

FBI

Date: 3/27/69

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-448006)

FROM: SAC, WFO (157-1292)

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM
BLACK NATIONALIST - HATE GROUPS
RACIAL INTELLIGENCE
[REDACTED]

ReWFOairtel 2/28/69 which set out information, of
possible COINTELPRO use, concerning [REDACTED]

WFO airtel dated 3/6/69 captioned [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] RM' contained information from a "Washington Post"
news article 3/6/69 indicating GARRETT lectured to students
at the University of Oregon on 2/21/69 on techniques of
making firebombs and hand grenades.

Portland airtel and LHM dated 3/17/69 under
[REDACTED] caption contained information relating to GARRETT's
appearance at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon,
on 2/21/69. The "Oregon Daily Emerald," a student newspaper,

3 - Bureau
2 - WFO

AKN:mac
(5)

25 MAR 27 1969

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Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

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Per _____

WFO airtel to WFO 3/2/69
TFO:fig

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contained an article in the 2/24/69 issue titled "Garrett Supports Black Separatism" According to this article he spoke before a crowd of students and prefaced his speech with instructions for the construction of incendiary bombs and hand grenades. GARRETT explained that his lessons in weapon building were designed to show blacks they could control the mechanisms of force. According to the article he also made such statements as "Black people are slaves." "We don't control our own goods and our own services." "We don't control our own minds and we don't control the mechanisms of force and violence." "Blacks cannot receive an education at a white school." "The university is the Devil's 'workshop'." "All education in America is white supremacist. You are not responsible for these buildings, therefore, you can destroy them."

Additional statements in a similar vein are included in the Portland LHM.

The above is furnished to the Bureau for further information in connection with consideration of any COINTELPRO action which may be deemed desirable, as suggested in re WFO airtel.

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

SAC, San Diego (100-14192)

4/7/69

REC 44

Director, FBI (100-448006) — 8/8

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM
BLACK NATIONALIST - HATE GROUPS
RACIAL INTELLIGENCE
(BLACK PANTHER PARTY)

1 - [REDACTED]
1 - [REDACTED]
1 - [REDACTED]
1 - [REDACTED]
1 - [REDACTED]
1 - [REDACTED]

Reurairtel 3/28/69.

You are authorized to confidentially advise the

[REDACTED] that the Black Panther Party (BPP) has rented the Rhodesian Club, 2907 Imperial Avenue, San Diego, California, as a meeting hall. You should not suggest any particular course of action to the police department, however, if you are in receipt of information indicating that the Rhodesian Club is in violation of any local law or ordinances, you may bring these violations to the attention of local authorities providing the disclosure of this information does not jeopardize any Bureau informant or source.

Keep the Bureau advised concerning any action the police department may take based on information you furnish them.

WDN:ra (9)

NOTE:

In resairtel San Diego advised that the Black Panther Party has rented a meeting hall known as the "Rhodesian Club" located at 2907 Imperial Avenue, San Diego. San Diego states that a possibility exists that the Rhodesian Club does not meet the minimum health and safety standards; therefore, San Diego requests authority to suggest to the [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] building examined by the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Since it is without the scope of Bureau jurisdiction to make suggestions of this nature to [REDACTED] authorities, San Diego is being instructed as above.

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____

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TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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FBI

Date: 3/28/69

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

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-448006)
FROM: SAC, SAN DIEGO (100-14192) (P)

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM
BLACK NATIONALIST - HATE GROUPS
RACIAL INTELLIGENCE
(BLACK PANTHER PARTY)

For the information of the Bureau, the Black Panther Party (BPP) has finally been able to rent the Rhodesian Club, 2907 Imperial Avenue, San Diego, as a meeting hall.

The possibility exists that this "club" does not meet the minimum health and safety standards.

Bureau permission is requested to suggest to the [REDACTED] that they might wish to have the building examined by the [REDACTED]

Absolutely no reference would be made indicating that the FBI was in any way responsible for the examination of the building and the suggestion would be made during a casual conversation through normal liaison contacts with that department.

