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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER

PART 1 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 44-28601

The Attorney General

March 26, 1965

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS
MRS. ANTHONY JAMES LIUZZO

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth background information immediately available concerning Viola Liuzzo who was shot and killed near Selma, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965, and her husband Anthony J. Liuzzo.

This information has also been furnished to the White House.

Enclosure

1 - The Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)

1 - Mr. John Doar (Enclosure)
Acting Assistant Attorney General

JWH/pak
(13)

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

MAILED 2
MAR 26 1965
COMM-FBI

EX. - 109

MCT-20
REC-3

44-28601-1

19 MAR 26 1965

MAR 30 1965

ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

1 Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont

March 26, 1965

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM

A check of the Michigan Secretary of State, the Detroit Police Department and the Detroit FBI files shows the following information concerning Viola Liuzzo who was shot and killed near Selma, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965, and her husband Anthony J. Liuzzo.

The Detroit, Michigan, Police Department files reveal that Viola Liuzzo, born April 11, 1925, at California, Pennsylvania, residence 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan, was arrested on June 16, 1964, for "failing to send children to school." No disposition was shown for this arrest.

The files of the FBI Detroit Office disclose that Viola Liuzzo, no address given, wrote a letter to the "Detroit Free Press," a Detroit daily newspaper, belittling the Government's attack on James R. Hoffa, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The records of the Michigan Secretary of State's Office, Lansing, Michigan, indicate that a Michigan operator's license was issued to Viola Liuzzo, born April 11, 1925, residence 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, on April 16, 1963. Her description is given as white female, blond hair, gray eyes, height 5 feet 2½ inches, weight 127 pounds, no vision restrictio

Anthony J. Liuzzo

The records of the Michigan Secretary of State's Office also indicate that a chauffeur's license was issued to Anthony James Liuzzo, born October 5, 1913, residence 19375 Marlowe, Detroit. The license is to expire May 5, 1965. Liuzzo is described as a white male, height 5 feet 10½ inches, weight 192 pounds, blue eyes, black hair, with no vision restriction.

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
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Gale
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Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

JWH/pak
(13)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

44- 28601-1

ENCLOSURE

A 1963 Oldsmobile coupe with 1965 Michigan license EJ 9177 is registered to Anthony J. Liuzzo, 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan.

[redacted] b7C,D

[redacted] b7C

The 1964 City Directory for the West side of Detroit reveals that Anthony J. Liuzzo and his wife, Viola, reside at 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, and he is employed as a business agent for the Teamsters Union in Detroit. It is reported that Mrs. Liuzzo was employed as a laboratory technician at Mount Sinai Hospital, Detroit, and is a part-time student at Wayne University in Detroit. She is reported to be the mother of five children.

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1- Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
March 26, 1965
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

MARCH FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
MARCH 21 - 25, 1965

On March 25, 1965, the parade from St. Jude's, a Catholic Institution, started at approximately 10:10 a. m. Approximately 12,000 marchers participated in this parade.

The program at the State Capitol commenced at 1:35 p. m., and lasted until approximately 4:10 p. m.

After the parade, twenty delegates designated to contact Governor George C. Wallace attempted to go to his office at the Capitol building. They were advised that the Governor's Office was closed and he would not see them on March 25, 1965. The delegates plan to return to see Governor Wallace on March 26, 1965.

Prior to the parade, officers of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office served papers on Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., and associates which arose out of a civil action filed in Dallas County Court, Selma, Alabama. This suit was filed by the City of Selma and the Selma Bus Lines.

This civil action involves a claim by the Selma Bus Lines in the amount of $9,750 for the loss of revenue, and a notice of damage by the City of Selma in the amount of $100,000 for loss of revenue arising from demonstrations and other activities. The defendants were also enjoined from operating buses and other means to transport people in and about Selma, Alabama.

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE
44- 28601 -
NOT RECORDED
17 MAR 29 1965

25 MAR 29 1965

HCS/nkr
(13)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Information has been received that a Dr. Robert Wilken, Liza Senkler, Evans Johnson and two unidentified seminary students were attacked by unknown white persons in Montgomery, Alabama, just prior to their departure on a train for Washington, D. C.

These persons will be interviewed upon arrival in Washington, D. C., for complete details of the attack. Further action will be taken in accordance with the information furnished by the victims.

At approximately 8:30 p. m., on March 25, 1965, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo of Detroit, Michigan, was fatally shot in Lowndes County, approximately twenty miles from Selma, Alabama, on Highway 80 while driving her automobile, a 1963 Oldsmobile, from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

At the time the shooting occurred, Mrs. Liuzzo was accompanied by Mr. Leroy Jerome Moton, a nineteen-year-old Negro who resides in Selma, Alabama. Mrs. Liuzzo is white.

Mr. Moton had been coordinating transportation in Montgomery, Alabama, for demonstrators to return to Selma. Late in the afternoon, Mr. Moton and Mrs. Liuzzo picked up six passengers to return to Selma. They dropped off one passenger at the Montgomery, Alabama, Airport and then proceeded to Selma where the remaining passengers disembarked.

[redacted]

674

[redacted] 57A

An autopsy was performed by Dr. Paul Schoffertt, Assistant State Toxicologist, University of Auburn, Auburn, Alabama. [redacted] 57A

[redacted] Mrs. Liuzzo had puncture marks in her arm indicating recent use of a hypodermic needle. Dr. Schoffertt has taken blood samples to determine whether any unusual circumstances are present.

The entire facilities of the FBI are fully committed to an all-out investigation of this killing.

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach

March 26, 1965

1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

The Attorney General

Director, FBI

MARCH FROM SELMA TO
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
MARCH 21 - 25, 1965

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth information concerning the events of the fifth and final day of the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, which commenced on March 21, 1965, along with information concerning the killing of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo.

This information is also being furnished to the White House.

Enclosure

1 - The Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)

1 - Mr. [illegible] Doar (Enclosure)
Acting Assistant Attorney General

44-28601-
NOT RECORDED
47 MAR 29 1965

HCS/nkr
(14)

1 ENCLOSURE

MAILED 2
MAR 26 1965
COMM-FBI

1 ENCLOSURE

79 MAR 30 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

RE: BERNARD S. LEE V. CLARENCE M. KELLEY, ET AL
(U.S.D.C, D.C.) CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 76-1185

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SC
V. CLARENCE M. KELLY, ET AL (U.S.D.C., D.C.)
CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 76-1186

Unrecorded serial dated 3/30/65 pulled from this file under court order of U.S. District Judge John Lewis Smith, Jr., and sent to National Archives.

44-28601

UNITED STATES 4ENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

DATE: March 25, 1965

SUBJECT: MARCH FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA MARCH 21 - 25, 1965

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Rowse

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

6 -

At 11 p.m. SA [redacted] of the Montgomery Resident Agency called and advised that Colonel Al Lingo, Director of the Alabama Highway Safety Patrol advised that the reported ambush took place on the highway between Montgomery and Selma, Alabama, and a white woman by the name of Viola Liuzzo driving a 1963 blue Oldsmobile bearing Michigan license EJ 9177 was allegedly shot. He stated a young boy by the name of Leroy Moton was in the automobile with Viola Liuzzo. He stated an automobile passed the Liuzzo automobile and a shot was fired and hit Viola Liuzzo, and the car went out of control into a field. He stated Leroy Moton is reportedly at the First Baptist Church in Selma at this time.

b7C

SA [redacted] further advised Inspector Sullivan was going to the scene with a squad of Agents and was investigating the matter and that he would keep the Bureau advised of all developments. SA [redacted] advised he had no further information that he could report concerning this matter at the present time.

REC-120 44-1-28661-3

ACTION:

1. The Department has been advised. 3 MAR 29 1965

2. SA [redacted] was instructed to advise Inspector Sullivan to give this matter continuous preferred attention and to keep the Bureau fully advised.

HGR:vew
(7)

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont

March 26, 1965

BY LIAISON

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson: MRS. ANTHONY JAMES LIUZZO

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth background information immediately available concerning Viola Liuzzo who was shot and killed near Selma, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965, and her husband Anthony J. Liuzzo. You may wish to bring this information to the attention of the President.

MAYS.

This information has also been furnished to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

JWH/pak
(10)

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI
20 11 47 AM '65

REC-18
44-38601-
19 MAR 30 1965

Tolson
Belmont
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DeLoach
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI

Date: 3/26/65

Transmit the following in PLAIN (Type in plain text or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT (Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI AND MOBILE

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-New)

UNSUB; VIOLA LIUZZO AKA AND LEROY GEROME MOTON - VICTIMS

CIVIL RIGHTS ELECTION LAWS. OO MO.

ON MARCH TWENTYSIX INSTANT [redacted] ADVISED THAT ON MARCH TWENTYFIVE LAST HE WAS IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA AND PARTICIPATED IN MARCH. WHILE LEAVING THIS CITY BETWEEN SIX AND SIX THIRTY PM MARCH TWENTYFIVE IN CHARTERED BUS LOADED WITH MARCHERS ON WAY TO DANNTEY AIRPORT HE PERSONALLY OBSERVED CORVAIR, WHITE TOP AND PEACOCK BLUE BOTTOM, OCCUPIED BY ONE WHITE MALE, BEARING ALABAMA LICENSE [redacted] APPROACH ON RIGHT SIDE OF BUS. [redacted] WAS STANDING AND OBSERVED A REVOLVER TYPE GUN LYING TO RIGHT OF DRIVER. THIS GUN HAD CROME BARREL LONGER THAN USUAL POLICE TYPE REVOLVER WITH DARK HANDLES [redacted] OBSERVED DRIVER OF AUTO GLANCED ANGRILY AT FEMALE ON BUS AND MADE UNKNOWN UTTERANCES AND PLACED HAND ON REVOLVER ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT POINT SAME AT BUS. AUTO

2 - Bureau
2 - Teletype Unit
1 - WFO
LEB:mpc
(5)
TELETYPE

REC- 99 44-2-2601-5

18 MAR 29 1965

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

54 AM 12 1965

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code)

Via _____ (Priority or Method of Mailing)

WFO 44-NEW
PAGE TWO

REMAINED ALONG SIDE OF BUS FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE AND HALF BLOCKS BEFORE TURNING TO RIGHT. INCIDENT OCCURRED IN MONTGOMERY ABOUT FIVE MINUTES BUS TRAVELING DISTANCE FROM ROUTE EIGHTY WHICH LEADS TO AIRPORT.

[redacted] RESONABLY CERTAIN ABOUT AUTO TAGS AS HE RECORDED IT IN NOTEBOOK ABOUT THREE MINUTES AFTER OBSERVING IT ON REAR OF CORVAIR. CAN IDENTIFY AUTO AND DRIVER AND DESCRIBED DRIVER AS WHITE MALE WITH DARK BROWN HORNRIMMED GLASSES, FIVE FIVE HEIGHT, MEDIUM TO STOCKY BUILD, LATE TWENTYS EARLY THIRTYS WEARING WHITE SHIRT AND TIE, NO COAT. [redacted] AND OTHERS IN BUS FROM WASHINGTON, DC DISCUSSED INCIDENT AND BELIEVE DRIVER OF CORVAIR ANGRY WHEN REALIZING BUS CONTAINED MARCHERS.

[redacted] FURNISHED INFO AS HE IS OF OPINION IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN SOLVING MURDER OF FEMALE AFTER SELMA TO MONTGOMERY MARCH.

MOBILE IDENTIFY TAG OWNER AND HANDLE.

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memoranaum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

DATE: March 26, 1965

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, MRS.
ANTHONY LUIZZO - VICTIM
LEROY JEROME MOTEN - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

By referral from the office of the Attorney General, [redacted] telephonically advised that he had been in Montgomery, Alabama, yesterday, and thought he might have some information which might bear on the murder which was committed last night in Lowndes County.

[redacted] stated he resides at [redacted] stated he had been in Montgomery, Alabama, yesterday in connection with the demonstration at the State Capitol and that an incident happened while he was en route to the airport in Montgomery which he thought might have some bearing on the murder. [redacted] advised that at 10 a.m. this date he would be at his [redacted] has advised that an Agent could contact him at his office at 10 a.m. for full details.

ACTION

Washington Field Office has been advised of the above information and instructed to have an Agent contact [redacted] for full details concerning this matter.

44-23601-

MCT-14

MAR 29 1965

REC-108

CLM/cac
(9)

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 26 1965
TELETYPE

FBI SELMA ALA

6:04 PM CST 3/26/65 URGENT TAT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

Mr. Tavel
Miss Gandy

CHANGED, EUGENE THOMAS; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS; GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.;

VIOLA LIUZZO, also known as ~~AKA~~ MRS. ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIMS, Civil Rights ~~GR~~ - Election Laws ~~EL~~.

TITLE CHANGED TO REFLECT NAMES OF SUBJECTS FORMERLY CARRIED AS UNSUBS.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION

[redacted]

END PAGE ONE ...

MR. [illegible] FOR THE DIRECTOR

[redacted]

BACKGROUND

This concerns the four subjects (members of the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan) who were arrested by Bureau Agents 3-26-65, charged with conspiracy to intimidate and injure citizens in the free exercise of their Constitutional rights in connection with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo on the evening of 3-25-65. Mrs. Liuzzo was fatally shot as she drove in Lowndes County, Alabama, following the conclusion of the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

WAF:hw

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 26 1965

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

916PM CST DEFERRED 3-26-65 HEP

TO DIRECTOR AND MOBILE (SELMA)

FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236) 6P

CHANGED. EUGENE THOMAS; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS; GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA MRS. ANTHONY J. LIUZZO; LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS. ~~CR~~ Civil Rights - ~~EE~~ Election Laws.

TITLE CHANGED TO ADD NAMES OF SUBJECTS.

RE BIRMINGHAM TEL TO BUREAU MARCH TWENTYSIXTH.

[redacted]

REC-1

APR 30 1965

EX-103

END PAGE ONE

MR. BELMONT FROM DIRECTOR

56 APR 2 1965

[redacted]

ARREST OF SUBJECTS:

AT ELEVEN SIX A.M., MARCH TWENTYSIXTH, BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED TO TAKE ALL SUBJECTS INTO CUSTODY. ALL ARRESTS WERE MADE BY BUREAU AGENTS. SUBJECT THOMAS ARRESTED ELEVEN EIGHT A.M. AT LORENE'S CAFE, BESSEMER, ALABAMA. SUBJECT WILKINS ARRESTED ELEVEN SEVEN A.M. IN HIS AUTOMOBILE ON HIGHWAY ELEVEN IN BESSEMER, ALABAMA. SUBJECT EATON ARRESTED ELEVEN SIXTEEN A.M. AT HIS RESIDENCE, ROUTE SIX, BOX EIGHT SIX SIX, BESSEMER, ALABAMA. SUBJECT ROWE WAS ALREADY IN CUSTODY OF BUREAU AGENTS WHEN ARREST

END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE.

INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM BUREAU AND WAS ACTUALLY EN ROUTE BIRMINGHAM TO SELMA WITH BUREAU AGENTS AT THAT TIME.

[redacted]

b7A

[redacted]

END PAGE THREE.

[redacted]

67A

ARRAIGNMENT OF SUBJECTS:

[redacted] SUBJECTS THOMAS, EATON, AND WILKINS, ALL THREE ARRAIGNED BEFORE U. S. COMMISSIONER LOUISE O. CHARLTON, BIRMINGHAM, APPROXIMATELY ONE THIRTYFIVE P.M., MARCH TWENTYSIXTH. ALL THREE WERE REPRESENTED BY ATTORNEY MATT

END PAGE FOUR

[redacted]

PAGE FIVE.

MURPHY, WHO IS ATTORNEY FOR KLAN AND VARIOUS KLAN MEMBERS THIS AREA. COMMISSIONER SET HEARING FOR APRIL FIFTEENTH NEXT. BOND THESE THREE SUBJECTS FIXED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS EACH. THESE SUBJECTS REMANDED TO CUSTODY U. S. MARSHAL, BIRMINGHAM, AND COMMITTED JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL, BIRMINGHAM.

FOLLOWING RETURN FROM SELMA, ALABAMA, SUBJECT ROWE APPEARED BEFORE U. S. COMMISSIONER CHARLTON FIVE TWENTYFIVE P.M., MARCH TWENTYFIFTH, AT WHICH TIME HEARING SET FOR APRIL FIFTEENTH NEXT. BOND FIXED AT FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS, AN ROWE COMMITTED JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL IN CUSTODY U. S. MARSHAL. ROWE ALSO REPRESENTED BY ATTORNEY MATT MURPHY.

SEARCHES OF RESIDENCES AND CARS:

SEARCH WARRANTS ISSUED BY U. S. COMMISSIONER LOUISE O. CHARLTON MARCH TWENTYSIXTH FOR SEARCHES OF RESIDENCES OF SUBJECTS AND VEHICLES. [redacted]

57A

END PAGE FIVE.

[redacted]

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Subjects Thomas, Eat[illegible] a[illegible] Rome released on bond evening [illegible] 26-65. Bond arranged for subject Wilkins, but he was not released, being held on probation violators warrant received by U. S. Marshal 3-26-65 in connection with prior Federal Firearms violation.

[redacted]

67A

JGK:las

CLM/JK

FBI SELMA ALA

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 26 1965
TELETYPE

8:50PMCST URGENT 3-26-65 MFH

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA. LEROY JEROME MOTON, VICTIMS, CR DASH EL.

RE BUTELCONS TO MOBILE (SELMA) TODAY

[redacted] ALABAMA HIGHWAY PATROL INVESTIGATOR, ADVISED TODAY THAT MOTON IS BEING HELD AS QUOTE MATERIAL WITNESS UNQUOTE AT THE DALLAS COUNTY JAIL. HE STATED THAT THE ONLY COMPLAINT HE HAD FROM MOTON WAS THAT HIS SHOULDER WAS HURTING HIM DUE TO THE FACT THAT HE, MOTON, INJURED HIS SHOULDER LAST NIGHT AS RESULT OF THE ATUOMOBILE HE WAS RIDING IN LEAVING THE ROAD. [redacted] STATED HE HAD REQUESTED THE DALLAS COUNTY JAIL CONTACT A DOCTOR TO HAVE MOTON'S SHOULDER CHECKED.

[redacted] ADVISED THAT HE WAS INFORMED BY HIS IMMEDIATE SUPERIOR [redacted] OF THE HIGHWAY PATROL INVESTIGATORS, TO HOLD MOTON AS A QUOTE MATERIAL WITNESS UNQUOTE IN THE DALLAS COUNTY JAIL AND HE KNOWS OF NO FORMAL PAPERS THAT WERE FILED.

ARTHUR E. GAMBLE, JR., CIRCUIT SOLICITOR, LOWNDES COUNTY, ALA., ADVISED THAT HE FURNISHED ORAL AUTHORITY TO HAVE MOTON

END PAGE ONE

56 APR 2 1965

REC-1 44-28601-11

EX-103

8 MAR 30 1965

HELD AS A QUOTE MATERIAL WITNESS UNQUOTE. HE STATED THAT BOND CAN BE SET FOR MOTON HOWEVER, HE HAD NOT INTERVIEWED HIM AS YET AND HE AUTHORIZED MOTON BE HELD AS QUOTE MATERIAL WITNESS UNQUOTE UNTIL HE COULD INTERVIEW HIM NEXT DATE. GAMBLE STATED THAT NO FORMAL TYPE PAPERS HAD BEEN FILED IN ORDER TO HOLD MOTON HOWEVER THERE ARE STATUTORY PROVISIONS IN THE CODE OF ALABAMA TO COVER THIS TYPE SITUATION WHERE A PERSON NEEDS TO BE HELD AS A QUOTE MATERIAL WITNESS UNQUOTE. HE DOES NOT KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE STATUTE AT PRESENT AND WILL HAVE TO RESEARCH SAME IN ORDER TO FURNISH IT. GAMBLE ADVISED THAT HE WOULD DECIDE AFTER INTERVIEWING MOTON TOMORROW. DECIDE THEN WHETHER TO REQUIRE A BOND BE SET ON MOTON OR TO RELEASE HIM FROM CUSTODY WITHOUT BOND.

[redacted]

[redacted], SELMA, ADVISED THAT HE HAD ATTENDED LEROY JEROME MOTON AT THE DALLAS COUNTY JAIL THIS EVENING. HE STATED THAT MOTON WAS COMPLAINING OF HIS RIGHT SHOULDER HURTING HIM AND AFTER EXAMINATION [redacted] DESCOVERED THAT MOTON HAD A PARTIAL

END PAGE TWO

b7C

[redacted]

DISLOCATION OF THE RIGHT SHOULDER. [redacted] STATED THAT MOTON ADVISED HIM THAT THIS OCCURRED WHEN HE WAS JARRED AGAINST THE DASH BOARD OF THE AUTOMOBILE LAST EVENING WHEN IT LEFT THE ROAD. [redacted] SAID HE SUCCESSFULLY MANIPULATED THE SHOULDER BACK INTO SHAPE. [redacted] ADVISED THIS WAS THE ONLY DISCOMFORT THAT MOTON COMPLAINED OF AT THE TIME HE EXAMINED HIM AT THE DALLAS COUNTY JAIL.

67C

JUDGE JAMES HARE, SELMA, ALA., ADVISED THAT PROVISIONS FOR HOLDING A MATERIAL WITNESS UNDER BOND IS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION ONE FOUR FIVE, TITLEFIFTEEN, ALABAMA CODE, AND SETS FORTH THAT THE BOND LIMIT FOR SUCH MATERIAL WITNESS IS ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS. HE SAID THAT SECTION ONE FOUR SIX, TITLE FIFTEEN, IS THE FORM USED FOR THE BIND.

END.

WA...

ACK FOR TWO MESSAGES PLS

WA...3ML FOR 2

FBI WASH DC

T

44-28601-12

CHANGED TO

FILED AS ENCL TO SERIAL 13

gmh

APR 6 - 1965

9:39 a.m. March 26, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. BELMONT
MR. DE LOACH
MR. ROSEN

The President called and said they want him to talk to the husband of the woman who was killed; that he had had the counsel talk to him; that the man on the White House switchboard last night indicated he (the President) would talk to the man when he (the President) woke up. He said, before he talked to the man, he wanted to be sure I don't have any reason why he shouldn't because our report indicated the man is a Teamster man. I told the President I don't say the man has a bad character but he is well known as a Teamster strongarm man and on the woman's body we found numerous needle marks indicating she had been taking dope although we can't say that definitely because she is dead. I said I would be inclined to have White or someone like that talk to the husband rather than the President. The President said all right, White has already talked to him.

I said I thought the thing was in pretty good shape; that as soon as I finished talking to him, [redacted] that we propose to file the same kind of warrant as we filed in the Penn case in Georgia. I said I would talk to Sullivan and then let the President know. He asked me to please do so.

I advised him of the information and evidence we have; that I was going to talk to Alabama right away; that if Doar agrees to serving the warrants, we will have them in custody soon; that I would call him and he would make a statement from the White House. The President suggested that the Attorney General and I come over to the White House; that maybe we could get there before the astronauts and let television cover us as we come in; that we don't have to have any appointment, to just call George Reedy and tell him I'm coming over to see the President, then tell the Attorney General and just get in the car and come on over.

JEH:rm (8)

A-103 REC 5 44-28611-15

25 MAR 30 1965

52 APR 5 1965

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, DeLoach, Rosen

March 26, 1965

[redacted] I told the President I would get this thing speeded up right away.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 3:04 P.M.
DATE 3/29/65
BY da

March 26, 1965

BY LIAISON

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Martindale

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

It is suggested that the President may be interested in the attached memorandum which sets forth additional details concerning the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

The Attorney General has been advised of this information.

Sincerely yours,

Personally delivered to Mrs Stegall at White House 2/26/65 P.M.

Enclosure

WLM:JWH/bec
(11)

ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

REC-23

19 MAR 31 1965

March 26, 1965

MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO
LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA
MARCH 25, 1965

The following are the most recent developments concerning the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, who was fatally shot as she drove in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

A complaint was filed today before the United States Commissioner at Birmingham charging William Orville Eaton, Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., Eugene Thomas and Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., with violating Section 241, Title 18, United States Code, in that they conspired to intimidate and injure citizens in the free exercise of their Consitutional rights.

Eaton, Wilkins and Thomas were arrested by FBI Agents today and taken before the United States Commissioner at Birmingham who scheduled a preliminary hearing for Thursday, April 15, 1965, and remanded all three subjects to the custody of the United States Marshal in lieu of $50,000 bond each. They are confined in the Jefferson County Jail in Birmingham. Rowe will be taken before the Commissioner at a later time.

At the Commissioner's hearing, the subjects were represented by Matt Murphy, a Klan attorney.

All four of those charged in the complaint filed before the Commissioner are members of the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. [redacted]

A Negro man was with Mrs. Liuzzo and reportedly was sitting close to her.

WLM/JWH/cac

44-24601-13

19 MAR 31 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ENCLOSURE

The Attorney General

March 26, 1965

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Martindale

MURDER OF MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO
IN LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA,
MARCH 25, 1965

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth additional details of the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

This information has been furnished to the White House.

Enclosure

1 - The Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)

1 - Mr. John Doar (Enclosure)
Acting Assistant Attorney General

WLM/JWH:bec
(14)

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 6:30 PM
DATE 3/26/65
BY

44-28601-11

REC- 23 19 MAR 31 1965

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Deloach
Sullivan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

14 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

9:32 a. m.

March 26, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. BELMONT
MR. DE LOACH
MR. ROSEN

2 Copies made by CT
for review by Rowe Task Force
Date 12-1-78

I called Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach and told him we have practically broken the case down in Selma, the killing of the woman, and that we have to move very rapidly. I stated I had instructed our men to go to see Ramsey Clark and lay the facts before him so he can decide what statute we can file under. The Attorney General said it will have to be John Doar as Ramsey Clark has left Alabama and is back here. I said the thought I had in mind was we ought to talk probably with Ramsey Clark or anyone the Attorney General designated to determine what statute to use and we wanted to get our hands on the people who did this before they destroy their guns and get out of the state.

I stated we had an informant in the car from which the shooting was done and he has, therefore, identified the two who actually fired the two guns that killed this woman; that he has identified the third man; and that the informant was the fourth man. I explained that the informant is a member of the Bessemer, Alabama, Klan. I stated that the three men we want to arrest are not going to work today and we have their homes under surveillance; that we want to move to take them into custody and conduct an intensive interrogation of them; that I think it is imperative we act fast so they can't get away from us and be another six-months case like we had in Mississippi.

The Attorney General stated, if we are going to get the stuff drawn up quickly, we will do better to work with Doar down there. I stated I will do that then; that I will arrange for Sullivan to talk with Doar and work this thing out down there.

EX-103 REC 6 44-28601-16

I advised him that the President knows in substance what I had just told him because the President had called me this morning about six o'clock and two or three times last night. The Attorney General indicated the President had called him around eight o'clock this morning. I stated I told the President the developments as we had them and that there must be nothing said by him or anyone else about the nearness of breaking the case.

JEH:rm (8)

52 APR 27 1965

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

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

25 MAR 30 1965

I told the Attorney General that the President asked if he should talk to the husband of the woman in Detroit who had died and I suggested the President have Lee White call this man and, if the man behaves himself, the President could consider talking to him later. I stated the man himself doesn't have too good a background and the woman had indications of needle marks in her arms where she had been taking dope; that she was sitting very, very close to the Negro in the car; that it had the appearance of a necking party.

I told the Attorney General I would get in touch with Doar right away. He said he thought that would be the fastest. I said I would get that done right away.

9:45 a. m.

I called the Attorney General to advise him of the President's call. I related that the President asked about the background of the man in Detroit (the husband of the woman killed in Alabama) and I told him what it was; that the President said Lee White had already talked to the man and he wanted to know what I thought about calling him. I stated I advised the President to hold off until after the case is broken and then he could consider whether he wants to call the man and extend condolences.

I told the Attorney General that the President then said he wanted the Attorney General and me, as soon as we get the warrants and make the arrests, to come to the White House, to try to get there before the astronauts arrive, and he would then make a statement on television with us present. I said the trouble is the astronauts get there at eleven o'clock and we can't complete matters by that time. The Attorney General said no, we would have to do it after.

I told him they will call here and let me know at once and I will let him know at once; that will be after eleven o'clock. The Attorney General said the ceremony for the astronauts would probably last forty-five minutes and I indicated I thought we could do it right after that.

The Attorney General said he was going to talk with Lee White in his (the Attorney General's) office then; that he would advise this same procedure and tell White to tell the President that we are just not going to make it before the astronauts.

The Attorney General asked where Sullivan is and I replied that Sullivan is in Selma. He remarked that Sullivan is fifty miles from Doar and I told him they can talk by telephone. I said I would let him know as soon as it is done.

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, DeLoach, Rosen — March 26, 1965

10:57 a. m.

The Attorney General called. He said he had talked with Doar and Doar has drawn up the complaint but has to get it typed and then we are off. I told him I had just talked to our people and they advised he was to have it by 11:40; that they cleared it with Doar about 10:40 and it would take about an hour; that there will be four arrests made, including our informant; that the informant is scared to death and we may have to move him and his family out to some other part of the state or the country to protect them when it gets to trial.

I said I thought it would be ready at 11:40 so he could make arrangements to go over to the White House.

11:00 a. m.

The Attorney General called to ask if I would have typed up the factual information. I told him I was having it typed up; that either he or the President could read it.

12:11 p. m.

The Attorney General returned my call of a few moments before. I advised him that I had received a call from Mr. DeLoach, whom I had sent over to the White House, and that Mr. DeLoach advised the President had told him he would like to have us come over to the White House at once to stand by for the arrests. I stated the arrests had not yet been made. I told him I would come around and join him. He said he thought he would take along Ramsey Clark since he had been down there. I said I would come around to his office and he said that was fine.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 957 AM
DATE 3/29/65
BY ds

This matter concerns the murder of a civil rights worker by four Ku Klux Klansmen between Montgomery and Selma, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965.

Funeral services are being held for victim Liuzzo at Detroit on the morning of 3/30/65. Reverend Martin Luther King, Walter Reuther and other officials from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Congress of Racial Equality are expected to attend.

Civil Rights Division of the Department is being advised.

VGM:hw

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 29 1965

FBI SELMA ALA

TELETYPE

10:30 PM URGENT 3-29-65 MMA

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE /SELMA/ 44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS ; ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA; LEROY JEROME MOTON -
Civil Rights—Election Laws
VICTIMS. ~~CR-EL~~.

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
JAMES ORANGE, ~~SCLC~~, ORGANIZER SELMA, ALABAMA, ANNOUNCED AT AN EVENING MASS MEETING AT BROWN'S CHAPEL AME CHURCH, SELMA, THAT A MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE HELD IN MEMORY OF MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO 3/30/65 ~~THREE THIRTY SIXTYFIVE~~ AT THE SITE OF HER MURDER. FIVE HEARSES EACH WILL DEPART FROM SELMA AND MONTGOMERY, ALA., ABOUT ELEVEN FIFTEEN AM AND CONVERGE AT DEATH SCENE.

CASKETS WILL BE PLACED AT SCENE THEN MOVED BACK TO HEARSES THEN TRANSPORTED TO THE CAPITOL STEPS, MONTGOMERY, ALA., AND LEFT THERE ABOUT TWO THIRTY PM.. WITH A GROUP OF WOMEN DRESSED IN BLACK WHO WILL REMAIN UNTIL FIVE PM. THE CASKETS WILL BE LEFT ON THE CAPITOL STEPS.

ORANGE WAS ADVISED BY BUAGENTS THAT THE AREA WHEREIN HE PLANNED THE ACTIVITY AT THE CRIME SCENE WAS STILL BEING PROCESSED ACTIVELY FOR EVIDENCE PERTINENT TO THE MURDER OF MRS. LIUZZO. HE WAS INFORMED THAT THIS AREA WAS RESTRICTED AT THIS TIME THAT ANY LARGE CONGREGATION OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS WOULD SERIOUSLY INTERFERE WITH THE INVESTIGATION PROCEEDING IN THIS AREA.

REC-3 44-28611
EX-101
4 MAR 31 1965

58 APR 5 1965

END PAGE ONE

ORANGE STATED THAT NO EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO STOP AT THE CRIME SCENE IF IT WAS RESTRICTED. THE MOTORCADE WOULD PASS BY AND PROCEED TO MONTGOMERY,ALA., FOR THE BALANCE OF THE PROGRAM.

[redacted] 3/30/65. 57A

[redacted] DEMONSTRATORS WILL BE ADVISED THAT THE AREA IS RESTRICTED IF THEY APPEAR.

STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SO AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES ADVISED SELMA, ALA., AND MONTGOMERY,ALA.,

AGENTS WILL COVER DEMONSTRATIONS.

DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY ST. JOHN BARRETT ADVISED.

END

WA JR

FBI WASH DC

THREE INITIWALS PLS JCR

FBI WASH DC

TU P

F

FBI WASH DC

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 26 1965
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI SELMA ALA

A5:47AMCST URGENT 3-26-65 MFH

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE (SELMA) (44-NEW)

UNSUBS; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA MRS. ANTHONY LIUZZO; LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH - VICTIMS, CR DASH EL.

AT TWO FIFTYFIVE A. M. MARCH TWENTY SIX INSTANT, DR. PAUL SCHOFFERTT, ASSISTANT STATE TOXICOLOGIST, AUBURN, ALABAMA, UNIVERSITY OF AUBURN, COMPLETED AUTOPSY ON VIOLA LIUZZO.

[redacted]

MAR 31 1965

[redacted] PATTERN AROUND ENTRY CAUSED BY GLASS AND SLIVERS OF LEAD. PUNCTURE MARKS AS THOUGH NEEDLE RECENTLY USED IN ARM. SCHOFFERTT HAS TAKEN BLOOD SPECIMENS TO DETERMINE IF ANY UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES PRESENT [redacted]

END PAGE ONE

[redacted] 57A

[redacted]. SCHOFFERTT PERFORMED COMPLETE AUTOPSY AND WILL MAKE REPORT AVAILABLE AS SOON AS COMPLETED, BUT NOT TONIGHT. WILL START WORK ON BLOOD SAMPLES IN THE A.M.

END PAGE TWO

INTERVIEWS WITH PASSENGERS IN AUTOMOBILE
OF VICTIM

FOUR INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE PASSENGERS IN THE VEHICLE OWNED BY MRS. LIUZZO ON A TRIP FROM MONTGOMERY TO SELMA, ALABAMA ON MARCH TWENTYFIVE LAST WERE INTERVIEWED. THESE PERSONS COULD FURNISH NO INFORMATION CONCERNING ANY POSSIBLE THREATS OR SPECIFIC ACTIONS DIRECTED AGAINST THE VICTIMS. EN ROUTE FROM MONTGOMERY TO SELMA IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE TRIP FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY IN WHICH THE VICTIM WAS KILLED. NO INCIDENTS OCCURRED WHICH APPEAR SIGNIFICANT.

THOSE INTERVIEWED WERE MRS. BRENTON PAREN CLARISSA PAREN BROWN, ONE EIGHT THREE ZERO HILLSIDE ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON, PA., LIZABETH STEWART, AGE SIXTEEN, ONE FIVE EIGHT FIVE WINDING ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON, PA.; CARLA BARD AUSTIN, AGE SIXTEEN, NINE TWO TWO SECOND STREET PIKE, SOUTHAMPTON, PA.; CLARENCE SMITH, JR., ONE FOUR THREE ZERO EUGENE STREET, SELMA, ALA.

END.

WA.....HFL

FBI WASH DC

YU CLR

FBI

Date: 3/27/65

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)(P)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL
VIOLA LUIZZO, aka.
Mrs. Anthony J. Luizzo,
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Transmitted herewith are three (3) photographs each of subjects THOMAS, EATON and WILKINS.

3 - Bureau (Encls. 9) ENCLOSURE
2 - Birmingham

RGJ:mjh
(5)

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

REC-44 44-1236-120

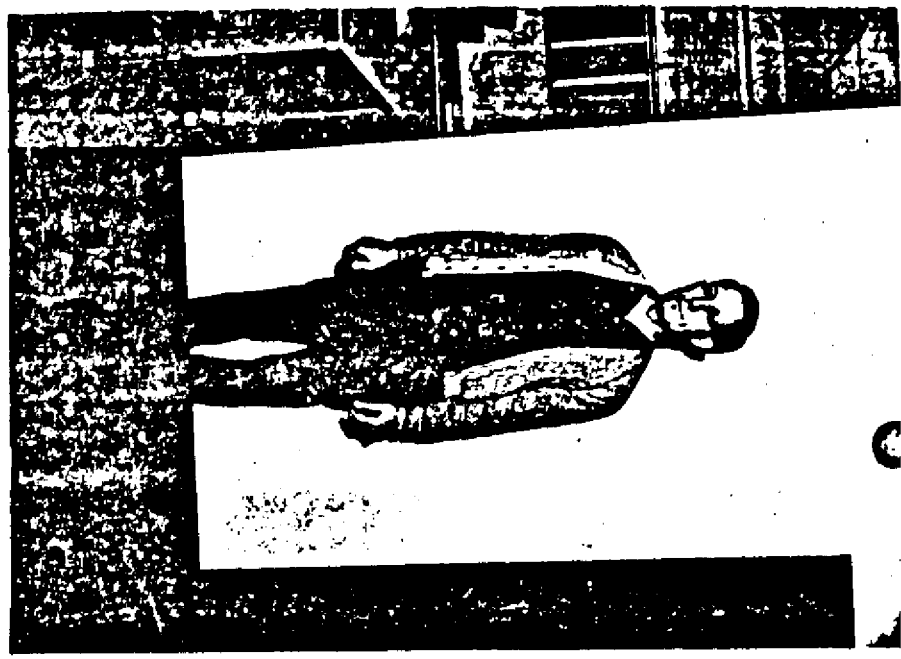
12 MAR 29 1965

EX-102

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

67 APR 8 1965

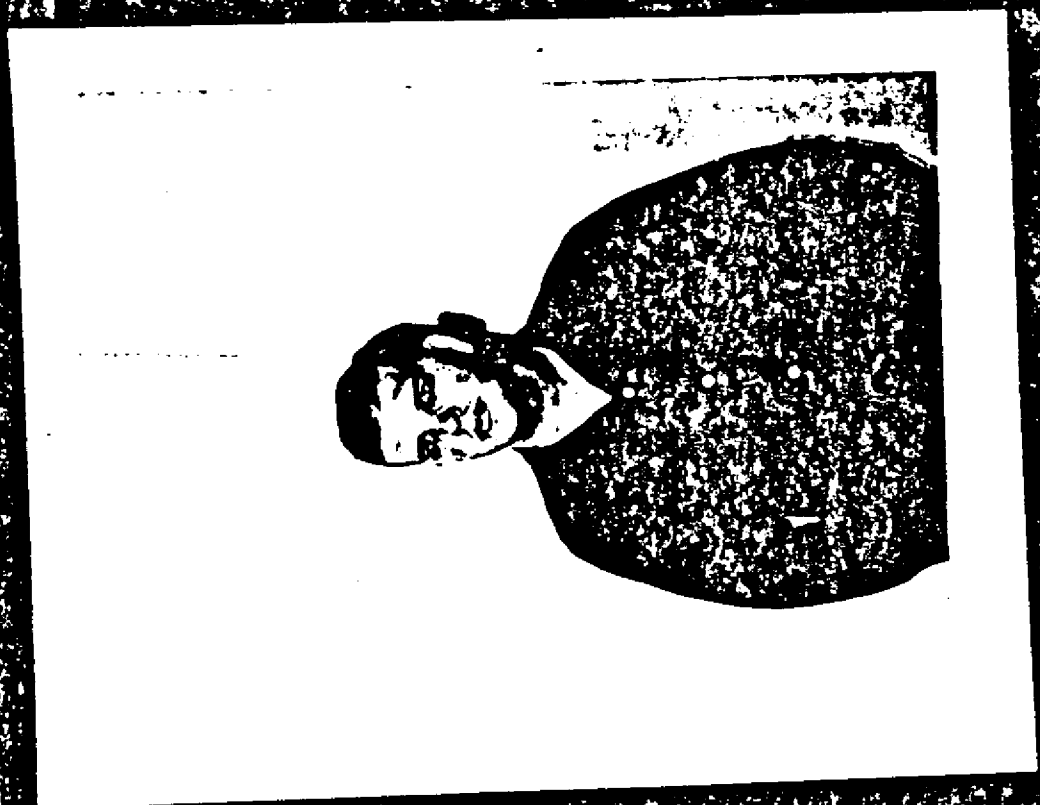
Thomas
44-1236

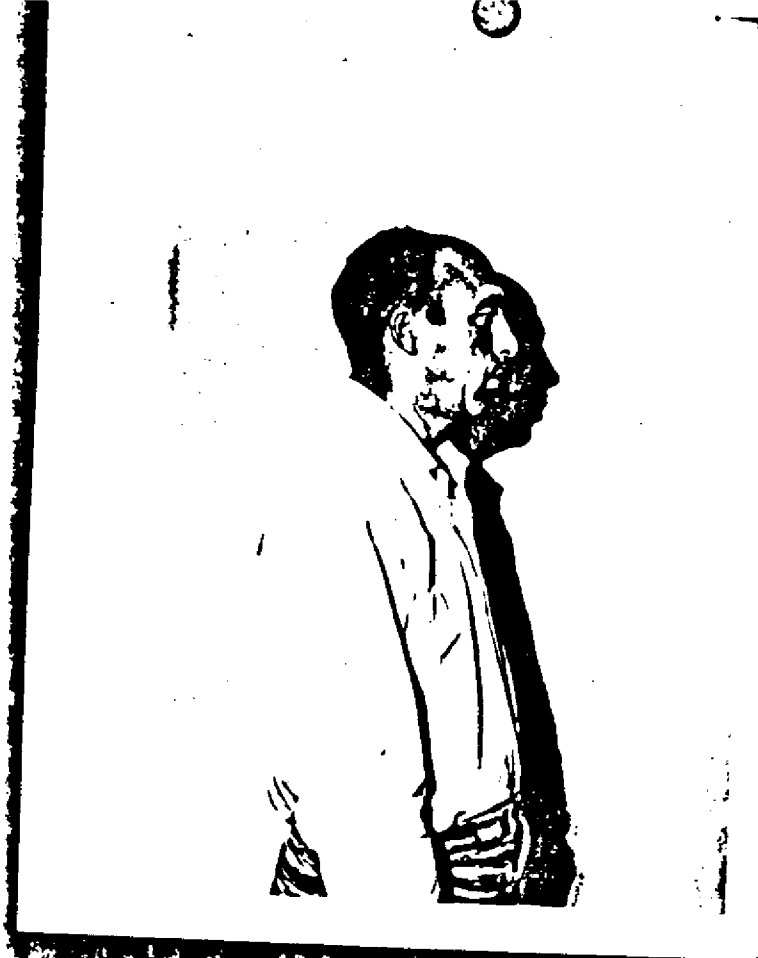














Eaton
44-1236

FBI

Date: 3/28/65

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236) (P)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka, ET AL - VICTIM
CR - EL

Transmitted herewith are individual photographs of each of the 4 subjects as prepared [redacted] These are being submitted for the Bureau's information.

REC 12

EX-101

2 MAR 29 1965

C C - Wick

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

ENCLOSURE

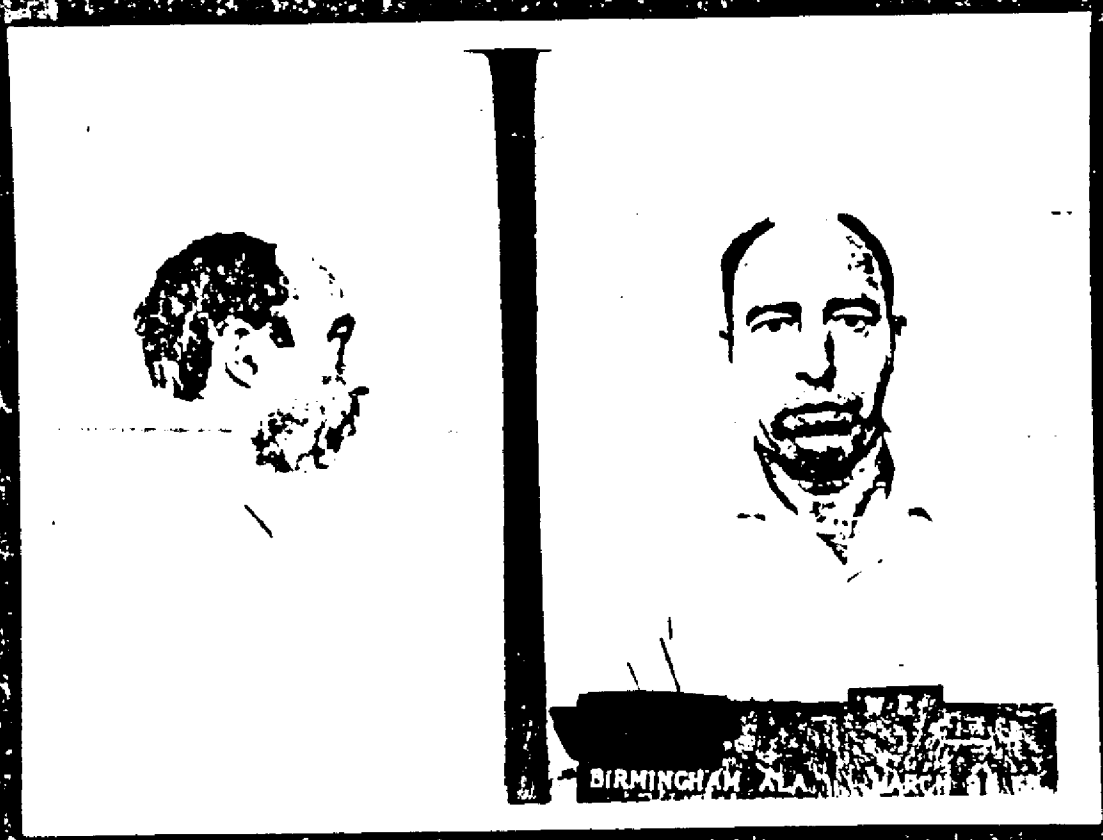
(3) - Bureau (Enc. 4) (AMSD)
2 - Birmingham
RGJ:gah
(5)

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

APR 2


11307
BIRMINGHAM ALA. MARCH 26 63


BIRMINGHAM ALA.

EUGENE THOMAS

BH file # 44 - 1236 1A

WILLIAM C. EATON

BH file 44 - 1236 1A


BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
MARCH


BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
MARCH

BA FILE # 44- 1236 1A

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS
BA file # 44 - 1236 1A

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

DATE: March 26, 1965

1-Mr. Belmont
1-Mr. Rosen
1-Mr. Malley
1-Mr. McGowan
1-Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; UNIDENTIFIED MEMBERS OF SELMA, ALABAMA, POLICE DEPARTMENT, MORNING MARCH 26, 1965
LEROY MOTON - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

Mrs. James Bevel telephonically advised at 1:49 a.m. that she was a member of Dr. Martin Luther King's staff, Montgomery, Alabama and that she was deeply concerned with the safety of Leroy Moton, a Negro male who is being held by the Selma, Alabama, local authorities. Mrs. Bevel indicated that she wanted to communicate directly with Acting Assistant Attorney General John Doar. Mrs. Bevel was advised that his present whereabouts was not known and that she should contact him through the Attorney General's Office.

ACTION:

Inspector Sullivan was advised of the above information and indicated that their Agents had just completed interviewing Moton and were aware of his location.

MPG/pak
(6)

REC- 25

MAR 30 1965

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: 3-27-65

FROM : C. L. McGowan

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. Shroder
1 - Mr. Huppert

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

At 8:40 a.m., 3-27-65, Mr. St. John Barrett of the Department called and advised that the Attorney General wants the Bureau to obtain background information concerning Arthur Gamble, Circuit Solicitor, Lowndes County, Alabama. Barrett explained that Gamble is the individual who will probably handle the prosecution of subjects for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo.

Mr. Barrett wants to know what kind of prosecutor Gamble is; whether or not he is or has been affiliated with organizations such as Klan groups; and any information concerning his background which might indicate what kind of a job he will do in the prosecution of subjects. Barrett requested that he be furnished this information today.

ACTION

At 8:55 a.m., Special Agent [redacted] 57C Mobile, was telephonically instructed to furnish all available information in conformance with the above request in teletype form by 12 noon today.

JDH:las
(6)

REC-108

58 APR 5 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This matter concerns the murder of a Civil Rights worker by four Ku Klux Klansmen between Montgomery and Selma, Alabama on the night of March 25, 1965.

The Department is being advised.

HGR:las

FBI DETROIT

5:31 PM URGENT 3/27/65 C W H

TO DIRECTOR AND ATLANTA

FROM DETROIT (44-643) 1P

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 27 1965
TELETYPE

UNSUBS; MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO THREE TWENTYFIVE SIXTYFIVE; LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIMS; CIVIL RIGHTS DASH ELECTION LAWS.

RE DETROIT

REBEAIRTEL THREE TWENTYSEVEN SIXTYFIVE.

GOVERNOR GEORGE ROMNEY OF MICHIGAN HAS PROCLAIMED MONDAY AND TUESDAY AS DAYS OF MOURNING FOR MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO.

REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING HAS TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THE FAMILY HE WILL ARRIVE IN DETROIT ON SUNDAY MARCH TWENTYEIGHT, AND CHARLES O'BRIEN, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO TEAMSTER PRESIDENT JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA, STATED KING HAS ASKED ABOUT HOLDING MEMORIAL SERVICES. OTHERS ARE BEING PLANNED FOR WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY AND ELSEWHERE, THE NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) HAS SCHEDULED A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR SEVEN PM, MONDAY. ANOTHER SPONSORED BY THE MICHIGAN CITIZENS COUNCIL IS SCHEDULED FOR NOON ON TUESDAY. THE FUNERAL WILL BE TUESDAY MORNING.

LOCAL AGENCIES ADVISED.

LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM WILL FOLLOW.

END

WA.. SXC

FBI WASH DC

AT ATLANTA

66 APR 6 1965

FBI ATLANTA CC MR. ROSEN

44-28601

REC 27 4 MAR 30 1965

Quantico advised 3/29/65

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Miss Gandy

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 29 1965
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI DETROIT

627 PM URGENT 3-29-65 LTU

TO DIRECTOR

FROM DETROIT (44-643) 1P

Unknown Subjects

UNSUBS; MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO, MARCH TWENTYFIVE LAST; LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIMS; CIVIL RIGHTS DASH ELECTION LAWS.

LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM

REDETROIT AIRTEL WITH LHM MARCH TWENTYSEVEN, LAST.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR VICTIM LIUZZO SCEDULED TO BE HELD DETROIT AM MARCH THIRTY, NEXT. [redacted] 67D

ADVISED TODAY THAT REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING, PRESIDENT WALTER REUTHER UAW-CIO AND OTHER OFFICIALS FROM THE NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) AND CORE (CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY) EXPECTED TO ATTEND FUNERAL SERVICES FOR VICTIM AT DETROIT TOMORROW. ~~LHM~~ (LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM) FOLLOWS.

END

WA.. RPP

FBI WASH DC

P

CC-MR. ROSEN

EX-117

Added to note on mobile tel 3/29/65

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

18 MAR 30 1965

REC 27

G. Rady Norris ex-0 released 3/30/65

66 APR 6 1965 70

6-1

7-1

This concerns further ormation relative to statements made by Sheriff James Clark to the press about the murder of Viola Liuzzo, by four Klan members on 3/25/65.

Clark's reference to Department driving King to Selma refers to the incident where former Department Attorney Thelton Henderson drove King to Selma in a car rented by Department. Department first issued a denial and when Henderson later admitted the incident, Department had to admit to the truth of the incident. Henderson submitted his resignation.

JWH:mas
(5)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 28 1965
TELETYPE

Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI SELMA ALA

1:46PM CST URGENT 3-23-65 MFH

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS;
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA DASH VICTIM;
LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIM OR - EL.

CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

REBUTELCON MARCH TWENTY EIGHT INSTANT FROM [redacted] 67C
[redacted] CRIME RECORDS.

[redacted] 67A, B, C

[redacted] 44-2861

[redacted] MAR 30 1965

[redacted] HE HAS BEEN CALLED A

END PAGE ONE

64 APR 8 1965

MR. BELLMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

~~QUOTE~~ "LIAR" ~~END QUOTE~~ BEFORE BY THE JUSTICE DEPT WHEN HE OBSERVED MARTIN LUTHER KING IN A JUSTICE DEPT RENTED CAR IN OCTOBER, NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE. AT THAT TIME CLARK STATED THAT HE HAD MADE A PRESS RELEASE RELATIVE TO THE JUSTICE DEPT DRIVING KING TO SELMA AND THE DEPT HAD CALLED HIM A ~~QUOTE~~ "LIAR" ~~END QUOTE~~ AT THAT TIME; HOWEVER, HE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY PROVED THE ALLEGATION AND THE JUSTICE DEPT HAD TO ~~QUOTE~~ "EAT CROW" ~~END QUOTE~~.

