

# U. S. Department of Justice

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Declassified  
Authority: 48120 By:  
Date: 03-25-2015

## FEDERAL BUREAU

*of*

## INVESTIGATION

Screened By: DB  
Date: 03-25-2015  
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Bureau File Number

*See also Nos.*

CLASSIFICATION NO.

Serials

Volume Number

157-12353  
157-12344  
Haw

*C*

Date prepared

Date received

6/22/70

Received from (name or symbol number)

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

Received by

SA BRENT W. WARBERG

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

☐ in person

☒ by telephone

☐ by mail

☐ orally

☐ recording device

☐ written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:  
Date

Date of Report

6/22/70

Dictated 6/22/70 to PATRICIA A. PACE-MB

Date(s) of activity

6/19 - 22/70

Transcribed 6/23/70

Authenticated  
by Informant

Brief description of activity or material

Information concerning first annual

FEATHERSTONE Black Art Festival and activities  
of JOHN BUFFINGTON.

File where original is located if not attached

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

\* INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY AN ASTERISK (\*) ONLY ATTENDED A MEETING AND DID NOT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE.  
VIOLENCE OR REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES WERE NOT DISCUSSED.

☐ Information recorded on a card index by \_\_\_\_\_ on date \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ENCLOSED REPORT,  
IF USED IN A REPORT BEING PREPARED FOR DISSEMINATION,  
SHOULD BE SUITABLY PARAPHRASED IN ORDER TO ADEQUATELY  
PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF THIS INFORMANT.

1 - FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

1 - 100-985 (JOHN HENRY BUFFINGTON)

1 - 157-12345 (FIRST ANNUAL FEATHERSTONE BLACK ART FESTIVAL)

Block Stamp

157-12345-8

BW BW  
JUL 2 1970  
JUL 2 1970

6/22/70

Columbus, Miss.

The source advised that the First Annual FEATHERSTONE Black Art Festival was held in West Point, Miss., on June 20 and 21, 1970, and was a complete flop. The source stated that although most of the performers which had been scheduled did show up the crowd was very small. The source stated that two sessions were to be held in a park in West Point, Miss., and that the afternoon session scheduled for 6/20/70, was attended by 12 individuals. He stated that the Sunday afternoon session which was scheduled for June 21, 1970, was not held. Concerning the night sessions which were held at the gymnasium on the campus of Mary Holmes College, the source stated that these were better attended with approximately 200 people attending the rally at night early on Saturday night and a much smaller group attending the program on Sunday night.

The source went on to state that he believes the \$1.50 donation which was asked for probably cut down on the attendance at the sessions. The source went on to state that most of the people in this area like to get out and have entertainment, however, they do not care to pay for it. The source also stated that one of the other problems may have been the extreme heat experienced by the Northeastern Section of Miss. during the past week.

The source stated that most of the program dealt with entertainment and there was really not much eulogizing of RALPH EDWARD FEATHERSTONE or WILLIAM "CHE" PAYNE. The source went on to state that as a whole the program was a complete disappointment to JOHN BUFFINGTON.

Concerning BUFFINGTON, the source stated that BUFFINGTON states that he is going to Africa sometime in August, 1970, however, the source stated that he has still been unable to verify this. He went on to say that as of yet BUFFINGTON has not been doing any packing nor has there been any talk of what he plans to do concerning the leadership duties of the black people in West Point, Miss., when he, BUFFINGTON, leaves.

F B I

Date:

6/23/70

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-12345) (C)

FIRST ANNUAL FEATHERSTONE  
BLACK ART FESTIVAL,  
WEST POINT, MISSISSIPPI,  
6/20 AND 21/70  
RM

Re Jackson airtel to Bureau 6/9/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eleven copies of an  
LHM concerning the above captioned matter.

One copy of this LHM has also been designated  
for the USA, Oxford, Mississippi; USA, Jackson, Mississippi;  
Secret Service, Jackson; and two copies furnished MIGp,  
Jackson.

