

U. S. Department of Justice

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44

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES

33352

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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| REPORTING OFFICE JACKSON | OFFICE OF ORIGIN JACKSON | DATE 7/22/66 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 7/13-20/66 |
| TITLE OF CASE UNSUBS; STOKELY CARMICHAEL, BRUCE BAINES, ROBERT LEE SMITH - VICTIMS | | REPORT MADE BY SA WILLIAM D. HOSKINS | TYPED BY jls |
| | | CHARACTER OF CASE VRA OF 1965 CR - EL | |

REFERENCE: Report of SA LEROY D. FEDERLE at Jackson dated 6/21/66
 Bureau airtel to Jackson dated 7/7/66
 Jackson airtel to Bureau dated 7/19/66

-C-

ADMINISTRATIVE:

All persons interviewed were advised that this investigation was being conducted at the specific request of NICHOLAS deB. KATZENBACH, Attorney General of the United States.

**A*
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|--|-------------------------|--|------------------|
| APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i> | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW | |
| COPIES MADE: 2 - Bureau 1 - USA, Oxford 1 - Jackson (44-1746) | | 44-33352-6 9 JUL 26 1966 REC-26 EX 110 | REC-26 EX 110 |
| Dissemination Record of Attached Report | | Notations | |
| Agency | CRD | [Handwritten signatures and stamps: STAT SECT, etc.] | |
| Request Recd. | | | |
| Date Fwd. | 7/28/66 | | |
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| By | 57 AUG 5 1966 | | |

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EXP. PROC.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, OXFORD

Report of: SA WILLIAM D. HOSKINS
Date: JULY 22, 1966

Office: JACKSON

Field Office File #: 44-1746

Bureau File #:

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
STOKELY CARMICHAEL,
BRUCE BAINES, ROBERT LEE
SMITH - VICTIMS

Character: VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis: Neighborhood investigation in vicinity of Stone Street School, Greenwood, Miss., revealed school property never used for other than school functions. W. H. GALLASPY, Greenwood School Board Member, advised he received call from Mr. BOWMAN, President of School Board, concerning request of "Meredith Marchers" to use school property to erect tent. He said he told BOWMAN to adhere to past school policy of allowing only school functions on school property. W. B. DRIBBEN, Superintendent of Greenwood, Miss., schools, advised policy of school board established between 1950 and 1955 prohibiting school property from being used by non-school functions. DRIBBEN stated he was out of town when "Meredith Marchers" requested use of Stone Street School property to pitch tent but feels refusal was correct in light of policy. J. H. LEWIS, school board member, stated he received call from Mr. BOWMAN, President of School Board, informing him of request of "Meredith Marchers" to erect tent on school property. He advised BOWMAN that no exceptions should be made, therefore he was not in favor of request.

-C-

DETAILS:

JN 44-1746

The following investigation was conducted by SA DENNIS R. DICKSON and SA WILLIAM D. HOSKINS at Greenwood, Mississippi on July 18, 1966:

A neighborhood investigation was conducted in the area of the Stone Street Elementary School, Stone Street, Greenwood, Mississippi. All persons contacted were advised of the nature of the inquiry. All persons contacted advised that they could remember no occasions, since they have been living in that area, that the school grounds had been used for any occasions other than school related activities. Several advised that a carnival is held every year in that area, however, the carnival is held on private property and not school property, in a field located adjacent to the school property, east of the intersection of Stone Street and Avenue J.

The following individuals were contacted:

| <u>Name and Address</u> | <u>Lived in Area</u> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ROBERT EARL GUNN, 100 McGee Street | 2 months |
| LAURA LEE, 1202 Avenue F | 16 years |
| ANNIE BELL HARRIS, 100½ McGee Street | 10 years |
| FRED JONES, 105 McGee Street | 15 years |
| JESSIE MAE BELL, 113 E. Stone Street | 6 months |
| M. L. LEVISON, 115 E. Stone Street | 30 years |
| DORA GORDON, 804 Avenue G | 4 years |
| EVA DONALDSON, 203 E. Stone Street | 10 years |
| ROBERT DURHAM, 213 E. Stone Street | 3 years |

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/22/661

WILLIAM H. GALLASPY, Box 887, 206 Cottage Street, Member of Greenwood School Board, was interviewed at the place of his employment, Piggly Wiggly Store, 206 Cotton Street, and furnished the following information.

