

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-37) (157-63)

DATE: 7/18/64

FROM : SA JOHN H. PROCTOR, JR.

SUBJECT: WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN
OF MISSISSIPPI
RM

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

[redacted], Meridian, Miss., advised on 7/15/64 that he is from Simpson County, Miss., and that he has been advised that Dr. G. B. ROTENBERRY, head of the hospital at Mendenhall, Miss., is the Exalted Cyclops of the Simpson County KKK. He stated attorney GEORGE GRUBBS is also a member of this hate organization.

[redacted] stated that his brother, Jackson, Miss., [redacted] will retire soon and plans to return [redacted], to live. He stated that his brother is a very capable person and that he feels he would cooperate with the FBI in obtaining information concerning the KKK and other hate organizations in Simpson County.

He advised also that "CHUCK" LEWIS, an employee at Rike and Ferguson Funeral Home, Jackson, Miss., would probably be in a position to assist the FBI in obtaining information concerning the KKK and other hate groups in the Jackson, Miss., area. He stated LEWIS is a former Meridian auxiliary policeman and has proved that he can ascertain information of value.

[redacted] stated that FRED HARRIS, brother-in-law of Neshoba County Sheriff LAWRENCE RAINEY, is a member of the auxiliary police in Meridian, Miss., and that HARRIS had visited RAINEY's wife while she was at the hospital in Meridian, Miss. [redacted] advised he does not know if HARRIS is a member of any klan organization, but he does know that HARRIS is very close to Sheriff RAINEY.

- 2-157-37
- 1-157-2128
- 1-157-Lauderdale County
- 1-157-Simpson County

2 - 44-2227

JHP:sal
(9)

72-74 sub 176

15-37

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JUL 20 1964	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

cc: [unclear]
Jackson
Lead

44-2227-157
Meridian to
McConnell

Reading
8/10
McConnell

Vnam

157-63-6609

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

[redacted] advised that approximately 10 days ago an auxiliary police unit was organized in Neshoba County and that at present there are 12 units consisting of 25 men each totaling 300 auxiliary police. [redacted]

[redacted] and will be on the lookout for any information that would be of any assistance to the FBI. He stated that most of the men belonging to this auxiliary police unit believe that it is a "nigger beating organization" and he is attempting to change their opinion in this regard.

[redacted] stated that he is the head of the auxiliary police in Meridian, Miss., and that there is one policeman, namely W. H. LITCHFIELD, attendant Torch Truck Stop, Highway 11 south, Meridian, Miss., who is a personal friend of RAINEY and his wife and who was in Philadelphia on 6/21/64. He stated that LITCHFIELD is a former U. S. Army ranger and has considerable knowledge concerning firearms and the use of explosives. He stated that LITCHFIELD has on several occasions told him that an organization he belongs to has a store of arms and dynamite. [redacted] added that he is not acquainted with the organization that LITCHFIELD belongs to, however, he will attempt to obtain additional information regarding this organization. He further added that he has never seen any of the arms or explosives which LITCHFIELD claims to have collected and does not know their present whereabouts. He said that LITCHFIELD is an expert pistol shot and an ardent segregationist.

LEADS

AT JACKSON, MISS.

1. Will contact [redacted], Jackson, Miss., and give consideration to developing him as a possible RI.

2. Will locate and interview [redacted] and give consideration to developing him as a possible RI.

NO 157-37

AT MERIDIAN, MISS.

Will determine identity of FRED HARRIS and W. H. LITCHFIELD and ascertain background and connections of these persons with hate group and/or klan activities.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Jackson, Mississippi
January 12, 1965

**WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX
KLAN, COPIAH COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

This investigation was predicated on information furnished by letter dated October 13, 1964, directed to the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice from Ian McCrae who alleged "some organization meets on Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons, some in hoods and train with guns, etc." The Civil Rights Division referred this letter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents from the Indianapolis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

On December 22, 1964 Ian McCrae, Indianapolis, Indiana advised that the information referred by him to Mr. Burke Marshall, United States Department of Justice had come second-hand to him from Mrs. T. W. Simer, 15633 Brennan Highway, Markham, Illinois. McCrae advised that Mrs. Simer is the wife of the minister of an integrated church.

On December 29, 1964 Mrs. T. W. Simer, 15633 Brennan Highway, Markham, Illinois advised she had no first-hand knowledge of the organization meeting in Crystal Springs, Mississippi. She stated that further information might be obtained from Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel Robinson, 16236 Justine Avenue, Markham, Illinois.

On December 29, 1964 Mr. Lemuel Robinson, 16236 Justine Avenue, Markham, Illinois advised that he is acquainted by hearsay only with the organization meeting in the vicinity of Crystal Springs, Mississippi. He advised that to the best of his knowledge the original source of this information was his sister, Mrs. Ida Mae Robinson who resided at Route 1, Box 223, Crystal Springs, Mississippi. He advised that, to the best of his knowledge, his sister had related details of this organization and its meetings to his wife.

*Copied
by [Signature]
6/21/66*

157-63-682

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JAN 22 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

[Signature]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Jackson

DATE: 1/22/65

✓ FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: **WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN
OF MISSISSIPPI
RACIAL MATTERS**

ReJNairtel dated 1/12/65 enclosing letterhead memorandum of same date.

Attached are two corrected copies of page one of referenced letterhead memorandum. It is noted that a predication has been added to this page to clarify the matter to other agencies receiving copies of this letterhead memorandum.

Enclosures (2) *h*

*copy forwarded
1/22/65
AS*

17-23-653

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
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JAN 22 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

J. J. [Signature]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE JACKSON	OFFICE OF ORIGIN JACKSON	DATE 1/18/65	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 9/2/64 - 1-9-65
TITLE OF CASE WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI, NESHOPA COUNTY KLAVERN, PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI		REPORT MADE BY ALEXANDER JAMIESON	
		TYPED BY :kg	
		CHARACTER OF CASE RM	

REFERENCE

Report of SA NELSON L. PHILLIPS dated 10-9-64 at Jackson.

STATUS

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE

The investigative period of this report overlaps the investigative report of the last report submitted because of investigation received since last report.

In addition to dissemination to military intelligence agencies, copies of this report are being disseminated to offices covering headquarters of those agencies for information.

It will be noted that Jackson has prepared a separate report containing the information from informants concerning the plans of the Lauderdale and Neshoba County Klaverns of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi to eliminate MICHAEL HENRY SCHWERNER; the assault at and burning of the Mt. Zion Methodist Church near Philadelphia, Neshoba County, Mississippi,

All KKK interviews done
 30's
 see notes on back

APPROVED 	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE							
COPIES MADE: 7 - Bureau (RM) 1 - INTC - 3rd Army, Ft. McPherson, Ga. (RM) 1 - ONI, 6th ND, Charleston, S.C. (RM) 1 - OSI, Barksdale AFB, La. (RM) 1 - Atlanta (Info) (RM) 1 - Charlotte (Info) (RM) 1 - New Orleans (Info) (RM) 1 - Savannah (Info) (RM) 1 - Jackson (2 - 157-342) (1 - 157-63)	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW 157 - 63 - 684							
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JK 157-342

and activities of the Klavern concerning the abduction, murder and burial of SCHWERNER, ANDREW GOODMAN and JAMES E. CHANEY. Since dissemination of the above information at this time may jeopardize successful prosecution in the MIBURN investigation, this report has been prepared for immediate dissemination. It necessarily contains no information concerning MIBURN and the events leading thereto.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)



INFORMANTS

Identity of Source

Location

JN T-1 is

JN T-2 is

JN T-3 is

JN T-4 is

JN T-5 is

whose identity is protected herein in view of his

JN T-6 is

whose identity is protected herein in view of his

LEAD

JACKSON DIVISION

AT PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI

JN 157-342

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - INTC - 3rd Army, Ft. McPherson, Ga.
1 - ONI, 6th ND, Charleston, S.C. (RM)
1 - OSI, Barksdale AFB, La. (RM)

Report of: ALEXANDER JAMIESON
Date: January 18, 1965

Office: JACKSON

Field Office File No.: Jackson 157-342

Bureau File No.:

Title: WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX
KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI, NESHOPA
COUNTY KLAVERN, PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI

Character: RACIAL MATTERS

Synopsis: The Neshoba County Klavern of the WKKKKOM is currently active in Philadelphia, Mississippi. The auxiliary police established in Neshoba County is alleged to be a cover for klan activity. On 6-16-64 the Neshoba and Lauderdale County Klaverns met in Philadelphia, Mississippi. After this meeting klan members beat Negroes at the Mt. Zion Methodist Church and the church was burned later that evening. A recent meeting of the Neshoba County Klan was held on 12-12-64 and Deputy Sheriff CECIL PRICE was selected to represent Neshoba County at a state klan meeting. The problem of FBI informants in the Ku Klux Klan was also discussed.

- P -

JN 157-342

DETAILS:

A characterization of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi (WKKKKOM) appears in the appendix attached hereto.

It will be noted that when the terms Klan and Klansmen are utilized in the course of this report, they will refer to the WKKKKOM and members thereof.

I. ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP IN THE
NESHOBIA COUNTY KLAVERN OF THE WHITE
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF
MISSISSIPPI

On November 28, 1964, JN T-2 advised that EDGAR RAY KILLEN, also known as PREACHER KILLEN, is alleged to be the first member of the WKKKKOM in Neshoba County. Sheriff LAWRENCE RAINEY, CECIL PRICE, RICHARD WILLIS, along with "HOP" BARNETT and GEORGE HERRINGTON, became members shortly after KILLEN.

C. W. MILLER was the first member of the WKKKKOM in the Lauderdale Klavern. MILLER was obligated into the Klan in his home by his cousin EDGAR RAY KILLEN in March, 1964.

KILLEN told people during the formation of the Klan that the organization was the strongest in the state, that it would keep the Negro in his place, that it could and would elect the next governor and also had enough power to have laws passed. He also stated that its membership ranged from the governor's office down and one would be left out if he did not belong. He related that no one admits membership since it is a secret organization and partly for fear that the Negro organizations would get the FBI down on the Klan.

On November 19, 1964, JN-T6 advised that the following listed persons are members of the Neshoba County Klavern of the WKKKKOM:

Sheriff RAINEY
Deputy PRICE
PREACHER KILLEN
"HOP" BARNETT
BILLY POSEY
OLEN BURRAGE

JN 157-342

JN T-1 advised on December 15, 1964, that JESSE JOYNER, an employee of the Flintkote Company, Meridian, Mississippi, and resident of Neshoba County, is a member in the Neshoba Klavern of the WKKKK.

On November 6, 1964, JN T-5 advised that EDGAR RAY KILLEN is a member and head of the WKKKK in Neshoba County, Mississippi. He stated that KILLEN's brother, who is in the sawmill business, is also a member. The following are members of the Neshoba Klavern:

Sheriff LAWRENCE RAINEY
Deputy Sheriff CECIL PRICE
GEORGE (LNU), operator of H and H Restaurant
DUB PERRY
PETE JORDAN

On December 20, 1964, JN T-3 advised that EDGAR RAY KILLEN, from Neshoba County, attended a meeting of the Lauderdale Klavern on December 19, 1964, with a young man whom he described as his nephew. This individual is a white male, about 26 years old, medium build, neatly dressed, wears glasses, blond hair, and drives a late model Plymouth.

II. AUXILIARY POLICE AS A COVER FOR MEMBERSHIP
IN THE NESHOPA COUNTY KLAVERN OF THE WHITE
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI

On November 12, 1964, JN T-3 advised that the auxiliary police established in Neshoba and Lauderdale Counties are actually covers for membership in the Klan. WILLIE DENNIS, a preacher in Philadelphia, Mississippi, had been recruited to join the Klan in Meridian. He later transferred to a Philadelphia Unit. He said he did not like what he had experienced in the Klan and said that he could do more good by joining the auxiliary police in Neshoba County. He did this only to find that the same group who attended the Klan meetings were members of the auxiliary police. He then quit.

III. THE MEETING OF THE LAUDERDALE-NESHOPA
KLAVERNS JUNE 16, 1964

On November 12, 1964, JN T-3 advised that on June 16, 1964, a meeting of the Lauderdale-Neshoba Klaverns

JN 157-342

was held in the gymnasium of an abandoned school east of Philadelphia, Mississippi. Over 100 members attended and PREACHER KILLEN presided over the meeting.

After the usual business meeting, PREACHER KILLEN lead a discussion about whipping and beating Negroes. "HOP" BARNETT, who had been patrolling the area, came in and reported that there was a gathering at the Mt. Zion Church and that some "white folks" may be in attendance. He said that the church was guarded by Negroes.

A motion was made from the floor to appoint a committee to determine if "white folks" were at this church.

JN T-3 opined that MICHAEL SCHWERNER may have been one of the "white folks" believed to have been at the church. JN T-3 stated that there were several volunteers and it was agreed that white people in attendance would be beaten by those going to the church. At this point, members of the Lauderdale Klavern objected, contending that it was not enough to merely instruct the group to beat the white people, but that the group should be instructed to "do whatever is necessary." Several klansmen went for their guns, as only those individuals who are armed and who are not officers are allowed to participate in a klan action.

FOIA(b)(7) - (C) [redacted] was placed in charge of the action and a group of Lauderdale klansmen, including [redacted], [redacted] went to the Mt. Zion Church. When the group returned, they announced that they had found no white people present, but that they had "beaten up" several Negroes. According to JN T-3, [redacted] criticized Neshoba County klansmen who accompanied them on this klan action and accused them of not doing their part.

After the meeting, the Lauderdale klansmen returned to Meridian. [redacted] boasted endlessly of his part in beating the Negroes on the return trip to Meridian.

JN T-3 further stated that it was his opinion that a group of klansmen from Philadelphia burned the church as they were embarrassed because of [redacted] criticism of them and felt that burning the church would be a face-saving action.

JN 157-342

On November 2, 1964, JN T-4 advised that he determined through contacts that the Neshoba County Klan did meet June 16, 1964, in an abandoned school east of Philadelphia, Mississippi.

JN T-1 advised on November 28, 1964, that a meeting of the Neshoba and Lauderdale County Klaverns was held in Philadelphia, Mississippi, in mid-June. At this meeting certain members were authorized by Klan members to conduct beatings at a local church.

IV. NESHOPA COUNTY KLAN MEETING ON
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1964

On December 14, 1964, JN T-3 advised that SAM BOWERS was in Meridian on December 10, 1964, and stayed at BILLY BIRDSONG's Valley Motel in Room Number 4. BOWERS instructed BIRDSONG to go to Philadelphia and make arrangements to have a Klan Senator from the Neshoba Klavern attend the Klan Senate gathering at Brandon, Mississippi.

On Saturday, December 12, 1964, BIRDSONG met at the Neshoba County Courthouse with Sheriff LAWRENCE RAINEY, Deputy Sheriff CECIL PRICE, PREACHER EDGAR RAY KILLEN, LAUREL WEIR and a "local district attorney" (possibly RAYFORD JONES, County Attorney, or WILLIAM JOHNSON, District Attorney). The group selected CECIL PRICE as Senator to represent the Neshoba County Klavern at a state Klan meeting to be held in Brandon, Mississippi. The group also discussed the problem of Bureau informants.

They proposed a plan to have the State of Mississippi issue murder warrants charging JAMES JORDAN and HORACE DOYLE BARNETTE with the murder of the three civil rights workers. RAINEY is to arrest JORDAN and BARNETTE, bring them to Neshoba County, arrange to have a klan-dominated jury which would convict and then legally execute them. The group agreed with the plan, believing that the results would be to vindicate Mississippi and Neshoba County and provide a legal means to get rid of the talkers.

JN 157-342

V. INTERVIEW OF NESHOPA COUNTY MEMBERS OF THE
WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date December 23, 1964

CLIFFORD COX, Route 3, Philadelphia, Mississippi, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents, SA RICHARD T. LAINE and SA ROBERT P. BUTLER, Special Agents of the FBI, and SA LAINE advised him that he did not have to make any statement, that he had a right to consult with an attorney before making any statement, and that any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law.

Mr. COX stated he is not presently nor has he ever previously belonged to the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Neshoba County or any other klan-type organization existing in Neshoba County, Mississippi. COX stated he was a member of the Neshoba County Auxiliary Police Force.

The following background information and descriptive data concerning CLIFFORD COX was obtained through interview and observation:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	July 31, 1923
Place of Birth	Neshoba County, Mississippi
Height	6 feet
Weight	180 pounds
Build	Medium
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Black
Complexion	Ruddy
Scars and Marks	None
Military Service	Medical Discharge after 90 days
Marital Status	Married
Occupation	Farmer
Education	High School graduate
Relatives	IRIS LOUISE COX, nee ETHRIDE (wife); PATTY CAROL COX, age 7, daughter
Available weapons	Only hunting rifles
Arrest Record	None

On 12/14/64 at Philadelphia, Miss. File # Jackson 157-1992
Jackson 44-1
 by SAs RICHARD T. LAINE and
ROBERT P. BUTLER:mtl Date dictated 12/18/64

JN 157-1992

JN 44-1

2

Automobiles

1960 Dodge, four-door,
light green, with 1965
Mississippi license
50-1262

1963 Dodge pickup truck, blue
and white with 1965 Mississippi
license F/5 77461

Special Abilities
Residence

Heavy equipment mechanic
Route 3, Philadelphia,
Mississippi

Associates

H. L. BREAZELLE and
J. P. STOKES,
Neshoba County, Mississippi

1Date December 22, 1964

GRADY MARTIN EAKES, Route 3, Philadelphia, was interviewed at his residence by Special Agents ROBERT P. BUTLER and RICHARD T. LAINE. He was advised by SA BUTLER 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 also advised of his right to consult with an attorney of his choice prior to making any statement.

EAKES was questioned regarding an allegation that he was observed on the night of June 21, 1964, with E. G. "HOP" BARNETT in a black pickup truck parked on the west side of the Neshoba County Courthouse.

EAKES stated that he was in Philadelphia, Mississippi, on the evening of June 21, 1964, attending funeral services for ELLIOTT (Phonetic) RICH at McClain-Hays Funeral Home, 439 Beacon Street. He was wearing old clothes since he had been fishing during the day and was unable to return home to change before the funeral. EAKES recalled that following the service he drove in his light gray 1959 Dodge pickup west on Beacon Street to the Pan Am or Spur Station to refuel his truck. To the best of his recollection, the foregoing events occurred prior to 9 PM.

EAKES stated that he does not recall seeing E. G. "HOP" BARNETT in Philadelphia on June 21, 1964, but conceded that he may have seen BARNETT and might have even visited with BARNETT in his pickup truck. He stated that if he did visit with BARNETT he knows for certain that there was no discussion regarding Council of Federated Organizations workers. EAKES could recall no other names of persons he might have seen or spoken to on the night of June 21, 1964. EAKES stated that E. G. BARNETT is a neighbor of his whom he sees almost every day. He stated that he could not know when or where he has visited with BARNETT in view of their close relationship.

EAKES stated he is a former member of the Citizen's Council of Philadelphia, having paid dues and attending one meeting before losing interest. He denied membership in or knowledge of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi or any Klan-type organization.

The following information was obtained from observation and interview:

On 12/12/64 at Philadelphia, Mississippi File # Jackson 44-1

by SAs ROBERT P. BUTLER and RICHARD T. LAINE:mtl Date dictated 12/17/64

JN 44-1

2

Name	GRADY MARTIN EAKES
Date of Birth	April 1, 1910, Neshoba County, Mississippi
Residence	Route 3, Philadelphia
Height	6' 1"
Weight	192 pounds
Hair	Gray
Complexion	Ruddy
Scars and Marks	None
Military Service	None
Social Security No.	425-32-4709
Wife	NELLIE J. EAKES, nee MC ADONY, Route 3, Philadelphia
Daughter	Mrs. PATSY BARRIE, Schenectady, New York
Son	MARGENE EAKES Jackson, Mississippi

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date December 28, 1964

1

CLARENCE VERELL MITCHELL was interviewed at the Democrat Building, Philadelphia, Mississippi, by SA ROBERT F. BUTLER and SA RICHARD T. LAINE. He was immediately advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and further advised by SA BUTLER that he was not required to make any statement and that any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law. He was advised of his right to consult with an attorney of his choice prior to making any statement.

MITCHELL stated that he is employed as an insurance salesman and is Secretary - Manager of the Reliable Insurance Agency, Box 278, Democrat Building, Philadelphia, Mississippi. He stated that he helped form the Philadelphia Auxiliary Police and then turned the organization over to BILLY RUFFIN, Manager, Richton Tie and Lumber Company, Philadelphia, since he, MITCHELL, has a heart condition.

MITCHELL stated he is not now a member of a klan type organization and never has been. He has no knowledge of the existence of a klan type organization in Neshoba County, Mississippi. He further stated that he has no knowledge of the murders of the three civil rights workers in Neshoba County, Mississippi, on June 21, 1964.

The following descriptive information was obtained through observation and interview:

Name:	CLARENCE VERELL MITCHELL
Date of Birth:	June 4, 1921
Place of Birth:	Leake County, Mississippi
Height:	6'
Weight:	200 pounds
Hair:	Brown

On 12/15/64 at Philadelphia, Mississippi File # JN 157-1254
JN 157-342
JN 44-1
 by SA RICHARD T. LAINE and
SA ROBERT F. BUTLER/amh Date dictated 12/21/64

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.

NW: 12580 DocId: 70100159 Page 22

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 13, 1964

1

JERRY MC GREW SHARPE was interviewed by SAs ROBERT P. BUTLER and RICHARD T. LAINE at the Pete Jordan Company, Philadelphia, Mississippi, where SHARPE resides and is employed as manager. SAs LAINE and BUTLER immediately identified themselves as Special Agents of the FBI and SA BUTLER advised SHARPE of his right to consult with an attorney of his choice prior to being interviewed and that he did not have to make any statement but that any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law.