In view of the fact that the captioned festival  
has been completed, the Jackson Division is conducting no  
further investigation regarding this matter and is placing  
the case in a closed status.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 11) (RM)

1 - Jackson

BWW:mif

(3)

Searched

Serialized

Indexed

Filed

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

JN 157-12345

ADMINISTRATIVE:

For the information of the Bureau, the source identified in enclosed LHM is [REDACTED], Jackson file [REDACTED]

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Jackson, Mississippi 39205

June 23, 1970

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

FIRST ANNUAL FEATHERSTONE  
BLACK ART FESTIVAL,  
WEST POINT, MISSISSIPPI,  
JUNE 20 AND 21, 1970

Reference is made to memorandum at Jackson, Mississippi, dated June 9, 1970, captioned as above.

On June 22, 1970, a source, reliable in the past, advised a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that the first annual Featherstone Black Art Festival was held in West Point, Mississippi, on June 20 and 21, 1970. The source described this festival as "a complete flop."

The source stated that the festival, as scheduled, called for two afternoon sessions at Community Park, West Point, Mississippi. The source stated that the session held at 11:00 AM on June 20, 1970, was attended by twelve individuals. The afternoon session, scheduled for June 21, 1970, was not held.

Concerning the night sessions, which were held at the gymnasium on the Mary Holmes College campus, the source stated that the Saturday program was attended by approximately 200 people; however, the program scheduled for the night of June 21, 1970, had approximately one hundred individuals in attendance. The source stated that all the performers who were scheduled to show up did attend and that at times there seemed to be more performers than spectators.

- 11 - Bureau
- 1 - USA, Oxford
- 1 - USA, Jackson

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

2 - MiGp, Jackson

① - Jackson (157-12345) 157-12345-6

BWW:mif

(17)

Searched

Serialized

Indexed

Filed

FIRST ANNUAL FEATHERSTONE  
BLACK ART FESTIVAL,  
WEST POINT, MISSISSIPPI,  
JUNE 20 AND 21, 1970

The source went on to say that one of the biggest causes for the small attendance was the \$1.50 donation per person which had been asked for. The source stated that most of the people in the area enjoy entertainment; however, they do not want to pay for it. The source also stated that one of the problems was, in all probability, the high temperatures experienced by the West Point area for the past week.

Concerning the festival itself, the source stated that it followed the planned program, with quite a bit of music; however, not much time was spent eulogizing or talking about Ralph Edward Featherstone or William "Che" Payne.

The source stated that the festival was a very disappointing affair to John Henry Buffington, the organizer of the festival.

On June 22, 1970, Billy Busby, Chief of Police, West Point Police Department, advised a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that investigation conducted by his department determined that the first annual Featherstone Black Art Festival was a complete disaster as far as the organizers of the festival were concerned. Busby stated that all sessions of the festival were extremely poorly attended and, as far as he could determine, the whole festival was a complete failure. Busby stated that no incidents occurred and that those in attendance, both spectators and performers, appeared to be well mannered.

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.

Date prepared

Date received

6/9/70

Received from (name or symbol number)

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

Received by

SA BRENT W. WARBERG

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

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

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Date

Dictated 6/11/70 to RD-PAP

Transcribed 6/12/70

Authenticated  
by Informant

Date of Report

6/9/70

Date(s) of activity

6/8-9/70

Brief description of activity or material

FEATHERSTONE Memorial; CECIL CARTER in

West Point; Activities of JOHN BUFFINGTON.

File where original is located if not attached

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

\* INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY AN ASTERISK (\*) ONLY ATTENDED A MEETING AND DID NOT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE. VIOLENCE OR REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES WERE NOT DISCUSSED.

☐ Information recorded on a card index by \_\_\_\_\_ on date \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:

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IF USED IN A REPORT BEING PREPARED FOR DISSEMINATION,  
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1 - FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

1 - 100-985 (JOHN HENRY BUFFINGTON)

1 - 157-12165 (CECIL CARTER)

1 - 157-NEW (MEMORIAL TO RALPH FEATHERSTONE)

Block Stamp

157-12345-5  
SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
JUN 12 1970  
Warberg



6/9/70

Columbus, Miss.

Source stated that the main activity in West Point, Miss., is the preparation for the Black Festival in honor of RALPH FEATHERSTONE. The source stated JOHN BUFFINGTON has made all arrangements for the program and claims that all individuals scheduled to appear are confirmed.

