

Screened By:
Mary Kay Schmidt
Date: 03-28-2013
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Cover Sheet for Informant Report or Material
FD-306 (3-21-58)

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

Date received 3/3/65	Received from (name or symbol number) <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px;"></div>	Received by SA BILLY BOB WILLIAMS
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Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

☒ in person ☐ by telephone ☐ by mail ☒ orally ☐ recording device ☐ written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:-

Dictated 3/3/65 to MB (Roger Lee Cobb)

Transcribed 3/15/65

Authenticated
by Informant _____

Date of Report
MAR 3 1965

Date(s) of activity
1/1/64 - 3/65

Brief description of activity or material

Organization of WCPLDF and method of operation.
Meetings of state officers of WKKKKOM about
1/1/65 and 1/15/65. Assistance of UKA in
operation of WCPLDF. Activities of ODELL ANDERS
Sheriff, Adams Co., Miss. Leaflets dropped at
Neshoba Co. Fair, 1964. Beating of Negro in
Homochitto Forest near Natchez, Miss., 1964.
Shooting into Negro Masonic Lodge, Laurel Hill,
La., early 1964. UKA operations in Adams Co.,
Miss., as Adams Co. Civil and Betterment League.
Aircraft accident involving BILLY BUCKLES. Avail-
ability of aircraft at Adams Co., Miss., for use
by WKKKKOM. Activities and membership lists of
~~WKKKK~~, Concordia Parish, La. Membership lists and
officers of all WKKKKOM units in Province 9, State
of Miss.

File where original is located if not attached

- 3 - Bureau
- 1 -
- 2 -

(Copy count cont'd Page 2, Cover Sheet)
(209)

(2) Ernest H. Aprants

Open Dead
3/19/65
JA

157-958-22

157-2756-1
Block Stamp

Searched 8 Indexed 8
Serialized 8 Filed 8

MARCH 15 - 1965
FBI - JACKSON

[REDACTED]

copy count cont'd

- 1- 44-1 (MIBURN)
- 1- 157-2581
- 1- 157-2366, White Christian Protective and Legal Defense Fund (Enc 6)
- 2- 157- (GLENN SWETTMAN)
- 1- 157-2587 (I. H. "PETE" SHUMAKER)
- 1- [REDACTED]
- 1- 157-2618 (JAMES M. HOOPER)
- 1- 157-63 (WKKKKOM)
- 1- 157-36 (APWR)
- 1- 157-18 (SAM BOWERS)
- 1- 157-945 (BILLY BUCKLES)
- 1- 157-404 (J. K. GREER)
- 1- 157-946 (JULIUS HARPER)
- 1- 157-2621 (MEREDITH TATUM)
- 1- 157-2372 (GORDON LACKEY)
- 1- 157-2200 (JOHN BOSTICK)
- 1- 157-606 (E. L. "TINY" LEWIS)
- 1- 157-1107 (Sheriff RAINEY)
- 1- 157-471 (UKA)
- 1- 157-512 (ERNEST PARKER)
- 1- 157-815 (JACK SEALE)
- 1- 157-879 (CHARLES E. JAMES)
- 2- 157- (HENRY SAULS)
- 1- 157-2181 (HENRY L. MOORE)
- 2- 157- (M.L. HOUSE)
- 2- 157- (E. A. AVANTS)
- 2- 157- (LEROY TEMPLE)
- 1- 157-2169 (FRANK H. THURMAN)
- 2- 157- (BUDDY SKATES)
- 2- 157- (MONROE BRYANT)
- 2- 157- (DUDLEY KEPFER)
- 2- 157- (WOODROW WILSON)
- 2- 157- (ED HINSON)
- 2- 157- (QUINCY HINSON)
- 2- 157- (DUANE HINSON)
- 2- 157- (EARL W. STAFFORD)
- 2- 157- EARL STAFFORD

[REDACTED]

- 2- 157- (F. C. KLAR)
- 1- 157-2209 (J. W. BURCHFIELD)
- 1- 157- (ERNEST H. AVANTS)
- 2- 157- (LOUIS NALL)
- 2- 157- (O. T. PALMER)
- 2- 157- (FNU) PHARES)
- 1- 157-1636 (GERALD GRAY ROXIE)
- 1- 157-14 (DOUGLAS BYRD)
- 1- 157-817 (ODELL ANDERS)
- 1- 157-486 (E. L. MC DANIEL)
- 1- 157-2208 (JOHN BARBER)
- 1- 157-574 (WKKKKOM Activity, Adams County)
- 1- 157-787 (ERNEST FINLEY)
- 1- 157-613 (TOMMY L. JONES)
- 1- 157- (Burning of Masonic Lodge, Laurel Hill, La.,
February, 1964)
- 1- 62-5
- 1- 157-2627 (JOHN NOSSER)
- 1- 157-1497 (JOE NOSSER)
- 1- 157-2201 (ED FULLER)
- 1- 157-1519 (UKA, Adams County)
- 1- 157-24 (PAUL FOSTER)
- 2- 157- (C.L. WHEELER)
- 1- 105-14 (OK of KKK OF LOUISIANA)
- 1- 157-342) (NESHOPA COUNTY)
- 2- 157- (DON WILKINSON)
- 2- 157- JAMES STURGIS
- 2- 157- WENDELL HINSON
- 2- 157- (JOE HARDY)
- 1- 157-2172 (JERRY SAULS)
- 1- 157-2172 (JERRY LEE)
- 1- 157-2182 (JAMES L. MC KINNEY)
- 2- L. E. MC MANUS
- 2- BOBBY ANDERSON
- 2- O. K. GERMANY
- 1-157-987 (BILLY WOODS)
- 2- (BOBBY ANDERSON)
- 2- E. L. TORGERSON
- 2- ALLEN BRYANT

[REDACTED]

1- [REDACTED]
1- 157-608 (A. C. HARRINGTON)
1- 157-1440 (RALPH EDWARDS)
2- BILLY EDWARDS
1- 157-13 (WKKKKOM, Yazoo County)
1- 157-1441 (JASPER BUFFORD)
1- 157-570 (WKKKKOM, Jefferson County)
1- 157-1435 (ROGER SMITH)
2- (CARLISLE DODD)
2- (J. B. MANGUM)
2- (FNU) BURK)
1- 157-572 (WKKKKOM, Wilkinson County)
1- 157-957 (BUFFORD ASHELY)
2- (DICK CRIM)
2- (OSCAR CLANTON)
2- (E. R. STOREY)
2- (WILLIAM SPRINGS)
2- (ELWIN SPRINGS)
2- (CLAUDE SPRINGS)
2- BILL DILLON
2- W. T. CLOY
2- UASTIN PICKERING
2- J. C. ALDREDGE
2- "FIG" ALDREDGE
2- CLAUDE GRIFFIN
1- 157-932 (PAUL GRIFFIN)
1- 157-954 (BERNICE BEASELY, MHSP)
1- 157-2201 (EDWARD FULLER)
1- 157-796 (C. W. FULLER)
2- R. P. CARTER
1- 157-2177 (JIMMIE WHITE)
1- 157-855 (CALVIN CLARK)
1- 157-1522 (GEORGE NOSSER)
2- (MARVIN MC KINNEY)
2- 157- (CHARLES BELK)
2- (HAROLD BURKETT)
2- (W. T. ALLEN)
1- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- 1- 157-2204 (NELSON HANEY)
 - 1- 157-694 (SIDNEY HANEY)
 - 1- 157-2185 (ALLEN MC CALLISTER)
 - 2- (EARL WHEELER)
 - 2- (FRANK DUNNIGAN)
 - 2- ('PEANUT' CARNELL)
 - 2- (S. R. TREVILLION)
 - 1- 157-634 (J. G. WISNER)
 - 2- (C. R. TYNES)
 - 1- 157-690 (LEE PARKER)
 - 1- 157-951 (CLYDE SEALE)
 - 2- (DAVID NASH)
 - 2- (D. C. GRIFFIN)
 - 2- ('BULL' JONES)
 - 2- (WILLY RAY COWART)
 - 2- (LLOYD YOUNG)
 - 2- (157- (SAM ROBERTSON)
 - 2- 157- (R. A. PERRY)
 - 2- 157- (FNU) SUMARALL)
 - 2- 157- (GORDON VINES)
 - 1- 157-568 (WKKKKOM), Amite County)
 - 2- 157- (ALFRED COTHREN)
 - 1- [REDACTED]
 - 1- 157-569 (WKKKKOM, Franklin County)
 - 1- 157-2211 (UNSUB), FRANK MORRIS)
 - 3- New Orleans
 - (1 - 157- (UNSUB; FRANK MORRIS)
 - (1 - 157- (BURNING OF MASONIC LODGE, LAUREL HILL,
LOUISIANA, February, 1964)
 - (1 - 157- (ACTIVITIES OK of KKK, Concordia Parish, La.)

Remarks:

On 3/3/65, [REDACTED] furnished the following items:

1. Return envelope to White Christian Protective and Legal Defense Fund (WCPALDF)
2. Letter from WCPALDF
3. Bank draft payable to WCPALDF
4. Articles of Formation WCPALDF
5. Letter to Board of Directors WCPALDF
6. News Release for WCPALDF

These items have been designated as enclosures to the substantive file pertaining to WCPALDF.

March 3, 1965

Adams County, Mississippi

WHITE CHRISTIAN PROTECTIVE AND LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

A short time after the Grand Jury indictment regarding the individuals arrested in Neshoba County with relation to the murder of the three civil rights workers, persons who were subscribers to the "Southern Review", a newspaper printed in Jackson, Mississippi, received a letter from ELMORE D. GREAVES, Editor of the "Southern Review." This letter was on the letterhead stationery of the White Christian Protective and Legal Defense Fund (WCPALDF) and named ELMORE D. GREAVES the State Chairman. The return address on this letter was Post Office Box 426, Jackson, Mississippi. The Board of Directors was given as Mr. GLENN SWETTMAN, Biloxi, Mississippi; Mr. I. H. PETE SHUMAKER, Kosciusko, Mississippi; Rev. DELMAR DENNIS, Meridian, Mississippi, and JAMES M. HOOPER, Sidon, Mississippi. SWETTMAN and HOOPER are known to be members of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi. SWETTMAN is a Province Giant in an unknown province, possibly Province 1 or 2. This letter requested the receiver to contribute money to the defense of any "white christian patriot" who has or may be indicted and forced to stand trial for some real or imagined infraction of the communist-inspired Civil Rights Act. Some of these letters were accompanied by a sheet containing the articles of formation of the organization and rules and procedures for the placing and collection of jars to be used in collecting money for the organization. A bank draft to be drawn through the Jackson-Hinds Bank, Jackson, Mississippi, was also included with the letter.

A meeting was held on or about January 1, 1965, at the Heidleburg Hotel, Jackson, Mississippi, for the purpose of obtaining the backing of the WKKKKOM in support of the WCPALDF. In attendance at this meeting were: SAM BOWERS, BILLY BUCKLES, J. K. GREER, PETE SHUMAKER, JULIUS HARPER, ELMORE GREAVES, MEREDITH TATUM, Jackson, Mississippi, GORDON LACKEY, Province Giant of Leflore County, Mississippi,

JOHNNY BOSTICK, Natchez, Mississippi, E. L. "TINY" LEWIS, Natchez, Mississippi, and about eight other individuals. The meeting was held in a petitioned dining room of one of the upper floors of the Heidleburg Hotel.

The meeting was opened by SAM BOWERS, much in the same manner in which a regular Klan meeting would be opened, with a word of prayer and a short discussion of the situation with relation to the arrests of the individuals at Neshoba County and Meridian, Mississippi. BOWERS thereafter introduced MEREDITH TATUM.

TATUM stated he had recently traveled to Philadelphia, Mississippi, as a representative of the "Southern Review" newspaper and had interviewed Sheriff RAINEY. TATUM discussed his conversation with Sheriff RAINEY and the fact that these individuals were being persecuted and harassed. He thereafter discussed the fact that he and other individuals had established the WCPALDF in an effort to raise money for the legal defense of the individuals arrested, as well as any other persons arrested in the State of Mississippi on civil rights charges.

At the conclusion of the talk by MEREDITH TATUM, ELMORE GREAVES who had left the meeting for a few minutes returned and he also made a talk on the need for defense funds for individuals arrested on civil rights charges. SAM BOWERS again took the floor of the meeting and discussed the instructions for the collection of money and the way in which the operation for collection would be organized. Each Province Giant signed for and received 100 placards for each county in his province. BOWERS explained that these cards carried a serial number and were to be attached to gallon jars and subsequently placed in places of business for the collection of money. BOWERS further stated the jars were to be sealed with wax and he gave considerable instruction in their preparation. He said the Province Giants would be held responsible for each placard furnished.

BOWERS advised the Province Giants to return to their provinces and secure a county chairman for the fund drive in each county. These county chairmen were preferably not to be members of the WKKKKOM. Persons were to be recruited to assist the county chairman in the distribution of the collection jars. It was also preferable that these individuals not be members of

the WKKKKOM. The actual distribution and the places selected for depositing the jars were to be up to the county chairman involved. BOWERS stressed the fact that the WKKKKOM would be in complete charge of the money and the drive at all times.

BOWERS stated that a person-to-person drive was to be pursued in an effort to collect larger amounts of money from more wealthy individuals. These person-to-person contacts were to be carried out by the county chairman and his assistant.

BOWERS said that the county chairman and his assistants were not to have knowledge that the campaign was being handled by the WKKKKOM.

The following is the procedure outlined by BOWERS for picking up the jars after money has been contributed.

The order to pick up a jar must originate with the Board of Governors who will either advise the Province Giant involved or the county chairman involved that the jar is to be picked up. Thereafter, a county chairman or one of his assistants will go to the business place involved, where he will detach the placard with the serial number and on the back, enter the name of the establishment. The assistant will then unseal the jar in the presence of the establishment owner, and the two of them will together count the money. The assistant will furnish the owner of the establishment a receipt in the amount of the money contained in the jar. He will also enter this amount on back of the placard. The assistant will then go to a bank and obtain a cashier's check in duplicate for the amount of the money in the jar. He will return a duplicate of the cashier's check to the owner of the establishment for display to the public in order that the public may know where the money went. The cashier's check will be made payable to the WCPALDF. The check will thereafter be handled through the chain of command back to the Province Giant involved, who will in turn mail the check for deposit to the WCPALDF, Jackson-Hinds Bank, Post Office Box 979, Jackson, Mississippi. The Province Giant does not mail the money in; the county chairman mails the money in to the bank. The county chairman

retains the used placard and in the event the jar is used a second time, a new placard with a new serial number is attached.

SAM BOWERS explained that the Board of Directors of the WCPALDF was eventually to grow in number to a total of ten, which would include two persons from each congressional district in the State of Mississippi. At least six of these members were to be members of the WKKKKOM. The Board of Directors is to decide who gets money from the fund and the amount. As much of the money as possible is to be furnished to members of the WKKKKOM.