SHARPE was requested to furnish background information regarding himself and he advised as follows:

Name:	JERRY MC GREW SHARPE
Alias:	Jerry Sharpe
Residence:	Near Pete Jordan Company, Pulpwood Suppliers, Front Street Philadelphia, Mississippi
Mailing Address:	Post Office Box 72 Philadelphia, Mississippi
Marital Status:	Single
Occupation:	Manager, Pete Jordan Company Philadelphia, Mississippi
Business Address:	Same as residence
Business Telephone:	None
Education:	Completed 11th grade, Philadelphia High School 1956 - 1960
Citizenship:	American
Date of Birth:	December 7, 1942
Place of Birth:	Philadelphia, Mississippi
Military service:	U. S. National Guard, currently an active reservist with the 198th Armored Division, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Philadelphia, Mississippi.

On 11/12/64 at Philadelphia, Mississippi File # JN 157-
JN 157-342
JN 44-1

by SA ROBERT P. BUTLER and
SA RICHARD T. LAINE/amh Date dictated 11/13/64

JN 157-
JN 157-342
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2

Also on active duty
from April to September,
1963.

Army Serial Number
NG 24926302

Criminal and Credit
Checks:

Not applicable at this time
Philadelphia, Mississippi

Automobiles:

1. 1956 Chevrolet, two door,
blue in color, Vehicle
Identification Number
56S138890, with 1964 Mississippi
License 50-3665.

2. Triumph 650 Twin motorcycle,
maroon in color, allegedly
unlicensed and not in running
condition.

Available weapons:

12 gauge Remington Automatic
shotgun.

Physical Description:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	21 years of age
Height:	5' 9"
Weight:	165 pounds
Build:	Stocky
Hair:	Brown (crew cut)
Eyes:	Green
Scars and Marks:	Circular birthmark 2" in diameter left forearm below elbow.
Complexion:	Ruddy
Photograph:	Not available
Special Abilities:	None alleged
Associates:	JAMES SMITH ROY BESINGER, JR. Both of Philadelphia, Mississippi, and former schoolmates of SHARPE
Arrest Record:	Alleges none.

JN 157-
JN 157-342
JN 44-1
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Relatives:

Father - CURTIS SHARPE
Deceased

Mother - ELIZABETH HOLDER
Pascagoula, Mississippi

Sister - AUDIE LOFTON
Route 5
Philadelphia,
Mississippi

SHARPE denied any former or current affiliation with the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and stated that he was not aware that such an organization existed.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date December 22, 1964

WILLIAM HENRY SKINNER, Philadelphia, Mississippi, was advised by SA RICHARD T. LAINE at the outset of the interview that he was not required to make a statement, that he had a right to consult with an attorney before making any statement, and that any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law. SKINNER furnished the following information to SA RICHARD T. LAINE and ROBERT P. BUTLER, who identified themselves to him as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SKINNER advised he was not now nor had he ever previously been a member of the Ku Klux Klan, and he had no knowledge of any Klan type organization existing in Neshoba County, Mississippi.

The following description of SKINNER was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	WILLIAM HENRY SKINNER
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	August 16, 1906
Place of Birth	Neshoba County, Mississippi
Height	6' 11"
Weight	186
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown
Scars and Marks	None
Military Service	United States Army, 1942 to 1944, claims Honorable Discharge
Army Serial No.	34876603
Social Security No.	425-46-7622
Wife	MERTICE SKINNER
Children	SHIRLEY O'NEIL, Meridian, Mississippi; SANDRA KIRKENDALL Tyger, Alabama; HENRY BANKS SKINNER, Philadelphia, Mississippi; WILLIAM RUDY SKINNER Philadelphia, Mississippi

On 12/15/64 at Philadelphia, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-1120
Jackson 44-1
 by SAs RICHARD T. LAINE and
ROBERT P. BUTLER:mtl Date dictated 12/18/64

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NW: 12580 DocId: 70100150 Page 26

JN 157-1120

JN 44-1

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Previous Arrests	None claimed
Organizations	American Legion
Former Occupation	Farmer, Neshoba County, Mississippi, owns 124½ acres in Neshoba County, Mississippi; Carpenter, Neshoba County, Mississippi; Former Deputy Sheriff under GEORGE HERRINGTON, from 1956 to 1959
Present occupation	Patrolman, Philadelphia, Mississippi, Police Department since 1960
Residence	Rural Route 5 Philadelphia, Mississippi

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 24, 1964

1

JODIE FRANCIS SPEARS, Holland Avenue, Philadelphia, Mississippi, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents, SA RICHARD T. LAINE and SA ROBERT P. BUTLER, Special Agents of the FBI, and Agent LAINE advised him that he did not have to make any statement, that he had a right to consult with an attorney before making any statement, and that any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law.

Mr. SPEARS stated he is not presently nor has he ever previously belonged to the Ku Klux Klan of Neshoba County nor did he even know that such an organization existed.

The following background information and descriptive data concerning JODIE FRANCIS SPEARS was obtained through interview and observation:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Date of Birth:	April 1, 1904
Place of Birth:	Neshoba County, Mississippi
Height:	5' 5"
Weight:	135 pounds
Build:	Medium
Eyes:	Blue
Hair:	Brown (graying)
Complexion:	Ruddy
Scars and Marks:	Numerous scars on body from cuts and gunshot wound.
Military Service:	None
Marital Status:	Married
Occupation:	Retired
Previous Employment:	Self employed as carpenter
Education:	8th grade
Wife:	VERA SPEARS (works at Neshoba County Hospital in kitchen and laundry)
Available Weapons:	Winchester .16 gauge shotgun

On 11/22/64 at Philadelphia, Mississippi File # JN 44-1

by SA ROBERT P. BUTLER and SA RICHARD T. LAINE/amh Date dictated 11/24/64

JN 44-1

2

Arrest Record:	Claims to have been arrested 3 times in his life; twice for drinking and once for fighting in Jackson, Mississippi, and Philadelphia, Mississippi.
Automobile:	1961 Ford, four door Fairlane, white over green, Mississippi License 50-478
Residence:	Holland Avenue (Highway 19) Philadelphia, Mississippi
Associates:	SPEARS claims he has numerous friends but no close associates in particular.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date December 23, 1964

JAMES P. STOKES was interviewed at his residence by SAs ROBERT P. BUTLER and RICHARD T. LAINE who immediately identified themselves as Special Agents of the FBI. STOKES was immediately advised by SA BUTLER that he was not required to make any statement and that any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law. He was further advised of his right to consult with an attorney of his choice prior to making any statement.

STOKES advised that he has never been "shaken down" for any money by anyone for any reason and denied being identical with the (First Name Unknown) STOKES implicated by an informant as a friend of "PREACHER" KILLEN.

STOKES denied membership in or having any knowledge of any klan-type organization. He further denied having any knowledge of the murders of three civil rights workers in Neshoba County, Mississippi, on the night of June 21, 1964, other than what he has learned from the newspapers.

The following description of STOKES was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	JAMES P. STOKES
Alias	J. O. STOKES
Date of Birth	June 26, 1920, at Kemper County, Mississippi
Height	5' 6"
Weight	165 pounds
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Ruddy
Build	Medium
Scars and Marks	Circular scar 1 inch in diameter - left temple, appendectomy - lower right abdomen; gunshot wound - inside left calf

On 12/14/64 at Philadelphia, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-1232
Jackson 44-1
 by SAs ROBERT P. BUTLER and
RICHARD T. LAINE:mtl Date dictated 12/18/64

JN 157-1232

JN 44-1

2

Military Service	U. S. Army, December, 1943 to December, 1945. Received honorable discharge with rank of Corporal (Receives monthly disability check for nervous condition)
Occupation	County Supervisor, Beat No. 2, Neshoba County, Mississippi; cattle farmer
Mailing Address	Route 3, Box 318 Philadelphia, Mississippi
Former Address	1941-1943, Detroit, Michigan
Arrest Record	Alleges none
Relatives	
Father	MARSHAL STOKES (Deceased)
Mother	EDNA PEARL STOKES, Route 3, Philadelphia, Mississippi
Wife	EDNA FULTON STOKES, Route 3, Box 318 Philadelphia, Mississippi
Son	JIMMY, age 16 Route 3, Box 318 Philadelphia, Mississippi
Daughter	JUDY, age 11, Route 3, Box 318 Philadelphia, Mississippi
Automobiles	1964 Ford two-door hardtop, 1965 Mississippi license 50-3584 1962 General Motors Corporation pickup truck 1964 General Motors Corporation pickup truck.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 13, 1964

JIMMY LEE TOWNSEND, Route 7, Philadelphia, Mississippi, Zephyr Hill Community, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents. He was advised by SA NELSON B. KLEIN, JR. that he was not required to make a statement, that any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law, and that he had the right to consult an attorney before making any statement or at any time.

TOWNSEND was asked if he desired to furnish any information concerning Klan activities in the Philadelphia and Neshoba County area. TOWNSEND advised that he is not a member of the Klan and that he has never been approached to join the Klan. He stated he knows nothing about the Klan and if he did he probably would not say anything about it.

The following is a description relating to TOWNSEND as obtained from interview and observation:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	 Mississippi
Age	17
Height	5' 11"
Weight	175 pounds
Build	Stocky
Hair	Dark Brown
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Medium dark
Father	THOMAS FRANKLIN TOWNSEND, Route 7, Zephyr Hill Community, Philadelphia, Mississippi
	Mother - THERMERLEE TOWNSEND, same address

On 11/12/64 at Williamsville, Mississippi File # JN 157-
JN 44-1
JN 157-342

by SAs JAMES A. DAY and
NELSON B. KLEIN, JR.:mtl Date dictated 11/13/64

JN 44-1
2

Education	Quit Neshoba Central High School in September, 1964, while in eleventh grade.
Residence	Route 7, Zephyr Hill Community, Philadelphia, Mississippi
Marital Status	Single
Military Service	None
Automobiles	None owned, father has 1956 Plymouth
Weapons	None
Arrests	Claims none
Occupation	Service Station attendant
Employment	Works full time at Phillips 66 Service Station, Williamsville, Mississippi. Works 6 AM seven days a week. This station owned by BILLY POSEY
Associates and Activities	States has no particular associates and attends movies in Philadelphia, Mississippi for recreation
Arrests	Claims none

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date December 29, 1964

1

TERREL CHARLIE WARD, home address 553 East Main Street, Philadelphia, Mississippi, Superintendent of Education, Neshoba County, Mississippi, furnished the following information:

WARD stated that he knows nothing of the abduction and subsequent murder of three civil rights workers, MICHAEL HENRY SCHWERNER, JAMES EARL CHANEY and ANDREW GOODMAN, in Neshoba County in June, 1964, other than that which he has read in newspapers or heard over the radio or television.

He advised that he is not at the present time a member of the Ku Klux Klan nor has he ever been a member of the Ku Klux Klan or any other klan type organization in the past. His only knowledge of such an organization existing in Neshoba County, Philadelphia area is that which he has read in the newspapers.

The following description of WARD was obtained through observation and interrogation:

Name	TERREL CHARLIE WARD
Current Home Address:	553 East Main Street Philadelphia, Mississippi
Past Home Address:	Rural Route 1 Philadelphia, Mississippi
Current Occupation:	Superintendent of Education Neshoba County, Mississippi (elected 1963 for 4 years)
Past Occupation:	Teacher, Neshoba County Schools
Date of Birth:	January 18, 1911
Place of Birth:	Neshoba County, Mississippi
Height:	6 feet
Weight:	195 pounds

JN 157-1243

JN 157-342

JN 44-1

On 12/16/64 at Philadelphia, Mississippi File #by SA J. STEWART KAISER and
SA RICHARD A. HARDOCK/amhDate dictated 12/22/64

JN 157-1243

JN 157-342

JN 44-1

2

Build:	Large
Hair:	Light Brown
Eyes:	Brown
Complexion:	Ruddy
Relatives:	
Wife:	DELMA SMITH WARD
Daughter:	SHELBY BREELAND, age 24
Daughter:	KAY SEALE, age 19
Daughter:	GAIL LONG, age 18
Education:	East Central College, Mississippi, 2 years, 1934 - 1936; Mississippi Southern College at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, part time attendance for approximately 9 years beginning in 1936 (received Bachelor of Science Degree in 1942 and Masters Degree in teaching in 1949)
Social Security Number:	426-28-9035
Mississippi Drivers License Number:	59473
Membership in Organizations:	Mississippi Education Association School Administrators of the State of Mississippi Neshoba County Masonic Lodge Boy Scouts of America First Baptist Church of Philadelphia, Mississippi (Deacon)
Associate:	Reverend ROY COLLINS
Arrests Admitted:	None other than traffic violations
Weapons Owned:	.16 gauge shotgun (make unrecalled) .22 caliber rifle (make unrecalled)
Military Service:	U. S. Army, 1929 Serial Number 6373662

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

December 29, 1964

1

Date _____

LAUREL GILL WEIR was interviewed by Special Agents ROBERT P. BUTLER and RICHARD T. LAINE at WEIR's business office, Philadelphia, Mississippi.

WEIR was immediately advised by SA BUTLER 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 also advised that he could consult with an attorney of his choice prior to making any statement.

Mr. WEIR stated that he is not a member of any Klan-type organization nor does he have any knowledge of the existence of such an organization in Neshoba County, Mississippi. He further stated that he has no knowledge of the murders of the three civil rights workers on June 21, 1964, in Neshoba County, Mississippi. WEIR advised that he ran for the office of County Attorney one year ago and during the campaign he became known as a "nigger lover." To counteract this rumor he joined the Philadelphia Citizen's Council often referred to as the "White Citizen's Council."

Mr. WEIR stated that everything was fine in Neshoba County until "We were invaded by whores and Jews who tried to tell us how to run things." He stated, "Good people are killed every day in Mississippi but the FBI only comes in on it when worthless Jews and nigger lovers are killed."

SA LAINE expressed surprise at Mr. WEIR's comments in view of his position as an attorney and Mr. WEIR stated, "Well, the law is the law, but my personal feelings are something else."

The following descriptive information was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	LAUREL GILL WEIR
Date of Birth	December 31, 1928, at Leake County, Mississippi
Height	6'
Weight	185 pounds
Hair	Brown

On 12/15/64 at Philadelphia, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-1146
Jackson 44-1
 by SAs ROBERT P. BUTLER and RICHARD T. LAINE:mtl Date dictated 12/21/64

JN 157-1146

JN 44-1

2

Eyes	Hazel
Build	Medium
Complexion	Medium
Scars and Marks	None
Address	269 Byrd Avenue, Philadelphia, Mississippi
Business Address	Box 156 Philadelphia, Mississippi
Occupation	Attorney at law
Marital Status	Married
Wife	QUIDA HERRING WEIR
Children	Four under 13, all at home
Military Service	None
Social Security No.	427-42-7349
Selective Service No.	225428235
Selective Service Status	Classified 5-A, Local Board 54, Philadelphia, Mississippi
Father	W. T. WEIR, Attorney, Philadelphia
Mother	DOLLY WEIR, Philadelphia
Brother	JERRY WEIR (deceased)
Half-brother	ROBERT WEIR, Carthage, Mississippi
Automobiles	1964 Oldsmobile, four door, blue-green; 1961 Buick, maroon.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/28/64

1

Mr. EARL YATES was interviewed by SAs JOHN P. SLAYDEN and SIDNEY J. PRESCOTT at his residence, Lewis Avenue, at which time he was advised by SA PRESCOTT that he did not have to furnish any information to the FBI and that any information he did furnish could be used against him in a court of law. He was also advised of his right to counsel.

Mr. YATES advised that he owns a 500 acre farm situated on Lewis Avenue and has owned this property for approximately 15 years. He further related that from his present residence he operates a milk distributorship for the Pet Milk Company, however, this business is primarily operated by his son, CHARLES YATES.

Mr. YATES stated that he himself is a retired pharmacist; however, he occasionally does part time work at various drugstores in Neshoba County.

Mr. YATES continued that he has never belonged to any klan-type organization and does not have any information to the effect that such an organization exists in Neshoba County. He said that the only such klan organization that he would suggest did exist in Neshoba County was the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Council of Federated Organizations.

Mr. YATES stated that he did not approve of the treatment received by the three civil rights workers in Philadelphia; however, he did not agree with the reason for their having been in Neshoba County.

On 10/22/64 at Philadelphia, Mississippi File # JN 157-
JN 157-342
JN 44-1
by SA JOHN P. SLAYDEN &
SA SIDNEY J. PRESCOTT :bjm Date dictated 10/26/64

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JN 157-342
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He stated that he would gladly assist the FBI in any way which he could but he did not possess any information concerning any Klan activity in Neshoba County, Mississippi.

Set forth below is a description of Mr. YATES as obtained from observation and interview:

Name	EARL YATES
Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	73
Place of birth	Neshoba County, Mississippi
Height	5'10"
Weight	180 pounds
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Gray
Build	Medium
Complexion	Ruddy
Marital status	Married
Occupation	Retired pharmacist
Residence	Lewis Avenue (at end of paved road)

JN 157-342

VI. INTERVIEW OF SUSPECTED KLAN
MEMBERS IN PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 21, 19641

MORRIS THERRELL was advised that he was being interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI, and he was advised by SA HARRINGTON that he did not have to make any statement and that he had a right to an attorney prior to making a statement. No threats or promises were made to induce THERRELL to furnish any information and he was advised that any information furnished could be used against him in a court of law.

THERRELL advised that he is the owner of the Philadelphia Motor Gear Parts which is located in the business district of Philadelphia. He was interviewed in view of the fact that he is a member of the auxiliary police.

THERRELL advised that he is not a member of any klan-type organization and that he has not engaged in any acts of violence concerning civil rights activities.

He stated that he was in the Independence Quarters on one occasion in the evening hours driving his car but that this was only a "curiosity trip."

THERRELL was asked to furnish information concerning klan-type activities in Neshoba County, and he stated that he did not believe any klan-type organization existed and if one did, he would not offer any information concerning it.

On 9/16/64 at Philadelphia, Mississippi File # JN 44-1
JN 157-342
 by SA JOHN B. HARRINGTON and
SA HARRY J. SARAZIN :sab Date dictated 9/18/64

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/4/64

1

After having been advised of the identities of the interviewing agents, DENNIS PERSHING DANIELS, Columbus Road, Philadelphia, Mississippi, was advised by SA HARRY J. SARAZIN that he was not required to make any statement whatsoever, that any statement made by him could be used against him in a court of law and that he had the right to consult an attorney at any time.

Mr. DANIELS stated he wished to have Mr. LAUREL G. WEIR, attorney in Philadelphia, represent him. Interview was conducted in Mr. WEIR's office in the presence of WEIR and BILLY JENKINS, DANIELS' son-in-law, Route 3, Box 399, Philadelphia, Mississippi. DANIELS advised that he did not want to be interviewed unless Mr. JENKINS and Mr. WEIR were both present.

Mr. WEIR advised that the interview would have to be limited to twenty minutes.

DANIELS advised that he is not a member of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi, has never been approached to become a member and has never been associated with that or any other similar organization. He said he has never heard of the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race (APWR) and has no idea what the organization is all about. He said he is not a member of the White Citizens Council of Philadelphia. DANIELS advised that he has heard something about the Klan in Neshoba County and this has mainly been through his observance of several Klan sponsored handbills which he has recently seen at the Neshoba County Fair.

DANIELS advised that he does not remember what he did on either June 16, 1964 or June 21, 1964.

DANIELS advised that he served in the first World War from October, 1917 to October, 1919 and was

On 9/2/64 at Philadelphia, Mississippi File # JN 157-342
JN 44-1
 by SAs HARRY J. SARAZIN &
THOMAS J. CARSON :him Date dictated 9/3/64

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JN 157-342

JN 44-1

2

eventually discharged at Camp Shelby, Mississippi on a disability. He stated he is presently receiving a disability check from the government but he does not know what percentage of disability he is on and said he does not know what his disability is. He said that upon his discharge from the army he was examined by a group of doctors and released, but he stated that they did not tell him the nature of his infirmity.

DANIELS stated that he is willing to be interviewed again if necessary; however, he requested that agents not come to his house as his wife is quite nervous and becomes easily frightened. He stated that any further contact with DANIELS be made through Attorney LAUREL G. WEIR.

The following description of DANIELS was obtained through observation and interview:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'9"
Weight	145 pounds
Hair	White
Eyes	Blue
Date of birth	July 3, 1894
Place of birth	Neshoba County, Mississippi
Scars and marks	2" scar top of right wrist
Military service	U. S. Army, October, 1917 to October, 1919
Employment	Unemployed
Wife	BESSIE E. DANIELS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/5/641

JAMES EDMOND CRAWFORD, Route 2, Philadelphia, was contacted by Bureau Agents with the intention of interviewing him relative to Neshoba County "Klan" activities. He advised that he has nothing to say to the FBI and he stated that he has not done anything and does not want to be "bothered" by any more agents in the future.

On 9/4/64 at Philadelphia, Mississippi File # JN 157-342
JN 44-1

by SAs THOMAS J. CARSON & HARRY J. SARAZIN :bjm Date dictated 9/4/64

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 13, 1964

WILBURN DAVIS MOORE, SR., was interviewed by SAs ROBERT P. BUTLER and RICHARD T. LAINE, at the Democrat Building, where he has offices and is self-employed as an attorney at law.

Special Agents LAINE and BUTLER immediately identified themselves as Special Agents of the FBI and SA BUTLER advised MOORE of his right to consult with an attorney of his choice prior to being interviewed. He was also advised of his right to decline to make any statement, and advised that any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law.

MOORE was requested to furnish descriptive and background information regarding himself, and he advised as follows:

True Name	WILBURN DAVIS MOORE, SR., also known as WILBURN MOORE
Residence and Mailing Address	Post Office Box 305, Choctaw Gardens, Philadelphia, Mississippi
Home Telephone	656-3027
Occupation	Attorney at law, self employed
Business address	Democrat Building, Philadelphia, Mississippi
Business Telephone	656-2802
Marital Status	Married
Education	Zephyr Hill High School, Neshoba County, Mississippi, graduated 1933; East Central Junior College, Decatur, Mississippi, 1935; Columbus Law University, Washington, D. C., 1940 (no degree)
Citizenship Status	Birth U. S., May 18, 1915, Neshoba County, Mississippi
Military Record	U. S. Army 1942-1946, discharged as Technician Third Class, Army Serial number unrecalled.