The source further stated that he heard that BUFFINGTON has resigned from his post in West Point and plans to take an extended trip to Africa. Source said this was news to him, however, he would try to determine if this was true and if so would find out who, if anybody, will replace BUFFINGTON, and who financed the trip.

Concerning CECIL CARTER, the source advised that CARTER came to West Point and stayed only a few days. The source stated CARTER did meet JOHN BUFFINGTON and talked to him and other Negro residents concerning the racial situation in West Point and inquired about the organization of Negroes with reference to the Clay County Community Development Program and Mary Holmes College. The source stated that after a few days, CARTER left with no apparent plans to return to Miss. Source said he believes CARTER either returned to New York City or to Philadelphia. The source further advised that he had no idea why CARTER came to West Point, but feels CARTER was not impressed.

The source further stated that JOSEPH KILGOE, a dean at Mary Holmes College, has been made Vice President. He said KILGOE is a fine individual, interested in education, and should help keep any possible trouble at Mary Holmes College, next year down.

Date prepared

June 9, 1970

Date received

6/8/70

Received from (name or symbol number)

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

Received by

SA BRENT W. WARBERG

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

☐ in person

☐ by telephone

☐ by mail

☒ orally

☐ recording device

☐ written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Date

Dictated 6/8/70 to Betty Lou Watkins  
(mb)

Transcribed 6/9/70

Authenticated  
by Informant

Date of Report

6/8/70

Date(s) of activity

5/26/70 - 6/8/70

Brief description of activity or material

Planned activity for First Featherstone

Blakart Festival.

File where original is located if not attached

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

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☐ Information recorded on a card index by \_\_\_\_\_ on date \_\_\_\_\_.

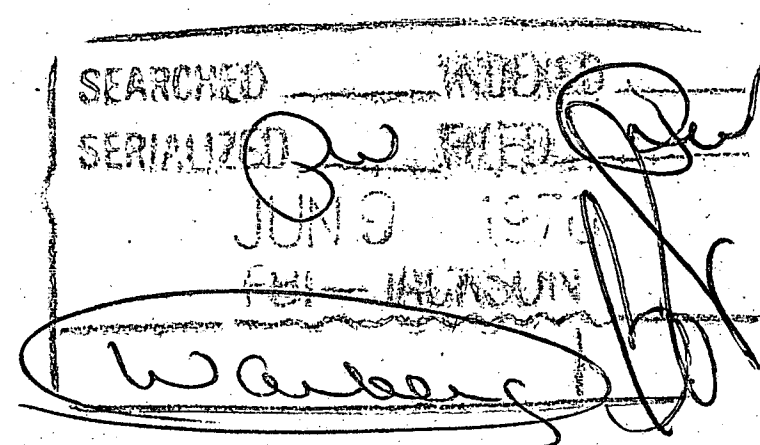
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FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

2 - 157-New (FIRST FEATHERSTONE BLAKART FESTIVAL)  
1 - 100-985 (JOHN HENRY BUFFINGTON)

157-12345-4  
Block Stamp



West Point, Mississippi  
June 8, 1970

The source advised that JOHN BUFFINGTON, through his position with the Clay County Community Development Program, is setting up the memorial for RALPH FEATHERSTONE. The memorial is to be called the First Featherstone Blakart Festival and is to be held on June 20 and 21, 1970, in West Point, Mississippi, under the sponsorship of the Clay County Community Development Program.

The source stated that the festival is to be held at the community park in West Point, Mississippi, and also at the gymnasium on the Mary Holmes College campus.

The source stated that the festival is being dedicated to the memory of RALPH FEATHERSTONE for his work in Clay County, Mississippi, where he helped organize the Mississippi Fish Equity, the Clay County Community Development Center, and an all-black community organization.

The source further stated that mention will be made of the fact that FEATHERSTONE and CHE PAYNE were murdered in Bel Air, Maryland, by white individuals who were trying to kill H. RAP BROWN.

The source stated that several individuals, including IKE COLEMAN and TOM DENT, are coming into West Point, Mississippi, to take part in the program. The source further stated that there will be an exhibit of black books from the Drum and Spear Book Store in Washington, D. C. There will also be several singing groups, which will include the Harambee Singers, and a group of singers called the Hammerneers, which are sponsored by FANNIE LOU HAMER.