[redacted] ADVISED THAT HE HAD PHONED THE STORY INTO HIS OFFICE HOWEVER IT WAS LATE MARCH TWENTY SEVEN LAST AND HE DOUBTED IF IT WOULD MAKE ANY OF THE NEWSPAPERS. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED IT WOULD PROBABLY BE RELEASED IN RADIO BROADCASTS OR TELEVISION BROADCASTS TODAY. 60D

END.

WA.....JRL

FBI WASH DC

TU CLR

cc-Mr. Rosen
Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
March 30, 1965

BY LIAISON
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

I am enclosing a memorandum setting forth information concerning the events of the [illegible] day of the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, which commenced on March 21, 1965. Along with information concerning the killing of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, you may wish to bring this information to the attention of the President.

This information is also being furnished to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

HCS/nkr
(10)

MAR 30 1965

44-2461-

NOT RECORDED
133 MAR 30 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

1-Mr. Mohr
1-Mr. DeLoach

The Attorney General

March 27, 1965

1-Mr. Sullivan
1-Mr. Belmont
1-Mr. Rosen
1-Mr. Malley
1-Mr. McGowan
1-Mr. Hines

Director, FBI

MURDER OF MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO
IN LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA,
MARCH 25, 1965

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth a contact by Governor George C. Wallace of the State of Alabama with a representative of this Bureau on March 26, 1965, with regard to the fatal shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

The contact of Governor Wallace mentioned in enclosed memorandum was referred to Mr. St. John Barrett of the Civil Rights Division on the night of March 26, 1965, for consideration.

This information has been furnished to the White House.

Enclosure

1 - The Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)

1 - Mr. John Doar (Enclosure)
Acting Assistant Attorney General

JWH:gmk
(12)

REC. 22
44 - 28601-2

19 MAR 31 1965

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 2:18 PM
DATE 3/27/65
BY GMW

79 APR 2- 1965

TELETYPE UNIT

Date

☐ Check, when semiannual inventory, if no previous ... nce with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	Case #
[redacted]	P	BIRMINGHAM	44-1236
		Office of Origin: MOBILE	File #: [redacted]

Title and Character of Case

EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka, ETAL - Victims
CR, EL

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
3-26-65	Search of residence of W. O. EATON, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Ala

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
Gun Vault	Evidence

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. 3 boxes Federal .22 long rifle Hi-Power rimfire ctgs.
2. 1 box Hi-Power rimfire ctgs.
3. 1 box Canuck .22 long rifle standard velocity ctgs.

VI - 28621

NOT RECORDED
12 FEB 9 1966

3-31-65 Sent to FBI Lab
Returned from Lab 11-22-65

44-1236-159

SEARCHED ... INDEXED ...
SERIALIZED ... FILED ...
MAR 26 1965
FBI — BIRMINGHAM

SUBMITTED BY: SA [redacted] 57C

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

2-1-66 MPS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
MOBILE	MOBILE	3/30/65	3/25 - 30/65

TITLE OF CASE

CHANGED

EUGENE THOMAS;
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS;
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka
Mrs. Anthony Liuzzo;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS

REPORT MADE BY: [redacted] 67

TYPED BY: bah

CHARACTER OF CASE: CR - EL

The title is marked "Changed" to show the middle name of victim LIUZZO.

REFERENCES: Mobile teletypes to Bureau, 3/26 - 29/65;

Bureau teletype to Birmingham and Mobile, 3/29/65.

— P —

LEADS

MOBILE DIVISION

AT AUBURN, ALA.

Will obtain the autopsy report.

AT SELMA and MONTGOMERY, ALA.

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

5 - Bureau
1 - USA, Montgomery, Ala.
1 - Departmental Attorney, Montgomery, Ala.
4 - Birmingham (1 - USA, Birmingham, Ala.)
5 - Mobile (44-1245)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44 | 28601 | — 28

REC-10

4 APR 1 1965

EX-101

ENCL BEHIND FILE

COPIES ENCL BEHIND FILE

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

AGENCY	2 CC CRD			
REQUEST RECD.				
DATE FWD.	3-31-65			
HOW FWD.	6-24-B			
BY	JWH/lch			

NOTATIONS

STAT SECT.

100 g synopsis to CR Unit

60 MAY 11 1965

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1. Will continue investigation concerning activities of the subjects.

2. Will interview E. J. DIXON, State Investigator, regarding chain of evidence in turning over the bullet from the victim's car to the State Toxicologist.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

All persons interviewed herein were advised that this investigation was being conducted at the specific request of Acting Assistant Attorney General JOHN DOAR, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice.

Copies are not being disseminated to Departmental Attorney or USAs until so advised by the Bureau.

Photographs of the victim have been forwarded to the Bureau for processing.

COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Birmingham, Alabama
1 - USA, Montgomery, Alabama
1 - Departmental Attorney, Montgomery, Alabama

Report of: SA [redacted] 52C Office: MOBILE, ALABAMA
Date: 3/30/65

Field Office File #: MO 44-1245 Bureau File #:

Title: EUGENE THOMAS;
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS;
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis: On 3/19/65, victim LIUZZO appeared at Selma, Ala., and was closely associated with the civil rights activities relating to the march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

Her vehicle, a 1963 light blue Oldsmobile bearing Mich. License EJ9177 was being utilized at Selma and during the march as a transportation vehicle for civil rights workers.

On the evening of 3/25/65, at about 8:00 p.m., victims LIUZZO and MOTON were enroute from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., to pick up another load of passengers to return them to Selma following march, a vehicle later determined to be a 1962 Chevrolet Impala driven by subject THOMAS and occupied by other three subjects, pulled alongside the LIUZZO vehicle and fired several shots from a .38 caliber revolver and a .22 caliber weapon into the LIUZZO vehicle.

As a result of this action Mrs. LIUZZO was killed. The auto she was driving, her 1963 Oldsmobile, ran off the road and victim MOTON succeeded in stopping the vehicle by turning off the ignition and placing foot on brake.

The shooting was reported to the FBI shortly after 9:30 p.m. CST, night of 3/25/65. Investigation immediately instituted, crime scene examined, witness interviewed, and vehicle examined.

Independently the Ala. State Troopers were notified by an unidentified truck driver that he observed what appeared to be a wreck off

MO 44-1245

Highway 80 east. State Troopers arrived at scene minutes after this report, observed LIUZZO appeared to have been shot, and secured the scene. State authorities performed autops[redacted]. Joint examination of vehicle and crime scene performed by state authorities and FBI Agents. b7A

[redacted] b7A

On 3/26/65, this case was discussed with Acting Assistant Attorney General JOHN DOAR, at Montgomery, Ala., who authorized the filing of a complaint charging all subjects with violation of Title 18, Section 241, U. S. Code. SA [redacted] on same date filed a complaint against all subjects before USC JAMES M. GUTTERY at Montgomery and warrant was issued for the arrest of all subjects. b7C

[redacted] b7A

Governor GEORGE C. WALLACE has offered FBI full cooperation of state authorities in the investigation and advises that the State of Alabama is interested in pursuing any state criminal action that might arise from the investigation.

— P —

MO 44-1245

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I. PREDICATION AND KLAN PARADE OF March 21, 1965, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA.

DETAILS:

Negro civil rights demonstrators conducted a march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, March 21-25, 1965. The purpose of the march was to dramatize voting registration restrictions in Alabama and to present to Governor GEORGE C. WALLACE a petition of grievances. The march was led by Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. It culminated in front of the State Capitol, Montgomery, Alabama, March 25, 1965, with some 12,000 demonstrators attending the ceremonies. The ceremonies in front of the State Capitol commenced at approximately 1:35 PM and lasted until approximately 4:10 PM, March 25, 1965. The crowd dispersed generally at the conclusion in all directions at request of Rev. RALPH ABERNATHY, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), who served as master of ceremonies. From observation there appeared no organized plan for the dispersal of the marchers and those from Selma, Alabama, were returning to Selma by common carrier, trucks, and private automobiles.

At Montgomery, Alabama, on March 21, 1965, IRA DE MENT, Attorney for the City of Montgomery, telephonically advised the Montgomery Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that a request was received by the Montgomery City Commission addressed to the Board of Commissioners by Parade Director BOBBY SHELTON signed by F. M. VANN, dated March 20, 1965, and represented the Knights of the Klux Klan of America, Inc. Mr. DE MENT believed that the Ku was probably an error of omission. The reason for the parade was listed as "to protest the order issued by FRANK JOHNSON (struck through and Federal Court written above) allowing 5 day demonstration march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama". DE MENT advised the City Commission had on March 21, 1965, issued a permit allowing a parade beginning at 2 PM, March 21, 1965, in the 1200 block of Madison Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama, proceeding west on Madison Avenue to Madison and Bainbridge Streets, south on Bainbridge to Bainbridge and Dexter, west on Dexter to Court Square. The return route would be the same. All were ordered to conduct themselves in orderly manner and no one in the parade would wear masks. When the parade ended the group was ordered to disperse in an orderly manner. The permit expired 6 PM, March 21, 1965.

A Klan motorcade led by ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, in car number one, and BOB CREEL, Grand Dragon of Alabama, in car number two, consisting of some 240 people in 83 cars decorated with confederate flags departed Patterson Field, Madison Avenue, Montgomery, 2:40 PM, March 21, 1965. Bureau Agents observed this motorcade. Most of the cars were occupied by family groups, well dressed. A few old cars were occupied by men dressed in overalls. Lead cars were observed carrying signs such as "Voting rights - yes; Special attention - no"; "Be a Man - Join the Klan", and "KKK forever".

The motorcade rather than disbanding at the Court Square in Montgomery, Alabama, continued on past the Court Square and proceeded to the city limits of Prattville, Alabama, where the occupants of the cars took the confederate flags off the cars and disbanded completely going away in different directions. No speech making was made at the disbanding spot. The entire group was disbanded at 3:32 PM, March 21, 1965.

II. IDENTIFICATION OF CARS PARTICIPATING IN KLAN RALLY AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, March 21, 1965

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

1

On March 21, 1965, at approximately 12:30 PM, a number of automobiles were observed being parked in the parking lot of Crampton Bowl, Montgomery, Alabama. The automobiles were parked in lines facing Madison Avenue and persons arriving in these vehicles were observed placing confederate flags on these automobiles. ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, was observed standing in front of the parked automobiles talking to other people. Several cars were observed bearing signs with the slogan, "BE A MAN JOIN THE KLAN".

J. B. STONER, an attorney who resides near Atlanta, Georgia, was observed in Crampton Bowl with his 1960 Oldsmobile, bearing 1964 Georgia license number 2A8697, parked with the other vehicles. STONER's automobile had a large confederate flag flying from the radio antenna, located on the right side of this vehicle near the front.

At approximately 2:50 PM, the vehicles left Crampton Bowl parking lot forming a motorcade and proceeded through the city of Montgomery and out of Montgomery on U. S. Highway 31 where the motorcade pulled over to the side of the highway and dispersed.

The following license plate numbers were observed parked in the Crampton Bowl parking lot or in the motorcade:

[redacted] Alabama

[redacted] b7C

7

On 3/21/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] b7C Date dictated 3/26/65

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.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 3/29/65

The following vehicle license numbers were observed on automobiles which assembled at the Crampton Bowl Parking Lot on the afternoon of March 21, 1965:

Make of Car	Year No.	Car Description	1965 Alabama Tag No. (except as noted)
Chevrolet	1960	Impala, blue, with one white male	Not known
Chevrolet	1964	Impala, black in color	Not known
Ford Mustang	1965	Blue	[redacted]
Pontiac	1962	Grand Prix, two door hardtop, antenna (Shelton)	[redacted] b7C
Chevrolet	1964	Impala, white	[redacted]
Plymouth	1964	Fury, blue, two white males	Not known
Plymouth	1964	Fury, two-tone blue and white	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1961	Impala, gray color, two white males	[redacted]
Plymouth	1965	Blue, four door	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1965	Black	[redacted]
Cadillac	1965	Red	[redacted]
Chevrolet	19[illegible]	Station wagon, white color	Not known

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On 3/21/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

SAs [redacted] and b7C

Make of Car	Year No.	Car Description	1965 Ala Tag No. (except as noted)
Ford Mustang	1965	Blue color	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1960	One-ton pick-up truck, one male, one female, one child	[redacted]
Pontiac	1964	Green color, four white males, Citizens Band radio	[redacted]
Buick	1951	Gray over cream	[redacted]
Rambler	1965	Maroon over beige	[redacted]
Dodge	1963	Dart, white color	[redacted]
Plymouth	1964	Fury, blue color	[redacted]
Pontiac	1964	Gold, 2-door	[redacted]
Mercury	1961	Black and white 2-door	[redacted]
Chrysler	1963	2-door blue 6 or 7 white males	Alabama tag not known
Cadillac	1955	Brown and beige	[redacted]
Plymouth	1960	White color	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1951	Green pick-up truck	[redacted]
Falcon	1960	White station	[redacted]

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Make of Car	Year No.	Car Description	1965 Ala. Tag No. (except as noted)
Ford	1955	Green sedan, four white males	[redacted]
Oldsmobile	1956	Two-tone green and white, two white males	[redacted]
Falcon	1960 or 1961	Red sedan	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1960	Olive green color	[redacted]
Buick	1962	Metallic tan	[redacted]
Ford	1957	Beige and white	[redacted] b7C
Buick	1962	Hardtop Wildcat, blue with black top, one white male and one white female	[redacted]
Plymouth	1956	Station wagon, white	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1963	Bel Air, white male, female and some children	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1951	Black with two males	[redacted]
Ford	1959	White, four-door, with four white males	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1963	Hardtop, four-door, white color	[redacted]
Plymouth	1960	Two door	[redacted]

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Make of Car	Year No.	Car Description	1965 Ala Tag No. (except as noted)
Buick	1962 or 1963	Brown and tan	[redacted]
Ford	1962	Pick-up, two white males	[redacted]
Dodge	1958	Green four-door, four white males	[redacted]
Oldsmobile	1956	Two-tone blue four-door, three white males	[redacted]
Chrysler	1963	Blue four-door, seven white males	No license
Plymouth	1955	Green Savoy with two white males	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1963	White	no license
Ford	1961	Light blue	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1959	Red, two white males and one white female	[redacted]
Cadillac	1963 or 1964	Black Fleetwood, four-door, two antennas	[redacted]
Chrysler	1958	New Yorker, red and white	[redacted]
Plymouth	1965	Blue color, Fury	[redacted]
Ford Mustang	1965	Black	[redacted]
Ford	1963	Beige, four door, two males and two females	[redacted]

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Make of Car	Year No.	Car Description	1965 Ala.Tag No. (except as noted)
Nash	Unknown	Red and black, four males	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1963	White	[redacted]
Ford	1964	Blue two door with one white male	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1964	Impala, red and white	Not known
Chevrolet	1965	Two-door, red color	[redacted] 67C
Chevrolet	1958	Station wagon, Red and white	[redacted]
Buick	1956	Special, green over white	[redacted]
DeSoto	1956 or 1957	Gold and white with four white males	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1962	Maroon, two door hard top	Not known
Chevrolet	1956	Two-door Bel Air, green color, white male and white female, approximately 60 years of age	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1954	White over aqua two-door Bel Air	[redacted]
Pontiac	1956	Orange and white	[redacted]

Make of Car	Year No.	Car Description	1965 Ala. Tag No. (except as noted)
Studebaker	1959 or 1960	Lark, black, two white males	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1948	Black	[redacted]
DeSoto	1958	Gold and Cream, three white males	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1963	Red Impala, two white males	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1963	White Impala, one white male	[redacted]
Buick	1962	Black color	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1951	Green	[redacted] 67C
Chevrolet	1958	Light green Impala	[redacted]
Ford	1955	White	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1961	Nova, white one white male	[redacted]
Ford	1953	Station Wagon, red and white	[redacted]
Chrysler	1964	Convertible, beige, two white males	[redacted]
Mercedes Benz	Unknown	Two-door sedan, white, one male and three white females	[redacted]
Pontiac	Unknown	Grand Prix	[redacted]
Chevelle	Unknown	Red, three white males	[redacted]

Make of Car	Year No.	Car Description	1965 Ala.Tag No. (except as noted)
Unknown	Unknown	Four-door, blue and white	[redacted]
Unknown	Unknown	Red and white station wagon	[redacted]
Volkswagen	Unknown	Gray in color with Fort Benning sticker	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1962	White	[redacted]
Mercury Comet	1958	3 white males	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1951	Black	[redacted]
Pontiac	1958	Green	[redacted]
Ford	1962	Two males, two females, three children	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1964	-	[redacted]
Falcon	Unknown	White, with two white males	[redacted]

The following license numbers were observed and descriptions of vehicles not obtained:

1965 Alabama

[redacted]

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/24/65

The following license plates for 1965 issued in Alabama were observed at the Ku Klux Klan rally in Montgomery on March 21, 1965. Motor Vehicle Registration records reflect these tags issued as follows, by counties:

Tag No.	Issued To	Make of Car
[redacted]	[redacted]	1962 Chevrolet Impala, four-door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1957 Plymouth four-door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1964 Pontiac, four-door
[redacted]-40217	MAT H. MURPHY, JR., 210 Frank Nelson Building, Birmingham	1964 Chrysler NP convertible
[redacted]	[redacted]	1961 Oldsmobile 88, four door
[redacted]	Hertz Corp. Rent-A-Car, 2020 Fifth Avenue, North, Birmingham	1965 Chevrolet, four door, Impala
[redacted]	[redacted]	1962 Buick Sp, four door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1959 Met, two door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1963 Falcon

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on 3/22/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # Mobile 44-557

[redacted] 1950 Dodge, four door

[redacted] 1962 Ford

[redacted] 1962 Chevrolet Impala, two door

[redacted] 1964 Buick Wildcat

[redacted] 1955 Chevrolet

[redacted] 1965 Ford Mustang

[redacted] 1957 Mercury

[redacted] 1964 Rambler, four door

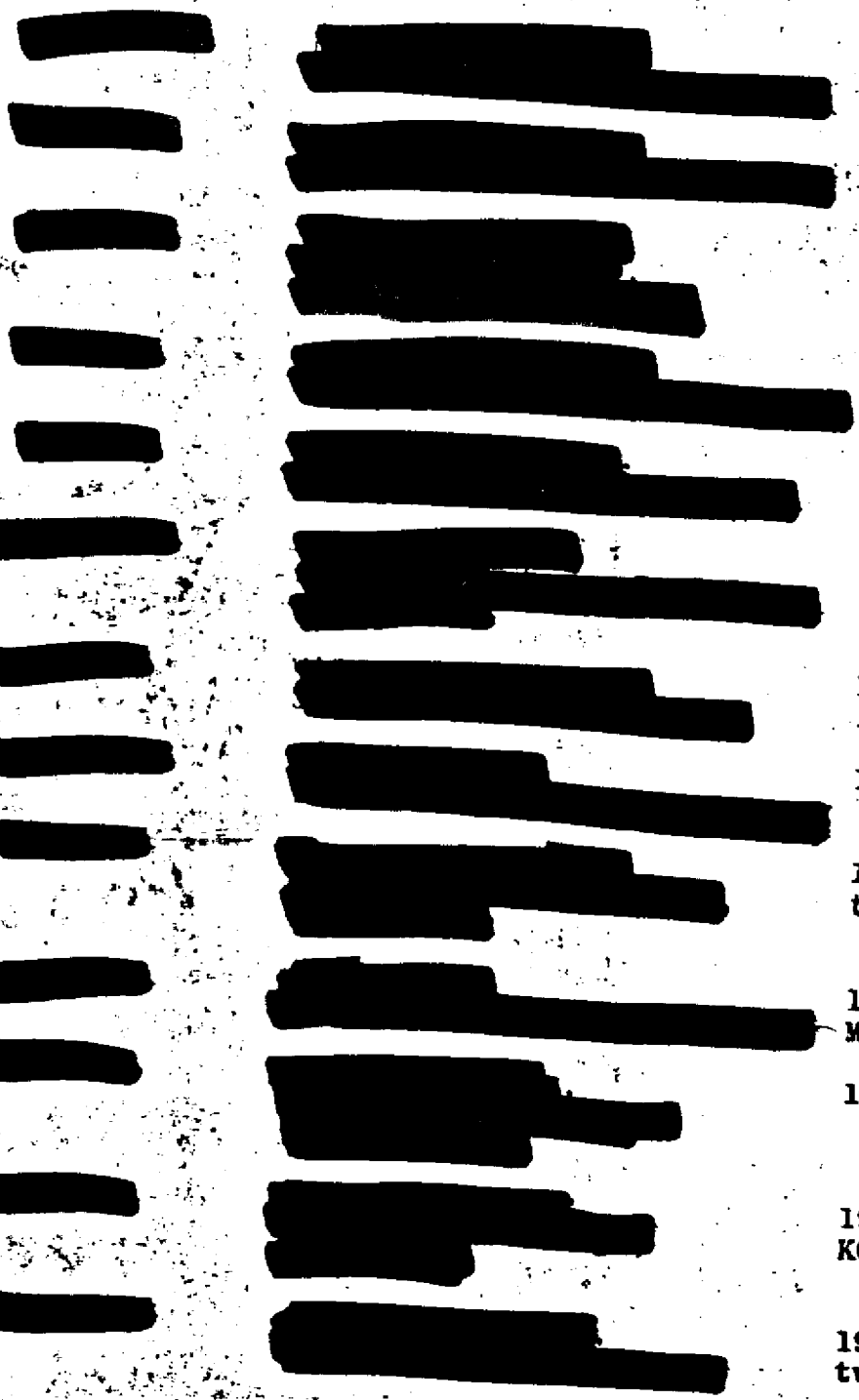
[redacted] 1964 Chevy II, four door

[redacted] 1960 Chevrolet, four door

[redacted] 1962 Buick Special four door

[redacted] 1954 Chevrolet sedan

[redacted] 1951 Chevrolet



1957 Ford
four door

1961 Triumph

1961 Chevrolet
Impala, four
door

1953 Buick

1965 Cadillac,
four door

1955 Buick,
four door

57C

1957 Cadillac,
four door

1963 Chevrolet

1963 Ford,
two door

1965 Ford
Mustang

1964 Rambler

1962 Volkswagen
KG

1955 Ford,
two door

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[redacted] 1962 Studebaker Lark

[redacted] 1958 Chevrolet, four door

[redacted] 1960 Ford Falcon

[redacted] 1955 Chevrolet, two door

[redacted] 1958 Plymouth, two door

57C

[redacted] 1956 Plymouth, two door

[redacted] 1954 Chevrolet

[redacted] 1956 Pontiac, four door

[redacted] 1954 Cadillac DeVille

[redacted] 1955 DeSoto two door

[redacted] 1964 Pontiac GP, two door

[redacted] 1965 Pontiac, four door

[redacted] 1948 Chevrolet, four door

Ben Ellis Supply Company,
851 Bell Street, Montgomery

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[redacted]	[redacted]	1956 Ford
[redacted]	[redacted]	1962 Dodge Dart, four door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1958 Pontiac, two door
[redacted]	Hertz Corp. Rent-A-Car, 353 Montgomery Street, Montgomery	1965 Chevrolet Impala
[redacted]	[redacted]	1965 Chevrolet Chevelle Super Sports
[redacted]	[redacted]	1965 Chevrolet Spt
[redacted]	[redacted]	DKW, 1964
[redacted]	[redacted]	1957 Ford
[redacted]	[redacted]	1963 Chevy II, Nova
[redacted]	[redacted]	1954 Ford station wagon
[redacted]	[redacted]	1963 Ford Falcon, four door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1962 Chevrolet Impala, two door

57C

MCI 44-557
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[redacted]	1963 Pontiac Sp
[redacted]	1962 Chevrolet BelAir
[redacted]	1955 Oldsmobile
[redacted]	1962 Ford two door
[redacted]	1962 Mercedes, four door
not listed in Montgomery	
[redacted]	1957 Mercury, four door
[redacted]	1960 Dodge
[redacted]	1965 Chevrolet, two door, Super Sports
[redacted]	1956 Oldsmobile, two door
[redacted]	1961 Falcon station wagon
[redacted]	1960 Dodge, four door
[redacted]	1955 Chevrolet, four door
[redacted]	1963 Chevrolet, four door

b7C

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[redacted]	[redacted]	1952 Chevrolet, two door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1959 Buick, two door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1956 Chrysler, four door
[redacted]	not listed in Montgomery	
[redacted]	[redacted]	1962 Chevrolet, two door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1958 Ford, four door
[redacted]	not listed in Montgomery	
[redacted]	Teal Motors, Albertville	1959 Chevrolet, two door VIN FS9J301124
[redacted]	Kiker Motors, Albertville, sold to Jack Collins Motors, Bessemer	1964 Chevrolet, two door, VIN 41847J143948
[redacted]	K & W Motors, Boaz	1963 Chevrolet Impala, two door, VIN S1847A110043
[redacted]	[redacted]	1963 Chevrolet Impala
[redacted]	[redacted]	1963 Plymouth four door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1964 Pontiac GP
[redacted]	[redacted]	1960 Chevrolet, four door

b7C

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8

[redacted] [redacted]

1961 Cadillac,
four door

DEALER TAGS:

[redacted] [redacted]

[redacted]

Motordrone, Inc.,
Sheffield

[redacted]

Summerford Used Cars,
500 North Stewart,
Hartselle

[redacted] [redacted]

67C

MO 44-1245

It is to be noted that the automobile of subject EUGENE THOMAS was noted in connection with this Rally.

MO 44-1245

III. ACTIVITIES OF VIOLA LIUZZO IN SELMA-MONTGOMERY AREA

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

1

Miss FRANCES JACKSON, 1370 George Washington Carver Homes, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

She first met Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO of Detroit, Michigan, on Friday, March 19, 1965. A boy brought Mrs. LIUZZO from the Brown Chapel AME Church to the residence of Miss JACKSON and her mother and advised the JACKSONs that Mrs. LIUZZO was assigned to live in their apartment during the week of the civil rights demonstration march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

Mrs. LIUZZO stayed Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning at the JACKSON residence. She left Sunday morning and marched with the marchers from Selma, Alabama, toward Montgomery, Alabama, returning to the apartment that same Sunday evening, March 21, 1965.

Mrs. LIUZZO remained at the JACKSON home and in the area until Wednesday morning between 6:30 and 7:00 AM, March 24, 1965. At this time she departed from the JACKSON apartment to join the marchers near Montgomery, Alabama. This was the last time that Miss JACKSON saw Mrs. LIUZZO.

During her residence in the apartment, Mrs. LIUZZO advised Miss JACKSON that she had been working with colored people in Detroit, Michigan, and that she had come to Selma, Alabama, to participate in the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

Miss JACKSON advised that Mrs. LIUZZO had been alone when she came to their home and she did not know if Mrs. LIUZZO had been accompanied by any persons on her trip from Detroit, Michigan, to Selma, Alabama.

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On 3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted], JR./ls 57C Date dictated 3/30/65

FBI/DOJ (Rev. 8-10-65)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

1

Mrs. WILLIE LEE JACKSON, Apartment 137 C, George Washington Carver Apartments, advised that she is manager of Smith's Cafe, 1811 Griffin Street, and works every day from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

She stated that she has resided in Selma, Alabama, during the past twelve years and during the past two months has been helping with preparation of food served to the demonstrators at Brown's Chapel on Sylvan Street. She stated that she is not a member of any organization, however, has been helping with the food and also making her apartment available for sleeping quarters for some of the people coming to Selma who are involved with the racial demonstrations.

She stated that when she returned home on Friday, March 19, 1965, she found that a Mrs. LIUZZO, -- whom she knows better as "VI," had moved into her apartment, having been sent there by someone who was in charge of registering the arriving demonstrators and furnishing them with places to stay. She stated that she believes Mrs. LIUZZO had arrived in Selma sometime during the morning of March 19, 1965, from Detroit, Michigan. She stated Mrs. LIUZZO was traveling alone and, to her knowledge, never went with any other person while around Selma.

She stated that also staying in her apartment were four white women, identified as follows:

"KITS" Last name unknown, from California, who stayed until March 21, 1965, at which time she went on the march to Montgomery.

A white woman, name unknown, who departed Saturday morning, March 20, 1965, and she did not know where this woman came from or went to; however, her luggage is still at Mrs. JACKSON's apartment.

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On 3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] 62C

A white woman, named JOAN, last name unknown, from Wisconsin, who departed the apartment on Wednesday, March 24, 1965, enroute to Montgomery.

PAT last name unknown, who arrived from Boston on March 20, 1965, and who left on March 21, 1965.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that there were also two Negro girls, SHIRLEY last name unknown and DEAN last name unknown, who came together from Boston, Massachusetts, on Friday, March 19, 1965, and departed Sunday evening, March 21, 1965, at approximately 9:00 p.m. enroute back to Boston.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that her daughter, FRANCES JACKSON, age 17, stayed at the apartment during the daytime hours and has told Mrs. JACKSON that Mrs. LIUZZO stayed around the apartment all day every day either sleeping or playing with FRANCES' baby, except for an hour or so each day when Mrs. LIUZZO went to Brown's Chapel.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that she was home every evening during this period and Mrs. LIUZZO stayed in the apartment every evening with the exception of about an hour or less each evening when she left the apartment saying she was going to Brown's Chapel.

Mrs. JACKSON said she had numerous conversations with Mrs. LIUZZO and found her to be a person who likes everyone she meets and after a while, you had the feeling you had known her a long time. She said during her conversations Mrs. LIUZZO never mentioned anything to her indicating that she had been molested or involved in any trouble while in Selma. Mrs. LIUZZO appeared to be in good health and the only medication she knows of was on Sunday, March 21, 1965, when Mrs. LIUZZO took an aspirin. She said Mrs. LIUZZO told her that her husband did not want her to go to Selma, Alabama, however, if she really believed in the march from Selma to Montgomery, for her to go on down to Selma.

Mrs. JACKSON said to her knowledge, Mrs. LIUZZO, when she left the apartment, was always alone and that she ate most of her meals at the apartment.

She stated that it was her impression that some of the workers of the SCLC were using Mrs. LIUZZO's automobile from the time she arrived in Selma, including taking it on the march from Selma to Montgomery, as Mrs. JACKSON had never seen her automobile. Mrs. JACKSON recalled that on Sunday, March 21, 1965, between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Mrs. LIUZZO was assigned to answering the telephone in Apartment 134 C, which is occuppied by ERMATINE WILLIAMS, on which people in connection with the demonstrations were calling, possibly for instructions, but she is not certain what the calls were about.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that at approximately 6:30 to 7:00 a.m., on Wednesday, March 24, 1965, Mrs. LIUZZO left the apartment alone on foot stating she was going to Brown's Chapel to catch a bus to Montgomery, Alabama, to St. Jude's Hospital, where she intended to take part in the march from St. Jude's onto the Alabama State Capitol Building in Montgomery. She said Mrs. LIUZZO told her at that time that her automobile was in Montgomery all the while Mrs. LIUZZO was staying at Mrs. JACKSON's residence.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that she never again saw Mrs. LIUZZO after about 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 1965.

Mrs. JACKSON was shown a photograph of a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red in color; however, she stated she has never seen such an automobile in the vicinity of her apartment. She was also shown photographs of GARY THOMAS ROWE, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, EUGENE THOMAS, and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, and stated that she had never seen any of these men to her knowledge.

MO 44-1245
JRC:gmh
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By communication of March 26, 1965, the Detroit Office advised that records of the Michigan Secretary of State Office, Lansing, Michigan, indicated a 1963 Oldsmobile Coupe, 1965 Michigan license EJ9177, was registered to ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, 19375 Marloe, Detroit, Michigan, Vehicle Registration No. 6326M60486. A Michigan Operators License, No. L200-847-015-283, was issued on April 16, 1963, to VIOLA LIUZZO, born April 11, 1925; address 19375 Marloe, Detroit, Michigan; described as a female, blonde hair, gray eyes, 5 feet 2½ inches tall, weighing 127 pounds.

The Detroit, Michigan, Police Department files revealed that VIOLA LIUZZO of 19375 Marloe, Detroit, Michigan, born April 11, 1925, at California, Pennsylvania, was arrested on June 16, 1964, for "failing to send children to school"; no disposition was shown.

The 1964 Detroit Directory revealed that ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, wife VIOLA, resided at 19375 Marloe Street, and that he was employed as Business Agent for the Teamsters of Detrcit, Michigan.

[redacted] 57C

[redacted] 57C,D

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

1

Rev. JAMES EDWARD ORANGE, home address 2310 25th Court North, Birmingham, Alabama, was interviewed at the Brown Chapel AME Church, Selma, Alabama. He furnished the following information.

One day during the civil rights march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, held between March 21 and 25, 1965, he had made an announcement at Brown Chapel AME Church concerning transportation for persons on the march. He believed this announcement was made on Tuesday, March 23, 1965. He requested that persons who had automobiles which might be used for transporting marchers come to the front of the audience.

After this announcement one of the persons who came forward and volunteered the use of her automobile for transporting civil rights marchers on the march was Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO of Detroit, Michigan. Rev. ORANGE advised that this was the same individual who had later been killed on Thursday night, March 25, 1965, near Selma, Alabama.

Rev. ORANGE advised that to the best of his recollection this was the only time he held any conversation with Mrs. LIUZZO during the period she was in Selma, Alabama.

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On 3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] /ls 62C Date dictated 3/30/65

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

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Mrs. LORETTA MITCHELL, 533 George Washington Carver Homes, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

Mrs. MITCHELL advised that she had been acquainted with Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO only through having met her on the street in the George Washington Carver Homes area during the past week. She recalled that Mrs. LIUZZO had stopped and talked to her a few minutes on the street. Their conversation consisted only of a discussion about the rainy weather. She did not know at this time this white woman's name but was later advised that this person was the woman who had been killed on the highway near Selma, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965.

Mrs. MITCHELL stated that this conversation which she had with Mrs. LIUZZO was the only time she had spoken with her. She believed this conversation was held on Wednesday, March 24, 1965.

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On 3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] /ls 57C Date dictated 3/30/65

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

1

Mrs. KANNIE LEA WASHBURN, home address Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at 10C George Washington Carver Homes, Selma, Alabama. Mrs. WASHBURN refused to give her home address and stated as the reason for her refusal, her fear of retribution by the White Citizens Council and the KKK. She furnished the following information.

Mrs. WASHBURN advised she had on one occasion during the period March 21 to 25, 1965, had lunch with a woman who introduced herself as Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO from Detroit, Michigan. This lunch was held at Brown Chapel AME Church, Selma, Alabama, where the civil rights marchers were being fed meals.

During this conversation with Mrs. LIUZZO, Mrs. LIUZZO told Mrs. WASHBURN "I had to come because of brutality in Selma, Alabama. I don't see how anybody could keep from coming". Mrs. LIUZZO indicated she had come to Selma, Alabama, for the specific purpose of participating in the civil rights demonstration march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama.

Mrs. LIUZZO also advised Mrs. WASHBURN "she sent a check here to buy food or something for these people". Mrs. LIUZZO also asked what the demonstrators needed more, food or money.

After this question by Mrs. LIUZZO, Mrs. WASHBURN searched for a person in charge and discussed this question with some minister whose name she can not recall. This minister told her that either food or money would be acceptable. Mrs. WASHBURN relayed this information to Mrs. LIUZZO.

Mrs. LIUZZO asked Mrs. WASHBURN where she was from and Mrs. WASHBURN advised her she was from Atlanta, Georgia. Mrs. WASHBURN stated that she told Mrs. LIUZZO to be careful while in Selma, Alabama, because she knew from personal experience that a lot of innocent persons in the south had been killed. She further advised Mrs. LIUZZO that women in this area were in as much danger as the men.

Mrs. WASHBURN said she told Mrs. LIUZZO that this was a dangerous place, that anywhere police used gas and prods on people is a dangerous place.

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On 3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] and [redacted]/ls 67C Date dictated 3/30/65

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

Mrs. NELL LAWSON, 5625 Thompson Mill Road, Decatur, Georgia, was interviewed at 10C George Washington Carver Homes, Selma, Alabama. She furnished the following information.

During the period March 21 to 25, 1965, Mrs. LAWSON had been working in the kitchen at Brown Chapel AME Church, Selma, Alabama. One day during this week, exact day not recalled, but believed to be Tuesday, March 23, 1965, a woman introduced herself to Mrs. LAWSON in the kitchen. This woman stated that she was Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO of Detroit, Michigan. Mrs. LIUZZO asked Mrs. LAWSON to ride with her from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, to take some persons to Montgomery for the last day's march on that city. This was to be a portion of the civil rights march made from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Mrs. LAWSON told Mrs. LIUZZO that she could not ride with her as she intended to drive her own vehicle in order that more transportation would be available as needed.

Mrs. LAWSON stated that to the best of her recollection this was the only time she had any discussion with Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO.

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On 3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] /ls 57C Date dictated 3/30/65

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IV. REPORT OF SHOOTING

MO 44-1245

The pictures on the following page are of LEROY JEROME MOTON.







MO 44-1245

V. INTERVIEWS OF PASSENGERS IN CAR OF VIOLA LIUZZO ON MONTGOMERY TO SELMA TRIP, March 25, 1965

Date March 26, 1965

Mrs. BRENTON (CLARISSA) BROWN, 1830 Hillside Road, Southampton, Pennsylvania, furnished the following information:

She stated she attended the civil rights rally near the Capitol Building in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 25, 1965. She left this area approximately 5:30 p.m. and rode in a car belonging to Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO of Detroit, Michigan, to the Municipal Airport at Montgomery, Alabama. The car was driven by a colored male by the name of LEROY MOTON from the area near the Capitol to the city of St. Jude located on Highway 80 West of Montgomery, Alabama. At the city of St. Jude they let a colored man out of the car and Mrs. LIUZZO entered the car at this place. Mrs. LIUZZO then drove her car from the city of St. Jude to the Municipal Airport where a man by the name of BART COOPERSMITH left the vehicle to catch a plane. When they left the Municipal Airport at Montgomery, Alabama, Mrs. BROWN was seated in the rear seat on the left side immediately behind the driver, Mrs. LIUZZO. In the center of the back seat, next to Mrs. BROWN, was LIZ STEWART, white female, age 16. On the right of the rear seat was seated CARLA AUSTIN, white female, age 16.

A young Negro male from Selma, Alabama, by the name of CLARENCE SMITH, was seated in the center of the front seat and LEROY MOTON was seated in the right side of the front seat.

Some place between Montgomery and Selma, Alabama, Mrs. LIUZZO stopped and purchased $3.00 worth of gasoline. Mrs. BROWN advised that she cannot recall where this gasoline was purchased as to geographic location; nor could she recall the brand of gasoline sold at this service station.

Just before driving away from the area of the capitol in Montgomery, Alabama, a military jeep driven by white military police with a colored military police ceman as a passenger in the front seat, stopped the car and asked LEROY MOTON what part of Michigan they were from. LEROY answered that he did not know.

Sometime after they drove away from the airport in Montgomery, Alabama, the exact location not known, a car approached Mrs. LIUZZO's vehicle from the rear. The car turned its lights on high beam and left them on. VIOLA remarked, "Two can

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SAs [redacted] and G:CMS b7C

Date dictated 3/26/65

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"play at the same game." She slowed down and shortly thereafter the car behind passed them at a high rate of speed. Mrs. BROWN stated she had no idea concerning the make or model of the vehicle which passed them. She could furnish no information concerning the license displayed on this vehicle. She advised that it was dark at this time; however, it was her impression that this vehicle was a buff color.

Sometime after the incident occurred, as they were proceeding on the way to Selma, a car approached the vehicle from the rear and pulled up alongside Mrs. LIUZZO's automobile. The car ahead of their vehicle had slowed down and it was her impression that the car alongside had "boxed them in." Mrs. LIUZZO had slammed on the brakes and slowed the vehicle down. Mrs. BROWN described the vehicle which had pulled alongside them as also buff in color and a two-door model. She stated she had no idea as to the make of this vehicle or any other description concerning it.

To the best of Mrs. BROWN's knowledge, the drivers of neither of the two vehicles described above had stated any words or made any remarks to the occupants of her car; nor did they make any attempt to stop Mrs. LIUZZO's vehicle.

A short time later, the vehicle in which Mrs. BROWN was riding passed a car with a Negro family in it. They observed that this automobile had no taillights. Mrs. LIUZZO honked at the occupants of this car and they shouted to the Negro family that the automobile had no taillights.

Mrs. BROWN could not recall any further incidents out of the ordinary which may have occurred on their trip from Montgomery to Selma, Alabama. She advised that the only stops they made were the stops at St. Jude's Church, the Municipal Airport, and the service station where the gasoline was purchased. No other stops were made until they arrived at the George Washington Carver Homes in Selma, Alabama, where Mrs. BROWN left the car.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 26, 1965

CARLA GARD AUSTIN, age 16, 922 Second Street Pike, Southampton, Pennsylvania, furnished the following information:

She stated she attended the civil rights rally at the front of the Capitol Building in Montgomery, Alabama, on the afternoon of March 25, 1965. She left there shortly before dark and walked one or two blocks to an automobile owned by Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO. She entered the vehicle with several others and was driven in this car to the city of St. Jude on Highway 80 outside Montgomery, Alabama. One of the passengers, whom she described only as a colored man with a beard, and whose name she does not know, left the vehicle at this point. LEROY MOTON had driven the automobile from downtown Montgomery to the city of St. Jude. Mrs. LIUZZO entered the car as the driver at the city of St. Jude and drove the vehicle to the Municipal Airport in Montgomery, Alabama. A white man whose last name was COOPERSMITH left the vehicle at this airport in order to catch a plane back to Washington. This left Mrs. CLARISSA BROWN, LIZ STEWART, and CARLA AUSTIN in the rear seat of the vehicle with CLARENCE SMITH and LEROY MOTON in the front seat of the vehicle alongside Mrs. LIUZZO, who was driving.

Shortly after they left the airport, they stopped at a service station for gasoline. She could not recall the brand of gasoline sold at this station but she described it as being the service station "just across the street" from the airport. She stated this service station was on the righthand side of Highway 80 coming towards Selma, Alabama, from Montgomery, Alabama. She noticed no particular incidents which might have occurred at any of the stops described above. They left the service station just about dusk.

They traveled then to Selma, Alabama; and en route to Selma, one car came up behind their vehicle pretty close. The driver of this vehicle turned his bright lights on their car. She recalls Mrs. LIUZZO remarked that the man wanted to see the license plates and who was in the car. They were travelling at about sixty miles per hour at this time. Mrs. LIUZZO remarked that she would give the driver of the car behi a taste of his own medicine, and she slowed down to approximately thirty-five miles per hour. The driver of the car behind them then passed the vehicle in which she was

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by SAs [redacted] and CEG:CMS b7C Date dictated 3/26/65

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riding and continued on down the highway.

Miss AUSTIN advised that she did not know the make of the vehicle which passed them at this time; nor did she know the model or color. She did not notice the license plates on the car. She does recall that she looked out a back window of the vehicle when the bright lights were turned on and observed that the car behind them had four headlights, one large light and one small light on each side of the front with the smaller light on the outside.

Sometime later in the trip she recalls that the tires screeched as Mrs. LIUZZO put on the brakes. At this time a car had pulled alongside their automobile. Miss AUSTIN advised she had the impression this was a police car, but she stated she did not know why she had this impression as she could not recall that this vehicle had any police markings or red lights on it to her knowledge. She stated that the car alongside of them pulled over to the right lane of the traffic as Mrs. LIUZZO slowed down and continued on west towards Selma, Alabama.

Miss AUSTIN advised that she did not observe the occupants of either of the vehicles in the incidents described above. The occupants of neither car made any remarks to them to her knowledge; nor did they attempt to get the vehicle in which she was riding to stop.

When they reached the bridge over the river at Selma, Alabama, they saw a car filled with Negroes, which car had no taillights. Mrs. LIUZZO remarked, "These are our people." So they shouted to them that they should get their taillights fixed.

After the stop at the service station for gasoline, the car in which ~~Miss AUSTIN~~ was riding made no stops whatsoever between Montgomery, Alabama, and the George Washington Carver Homes at Selma, where Miss AUSTIN alighted from the car.

She recalled from discussion in the car that Mrs. LIUZZO and LEROY MOTON were going to drive back to Montgomery, Alabama, after Miss AUSTIN and her companions got out of the car at the George Washington Carver Homes.

Miss AUSTIN further advised that she could not recall any descriptive matter whatsoever concerning the vehicle which had pulled alongside of them and then pulled in front of them on the highway while enroute to Selma, Alabama.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 26, 1965

LIZBETH STEWART, age 16, 1585 Winding Road, Southampton, Pennsylvania, furnished the following information:

She stated she left the civil rights rally at Montgomery, Alabama, shortly before dark on March 25, 1965. She walked to an automobile owned by Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO, which vehicle was parked approximately three to four blocks away. She got into the rear seat of this automobile with Mrs. CLARISSA BROWN and GARLA AUSTIN. CLARENCE SMITH was also sitting in the rear seat. A colored man with a beard and a white man whose name she did not know sat in the front seat of the vehicle with LEROY MOTON, who was driving.

MOTON drove the vehicle to the city of St. Jude, where the colored man with the beard got out. Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO entered the car as the driver at this point. At this time CLARENCE SMITH also got out of the rear seat and got into the front seat.

Miss STEWART could not recall whether the vehicle stopped for gasoline anywhere en route from Montgomery, to Selma, Alabama, on this trip. She advised that she was very tired and was not clear on the details of the ride.

Somewhere en route between the airport and Selma, Alabama, possibly on the two lane section of the highway, another automobile got behind them and blinked his bright lights. VIOLA slowed down and they passed. She advised that she could not furnish any information concerning the make, model, color, lights, or license which might have been on this automobile. She did not have any idea as to the number of occupants. She again stated she was very tired and had not paid much attention to this incident.

Sometime later during the same trip, the car in which she was riding braked suddenly. She heard others in the vehicle talking about being "boxed in." She advised that she could not recall anything further about this incident, such as any cars involved or why the brakes were suddenly applied.

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On 3/26/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

SAs [redacted] and 67C

by [redacted] CEG:CMS Date dictated 3/26/65

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Again Miss STEWART stated that she did not believe that they had stopped anywhere along the road between the Municipal Airport at Montgomery, Alabama , and the George Washington Carver Homes at Selma, Alabama, where she left the vehicle.

She advised she could recall no other incidents out of the ordinary which might have occurred along the road. Specifically, she could not recall any vehicle passing them slowly or anyone casting remarks at them in a manner to arouse her suspicion.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-13-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 26, 1965

CLARENCE SMITH, JR., 1430 Eugene Street, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

He stated he had attended the civil rights rally in front of the Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama, and left that area at approximately 6:00 p.m. He walked to a car which was parked about two blocks from the Capitol Building. LEROY MOTON drove this vehicle from the area of the Capitol grounds to the city of St. Jude on Highway 80 outside of the city of Montgomery, Alabama. In the car besides MOTON and SMITH was a Mrs. BROWN and two young white girls named LIZ and CARLA. There was also one other white man and one colored man whose names are not known to SMITH.

After MOTON had driven to the city of St. Jude, the colored man got out of the vehicle at this place. Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO then got into the auto as the driver and drove to the Municipal Airport outside Montgomery, Alabama. The white man got out of the car at the airport.

After they drove away from the airport they stopped at a service station near the Municipal Airport. SMITH stated he does not recall what brand of gasoline was sold at this service station but it was the closest service station to the airport entrance. Nothing out of the ordinary occurred while they were at the city of St. Jude, at the airport, or at the service station.

After they left the service station, they drove on to Selma, Alabama, without any further stops. Somewhere along the road he recalls an automobile came up behind them and turned on his bright lights. The lady driving the car in which he was riding slowed up considerably at this time. The car stayed behind them with his lights on. His car then slowed even more. About this time, the car behind them, which he believes was occupied by one white man, passed them and continued on down the highway towards Selma, Alabama. Mrs. LIUZZO then speeded up in her car and turned her bright lights on behind the car which had passed them.

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On 3/26/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SAs [redacted] and CEG:CMS b7C Date dictated 3/26/65

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SMITH advised that he cannot be sure as to the color of the vehicle which passed them at this time, but stated it seemed that the color was between an orange and a red, but more of an orange color. He thought from the taillights of this vehicle that it might be a 1964 or 1965 Pontiac Bonneville model. He described the taillights as being tall and slender. He stated he did not notice the model of this automobile; nor could he describe the license plate which appeared on it.

SMITH stated that he could recall no other incident out of the ordinary which had occurred during their travel from the airport to Selma, Alabama. When they arrived at Selma, Alabama, they went directly to the George Washington Carver Housing Project, where he and the white lady and two white girls got out of the car. LEROY MOTON remained in the car with Mrs. LIUZZO as they were going to return to Montgomery, Alabama, in order to bring more of the civil rights workers back to Selma.

MO 44-1245

VI. CRIME SCENE

MO 44-1245

VII. CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHS AND SKETCHES

MO 44-1245

VIII. CRIME SCENE SEARCH

MO 44-1245

IX. SEARCH OF VICTIM'S CAR

MO 44-1245

X. AUTOPSY

MO 44-1245
JRC:gmh
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At 2:55 a.m., March 26, 1965, Dr. PAUL SCHOFFERTT, Assistant State Toxicologist, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, advised SA [redacted] that he had completed an autopsy on VIOLA LIUZZO. [redacted] advised that a bullet entered the left side of her head about the junction of the jaw bone near the ear and went through the spinal cord at the [redacted] brain and caused almost instantaneous death. The bullet lodged at the base of the brain and did not go out of the head. [redacted]

b7C

A puncture mark was observed as though a needle was recently used in the arm of Mrs. LIUZZO. Blood specimens were being taken to determine if any unusual circumstances were present. [redacted]

b7C
b7A

Dr. SCHOFFERTT advised SA [redacted] that he desired to make further examinations and that he would make a report available as soon as he had completed all of his examinations.

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XI. ACTIVITIES OF SUBJECTS

XII. FEDERAL PROSECUTION

MO 44-1245
JRC/mjr
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The facts of this matter were brought to the attention of Acting Assistant Attorney General JOHN DOAR who authorized the filing of a complaint for violation of Section 241, Title 18, United tates Code. Accordingly, a complaint was filed by SA SPENCER H. ROBB before United States Commissioner JAMES M. GUTTERY, Montgomery, Alabama, at 10:25 a.m., March 26, 1965. Warrants were issued the same date.

The complaint states that on or about March 25, 1965, at Lowndes County, in the Middle District of Alabama, did, commencing on or about January 1, 1965, and continuing to date of this complaint, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., EUGENE THOMAS, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., within the Middle District of Alabama, Northern Division, conspired together with each other and with other persons unknown to injure, oppress, threaten, and intimidate citizens of the United States in the vicinity of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, in the free exercise and enjoyment of the following rights and privileges secured them by the Constitution and laws of the United States:

1) The right to peacefully assemble, publicly protest and petition the Governor of Alabama for redress of grievances on behalf of Negro citizens of Alabama free from arbitrary and oppressive interference from the State of Alabama.

2) The right to publicly protest unlawful deprivation of the right of Negroes of Alabama to register to vote and to vote for candidates for Federal offices.

3) The right to encourage and assist Negro citizens of Alabama in the exercise of their right to register to vote and to vote for candidates for Federal Offices.

4) The right to participate in a protest march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to present a petition to Governor of Alabama in Montgomery, Alabama, and to participate

in the carrying out of a proposed plan for such march pursuant to and under the terms of an order entered on March 17, 1965, by the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama in the case of WILLIAMS versus WALLACE, No. 2181-N.

It was part of the plan and purpose of the conspiracy that the defendant [illegible], threaten, assault, shoot and kill persons who came to the area of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, to participate in and lend their support to a demonstration march from Selma to Montgomery pursuant to a plan approved by an order of the United States District Court, Middle District of Alabama on March 17, 1965, referred to above, and to harass, threaten, assault, shoot and kill Negro citizens of Alabama who participated in or supported the march, in violation of Section 241, Title 18, United States Code, and complainant stated that this complaint is based on information coming to the attention of Special Agent SPENCER ROWE of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, during the course of an official investigation.

MO 44-1245
JRC/gmh/mjr
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By communication of March 26, 1965, the Birmingham Office advised that subject ROWE was taken into custody at 11:06 a.m., March 26, 1965; subject THOMAS was arrested at 11:08 a.m., at Lorene's Cafe, Bessemer, Alabama; subject WILKINS was arrested at 11:07 a.m., in his automobile on Highway 11 in Bessemer; and subject EATON was arrested at 11:16 a.m., March 26, 1965, at his residence on Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama.