After the speech by BOWERS, ELMORE GREAVES again took the floor and discussed the possibility of individuals being approached by Agents of the FBI. GREAVES is a member of the WKKKKOM and is a past prosecuting attorney in the State of Mississippi. He told the persons present at the meeting that in the event they or any other persons were approached by Agents, that that person should immediately ~~say~~ the Agent he did not wish to make any statement whatsoever, or he could ask what the Agent wished to discuss with him, and in the event the Agent wanted to talk about something involving civil rights, the person could say he would discuss anything except civil rights. In the event the Agent persists in attempting to interview the individual, the individual can ask the Agents if they have a court order or a warrant for the individual's arrest. If the Agent has either a court order or a warrant for arrest, the individual questioned still does not have to talk with the Agent until he obtains counsel from a lawyer. He can thereafter confer with his lawyer prior to answering any questions. GREAVES stated that in any event, the individual should obey the advice of his lawyer. This talk by GREAVES concluded the meeting.

The described meeting was held on a Sunday afternoon beginning at 5:00 PM.

At the first meeting, instructions were given for a second meeting to be held the next Sunday at 5:00 PM. No oral instructions were given at the first meeting, only diagrams and words printed on a blackboard. The instructions

were for persons attending the meeting to go to Westland Plaza, Jackson, Mississippi, at 5:00 PM on the meeting day and park near the bank in Westland Plaza facing Ellis Avenue, where further instructions would be given.

On the meeting date, at 5:00 PM, the assembled visitors were instructed by SAM BOWERS on how to reach the meeting place. The driver of each automobile was also furnished a password.

Members thereafter, following BOWERS' instructions, traveled out Highway 18 toward Raymond, Mississippi, for a distance of about four miles, while they turned left into a pasture near a large pond and through a cattle gap with a large iron post on each side of the cattle gap. A guard was stationed near this cattle gap and each driver was required to give the password involved. The meeting place was held in a house about 200 yards on into the pasture from the cattle gap.

The purpose of this meeting was to receive progress reports from each Province Giant and the recommendations for any changes. The province Giants also reported the names of the county chairman he had designated. GORDON LACKEY who was in attendance, attempted to recommend some changes in the operation to SAM BOWERS, but BOWERS rejected any changes. The persons attending this meeting were generally the same as those who had attended the first meeting with the exception of ELMORE GREAVES and BILLY BUCKLES, who were absent.

Subsequent meetings are being held and instructions for each succeeding meeting are given out at each meeting.

A meeting open to the press was held in relation to the WCPALDF on the Thursday following the second closed meeting. This open meeting was held at the Heidelberg Hotel and mention of it was made in the press.

The amount of money collected in the jars which have been distributed over the state varies widely on an area basis. Collections in the Delta area of Mississippi are known to be very heavy. In particular, one jug at Shaw, Mississippi, was collected and determined to contain

\$600. An individual who is a member of the board of supervisors for the county in which Shaw, Mississippi is located is known to have contributed \$500 in a lump sum to the fund. A check in the amount of \$200 is known to have been received from a woman residing in Biloxi, Mississippi. Collections in southwest Mississippi have been poor. There appears to have been no distribution of the collected funds to date.

There has been no direct assistance on the part of United Klans of America in the operation of the WCPALDF but various individual members are known to have assisted in the distribution of the collection jars and in verbally promoting the fund. Specifically involved in assistance are ERNEST PARKER, Natchez, Mississippi, JACK SEALE, Natchez, Mississippi, CHARLES JAMES, Natchez, Mississippi.

The county chairman for Adams County, Mississippi is TULLY SEALE, who is not known to be a member of any klan organization.

The county chairman for Wilkinson County, Mississippi, is Mrs. MYRTLE WISNER, a Justice of the Peace, who has no known connection with any klan-type organization.

TERMINOLOGY USED BY MEMBERS OF WKKKKOM

MAYAK Mississippi are you a klansman

The answer to above is KAM, which means klansmen are meeting. This question and reply are used in order to enter a klavern meeting.

KINY Klansman, I need you. This is a call for help.

ACTIVITIES OF ODELL ANDERS, SHERIFF, ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

ANDERS was originally taken into the WKKKKOM as a secret member during the reign of DOUGLAS BYRD as Grand

Dragon of the State of Mississippi. He thereafter attended at least one klavern meeting in Adams County, Mississippi, where he was questioned by the klavern members as to his feelings regarding klan activities. ANDERS stated at that time that he was sympathetic to the organization's aims, but counseled them against any violence and further stated that in the event members were caught participating in acts of violence, there would be nothing he could do to assist them. It is pointed out that he was originally taken into the WKKKKOM prior to the time he was elected Sheriff, but at that time he was participating in the Sheriff's race.

Sheriff ANDERS is now regarded by the WKKKKOM as untrustworthy in matters relating to the klan and is giving no known active assistance to the klan. Several of the more ardent members regard him as a definite enemy and a turncoat, in that they believe he has furnished an unnecessary amount of information to the Federal authorities. This situation is also true of some known members of the United Klans of America (UKA), including JACK SEALE and ERNEST PARKER. ANDERS is particularly dispised by E. L. MC DANIEL, Grand Dragon of the State of Mississippi, UKA, Knights of the KKK, Inc.

ACTIVITIES OF THE WKKKKOM IN MISSISSIPPI DURING 1964

During the time of the Neshoba County Fair, a number of leaflets were dropped from an airplane on the fairgrounds as well as in downtown Philadelphia. These leaflets were the idea of SAM BOWERS and were probably prepared by him. BOWERS took the leaflets to Natchez, where he arranged for a pilot to drop them in Neshoba County. Approximately 20,000 leaflets were involved. The leaflets were dropped from an airplane belonging to ERNEST PARKER, Natchez, Mississippi. The pilot was J. K. GREER of Natchez, Mississippi, and he was accompanied by an individual whose first name is not known, last name HALL, the operator of an outboard motor repair shop in Natchez, Mississippi.

BOWERS' idea in dropping these leaflets was to belittle the Federal authorities and encourage the people of Neshoba County during the investigation of the murder of the three civil rights workers in Neshoba County. BOWERS arranged for a state meeting of the WKKKKOM on the fairgrounds the following day. This meeting was attended by approximately 50 klansmen, who met and quickly broke up into small groups and wandered around the fairground throughout the day.

SAM BOWERS is not known to have ever stated he had any firsthand knowledge relating to the murder of the three civil rights workers in Neshoba County.

Soon after the search began during the summer of 1964 for the three murdered civil rights workers, JULIUS HARPER attended a meeting of the WKKKKOM in Adams County, Mississippi, during which he stated there was nothing to worry about with relation to these murders and that the bodies would never be found. He indicated he had contacts in Neshoba County who were advising him on the matter and it was his feeling that this was a job well done.

One of the individuals believed involved in the beating of a Negro male in the Homochitto Forest in 1964 and forcing this individual to drink a bottle of castor oil was JOHN BARBER. During the incident, BARBER's car, a Ford automobile, was damaged and a taillight was broken. A portion of this taillight was subsequently left intentionally in a car and was stolen by a klansman and disposed of. BARBER replaced the taillight with one he had purchased at Gibson's Discount Center in Natchez. None of the other participants in this incident are known.

The general membership and officers in and near Adams County, Mississippi, of the WKKKKOM have no knowledge as to who committed the acts of murder on Negroes in Wilkinson County and on the Kingston Road near Natchez

during 1964. The Negro who was murdered in Wilkinson County was CLIFTON WALKER and the Negro who was murdered on the Kingston Road in Adams County was RICHARD JOE BUTLER. These murders and similar acts of violence have been the topics of conversation among the klansmen of Adams County in the past and there has been much speculation as to who is responsible.

ARCHIE CURTIS, a Negro undertaker at Natchez, Mississippi, was most probably beaten during 1964 by ERNEST FINLEY, ERNEST PARKER, JACK SEALE, and possibly others. SEALE and the others had firsthand knowledge of where and when the act took place, but no admissions have ever been made regarding the incident.

As far as concerns the various burnings and bombings in the Natchez, Mississippi area during 1964, very little of the actual circumstances of the activities are known to the average klansman and none of the actual participants are known. It is the feeling among members of the WKKKKOM that some of these acts were committed by individuals who are now associated with UKA.

TOMMY JONES, Natchez, Mississippi, and at least one other person went to Laurel Hill, Louisiana during early 1964 and shot into a Negro masonic lodge in that area. They are not known to have attempted to burn this building, however.

Members of the WKKKKOM in Adams County are not known to have any knowledge of the murder of the two Negro boys in Franklin County, whose bodies were found in the Mississippi River.

Shortly after the bombing of the home of Mayor JOHN NOSSER in Natchez, Mississippi, during September 1964, JOE NOSSER, a son of the Mayor, appeared at a meeting of klansmen in the home of ED FULLER, on Liberty Road in Natchez, Mississippi. During this meeting, he explained he desired to know if anyone had any knowledge of who might

have bombed his father's home and the reason for the bombing. NOSSER attempted to explain his father's position in local politics and the fact that he did not believe his father had done anything which would merit the bombing of his home. It was NOSSER's belief that the bombing had been done by the klan, but he did not know whether it was the UKA or the WKKKKOM. It is believed by the WKKKKOM that the bombing of Mayor NOSSER's home was done by members of the UKA, Inc.

Members of the WKKKKOM conducted investigations during the summer of 1964 in an effort to learn who was responsible for distributing a letter defaming the actions of Chief of Police J. T. ROBINSON of the Natchez Police Department. This letter appears to have been written and distributed by members of the Sligo group of the WKKKKOM which is made up predominantly of members from the Kingston area of Adams County.

The UKA, Incorporated are operating in Adams County, Mississippi, under the guise of a civic organization called the Adams County Civic and Betterment League. The leader in this operation is PAUL FOSTER.

PAUL FOSTER has attempted to establish liaison with members of the WKKKKOM in the Adams County area.

During recent months, SAM BOWERS has expressed a nominal amount of concern regarding the number of defecting White Knights into the ranks of the UKA.

Recently BILLY BUCKLES and C. L. WHEELER were involved in the crash of an airplane at Louisville, Mississippi. BUCKLES and C. L. WHEELER had traveled to Louisville with BUCKLES as the pilot in order for WHEELER to visit with his aunt and uncle. During the course of the landing, the crash took place. These individuals were not engaged in klan activity at that time.

An individual named MOODY JORDAN operates a flying service at the Natchez, Mississippi airport. JORDAN is not a member of the klan, but his aircraft are

used on klan business periodically without his knowledge of the purpose. He rents aircraft and instructs student pilots.

BILLY BUCKLES has recently acquired a pilot's license and frequently visits the Adams County airport and flies aircraft he rents from the Jordan Flying Service.

ERNEST PARKER is still parking his aircraft on a private strip on his own property in Adams County, Mississippi.

ACTIVITIES IN CONCORDIA PARISH, LOUISIANA

Members of the Original Ku Klux Klan of Concordia Parish maintain liaison with members of the WKKKKOM in Adams County, Mississippi. The Original KKK of Concordia Parish is presently engaged in extensive acts of burning of juke joints and houses of prostitution in and around Vidalia and Ferriday, Louisiana. Members of this organization feel that they can commit these acts without incurring opposition from the Federal Government, as they are white-owned and operated, and no Negroes are involved. It is not known whether or not the Original KKK of Concordia Parish was responsible for the burning of a shoe shop owned by FRANK MORRIS, who was killed in the blaze.

The Original KKK of Concordia Parish also is distributing a printed letter called the "Fiery Cross" in which they name individuals who are engaging in bi-racial sexual activity and they take issue with the local authorities of Concordia Parish. The most recent of these letters was distributed by airplane over Vidalia and Ferriday, Louisiana on the night of February 27, 1965.

The individuals most probably responsible for the burnings in Concordia Parish and the most probable participants are the following:

1. "HANK" HOWINGTON, employed by International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi. Residence Ferriday, Louisiana

2.

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

3.

4. JIMMIE SCARBOROUGH, employed International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi. Residence Ferriday, Louisiana

JIMMIE SCARBOROUGH is the Exalted Cyclops of the Original KKK of Concordia Parish in the unit located at Ferriday, Louisiana.

There is a separate klavern of the Original KKK of Concordia Parish located at Vidalia, Louisiana. The Exalted Cyclops of this Unit is not known.

So far as known, the Original KKK of Concordia Parish is affiliated with the Original KKK of Louisiana.

The copies of the "Fiery Cross" which are being distributed in Concordia Parish are written and prepared by BILLY BUCKLES of the WKKKKOM in Natchez, Mississippi. BUCKLES utilizes information obtained from the individuals in the Original KKK of Concordia Parish and prepares the paper as a courtesy since it is generally felt there is no one in the Original KKK of Concordia Parish with sufficient education and intelligence to prepare the communication.

The following are known members of the Original KKK of Concordia Parish:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Residence</u>
"HANK" HOWINGTON	International Paper Company, Natchez, Miss.	Ferriday, Louisiana

<u>Name</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Residence</u>
"BROTHER" HOWINGTON	International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi	Ferriday, Louisiana
JAMES AVANTS	International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi	Ferriday, Louisiana
JIMMIE SCARBOROUGH	" "	" "
CHARLES WHITE	" "	" "
CHARLES SUTTON	" "	" "
HARVEY BRUIT	" "	" "
SCOTTY WRIGHT	" "	" "
O. L. TYSON	" "	" "
"BUD" SPINKS	City Marshal, Vidalia, La.	Vidalia, Louisiana
JOEL FREEMAN	International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi	Vidalia, Louisiana
(FNU) FREEMAN (brother of JOEL)	" "	Vidalia, Louisiana
V. E. CHISHOLM	" "	" "
CLINT ELLES	" "	" "
LAVON BURGESS	" "	" "
A. J. GARDNER	" "	" "
JIM ALVESTER	" "	Booker Road, Natchez, Miss. Vidalia, La.
J. D. KING	John's-Manville Products Company, Natchez, Miss.	Vidalia, La.
BEN DUNKIN	International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi	Vidalia, La.

ORGANIZATIONS PROVINCE 9, WKKKKOM, STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

The Province Giant of Province 9 is J. K. GREER, Natchez, Mississippi. He is employed by the International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi. There is presently no province investigator in Province 9.

Province 9 is made up of Yazoo County, Warren County, Claiborne County, Jefferson County, Adams County, and Wilkinson County, Mississippi.

In Yazoo County, the Exalted Cyclops is RALPH EDWARDS, an individual who operates a television business at Yazoo City. His brother is BILLY EDWARDS, who is also a resident of Yazoo City, Mississippi. This unit is believed to consist of approximately 25 active members.

There is one recognized unit in Warren County, Mississippi. The Exalted Cyclops of this unit is JASPER BUFFORD, whose employment is not known, but he is believed to be a resident of Vicksburg, Mississippi. A former Exalted Cyclops in the Warren County Unit is (FNU) MENDROP, who operates Mendrop Hardware in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

There are no units in Claiborne County, Mississippi and there are no known members of the WKKKKOM residing in Claiborne County, Mississippi.

The exact status of any units in Jefferson County, Mississippi, is unknown. A former Exalted Cyclops in Jefferson County is CARLISLE DODD, an employee of International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi. The status of his active participation is not presently known. The present Exalted Cyclops of the unit at Jefferson County is ROGER SMITH, an employee of Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company, Natchez, Mississippi. SMITH resides in the area of Union Church, Mississippi. There are only two other known active members in Jefferson County. These are J. B. MANGUM an employee of the International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi, and (FNU) BURK, an employee of the Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company. The last known activity on the part of the Jefferson County Unit was during August or September, 1964.