(3) - Bureau (AM) (REGISTERED)
2 - San Diego

RLB:bef
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REC 44

MAR 31 1969

RACIAL INT. SECT.

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

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Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-448006)

DATE: 4/3/69

FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (100-4542) (P)

SUBJECT: COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM
BLACK NATIONALIST - HATE GROUPS
RACIAL INTELLIGENCE

Re Memphis letter to Bureau dated 2/26/69.

There is enclosed for the information of the Bureau an article written by KAY PITTMAN BLACK, a staff writer for the "Memphis Press Scimitar," a daily Memphis newspaper which was published in the "Memphis Press Scimitar" issue of 2/20/69, which is an example of the type of articles that have been appearing in the "Memphis Press Scimitar" written by KAY PITTMAN BLACK, directed against the black militant group at Memphis, Tennessee, known as the Invaders.

[REDACTED] has advised that she will continue to write articles in an effort to discredit this Invader group at Memphis, Tennessee.

This counterintelligence program [REDACTED] and every effort will be made to discredit this black power group at Memphis, Tennessee.

- 1-8069
2 - Bureau (Enc. 1) (RM)
2 - Memphis

HSL:tjm
(4)

ENCLOSURE

REC 29

APR 7 1969

RACIAL INT. SECT.

70 APR 14 1969

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

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35 Black Militants in Trouble Since Last Summer

Page 14 Press-Scimitar Memphis 2-24-69

Thursday

Invaders vs. the Law— Box Score to Date

EDITOR'S NOTE: Testimony in Shelby Criminal Court last week revealed that the Invaders, young Memphis black militants, last summer planned the ambush shooting of a policeman in their headquarters—then a Neighborhood Organizing Project office financed by the War on Poverty program.

WOPC considered the NOP project a "bold and imaginative" program to keep militants out of trouble.

With the conviction of three Invaders on the policeman ambush charge this week, The Press-Scimitar assigned Kay Pittman Black, who has reported Invaders' activities since they first attracted public attention, to summarize how the black militants have fared with the law in their various activities.

Law enforcement officers assigned to check the Invaders now compare them to the Black Panthers in California and the Blackstone Rangers in Chicago. They say the Invaders' program in Memphis was patterned from 10 points in the Black Panthers platform.

By KAY PITTMAN BLACK

Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

In the summer of 1968, the Invaders came into public view as a black militant youth organization in Memphis.

Today 20 known members are in Shelby County Jail, six arrested yesterday are in city jail, six more are out on bond awaiting trial on various criminal charges and four others already are serving jail sentences.

The 35 individuals involved:

• Orce McKenzie, 19, executive secretary of the Invaders, found guilty of assault to murder in the first degree in the ambush trial of Patrolman Robert James Waddell, sentenced to not less than three and not more than 10 years. McKenzie was convicted in Criminal Court three weeks ago of participating in a riot at Carver High School and given sentences totaling six years. The two sentences will be served concurrently. McKenzie was an area coordinator for the War on Poverty's Neighborhood Organizing Project in the summer of 1967. His cousin, John Gary Williams, 23, was found guilty in the Waddell case, of intent to commit voluntary manslaughter and ordered to serve up to two years.

• Womax (Speedy) Stevenson, 18, found guilty in the Waddell ambush of assault to murder in the second degree and given sentence of three to 10 years. Stevenson was a volunteer worker with the NOP, a \$20,000 program.

• John Henry Ferguson, 20, whose prank of pointing a toy rifle at passing cars led to his arrest and to the ambush, is under sentence for more than six years for inciting a riot at Carver High School last spring, and awaits trial on five other charges, mostly misdemeanors. He is one of the original leaders. He took part in the Poor People's March on Washington.

• Ben Heard Berry III, 18, charged with assault to murder in the ambush of Patrolman Waddell. Turned state's evidence against three others accused with him in the case. His trial will come soon. In County Jail.