All four subjects were arraigned before United States Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, at Birmingham, Alabama, on March 26, 1965. Subjects THOMAS, EATON and WILKINS were represented by Attorney MATT MURPHY. Bond for the subjects was fixed at $50,000 each and they were remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal at Birmingham and committed to the Jefferson County Jail, Birmingham, Alabama.

Subjects THOMAS, EATON and ROWE were released on bond from the Jefferson County Jail, Birmingham, Alabama, at 8:19 p.m., March 26, 1965. Bond was arranged by Attorney MATT MURPHY. Bond had also been arranged for subject WILKINS; however, he was not released since the United States Marshal received a Probation Violator's Warrant on WILKINS in connection with a Federal Firearms violation.

XIII. INVESTIGATION AS TO ACTIVITIES OF SUBJECTS

MO 44-1245
JRC/mjr
1

By communication of March 28, 1965, the Birmingham Office advised that all four subjects had breakfast in a restaurant at Prattville, Alabama. This restaurant was located on the left side of U. S. Highway 31, at the intersection of the first road that crosses U. S. Highway 31, south of a large green water tower with the sign Prattville written thereon.

MO 44-1245
MGT/mjr
1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] at Prattville, Alabama, on March 29, 1965. 67C

JEAN COLLINS, employee, Go Go Restaurant, was shown photographs of four subjects and she related she did not recall them being at that restaurant on the morning of Thursday, March 25, 1965. She said she felt she would recall the boys had they been in the restaurant together for breakfast. She stated that Mr. R. K. JACKSON eats breakfast there almost every morning and might recall the four subjects.

R. K. JACKSON was shown photographs of the subjects and was unable to identify them. He stated he had breakfast at the Go Go Restaurant on March 25, 1965, but does not recall the four subjects being there for breakfast on that date.

FLORENCE ALINE POWELL, employee, Go Go Restaurant, said she was the waitress working at the Go Go Restaurant on the morning of March 25, 1965. She viewed photographs of the subjects and stated she did not recall any of them eating breakfast there on that date. She stated the restaurant is operated by a Mr. BOIN and he had owned the restaurant for only two weeks and he was not there on the morning of March 25, 1965.

Mr. R. C. CARLTON advised he frequently eats breakfast at the Go Go Restaurant but was not there on the morning of March 25, 1965.

From observation it was observed that the Go Go Restaurant is located on a cross street just West of U. S. Highway 31. It is the first place of business located on this cross street and the restaurant faces South. The cross street is the first cross street South of the water tank which bears the name Prattville, Alabama.

TOM H. KENNEDY, owner Bob's Frostop Cafe, advised he does not serve breakfast and does not open each day until approximately 10:00 a.m. He stated he serves almost exclusively barbeque at the cafe. He was shown photographs of the subjects and stated he did not recall seeing any of them at his cafe.

From observation it is noted the Frostop Cafe faces West and is located on the East side of U. S. 31 just North of the above-mentioned cross street.

SARAH COOK, waitress, American Cafe and Pan-Am Service Station, U. S. Highway 31, advised she was the only employee working at that Cafe on Thursday morning, March 25, 1965. She viewed photographs of the subjects and advised she does not recall them having breakfast at that Cafe on March 25, 1965. She stated she felt sure she would recall them had they eaten breakfast there.

L. GODWIN, employee, Pan-Am Service Station, located on U. S. Highway 31, was shown photographs of the subjects and he related he does not recall ever seeing either of them in the past.

Through observation it was observed that the American Cafe faces East on U. S. 31 and is across the street from the Frostop Cafe. It is on the West side of U. S. 31 and is on the corner of the first cross street below the water tower.

H. F. GATES, Old Hickory Barbeque Restaurant, stated he was the only employee working at that restaurant on the morning of March 25, 1965. He stated that restaurant does not serve breakfast and only sells barbeque and camp stew. He viewed photographs of the subjects and stated that they are unknown to him and he does not recall them being in his restaurant.

Mr. J. J. FULLER and his wife, THELMA, stated they have operated the Old Hickory Restaurant for two weeks. They stated they were not working on the morning of March 25, 1965 as only Mr. GATES was there. They viewed photographs of the subjects and stated the subjects were unknown to them.

Through observation it was observed that the Old Hickory Barbeque faces North and is across the street from the Go Go Restaurant. It has an artificial brick front and upon leaving the restaurant a person would view the Prattville water tower.

Through observation it was determined there is no all-day parking lot in the Prattville area near the area of the Go Go Restaurant.

H. MARTIN, operator of a Standard Oil Service Station on Gage Court, Prattville, Alabama, advised there are no all-day parking lots in the area of that station or the Go Go Restaurant.

JOE PENTON, Joe's Cities Service Station, 615 North Main Street, Prattville, Alabama, advised there are no parking lots in the area of his service station or the Go Go Restaurant.

1

Date March 29, 1965

During the morning and afternoon of March 25, 1965, this Agent, in the company of SA [redacted] was assigned to follow the march of the demonstrators from the camp site at the City of St. Jude, Montgomery, Alabama, to the State Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama, and thereafter to mingle in the area of the assembly to observe any incidents in violation of Federal law.

At an unrecalled time early during this afternoon, this Agent went to an Amoco Service Station located on Dexter Street, and which is recalled to be Hull Street, approximately two blocks away from the Capitol for the purpose of attempting to get something to eat.

In order to leave the immediate area of the assembly, this Agent was requested by National Guard personnel to show his credentials. Immediately thereafter, "Security Officers" of the marchers requested identification at the perimeter of the crowd.

Upon entering onto the premises of the Amoco Station, with credentials still in hand, the owner of same asked for identification. At this time the credentials were shown again. b7c

At the Amoco Station this Agent obtained two Coca Colas, a package of donuts, a package of fig bars, and a package of cigarettes. While in this station, this Agent did not use the telephone.

Upon obtaining the afore-mentioned items, this Agent left the station and returned to an observation point established by Agent [redacted] where the refreshments were consumed.

While at the service station, observation determined that there were approximately 17 to 20 white males on the premises. These persons were observing the demonstration and speaking to each other and at the time were not heckling the marchers.

The person who waited on this Agent spoke of having lost money by the day's activities, which indicated he was the owner of this service station. He was observed to be a white male, approximately 48 - 50 years of age, 5' 8", 175 pounds, graying hair, wearing glasses and a gray uniform.

3/25/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

SA [redacted] b7c /mjr Date dictated 3/28/65

ument 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.

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 30, 1965

1

Mr. MURRAY PATTERSON, Owner, American Service Station, 351 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, advised as follows:

He stated that during the afternoon of the civil rights demonstration and march, which took place on March 25, 1965, a spectator to the march entered his station and advised him that one of the demonstrators had cut the line to a public phone booth located outside of his station. He stated he did not know the identity of the spectator. He added that during this same day, an Army Major was sometimes parked outside of his station in an Army jeep. He stated that on about two occasions this Army Major entered his station. He stated that he believed the Major's last name was GIBSON, but added that he was not positive of this. He added that he did not know if the Major was attached to the regular Army or the Army National Guard.

117

On 3-30-65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1285

SA [redacted] and [redacted] 67C Date dictated 3-30-65

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

RAY MC DANIEL, Office Manager, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, furnished the following information:

He located a repair order for telephone number 269-9731 reflecting that at 1:07 PM, March 25, 1965, a report was received marked PATTERSON, 351 Dexter, reporting a cord broken during march. The report reflects that installer-repairman with initials "A.T.S." was dispatched at 7:15 AM on March 26, 1965, and he reported the receiver cord was cut during march. The cord was replaced and the complaint cleared at 8:22 AM, March 26, 1965.

67C

Mr. MC DANIEL advised that H. H. MITCHAM, Plant Manager, is the custodian of repair records quoted above. MITCHAM's home address is [redacted]

Mr. MC DANIEL advised that installer-repairman A. T. SUMMERLIN was the man who repaired the telephone. His home address is [redacted]

118

3/30/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

MO 44-1245
SHR/mjr
1

On March 29, 1965, BENJAMIN VAN CLARK, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Headquarters, Montgomery, Alabama, advised SA [redacted] that no persons remain in Montgomery who would be familiar with Mrs. LIUZZO's participation in the Civil Rights activities in this area. He advised that AL LINGO and HOSEA WILLIAMS of SCLC in Atlanta, are the only persons he knows of who would be familiar with Mrs. LIUZZO's Civil Rights activities in connection with the March on Montgomery.

On March 29, 1965, GLORIA RENFORD, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Headquarters, Montgomery, Alabama, advised SA [redacted] that no SNCC people would be familiar with Mrs. LIUZZO's Civil Rights activities as she was working exclusively with SCLC people.

12c

MO 44-1245
JWB/[illegible]
1

On March 29, 1965, MURRAY PATTERSON, American Service Station, 351 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama, Telephone Number 262-9402, advised Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] that he is employed as manager of the service station. He stated that he was at the station on March 25, 1965, all day and that due to the march of civil rights demonstrators, did not attempt to conduct business that day inasmuch as the streets were blocked off and the crowds were too large.

PATTERSON advised that there were mass numbers of people in the vicinity of his gas station all day long and that he could not recall any four individuals who were there for any length of time. PATTERSON was shown photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, [illegible] WILKINS, and HENRY THOMAS ROWE, JR. PATTERSON stated he could not state that these four individuals were at his gas station on March 25, 1965, as the crowds were so large he could not recognize any particular person.

PATTERSON further advised that RICHARD CASTLEBERRY is working part time at the gas station on March 25, 1965, but it was his day off. He said that CASTLEBERRY lives on Danville Road, Montgomery, Alabama, and works for the Southboard Railroad Company.

On March 29, 1965, [illegible], Self-Park Parking Lot, Montgomery, Alabama, advised he was working that day on March 25, 1965, and stated that he recalled that several cars were parked in his lot that day and inasmuch as this parking lot is a self-park type place, he could not recall any specific cars that were parked there. HORTON was specifically asked if he recalled a 1962 red and white, two door, hardtop Chevrolet in the lot on that date and HORTON advised that he could not recall make or color of any specific car in his lot.

On March 29, 1965, JOHN T. GRIMES, employee, Park Parking Lot, Monroe and Lawrence Streets, advised he did not recall seeing the red and white, two door, hardtop Corvair on that lot inasmuch as the cars are parked by the owners, and due to the large number of vehicles in the lot.

XIV. STATE PROSECUTION

MD 44-1245
JRC:gmh
1

Governor GEORGE C. WALLACE, State of Alabama, telephonically contacted Special Agent [redacted] at Montgomery, Alabama, on March 26, 1965, and expressed complete disgust with the "cowardly act" perpetrated by the subjects of the case or anyone who would do such an act of violence. Governor WALLACE stated he had instructed Colonel AL LINGO, Director, Alabama State Department of Public Safety, to make available all resources of his department and to afford complete cooperation to the FBI in pursuing the investigation in this matter. Governor WALLACE stated he also had requested the State Toxicologist Office at Auburn, Alabama, to cooperate fully with the FBI. He also advised that he would contact Circuit Solicitor ARTHUR GAMBLE, JR., Greenville, Alabama, and request that he also afford his cooperation. 62C

Governor WALLACE requested that State authorities be afforded the results of the FBI investigation that would support the issuance of a warrant for murder, as soon as completed.

[redacted] Alabama Highway Patrol Investigator, advised on March 26, 1965, that LEROY JEROME MCTON was being held at the Dallas County Jail as a "material witness."

145

XV. MISCELLANEOUS

MO 44-1745
EGP:kg

Colonel [illegible] MORGAN, 156 M.P. Battalion, Army National Guard, Linden, Alabama, on March 26, 1965, advised Special Agent [redacted] that he had received orders to pull his men out of the Selma, Alabama, area as of 9 P.M., March 25, 1965. Colonel MORGAN advised that he would maintain a skeleton force in the Selma area during the period of 4 P.M. to 10 P.M., March 25, 1965.

Colonel MORGAN advised that he was informed by the Alabama State Troopers that a shooting of an individual had taken place on Highway 80 East on the evening of March 25, 1965. Colonel MORGAN did not dispatch any troops to the scene as he had previously received orders to take his troops out of the area.

Lt. JAMES [illegible] OVERSTREET, 156 M.P. Battalion, Army National Guard, advised that he was the only officer on duty in Selma, Alabama, during the period of 4 P.M. to 10 P.M., March 25, 1965. Lt. OVERSTREET further advised that there were nine other men on duty during this period. They were stationed at various points throughout the city. Lt. OVERSTREET, whose home address is Box [illegible], Alabama, was unable to furnish any information that would be of assistance in any way.

b7C

According to Lt. OVERSTREET, Warranty Officer [illegible] COSBY was the duty officer on March 25, 1965.

Warrant Officer COSBY stated that he had received the information concerning the shooting that occurred on Route 80 East the evening of March 25, 1965, from the Alabama State Troopers and rushed this call directly to Col. [illegible] MORGAN. He stated that while on duty March 25, 1965, he received no reports concerning suspicious activity, persons or vehicles in the Selma, Alabama, area.

The following men, all members of 156 M.P. Battalion, who were on duty 4 P.M. to 10 P.M., Selma, Alabama, March 25, 1965, including the vicinity of Brown

Chapel, were interviewed on March 26, 1965. They were questioned concerning any suspicious person, cars or events that took place during the afternoon and evening of March 25, 1965. They were questioned as to whether they had seen a 1963 light blue Oldsmobile bearing Michigan license or if they had observed a red and white vehicle in the area. They could furnish no information of value:

GEORGE THOMAS TURNER, SP4, interviewed by Special Agent [redacted]

NORRIS DOVETT, SP4, interviewed by Special Agent [redacted]

DON JENKINS, SP4, interviewed by Special Agen[redacted]

ED HEAPE BRADLEY, Corporal, interviewed by Special Agent [redacted]

JESSIE GRIFFITH, Private, interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] b7C

JAMES THOMPSON, PFC, interviewed by Special Agent [redacted]

JAMES H CARPENTER, PFC, interviewed by Special Agent [redacted]

JOE HOFFMAN, SP4, interviewed by Special Agent [redacted]

DOYL GRIFFITH, PFC, interviewed by Special Agent [redacted]

JAMES E. TURNER, SP4, interviewed by Special Agent [redacted]

BILLY TAYLOR, Specialist, interviewed by Special Agent [redacted]

MO 44-1245
TEB/bah
1

Mr. THOMAS BISSINGER, 116 Perry Street, New York 14, New Yo presently residing at 21-C George Washington Carver Apartments, Selma, Alabama furnished the following information to SA [redacted]

At about 11:00 PM, March 25, 1965, he received a telephone call at the First Baptist Church from a white male, southerner. The caller stated he had heard on the news that a woman had been shot and that he had some informatio The caller disclosed that at about 8:30 or 9:00 PM that evening he had observed a 1960 or 1961 red Chevrolet convertible following very closely behind a blue Olds- mobile driven by a white woman and containing one Negro passenger. The Chevrolet appeared very suspicious, and the caller stated that he followed the two cars along Broad Street and out Highway 80 to Cap's Service Station where he discontinued following the vehicles. The caller stated there were four white males in the Chevrolet, two in the front and two in the rear.

The informant refused to disclose his name to Mr. BISSINGER but stated that he might come around to the Baptist Church the following morning.

152

MO 44-1245

EB:kg

On March 25, 1965, the following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted]: 57c

TOM BESSINGER, who was presently residing at 121 George Washington Courts, advised that the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee office had received a telephone call at approximately 11 P.M. from an unidentified male indicating that this unidentified male had heard on a news report that a woman had just been killed. The unidentified caller had refused to make his identity known, but advised that at approximately 7 P.M. on March 25, 1965, he had seen a 1960 or 1961 red convertible following a 1963 blue Oldsmobile that was being driven by a white woman and carrying a Negro passenger. BESSINGER advised that the unidentified caller stated that he was quite suspicious of the red Chevrolet in that it had followed the Oldsmobile very closely. He stated that this unidentified caller advised him that he had followed the red Chevrolet and Oldsmobile down Broad Street and out route 80 East to Kapps Service Station before turning around. BESSINGER advised he would immediately contact the FBI if he received any more information in reference to the case of if he received information that would identify the person making the call.

BILL BURDICK, First Baptist Church, who was residing at 2216 Haray in Selma advised he was driving a rented truck for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and had left Montgomery, Alabama, at an unrecalled time. He stated he was carrying two adults and four youths as passengers and the electrical equipment that had been used for the demonstration march. He advised that approximately 25 miles from Montgomery he saw a light and dark car parked on the right side of the roadway. He advised these vehicles were headed towards Selma, but that he could not recall any further description as to the type of cars. BURDICK stated he did not see the 1963 Oldsmobile on the left side of the roadway.

[redacted]

153

B. T. BONNER, Negro male, home address 1907 Bethune Street, Austin, Texas, advised he had been following BILL BURDICK and was about five miles behind him when he advised he also saw two cars on the highway approximately 25 miles from Montgomery. He stated as he approached the vehicle one car pulled out in front of him and disappeared, heading east towards Selma. He stated he got behind the other vehicle and noticed it to be a cream colored car, type of vehicle unknown, pulling a trailer with large tail lights. He advised he had seen a green and light colored 1955 Ford on the left side of the highway as he was driving east towards Selma ten or fifteen miles from Montgomery. He stated that this vehicle was parked near a gasoline station, name unrecalled. He advised he was unable to recall any further descriptive information as to the type of vehicles he saw on the highway. He stated that as he proceeded east on Highway 80 a Negro male came from the side of the highway and attempted to flag him down. [redacted] 6

EVAN HACKER, 211 East Freeman Street, Carbondale, Illinois, advised he was one of the last buses to leave the capitol area. He advised when they passed St. Jude's Church on Highway 80 traveling east an ambulance passed them at a high rate of speed with its red light on. He advised when the bus passed the scene of the murder, several State Police cars were in the area. HACKER stated that he had seen a 1960 model light colored car on the right side of the roadway near the scene of the accident, but that this car was probably an unmarked law enforcement vehicle. He advised that he could not recall seeing a 1955 Ford along the roadway.

The following individuals were contact with negative results as to developing information about suspect's vehicle:

JAMES HOUSER, 107 Bridge Street, St. Augustine, Florida;

MO 44-1245
CB:kg
3

ABRAHAM BANKS, 1217 Voeglin, Selma, Alabama;

LEWIS DAVIDSON, 1140 Union Avenue;

JONATHON DANIELS, 118C George Washington Carver;

JOHN UPHAM, 118C George Washington Carver;

LYNN ADDISON, 118C George Washington Carver;

MARGARET DOBBIE, 118C George Washington Carver;

DAVID BEY, Torch Motel;

JIM WILSON, Torch Motel;

FRANK SORACCO, 2021 Eugene;

WILLIE JAMES HAWKIN, 862 Lucy Street, Montgomery, Alabama;

JAMES BROWN, Route 1, Box 180, Bratt, Alabama.

APPENDIX

UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (UNITED KLANS)

Records of Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, reflect that this Klan organization was granted a corporate charter on February 21, 1961, at Atlanta, Georgia, under the name United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc.

A source advised on February 27, 1961, that United Klans was formed as a result of a split in U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klans, Inc. According to the source, the split resulted from a leadership dispute and United Klans has the same aims and objectives as the parent group. These are the promotion of Americanism, white supremacy and segregation of the races.

The first source and a second source advised in July, 1961, that United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc., merged with Alabama Knights, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The merged organization established headquarters in Suite 401, The Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The organization is directed by ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, and is the dominant Klan group in the South with units in several southern states.

Second source advised that at a meeting at Prattville, Alabama, on October 22, 1961, the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, merged with the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

APPENDIX



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER

PART 2 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 44-28601

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 3/30/65

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka - VICTIM;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM
CR - EL

Re report of SA [redacted] 3/30/65, at Mobile (Selma).

67C

Enclosed to the Bureau are five copies of referenced report of SA [redacted], dated 3/30/65. Additional copies are provided because of the nature of the investigation.

Additional copies are provided Birmingham and Mobile for investigative use.

The report is not being disseminated to Departmental Attorney or USAs until advised to do so by the Bureau.

A Federal Grand Jury is scheduled for April 5, 1965, and Bureau is requested to promptly advise.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 5)
1 - Birmingham
1 - Mobile (Selma)
JRC/mjr
(4)

REC-10 44-1245-21

4 APR 1 1965

EX-101

STAT. SECT.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 3-29-65

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: FBI PRESS RELEASES

The attached news ticker story concerning the Alabama civil rights murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo highlights the Bureau's discretion in handling press releases regarding major investigations.

The wisdom of the Bureau's long-standing policy of issuing an initial and pertinent press release dealing with facts rightfully belong to the public and then declining additional comment has been reaffirmed in this case and has stimulated even greater respect for the Bureau's proper position in handling such matters. The apparent respect evidenced by the press for the Bureau's position is another vindication of the propriety of the Bureau's press release procedures.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1- Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Gale
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan

CRH:rs (8)

ENCLOSURE

APR 2 1965

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

CRIME RESEARCH

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 27 1965

TELETYPE

I WASH DC

I BIRMINGHAM

35 PM CST URGENT 3-27-65 WKP

: DIRECTOR

ON: BIRMINGHAM (44-1236) (P) 2P

EUGENE THOMAS/ ET AL / VIOLA LUIZZO, AKA MRS. ANTHONY J. LUIZZO / ROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIMS. CR DASH EL.

RE BIRMINGHAM TELS, MARCH TWENTYSIX, LAST.

[redacted] ADVISED EUGENE THOMAS, GARY THOMAS WE, AND WILLIAM O. EATON RELEASED ON BOND APPROXIMATELY NINE THIRTY ., EVENING MARCH TWENTYSIX. BOND PUT UP IN FORM OF PROPERTY FROM Y KLANSMEN. THREE SUBJECTS IMMEDIATELY MET WITH MATT MURPHY, TORNEY FOR UKA, INC., KKKK, ROBERT SHELTON, IMPERIAL WIZARD, ERT CREEL, GRAND DRAGON, REALM OF ALABAMA, RALPH ROTON, BELIEVED ATE KLEAGLE, ROBERT THOMAS, GRAND TITAN, PROVINCE NUMBER FIVE, AND E REEVES, EXALTED CYCLOPS, EASTVIEW KLAVERN [illegible]EN, IN MURPHY'S FICE. PRIMARY DISCUSSION CONCERNING WHY ROWE NOT GIVEN HEARING TIL FIVE P.M. ROWE ADVISED GROUP HE WAS DRI[illegible] AND AROUND MINGHAM AND TO MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, BY FBI, WHILE FBI QUESTIONED AND THAT FBI OFFERED HIM ~~QUOTE~~ ANYTHING HE WANTED ~~UNQUOTE~~ TO

D PAGE TWO

56 APR 6 1965

REC-18
MCT-20

EX-101

21 MAR 29 1965

GIN PAGE TWO

VE EVIDENCE IN MURDER CASE AND AGAINST SHELTON AND THE KLAN IN

NERAL.

D AND ACK

.....JRL

I WASH DC

' CL

FBI

Date: 3/27/65

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

AIRTEL _____ AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (44-New) (RUC)

EUGENE THOMAS
ET AL;
MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM
CR

[redacted] advised 3/27/65 news photo of THOMAS in "The Tampa Tribune" resembles her husband [redacted]. She has not seen [redacted] since [redacted] last heard from him [redacted] when he called her by telephone and was apparently in or near Tampa. She is in process of obtaining divorce from [redacted] She does not know [redacted] present whereabouts. She never knew him to have any connection with the KKK or interest in civil rights matters. Only basis for thinking he might be identical with THOMAS is physical resemblance of newspaper photographs.

[redacted] knows very little of [redacted] background as she says most of the information he gave her was later found to be untrue. She described [redacted] as follows:

White male, age 47, born [redacted], height 6', weight 180 pounds, hair brown, eyes green, complexion fair, medium build, SSN [redacted] has tattoos of star on right forearm.

(3) - Bureau
2 - Birmingham
1 - Tampa
HKR:jw
(6)
C C - Wick

MCT-20
REC-18
44-[redacted]
2 MAR 29 1965
EX-101

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

TP 44-New

Foregoing is for information Bureau and Birmingham. In the absence of additional information indicating [redacted] is identical to THOMAS, no further investigation contemplated by Tampa.

67

The Attorney General

April 1, 1965

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO
LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA
MARCH 25, 1965
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth developments in the FBI's investigation of the fatal shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo which may be of interest to you.

This information has been furnished to the White House.

Enclosure

1 - The Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)

1 - Mr. John Doar (Enclosure)
Acting Assistant Attorney General

JWH/p
(13)

MAILED 2
APR 1 1965
COMM-FBI

ENCLOSURE

9 APR 5 - 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

RECD-READING ROOM

19 APR 2 1965

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley

April 1, 1965

1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO
LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA
MARCH 25, 1965

This is to advise you of developments in our investigation of the fatal shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a civil rights worker, in Lowndes County, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965. As you are aware, four subjects, Eugene Thomas, William Orville Eaton, Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., and Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., were arrested by FBI Agents on March 26, 1965, and charged with violation of a Federal civil rights statute in connection with the shooting of Mrs. Liuzzo. The four subjects have posted $50,000 bond each and have been released on this charge pending Federal Grand Jury action. Subject Wilkins has also posted a $500 bond on a Parole Violators Warrant which grew out of his previous conviction for a violation of the Federal Firearms Act.

[redacted] 57A

[redacted] 57A

JWH/pak
(13)

44-25601

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐ ENCLOSURE

Memorandum

DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

: THE DIRECTOR

DATE: 3/26/65

M : A. H. Belmont

JECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS
Viola Liuzzo, Victim
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

For the Director's information, Inspector Malley and I have been in direct touch with this situation throughout the night, and with Inspector Sullivan in Selma and SAC Ingram and Inspector McGovern at Birmingham, to insure that it was handled rapidly and thoroughly.

The Birmingham Office and Inspector Sullivan at Selma are working closely together so that we can develop the maximum of information in the minimum of time. Both offices have been instructed that all agents must keep their mouths shut and our goal is to develop sufficient detail from the informant to permit full identification of the subjects and corroborating evidence that will permit us to take action as soon as possible today, from the standpoint of arrests and searches.

You will be kept advised.

REC- 11

33

AHB:CSH (5)

EX-101

4 APR 2 1965

cc Mr. Belmont
Mr. Rosen
Mr. McGowan
Mr. DeLoach

no information is to come out from Alabama. The A.G. + I will see the President when something can be said + President will announce it. Put all speed possible on this

9 APR 5 - 1965

CC - Mr. Tolson

FBI

Date: 3-29-65

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

AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
Attention: Laboratory

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA LIUZZO aka. - Victim;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - Victim
CR - EL

ReButel to MOBILE/SELMA 3-29-65.

On the night of 3-25-65 victims car was fired upon by handguns believed to be .38 caliber and .22 caliber

[redacted]

REC- 11

(4) - Bureau (RM) (Enc. - 4)
(1 - Package)
2 - Mobile

EX-101

2 MAR 31

BWG:kg
(6)

SEE NOTE

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
RMINGHAM	MOBILE	3/30/65	3/26-30/65

OF CASE	REPORT MADE BY	TYPED
GENE THOMAS; LLIAM ORVILLE EATON; LLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.; RY THOMAS ROWE, JR. OLA LIUZZO - VICTIM; ROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM.	ASAC ROBERT G. JENSEN	fc
	CHARACTER OF CASE CR - EL	

REFERENCE: Birmingham teletype to Bureau, 3/26/65.

P.

INFORMANTS:

[redacted] b7D

It is noted that copies have been designated for the U. S. Attorney at Montgomery and at Birmingham, Ala., however, no dissemination of this report is being made at this time.

OVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
ES MADE: 5 Bureau (AMSD - REGISTERED MAIL) 5 Mobile (Selma) 1 USA, Montgomery 1 USA, Birmingham 5 Birmingham (44-1236)		44- 2 6 1 REC-6 4 APR 1 1965

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT					NOTATIONS
CY.	2 CRD				
ENT RECD.					
FWD.	3-31-65				
FWD.	[illegible]				
	[illegible]				

ST [illegible]

6 [illegible] 65

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—70284-1

The following description was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.
Residence	205 16th Place SW, Apartment 35A Birmingham, Alabama
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date and place of birth	August 15, 1930, Savannah, Georgia
Height	6'
Weight	220 lbs.
Build	Medium
Hair	Red
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Light
Social Security No.	255-46-1902
Employment	Presently unemployed
Military service	U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, SN 1044062; honorably discharged March 4, 1957
Marital status	Divorced

1

Date 3/29/65

At approximately 4 p.m., March 26, 1965, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., was placed under arrest by SAs [redacted] at a location on the outskirts of Birmingham in the vicinity of the southern city limits of Birmingham, Alabama.

ROWE was advised that he did not have to furnish any information, that any information he furnished could be used against him in a court of law and that he could consult an attorney. He was informed that he would be transported immediately to the office of the U. S. Commissioner in the U. S. Post Office Building at Birmingham, Alabama, where bond would be set and that while at the U. S. Post Office Building he would be placed in the custody of the U. S. Marshal. ROWE made no statement except to the effect that he would contact his attorney while at the office of the U. S. Marshal.

ROWE was immediately transported to the office of the U. S. Marshal at Birmingham, Alabama, and was afforded an immediate appearance before U. S. Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, it being noted that ROWE's attorney, MATT MURPHY, JR., was present.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

SAs [redacted] &

by [redacted] mjh Date dictated 3/29/65

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 3/26/65

1

At 1:48 p.m., March 26, 1965, a search warrant was serve at the apartment of GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Apartment Number 35A, 205 16th Place, Southwest, Birmingham, Alabama, in the company of Special Agents [redacted], and [redacted] Special Agent [redacted] executed search warrant issued by the U. S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama.

The apartment was entered through the unlocked rear door, after permission to enter had been requested. It was determined upon entering the apartment that it was unoccupied. A copy of the search warrant and a list of items taken pursuant to the search warrant was left at the premises at 2:35 p.m.

The premises were searched by SA [redacted] and [redacted] and the search was completed at 2:35 p.m. March 26, 1965.

The following items were taken:

1) One metal container, army brown in color with the following markings " Do not use as food container, 900 cartridges .30 carbine ball M1 in 50 round cartons lot LC 13029."

Containing as follows:

A) 139 rounds of various caliber live ammunition and one spent .22 cartridge casing.

B) One 30 round capacity magazine for .30 caliber revolver.

C) One cloth bag containing 126 rounds various caliber live ammunition and one spent .38 cartridge casing. The bag is marked Cherry-Burrell Corp.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] Date dictated 3/26/65

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.

D) Four boxes of "Western Brand Super-Match" midrange .30 caliber ammunition containing a total of 80 rounds of live ammunition and 80 spent cartridges.

2) One German made bayonet and sheath.

3) One .38 caliber Western live cartridge found on bedroom dresser.

1

Date 3/26/65

EUGENE THOMAS was placed under arrest by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] 57c at Lorene's Cafe, Bessemer, Alabama, at 11:08 a.m., March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SA [redacted] & 57c
SA [redacted] : mjh Date dictated 3/26/65

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.

1

Date 3/26/65

EUGENE THOMAS arrived at the FBI Office, 14th Floor, 2121 Building, Birmingham, Alabama, at 11:45 a.m., March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SA [redacted] mjh 576 Date dictated 3/26/65

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[redacted] 67A

[redacted] 67A

[redacted] 67A

[redacted] 67A

EUGENE THOMAS furnished the following information pertaining to his physical description:

Name:	EUGENE THOMAS, aka Gene
Date of Birth:	March 21, 1923
Place of Birth:	Bessemer, Alabama
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Height:	6'
Weight:	178 pounds
Eyes:	Blue
Hair:	Brown
Scars and Marks, and tattoos:	Tattoo of girl in bathing suit on left upper outer arm, word LOUISE under picture. Two tattoos of birds, color blue and red on chest. Birds being approximately 3 inches by 2 inches.

Relatives:	Wife, FLOSEY LOUISE THOMAS, nee, GARRETT
Children:	WAYNE THOMAS, age 21 Wilks Station Bessemer, Alabama;
	CALVIN MERLE, age 19 U. S. Air Force, California;
	MICHAEL ELMIS, age 15 resides with parents;
	Aunt, LEON TRAMBLE 4th Avenue Bessemer, Alabama;
	Uncle, J. E. BOYD Hueytown, Alabama;
Employed:	Fairfield Steet Company (TCI) position, machinist (employed 24 years)
Current residence:	1519 12th Avenue, North Bessemer, Alabama (three years)
Past residence:	1600 Block Fairfax Avenue Bessemer, Alabama (fifteen years)
Arrests:	THOMAS admits being arrested in 1949 by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, in Bessemer for being drunk on the highway. He also admits that in 1963 he was arrested by the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office for being drunk on the highway, and carrying a concealed weapon. Mr. THOMAS said that it was during a demonstration that this arrest was made. Mr. THOMAS also advised that he has been arrested for two minor motor vehicle violations in Bessemer, Alabama.

Military Service:	U. S. Navy Serial Number, 837 5461
Selective Service Number:	1 70 23 97
Social Security Number:	418 18 1816
Alabama Drivers License Number:	05 23 123.

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 3/26/65

EUGENE THOMAS departed the FBI Office, 14th Floor, 2121 Building, Birmingham, Alabama, at 1:22 p.m., March 26, 1965, en route to the U. S. Commissioner's Office, located in the U. S. Courthouse, 5th Avenue and 19th Street. He arrived at the U. S. Commissioner's Office in the U. S. Courthouse at 1:29 p.m. on March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SA [redacted]: mjh b7C Date dictated 3/26/65

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.

Incidental to the arrest of EUGENE THOMAS and a search of his person, the following items were removed from his person by SA [redacted] of the Birmingham Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A receipt for this property was furnished to EUGENE THOMAS on March 26, 1965. The following pages contain copies of the items of interest. b7C

First, a commission card designating EUGENE THOMAS as a Special Constable for the purpose of law enforcement only.

The second is a small metal police badge bearing the name G. THOMAS, Special Police, Fairfield, Alabama.

The third, a commission card entitled commission for special policeman, City of Bessemer, State of Alabama.

[redacted] b7A

BH 44-1236

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
Jefferson County

I, Eugene Thomas

Do solemnly swear that I will support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the State of Alabama, so long as I continue as citizen thereof; and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Special Constable to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Eugene Thomas (L. S.)

Sworn and subscribed before me, the 4th day of January, 1965

Notary Public

COMMISSION

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
Jefferson County

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That I, WALTER G. BRIDGES, as Judge of the Bessemer County Court, do hereby appoint and empower

Eugene Thomas as a SPECIAL CONSTABLE for the purpose of LAW ENFORCEMENT only, in and for Precinct 33 of Jefferson County, Ala.

Given under my hand this 4th day of January, 1965

Walter G. Bridges, Judge
Bessemer County Court



COMMISSION FOR SPECIAL POLICEMAN

STATE of ALABAMA
Jefferson County

CITY OF BESSEMER

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This Is To Certify That Eugene Thomas has been duly Sworn in and appointed by me as a SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER, in and for the City of Bessemer, to hold such office without compensation until the 23rd day of May, 1963

This 23rd day of May, 1963

unless otherwise ordered. This Commission may be revoked at discretion of the Chief of Police.

George H. Lamar
Chief of Police

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 27, 1965

In connection with the serving of a search warrant, served on Mrs. FLOSSIE LOISE THOMAS, wife of EUGENE THOMAS, 1519 12th Avenue, North, Bessemer, Alabama, on March 26, 1965, and in connection with a Consent to Search statement voluntarily furnished by Mrs. FLOSSIE LOISE THOMAS concerning her 1958 Oldsmobile, bearing 1965 Alabama license 1B-19643, the following articles were taken, as indicated below:

Article:

1 - Smith & Wesson .38 revolver, SN C418827

6 rounds R-P .38 Special ammunition

1 - .38 Smith and Wesson snub-nosed revolver SN 179485

5 rounds .38 caliber ammunition (4 - REM-UMC .38 special, 1 - R-P .38 special)

1 box Peters 12 gauge SP extra long range shotgun shells

3 boxes Winchester .38 special ammunition.

b7A, C

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SA [redacted] ela b7C Date dictated 3/26/65

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Article:

6 Remington .38 special rounds of ammunition in box

1 Revelation 12 gauge shotgun shell

1 Newport Model CN double barrel sawed off shotgun, Serial Number T70594

1 box Remington 12 gauge shotgun shells containing 21 shells

1 box of spent .38 caliber shells

6 rounds Peters .38 caliber ammunition

[redacted]

57-A

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

1

In connection with a search conducted at the residence of EUGENE THOMAS, 1519 12th Avenue North, Bessemer, Alabama, pursuant to a search warrant dated March 26, 1965, the following articles were observed in the residence of EUGENE THOMAS and are as follows:

Description of Article	
1 bullwhip	[redacted]
1 rusty chain, 30" in length	[redacted]
1 rubber hose, metal lined, approximately 15" in length	"
White Klan robe and hood	" [redacted]
5 United Klans of America applications	" [redacted]

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BY 44-1236

by SA [redacted] mfm Date dictated 3/29/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 3/26/65

At 11:16 a.m., March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON was apprehended at his residence, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama, by SAs [redacted] b7C

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7A

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by [redacted] b7C

Date dictated 3/26/65

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1

Date 3/26/65

At 11:27 a.m., March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON was placed in an FBI car by SAs [redacted] and [redacted]. He was then transported from his residence, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama, to FBI Headquarters, 2121 Building, Birmingham, Alabama. The arrival time at FBI Headquarters was 12:06 p.m., March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

SAs [redacted] 67C

by [redacted] mjh Date dictated 3/26/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 3/26/65

[redacted]

Name WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON
Address Route 6, Box 866
Bessemer, Alabama

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SA [redacted] & [redacted] and mjh

Date dictated 3/26/65

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.

BH 44-1236

(Description of EATON continued)

Birth	April 12, 1923 Limestone County, Alabama
Height	5'7½"
Weight	164 pounds
Hair	Brown, balding
Eyes	Blue
Scars and marks	One 4" operation scar stomach; one 4" scar left leg; tattoo "U. S. Army" left arm, upper.
Relatives	Wife - MIRIAN MARIE EATON Same address
	Son - WILLIAM O. EATON, JR. Age 14, same address
	Son - EARL JOSEPH EATON, Age 17, same address
	Son - JAMES ELLIOT EATON, Age 10, same address
	Son - JOHN EATON Age 7, same address
	Daughter - PAMELA SUE EATON Age 4, same addres
Occupation	Retired steel port helper, Tennessee Coal and Iron, Fairfield, Alabama
Military service	U. S. Army January 22, 1940, to January 1, 1946. Discharge - honorable. Army Serial Number 20417902

(Description of EATON continued)

Social Security Number 423-18-1472

Alabama Driver's License 1412272

Selective Service Number 1-69-23-422

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date March 27, 1965

[redacted]

5
67
67C

At 12:56 p.m., March 26, 1965, EATON was photographed in the FBI Office. At 1:01 p.m. on March 26, 1965, EATON was fingerprinted in the FBI Office. The fingerprinting was completed at 1:06 p.m.

At 1:22 p.m., March 26, 1965, EATON was transported by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] from the FBI Office to the office of U. S. Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, Room 300, Federal Building, Birmingham, Alabama. EATON arrived at Mrs. CHARLTON's office at 1:36 p.m., March 26, 1965. 67C

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SA [redacted] & SA [redacted] mjh 67C Date dictated 3/27/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3-29-65

1

The following information was obtained from the wallet of WILLIAM O. EATON:

(1) One note containing the words JO ANNE SKATES, 1617 Birkley Avenue, Bessemer, Alabama

(2) One note bearing the name FRANK ELLIOTT, 425-3827

(3) Note - sold to JOHN POINTS, 1950 Ford ½ blue truck, 9-28-64, for $85.00 signed W. O. EATON. Milner Exchange Hotel, 262-8371

(4) Note bearing the name C. A. DOCKINS, 787-4388.

(5) Note bearing the numbers 271

In addition to the above, Mr. EATON had, in his possessio the following described medicines:

Coumadin, 5 mg., prescription #4243, Dr. HUTTO

Prescription #93219, Dr. W. B. HUTTO

Nitroglycerine 1/150 gr. (0.4 mg.)

Butisol Sod, ½ gr., Prescription #42942, Dr. HUTTO.

On 3-26-65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SA [redacted] & SA [redacted]:ral 67C Date dictated 3-29-65

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1

Date March 27, 1965

At 11:05 a.m., March 26, 1965, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., 4005 - 40th Way, Fairfield, Alabama, was arrested at Highway 11, Bessemer, Alabama, while driving a two-tone green Chevrolet, bearing 1965 Alabama License Number 1B37863.

[redacted] b7A

b7C

[redacted] b7A

At 11:09 a.m., WILKINS was placed in an automobile of the FBI and was driven to FBI Headquarters by SAs [redacted] b7C and [redacted]

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SAs [redacted] mjh b7C Date dictated 3/27/65

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date March 27, 1965

At 11:49 a.m., March 26, 1965, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., accompanied by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] arrived in the Birmingham Office of the FBI. WILKINS was photographed and fingerprinted and departed the office in the company of Agents [redacted] at 1:21 p.m. 67C

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

SA [redacted] 67C

by [redacted] & SA [redacted] jh Date dictated 3/27/65

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Date March 27, 1965

[redacted] 67C

[redacted] 67

[redacted] 67

[redacted] 67A

[redacted] 67

Name	COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR. also known as Lee Wilkins
Birth	July 25, 1943 Birmingham, Alabama
Height	5'9"
Weight	195 pounds
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Dark brown
Build	Stocky
Complexion	Medium
Education	Fairfield High School, quit in 11th grade.
Occupation	Automobile mechanic - self-employed
Military Service	None

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

SA [redacted] &

By SA [redacted] mjh 67C Date dictated 3/27/65

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(Description of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS continued)

Selective Service No.	1-122-43-393 Registered with Selective Service Local Board 122, 4604½ Gary Avenue, Fairfield, Alabama. Registered July 31, 1961.
Parents	COLLIE LEROY WILKINS - father, 4005 - 40th Way; ALICE ELIZABETH WILKINS, Nee Austin - mother 4005 - 40th Way Fairfield, Alabama
Brothers	GLEN WILKINS, 4 years, at home JAMES WILKINS, 12 years, at home.
Sister	MARIE WILKINS, 16 years, at home
Marital status	Single - never married
Scars and marks	Appendix scar on abdomen
Prior arrests	1961-62, Midfield, Alabama, Driving While Intoxicated; 1963-64, Hueytown, Alabama; PFA; 1964, Bessemer, Alabama, AIM (Assault With Intent to Murder)
Prior employments	United Motor Freight, Birmingham, mechanic, 6 months, 1964 until December 31, 1964; Don Drennan Motor Company, Birmingham, mechanic, 4 years, 1960, early part of 1964

(Description of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS continued)

Characteristics	Sometimes wears glasses.
Vehicle owned	1946 Chevrolet pick-up truck, white, red, green, rusted.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 29, 1965

Pursuant to a search warrant issued by LOUISE O. CHARLTON, United States Commissioner, Birmingham, on March 26, 1965, the living quarters of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., who resides with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, SR., at 4005 40th Way, Fairfield, Alabama, were searched by SAs [redacted] and [redacted]. The search warrant was presented to Mr. and Mrs. WILKINS at their residence, by SA [redacted] at which time Mr. WILKINS stated that he would interpose no objections to the search.

There was located in a closet of the room normally occupied by COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., and his younger brother, one Wards Western Field Repeating Rifle, Model 31A, .22 caliber, long rifle, which was disengaged from the stock, and contained in a brown canvas carrying case. No ammunition for this rifle was located.

b7C

[redacted]

A copy of the search warrant as issued by United States Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON was left with Mr. and Mrs. WILKINS, SR., reflecting the above described rifle had been taken, pursuant to the search warrant, by SAs [redacted] and [redacted], at 5:30 P.M. on March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Fairfield, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] b7C Date dictated 3/29/65

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1

BH 44-1236
RGJ:mjh

[redacted] U. S. Marshal's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, advised that EUGENE THOMAS, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON were released on $50,000 bond at 9:30 p.m., March 26, 1965.

She advised that COLLIE LEROY WILKINS was not released on March 26, 1965, as he was held on a probation violator's warrant issued by U. S. District Judge C. W. ALGOOD, Birmingham, Alabama. [redacted] said that WILKINS was subsequently released on $50,000 bond for the warrant in connection with the shooting of victim, Mrs. ANTHONY J. LIUZZO and an additional $500 bond on the probation violator's warrant. WILKINS was released at approximately 2:30 p.m., March 29, 1965.

1

Date March 27, 1965

At 1:41 p.m. on March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, EUGENE THOMAS and COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., appeared before U. S. Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, Room 300, Federal Building, Birmingham, Alabama. All three men were represented by Attorney MATT MURPHY. The U. S. Government was represented by Assistant U. S. Attorney R. MACEY TAYLOR.

Mr. TAYLOR advised the U. S. Commissioner that warrants had been issued for EATON, THOMAS and WILKINS in the Middle District of Alabama on March 26, 1965, for violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 241. Mr. TAYLOR further stated the original warrant had not arrived at that time in Birmingham but should be in the possession of the U. S. Marshal in Birmingham on or before March 29, 1965.

At this time U. S. Commissioner CHARLTON stated that she would then set a temporary bond for the above three men. Mr. TAYLOR asked the Commissioner if she wished the recommendation of the U. S. Attorney's Office pertaining to the amount of the bond. The U. S. Commissioner stated she did not wish this recommendation and then set bond for each of the three above-listed men at $50,000 each.

At this point, EATON, THOMAS and WILKINS were placed in the custody of the U. S. Marshal in Birmingham, Alabama, in lieu of bond.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

SA [redacted] : mjh 67C

by _____ Date dictated 3/27/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 29, 1965

LOUISE O. CHARLTON, U. S. Commissioner, Birmingham, Alabama, issued the following search warrants on affidavits sworn to by SA MARVIN M. EUBANKS on March 26, 1965:

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18408, for the search of Apartment #35-A, 205 - 16th Place, Southwest, Birmingham, Alabama, the residence of GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18406, for the search of the residence and automobile of WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama.

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18409, for the search of the residence and automobile of EUGENE THOMAS, 1519 - 12th Avenue, North, Bessemer, Alabama.

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18407, for the search of the residence and autombile of COLLEY LEROY WILKINS, JR., 4005 - 40th Way, Birmingham, Alabama.

On March 26, 1965, the above-described search warrant issued in Case #18406 was returned unexecuted.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SA [redacted] / hss b7C Date dictated 3/29/65

-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.

KLAN ASSOCIATIONS

EUGENE THOMAS

According to [redacted] EUGENE THOMAS has been an active member of the Bessemer Klavern, United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

[redacted] advised on March 29, 1965, that EUGENE THOMAS is presently an active member of Bessemer Klavern Number 13, UKA, Inc., KKKK.

WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON

67

[redacted] advised on March 29, 1965, that WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON is a member at the present time of Bessemer Klavern Number 13, UKA, Inc., KKKK.

GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.

[redacted] advised on March 29, 1965, that he knew GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., as a member of the Eastview Klavern Number 13, UKA, Inc., KKKK, for several years.

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.

[redacted] advised on March 29, 1965, that COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., is a member at the present time of Bessemer Klavern Number 13, UKA, Inc., KKKK.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Birmingham, Alabama
March 30, 1965

Title	EUGENE THOMAS; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.; GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR. VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM; LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM
Character	CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS
Reference	Report of Assistant Special Agent In Charge Robert G. Jensen, dated March 30, 1965, at Birmingham, Alabama

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

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

UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC.
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (UKA)

Records of Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, reflect that this Klan organization was granted a corporate charter on February 21, 1961, at Atlanta, Georgia, under the name United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc.

A source advised on February 27, 1961, that United Klans was formed as a result of a split in U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc. According to the source, the split resulted from a leadership dispute and United Klans has the same aims and objectives as the parent group. These are the promotion of Americanism, white supremacy and segregation of the races.

The first source and a second source advised in July, 1961, that United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc., merged with Alabama Knights, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The merged organization established headquarters in Suite 401, the Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. (The organization is directed by ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, and is the dominant Klan group in the South with units in several Southern States.)

Second source advised that at a meeting at Prattville, Alabama, on October 22, 1961, the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, merged with the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Third source advised on September 24, 1964, that the United Klans is currently an active organization, with Klaverns in several Southern states; that ROBERT M. SHELTON was re-elected Imperial Wizard on September 5, 1964, at a National Klonvocation in Birmingham, Alabama. The National Office remains in Suite 401, Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER

PART 3 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 44-28601

FBI

Date: 3/30/65

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

Via Airtel _____
(Priority)

To: SAC, Birmingham

From: Director, FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

Enclosed are two copies each of the Identification Records of subjects.

The details of the arrests should be obtained and furnished to the Bureau together with the dispositions of the arrests.

Enclosures (8) rec'd w/ 1 ENCLOSURE

44-28601-37

JUL 13 1978

Original cannot be located and is not on record. When original is received in Records Branch it will be filed either with this copy or may be given a new serial.
[redacted] 1/12/78

SAC

Set out leads for other offices if any by teletype

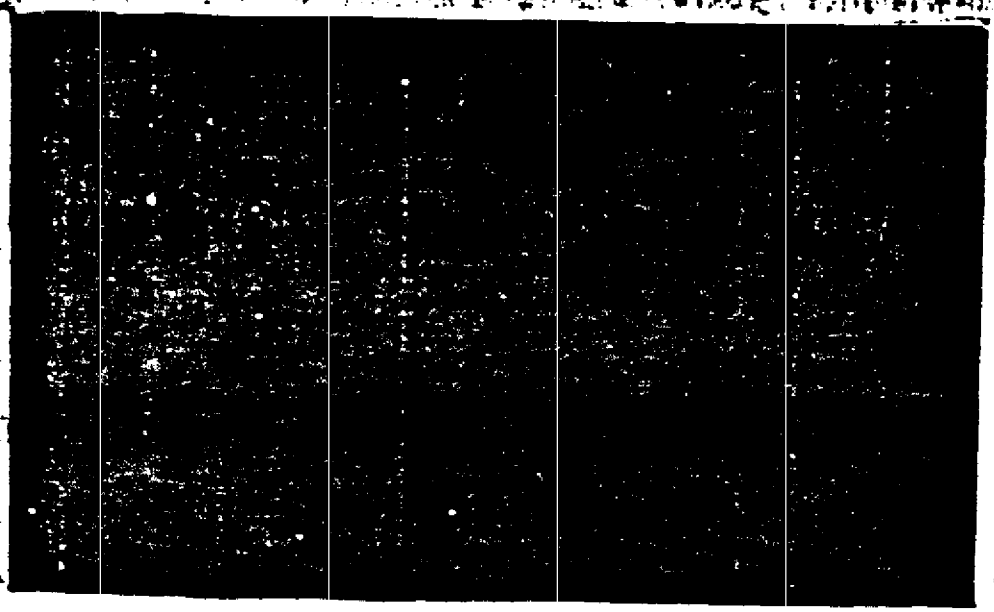
44-1236-326

JUL 13 1978

Sent Via _____ M

(expedite)

COPY



OUTGOING MAIL
(YELLOW OR
PINK ABSTRACT

COPY

44-28601-38	131	HGR/pkr 3/25/65

INCOMING MAIL
(WHITE OR
BLUE ABSTRACT

Rosen to Belmont, UNSUBS, SHOOTING OF VIOLA
LIUZZO & LEROY MOTON

Sullivan called 10:30 p.m., 3/25/65, & adv that Ala Highway Patrol just called Mont RA & adv some CR workers were ambused in Mont County & 1 individual (Mrs. Liuzzo) might have been killed. Mrs. Liuzzo from DE; Moton from Selma. Bu indices contain no record identifiable with Liuzzo & Moton. Mat given continuous preferred attention & Sullivan keeping Bu fully adv.

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

SUBFILE 44-28601-28

Mr. Belmont

March 28, 1965

A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Swanson
1 - Mr. Martindale

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7A

At 5:30 a.m., the White House operator called stating he received a telephone call from a person who said he was Mr. Anthony J. Liuzzo, 19375 Marlow, Detroit, Michigan, and stated he was the husband of Mrs. Liuzzo who was killed in Alabama last night and wanted to speak to the President. The White House operator wanted to verify whether or not the caller actually is the victim's husband since if it is the victim's husband the President probably will call him this morning.

The operator was advised that, of course, we had no means of identifying the person who called the White House. However, Mrs. Luizzo's driver's license shows that she resided at the above address in Detroit and the Detroit City Directory shows that one Anthony J. Liuzzo, whose wife is Viola Liuzzo, resides at the same address.

ACTION

Original cannot be located on record. When original is received in Records Branch it will be submitted for information. with this copy or may be given a new serial.