Jackson 157-
Jackson 157-342

On 11/12/64 at Philadelphia, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-342

by SAS ROBERT P. BUTLER and
RICHARD T. LAINE:mtl

Date dictated 11/13/64

JN 157-
JN 157-342
RFB:mtl
2
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Automobiles

1. 1963 Mercury Monterey, four-door, blue with Vehicle Identification No. 8W24527914, 1964 Mississippi license 50-3579;
2. A 1957 Plymouth four-door blue in color, with Vehicle Identification No. B31303782, bearing 1964 Mississippi license 50-3578;
3. A 1952 Plymouth, two-door, two-tone brown in color, with Motor No. 12967184, bearing 1964 Mississippi license 50-3580

Physical Description:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Citizenship	American
Age	49
Height	5' 10½"
Weight	185 pounds
Build	Stocky
Complexion	Medium
Hair	Brown, graying
Eyes	Blue
Scars and Marks	A 1½" lateral scar left chin
Social Security No.	428-48-4163
Associates	HAYES MC CAULEY, President, Bank of Philadelphia; M. W. PERRY, Owner, Deemer Lumber Company, Philadelphia
Arrest Record	Alleges none

MOORE denied any past or present affiliation with the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi or any knowledge of the existence of such an organization, in Neshoba County.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date January 9, 1965

1

HOWARD FANNIN, also known as "Nap" Fannin, was reinterviewed at his residence located on Highway 16 West near Philadelphia, Mississippi. Prior to this interview, FANNIN was advised of the identities of SA J. STEWART KAISER and SA RICHARD T. LAINE as Special Agents of the FBI. SA KAISER advised FANNIN 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 and that he had a right to consult with an attorney prior to making any statement. FANNIN furnished the following information:

FANNIN stated that he had not obtained any information of value since last contacted. He added that he did not have any idea who was involved in the burning of the Mt. Zion Methodist Church, Longdale area, and had no idea who had burned this church.

He further advised that he had heard nothing and knew nothing concerning the murder of the three civil rights workers in the Philadelphia area. He stated that he would immediately advise the Agents if any such information was discovered by him.

Mr. FANNIN further stated that he knew of no klan type organization in the Philadelphia area and that he had not been asked to join any such organization and knew of no one who was a member of any such organization.

The following description of FANNIN was obtained by observation and interview:

Name:	HOWARD FANNIN
Also Known As:	"Nap" Fannin
Sex:	Male

On <u>1/5/65</u> at <u>Philadelphia, Mississippi</u>	File#	JN 157-1118
		JN 157-342
		JN 44-1

by SA RICHARD T. LAINE and J. STEWART KAISER/amh Date dictated 1/5/65

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JN 157-342
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Race: White
Date of Birth: April 9, 1908
Place of Birth: Neshoba County, Mississippi
Height: 5' 8"
Weight: 145 pounds
Build: Medium
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Gray
Complexion: Ruddy
Scars and Marks: Outer part of right ear missing;
6" scar on back neck
Marital status: Married
Wife: ZELENE STEPHENS
Place of birth Vinegar Bend,
Alabama
Children: None, but raising 13 year old
nephew, JOHN KEITH FANNIN, son
of ROLLIE FANNIN, deceased.
Education: High school, graduated Linwood
High School, Neshoba County,
Mississippi, 1947
Military Service: Army from June 16, 1942 to
December 24, 1944, Army Serial
Number 34279924.
Automobiles: 1963 Chevy II, white in color,
1965 Mississippi plates 50B244
1964 metallic blue Chevy II,
1965 Mississippi license 50B245
Occupation: Farmer
Employment: Retired
Previous Employments: Prior to 1945, operator of
cafe (Honky Tonk) Philadelphia,
Mississippi, area;
Cab driver, Birmingham, Alabama,
late 1940's;

JN 157-1118

JN 157-342

JN 44-1

3

Telephone Number:

Social Security
Number:

Driver for Allied Lines,
Mayflower and Eagle Truck
Lines, Birmingham, Alabama,
late 1940's and early 1950's;
Operator of Spur Service
Station, early 1950's;
Farmer during the late 1950's
656-1704
Philadelphia, Mississippi

Not Available

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date January 9, 1965

1

JOHN OTHO RISHER was interviewed at the Risher Radio Supply Company, Inc., 3510 8th Street, Meridian. He was told by SA HILBERT ARPS that he need not furnish any information, that any information he furnished could be used against him in court and that he was entitled to consult an attorney before furnishing any information. RISHER furnished the following information:

He is not and never has been a member of the Ku Klux Klan, nor has he ever attended nor been invited to attend any Klan meetings or functions. He knows of no one who may be a klan member and he knows nothing of any klan activities. He is opposed to violence and believes that despite anyone's feelings on racial issues, it is everyone's duty to abide by the law. Those who are responsible for acts of violence and who take the law into their own hands should be punished.

RISHER was asked if he were a klansman, would he admit it. He replied that he could not answer that question as he is not a klansman. He did not feel he could afford to become involved in klan activities as to do so could injure his business. RISHER was asked if he would tell the FBI if he should hear of any acts of violence being planned and he said he would.

The following is a description of RISHER as obtained from him at the time of interview:

Name	JOHN OTHO RISHER
Birthdate	September 21, 1920
Birthplace	Leake County, Mississippi
Height	5' 8"
Weight	200 pounds
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Gray - balding considerably
Race	White
Sex	Male
Parents	Deceased
Wife	MILDRED RISHER, nee MADISON residing with him.

On 1/6/65 at Meridian, Mississippi File# Jackson 157-1142
Jackson 157-343
Jackson 44-1
 by SAs HILBERT ARPS; and
HARRY L. LEE:mtl Date dictated 1/7/65

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JN 157-1142
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JN 44-1

IP

Children	STEVE, age 8
Brothers	HUBERT RISHER, Madden, Mississippi, operator of general merchandise store; TALLY RISHER, Madden, Mississippi, gasoline truck driver
Sisters	Mrs. LLOYD (FLORENCE) DREWERY, Madden, Mississippi; Mrs. J. A. (ANNIE) DENNIS, Madden, Mississippi; Mrs. WILLIE (THELMA) MILLER, Madden, Mississippi; Mrs. GLOVER (LENA PEARL) RUSSELL, Holly Ridge, Louisiana
Address	Poplar Street, Philadelphia, Mississippi
Business	Risher Radio Supply Company, 3510 8th Street, Meridian, Mississippi
Military Service	U. S. Army 1943 to about 1945 Serial No. 14171887
Education	Equivalent of six years of college

JN 157-342

VII. DESCRIPTION OF SUSPECTED KLAN MEMBERS

JN 44-1
RTL:mtl
1

BURRAGE: The following is descriptive data concerning **OLEN LOVELL**

FOIA(b)(6)

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Place of Birth	Mississippi
Height	5' 11"
Weight	175 pounds
Build	Stocky
Hair	Brown, slightly curly, high receding hair line
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Ruddy
Scars and Marks	Small mole between eyes, slightly to right and above eyebrows
Military Record	Service No. 6562529, U. S. Marine Corps, in service from May, 1947 to May, 1959
Occupation	Owner, Olen Burrage Trucking Company
Employment Address	Route 9, Post Office Box 22, Philadelphia, Mississippi
Education	High school
Marital Status	Divorced from former wife, ARLENE FREDERICK, 1950, Neshoba County, formerly from Edinburg, Mississippi, whereabouts unknown
Present Wife	AUDENE BURRAGE, nee Clark,
Children	Two: JIMMY WAYNE, age 10, and OLEN, JR., age 11
Sister	RUBY COPELAND, Highway 16, between DeKalb and Philadelphia, Mississippi
Brother-in-law	WILLIAM COPELAND, same address
Brother	BILLY BURRAGE, Houston, Texas, machinist at General Electric
Arrest Record	Claims none except for traffic violations

JN 44-1
RFL:mtl
2

Firearms

12 gauge shotgun, double barrel;
22 automatic rifle;
22 Sears rifle, J. C. Higgins;
.38 special Smith and Wesson;
25 automatic

Automobiles

1958 Ford pickup, light green,
1964 Mississippi license
F578060;
1964 Chevrolet, four-door light brown,
Mississippi license 50-2665.

SA 44-1
JTK:mtl
1

The following is a description of W. H. PETTIS:

Name	W. H. PETTIS
Born	May 31, 1928 Philadelphia, Mississippi
Height	6'
Weight	217 pounds
Race	White
Sex	Male
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Brown
Scars and Marks	Moles on right side of forehead
Military Service	U. S. Army Air Corps, March 13, 1943, to February 27, 1947, Honorable Discharge, U. S. Army Serial No. 14186721
	U. S. Air Force, December 28, 1951, to December 7, 1955, Honorable Discharge
Present Occupation	Self-employed, Pulpwood Contract
Former Employment	Heavy truck driver, employed for HERMAN TUCKER, Philadelphia, Mississippi; Petroleum Transporters, Inc., Jackson, Mississippi, 1947-51
Relatives	
Wife	BONNIE H. PETTIS
Father	WILLIE LEE PETTIS
Mother	Deceased
Brother	JAMES THEO PETTIS
Former Addresses	March, 1946 Route 1, Philadelphia, Mississippi
	February, 1947 279 Gun Street, Philadelphia, Mississippi
	December, 1955 Route 1 Philadelphia, Mississippi

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JN 157-925
JN 44-1
JJK:mtl
2

Present Address 279 Gun Street
Philadelphia, Mississippi

Veterans Administration Claim Number C-13925601
Veterans Administration Center,
Jackson, Mississippi

Automobile Approximately 1956 white over
light blue Buick, 1964 Mississippi
License 50-911

Home telephone 656-3459

Weapons 12 gauge shot gun;
.22 automatic pistol

Acquaintances PETER JORDAN
Philadelphia, Mississippi
(employed as salesman for JORDAN
for approximately two years since
approximately May, 1962)

"HOP" BARNETT,
Former Sheriff,
Philadelphia, Mississippi

CECIL PRICE
Deputy Sheriff
Philadelphia, Mississippi

HERMAN TUCKER
Employer
Philadelphia, Mississippi

OLYN BURRAGE
Philadelphia, Mississippi

JN 44-1
JFK:mtl
1

The following is a description of HERMAN TUCKER:

Born	August 2, 1928 Philadelphia, Mississippi
Height	6' 1"
Weight	165 pounds
Hair	Black
Eyes	Blue
Education	4 years high school
Occupation	Truck driver, contractor
Employment	Self employed, Philadelphia, Mississippi
Marital Status	Married, wife KATHERINE JOLLY TUCKER
Relatives	
Father	VADEN SAMUEL TUCKER Route 5 Philadelphia, Mississippi
Brother	RICHARD HILLMAN TUCKER Route 5 Philadelphia, Mississippi
Military Record	U. S. Army, September 20, 1946, to March 2, 1947, honorable discharge, On Certificate of Disability for Discharge because of "deafness, mixed type, right, mild left, mode second to repeated otitis media" Army Serial Number 14241900 U. S. Army, September 8, 1954, to September 27, 1954, Honorable Discharge by reason of "Physical laceration of tendons sustained in 1951."
Veterans Administra- tion Claim Number	C-11973554 Veterans Administration Jackson, Mississippi
Residence	Route 7, Box 101 Philadelphia, Mississippi

JW 44-1
JTK:mtl
2

Automobiles Green and white Chevrolet,
approximately 1955 model,
1964 Mississippi license
50-4802
Telephone Number 656-1630
Associates and Employees CLARENCE WELCHER
Philadelphia, Mississippi

ODELL WELCHER
Philadelphia, Mississippi

EUGENE WELCHER
Philadelphia, Mississippi

W. H. PETTIS
Philadelphia, Mississippi

RUFUS SMITH
Philadelphia, Mississippi

CLYDE WHITE
Philadelphia, Mississippi

BILL GRAFTON
Philadelphia, Mississippi

JN 157-1544
JN 44-1
JTK:mtl
1

The following is a description of BILLY WAYNE POSEY:

Alias	BILLY POSEY
Residence and Mailing Address	Route 2, East Long Drive, Philadelphia, Mississippi
Marital Status	Married
Occupation	Manager, Phillips 66 Service Station
Business Address	Phillips 66 Service Station, North Side of Highway 16, Williamsville, Mississippi
Business Telephone	656-9963
Education	Unknown
Citizenship	U. S.
Date of Birth	December 2, 1936, Neshoba County, Mississippi
Military Service	Alleges none
Automobile	1958, two-door Chevrolet, solid red in color, Vehicle Identification Number D58S189613, 1964 Mississippi license 50-4833. Car recently purchased from used car dealer in Newton, Mississippi, named SMITH
Available Weapons	Pistol (Make and caliber unknown)
Physical description:	
Race	White
Sex	Male
Citizenship	American
Age	27 years
Height	6' 2"
Weight	150 pounds
Build	Slender
Hair	Brown, receding
Eyes	Blue
Characteristic	Wears glasses and has crossed right eye
Social Security No.	424-42-4582

JN 44-1
JN 157-1544
JTK:mtl

2

Wife
Children
Special Abilities
Associates

KATE POSEY
Four under age of eight years
Unknown
PETE JORDAN;
OLEN BURRAGE;
Sheriff CLARENCE RAINEY;
Deputy Sheriff CECIL PRICE
(all of Philadelphia, Mississippi)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

Jackson, Mississippi

January 13, 1965

Title: WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX
KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI, NESHOPA
COUNTY KLAVERN, PHILADELPHIA,
MISSISSIPPI

Character: RACIAL MATTERS

Reference: Report of Special Agent ALEXANDER
JAMIESON dated and captioned as
above at Jackson, Mississippi.

All sources (except any listed below), whose identities are concealed in referenced communication, have furnished reliable information in the past.

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Director, FBI

1-21-65

SAC, Jackson

**SAMUEL HOLLOWAY BOWERS,
Imperial Wizard, White Knights
of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi;**

**WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN
OF MISSISSIPPI**

One of the principal reasons for the successful operation of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi during the year it has been in existence lies in the basic policy of the organization to avoid publicity and notoriety for itself. No public announcement has ever been made of the identity of the officers of the organization, no formal headquarters has ever been put up and no publicity statements aside from the periodic appearance of the publication "The Klan-Ledger" were ever made.

SAMUEL HOLLOWAY BOWERS, the Imperial Wizard of the organization, has virtual passion for anonymity as a klan leader. He delights in appearing in public, in preaching along religious lines, will carry on for hours at any time he has an audience, but rarely in his public appearances does he delve into the klan itself or discuss the policies or programs of the klan, even those areas that would normally be acceptable in public. He never talks about klan action, klan violence or the vicious aspects of the klan, except to a few key officers of the organization or individuals in whom he has substantial trust as klan activists.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

It appears desirable to air the fact that the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi purports to be a state-wide organization, that BOWERS is its leader and spokesman. In order to take such action, we have secured, through [redacted] approximately 300 copies of the Christmas

4 - Bureau (Enc. - 1) (RM)
2 - Jackson
(1 - 157-18; 1 - 157-63)

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(6)

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JN 157-18
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FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

edition of "The Klan-Ledger." A copy of the publication is enclosed for the Bureau's information.

To implement the suggestion set forth above, Jackson desires to mail copies of this publication to all newspapers on the office mailing list, as well as other selected persons in the State of Mississippi. BOWERS has actually suggested a comparable mailing [redacted]

[redacted] In addition to the mailing, it is desired if the Bureau agree that the Bureau print envelopes for the Jackson Office which will bear on the front in the upper lefthand corner the following legend:

**The Klan-Ledger
A "Christian" Publication.**

On the back as a return address, the following legend should be printed:

**Samuel Holloway Bowers
Imperial Wizard
White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
of Mississippi
Political Investigator
Expert Pinball Mechanic
820 South Fourth Avenue
Laurel, Mississippi.**

We would also like a rubber stamp which would fit in the lefthand corner of "The Klan-Ledger" alongside the masthead bearing the legend:

**Samuel Holloway Bowers
Author and Imperial Wizard
White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of
Mississippi
820 South Fourth Avenue
Laurel, Mississippi**

JN 157-18
JN 157-63

Upon receipt, these envelopes will be stuffed with copies of "The Klan-Ledger" which will be appropriately stamped and mailed to newspapers and other individuals who would have an interest in knowing more about the Klan and its leaders throughout the State of Mississippi. Postage will be purchased for the mailing and the envelopes actually placed in the mails at Laurel, Mississippi.

SAC, JACKSON (157-1441)

1/24/65

SA JOHN WILLIARD THOMAS

JASPER BUFORD
RM

(OO: Jackson)

Captioned individual who has been reported in the past to be an Exalted Cyclops in the Ku Klux Klan in Warren County, Mississippi, was interviewed at the Spencer Chemical Company, Rifle Range Road, Vicksburg, Mississippi by SAs JOHN WILLIARD THOMAS and ROBERT F. COOPER, JR., on 1/20/65.

JASPER BUFORD was more friendly toward Agents during this interview than he was during the first interview conducted during November, 1964 at his home. BUFORD advised he is not a member of the Klan and he does not know any persons who are members. When asked if he did know such persons would he advise the FBI, and he said he did not know whether he would or not. He said he would like to meet face to face with any person who says that he (BUFORD) is a member of the Klan.

JASPER BUFORD was asked about the shooting into the home of HENRY WILLIAMS and the burning of three Negro Masonic Halls on the night of 1/18/65, and he denied any knowledge of this activity and claimed he does not have any information pertaining to this activity. BUFORD said he did not participate in that activity and does not know who did it.

Additional contacts are planned with BUFORD in an effort to determine whether he will furnish information pertaining to Klan members and activity in Warren County or elsewhere.

FD-302 concerning this interview dictated and designated for appropriate files.

1 - 157-1441
1 - 157-267 (KKK Warren County)
① - 157-63 (WKKKK, Mississippi)
JWT/jt
(3)

157-63-626

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JAN 26 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

[Signature]

SAC, JACKSON (157-1719)

1/24/65

SA JOHN WILLIARD THOMAS

J. LESTER PHILLIPS
RM

(OO: Jackson)

Captioned person has been reported in the past to be a Klingle in the Ku Klux Klan in Warren County, Miss. He has been interviewed several times, always after some incident involving violence in Warren County. He does not express a hostile attitude toward Bureau Agents during interviews. He will neither deny nor admit membership in the Klan. About one and one half years, he is reliably reported to have approached a member of the Vicksburg, Mississippi PD and furnished him with an application for membership in the Klan, along with a sheet of paper listing many reasons why a person should join the Klan. Last Fall, 1964, he was observed by a member of the Vicksburg PD actually distributing "The Klan Ledger" on the street in Vicksburg, while riding in an old model Plymouth car bearing unknown New Jersey license plates. PHILLIPS is non-committal in answering any questions about the foregoing mentioned activity.

J. LESTER PHILLIPS was interviewed on 1/23/65 by SAs JOHN WILLIARD THOMAS and ROY MC DANIEL at his home located on Route #5, Vicksburg, Mississippi, concerning the shooting into the home of HENRY WILLIAMS and about the Negro buildings (3) which were burned down on the evening of 1/18/65. PHILLIPS denied knowing anything about this activity. He said during the pertinent time, his wife had been in the Hospital for surgery and he had been taking care of her.

FD-302 dictated and designated for appropriate files.

Additional interviews are planned with PHILLIPS in an effort to ascertain whether he will furnish information of any value pertaining to the Klan in Warren County or elsewhere.

1 - 157-1719
1 - 157-267 (KKK Warren County)
① - 157-63 (WKKKK, Mississippi)
JWT/jt
(3)

157-1719-607

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 24 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

[Handwritten signature]

SAC, JACKSON (157-1050)

1/25/65

SA JOHN WILLIARD THOMAS

CLARENCE BENTON NEWMAN, aka
"Buddie" Newman
RM

(OO: Jackson)

Captioned individual is the elected representative from Issaquena County, Mississippi to the State Legislature, and was reported as the Klan Organizer for that County at Valley Park, Mississippi.

CLARENCE BENTON NEWMAN was interviewed at his home in Valley Park on 1/5/65 at which time he denied being a member of the Klan and denied knowing anyone who was a member of the Klan. He said he knew nothing about any Klan literature being distributed in Issaquena County, and he denied any knowledge of plans to bring Klan literature into the County.

It is not contemplated that additional interviews will be conducted with NEWMAN unless violence erupts in Issaquena County, or unless additional information is received that such interviews are essential and necessary.

FD-302 previously dictated and designated for appropriate files.

1 - 157-1050
1 - 157-1507 (KKK Issaquena County)
① - 157-63 (WKKKK, Mississippi)
JWT/jt
(3)

157-63-617

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JAN 27 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

[Handwritten signature]

SAC, JACKSON (157-2121)

1/26/65

SA SAMUEL N. JENNINGS

RETUS G. BILBO
RACIAL MATTERS

Information recently received from racial informants of the Jackson Office reflects that a Reverend BILBO of Jefferson Davis County was elected as State Chaplain of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi during December, 1964.

During investigation of another matter in Jefferson Davis County on January 19, 1965, SAs SAMUEL N. JENNINGS and ROY F. RODMAN, went to the home of captioned individual which is located on Route 42, northwest of Prentiss, Mississippi, near the county line. It was planned to conduct a pretext interview with Reverend BILBO regarding voter registration matters in Jefferson Davis County. Mrs. BILBO answered the door and indicated that her husband, Reverend RETUS G. BILBO, was not home and that he is the only Reverend BILBO in Jefferson Davis County and they are registered voters in that county having registered last year. The above Agents did not identify themselves, however, since a number of FBI Agents had been working for several days in Jefferson Davis County, she may have assumed that this was an inquiry by the FBI.