• John Currell Smith, 25, sentenced to six years for inciting a riot at Carver. Faces charges on possession of marijuana and illegal possession of legend drugs, dating from a raid on Aug. 2, 1968 by the vice squad on his apartment at 1644 Hanauer, Apt. 2. Other militants, including McKenzie, were also arrested in the raid, most were charged with disorderly conduct but the case was dismissed. McKenzie and Charles Ballard were censured by the WOPC, as both were NOP workers. Smith first made news in the summer of 1967 when he and another militant were members of the Black Organizing Project, a forerunner of the Invaders, and were charged by Memphis Area-Project South board members with preaching black power while on the poverty payroll. The other was Charles Cabbage.

• Charles Lavern Cabbage, 24, one of the original leaders of the militants, under federal indictment for refusal to report for induction. Also faces trial on charges of burglary and carrying a loaded pistol. Police said he was found with a quantity of blank checks taken in burglary of the CME Publishing Co., 531 S. Parkway E. Several thousand dollars of the checks were cashed in Memphis. The CME company and church were hosts for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Convention in Memphis, which the Invaders were accused of disrupting by SCLC vice president Andy Young. The late Dr. Martin Luther King was head of SCLC.

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ENCLOSURE

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"the Black Student Association there. Miss Harrell was a female leader of the Invaderettes — the auxiliary to the militant group.

• Albert Frison, 30, charged along with Ballard, in the murder of Warren.

• Cliford Lewis Taylor, 22, charged with shooting of Lomus Payne, who Taylor said was paying attention to his wife. The three accused of the murder of Warren, police said, had been at Taylor's house the night of the murder and an argument developed. Warren was shot in a car going south on Highway 51 near the Whitehaven Shopping Center.

• Robert Lee (Cornbread) Wilson, 19, arrested and charged on Jan. 31, 1969, with robbery of a male Negro, carrying a pistol, robbery with a deadly weapon—a shotgun—and carrying a pistol. He was one of the Invaders who went to the meeting of the National Council of Churches in Memphis asking for funding for the Invaders.

Robert (SuperCool) Webster, 19, arrested on Nov. 20, 1968, charged with carrying a dangerous weapon, fined \$50 in City Court for the carrying of the weapon, a razor, and held to state on \$500 bond. On Dec. 20, 1968, he was again arrested and charged with carrying a dangerous weapon, a shotgun, and with disorderly conduct, bound to state with bond set at \$500. Now he is also under \$1,000 peace bond in connection with a disturbance at Jump & Grab Drive-In Grocery, 1101 E. Crump. Witnesses at the store to the Nov. 27 incident said Webster and other members of the Invaders made threats, used abusive language and waved guns around the store.

said Hall waved a pistol and threatened to "blow off our heads" and burn us to the ground." He was carrying a pistol and dangerously violent. At the time of the charge Hall was already in jail twice for making attacks, based on prior charges of assault with intent to murder and simple assault growing out of an incident in which he challenged police to take the shotgun from him. He is awaiting trial on both counts.

Police records show Watson was released from the state penitentiary at Nashville in 1967 after serving a three-year term on a burglary conviction. Police said he was first convicted in October 1950 at age 17, on a charge of larceny. He received a suspended sentence. He was later arrested on mischief and shoplifting charges. In May, 1961, officers said Watson was sentenced to five years in prison for grand larceny and was paroled after three years. Watson, a high school drop-out, was one of the leaders in the take-over of LeMoyne-Owen College.

• Arthur James (Big Doc) Norwood, 19, injured in the Kansas Street Package Store attempted hold-up. He was shot by Abraham Coffee, 77, who came from the rear of the liquor store with a loaded shotgun while three robbers were in the process of holding up the place. He is held on a charge of attempted armed robbery.

● Robert Lewis Taylor, Jr., 22, a figure in the shutdown of LeMoyne-Owen College. On Dec. 7, 1958, following arrests for disorderly conduct, one of which was in front of the Neighborhood Organizing Project headquarters—he was charged with assault to murder. He attempted to kill one of his relatives, police said, and is held to the state.