[redacted] 7/12/78 b7C

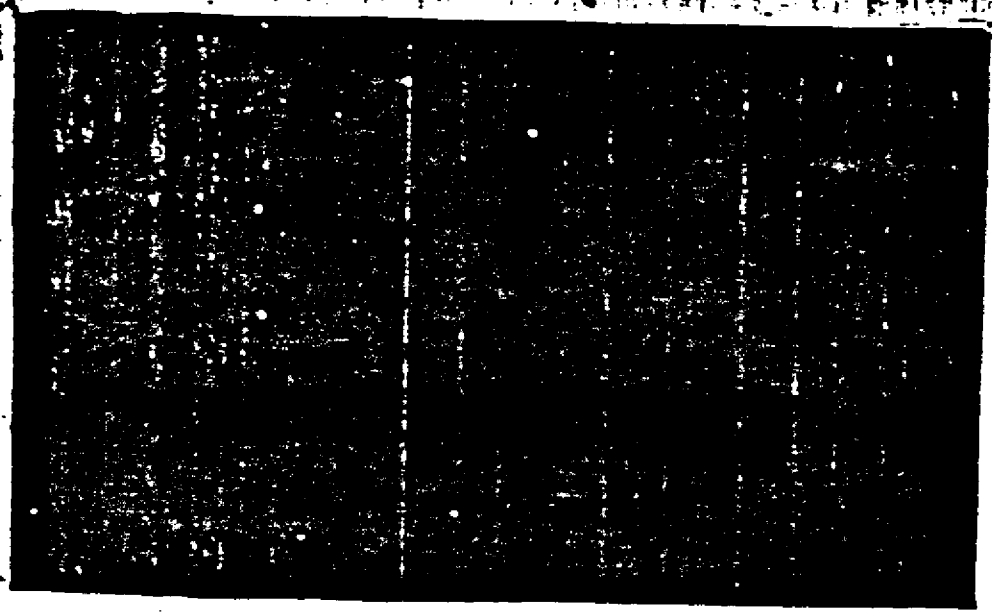
44-28601-39

JUL 13 1978

WLM/cac (11)

JUL 13 1978

COPY



OUTGOING MAIL
(YELLOW OR
PINK ABSTRACT

COPY

44-2860Y-40 | 1SL | AHB:CSH 3/26/65

A H BELMONT, UNSUBJECTS, Viola Liuzzo, Victim
- to Tolson, CIV RTS; Election Laws

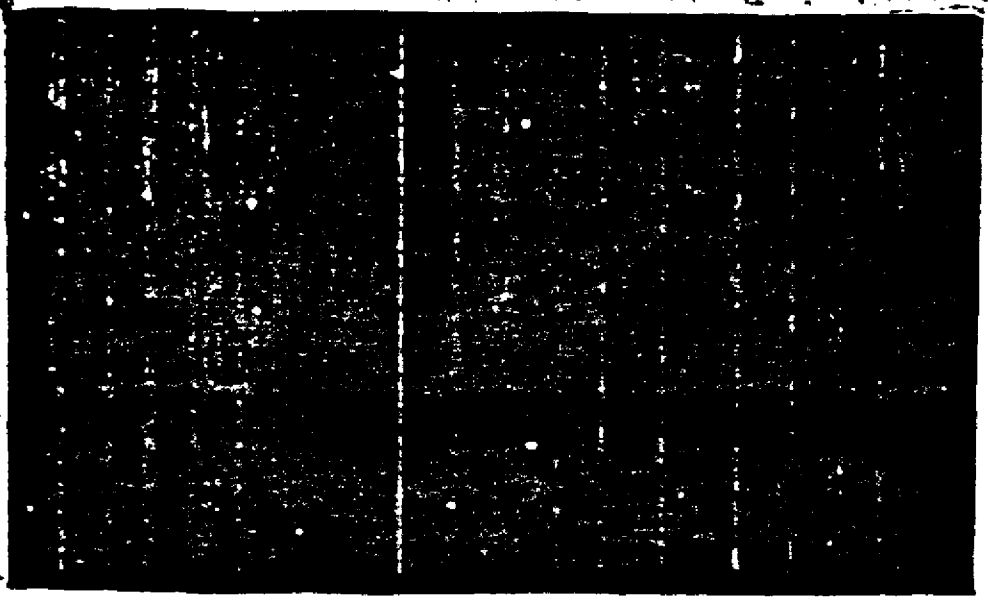
Inspr McGovern, Bughm, advised subjs Wilkins, Thomas & Eaton were arraigned 1:35 pm & turned over to USM in lieu of $50,000 bail each, being placed in Jefferson County Jail. No problems encountered at US Comm's hearing. 4th subj, our Unit, is currently being taken over route of victim's car & will be arraigned soon as feasible.

INCOMING MAIL
(WHITE OR
BLUE ABSTRACT

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

44-28601-40

COPY



OUTGOING MAIL
(YELLOW OR
PINK ABSTRACT

COPY

44-28601-41	131	HCS:nkr 3726/65

INCOMING MAIL
(WHITE OR
BLUE ABSTRACT

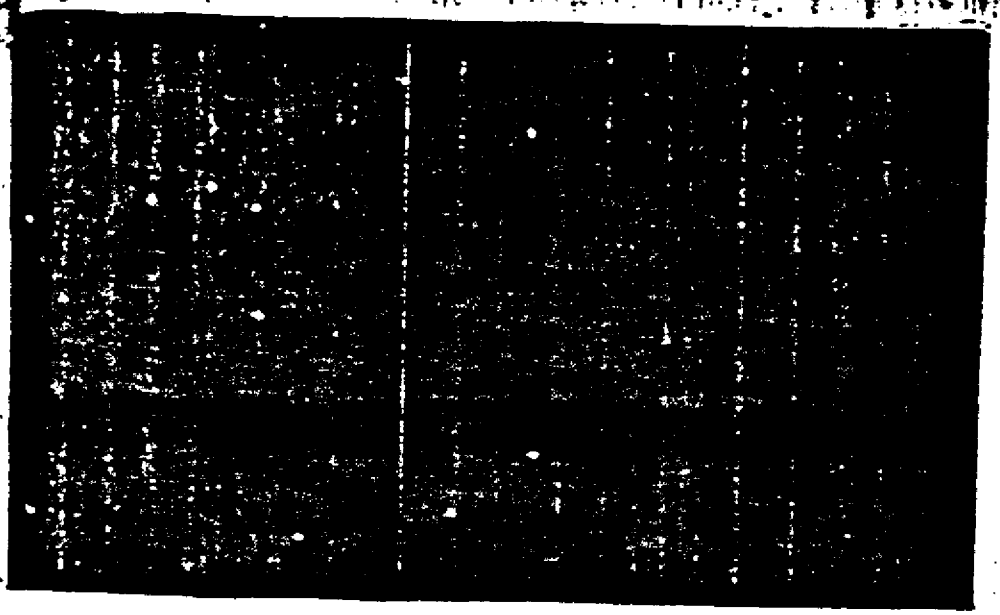
Rosen to Belmont UNSUBS; VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM

Facts concerning ambush of Liuzzo and Leroy Jerome Moton on Highway 80 set forth. Three shots from 1955 Ford were fired one killing Mrs. Liuzzo of Detroit Michigan. Continuous, vigorous, preferred attention is being afforded this matter and the Bureau will be kept advised.

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

BUFILE 44-28601-41

COPY



COPY

44-28601-44	131	VGM:hwl 3-30-65

McGowan to Rosen EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
Inspector James McGovern tel advised at 9:14 p.m. that rep in this case was being brought to Washington by SA [redacted] who would arrive at Dulles Int'l Airport 6:10 p.m., 3-31-65, on Flight 544, TEAL. WFO was advised to arrange to have an Agent meet SA [redacted] at Dulles in order that the report could be expedited to Mr. Rosen's Office.

OUTGOING MAIL
(YELLOW OR
PINK ABSTRAC

INCOMING MAIL
(WHITE OR
BLUE ABSTRACT

b7C

b7C

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

BUFILE 44-28601-44

3/27/65

AIRTEL AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTN: IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)(P)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL
VIOLA LUIZZO, aka.
Mrs. Anthony J. Luizzo,
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Transmitted herewith for the assistance of the Bureau are three fingerprint cards, one for subject WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, one for subject EUGENE THOMAS and one for subject COLLIE LEROY WILKINS.

In addition to the three separate fingerprint cards there are also being furnished at this time three photos of each subject. These photos represent a front and side view of each subject.

3 - Bureau (Encls. 12)
2 - Birmingham

RGJ:mjh
(5)

44-28601-45

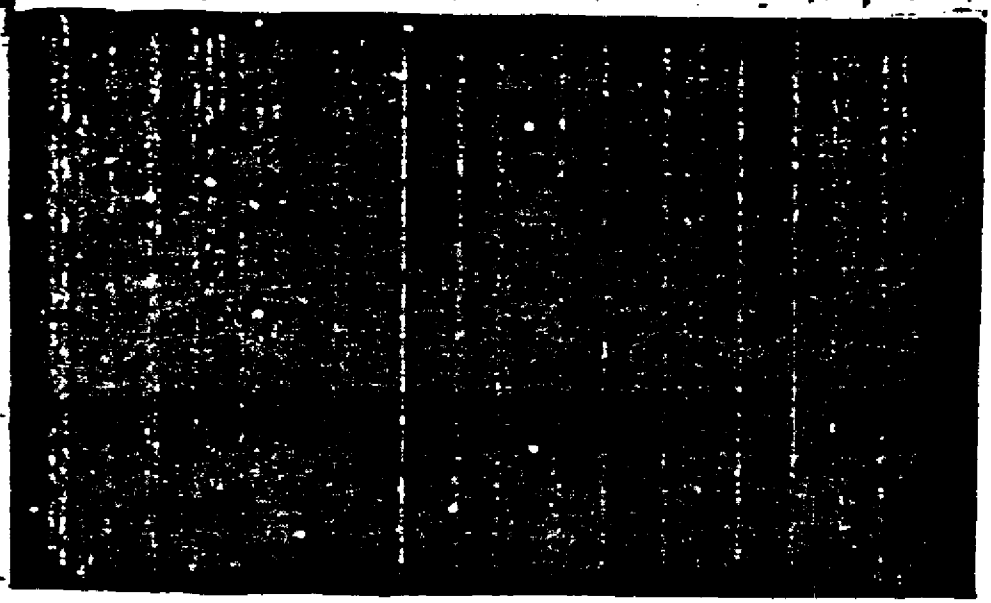
JUL 13 1978

Original cannot be located and is not on record. When original is received in Records Branch it will be filed with this copy or marked given a new serial.

44-1236-18

JUL 13 1978

COPY



OUTGOING MAIL
(YELLOW OR
PINK ABSTRAC

COPY

44-28601-46

27 14 Enc. 3/29/65

SAC, MOBILE (Selma) KUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICS.
Enc. for the Bureau are two sets of 7 photos
taken 3/26/65 of auto victim died in. 1 copy of
these have been furnished Dept. Att'ys in
Montgomery, Ala. and 1 copy retained by Mobile.

INCOMING MAIL
(WHITE OR
BLUE ABSTRAC

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

BUFILE 44-28601-46

OC OC

3/27/65

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44-643) [redacted]

UNSUBS; MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO,
3/25/65; LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

ReBu telephone calls to Detroit, Selma telephone call to Detroit, both 3/26/65, and Detroit teletype to Bureau and Selma, 3/26/65.

Enclosed is LHM regarding Subject.

3 - Bureau (AMSD) 2 ENCLOSURE
2 - Mobile (Info) (Enc. 1) (AMSD)
1 - Selma (Enc. 2) (AMSD)
1 - Detroit
MFC:mfk
(6)

44-28601-47

JUL 13 1978

Original cannot be located and is [redacted] on record When original is received in Records Branch it will be filed either with this copy or may be given a new serial. [redacted] 12/78

b7C

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

JUL 13 1978

Detroit, Michigan
March 27, 1965

Unknown Subjects;
Murder of Viola Liuzzo,
March 25, 1965;
Leroy Jerome Moton - Victims

[redacted], Records Division, Michigan Secretary of State's Office, Lansing, Michigan, on March 26, 1965, advised that 1963 Oldsmobile coupe, with 1965 Michigan license EJ 9177, is registered to Anthony J. Liuzzo at 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan. This vehicle has Vehicle Identification Number 632M60486. b7c

[redacted], Drivers' Service Division, Michigan Secretary of State's Office, advised that operator's license number L200-847-015-283 was issued April 16, 1963, to Viola Liuzzo, born April 11, 1925, residing at 19375 Marlowe, Detroit. The license described Viola Liuzzo as female, blond hair, bray eyes, 5'2½", 127 pounds. b7c

[redacted], Identification Division, Detroit Police Department, advised that Viola Liuzzo, 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan, born on April 11, 1925, was arrested June 16, 1964, charged with "failing to send children to school." The arrest card indicated that Viola Fauver Liuzzo, of 19375 Marlowe, a resident of Detroit for 13 years prior to June 16, 1964, had been arrested by officers of the Detroit Police Department on June 16, 1964, at 8:45 a.m. at 13365 Schaefer, Detroit, Michigan. Viola Fauver Liuzzo was arrested on warrant 208967 on the complaint of Mr. William Lakin, 5057 Woodward, Detroit, Michigan, the latter being associated with the Detroit Board of Education. The disposition of the arrest was shown as one year probation and $50.00 fine. b7c

The court file was Detroit Recorders Court file number 208967.

Detroit Recorders Court Judge Joseph Gillis, on March 26, 1965, advised that he recalled the case concerning

2 - Bureau (AMSD)
1 - Mobile(AMSD)
2 - Selma (AMSD)
1 - Detroit (44-643)
MFC:mfk
(6)

ENCLOSURE

44-28601-47

Viola Liuzzo, and stated that he was of the opinion that Viola Liuzzo was a professional crusader. Her complaint at the time she was brought before him on a charge of failure to send children to school, was the fact that in Detroit children are permitted to drop out of school at the age of 16 and Viola Liuzzo felt that the children should not be permitted to drop out of school until reaching the age of 16, and for that reason she refused to send her own children to school.

Judge Joseph Gillis stated that he adjourned the case from June 16, 1964, to September, 1964, hoping that Viola Liuzzo would be able to adjust this matter without his aid and that during that period he received a letter from the Detroit Board of Education advising that they did not desire to prosecute. Judge Gillis stated that he was willing to drop the matter but that Viola Liuzzo insisted on being tried and entered a plea of guilty, and that he then placed her on one year's probation with a fine of $50.00. Judge Gillis stated that after the trial he received information from the Probation Department of the Detroit Recorders Court that Viola Liuzzo was emotionally disturbed and appeared to be on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

The records of the Detroit Division indicate that one Viola Liuzzo had addressed a letter to the "Detroit Free Press," a newspaper published daily at Detroit, Michigan, in which Viola Liuzzo belittled the United States Government's charges against James R. Hoffa, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

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FD-365 (Rev. 5-14-64)

FBI

Date: 3/29/65

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

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

To: Director, FBI

Att.: Civil Rights Section
General Investigative Division

From: SAC, DETROIT (44-643)

Subject: UNSUBS; MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO,
3/25/65; LEROY JEROME MOTON -
VICTIMS; CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

☐ BOMBING MATTERS - THREATS ☒ RACIAL MATTERS

Re Detroit airtel with LHM, 3/27/65.

Enclosed are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning captioned matter.

Two copies are being furnished Secret Service and one G-2 both Detroit, Michigan.

8 ENCLOSURE

44-28601-48

JUL 13 1978

Original cannot be located and is [redacted] on record. When original is received in Records Branch it will be filed under with this copy or may be given a new serial.

[redacted] 7/12/78 b7c

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

1 - Bureau (Enclosures 8)
(1) - Detroit
TPD/mag
(2)

JUL 13 1978

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

Detroit, Michigan
March 29, 1965

Re: Unknown Subjects; Murder
of Viola Liuzzo, March 25, 1965;
Leroy Jerome Moton - Victim

On March 29, 1965, [redacted] b7c
[redacted] Special Investigations Bureau, Detroit, Michigan, Police Department, advised that funeral services for Mrs. Viola Liuzzo were scheduled to be held tomorrow morning at Detroit, Michigan. [redacted] pointed out b7c
that Mrs. Liuzzo is the person who was fatally wounded recently in Alabama where she was engaged in transporting persons in her automobile who had participated in the recent civil rights march between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama. [redacted] advised that a number of individuals from various labor, civil rights organizations, church organizations and local city and state officials were scheduled to attend the services.

He advised that President James Hoffa of the Teamsters Union; President Walter Reuther of the United Auto Workers - Congress of Industrial Workers; Roy Wilkins, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People National Official and Reverend Martin Luther King, Nobel Prize Winner are expected to attend the funeral services for Mrs. Liuzzo.

In addition, [redacted] advised that b7c
local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Congress Of Racial Equality officials were expected to attend the services.

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

8 - Bureau
2 - Secret Service
1 - G-2
(1) - Detroit
TPD/mag
(12)

ENCLOSURE

44-28601-48

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI WASH DC

507 PM PLS HOLD FOR 2 URGENT 3-29-65 SML

TO BIRMINGHAM AND MOBILE (SELMA)

FROM DIRECTOR 1P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIMS; CR; EL.

AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE DEPARTMENT CANNOT TAKE ANY ACTION WITH REGARD TO THIS MATTER UNTIL OUR INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED. THEREFORE, THE INVESTIGATION OF ALL PHASES OF THIS MATTER MUST BE EXPEDITED IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE AND REPORTS PROMPTLY SUBMITTED AS THE BUREAU MUST NOT BE PLACED IN A POSITION OF BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DELAY IN ANY ACTION CONTEMPLATED BY THE DEPARTMENT. BIRMINGHAM AND SELMA SUBMIT INITIAL REPORTS NO LATER THAN MARCH THIRTY NEXT. ANY REMAINING LEADS OUTSTANDING MUST BE AFFORDED EXPEDITIOUS ATTENTION AND THE RESULTS PROMPTLY SUBMITTED BY REPORT.

END

44-28601-49

JUL 13 1978

FBI BIRMGHAM

Original cannot be located and is not on record. When original is received in Records Branch it will be filed either with this copy or may be given a new serial.

[redacted] 7/12/78 b7c

44-2236-69

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAR 29 1965
FBI - BIRMINGHAM

JUL 13 1978

COPY

44-28601-49	7	JWH/ras 3/29/65

SACS BH & MO(SELMA) EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;

DEPT CANNOT TAKE ACTION UNTIL OUR INVES IS COMP. INVES OF ALL PHASES OF MATTER MUST BE EXPEDITED IN EVERY WAY & REPS SUBMITTED AS BU MUST NOT BE PLACED IN POSITION OF BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAY IN ACTION CONTEMPLATED BY DEPT. BH & SELMA BU INITIAL REPS BY 3/30/65 & FOLLOW WITH CLOSING REPS COMPLETING INVES BY 4/2/65.

OUTGOING MAIL (YELLOW OR PINK ABSTRACT

Got from Birmingham

COPY ATTACHED

COPY

44-28601-49	7	AHB:CSH 3/29/65

A H BELMONT EUGENE THOMAS, et al, Viola Luizzo; to Tolson , Leroy Moton-Victims; CR - EL

I spoke to Insprs McGovern & Sullivan this a.m. re progress of investigation. Searches and interviews are continuing today, and reports will be flown to Bureau tomorrow, comprising 90% of investigation; followup reports will be prepared promptly as to remaining investigation, which should be wound up in few days.

INCOMING MAIL (WHITE OR BLUE ABSTRACT

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

COPY

44-28601-50	1 encl. 18	JTS/nkr 3/30/65

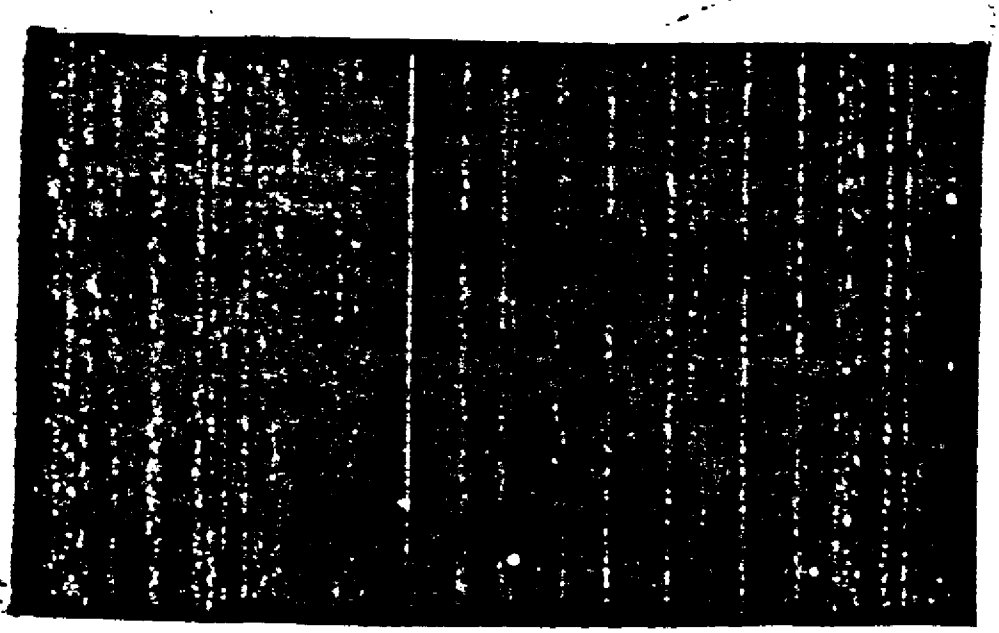
Mr. John Doar
Acting AAG

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

Atth'd is memo setting forth pert info as contained in our files re subjs in this case. Also atth'd r cc FBI Ident Records of Thomas, Eaton, Rowe & Wilkins.

OUTGOING MAIL
(YELLOW OR
PINK ABSTRACT

COPY

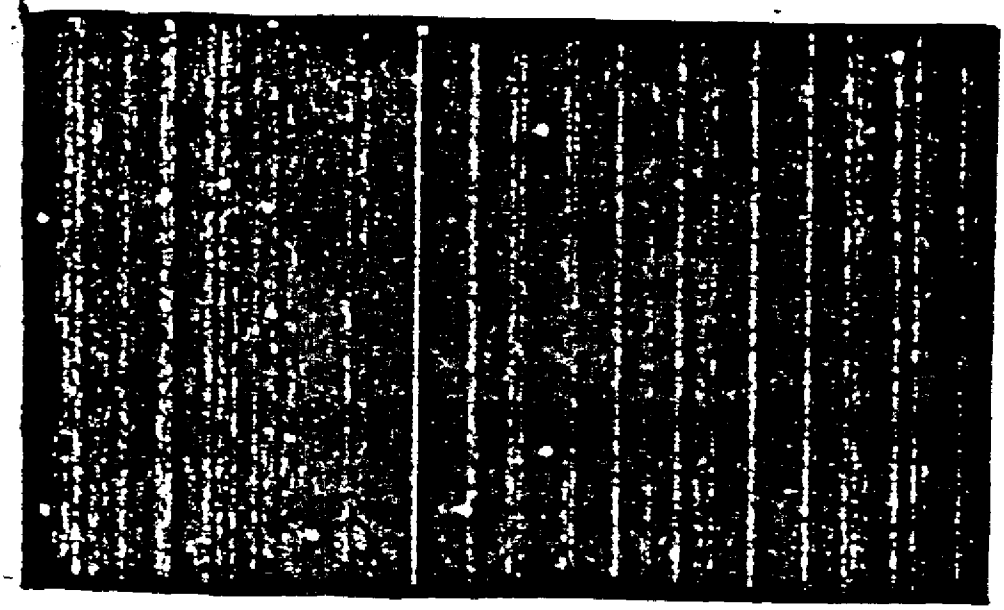


INCOMING MAIL
(WHITE OR
BLUE ABSTRACT

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

BUFFILE 44-28601-50

COPY



OUTGOING MAIL
(YELLOW OR
PINK ABSTRACT

COPY

44-28601-51	11	JGK/cac 3/31/65

McGowan to Rosen EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL

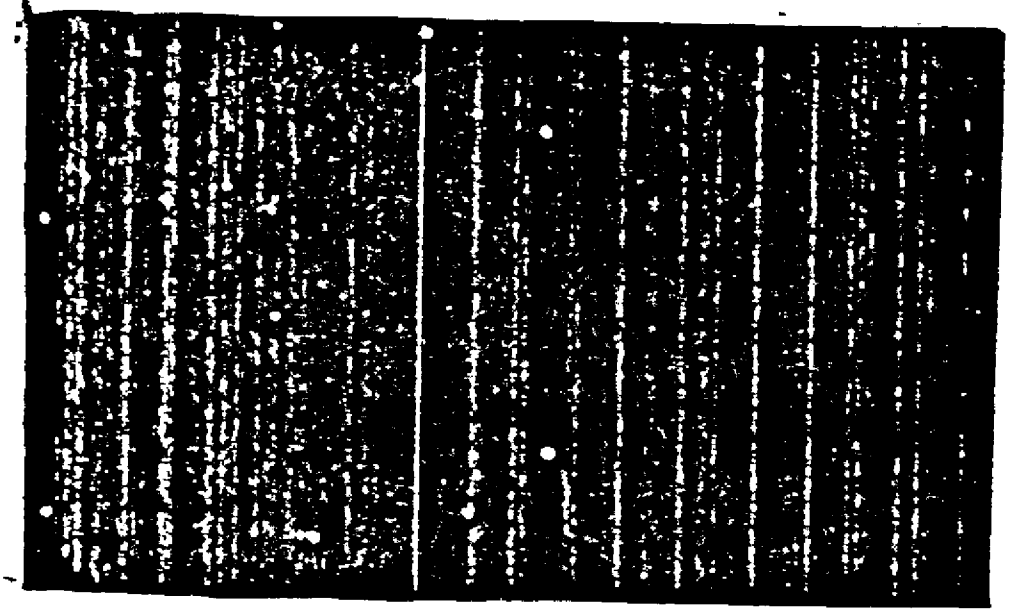
Sullivan called to advise report he prepared is on plane to arrive in Wash DC today. Action. ASAC WFO advised of above & requested to have Agents of WFO meet plane & bring report to CR Section front office at Bureau. ASAC instructed to insure Agents picking report up take a Government Bill of Lading with them.

INCOMING MAIL
(WHITE OR
BLUE ABSTRACT

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

BUFILE 44-28601-51

COPY



OUTGOING MAIL
(YELLOW OR
PINK ABSTRACT

COPY

44-28601-52	111	3/26/65

INCOMING MAIL
(WHITE OR
BLUE ABSTRACT

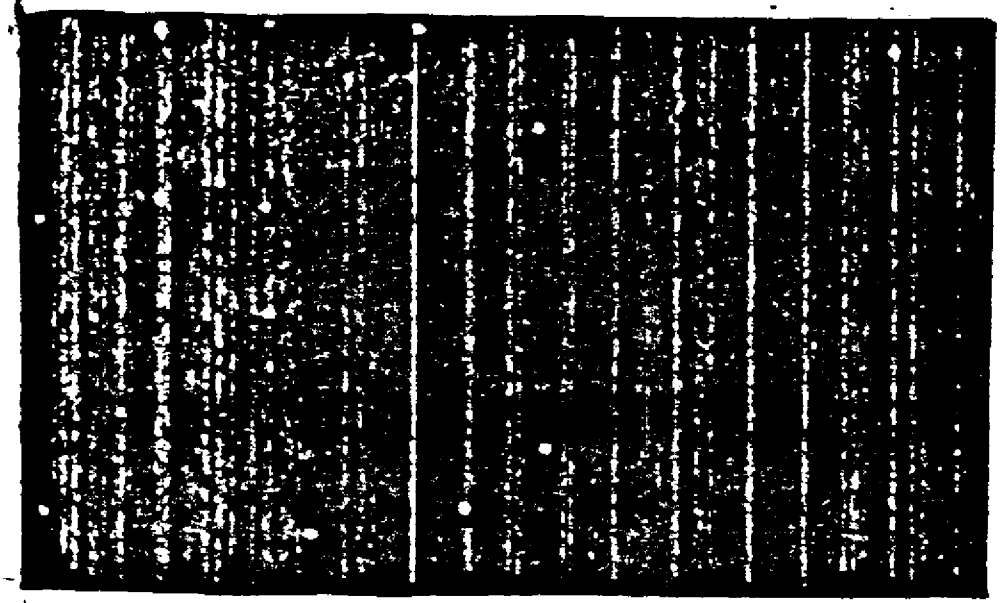
[redacted] b7C
MONTGOMERY, ALA. VIOLA LIUZZO

I saw man on TV today when L. B..J. made his pronouncement re: the white woman killed at K Loudesboro, You did not seem too happy, for in yr heart you know the Mind of Commies, perverts, etc. that provoked this march. Adn don't exclude MARTIN LUTHER from this bunch of Commies. We are most sad that this white woman was killed. But, what was she doing away from home, five children &a husband and consorting with niggers for a wk like a 2 bit what-cha-ma called. How about the.

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

BUFILE 44-28601-52

COPY



OUTGOING MAIL
(YELLOW OR
PINK ABSTRAC

COPY

44-28601-54 | 117 ~~34~~ Encls. | 3/27/65

SAC, MO (SEIMA) EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL

ENCLOSED PHOTOS OF CRIME SCENE CONCERNING MURDER OF MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO. COPIES FURNISHED FOR DISSEMINATION TO DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEYS. - P -

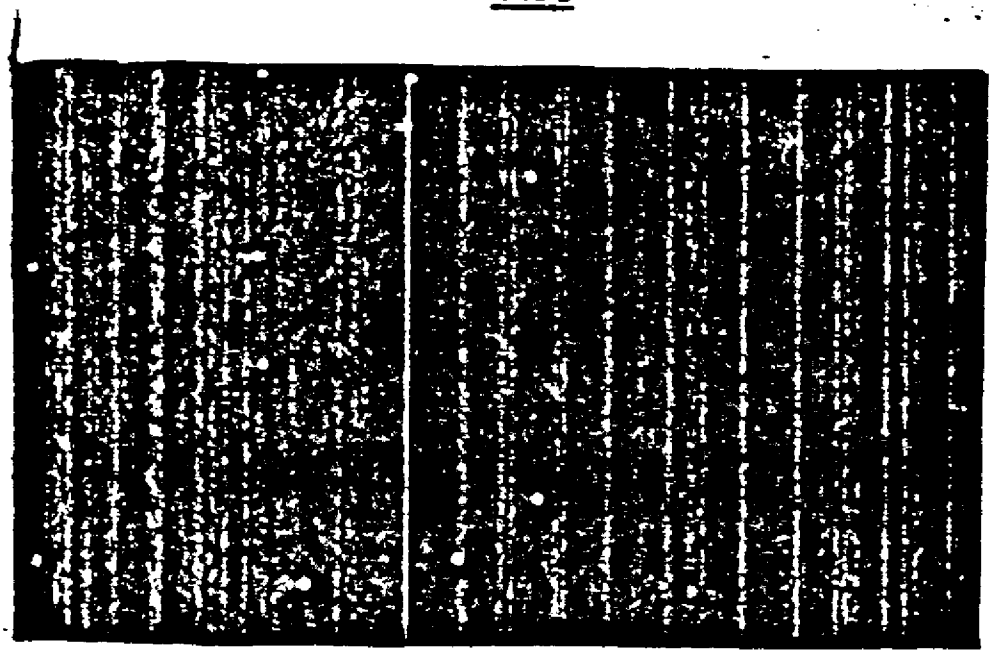
INCOMING MAIL
(WHITE OR
BLUE ABSTRAC

SEE ENCLOSURE BEHIND FILE

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

SUFILE 44-28601-54

COPY



OUTGOING MAIL
(YELLOW OR
PINK ABSTRACT

COPY

44-28601-59	1	WGM:HW 3-31-65

C. L. MCGOWAN To Rosen & EUGENE THOMAS
TO:ROSEN
Inspector Sullivan advised at 6:24 PM that material for he exhibits sect would arrve DL Int Airport at 6:10 am. 4-1-65 WFO was instructed to arrange to meet this flight. Instructed o have the agen bring with him a govt bill of lading.

INCOMING MAIL
(WHITE OR
BLUE ABSTRACT

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

SUBFILE 44-28601-59

COPY

44-28601-60	99	JRP/ufp 4-1-65

[redacted] MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO

b7c

Urlet 3-29 recd, & ack wth thnks ur knd comnts concern swft aprhnsn 4 suspcts n fatal shot of Mrs. Liuzzo. U ma b sur we wil mk evry efrt deserv sch grcus sentmnts as thos u expresd. Sch words r sorc ncrgmnt to all us in FBI.

OUTGOING MAI
(YELLOW OR
PINK ABSTRAC

COPY

44-28601-60	99	3/29/65

[redacted] KLU KLUX KLAN
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO

b7c

On reading in one L.I. Newday of the latest outrage and murder agnst. the civil rights movement. I endorse the Pres. and your stand on putting an end to the wicked doing of the Klu Klux Klan my Thanks and admiration for you and oyou office personel of bringting these hoodlum so quick to Justice JR Director 3/30 JR

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THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

BUFILE 44-28601-60

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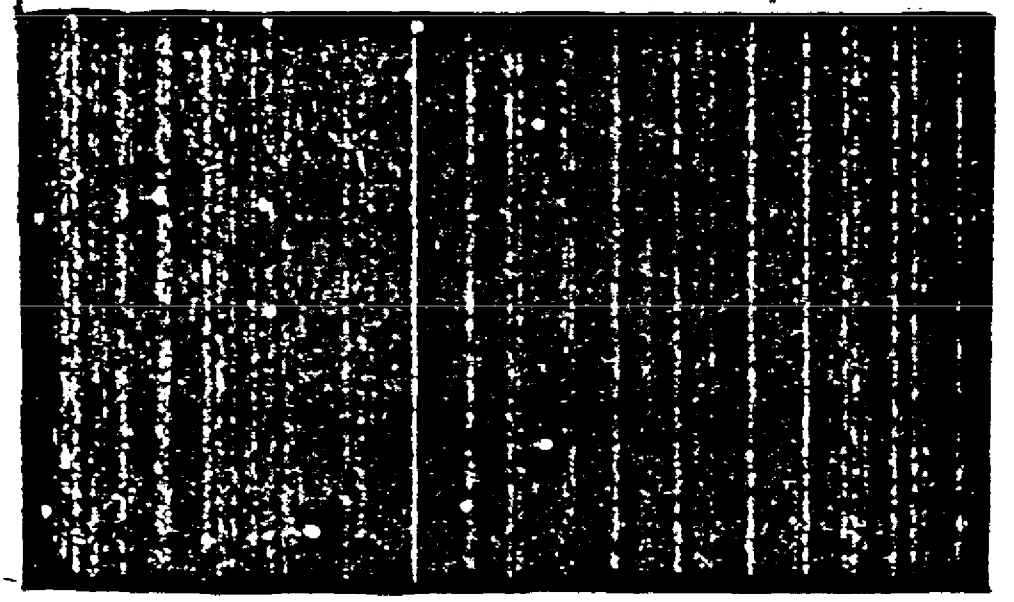

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44-28601-61	99	MEW:bam 3/29/65

R. H. Jevons to Mr. Conrad EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL
Mrs. Luizzo was shot near Selma, Alabama, at approximately 8:00 p.m., on 3/25/65, while engaged in the transportation of civil rights demonstrators between Montgomery and Selma. SA [redacted] conducted "on-the-scene" exam of evid.

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b7C
b7A

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

BUFILE 44-28601-61

COPY

44-28601-62 ~~XXXXXXXXX~~	99	WAM:lch 3-31-65

[redacted] ~~XVIOLALIUZZOX~~ VIOLA LIUZZO b7c

Urlet March 26th recd. Indeed thotful u write as udid & want tak oppor thank u for ur warm sentiments & complimentary remarks. Ur staunch support certainly appreciated. Enclosing material which hope u find of interest.

OUTGOING M
(YELLOW OR
PINK ABSTR

COPY

44-28601-62	99	3/26/65

[redacted] b7c CIVIL RIGHT WORKER ~~XVIOLALIUZZOX~~ VIOLA LIUZZO

As one of the bishops, of The House Of God, Which comprises most of the states of our Union; I feel safe in saying, I am expressing the sentimen of the other bishops, when I say to you, we wish to express our most profound sence of appreciation, as work of you, and your very effecient staf in the speedy apprension of those thugs, who were as stated responsible for the murder of civil rig

11 DIRECTOR 36 3/29 4-2

INCOMING MA
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THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

BUFILE 44-28601-62

COPY

44-28601-63	1	JWH:RAS 3-30-65

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION ØØ VIOLA LIUZZO

b7C

[redacted] was advised as to bu invest juridiction and he staed that he understand s the FB position in this matter and that he woud contact a representative of the DEpt. for understnad an anser to wquest during regular business hours. He comments that he had complaind to Senator Smathers of FLA during afternoon of 3-26665 staig his feelim g in this matter. He commentd tha he was incensed by this pres statement inasmuc in that indivuslas arrsted wre being judged quilt withoutj a trail.

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COPY

44-28601-63

~~44-28601-63~~

	1	GHM:mam 3-26-65

W.V.Cleveland to Gale [redacted] VIOLA LIUZZO

b7C

Called for Director. Stated had been trying to get in tch with Dept official but adv offices closed. Wanted answer to question by what author can anyone convict another indiv as Pres Johnson did by his press statement announcing arr of 4 persons re death of Mrs. Liuzzo. He was adv of Bu's jurisdiction & he said he understood. MR Bufiles. ACTION: Matter discussed with GID & is being ref to Civil Rights Section of that Div in order that Dept may be adv that indiv stated he would cont Dept during reg working hours.

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BUFILE 44-28601-63

COPY

44-28601-65	99	JWH/ras 4/1/65

SAC, MO XXXXXXXX EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;

REURAIRTEL 3/27/65. ENC. 4 COLOR NEGATIVES & 3 PRINTS OF EACH. ENC. 3 B & W NEGATIVES & 3 PRINTS OF EACH. 1 CC OF EACH RETAINED IN BU FILES & 1 CC OF EACH FURNISHED TO CRD OF DEPT. ALSO ENC. 3 B & W NEGATIVES WITH 4 PRINTS EACH WHICH DO NOT PERTAIN TO THIS MATTER.

OUTGOING MAIL
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PINK ABSTRAC

COPY

44-28601-65	3 ENCL. 99	3/27/65

SAC, MO EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.; VIOLA LIZZO ET AL., VICTIMS

ENCLOSED ARE 2 FILM HOLDERS CONTAINING EXPOSED UNDEVELOPED EKTACOLOR TYPE S AND A FILM PACK CONTAINING ADDITIONAL BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOS OF VICTIM. REQUEST FOR PROCESSING MADE OF PHOTO UNIT. P.

INCOMING MAIL
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THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

BUFILE 44-28601-15

COPY

44-28601-66	17	JEH:edm 3-29-65

TOLSON, BELMONT,
DE LOACH, ROSEN

VIOLA LIUZZO

Enc. is a letter written to Officials of the Bureau concerning information of subject.

OUTGOING MAIL
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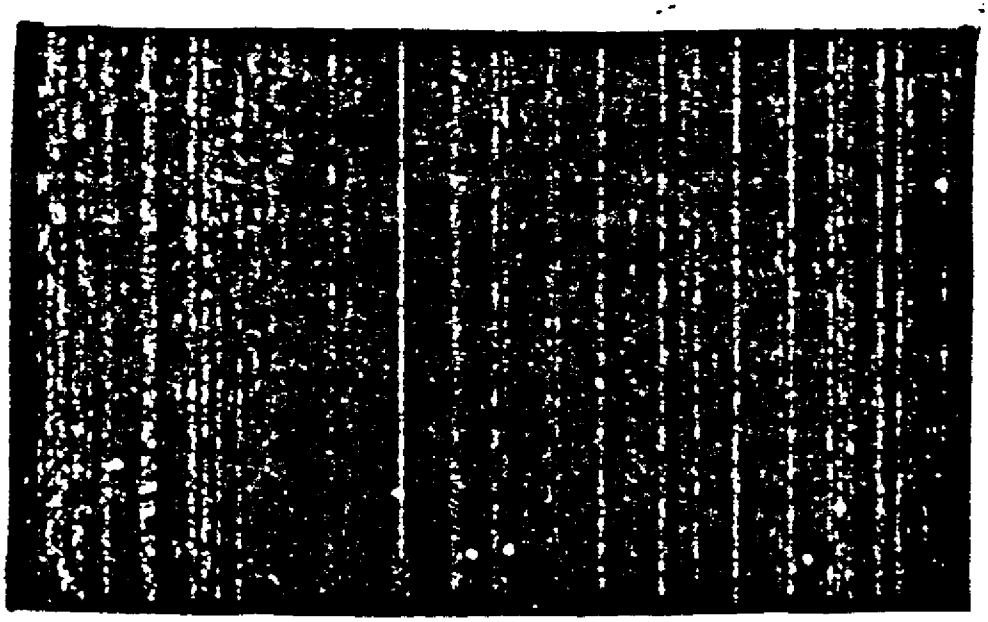
PINK ABSTRACT

COPY



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BUFILE 44-28601-66

COPY

44-28601-67	1 Encl. 33	JWH:gmk 3/27/65

Honorable Marvin Watson EUGENE THOMAS
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Enc is memo set forth contact by Gov. George C. Wallace of State of Ala with representative of this Bu on 3/26/65, with re to fatal shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes Co., Ala, on 3/25/65. Info is also being furnished to Attorney General.

OUTGOING MAIL
(YELLOW OR
PINK ABSTRACT

COPY

44-28601-67	33	3/26/65

SAC, MO EUGENE THOMAS

REMOTELCONF TO BU TONIGHT. GOV. GEORGE C. WALLACE, STATE OF ALA, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED SA SRA [redacted] AT MONTGOMERY, ALA., TONIGHT AND EXPRESSED COMPLETE DISGUST WITH THE "COWARDLY ACT" PERPETRATED BY SUBJECTS OF CAPTIONED CASE OR ANYONE WHO WOULD DO SUCH AN ACT OF VIOLENCE.

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BLUE ABSTRACT

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BUFILE 44-28601-67

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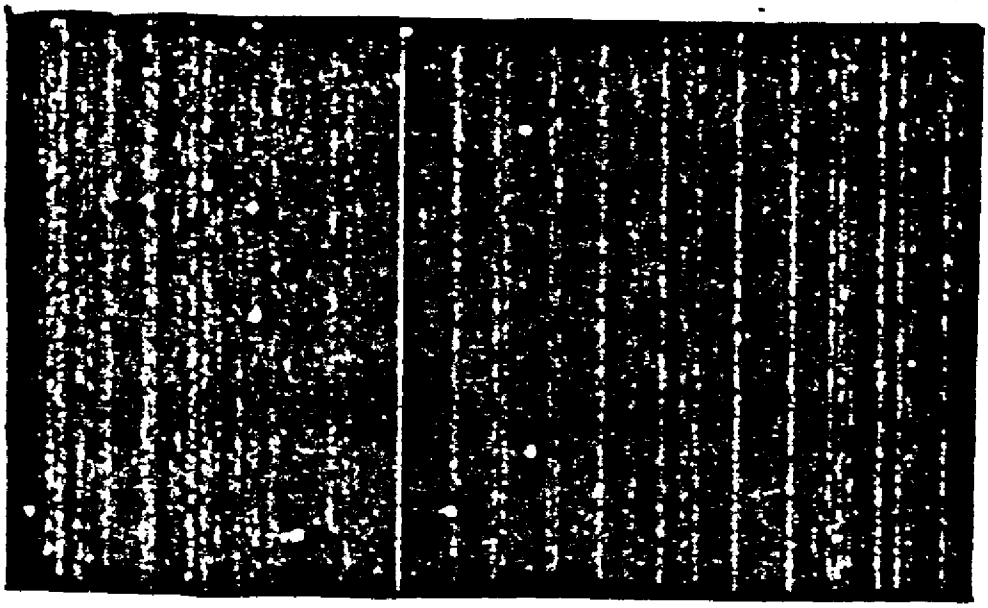

OUTGOING MAIL
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PINK ABSTRACT

COPY

44-28601-68	15	3/26/65 JWH/ras

Memo Rosen To Belmont UNSUBS;VIOLA LIUZZO,

Sullivan advised list of license numbers for vehicles in motorcade observed & maintained. Check determined one registered to Eugene Thomas of Bessemer. Complaint from Bob Fishel advised Moton mistreated by police. We are opening separate CR case on comp of Fishel & approp inves is being conducted. Department will be advised.

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BLUE ABSTRACT

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

BUFILE 44-28601-68

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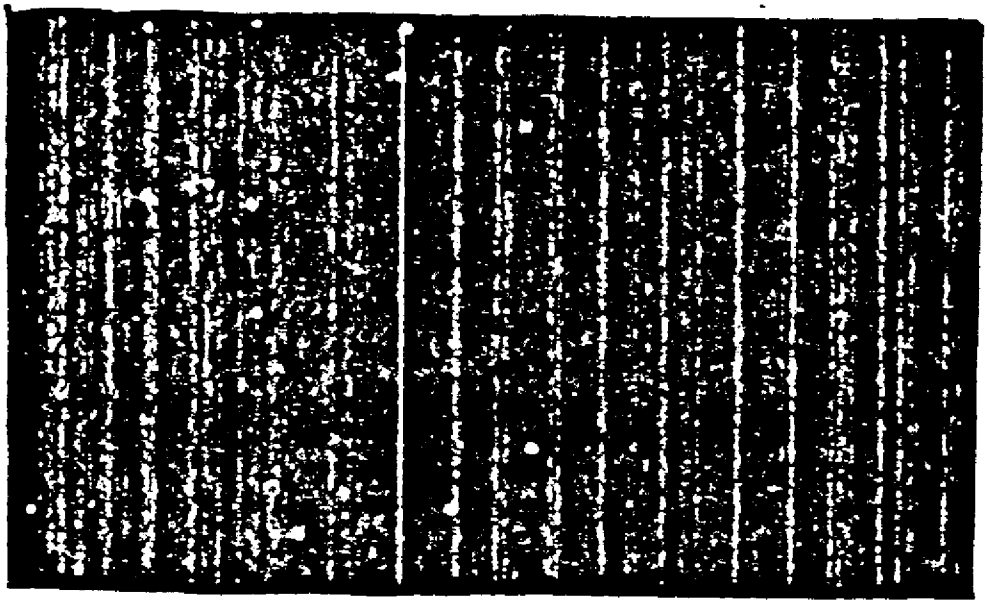

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44-28601-69	1 encl 8	3/31/65

AMM ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS
TOLEDO, OHIO VIOLA LIUZZO

Attached anonymous letter was sent to Dir from Toledo, Ohio.

INCOMING MAIL
(WHITE OR
BLUE ABSTRACT

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

BUFILE 44-28601-69

FD-36 (Rev. 10-29-63)

FBI

Date: 3/29/65

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS; ETAL. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ETAL. VICTIMS.

AT APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN FORTY AM, CST, THIS DATE AUSA R. MACEY TAYLOR ADVISED THAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROBATION VIOLATORS WARRANT WHICH HAD BEEN ISSUED FOR COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, HE WAS OF THE OPINION THAT WILKINS SHOULD BE RELEASED ON BOND. TAYLOR SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH USDJ SEYBOURN H. LYNNE WHO WAS IN AGREEMENT THAT WILKINS SHOULD BE RELEASED ON A SMALL BOND WHICH WOULD CORRESPOND WITH WHAT IS NORMALLY DONE WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE ARRESTED ON PAROLE VIOLATORS WARRANTS. TAYLOR SAID JUDGE LYNNE WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO CRITICISM IF THE NORMAL PROCEDURE WERE NOT FOLLOWED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PV WARRANT IN THIS CASE. ~~TAYLOR WAS ADVISED WE HAD NO OBJECTION TO FOLLOWING NORMAL PROCEDURES IN CASES OF THIS TYPE.~~

44-2860-71

TAYLOR ALSO ADVISED IN CONNECTION WITH THE HEARING SCHEDULED ON THE PV WARRANT WHICH WOULD NOT BE UNTIL APRIL THIRTY NEXT, THE

END PAGE ONE

RGJ:fc
(1)

Original cannot be located and is not on record. When original is received in Branch it will be filed either with this copy or may be given a new serial.

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

JUL 13 1978

FBI

JUL 13 1978

Approved: _____ Sent 1:15 PM Per: _____

Special Agent in Charge

(6-20-63)

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via _____ _____
(Priority)

BH 44-1236

GOVERNMENT WOULD NEED SOME EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS WARRANT. TAYLOR WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THE MATTER INVOLVING THE SHOOTING WOULD, IN ALL PROBABILITY, BE RESOLVED BEFORE THE HEARING ON THE PV WARRANT.

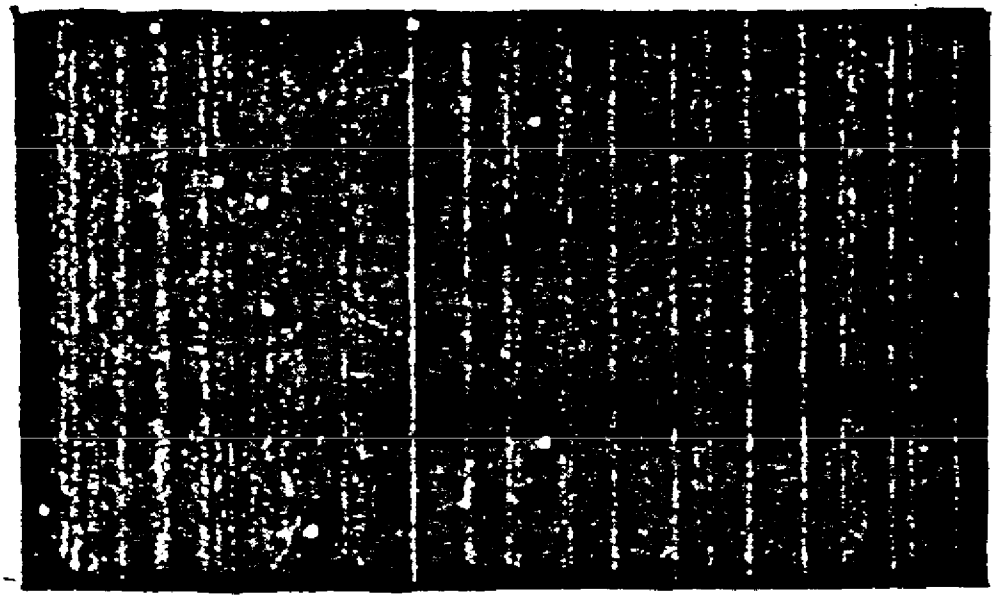
TAYLOR ALSO SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON AS TO WHO WOULD HOLD THE PRELIMINARY HEARINGS OR WHAT INFORMATION WAS NECESSARY. HE SAID THAT USA MACON L. WEAVER WOULD BE IN TOWN LATER, AND IN ALL PROBABILITY WEAVER WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH WASHINGTON REGARDING THIS MATTER. TAYLOR WAS ADVISED WE WERE IN NO POSITION TO FURNISH ANY INFORMATION NOR DID WE HAVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING ANY DECISION. TAYLOR WAS ADVISED THAT IN ALL PROBABILITY THE DECISION IN THIS CASE WOULD BE MADE IN WASHINGTON AND AS SOON AS IT WAS POSSIBLE HE WOULD BE INFORMED.

END AND ACK

PAGE TWO

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

COPY



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44-28601-72	23	JVH/ras 3/30/65

Rosen to Belmont EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;

Re small bond on sub Wilkins, BH shld have pointed out in their tel 3/29/65 small bond related to parole violators warrang against sub arising from previous Fed firearms act conviction. 3/29/65 Wilkins released after posting $500 bond on parole violators charge plus $50,000 bond on Fed charge in this case. For info.