It was noted during the above visit that there were three vicious looking German Shepard dogs in pens or chained in the backyard of the BILBO's residence.

On January 20, 1965, SAs ROY F. RODMAN and MERRILL E. MC CLOUGHAN returned to the BILBO residence for the purpose of conducting a pretext investigation regarding voter registration matters in Jefferson Davis County. Reverend BILBO was not at home and his wife indicated he was visiting some sick persons. Mrs. BILBO indicated clearly that she did not wish to discuss the matter of voter registration. She mentioned that her husband was traveling in a green Chevrolet pickup truck. Two automobiles were observed in the backyard, a late model green Buick, 1965 Mississippi license #33D-225 (possibly a visitor), and a late model white 4-door Oldsmobile, license number 33D-147.

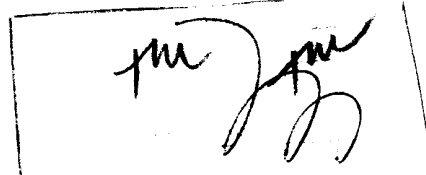
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SNJ/ves

(3) *ves*

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JN 157-2121

The telephone number for Reverend BILBO is 925-3021.

Located on Route 42 ½ mile toward Prentiss, Mississippi, from the BILBO residence is the old Hebron Baptist Church which is believed Reverend BILBO is the pastor.

Investigation should be conducted to determine additional information regarding Reverend BILBO since it appears obvious that he is identical with the State Chaplain of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-714) (P)

DATE: 1/27/65

FROM : SA JOHN L. MARTIN

SUBJECT: MORDAUNT HAMILTON

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

[redacted] previously advised that SAM BOWERS, Imperial Wizard, WKKKKOM, had been confronted by an unknown Klansman at a Klan meeting in Hattiesburg, Miss. The Klansman, during the course of the meeting, accused BOWERS of "wasting money". The Klansman pulled a gun on BOWERS and made him sit down and listen to his complaints. This unknown Klansman was later identified as (FNU) HAMILTON.

BOWERS advised the source that he would take four or five bodyguards, go to Hattiesburg and "try" the Klansman.

On Monday, 1/25/65, BILLY BIRDSONG and (FNU) SYKES traveled from Meridian, Miss., to Laurel, Miss., met with SAM BOWERS and two Laurel Klansmen and proceeded to Hattiesburg, Miss. The group was to meet a contact in Hattiesburg. When they met their contact they were advised that if they wanted to see HAMILTON they would "have to come and get him".

SAM BOWERS and his four bodyguards proceeded to HAMILTON's home where they were met by armed Hattiesburg Klansmen who would not allow them to see HAMILTON. SAM

- 1- 157-714
- 2- 157-66
- 1- [redacted]
- 1- 44-1
- 1- 157-63

JLM:ish
(6)

ish

The of
JENNINGS
SNT

157-63-697



JN 157-714

BOWERS and his men left Hattiesburg without conducting the "trial". BOWERS told [redacted], who volunteered to kill HAMILTON, that the Imperial Wizard would have him beaten rather than murdered.

Source was advised that (FNU) AINSWORTH, a wealthy Hattiesburg resident, was present at the meeting where HAMILTON confronted BOWERS. HAMILTON made AINSWORTH refund his initiation dues. HAMILTON with drew the Hattiesburg Klan from the WKKKKOM according to the source. The Hattiesburg Klaverns under HAMILTON's leadership are now independent and are not a part of the WKKKKOM or the UKA. //

It is the opinion of the source that a serious confrontation between the Hattiesburg Klan and the state Klan may take place within the near future.

SAC, JACKSON (170-125)

1/25/65

SA JOHN WILLIARD THOMAS

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

[REDACTED]
RI NON-ORGANIZATIONAL

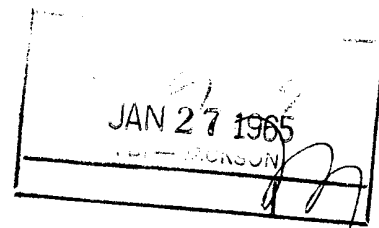
This is to record the following information pertaining to captioned individual who approached SA THOMAS at approximately 4:52 PM, 1/25/65 on the front steps of the U. S. Post Office and Federal Court Building, Vicksburg, Mississippi, displaying an antagonistic and angry attitude. He said he did not appreciate the fact that SA THOMAS and SA ROBERT F. COOPER had stopped at the Gulf Station on 1/21/65 asking for [REDACTED] and "giving them the idea I'm helping the FBI".

(SA THOMAS telephonically contacted [REDACTED] on 1/21/65 and asked him to come by the FBI RA and he said he had a flat tire and was at the Gulf State Station on Clay Street and to come up there if the FBI wanted to talk to him. SAs THOMAS and COOPER did stop at the Gulf Service Station located at 1301 Clay St., and inquired for [REDACTED] without identifying themselves. [REDACTED] was actually located at the Gulf State Station located at 1325 Clay Street.)

The above does have an unintended effect, however, this is what [REDACTED] believes was intentional and has made him mad. [REDACTED] said he intended to post his residence property with "No Trespassing" signs immediately, and will advertise in the Vicksburg Newspaper on 1/26/65 that he has done this, and he does not want the FBI or anyone else on his property and the next time he sees the FBI or anyone else on his property "I will shoot you off my property". He also said not to come to [REDACTED] where he works and not to call any more. SA THOMAS told [REDACTED] that if the occasion arose where Agents desired to contact him, they would do so at any time. [REDACTED] said the next time any Agents approached him they had better have a warrant of arrest for him. SA THOMAS said perhaps this could be arranged. [REDACTED] then stomped off.

Local law enforcement officers and agents of Internal Revenue were advised of remarks of [REDACTED]

JWT/jt 1 - [REDACTED]
(3) 1 - 157-267 (KKK Warren County)
① - 157-63 (WKKKK, Mississippi)



157-63-100

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE JACKSON	OFFICE OF ORIGIN JACKSON	DATE 1/9/65	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 11/18/64 - 1/4/65
TITLE OF CASE WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI LAUDERDALE AND NESHOPA COUNTY KLAVERNS		REPORT MADE BY SA JAMES A. DAY	TYPED BY amh
		CHARACTER OF CASE RACIAL MATTERS	

REFERENCE:

Report of SA RICHARD A. HARRISON, 11/17/64 at Jackson.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Copies of this report are being furnished Atlanta, Charlotte, New Orleans and Savannah in view of dissemination to military intelligence headquarters covered by those Divisions.

This report was prepared to include all up-to-date informant information regarding the background concerning the plans of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi (WKKKKOM) to kill MICHAEL SCHWERNER, burning of the Mt. Zion Church and participation of Klan members in the killing and burying of the bodies of MICHAEL SCHWERNER, ANDREW GOODMAN and JAMES CHANEY.

<p>APPROVED _____ SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</p> <p>COPIES MADE:</p> <p>COPIES - SEE COVER PAGE B</p> <p><i>5 - Jackson</i></p> <p><i>2 - 157-343</i></p> <p><i>2 - 157-342</i></p> <p><i>① 157-63</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;"><i>157-63-201</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____</p> <p>SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JAN 11 1965</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FBI - JACKSON</p> </div> <p>NOTATIONS</p>				
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT					
AGENCY.....					
REQUEST RECD.....					
DATE FWD.....					
HOW FWD.....					
BY.....					

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① - 157-63

IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT NO DISSEMINATION OF THIS REPORT BE MADE OUTSIDE OF THE FBI UNTIL AFTER THE TRIAL OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE MIBURN INVESTIGATION.

It is felt that the burning of the Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Neshoba County was one of the events closely tied in with the subsequent abduction and murder of the three civil rights workers. Separate report including the other activities of the Neshoba County Klavern of the WKKKKOM and the Lauderdale

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County Klavern activities of the WKKKKOM are being prepared for immediate dissemination.

Some of the information attributed to informants in this report is the opinion of these informants and is being reported as such as it is felt that this information serves a definite purpose since the informants are closely associated with those individuals responsible for the murder of GOODMAN, CHANEY and SCHWERNER and are, so to speak, "expert" opinions concerning activities of these individuals.

This report is not being prepared as a prosecutive report and some length has been utilized in setting forth background concerning the WKKKKOM for the purpose of clarity.

Information from HORACE DOYLE BARNETTE and JAMES EDWARD JORDAN has been extracted from original FD 302s and signed statements of these individuals and placed within appropriate captions in this report. The original of the signed statements and 302s are located in JN 44-1, the MIBURN investigation.

No specific leads are being set out in this matter as a separate report containing leads is being prepared.

INFORMANTS:

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

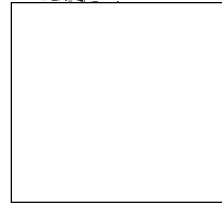
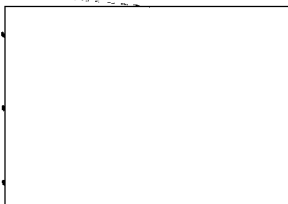
INFORMANT

ORIGINAL INFORMATION IN

JN T-1 is

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JN T-3 is



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INFORMANT

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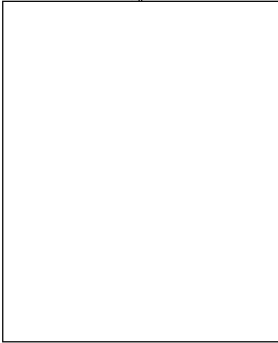
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BACKGROUND

According to confidential informant JN T-1, the Lauderdale Klavern of the WKKKKOM was organized in about March, 1964. The first person in Lauderdale County known to have been "obligated" into the Klan was C. WALLACE MILLER, a Sergeant on the Meridian Police Department, who was obligated by "Preacher" EDGAR RAY KILLEN, a Neshoba County Klansman and a Baptist Minister. The Klan in Lauderdale County grew rapidly and according to JN T-1 had about 200 members by June, 1964.

MICHAEL HENRY SCHWERNER is a native of New York, New York. He came to Meridian, Mississippi in January, 1964 as a Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) worker and was actively engaged in voter registration matters in Meridian and the surrounding area. His work in this regard was conducted contrary to Klan objectives and he was identified as an enemy of the Klan.

JAMES EARL CHANEY was a Negro male from Meridian, Mississippi who actively participated in the integration activities with SCHWERNER on behalf of COFO. He was frequently seen in SCHWERNER's company and they traveled throughout the Meridian area together.

ANDREW GOODMAN was also from New York City and was a college student who elected to take part in the "summer project". During June, 1964, he went to Oxford, Ohio where he received some instructions and came to Meridian, Mississippi on June 20, 1964 as a potential COFO worker,

CHANEY, SCHWERNER and GOODMAN are reported to have left Meridian, Mississippi on June 21, 1964 in a 1963 blue Ford station wagon to go to near Philadelphia, Mississippi in Neshoba County, Mississippi, to inspect the ruins of the burned Mt. Zion Methodist Church. They were arrested by Neshoba County Deputy Sheriff CECIL RAY PRICE at about 3:30

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or 4:00 P.M. on June 21, 1964 and released at about 10:30 P.M. the same date. The station wagon in which they had been traveling was located burned on June 23, 1964 in Neshoba County, Mississippi.

The bodies of SCHWERNER, GOODMAN and CHANEY were located in an earthen dam on the farm of OLEN BURRAGE on August 4, 1964. Autopsy reports said that all three had been shot.

PLANS TO KILL MICHAEL SCHWERNER

On November 29, 1964, JN T-1 advised that BILLY BIRDSONG, Lauderdale County Klansman, stated on October 26, 1964 that the killing of MICHAEL SCHWERNER had been approved by the State Organization of the Klan sometime prior to the burning of the Mt. Zion Methodist Church on June 16, 1964.

On October 1, 1964, JN T-1 advised that he had had a conversation with BILLY BIRDSONG at which time BIRDSONG stated that the reason that the Mt. Zion Methodist Church was burned was specifically to get MICHAEL SCHWERNER to come to Philadelphia, Mississippi.

On October 26, 1964, confidential informant JN T-2 advised that two or three weeks prior to the murder of the three civil rights workers, "Preacher" KILLEN made the statement that plans were being made to kill MICHAEL SCHWERNER and that attempts were being made to get a heavy equipment operator from Neshoba County into the Klan.

On October 28, 1964, JN T-2 stated that "Preacher" KILLEN had a prearranged setup with Lauderdale County Klansmen that the Lauderdale County Klansmen would assist the Neshoba County Klan in the event COFO workers were arrested.

On November 7, 1964, confidential informant JN T-3 advised that during March, 1964, the Klan planned at a State

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Meeting to eliminate a person they referred to as "GOATEE". "GOATEE" is the Klan name for MICHAEL SCHWERNER. At a later date the Meridian Klavern had a vote as to whether "GOATEE" should be eliminated although no vote was taken as members were advised that the vote was unnecessary since the State Klan had already voted to eliminate MICHAEL SCHWERNER.

On November 11, 1964, JN T-1 advised that he had met with SAM BOWERS, Imperial Wizard of the Klan, on November 3, 1964. During the course of the conversation which took place with several Lauderdale County Klavern Klansmen, BOWERS was reported to have stated that he wanted no Klan activity until after the trials were over in the Neshoba County killings as the Klan could not afford to pay the expenses already incurred in Lauderdale and Neshoba Counties. Informant stated that since BOWERS made the statement that the Klan was paying some of the expenses incurred as a result of the killing of SCHWERNER, GOODMAN and CHANEY, the State must have approved the actions that took place on June 21, 1964, when these individuals were killed.

On November 18, 1964, JN T-3 advised that SAM BOWERS, Imperial Wizard of the Klan, spoke at a meeting on November 12, 1964. Informant stated that after having known BOWERS for sometime and listening to him talk about the Jews that BOWERS was especially interested in the activities of MICHAEL SCHWERNER because BOWERS considered him typical of the "Communist - Jew" and approved the killing of SCHWERNER. Informant further opined that when Klansmen had an opportunity to kill SCHWERNER they would have killed anyone who was with him as a furtherance of their plan to eliminate SCHWERNER and that there was no original intention to kill either CHANEY or GOODMAN and they were killed only because they happened to be with SCHWERNER.

On November 26, 1964, JN T-1 advised that he recalled attending the State Meeting of the Klan at the store of ALGENE

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PRICE at Key Field, Meridian, Mississippi, during May, 1964. EDGAR RAY KILLEN presided over the meeting and a discussion was had concerning the house where COFO workers were staying in Meridian, which brought out that both white and colored people live together in this house. Someone from the floor stated that the Klan "should get" SCHWERNER since he was probably the leader of the COFO. KILLEN made the statement that the Lauderdale Klavern should leave SCHWERNER alone since he had already been voted on and any action against him may possibly mess up the plans of another Klan Unit. The Klan indicated that they still desired to whip SCHWERNER, but KILLEN ordered them not to do anything that would bring heat on the Klan and that someone would take care of SCHWERNER.

KILLEN then stated that plans must be made to eliminate anyone and after the plans were made, someone from out of town would do the job. He also stated that if someone outside of Lauderdale County must be eliminated then somebody from the Lauderdale Klavern would be called in for that purpose.

KILLEN reiterated his statement that the Lauderdale Klavern was not to "mess with SCHWERNER" as the state organization had already approved the elimination of SCHWERNER and that another unit was making plans for this action.

On November 28, 1964, JN T-1 advised that about the time that BYRON DE LA BECKWITH was released from jail through a mistrial, EDGAR RAY KILLEN told the Lauderdale Klavern that the State Organization had requested that crosses be burned to celebrate BECKWITH's release. At about the same time the Lauderdale County Klavern Unit voted to whip the COFO workers living on 44th Avenue including MICHAEL SCHWERNER. KILLEN stated that the Lauderdale Klavern could not whip SCHWERNER because the State Klan had already approved him for elimination.

It is noted that BYRON DE LA BECKWITH was charged with the murder of MEDGAR EVERS and subsequently released as a result of a mistrial.

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On November 28, 1964, confidential informant JN T-4 advised that he was a member of the Klan having joined the Lauderdale Klavern in April, 1964. JN T-4 stated that it was generally known among Klan members at the time he was initiated into the Klan that the State Klan Organization had approved the killing of MICHAEL SCHWERNER and further that the approval for this plan had been given prior to April, 1964. JN T-4 stated that of all the individuals in the Meridian area, SCHWERNER was considered in Klan circles to be the most contemptible.

On December 10, 1964, JN T-1 stated that on December 3, 1964, EDGAR RAY KILLEN stated that SAM BOWERS and JESSIE HARPER, Grand Dragon, had "okayed" the murder of SCHWERNER but that KILLEN had not obtained this permission from either of them.

On December 14, 1964, JAMES EDWARD JORDAN at Cedartown, Georgia, was reinterviewed at which time he advised that he had been present during a conversation between Lauderdale County Klansmen FRANK HERNDON, WALLACE MILLER and PETE HARRIS at which time the name of MICHAEL SCHWERNER came up. One of the individuals suggested that the Lauderdale Klavern did not have to vote whether or not to take care of SCHWERNER as State Officials of the Klan had already approved action against SCHWERNER. JORDAN stated that he assumed this statement to mean that SCHWERNER would either be killed or ridden out of town on a rail.

THE MT. ZION METHODIST CHURCH

It will be noted that on the night of June 16, 1964, several individuals went to the Mt. Zion Methodist Church, Neshoba County, Mississippi, where these individuals assaulted and beat several Negro parishioners. Later on that night the church was burned to the ground.

On October 1, 1964, JN T-1 advised that he saw Lauderdale County Klavern member BILLY BIRDSONG on both September 29 and October 1, 1964. During the course of the conversation, BIRDSONG

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stated that on the date that the Mt. Zion Methodist Church was burned there had been a meeting of the Neshoba County Klavern at which about 120 members were present. During the course of the meeting, someone called an unidentified member of the Lauderdale Klavern and requested that some men be sent to Philadelphia, Mississippi for "a little action". BIRDSONG stated that he went to Philadelphia and when he arrived "Preacher" KILLEN put him in charge of the burning of the church and the assault on the Negroes. BIRDSONG stated he understood the purpose of the job was to get MICHAEL SCHWERNER to come back to Philadelphia and further that the Klavern did not know that MICHAEL SCHWERNER was not in Mississippi at the time.

BIRDSONG stated that B. L. AKIN, a Lauderdale County Klavern member, was not invited on this job but did show up with four men and was not refused participation. During the course of the assault, AKIN shot his gun in the air and BIRDSONG reprimanded AKIN in front of the other Klansmen.

On October 15, 1964, confidential informant JN T-5 advised that he had learned that there were 14 individuals from Meridian that took part at the assault at Mt. Zion Methodist Church at Philadelphia, Mississippi. Of those individuals who took part were BILLY BIRDSONG and B. L. AKIN of Akin Mobile Homes. AKIN is reported to have fired his automatic pistol into the air several times and was concerned for fear empty cartridges would be located that could be traced to AKIN's gun. BIRDSONG reportedly was quite upset at AKIN when he started firing his gun as it was feared AKIN might have killed someone.

On October 23, 1964, confidential informant JN T-6 advised that he felt that WAYNE ROBERTS, LEE ROBERTS, BILLY BIRDSONG, B. C. LIDE, and possibly BERNARD AKIN, all Lauderdale Klavern members, were possibly participants in the assault at the Mt. Zion Methodist Church. JN T-6 stated that he considered

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the beating at the church and the fact that a Negro's jaw was broken causes him to believe that WAYNE ROBERTS was a participant. JN T-6 further stated that several members of the Neshoba County Klavern were present at the Mt. Zion Church.

On October 26, 1964, JN T-6 advised that on the night the Mt. Zion Church was burned during June, 1964, B. C. LIDE, a Lauderdale County Klansman, stated that if any "beat up niggers" came to town, nothing should be done about it since they had just finished a job in Neshoba County. JN T-6 stated that he subsequently learned that 10 or 12 men from Meridian participated in the assault on the Mt. Zion Church.

On October 28, 1964, JN T-2 advised that several Meridian Klansmen were involved in the burning and assault at Mt. Zion Methodist Church. He stated that he has heard the names of Klansmen RUTLEDGE, BIRDSONG, HERNDON, JORDAN, LIDE, BARFIELD and HARRIS mentioned as those who participated in church burnings.

On October 30, 1964, JN T-1 advised that he had had a conversation with OLIVER DICK WARNER on October 24, 1964, at which time WARNER indicated that he had been present at the assault on the Mt. Zion Methodist Church.

On November 29, 1964, JN T-1 advised that in a conversation with BILLY BIRDSONG on November 26, 1964, concerning who within the Lauderdale Klavern was informing on other members, BIRDSONG stated that he was worried since JIM JORDAN could put the finger on him for the Negro whippings at the church near Philadelphia. BIRDSONG again made the statement that AKIN was there and had shot his pistol in the air during the time that automobile headlights were shining on him. BIRDSONG also stated that the woman who told the FBI she had been beaten was lying as this was the woman who

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was in the ditch "hollering and praying" and said that she would not go back there any more. BIRDSONG further stated that the church was not burned at the time of the whippings because KILLEN told them to go back to Meridian by way of Dekalb and not through Philadelphia. BIRDSONG stated that KILLEN came to Meridian the next day and advised that they (Neshoba County Klansmen) had burned the church after the Meridian Klansmen had left. BIRDSONG further stated that permission to kill GOODMAN and CHANEY was not requested but that they were killed just because they were in the way. He stated that SCHWERNER's death had been planned prior to the burning of the Mt. Zion Methodist Church.

On November 28, 1964, JN T-4 advised that he attended a meeting at a fish camp near the Chunky River off Highway 80 in Lauderdale County, Mississippi, during June, 1964. He stated that while there a discussion was held concerning the beatings at the Mt. Zion Methodist Church sometime that month at which time WAYNE ROBERTS stated that he had beaten several of the Negroes in attendance.