• James Elmore Phillips, 24, treasurer of the Black Organizing Project, last arrested on Dec. 31, charged with the armed robbery of a drive-in grocery on Lamar. He was also charged with robbery with a deadly weapon and carrying a pistol.

• Carl Stephen (Green Beret) Armstrong, 22, arrested on Oct. 12, 1968 on charges of carrying a dangerous weapon, bound to state on \$250 bond.

• James Edward Griffin, 22, arrested Nov. 20, 1968 on charges of carrying a dangerous weapon — a knife — fined

\$50 in City Court and bound to state on dangerous weapon charge. Out on a \$250 bond.

• Johnnie Lee Frierson, 24, son of a prominent Nashville Negro family, arrested on Jan. 18, 1968, and held to state on an assault and battery charge, and out on \$250 bond. Frierson was accused of slugging and severely injuring a white student at Memphis State. Frierson, also a student, broke the white student's jaw, police said, and so severely injured sinus bones that the student had to undergo plastic surgery.

• Louis (Louie the Lock) Welch, 28, chairman of the Invaders, participant in the take-over of LeMoyné-Owen. He was arrested Nov. 23, 1968, charged with carrying a dangerous weapon—a rifle, held to the state and is out on \$250 bond.

• Winston Lee Middleton, 28, marcher with city hospital strikers. He was noticed for wearing a purple velvet Nehru jacket and carrying a horn under his arm at that time. On Oct. 27, 1968 he was charged with larceny and bound to state on a charge of fraudulent use of a credit card. Police said Middleton was accused of stealing the credit card from another Invader and run up \$500 worth of bills.

• Michael Eugene Mountain, 19, held to the state on a grand larceny charge, Sept. 10, 1968, out on \$1,000 bond.

Four militants were convicted Dec. 2, 1968 on charges growing out of the firebombing of a Negro slum apartment building last August and received Penal Farm sentences of from four months to a year.

Sentenced were:

• Roy Williams, 26, of 401 Laclede.

• Edward Houston, 31, of 1745 Preston.

• Charles Berry Key, 26, of 1295 Wilson.

• Arthur Elliott, 21, of 1103 Coppock.

Most of the arrests and criminal activity of Invaders have come since last summer when some were involved in the \$20,000 Neighborhood Organizing Project grant.

Berry, who turned state's evidence in the patrolman ambush case, testified a plot was hatched to shoot a policeman at the NOP headquarters, 1310 Florida. He also said members of the Invaders kept their guns at the headquarters.

The Invaders now are trying to get a more than \$50,000 grant from the National Council of Churches to set up a "Membership Leadership Conference for Black and Poor People."

Coby V. Smith presented the petition to the NCC meeting recently in Memphis.

Smith, along with John B. Smith and Charles Cabbage, was a Map-South worker two summers ago and was accused along with the other two, by board members, of preaching black power. He is now a student at Southwestern and is considered a spokesman for the Invaders.

Invader John Charles Smith, 25, is on parole. Smith was arrested on Jan. 28, on a disorderly conduct charge and forfeited in city court the following day.

He is on parole from California. The California parole came after Smith was ejected from a theater in Los Angeles. Police said he went home, got a gun, drove by the theater and shot into the entrance and hit, but did not kill, a customer.

Six other Invaders were arrested by police yesterday on charges of disorderly conduct in disturbances in front of 391 and 525 Crump Blvd.

Police said the group was stopping cars and customers in front of Gag's House of Spirits of 363 Crump and Jump and Grab Grocery, 501 Crump, the latter where trouble developed in November and led to the arrest of other Invaders.

Police said the six were... addills requesting the release from jail of "Sw..."

Facing city and state charges of disorderly conduct:

• Carl S. Armstrong, who is out on bond on other charges to be found elsewhere in this story.

• Eddie Tate, 21, of 426 Vance.

• George E. Pryor, 19, of 260 East Trigg.

• Gwendolyn White, 23, of 373 Pontotoc.

• Carolyn Thomas, 19, of 435 E. Vance.

• An unidentified juvenile.