There is one unit in Wilkinson County, Mississippi. The Exalted Cyclops of the Wilkinson County Unit is THOMAS FELTER, crane operator at the International Paper Company,

Natchez, Mississippi. Other members of the Wilkinson County Unit are SAM ROBERTSON, G. C. ROBERTSON, R. A. PERRY, all employees of the International Paper Company, Natchez, Mississippi; GORDON VINES, an employee of the Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company, Natchez, Mississippi, and (FNU) SUMARALL, an employee of Sumarall's Truck Stop, just south of the Adams County line on U. S. Highway 61.

There are presently two active WKKKKOM Units in Adams County, Mississippi. The meetings of these groups on an infrequent basis and the members are particularly alert for any informants for the FBI.

Adams County Unit #1 is made up primarily of individuals residing in the area of Fenwick, Mississippi. These members are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Residence</u>
E. L. "TINY" LEWIS	Barbeque Pit Restaurant	Highway 61 North, Natchez, Miss.
DON WILKINSON	International Paper Company (IPC)	Highway 61 North, Natchez, Miss.
JAMES STURGIS	IPC	Steam Plant Road, Natchez, Miss.
WENDELL HINSON	IPC	Pine Ridge Road, Natchez, Miss.
JOHN BOSTICK	Natchez Democrat Newspaper	Pine Ridge Road, Natchez, Miss.
JOE HARDY	IPC	Highway 61 North Natchez, Miss.
JERRY SAULS	Forest Electric Company	Highway 61 North Natchez, Miss.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Residence</u>
HENRY MOORE	Barbeque Pit Restaurant	Highway 61 North, Natchez, Miss.
M. L. HOUSE	IPC	Kingston, Miss.
E. A. AVANTS	Callon Logging Co.	Fenwick, Miss.
LEROY TEMPLE	Johns-Manville Co.	Fenwick, Miss.
FRANK H. THURMAN	IPC	Gayosa Avenue, Natchez, Miss.
C. L. WHEELER	Natchez Super Drugs	Highway 61 North Natchez, Miss.
BUDDY SKATES	McPhail Oldsmobile	Morgantown Road, Natchez, Miss.
MONROE BRYANT	McPhail Oldsmobile	Washington, Miss.
DUDLEY KEPPEL	IPC	Kingston, Miss.
J. K. GREER	IPC	Fenwick, Miss.
WOODROW WILSON	Johns-Manville Products Co.	Washington, Miss.

The following individuals are former members of the WKKKKOM in Adams County, Mississippi and either do not attend meetings or have completely left the organization. J

<u>Name</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Residence</u>
ED HINSON, Exalted Cyclops	Jordan Auto Co.	Fenwick, Miss.
QUINCY HINSON	Feltus Brothers Hardware	Fenwick, Miss.
DUANE HINSON	Russell Company	Fenwick, Miss.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Residence</u>
EARL W. STAFFORD	Johns-Manville Products Co.	Fenwick, Miss.
EARL STAFFORD	Belk Construction Company	Fenwick, Miss.
F. C. KLAR	IPC	Fenwick, Miss.
J. W. BURCHFIELD	IPC	Fenwick, Miss.
EARNEST H. AVANTS	IPC	Highway 61 North Natchez, Miss.
LOUIS NALL	IPC	Church Hill, Miss.
O. T. PALMER	IPC	Highway 61 North Jefferson County, Mississippi
(FNU) PHARES	Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company	Highway 61 North Jefferson County, Mississippi
CHARLES BELK	Belk Construction Company	Natchez, Miss.
HAROLD BURKETT	Johns-Manville Products Co.	Fenwick, Miss.
W. T. ALLEN	IPC	Natchez, Miss.

The following were members of the Morgantown Unit as of mid-1964, but have now left this organization and either drifted into the UKA or into other units of the WKKKKOM.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Residence</u>
JEFF LUKE	Bell Telephone Co.	Morgantown Road Natchez, Miss.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Residence</u>
ERNEST PARKER	Farmer	Palestine Road, Natchez, Miss.
JACK SEAL	Seal Sanitation Co.	Natchez, Miss.
NELSON HANEY	Construction worker	Morgantown Road, Natchez, Miss.
SIDNEY HANEY	Gibson's Discount	Natchez, Miss.
ALLEN MC CALLISTER	Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company	Duck Pond Road, Natchez, Miss.
ERNEST FINLEY	Central Mud Co.	St. Charles Street Natchez, Miss.
EARL WHEELER	IPC	Morgantown Road, Natchez, Miss.
FRANK DUNNIGAN	IPC	Morgantown Road, Natchez, Miss.
"PEANUT" CARNELL	Carnell Welding Shop	Highway 61 North Natchez, Miss.
S. R. TREVILLION	IPC	Natchez, Miss.
J. D. WISNER	Captain, Natchez Police Department	Natchez, Miss.
ODELL ANDERS	Sheriff, Adams County, Miss.	Natchez, Miss.
C. R. TYNES	IPC	Morgantown Road, Natchez, Miss.
LEE PARKER		

The other active WKKKKOM unit in Adams County is the Sligo group, which is made up primarily of individuals

from in and around Kingston, Mississippi. The complete activity of this group is not known, as they have tended to drift away from the central organization of the WKKKKOM. This is the most radical group in Adams County, and as of approximately September, 1964, was made up of the following individuals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Residence</u>
ED FULLER, Exalted Cyclops	Gambler Cyclops	Natchez, Miss.
C. W. FULLER	IPC	Kingston, Miss.
JOHN BARBER	Mosby Milk Company	Natchez, Miss.
JIMMIE WHITE	Esso Service Station, Highway 61 South, Natchez, Miss.	
CALVIN CLARK		
JOE NOSSER		
GEORGE NOSSER		
MARVIN MC KINNEY (former Exalted Cyclops)		Kingston, Miss.
JAMES L. MC KINNEY		
L. E. MC MANUS	IPC	Kingston, Miss.
BOBBY ANDERSON	IPC	Natchez, Miss.
O. K. GERMANY	IPC	Kingston, Miss.
BILLY WOODS	Armstrong Tire and Rubber Co.	Kingston, Miss.

The following are known members of the UKA, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Adams County, Miss.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Residence</u>
E. L. MC DANIEL	Red Ball Freight Lines	Natchez, Miss.
(FNU) DAWSON	Plant Engineer, IPC	
PAUL FOSTER	IPC	Natchez, Miss.
BOBBY ANDERSON	IPC	

The following individuals are believed to be members of the UKA, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Adams County, Mississippi.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Residence</u>
R. P. CARTER	Service station,	North Pine St., Natchez, Miss.
CHARLES E. JAMES	James Amoco Service	Natchez, Miss.
JACK SEAL	Seal Sanitation Service	Natchez, Miss.
ERNEST PARKER		Natchez, Miss.
ALLEN BRYANT	Operator, Bryant's Tenaco Service	
JOHN BARBER	Mosby Milk Company	

WKKKKOM, FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

The following are members of the WKKKKOM in Franklin County, Mississippi:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Residence</u>
CLYDE SEAL, Exalted Cyclops, Unit #1		

<u>Name</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Residence</u>
DAVID NASH, Exalted Cyclops, Unit #2	IPC	
D. C. GRIFFIN,	IPC	
"BULL" JONES	IPC	
WILLY RAY COWART	IPC	
BILLY BUCKLES	IPC	
LLOYD YOUNG	IPC	
BUFFORD ASHELY	IPC	
DICK CRIM	Pure Oil Station, Meadville, Mississippi	
OSCAR CLANTON	IPC	
E. R. (BOB) STOREY	IPC	
WILLIAM SPRINGS	IPC	
ELWIN SPRINGS	IPC	
CLAUDE SPRINGS	IPC	
BILL DILLION	IPC	
W. T. CLOY	IPC	
AUSTON PICKERING	IPC	
J. C. ALDREDGE	IPC	
"PIG" ALDREDGE	IPC	

<u>Name</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Residence</u>
CLAUDE GRIFFIN	IPC	
PAUL GRIFFIN	Patrolman, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol	
BERNICE BEASELY	Patrolman, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol	

WKKKKOM, AMITE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

The following individuals were formerly members of the WKKKKOM in Amite County, Mississippi, and may possibly still be active in the organization:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Residence</u>
ALFRED COTHREN	IPC	
DANIEL JONES	Sheriff, Amite County	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-4)

DATE: 3/11/65

FROM : SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF KLANSMEN
RACIAL MATTERS

Bureau airtel dated 2/24/65 instructed the Jackson Office to submit supplemental nonprosecutive summary reports immediately regarding the following categories of Klansmen:

1. All national officers
2. All state officers
3. Top officials of each klavern or local unit, such as the Exalted Cyclops and Chief Investigator
4. Any individual Klansmen who exert effective influence and leadership within the Klan and/or have a propensity toward notoriety or involvement in racial violence.

102 - Jackson (2 - 157-4)

(2 - 157-914) (LOUIS ANTHONY DI SALVO)
(2 - 157-676) (TRAVIS F. AINSWORTH)
(2 - 157-582) (ASA F. WEATHERS)
(2 - 157-1181) (DAYTON HOUSTON GILLESPIE)
(2 - 157-1492) (TOM THRASHER)
(2 - 157-486) (EDDIE MC DANIEL)
(2 - 157-606) (EDWIN LEWIS)
(2 - 157-987) (BILLY WOODS)
(2 - 157-1435) (ROGER SMITH)
(2 - 157-2627) (JOHN NOSSER)
(2 - 157-2179) (L. C. MURRAY)
(2 - 157-14) (DOUGLAS A. BYRD)
(2 - 157-24) (PAUL LAFAYETTE FOSTER)

(continued on next page)

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(2 - 157-404) (JAMES K. GREER)
(2 - 157-512) (ERNEST PARKER)
(2 - 157-613) (TOMMIE L. JONES)
(2 - 157-787) (ERNEST FINLEY)
(2 - 157-815) (JACK SEALE)
(2 - 157-950) (JAMES SEALE)
(2 - 157-951) (CLYDE SEALE)
(2 - 157-958) (ERNEST AVANTS)
(2 - 157-1038) (ARCHIE PRATHER)
(2 - 157-1043) (CHARLES EDWARDS)
(2 - 157-17) (BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HINTON)
(2 - 157-1037) (TILLMAN MYERS)
(2 - 157-1202) (LEONARD MC KEE)
(2 - 157-1707) (BILLY JOE LEE)
(2 - 157-1750) (WINSTON DUCKSWORTH)
(2 - 157-1581) (DENSON LOTT)
(2 - 157-1918) (MILTON JAMES)
(2 - 157-1987) (KEITH DYKES)
(2 - 157-2390) (PAUL WEST)
(2 - 157-2121) (RETUS G. BILBO)
(2 - 157-608) (A. C. HERRINGTON)
(2 - 157-450) (GEORGE H. BIRDSONG)
(2 - 157-1113) (PETE (JAMES) HARRIS)
(2 - 157-1226) (JAMES C. RUTHLEDGE)
(2 - 157-19) (JAMES NOLEN FORTENBERRY)
(2 - 157-216) (GORDON MIMS LACKEY)
(2 - 157-946) (JULIUS HARPER)
(2 - 157-571) (HOWARD MC LEMORE)
(2 - 157-1009) (CHARLES SOJOURNER)
(2 - 157-1703) (Q. B. RUTLAND)
(2 - 157-483) (W. R. MANGUM)
(2 - 157-1441) (JASPER BUFORD)
(2 - 157-1719) (J. LESTER PHILLIPS)
(2 - 157-1440) (RALPH EDWARDS)
(2 - 157-458) (EVERETT D. WIGGS)
(2 - 157-470) (WALTER ANDERSON BAILEY)
(2 - 157-1420) (S. T. SHOOK)

JN 157-4

The following format should be used in preparing these nonprosecutive summary reports:

1. Residence
2. Employment
3. Current position in organization
4. Automobile
5. Activity of subject
6. Miscellaneous information concerning subject

In those instances where a summary report has not yet been submitted to the Bureau regarding a Klansman in the above enumerated categories, an up-to-date nonprosecutive summary report should be submitted immediately using the following format:

1. Background
 - a. Birthdate
 - b. Citizenship status
 - c. Education
 - d. Marital Status
 - e. Residence
 - f. Employment
 - g. Military service
 - h. Credit and criminal record
 - i. Physical description
 - j. Make and model of automobile used by subject and description including body style, color and license number. Description of other vehicles to which subject has access.
 - k. Special abilities of subject, including knowledge of weapons, explosives, radio and electronics
 - l. Associates, both business and social
 - m. Up-to-date picture of subject

JN 157-4

In preparing both the initial and supplemental nonprosecutive reports under these instructions, emphasis should be placed on including pertinent information regarding the individual's present position, his current activities, and his propensity for violence.

This Bureau airtel instructed that by 3/5/65, the Bureau was to be advised of the identities of Klansmen on whom reports will be submitted under these instructions. These reports should be submitted as they are prepared (original and six copies). Bureau has set the deadline of 4/30/65 to complete the submission of these reports.

The names of the subjects of the various files receiving copies of this memorandum were furnished to the Bureau by airtel dated 3/8/65, as coming within one of the above-mentioned categories. Consequently, a summary report or a supplemental nonprosecutive summary report should be written in compliance with above-mentioned Bureau instructions.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-958)

DATE: 1-20-65

FROM : SAC, ST. LOUIS (157-732) (RUC)

SUBJECT: ERNEST HENRY AVANTS
RM

Re Jackson letter dated 12-8-64.

A review by IC R. DOUGLAS KING on 1-18-65 of records on file at the Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Mo., indicated ERNEST HENRY AVANTS, SN 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 as a Sergeant at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve to complete his military obligation. On 3-31-62, he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army Reserve. The records indicate that he also served in the Mississippi National Guard, under the same SN, from 8-10-53 to 9-14-55, receiving an honorable discharge.

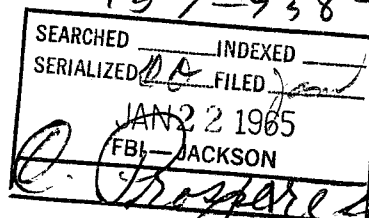
During his period of active duty with the U.S. Army, he served eleven months in Korea. His character and efficiency ratings were excellent and there is no indication of courts-martial or absence without leave.

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:

Born:	1-23-31, Bogue Chitto, Miss.
Description:	White male, 5'11", 149 lbs., brown hair, grey eyes
Addresses:	1951 Route #1, Bogue Chitto, Miss.; 1953-62 513 North Union St., Natchez, Miss.

2 - Jackson (RM)
1 - St. Louis
RDK:jg
(3)



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SL: 157-732

Relatives:	ESTON and BERTHA AVANTS, parents, both residing at 513 North Union St., Natchez, Miss.
Education:	4 years high school
Employment:	1950-51 Boiler fireman with Natchez Mill, Natchez, Miss. 1955 Paper worker with International Paper Company, Southern Kraft Division, Natchez, Miss.
Selective Service No.:	22 47 31 10, Local Board #47, Brookhaven, Miss.
VA Claim No.:	C-17-47 5012, VARO, Jackson, Miss.
Military Occupation:	Tanker and light weapons infantryman
Photograph:	None in file.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date December 16, 1964

ERNEST 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 ~~November~~ ^{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 or 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, waived preliminary hearing, and bound over to Grand Jury to convene at Port Gibson, Mississippi, during the first week of January, 1965.