During the time when the Meredith March was nearing Greenwood, Mississippi, he received a phone call from Mr. BOWMAN, President of Greenwood School Board, who asked GALLASPY as to school policy concerning the erection of tents for the marchers at the Stone Street Elementary School, Greenwood, Mississippi. GALLASPY told BOWMAN that the school board would adhere to its past policy.

GALLASPY stated that the policy of the school board is that the school grounds are to be used only for school functions. At the Greenwood and Threadgill High Schools, however, there are two exceptions to this as far as he knows. The stadiums are used for an Easter Morning Sunrise Service given by the Unitarian Church to which all are welcome to attend and the auditoriums of the schools are used for the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet and a Greenwood Negro Civic Organization Annual Meeting. The grounds of the Stone Street Elementary School are used only for school functions.

The policy concerning the school grounds has always been understood and only Mr. DRIBBEN, Superintendent of Schools, would know whether or not it is on the minutes.

On 7/20/66 at Greenwood, Mississippi File # Jackson 44-1746

by SA LEE D. DORMUTH/jls Date dictated 7/20/66

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/22/661

JAMES HOWARD LEWIS, 110 E. Wilson, President of Henderson and Baird Hardware Company and Member of the Greenwood School Board voluntarily furnished the following information:

He has been a member of the School Board since approximately 1960.

During the time that the Meredith March was nearing Greenwood, Mississippi, he received a phone call from Mr. BOWMAN, President of the Greenwood School Board, who wished to discuss school board policy as to the request by the marchers to erect tents on the grounds of the Stone Street Elementary School, Greenwood, Mississippi. Mr. LEWIS advised BOWMAN that no exception should be made to school board policy which is that all school grounds are to be used only for school functions; therefore, the request by the marchers should be turned down. Personally, he knows of no exception to this policy.

LEWIS believes the policy is on the minutes of the school board, but he cannot be certain for it may have been put there before he was a member or that particular section of the minutes may have been read at a meeting which he did not attend. The minutes are maintained at the office of Mr. DRIBBEN, Superintendent of Schools.

On 7/21/66 at Greenwood, Mississippi File# Jackson 44-1746

by SA LEE D. DORMUTH/jls Date dictated 7/21/66

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/2/661

Mr. W. B. DRIBBEN, Superintendent of Schools, Greenwood, Mississippi, voluntarily furnished the following information:

About 1950 he introduced to the Greenwood School Board a policy concerning the use of school equipment and facilities which was patterned after that used by the School District of Jackson, Mississippi. This policy was adopted by the Greenwood School Board sometime between 1950 and 1955 and was placed in the minutes.

Mr. DRIBBEN made available "Application for the Use of School Facilities and Equipment" form from which the following excerpts are taken:

"School facilities and equipment may be used only for 'educational purposes.'

"The meaning of this phrase is up to the discretion of the school board acting through the Superintendent of Schools.

"Application for use of school facilities and equipment must be filed three days in advance of the intended time of use.

"Buildings and facilities may not be used by unorganized groups without a responsible leader which is again up to the discretion of the school board.

"Buildings and facilities may not be used by religious or fraternal groups."

On 7/21/66 at Greenwood, Mississippi File # Jackson 44-1746

by SA LEE D. DORMUTH/jls Date dictated 7/21/66

JN 44-1746

2

Mr. DRIBBEN advised that the school board would decide what constitutes "educational purpose" after a review of the answers which are posed on the application.

Mr. DRIBBEN was not influential in the decision to refuse the request of the marchers to erect tents on the grounds of the Stone Street Elementary School since he was at that time attending a convention in Miami, Florida; however, Mr. DRIBBEN feels that the decision reached was in accord with prevailing school board policy.

25/

FBI

Date: 7/20/66

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (44-1746)
UNSUBS; BRUCE BAINES; ET AL -
VICTIM
VRA, 1965
CR - EL

cdl /

ReBuairtel to Jackson dated 7/7/66.