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BUFILE 44-28601-72

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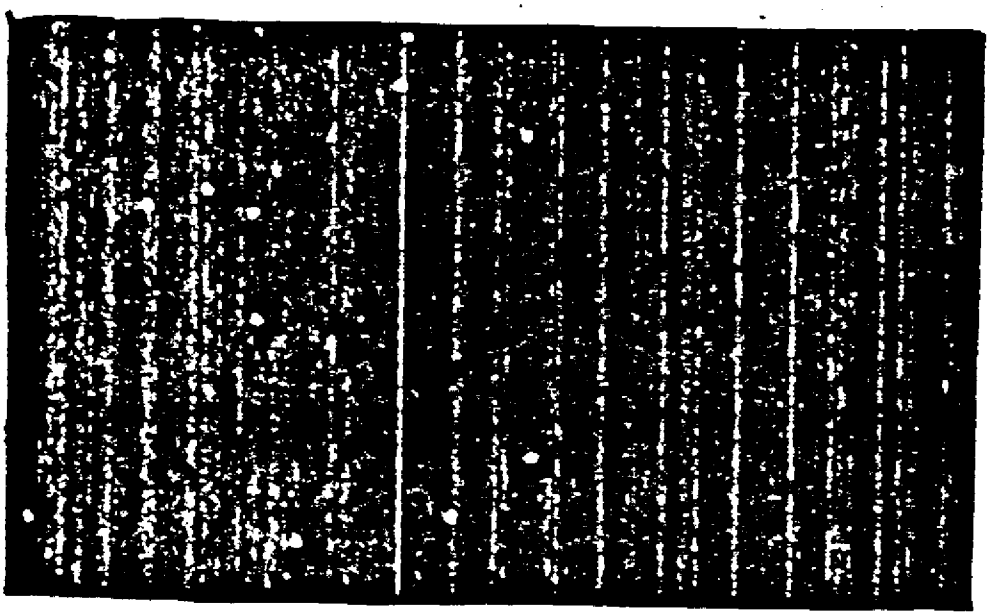

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COPY

44-28601-73	47	3/31/65

SAC, [redacted] EUGENE THOMAS

MOBILE

BUREAU AGENTS AT [redacted] PRESENTLY ASSEMBLING MATERIAL FOR CHARTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXHIBITS SECTION OF THE LAB SO THAT SAME CAN BE PREPARED POSTER SIZE FOR PRESENTATION IN COURT.

INCOMING MAIL
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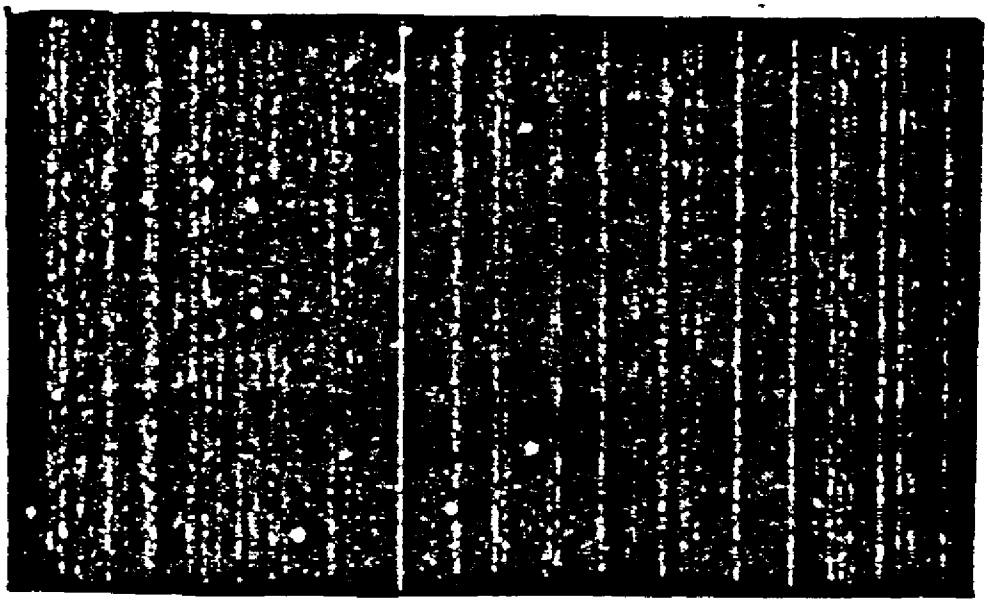
BLUE ABSTRACT

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

BUFILE 44-2860[illegible]-73

COPY



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PINK ABSTRACT

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44-28601-74	30	3-31-65

INCOMING MAIL
(WHITE OR
BLUE ABSTRACT

SAC, PH EUGENE THOMAS

RE DETOIT TELETYPE TO PHILA. MARCH THIRTYONE SIXTYFIVE. CERTIFICATION OF BIRTH FOR VIOLA FAUVER GREGG OBTAINED FORM DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNA. HARRISBURG, PA. THIS DATE AND WILL BE FORWARDED APRIL ONE NEXT TO MOBILE.

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

BUFILE 44-28601-74

FBI WASH DC

FBI BALTO

230PM EST URGENT 4-1-65 NSH

TO DIRECTOR, ATLANTA AND MOBILE (SELMA)

FROM BALTIMORE 2P

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA; LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIMS. CR DASH EL.

RE ATLANTA TEL MARCH THIRTYONE.

HOSEA WILLIAMS, SCLC DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL EDUCATION, INTERVIEWED LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL, BALTIMORE, MD., TODAY AND ADVISED SCLC RECORDS RELATING TO SELMA DASH MONTGOMERY MARCH, MARCH TWENTYONE DASH TWENTYFIVE, ARE IN THE TRUNK OF AVIS DASH RENTAL CAR, WHITE FORD, YEAR UNKNOWN, WHICH HE DROVE TO ATLANTA AIRPORT MARCH THIRTYONE. NO ONE BUT HIMSELF IS AWARE THEY ARE IN CAR TRUNK. AL (LNU) OR MARK HARRINGTON AT ATLANTA HEADQUARTERS HAS KEYS TO THIS CAR. SUGGESTS THEY BE CONTACTED AND TOLD HE GRANTS PERMISSION TO REVIEW THEM FOR ANY POSSIBLE INFO RE LIUZZO'S NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE OLDS. HE DOUBTS EXISTENCE OF SUCH, SINCE SHE DROVE OWN CAR AND HE PERSONALLY MERDED PASSENGERS IN VEHICLES.

END PAGE ONE

44-28601-[illegible]

RECORDED

JUL 13 1978

Original cannot be located and is not on record. When original is received in Records Branch it will be filed with this copy or may be given a new serial.

JUL 13 1978

BA 44-NEW

WITHOUT RECORDING IDENTITIES. HE IS CERTAIN SHE HAVE NO WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION RE USE OF HER CAR. RECORDS IN CAR TRUNK ARE REGISTRATION CARDS OF VOLUNTEERS WHICH LIST NAME, ADDRESS AND ORGANIZATION THEY REPRESENT. HIS INSTRUCTIONS RE AVIS-RENTAL CAR AT ATLANTA WERE TO HOLD UNTIL HE CALLED. PERSONAL EFFECTS AND LIUZZO CAR REGISTRATION MAILED TO DETROIT TO ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, HUSBAND OF VICTIM.

ATLANTA CONTACT AL (LNU) AND/OR MARK HARRINGTON, SCLC HEADQUARTERS AND REVIEW RECORDS, NDC.

END

MA 6 SEC

FBI WASH DC

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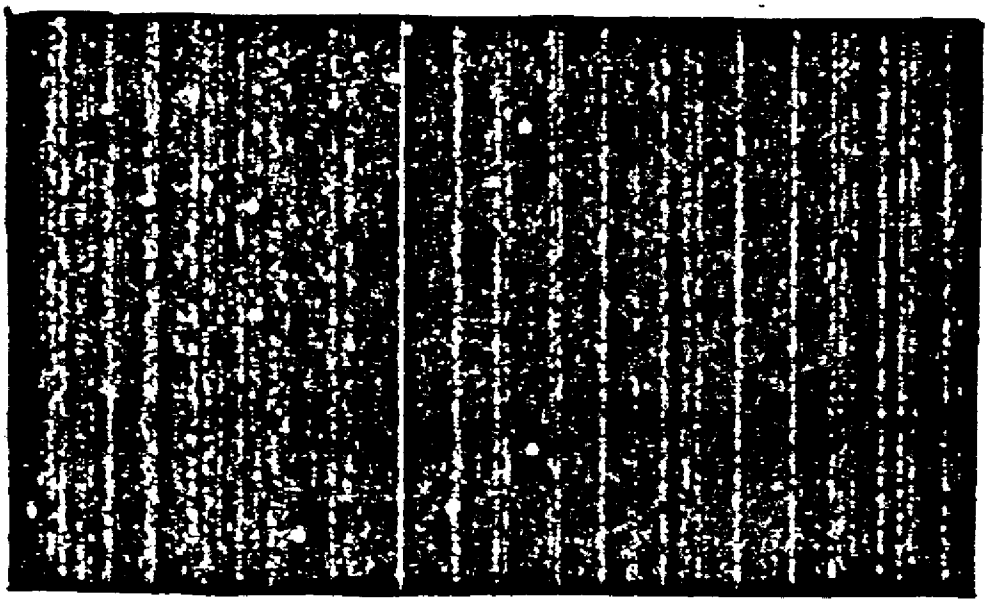

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44-28601-78	22	HGR:las 3-28-65

INCOMING MAIL
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BLUE ABSTRAC

ROSEN TO BELMONT EUGENE THOMAS
A.

Newscast stated KKK official advised FBI Agents had offered plot of land in Minnesota consisting of several hundred acres to subj to confess in cap case.

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

BUFILE 44-28601-78

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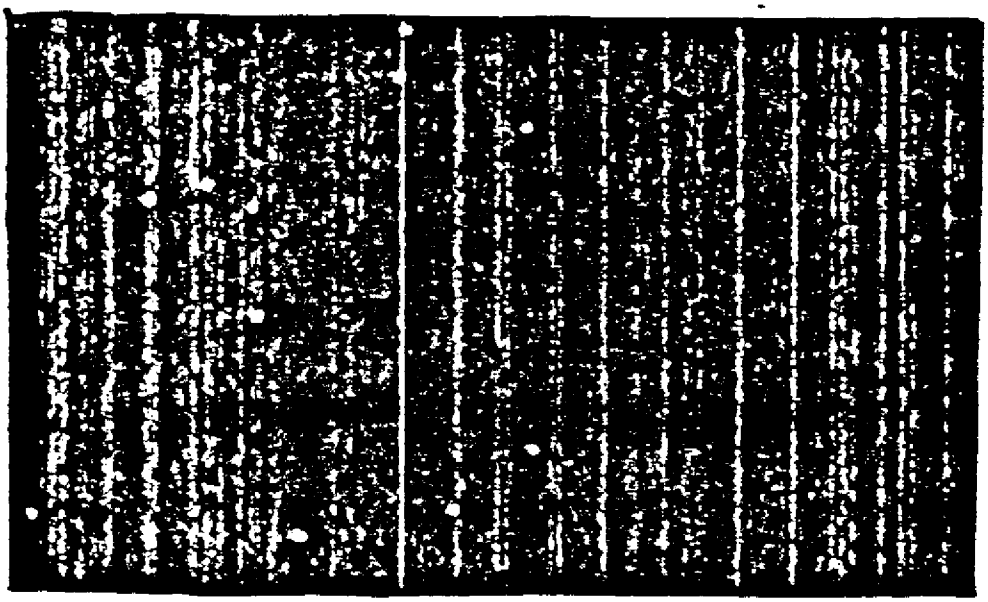

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COPY

44-28601-80	39	3-26-65

INCOMING MAIL
(WHITE OR
BLUE ABSTRAC

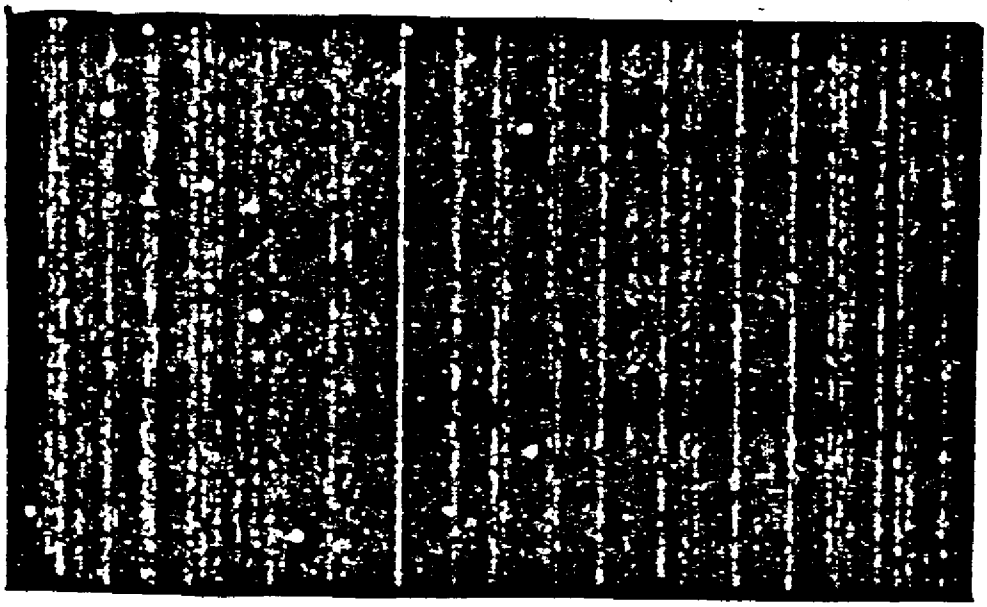
ASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE VIOLA LIUZZO

" Is this correct or were 2 revolvers used? H"
State and Federal agents roped off a section
along U.S. 80 tdday and began an inch by inch
inspection of the spot where a white woman runni
a shuttle service for civil rights demonstratior
was slain by a sniper.

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

BUFILE 44-28601-80

COPY



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PINK ABSTRACT

COPY

44-28601-81 | 39 | JWH/ras 3/26/65

Memo Rosen to Belmont. UNSUBS;VIOLA LIUZZO,

UPI news release 3/26/65 states FBI said weapon was high-powered rifle.Director inquires, [redacted]

[redacted] .Crime Records Di advised no release made by FBI.For info.

INCOMING MAIL
(WHITE OR
BLUE ABSTRACT

b7A

THIS IS A TEMPORARY SERIAL - (SEE ABSTRACT(S) ABOVE)

BUFILE 44-28601

FD-963 (Rev 5-1-69)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
MOBILE	MOBILE	4/1/65	3/27/65 - 4/1/65

TITLE OF CASE

EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS

REPORT MADE BY: SA [redacted] b7c

TYPED BY: mjr

CHARACTER OF CASE

CR - EL

REFERENCE:

Report of SA [redacted] b7c 3/30/65, at Mobile.

- P -

LEADS:

THE MOBILE DIVISION

AT SELMA, ALABAMA

Will follow prosecutive action.

44-28601-82

AUG 3 1978

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA: Original cannot be located and is not on record. When original is received in Records Branch it will be filed either with this copy or may be given a new serial. [redacted] 5/2/78

APPROVED: b7c SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

5 - Bureau
1 - USA, Montgomery, Ala.
1 - Departmental Attorney
Montgomery, Alabama
4 - Birmingham
(1 - USA, Birmingham)
5 - Mobile (44-1245)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-1236-1179

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
APR 3 1965
FBI - BIRMINGHAM

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

AGENCY				
REQUEST RECD.				
DATE FWD.				
HOW FWD.				
BY				

AUG 3 1978

NOTATIONS

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

MO 44-1245
JTB/jsw
1

INFORMANTS

The following informants were contacted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on March 19, 1965: b7C

[redacted] advised the United Klans of America, Incorporated, Knights of Ku Klux Klan (United Klans), are not active in Lowndes County, Alabama. Informant stated at one time there was a chapter in Lowndes County, but this chapter was broken up. b7D

[redacted] advised he has spoken to a number of former Klansmen and other persons prone to violence who reside in the Lowndes County, Alabama, area and it is the general opinion of these people that they wanted no violence to occur in Lowndes County in connection with the Selma to Montgomery march. [redacted] advised that if any violence occurred, it would be caused by persons other than persons from Lowndes County. b7D

[redacted] advised [redacted] and no mention has been made of any action to protest the Selma to Montgomery civil rights march. [redacted] stated that although individual Klansmen are upset about this march, these Klansmen stated they would follow Imperial Wizard ROBERT SHELTON's orders that nothing was to be done to interfere with this march. b7D

[redacted] advised ROBERT CREEL, Grand Dragon, State of Alabama, United Klans, has placed a call for all Klansmen in Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia to join a motorcade from Patterson Field, Montgomery to Selma, Alabama, which was scheduled to leave Montgomery at 2:00 p.m., March 21, 1965. [redacted] advised Klansmen in the motorcade were not to be armed and that the motorcade would disperse at Selma, Alabama, and the Klansmen were to take various routes home. b7D

[redacted] advised Klansmen were gathering at Patterson Field at approximately 12:30 p.m. March 21, 1965. Informant advised ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, and BOB CREEL, Grand Dragon, State of Alabama, were in town for the motorcade and that approximately 50 cars had already gathered for the motorcade.

[redacted] advised that there were still some out-of-town Klansmen in Montgomery, Alabama. Informant advised he had heard of no planned activity on the part of Klansmen to do anything in regard to the Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, march.

[redacted]

[redacted] advised [redacted] United Klans, met on March 4, 1965, and denounced any political support for L. B. SULLIVAN, Montgomery Police Commissioner, because SULLIVAN had allowed permits to be granted for Negroes to demonstrate in Montgomery. Informant advised that on March 11, 1965, the regularly scheduled meeting of Den 11, United Klans, Montgomery, Alabama, had met and that Klansmen were angry about civil rights agitators from outside the State of Alabama coming to Montgomery and causing civil rights demonstrations.

[redacted] GENE VANN, Exalted Cyclops, Lawrenceville Lodge 610, United Klans, Montgomery, Alabama, had telephoned Klansmen who belonged to Confederate Den 11, United Klans, and asked them to participate in the demonstration by white people to be held on March 21, 1965, to protest outside agitators being in Montgomery, Alabama. This march was to originate in the Square in Montgomery and go to the State Capitol where speeches were to be made. VANN did not indicate the organizations which were to participate in the demonstration, but merely referred to them as white people. Informant observed this march and observed several persons in the march that he recognized as belonging to Lawrenceville Lodge 610, United Klans, but was unable to identify them.

[redacted] advised groups of white persons had met at Crampton Bowl, Montgomery, Alabama, and had paraded to the Federal Building to protest the United States Government's assistance to outside agitators. This march was held on March 20, 1965.

[redacted] b7D

[redacted] advised that on March 20, 1965, CHARLES WILKINSON, Exalted Cyclops, Den 11, United Klans, Montgomery, Alabama, had made a statement that the United States Government had issued an order permitting the Negroes to march and that the Negroes will march. WILKINSON stated the best thing to do was to stay away from the Selma to Montgomery civil rights march and to follow the instructions of Imperial Wizard ROBERT SHELTON by having nothing to do with this march. b7D

[redacted] advised he has heard nothing concerning the killing of VIOLA LIUZZO from Klansmen. Informant is of the opinion the Klan will not meet in the Montgomery area for some time due to the fact that they believe they will be watched. b7D

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Birmingham, Alabama
1 - USA, Montgomery, Alabama
1 - Departmental Attorney, Montgomery, Alabama

Report of: SA [redacted] b7C
Date: 4/1/65

Office: MOBILE, ALABAMA

Field Office File #: MO 44-1245

Bureau File #:

Title: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis: Investigation at Detroit disclosed VIOLA LIUZZO had been involved in an arrest under Warrant #208967, in Detroit, on a charge of failing to send children to school. She was fined $50 and placed on one year's probation. The sentencing judge stated in his opinion VIOLA LIUZZO was a professional crusader; that she was convicted only because she insisted on being convicted. Several unmailed letters found in Mrs. LIUZZO's automobile after death describe her feelings over the demonstration in which she was participating indicating she was deeply involved emotionally in the movement. [redacted] b7C

Interviews with habitues of the Silver Moon Cafe, Selma, failed to disclose any further corroboration of the presence of the subjects there. Two Craig AFB students describe an incident on the highway wherein they placed an individual near the crime scene who answers Victim MOTON's description.

The results of the post-mortem investigation conducted by the State of Alabama, Department of Toxicology and Criminal Investigation, assessed the cause of the Victim's death as the bullet wound which almost oompletely severed the spinal cord at the base of the brain. No other significant findings were noted in the post-mortem report.

A certified copy of the birth record for the Victim LIUZZO has been secured.

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MO 441-245

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MO 44-1245

DETAILS:

I. BACKGROUND OF VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO

MO 44-1245

By communication of March 27, 1965, the Detroit Office advised as follows:

[redacted] Records Division, Michigan Secretary of State's Office, Lansing, Michigan, on March 26, 1965, advised that 1963 Oldsmobile coupe, with 1965 Michigan license EJ 9177, is registered to ANTHONY J. LIUZZO at 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan. This vehicle has Vehicle Identification Number 632M60486. b7c

[redacted] Drivers' Service Division, Michigan Secretary of State's Office, advised that operator's license number L200-847-015-283 was issued April 16, 1963, to a VIOLA LIUZZO, born April 11, 1925, residing at 19375 Marlowe, Detroit. The license described VIOLA LIUZZO as female, blond hair, gray eyes, 5'2½", 127 pounds. b7c

[redacted] Identification Division, Detroit Police Department, advised that a VIOLA LIUZZO, 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan, born on April 11, 1925, was arrested June 16, 1964, charged with "failing to send children to school." The arrest card indicated that a VIOLA FAUVER LIUZZO, of 19375 Marlowe, a resident of Detroit for 13 years prior to June 16, 1964, had been arrested by officers of the Detroit Police Department on June 16, 1964, at 8:45 a.m. at 13365 Schaefer, Detroit, Michigan. VIOLA FAUVER LIUZZO was arrested on warrant 208967 on the complaint of Mr. WILLIAM LAKIN, 5057 Woodward, Detroit, Michigan, the latter being associated with the Detroit Board of Education. The disposition of the arrest was shown as one year probation and $50.00 fine. b7c

The court file was Detroit Recorders Court file number 208967.

Detroit Recorders Court Judge JOSEPH GILLIS, on March 26, 1965, advised that he recalled the case concerning VIOLA LIUZZO, and stated that he was of the opinion that VIOLA LIUZZO was a professional crusader. Her complaint at the time she was brought before him on a charge of failure to send children to school, was the fact that in Detroit children are permitted to drop out of school at the age of 16 and VIOLA LIUZZO felt that the children should not be

permitted to drop out of school until reaching the age of 18, and for that reason she refused to send her own children to school.

Judge JOSEPH GILLIS stated that he adjourned the case from June 16, 1964, to September, 1964, hoping that VIOLA LIUZZO would be able to adjust this matter without his aid and that during that period he received a letter from the Detroit Board of Education advising that they did not desire to prosecute. Judge GILLIS stated that he was willing to drop the matter but that VIOLA LIUZZO insisted on being tried and entered a plea of guilty, and that he then placed her on one year's probation with a fine of $50.00. Judge GILLIS stated that after the trial he received information from the Probation Department of the Detroit Recorders Court that VIOLA LIUZZO was emotionally disturbed and appeared to be on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

The records of the Detroit Division indicate that one VIOLA LIUZZO had addressed a letter to the "Detroit Free Press," a newspaper published daily at Detroit, Michigan, in which VIOLA LIUZZO belittled the United States Government's charges against JAMES R. HOFFA, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

MO 44-1245

The Philadelphia Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation advised that a certification of birth for VIOLA FAUVER GREGG, who is the Victim LIUZZO, was obtained from the Department of Health, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on March 31, 1965, is being forwarded to the Mobile Division.

II. CHAIN OF EVIDENCE REGARDING BULLET TAKEN FROM VICTIM'S CAR

MO 44-1245

III. INVESTIGATION REGARDING SUBJECTS AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

OC OC

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 9, 1965

1

Mr. JOHN STOLECKI, General Manager, Bama Department Store, 810 Southern By-Pass, Montgomery, advised he was in the store on March 25, 1965, when four men, all well-dressed in business suits, came into the store at approximately five or six P.M.

He said two men were larger in frame than the other two and that all four appeared rough looking.

STOLECKI said that GEORGE LEONARD, a salesman in the store, waited on the four men in the Sporting Goods Department. He said that one of these man had a scar from his eye to the lower portion of his nose. He stated that he could not remember on which side of the face this scar appeared.

STOLECKI was shown photographs of WILKINS, ROWE, THOMAS and EATON. He said that he could not identify the photographs as being the same four men that were in the store on March 25, 1965.

On 3-30-65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] and [redacted] :kg Date dictated 3-30-65

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/1/65

1

RICHARD McDANIEL, Department Manager, Bama Department Store, Montgomery, Alabama, advised that on Thursday, March 25, 1965, 4 men inquired about high powered rifle ammunition. He said they were dressed in suits and sport coats and all were wearing neck ties.

McDANIEL said it was about 1 PM when the 4 men were in the store inasmuch as he went to lunch from 12:30 to 1:00 PM that day, and the 4 men were at the sporting goods counter as he returned from lunch.

He said one individual did inquire about .357 caliber ammunition. He said he told them about the Gun Shop which is close by on the Southern By Pass Highway to the East. McDANIEL was shown photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., and COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, and stated he could not identify the photographs as being identical with the 4 individuals in the store.

On 3/30/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] and b7C 15 Date dictated 3/31/65

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/1/65

1 -

FRED LOUIS DALBETT, Manager, Milner Graystone Hotel, Montgomery, Alabama, advised that to his knowledge VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO was not registered in the hotel on March 24 or 25, 1965, and that no medical doctor had been called to the hotel to treat a civil rights worker or guest in the hotel on March 24 or 25, 1965. DALBETT further advised that there were many instances of persons other than registered guests bringing sleeping bags into the hotel and sleeping on the floor in rooms of registered civil rights workers.

DALBETT stated he observed a woman in the lobby on several occasions on the 24th and 25th of March, 1965, who he believed to be associated with the demonstrators and from conversations he overheard and telephone calls she made from the desk, believed that she was involved with the arranging of transportation and transporting civil rights demonstrators between Selma and Montgomery.

DALBETT furnished the following description of this unknown woman:

Race	White
Sex	Female
Age	About 38 or 39
Weight	About 135
Height	5' 4" to 5' 5"
Hair	Straight, reddish color
Dress	Farm type blue jeans and T-shirt
Manner of speech	Educated, intelligent speech with northern accent.

On 3/30/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] DJC 16 Date dictated 3/31/65

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MO 44-1245
JWB/ls

On March 30, 1965, KEN R. LUNDQUIST and BERT GAFFORD, JR., co-owners of Gun Shop, 4326 South Court Street, Montgomery, Alabama, advised SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] that they did not recall 4 men entering the store anytime on March 25, 1965. Both men stated that have not sold any rifle or pistol ammunition to people they did not know since last Wednesday, March 24, 1965. b7C

MC 44-1245
SHR/jsw
1

On March 1, 1965, Special Agent [redacted] b7c ascertained the following information from Major General ALFRED HARRISON, Adjutant General for State of Alabama:

The military personnel guarding the route of the March on March 25, 1965 in Montgomery, was integrated with units from the 503 MP Battalion (regular Army), Ft. Bragg, North Carolina; the 31st MP Company, Alabama National Guard from Birmingham; and the 156th MP Battalion, Headquarters, from Linden, Alabama.

There is no record of names or ranks of persons stationed at particular points along the parade route, and other than the above, there is no way of pinpoining the name or rank of any individual.

The remaining manner of determining the identity of this Major would be to interview all majors assigned to the above listed units.

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/1/65

1

Photographs of the following business establishments were taken using a 4x5 Speed Graphic Camera with Kodak Tri-X film:

American Oil Company Service Station, 351 Dexter Avenue, on northwest corner of Dexter Avenue and Hull Street, Montgomery, Alabama. Photo taken from center of Dexter Avenue looking north.

Jack's Grill, located on U. S. Highway 31 north of Montgomery, Alabama, and about ¼ mile west of the overpass leading to the main entrance to Maxwell Air Force Base. Photo taken looking northwest. Grill is located on north side of Highway 31.

Old Hickory Bar-B-Q located on southwest corner of intersection of U. S. Highway 31 and Alabama Route 14 at Prattville, Alabama. This establishment is directly across Route 14 from the Go-Go Restaurant.

Go-Go Restaurant, located on northwest corner of intersection of U. S. Highway 31 and Alabama Route 14 at Prattville, Alabama. This photo shows a water tank in the background with the lettering "PRATTVILLE". The tank is painted aluminum while the lettering is faded red. This restaurant is directly north across Route 14 from the Old Hickory Bar-B-Q.

The original negatives of these photos were developed in Montgomery, Alabama.

On 3/31/65 at Montgomery, Alabama, and Prattville, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7c

by SA [redacted] 17-B Date dictated 4/1/65

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MO 44-1245
/bah
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The following investigation was conducted by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] b7C

On April 1, 1965, photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., and a 1962 Chevrolet, Impala, color red and white, bearing Alabama License 1B-36964, were shown to the following individuals with negative results:

CHARLES FREEMAN, Owner, Freeman's Amoco Station, Route #6, Box 35-A, Montgomery, Alabama;

NORMAN WELCH, Manager, Taylor's American Station, 2310 Birmingham Highway, Montgomery, Alabama.

Mr. FREEMAN stated he is the owner and operator of Freeman's Amoco Station, and remains at the station until closing time each night. He stated he can think of no one else who was at the station, other than himself, on March 25, 1965, between the hours of 8:30 and 9:00 PM.

Mr. WELCH stated he is the manager of Taylor's American Station and was the only employee there during the evening of March 25, 1965. Mr. WELCH further stated that on March 25, 1965, Taylor's American Station was closed at about 8:00 PM, which is the normal closing time for each Thursday.

It is to be noted that the above-described American Service Stations were the only ones observed on Highway #31, North, from the North City Limits of Montgomery, Alabama, to within fifty miles of Birmingham, Alabama.

W. TOM JONES, American Oil Company Distributor in Montgomery, Alabama, advised SA [redacted] that all charge tickets for March 25, 1965, have been forwarded to the Credit Department, American Oil Company, 910 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. b7C

IV. INVESTIGATION REGARDING SUBJECTS AT SELMA, ALABAMA

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

SPENCER EUGENE COONER, home address, Route #1, Townley, Alabama, employed as lineman, Alabama Power Company, advised that he has been in Selma since January 25, 1965, working on cross-country power lines to the Dan River Project.

He related that he eats dinner regularly at three or four restaurants in Selma, one of which is the Silver Moon Cafe.

COONER recalls eating at the Silver Moon Cafe on Thursday evening, March 25, 1965. He estimates that he arrived at the cafe at approximately 7:00 PM and stayed from 45 minutes to an hour.

COONER does not recall observing any well-dressed individuals in the cafe. He was shown photographs of subjects WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, EUGENE THOMAS, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., but he could not identify them as being individuals he had ever seen. He was also shown a photograph of a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red, and advised that he could not recall having seen this vehicle in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe at any time.

COONER explained that he always goes to dinner with a group of four or five other Alabama Power Company employees who work on the same crew that he does. Whenever this group goes into a restaurant for dinner, they always sit at the same table, converse among themselves, and generally do not associate, pay any attention to, or converse with local citizens who may be in the restaurant.

COONER could furnish no further information.

On 3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

by SA [redacted] and b7c
SA [redacted] /bah Date dictated 3/30/65

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FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/31/65

1

DAVID GAMBLE, also known as SHORTY, 1214 Railroad, was interviewed at his residence and furnished the following information:

He advised that he works on a part-time basis at the Silver Moon Cafe, 138 Washington Street, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. His duties consist of washing dishes and cleaning the restaurant on these two days.

He stated that on March 25, 1965, he was not working at the Silver Moon Cafe, and the first time that he heard that a person was killed on Highway 80 east of Selma was that evening while he was watching television, and a news bulletin was flashed over television concerning the killing.

He advised that he could not furnish any information in connection with this killing nor did he hear of anyone who may have been involved in the killing of VIOLA LIUZZO the night of March 25, 1965.

On 3/31/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

SA [redacted] and b7C

by [redacted] FMC/jmw 20 Date dictated 3/31/65

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

Mr. MORRIS PERRY, 2520 Water Street, advised that he recalls being in the Silver Moon Cafe on Thursday, March 25, 1965, at approximately 3:00 PM for a little while after which he left. He said later on that evening between 6:00 and 6:30 PM, he came back to the Silver Moon Cafe where he met HUGHIE CLAY NICHOLS, a fellow employee at Baggett Transfer Company who was already in the cafe. He said that they had a cup of coffee together, during which NICHOLS told him about a trip he was making for the company hauling material to various nearby cities and also to Birmingham, Alabama. PERRY stated that he was on vacation and had planned to take a ride with NICHOLS on this trip, and after approximately 30 minutes in the cafe, he went across the street to the Coffee Pot Cafe to call his mother to tell her he was going on this trip and would be away from home over night, whereupon they departed in a company truck and returned to Selma the next day.

PERRY recalled that PETE LACKEOS and OUIDA LARSON were the only two people he can specifically remember who were working at the Silver Moon but could not recall what other customers, if any, were in there at that time. He stated that he and NICHOLS sat at a table in front of the juke box, and he did not notice any strangers, particularly four men dressed in suits.

PERRY stated he was unable to identify photographs of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, and GARY THOMAS ROWE as anyone he has ever seen and stated he did not notice a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red, parked anywhere around the Silver Moon that evening.

He stated that he recalls seeing photographs in the newspapers of the four men arrested in Birmingham, Alabama, for killing some white woman on the highway between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, and at that time looked them over carefully and did not recognize any of them as people he knew.

On 3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

by SA [redacted] and bmc
SA [redacted] :bah Date dictated 3/30/65

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OC OC

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

1

Flight Cadet SYED ZAHIRUL-HASAN ZAIDI, 3615th Student Squadron, Craig Air Force Base, Alabama, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the investigation, at which time he furnished the following information:

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7A

On 3/30/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] and b7C 22 SA [redacted] RTB/JRM Date dictated 3/30/65

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[redacted]

b7C
b7A

ZAIDI advised that on the trip to Dannelly and back to Craig, he did not notice any white over red 1962 Chevrolet Impalas.

ZAIDI stated he was born April 21, 1944, at Pulwal, India, and he will be at Craig Field until August 4, 1965. After this time he can be contacted through Captain LIGON, Foreign Liaison Officer, Craig Field. ZAIDI's Service Number is PAK 4096 and he currently resides at BOQ 376, Room 114.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

1

Flight Cadet AAMER ALI SHARIEFF, 3615th Student Squadron, Craig Air Force Base, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the investigation.

SHARIEFF stated that he is from Pakistan and is currently taking flight training with the United States Air Force. At about 8 o'clock on March 25, 1965, he was driving his 1959 blue Corvette convertible, with the top down, bearing Texas license HZ 9576, from Dannelly Field, Montgomery, Alabama, to Craig Air Force Base, along on Highway 80. In the car with SHARIEFF was another air cadet from Pakistan by the name of SYED ZAHIRUL-HASAN ZAIDI.

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7A

On 3/30/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] and b7C
SA [redacted] RTB/jfw Date dictated 3/30/65

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After passing the man on the Highway, SHARIEFF did not see him again as it was a dark night with no moon and he did not know whether or not this man fell into a ditch on the side of the road.

SHARIEFF stated he was born August 24, 1946, at Hyderbad Deccan, India. He expects to be at Craig Field until August 4, 1965. After this date, contact can be made with him through Captain LIGON, Foreign Liaison Officer at Craig Field. He stated that his Service Number is PAK 4099 and he currently resides at BOQ 376, Room 114.

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 30, 1965

1

[redacted] b7C

was interviewed and furnished the following information:

He advised that he is an Alabama State Trooper and on March 25, 1965, he was working with Patrolman [redacted] b7C on a tour of duty extending from 3 P.M. to 12 midnight. He recalled he was on a radar surveillance on Highway 80 East of Selma, Alabama, that evening. He did not observe a 1955 gray Ford with an out-of-state license plate earlier that evening and at 8:15 P.M. he went to supper. He advised that he returned to patrol duty in the same area with HAGOOD about 9:15 P.M., at which time he learned about a shooting which had occurred along the highway. He received instructions to be alert for the above-mentioned Ford; however, he did not observe this automobile the remainder of his time on duty.

On 3-30-65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

SAs [redacted] and [redacted] b7C

by [redacted] Date dictated 3-30-65

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 30, 1965

1

[redacted] was b7C
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On 3-30-65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SAs [redacted] b7C Date dictated 3-30-65

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

O. T. JACKSON, home address 128 Washington Avenue, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

JACKSON advised that on Monday, March 22, 1965, he began working for his father at the Black and White Cab Company on Washington Avenue, Selma, Alabama, as a taxicab dispatcher.

He stated that he was not in the Silver Moon Cafe on March 25, 1965, and could not identify photographs of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, and GARY THOMAS ROWE as being any individuals he has ever seen. JACKSON also observed photographs of a red and white 1962 Chevrolet. He related that he had never seen this vehicle parked in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe to the best of his recollection.

JACKSON could furnish no further information in regard to this matter.

On 3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

by SA [redacted] and b7C
SA [redacted] /bah 29 Date dictated 3/30/65

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FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/31/65

1

R. E. LANGSTON, Route 1, Box 188, Billingsley, Alabama, was interviewed at his place of employment, Baggett Transportation Company, Selma, Alabama, and furnished the following information:

He advised he is a truck driver for Baggett Transportation Company and on March 25, 1965, he reported for work about 8:00 a.m. that morning. He stated he did not return from making his regular deliveries until 7:30 p.m. When he returned that evening, his wife, MARIE LANGSTON, was at the Baggett Transportation Company, waiting for him, at which time he got off work and his wife and he proceeded home and stayed there all evening. He stated that they did not stop along the way and were not at the Silver Moon Cafe that evening.

He stated that his wife was employed as a waitress at the Silver Moon Cafe for approximately 14 years and he stated that they visited the Silver Moon Cafe frequently.

He stated that he knows ELMER L. COOK, WILLIAM STANLEY and NAMON O'NEAL HOGGLE and R. B. KELLY, due to the fact that his wife worked at the Silver Moon Cafe and he became acquainted with them.

Mr. LANGSTON, after viewing the photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Sheriff's Office Number 113073, date of photograph March 26, 1965; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Sheriff's Office Number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Sheriff's Office Number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965; and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Sheriff's Office Number 113076, date of photograph March 26, 1965, stated he was unable to identify any of these persons as being known to him.

Mr. LANGSTON, after viewing photographs of a 1962 red and white Chevrolet Impala, was unable to state whether

On 3/30/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

SAS [redacted] b7C

by PMC/jaw Date dictated 3/31/65

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he had seen this automobile in the vicinity of Selma, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

Mr. LANGSTON could furnish no further information in connection with the killing which happened on Highway 80 east of Selma, Alabama, the evening of March 25, 1965.

OC OC

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/31/65

1

MARIE LANGSTON, Route 1, Box 188, Billingsley, Alabama, was interviewed at the Baggett Transportation Company, Selma, Alabama, and furnished the following information:

She advised that she leaves her house at approximately 4:30 p.m. each day and arrives at the Baggett Transportation Company approximately 5:00 p.m., where she waits for her husband, R. E. LANGSTON, who is employed at the Baggett Transportation Company as a truck driver.

On March 25, 1965, she arrived at Baggett Transportation Company as usual and picked up her husband who arrived late that evening approximately between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. She advised that both went directly home and did not leave their residence that night.

The first time she heard of a person being killed on Highway 80, east of Selma, Alabama, was that night when she was watching television and a news bulletin was flashed over television concerning this murder.

She further stated that she has worked at the Silver Moon Cafe, 138 Washington Street, Selma, Alabama, for about 14 years, but has not worked at this cafe during the past two years. Mrs. LANGSTON was unable to furnish any names of people who might patronize the Silver Moon Cafe.

She advised she knows R. B. KELLY, WILLIAM STANLEY and RAMON O'NEAL HOGGLE and ELMER COOK, due to the fact that they patronize the Silver Moon Cafe and she knew them when she was a waitress.

Mrs. LANGSTON could not furnish any information in connection with the killing which happened on Highway 80 east of Selma, Alabama, the evening of March 25, 1965.

On 3/30/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

SA [redacted] b7C

by PMC/jaw 32 Date dictated 3/31/65

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/1/65

1

Mrs. FRANCES E. BOWDEN, 813 Pettus Street, Selma, Alabama, was interviewed and stated that she was in the vicinity of the 100 block of Washington Street, Selma, from 2 PM, March 25, 1965, until about 6 PM that evening at which time she left the Coffee Pot Cafe and went home. She advised she went home so her mother could attend church that evening. She advised she could furnish no information about the killing which took place on Highway 80 east of Selma, on March 25, 1965.

Mrs. BOWDEN after viewing the photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, #113073, date of photo March 26, 1965; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., number unknown, date of photo March 26, 1965; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., number unknown, date of photo March 26, 1965, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., #113076, date of photo March 26, 1965, stated she was unable to identify any of these persons as being known to her.

BOWDEN after viewing photographs of 1962 red and white Chevrolet Impala, was unable to state whether she had seen this automobile in vicinity of Selma, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

On 3/31/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1285

by SA [redacted] bmc 33 Date dictated 3/31/65

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.

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/31/65

Mr. GRADY DEASON was contacted at the Reliable Oldsmobile Company, 16 Lawrence Street, and was shown photographs of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, at which time he stated that he could not identify any of those persons as anyone he saw in the Silver Moon Cafe during the evening of March 25, 1965, and could not identify the photograph of the 1962 Chevrolet, red and white in color, as any automobile he noticed parked near the Silver Moon.

DEASON stated that while he was in the Silver Moon Cafe that evening he was with a friend of his, CECIL BRASHER, and they were talking together, and he did not notice who may have been around the Silver Moon while he was in there.

On 3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] bah Date dictated 3/30/65

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.

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/1/65

WILLIAM TROY MITCHELL, employed as timekeeper with the Alabama Power Company, advised that he has been in Selma since January 25, 1965, working on cross-country power lines to the Dan River Project.

He related that he eats dinner regularly at three or four restaurants in Selma, one of which is the Silver Moon Cafe. MITCHELL stated he does not recall whether he ate at the Silver Moon Cafe on March 25, 1965.

MITCHELL, after observing photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, advised that he could not recognize any of these individuals as being persons he had ever seen. He was also shown photographs of a 1962 Chevrolet automobile, white over red in color, and advised that he could not identify this car as being one that he ever saw in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe.

On 3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted]/bah Date dictated 3/30/65

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.

FD-302 (Rev. 3-31-59)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/1/65

RAMON O'NEAL HOGGLE was contacted at the Selma Motor Company, 100 block of Franklin Street, at which time he advised that he had been in the Silver Moon Cafe on the evening of Thursday, March 25, 1965, for a few minutes between 8:00 and 8:30 PM. He stated that he does not recall seeing anyone in the cafe wearing a suit, and he was unable to identify photographs of WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, EUGENE THOMAS, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, or GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., as anyone he has ever met. He stated that he does not recall having any conversation whatever with any strangers in the Silver Moon Cafe that evening and could not identify photographs of a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red in color, as any car he has seen around Selma.

HOGGLE stated that he has no information whatever regarding this matter.

On 3/30/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] /bah Date dictated 3/30/65

b7C

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.

1

MO 44-1245
RTB/ls

The following investigation was conducted at Craig Air Force Base, Selma, Alabama, on April 1, 1965, by SA [redacted] b7c and SA [redacted]

A2/C CURTIS SNEED and A3/C EDWARD ZILIAK advised that they were on duty at the main gate, Craig Air Force Base, between hours 3:30 PM and 12 midnight, on March 25, 1965. Both were displayed photographs of subjects and the car subjects were travelling in. Both SNEED and ZILIAK stated that this vehicle is unknown to them. They pointed out that they were the only officers on duty at the main gate and that there was no military police vehicle in the area. Both SNEED and ZILIAK are attached to Headquarters Squadron, 3165th Training Wing, in the capacity of Air Police.

36-A

MO 44-1245
RTB/jsw
1

The following persons, all residents of Lawrence Street, Selma, Alabama, were contacted on March 31, 1965, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] b7c They were extensively interviewed and displayed photographs of subjects and subjects' vehicle to determine if any of them had observed this vehicle in the area of Lawrence Street on the evening of March 25, 1965. All persons contacted were unable to make any identification.

CHARLIE OLDS, 1518 Jeff Davis.
MILTON HOPKINS, 113 C, Carver Homes.
GERTRUDE SMITH, 713 Lawrence Street.
AMANDA KEMP, 711 Lawrence Street.
WILLIE SMITH, 707 Lawrence Street.
ARTHUR SMITH, 707 Lawrence Street.
ISAAC FULLER, 802 Lawrence Street.
Mrs. BILLY LESTER, 904 Lawrence Street.
Mrs. GREEN, 716 Lawrence Street.
Mrs. STELLA DAVIS, 712 Lawrence Street.
SALLY PEARL LUNDY, 708 Lawrence Street.
Mrs. SMILEY, 710 Lawrence Street.
Mrs. CHERIN, 710 Lawrence Street
ROSIE MARSHALLN, 614 Lawrence Street.
JOHN MC GHEE, 612 Lawrence Street.

Numerous other persons were located on Lawrence Street and displayed photographs of subjects' vehicle. All were unable to make any type of identification and their names were to numerous to record.

36-B

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 Date 4/1/65

Mr. W. W. CUNNINGHAM, JR., construction foreman, Alabama Power Company, was contacted on Highway 10, eight miles west of Luverne, Alabama, at which time he advised that G. K. SNOW, WILLIAM J. WEBSTER, and JERRY V. LEITH are members of his crew but at that time were out of contact back in the woods in an inaccessible area on the power line.

He stated that he knew the FBI had contacted SPENCER E. COONER and WILLIAM T. MITCHELL recently, who are members of his crew, regarding some activity around the Silver Moon Cafe in Selma, Alabama. He said he and his crew worked out of Selma for the past several weeks and they ate in several restaurants in Selma, including the Silver Moon. He stated they ate together and had no contact with local people in the restaurant and he was unable to identify photographs of ELMER L. COOK, R. B. KELLY, NAMON O'NEAL HOGGLE, and WILLIAM STANLEY HOGGLE. He was also unable to identify photographs of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., EUGENE THOMAS, and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, as any persons he saw around the Silver Moon Cafe and was also unable to identify photographs showing a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red, as any vehicle he noticed in that area.

He stated that he does not recall if he even ate at the Silver Moon Cafe during the evening of March 9 and March 25, 1965, and did not witness any assault on three men in that area.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM said since he had learned that two of his men had been contacted by the FBI, he has questioned his entire crew of seventeen and they all have stated that they knew nothing about any assault or other incidents around the Silver Moon Cafe.

On 4/1/65 at Luverne, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1233
Mobile 44-1245

by SA [redacted] b7c 36-C Date dictated 4/1/65

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.

MO 44-1245

V. KLAN PARADE PERMIT REQUEST

MO 44-1245

EARL JAMES, Mayor of Montgomery, Alabama, is the proper person to produce the application for the Parade Permit and the permission given to parade.

38

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 1, 1965

Mrs. MARY NEWBERRY, Secretary to Commissioners of Public Affairs for Montgomery, Alabama, made available a copy of Parade Permit request by Knights of the Klux Klan dated March 20, 1965, which reads as follows:

"Board of Commissioner
"City of Montgomery
"Attention: L. B. Sullvian

"We The Knights of The Klux Klan of America, Inc. Respectively Request Permission to Parade in Dowtown Montgomery, Alabama, March 21, 1965,

Time: 2 O'Clock.

Route:
Starting Place: 1201 Madison Avenue, Parking Lot Across From Cramton Bowl,

Preceding West on Madison Ave to Bainbridge.
Bainbridge South to Dexter Ave.
West on Dexter Ave. to the Fountain on Court Square

Return Route:

East on Dexter Ave. to Bainbridge
North on Bainbridge to Madison Ave.
East on Madison to 1201 Madison, Parking Lot Across From Cramton Bowl, Disperse.

Reason:
To Protest Order Issued By Federal Court Allowing A Five Day Demonstration March From Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama.

Parade Director,

Bobby Shelton

"/s/ F. M. Vann"

On 3/31/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] /mjr b7C 39 Date dictated 3/31/65

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.

VI. AUTOPSY

MO 44-1245

On April 1, 1965, PAUL E. SHOFFEITT, Assistant Director, State of Alabama, Department of Toxicology and Criminal Investigation, Auburn, Alabama, furnished SA [redacted] b7c [redacted] a copy of the autopsy report prepared by his Department in connection with the case of VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, Case Number 50-49455.

The details of this report are as follows:

SUBJECT: Post-Mortem Examination

At the request of Major W. R. Jones, State Investigator, and with authorization of Circuit Solicitor Arthur E. Gamble, Jr., a post-mortem examination was conducted on the body of Viola Gregg Liuzzo, white female, at the White Chapel Funeral Home, Montgomery, Alabama. Time of examination was 12 midnight on March 25, 1965. Body was identified by State Investigator [redacted] b7c. State and Federal Officers and funeral home personnel were present part of the time during the post-mortem examination. Guy V. Purnell, Toxicologist, of this Department assisted with the examination.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:

This is the unembalmed body of a moderately obese, white female, measured height 5 feet 2 inches and estimated weight 150 pounds, resembling the reported age of 39 years. Scalp hair is reddish-blonde. Teeth are natural with three upper left, two upper right, three lower left, and four lower right missing but not of recent extraction. After photographs are made, bloodstained clothing consisting of a girdle, torso brassiere, slip and dress is removed from body. Two rings on ring finger on left hand, one ring on right finger of right hand, and wrist watch on left wrist are delivered to State Investigator Lt. [redacted] b7c

Bloodstains cover the major portion of the head, neck, and face; expecially, the left side. Bloodstains are also on hands and smaller stains are on lower extremities below the knees. Feet are soiled. Soiled areas also appear on the

back of right hand. Body is washed and additional photographs are made. On lateral surface of upper arms are small dark areas. Fingernails are short with no free edge present. An old linear scar of the lower mid-abdomen is judged to be surgical. Lower abdomen is marked with white lines (striae atrophicae).

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7A

THORACIC-ABDOMINAL;

The thoracic and abdominal cavities are opened with a Y incision. There is appreciable fat in the abdominal wall. No evidence of physical trauma is observed to organs of these cavities. Lungs possess the typical mottled, glistening outer surface with a crepitant feel. Heart is not remarkable in size. Coronaries are patent in the large observed sections. There is evidence of minimal atherosclerosis of the aorta in the area of the coronary orifices. An appreciable quantity of fat is around the kidneys. Capsules of kidneys peel easily revealing a smooth, slightly congested surface. A small quantity of a white milky liquid is observed in pelvis of each sectioned kidney. Stomach contains an estimated 5 ounces of a brownish, thick semiliquid. The appendix is not located. Uterus is non-pregnant. Adrenals, spleen, liver, and pancreas are not remarkable grossly.

VII. CRIME SCENE SEARCH

APPENDIX

UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (UNITED KLANS)

Records of Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, reflect that this Klan organization was granted a corporate charter on February 21, 1961, at Atlanta, Georgia, under the name United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc.

A source advised on February 27, 1961, that United Klans was formed as a result of a split in U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klans, Inc. According to the source, the split resulted from a leadership dispute and United Klans has the same aims and objectives as the parent group. These are the promotion of Americanism, white supremacy and segregation of the races.

The first source and a second source advised in July, 1961, that United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc., merged with Alabama Knights, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The merged organization established headquarters in Suite 401, The Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The organization is directed by ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, and is the dominant Klan group in the South with units in several southern states.

Second source advised that at a meeting at Prattville, Alabama, on October 22, 1961, the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, merged with the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan,

MO 44-1245

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER

PART 4 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 44-28601

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Please see that these men are well reprimanded since up to now the Klu Klux have not known to be penalized for their burning crosses and defacement, and incitements and barbaric and . . . .

Appreciatin[redacted] yours

[redacted] -67C

Yonkers -2- NY

38 - MAR 29 1965

XEROX
APR 6 1965

ST-105

44-28601-11
4-5
12 MAR 29 1965

Morrell to DeLoach Memo 4/1/65

60 APR 13 1965

CORRESPONDENCE

FBI

Date: 4/1/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44-643)

EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka.;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS
(OO: MOBILE (SELMA)

10-1
6-1
9-1

Re report of SA [redacted] at Detroit, dated 4/1/65. b7C

Enclosed for the Bureau are original and seven copies of a letterhead memorandum reflecting details of information received on [redacted] by SA [redacted] from [redacted] in captioned matter. b7D

Also enclosed is one copy each of letterhead memorandum for Birmingham and Mobile.

ENCLOSURE

3 - Bureau (Enc.-8) (AMSD)
2 - Birmingham (Enc.-1)
2 - Mobile (Selma) (44-1245) (Enc.-1)
3 - Detroit
(1 - 137-2320)

RNF/vas
(10)

Lee of LH mtn CRD
4-5-65
6-94-B
JWH/[illegible]

REC-39

44-28601-82

EX-101

APR 6 1965

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

60 MAY 11 1965

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/2/65

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (Selma) (44-1245)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Reference report of SA [redacted], dated 4/1/65, at Mobile (Selma).

Enclosed for the Bureau are five (5) copies of referenced report. No dissemination is being made to the USA, Montgomery; Departmental Attorney, Montgomery; or USA, Birmingham, until such time as the Bureau furnishes authority to do so.