On 12/10/64 at Natchez, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-958-18
by SA'S PETER R. DURLAND and
TIMOTHY CASEY:js *me* Date dictated 12/11/64

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.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-958)

DATE: 12/16/64

FROM : SA PETER R. DURLAND

SUBJECT: ERNEST HENRY AVANTS
RM

SA DURLAND and SA LENARD WOLF on 11/25/64 reviewed Adams County 1965 Car Registration records at the Sheriff's Office, Natchez, Mississippi. The following registrations were located which appear to pertain to subjects in the area. All are 1965 registrations.

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS:

1956 Chevrolet 1965 Miss.
C3653 (registered to Mrs.
AVANTS, Route 1, Natchez)
Route 5, Box 279, Natchez,
1959 Ford Galaxie, 1965
Miss. C6901; 1955 Ford
Pick-up F/5 1330

JOHN W. BARBER:

None listed
None listed
1955 Pontiac, 4-door, 1-6312
None listed

RODNEY LEE BRITT:

DAVID RONALD CARNELL:

FRED DAVIS:

ERNEST ROBERT FINDLEY:

FRANK L. GASTON:

1962 Chevrolet S/W, 1965
Miss. B-1007

ALEXANDER GIBSON GOZA:

1962 Chevrolet Pick-up F/5918
1955 Chevrolet - C4676
1963 Chevrolet - C4675

ERNEST DANIEL GOZA:

JAMES KENNETH GREER:

1956 Ford C1330
1959 Vauxhall B1553
1964 Corvair 2-door club
coupe B1613

NELSON E. HANEY:

1958 Ford 1-1453
1953 Ford Pick-up F/5 31
1957 Chevrolet F/5 30. Pick-
up.

SIDNEY E. HANEY, SR.:

1958 Cadillac, 4-door, D1472
1960 Ford C3887

MARIO S. HERNANDEZ:

MARION LEE HOUSE:

1962 Chevrolet Sedan C1871
1962 Rambler American B-2261

② - Jackson (157-958)
See copies last page.

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CHARLES EDWARD JAMES:	1954 Chevrolet 2-door C4967
	1957 Ford Sedan C4968
	1950 Studebaker pick-up F/5 969
	1959 Ford pick-up F/5 970
GOVIE TAYLOR LAMBERT:	None listed
EARL McGAUGHEY:	1959 Ford 1-4347
ERNEST PARKER:	1964 Ford Galaxie C2564
CECIL MAYO PEOPLES:	1960 Rambler S/W B1897
CECIL ROBERTS:	None listed
RAPHAEL LEONARD SCHUCHS:	1961 Dodge-Polara S/W 1D2038
FRANK HYMAN THURMAN:	1959 Triumph 10 Sedan, A1006
	1956 Desoto sedan 1-1273
EDWARD FULLER:	None listed
MYRON W. SEALE:	1964 Chevelle Chevrolet 1B1947
CURTIS WILLIAM WELCH:	1962 Ford Pick-up F/5725
	1958 Ford 1-3573
BILLY L. WOOD:	1963 Ford Galaxie 1-5299
THOMAS EDGAR YOUNG:	1957 Chevrolet 2-door 1-7135
CALVIN CLARK:	None listed

1965 Car registrations were checked at Sheriff's Office, Meadville, Mississippi, for Franklin County on 12/1/64 by SA DURLAND and SA LENARD WOLF regarding following subjects:

CALVIN CLARK:	None listed
R. LEWIS DANTZLER:	Route 1, Roxie - 1962 Ford Fairlane 4-door 19B-107
E. H. DUNN:	Route 2, Roxie - 1954 Ford Pickup F/525835
W. C. DUNN:	Route 2, Roxie, None listed
CHARLES MARCUS EDWARDS:	Route 2, Meadville 1962 Chevrolet 19B-177 1959 Ford 19-1458 1955 Chevrolet pickup F/525754
WALTER GENE HALL:	Roxie, 1956 Buick Special 19D206
W. J. HARRIGILL:	Roxie, 1964 Chevrolet BelAir 4-door 19-882 1953 Chevrolet ½ ton pickup F/526276
WILLIAM WALLACE HAVARD:	Roxie, 1960 Chevrolet pick- up F/525756

KENNETH LEHMAN:

GERALD GRAY PHARES:

FRANK PRIEST:

CLYDE SEALE:

DON SEALE:

JAMES SEALE:

DENNIS M. SMITH:

HERMAN RAY WHEELER:

Roxie, 1961 Falcon Sedan
19B-139

Roxie, 1962 Ford, 19-1695
1953 Ford 3/4 ton F/526242
Meadville, 1962 Falcon 19B-
118

1951 Chevrolet 4-door 19-288
Meadville, 1961 pick-up
GMC F/5521

1964 Volks 19A-101
1958 Ford Anglis 2-door
19A-105

Meadville, 1957 Chevrolet
Sedan 19-1442

1960 GMC 1000 1/2 ton F/526187

Meadville, 1964 Pontiac

Tempest Sedan 19-516

1962 Volks 19A111

1952 Studebaker 2-door,
19B148

Meadville, 1951 Chevy pick-
up F/526195

Roxie, 1962 Chevrolet BelAir
4-door 19891

-
- 1 - ERNEST HENRY AVANTS (157-958)
 - 1 - JOHN W. BURBET (157-2208)
 - 1 - RODNEY LEE BRITT (157-354)
 - 1 - DAVID RONALD CARNELL (157-664)
 - 1 - FRED DAVIS (157-2193)
 - 1 - ERNEST FINDLEY (157-787)
 - 1 - FRANK GASTON (157-624)
 - 1 - ALEXANDER GOZA (157-2202)
 - 1 - ERNEST GOZA (157-2203)
 - 1 - JAMES K. GREER (157-404)
 - 1 - NELSON HANEY (157-694)
 - 1 - SIDNEY HANEY (157-694)
 - 1 - MARIO HERNANDEZ (157-2191)
 - 1 - M. L. HOUSE (157-2190)
 - 1 - CHARLES JAMES (157-879)
 - 1 - GOVIE LAMBERT (157-2189)
 - 1 - EARL McCAUGHEY (157-511)
 - 1 - ERNEST PARKER (157-512)
 - 1 - CECIL PEOPLES (157-633)

(continued)

(copies continued)

- 1 - CECIL ROBERTS (157-513)
- 1 - RAPHAEL SCHUCHS (157-2173)
- 1 - MYRON SEALE (157-815)
- 1 - CURTIS WELCH (157-691)
- 1 - BILLY WOOD (157-987)
- 1 - THOMAS YOUNG (157-994)
- 1 - CALVIN CLARK (157-855)
- 1 - R. LEWIS DANTZLER (157-2197)
- 1 - E. H. DUNN (157-2194)
- 1 - W. C. DUNN (157-2195)
- 1 - CHARLES EDWARDS (157-1043)
- 1 - WALTER HALL (157-1042)
- 1 - W. J. HARRIGILL (157-1611)
- 1 - WILLIAM HAVARD (157-2205)
- 1 - KENNETH LEHMAN (157-2188)
- 1 - GERALD PHARES (157-1636)
- 1 - FRANK PRIEST (157-1610)
- 1 - CLYDE SEALE (157-951)
- 1 - DON SEALE (157-961)
- 1 - JAMES SEALE (157-950)
- 1 - DENNIS SMITH (157-1039)
- 1 - W. M. TEMPLE (157-2175)
- 1 - HERMAN WHEELER (157-1635)
- 1 - FRANK THURMAN (157-2169)

TO: SAC, Jackson (157-957)

FROM: SA PETER R. DURLAND

SUBJECT: BUFORD ASHLEY
RM

On 12/2/64 Mrs. ELLA ATKINS, Credit Bureau of Natchez, Natchez, Mississippi, advised that search of credit files on that date revealed no information identifiable with the following subjects:

BUFORD ASHLEY
FNU GRAHAM
LEE EDWARD JONES
C. L. JORDAN
LLOYD LOFTON
DALE McLEMORE
ARCHIE PRATHER
EUGENE SEALE
DENNIS SMITH
C. M. TERRY
CLYDE WENTWORTH

157-958-16

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 13 1964	
FBI - JACKSON	

1 - 157-957 - BUFORD ASHLEY
1 - 157-958 - ERNEST HENRY AVANTS
1 - 157-945 - BILLY BUCKLES
1 - 157-293 - REGINALD P. CARTER
1 - 157-893 - WILFORD D. CUPSTID
1 - 157-1041 - JACK DAVIS
1 - 157-1043 - CHARLES MARCUS EDWARDS
1 - 157-1040 - LAMAR FELTERS
1 - 157-1439 - THOMAS FELTERS
1 - 157-24 - PAUL L. FOSTER
1 - 157-796 - CLAUDE W. FULLER
1 - 157-1044 - FNU GRAHAM
1 - 157-404 - JAMES KENNETH GREER
1 - 157-1042 - WALTER GENE HALL
1 - 157-879 - CHARLES E. JAMES
1 - 157-1460 - C. L. JORDAN
1 - 157-613 - EDWIN "TINY" LEWIS
1 - 157-1710 - FLOYD LOFTON
1 - 157-606 - EDWARD LENOX McDANIEL, aka Eddie
1 - 157-986 - MARVIN BILLY McKINNEY
1 - 157-1812 - VICTOR McLEAN
1 - 157-962 - DALE McLEMORE
1 - 157-1662 - JIMMY D. MITCHELL
1 - 157-1497 - JOSEPH J. NOSSER
1 - 157-1522 - GEORGE J. NOSSER
1 - 157-690 - ROBERT LEE PARKER, III
1 - 157-1038 - ARCHIE PRATHER
1 - 157-892 - L. P. RUSHING
1 - 157-951 - CLYDE SEALE
1 - 157-961 - CLYDE DONALD SEALE
1 - 157-949 - EUGENE SEALE
1 - 157-950 - JAMES SEALE
1 - 157-1039 - DENNIS SMITH
1 - 157-1435 - ROGER SMITH
PRD:js (39)
(Copy count continued Page 2)

1 - 157-84 C. M. TERRY
1 - 157-1445 ROLLAND THORNTON
1 - 157-955 CLYDE WENTWORTH
1 - 157-987 BILLY WOODS
1 - 157-994 THOMAS EDGAR YOUNG

On 12/3/64, records of Natchez Police Department, Natchez, Mississippi, were checked and no information identifiable with the following individuals was located:

BUFORD ASHLEY
FNU GRAHAM
LEE EDWARD JONES
C. L. JORDAN
DALE McLEMORE
ARCHIE PRATHER
EUGENE SEALE
C. M. TERRY
CLYDE WENTWORTH
THOMAS EDWARD YOUNG
BILLY L. WOOD
ROLAND THORNTON
ROGER SMITH
CLYDE SEALE
CLYDE DONALD SEALE
ROBERT LEE PARKER
L. P. RUSHING
GEORGE J. NOSSER
JOSEPH J. NOSSER

On 12/3/64, Mr. WHITEHEAD, Jailor, Adams County Sheriff's Office, Natchez, advised the Adams County Sheriff's Office does not keep arrest records with the exception of recent records of persons jailed. These records are kept alphabetically but by date.

On 12/3/64, Deputy SHELL, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Meadville, Mississippi, advised the Sheriff's Office does not keep arrest records.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-958)

DATE: 12/11/64

FROM : SA PETER R. DURLAND

SUBJECT: ERNEST HENRY AVANTS
RM

On December 2, 1964, Mrs. ELLA ATKINS, Credit Bureau of Natchez, Inc., Natchez, Mississippi, made available the credit file on subject which reflected the following information:

Credit report dated 5/61, indicated ERNEST AVANTS, wife GLADYS, resided Route 4, Box 100-A, Natchez, and employed for International Paper Company, Natchez, since 5/50. His income from employment approximately \$400 per month. AVANTS rented house, wife not working, he was then 32, also employed as a farmer. Has had several suits for collection. November, 1962, Credit Report shows AVANTS at same residence and same employment, \$400 per month estimated income plus extra income from farming. Credit unsatisfactory to slow. In August, 1963, Credit Bureau determined at Federal District Court, Vicksburg, Mississippi, that AVANTS filed voluntary Petition of Bankruptcy Number 1543, on April 22, 1958, and was granted discharge of debts 12/22/58.

The records of the Natchez Police Department were checked by SA LENARD A. WOLF on 12/2/64, and no record of the above subject was located.

2 Jackson

PRD:js

(2)



[Handwritten signature]

157-958-16

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 11 1964	
FBI - JACKSON	

C. Prosper

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

SAC, JACKSON (157-958)

12/11/64

SA PETER R. DURLAND

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS
RM

On December 2, 1964, Mrs. ELIA ATKINS, Credit Bureau of Natchez, Inc., Natchez, Mississippi, made available the credit file on subject which reflected the following information:

Credit report dated 5/61, indicated ERNEST AVANTS, wife GLADYS, resided Route 4, Box 100-A, Natchez, and employed for International Paper Company, Natchez, since 5/50. His income from employment approximately \$400 per month. AVANTS rented house, wife not working, he was then 32, also employed as a farmer. Has had several suits for collection. November, 1962, Credit Report shows AVANTS at same residence and same employment, \$400 per month estimated income plus extra income from farming. Credit unsatisfactory to slow. In August, 1963, Credit Bureau determined at Federal District Court, Vicksburg, Mississippi, that AVANTS filed voluntary Petition of Bankruptcy Number 1543, on April 22, 1958, and was granted discharge of debts 12/22/58.

The records of the Natchez Police Department were checked by SA LENARD A. WOLF on 12/2/64, and no record of the above subject was located.

② - Jackson

PRD:js

(2)

157-958-16

SEARCHED	
SERIALIZED	<i>man</i>
<i>gf</i>	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-63)

FROM : SA CLARENCE G. PROSPERE

SUBJECT: WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN
OF MISSISSIPPI
RACIAL MATTER

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

Informant	[REDACTED]
Date of Report	11/12/64
Dates of Activity	11/8,9,10/64
Date Received	11/12/64
Location of Original Information	[REDACTED]

On 11/12/64 [REDACTED], who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished the following to SA CLARENCE G. PROSPERE:

EXTREME CARE SHOULD BE USED IN DISSEMINATING THIS INFORMATION SINCE IT MIGHT DISCLOSE THE INFORMANT'S IDENTITY AND PLACE HIS LIFE IN JEOPARDY.

1 - [REDACTED]	1 - 157-MILTON R. HOLDEN
1 - 157-63	1 - 157-SAM BOWERS
1 - 157-(BOMBING LEADER-CALL, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI)	1 - 157-JULIUS HARPER
1 - 157-(BOMBING NORTHSIDE REPORTER)	1 - 157-36
1 - 62-5	1 - 157-LINCOLN CO. APWR
1 - 157-CLYDE SEALE	1 - 157-1820
1 - 157-JACK SEALE	
1 - 157-JAMES SEALE	
1 - 157-J. K. GREER	
① - 157-ERNEST AVANGS	
1 - 157-FRANK HYMAN THURMAN	
1 - 157-MT. OLIVE UNIT, COVINGTON COUNTY, MISS.)	
1 - 157-W. R. MANGUM	
1 - 157-C. M. TERRY	
1 - 157-CHARLES EDWARDS	

Pg. 1

157-958-14
157-2214-15

[Signature]

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 1964	
FBI - JACKSON	

WILLIAMS
C. Prospero

RFD, Baton Rouge, La.
11/12/64

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

Informant advised that DON SEALE's wife and [redacted]
[redacted] meet each day as Mrs. DON SEALE is employed at Liberty
Mills in Liberty, Miss., and [redacted]

[redacted] Informant
advised that CLYDE SEALE, father of JAMES and DON SEALE,
on 11/9/64 sent word by Mrs. DON SEALE that they needed
\$15,000 for JACK SEALE, J. K. GREER and ERNEST AVANES and
FRANK THURMAN to pay the expenses of attorneys for the
JP Court after these individuals were arrested by local
authorities.