On December 10, 1964, JN T-1 advised that B. L. AKIN made the statement on November 30, 1964 that another individual did not go to Philadelphia with him. From the tenor of the conversation, informant felt that AKIN was referring to the night the Negroes were beaten at the Mt. Zion Methodist Church.

On November 18, 1964, JN T-3 advised that on the evening of June 16, 1964, DELMAR DENNIS, BILLY BIRDSONG, B. C. LIDE, DICK WARNER and WAYNE ROBERTS left Meridian, Mississippi and drove to an abandoned school near Philadelphia, Mississippi to attend a meeting of the Neshoba County Klavern. A motion was made to go to the Mt. Zion Methodist Church to conduct some beatings. BIRDSONG, ROBERTS and others went to the Mt. Zion Church and returned an hour later. BIRDSONG and ROBERTS had blood on their hands and bragged of beating the Negroes and showed their bloody knuckles as proof. ROBERTS

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bragged of beating a Negro male and during this beating a Negro female told him to stop. He told the group that he turned on the Negro woman, knocked her to the ground and kicked her several times. At the end of the meeting, the Meridian group returned to Meridian and on the return trip to Meridian, BIRDSONG and ROBERTS boasted about beating the Negroes.

On November 6, 1964, JAMES EDWARD JORDAN, 2414 19th Avenue, Gulfport, Mississippi, advised that he did not go to Philadelphia, Mississippi, on June 16, 1964, but he has heard that there was a meeting of the Neshoba County Klavern on that night. JORDAN stated that he has learned that B. L. AKIN, BILLY BIRDSONG, J. T. BARNETT and TOMMY HORNE went to the above meeting as visitors and representatives of the Lauderdale Klavern. He stated that he had heard that during this meeting it was brought out that COFO was holding meetings at the Mt. Zion Methodist Church and several members of the Klan from this meeting went to the church, beat several Negroes and then burned the church. JORDAN stated that he has heard that BILLY BIRDSONG was in charge of this beating and that B. L. AKIN furnished the gasoline to burn the church in plastic jugs. He stated that J. T. BARNETT is supposed to have boasted that he bruised his fist and elbow beating a Negro. JORDAN stated that he has also learned that B. L. AKIN fired several shots from a .32 caliber automatic pistol on this occasion and that this gun belonged to PETE HARRIS.

PARTICIPATION OF LAUDERDALE AND NESHOPA
COUNTY KLANSMEN IN THE ABDUCTION, MURDER
AND BURIAL OF MICHAEL HENRY SCHWERNER,
ANDREW GOODMAN AND JAMES EARL CHANEY

On July 9, 1964, confidential informant JN T-7 advised that he had had an opportunity to make contact with individuals whom he knew to be Lauderdale County Klavern members and stated

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that he made this contact through BILLY BIRDSONG, Operator of the Valley Motel. He stated that he subsequently met with several other unidentified individuals who were introduced to him as Klansmen. During the course of his contact with these individuals and from conversations that took place, this informant is of the opinion that Meridian Klavern members proceeded to Philadelphia on June 21, 1964, where they awaited the release of GOODMAN, SCHWERNER and CHANEY from the jail then followed them, overtaking the station wagon and "got rid of them". The bodies were buried and the station wagon in which they had been riding was subsequently burned.

This source learned that the bodies were buried in a "fill 20 to 25 miles from Meridian" and they were under from 30 to 40 feet of dirt.

On October 1, 1964, JN T-1 advised that JIM JORDAN was "really shook up" about the FBI investigations in Philadelphia concerning the three civil rights murders.

On October 23, 1964, JN T-6 advised that at about 1:00 or 1:30 A.M. on June 22, 1964, he had seen B. C. LIDE in Meridian, Mississippi, at which time LIDE advised that he was going to meet "some of the boys" who were coming back from Philadelphia. LIDE made the statement that these individuals were "on a job" in Philadelphia.

JN T-6 further stated that a red and white 1958 Chevrolet took part in the chase of civil rights workers after they were released from jail. This car was supposed to have broken down and left abandoned at the murder scene or nearby. Informant stated that this car was the property of a Klan member.

JN T-6 further stated that "Preacher" KILLEN arrived at the murder of the three civil rights workers and that somehow, though out of his knowledge, Lauderdale Klan members were contacted. The civil rights workers, after being released from

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jail were, according to this source, chased along Route 19 and pulled off the road. They were taken from their car and beaten. They were subsequently shot and taken to the BURRAGE farm where a dam was being constructed. They were placed in a shallow grave and were covered up in the course of the construction.

JN T-6 stated that he had learned that a construction man by the name of TUCKER, who was working at the dam, arrived at the job early and saw blood. He was immediately sworn into the Klan and advised of the consequences should he talk.

On the afternoon of June 22, 1964, JN T-6 continued, KILLEN visited him and told him that the bodies of the three civil rights workers were buried about 14 feet under a newly constructed dam off Route 21 in Neshoba County. At the same time, KILLEN attempted to return a pistol which he had borrowed to Captain KELLER of the City Fire Department. Informant stated from his contacts he felt certain that WAYNE ROBERTS and JIM JORDAN were involved in these civil rights killings.

On October 21, 1964, JN T-1 advised that he heard BILLY BIRDSONG stated on October 20, 1964, that JORDAN talked too much and further that he could name everyone who went to Philadelphia. He discussed his disappointment at not being invited to participate in civil rights matters and indicated that he knew the full story in this instance. He further stated that JIM JORDAN had made the statement that there were two men in the whole bunch at Philadelphia who had enough guts to pull the trigger on the civil rights workers. BIRDSONG further related that LEE ROBERTS was talking too much and that he was going to send his brother to the electric chair. Informant stated that he was of the opinion from BIRDSONG's statements that JIM JORDAN and WAYNE ROBERTS actually killed the three civil rights workers.

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On October 24, 1964, JN T-1 advised that sometime in May, 1964, "Preacher" KILLEN was in Meridian and asked if a Klansman in Meridian had a gun he could borrow. HAROLD KELLER, a Captain on the Meridian Fire Department and a member of the Lauderdale Klavern, volunteered his gun to KILLEN. Informant continued stating that he had seen this gun in KILLEN's possession on several occasions recalling it was a .38 caliber Smith and Wesson Chiefs Special Revolver. He stated that on either Monday or Tuesday following the murder of the three civil rights workers, KILLEN brought the gun to Meridian and gave it to an unidentified individual only known as one of the Meridian Klansmen to destroy.

On October 26, 1964, JN T-6 advised that shortly after the murders of the three civil rights workers, "Preacher" KILLEN mentioned that the heavy equipment operator who buried the workers had been a member of the Klan for a few weeks. Informant stated that he is not sure this man's name was mentioned but he was sure KILLEN was referring to TUCKER. KILLEN also stated that he had an alibi for the night of June 21 as he was at a funeral home in Philadelphia and had signed the register and had made it a point to speak to the people there who had signed in just before and just after him.

Informant stated that sometime during mid-October, 1964, "Preacher" KILLEN made the statement that the FBI was trying to find out if any telephone calls were made from Philadelphia to Meridian on June 21, 1964. KILLEN stated that this will prove futile since KILLEN actually came to Meridian himself and personally contacted FRANK HERNDON at the Longhorn Restaurant. KILLEN also made the statement that SCHWERNER's last words were "I know just how you feel sir."

On October 28, 1964, JN T-2 advised that he had learned from conversations with Lauderdale Klavern members that two cars with Lauderdale County Klansmen went from Meridian to Philadelphia, Mississippi on June 21, 1964. He stated that he

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has heard several names of individuals of whom went on this trip and the consensus is that JIM JORDAN and WAYNE ROBERTS went. He stated that he has been told that "Preacher" KILLEN planned the entire operation with the assistance of Deputy Sheriff CECIL RAY PRICE of Neshoba County and that Sheriff RAINEY was there during part of the activity. He stated that he has learned that Lauderdale Klansmen did not actually participate in the burial of the COFO workers but the Neshoba County Klavern handled the burial through a Klansman who was building the dam.

On October 30, 1964, JN T-1 advised that on October 24, 1964, DICK WARNER remarked that JIM JORDAN must be talking to the FBI because he was the only one who could have told the FBI anything about him. WARNER continued stating that the gloves he had given JORDAN were either brown or burned. WARNER further stated that he could not admit that he gave gloves to the individuals on the night they went to Neshoba County because it might make him an accessory to the killing. WARNER further stated that someone else had JIM JORDAN get the gloves and he was fearful that this individual, CHARLES BARFIELD, a Lauderdale County Klavern member, was the individual who furnished the information about the gloves to the FBI.

Informant further stated on October 30, 1964, that since WARNER mentioned BARFIELD's name there is a slight possibility that he went to Philadelphia on June 21, 1964. Informant stated that BARFIELD is a close friend of TRAVIS BARNETTE, JIMMY SNOWDEN, JIMMY ARLEDGE and DOYLE BARNETTE. Informant explained that ARLEDGE is a brother-in-law of the BARNETTES and DOYLE and TRAVIS are brothers and quite close.

On October 30, 1964, JN T-1 further stated that BILLY BIRDSONG indicated that he knew that "Preacher" KILLEN brought a gun from Philadelphia to Meridian that was supposed to have been used in the civil rights murders.

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According to JN T-1 BIRDSONG also made the statement that at a meeting at Philadelphia, a man by the name of BURRAGE publically announced that he had room for five or six Negroes in a dam that he was building if the situation ever arose where it was necessary to dispose of some of them.

On October 30, 1964, JN T-1 advised that he had learned from BILLY BIRDSONG on October 28, 1964, that BILLY was not in town at the time of the killings but had he been there he would have sent the spectators home. BIRDSONG also stated that only two men would have been necessary to follow them south on Highway 19 instead of several cars. He further stated that they should not have let the Negro drive the station wagon since this Negro knew the area. BIRDSONG continued stating that the car should have been disposed of in the hills along the Alabama - Tennessee line especially after BURRAGE had announced at a meeting that he was building a lake where they could put Negroes. BIRDSONG also indicated that 120 people heard BURRAGE make this statement.

In the course of the conversation according to JN T-1 BIRDSONG indicated that it was not a pleasant duty to kill a man but sometimes it was necessary. He indicated that the "Preacher" (KILLEN) should never have been allowed to be a member of the Klan let alone take part in the killings. BIRDSONG said that he had learned through JORDAN that KILLEN acted like a wild man in that he did not shoot the civil rights workers but shot everywhere else. BIRDSONG indicated that JORDAN said the persons at the murder scene were more afraid of getting killed by KILLEN than they were afraid of the danger of being involved in the killing of the three civil rights workers.

On October 30, 1964, JN T-6 advised that he had learned from B. C. LIDE that JIM JORDAN had gotten rid of a foreign made gun.

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JN T-6 further stated that in a conversation with other Lauderdale Klavern members he learned that "Preacher" KILLEN set up the murders of the civil rights workers but was not present when the murders took place. Informant stated that the murders were committed about 20 miles away from the burial place.

On November 3, 1964, confidential informant JN T-8 advised that on October 31, 1964 Sheriff RAINEY, Neshoba County, stated that on June 21, 1964, after having made arrangements with a Negro source in Neshoba County, this source attempted to contact the Sheriff to advise the Sheriff that CHANEY and SCHWERNER had returned to Neshoba County to run a freedom school and were, at that time, in the vicinity of the Mt. Zion Methodist Church. RAINEY said that the Negro did not locate him but furnished the information to Deputy Sheriff CECIL RAY PRICE and PRICE immediately proceeded out Highway 16 to arrest the individuals. PRICE was not supposed to place himself in a position to be observed by anyone. However, just prior to the arrest, PRICE observed a Mississippi Safety Highway Patrol car and asked for their assistance. RAINEY related that PRICE had attempted to contact him in Meridian but was unsuccessful in doing so. He sent a messenger to locate him, who in turn notified the head of the Klan in Meridian. RAINEY also made the statement that he had made arrangements with someone to dig a hole in the dam for the bodies of the COFO workers.

RAINEY made the statement that he had slapped hell out of the Negro and then shot him and someone else killed the other two COFO workers at his request.

On November 11, 1964, JN T-1 advised that it was known knowledge among Klansmen in Meridian, Mississippi, that WAYNE ROBERTS had been one of the individuals who participated in the civil rights murders.

On November 11, 1964, informant stated that on November 3, 1964, DICK WARNER made the statement that the gloves picked up at his store by Klansmen en route to Philadelphia,

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Mississippi, on June 21, 1964, were the brown jersey cotton type. WARNER stated that there were four men in the car that came after the gloves.

On November 21, 1964, JN T-1 advised that on November 27, 1964, B. L. AKIN related that JIM JORDAN could not afford to talk about his participation in the murder of the civil rights workers in Neshoba County. AKIN related that he had had customers in his trailer park until about 9:30 P.M., June 21, 1964, at which time B. C. LIDE came by and picked him up and they drove around until quite late to wait for the Meridian Klansmen to return from Philadelphia. AKIN indicated that "his BARNETT", meaning J. T. BARNETT, was not involved in the murders.

JN T-1 also stated that on the same date, B. C. LIDE indicated that he had picked up B. L. AKIN and they had ridden around until 2:00 A.M. on June 21, 1964, waiting for Klansmen to return from Philadelphia.

On December 10, 1964, JN T-1 advised that on December 3, 1964, "Preacher" KILLEN advised that he was sorry he had ever brought anyone from Meridian into the Klan. KILLEN then indicated that he would probably be arrested for conspiracy in his part in the Neshoba County murders but that was all that they could charge him with. KILLEN further related that B. L. AKIN knew as much about the murders as he did and further that he was not the top man in the Klan but SAM BOWERS and JESSIE HARPER held the highest positions.

KILLEN stated that "there was no one from the Neshoba County Klavern talking about the civil rights murders and if anyone was talking it had to be someone from the Lauderdale Klavern." KILLEN stated that SAM BOWERS was trying to blame several things on him and BOWERS and AKIN were attempting to blame him when they were actually the guilty ones. He stated that he did not have nerve enough to shoot anybody,

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On December 4, 1964, BILLY BIRDSONG stated to JN T-1 that SAM BOWERS had called stating that he was ready to talk about attorney fees for the individuals arrested for their participation in the civil rights murders.

On December 10, 1964, JN T-1 stated that on December 6, 1964, B. L. AKIN related that he did not understand why B. C. LIDE was not arrested since he allegedly knows more about the Philadelphia matter than anyone else. AKIN indicated that B. C. LIDE knew about the murders from the start and that he had gone to every meeting and that he knew what each man had done. B. C. LIDE had helped get things organized on June 21, 1964.

Informant stated that it is his opinion that KILLEN has been "slipping down" from Philadelphia to see LIDE and no one else because LIDE is probably the individual who got permission from SAM BOWERS to kill MICHAEL SCHWERNER.

On November 5, 1964, JAMES E. JORDAN, who had previously admitted membership in the Klan, advised that on June 21, 1964, he was in Meridian, Mississippi, in the company of known Klansmen, PETE HARRIS, FRANK HERNDON and others. "Preacher" EDGAR RAY KILLEN from Philadelphia came to the Longhorn with JERRY SHARPE and JIMMY LEE TOWNSEND. KILLEN talked to FRANK HERNDON and then HERNDON asked JORDAN if he could go on a trip. HERNDON also stated that they would need three or four Lauderdale County Klansmen for this trip. Later, according to JORDAN, a group met behind B. L. AKIN's trailer at Akin's Mobile Homes on Tom Bailey Drive. In the meantime, JORDAN and SHARPE had gone to the home of WAYNE ROBERTS and invited him to participate. At Akin's Mobile Homes JORDAN stated they met TRAVIS BARNETTE, DOYLE BARNETTE, JIMMY SNOWDEN, an individual identified later as JIMMY ARLEDGE, B. L. AKIN, "Preacher" KILLEN and PETE HARRIS. B. L. AKIN filled DOYLE BARNETTE's car with gasoline. AKIN and HARRIS stated that they could not go because they were officers of the Klan and are not allowed to participate on such a job. JORDAN

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stated that he, ROBERTS and SHARPE went to DICK WARNER's Grocery Store and obtained six pairs of brown cloth gloves. This group, all Lauderdale County Klavern members including DOYLE and TRAVIS BARNETTE, SNOWDEN, ARLEDGE and JORDAN entered DOYLE BARNETTE's automobile. KILLEN, WAYNE ROBERTS, SHARPE and TOWNSEND entered SHARPE's automobile and they proceeded to Philadelphia, Mississippi.

According to JORDAN, KILLEN had related that Deputy Sheriff CECIL PRICE, Neshoba County Sheriff's Office, had arrested the civil rights workers on a traffic violation and they could not be held too long.

Upon arriving in Philadelphia, the group in DOYLE BARNETTE's car parked near the Neshoba County Courthouse where they observed J. T. "HOP" BARNETT and another man in a black pickup truck. KILLEN contacted them and told them that the three civil rights workers were still in jail.

According to JORDAN, the civil rights workers were subsequently released and were followed south on Highway 19. PRICE eventually chased the civil rights workers car and stopped them, whereupon he loaded the three civil rights workers into the rear seat of his car. PRICE returned to Highway 19, proceeded north to a gravel road, turned west where the three civil rights workers were shot.

The bodies were then loaded into the back of the station wagon and the group proceeded to a spot where there was a mound of dirt. SHARPE, WAYNE ROBERTS and DOYLE BARNETTE went after an individual who was a heavy equipment operator.

JORDAN further stated that sometime at a later date WAYNE ROBERTS stated at Akin's Mobile Homes that he had stuck his finger in SCHWERNER's face and asked "do you think you are as good as a nigger" and SCHWERNER replied "I know just how you feel sir". ROBERTS said "that's when I let him have it."

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On December 14, 1964, JAMES EDWARD JORDAN advised that he knew the following individuals to be members of the Klan since he had either attended meetings with them or had talked with them and during the conversation they indicated to him that they were Klan members:

B. L. AKIN
EARL B. AKIN
JIMMY ARLEDGE
HORACE DOYLE BARNETTE
TRAVIS BARNETTE
JAMES T. (PETE) HARRIS
FRANK HERNDON
THOMAS HORNE
EDGAR RAY KILLEN
CECIL RAY PRICE
LAWRENCE RAINEY
WAYNE ROBERTS
JIMMY SNOWDEN
DICK WARNER

He stated that in addition, he assumed that BILLY WAYNE POSEY, JERRY SHARPE and JIMMY LEE TOWNSEND were members of the Klan in Neshoba County since they were among the group which KILLEN brought with him to participate in the murder of the three civil rights workers on June 21, 1964.

On November 20, 1964, HORACE DOYLE BARNETTE was interviewed at Spring Hill, Louisiana, at which time he admitted membership in the Klan and stated that on June 21, 1964, he was having supper with JIMMY ARLEDGE when TRAVIS BARNETTE called ARLEDGE on the telephone and asked him if he could "go on some Klan business". ARLEDGE and BARNETTE proceeded to Akin's Mobile Homes, Highway 80 in Meridian. When they arrived, "Preacher" KILLEN, Mr. AKIN, JIM JORDAN and WAYNE (ROBERTS) were present. BARNETTE stated that they filled his car with gasoline from Akin's gas tank and furnished each of them with brown cloth gloves.

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ARLEDGE, SNOWDEN, JORDAN and DOYLE BARNETTE, according to BARNETTE, drove to Philadelphia arriving at about 9:30 P.M., where he was met by "Preacher" KILLEN who got in the car and told him to wait for someone to tell him that the three civil rights workers were being released from jail. KILLEN also stated that "we have a place to bury them and a man to run the dozer to cover them up". A few minutes later a patrolman from the Philadelphia Police Department said that the civil rights workers were going toward Meridian on Highway 19. BARNETTE stated that they proceeded to follow them down Highway 19 where they saw a Philadelphia car that was driven by a man named POSEY. Deputy Sheriff CECIL PRICE then came by and started to follow the civil rights workers. They turned off a side road and then PRICE stopped the civil rights workers and BARNETTE stated that he stopped his car behind PRICE's car, PRICE hit CHANEY on the back of his head with his blackjack then loaded the others in his car and proceeded back toward Philadelphia. JIM JORDAN sat in the front seat of PRICE's car with him. SNOWDEN drove the 1963 Ford station wagon that the civil rights workers had been driving. He stopped at a stalled Philadelphia car and WAYNE and POSEY and another individual from Philadelphia got in the station wagon with him. BARNETTE stated he followed PRICE until he turned left on a gravel road. PRICE stopped the car and the other cars stopped about a car length behind him. WAYNE pulled SCHWERNER out of the car and shot him then got GOODMAN out of the car and shot him. JIM JORDAN was heard to say "save one for me" and he got CHANEY out of PRICE's car and shot him. The bodies of the three were then loaded into their station wagon and the group proceeded via dirt roads to a dam on the BURRAGE property. WAYNE, ARLEDGE and BARNETTE, according to BARNETTE, got into BARNETTE's car to locate the bulldozer operator because he was not there. They located him in a white and green Chevrolet. WAYNE got out of the car and he and the bulldozer operator walked the rest of the way.

ARLEDGE and BARNETTE then went to BURRAGE's Garage with BURRAGE and another man where they waited about 30 minutes

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when the rest of the group came back from the burial site in the 1963 Ford. BURRAGE provided a gallon jug filled with gasoline to be used to burn the 1963 Ford station wagon. BARNETTE further stated that he, SNOWDEN, ARLEDGE, JORDAN and WAYNE reentered his automobile and drove toward Philadelphia. When they arrived at Philadelphia, Sheriff RAINEY, Deputy Sheriff PRICE and the City Policeman who had told them which way to go when the civil rights workers were leaving town earlier in the evening, stopped them. They talked for two or three minutes and someone made the statement that no one should discuss the matter. Sheriff RAINEY said "I'll kill anyone who talks".