(2) - Bureau (Enc. 5)
1 - Birmingham
1 - Mobile (Selma)
JAS/mjr
(4)

5 ENCLOSURE

REC-39

44-25601-84

EX-101

6 APR 6 1965

60 MAY 11 1965

STATE DEPT.

FBI

Date: 4/2/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Tavel
Tele. Room
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44-643)

EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

10-1
6-1

Re report of SA [redacted] dated 4/1/65, at Detroit.

Investigative period of referenced report should be shown 3/26/65 through 4/1/65.

3 - Bureau
1 - Birmingham (Info)
1 - Mobile (44-1245) (Info)
1 - Detroit
MFC/sh
(6)

REC-39

44-28601-85

EX-101

25 APR 6 1965

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

60 MAY 11 1965

FBI

Date: 3/27/65

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

Via AIRTEL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, PHILADELPHIA (44-NEW)

SUBJECT: WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;
EUGENE THOMAS;
GARY THOMAS ROWE;
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.;
MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM;
CR

On 3/27/65, a person who identified himself as [redacted] furnished the following information via telephone to SA [redacted] at Philadelphia.

[redacted] has just returned from participating in the 50 mile voters march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala. On 3/25/65, at approximately 9 p.m. CST, while driving his car on Highway #80 from Montgomery to Selma, he was stopped for allegedly speeding by three or four cars of Alabama State Police (ASP). [redacted] was stopped on about the last mile of the dual lane highway leading out of Montgomery toward Selma. [redacted] was accompanied by [redacted] and [redacted] all of unrecalled addresses in Philadelphia, Pa.

While the ASP were questioning him, the all suddenly jumped in their automobiles and sped away in a hurry, leaving [redacted] and his friends alone. In about 15 minutes all of the ASP cars returned and escorted [redacted] to Selma, where he paid [redacted] fine and was released. [redacted] has Delaware drivers license #203311.

REC 37 MCT-1244-

EX-101

3 MAR 29 1965

3 - Bureau
1 - Birmingham (Info)
1 - Mobile (Info)
1 - Baltimore (Info)
1 - Philadelphia (44-new)
GLL:jp
(7)

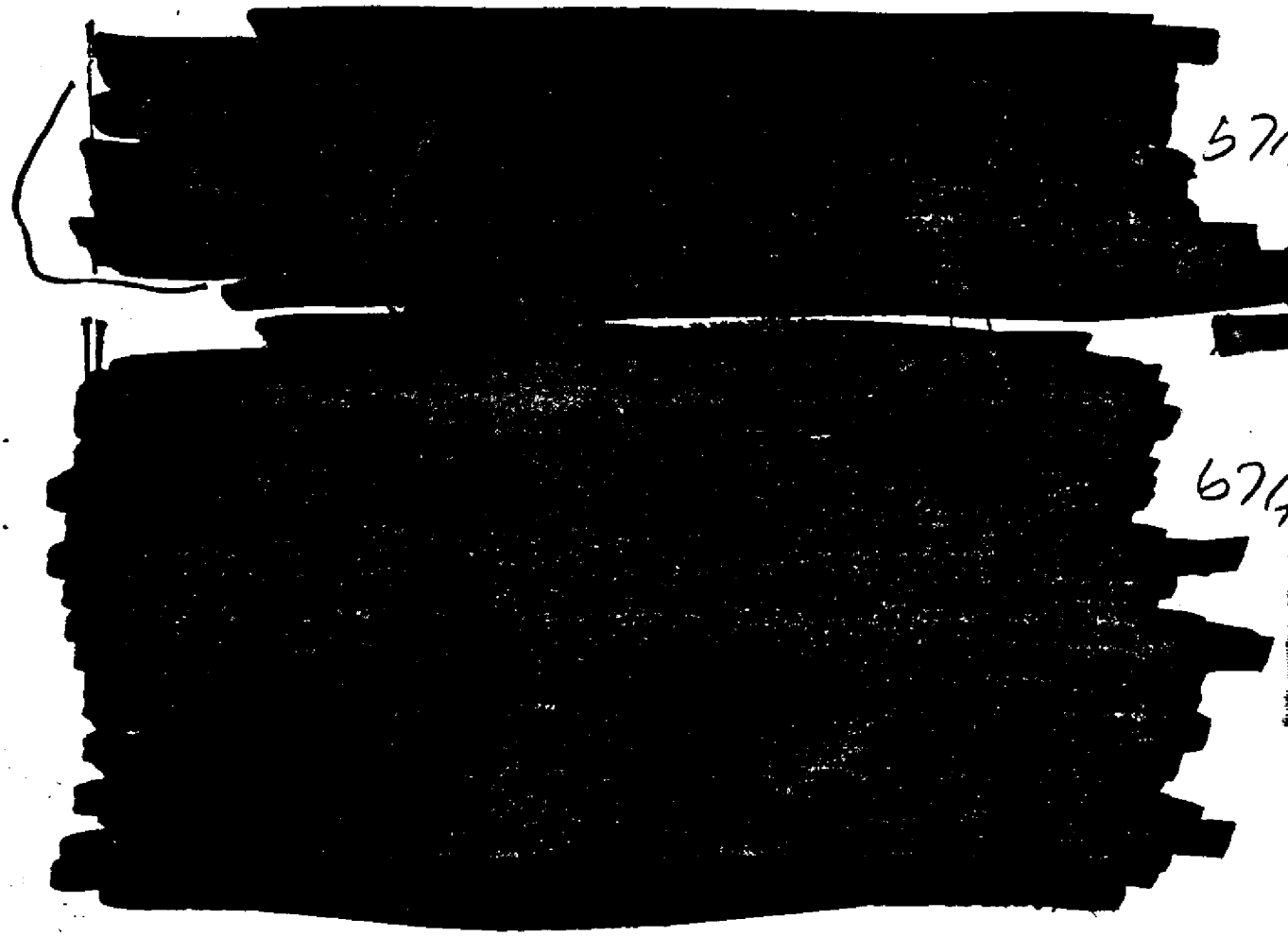
Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

1 APR 8 1965

PH 44-new

Neither [redacted] or his associates saw or heard anything of value regarding captioned matter. ~~KINLOCH~~ said he was furnishing this information in the event their presence on highway #80 may possibly be of some value to the FBI.

Above furnished for information.



In this connection, it is noted that the subjects were released on bond by the U. S. Commissioner and a preliminary hearing has been tentatively set for 4/15/65. The Department has indicated that a Federal Grand Jury is tentatively scheduled for 4/5/65 which would eliminate the necessity for a U. S. Commissioner's hearing which would result in exposing the informant. The state grand jury is reportedly set for 4/19/65.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES G 'ERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Rosen

FROM : C. L. McGowan

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CR; EL

DATE: April 1, 1965

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Leavitt

At 10:05 p.m., 4-1-65, Inspector McGovern called from Birmingham and advised Extra-Duty Supervisor Thomas W. Leavitt that Departmental Attorney St. John Barrett had informed him that subpoenas would be issued 4-2-65, for the following [redacted], and [redacted]. The subpoenas would be delivered to the U. S. Marshal on 4-2-65, to be served that day calling for their appearance before grand jury on Monday, 4-5-65.

63
67A
67C

Inspector McGovern advised a teletype containing this information being submitted.

ACTION:

None . . . for information.

REC- 25

~~MCT-10~~

6 APR 2 1965

TWL:hw
)6(

10

4 APR 12 1965

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 31 1965
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Trotter
Mrs. Gandy

FBI ATLANTA

8:14 PM EST URGENT 3-31-65 TDS

TO DIRECTOR, MOBILE (SELMA), AND BALTIMORE.

FROM ATLANTA (44-1765)

EUGENE THOMAS; ETAL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA; LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS. CR - EL.

RE MOBILE TEL THIS DATE TO ATLANTA AS FOLLOWS:

SCLC, SELMA, ALA., HAS ADVISED THAT SCLC RECORDS RELATING TO THE SELMA - MONTGOMERY MARCH, MARCH TWENTYONE - TWENTYFIVE, LAST, WERE TRANSFERRED MARCH THIRTY LAST FROM SELMA TO SCLC HEADQUARTERS, THREE THREE FOUR AUBURN AVE., ATLANTA, GA.

ATLANTA IS REQUESTED TO SECURE ACCESS TO THESE RECORDS IMMEDIATELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOCATING ANY DOCUMENTATION PERTINENT TO THE USE OF MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO'S AUTOMOBILE BY SCLC IN CONNECTION WITH THE SELMA - MONTGOMERY MARCH DURING THE PERIOD THAT SHE WAS IN SELMA. THIS VEHICLE IS A NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE OLDSMOBILE EIGHTYEIGHT REGISTERED TO ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, E NINE THREE SEVEN FIVE MARLOWE, DETROIT, MICH., NINETEEN YFIVE LICENSE E J NINE ONE SEVEN SEVEN.

REC- 99 44-28601 97

ONE

EX 109

11 APR 2 1965

4 19 1965

cc Hines

SCLC INDICATES THAT THERE SHOULD BE A RECORD RE OWNERSHIP OF LIUZZO'S VEHICLE AND AN AUTHORIZATION TO USE OF THE AUTOMOBILE PROBABLY A CARD. THERE SHOULD BE SHEETS DESCRIBING THE USE, CONTAINING ENTRIES SUCH AS DATE OF USE, TIME LEFT AND RETURNED, PERSONS TRANSPORTED, AND POSSIBLY PURCHASE DATA AS TO GASOLINE AND OTHER SUPPLIES. ANY RECORDS REFLECTING THE USE OF THE LIUZZO VEHICLE OR MRS. LIUZZO'S ACTIVITIES WHILE IN SELMA OR PARTICIPATING IN THE SCLC PROGRAM SHOULD BE SECURED, THE PERSONS WHO CAN TESTIFY TO THE RECORDS SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED, AND THIS INFO SHOULD BE INCORPORATED IN FD - THREE ZERO TWO'S
AND TRANSMITTED IMMEDIATELY TO THE MOBILE DIVISION AT SELMA SINCE AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE ARE INDICATIONS THE GRAND JURY WILL HEAR THIS MATTER APRIL FIVE NEXT.

RANDOLPH BLACKWELL, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, SCLC, ATLANTA, CONTACTED ON TWO OCCASIONS THIS DATE. STATES HE COULD LOCATE NO RECORDS PERTAINING TO INSTANT SIXTYTHREE OLDSMOBILE REGISTERED TO ANTHONY J. LIUZZO. BLACKWELL SUGGESTS CONTACT BE HAD WITH MR. HOSEA WILLIAMS, SCLC DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL EDUCATION, WHO

END PAGE TWO

IS BELIEVED TO HAVE IN HIS PERSONAL POSSESSION PERTINENT RECORDS AND PAPERS IF ANY SUCH RECORDS EXIST. BLACKWELL STATES WILLIAMS IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND UNTIL APRIL FIVE NEXT AND CAN BE CONTACTED AT LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL WHERE SCLC IS HOLDING BOARD CONFERENCE, COMMENCING APRIL ONE NEXT. ALL STAFF OFFICIALS OF SCLC OTHER THAN BLACKWELL ALREADY IN BALTIMORE AND NO INFO AVAILABLE SCLC ATLANTA REGARDING RECORDS SHIPPED FROM SELMA ON MARCH THIRTY LAST.

BALTIMORE LOCATE AND INTERVIEW HOSEA WILLIAMS IN COMPLIANCE WITH MOBILE TELETYPE, SET FORTH.

END

WA...JRL

FBI WASH DC

SM MFH

FBI SELMA ALA

BA

FBI BALTO

INITIALS SRRY

A FJM

BI BALTO

C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 26 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

1033PM CST URGENT 3-26-65 HEP

TO DIRECTOR AND MOBILE (SELMA)

FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236) 1P

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA MRS. ANTHONY J. LIUZZO; LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS. CR - EL.

RE BIRMINGHAM TELS TODAY.

SUBJECTS THOMAS, EATON, ROWE RELEASED ON BOND FROM JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL, BIRMINGHAM, NINE EIGHTEEN PM, MARCH TWENTYSIX. BOND ARRANGED BY ATTORNEY MATT MURPHY.

BOND HAD ALSO BEEN ARRANGED FOR SUBJECT WILKINS, HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT RELEASED SINCE USM RECEIVED TODAY PROBATION VIOLATORS WARRANT ON WILKINS IN CONNECTION FEDERAL FIREARMS ACT VIOLATION, NDA. WILKINS PRESENTLY BEING HELD ON PROBATION VIOLATORS WARRANT.

END

LRA

WASH DC

MAR 30 1965

MAR 26 1965

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 26 1965
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI SELMA ALA

5:07 PM CST 3/26/65 URGENT TAT

TO: DIRECTOR AND SAC, WFO

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS; GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.;

VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA MRS. ANTHONY LIUZZO; LEROY JEROME MOTON

DASH VICTIMS, CR - EL.

RE WFO TELTHIS DATE.

ALABAMA MVD RECORDS REFLECT NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE ALABAMA LICENSE THREE DASH ONE FOUR NINE FIVE ONE ISSUED [redacted] [redacted] A, FOR NINETEEN SIXTY CORVAIR. SINCE SUBJECTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED AS THIS INCIDENT APPEARS UNRELATED TO THIS CASE. LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, MONTGOMERY, ADVISED OF INCIDENT.

END AND ACK

WA BMS

FBI WASH DC

CRL

TWO COPIES WFO

MCT-22 44-2860194

REC-25

8 MAR 30 1965

6-HV

3-1
6-1
7-1
9-1
10-1
b7c

ec: Hines

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 2 1965
TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI SELMA ALA

6:49PM CST URGENT 4-2-65 MFH

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE(SELMA) (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA; LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIMS. CR DASH EL.

SUMMARY TELETYPE.

INVESTIGATION AT SELMA AND MONTGOMERY, ALA., APRIL TWO SIXTYFIVE CONCENTRATED ON INTERVIEWS WITH INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE KLAN CADE AT MONTGOMERY, MARCH TWENTYONE LAST AND INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE REGARDED AS KEY FIGURES IN THE FORMER KLAN ORGANIZATIONS IN THE MONTGOMERY AND SELMA AREAS. NO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS WERE FORTH COMING AS A RESULT OF THE KLAN TYPE INTERVIEWS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS CASE.

REC 15 44-28601-

PREPARATION FOR GRAND JURY.

DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY, ST. JOHN BARRETT AND JIM TAYLOR, ALA. ADVISED APRIL TWO SIXTYFIVE THAT IN CONNECTION WITH GRAND JURY APRIL FIVE NEXT THEY WOULD REQUIRE AS WITNESSES THE FOLLOWING BUREAU PERSONNEL.

APR 5 1965

END PAGE ONE

58 APR 13 1965

PERS. REC. UN

SA [redacted] NOW AT MONTGOMERY; LAB EXAMINER SA [redacted]; BIRMINGHAM AGENTS [redacted] AND INSPECTOR JOSEPH A. SULLIVAN.

ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TELEPHONICALLY WITH BUREAU FOR PRESENCE OF [redacted]; TELEPHONIC ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR BIRMINGHAM PERSONNEL; PERSONNEL IN MOBILE DIVISION WILL APPEAR AS REQUESTED. ALL WITNESSES DEEMED NECESSARY AND THEIR APPEARANCE DESIRABLE. UACB DEPARTMENTAL REQUEST WILL BE HONORED.

END.

WA.....OMS

FBI WASH. DC

TU CLR

April 1, 1965

PERSONAL

[redacted] INFORMANT

Dear [redacted]

I want to express appreciation for the invaluable assistance you recently rendered in a matter of interest to this Bureau.

I can assure you that your outstanding spirit of cooperation and the aid you furnished mean a great deal to my associates and me. It is only through civic-minded help such as you afforded in this instance that the FBI is able to adequately discharge the responsibilities entrusted to it. I would not want the opportunity to pass without extending the heartfelt thanks of all of us.

MAILED 6
APR 2 - 1965
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Birmingham

NOTE: See Rosen to Belmont memorandum dated 3-30-65 captioned "Eugene Thomas, William Orville Eaton, Collie Leroy Wilkins, Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr.; Viola Liuzzo - Victim, Leroy Jerome Moton- Victim Civil Rights; Election Laws. [redacted] is not identifiable in Bufiles.
DFC:rls (4)

REC'D-READING ROOM FBI

REC'D 44-28601-

10 APR 5 1965

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

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This is the case concerning the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on the night of 3-25-65. Four subjects have been arrested and charged under the Federal Civil Rights Statutes, and the matter is being presented to a Federal Grand Jury at Montgomery beginning 4-5-65.

JWH:hw

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 26 1965

TELETYPE

FBI SELMA ALA

HOLD FOR TWO MESS PLS .

FBI SELMA ALA

A4:37AMCST URGENT 3-26-65 MFH

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE (SELMA) (44-NEW)

UNSUB; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA MRS, ANTHONY LIUZZO DASH VICTIM; LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIM. CR DASH EL.
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

MOTON AND LIUZZO INVOLVED IN CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH, MONTGOMERY, ALA., MARCH TWENTY FIVE LAST.

MOTON EMPLOYED AS BARBER, SELMA, ALA., HOWEVER WAS CO-ORDINATOR OF TRANSPORTATION FOR SCLC DURING MARCH TO MONTGOMERY. AT FOUR PM AFTER MARCH TERMINATED MARCH TWENTY FIVE LAST, HE WENT TO DEXTER AVENUE CHURCH, MONTGOMERY. AT CHURCH HE OBTAINED MRS. LIUZZO'S AUTOMOBILE, A NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE POWDER BLUE OLDSMOBILE, MICHIGAN LICENSE E J NINE ONE SEVEN SEVEN, WHICH CAR WAS PARKED AT THE CHURCH. MRS. LIUZZO WAS AT CAMP SITE NUMBER FOUR AT ST. JUDE'S COMPLEX, FAIRVIEW AVE., MONTGOMERY. MOTON DROVE AUTOMOBILE WITH LOAD OF PASSENGERS TO ST. JUDE CAMP SITE AND PICKED UP MRS. LIUZZO. SHE THEREAFTER TOOK OVER DRIVING. THEY DROVE BY DANNELLY FIELD,

REC-1 44-28601

APR 5 1965

END PAGE ONE

APR 1 1965

cc Hein

MONTGOMERY MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AND DROPPED ONE PASSENGER OFF TO CATCH A PLANE AT ABOUT SIX PM. AFTER THIS, THEY PURCHASED GAS AT FILING STATION NEAR DANNELLY FIELD AND DROVE TO SELMA, ALA., A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY FORTY FIVE MILES.

[redacted]

END PAGE TWO.

[redacted]

MOTON IS DESCRIBED AS NM, AGE NINETEEN, BORN MAY TWENTY-FIVE, NINETEEN FORTYFIVE, SELMA, ALA., SIX THREE AND ONE HALF ONE THREE EIGHT, BROWN EYES, BLACK HAIR, DARK COMPLEXION.

MRS. LIUZZO DESCRIBED AS WF, ABOUT THIRTY EIGHT, FIVE TWO,

END PAGE FIVE

BLONDE HAIR, WEARING BLUE SUIT AND WHITE BLOUSE.

BUAGENTS AT SELMA GIVING THIS MATTER CONTINUOUS AND EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATIVE ATTENTION AND BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED.

AM COPIES TO ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM AND DETROIT.

END.

WA.....

SECOND MESS PLS

[redacted] 57A

[redacted] 57A

57C,

[redacted]

CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVITIES OF VICTIM LIUZZO.

MRS. WILLIE LEE JACKSON, ONE THREE SEVEN C, GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER APARTMENTS, SELMA, ALA., ADVISED THAT MRS. LIUZZO STAYED AT HER APARTMENT FROM MARCH NINETEEN TO MARCH TWENTYFOUR LAST, ALONG WITH FOUR OTHER WHITE WOMEN AND TWO NEGRO GIRLS. ON MARCH TWENTYFOUR LAST., MRS. LIUZZO SUPPOSEDLY WENT BY BUS FROM BROWN CHAPEL WITH DEMONSTRATORS GATHERED TO MONTGOMERY, ALA., TO TAKE PART IN MARCH

END PAGE THREE

ON CAPITOL BUILDING. MRS. LIUZZO'S AUTOMOBILE WAS BEING USED BY MEMBERS OF SCLC IN CONNECTION WITH MARCH FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY. MRS. LIUZZO STAYED IN MRS JACKSON'S APARTMENT DAY AND NIGHT EXCEPT FOR BRIEF VISITS TO BROWN CHAPEL. SHE WAS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY INCIDENTS IN SELMA PRIOR TO MARCH TWENTYFIVE LAST.

OVER

END PAGE FOUR

Cincinnati 8, O.
3/29/65

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

F.B.I. Director.
J. Edgar Hoover.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

I want to commend you and your men for the quick apprehension of Mrs. Liuzzo's killers. I thoroughly agree with President Johnson's demand for the thorough investigation of the Ku Klux Klan. This is as reasonable + certainly of greater importance now, than an investigation of - for instance - the Costra Noster - Don't you agree?

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

[redacted] b7C

[redacted]

38 MAR 31 1965

18

REC- 34 44-38601-9

9 MAR-31 1965

CORRESPONDENCE
PERS. REC. UNIT

Cincinnati 8, O.
3/29/65

F. B. I. Director
G. Edgar Hoover
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir;

I want to commend you and your men for the quick apprehension of Mrs. Liuzzo's killers. I thoroughly agree with President Johnson's demand for the thorough investigation of the Ku Klux Klan. This is a reasonable & certainly of greater importance now, than an investigation of--for instance--the Costra Noster--Don't you agree?

Sincerely yours,

[redacted] b7c

COPY:crt

Dear Mr. Lewis Viola Liuzzo

[illegible] Mr. Lewis [illegible] Liuzzo, [illegible] Wilcox County, Alabama [illegible] Samuel M. Leroy [illegible] [illegible] Leroy [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

April 2, 1965

REC 34 44-28601-101

[redacted]

Cincinnati 8, Ohio

Dear [redacted]

I have received your letter of March 29th and appreciate your commendatory remarks regarding this Bureau's apprehension of four suspects in the fatal shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. It was thoughtful of you to make your sentiments known, and your kind comments certainly are a source of great encouragement to all of us in the FBI.

MAILED 6
APR 2 - 1965

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: [redacted]

JRP:ems
(3)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

APR 2 1965

(March 31, 1965)

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I was very much moved and upset and deeply ashamed of some of the American people we have in our country when I heard of the death of Mrs. Liuzzo. I was born in Dallas County, Alabama near Selma and now I'm ashamed of being associated with it. I greatly appuladed Mr. Johnsons attack on the Klu Klux Klan because I know they are terrible people and I would do anything I could to get them out of Alabama and the U. S. I would greatly appreciate if you could give me any advice on getting rid of the Klansmen. I also would like to tell you that I'm 100% behind your actions for some day I hope being an F. B. I. agent.

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

67C

[redacted]

REC-34 44-28601-102

April 2, 1965

[redacted]
San Diego, California 92115

Dear [redacted]

Your letter was received on March 31st, and the thought which prompted you to write me is appreciated. I was pleased to know of your desire of becoming a Special Agent of the FBI and, in this regard, I am enclosing some material which I hope will be helpful.

I am reassured when I read letters such as yours expressing an awareness of the problems menacing our country's future. Acknowledging the danger posed by these conspiracies is one great step toward protecting our national traditions. In view of your interest, there is also some material included which I trust will be of interest.

MAILER 6
APR 2 - 1965
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (5)
Our Heritage of Greatness, 12-12-64
U. S. News & World Report, 12-21-64
The FBI's Role in the Field of Civil Rights
The Story of the FBI
Facts about a Career in the...FBI

NOTE: There is no record of correspondent in Bufiles.

KLS:kcf (3)

APR 9 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI
REC'D-READING ROOM

FBI

Date: 3-31-65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
Attention: Exhibit Section

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO; ET AL. - VICTIMS
CR - EL; RACIAL MATTERS

Re Departmental request by ST. JOHN BARRETT.

Enclosed are four rolls of 35 millimeter film and four sheets of four by five film pack. Also enclosed are contact sheets for the 35 millimeter film.

The Exhibit Section is requested to make a poster size print of each negative relating to the marked contact sheet. The contact sheet has been marked with a black X on the photograph selected to be printed. On the four by five negatives the Exhibit Section will choose the best negative for the poster size prints.

The department has requested that this be available to them for the Federal Grand Jury that meets Monday, April 5, 1965, at Montgomery. Exhibit Section will return prints to Selma prior to Federal Grand Jury meeting.

Also enclosed are three charts that the Exhibit Section is requested to reproduce for court room exhibit. These will also be presented to the same Federal Grand Jury. These should also be returned to Selma prior to the Federal Grand Jury meeting.

3 - Bureau (Enc. - 7)
3 - Mobile
(1 - 44-557)
JUA:kg
(6)

REC-6 44-28101-103

25 APR 5 1965

cc - Selma
cc - CRT's

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 26 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI DETROIT

816 PM URGENT 3/26/65 C W H

TO DIRECTOR, MOBILE (SELMA) AND MOBILE

FROM DETROIT (44-643) 2P

UNSUBS; MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO, MARCH TWENTYFIVE, LAST; LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIMS; CR DASH ELECTION LAWS.

RE TELEPHONE CALL TWO AM FROM INSPECTOR JOSEPH SULLIVAN, SELMA, ALA., TO DETROIT, CONCERNING CALL RECEIVED BY SHERIFF JAMES G. CLARK.

[redacted]

b7D

ST-105

44-28601-184

APR 2 1965

END PAGE ONE

64 APR 1 1965

cc: Hoover

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 26 1965
TELETYPE

FBI SELMA ALA

12:31 CST 3/26/65 URGENT TAT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

UNSUBS; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA MRS. ANTHONY LIUZZO; LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIMS, CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS CR - EL.

THE TEXT OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BEFORE UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER JAMES M. GUTTERY, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, MARCH TWENTYSIX, INSTANT, IS SET FORTH BELOW.

COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION OF SECTION TWO FOUR ONE, SECTION EIGHTEEN, USC, WAS FILED AT TEN TWENTYFIVE A.M. ON MARCH TWENTYSIX INSTANT. COMPLAINT STATES THAT ON OR ABOUT MARCH TWENTYFIVE, SIXTYFIVE, AT LOWNDES COUNTY, IN THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA, DID, COMMENCING ON OR ABOUT JANUARY ONE, SIXTYFIVE, AND CONTINUING TO DATE OF THIS COMPLAINT, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., EUGENE THOMAS AND GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., WITHIN THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA, NORTHERN DIVISION, CONSPIRED TOGETHER WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH OTHER PERSONS UNKNOWN TO INJURE, OPPRESS, THREATEN, AND INTIMIDATE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE VICINITY OF SELMA AND MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, IN THE FREE EXERCISE AND

REC-117

END PAGE ONE ...

70 APR 14 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

11 APR 5 1965

ENJOYMENT OF THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES SECURED THEM BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

ONE DASH THE RIGHT TO PEACEFULLY ASSEMBLE, PUBLICLY PROTEST AND PETITION THE GOVERNOR OF ALABAMA FOR REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES ON BEHALF OF NEGRO CITIZENS OF ALABAMA FREE FROM ARBITRARY AND OPPRESSIVE INTERFERRENCE FROM THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

TWO DASH THE RIGHT TO PUBLICLY PROTEST UNLAWFUL DEPRIVATION OF THE RIGHT OF NEGROES OF ALABAMA TO REGISTER TO VOTE AND TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATES FOR FEDERAL OFFICES.

THREE DASH THE RIGHT TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST NEGRO CITIZENS OF ALABAMA IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR RIGHT TO REGISTER TO VOTE AND TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATES FOR FEDERAL OFFICES.

FOUR DASH THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN A PROTEST MARCH FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, TO PRESENT A PETITION TO GOVERNOR OF ALABAMA IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, AND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CARRYING OUT OF A PROPOSED PLAN FOR SUCH MARCH PURSUANT TO AND UNDER THE TERMS OF AN ORDER ENTERED ON MARCH SEVENTEEN, SIXTYFIVE, BY THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF

END PAGE TWO ..

ALABAMA IN THE CASE OF WILLIAMS VERSUS WALLACE, NUMBER TWO ONE EIGHT ONE DASH N.

IT WAS PART OF THE PLAN AND PURPOSE OF THE CONSPIRACY THAT THE DEFENDANT WOULD HARRASS, THREATEN, ASSAULT, SHOOT AND KILL PERSONS WHO CAME TO THE AREA OF SELMA AND MONTGOMERY ALABAMA, TO PARTICIPATE IN AND LEND THEIR SUPPORT TO A DEMONSTRATION MARCH FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY PURSUANT TO A PLAN APPROVED BY AN ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA, ON MARCH SEVENTEEN, SIXTYFIVE, REFERRED TO ABOVE AND TO HARRASS, THREATEN, ASSAULT, SHOOT AND KILL NEGRO CITIZENS OF ALABAMA WHO PARTICIPATED IN OR SUPPORTED THE MARCH IN VIOLATION OF SECTION TWO FOUR ONE, TITLE EIGHTEEN, USC. AND COMPLAINANT STATES THAT THIS COMPLAINT IS BASED ON INFORMATION COMING TO THE ATTENTION OF SPECIAL AGENT SPENCER ROBB OF THE FBI, DURING THE COURSE OF AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION.

ACTING ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN DOAR HAS REQUESTED THAT THE BUREAU ADVISED THE DEPARTMENT AS TO THE TEXT OF THE COMPLAINT. MR. DOAR PREPARED THE COMPLAINT.

END WA RPP

FBI WASH DC

CLR

CC-MR. ROSEN

FBI

Date: 4/1/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, PHILADELPHIA (44-893) (RUC)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ETAL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS;
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

OO - MOBILE

Re Detroit tel to Philadelphia (interoffice). Remytel to Bureau and Mobile 3/31/65.

There is forwarded herewith to Mobile Certification of Birth signed by C. L. WILBAR, JR., dated 3/31/65 bearing the Seal of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the number 451409. This certifies that in file number 56399-25 a record of birth was filed April 18, 1925 showing that on April 11, 1925 in Pike Run Township, Washington County, Pa., a female child, VIOLA FAUVER GREGG was born to HEBER GREGG and EVA, nee WILSON. (NEE) LIUZZO

This was obtained by IC [redacted] b7C RUC.

3 - Bu
2 - Mobile (Encl 1) (AIRMAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY)
1 - Ph
NSH:ec
(6)

44-25601-136

REC-41 3 APR 2 1965

C. Wick

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

70 APR 12 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Instant information was furnished by Mobile on 3/27/65 as result of a request by Mr. St. John Barrett of the Department. Mr. Barrett advised on 3/27/65 that the Attorney General desired that the Bureau obtain this information concerning Circuit Solicitor Arthur E. Gamble, Jr. The Atty General desired to know what kind of prosecutor Gamble is; whether or not he is or has been affiliated with Klan-type groups; and any information concerning his background which would indicate what kind of job he would do on this case.

Attached information furnished to Mr. Barrett at approximately 3 p. m., 3/27/65. No identifiable information on Gamble in Bureau indices.

JDH:mas
(5)

OPR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 27 1965

TELETYPE

12:55 PM CST 3/27/65 URGENT TAT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, BIRMINGHAM

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL./ VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA., LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIMS, CR - EL.

Civil Rights Election Laws

REBUTELCON TODAY.

ARTHUR E. GAMBLE, JR., IS CIRCUIT SOLICITOR FOR THE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WHICH ENCOMPASSES LOWNDES COUNTY, ALA., WHERE MRS. LIUZZO WAS KILLED. HE RESIDES IN GREENVILLE, ALA., WHERE HIS FATHER WAS CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR MANY YEARS. DURING PAST CONTACTS WITH GAMBLE, HE HAS BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE WITH BUREAU AGENTS AND EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR THE BUREAU AND ITS DIRECTOR. HE HAS AT NO TIME BEEN CRITICAL OF ANY OF THE BUREAU'S ACTIVITIES.

ST-105

NO INFORMATION HAS EVER BEEN DEVELOPED THAT GAMBLE WAS AFFILIATED WITH ANY KLAN OR RACIAL HATE TYPE ORGANIZATION AND IN FREQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM RE THE KLAN, HE HAS EXPRESSED COMPLETE DISAPPROVAL IN STRONG TERMS OF THE KLAN AND ITS OBJECTIVES, AS WELL AS KLAN MEMBERSHIP WHICH HE FEELS ENCOMPASSES INDIVIDUALS OF UNSAVORY CHARACTERS.

REC 8 44-28601

21 APR 6 1965

END PAGE ONE ...

70 APR 14 1965

PAGE TWO ....

GAMBLE IS APPROXIMATELY FORTY YEARS OF AGE, MARRIED, AND IS WELL REGARDED IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN HIS PROFESSIONAL LIFE.

NO INFORMATION HAS EVER COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MOBILE OFFICE OR AGENTS WHO HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH GAMBLE IN THE PAST THAT HE WOULD IN any WAY DISREGARD HIS DUTIES TO PROSECUTE PERSONS TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW. IT IS FELT WITH THE PROPER EVIDENCE AND A JURY THAT WOULD NOT DISREGARD EVIDENCE GAMBLE COULD SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTE CAPTIONED INDIVIDUALS FOR MURDER IN LOWNDES COUNTY, ALA.

ENND ~~BH WILL BE ADVISED SEPARATELY~~

WA ACK PLS JRL

FBI WASH DC

CLR

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 1 1965
TELETYPE

FBI ATLANTA

728 PM EST 4-1-65 URGENT THW

TO DIRECTOR AND SAC MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

FROM ATLANTA (44-1765)

EUGENE THOMAS; ETAL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA; LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIMS. CR DASH EL.

REMO AND AT TELETYPES THREE THIRTY-ONE ND BA TEL FOUR ONE LAST.

MARK HARRINGTON CONTACTED THIS DATE AT SCLC OFFICE ATLANTA AND APPRISED OF HOSEA WILLIAMS AUTHORIZATION TO EXAMINE RECORDS IN TRUNK OF AVIS RENTAL CAR. HARRINGTON ADVISED WILLIAMS LEFT KEYS TO CAR WITH HIM. HARRINGTON IN AGENTS PRESENCE EXAMINED RECORDS IN NINETEEN SIXTY-FIVE FORD. THESE RECORDS WERE CONTAINED IN A CARD BOARD BOX OF ABOUT TWO CUBIC FEET. HARRINGTON DESCRIBED THESE RECORDS AS (1) CARD FILE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN SELMA ACTIVITIES DATES OF ACTIVITY NOT SHOWN. (2) LIST OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES WITH ORGANIZATIONS THEY REPRESENT ON THREE BY FIVE CARDS. (3) MISCELLANEOUS OPENED AND UNOPENED MAIL ADDRESSED TO DR. M. L. KING. (4) ESTIMATED TWO HUNDRED WESTERN UNION TELEGRAMS AND SOME MONEY ORDERS SOME UNOPENED WISHING SUCCESS TO PROJECT AND KING.

NO RECORDS LOCATED RELATING TO AUTO'S USED TRIP LOGS OR OTHER DATA RELATING TO ACTIVITIES OF VICTIM LIUZZO.

END

WA OMS

FBI WASH DC

44-2860H09

ST-105
REC 8

8 APR 5 1965

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

OPR

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: April 1, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Inspector McGovern advised that Attorney Matt Murphy had been trying to get in touch with our informant who is one of the subjects in this case.

According to McGovern, Birmingham informant had been contacted by [redacted] who is identified as a close personal friend of the informant. According to the informant, [redacted] Murphy had stated that if the subject (our informant) did not get in touch with Murphy that Murphy was going to "come off" of his bond. Birmingham Office desired to know whether or not the informant should get in touch with Attorney Matt Murphy, who of course is the Klan attorney.

ACTION

Inspector McGovern was advised that inasmuch as the Department had been greatly concerned about the informant's relation as client with Attorney Matt Murphy and as Departmental Attorney St. John Barrett had fully discussed the case with the informant on 3/31/65, the matter as to whether or not the informant should contact Murphy as an attorney in connection with this case should be brought to the attention of Departmental Attorney Barrett. McGovern was instructed that Birmingham should follow the advice of the Departmental attorney in this matter.

CLM/cac
(7)

COPY SENT TO JUSTICE

REC-34 44-2860A-

APR 7 1965

The Attorney General

April 2, 1965

44-28601-110

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

EUGENE THOMAS,
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON,
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.,
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.;
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

With regard to the relationship of subject Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., who is also the informant in this matter, with Ku Klux Klan Attorney Matt Murphy, who arranged for posting his bond on March 26, 1965, Mr. St. John Barrett of the Civil Rights Division talked to Rowe extensively on March 31, 1965.

Mr. Barrett established that, although Matt Murphy is Rowe's attorney of record, Rowe does not consider Mr. Murphy to be his attorney and Rowe would not retain Mr. Murphy if his case were to go to trial. Mr. Barrett advised our Birmingham Office that he is satisfied that Mr. Murphy does not represent subject Rowe.

Mr. Barrett further advised that the Federal Government will not prosecute Rowe and that, although he could make no statement regarding state prosecution if the state initiates prosecution against Rowe, the Federal Government will stand behind him as far as it possibly can. Mr. Barrett said he would so advise Rowe of this.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General

1 - Mr. John Doar
Acting Assistant Attorney General

JWH/ras
(12)

NOTE: See memo Rosen to Belmont, same caption, dated 4/2/65, JWH/ras.

REC'D-READING ROOM FBI APR 7 5 34 PM '65

REC'D-READING ROOM FBI APR 2 4 06 PM '65

MAILED APR 2 1965 COMM-FBI

79 JAN 6 - 1966

TELETYPE UNIT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

MAR 30 1965

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE:

JD:FMD:sw

DJ 144-2-470

1-085-20

FROM : John Doar, Acting
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: William O. Eaton, Collie L. Wilkins, Jr., Eugene Thomas, Gary T. Rowe, Jr., Subjects; Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, Victim.
Conspiracy Against Rights, (Lowndes County, Ala.)
CIVIL RIGHTS

This refers to the investigation currently being conducted in connection with the killing of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo near Lowndesboro, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965.

Please provide a summary of the available background information on the subjects recently arrested in connection with this case. This summary should include information concerning the past Ku Klux Klan activity, other anti-civil rights activity and any acts of violence or threatened violence engaged in ~~in Alabama~~ by these subjects or with which these subjects may be connected.

In addition please provide a summary of the available information on the activities of the Ku Klux Klan organizations in the Selma, Montgomery and Birmingham areas since 1960. This should include the identities of key Klavern level activists and higher level leaders. It should also include a chronology of violent anti-civil rights activities threatened or engaged in in Alabama by members of these Klaverns or with which they may be connected.

Also provide available background information on the most violent members of the Klaverns referred to in the preceding paragraph and on key state leaders. In this connection please include summaries of the available information on the following persons:

Robert Creel	Ronald Tidwell
Robert Thomas	Robert Shelton
Eugene Reeves	Matthew Murphy

Please furnish this information to Mr. St. John Barrett of my staff in Montgomery, Alabama, by Saturday, April 3, 1965.

MCT-43

REC-44

1 APR 2 1965

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Mohr

1A

Mr. John Doar
Acting Assistant Attorney General

April 1, 1965

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Baumgar
1 - Mr. Gray

Director, FBI

REC-4A 44-28171-111

EUGENE THOMAS,
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON,
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.,
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.;
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

Reference is made to your letter of March 30, 1965, requesting background information on the subjects recently arrested in this case, a summary of the activities of Klan organizations in the Selma, Montgomery and Birmingham, Alabama areas since 1960 and information concerning Klan activists and leaders.

As you are aware, background information on the subj in this case has been furnished to you by my letter of March 3 1965.

With regard to your request for a summary of availab information on the activities since 1960 of Klan organizations Selma, Montgomery and Birmingham, this material is already in possession. Please refer to FBI investigative reports prepare our Birmingham and Mobile Offices furnished to you regularly in the cases entitled "United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of Ku Klux Klan"; "U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc. and "Dixie Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc." These re prepared contemporaneously with the events, provide a chronolo of activities of these Klan organizations as well as informati concerning their leaders and activists.

MAILED 6
APR 1 - 1965
COMM-FBI

In regard to your request for available background information on the individuals mentioned in your letter, repor memoranda are already available to you in the cases entitl

[redacted] and "Robert Milton Creel, Racial Matters." I accordance with your request, available background information concerning Eugene Reeves, Ronald Tidwell and Matthew Murphy wi be furnished by April 3, 1965, to Mr. St. John Barrett of your staff at Montgomery, Alabama.

AWG:jmw (10)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

SEND OVER ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

77 APR 12 1965 70

Mr. John Doar

NOTE:

See memorandum Baumgardner to Sullivan dated 3/31/65, captioned "Eugene Thomas, William Orville Eaton, Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr.; Viola Liuzzo - Victim, Civil Rights; Election Laws," prepared by AWG:jas.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Williams
1 - Office, 7133

TO : Mr. Conrad

DATE: 3/31/65

FROM : R. H. Jevons

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, et al.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka
MRS. ANTHONY J. LIUZZO,
LEROY JEROME MOTON, VICTIMS;
CR - EL
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Mrs. Liuzzo was shot near Selma, Alabama, on the evening of 3/25/65 while engaged in the transportation of civil rights demonstrators between Montgomery and Selma.

[redacted]

ACTION:

For information.

REC- 15 44-28681-

EX-101

25 APR 6 1965

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. McGowan

MEW:nlb (9)

58 APR 13 1965

Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

March 26th, 1965

Hon. John Edgar Hoover
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr Hoover:

..for the wonderful rapid successful probe in finding the

Klu Klux Klan responsible for the death of The Lady in Detroit, whose sympathies was directly in opposite of the Klans ideas.

In this incident you and your staff made up for ~~the lack in Kennedys shot~~, which could have been avoided by the men (investigators) who allowed Oswald to get by without requesting Oswald to open that paper package (gun) he was holding on to....for inspection..just to be sure, and the shot could have been avoided. However, and inasmuchas you caught up with these 4 so and so's..proved once again you and your staff are on the ball and will be rolling for the benefit of the American public.

Keep up the good work. Thanx

EXP. PROC.
38-MAR 29 1965

1 XEROX
APR 6 1965

44-28601-41
4-5
12 MAR 29 1965

CORRESPONDENCE

[redacted]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 4-1-65

FROM : D. C. Morrell

SUBJECT: [redacted]
YONKERS, NEW YORK

Note was received March 26th from captioned individual in which she congratulated the Director upon the rapid solution of the recent killing of the civil rights worker in the vicinity of Selma, Alabama. In her note the correspondent states flatly that the Ku Klux Klan was responsible for this death.

The correspondent goes on to say that in solving this case the Director and the FBI made up for "the lack in Kennedy's shot, which could have been avoided by men (investigators) who allowed Oswald to get by without requesting Oswald to open that paper package." It is apparent that this correspondent has her facts completely mixed up with respect to the assassination of the late President Kennedy.

Bufiles contain no information concerning captioned individual.

OBSERVATIONS:

If we were to write to this individual we would be in a position of accepting her congratulations and at the same time explain to her our position concerning the assassination of President Kennedy.

RECOMMENDATION:

File without acknowledgment.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

WAM:kaf
(3)

ST-105

28601-114

8 APR 6 1965

CORRESPONDENCE

XEROX
APR 6 1965

30 APR 13 1965

Report Form
FD-263 (5-12-55)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period
DETROIT	MOBILE	4/1/65	3/[illegible]/65 - 4/1/[illegible]

TITLE OF CASE

EUGENE THOMAS;
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS;
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka.,
Mrs. Anthony J. Liuzzo;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS

Report made by: SA [redacted] 67C

Ty[illegible] V[illegible]

CHARACTER OF CASE

CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis:

REFERENCES: Teletype from Mobile (Selma) to Detroit, dated 3/30/65.

Report of SA [redacted] at Detroit, dated 3/31/65.

- RUC -

- A* -

Cover Page

Approved

Special Agent In Charge

Do not write in spaces below

44 | 2[illegible] | 117 | REC

Copies made:

5 - Bureau (AMSD)
5 - Mobile (Selma) (44-1245) (AMSD)
3 - Birmingham (AMSD)
(1 - USA, Birmingham)
(1 - USA, Montgomery)
2 - Detroit (44-643)

APR 1965

SIX

STAT. SECT.

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☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1959 O—344750

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Birmingham
1 - USA, Montgomery

Report of: SA [redacted] 5XC Office: Detroit, Michigan
Date: 4/1/65

File Number: 44-643

Title: EUGENE THOMAS;
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS;
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.;
VIOLA LIUZZO;

Character: LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS

CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis:

Additional background information concerning victim VIOLA LIUZZO set out. ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, husband of victim, indicated [redacted] that victim VIOLA LIUZZO was receiving psychiatric treatment from Doctor ABRAHAM ELSEN, Northland Center, Southfield, Michigan. Victim VIOLA LIUZZO reported to Detroit Police Department as missing person on 7/16/64 by husband who stated victim disappeared 7/13/64. VIOLA LIUZZO located 7/18/64 with GORDON GREENE, Montreal, Ontario, Canada. While victim VIOLA LIUZZO was missing, she wrote despondent letters to husband from cemetery from which she gave her own birth and death dates. Victim not known to have engaged in other Civil Rights activities.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVITIES

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FBI, and is a loan to your agency; it and/or its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date 4/1/65

[redacted] National Association For The Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Detroit, Michigan, stated that both VIOLA LIUZZO and her husband, ANTHONY JAMES LIUZZO were members of the NAACP at Detroit.

b7C, D

[redacted] recalled that his only contact with Mrs. LIUZZO was in September of 1964, at which time she came to the NAACP offices to advise that she had just been convicted in Detroit Recorders Court for failing to send her children to school and that she had wanted this conviction to demonstrate what she considered an injustice in allowing children age sixteen to drop out of school and that she thought that this should be changed so that children could not drop out of school until age eighteen.

Mrs. LIUZZO stated that while in court she had seen a young Negro girl who appeared to be suffering from malnutrition and that this girl had been convicted of some minor offense. Mrs. LIUZZO stated that she had wanted to offer the unknown Negro girl money, but did not want to embarass her and she requested that [redacted] make an effort to identify the girl and that she, Mrs. LIUZZO, would then provide funds. Mrs. LIUZZO made this statement that, "To get involved is my Christian duty".

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/1/65

1

On March 26, 1965, an article appeared in "The Detroit News", a newspaper published daily at Detroit, Michigan, entitled, "All Men Are Created Equal - A Life So Dedicated Is Gone", under the by-line of LAWRENCE J. GREEN which reported an interview with ANTHONY J. LIUZZO.

Mr. LIUZZO reportedly stated that VIOLA LIUZZO had never taken part in Civil Rights demonstrations although they had contributed to the National Association For The Advancement Of Colored People (NAACP) and other groups concerned with Civil Rights.

On 3/30/65 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44-643

by SA [redacted] / vas 67c Date dictated 4/1/65

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.

MOTIVATION FOR TRIP TO SELMA, ALABAMA

On March 27, 1965, an article appeared in "The Detroit Free Press", a newspaper published daily at Detroit, Michigan, entitled, "Four Accused of Killing Detroit Mother" under the by-line of ROBERT B. HOYT.

In this article ANTHONY J. LIUZZO is reported as stating that VIOLA LIUZZO decided to make the trip to Selma, Alabama, on the day that a group of Wayne State University students staged a sympathy demonstration in the Detroit Federal Building to protest attacks on Negro and white demonstrators in Selma and Montgomery, Alabama.

ANTHONY LIUZZO stated he tried to talk VIOLA LIUZZO out of making the trip and told her to come home; however, VIOLA LIUZZO was worked up and took off immediately for Selma, Alabama.

Mrs. LIUZZO was reported to have arrived in Selma, Alabama, on March 18, 1965, where she used her automobile to transport Civil Rights workers around Selma, Alabama, and Mobile, Alabama.

INDICATION OF EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FD-302 (Rev. 10-11-62)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/1/65

[redacted] Recorders Court, Detroit, Michigan, on March 31, 1965, 57C furnished the sketchy notes contained in her file concerning VIOLA LIUZZO. These notes read as follows:

Parents	EVA WILSON and HERBER E. GREGG were married June 24, 1924, in Little Washington, Pennsylvania.
Mother	EVA GREGG, age 60, lives in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. She is retired school teacher; graduated from University of Pittsburgh. Mother has heart condition, Catholic, but is not active. Describes relationship as normal and good until a few years ago when they had disagreements over VIOLA's children and their rearing.
Father	HERBER GREGG, age 66, lives with wife. He has been disabled since VIOLA was twelve. [redacted] 67C VIOLA says she had no relationship with father. He was in and out of Veterans Administration (VA) Hospitals. He worked in coal mines in Pennsylvania; went to school to second grade. VIOLA describes father as "self-educated man". Says father was "somewhat of a wanderer".
Sibling	VIOLA - oldest; second is MARY HIGBEE, age 30, divorced - plans to remarry September 26, 1964, 613 West Michigan, Ypsilanti, Michigan
Maternal Relatives	Uncle DAVE WILSON, Youngstown, Ohio Uncle HAROLD WILSON, Library, Pennsylvania Aunt SARAH BIGRIGG, Youngstown, Ohio Aunt LOU ?, Cytherin, Pennsylvania
Paternal Relatives	Aunt BLANCHE DUFFY, whereabouts unknown

On 3/31/65 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44-643

SA [redacted] was 67C 4/1/65

by Date dictated

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.

Religion	No formal - "Believes in basic good conduct which is basis of all religion" according to VIOLA.
Previous Trouble	She purposely stole microscope at Parkside General - insisted on being arrested - this was to call attention to Doctor PARKS who VIOLA felt was not competent.
Present Trouble	VIOLA states she planned to get in trouble, as she kept the children out of school as a "protest". She feels that the compulsory age for attending school should be eighteen instead of sixteen and felt keeping children out of school would bring attention to her concern.
Impression and Appearance	VIOLA is 5' 1" and weighs about 140 pounds. She is confused, emotionally unstable and appears on the fringe of a serious mental breakdown.
Early Home Life	VIOLA was reared by natural parents - father was in and out of home - VA Hospital. Described childhood as very happy, but says they were very very poor. They did at one time receive public assistance as Mother was pregnant and could not work. Family lived in five states while VIOLA was a child. She never remembers finishing a school term in same city. Claims Mother encouraged early marriage. VIOLA's first marriage was at age sixteen after this she left Tennessee (where family was living at the time.)
Education	Says she cannot remember all schools she attended. Attended St. Marys High in Sewanee, Tennessee. Finished ninth grade (claims high school diploma waived, took entrance examination and is in Sophomore English class in Wayne State University).
Marriage	VIOLA married in Knoxville, Georgia, at age of sixteen to WILLIAM PHILLIPS, age 34. Married to

get away from home. Marriage was in Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1941, separated the day after wedding. Husband divorced VIOLA in about one year - she was not in city.
Second - VIOLA married GEORGE ARGYRIS in 1943 in Detroit, Michigan, - separated in 1949, divorced September, 1950, VIOLA married ANTHONY JAMES LIUZZO in Detroit, Michigan. Describes present marital relationship as good; however, husband does not understand children.

Children

1. PENNILLIPI, born June 5, 1946, in Detroit. Father is GEORGE ARGYRIS, VIOLA's second husband, but child was adopted by present husband. Whereabouts unknown somewhere in Ypsilanti, Michigan, prior to this she lived with maternal aunt, [redacted] 57C

2. MARY EVA, born January 22, 1948, lives with maternal grandparents and has been there since July, 1964. [redacted] 57C

3. THOMAS, born June 23, 1951, attends Winship Junior School, 7A.

4. ANTHONY, born March 8, 1955, attends Winship Elementary (involved in VIOLA's offense).

5. SALLY, born August 6, 1958, attends Winship Elementary School.

Economic Situation

VIOLA lives at home with her husband and three youngest children. They live at 19375 Marlowe. They are buying a home on a fifteen year mortgage - twelve room home. Husband is employed by Local 234 Teamsters as Business Agent - Gross $360.00 per week nets $249.00. Their 1963 Oldsmobile 88 hardtop financed by General Motors Acceptance Corporation (GMAC) - payments $101 per month. They owe Winkleman's $168.00; J. L. Hudson Company

$400.00; Gedringer's Jewelry $400.00. These bills were charged by VIOLA's sixteen year old daughter, MARY. Family is paying on all bills.

Employment Last employment - Parkvue Industrial Receiving Clinic as Medical Assistant for two years 1962-1963. Quit because of investigation going on at hospital regarding doctor who was not qualified. At Sinai Hospital she claims she helped in Research Department 1961 - four months.

Health Good - smokes carton of cigarettes per week; drinks occasionally - vodka. No venereal disease; denies use of drugs. Wayne County General two years for one week - voluntary admission wanted someone to take a look at family and help her with children - nine pregnancies - five living children - four miscarriages.