Informant advised that when he was first advised
that they needed money he was not told how much money was
needed and that CHARLES SALVEY went to his unit in Lincoln
County which is possibly Unit #5, and that this unit gave
SALVEY \$100 to give to CLYDE SEALE. Informant advised that
on 11/9/64 he went to Lincoln County Unit #1 which C. M.
TERRY will take over on January 1, 1965 as EC and that this
unit also contributed \$100.

Informant stated that on 11/10/64 he went to the
Mt. Olive Unit in Covington County, Miss., and that they
made up a collection at the meeting of \$41 which was also
given to the fund for CLYDE SEALE.

Informant advised that the next day [redacted] was
going to work and ran into JAMES and DON SEALE in their
truck as they were en route from Roxie, Miss., to Bogalusa,
Louisiana. Following this meeting by [redacted] with JAMES
and DON SEALE, DAY at the 98 Truck Stop located a mile or
two east of McComb, Miss., on Highway 98 which goes to
Tylertown.

Informant advised that when he met JAMES SEALE
at the 98 Truck Stop that JAMES asked the informant to
get the word out that "they did not talk and that it was
a damned lie". Informant advised that JAMES told him that
there was a State man driving the car which carried him to
Jackson after he had been arrested and that with the driver
on the front seat was an old man and that both the driver

[REDACTED]

and this old man on the front seat chewed Beechnut chewing tobacco. Informant stated that JAMES SEALE further advised him that there were two FBI Agents in the back seat and that these Agents slapped him and said they could get away with killing him.

Informant stated that JAMES SEALE further advised him that he refused to say anything; that he was left alone handcuffed in Jackson and could hear little of the conversation between the two individuals who were interviewing him. After being left alone for a short period of time a "good guy" came in and asked him about his family and other general questions. JAMES SEALE stated he talked to this individual and advised him that he would not talk to this individual or any other officer except in the presence of his attorney.

Informant stated that JAMES SEALE advised him that he had seen CHARLES EDWARDS kicked down the hall while they were in Jackson, Mississippi. JAMES SEALE further stated that CHARLES EDWARDS advised him that he, EDWARDS, had not said anything, not even to the point of admitting that he was a Klansman. Informant stated that JAMES SEALE did not indicate that if the FBI ever finds out certain information it will be too bad for certain individuals. Informant stated that JAMES SEALE kept impressing on him to get the word out that "they did not talk".

Informant advised that he attended the Mt. Olive meeting in Covington County, Miss., on Tuesday night, 11/10/64, and that he gained the impression at this meeting that this unit was not interested in doing anything. Members at this meeting advised the informant that they have no trouble in Covington County and that they do not want any. Informant advised that this is the home unit of W. R. MANGUM. Informant stated the Mt. Olive meeting was a regular meeting in which two new members were taken and it was brought out that this unit did not want any outsiders in their group to find out who are presently members of this unit. Informant advised

[REDACTED]

that most members of this unit are businessmen.

Informant advised that members of the Mt. Olive Unit brought up the fact that there was an individual who runs a coffee route who has advised some of the members that he was sworn in by BILL SULLIVAN and that this individual has been attempting to attend a members of the group advised they did not want this individual to come to a meeting as they believed he is attempting to identify members of the group for someone outside of the Klan.

Informant stated that he was not acquainted with members of this unit other than W. R. MANGUM and BILL SULLIVAN, but that he did meet a young Methodist preacher by the name of MILTON R. HOLDEN in whose home he visited after the meeting.

Informant advised that the regular Sunday meeting of the officers was held on 11/8/64 at a restaurant in Crystal Springs, Mississippi. Informant advised that SAM BOWERS inquired of him how to check on people who were possibly talking. Informant advised that he suggested having three different people talk to each one of these individuals who is suspected and that each of the three interviewers should keep notes on what is said, after which the three interviewers could compare notes to determine if the same answer had been obtained. Informant stated that he is of the opinion that no action will be taken along the lines suggested by him in an attempt to determine who is "talking".

Informant advised that a map locating the state meeting was drawn by JULIUS HARPER.

Informant advised that he had received no additional information other than that previously reported regarding the fact that General WALKER was to be the principal speaker at the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race meeting at Whitworth College Auditorium in Brookhaven, Miss., on 11/19/64.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This form may be submitted in legible hand-printing.
2. Use separate form for each individual on whom record is requested.
3. Make effort to furnish FBI Identification Number or Law Enforcement Identification Number.
4. Furnish descriptive data and fingerprint classification only when FBI Number not available.
5. Indicate office for reply in lower-left corner only. Also list in lower-left corner all offices which should receive copies of available records. Include carbon of revised FD-9 for each office receiving copies and forward with original to Bureau.
6. Do not fill in block in lower-right corner.
7. Where available furnish Law Enforcement Identification Number and Military Service Number.

To: DIRECTOR, FBI

Attention: Identification Division

Date

12/1/64

Re ERNEST HENRY AVANTS

Furnish The Known Identification Record of the Following:

Name ERNEST HENRY AVANTS

FBI No.

Other No. USARMY SN. 53092353

Aliases

1284898
2 files

Sex <u>M</u>	Race <u>W</u>	Birth Date <u>1-23-31</u>	Birthplace <u>LINDOLN CO. MISS</u>	Residence <u>NATCHEZ. MISS.</u>		
Height <u>5'-11"</u>	Weight <u>180</u>	Build <u>MED</u>	Hair <u>BROWN</u>	Eyes <u>BLUE</u>	Complexion <u>MED</u>	Age <u>33</u>

Fingerprint Classification

Scars, marks and tattoos

Also Furnish:

- ☒ Photo
☐ Fingerprints
☐ Handwriting Specimens

NO ARREST RECORD - FBI IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

DEC 9 1964

Return Reply to:

SAC, JACKSON 157-958

Send Copies To:

Identification Division's Reply

☐ On basis of information furnished, unable to identify:

☐ Criminal Files ☐ Civil Files ☐ All Files

☐ Record Attached

☐ Photo Attached

☒ Photo Not Available

☐ Fingerprints Attached

☐ Handwriting Specimen Attached

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - JACKSON	

157-958-12

SAC, ST. LOUIS

12/8/64

SAC, JACKSON (157-958)

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS
RM

ERNEST HENRY AVANTS is known member of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and is an associate of other Klansmen in the Natchez, Mississippi area.

AVANTS reportedly was in the U. S. Army under SN US 53092353 from 1951 to 1953.

LEADS:

ST. LOUIS DIVISION

At St. Louis, Missouri

(1) Will review AVANTS service record for all background information.

(2) Will determine whether he received training in the use of explosives.

2 - St. Louis
2 - Jackson (157-958)
CLP/lcj
(4)

157-958-12

Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date October 26, 1964

MYRON WAYNE SEALE was interviewed in the office of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, Jackson, Mississippi. At the outset of the interview SEALE was advised by SA COLLINS that he did not have to make any statement, and that any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law. He was advised that he had the right to consult an attorney before making any statement.

MYRON WAYNE SEALE advised that he is much better known as "JACK" SEALE. He stated that he was born on September 4, 1926, Brookhaven, Mississippi. He stated he completed the eleventh grade in high school at Meadville, Mississippi, and stated he married DELORES MAE DEINES in Portland, Oregon, on March 1, 1947. He stated that he has the following children:

PAMELA MAE SEALE, age 16
TERRY LOU SEALE, age 13
JACK HENRY SEALE, age 9

SEALE stated that since February, 1963 he and his family have resided at 172 Booker Street, Natchez, Mississippi, with telephone number 21429. SEALE stated that he bought this dwelling with \$800 downpayment, and that he makes a monthly payment of \$100 to the Building and Loan Company, Natchez, Mississippi.

SEALE stated that his father is CLYDE SEALE, age 62. His mother is AUDREY MC CALL SEALE, age 59. SEALE has three brothers; namely:

JOE EUGENE SEALE, better known as GENE, age 28,
high school graduate

JAMES FORD SEALE, age 26, did not finish high school

On 10/23/64 at Jackson, Mississippi

File #

157-958-11

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 3 1964	
FBI - JACKSON	
JN 157-1092	
157-1093	

by SA PATRICK J. COLLINS and
SA LENARD A. WOLF : RLC

Date dictated 10/24/64

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.

JN 157-1092

JN 157-1093

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CLYDE DON: SEALE, age 24, did not finish high school.

SEALE stated that he currently owns and operates the Sanitation Service Company, a garbage collection firm in Natchez, Mississippi. SEALE stated that he operates this business with one truck, a 1958 two ton Chevrolet, silver in color with a blue cab. SEALE employs one driver, a male Negro named FLOYD JOHNSON. SEALE has been in this business about six years in Natchez. He stated that his income is between \$8,000 and \$9,000 per year in this business. SEALE stated that he charges his customers \$1.50 per month for the garbage pickup service. The pickup is made once a week. SEALE advised that for two years before going into the sanitation business he worked in the oil fields in Louisiana starting as a "roustabout" and terminating this career as a "pumper". SEALE stated his employment prior to the oil business was in Portland, Oregon. He stated that for seven years he worked for his father-in-law, HENRY DIENES. He stated DIENES operates a sanitation service in Portland, Oregon. From 1948-50 SEALE was in the Merchant Marine as an oiler sailing out of Portland, Oregon. From October, 1944 to December, 1947 he was in the U.S. Navy, Navy Serial Number 722707, with the rank of Fireman First Class.

SEALE advised that before residing at his present dwelling he resided at 403 Brookley Street, Natchez, Miss., for four years. Prior to that he resided at Barataria, Louisiana for two years. While in Portland, Oregon, he resided at approximately five different street addresses. Prior to his entry into the U.S. Navy SEALE resided with his father in Meadville, Mississippi.

SEALE further advised that he has been arrested twice in his life. His first arrest was while he was in the U.S. Navy at Portland, Oregon. He stated he was arrested for Assault and Battery on a shore patrolman. SEALE was incarcerated in the brig for 48 days prior to being court martialed.

JN 157-1092

JN 157-1093

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SEALE stated that at his court martial he was found not guilty. He advised when he was residing in Portland, Oregon, he was once arrested for speeding and reckless driving and was fined an unrecalled amount of money.

SEALE stated that his closest associate in Natchez is ERNEST PARKER. He stated that he considers ERNEST PARKER to be his best friend and that they hunt and fish together frequently. He further stated that he often goes with PARKER in PARKER's airplane. He stated PARKER has a four-seater plane which is white with red stripes. He stated PARKER is a very cautious pilot. PARKER and SEALE usually fly from Natchez up to "Palmyra" which SEALE described as an island on the Mississippi river. He stated that this is a 35,000 acre island and that PARKER owns 25,000 acres of the island. PARKER has at least 500 head of cattle on this island and SEALE and PARKER often fly up to the island to take care of these cattle. He stated that sometimes they drive up to the island or to Talulah, Mississippi, where they visit friends. He stated that ERNEST PARKER and his brother LEE PARKER own a large barge which they can take out to the island. He stated that last summer while bringing a truck with 26 head of cattle from the island to the mainland, the barge tilted, causing the cattle and the truck to go overboard. PARKER and SEALE dived in the river and attached a chain to the truck on the bottom; thereby later dragging the truck out of the river. SEALE stated that PARKER has several Jeep "Scouts" on the island which they drive around the island. He stated that he barely knows ERNEST PARKER's wife, MARY ODIE PARKER.

SEALE stated he is also a very close friend of Mr. DORIS SULLIVAN who operates the Culligan Water Softener business in Natchez.

JN 157-1092

JN 157-1093

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SEALE advised that he is also very friendly with Sheriff ODELL ANDERS. He stated that ANDERS and he went to school together at a logging camp school many years ago. He stated that he knows CHARLES EDWARDS very well and that he has spent a lot of time with CHARLES EDWARDS. SEALE is very friendly with ERNEST FINLEY and stated that both he and FINLEY manage a Little League baseball team. SEALE is acquainted with a DOUGLAS BYRD whom he states he has known well for about six months. DOUGLAS BYRD rents his home from ERNEST PARKER. SEALE is well acquainted with JAMES L. McKINNEY.

SEALE made available the following items which were in his billfold:

1. City Bank & Trust Co. check dated 10/4/64, for \$3.00, made payable to JACK SEALE and signed Mrs. JAMES E. WRIGHT. This check was returned marked "insufficient funds".
2. Social Security Card for MYRON W. SEALE, Box 423, Barataria, Louisiana, #427-38-1418.
3. State of Mississippi Dept. of Public Safety, Driver License Division receipt #C123963, for one year renewal of commercial license.
Name - MYRON WAYNE SEALE
Address - 172 Booker Rd.
License No. - "Lost"
Total Fee - \$4.75
Date - 9/28/64
4. Business cards of M. W. "JACK" SEALE, Sanitary Service, Phone 2-1429, 403 Brooklyn Drive, Natchez, Miss.
5. State of Mississippi Dept. of Public Safety, Driver License Division receipt #E173192 for duplicate license
Name - MYRON WAYNE SEALE
Address - 172 Booker Rd.
License No. - "Lost"
Total Fee - \$1.25
Date - 9/28/64

JN 157-1092

JN 157-1093

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6. State of Mississippi commercial license #106679 for MYRON W. SEALE, 172 Booker Rd., Natchez.
Born -9/4/26
Race -White
Sex -Male
Eyes -Blue
Hair -Brown
Weight -190
Height -5'10"
Expires -9/30/65
7. Membership Card Northeast Louisiana Restaurant Club issued to M. W. (JACK) SEALE as a non-voting member of this club.
8. Membership Card National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Natchez Morgantown PTA, dated 10/6/64.

SEALE advised that he knew the following individuals since they were customers of his sanitation service:

ALTON ROBERTS
MARTIN GREER
ERNEST AVANTS

SEALE denied being involved in the shooting of the COFO workers' car near Fayette, Mississippi, on November 2, 1963. When asked where he was around 11:00 a.m. on that date he stated that he did not remember. He advised that he had previously told an FBI Agent where he was on that date. SA WOLF told him that he had previously told SA CLARENCE G. PROSPERE that he was home on that morning until 12:00 noon. SEALE then stated that whatever he told SA PROSPERE was apparently where he was at that time.

SEALE said he was against the bombings that had been occurring in Mississippi and that he is against racial violence. He said that he has been active in the Americans

JN 157-1092

JN 157-1093

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for the Preservation of the White Race (APWR) and that he has urged this organization to fight integration through politics and not through violence. He said that some people consider this group to be a front for the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) but that it is not.

SEALE denied being a Klan member and having any knowledge of Klan activities. He however stated that he had attended a public meeting of the Klan last summer, which was held at the park in Natchez and at which meeting ROBERT SHELTON and two preachers were the speakers.

SEALE stated that the local APWR organization covers all of Adams County and that the chairman was a Mr. TEMPLE. He stated that most of the members have now dropped out as they are afraid of being labeled as Klansmen. He said that APWR worked hard towards the election of Sheriff ANDERS and that he believes their work got the Sheriff elected.