Neighborhood investigation completed.
Efforts to locate Superintendent of School and pertinent members of School Board unsuccessful, as all are out of town on vacations or business but will be interviewed immediately upon their return. Report setting forth results of investigation completed will be submitted to reach Bureau by July 25, 1966. This matter will receive continuous and expedite attention.

am

REC-26

44-33352-5

3 - Bureau
2 - Jackson
WDH/bdb
(5)

JUL 25 1966

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FBI
REC'D - CIV RIGHTS

~~SA~~

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

RKM
Hed

23

July 18, 1966

1 - Mr. Feh1

AIRTEL

To: SAC, Jackson (44-1746)

From: Director, FBI

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
BRUCE BAINES, ET AL. - VICTIMS
VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

cf

ReBuairtel dated July 7, 1966.

In accordance with reBuairtel, surep containing results of investigation conducted.

FCF:jda
(4)

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MAILED 3
JUL 18 1966
COMM-FBI

REC 20

44-33352-4

EX-113

19 JUL 19 1966

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Wick _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
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- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

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56 JUL 26 1966

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

The Attorney General

July 5, 1966

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. Fehl

gm
**UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
BRUCE BAINES,
STOKELY CARMICHAEL,
ROBERT LEE SMITH - VICTIMS
VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS**

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REC'D-READING ROOM
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Reference is made to Departmental memorandum dated June 30, 1966, requesting a full investigation of the above-captioned incident which arose out of the "Meredith March."

See copy
On June 16, 1966, Stokely Carmichael and other Negroes associated with the "Meredith March" were arrested in Greenwood, Mississippi. At the time of the arrests, these individuals were attempting to erect a tent on the grounds of a local elementary school to serve as a campsite for persons participating in the march.

The requested investigation is being conducted, and the results will be furnished to the Civil Rights Division.

- 1 - The Deputy Attorney General
- 1 - Mr. John Doar
Assistant Attorney General

REC-79

EX-113

MAILED 2
JUL 5 1966
COMM-FBI

MCT-47

44-33352-3

JUL 7 1966

FCF:vea
(6) *vea*

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- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
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67 JUL 11 1966

MAIL TELETYPE UNIT

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312

F B I

Date: 6/29/66

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (44-1746)
UNSUBS; STOKELY CARMICHAEL,
BRUCE BAINES, ROBERT LEE SMITH -
VICTIMS
VRA, 1965
CR - EL

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10
Lsk

Rerep of SA LEROY D. FEDERLE dated 6/21/66 at Jackson.

Enclosed for information of the Bureau are 2 copies of Departmental Memo dated 6/28/66 requesting investigation in this matter. Item Number 2, Page 2, of this memo pertains to captioned case.

P

It is noted that a closing report has been submitted in connection with this matter and no further investigation is contemplated.

ENCLOSURE

REC-47

44-33352-2

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 2)
 - 2 - Jackson
- HEH/lsk
(5)

10 JUL 11 1966

CRS
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E.C. Wick

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55 JUL 14 1966

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

**Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**6/28/66
JD:MM:dy**

**John Dear
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division**

**Preliminary Investigations Requested by Division's
Jackson Office**

In connection with the Meredith March from Memphis to Jackson, a number of incidents have been brought to my attention involving possible violations of 42 U.S.C. 1971 (b), Section 11 (a) and 12 (b) of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and 18 U.S.C. §§ 241 and 242. We have orally requested the Bureau in Jackson, Mississippi to investigate these incidents. This memorandum confirms that request and indicates certain specific terms to be covered. Please understand that this investigation is not intended to limit the request for a full investigation of each incident involved.

1. On June 19, 1966, a number of Negroes in Humphreys County joined the Meredith March in Belzoni. On June 20, 1966, a number of Negroes registered to vote at the Courthouse in Belzoni. It is alleged that a number of Negroes who participated in the demonstration or who registered to vote were discharged from their employment and evicted from their homes. Please interview the below listed victims to secure details of these incidents. Please also interview any person who was a witness to the events involved in the discharge and eviction of each victim. Please also interview all tenants and employees of each subject to determine: (Interviews with ten tenants will be sufficient)

1) What statements the subject has made about his tenants registering to vote or participating in Civil Rights activities? Specifically has the subject made a statement concerning the reasons for the discharge of the below listed victims?

2) What is the subject's customary practice when an employee is absent from work without an excuse?