Habits Enjoys taking children to woods to collect stones; plays scrabble with husband and reads.

Residence In Detroit, Michigan, since 1942 - lived at present address since April, 1963, prior address of 18491 Marlowe sold equity to purchase present home in June, 1953.

September 17, 1964

Lives at 19375 Marlowe with husband ANTHONY and three children. There are two children out of the home, one with grandparents and one in Ann Arbor, Michigan. PENNY, age 18, in Ann Arbor; MARY, age 16, with grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. HERBER GREGG, 61 Polk Circle, Georgia. THOMAS, age 13, home; ANTHONY, age 9, home; SALLY, age 6, home. VIOLA supported by husband, who works for Teamsters Local 247 as a Business Agent. Wife is not employed, but is attending Wayne State University, majoring in English - Sophomore standing. Counselor Mr. BELLEFLEUR. Not attending this quarter.

September 21, 1964 — Reported with daughter, SALLY. VIOLA rambles and talks so it is very difficult to follow any one train of thought. She is probably above average intellectually, however, she is quite disturbed.

September 28, 1964 — Telephone call from husband VIOLA went in Detroit Memorial Hospital - nervous breakdown. Continues to talk about children and her concern about the present school set up, etcetera. VIOLA rattles on so much in such a confused way it is very difficult to follow her train of thought.

October 23, 1964 — Reported.

November 9, 1964 — Reported with daughter, PENNY, who is a very attractive girl. She intends to attend Eastern College in January, 1965. PENNY visiting parents. MARY is now married, but VIOLA does not know who MARY married.

December 7, 1964 — Telephone call requesting permission to be excused from reporting - says children are ill.

[redacted] stated that VIOLA LIUZZO, while waiting to see her, had written the following poem which she presented to [redacted]

"ETERNITY?

"Beneath a dark and dreary night
There stands a man within God's sight
He, alone, can tear away
The power of night that forms a day
So relentlessly this man trods on
To search for what something he fears longgone

"Hence from rising sun, to an endless day
He is never still for he cannot say
So above or below the mud or the rain
He thrashes on through an unknown terrain
So often he's tired; so often he's pained
Yet he still struggles on to the peak he must gain
This peak will he reach? Can this man refrain
From surrender to pain, the cost of life's gain
Ah! the peak he has reached, he did not refrain
Thus everything ventured was everything gained
Tranquil peace is the peak and now also
his right
So he now lies forever, joined with God
in sight

"Truth is not Christian, Jewish, Hindu or Buddist. What is true for one man is true for all men. Just as there is no such thing as Christian medicine, Jewish biology or hindu".

DE 44-643

[redacted] 67

A check with the Election Commission revealed that VIOLA LIUZZO registered to vote for the first time in the Detroit, Michigan, area on October 8, 1960, Ward 22, Precinct 96; however, her name was stricken from voter records as she failed to exercise her right as a citizen of the United States and has never voted in this area.

On January 28, 1964, her name was taken off voter records.

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/1/65

[redacted] Sinai Hospital of Detroit, Michigan, 6767 West Outer Drive, Detroit, Michigan, advised that Mrs. VIOLA FAUVER LIUZZO worked at the hospital as a Research Technician (trainee) from August 16, 1962, to October 15, 1962. 57C

[redacted] pointed out that an application form completed by Mrs. LIUZZO on July 26, 1962, contains the following data:

Residence	18491 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan
Telephone Number	BR 2-0858
Social Security Number	381-44-9357
Date of Birth	April 11, 1925 (place not shown)
Age	37 years
Marital Status	Married
Number of Children	Five
Maiden Name	GREGG
Person to Notify in the Event of an Emergency:	JOSEPHINE FLORINI, 6366 Abington Avenue, Detroit, Michigan
Education	Grammar School, St. Marys, Chattanooga, Tennessee
High School	One year
College	None
Other Training	Carnegie Institute as a Medical Assistant in 1962
Previous Employment	Parkvue Medical Center, 28303 Joy Road, Garden City, Michigan, June, 1962 - August, 1962
Health Status	"Good"
Physical Defects	"None"
Personal References:	HAROLD HENDERSON, M.D., 853 Fisher Building, Detroit, Michigan
	SARAH SCHOOTEN, M.D., Medical Arts Building

On 3/31/65 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44-643

SA [redacted] was 57C Date dictated 4/1/65

by

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.

Personal References (Cont'd)

Reverend FRANCIS GRANGER,
St. Alphonsus Rectory,
Dearborn, Michigan

Also in the personnel file for Mrs. LIUZZO, according to [redacted], is a five page handwritten letter which Mrs. LIUZZO addressed to Mr. BERNARD FUSS in October, 1963, explaining her reason for resigning from her employment at this hospital. [redacted] said that Mr. FUSS at the time was the Associate Director of the Hospital.

67C

[redacted] advised the letter refers to a misunderstanding which Mrs. LIUZZO apparently had with Mr. SIDNEY KOBERNICK, who was in charge of the laboratory at the hospital where Mrs. LIUZZO worked. He said the misunderstanding involved some tissue slides on which Mrs. LIUZZO worked and the letter also explained that her work at the hospital laboratory had begun to interfere with her pursuit of study at the Wayne State University.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/1/65

[redacted], Sinai Hospital of Detroit, 6767 West Outer Drive, Detroit, Michigan, advised that Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO was employed [redacted] during the short period of time Mrs. LIUZZO worked in the laboratory of this hospital.

[redacted] recalled that her first contact with Mrs. LIUZZO was early one Sunday morning shortly prior to her beginning work at the hospital laboratory when she encountered Mrs. LIUZZO getting out of one of the cots in the laboratory area. [redacted] explained that she had weekend duty and had come on duty early that morning not anticipating that anyone would be in the laboratory since it is the practice of the hospital for the laboratory area to be completely secured during the evening hours.

[redacted] stated there was also an unidentified woman occupying one of the cots with Mrs. LIUZZO. [redacted] recalled that Mrs. LIUZZO was dressed only in a hospital gown, which contained some blood stains. The other unidentified woman was dressed in street clothing.

Upon this encounter, Mrs. LIUZZO commented, "Oh! you're [redacted]", and [redacted] responded, "That was correct" and inquired as to the reason for Mrs. LIUZZO's unexpected presence in the laboratory.

According to [redacted] Mrs. LIUZZO's only explanation was that she was there to volunteer for laboratory experimentation. [redacted] explained the hospital does have a program that individuals voluntarily appear for laboratory experimental work; however, upon checking, she found no record that such an arrangement had been made with Mrs. LIUZZO and she was never able to determine why Mrs. LIUZZO was in the laboratory on this Sunday morning.

[redacted] stated that during Mrs. LIUZZO's employment, she was one of the individuals present in a group of medical technicians [redacted]

On 3/31/65 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44-643

by SA [redacted] / vas 67C Date dictated 4/1/65

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.

[redacted]

b7C,

[redacted] advised she has had no contact with Mrs. LIUZZO since Mrs. LIUZZO ceased her work at the hospital. [redacted] advised she had no knowledge concerning any activity of Mrs. LIUZZO apart from her employment with the hospital.

[redacted] He said that although considerable time has passed, he does recall Mrs. LIUZZO [redacted] He said his recollection of Mrs. LIUZZO was that she was an older woman, eager and vivacious and he said she was willing although not a very competent worker.

[redacted] He said he did not know Mrs. LIUZZO before she came to the hospital and had no contact with her when she left, although on one occasion when she contacted him [redacted] in connection with her attendance at the Wayne State University.

[redacted] 6X

[redacted] said he has no knowledge of any activity of Mrs. LIUZZO except that he does recall that she was a student at Wayne State University.

[redacted] described Mrs. LIUZZO as a very excitable person and an individual who was obviously quite easily upset to an extreme degree on any matter which she did not understand.

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.

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Attached teletype sets forth background data from our Detroit Office files concerning victim Viola Liuzzo who was shot and killed near Selma, Alabama, night of 3/25/65, and her husband, Anthony J. Liuzzo.

Letter to White House + AG being prepared

JWH/nkr

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 26 1965
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI DETROIT

351 AM URGENT 3/26/65 J F D

TO DIRECTOR AND SELMA

FROM DETROIT (44-NEW).

UNSUBS; MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO, THREE TWENTYFIVE SIXTYFIVE; LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS CR - ELECTION LAWS. CIVIL RIGHTS

RE BUREAU TEL CALLS TO DETROIT AND TEL CALL FROM SELMA, ALA. INSTANT.

RECORDS, MICH. SECRETARY STATES OFFICE LANSING, MICH. INDICATE NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE OLDS COUPE, SIXTYFIVE MICH. LIC. E J NINE ONE SEVEN SEVEN REGISTERED TO ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, ONE NINE THREE SEVEN FIVE MARLOWE, DETROIT, MICH. VEHICLE HAS VIN (Vehicle Identification) SIX THREE TWO M SIX ZERO FOUR EIGHT SIX.

MICHIGAN OPERATOR'S LICENSE NUMBER L TWO ZERO ZERO DASH EIGHT FOUR SEVEN DASH ZERO ONE FIVE DASH TWO EIGHT THREE ISSUED FOUR SIXTEEN SIXTYTHREE TO VIOLA LIUZZO BORN FOUR ELEVEN TWENTYFIVE, ONE NINE THREE SEVEN FIVE MARLOWE, DETROIT, FEMALE, BLONDE HAIR, GREY EYES, FIVE TWO AND ONE HALF, ONE TWENTYSEVEN LBS, NO VISION RESTRICTIONS.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN PD FILES REVEAL VIOLA LIUZZO, ONE NINE THREE SEVEN FIVE MARLOWE, DETROIT, BORN FOUR ELEVEN TWENTYFIVE, CALIFORNIA, PA., ARRESTED SIX SIXTEEN SIXTYFOUR, FOR "FAILING TO SEND CHILDREN TO SCHOOL". NO DISPOSITION SHOWN. LIUZZO DESCRIBED AS WHITE FEMALE, FIVE TWO, ONE FORTY LBS.

DETROIT INDICES DISCLOSE A VIOLA LIUZZO, NO ADDRESS GIVEN,

END PAGE ONE.

PAGE TWO.....

WROTE A LETTER TO "DETROIT FREE PRESS", A DETROIT DAILY NEWSPAPER, BELITTLING THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTACK ON JAMES R. HOFFA, PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTER. NO OTHER REFERENCES RE VIOLA LIUZZO.

NINETEEN SIXTYFOUR DIRECTORY FOR WEST SIDE DETROIT REVEALED ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, WIFE VIOLA, RESIDES ONE NINE THREE SEVEN FIVE MARLOWE, DETROIT, AND HE EMPLOYED AS BUSINESS AGENT FOR TEAMSTERS, DETROIT.

[redacted]

END PAGE TWO.....

SECRETARY STATES OFFICE, DRIVERS SERVICE DIVISION, LANSING, MICHIGAN, ADVISED ANTHONY JAMES LIUZZO, ONE NINE THREE SEVEN FIVE MARLOWE, DETROIT, ISSUED CHAUFFERS LIC. L TWO ZERO ZERO DASH ZERO SIX SEVEN DASH THREE SIX SEVEN DASH SEVEN SIX FIVE TO EXPIRE FIVE FIVE SIXTYFIVE. LIUZZO DESCRIBED AS M, BORN TEN FIVE THIRTEEN, FIVE TEN AND ONE HALF, ONE NINETYTWO LBS. BLUE EYES BLACK HAIR, NO VISION RESTRICTIONS.

NO OTHER PERTINENT INFO DEVELOPED.

LHM. FOLLOWS.

END

WA--HFL

FBI WASH DC

SM--MFH

FBI SELMA ALA

UT TUX

FBI

Date: 4/2/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-65374)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (105-773)

SUBJECT: DIXIE KLANS
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN, INC., aka.
RM
(OO: Knoxville)

Enclosed are the original and seven copies of a letterhead memorandum containing information received from [redacted] on [redacted] 67D

The information reportedly received by [redacted] has not been verified through other sources. 67D

[redacted]

SINCE MEMBERS OF DIXIE KLANS, KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN, INC., HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO CARRY CONCEALED WEAPONS, THEY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC SER
DEPT ISD, CRD
DATE FORW: 4-5-65
HOW FORW: receiving slip
BY: CJ: Ex

44-
NOT RECORDED
183 APR 8 1965

ENCLOSURE

3 - Bureau (Enc. 3) (RM)
2 - Birmingham (105-540) (Enc. 2) (RM)
1 - Knoxville (100-3301) (Enc. 2) (RM)
2 - Atlanta
DRG:cjh
(9)

12 APR 5 1965

SEC

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Atlanta, Georgia
April 2, 1965

DIXIE KLANS
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS

[redacted], Jack Brown, Exalted Cyclops, while addressing a group of Klansmen, left the group reportedly for the purpose of answering a telephone call and on his return announced to the group he received a telephone call from the daughter of the woman (Mrs. Viola Gregg Liuzzo), who was reportedly murdered by Klansmen in the vicinity of Selma, Alabama, a few days previous. The calling party stated the reason she left home was because her mother (Mrs. Viola Gregg Liuzzo) had Communist affiliations.

The source of the above information stated there was no way of knowing whether or not Brown actually received the telephone call regarding the above information.

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.

44-2[illegible]

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

DIXIE KLANS, KNIGHTS OF
THE KU KLUX KLAN, INC.
(Tennessee)

Confidential Sources advised it was announced at a meeting of Klavern #1, U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., at Chattanooga, Tennessee, on September 17, 1958, that some former leaders of Klavern #1 and their close associates had been banished from U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., during the preceding week.

Sources advised those individuals who were banished formed a new klan organization known as Dixie Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., with headquarters in Masonic Hall, 2523 Glass Street, East Chattanooga, Tennessee. A general welfare charter was secured from the State of Tennessee on October 21, 1957, which charter lists some of the purposes of the organization as freedom of speech and association, rejection of forced integration, preservation of the Constitutions of the United States and of Tennessee, and preservation of the sovereignty of each state.

On July 15, 1964, source stated that the DK, KKKK, Inc., has one active klavern in Tennessee and two active klaverns in Georgia. He stated there are no other klaverns of this organization in any other states although attempts have been made in the past to organize klaverns in other states.

A Confidential Source advised during the fall of 1960 that a "den" of Klavern #1, DK, KKKK, Inc., Chattanooga, Tennessee, consisting of ten members and two alternates, including JACK WILLIAM BROWN, Imperial Wizard (National President) of DK, KKKK, Inc., JACK LEON BROWN, Exalted Cyclops of Klavern #1, Chattanooga, Tennessee (the local chapter president), and others, all listed as members of Klavern #1, DK, KKKK, Inc., Chattanooga, Tennessee, during July, August, and September, 1960, were reportedly responsible for five bombings of residences of Hamilton County, Tennessee, during July and August, 1960. Some of these members and alternates

of den held closed meetings and discussed bombings and other acts of violence. These meetings were reportedly closed and rank and file members of this organization unaware of such. All reported members and alternates of den interviewed during another investigation, denied knowledge of bombings or acts of violence, denied knowledge of "den" of DK, KKKK, Inc., and majority admitted membership of DK, KKKK, Inc.

Sources have reported as late as September, 1963 that for the past eighteen months or more, none of the DK, KKKK, Inc., members or leaders, including JACK WILLIAM BROWN, have discussed any acts of violence. In fact, during this period, 1962-63, Negroes have demonstrated at Chattanooga, Tennessee, seeking integration of public and municipal facilities. In addition to these demonstrations some of the public schools, Chattanooga, have been integrated during the fall of 1962 and the fall of 1963. During these demonstrations and the integration of these schools, JACK WILLIAM BROWN and other DK, KKKK, Inc., leaders at closed meetings of this organization, and on an individual basis, have instructed members of this organization to stay away from areas of demonstration by Negroes and schools where integration was occurring, not to participate in any demonstrations or attempt to interfere with any Negro demonstrations, violence or advocate any acts of violence or become engaged in any arguments over above matters.

From October, 1960 to July, 1964 no acts of violence have occurred at Chattanooga and vicinity. During this period, DK, KKKK, Inc., has continued to operate as an active organization and during the same period all municipal facilities, Chattanooga, have been integrated, the majority of public facilities, including theatres, restaurants, motels, hotels, and other facilities have been integrated, plus integration of schools during the fall of 1962 and the fall of 1963. All have been accepted peacefully with no demonstrations or acts of violence or discussion of acts of violence by DK, KKKK, Inc., members.

March 26, 1965

J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have always been an outspoken supporter of the FBI. As long as you are it's head I am sure that I shall continue to be. May I congratulate you and your men for the swift action taken in the murder of the civil rights worker from Detroit.

However, I am alarmed at certain aspects of the case. These men deserve a fair trial just as any other American citizen does. Th American judicial system remains vibrant only as long as it appli equally to all. One is truly innocent until proven guilty. But, I think that possibly the rights of these men to a fair trial has been violated.

It would have been appropriate for the President to have announc the arrest of these men but it did not stop at that. Following t announcement of their arrest he noted they were members of the Kl He then stated that the woman had "been murdered by the enemies o freedom". He went on to denounce the KKK. By associating these with the Klan and then going on to strongly denounce the Klan the President has in effect given rise to guilt by association. This is a concept which should be outside of the law. Has not the Pre whose pronouncements carry such tremendous weight, somewhat preju the American public against these men? Can they receive a fair t I doubt seriously that they can for the next few weeks if at any

I abhor violence and this murder is an act of ruthless and unmiti crime. I honestly hope that the person or persons responsible wi be quickly brought to the bar of justice. However, when brought I trust they may receive the same rights under the law that other receive.

Sincerely,

[redacted] b7C

University of Oklahoma Medica
Oklahoma City 4, Oklahoma

22

REC-111 44-

4-7
3 MAR 31

ach 4-5-65
DTPhmd

CORRESPONDENCE

April 5, 1965

REC 119 44-24601-120

[redacted]
University of Oklahoma Medical Center
Oklahoma City 4, Oklahoma

67C

Dear [redacted]

I received your letter of March 26th and want to thank you for your generous remarks concerning our investigation of the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo.

It was thoughtful of you to bring your views regarding similar incidents to our attention, and you may be assured the FBI will continue to do everything within its power to discharge its responsibilities with the highest degree of dispatch, thoroughness and objectivity. In connection with this matter, I am enclosing a copy of the remarks made by Senator Thomas J. Dodd on the Floor of the Senate on February 25, 1965, along with other material I trust will be of assistance to you in learning the true nature of the FBI's role in civil rights matters.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 6
APR 5 - 1965
COMM-FBI

Enclosures (4)
Remarks by Senator Dodd, 2-25-65
Our Heritage of Greatness
U.S. News & World Report, 12-21-64
2-65 LEB Introduction
NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.
DTP:med

60 APR 13 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

REC'D-READING ROOM FBI

RE: BERNA S. LEE VS. CLARENCE M. LLEY, ET AL.
(U.S.D.C.,D.C.) CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 76-1185

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC)
VS. CLARENCE M. KELLEY, ET AL (U.S.D.C., D.C.)
CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 76-1186

Serial 121 pulled from this file under court order of U.S. District Judge John Lewis Smith, Jr., and sent to National Archives.

44-28601-121

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Belmont

April 1, 1965

BY LIAISON

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

To Watson 4/2/65

Dear Mr. Watson:

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth developments in the FBI's investigation of the fatal shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo which you may wish to bring to the attention of the President.

The Attorney General has been advised.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

JWH/pak pak
(10)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Conrad
Callahan
Conrad
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI
44-2691-12
REC-114
19 APR 6 1965

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Paducah, Ky.,
March 26, 1965

Dear Mr. Hoover:

This is the first letter I have ever written a prominent man like you but I just want you to know how proud I am of the fast arrest of the four Klansmen from Birmingham.

You have a wonderful organization and I feel that with you and President Johnson working together on laws for the Klan that it will some day be a thing of the past.

Yours very truly,

[redacted]

Paducah, Ky.

MAR 29 1965

MAR 29 1965

ACK 4-1-65
OTP/map

April 1, 1965

44-28601-193

[redacted] 62c

Paducah, Kentucky

Dear [redacted]

I received your letter of March 26th and want to thank you for your generous remarks concerning our investigation of the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. Your confidence is a source of encouragement for us and my associates join me in expressing appreciation.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 20
APR 1 - 1965
COMM-FBI

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI
APR 1 4 26 PM '65

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

DTP:rsp (3)

62 APR 13 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

March 27, '65

Dear Mr. Hoover,-

Your Boys did a tremendous job in nailing the four KKK brethren who killed the Detroit woman in Alabama. Thanks, and more power to you! The Bureau is presently at its best.

Cordially

[redacted] b7c

EXP. PROC.
36 MAR 29 1965
54

44-2[illegible]-1
4-6
11 MAR 30 1965

Ack 4-1-65
DTP/rsp

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Mohr
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

[redacted]

Beaver, Pa.

March 27, '65

Dear Mr. Hoover,

Your Boys did a tremendous job in nailing the four KKK Brethren who killed the Detroit woman in Alabama. Thanks, and more power to you! The Bureau is presently at its Best.

b7c

Cordially,

[redacted]

COPY:nm

Ack. 4-1-65
DTP/map

April 1, 1965

44-28601-124

[redacted]

Beaver, Pennsylvania

67C

Dear [redacted]

I received your postal card of March 27th and want to thank you for your generous remarks concerning our investigation of the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. Your confidence is a source of encouragement for us and my associates join me in expressing appreciation.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 30
APR 1 - 1965
COMM-FBI

REC'D-READING ROOM
APR 1 4 26 PM '65
B I

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

DTP:rsp (3)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Rm.
Holmes
Gandy

56 APR 13 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 2 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI MEMPHIS

720PM CST URGENT 4/2/65 GHC

TO DIRECTOR , BIRMINGHAM, SELMA

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1507) 2P

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA LUIZZO DASH VICTIM. CR DASH EL

RE DETROIT TEL TO MEMPHIS APRIL ONE, LAST.

~~LOUIS~~ JULIUS MILLER INTERVIEWED TODAY NASHVILLE. STATES FIRST MET VICTIM LUIZZO IN SELMA ABOUT MARCH SEVENTEEN OR EIGHTEEN, LAST , WHERE BOTH CAME FOR CIVIL RIGHTS WORK. LUIZZO VOLUNTEERED HER SIXTY THREE OLDSMOBILE FOR USE IN TRANSPORTATION OF CR WORKERS INCLUDING ~~MILLER~~. VICTIM STAYED IN SELMA HOUSING PROJECT APARTMENT WITH NEGRO FAMILY, NAME AND ADDRESS UNKNOWN. VICTIM WALKED IN MARCH WHILE HER CAR USED EXTENSIVELY ON MARCH ROUTE BY SEVERAL INTEGRATED GROUPS OF MARCH WORKERS. ;LEON MORTON, NEGRO MALE, WITH VICTIM NIGHT OF SLAYING, ALSO USED THIS CAR EXTENSIVELY.

VICTIM LAST SEEN BY MILLER IN MONTGOMERY MARCH TWENTY FIVE, LAST, ABOUT THREE THIRTY TO FOUR P.M. UP STAIRS IN DEXTER STREET BAPTIST CHURCH WHERE FAINTING AND ILL VICTIMS OF MARCH RESTING. DOES NOT RECALL IF VICTIM ILL AT THE TIME NOR KNOW IF VICTIM

END PAGE ONE

cc Atlanta

EVER TREATED BY DOCTOR WHILE IN ALABAMA. VICTIM PLANNED TO RETURN TO DETROIT WITH ~~MILLER~~ IN VICTIM/S CAR, STOPPING ENROUTE AT ~~MILLER/S~~ HOME IN NASHVILLE. SAME NIGHT VICTIM SLAIN AND ~~MILLER~~ MADE OTHER TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS. MILLER RETURNING TO SELMA TODAY.

ABOVE BEING PLACED ON FD THREE ZERO TWO. AM COPY DETROIT. P.

END

WA...ALS...

FBI WASH DC

BH...HEP

FBI BIRMGHAM

SM...MFH

FBI SELMA ALA

TUCLRX

[redacted]

March 27, 1965

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Heartiest congratulations to you and the F.B.I. for the remarkable achievement of your organization in the arrest of the four murderers of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo.

This accomplishment has done more than anything I can think of to demonstrate to the entire world the high caliber of efficiency of the F.B.I. This will truly go down in history, to your everlasting honor.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

ack 4-1-65 DFG/ad

b7c

EXP. PROC.
30 MAR 29 1965

Viola Liuzzo 44-28601-

1 MAR 29 1965

CORRESPONDENCE

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MR. TOLSON
MR. BELMONT
MR. MOHR
MR. DELOACH
MR. CASPER
MR. CALLAHAN
MR. CONRAD
MR. FELT
MR. GALE
MR. ROSEN
MR. SULLIVAN
MR. TAVEL
MR. TROTTER
MR. JONES
TELE. ROOM
MISS HOLMES
MRS. METCALF
MISS GANDY

March 27, 1965

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Heartiest congratulations to you and the F. B. I. for the remarkable achievement of your organization in the arrest of the four murderers of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo.

This accomplishment has done more than anything I can think of to demonstrate to the entire world the high caliber of efficiency of the F. B. I. This will truly go down in history, to your everlasting honor.

Sincerely,

[redacted] 57C

COPY:nm

ack
4-6-65
DFC/cal

REC-114 44-28601-127 April 1, 1965

[redacted]

Elmhurst, New York 11373

b7c

Dear [redacted]

I received your letter of March 27th and want to thank you for your interest in writing.

You may be certain your complimentary comments regarding the work of this Bureau are deeply appreciated, and communications such as yours are a source of great encouragement. I can assure you that all of us in this Bureau will make every effort to merit your continued approval.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 30
APR 1 - 1965
COMM-FBI

NOTE: Numerous references on this name appear in Bufiles which were not reviewed for the purpose of answering this letter.

DFC:cal
(3) cal

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

60 APR 1 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

REC'D READING ROOM
APR 1 3 56 PM '65
FBI

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1 - Belmont
1 - DeLoach
1 - Rosen
1 - McGowan

TO MR. TOLSON

DATE: March 26, 1965

FROM A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS
VIOLA LIUZZO, VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS: ELECTION LAWS

Re my memo this morning instructing Inspector Sullivan at Selma to present the facts of this case to Acting Assistant Attorney General John Doar for immediate authority to get complaints and warrants against the subjects. Inspector Sullivan advised at 10:40 a.m. that Acting Assistant Attorney General Doar was working on this and the U. S. Commissioner was standing by and our Agents were standing by to sign the complaints. I told Sullivan to have our stenographers help in Montgomery if it would speed things up.

At 12:08 p.m. Inspector Sullivan advised the complaints and warrants were ready. He will send in a teletype with the wording of these documents for our information.

At 12:06 p.m. I advised Inspector McGovern in Birmingham to go ahead with the arrests. At 12:25 p.m. Mr. McGovern advised that all of the subjects were in custody. Wilkins was arrested at 11:07 a.m. in his car on highway 11 which leads to Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Thomas was arrested at Lorraine's Cafe at 11:08. Eaton was arrested shortly thereafter at his residence on Route 6 in Bessemer. (The above times are Central Standard Time, one hour behind us.) There was no difficulty encountered during the arrests and Agents will secure search warrants for the homes of Wilkins and Thomas.

[redacted] All of the subjects will be arraigned after they have been photographed, fingerprinted and processed at the Birmingham Office. They will be arraigned before U. S. Commissioner Louise Charlton.

At 12:45 p.m. McGovern was told to go ahead with the arraignment as soon as the subjects were processed and he should check with Inspector Sullivan as to how much bond is recommended by Doar. McGovern will advise the Bureau as soon as the subjects have been arraigned. I told McGovern and asked him to relay to Inspector Sullivan that no comment should be made to the press concerning these arrests inasmuch as the President has made the public release.

AHB:hmm
(5)

6 APR 6 1965

25 APR 6 1965

March 31, 1965

44-28601-130

[redacted]

San Diego 2, California

Dear [redacted]

Mr. Hoover received your letter of March 26th and asked me to thank you for your generous remarks concerning this Bureau's investigation of the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo.

Sincerely yours,

Helen W. Gandy
Secretary

MAILED 30
APR 1 - 1965
COMM-FBI

1 - San Diego - Enclosure

NOTE: [redacted]

DTP:plr
(4)

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

MAR 31 4 33 PM

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

31

[redacted]

[redacted]

SAN DIEGO 2, CALIFORNIA

67C

March 26, 1965

J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

Congratulations upon the excellent work of your department in the efficient and rapid apprehension of the persons suspected of the brutal killing in Selma, Alabama, of Mrs. Viola Gregg Liuzzo, a civil rights worker from Detroit, Michigan.

Your agents participating in this arrest were definitely "wearing the shoes of the department" with honor and great distinction.

[redacted]

57C

ALM:ar

38 MAR 27 1965

EX-PROC

44-

12 MAR 29 1965

ack 3-31-65
DTP:pl

CORRESPONDENCE

FBI SELMA ALA

U. S. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 1 1965

TELETYPE

6:58PMCST URGENT 4-1-65 MFH

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, ET AL. DASH VICTIMS.
Civil Rights — Election Laws
CR-DASH EL; RACIAL MATTERS.

REMOBILE TEL MARCH THREE-ONE, LAST.

SUMMARY TELETYPE.

INVESTIGATION IN EFFORT TO TRACE ACTIVITIES OF SUBJECTS IN MONTGOMERY AREA HAS PRODUCED NO ADDITIONAL VERIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES.

INVESTIGATION TO IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW KLAN PARTICIPANTS IN KLAN MOTORCADE OF MARCH TWO-ONE, LAST, CONTINUING. INTERVIEWS TO DATE HAVE NOT DISCLOSED ANY PARTICIPANTS IN PARADE.

[redacted]

APR 7 1965

PAGE ONE

20 APR 1965

SOME TWENTY INDIVIDUALS WHO RESIDE IN THE LAWRENCE STREET AREA IN SELMA, ALABAMA, BETWEEN SELMA AVENUE AND JEFF DAVIS AVENUE ALL VIEWED PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUBJECTS AND VEHICLE. ALL FAILED TO MAKE ANY INDENTIFICATION OR FURNISH ANY INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THIS INVESTIGATION.

RESULTS OF AUTOPSY.

THE AUTOPSY REPORT WAS TURNED OVER AND SHOWS NO FINDINGS WHICH WOULD IN ANY WAY EXPLAIN THE PUNCTURE MARKS APPARENTLY MADE BY NEEDLE, WHICH APPEAR IN LIUZZO'S ARM. THE MEDICAL EXAMINER IS BEING RECONTACTED AND THIS MATTER WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH HIM SPECIFICALLY.

END

WA.....WBS

FBI WASH DC

TU CLR

Report Form
FD-263 (8-13-55)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period
DETROIT	MOBILE	4/2/65	4/1-2/65

TITLE OF CASE

EUGENE THOMAS; Et Al
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; Et Al -
VICTIMS

Report made by [redacted] b7C

CHARACTER OF CASE

CR - ELECTION LAWS

REFERENCE: Report of SA [redacted] b7C
at Detroit, dated 4/1/65.

- RUC -

- A* -
Cover Page

Approved

Special Agent In Charge

Do not write in spaces below

44-2861-12

16 APR 1965

Copies made:

5 - Bureau (AMSD)
5 - Mobile (Selma)(44-1245)
(AMSD)
3 - Birmingham (AMSD)
(1 - USA, Birmingham)
(1 - USA, Montgomery)
2 - Detroit (44-643)

REC

EX-103

STAT. SECT!

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1965 O—344750

FD-204 (Rev. 9-10-62)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Birmingham
1 - USA, Montgomery

Report of: [redacted] 57C Office: Detroit, Michigan
Date: April 2, 1965

File Number: 44-643

Title: EUGENE THOMAS; Et Al
VIOLA LIUZZO; Et Al - VICTIMS

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis: [redacted] advises knew Victim VIOLA LIUZZO as fellow worker at Sinai Hospital, Detroit, Mich., and states VIOLA LIUZZO was psychiatric patient at hospital after dismissal. Result of interview of SAMUEL LEROY EDMONDSON concerning Victim LIUZZO set forth. 57D

- RUC -

DETAILS:

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FBI, and is a loan to your agency; it and/or its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 1, 1965

[redacted] furnished the following information on March 26, 1965:

Approximately [redacted] years ago, [redacted] ployed by [redacted] Sinai Hospital, Detroit. During this period, she became acquainted with VIOLA LIUZZO, who was employed by Dr. KOBERNICK in a technical capacity. [redacted] described VIOLA LIUZZO as a woman of questionable character, who unnecessarily spent a great deal of time away from her home and children.

Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO was dismissed from her employment at Sinai Hospital in 1963. [redacted] stated she was not aware of the complete circumstances surrounding VIOLA LIUZZO's dismissal; however, she has heard that [redacted] at Sinai Hospital came to work one morning and discovered Mrs. LIUZZO on a cot in one of the offices in an intoxicated condition and covered with blood. b7c

[redacted] stated VIOLA LIUZZO was admitted to Sinai Hospital as a psychiatric patient shortly after this dismissal. Mrs. LIUZZO subsequently walked away from the hospital grounds, after which hospital authorities refused to readmit her.

On 3/26/65 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44-643

by IC [redacted]/smb b7c Date dictated 3/29/65

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FD-302 (Rev. 10-11-63)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/2/65

SAMUEL LEROY EDMONDSON, age 17, advised that his home address is 1612B 16th Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee. Currently he is staying in Saginaw, Michigan, where he is associated with the Saginaw Non-Violent Movement which is headquartered at 908 North Fourth Street, Saginaw. For the past two years, EDMONDSON and LOUIS J. A. MILLER have traveled and worked together in the interest of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee.

EDMONDSON stated that he and LOUIS J. A. MILLER arrived in Selma, Alabama, about one month before the commencement on March 21, 1965, of the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. They remained in Selma and later Montgomery until this march was completed.

EDMONDSON stated Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO arrived in Selma about nine days prior to the commencement of the march and EDMONDSON and MILLER met her on the day of her arrival. Mrs. LIUZZO, while in Selma, worked out of the March's Headquarters at the First Baptist Church and made her automobile available for use in running errands, transporting persons and engaging in other pre-march activities. This automobile was a 1963 or 1964 light blue colored Oldsmobile or Pontiac two-door with Michigan license plate. From the day after her arrival until about March 19, 1965, MILLER drove Mrs. LIUZZO's car and EDMONDSON usually rode with him. MILLER made the arrangements with Mrs. LIUZZO for the use of the car. Subsequent to March 19, 1965, LEROY MOULTON, person who was riding with Mrs. LIUZZO on the night she was killed, drove Mrs. LIUZZO's automobile.

In Selma, Mrs. LIUZZO worked out of the March's Headquarters at the First Baptist Church. EDMONDSON saw her most every day but was not directly associated with her. The last time EDMONDSON saw Mrs. LIUZZO was about 3:00 P.M. on March 25, 1965, at the Dexter Avenue Church, Montgomery. She was accompanied by an unknown Negro male and was trying to locate her automobile. Mrs. LIUZZO was directed to go to the Graystone Hotel, Montgomery, because LEROY MOULTON, who had her car, reportedly was there. Mrs. LIUZZO was told to obtain her automobile from MOULTON because the latter did not have a driver's license.

On 4/1/65 at Saginaw, Michigan File # Detroit 44-643

SAs [redacted] and

by [redacted] rmh 67C Date dictated 4/1/65

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.

EDMONDSON said that DAVE BEY, one of the march participants who stayed at the Torch Motel, Selma, told him that subsequent to 3:00 P.M. on March 25, 1965, he (BEY) saw Mrs. LIUZZO in a tavern in Montgomery with an unidentified Negro male. The name and address of the tavern was not indicated; however, it was believed to be located across from a park. DAVE BEY's home address was unknown to EDMONDSON; however, it might be obtained from March records maintained at Brown's Chapel in Selma.

EDMONDSON stated that while in Selma, Mrs. LIUZZO stayed with a Negro woman (name unknown) who had an apartment at the George Washington Carver Housing Project in Selma. Possibly the apartment number was 528C. In any event, one MARY DE BOSE, a resident of the same apartment house in that housing project, knew Mrs. LIUZZO and would be able to identify the person with whom Mrs. LIUZZO stayed.

EDMONDSON furnished the following directions by which one could locate the apartment where Mrs. LIUZZO stayed:

Starting at the First Baptist Church, proceed north on Sylvia Street to the alley which marks the south boundry of the housing project. There is an apartment house on the northeast corner of Sylvia Street and the alley. Proceed east down the alley to the fourth or fifth apartment. It was in one of these apartments that Mrs. LIUZZO stayed.

EDMONDSON had no knowledge of other places where Mrs. LIUZZO may have roomed in the Selma-Montgomery area. He was not aware that Mrs. LIUZZO received any type of medical attention and treatment or that she consulted a doctor while in Alabama. If she needed such treatment, she most likely would have contacted the medical unit and doctors for the march located at the First Baptist Church, Selma.

Report Form
FB 263 (5-12-59)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period
DETROIT	MOBILE (SELMA)	3/31/65	3/26 - 31/65

TITLE OF CASE
EUGENE THOMAS;
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS;
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka.
Mrs. Anthony J. Liuzzo;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS

Report made by
SA [redacted] 5x

Type
PJ

CHARACTER OF CASE
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis:
REFERENCES: Detroit teletype to Director and Mobile (Selma), dated 3/26/65.
Mobile (Selma) airtel to Birmingham and Detroit, dated 3/27/65.

- P -

LEAD

DETROIT

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Will report additional background information being secured concerning victim VIOLA LIUZZO.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Referenced airtel from Mobile (Selma) to Birmingham and Detroit, dated March 27, 1965, requested that the Detroit Division set forth in report form information contained in

Approved | Special Agent in Charge | Do not write in spaces below

Copies made:
5 - Bureau
5 - Mobile (Selma) (44-1245)
3 - Birmingham
(1 - USA, Birmingham)
(1 - USA Montgomery, Alabama)
2 - Detroit (44-463)

44-28607-131
REC-50
9 APR 2 1965
SIX
STAT. SECT.
56 APR 13 1965

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1965 O—344750

DE 44-463

Detroit teletype, dated March 26, 1965. Much of the information contained in this report is contained in a letterhead memorandum to the Director, dated March 27, 1965, under the caption of "Unknown Subject; Murder of Viola Liuzzo, 3/25/65; Leroy Jerome Moton - Victims".

FD-204 (Rev. 1-10-62)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copies: 1 - USA, Birmingham
1 - USA, Montgomery, Alabama

Report of: SA [redacted] 57C Office: Detroit, Michigan
Date: March 31, 1965

File Number: 44-463

Title: EUGENE THOMAS;
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS;
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.;
Character: VIOLA LIUZZO;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS

Synopsis: CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Victim VIOLA LIUZZO arrested by Detroit Police Department, 6/16/64, and charged with "failing to send children to school". Victim VIOLA LIUZZO stated kept children from school as protest against children being permitted to drop out of school at age 16, which victim felt should be changed to age 18. The victim insisted on pleading guilty to charge even though Detroit Board of Education willing to drop matter. Victim VIOLA LIUZZO fined $50.00 and placed on one year probation.

[redacted] 57C

- P -

DETAILS:

[redacted] 57C

Detroit Police Department on March 26, 1965, advised that VIOLA LIUZZO, 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan, born on April 11, 1925, was arrested by officers of the Detroit Police Department on June 16, 1964, and charged with "failing to send children to school". The arrest card indicated that VIOLA FAUBER LIUZZO of 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, had been a resident of Detroit for 13 years prior to June 16, 1964, and that she was arrested on June 16, 1964, at 8:45 AM at

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FBI, and is a loan to your agency; it and/or its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

DE 44-463

13365 Schaefer, Detroit, Michigan. VIOLA FAUBER LIUZZO was arrested on Warrant Number 208967 on the complaint of Mr. WILLIAM LAKIN, 5057 Woodward, Detroit, Michigan, the latter being associated with the Detroit Board of Education. The disposition of the arrest was shown as one year probation and $50.00 fine. The Court file was Detroit Recorder's Court File Number 208967.

FD-302 (Rev. 10-11-63)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 31, 1965

1

Detroit Recorder's Court Judge JOSEPH GILLIS [redacted] March 26,1965, stated that he recalled the case concerning VIOLA LIUZZO and said he was of the opinion that VIOLA LIUZZO was a "professional crusader". VIOLA LIUZZO was arrested on the complaint of Mr. WILLIAM LAKIN, an officer of the Detroit Board of Education, and was charged with "failing to send children to school". VIOLA LIUZZO complained at the time she was brought before Judge GILLIS that children in the Detroit school system were permitted to drop out of school at the age of 16 and that she felt that this was wrong and that children should not be permitted to drop out of school until reaching the age of 18 and it was for this reason that she refused to send her children to school. Judge GILLIS stated that he adjourned the case from June 16, 1964, to September, 1964, hoping that VIOLA LIUZZO would be able to adjust the matter without his aid. Before the case went to trial Judge GILLIS received a letter from the Detroit Board of Education stating that they did not desire to prosecute. Judge GILLIS stated that he was quite willing to drop the matter but that VIOLA LIUZZO, represented by an attorney, Mr. MC NALLY, whose first name Judge GILLIS did not recall, appeared in court in September, 1964, at which time VIOLA LIUZZO insisted on entering a plea of guilty. Her plea was accepted and she was fined $50.00 and placed on one year probation. Judge GILLIS stated that after the trial he received information from the Probation Department of the Detroit Recorder's Court that VIOLA LIUZZO was emotionally disturbed and appeared to be on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

On 3/26/65 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44-463

by SA [redacted] / pjb 572 - 3 - Date dictated 3/31/65

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.

DE 44-463

Records of the Detroit Division indicate that one VIOLA LIUZZO had addressed a letter to the "Detroit Free Press", a newspaper published daily at Detroit, Michigan, in which VIOLA LIUZZO belittled the United States Government's charges against JAMES R. HOFFA, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

[redacted] Michigan Secretary of State's Office, Lansing, Michigan, on March 26, 1965, advised SA [redacted] that a 1963 Oldsmobile Coupe with 1965 Michigan License EJ 9177, was registered to ANTHONY J. LIUZZO at 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan. This vehicle had Identification Number 632M60486. 67C

[redacted] Driver's Service Division, Michigan Secretary of State's Office, on March 26, 1965, advised SA [redacted] that Operator's License Number L200-847-015-282 was issued April 16, 1963, to VIOLA LIUZZO, born April 11, 1925, residing at 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan. The license described VIOLA LIUZZO as female, blond hair, gray eyes, 5' 1½" tall, 127 pounds. 67C

[redacted] 67C

[redacted] 67C

[redacted] 67C

FD-302 (Rev. 3-1-62)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
BIRMINGHAM	MOBILE	4/5/65	3/26/65 - 4/5/65

TITLE OF CASE

EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS

REPORT MADE BY: ASAC [redacted] | TYPED BY: esw

CHARACTER OF CASE

CR - EL

REFERENCE: Report of ASAC ROBERT G. JENSEN at Birmingham, 3/30/65.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

It is noted copies have been designated for the USA at Montgomery, Alabama, and at Birmingham, Alabama; however, no dissemination of this report is being made until Bureau approval received.

APPROVED | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

(5) - Bureau (AMSD)
1 - USA, Birmingham
5 - Mobile (44-1245)
(1 - USA, Montgomery)
5 - Birmingham (44-1236)

4 APR 8 1965

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

AGENCY				
REQUEST RECD.				
DATE FWD.				
HOW FWD.				
BY				

NOTATIONS

COVER PAGE

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

1

Photographs of automobile in possession of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., on March 26, 1965, were taken on the same date with a Speed Graphic camera using Kodak Tri-X Pan Film. Vehicle described as 1958 dark green over light green Chevrolet Delray two door sedan, VIN A58F114308, bearing 1965 Alabama license 1B-37863. Vehicle photographed on U. S. Highway 11, Bessemer, Alabama.

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SA [redacted] :gah 57C Date dictated 3/29/65

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date March 29, 1965

Using a Speed Graphic, 4 x 5 Camera and Tri-X 4 x 5 Kodak film, the following individuals were photographed during the time set forth. In each instance a front, profile and stand-up view were made.

12:46 - 12:54 p.m. - COLLIE LEROY WILKINS

12:54 - 1:01 p.m. - WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON

1:15 - 1:22 p.m. - EUGENE THOMAS

Negatives 1, 2 and 3 contain photographs of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS.

Negatives 4, 5 and 6 contain photographs of WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON.

Negatives 7, 8 and 9 contain photographs of EUGENE THOMAS.

3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

SA [redacted] mjh 67C

by Date dictated 3/26/65

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.

3-30-65

1 - Mr. Sullivan
(S.F. Phillips
Rm 808 RB
1 - Mr. Raupach

Airtel

To: SAC, Atlanta

From: Director, FBI

UNSUB ; THREAT AGAINST
MARTIN LUTHER KING

At 1:03 a.m., 3-27-65, the Bureau received a brief telephone call from an unidentified male. He refused to say where he was calling from, however the call was a long distance call, the originating city unknown.

The unidentified male sounded somewhat intoxicated, extremely vindictive, spoke with a foreign dialect and used considerable profanity. He made several unintelligible remarks about Mrs. Viola Liuzzo who was killed in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965. The unidentified caller said "they were going to get King" then hung up.

The Bureau is notifying United States Secret Service Headquarters in Washington, D.C., the Civil Rights Division and the Internal Security Division of the United States Department of Justice regarding this information. Atlanta should notify United States Secret Service in your division and local authorities concerning the receipt of the above information. No further action is being taken by the Bureau.

KMR:tmt
(4)

NOTE: Above information has been incorporated into a letterhead memorandum and is being disseminated to United States Secret Service by O-141 and to John Doar Civil Rights Division and J. Walter Yeagley Internal Security Division by O-6, 3-30-65. No further action necessary and Division 5 has been notified telephonically. SEE SHRODER TO ROSEN MEMO 3/27/65 KMR:LAS.

ENCLOSURE

MAILED 8
MAR 30 1965
COMM-FBI

NOT RECORDED
191 APR 5 1965

APR 2 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 30, 1965

UNSUB; THREAT AGAINST
MARTIN LUTHER KING

On March 27, 1965, at 1:03 a.m., a brief telephone call was received at the Federal Bureau of Investigation from an unidentified male. This individual refused to reveal his identity or where he was calling from It was determined the call was a long distance call but the originating city was not determined.

The unidentified caller sounded as if he was under the influence of intoxicants, extremely vindictive, spoke with a foreign dialect and used considerable profanity. He made several unintelligible remarks concerning Mrs Viola Liuzzo, who was killed on March 25, 1965, at Lowndes County, Alabama. The unidentified caller then said "they were going to get King" then hung up

United States Secret Service, the United States Department of Justice and local authorities in the State of Alabama have been notified. No further action is being taken in this matter by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

RECORDED
APR 1965

PROPERTY OF FBI
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ENCLOSURE 44-28601-

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1-Mr. Conrad
1-Mr. Jevons
1-Mr. Williams

TO: Mr. Conrad

DATE: 4/2/65

FROM: R. H. Jevons

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA.; LEROY JEROME MOTON, VICTIMS; CR - EL

Inspector Joseph Sullivan telephoned this afternoon and requested the appearance of SA [redacted] in Montgomery, Alabama, on the afternoon of 4/4/65, to be prepared to testify before the Grand Jury in this matter on 4/5/65. [redacted] is to bring with him the pertinent evidentiary exhibits that we now have in our possession.

Inspector Sullivan was advised that [redacted] would appear in Montgomery, Alabama, as requested, to testify before the Grand Jury beginning 4/5/65.

ACTION:

For information.

44-1245

1-Bufile 174-35

1-Mr. Belmont
1-Mr. Rosen
1-Mr. McGowan

RHJ:fch
(8)

REC-44

44-38001-131

25 APR 7 1965

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

SEVEN

F201

60 APR 13 1965



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER

PART 5 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 44-28601

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: April 5, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

Inspector Sullivan in Montgomery, Alabama, has advised that the Grand Jury is considering instant case. Sullivan reported at 4 p. m. Washington time that the informant had been on the stand since the lunch recess and was still testifying. He had been before the Grand Jury approximately two hours at the time of the conversation with Inspector Sullivan.

Sullivan advised that he personally had appeared before the Grand Jury at the outset. He stated this Grand Jury had been considered to be "a good Grand Jury" by the Departmental attorneys and the U. S. Attorney. He stated the Grand Jurors were most noncommittal while he was in there and did very little talking except for one juror who asked several questions.

Sullivan advised that the corridors in the Federal Building were very clear. There have been very few spectators gathering around the Courthouse. There are a number of witnesses, including several Agents from Birmingham who participated in the arrests and searches as well as the FBI Laboratory examiner, yet to appear before the Jury.

Sullivan advised that he did not know how long the jurors would be questioning the informant. There had been no report from the jury room as to the type of testimony or questions being asked by members of the jury. They did not know whether there had been a favorable or antagonistic reaction on the part of members of the Grand Jury to the informant's testimony regarding the Klan.

REC- 131

44 - 28601 147

ACTION

Inspector Sullivan is closely following this matter and will advise the Bureau of per tinent developments.

APR

CLM/cac (7)

FBI

Date: 4/1/65

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI ATTENTION: ~~[illegible]~~ EXHIBITS SECTION

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245) (P)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka.; ET AL. -
VICTIMS
CR - EL

(OO: Mobile)

Transmitted herewith is a map of Montgomery showing the route of the march and three points of interest that pertain to subjects' movements on 3/25/65. Two blank maps and one large city map are also enclosed for the assistance of the ~~Laboratory~~. A poster-type map should be drawn for an exhibit showing the map with the parade route and the points of interest as described above.

EXH SECT.

Also transmitted is a map of Highway 80 from the foot of Edmund Pettus Bridge, Selma, to St. Jude's Complex, Montgomery, Alabama. This map contains various landmarks and points of interest, including the crime scene and the camp sites during the march to Montgomery.

This map should be drawn on a poster-type exhibit by the ~~Cardiographic~~ EXHIBITS Section for use as an exhibit.

ST-110
REC- 99 44-28601-148

It is requested that the above exhibits be prepared and available at Montgomery, Alabama, by 4/5/65.

2 APR 7 1965

ENCLOSURE

3 - Bureau (Encs.5) (AMSD)
2 - Mobile
RLF:gmh
(5)

Enclosure in Exh. Sect. Requested charts prepared in Exh. Sec. 4/3/65 and shipped to Montg. Ala for pickup by Selma Agents on 4/4/65

THREE

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

64 APR 1 1965

per waybill # 42-36-94 (Air Exp

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 2 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

QBFBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

1258 AM CST URGENT 4-2-65 GDM

TO DIRECTOR AND MOBILE-SELMA

FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236) 1P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA-VICTIM. LEROY JEROME MOTON-VICTIM, CR-EL.

DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY ST. JOHN BARRETT ADVISED NINE P. M. APRIL ONE, SIXTYFIVE THAT SUBPOENAS TO APPEAR BEFORE GRAND JURY, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, MONDAY, APRIL FIFTH, HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

[redacted]

B-7C, B-7A

THESE SUBPOENAS WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE U. S. MARSHAL TO BE SERVED FRIDAY, APRIL SECOND.

SELMA ADVISED.

END

WA HFL

FBI WASH DC

P

REC. 39 44-28601-151

21 APR 7 1965

EX-102

60 APR 13 1965

Copy to Hines

SENT BY CODED TELETYPE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 6 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI NEW YORK

10-11PM EST URGENT 4-6-65 MFR

TO DIRECTOR, FBI ---19--- AND MOBILE/SELMA/ /44-1245/

FROM NEW YORK /44-1140/

I

EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL, VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO DASH VICTIM CR DASH ELRM

REMOTEL, FOUR ONE SIXTYFIVE, REQUESTING ALL PHOTOS FROM UPI AND AI NYC, OF KLAN MOTORCADE AT MONTGOMERY ALA., MARCH TWENTYONE LAST.

UPI HAS ONE PHOTO OF ONE CAR IN FRONT OF CAPITOL MONTGOMERY, SUBMITTED BY JERRY HUFF, NOW ASSIGNED UPI, RALEIGH, N.C. TELEPHOTO ONLY SENT UPI, NYC, WITH NO ROGIINAL NEGATIVE INDICATING PHOTO NOT TAKEN BY HUFF. UPI, NYC, BELIEVES HE PICKED UP PHOTO FROM NEWSPAPER, MONTGOMERY.