SEALE was questioned about the bombing of Mayor JOHN NOSSER's home about a month ago and he said he thinks "niggers done it". He said that he had heard that the mayor had a falling out with the local Negroes. He stated that he believed the Mayor was in a bad position in that the whites called him a "nigger lover" and the Negroes called him a "nigger hater". He stated that the mayor had done a few things that got people mad at him. He said the mayor had changed the tax assessment method which resulted in increases for most people while he had an \$85,000 reduction on his own property. He stated the mayor also had the parking meters around his stores removed.

SEALE stated that the bombings and racial violence that had occurred around Natchez could have been stopped right at the start. He said that the Natchez Police Department and the Adams County Sheriff's Office did not do anything to stop the violence and apparently condoned it. He said that if they had taken action at the start of the violence it would not have continued.

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JN 157-1093

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SEALE admitted that he had three guns at his home. He said one was a .30 caliber rifle he obtained through the National Rifle Association. He said he had built the stock up and mounted a scope on this rifle. He said one was a .30 caliber carbine he had obtained from a friend of his in the U.S. Navy. The third gun he stated was a pump shotgun he had purchased from Sears and Roebuck.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date October 25, 1964

JAMES KENNETH GREER, Route 4, Box 101, Fenwick, Mississippi, was interviewed while in custody of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol (MHSP) in the presence of SAM IVY, Identification Officer for the MHSP, in a continuation of the interview conducted by SA EDWARD R. PUTZ. GREER advised that he desired to furnish information pertaining to the organization and members of the various Ku Klux Klan (KKK) groups operating in Adams County, Mississippi.

GREER stated that to his knowledge there are three organizations presently operating in Adams County; one organization being the White Knights of the KKK of Mississippi of which he is an active member; the United KKK and the National KKK. GREER stated that in about June of 1964 the Mississippi KKK was broken into three different Klaverns within Adams County set up basically in the form of districts as to residence. He advised that in June of 1964 ERNEST HENRY AVANTS, who was a member of the Mississippi KKK 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 KKK. He states that at that time AVANTS was dissatisfied inasmuch as certain members of the organization were failing to pay dues and were creating an ill feeling among other members of the KKK, became intoxicated one night and at about 3:00 a.m. in the morning went to the Klavern headquarters located on Morgantown Road, Natchez, Mississippi, and shot the lock off the Klavern headquarters door with a .44 pistol and sprayed numerous bullets throughout the headquarters. He stated that this extremely upset the Klavern and that some of the members of the Mississippi Klan left this Klavern and joined the United KKK which is under the leadership in Natchez of ED McDANIEL.

157-958-10

On 10/22/64 at Jackson, Mississippi

File #

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JN DE 23 1092	
JN 157-1093	

by SA TIMOTHY M. CASEY : RLCDate dictated 10/23/64

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JN 157-1092

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He stated that the following individuals were dissatisfied, and were dissatisfied because the Mississippi KKK did not advocate forms of violence and as such, joined the United KKK. GREER states that these individuals advocate violence and are extremely strong segregationists

ERNEST FINLEY
FRANK S. GASTON
CHARLES L. JAMES
JEFF LUKE
CECIL ROBERTS

PAUL L. FOSTER
NELSON HANEY
TOMMY L. JONES
ED MC DANIEL
MYRON WAYNE SEALE

He stated that he believes the United Klan Klavern in Adams County consists of less than 100 members; however, the only known active members in the Klavern to him are those mentioned above. GREER stated that he was one of the original members of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi which commenced organizing in about December 1963 in Adams County. He stated that at this time possibly numerous members of his organization were former members of the National KKK of Louisiana, and that a large group decided to withdraw from the National group and form their own organization within the state of Mississippi. He stated that in February of 1964 the KKK of Mississippi was drawn up and recruiting commenced. He stated that it was established that there would be three Klaverns within Adams County and one Exalted Cyclops and nine officers would be appointed for each Klavern. He stated that due to the action of AVANTS in shooting up the Klavern headquarters, he stated that he believes that at the present time there are only two active Klaverns remaining in Adams County and that the membership is less than 100 persons, and that their meetings are no longer held in any one location but at the homes of various individual members. He stated that at the time AVANTS shot up the Klavern headquarters the group was meeting at a block house on Morgantown Road in Natchez. However, to his knowledge, the Klavern has not met at this

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headquarters since that time. He stated that this property on which the Klavern headquarters was located was either leased or owned by NELSON HANEY.

GREER advised that the following individuals are either present or former members of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi:

ERNEST H. AVANTS, former member

JOHN WILLIAM BARBER, active member

J. W. BIRCHFIELD, former member, but left Klan when he obtained position as Constable

JOHN BOSTICK, active member

(First Names Unknown) BRITT, two brothers who were active members at one time but both believed inactive at present time

DOUGLAS BYRD, active member

"PEANUT" CARNELL, former active member who now may be member of United Klan

REGINALD CARTER, former member; no longer affiliated with organization

CALVIN CLARK, former member; no longer affiliated with organization

J. D. CRAWFORD, former member who left organization shortly after joining to take Constable position

(FNU) DeMARCO, active member

JOHN D. DRUETTA, former member who severed his affiliation with the organization

CLAUDE FULLER, active member

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ED FULLER, active member

SIDNEY HANEY, former member, not known to be active at present time

MARIO HERNANDEZ, former member who terminated his membership after two months

M. L. HOUSE, active member

JOE LOUIS, former member, not known to be presently affiliated with the organization

ALLEN MC CALLISTER, former member, not known to be active at present time

MARVIN MC KINNEY, former member, known to be out of Klan at present time

JAMES L. MC KINNEY, active member

CHARLES MARSHAL, former member, not known to be active at present time.

HENRY L. MOORE, active member; however, due to his employment has never been able to attend any of the KKK meetings.

ATLEY MOORE, former member who has left the Natchez area

(FNU) MURRAY, former member who is no longer member due to his employment as a member of the Natchez Police Department

R. L. PARKER III, former member, no longer active and only appeared at two meetings of the Klavern

ERNEST B. PARKER, former member and no longer active; however, may possibly be a member of the United Klan as he is a close associate of MYRON WAYNE SEALE.

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JOE PEOPLES, former member who may be associated with the United Klan

ALTON ROBERTS, former member who is a brother of CECIL ROBERTS

J. R. RANKIN, former member; no longer affiliated, who is a Deputy Sheriff, Adams County

GENE SEALE, former member and may still be member; however, possibly associated with a Klavern in Meadville, Mississippi.

WILLIE STROUD, former member who left membership due to his position on the Natchez Police Department

T. L. TORGERSEN, former member who may have associated himself with the United Klan

JIMMY WHITE, former member

J. G. WISNER, former member

BILLY L. WOOD, may presently be an active member

GREER stated that both the sons of Mayor JOHN NOSSER were former members of the Mississippi KKK; however he has no knowledge of Mayor NOSSER ever associating with this Klan.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date October 25, 1964

Mrs. ERNEST AVANTS voluntarily permitted the search of her home, the smoke house and tool shed in an effort to determine if any explosives had been stored in these buildings by her son, ERNEST HENRY AVANTS. In addition to the search of the buildings, the grounds owned by Mrs. AVANTS were also checked.

Nothing was found that would indicate any explosives had been stored in the buildings or on the grounds.

The search began at 10:14 a.m. and was concluded at 10:43 a.m.

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On 10/23/64 at Fenwick, Mississippi

File # JN 157-1092

157-1093

by SA ROBERT EDWARD LEE and
SA CLARENCE G. PROSPERE/rlc

Date dictated 10/23/64

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date October 24, 1964

JOHN WILLIAM BARBER, 20 Beachwood Lane, Natchez, Mississippi, was interviewed at the office of the Automobile Theft Bureau, Mississippi Highway Patrol station, Jackson, Mississippi, in the presence of Mississippi Highway Patrol Investigator, C. L. HUTCHINSON. He was advised that he did not have to make a statement; that any statement made by him could be used against him in a court of law, and that he was entitled to consult an attorney of his own choice before making any statement. He stated at the outset he did not plan on making any written statement.

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 Corvaair with a Connecticut license. He stated that he followed AVANTS and GREER who were following the Corvaair for a few blocks when the white boy stopped at the 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.

On 10/22/64 at Jackson, Mississippi

by SA ROBIN O. COTTEN: RLC

Date dictated 10/23/64

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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 U.S. Highway 61 North.

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

BARBER advised he parked his car on the opposite side of the street and observed a Negro male and a Negro female and the white boy they had followed all standing beside the Corvair talking. He then observed a scuffle but stated that from where he was standing he was unable to see exactly what happened. He saw either GREENE or AVANTS "swing" at some of this group but stated he does not know if any blows were actually struck. Following this, he stated he and his friends returned to Natchez.

With reference to his knowledge of Klansmen, he denied that he is a member of any Klan group and denied he knew any person in Natchez who is a member. He stated he has heard that about 1500 people in the Natchez area are Klansmen, but could furnish no information as to his source of information.

According to BARBER, he was approached several months ago to join the Klan but denied he knew the identity of the person who approached him. He stated he is a member of the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race (APWR) and joined this organization a year ago. He also stated that this organization is very strong in the Natchez area and was organized in Natchez. He denied that he has attended any meetings in recent months. He also stated that

when he first joined this organization, his "boss" almost fired him and his "boss" later joined himself. He declined to identify his "boss".

He admitted that during the Summer of 1964, he attended a public meeting at the ball park in Natchez and heard ROBERT SHELTON make a talk concerning the Klan. At this meeting he obtained Klan literature and took it home with him. He admitted he was in agreement with all statements made by SHELTON.

With reference to his associates in Natchez, he mentioned the following persons: JACK and JAMES SEALE, ERNEST AVANTS, CALVIN CLARK and JIMMY WHITE. He stated he first knew JACK SEALE during the time SEALE picked up garbage at his home.

According to BARBER, he has known AVANTS four or five years and contacts him at the Bar-B-Que Grill on Highway 61 North. He stated he plays poker with CALVIN CLARK and has known him for several years.

He identified JIMMY WHITE, operator of White's Esso Station, Highway 61 South, Natchez, as his closest associate.

When questioned concerning his knowledge of the beating of [REDACTED], he stated he heard about the beating and stated it was a common knowledge in Natchez that it had occurred. He denied any connection with the beating and claims he knows nothing about the identities of the persons involved. He stated that he is familiar with the reason that [REDACTED] was whipped and added that just prior to the beating, he, BARBER, was riding in the Mississippi Highway Patrol car with Patrolman LAVON ROBERTSON when they observed [REDACTED] driving on Highway 84, about 12 miles from Fenwick, Mississippi. He was intoxicated at the time and when they stopped him, he observed [REDACTED] step out of the car and zip up his trousers. At the same time, he stated

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they observed an unknown Negro woman on the front seat with [redacted] and that her under pants were on the front seat. He recalled that [redacted] told the officer that the Negro was his maid and that he was taking her home. This occurred about 9:00 p.m.

He further advised concerning his associates, that MARVIN MCKINNEY is a good friend and that he has known him for the past three or four years and often visits his home.

He stated he knows ERNEST PARKER, but is not a close friend.

With reference to the recent bombing of Mayor NOSSER's house, he is of the opinion that it was done by a Negro, but he could furnish no information in this regard. He explained that Mayor NOSSER allowed the open meeting to be held when SHELTON spoke at the Klan meeting, but he refused to allow the Negroes to use the same ball park for a civil rights meeting.

He claimed he knows of no other incidents involving violence in the Natchez area and volunteered that he was "certain" that the acts which have been committed, were not done with the authority of the Klan.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

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.

On 10/22/64 at Jackson, Mississippi

by SA TIMOTHY M. CASEY: RLC

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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.

McDANIEL
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

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

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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.

[REDACTED] - 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

1

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

On 10/22/64 at Jackson, Mississippi

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by SA TIMOTHY M. CASEY, JR./rlc

Date dictated 10/23/64

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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

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 embankment 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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date October 23, 1964

Mrs. GLADYS AVANTS was interviewed at her residence, located at Route 1, Box 72-A, by SA RAYMOND E. STOELTING and Officer NAT Z. TROUT, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol (MHSP). At the outset of this interview she claimed she possessed no knowledge as to the location of the large quantity of ammunition or explosives formerly placed in the care and custody of her husband, ERNEST AVANTS. She explained her husband did not infer that "she is the only other person who knew the whereabouts of these explosives", but meant that someone would make known to her the location of the ammunition and explosives provided something happened to her husband. She said the source of these instructions is not known to her. During the course of this interview she identified the only firearms in the possession of her husband located in her home were a .44 caliber Magnum revolver and a .22 caliber rifle, utilized by her husband only for hunting and protective purposes.

She further related she was unaware of any large quantities of ammunition that her husband might have acquired and concealed on these premises. She pointed out her husband never confided in her as to his activities away from home and she never made it a practice to question him about his conduct elsewhere during their marriage of 11 years. She admitted being present when the Sheriff of Adams County appeared at their home during the evening of October 21, 1964. However, she claimed she did not overhear the conversation between the Sheriff and her husband at that time. When the Sheriff departed their residence she inquired of her husband "if he wanted to tell her anything", to which he made no response.

When the seriousness of the charges against her husband was explained to her, she continued to deny being aware of his possible Klan activities or acquisition of large amounts of explosives and ammunition. She also said

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On 10/22/64 at Natchez, Mississippi

File #

by SA RAYMOND E. STOELTING: RLC

Date dictated 10/23/64

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she was not acquainted with individuals by the name of:

CLYDE SEALE;
MYRON WAYNE "JACK" SEALE;
JAMES L. GREER;
JOHN BARBER; or
FRANK THURMAN.

She advised that the above persons never appeared at her home. At the request of her husband, she added, she accompanied him to the office of the MHSP on the morning of October 21, 1964.

At this particular point of the interview she requested that this interview be terminated because she felt ill due to the excitement experienced by her as the result of her husband's arrest and her pregnancy.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

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 at Natchez, Mississippi

by SA RAYMOND D. STOELTING and
SA TIMOTHY MICHAEL CASEY/rlc

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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

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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

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

JN 157-1092

JN 157-1093

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Weight	186 lbs.
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
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

JN 157-1092

JN 157-1093

6

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date October 22, 1964

On October 22, 1964, Investigator GWIN COLE signed an affidavit before Justice of the Peace 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 10/22/64 at Fayette, Mississippi

by SA WILLIAM F. DUKES and
Investigator GWIN COLE, MHSP / RLC

File #

157-958-3

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JN 44-379	1061
JN 44-406	1061

Date dictated 10/22/64

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 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 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.