They then returned to BARNETTE's car and drove to Meridian. BARNETTE said he drove WAYNE home, let JORDAN and SNOWDEN out at Akin's, took ARLEDGE home and then he went home himself.

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APPENDIX

WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE
KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI

A source advised that on February 15, 1964, approximately 200 members of the Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (OKKKK) from the State of Mississippi met at Brookhaven, Mississippi. Those present decided to defect from the OKKKK and to form their own klan group in Mississippi to be known as the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi.

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

JN 157-343
JN 157-342

APPENDIX

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

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

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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Jackson, Mississippi
January 9, 1963

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Title **WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN
OF MISSISSIPPI, LAUDERDALE AND
SHERIDA COUNTY KLAVERS**

Character **RACIAL MATTERS**

Reference **Report of SA JAMES A. RAY dated
and captioned as above at Jackson.**

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

Director, FBI

1-9-65

SAC, Jackson

WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN
OF MISSISSIPPI, LAUDERDALE AND
NESHOBA COUNTY KLAVERNS
RM

Rerep SA RICHARD A. HARRISON 11-17-64 at
Jackson.

Enclosed herewith are seven copies of the report
of SA JAMES A. DAY dated 1-9-65 at Jackson. This report
was prepared to include information from confidential informant
concerning the killing and burying of SCHWERNER, COCKMAN and
CHANEY and the events leading thereto with the desire of
showing the participation of the Lauderdale and Neshoba
County Klaverns in this matter.

IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT NO DISSEMINATION
OF THIS REPORT BE MADE OUTSIDE THE FBI OFFICE AFTER THE TRIAL
OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE MEBURN INVESTIGATION.

Jackson copies not being disseminated to the
intelligence units or other offices until after trial of
MEBURN investigation.

2 - Bureau (RM) (Enc. - 7)
3 - Jackson
 (1 - 157-343)
 (1 - 157-342)
JAD:kl (1 - 157-63 (copy))
(4)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-63)

DATE: 1/22/65

FROM : SA CLARENCE G. PROSPERE

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

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

Informant

Date of Report 1/ 5 /65

Dates of activity 12/24 - 1/5/65

Date received 1/5/65

Location of original information

On 1/5/65 who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished the following information 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.

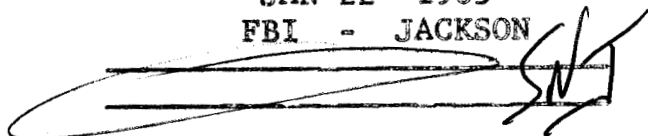
- ① - 157-63 (Informant report to each file)
- 1 -
- 1 - 157- (Charles Falvey)
- 1 - 157- (Ralph Day)
- 1 - 157- (Professor, Mississippi College)
- 1 - 44-1
- 1 - 157- (John McGregor)
- 1 - 157-18 (Sam Bowers)

CGP/mea
(20)



157-63-704

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 22 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	



JN 157-63

1 - 157-946 (Julius Harper)
1 - 157- (Billy Buckles)
1 - 157- 2121 (Preacher Bilbo)
1 - 157- (W.R. Mangum)
1 - 62-5
1 - 157-1696
1 - 157-914
1 - 157-92
1 - 157- (Southern Review)
1 - 157-213
1 - 157- (United Klans of America, Inc.)
1 - 157- (Joe McNair - Cafe, Magee, Miss.)

RFD, Baton Rouge, La.
January 5, 1965

Informant advised that a Highway Patrolman of the Mississippi Highway Patrol had advised him at the home of the informant where CHARLES FALVEY and RALPH DAY were visiting at the time that DONALD BUTLER, an Investigator for the Mississippi Highway Patrol had told the informant that the FBI Agent who interviewed CHARLES FALVEY had told BUTLER that the FBI had an informant in Lincoln County, Mississippi, whom they were paying \$500 a month. Informant stated that the Highway Patrolman had given him this information without FALVEY and DAY hearing it but that he was in such a position that he had to tell FALVEY what the Highway Patrolman had told him.

Informant stated that DONALD BUTLER, the investigator for the Mississippi Highway Patrol has several brothers in the Klan in Amite County but that he has no information whereby he can positively say that DONALD BUTLER is a Klan member. Informant pointed out that he would only be of the opinion that since BUTLER's brothers are in the Klan that BUTLER, if not in the Klan, would certainly do nothing to hamper or interfere with the activities of the Klan.

Informant stated that after he had advised FALVEY and DAY what the Highway Patrolman had told him, that DAY made the statement that they should do something about this informant. Informant stated he then pointed out that they should have proof of the fact that the FBI had an informant in the Klan and that the only way he knew the Klan could be positive of such a thing was for the Klan to catch the informant furnishing information to an FBI Agent. Informant stated that DAY agreed to this but that FALVEY appeared to be a little skeptical.

Informant stated there is to be a state-wide collection of money for the individuals who were arrested

in connection with the Philadelphia case and he pointed out that this is Top Secret information in the Klan and that the only ones in the Klan who have knowledge of this are the five state officers and a professor at Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi, who has apparently retired from some other job. Informant stated he has received information that this professor is to go on television and radio and make an appeal for money for the defense of the individuals arrested in connection with the Philadelphia. Informant stated he has no information as to how the professor was taken into the confidence of the five state officers. Informant stated in view of the fact the professor has been furnished this information and has agreed to go on the television and radio, he, informant, is of the opinion the professor is in the Klan and that he was probably contacted by either BOWERS or some other state officer who is a friend of this professor.

Informant advised that JOHN MC GREGOR, the Klan "tooter" or propaganda chief, has been kicked out of the Klan for stealing money which had been contributed to the defense of the individuals arrested in connection with the Philadelphia case.

Informant stated that the collection of the money for the individuals in the Philadelphia case will be accomplished by putting out glass jugs in restaurants, cafes, filling stations and other business requesting donations. Informant stated that to date officers of the various klaverns have only been told to accumulate glass jugs and that they will be told at a later date what use will be made of these jugs. Informant stated that some of the officers of the local klaverns have voiced the opinion that they believe the jugs will be used to collect money for the Philadelphia case.

[redacted] although he was not present at the election. Informant stated that all

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

the other state officers were also returned to their previous positions.

[redacted] but he pointed out that JOHN MC GREGOR, the propaganda chief, has been kicked out of the Klan as previously stated and that he knows that A. C. HERRINGTON of Ruth, Mississippi, had not attended a state meeting of officers for several months and had made the statement that he was quitting the Klan. Informant stated he was advised the election was held in December but that he was not told where the election was held.))

Informant stated that the position of chaplain in the state officers was filled for the first time at this election by the election by a preacher by the name of BILBO who is reportedly a first or second cousin of former Governor BILBO of Mississippi. Informant stated that it is recollection that Preacher BILBO resides in the vicinity of Poplarville, Mississippi.

Informant stated that if a trial is held at Meadville, Mississippi, in which JAMES SEALE and CHARLES EDWARDS are the defendants in the case dealing with the portions of two Negro bodies which were found near Tallulah, Louisiana, [redacted] by CLYDE SEALE, the father of JAMES SEALE, to get as many Klansmen as possible to come to Meadville at the time of the trial which CLYDE SEALE said was to be on January 11, 1965. Informant stated CLYDE SEALE gave as his reason for wanting Klansmen in Meadville the fact that he had received information that if the trial is held that Negroes will demonstrate during the court proceedings.

Informant advised that he has heard the rumor in Franklin County that the Negroes in Franklin County will attempt in the near future to integrate the schools in Franklin County. Informant voiced the opinion that he did not feel that the local Negroes would enter into

such activity and that he felt if any Negroes actually attempted to enter the school that these would be families which had been moved into Franklin County by the Negroes for the express purpose of integrating the schools.

Informant stated that he has heard nothing regarding the United Klans of America in the Natchez, Mississippi, area but that he expects to contact ERNEST PARKER when he is next in Natchez.

Informant stated that W. R. MANGUM of the Mt. Olive Unit was accused by a man in Magee, Mississippi, of furnishing information to the FBI. Informant stated that MANGUM made no comment and took no action in connection with this accusation.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

Informant advised that it is his recollection that PRENTISS SMITH drives a laundry truck in Gulfport, Mississippi.

Informant was exhibited a photograph of LOUIS ANTHONY DI SALVO which informant positively identified. Informant stated that DI SALVO at the present time is too scared to do anything. Informant stated that he has talked to DI SALVO recently and that apparently as a result of interview by FBI Agents DI SALVO is now completely changed. Informant explained that he meant by changed the fact that DI SALVO no longer advocates violence and does not appear to be as eager regarding Klan activity as he was at one time.

Informant stated that the Klan unit in Pearl River County in the vicinity of Poplarville is now "split all to pieces" and there is very little activity.

Informant was exhibited a photograph of CLARENCE WILMER HOLIFIELD which the informant positively identified as a photograph of the individual whom he rode with in a car in Jones County and later described as a bootlegger who had made the statement in the car that a Mississippi Highway Patrol car was used in the bombing of the Laurel "Leader-Call."

Informant advised that Klan printing was formerly done in Laurel, Mississippi, by Lomax and by printing companies in Jackson, Mississippi, which he is unable to identify. Informant stated the Klan is now using the "Southern Review" newspaper in Jackson, Mississippi, for putting out any news items that the Klan wants published or circularized.

Informant advised that when he has visited the Winona group he has heard individuals mention a former law enforcement officer who was apparently a member of the unit but he is unable to recall whether this officer was a former sheriff or a former chief of police. Informant stated he could not place the name CHED CASTLE.

1/28/65

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI.
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-New) (C)

**POSSIBLE VIOLENCE TOWARD
HENRY CURRIE, SR. LUTHER HILL
ROAD, ELLISVILLE, MISSISSIPPI
RM**

There is enclosed 3 copies of a letterhead memorandum. One copy of LHM furnished to U.S. Secret Service. The confidential source is

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

3-Bureau (Enc. 8)
3-Jackson (1-157-New) 157-2419
① -
① - 157-63

REL/as
(6)

as

ck

157-63-712

Searched _____
Serialized y
Indexed y
Filed y

SAC, NEW ORLEANS

2/2/65

SAC, JACKSON (157-New) (Dead)

CHARLES LEON WINDHAM
RM

RICHARD WILSON, Intelligence Corps Group, Jackson, Mississippi, advised on 1/30/65 that CHARLES LEON WINDHAM, born March 5, 1944, Mobile, Alabama, reported to the New Orleans, Louisiana Armed Forces Examining Station as a "regular registrant". On his loyalty statement, he indicated that he had attended Ku Klux Klan meetings at Natchitoches, Poplarville, and Columbia, Mississippi prior to the time he moved to Morgan City, Louisiana in late 1964. WILSON advised that a check by his office at the FBI Office at New Orleans was negative. Subject was not identifiable in the files of the Jackson Office.

An informant report dated 3/27/64 reflected that (FNU) WINDHAM, employed at McCullough Tool Company, was present at a meeting of the WKKK at Laurel, Mississippi on 3/24/64.

Since WILSON related that records of the FBI at New Orleans had been checked with negative results, the above is submitted for the information of New Orleans.

- 2 - New Orleans
- 2 - Jackson 157-New (Dead) (CHARLES LEON WINDHAM)
- 1 - Jackson 157-63 (WINDHAM)
- 1 - Jackson 157-456 (Pearl River County)
- 1 - Jackson 157-66 (Forest County)
- 1 - Jackson 157-531 (Marion County)

MLF/min

(8) *mlw*

157-63-~~710~~⁷¹³

Searched	_____
Serialized	_____ <i>to</i>
Indexed	_____
Filed	_____ <i>hr</i>

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

TO : SAC []

DATE: January 28, 1965

FROM : SA ROBIN O. COTTEN

CI SI

PCI PSI

SUBJECT: []

Dates of Contact	
1-12-65 and attempt made on 1-28-65	
Titles and File #s on which contacted	
GENERAL CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE	OXFORD RA
KLAN ACTIVITIES, STATE OF MISS. (TIPPAH COUNTY, MISS.)	157- ?
Purpose and results of contact	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEGATIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POSITIVE RE: <u>GENERAL CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE</u> Informant advised that within the past several weeks, individuals, unknown to him tried to sell him certain items which he believes are stolen. He stated that three white males driving a 1959 Ford, 6 cylinder, blue in color bearing 1965 Miss. license (Rankin County) T-1133 or T-3311 visited his garage on three occasions and had in their possession several new table model radios which they were asking \$10.00 each. They also had about 15 rolls of new barbed wire, 30-06 Ammunition and several pistols. He stated he did not purchase any of these items because he was afraid they were stolen. He believes these persons might return to his garage, at which time he will obtain the correct license for this car. He recalled this Ford had a loud of "gutted" muffler. Two of the men were about 20 to 25 years of age and the other about 40. He could furnish no other description <u>Re: KLAN ACTIVITIES (TIPPAH COUNTY, MISS.)</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Informant certified that he has furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.	Rating Very good
	Coverage Same

Personal Data
No change

127-67-717

JAN 29 1965

157- ? Klan Activities, State of Miss. (Tippah Co. Miss.)

Handwritten initials and signatures are present over the stamp.

137-75

157- ?

Klan Activities, State of Miss. (Tippah Co. Miss.)

Par in WKKKK

Informant advised that he has no personal knowledge of Klan activities in North Miss. and is not a Klansman. He stated he heard from an unrecalled source that WILLIAM TOLBERT BOOKER, SR., of Blue Mountain, Miss. and DAVE RICHARDSON, a bootlegger from Ripley, Miss. were attempting to organize a Klan in Tippah County, Miss. He is of the opinion that BOOKER would be the person who might be the leader of such a group. He advised he will make direct inquiries concerning this matter and advise the next time he is contacted.

An effort was made on January 28, 1965 to recontact him but he was unavailable.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Jackson, Mississippi

February 1, 1965

WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU
KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI

ACQUISITION OF WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES

T-1, who has been in personal contact with Sam Bowers, the Imperial Wizard, White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi, has advised that Bowers proposes that Klansmen throughout Mississippi bury guns, dynamite and ammunition to be used in the event of a Klan uprising.

Klan leaders are to advise each Klavern on the techniques of burial, such as placing rifles and guns in old refrigerators, sealing them, and burying them face down. The burials carried out by the Klansmen are then to be brought to the attention of the Klan leadership and the leaders are to be advised of the amounts and locations of the armaments buried.

The source has no particular knowledge of any guns, dynamite or ammunition which the Mississippi Klan may have buried. It is a recently proposed plan and prior to this time there has been no talk in Klan circles concerning burying armaments.

In connection with this discussion, Bowers did not indicate any specific reasons for this course of action; he mentioned no specific projects or activities, nor whether he was preparing for some unforeseen eventuality, nor whether he believed the Klan should not be caught with large amounts of armaments. He gave no specific reason for advising the Mississippi Klan to follow this course of action.

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.

JLM:wr
(12)
wr

Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____

157-63-720

Job

2-3-65

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR FBI

FROM: SAC JACKSON

**ACQUISITION OF WEAPONS AND
EXPLOSIVES BY KLAN AND
KLAN-TYPE GROUPS
RACIAL MATTERS**

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

Re Jackson teletype to the Bureau 1-12-65 captioned MIBURN, and Bureau letter to Jackson 1-22-65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are original and 7 copies of letterhead memo containing information furnished by [redacted] (PROB) relating to long-range plans of Mississippi Klan to bury guns, ammunition and dynamite.

[redacted] has been alerted to the fact that the activities surrounding the plans to bury armaments is of the utmost importance. He is cognizant of the importance of this matter, and will be alert for any information regarding burials of any guns and ammunition.

Source advised that this was the first time any such plans have been discussed by leading Klan officials. BOWERS had never discussed these plans in the presence of the source prior to this time. There had been no talk in Klan circles of the plans to bury weapons. Source is aware that the Klan does have weapons and dynamite; however, he is not aware of any reports of burials of these weapons.

3 - Bureau (Enc.8) RM

4 - Jackson

(1 - 44-1)

(1 - 157-63)

(1 - [redacted])

(1 - 157-922)

JLM:wr

(7)

Searched _____
Serialized
Indexed

157-63-721

Job

157-

This has not been a Klan project since he has assumed a leadership capacity. No Klavern within his jurisdiction has accumulated such materials. The plan on the part of the State Klan is to instruct the various Klaverns concerning the burials and then to have the individuals with the arsenals contact the leaders and apprise them of the amounts and locations of the weapons buried. This has not been brought up in any Klan meeting in the Meridian-Philadelphia area since this conversation with SAM BOWERS.

Since this plan is restricted to the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi, and does not extend beyond the Mississippi State boundary, no other offices are being advised. There has been no information relating to any connection between the plans of the Klan to accumulate weapons and any other group such as the Minute Men or followers of General WALKER.

- 2 -

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON(157-63)

DATE: 2-2-65

FROM : SA CLARENCE G. PROSPERE

SUBJECT: WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN
OF MISSISSIPPI
RM

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

INFORMANT	[redacted]
DATE OF REPORT	1-18-65
DATES OF ACTIVITY	1/6-18/65
DATE RECEIVED	1-18-65
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL INFORMATION	[redacted]

On 1-18-65, [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished the following information 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 - 157-63
- 1 - [redacted]
- 1 - 157-JAMES SEALE
- 1 - 157-JACK SEALE
- 1 - 157-ERNEST PARKER
- 1 - 157-JACK WILLIAMS (Employee Larco Drilling Co., Prentiss, Mississippi)
- 1 - 157-UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA
- 1 - 157-SAM BOWERS
- 1 - 157-JULIUS HARPER
- 1 - 157-A. C. HARRINGTON
- 1 - 44-1
- 1 - 157-KKK ACTIVITY, GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI
- 1 - 157-922
- 1 - 140-19
- 1 - 157-852
- 1 - 44-883

CGP:hke

(16) *llr*

ASAC [signature]
Desk 3 [signature]
Desk 4 [signature]

157-63-727

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
FEB 2 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

[signature]

Rural Free Delivery
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
January 18, 1965

Informant advised that in conversation with JAMES SEALE and JACK SEALE he has determined that these individuals are upset over the dismissal of charges which were pending against JAMES SEALE and CHARLES EDWARDS. The reason for their being upset was the fact that in the request for dismissal of the charges the statement was made that additional individuals were involved and that further investigation was being conducted. JAMES SEALE stated that he had been planning on suing the State of Mississippi and perhaps the FBI for mistreatment, but at the present time he and JACK SEALE were reconsidering such action.

Informant advised that BLACKIE JOHNSON of Brookhaven, Mississippi, advised him that recently he had been a guest at the FARKER camp on Palmyra Island, at which time JACK SEALE, ERNEST PARKER and BABY LEE PARKER were also present at the camp. JOHNSON stated that "they" are worried about the trial at Meadville, Mississippi, in which JAMES SEALE and CHARLES EDWARDS have charges pending against them.

Informant advised that JACK WILLIAMS, an employee of the Larco Drilling Company at Prentiss, Mississippi, advised that the klansmen in Lincoln, Lawrence and Jefferson Davis Counties of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi are talking about withdrawing from the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi and affiliating themselves with the United Klans of America. The reason given for switching to the United Klans of America was the fact that klansmen in the United Klans of America may come out in the open and state that they are members of the United Klans of America whereas a klansman in the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi cannot tell anyone that he is a member of the klan without violating the constitution of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi.

Informant advised that in recent conversation with JULIUS HARPER he determined that there was ill feeling at this time between HARPER and SAM BOWERS. Informant advised that he inquired of HARPER why there was not a state meeting of officers the preceding Sunday and that HARPER replied he had been sick but that he was of the opinion that A. C. HARRINGTON and SAM BOWERS were meeting secretly. Informant advised that he had received no information indicating that HARRINGTON was again active in the klan. Informant advised that HARRINGTON was overheard to make the statement that he had not been to a state meeting in a long time.

Informant advised that at the state meeting on Sunday, January 17, 1965, the only ones present were E. S. GILBERT and JULIUS HARPER. HARPER advised GILBERT that he had talked to a professor who is employed at Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi, to help collect money for the defense of the defendants in the Philadelphia case. HARPER advised GILBERT that SAM BOWERS was apparently "mad" about his getting this professor to help collect money.

Informant stated that GILBERT was overheard telling HARPER that SAM BOWERS could not be trusted and that had BOWERS gone with GILBERT and BILLY BUCKLES at the last state meet that SAM BOWERS would not now be the head of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi.

Informant advised that in conversation with numerous klansmen they are all talking about BARNETT signing a confession in the Philadelphia case. The gist of the conversation among the various klansmen seems to be that if BARNETT did furnish a signed statement he must be crazy and if he did the klan will take appropriate action to eliminate him.

Informant advised that he has received information that CHARLES FALVEY is devoting his entire time to finding out who the individual is who is furnishing information to the FBI. Informant advised that he has received information

that FALVEY strongly suspects E. S. GILBERT of being an informant of the FBI.

Informant advised that from conversation with various klansmen he is now of the opinion that a collection among klansmen will now be initiated and an appeal made to the public in Mississippi to obtain funds for the defense of the defendents who have been charged in the Philadelphia case and are now under arrest and out on bond.

Informant advised that the klan activity in the Greenville, Mississippi, area is dead. Informant advised that the reason for the decline in klan activity in the Greenville area was due to the death of a klansman in the Washington County Jail following the arrest of this klansman for participation in the burning of crosses in Greenville.

Informant advised that there is an auto parts man in Utica, Mississippi, who is selling .303 Enfields for \$12.50 and that this same individual will also supply ammunition for these weapons. Informant advised that he believes this auto parts man is obtaining the guns from a dealer in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Informant pointed out that many klansmen have purchased .30 caliber M2 carbines from Sears Roebuck and Company because the klansmen could obtain ammunition for these weapons from the National Guard.