Concerning the cost of the festival, the source stated that they are asking for donations of \$1.50 per person for every session. Concerning the sessions, the

source stated that there will be four sessions, two each day. The source stated that beginning on June 20, 1970, at 11:00 a.m., a program will be held at the community park in West Point, Mississippi, which will include lecturing and reading and other exhibits concerning black books and black art, and also a skit by the Black Power School. Another session will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday evening at the Mary Holmes College Gymnasium, which, for the most part, will concern music and a dramatic scene put on by the Free Southern Theater of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Concerning the two sessions set for Sunday, June 21, 1970, the source stated that these would be comprised of singing groups and the entire programs will be musical.

The source stated that he is not positive that BUFFINGTON has definite commitments on all individuals who have been put on the program to take part in the festival; however, the source stated that he is to take the program to the printers in West Point, Mississippi, to be printed up.

The source thereafter made available a copy of the program for the First Featherstone Blackart Festival.

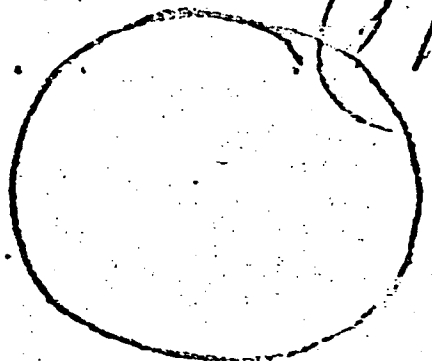
1st FEATHERSTONE BIKANT FESTIVAL

JUNE 20<sup>th</sup> & 21st

1970

↓  
Began

Black Circle  
Round ~~the~~ (Middle)



!! We Are An African People!!

Sponsored by:

CLAY COUNTY COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, INC.  
328 Carroll Street Phone 331-2106  
WEST POINT, MISS. 39773

This Festival is designed to futher the arts of Black People in Mississippi, and to memorilize the work of Ralph Featherstone in Clay County. Featherstone help organize the Mississippi Fish Equity, and The Clay County Community Development Program, an all Black Community Organization, before he left to work for Drums and Spears Bookstore in Washington in the Summer of 1968.

*Double Space*

Ralph Featherstone and William "CHE" Pyane were murdered on March 10, 1970 on the outskirts of Belair, Maryland in an attempt to kill H. Rap Brown. The close personal and political relationship among Ralph, Che, and Rap was no secret to the force we hold responsible for this political assassination.

IT HAS NOT WORKED. IT CANNOT WORK. IT WILL NOT WORK, BECAUSE WE WILL NOT LET IT WORK!

The Life and works of Ralph & Che will be continued in the ever-growing struggle of African People for Independence.

Let us remember Ralph's words, TO LOOK AT A WATCH AND KNOW THE TIME OF DAY IS TO BE ABLE TO READ. TO SEE WHAT TIME IT IS IN HISTORY---OUR HISTORY---IS TO BE REVOLUTIONARY.

1st Annual Featherstone Elkart Festival

June 20 & 21st

Saturday 11:00 A.M.

Place: Community Park, West Point, Mississippi

Lecturing by:

Ike Coleman-----Former SNCC Organizer

Bernice Regan-----Folk Singer

Readings:

Tom Dent-----F.S.T.

Elkartsouth-----Black Poetry

Blk Book Exhibit-----Drums & Spears Bookstore  
Washington, D.C.

Liberation Children-----From Black Power School

Saturday Evening 6:00 P.M. Mary Holmes Gym.

Main Attraction:

Willie Mitchell "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy," (20-75)

Carla Thomas "Gee Whiz" "Baby"

Free Southern Theater:

The Jake Moore Show:

The Vibration:

(Donation \$1.50)



Sunday 1:00 P. M.

Place: Community Park, West Point, Mississippi

Gospel Singing:

Gospel Caravan

Gospeliars

Spirit of West Point

~~Rexie Hogan~~

*THE Warambee Singers*

Sunday Evening 8:00 P.M. Mary Holmes Gym.