157-958-2

On 10/22/64 at Port Gibson, Mississippi

File #

by SA WILLIAM F. DUKES and

Investigator GWIN COLE, MHSP/ RLC

Date dictated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JN 44-379	
OCT 26 1964	
FBI - JACKSON	

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.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
M E M O R A N D U M

TO: SAC, JACKSON (157-63)
FROM: SA SAMUEL N. JENNINGS

DATE: 9/15/64

WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN
OF MISSISSIPPI
RACIAL MATTERS

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

Informant: [REDACTED]
Date of Report: 9/3/64
Date of Activity: September, 1963 -
9/3/64
Date Received: 9/3/64
Location of Original
Information: [REDACTED]

The informant advised by oral report to SAs CLARENCE G.
PROSPERE and FRANK FORD that he had joined the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) at
[REDACTED] and had been sworn in by

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both of [REDACTED]
He said [REDACTED] is now out of the Klan. Informant stated that
he was sworn into the Klan when it was known as the Original
Knights of the KKK which is a Louisiana organization headed
by ROYAL V. YOUNG who was the Imperial Wizard. Informant

- 162 - Jackson
(2 - New Orleans) (Information)
(1 - 157-52) (KKK, Copiah County)
(1 - 157-343) (KKK, Lauderdale County)
(1 - 157-253) (KKK, LeFlore County)
(1 - 157-572) (KKK, Wilkinson County)
(1 - 157-353) (KKK, Pike County)
(1 - 44-1) (MIBURN)
(1 - [REDACTED])
(1 - 157-584) (KKK Activity, Lincoln County)
(7 - 157-new) (KKK Klaverns, Lincoln County)
(1 - 157-14) (Original Knights of KKK of La.)

(continued on next page)

SNJ:elw
(162)

157-958-1

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEPT. 15, 1964	
FBI - JACKSON	
C. PROSPERE	

Open 157-new
ERNEST
KLAN ORGANIZATION
UNIT #2
FRANKLIN Co.
MISS
SNJ

JN 157-63

(2 - 157-new) (ROYAL V. YOUNG)
(1 - 157-14) (DOUGLAS A. BYRD)
(1 - 157-569) (KKK, Franklin County)
(2 - 157-new) ("SHORTY" BREELAND)
(2 - 157-new) (EDDIE MC DANIEL)
(2 - 157-new) (PAUL FOSTER)
(2 - 157-new) (J. M. FOSTER)
(2 - 157-) (BERNARD JONES)
(2 - 157-) [REDACTED]
(2 - 157-new) [REDACTED]
(2 - SHELBY BREWER) (157-)
(2 - 157-new) (HOUSTON JORDAN)
(2 - 157-new) (A. C. HARRINGTON) (State Recruiter, Ruth, Miss.)
(2 - 157-new) (SEDGY HARRINGTON)
(2 - 157-new) (Lomax Printing Co., Laurel, Miss.)
(2 - 157-new) (PAUL GRIFFIN, MHSP, Brookhaven, Miss.)
(2 - 157-new) (LLOYD CASE)
(2 - 157-new) (CHARLES SALVEY)
(2 - 157-new) (TINY LEWIS)
(2 - 157-) (BILLY BUCKLES)
(2 - 157-) (HOWARD MC LEMORE, Crystal Springs, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) (JULIUS HARPER) (Ex-Sheriff, Copiah Co.)
(2 - 157-) (GORDON LACKEY, Greenwood, Miss.)
(1 - [REDACTED])
(2 - 157-new) (WOODY MATTHEWS, Utica, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) (SAM BOWERS)
(2 - 157-new) (MAURICE FLOWERS, Laurel, Miss.)
(1 - 62-5)
(1 - 157-551)
(2 - 157-) (TOMMY BROCK, "a Judge," Utica, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) HENSHAW, Laurel, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) LAND, Bay Springs, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) JACKSON, Owner of Butane Co., Crystal Springs)
(2 - 157-) (CLYDE WENTWORTH, Unit #1, Franklin County)
(2 - 157-) (BERNICE BEASELY, MHSP, Meadville, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) [REDACTED]
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) (LNU) "TALL MAN," Pure Oil Station,
Meadville, Miss.)
(2 - [REDACTED])

FOIA(b) (6)

FOIA(b) (7) - (C)

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

(Continued on next page)

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JN 157-63

(2 - 157-) (CLYDE SEALE)
(2 - 157-) (JAMES SEALE)
(2 - 157-) (EUGENE SEALE)
(2 - 157-) (DONALD SEALE)
(2 - 157-) (JACK SEALE)
(2 - 157-) (DALE MC LEMORE)
(2 - 157-) (ERNEST AZANTS)
(2 - 157-) (ERNEST PARKER)
(2 - 157-) (J. K. GREER, Fenwick, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) (BUFORD ASHLEY, Meadville)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) PHELPS, Phelps Cafe, Raleigh, Miss.)
(2 - 157-)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) JAMES, Amoco Station on bypass,
Natchez, Miss.)
(2 - 157-)
(2 - 157-) (CLAUDE FULLER)
(2 - 157-) (APWR, Lincoln County)
(2 - 157-) (ALTON ALLRED, Grocery Store, Brookhaven, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) (C. C. CLARK, former Postmaster, Ruth, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) SOMMERS, Brookhaven TV & Appliance Store)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) POSEY, employee of SOMMERS, Brookhaven, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) ("GOOSE" WICHMAN, employee, Telephone Co.,
Brookhaven)
(2 - 157-) (TOBE LEGGETT, Brookhaven)
(2 - 157-) (CHARLIE BRANHAM, Brookhaven)
(2 - 157-) (SAM BRAMLETT, Texaco Station, Brookhaven)
(2 - 157-) (CLYDE SMITH)
(2 - 157-) (CURTIS SMITH)
(2 - 157-) (SHELBY BREWER)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) (LNU), Manager of either Shainberg Store
or Dollar Store, Brookhaven, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) (CECIL CROSS, Brookhaven)
(2 - 157-) (LEE STAMP, Brookhaven)
(2 - 157-) (Heights Retreat Unit, KKK, Brookhaven, Miss.)
(2 - 157-) ((FNU) (LNU), Operator of Ford Tractor Place,
Brookhaven)
(2 - 157-) (BILLY MACK DONALD)

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

JN 157-63

stated that in 1963 DOUGLAS A. BYRD was the Grand Dragon of the Original Knights of the KKK in the State of Mississippi. Informant stated that after being sworn into the Klan he learned that the Klan was in need of some place to hold their meetings and finally located a place which was the old Standard Oil place, Brookhaven, Mississippi, which building was recently burned.

[redacted]
[redacted] the following persons were members at Brookhaven, Miss., and vicinity:

PAUL FOSTER, his brother, J. M. FOSTER
BERNARD JONES, who was forced out of the Klan
a little less than a year ago

HORACE JACKSON

LOUIS COWART

SHELBY BREWER

HOUSTON JORDAN

A. C. HARRINGTON, who is presently State Recruiter
for the Klan and resides at
Ruth, Mississippi

SEDGY HARRINGTON, who is the brother of
A. C. HARRINGTON

[redacted] the first paper
that was distributed by the Klan in Lincoln County, Miss.
and this paper was printed by the Lomax Printing Company,
Laurel, Miss. The purpose of this paper was to get people
together and get them out to vote.

The informant advised that the Lincoln County
Klan Organization grew larger and a man named ERNEST S.
GILBERT was made the Exalted Cyclops of this group. The
Klan Organization at Lincoln County rented the Moose Lodge
for the charter meeting and the Lincoln County Unit and the
Franklin County Unit of the Klan were chartered on the same
day at the same ceremony at Brookhaven, Miss., on 2/2/64.

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The informant said that as a result of the above paper being distributed by the Klan in Lincoln County there was a large recruitment and over 100 individuals came to join the Klan in Lincoln County. It took over four hours to swear these individuals in. Shortly after that the Lincoln County group had over 200 members. About this time it was realized by the Klan leadership that something was wrong with the \$10 initiation fee as it could not be determined what happened to all of this money. It was proposed after this mix-up on the money that the Klan group be broken down into smaller units but DOUGLAS A. BYRD advised that this could not be done since each recruiter got \$4 out of each \$10 initiation fee and the remaining \$6 went to the State Klan Headquarters. The informant said after the charter was obtained in Lincoln County the local group retained \$5 of the \$10 initiation fee and the other \$5 was sent to the State Headquarters. The informant said after the charter was obtained the recruiter of the unit received no money from initiation fees.

The informant recalled that DOUGLAS A. BYRD, each time he attended a meeting in Lincoln County, was always desperately in need of money. The informant learned that BYRD was supposed to turn in each \$6 he received to YOUNG. The informant said the initial forming of the units of the Klan in Lincoln County resulted in DOUGLAS A. BYRD having a woman make the robes for the members and she charged \$10 for each robe. The Klan members complained that the robes did not actually cost \$10 for material and workmanship.

The informant advised that one LOUIS COWART was elected investigator of the original Lincoln County group. COWART was later made a state investigator by DOUGLAS A. BYRD.

Informant advised that after the Lincoln County group was formed he heard through DOUGLAS A. BYRD that ROYAL V.

JN 157-63

YOUNG of Louisiana was coming to Natchez and BYRD wanted ERNEST GILBERT to meet him in Natchez. The informant learned that the purpose of this Natchez meeting was so that BYRD could pull away from the original Knights of the KKK of Louisiana which was headed by YOUNG and set up his own Klan group in Mississippi. The informant said he learned that one reason BYRD wanted to do this was because he could not get YOUNG to account for the money which BYRD had given him. The informant learned that the following people were at the meeting at Natchez:

PAUL GRIFFIN, Mississippi Highway Patrol,
Brookhaven, Mississippi

ERNEST GILBERT, Brookhaven, Miss.

LLOYD CASE, Brookhaven, Miss.

HOUSTON JORDAN, Brookhaven

CHARLES SALVEY, Brookhaven

The informant said that the above group of individuals met DOUGLAS BYRD at the Bar-B-Q Pit on Highway 61 North which is operated by TINY LEWIS, who is also a Klan member. After BYRD, YOUNG and the others arrived at the Bar-B-Q Pit they went to the old VFW Building located next to Sarah's Place which is on the Liberty Road and a meeting was held there.

The informant learned that at this meeting YOUNG and BYRD fussed back and forth at each other and then YOUNG finally stood up and began preaching. After YOUNG did this, ERNEST GILBERT got up and told YOUNG to sit down and that the entire group could go to hell as far as he was concerned if this was the way that the Klan operated. GILBERT also told those present that the Lincoln County group did not need the Klan. YOUNG advised those present that the Klan could not be operated this way according to the constitution. YOUNG insisted that the Lincoln County group should have a constitution. GILBERT then told YOUNG that if YOUNG could not speak in a logical manner that the meeting was adjourned. GILBERT told YOUNG as he was leaving that he, YOUNG, should not return to Mississippi and YOUNG left the meeting.

DOUGLAS A. BYRD did not enter into the above discussion at any time. The informant gathered that impression after this meeting was over that BYRD was attempting to cover up what he had been doing with the Klan money which had been given to him for membership fees and for robes. BYRD tried to explain to GILBERT and the others that this meeting at Natchez had been held to try and get YOUNG to account for the money which had been given to him.

The informant said that the above group who had attended the Natchez meeting returned to the Bar-B-Q Pit and there was a discussion about writing a new constitution for the White Knights of the KKK of Mississippi. The informant learned that DOUGLAS A. BYRD, TINY LEWIS and ERNEST GILBERT had gathered at GILBERT's home and written a new constitution for the Klan organization. GILBERT allegedly told BYRD at this meeting where the constitution was written that he was getting out of the Klan.

The informant advised that at a later meeting BYRD came to Brookhaven, Miss., and invited GILBERT to attend this meeting although GILBERT had previously told BYRD he was getting out of the Klan. GILBERT did go to this meeting but nothing was accomplished there as there was no organization to the meeting. BYRD explained at this meeting about the idea of withdrawing from the Original Knights of the KKK of Louisiana and setting up the White Knights of the KKK of Mississippi. The informant learned that representatives from Wilkinson County and Pike County were in attendance at this meeting in Brookhaven, Mississippi, and these two county groups wanted to stay in the Original Knights of the KKK of Louisiana.

The informant learned that a second meeting was held in Brookhaven, Miss., in less than a month and ERNEST GILBERT was elected head of the White Knights of the KKK, State of Mississippi. DOUGLAS A. BYRD was voted out of office. The following individuals were instrumental in electing GILBERT head of the Klan:

BILLY BUCKLES

HOWARD MC LEMORE, Crystal Springs, Miss.

DALE MC LEMORE, Franklin County, Miss.

JULIUS HARPER, ex-sheriff, Copiah County, Miss.,
presently operator of the J and F
Grill, Crystal Springs, Mississippi

GORDON LACKEY, Greenwood, Miss.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

Informant said that at a meeting of the White Knights of the KKK a committee was appointed to write a constitution and this committee was headed by ERNEST GILBERT and was comprised of JULIUS HARPER, HOWARD MC LEMORE, both of Crystal Springs, Miss., GORDON LACKEY of Greenwood, Miss., BILLY BUCKLES and WOODY MATTHEWS. The informant said that WOODY MATTHEWS is a cousin of Congressman JOHN BELL WILLIAMS of Mississippi and MATTHEWS resides at Utica, Miss. MATTHEWS acts as a moderator at all large Klan meetings. Informant said DOUGLAS A. BYRD was asked to serve on the committee to write the constitution but he refused to serve. The constitution was written by the above committee and was accepted at Brookhaven, Miss., on 2/2/64 at a state meeting.

The informant learned that prior to the above Brookhaven, Miss., meeting on 2/2/64, DOUGLAS A. BYRD had written a constitution on his own which he presented to the Natchez, Miss., group of the Klan with the idea of getting the entire state to go along with him (BYRD). The Klan group at Natchez was not named at that time and BYRD's meeting was held about two weeks before the Brookhaven meeting. SAM BOWERS from Laurel, Miss., went to the meeting at Natchez, Miss., and BYRD indicated to the Natchez group he wanted to throw GILBERT out of the Klan since his wife was allegedly a Catholic. The informant said he knows

JN 157-63

GILBERT's wife is not a Catholic and she is from Laurel, Miss., originally. Informant learned that one MAURICE FLOWERS, a Klan member from Laurel, Miss., had got up and refuted BYRD's statement about GILBERT's wife being a Catholic and after that the Natchez meeting broke up.

The informant said that two weeks after this Natchez meeting was held there was a big state meeting held at Brookhaven, Miss., in the old Sinclair Building and 'SHORTY' BREELAND of Natchez, Miss., was present and told those at the meeting that the Natchez group had informed DOUGLAS BYRD that he should get out of the Klan and that they wanted ERNEST GILBERT to head up the White Knights of the KKK of Mississippi and pull the state together. Informant learned that the following persons were elected at this meeting at Brookhaven, Miss.:

SAM BOWERS, Imperial Wizard
JULIUS HARPER, Grand Dragon, a position which he
still holds
BILLY BUCKLES, Grand Giant and State Secretary
PAUL FOSTER, State Chaplin, who has since resigned
and was sworn out of the Klan by
ERNEST GILBERT.
ERNEST S. GILBERT, State Investigator

Four Bursars were elected. The head State Bursar for Mississippi is TOMMY BROCK, a "Judge" at Utica, Miss. The Second Bursar is a man named HENSHAW of Laurel, Miss., who lives on Highway 84 East. The Third Bursar is an individual by the name of LAND who resides at Bay Springs, Miss., but who subsequently resigned his position. The Fourth Bursar was from Greenwood, Miss., but informant did not recall his name. Informant said that during this transition period when the above meetings were held at Natchez and Brookhaven, Miss., DOUGLAS BYRD was not elected to any office, however, BYRD acted as a sort of assistant to ERNEST GILBERT for several months prior to 2/1/64.

JN 157-63

Informant stated that after the above meeting the next state meeting of the Klan was held at Natchez, Miss., and the above-mentioned officers were in charge and are still in charge of the Klan in Mississippi.