3) Secure details concerning the daily procedure utilized by the subject in assignments of work. After the victims, and tenants have been interviewed, please interview the subject to determine his version of the discharge of the victims.

ENCLOSURE

44-33362-2

(a) On June 21, 1966, Robert Lewis Jones of Belzoni, Mississippi, was fired from his employment and evicted from his home on Refuge Plantation by Boner Jones, the owner. On June 19, 1966 he had participated in the Meredith March and on June 20, 1966, he had registered to vote with the federal examiner in Humphreys County. Possible witnesses to the conversation between the victim and Boner Jones are James Young and Steve Love.

(b) On June 20, 1966, Henry Allen Washington formerly of Belzoni, Mississippi was discharged and evicted from his home on the Refuge Plantation by the owner, Boner Jones. Victim Washington marched in the Meredith March on June 19 and was allegedly discharged from his employment because of his participation in the March. Victim Washington presently resides at Route 2, Box 35 in Holmes County off of Highway 12.

(c) On June 23, 1966, Edgar Love was fired and evicted from the land leased by Robert Edwards whose farm is located near Belzoni in Humphreys County. On June 22, 1966, victim Love taped a message urging people to register to vote. This recording was broadcast over station WXTV in Holmes County on June 22, 1966. Victim Love was allegedly discharged from employment because of his urging people to register to vote. Victim Love is presently employed by Dave Howard, a farmer near Mileston, in Holmes County, Mississippi.

2. On June 16, 1966, Stokely Carmichael and other Negroes connected with the Meredith March were arrested in Greenwood, Mississippi. At the time of this arrest they were attempting to erect a tent on the grounds of Stone Street Elementary School, to serve as a campsite for the marchers. Please interview the victims and witnesses for details of the arrests. Further determine from local officials and persons living in the school area whether the school grounds have been used for non-school purposes in the past and, if so, to what extent. It is reported that the School Board relies on past resolutions to support their denial of the use of the school grounds. Please obtain copies of such resolution and minutes of the Board Meeting at which it was passed.

3. It is alleged that on June 16, 1966, Booker Riley, a white man squirted a hose at the marchers, drew a pistol and fired in the vicinity of the marchers as they left the city of Greenwood, Mississippi. This occurred in front of a filling station. Please interview witnesses for details and determine the identity of the man who fired the gun.

4. On June 22, 1966, C. O. Chinn, Negro, of Canton, Mississippi, was arrested following an incident in which he is alleged to have shot a white man also of Canton. It is reported that several white men threw a smoke bomb at a car which was parked in front of the freedom house located on Lutz Street in Canton. C. O. Chinn and other Negroes chased the persons who threw the bomb. During this chase, Chinn is alleged to have shot one of the white men, resulting in his arrest. With respect to this series of events, please conduct the following investigation:

a) Interview all witnesses to the bombing and the shooting for details. This investigation should include a determination whether any local law enforcement officers were in the vicinity of the bombing or were contacted and informed of the bombing and what if any action they took as a result of the bombing.

b) Determine what investigation the Canton police conducted of the bombing and what action, if any, has been taken against the persons who allegedly participated in the bombing.

5. On Thursday, June 23, 1966, several Negroes connected with the Meredith March were arrested at Canton, Mississippi, while attempting to pitch a tent on the grounds of the McNeal Elementary School. All were charged with trespassing. In addition, Glenn Gurney was charged with assault and battery when he allegedly jumped on the sheriff's back. Please interview all witnesses and victims for details surrounding the arrests. Further conduct an investigation to determine whether the school grounds have ever been used for non-school functions heretofore. This latter should include interviews with school officials and persons residing in the area surrounding the school property.

6. Please conduct the following investigation concerning the incidents on the night of June 23, 1966, when a group of Negroes connected with the Meredith March attempted to pitch a tent at McNeal Elementary School, Canton, Mississippi.

a) Please secure copies of all films taken by news and television photographers which depict the situation immediately prior to the discharge of tear gas and all films taken of the teargassing itself. Films should also be secured that reflect any striking, beatings, clubbings or kicking of the demonstrators by law enforcement officers.