Main Attractions:

The Staple Singers" "Why am I Treated so Bad"  
"When are we going to get paid"

Fannie Lou Hamer & The ~~Hammerneers~~ *Hammerneers* Singers

Free Southern Theater

~~Rexie Hogan~~ ~~Hammerneers~~ *THE Warambee Singers*

The Vibrations

(Donation \$1.50)

*(1000 Copies)  
Everything double space*

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)



Date prepared

June 9, 1970

Date received

6/8/70

Received from (name or symbol number)

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

Received by

SA BRENT W. WARBERG

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

☐ in person

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☐ recording device

☐ written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:  
Date

Date of Report

6/8/70

Dictated

6/8/70

to

Betty Lou Watkins  
(mb)

Date(s) of activity

5/26/70 - 6/8/70

Transcribed

6/9/70

Authenticated  
by Informant

Brief description of activity or material

Planned activity for First Featherstone

Blakart Festival.

File where original is located if not attached

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

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1 -  
2 -  
1 -

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

157-New (FIRST FEATHERSTONE BLAKART FESTIVAL)  
100-985 (JOHN HENRY BUFFINGTON)

Block Stamp

157-12345-3

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 9 1970	
FBI - JACKSON	

Warberg

West Point, Mississippi  
June 8, 1970

The source advised that JOHN BUFFINGTON, through his position with the Clay County Community Development Program, is setting up the memorial for RALPH FEATHERSTONE. The memorial is to be called the First Featherstone Blakart Festival and is to be held on June 20 and 21, 1970, in West Point, Mississippi, under the sponsorship of the Clay County Community Development Program.

The source stated that the festival is to be held at the community park in West Point, Mississippi, and also at the gymnasium on the Mary Holmes College campus.

The source stated that the festival is being dedicated to the memory of RALPH FEATHERSTONE for his work in Clay County, Mississippi, where he helped organize the Mississippi Fish Equity, the Clay County Community Development Center, and an all-black community organization.

The source further stated that mention will be made of the fact that FEATHERSTONE and CHE PAYNE were murdered in Bel Air, Maryland, by white individuals who were trying to kill H. RAP BROWN.

The source stated that several individuals, including IKE COLEMAN and TOM DENT, are coming into West Point, Mississippi, to take part in the program. The source further stated that there will be an exhibit of black books from the Drum and Spear Book Store in Washington, D. C. There will also be several singing groups, which will include the Harambee Singers, and a group of singers called the Hammerneers, which are sponsored by FANNIE LOU HAMER.

Concerning the cost of the festival, the source stated that they are asking for donations of \$1.50 per person for every session. Concerning the sessions, the

source stated that there will be four sessions, two each day. The source stated that beginning on June 20, 1970, at 11:00 a.m., a program will be held at the community park in West Point, Mississippi, which will include lecturing and reading and other exhibits concerning black books and black art, and also a skit by the Black Power School. Another session will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday evening at the Mary Holmes College Gymnasium, which, for the most part, will concern music and a dramatic scene put on by the Free Southern Theater of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Concerning the two sessions set for Sunday, June 21, 1970, the source stated that these would be comprised of singing groups and the entire programs will be musical.

The source stated that he is not positive that BUFFINGTON has definite commitments on all individuals who have been put on the program to take part in the festival; however, the source stated that he is to take the program to the printers in West Point, Mississippi, to be printed up.

The source thereafter made available a copy of the program for the First Featherstone Blakart Festival.

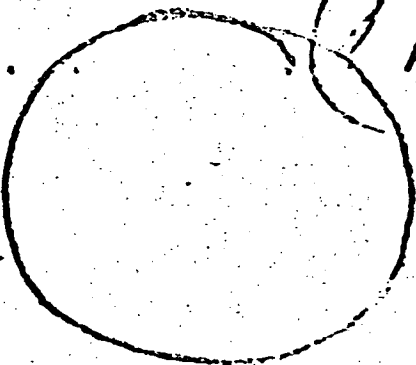
1st FEATHERSTONE BLKART FESTIVAL

JUNE 20<sup>th</sup> & 21st

1970

Began

Black Circle  
Round ~~the~~ (Middle)



!! We Are An African People!!