The informant said the next meeting following the one at Natchez was held at Raleigh, Miss., about June, 1964, and the next state-wide meeting after that, which was the last state-wide meeting, was held at Crystal Springs, Miss., at an individual named JACKSON's place just outside of Crystal Springs, Miss. The informant could not recall JACKSON's first name but stated JACKSON operates a Butane Gas Company in Crystal Springs. The informant said he does not recall seeing GILBERT at the last Klan meeting in Crystal Springs.

The informant stated that the election of any officers in the Klan is scheduled between 9/15/64 and 11/15/64 and that BILLY BUCKLES, who lives on the Oldenberg Road out of Meadville, Miss., is coordinating the election. Each unit will vote for the officers they want which will then be reported through the provinces to headquarters. The new officers of the Klan will be elected to serve for four years in Mississippi.

The informant said that all Klansmen in Mississippi were forbidden to carry guns, pencils, lighters or just about anything else into a state Klan meeting. He said the state meetings are set up so they have snipers stationed in trees surrounding the area of the meeting, as well as armed guards patrolling on foot, horseback and in automobiles. In addition to this, he said they had an airplane flying overhead when the meeting was held at Raleigh, Miss. The informant learned that the Klan is now attempting to train dogs to use as guards around the state meet and also the local headquarters of the various Klan units.

The informant said that during August, 1964, CLYDE WENTWORTH, who is a painter and also Exalted Cyclops of

Unit Number 1, Franklin County, Mississippi, had access to an entire list of this unit of the Klan and this list had been observed by Patrolman BERNICE BEASELY of the Mississippi Highway Patrol stationed at Meadville, Miss. BEASELY allegedly observed this list while he was at Jackson, Mississippi.

The informant pointed out that at one time about 80% of the Mississippi Highway Patrolmen were allegedly in the Klan. However, they have been sworn out. Informant said, however, that many highway patrolmen still pass on information to the Klan and act as lookouts for the Klan. The informant stated BEASELY, who is at Meadville, Miss., was definitely in the Klan at one time and still passes on information to the Klan members at Meadville. The informant learned that an individual referred to as "TALL MAN" at the Pure Oil Station, Meadville, Miss., has been talking about one [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] According to the "TALL MAN", [REDACTED] is the individual who furnishes names of Klan members to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] Allegedly, [REDACTED] gives [REDACTED] \$1,000 a month for information regarding the Klan. The informant was not able to elaborate on the above arrangement.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

About the only thing the informant could learn relative to the above was something said by CLYDE SEALE, father of JAMES, EUGENE, DONALD and JACK SEALE, who lives on the Bunkley Road near Meadville, Miss., indicating that [REDACTED]

Informant further learned that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], and had been to [REDACTED], trying to get into the Klan Unit there. CLYDE SEALE made the remark that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and is using this as an excuse to visit [REDACTED] trying to obtain names of Klansmen which he allegedly passes

on to [REDACTED]. According to the informant, the Klan group which CLYDE SEALE belongs to has voted to whip [REDACTED].

The informant emphasized that CLYDE SEALE and/or some of the members of the two Klan units at Meadville, Miss., may do away with [REDACTED] if the

above information regarding [REDACTED] is true.

FOIA(b) (6)

FOIA(b) (7) - (C)

Informant is of the opinion that a young highway patrolman or SAM BOWERS, both of Laurel, Miss., were the individuals who bombed the newspaper there several months ago. SAM BOWERS has refused to discuss this newspaper bombing with other members of the Klan.

The informant could not learn any information regarding the murder of the two Negroes, MOORE and DEE, whose bodies were found a few months ago in the Mississippi River north of Natchez, Miss. The informant was then advised that BILLY BUCKLES was known to have made the statement that DEE was a victim of circumstances and had to be done away with. Informant then stated that with this information he might be able to develop something on the MOORE-DEE killings. The informant was not acquainted with an explosion in a church at Brookhaven, Miss., and knew nothing of an attempted burning or explosion of any churches in that area.

The informant was not aware of the identity of the person described as an electrician from Franklin County, Miss., employed at the International Paper Company, Natchez, Miss., who allegedly burned the juke joint of JAKE FRISHMAN in Natchez, Mississippi.

The informant advised that he knew the identity of several individuals who fired a smoke bomb into the house of KID RUSSELL and they are DALE MC LEMORE, DOUGLAS A. BYRD and possibly ERNEST AZANTS and JACK SEALE. The informant knew that DOUGLAS BYRD was drunk after the first attempt to smoke bomb RUSSELL's house failed and, further, BYRD was the one who obtained the smoke grenade which was fired into the house.

Informant is acquainted with ERNEST PARKER of Natchez, Miss., who is the individual who distributed Klan papers by plane at Brookhaven the first time they were distributed by plane there and PARKER's plane has been used by the Klan even though it was not flown by PARKER on other occasions. Informant knows one J. K. GREER of Fenwick, Miss., who is a pilot licensed to fly both day and night and is the only known member of the Klan who is so licensed. Informant stated that usually GREER rents a plane at the Natchez Airport when distributing papers for the Klan by plane.

The informant said that BILLY BUCKLES and DOUGLAS A. BYRD put out the Klan papers from the plane at Greenwood, Miss., a few months ago. The informant stated that BUFORD ASHLEY of Meadville, Miss., also owns an airplane which the Klan can use but ASHLEY can only fly during the daylight hours.

Informant said that CLYDE SEALE was responsible for the distributing of papers in the Meadville area. Informant recalled that one of these papers merely stated that names would be called if things were not changed and the second paper distributed there actually called names of particular individuals.

Informant advised that the plane owned by ERNEST PARKER was the one used to drop Klan papers over Philadelphia, Miss., about the first part of August, 1964.

The informant said the only information he has regarding a church burning came from an individual named PHELPS who operates Phelps Cafe at Laurel, Miss. PHELPS advised about 6/1/64 that he knew how a church was burned but the informant was not aware of which church PHELPS was referring to but believed it was near Raleigh, Mississippi. Informant said PHELPS claimed the church was saturated with gasoline or kerosene and that a Butane gas line was the line which subsequently ignited the gasoline or kerosene.

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The informant said he had no information about any church burnings in Pike County, Miss., and that all the Pike County Klan Units are members of the United Klans of America with the exception of one unit. The informant was not acquainted with this one Pike County Unit and did not know the identity of the members.

Informant stated that ERNEST GILBERT had allegedly received about \$4,000 in expense money from the Klan between 1/1/64 and 6/1/64 but that the local investigators in the various provinces had claimed mileage expense and that the money to pay this was turned in to the state headquarters. GILBERT allegedly gets the money back from the state headquarters to pay to the local Klan investigators, leaving little money for GILBERT's personal use.

Informant advised that the unit of the Klan at Crystal Springs, Miss., had borrowed money at a local bank and had plans to build a building in which to hold their meetings. All members of the Klan unit supposedly signed the note with the bank. The informant learned that an official of the bank made the statement that he had the names of all the Klansmen in Crystal Springs as he had their names on a note at his bank.

Informant said there was no special account of the Klan at any bank but that the Klan money was handled by a man named HENSHAW who resides on Highway 84 east of Laurel, Mississippi. The money handled by HENSHAW is supposed to be put into the personal account of HENSHAW. The informant recalled that at the state Klan meeting at Raleigh, Miss., HENSHAW was instructed to turn all money of the Klan over to "Judge" BROCK of Utica, Miss., and to the other three Bursars of the State Klan Organization.

Informant learned that DOUGLAS A. BYRD had made a call to ERNEST GILBERT from Natchez, Miss., sometime in

the past few months asking GILBERT to come to Natchez to kill a Negro by the name of WILLIAM DENNIS WARE. The informant said that [REDACTED], went to Natchez, Miss., shortly after this telephone call and that three others went to Natchez also. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], and a fourth individual whose name was not recalled. Informant was not aware of what happened at Natchez on this occasion.

The informant advised that an individual named FULLER came to Brookhaven, Miss., from Monroe, La., and was there to help organize the Klan. FULLER was a very close associate of ROYAL V. YOUNG.

Informant learned that a man named JAMES (first name unknown) who operates the Amoco Service Station at the bypass at Natchez, Miss., a brother of HORACE "ZULU" JAMES, the radio dispatcher at the Natchez, Miss., Police Department, and PAUL FOSTER had called ERNEST GILBERT at Brookhaven to get him to investigate the shooting of RICHARD JOE BUTLER, a Negro male at Natchez, Miss. According to the informant, JAMES and PAUL FOSTER believe that this shooting of BUTLER was done by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Informant said that a Klan leader questioned [REDACTED] about this later and [REDACTED] denied being involved in the shooting of BUTLER. The informant did not believe any of the Klan leaders had been able to determine which Klansman was responsible for shooting BUTLER.

Informant advised that during August, 1964, [REDACTED] and CLAUDE FULLER contacted ERNEST GILBERT and tried to get permission to kill some Negro, which permission was denied them by GILBERT. They allegedly were going to kill LEONARD WOODLEY, a Negro preacher who had been stirring up trouble and talking about the Klan. WOODLEY was attempting to organize the Negroes.

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The informant advised that SHELBY BREWER was formerly the head of the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race (APWR), Lincoln County, Miss., but has recently resigned. The informant was not acquainted with the officers of the APWR.

Informant advised that ALTON ALLRED, operator of a grocery store near the Amoco Station, just east of the Homco Offices in Brookhaven, Miss., has a contract to furnish all of the robes for Klansmen for the State of Mississippi. Informant stated ALLRED has certain women working for him to do the sewing on the robes but these women are not known.

The informant advised that he learned through a very confidential source that Mr. C. C. CLARK, a prosperous businessman at Ruth, Miss., who is the former Postmaster there, was secretly sworn into the Klan and this information is known by four people only.

Informant advised that A. C. HARRINGTON of Ruth, Miss., is the Exalted Cyclops of the Ruth Unit and that HARRINGTON is also the State Grand Kleagle (State Organizer). The informant offered the opinion that the recent bombing incidents at McComb, Miss., are being done by the Klan group at Ruth, Miss. The informant said the foreman of C. C. CLARK, Ruth, Miss., mentioned above, is a member of the Ruth Unit of the Klan, however, he cannot recall his name at the present time. SEDGY HARRINGTON, brother of A. C. HARRINGTON, is also a member of the Ruth Unit of the Klan.

The informant said there are seven Klaverns of the KKK at Lincoln County, Mississippi. The Exalted Cyclops of Unit #1 is an individual by the name of SOMMERS who is the owner of the Brookhaven TV and Appliance Store. The Assistant Exalted Cyclops is an individual by the name of POSEY who is employed by SOMMERS at the Brookhaven TV and Appliance Store. "GOOSE" WICHMAN is the investigator of Klan Unit #1. WICHMAN is employed by the telephone company

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at Brookhaven. Other members of this same unit are HOUSTON JORDAN, TOBE LEGGETT, CHARLY BRANHAM, SAM BRAMLETT, operator of a Texaco Service Station, CLYDE SMITH, CURTIS SMITH, who may be out of the Klan now, and SHELBY BREWER, who has Klegle Commission and can work anywhere in the state. The informant said another member of this unit is the manager of either the Dollar Store or Shainberg Department Store, Brookhaven. Two other members are CECIL CROSS and LEE STAMP.

The informant said the newest unit of the Lincoln County Klan is the Heights Retreat Unit which is in a community located out toward the Brookhaven airport. The Exaulted Cyclops of this new unit is a man who runs the Ford tractor place in Brookhaven but his name could not be recalled. Another member of this new unit is BILLY MACK DONALD who offered the ground on which a building could be built for Klan meetings but this offer was turned down by the Klan leaders since DONALD would not allow the Klan to purchase the property on which the building would be built.

The informant advised that there is an executive meeting of the Klan officers at JACKSON's place near Crystal Springs, Miss., each Sunday and informant will try to find out what happens at the next meeting.

Recommendation:

The above information sets forth pertinent information regarding numerous organizations and individuals connected with captioned organization and should be considered for inclusion in reports of captioned organization or individuals.

Due to the length of this memo, specific leads are not being set forth herein but agents receiving copies of this memo should review the material and conduct logical investigation.

THIS INFO IS NOT TO BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE THE BUREAU AND EXTREME CARE SHOULD BE USED IN DISCUSSING THIS INFO AS THE INFORMANT'S LIFE COULD EASILY BE JEOPARDIZED.

(Title) E. A. Avants

(File No.)

157-9581A
157-2766-1A1 - 2-9-66 four photos and negative of Ernest H. Avants.2-5-24-67 photo of auto owned by Ernest H. Avants.3, 3/1/68 photo of Mrs. Ernest Avants, Ben Pullen, Judy Pullen, Betty Pullen, James Pullen
copied

Disposition:



157-9581A
157-2766-1A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 9 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

File No. 157-558-1A3
Date Received 2/19/68
From
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By Robert J. Yarnall
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes☒ NoReceipt given ☐ Yes☒ No

Description:

Photograph containing
pictures of Mrs. Ernest
Avants, Ben Pullen,
Judy Pullen, Betty Copeland,
Jimmy Copeland

File No. 157-758-1A2

Date Received 4/67

From Ernest Henry Arvanti
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

1401 Rushing
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

Natchez, Miss
(CITY AND STATE)

By Connolly & Boyle
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes
☒ No

Receipt given ☐ Yes
☒ No

Description:

Photos of 1957 olds
owned by Ernest Arvanti



Handwritten text, possibly a signature or date, located to the right of the photograph.

Handwritten text, possibly a signature or date, located to the left of the photograph.

auto owned by Ernest H. Avents



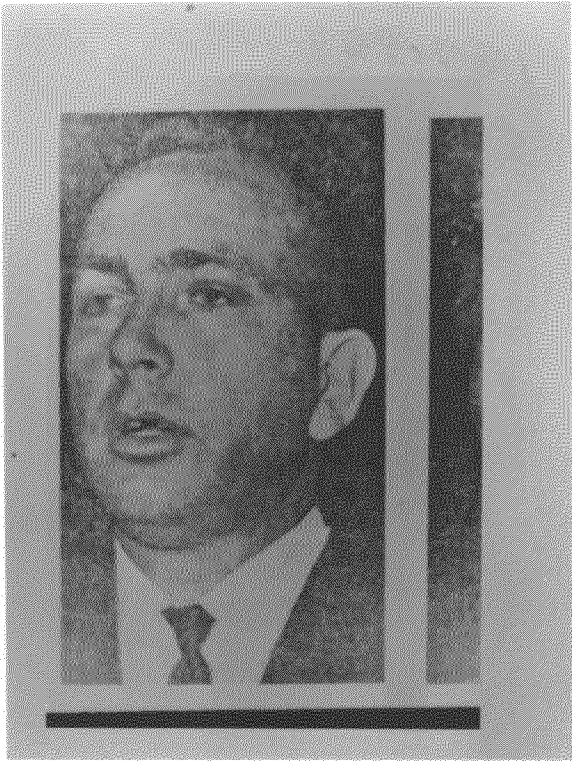
157-952-1A2

157-9581A1
File No. ~~157-27106-1A1~~
Date Received 2/4/66
From "Clavian Ledger"
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)
Jackson Min
(CITY AND STATE)
By
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes ☐
No ☒

Description:

4 Photos of
ERNEST H. AVANTS
and negative
1 sent San Antonio
7-12-66 JCB



Ernest H. Quants

157-958-1A1

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