7. Please conduct an investigation to determine what individuals suffered injuries at Canton from teargassing, assaults, and clubbings. Such interviews should include identification of and interview with the victims, eyewitnesses, doctors who treated the victims and the subjects, if any are identified and should include but not be limited to the following:

a) Charles T. Meyers, a resident of Philadelphia, Pa. who allegedly suffered two broken ribs and a punctured lung due to an assault by a member of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol. Victim Meyers, a volunteer member of the Medical Committee for Human Rights, is presently a patient at the University of Mississippi Hospital, Jackson, Mississippi.

b) Dannie Kelly, of 1627 Leverette Street, Detroit, Michigan, was allegedly struck in the eyeglasses by a tear gas cartridge. Victim Kelly alleges that he can identify the member of the MHSP who shot the cartridge. Kelly also claims to have suffered bruises on his back from being struck by members of the MHSP. Kelly further claims he can identify a member of the MHSP who participated in the assault on victim Meyers.

c) Lawrence Carter of Selma, Alabama was allegedly the victim of a blow struck by a member of the MHSP which resulted in a fracture of his right forearm.

d) George Johnson of Canton, Mississippi was allegedly struck on various parts of his body by a member of the MHSP, with a rifle butt. Eyewitnesses to this incident are said to be Dr. C.M. Hanson, of the

Public Health Service of the Department of HEW, and who can be reached through Dr. Robert Smith, 1312 Lynch Street, Jackson, Mississippi and Marc Paul Adeleman, 263 Primrose Street, Mt. Vernon, New York.

e) Please also interview members of the Medical Committee for Human Rights to ascertain the names of persons treated for injuries by that group. Certain members of this Medical Committee, including, Dorothy Williams and Marilyn Safir, are said to have witnessed assaults on several of the marchers.

f) It is alleged by C.O. Chinn of Canton that following the tear gas incident on the night of June 21, 1966, several persons suffering from gas were refused treatment at a hospital in Canton. Please interview Chinn, all witnesses and hospital officials for details.

7-7-66

AIRTEL

1 - Mr. Fehl

BS

To: SAC, Jackson (44-1746) *EX-103*

From: Director, FBI - *44-33352-1*

UNSUBS; REC-139
BRUCE BAINES, ET AL - VICTIMS
VRA, 65
CR - EL

Reurairtel 6-29-66 enclosing Department memorandum 6-28-66 and report of SA Leroy D. Federle dated 6-21-66 at Jackson.

In view of fact full investigation has been requested by the Department in this matter insure all points enumerated in Department memorandum of 6-28-66 are covered which would include interviews of persons living in school area and interviews with pertinent members of the school boards, etc.

FCF: cry (4)

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COMM-FBI

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- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
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253 *John*

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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|--|------------------------------------|---|---|
| REPORTING OFFICE JACKSON | OFFICE OF ORIGIN JACKSON | DATE 6/21/66 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 6/16 - 6/18/66 |
| TITLE OF CASE UNSUBS; STOKELY CARMICHAEL, BRUCE BAINES, ROBERT LEE SMITH - VICTIMS | | REPORT MADE BY SA LEROY D. FEDERLE | TYPED BY clm |
| | | CHARACTER OF CASE VRA, 1965 CR - EL | |

REFERENCE:

Jackson teletype to Bureau, 6/16/66, captioned "March to Jackson, Miss., RM - EL" - JN 44-1719.

- 6 -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

All persons interviewed were advised this investigation was being conducted at the specific request of NICHOLAS deB. KATZENBACH Attorney General of the United States.

Assistant Attorney General JOHN DOAR and his staff were contacted on four separate occasions regarding a written memo requesting the investigation in this report; however, the memo was not made available by Mr. DOAR or his staff prior to submission of this report.

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(COVER PAGE)

Case has been: Pending over one year Yes No; Pending prosecution over six months Yes No

APPROVED

RKM/LEB

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

- 2 - Bureau
- 1 - USA, Oxford
- 1 - Jackson (44-1746)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44 - 33352 - 1
REC-4
MCT-16

JUN 24 1966

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

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|---------------|----------|-----------|---------|
| Agency | CRD | | |
| Request Recd. | | | |
| Date Fwd. | 6-28-66 | | |
| How Fwd. | 694-B | | |
| By | FJA/emmm | rec syng. | CR Unit |

