport, louisiana, known as the Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (OKKKK). The purpose of this organization was to promote Americanism, white supremacy, and the maintaining of segregation.

This source further advised on October 25, 1963, that the OKKKK continues to be active and that the aims and purposes continue to be the same.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI

A source advised that on February 15, 1965, approximately 200 members of the Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (OKKKK) from the State of Mississippi met at Brookhaven, Mississippi. Those present decided to defect from the OKKKK and to form their own Klan group in Mississippi to be known as the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi.

This source advised that the aims and purposes of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi are to preserve Christian civilization, protect and promote white supremacy and the segregation of the races, to fight communism and to extend the dignity, heritage and rights of the white race of America.

A second source advised on February 4, 1965, that the present membership of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi (WKKKKOM) is between 1,000 and 1,500 members and the organization has continued to operate in the State of Mississippi as an independent Klan organization with the same aims and purposes as when it was created in February, 1964.

APPENDIX

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