Informant advised that BUCKY MC BRIDE, who is employed as a carrier in the U. S. Post Office, Brookhaven, Mississippi, and who is not a klansman, is a gunsmith and that MC BRIDE has a gun which looks exactly like a Thompson submachine gun but that the weapon of MC BRIDE is not automatic. Informant pointed out that BUCKY MC BRIDE is a brother of the Assistant Chief of Police L. J. MC BRIDE of Brookhaven, Mississippi.

Informant advised that SAM PARKER of Woodland, Mississippi, in Chickasaw County, is a klansman. Informant advised that SAM PARKER was sworn into the klan by SHELBY

BREWER of Brookhaven, Mississippi, and that he has also heard BILLY BUCKLES mention SAM PARKER as being a klansman.

Informant advised that he was unable to place the name CURTIS LEE DAVIS as being an individual known to him in Lincoln County, Mississippi. Informant advised that he could recall no klansman who had a 1964 Chevrolet, white over red, but he pointed out that frequently when a klansman wished to do something he would borrow an automobile and quite frequently when the car was borrowed the owner of the car would not know who had taken his automobile.

Informant advised that he had heard no discussion either in klan meetings or in conversation with individual klansmen about any klansman from Mississippi going to Alabama to take any action against MARTIN LUTHER KING. Informant advised that he was of the opinion that if MARTIN LUTHER KING came to Mississippi that the klan in Mississippi would definitely attempt to take action against KING.

Informant advised that in recent conversation with GORDON LACKEY of Greenwood, Mississippi, that LACKEY advised that he had recently been to the home of SAM BOWERS in Laurel, Mississippi, and that he was of the opinion that since BOWERS lived in a colored section of Laurel with a white male bachelor that he, LACKEY, believed that SAM BOWERS was possibly "queer". LACKEY went on to say that SAM BOWERS lived under very filthy conditions and that although he was invited to spend the night with SAM BOWERS he did not like the idea of remaining in such a filthy house and therefore declined the invitation.

Informant advised that JULIUS HARPER had recently advised him that there are CIA Agents in Mississippi who are answerable to no one. HARPER stated that he has received this information from Governor PAUL B. JOHNSON's Office.

Jackson, Mississippi
February 6, 1963

**WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU
KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI**

ADMISSION OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION

SI T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, has previously furnished information that the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi planned to buy guns, dynamite, and ammunition to be used in the event of a Klan uprising.

The confidential source advised that he recently attended a meeting of the State Klan Council, White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi, at Jackson, Mississippi. At this meeting, Sam Brown, the Imperial Wizard, White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi, elaborated further on his reasons for having a long-range build up and burial of Klan armaments.

He told the group that he had received information that the Russians are landing Congolese troops in Gabon daily. The troops are being trained in Gabon and are to invade the United States by way of the Gulf Coast. He believes that the Klansmen should be prepared to fight in this Communist-sponsored Negro rebellion.

Once the Congolese troops have landed, Brown told the group, the National Guard units throughout the South will be Federalized and taken from the people. Secretary of Defense McNamara will then turn over the southern states to the Negro rebels. The white people in the South will be relocated and moved to the North.

JLM:wr
(12)

Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

157-63-729

WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI
ACQUISITION OF WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES

The Imperial Wizard believes that the Southerner has two choices. He can be smart and move, or he can be right and fight.

Because of this forthcoming invasion, it will be necessary to build up a cache of arms which Mississippi Klansmen may use to fight off the Communist-sponsored Negro uprising.

According to the source, the Klansmen who attended, who are Klan leaders throughout Mississippi, did not take the Imperial Wizard seriously. They doubt that there will be such an invasion and they think that Sen Rivers is merely proposing this theory to build up Klan arms for some other reason.

There were no reports at the State meeting that there was any burial of arms anywhere in the State of Mississippi. According to the confidential source, this has been a recent proposal, and no Klan leader, either privately or at the meeting, discussed that he had ordered the burial of arms.

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.

2-6-65

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR FBI

FROM: SAC JACKSON (157-922)

**ACQUISITION OF WEAPONS AND
EXPLOSIVES BY KLAN AND
KLAN-TYPE GROUPS
RM**

Re Jackson teletype to Bureau 1-12-65 captioned
MURKIN, Bureau letter to Jackson 1-22-65, and Jackson airtel
to Bureau 2-3-65.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

Enclosed for the Bureau are original and 7 copies of
letterhead memo containing information furnished by [redacted]
relating to recent developments at a State Klan meeting held
in Jackson, Miss., 1-31-65, concerning the long-range plans of
the Miss. Klan to bury guns, ammunition, and dynamite.

[redacted] has no information concerning the actual
burial of weapons anywhere in Mississippi. From the reaction
at the State meeting, none of the Klan leaders are taking
Bowers' theory concerning the Congolese invasion seriously.

Source will continue to be alert for any activities
surrounding the plans to bury armaments. He is cognizant of the
importance of this matter, and will be alert for any information
regarding burials of any guns, ammunition, or dynamite.

1 - Bureau (Enc. 8) RM

Jackson

(1 - 157-922)

(1 - 44-1)

(1 - [redacted])

(1 - 157-63)

JLM:WF

(7)

Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

157-63-~~_____~~
730

2/10/65

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-1552)

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-640)

**WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU
KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI
RACIAL MATTERS**

Re Bureau airtel to Jackson dated 2/8/65.

Attached are the original and seven copies of a letterhead memorandum suitable for dissemination in accordance with referenced airtel.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

The source mentioned in the letterhead memorandum is who gave the information to SA JOHN L. MARTIN in January, 1965.

3 - Bureau (Enc-8) (RM-AM)
3 - Jackson
(1 - 157-63)

JWA:RLC
(6)

AIRTEL

SN

157-63-740

Searched _____
Serialized yes
Indexed _____
Filed yes

Jackson, Mississippi
February 10, 1965

**WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU
KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI**

A source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, recently advised a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Jackson, Mississippi, that Sam Bowers, Imperial Wizard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi, had been confronted by Mordcaunt Hamilton, a Klansman, at a Klan meeting at Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Hamilton, during the course of the meeting, accused Bowers of "wasting money". Hamilton pulled a gun on Bowers and made him sit down and listen to his complaints. Bowers afterwards commented that he would take his bodyguards and "try" Hamilton. Bowers and four bodyguards proceeded to Hamilton's home where they were met by armed Hattiesburg Klansmen who would not allow them to see Hamilton. Bowers and his men left Hattiesburg without conducting the "trial". Hamilton withdrew the Hattiesburg Klan from the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and the Hattiesburg Klaverns under Hamilton's leadership are now independent and are not part of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

It is the opinion of the source that a serious confrontation between the Hattiesburg Klan and the State Klan may take place within the near future.

A characterization of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi is attached.

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.

- 8 - Bureau (157-1552)
3 - Jackson (157-640)
① - 157-63

157-640-741
Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE
KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI

A source advised that on February 15, 1964, approximately 200 members of the Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (OKKKK) from the State of Mississippi met at Brookhaven, Mississippi. Those present decided to defect from the OKKKK and to form their own klan group in Mississippi to be known as the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi.

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

2/10/65

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (157-722)
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-471) (P)

UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC.
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN
RACIAL MATTERS
(OO:BIRMINGHAM)

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

On 2/8/65 [redacted] advised SAs JOHN MARTIN and JOHN H. PROCTOR, JR., that the Lauderdale County, Miss., Klan organization held a meeting on Saturday, 2/6/65, concerning defection from the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi (WKKKKOM). This meeting was held at the Chunky River Fish Camp near Meridian, Miss., and lasted from about 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The meeting was lead by Rev. DELMAR DENNIS, a Klan official of the WKKKKOM. Also present at this meeting were EL L. MC DANIEL, Grand Dragon, United Klans of America, and a Mr. FOSTER, both of Natchez, Miss., and representing the United Klans of America. Ten members were sworn into the United Klans of America. Reverend DELMAR DENNIS was selected Titan for the United Klans of America in the six-county area surrounding Lauderdale County and Neshoba County, Miss. One BILLY BIRDSONG, Imperial Investigator of the WKKKKOM from Meridian, Miss., was selected as Temporary Exalted Cyclops.

[redacted] advised this group discussed their dissatisfaction with SAM BOWERS, the Imperial Wizard of the WKKKKOM and the fact that they would receive no money from the State Klan organization for the defense of those persons arrested in connection with the deaths of the three civil

- 2 - Birmingham
- 3 - Jackson
- (1) - 157-63

Serialized _____
 Indexed _____
 Filed _____

157-63-742

SNJ:elw

Johnnie SNJ

JN 157-471

rights workers near Philadelphia, Miss., in June, 1964. According to the informant, MC DANIEL told those at the meeting that they would receive no financial assistance from the United Klans of America.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

[redacted] advised that eight members attending this meeting walked out of the meeting and refused to be sworn into the United Klans of America pending consultation with their individual Klan units (WKKKKOM). At the above meeting, the group seriously discussed selecting a committee which would be instructed to go to Laurel, Miss., to beat up SAM BOWERS and attempt to obtain money which they have already paid into the Klan treasury for dues and assessments.

LEAD

BIRMINGHAM

AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Will contact logical racial informants and attempt to determine just what Klan activity is being conducted in Mississippi under instructions from the United Klans of America Headquarters, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

F B I

Date: 2-8-65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via Airtel _____
(Priority)

To: SAC, Jackson (44-1)

From: Director, FBI (157-1552)

**WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE
KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI
RACIAL MATTERS**

ReJNtels captioned "Miburn," dated January 29, 1965, and February 2, 1965, setting forth information concerning a meeting of the state Klan cabinet which was to be held in Jackson, Mississippi, on January 31, 1965.

Immediately submit a letterhead memorandum containing full details concerning this meeting. If already submitted, advise date and caption of communication.

157-632-747
SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____
FEB 8 1965
JACKSON
Martin

Jackson, Mississippi
February 15, 1965

WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI

**MEETING OF THE STATE KLAN CABINET AT
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, ON JANUARY 31, 1965**

JN T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, has advised that regular semi-monthly meetings of the State Klan Cabinet, White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi (WKKKK), are held at various places in and around Jackson, Mississippi.

The State Klan Cabinet is composed of Province Titans, Klougias, and other administrative officers of the WKKKK. At these cabinet meetings, the group usually decides and discusses the policies and activities surrounding the administration of the Klan in the various provinces. The Klan provinces are made up of the counties in each congressional district throughout Mississippi.

Prior to the meeting, the source was instructed by Sam Bowers, the Imperial Wizard, WKKKK, as to the contact point for the meeting. Klansmen are not told of the exact meeting place, but make contact with a fellow Klansman in an area prior to the meeting. From there they are taken to the meeting place.

On Sunday, January 31, 1965, the confidential source drove to a shopping center near the Masonic Temple on West Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi, where he was met by Bowers and several other Klansmen. They were then driven to an abandoned farmhouse near a lake on Raymond Road, Jackson, Mississippi, where the State Klan Cabinet meeting was held.

JLM:wr
(12) *WR*
JN 157-63

Searched _____
Serialized *mr* _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

157-63-748

BONE *AMB*
FABRIZ *iff*

WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI

Sam Bowers conducted the meeting, and approximately twenty individuals attended, which included:

I. H. "Pete" Shanker, Kosciusko, Mississippi, member, Board of Directors for the White Christian Protective and Legal Defense Fund (WCPLDF);

Harvey H. Herndon, Jackson, Mississippi, Secretary-Treasurer for the WCPLDF;

Bernard L. Akin, Meridian, Mississippi, a member of the Lauderdale Klavern, who has been arrested for his complicity in the conspiracy surrounding the murder of the three civil rights workers June 21, 1964;

George H. Birdsong, also known as Billy Birdsong, Meridian, Mississippi, Imperial Investigator for the WKKKKOM;

Rev. Delmar Dennis, Meridian, Mississippi, Province Titan, and member of the Board of Directors for the WCPLDF.

Mr. (first name unknown) White, Brookhaven, Mississippi, an insurance man who broke away from the United Klans of America (UKA) and formed the first Klavern of the WKKKKOM in Brookhaven, Mississippi.

Mr. (first name unknown) Percy, Gulfport, Mississippi, a Gulf Coast investigator for the WKKKKOM.

The Province Titan from Smith County, Mississippi, whose name is not known to the source.

Jack Williams, the State Klan Treasurer, Julius Harper, the Grand Dragon, Elmore Groves, publisher of "The Southern Review," a Klan-type newspaper, and Meredith Tatum, editor of "The Southern Review," were not present; however, these individuals were at previous State Klan Cabinet meetings.

WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI

The main topic of the January 31 meeting was the fund raising for the defense of the eighteen defendants recently arrested for their participation in the murders of Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, and James Chaney.

The White Christian Protective and Legal Defense Fund (WCPLDF) has been formed by the WKKKK, and is the principal fund-raising organization created and organized by the WKKKK.

Also on the agenda was: (1) discussion concerning the lifting of the Klan-imposed moratorium on violence as of March 15; (2) discussion concerning stepping-up local recruitment and meetings, and streamlining the organization from the local to the State level; (3) discussion of the long-range plans of the Klan concerning burial of guns, ammunition, dynamite, and armaments; and (4) discussion concerning the WCPLDF.

Letters under the letterhead of the WCPLDF, along with "The Articles of Formation" and the "Rules and Procedures for Placing and Collection of Jars" were distributed to the group. The distribution of jars soliciting funds is to be State-wide, and the letters requesting money are to be distributed throughout the State. It was brought out at the meeting that only active Klansmen would be allowed to be on the Board of Directors for the fund, which includes Elmore Graves, State Chairman; Glenn Swettman, Biloxi, Mississippi; I. H. Shumaker, Kosciusko, Mississippi; Rev. Delmar Dennis, Meridian, Mississippi; and James M. Hooper, Sison, Mississippi.

Also discussed at the meeting were the long-range plans of the WKKKK concerning the burial of fifty percent of all arms, dynamite, ammunition and armaments. Sam Bowers, the Imperial Wizard, had previously talked about building up a cache of arms, and at this meeting he elaborated further on the reason for this build-up. He told the group he had received information

WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI

that the Russians are landing Congolese troops in Cuba daily. The troops are being trained in Cuba and are to invade the United States by way of the Gulf Coast. He believes that the Klansmen should be prepared to fight in the Communist-sponsored Negro rebellion.

Once the Congolese troops have landed, Bowers told the group, the National Guard units throughout the South will be Federalized and taken from the people. Secretary of Defense McNamara will then turn over the Southern states to the Negro rebels. The white people in the South will be relocated and moved to the North.

The Imperial Wizard believes that the Southerner has two choices; he can be smart and move, or he can be right and fight. Because of this forthcoming invasion, it will be necessary to build up a cache of arms which Mississippi Klansmen may use to fight off the Communist-sponsored Negro uprising.

It was the observation of the confidential source who attended the meeting that the Klansmen who listened to Bowers concerning this invasion did not take the Imperial Wizard seriously. They doubt that there will be an invasion, and they think that Sam Bowers merely proposed this theory to build up Klan arms for some other reason.

While the group did discuss the reason for the build-up, no specific plans were made or reported concerning the burial of arms.

It was reported by several province leaders at this State meeting that it is virtually impossible to recruit new members or hold meetings on a local or State level. They attributed this difficulty to the wide-spread publicity given to acts of violence perpetrated by the Klan and the recent arrest of the defendants for the murder of the three civil rights workers. Certain members of the group also believe that the FBI has disrupted the Klan organization, which has led to a lessening of interest in the Klan on the part of Mississippians.

WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI

The group discussed the problem of FBI informants in the Klan. Pete Shumaker of Kosciusko, Mississippi, told the group that the "informers must be eliminated," a Klan term for murdered. He pointed out that no Klansman who has ever talked to the FBI has ever been "eliminated," and Sam Bowers agreed that this must be done. Bowers said the Klansmen must realize that talking to the FBI is a serious offense, and they must be shown they can not get away with it.

It was brought out at the State Klan Cabinet meeting that if any Klansman was suspected of informing, he is to be given a "job." This would consist of blowing up a church or a GODO house. If the Klansman suspected of talking does not go ahead with the "job" then he is considered a coward or an informer. In either case, he should be dealt with accordingly.

In order to frustrate investigations of violence by the FBI, the group decided that once the moratorium on violence is lifted, the Exalted Cyclops of each Klavern should make up a list of volunteers for "Klan jobs." The volunteers' names are then to be placed in a hat, drawn by the Exalted Cyclops, and the individual or individuals selected should then be instructed to carry out the particular mission. This way only the Exalted Cyclops and the individual carrying out the "job" will know who carried out the mission.

The source advised that in early December, the Imperial Wizard imposed a moratorium on violence on all activities of the Klan. Bowers would give no approval for burnings, bombings, beatings, or murders, due to the intensive investigation and the heavy concentration of FBI Agents throughout Mississippi.

The group agreed that as of March 15, the Klan-imposed moratorium on violence should be lifted.

After the meeting, confidential source mingled with his fellow Klansmen. Their conversation concentrated on Sam Bowers, the Imperial Wizard. It was the opinion of some of the Mississippi Klansmen that Bowers was in the Klan for "personal gain." He was accused of being a "loner," and the theory of the

WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI

Geogloss invasion was a bit far-fetched. The group referred to the Imperial Wizard as a "detective" because of his extreme caution and ludicrous tactics in trying to escape alleged FBI surveillances. One of the Klansmen related that while they drove to the meeting at Jackson, the Imperial Wizard made the driver circle several blocks and take diversionary measures in an effort to lose anyone who may be following him.

As a result of these conversations, it is the opinion of the source that Sam Bowers is losing his hold on the Mississippi Klan.

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.

2-15-65

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR FBI (157-1552)

FROM: SAC JACKSON (157-63)

WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN
OF MISSISSIPPI
RM

Re Jackson teletypes to Bureau captioned MIBURN,
1-29-65 and 2-2-65; and Bureau airtel to Jackson 2-8-65.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

Enclosed for the Bureau are an original and seven
copies of LHM containing information furnished by [redacted]
relating the developments at a State Klan Cabinet meeting held
at Jackson, Miss., 1-31-65.

LHM concerning the long-range plans, discussed at
this meeting, of the Mississippi Klan to bury guns, ammunition
and dynamite, has been furnished the Bureau in an airtel dated
2-6-65 captioned "Acquisition of Weapons and Explosives by Klan
and Klan-type Groups, Racial Matters."

Information concerning the White Christian Protective
and Legal Defense Fund was furnished to the Bureau in an airtel
dated 2-2-65 and captioned, "White Christian Protective and
Legal Defense Fund."

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 8) RM
- 4 - Jackson
- (1 - 157-2366)
- (1 - 157-63)
- (1 - [redacted])
- (1 - 44-1)

JLM:wr
(7)

157-63-749

BONE ans
FABRIZ help

Searched _____
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Indexed _____
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JN 157-63

The information concerning the White Christian Protective and Legal Defense Fund was originally brought out in a State Klan Cabinet meeting of 1-20-65, the details of which are set forth in the LHM of 2-2-65. The group discussed further details concerning the fund at the 1-31-65 meeting.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

During the discussion on FBI informants at the State Klan Cabinet meeting, the group brought out the fact that [redacted] from Jackson, Miss. (apparently [redacted] was a Bureau informant. They discussed, generally, eliminating informants; however, no specific authorization was given for the murder of this informant. Pete Shumaker, Kosciusko, Miss., gave a description of the informant at the meeting, and all of the members said they would be alert for this individual.

[redacted] has been alerted, and appropriate security measures have been arranged. [redacted] will be alert for any other information concerning any attempts to harrass or kill this informant.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-63)

DATE: 12/3/64

FROM : IC KENNETH D. KENDRICK

SUBJECT: STATE MEETING, KKK
RM

Re memo of SA THOMPSON BERRY WEBB 11/17/64.

On 12/3/64 Mrs. NELL HINTON, Clerk, Tag Division, MVC, Jackson, Miss. advised IC KENNETH D. KENDRICK the information regarding the following 1965 Miss. license was obtained from the Miss. Passenger Car Tax Collectors report.

1965 Miss. license LD 1365 was issued 9/29/64 by the Lauderdale County SO to B.L. AKIN, Mobile Home Sales, Meridian, Miss. for a 1965 Cadillac, VIN CD62861.

1965 Miss. License T 4693 was issued 10/64 by the Rankins county SO to ~~GRADY COOK~~, address Puckett, Miss. for a 1963 Pontiac, VIN ~~36317431~~.

1965 Miss. License T 4350 was issued 10/64 by the Rankin County SO to ~~R.R. May~~, 2064 May Dr., Jackson 8, Miss. for a 1960 Chevrolet, 4 dr., VIN 01519S108936.

1965 Miss. License T 5943 was issued by the Rankin County SO 10/64 to ~~E. G. McDONALD~~, 2708 Old Brandon Rd, Jackson, Miss. for a 1958 Chevrolet, VIN 58J218922.

(2)
KDK/

COO
J. Webb

157-63-750

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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DEC 4 1964	
FBI - JACKSON	

Womack
Webb

2-8-65

Airtel

To: SAC, Jackson (44-1)

From: Director, FBI (157-1552)

**WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE
KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI
RACIAL MATTERS**

ReJNtels captioned "Miburn," dated January 29, 1965, and February 2, 1965, setting forth information concerning a meeting of the state Klan cabinet which was to be held in Jackson, Mississippi, on January 31, 1965.

Immediately submit a letterhead memorandum containing full details concerning this meeting. If already submitted, advise date and caption of communication.

157-63-751

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
FEB 8 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

Jas

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

CROSSES BURN IN SEVERAL CITIES AFTER PHONE CALL

Following an anonymous telephone call to The Clarion-Ledger Saturday night announcing a revival of activity of the Ku Klux Klan in Mississippi, crosses were burned at several towns in South Mississippi.

In McComb, two crosses were burned at Negro churches and one at a white church; in Summit, two burned at a school and near the postoffice. In Tylertown, crosses burned on all four sides of the city.

The earnest caller, who used a pay station phone, said the burning are "visible evidence of the revival of the invisible empire of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan."