Sponsored by:

CLAY COUNTY COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, INC.  
326 Cottrell Street - Phone 434-2106  
WEST POINT, MISS. 39773

This Festival is designed to further the arts of Black People in Mississippi, and to memorialize the work of Ralph Featherstone in Clay County. Featherstone helped organize the Mississippi Fish Equity, and The Clay County Community Development Program, an all Black Community Organization, before he left to work for Drums and Spears Bookstore in Washington in the Summer of 1968.

*Double Space*

Ralph Featherstone and William "CHE" Pyane were murdered on March 10, 1970 on the outskirts of Belair, Maryland in an attempt to kill H. Rap Brown. The close personal and political relationship among Ralph, Che, and Rap was no secret to the force we hold responsible for this political assassination.

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1st Annual Featherstone Elkart Festival

June 20 & 21st

Saturday 11:00 A.M.

Place: Community Park, West Point, Mississippi

Lecturing by:

Ike Coleman-----Former SNCC Organizer

Bernice Regan-----Folk Singer

Readings:

Tom Dent-----F.S.T.

ElkartSouth-----Black Poetry

Blk Book Exhibit-----Drums & Spears Bookstore  
Washington, D.C.

Liberation Children-----From Black Power School

Saturday Evening 6:00 P.M. Mary Holmes Gym.

Main Attraction:

Willie Mitchell "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy," (20-75)

Carla Thomas "Gee Whiz" "Baby"

Free Southern Theater:

The Jake Moore Show:

The Vibration:

(Donation \$1.50)



Sunday 1:00 P. M.

Place: Community Park, West Point, Mississippi

Gospel Singing:

Gospel Caravan

Gospeliars

Spirit of West Point

~~Revised~~ ~~Hogan~~

*THE HARAMBEE SINGERS*

Sunday Evening 8:00 P.M. Mary Holmes Gym.

Main Attractions:

The Staple Singers" "Why am I Treated so Bad"

"When are we going to get paid"

Fannie Lou Hamer & The ~~Hammerneers~~ *HAMMERNEERS* Singers

Free Southern Theater

~~Revised~~ ~~Hogan~~ ~~Hammerneers~~ *THE HARAMBEE SINGERS*

The Vibrations

(Donation \$1.50)

*(1,000 Copies)*  
*Everything double space*

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

FBI

Date: 6/9/70

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-new) (P)

FIRST ANNUAL FEATHERSTONE  
BLACK ART FESTIVAL  
WEST POINT, MISSISSIPPI  
6/20 and 21/70  
RM

Enclosed for the Bureau are eleven copies of  
an LHM concerning the above-captioned matter.

One copy of this LHM has also been designated  
for the U. S. Attorney, Oxford, U. S. Attorney, Jackson,  
[REDACTED] Jackson; two copies furnished MIGp, Jackson.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

The Jackson Division will follow the progress  
of this festival and will keep the Bureau advised.

ADMINISTRATIVE

For the information of the Bureau, the source  
identified is [REDACTED]

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

2 - Bureau (Encs. 11) (RM)

2 - Jackson

BWW/bkk/clm

(4)  
NEW CASE CREDIT GIVEN

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

Searched

Serialized

Indexed

Filed





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Jackson, Mississippi

June 9, 1970

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

FIRST ANNUAL FEATHERSTONE  
BLACK ART FESTIVAL,  
WEST POINT, MISSISSIPPI  
JUNE 20 AND 21, 1970

On June 8, 1970, a source, reliable in the past, advised a Special Agent of the FBI that under the direction of John Henry Buffington, who is the director of the Clay County Community Development Center in West Point, Mississippi, the first annual Featherstone Black Art Festival is scheduled to be held in West Point on June 20 and 21, 1970. The source stated that the festival is to act as a memorial to both Ralph Edward Featherstone and William "Che" Payne.

The festival is to be held at Community Park, a local park in West Point, and also is to be held at the gymnasium on the Mary Holmes College campus in West Point. Mary Holmes College is a private Negro college located in West Point.

The program for the festival has been made and is listed as follows:

On Saturday, June 20, 1970, the program is to begin at 11:00 a.m. at Community Park in West Point. The program will consist of lecturing by Ike Coleman, a former Student National Coordinating Committee (SNCC) organizer and another individual listed as Bernice Regan who is listed on the program as a folk singer. Readings are scheduled by Tom Dent and the Liberation Children from Black Power School.