Notations

STAT. SECT.
TRAINING FILED

EXP. PROC.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Oxford

Report of: SA LEROY D. FEDERLE
Date: June 21, 1966

Office: JACKSON

Field Office File #: Jackson 44-1746

Bureau File #:

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; STOKELY CARMICHAEL, BRUCE BAINES
ROBERT LEE SMITH - VICTIMSCharacter: VOTING RIGHTS ACT of 1965
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis: STOKELY CARMICHAEL, Chairman, SNCC, and two others, arrested by Greenwood, Miss. PD, on 6/16/66 for trespassing when they attempted to erect tents for Meredith Marchers on grounds of elementary school in Greenwood. Victims admitted to disobeying Police order not to erect tents. School Principal and President of Greenwood School Board advised past policy was not to allow use of school property by groups that were not related to school functions. Incoming President of Greenwood JCs advised his organization has never used school grounds for carnival.

- C -

DETAILS:

This investigation was predicated upon information received that Greenwood, Mississippi Police Department had arrested STOKELY CARMICHAEL, National Director of Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and two others when CARMICHAEL attempted to have the marchers' tents erected on the property of a Negro

JN 44-1746

school in Greenwood after having been denied permission to do so by school authorities.

The following investigation was orally requested on June 16, 1966 by Mr. JOHN DOAR, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice:

1. Interview the victims for the circumstances of their arrest and determine charges for which they were arrested.

2. In connection with letter dated June 16, 1966, from C. M. BOWMAN, President, Board of Trustees, Greenwood Municipal Separate School District, establish accuracy of statement that school property has not been utilized for any other purpose other than school activities in the past. It was recommended that the Principal of Stone Street Elementary School be interviewed in this regard.

On June 17, 1966, Mr. DOAR orally requested that the following investigation also be undertaken in connection with this matter:

1. Inquire from members of the School Board if there are any minutes or resolutions reflecting on the use of the property adjacent to the Jones Street Elementary School.

2. Determine how decision was made denying permission to marchers to use school grounds for erecting tents.

3. Inquire from the Junior Chamber of Commerce if they ever made arrangements in the past to use school grounds for a carnival.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date June 21, 1966

STOKELY CARMICHAEL, Chariman, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, was interviewed at the Greenwood, Mississippi City Jail. He furnished the following information:

On June 16, 1966, he was marching at the head of the line of the Meredith Marchers on Highway 7 several miles out from Greenwood, Mississippi. About 12:30 p.m. or 1:00 p.m., ROBERT SMITH, who is with the marching group and someone else, identity unrecalled, came to him advising that the police would not let them pitch their tent on the Stone Street School grounds. He told them to return to the school and pitch the tent regardless of what the police said.

About 2:00 p.m. he left the march and went to the school grounds to see how his group was progressing in setting up the tents. When he arrived at the school, BUFF HAMMOND, who is the Police Commissioner, and several other policemen were there. BUFF HAMMOND told the man who was in charge of pitching the tent not to set up the tent. CARMICHAEL said "nonsense" to HAMMOND and went to the tent and began setting it up, being assisted by ROBERT SMITH and BRUCE BAINES. CARMICHAEL told HAMMOND if they arrested him, he was going to tell the Civil Rights workers to "turn the town out." HAMMOND gave the order to arrest him, SMITH and BAINES. CARMICHAEL then told the Civil Rights workers in the area to "turn the town out."

He did not know what charge he was arrested on or what his bond was.

He declined to furnish a signed statement.

On 6/16/66 at Greenwood, Mississippi File # Jackson 44-1746

SA FRANCIS X. SHORTT

by SA LEROY D. FEDERLE/pac Date dictated 6/17/66

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

JN 44-

2

The following is a physical description of STOKELY CARMICHAEL obtained through interview and observation:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Race - | Negro |
| Sex - | Male |
| Date of Birth - | June 29, 1941 |
| Place of Birth - | Trinidad, West Indies |
| Height - | 6'1" |
| Weight - | 170 pounds |
| Eyes - | Brown |
| Hair - | Black, short |
| Build - | Medium |
| Education - | Bachelor of Arts Degree from Howard <u>Univesity</u> in 1964 in philosophy |
| Home address - | 360 Nelson Street, S. W., Atlanta, Georgia. |

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date June 21, 1966

BRUCE BAINES, Field Secretary, Congress of Racial Equality, was interviewed at the Greenwood, Mississippi City Jail.