An anonymous but very earnest telephone caller who deposited something around \$1 for a pay-station call to the Clarion-Ledger Saturday night, announced:

"The cross burnings in South Mississippi Friday and Saturday nights are visible evidence of the re-activation of the invisible empire of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan."

The voice refused questioning interruptions and rattled on with reading a prepared statement, delivered too rapidly for a reporter to copy down, but it was filled with reference to defense of states' rights, opposition to communism, care for widows and orphans, preservation of "our way of life," strengthening existing society by every means available promote and encourage pure Americanism.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

THE CLARION LEDGER
and
JACKSON DAILY NEWS
JACKSON, MISS.

Date: 1/26/64

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: Unsubs; Cross
Burnings, McComb,
Miss., 1/25/64

Character: RM

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: New Orleans

157-63-754

57-1794-9

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JAN 29 1964	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Hooper

SENT BUREAU

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-63)

DATE: 2/15/65

FROM : SA CLARENCE G. PROSPERE

SUBJECT: WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN
OF MISSISSIPPI
RM

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

Informants:
 Date of Report: 2/4/65
 Dates of Activity: 1/20/65 - 2/4/65
 Date Received: 2/4/65
 Location of Original Information:

On 2/4/65, who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished the following information to SA CLARENCE G. PROSPERE:

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

- 1 -
- ① - 157-63
- 1 - 157-C. J. SEALE
- 1 - 157 - JULIUS HARPER
- 1 - 157-SAM BOWERS
- 1 - 44-1
- 1 - 157-2366
- 1 - 157-(guns stolen from Armory, Collins, Miss.)
- 1 - 157-1696
- 1 - 157-1417
- 1 - 157-2433
- 1 - 157-2434
- 1 - 157-2435
- 1 - 157-2436
- 1 -
- 1 - 157-34
- 1 - 157-CHARLES Falvey
- 1 - 157-UK of A, Adams County
- 1 - 157-UK OF A, Lincoln County

ASAC *[Signature]*
#3 *[Signature]*
#4 *[Signature]*

157-63-755

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FEB 17 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

[Signature]

JN 157-63

1 - 157-TOBE LEGGETT
1 - 157-HOUSTON JORDAN
1 - 157-1092
1 - 157-1093
1 - 157-914
1 - 157-934
1 - 157-749
1 - 157-2355
1 - 52-80
1 - 157-(Southern Review)
CGP/laj
(29)

Rural Free Delivery
Baton Rouge, La.
February 4, 1965

Approximately two weeks ago, JULIUS HARPER made the statement that G. J. SEALE, Crossroads, Mississippi, had been to see him and wanted to know if the Klan could help the people in Bogalusa, Louisiana.

On Monday, February 1, 1965, JULIUS HARPER stated that he was the one who started the collection for the individuals arrested in the Philadelphia Case and that SAM BOWERS was trying to take this away from him. HARPER stated that there were many people in this Fund Drive for the White Christian Protective and Legal Defense Fund who were not Klansmen. Informant advised that the individuals who are putting out the jars for the collection of money in the various business establishments throughout the state of Mississippi, are the Province Officers.

HARPER stated the Klan had had letters printed which the Klan is going to mail to businessmen all over the state of Mississippi, asking for donations. Informant advised that he was to pick up some of these letters on February 4, 1965, but that his contact did not show up and therefore he had not been able to obtain any of these letters as yet.

Informant advised that at the last state meet of the officers which was on Sunday, January 31, 1965, that only JULIUS HARPER and SAM BOWERS were present and that these two met with an outside group which is not in the Klan. This outside group consist of professors, doctors, lawyers, and so forth, and all of these individuals who were at the state meeting of officers with HARPER and BOWERS have their names in the letter which is to be circulated.

The state meeting of officers which has been taking place each Sunday at Crystal Springs, Mississippi, are now handled by the officers assembling at a super market parking lot in Crystal Springs, late in the evening on Sundays from which they drive to Jackson, Mississippi, where the meets are held.

[REDACTED]

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

[REDACTED]

with HOUSTON JORDAN, CHARLES FALVEY, and GARLAND WHITE, all Brookhaven, Mississippi, and others throughout the Southern portion of Mississippi, and that there is "Strong talk" about reorganizing the Klan and going under ground. Should the Klan reorganize the idea put forth so far is that they will form in small groups and make every effort to hide their identity. Informant advised that there has been consideration by the state officers to advise the Klan that should there be any reorganization and small groups are formed that the state officers and the state organization will retaliate against any small group. Informant advised that this is only talk so far among the state officers and that no definite action has been decided on.

There are to be no more state meets such as the one in Simpson County in November, 1964, and the earlier meet in Raleigh because of the article in Newsweek dated December 21, 1964, and the Saturday Evening Post article of about the same date. The state officers have advised that the FBI knows too much about what's going on at the state meets and therefore all subsequent meetings will be through provinces.

Informant advised that he knew there was to be a meeting in Brookhaven, Mississippi, on January 24, 1965, but that he had been unable to attend this meeting. He stated he had no doubts but what the meeting was managed by A. C. HERRINGTON, but that he had no information that HERRINGTON was again active in the Klan. He pointed out that when he had last contacted HERRINGTON that HERRINGTON had advised him that he was out of the Klan and taking no further action.

Informant advised that from what he was told regarding this meeting, he was of the opinion that the meeting at Brookhaven, Mississippi, on January 24, 1965, was a province meeting. He stated he could not believe that HERRINGTON would address members by their numbers as the numbers are assigned by individual Klaverns and if

this was a province meeting he would be out of order to address anyone by a number as anyone of several individuals might answer.

Informant advised that he doubted very strongly that there were as many as 200 members present at the meeting in Brookhaven, Mississippi, on January 24, 1965. He pointed out that when the Klan was originally formed in Lincoln County, Mississippi, that they experienced great difficulty in locating a meeting hall which would accommodate over 100 members. Informant advised that he knew of no meeting place presently available to the Klan in the Brookhaven area which would accommodate as many as 200 individuals.

Informant advised that on the morning of February 4, 1965, he was in conversation with CHARLES FALVEY and that he inquired of FALVEY if FALVEY was putting out any jars for the White Christian Protective and Legal Defense Fund. FALVEY replied that he was not, after which the informant advised FALVEY that JULIUS HARPER had told him that he had sent some jars to FALVEY. Informant advised that FALVEY replied that he had not received any jars whatsoever and the informant advised that FALVEY seemed sincere in what he said.

In connection with the guns stolen at the Armory in Collins, Mississippi, Informant advised that an individual (FNU) HANKINS, who is approximately 5 feet 9 inches tall, blond, stocky build, and wears glasses, who resides in Taylorsville, Mississippi, originally told him that he, HANKINS, knew who to get in touch with to obtain guns which were stolen from the Armory at Collins. Informant advised that later he received information that [redacted] was riding around Mississippi with some of these stolen guns in the trunk of his car and that [redacted] was peddling these guns. Informant advised he later heard that [redacted] had taken a load of these guns to Greenwood, Mississippi. Informant stated he has heard nothing regarding these guns lately but that he does recall that when there was talk among the Klansmen regarding the

theft of these guns shortly after they were stolen that he heard that the individuals who had burglarized the Armory were from Louisiana. Informant pointed out that he had merely heard this and could not vouch for the veracity of this statement.

Informant advised that he has heard of no further activity on the part of PRENTISS SMITH, a Klansman from Gulfport, Mississippi.

Informant advised that C. J. SEALE, Crossroads, Mississippi, and Doctor (FNU) ADAMS, a Chiropractor, also of Crossroads, got to feuding between themselves and split the Klan up in the Crossroads area. Informant advised that he is now of the opinion that Doctor ADAMS is now out of the Klan.

Informant advised that in connection with the Klaverns at Picayune, Mississippi, that he knows there are at least two Klaverns operating in the Picayune area. He pointed out that VARNADO was the Exalted Cyclops of one of the Klaverns at Picayune but that he does not know if VARNADO is presently an EC.

Informant advised that he has not heard anything about the United Klans of America in Adams County, Mississippi. He stated he has heard that there is a group of Klansmen who were members of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi in the Brookhaven area who are now talking of going with the United Klans of America.

Informant advised that TOBE LEGGETT of Brookhaven, Mississippi, is reportedly accusing HOUSTON JORDAN of furnishing information to the FBI.

Informant advised that he has not been to Natchez in several months and that he has obtained no information regarding the bombing of Mayor JOHN NOSSER'S home or the bombing of WILLIE WASHINGTON'S residence.

Informant advised that he has heard ANTHONY DiSALVO mention VIRGIL DECKMAN and CLYDE MORRISON and the informant is of the opinion that these two individuals are from the Gulf Coast area.

Informant advised that LLOYD CASE, on whom he has previously furnished information, is an individual from Brookhaven, Mississippi, who presently drives a Butane Gas truck for the Texas Company. He stated the wife of LLOYD CASE is a Beauty Operator.

Informant advised that the individual on whom he had previously furnished information by the name of (FNU) COWART is LOUIS COWART who was elected State Investigator when the Klan was originally formed in Lincoln County, Mississippi. Informant advised that LOUIS COWART has deserted his wife and left the Brookhaven area. He is reportedly residing now somewhere in the state of Louisiana, exact address unknown. Informant described LOUIS COWART as white headed, approximately 60 years old, has large ears, and a German accent. COWART was a retired service man and it was for this reason that he quit the Klan because he believed that if the Armed Services found out that he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan that he would then loose his Government pension.

Informant advised that JULIUS HARPER had stated that the FBI had been by to talk to him. Informant stated that HARPER made no mention of the burnings of the two Negro Masonic Lodge Halls and the one Negro Knights of Pythias Hall in Warren County, Mississippi, on January 18, 1965. Informant stated he was still of the opinion that the burning of these three lodge halls could have been by one of the three following Klaverns: Vicksburg, Utica, Bolton. Informant pointed out that there were Radical members in any one of these three Klaverns. He also pointed out that the members of these three Klaverns are very close mouthed about their activities.

Informant advised that he had heard no mention of the theft of the explosives and ammunition from the Pelham Range, Fort McClellan, Alabama, between January 22-28, 1965. He stated he would be alert for any information regarding explosives which had been taken.

Informant advised that his considered guess for the present membership of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan Of Mississippi would be between 1,000 and 1,500 active members who are still attending meetings and paying dues. He pointed out that other members had lost interest and were no longer attending meetings or participating in any way with Klan activities.

Informant advised that WASP stood for White Anglo Saxon Protestant. Informant stated that WASP was the brain child of SAM BOWERS and was just another opportunity for SAM BOWERS to write something. Informant stated it was SAM BOWERS who wrote all of the throw-aways which had been distributed at the state meets which were captioned "WASP".

Informant made available a copy of the "Southern Review", a newspaper published at Jackson, Mississippi. He stated that this paper which was volume 1, number 6, dated January, 1965, was written almost in its entirety by SAM BOWERS. He pointed out that he had previously furnished information that the Southern Review was now the means by which the Klan distributed information.

Jackson, Mississippi
February 19, 1965

WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI
RACIAL MATTERS

DISRUPTION OF THE LAURENDALE KLAVERN

JN T-1, a confidential source who has provided reliable information in the past, advised that there has been considerable disruption within Klan circles and defections from the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi (WKKKK) to the United Klans of America (UKA).

Prior to the break away of certain members of the Laurendale Klavern, the WKKKK was concerned with the defection of several klaverns in the Hattiesburg, Mississippi, area. On or about February 4, 1965, Billy Birdsong, Imperial Investigator, WKKKK, received a letter postmarked Hattiesburg, Mississippi, threatening his life and the life of Sam Bowers, the Imperial Wizard. It was believed that this threat emanated from the disgruntled Klansmen in Hattiesburg.



They discussed the contents of the letter.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

Subsequently the subject matter turned to money. Birdsong requested that the State Klan send money to certain Meridian defendants recently arrested for their participation in the murder of James Earl Ray, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Henry Schwerner. The Imperial Wizard advised he could not send

JLM:wr
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157-63

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JLM

DESCRIPTION OF THE LAUDERDALE KLAN

any money since the State Klan had recently sent \$1,000 to Herman Tucker, of Philadelphia, Mississippi, a defendant in the murder case. The discussion became heated, Birdsong complained that it was unfair to send money to Hoshoba County and to ignore the defendants in Meridian. Bowers said he had to take care of Herman Tucker because he considered Tucker "a good man." Birdsong said that the State Klan should assist someone like Wayne Roberts because Roberts was so deeply involved in the murder of the three civil rights workers. When the meeting ended, Dennis and Birdsong returned to Meridian.

Almost immediately, Birdsong began to spread the word throughout Lauderdale County that the Imperial Wizard had "double crossed" the Meridian Klan. He repeated the words of Sam Bowers that, "if Wayne Roberts doesn't like it, he can get out."

On February 6, 1965, a meeting was held and again Birdsong expounded upon the difficulty with the leadership of the White Knights. He exaggerated to a great extent the problems encountered with Sam Bowers. He accused Bowers of being "a Communist, a Russian Jew, a queer, and a liar."

According to the confidential source who attended the meeting, the Klansmen who were present, approximately twenty, became extremely angry and upset. E. L. McDaniel, Grand Dragon for the United Klans for the State of Mississippi, was present at the meeting and confirmed Birdsong's statement that Bowers was a Communist. McDaniel said, "We in the United Klans knew this for months." He told the group how he was once a member of the White Knights and he too became dissatisfied, broke away and joined forces with Robert Shelton and the United Klans.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE LAUDERDALE KLAVERNS

As a result, ten of the twenty men attending were sworn into the United Klans of America. They are:

Bernard L. Akin, a defendant recently arrested for complicity in the murder of the three civil rights workers;

J. T. Barnette, an employee of Bernard L. Akin;

(First name unknown) Balcomb;

Billy Birdsong, Imperial Investigator, WKKKKKK;

"Bookie" Caboon, a jukebox and vending machine operator in Meridian;

Balmar Dennis, Province Titan, WKKKKKK;

Billy Joe Harris;

James T. Harris, also known as "Pete" Harris, a defendant in the case involving the murders of Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner;

Tommy Horne; and

(First name unknown) Sykes.

Billy Birdsong was appointed temporary Exalted Cyclops, and Balmar Dennis was appointed Province Titan for the United Klans.

W. S. Terrance and Ed Frasier, along with six other Klansmen, walked out of the meeting and refused to be sworn into the UKA pending consultation with their individual units.

According to the confidential source, the main concern of the Klansmen in Lauderdale and Neshoba Counties is

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.

Billy Blasing called to the group about the details with the KKK. He stated that the names of the members of the KKK were not impressed with Kennedy's speech, and refused to be obligated into the KKK.

According to the source, the following were among those who attended the meeting: Bernard L. Alkin, Billy Blasing, Jack Jones, and W. S. Johnson.

IN 2-2, a confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised he learned that a meeting of the Northern Klans was held on Saturday night, February 6, 1963. The meeting was presided over by E. L. Kennedy, Grand Dragon, KKK for the State of Mississippi. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss defection from the KKK to the USA.

It was brought out at the meeting that they would receive no financial assistance from the KKK. Kennedy said at the meeting that the KKK did not, as a matter of policy, contribute to the legal defense for Klansmen arrested for acts of racial violence. Kennedy did say that he would make an attempt to borrow \$1,000 from the mayor of Jackson, Mississippi. The group was not satisfied with this, believing that \$1,000 was not enough.

the find relating for the legal defense of the Klansmen recently attended for their participation in the murder of the three civil rights workers. They are anxious about money, and have received only minimal contributions since the find relating began. They have been told that the Monroe County find will not be available for the defense of the Klansmen defendants. And then they were told the State Klan would not contribute any money for attorneys' fees, yet money from the State Klan Treasury was sent to assist a Philadelphia Klansman.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

2-19-65

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR FBI

FROM: SAC JACKSON (157-63)

**WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE
KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI
RACIAL MATTERS**

Re Jackson teletyped 2-6,9 & 16-65, captioned
"MIBURN"; Bureau airtels to Jackson 2-10 & 15-65, captioned
"WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISS. - RACIAL MATTERS."

Enclosed for the Bureau are original and 7 copies
of LHM setting forth information concerning the defection of
certain members of the WKKKKOM to the United Klans of America.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

JN T-1 is [redacted].

JN T-2 is [redacted] (PROTECT IDENTITY).

3 - Bureau (Enc. 8) RM
4 - Jackson

- (1 - 44-1) (MIBURN)
- (1 - 157-63) (WKKKKOM)
- (1 - 157-471) (UKA)
- (1 - [redacted])

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157-63 - 757 *Joh*

F B I

Date: 2/10/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via Airtel _____
(Priority)

To: SAC, Jackson (44-1)
From: Director, FBI (157-1552)

**WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI
RACIAL MATTERS**

ReJNairtel 2/6/65 captioned "Miburn."

ReJNairtel setting forth information concerning certain members of above-captioned organization leaving that organization to become affiliated with the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Immediately submit original and seven copies of letterhead memorandum suitable for dissemination containing pertinent information regarding this situation. Additional information obtained indicating members of captioned organization affiliated with the United Klans should be furnished to the Bureau in a form suitable for dissemination.

*copy destroyed
6/20/66*

*Jennings
followed*

157-63-75
SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED FILED
FEB 12 1965
FBI - JACKSON
KELLY

F B I

Date: **2-15-65**

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via **Airtel** _____
(Priority)

To: SAC, Jackson

✓ From: Director, FBI (157-1582)

**WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE
KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI
RACIAL MATTERS**

ReJNtel 2-9-65 captioned "Miburn."

Immediately submit letterhead memorandum suitable for dissemination containing pertinent information regarding Klan activity set forth in reJNtel.

Information concerning Klan activities submitted by summary teletypes captioned "Miburn" should also be submitted under the substantive caption for the Klan and in a disseminable form.

*copy destroyed
2/16/65
GJS*

*Jennings
Follow!
ENT*

157-63-760

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FEB 16 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

*SAC [Signature]
info*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-63)

DATE: 2/24/65

FROM : SA REESIE L. TIMMONS

SUBJECT: WHITE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN
OF MISSISSIPPI
RM

On 2/20/65, at 5:06 p.m., three individuals were observed to enter a white 1964 Chevrolet in the parking lot at the rear of Primo's on North State Street, Jackson, Mississippi, and proceed north on US Highway 51 to the Highland Village shopping center parking lot.

Shortly after arriving there these individuals were observed to depart the 1964 Chevrolet bearing 1965 Mississippi plates 15-508, registered to JULIUS HARPER of Crystal Springs, Miss., and enter a white 1964 Oldsmobile bearing 1965 Miss. plates HD 7400, registered to HARVEY H. HEREDEEN, 4013 Jiggetts Street, Jackson, and drive through the residential area near this parking lot for about ten minutes, then pull up into the garage of the residence at 4013 Jiggetts Street.

This automobile stayed in this garage for several minutes. Due to the nature of the area the writer departed the area and joined SA JENNINGS on US 51 North.

At 5:37 p.m. the individual who drove the 1964 Chevrolet registered to HARPER was observed standing on the sidewalk of the Highland Village Shopping Center. Shortly thereafter the individual who drove the 1964 Oldsmobile was observed standing some 50 yards past the first individual also apparently trying to locate some other individual. This man shortly returned to his Oldsmobile where he sat until about 6:15, when he left the area alone and returned to the Jiggetts Street address.

① - 157-63
1 - 157-JULIUS HARPER
1 - 157-HARVEY H. HEREDEEN

RLT/lcj

(3)

lcj

157-63-162

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 26 1965	
FBI - JACKSON	

[Handwritten signature]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC , JACKSON (157-63)

DATE: 6/27/66

FROM : SA PHILLIP S. ENDRES

SUBJECT: WKKKKOM

In connection with the destruction of channelizing memoranda, the information contained on the serials listed below was incorporated in a report dated **April 20, 1966**. The review for this report was made from serial 669 through serial 762.

In accordance with the above, the following serials are to be destroyed:

Volume	Serials (List by serial or serial scope.)
12	670 Original in
	671 Original in
	672 Original in
	673 Original in
	674 Original in
	675 Original in
	676 Original in
	677 Original in
	678 Original in
	679 Original in
	680 Original in
	681 Original in
	689 Original in
	690 Original in
	691 Original in
	692 Original in
	693 Original in
	694 Original in
	695 Original in
	698 Original in

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

157-63-762A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 28 1966	
FBI - JACKSON	

No. of copies 1

Approved *[Signature]*

Destroyed by *[Signature]*

Date 7-12-66

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC

DATE:

FROM : SA

SUBJECT:

In connection with the destruction of channelizing memoranda, the information contained on the serials listed below was incorporated in a report dated _____ . The review for this report was made from serial _____ through serial _____ .

In accordance with the above, the following serials are to be destroyed:

Volume	Serials (List by serial or serial scope.)
12	699 Original in
FOIA(b)(7) - (D)	703 Original in
	705 Original in
	706 Original in
	707 Original in
	708 Original in
	709 Original in
	710 Original in
	711 Original in
	714 Original in
	715 Original in
	716 Original in
	718 Original in
	719 Original in
	722 Original in
	723 Original in
724 Original in	
725 Original in	
726 Original in	
728 Original in	

No. of copies _____

Approved _____

Destroyed by _____ Date _____

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC

DATE:

FROM : SA

SUBJECT:

In connection with the destruction of channelizing memoranda, the information contained on the serials listed below was incorporated in a report dated _____ . The review for this report was made from serial _____ through serial _____ .

In accordance with the above, the following serials are to be destroyed:

Volume	Serials (List by serial or serial scope.)
12	731 Original in
FOIA(b)(7) - (D)	732 Original in
	733 Original in
	734 Original in
	735 Original in
	736 Original in
	737 Original in
	738 Original in
	739 Original in
	743 Original in
	744 Original in
	745 Original in
	746 Original in
	752 Original in
	753 Original in
	758 Original in
	761 Original in

No. of copies _____

Approved _____

Destroyed by _____ Date _____

See next Volume