~~Searched~~  
11 - Bureau ~~Serialized~~  
1 - USA, ~~Indexed~~  
1 - USA, ~~Filed~~  
1 - SS, JN  
2 - MLCp, JN  
2 - Jackson (157-new)  
BWW/bvh/clm (18)

157-12345-1

Warberg

FIRST ANNUAL FEATHERSTONE  
BLACK ART FESTIVAL,  
WEST POINT, MISSISSIPPI

It is noted that no mention is made of the location of the Black Power School. There is also to be a black book exhibit from the Drum and Spear Book Store, Washington, D. C., and also an exhibit of black art and black poetry.

For the session on the evening of June 20, 1970, which is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. at the Mary Holmes College gymnasium, the program includes songs by Willie Mitchell and Carla Thomas. The evening's entertainment also includes a group from the Free Southern Theater, New Orleans, Louisiana; the Jake Moore Show and a singing group called the Vibrations.

For the session beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 21, 1970, at Community Park in West Point, Mississippi, there will be a gospel singing by the Harambee Singers. For the session which begins at 8:00 p.m. on the night of June 21, 1970, at the Mary Holmes College gymnasium, the attractions will be the Staple Singers, Fannie Lou Hamer, and the Hamerneers Singers, the Free Southern Theater, the Harambee Singers, and the Vibrations.

Donations of \$1.50 are being requested from every individual who attends every session.

The program for the festival has been drawn up and sent to a printing shop in West Point, Mississippi. The program reflects the reason for the festival as follows:

"This festival is designed to further the arts of Black People in Mississippi and to memorialize the work of Ralph Featherstone in Clay County. Featherstone helped organize the Mississippi Fish Equity, and the Clay County Community Development Program, an all-Black Community Organization, before he left to work for the Drum and Spear Bookstore in Washington in the summer of 1968".

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The program also contains the following comment:

"Ralph Featherstone and William 'Che' Payne were murdered on March 10, 1970, on the outskirts of Bel Air, Maryland, in an attempt to kill H. Rap Brown. The close personal and political relationship among Ralph, Che and Rap was no secret to the force we hold responsible for this political assassination.

"It has not worked, it cannot work, it will not work, because we will not let it work!

"The life and works of Ralph and Che will be continued in the ever growing struggle of African people for independence.

"Let us remember Ralph's work, 'to look at a watch and know the time of day is to be able to read. To see what time it is in history, our history, is to be revolutionary.' "

## APPENDIX

1

### STUDENT NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

A source advised the Student National Coordinating Committee (SNCC), formerly known as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, is a nonmembership organization founded in 1960, during the civil rights movement in the South.

Under the leadership of Stokely Carmichael, who served as National Chairman during the period 1966-67, SNCC evolved from a civil rights oriented group into a full-blown black revolutionary organization.

A publication entitled "1967 High Tide of Black Resistance" indicates the year 1967 was considered by SNCC as a historic milestone for the liberation of black people in the United States and the year that revolutionaries throughout the world began to understand more fully the impact of the black movement. The publication declared that "liberation will come only when there is final destruction of this mad octopus--the capitalistic system of the United States with all its life-sucking tentacles of exploitation and racism that choke the people of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The realities of black life, together with the recognition instilled in SNCC workers, forced its members to further popularize the legitimacy of self-defense and rebellions when oppression became too great."

A second source advised that H. Rap Brown succeeded Carmichael as National Chairman of SNCC in May, 1968, and served in that capacity until June, 1968, at which time SNCC reorganized, creating ten deputy chairmen in an effort to relieve pressure by law enforcement.

In April, 1969, SNCC moved its national headquarters from Atlanta, Georgia, to New York City, where it is presently located.

H. Rap Brown announced at a press conference in New York City on July 22, 1969, that he had been elected

## APPENDIX

APPENDIX

2

STUDENT NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. He announced the organization was dropping the word "Non-violent" from its title and will be known as the Student National Coordinating Committee, with a Revolutionary Political Council functioning as its governing body. Brown, at that time, stated the use of force is necessary in obtaining revolutionary goals.

APPENDIX

5

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