BAINES furnished the following information:

He was in charge of the transportation for the **MEREDITH** marchers and their equipment.

In the early part of the afternoon on June 16, 1966, he, **STOKELY CARMICHAEL**, and someone else, whose identity he could not remember, went to the elementary school in Greenwood, Mississippi to see how the erection of the tents and facilities for the marchers was progressing. When they arrived, the police officials were already on the scene. **STOKELY** had a conversation with some of the police officials, however, he did not hear what was said between them. A few minutes later the police officers said that if they tried to pitch the tents they would be arrested. **STOKELY** reached for the tent and he and **SMITH** assisted him to begin setting it up. A man, identity unknown, standing nearby said "arrest them."

He did not know what the official arrest charge against him was nor did he know the amount of his bond.

He declined to furnish a signed statement.

The following is a physical description of **BRUCE BAINES** obtained through interview and observation:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Race - | Negro |
| Sex - | Male |
| Date of Birth - | February 18, 1942 |
| Place of Birth - | Durham, North Carolina |

On 6/16/66 at Greenwood, Mississippi File # Jackson 44-1746

SA FRANCIS X. SHORTT

by SA LEROY D. FEDERLE/psc Date dictated 6/17/66

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| | |
|------------------|--|
| Height - | 5'9" |
| Weight - | 220 |
| Eyes - | Brown |
| Hair - | Black |
| Build - | Heavy |
| Military | |
| Service - | None, 4-F |
| Home address - | 711 Deloraine, Bogalousa, Louisiana |
| Marital Status - | Single |

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/21/66

1

ROBERT LEE SMITH, campus traveler, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was interviewed at the Greenwood City Jail.

He furnished the following information:

He has been participating in a march composed of Civil Rights workers which commenced in Memphis, Tennessee. On June 16, 1966, at approximately 1:00 or 2:00 p.m., he was with STOKELY CARMICHAEL, BRUCE BAINES, and other Civil Rights workers who were participating in the march when they went to Stone Elementary School in Greenwood to put up tents for the marchers to sleep in later that evening. They arrived at the school in an automobile and went over to the tent equipment, which was already on the school grounds. CARMICHAEL asked SMITH and others what they were waiting for and to put up the tents. The Commissioner of the Greenwood Police, an elderly, bald man stated, "If you put up the tents, you will be arrested." A Police officer stood near the Commissioner. After he, SMITH, as well as CARMICHAEL and BAINES, heard what the Commissioner said, they walked over to the tents and picked up the equipment with the purpose of erecting the tents, when the Commissioner placed the three of them under arrest.

He, SMITH, was not advised what they were arrested for but was taken to the Greenwood City Jail with CARMICHAEL and BAINES.

He is not aware of the fact that anyone received a ticket earlier that morning on the school grounds for attempting to erect any tents but he heard from some of

On 6/16/66 at Greenwood, Mississippi File # Jackson 44-1746

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the other unknown marchers that a group of the marchers were refused permission to erect the tents sometime that morning. He was aware of this fact before he was arrested.

He declined to furnish a signed statement.

The following description of SMITH was obtained from observation and interview:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Sex: | Male |
| Race: | Negro |
| Date of Birth: | December 23, 1944 |
| Place of Birth: | Brookhaven, Mississippi |
| Residence: | P.O. Box 72, Nesbitt, Mississippi |
| Height: | 5 feet 8 inches |
| Weight: | 145 pounds |
| Marital Status: | Single |
| Military Service: | None, classified 4-F |
| Arrests: | Over ten times for participation in Civil Rights activities |

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/21/66

B. A. HAMMOND, City Commissioner, Greenwood, Mississippi, was advised of the identity of the interviewing agents and the nature of the investigation:

He stated that on June 16, 1966, STOKELY CARMICHAEL, ROBERT SMITH, and BRUCE BAINES were arrested on the Stone Street Elementary School grounds for trespassing when they attempted to erect tents there. He stated that the bond for each of the above was set at \$100.

On 6/16/66 at Greenwood, Mississippi File # Jackson 44-1746

by SA FRANCIS X. SHORTT
SA LEROY D. FEDERLE: skm Date dictated 6/17/66

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/21/66

WISDOM F. COLEMAN, Principal, Threadgill High School, Greenwood, Mississippi, was advised of the identity of the interviewing agents and the nature of the investigation.

He furnished the following information:

He has been employed in the Greenwood, Mississippi, school system since 1951. Prior to becoming principal of Threadgill High School, he was principal of the Stone Street Elementary school for 12 years.

On Wednesday, June 15, 1966, two Negro males came to him stating they were associated with the MEREDITH marchers. They asked him for permission to set their tents up on the high school grounds. He told them that he had no authority to grant them this request, that they would have to contact Mr. DRIBBEN, the Superintendent of Schools and discuss this matter with him. COLEMAN said he contacted Mr. DRIBBEN who told him he would take the matter up with the school board.

COLEMAN stated that for many years it has been the school board's policy not to allow the use of the school grounds or its facilities for any function other than school related activities. He could not recall the Stone Street school property or any other school property in the system being used for holding carnivals, bazaars, or similar activities.

On 6/17/66 at Greenwood, Mississippi File # Jackson 44-1746

by SA LEROY D. FEDERLE
SA FRANCIS X. SHORTT: skm Date dictated 6/17/66

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/21/66**1**

Mr. JAMES HIGGANBOTHAM, Attorney at Law, Aven Building, Greenwood, Mississippi, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the investigation. He furnished the following information:

Effective July 1, 1966, he will take office as the new President of the Greenwood Junior Chamber of Commerce. He has been a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce for two years. To his knowledge, they have never made arrangements in the past to use any of the Greenwood school grounds for a carnival. The Junior Chamber of Commerce does not have any current plans for having any such event on school grounds.

HIGGANBOTHAM stated he was advised by Mr. W. W. WALKER, a past President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, that the school grounds in the past have not been used for a carnival sponsored by his organization.

HIGGANBOTHAM stated that at one time in the past, the Junior Chamber of Commerce in Greenwood was interested in using the Greenwood High School stadium for an event sponsored by them; however, the school board would not grant such a request.

On 6/17/66 at Greenwood, Mississippi File # Jackson 44-1746
 by SA LEROY D. FEDERLE and SA FRANCIS X. SHORTT/clm Date dictated 6/17/66

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/21/66

Mr. C. M. BOWMAN, partner, Bowman and Bowman Blueprints, West Park Avenue, Greenwood, Mississippi, was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the investigation. He advised as follows:

He is currently the President of the Board of Trustees of the Greenwood Municipal Separate School District, Greenwood, Mississippi. He has been a member of the above school board for 12 years.

With reference to a letter dated June 16, 1966, sent by him to WISDOM F. COLEMAN, Principal, Threadgill High School, Greenwood, Mississippi, wherein he advised COLEMAN that school property should be used for school purposes and authorized school related activities and not for "Meredith Marchers" or any other similar groups, he stated this has always been the school board's policy. There may be in the minutes of the school board's meetings in the past years a resolution to this effect, however, he could not recall exactly when the above policy was established in writing.

On or about June 15, 1966, he was advised by Mr. DRIBBEN, the Superintendent of Schools, that Mr. COLEMAN had been approached by persons representing the "Meredith Marchers" requesting the use of the Threadgill High School grounds as a site for their tents and related activity. He immediately contacted the other available members of the School Board who were in town at the time and advised them of the situation. Their names were Mr. LEWIS and Mr. GALISPY. Together they reaffirmed the past policy of the school board out of which materialized the instant letter he sent to Mr. COLEMAN.

On 6/18/66 at Greenwood, Mississippi File # Jackson 44-1746
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In the past, the school board has not permitted any organizations not related to school activity on school property as will be the future policy also.

June 16, 1966

W. F. Coleman, Principal
Threadgill High School
Greenwood, Mississippi

Dear Professor Coleman:

Dr. Dribben has informed the School Board of the request made to you by a representative of the so called "Meredith Marchers" that they be allowed to camp overnight on the campus of the Threadgill High School.

The School Board has always taken the position that school property should be used for school purposes and authorized school related activities. We cannot, therefore, permit the "Meredith Marchers" or any other similar group to occupy school property, and their request is therefore denied.

Sincerely yours,



C. M. Bowman, President
Board of Trustees
Greenwood Municipal Separate School District