REC-42 44-28601-157

F70 APR 14 1965

18 APR 7 1965

..9. F OMS FBI WASH DC

cc Hess

FIVE, EIGHT BY TEN ENLARGEMENTS, WITH NEGATIVES PREPARED BY NYO ARE BEING SENT SAC MOBILE/SELMA/ UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

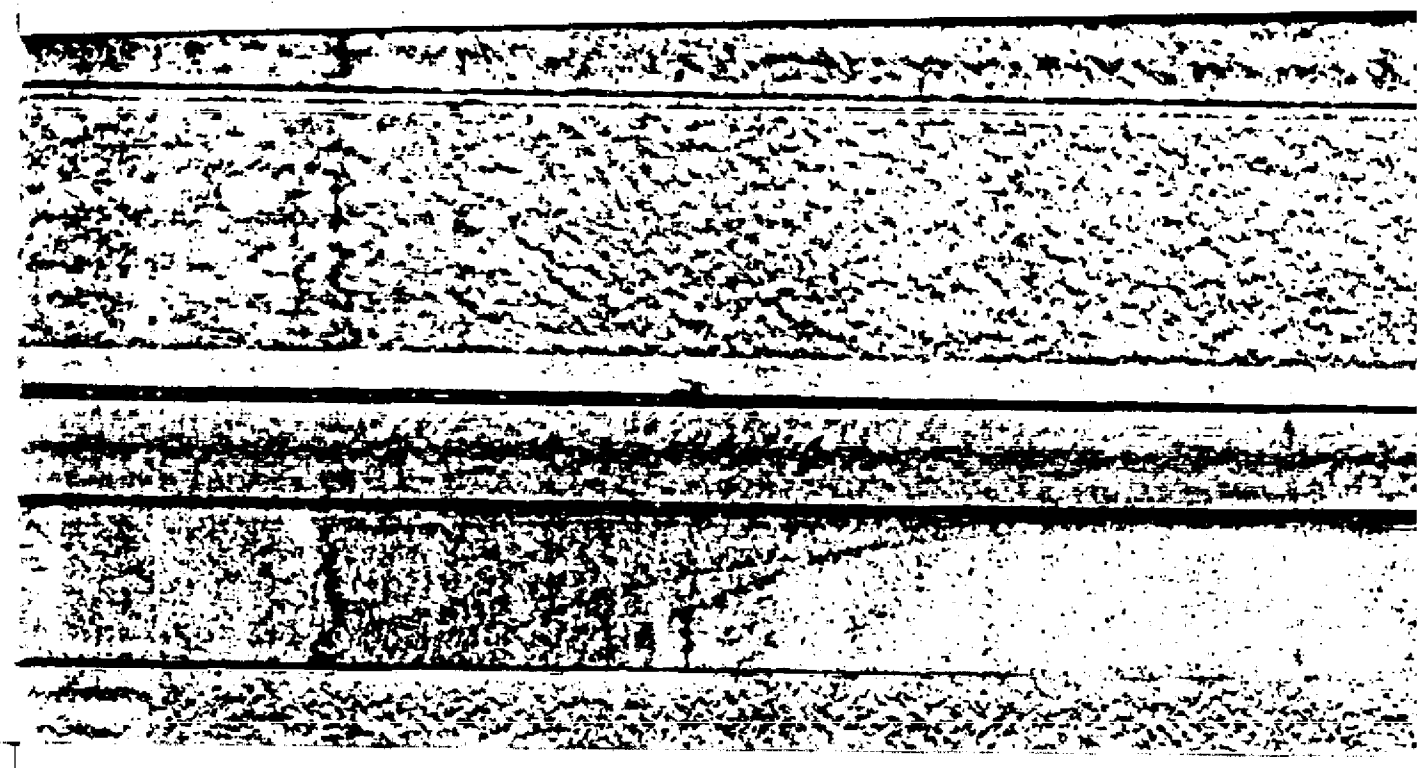
AP, NYC HAS ONE STRIP OF FOUR SHOTS OF PREPARATIONS FOR MOTORCADE TAKEN BY SPENCER JONES, AP PHOTOGRAPHER, NOW ASSIGNED PITTSBURGH.

CHECK WITH JONES APRIL SIX BY AP DISCLOSES THESE ONLY ARE PHOTOS HE TOOK AND HE WAS ONLY AP PHOTOGRAPHER ON DUTY MONTGOMERY.

FIVE EIGHT BY TEN ENLARGEMENTS WITH NEGATIVES ARE BEING SUBMITTED SAC MOBILE /SELMA/ UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

END BJH

FBI WASHDC



RE: BERNARD S. LEE V. CLARENCE M. KELLEY, ET AL. (U.S.D.C., D.C.) CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 76-1185

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC) V. CLARENCE M. KELLEY, ET AL (U.S.D.C., D.C.) CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 76-1186

Serial 153 pulled from this file under court order of U.S. District Judge John Lewis Smith, Jr., and sent to National Archives.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1 - Belmont
1 - DeLoach
1 - Rosen
1 - McGovern

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: 3/26/65

FROM : A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS:
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

[redacted]

McGovern advised that an attorney by the name of Matt Murphy has called the Birmingham Office to state he is representing all of the subjects. Murphy was told that the subjects would be arraigned in the immediate future. McGovern said he was going to call Inspector Sullivan in Selma in order to get the informant back to Birmingham as soon as possible in order that he might be arraigned.

[redacted]

At 2:00 p.m. SAC Ingram called from Birmingham to advise that he thought there might be a problem in the arraignment of the three subjects without the fourth, namely, the informant. He said a Klan attorney, Matt Murphy, has told the office he represents all four men and will be present at the arraignment. Ingram thinks questions will be raised as to the whereabouts of the fourth man at the arraignment and also there may be a question as to why the fourth man (the informant) was not arraigned before the nearest Commissioner

[redacted]

AHB: hmm
(5)

ST-112

REC-23 44-28601-154

APR 9 1965

56 APR 13 1965

BELMONT TO TOLSON
RE: UNSUBS
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM

[redacted]

Mr. Ingram said Birmingham has been making absolutely no comments to the press and I told him this was correct as the Preside[illegible] had made a statement to the press.

I want no comments nor amplifications made in Ala or here as President has made his statement & it ends there.

#

Mr. Ingram + Rosen
3/29/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 27 1965
TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI SELMA ALA

10:40PMCST URGENT 3-27-65 MFH

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS; GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA MRS. ANTHONY LIUZZO DASH VICTIM; LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIM, ~~CR~~ Civil Rights DASH ~~EL~~ Election Laws.

[redacted]

B 7A

REC-41 44-28601155

21 APR 9 1965

[redacted]

B 7A

END PAGE ONE

52 APR 12 1965

RECONTACTS WILL BE MADE WITH THESE PEOPLE, AND WHEN PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUBJECTS ARE FURNISHED BY BIRMINGHAM, THEY WILL BE EXHIBITED. THIS INVESTIGATION WILL BE CAREFULLY HANDLED IN ORDER TO AVOID COMPROMISING SOURCE.

VICTIM LEROY JEROME MOTON

MOTON HAS BEEN IN CUSTODY AS MATERIAL WITNESS SINCE NIGHT OF MARCH TWENTYFIVE LAST BY ARRANGEMENTS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON THEIR OWN BEHALF. CIRCUIT SOLICITOR ARTHUR GAMBLE, WHO HAS PROSECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MURDER CHARGES.

ADVISED THAT HE TALKED TO MOTON THIS DATE CONCERNING HIS SECURITY. MOTON REQUESTED THAT HE BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE HIS WORK AT BROWN CHAPEL AREA IN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT DURING DAY TIME AND TO STAY IN DALLAS COUNTY JAIL AT NIGHT WHERE HE WOULD BE MORE SECURE. GAMBLE INDICATED THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS AGREEABLE WITH HIM AND WOULD PROBABLY BE ADOPTED.

[redacted] B1A

END PAGE TWO

[redacted]

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION IN MOBILE DIVISION

A REPORT REFLECTING RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION IN THIS MATTER AT MOBILE WILL BE SUBMITTED WITHIN FIVE DAY ARREST RULE.

RACIAL ACTIVITIES, SELMA, ALABAMA

J. WILSON BAKER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY, SELMA, ADVISED THIS DATE THAT EVENTS HAVE TAKEN VERY PEACEFUL TURN IN SELMA. HE HAS RECEIVED NO INDICATION THERE WILL BE ANY ACTIVITY UNTIL

END PAGE THREE

TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY. TEMPER OF NEGRO LEADERS APPEARS FAVORABLE AND SHERIFF CLARK HAS PERMITTED ONLY PARADE REQUEST MADE SINCE LIUZZO INCIDENT. HE HAS LEARNED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF NEWS MEDIA WHO HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN SELMA ARE PULLING OUT FOR CANTON, MISSISSIPPI.

[redacted]

b7A

END.

WA.....HFL

FBI WASH DC

TU CLR

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This concerns the murder ... a civil rights worker by four Klan members between Montgomery and Selma on 3-25-65.

JHT:las

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

DATE: March 26, 1965

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Swanson
1 - Mr. Martindi

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

The President called at approximately 1 a.m. this morning to inquire concerning the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama. SA Harold C. Swanson, a supervisor in the Civil Rights Section who was on duty handling the Alabama situation last night, advised the President of the basic facts of the killing and that upon receiving information that this crime had occurred, the FBI immediately instituted a full investigation.

The President called back at 1:16 a.m. to state that the Bureau should do everything possible around the clock until we find the perpetrators of this heinous crime. He requested that he be kept informed and that any significant news be brought to his attention immediately. He also requested that he be kept informed of the progress of the investigation and requested that Deputy Attorney General Ramsey Clark be advised of the killing.

The President was advised that his observations would be brought to the Director's attention and he was assured that we were already doing everything humanly possible to break this case and that our entire facilities are fully committed to this end.

Immediately thereafter, Deputy Attorney General Ramsey Clark was advised of the killing. He was informed that this was being done at the request of the President and that we had already instituted a full investigation.

REC 12 44-28601-15

2 APR 8 1965

ACTION

This is for information.

WLM/cac

60 APR 15 1965

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

DATE: March 26, 1965

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Swanson
1 - Mr. Martinda

The memorandum prepared for the White House and Attorney General this morning included only the facts concerning the shooti of Mrs. Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, at approximately 8 p.m. yesterday. The autopsy report was also described, however, no information was included concerning the following details.

[redacted]

REC 12 44-2 8 APR 8 1965

6 0 APR 15 1965

(11)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: UNSUBS; VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM

[redacted]

Inspector Sullivan at Selma was immediately advised o the above information and instructed to institute an all-out investigation and to coordinate very closely with SAC Ingram an Inspector McGovern at Birmingham.

[redacted]

B-1A

ACTION:

This investigation is getting top priority handling.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: March 30, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS,
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON,
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.;
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

According to Rowe, who is a member of the Eastview Klavern of the United Klans of America (UKA), Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins are members of the Bessemer Klavern of the UKA. Bureau files contain no additional information concerning Eaton. Bureau files contain the following additional information concerning Thomas, Wilkins and Rowe. Information in files being furnished to the Department.

EUGENE THOMAS:

On August 6, 1959, information was received that several individuals participated in an automobile caravan at which time crosses were burned in the Cahaba Heights section near Birmingham, Alabama. Thomas was identified as one of the individuals who was wearing a white hood and robe.

At a meeting of the UKA held November 17, 1961, Thomas was elected as an Assistant Klokan Chief of the Bessemer, Alabama, Klavern.

REC 61 44 - 28601-15

An informant advised that at a UKA meeting held in Fort Payne, Alabama, on 11/14/64, Thomas, Exalted Cyclops, Bessemer Klavern, UKA, announced from the chair that he had received information that a splinter Klan group in Jacksonville did not want the UKA to hold a rally in Jacksonville and that if UKA did this and ~~if~~ Robert Shelton, Imperial Wizard, spoke his life would be in danger.

6 APR 8 1965

ENCLOSURE

On October 6, 1964, Thomas, in company with Robert Shelton, Imperial Wizard, UKA, was in attendance at the Alabama State Fair in Birmingham, Alabama, where the Klan had a booth.

Enclosures (5) sent 3-30-65

77 APR 14 1965 (8)

CONTINUED - Over

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;

After a regular meeting of the Bessemer Klavern on August 14, 1964, one of the Klansmen mentioned that an FBI Agent had proposed that the Klan help themselves and the country by assisting to solve the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham. Thomas made the comment that he did not feel the proposal was a bad idea.

On September 26, 1964, following a Klan rally, Thomas and other Klansmen drove to the Flame Club, Fairfield, Alabama, to investigate allegations that both Negro and white people were in attendance at the club. At the club, they observed Negro and white people intermingling. They left the club and started back to Bessemer stopping at a phone booth on the highway where Thomas made a call to [redacted] asking him to meet them. When they met, Thomas explained to [redacted] what they had observed and the necessity for the Klan's taking immediate action to stamp out this "race mixing." [redacted] asked what he would need and Thomas explained that he would need dynamite, automatic weapons and hand grenades. In about 25 minutes, [redacted] returned and gave Thomas one Thompson submachine gun, eight sticks of dynamite and five or six hand grenades. Thomas and the other Klansmen returned to the Bessemer Klavern where they were joined by approximately 35 other Klansmen. They then drove to a park within two blocks of the Flame Club where they parked. When police cars were observed in the area of the Flame Club, the plan to bomb the club was abandoned. Plans were later made to bomb the club on October 3, 1964, but were vetoed by Robert Shelton, Imperial Wizard, UKA. Pertinent information concerning this matter was furnished to local law enforcement agencies and appropriate military and Government agencies. In order to protect the identity of the informant, [redacted] was not mentioned in the dissemination. b7D

Thomas was interviewed by Agents of the FBI on 1/17/64. Thomas denied any knowledge of the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama. He denied being a Klan member, however, advised that he was personally acquainted with Robert Shelton. He admitted being arrested in 1947, 1949, 1950 and 1957. He claimed he had no knowledge of the use of explosives and would not know where or how to buy dynamite and further stated he had never seen any dynamite used.

On June 8, 1963, the UKA held a rally near Tuscaloosa, Alabama, with Robert Shelton presiding. Thomas was one of the several persons arrested and charged with carrying concealed weapons.

An informant furnished information on November 19, 1964, concerning acquisition of weapons by Klansmen. The informant advised that Thomas had acquired the following weapons: a .38 caliber pistol, a .45 caliber pistol, an automatic shotgun, three 303 Enfield rifles, a 30-30 Winchester rifle, hand grenades, blasting caps, two M-1 rifles, a Browning automatic rifle, a Japanese rifle and a German automatic pistol. This information was disseminated locally to the Alcohol, Tobacco and Tax Division of the Treasury Department, Bureau of Customs and Secret Service. This information was disseminated at the Bureau to the Army, Secret Service and the Internal Security and the Civil Rights Divisionsof the Department.

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS:

On 3/11/64, Wilkins was arrested by Hueytown, Alabama, Police Department and charged with "driving while drunk." A revolver was observed under Wilkins' feet and the car was searched. A sawed-off shotgun, a small baseball bat, a slingshot, a Kloran and a Klan robe were located in the car. The Kloran is the booklet setting forth the ritual of the Klan. Wilkins denied Klan membership and declined to discuss Klan matters.

Wilkins was interviewed by Agents of the FBI on 3/11/64. Wilkins stated he was not a member of any Klan organization and denied knowing any prominent members of the Bessemer Klavern. He stated he attended a Klan rally on 5/11/63, and had left meeting at its close and gone home. Wilkins denied owning the Klan robe that was found in his automobile but admitted owning the shotgun. He stated he felt he needed the gun to protect himself against Negroes.

In May, 1964, the Chief of Police, Hueytown, Alabama, advised that he had been contacted by a Klansman in attempts to recover the Kloran and Klan robe found in Wilkins' car. The chief stated that although there was nothing specifically stated by this person as to Wilkins membership in the Klan, there were statements made which left no doubt in his mind that Wilkins was a member of the Klan.

GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.:

[redacted]

B7

FBI IDENTIFICATION RECORDS:

Thomas' FBI Identification Record reflects he was first arrested in 1945 on the charge of "drunk." He has five subsequent arrests for assault and battery, reckless driving and carrying concealed weapon.

Eaton's FBI Identification Record reflects he was arrested on 4/22/54, by the Alcohol Tobacco and Tax Division, Treasury Department, Birmingham, Alabama, for "VPL" distilling (probably violation of prohibition laws). He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years, suspended and placed on probation for two years.

Wilkins' FBI Identification Record indicates he was arrested in 1961 for "MP of P" (probably malicious destruction of property); was arrested in March, 1964, under the National Firearms Act for possession of a sawed-off shotgun and arrested in December, 1964, for "AIM" (probably assault with intent to maim). For violation of the National Firearms Act, he was sentenced to one year and one day which sentence was suspended and he was placed on one-year probation.

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;

[redacted] B7A

The Identification Records of Thomas, Eaton, Wilkins and Rowe are attached.

ACTION:

Attached for your approval is a letter to the Department enclosing a letterhead memorandum incorporating information in Bureau files along with Identification Records of Thomas, Eaton, Wilkins and Rowe. The dispositions of the arrests are being obtained.

Due to the extremely sensitive position of the informant, it is not felt desirable to furnish information to the Department in writing concerning his status. The Acting Assistant Attorney General will be orally advised of Rowe's informant status.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D C. 20537

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER 5 009 634 , is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Police Department Alameda California	Eugene Thomas #4463-D-6	January 17, 1945	drunk and 372 Penal Code	
Sheriff's Office Birmingham Alabama	Eugene Thomas #46253	November 12, 1947	assault and battery	
Sheriff's Office Birmingham Alabama	Eugene Thomas #46253	March 5, 1949	reckless driving and public drunk	
Police Department Bessemer Alabama	Eugene Thomas #11295	May 27, 1950	assault and battery and discharging firearms in city limits	
Sheriff's Office Birmingham Alabama.	Eugene Thomas #46253	June 5, 1956	assault and battery (Bessemer)	
Sheriff's Office Tuscaloosa Alabama	Eugene Thomas #2269	June 8, 1963	carrying concealed weapon highway intoxication	

44-28601-157

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerpr
contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, co
municate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as inve
gative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1963 O—691

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C., 20537

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

2.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 5 009 634 , is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match those in our identification file unless herein quoted.

DESCRIPTION AND RELATED DATA:

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 6 feet

Weight: 170 pounds

Hair: Black

Eyes: Blue

Date and Place of Birth: March 2, 1923 Jefferson County Alabama

Scars & Marks: unknown

Address: 1519 12 Avenue, Bessemer Alabama in 1963

Occupation: Garage

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerpr contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, co municate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as inve gative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

1-BUREAU

The following FBI record, NUMBER 5 009 634, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	FLASH BY BUREAU: Eugene Thomas, also known as, Gene Thomas If any information or inquiry received notify Bureau Field Division Birmingham their file #157-569 per information received June 1, 1964.			

THIS PAGE SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATI

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1963 O—697-684

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER none assigned, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE O

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITI
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division Birmingham Alabama	William Orville Eaton #Ala M-10569 STATE	April 22, 1954	"VPL" - distilling	October 8 pleaded g sentenced years sus probation years

44-2860-1-156

Since neither fingerprints nor an identifying number which is indexe in our files accompanied your requ FBI cannot guarantee in any manne that this material concerns the individual in whom you are interes

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerp contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, co municate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

ENCLOSURE

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as inve gative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1963 O—68

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C., 20537

2

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER none assigned , is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match those in our identification file unless herein quoted.

DESCRIPTION AND RELATED DATA:

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 5 feet 7½ inches

Weight: 150 pounds

Hair: brown

Eyes: blue

Date and Place of Birth: April 12, 1923 Limestone County, Alabama

Scars & Marks: Unknown

Address: Acmar, Alabama in 1954

Occupation: Unknown

Alias: W. O. Eaton

Fingerprint Classification:

M 32 W IIM 20
I 32 W MOI

Since neither fingerprints nor an identifying number which is indexed in our files accompanied your request, FBI cannot guarantee in any manner that this material concerns the individual in whom you are interested

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 935 070 D , is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Police Department Fairfield, Alabama	Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr. #9501	May 15, 1960	1. petty larceny 2. destroying private property	1. $30.00 2. 180 days suspended sentence
Sheriff's Office Birmingham, Alabama	Collie Leroy Wilkins #100830	August 29, 1961	"MD of P (Bess)"	
United States Marshal Birmingham, Alabama	Collie Lee Roy Wilkins Jr. #02005	March 11, 1964	26 United States Code 5851 possession of sawed off shotgun	2 years probation
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division Birmingham, Alabama	Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr. #AN-13 778 NFA	March 11, 1964	National Firearms Act (possession of sawed off shotgun)	pleaded guilt suspended sentence 1 ye and 1 day placed on 1 year probatic
Sheriff's Office Birmingham, Alabama	Collie L. Wilkins #100830	November 7, 1964	violation Firearms Act assault and battery "(Bess)"	
Sheriff's Office Birmingham, Alabama	Collie L. Wilkins #100830	December 3, 1964	"AIM (Bess)"	

44-2864-1 Enc

ENCLOSURE

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1962 O—657-000

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

2

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER 935 070 D , is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	FLASH: Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr. If arrested prior to November 15, 1966 Notify Probation Division Administrative Office of the United States Courts Washington 25, District of Columbia information received Birmingham, Alabama.			

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1966 O—231-000

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C., 20537

3

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER 935 070 D , is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ON

All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match those in our identification file unless herein quoted.

DESCRIPTION AND RELATED DATA:

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 69 inches

Weight: 160 pounds

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Brown

Date and Place of Birth: July 25, 1943 Jefferson County, Alabama

Scars & Marks: Unknown

Address: 4005 40 Way Fairfield, Alabama in 1964

Occupation: United Freight Lines Birmingham

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerp contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, cc municate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as inve gative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

ED-36 (Rev. 10-29-63)

FBI

Date: 4/5/65

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Transmitted herewith for the assistance of the Bureau are five copies of Birmingham report dated 4/5/65 in captioned matter.

In order to expedite handling, copies designated for Mobile have been sent directly to the Montgomery Resident Agency.

The Birmingham Division, even though it has designated copies for the USA, Birmingham and USA, Montgomery, is not making dissemination until Bureau authorization has been received.

5 ENCLOSURE Attached - packaged separately
3 Bureau (enc-5) (AMSD)
2 Mobile - Montgomery (enc-5)
2 Birmingham

RGJ:fc
(7)

44-28601-159

18 APR 8 1965

C. C. Wick

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

4/7/65

1-Mr. Hines

Airtel

To: SACs, Birmingham (44-1236)
Mobile

From: Director, FBI (44-28601)-159

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

ReBHairtel 4/5/65 enclosing report of ASAC Robert G. Jensen dated 4/5/65.

Promptly disseminate above report to appropriate Departmental Attorney at Montgomery and USA's Birmingham and Montgomery.

JWH/ras
(6)

NOTE: We have already received, reviewed and disseminated reports from Mobile and Montgomery setting forth the bulk of our investigation concerning the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, Lowndes County, Alabama, 3/25/65 and the arrest of subjects. Report of ASAC Jensen dated 4/5/65 has been reviewed and it contains only negative interviews with persons who were reportedly in several bars and restaurants in Birmingham on the night of 3/25/65 to determine if they saw any of subjects. None of the persons recalled having seen subjects.

MAILED 30
APR 7 - 1965
COMM-FBI

77 APR 13 1965

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

CINCH
INSTANT SHOE SHINE

[redacted]

GEIPEN
HOT DRIN
B7C

[redacted] • [redacted] • FLORIDA • H
March 29, 1965

Mr. Tols
Mr. Helm
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeL
Mr. Chas
Mr. Cal
Mr. Con
Mr. Fel
Mr. Gal
Mr. Ros
Mr. Sull
Mr. Tav
Mr. Tr
Tele.
Miss H
Miss G

Mr, J. Edgar Hoover
Dept. Of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The purpose of this letter is to check with you if you have looked into the matter which is on the minds of many people who I have talked to, that is-"what was the purpose of a wife of a Teamster racketeer doing in Alabama" I was a Teamster in Rochester, N.Y. while going to school at night and I know first hand what they are. This man must be a Pizon of Jimmy Hoffa and you probably have a long file on him.

This is not a publicity stunt Mr. Hoover and your reply will not be shown to a single person; I have too much respect for you and the job you have done for our country.

Every person who talked to me about this picture has said, "she certainly must be some kind of nut to leave her children to run off on such a wild goose chase".

It is my contention, sir that Mr. Johnson opened the door to this question when he had you by his side and said, "Mrs Liuzzo went to Alabama to serve the struggle for justice". The American people look at your picture and see JUSTICE. I believe they expect to get the other side of the picture from you.

[redacted]

B7C

REC- 47

44-28601-160

6 APR 8 1965

ENCLOSURE

3

form in - absence
4-6-65
[illegible]

CORRESPONDENCE

RESIDENT WARNS KLANSMEN TO GET OUT

Johnson Declares Wa
On KKK After Killing

FBI Arrests 4 Alabamans; Wallace 'Sorry

Editorial, 12-A.

Times Wire Service

WASHINGTON — An aroused and grim President Johnson declared war on the Ku Klux Klan yesterday, calling it "a hooded society of bigots" disloyal to the United States.

He said he will ask new laws to curb what he described as the Klan's "vicious work," suggested Congress investigate its activities and warned Klansmen to quit and "return to a decent society — before it is too late."

THE PRESIDENTIAL denunciation was coupled with his disclosure that the FBI had just arrested four Alabama klansmen in connection with Thursday night's murder of a white woman civil rights worker near Lowndesboro, Ala.

Speaking on nationwide television and radio with FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover at his side, Johnson said, "I cannot express myself too strongly in praising" Hoover and his men for swift action after the slaying of Mrs. Viola Gregg Liuzzo, 39-year-old Detroit mother of five.

OF THE KILLING of Mrs. Liuzzo as she drove along Highway 80 on the route of the Selma-Montgomery civil rights march, Johnson said:

"Mrs. Liuzzo went to Alabama to serve the struggle for justice. She was murdered by the enemies of justice, who for decades have used the rope and the gun, the tar and the feathers to terrorize their neighbors.

"They struck at night, as they generally do, for their purposes can not stand the light of day."

OF KU KLUX KLANSMEN, he said, "My father fought them many long years ago in Texas and I have fought them all my life because I believe them to threaten the peace of every community where they exist. I shall continue to fight them be-



LBJ And Hoover: 'I'll Fight Them All My Life'



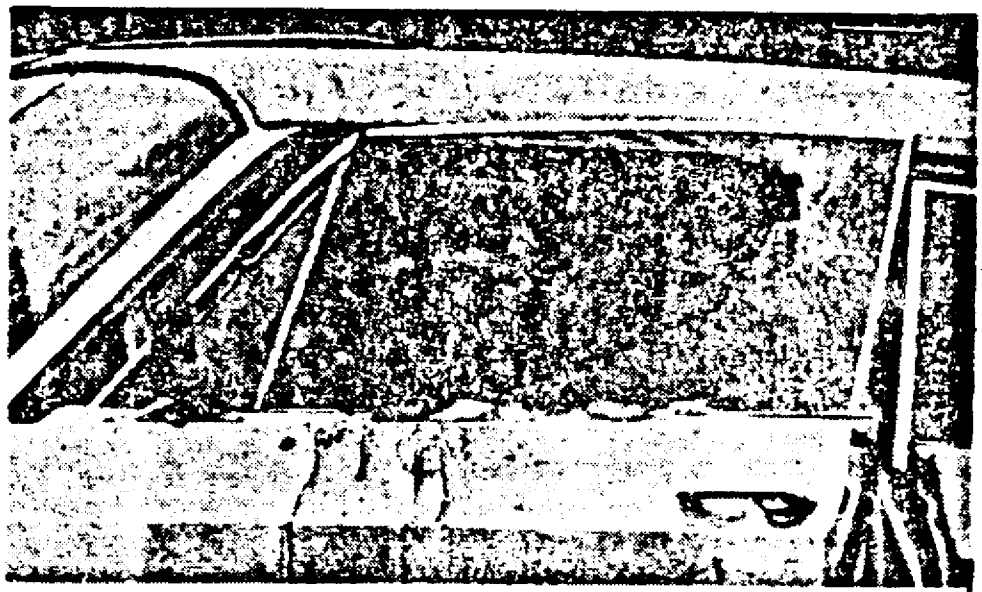
Wallace: 'Still Safer Than N.Y. Subways'

44-28601-160

ENCLOSURE



MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO
...believed in the cause.



—UPI Telephoto

Bullets Shattered Car Window, Struck Victim In Head



—UPI Telephoto

Anthony Liuzzo: 'Oh, My God, They Killed Her'

44-28601-160

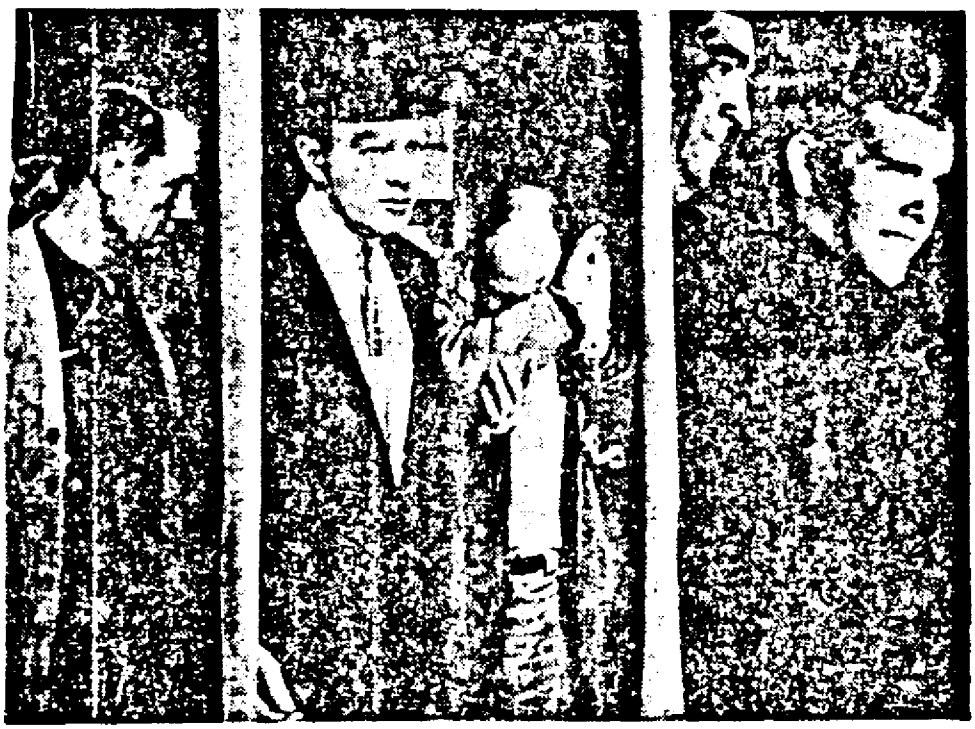
ENCLOSURE 1



—UPI Telephoto

ANTHONY, 18 SALLY, 6 PENNY, 13 TOMMY, 13

... in Detroit, four children weep for their slain mother.



—AP Wirephoto

EUGENE THOMAS WILLIAM EATON CULLIE WILKINS

... in Birmingham, three suspects are brought before judge for arraignment.

'What Kind Of People Are They?'

Times Wire Services

DETROIT — "There were 25,000 people down there and she had to be the one. She had to be the one. My God, it's unbelievable."

Those were the anguished words of Anthony J. Liuzzo, 51, minutes after he learned his wife Viola, 39 had been shot to death while driving back to Selma, Ala., from Thursday's racial demonstration in Montgomery.

Liuzzo, a big husky Teamster official wept openly and cried:

"The dirty rats, the dirty rats. What kind of people are living down here? What kind of people can they be?"

Liuzzo later got a call from President Johnson. Liuzzo said the President agreed with him that the slain woman "did not die in vain."

"BEING AN Italian and a member of the Teamsters Union," Liuzzo told the President, "I know what it is to be pushed around and kicked around."

Liuzzo said the President expressed sympathy on the part of Mrs. Johnson and himself, and then agreed when Liuzzo said: "I don't think she died in vain."

A husky man, Liuzzo had blinked back tears a short time earlier and declared:

"They should put a 90-foot fence around the state of Alabama and let those segregationists live with themselves. They don't deserve to live with human beings."

MRS. LIUZZO, A white Roman Catholic mother of five, had gone to Selma to join the march because "there are too many people who just stand around talking" about what Negroes contend are specifically

(Please see MY, Page 7-A)

44-28601-160.

ENCL

REC-

44-28601-160

April 6, 1965

[redacted]
Pinellas Park, Florida

Dear [redacted]

Your letter of March 29th, with enclosures, was received in Mr. Hoover's absence. You may be certain your communication will be brought to his attention upon his return.

Sincerely yours,

MAILED 6
APR 6 - 1965
COMM-FBI

Helen W. Gandy
Secretary

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. [redacted] is also not identifiable in Bufiles. Due to the controversial nature of the letter and the allegations made against Mrs. Liuzzo, a letter over Miss Gandy's signature is being sent rather than one over the Director's signature.

WAM:med
(3)

77 APR 16 1965

TELETYPE UNIT

FBI
REC'D-READING ROOM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 4-2-65

FROM : Mr. F. J. Baumgardner

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS,
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON,
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.,
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.;
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

At approximately 5 p.m., 4-2-65, SAC Ingram of our Birmingham Office called and stated that he had just been told in connection with the captioned case, Departmental attorneys wanted information in our files concerning [redacted] by tomorrow morning, 4-3-65. Mr. Ingram stated Departmental attorneys said these four individuals have been subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury in the captioned case and that they need the information in our files tomorrow morning. Ingram said this poses a tremendous task for his office and that he wanted to know whether he should work his people all night in order to get this information ready. He thought the request was unreasonable inasmuch as the Departmental attorneys knew they were subpoenaing these people and should have given the Birmingham Office more notice.

After checking with Mr. Belmont, I told Ingram to to ahead and get the information ready if he could and to get it to the Departmental attorneys at Montgomery tomorrow morning, if possible. I told him he should send the summaries into the Bureau so that we would be aware of what he had furnished to the Departme attorneys. I advised him he could not possibly get the informatio to them if he first sent it into the Bureau and that in this insta it would be alright to send it directly to the attorneys at Montgo but that the summaries should be carefully prepared so as not to reveal any of our informants nor should they include any administ tive information.

ACTION:

The above is for your information.

JB:chs
(5)

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Baumgardner

66 APR 8 1965

44-28601

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

DATE: April 5, 1965

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS,
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON,
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.,
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.;
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

This case involves the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on the night of 3/25/65. Four subjects have been arrested and charged with violation of Title 18, Section 241, (conspiracy to injure and intimidate persons in the exercise of their rights under the Constitution and laws of the U. S.) in connection with this shooting. The initial reports of the Mobile and Birmingham Divisions were received at the Bureau 3/30/65. They have been reviewed and disseminated to the appropriate U. S. Attorneys and to the Department. The Bureau is now in receipt of two subsequent reports of the Mobile Division dated 4/1/65 and 4/3/65 and two reports from the Detroit Division dated 3/31/65 and 4/1/65. These reports have been reviewed by an appropriate Bureau supervisor and are being disseminated.

REC-18 44-28601-162

The Mobile report of 4/1/65 sets forth detailed information regarding Mrs. Liuzzo's background and her arrest in Detroit on charges of failing to send her children to school. She was fined $50 and placed on one-year's probation and the sentencing judge was of opinion she was a professional crusader and was convicted because she insisted upon being convicted.

[redacted]

No other significant findings in post mortem.

JWH/ras
(6)

CONTINUED - OVER

79 APR 14 1965

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: EUGENE THOMAS,

[redacted]

B7A

The Detroit reports of 3/31/65 and 4/1/65 furnish additional details regarding Liuzzo's background indicating that she was emotionally and possibly mentally unstable and was receiving psychiatric treatment.

ACTION:

The Mobile Office has been instructed to disseminate copies of these reports immediately to the U. S. Attorneys at Birmingham and Mobile and to the Departmental Attorney handling this case in Montgomery, Alabama. Copies of each have also been furnished to the Civil Rights Division of the Department.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 5 1965

TELETYPE

FBI SELMA ALA

6:44PMCST URGENT 4-5-65 MFH

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA; LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIMS. ~~CR DASH EL.~~ Civil Rights — Election Laws

GRAND JURY CONVENED AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, NINE AM, APRIL FIVE INSTANT. ALL GOVERNMENT WITNESSES SCHEDULED EXCEPT SAS LAWRENCE GETTINGS, EDWARD LEAHEY AND ~~LAB~~ LABORATORY EXAMINER MARION WILLIAMS WERE HEARD. THE BIRMINGHAM SOURCE APPEARED FOR THREE AND ONE HALF HOURS. NO TROUBLE EXPERIENCED.

GRAND JURY WILL RECONVENE TEN AM, APRIL SIX NEXT TO COMPLETE HEARING OF CASE.

END.

WA.... FOR TWO BJH

FBI WASH DC

T U

REC 82

44-28601-163

16 APR 8 1965

10 APR 14 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This concerns the murder of civil rights worker Liuzzo by four Klansmen on night of 3/25/65. Government witnesses are testifying before grand jury.

Birmingham source referred to in attached teletype is the informant in this case (subject Gary Thomas Rowe). Inspector Sullivan is following this matter and will keep Bureau advised of pertinent developments.

JJB:pah

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 6 1965
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

104PM CST URGENT 4-6-65 DLR

TO DIRECTOR

FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL. VIOLA LIUZZO. ETAL, VICTIMS. CR, EL.

REBUTEL APRIL FIVE.

REVIEW PERTINENT FILES THIS MATTER REFLECTS INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM [redacted] DURING PERIOD MARCH SIXTEEN DASH TWENTYSIX LAST, AS SET FORTH IN BIRMINGHAM AIRTEL APRIL ONE NOT PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED TO BUREAU NOR DISSEMINATED LOCALLY. EXPLANATIONS BEING SECURED. RECOMMENDATIONS WILL FOLLOW CONCERNING ADMINSTRATIVE ACTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO WHETHER OR NOT LOCAL DISSEMINATION BE MADE AT THIS TIME.

END

@A

WA E RPP

FBI WASH DC

TU

44-28601-164

REC 61

16 APR 8 1965

70 APR 14 1965

cc Hines

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 6 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

10-19 PM CST URGENT 4/6/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

Civil Rights

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO DASH VICTIM ~~CR DASH~~
Election Laws
RACIAL MATTERS.

GRAND JURY AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA REPORTED TO USDJ FRANK JOHNSON LATE AFTERNOON FOUR SIX SIXTYFIVE. GRAND JURY REPORTED AN INDICTMENT WHICH WAS SEALED PENDING ARREST OF SUBJECTS. WARRANTS WERE TURNED OVER TO USM MONTGOMERY FOR EXECUTION. DETAILS OF GJ ACTION UNAVAILABLE PENDING ARREST.

REC 61 44-25601

16 APR 8 1965

END

WA ~~CORR LINE FIVE WORD ONE AND TWO SHOULD READ "AN INDICTMENT"~~

END

WA LRA

FBI WASH DC

70 APR 14 1965

P

cc - Hine

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 3-31-65

FROM : A. Rosen

1- Mr. Belmont
1- Mr. Rosen
1- Mr. Malley
1- Mr. McGowan
1- Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS;
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA
MRS. ANTHONY LIUZZO;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

The report of the investigation in this case conducted by the Mobile Division was received at the Bureau today and it has been reviewed by Bureau supervisor. This report sets forth in detail information previously brought to the Director's attention including the following:

The receipt of the initial report of the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on the night of 3-25-65, and details of the investigation initiated immediately upon receipt of this report. This investigation includes interview of victim Leroy Jerome Moton who was accompanying Mrs. Liuzzo at the time of the shooting, interviews to determine Mrs. Liuzzo's activities in Selma prior to the shooting, and interviews of persons who might have been in contact with victims and/or subjects prior to the shooting.

[redacted]

[redacted]

JWH:mmb (6)

CONTINUED - OVER

REC-1 44-28601-167

90

58 APR 15 1965

79 JAN 6 - 1966

9 APR 9 1965

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: EUGENE THOMAS

ACTION:

The report is being furnished to the Civil Rights Division of the Department today and Mobile is being instructed to furnish copies to the Departmental Attorney in Montgomery who is handling prosecution of this case and to the appropriate U. S. Attorney.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: March 28, 1965

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: SHERIFF JAMES CLARK
DALLAS COUNTY, ALABAMA
ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE FBI

As you know, United Press International (UPI) has quoted captioned individual as saying, on 3/27/65, that Mrs. Viola Liuzzo might not have been murdered if FBI Agents had advised local officers they had a carload of Ku Klux Klansmen under surveillance. According to a teletype from Selma, received in the Bureau at 1:11 a.m. today, Clark telephonically advised the Selma Resident Agency yesterday that he had had a conference with a newsman during the morning of 3/27/65. He said he told the newsman the FBI had never told him about the car bearing the Liuzzo murderers being in the Selma area. He stated he did not know anything about the car and, if he did by an outside chance, he might have picked them up. Clark further stated that he presumed the FBI had the vehicle under observation. He continued, "I've been getting so much heat from the newspapers on this I had to tell them something. I don't recall receiving any information about the car."

After consultation with Messrs. Belmont and Joseph A. Sullivan, and approval by Mr. Tolson, the attached statement was released at 9:45 p.m., 3/27/65, to Associated Press and UPI.

Since this statement was released, there have been several news reports alleging Sheriff Clark has issued a rebuttal. He has been quoted as saying this is not the first time the Department of Justice has called him a liar. Inspector Sullivan is checking these reports out to ascertain whether Clark has been talking to reporters again, and will report his findings to the Bureau later today. If Clark has been talking, however, I feel we should not attempt to answer any additional remarks he may make regarding this matter. To do so will only feed him more material with which to keep a "feud" going with the Bureau, and I believe we should discourage the development of such a situation, if at all possible.

Enclosure
2 ENCLOSURE
1 - Mr. Tolson
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Gale
1 - Mr. Rosen

44-28601-
NOT RECORDED
126 APR 12 1965

21 APR 9 1965

77 APR 16 1965

CDD:amr (7)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

CRIME RESEARCH

DeLoach to Mohr memo 3/28/65
Re: Sheriff James Clark

Additional developments in the Liuzzo murder include a statement made by the Grand Wizard of the United Klans of America, Robert Shelton, that one of the subjects in this matter had been offered a bribe by the FBI for a confession. This bribe is supposed to consist of several hundred acres of land located in Minnesota. A telephonic contact at 11:35 a.m. today with J. L. McGovern, of the Inspection Division, who is in Birmingham, disclosed that absolutely no promises nor offers were made to any of the subjects. Mr. McGovern said this may have originated with the informant in this case since the latter is telling a variety of stor to his attorney, Matt Murphy, in an attempt to divert suspicion from himself.

Shelton has been making a number of wild claims to the press in the past few hours. He has called the President a "damned liar," and he has said that Reverend James J. Reeb was dying of cancer before he was clubbed to death in Sel The latter has been labeled as "hokum" by John Sullivan, New England Chairman of the American Friends Service Committee, who said Mr. Reeb had undergone a physical examination shortly before joining the Committee on 9/1/64. This examina disclosed Reeb was "in the pink of health," according to Sullivan.

The Director has also received a telegram from Martin Luther King which reads as follows:

"Let me congratulate you and the FBI for this speedy arrest of the accused assasins of Mrs. Luizzo. The Agents assigned to Alabama have done an outstanding job of containing the tremendous violennes and savagery which runs rampant under this surface of Alabama life. There is still much work to be done before Alabama is rid of the racist sickness which pollutes her body politic, I am sure that we can continue to count on four efficient services."

I do not believe this wire should be acknowledged because a reply wo only help build up this character and a communication from Mr. Hoover, which Kin would undoubtedly publicize, will tie us in with him, and put us under an obligation him. I likewise feel that King's telegram to the Director should not be released to the press for the same reasons. Mr. Belmont concurs in these recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION: I suggest an "in absence" reply

Submitted for information pursuant to Mr. Tolson's instructions.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. MOHR

DATE: March 30, 1965

FROM : W. S. TAVEL

SUBJECT: HANDLING OF UNITED PRESS ITEMS

In accordance with your request, procedure for handling United Press International (UPI) items is as follows:

Original and three copies come off machine. These include many items of no interest to Bureau. Employees put check mark by those which appear to be of interest to Director including any items mentioning Director or FBI, those referring to cases under investigation by Bureau, or outstanding or significant news events. Originals of those items selected for Director are clipped, mounted, and routed directly to Director's Office without background notes. Copies are routed to Messrs. DeLoach, Belmont, and Mohr. Messenger picks up originals and copies from Teletype Unit and delivers to above-mentioned offices each seven minutes during working day. *of Teletype Unit

After Director's Office closes in evening and on Sundays, originals are held in Teletype Unit until next morning. Copies for Mr. Belmont are delivered to night and weekend duty agent in General Investigative Division and copies for you (Mr. Mohr) are delivered to night duty agent in Special Investigative Division. After last regular run at 7:15 P.M. on workdays, and on Sundays, Mr. DeLoach's copy is held until next morning.

On Saturdays originals are delivered to Director's Office and copies to other officials as at night with hourly messenger runs being made. There is a duty agent in Mr. DeLoach's office on Saturdays until about 4 P.M. and his copies are delivered there accordingly as long as his office is open.

44 - 28601
NOT RECORDED
133 APR 27 1965

With respect to item concerning statement [illegible] Clark (attached) which appeared on the machine at 2:26 P.M. on Saturday, 3-27-65, this was taken off the machine along with a series of other items, ~~the last of which was~~ also checked to be sent to the Director's Office and which was received on the machine at 3:05 P.M. (copies of these items attached). The Clark item was clipped, mounted and apparently delivered to the Director's Office on the next hourly run since it was stamped into the Director's Office at 4:16 P.M. Miss Holmes immediately sent it to the Director in the pouch.

Enc. ~~ENCLOSURE~~
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Wherry

11 APR 1965

RECORDED

CONTINUED - OVER

Memo to Mr. Mohr from W. S. Tavel
Re: Handling of United Press Items

Mr. Belmont states he received a copy just after 4 P.M. and that he was then talking to Inspector Sullivan in Selma, Alabama, on the telephone requesting him to get the true facts in the matter. Mr. Belmont has submitted a separate memorandum regarding his handling of the item.

/ why not? V.

There is no time stamp on Mr. DeLoach's copy indicating time of receipt in his office and Special Agent Hobson H. Adcock, who was on duty in Mr. DeLoach's office, states he received a large number of UPI items during the afternoon but cannot remember having seen the one on Clark's statement although he did not leave until about 4:30 P.M.

The messenger on duty Saturday has no recollection of handling this particular item and the employees on duty in the Teletype Unit likewise cannot remember this item specifically although one of them remembers taking copies of several UPI items to Mr. DeLoach's office shortly after 3 P.M.

RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted for information.

V -- ST 3/30

Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele Room
Holmes
Gandy

UPI-67

(CLARK)

SELMA, ALA.--SHERIFF JIM CLARK SAID TODAY THERE WAS A "REMOTE POSSIBILITY" THE FATAL SHOOTING OF MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO COULD HAVE BEEN AVERTED HAD THE FBI KEPT LOCAL AUTHORITIES ADVISED.

CLARK SAID THE CAR FROM WHICH THE FATAL SHOTS ALLEGEDLY WERE FIRED HAD BEEN STOPPED PRIOR TO THE SHOOTING AND GIVEN A WARNING BY STATE ~~TROOPERS. THE FBI HAD THAT CAR UNDER SURVEILLANCE,~~ CLARK SAID. ~~"THEY (FBI AGENTS) HAVE ALWAYS~~

"THE FBI HAD THAT CAR UNDER SURVEILLANCE," CLARK SAID. "THEY (FBI AGENTS) HAVE ALWAYS WORKED CLOSELY WITH US IN THE PAST BUT THIS TIME FOR SOME REASON THEY DIDN'T ADVISE US OF THIS. IF THEY HAD WE'D HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WATCH FOR THE CAR AND THE MEN. THERE IS REMOTE POSSIBILITY THAT THE RIGHT HAVE AVERTED THE SHOOTING.

MRS. LIUZZO, DETROIT MOTHER OF FIVE, WAS KILLED BY A SNIPER'S BULLET WHILE RUNNING A SHUTTLE SERVICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS DEMONSTRATORS WHO TOOK PART IN THE MASSIVE SELMA TO MONTGOMERY PROTEST MARCH.

CLARK SAID STATE TROOPERS INFORMED HIM THAT THE DRIVER OF THE CAR THAT CARRIED FOUR KU KLUX KLANSMEN CHARGED IN THE SLAYING OF MRS. LIUZZO WAS GIVEN A TRAFFIC WARNING TICKET AT 7:20 P.M. EST--THURSDAY ABOUT ONE HOUR BEFORE THE DETROIT WOMAN WAS KILLED ALONG A DESOLATE STRETCH OF U.S. 80, NEAR LOWNDESBORO.

CLARK SAID THE TROOPERS TOLD HIM THE WARNING TICKET WAS GIVEN TO THE KLANSMEN AT TYLER'S CROSSROADS, ONLY ABOUT 10 MILES FROM THE SCENE OF THE SHOOTING.

"I WONDER IF THE ARMY WAS EVER ADVISED BY THE FBI ABOUT THIS CAR. IF WE HAD KNOWN ABOUT IT WE WOULD HAVE TRIED TO KEEP THE CAR UNDER SURVEILLANCE. THE ARMY WAS IN CHARGE OF THINGS AT THAT TIME BUT IT WOULD HAVE SENT OUT A SMALL GROUP TO WATCH THE CAR.

"THE SHOOTING DIDN'T HAPPEN IN MY COUNTY. KCLARK IS SHERIFF OF DALLAS COUNTY. THE SHOOTING OCCURRED IN LOWNDES COUNTY.) I REGRET THAT IT HAPPENED BUT I'VE BEEN GETTING TELEGRAMS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY BLAMING ME FOR IT.

"WE HAD A MARCH TODAY ON THE COURTHOUSE AND THE DEMONSTRATORS INDICATED I WAS PARTLY TO BLAME FOR WHAT HAPPENED. IF THEY WANT TO BLAME ANYBODY THEY OUGHT TO MARCH ON THE FEDERAL BUILDING," HE SAID.

THE FEDERAL BUILDING IS ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND HOUSES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND FBI OFFICES.

3/27--TD226PES

Memo Tavel to Mohr 8-30-65

ENCLOSURE 44-28601-

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

~~ENCLOSURE~~

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : THE DIRECTOR DATE: March 30, 1965

FROM : N. P. CALLAHAN

SUBJECT: THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
MARCH 29, 1965

SENATE

Pages 5936-5937. Senator Williams, (R) Delaware, placed in the Record an article written by Paul Hope entitled "Baker Case Party Girl Admits Being Ex-Red" and published in the Washington Sunday Star on March 28 Williams stated "Mr. Hope's article is based upon information obtained by the investigators of the Rules Committee and the FBI concerning the manner in whic party girls had been used by Mr. Baker and his associates. - - - It is most regrettable that this phase of the inquiry developed by the FBI was so noticeably ignored by both the committee and the Justice Department in their most recent report." The article comments on activities of Ellen Rometsch and states "Last December, the Justice Department showed some members and staff personnel of the Rules Committee an FBI file on Mrs. Rometsch. The committee incorporated a summary of the file in its minutes, but the Democrats voted against going any further into the matter. This portion of the committee's proceedings has not been made public and is not expected to be." --

Pages 6011-6012. Senator Dodd, (D) Connecticut, spoke concerning the President's statement announcing arrest of four members of the Ku Klux Klan for the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. Dodd included the text of the President's statement and a brief statement he issued in support of the President's comments. Mr. Dodd stated "Appropriately, J. Edward Hoover was standing beside the President at that press conference and I say this becaus Mr. Hoover's outstanding agents in the field worked throughout the night to find the perpetrators of this outrage. And it was especially appropriate to have Mr. Hoover there, because what better reply could there have been to the charges that the FBI has not been zealous enough in protecting civil rights proponents and in fighting the Ku Klux Klan."

1 - Mr. Tolson - enclosure
1 - Mr. Mohr - enclosure
1 - Mr. Belmont - enclosure
1 - Mr. DeLoach - enclosure
1 - Mr. Rosen - enclosure
1 - Mr. Sullivan - enclosure
1 - Mr. D. C. Morrell - enclosure

144-28601-

NOT RECORDED
176 APR 1 1965

12 APR 8 1965

vcs/ekc
(11)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to the Director
Re: The Congressional Record

SENATE - continued

Adjournment: Until Thursday, April 1, 1965, at 12 noon.

HOUSE

Page 6055. Congressman Gathings, (D) Arkansas, spoke concerning the economic boycott of Alabama suggested by Dr. Martin Luther King. Gathings stated "I implore Dr. King to please permit the schoolchildren of Alabama to participate in the school lunch program by the utilization of surplus food commodities, - - - -. At this point, Congressman Andrews, (D) Alabama, stated "I hope the gentleman will remember and that the Members of this House will remember that last December Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, one of the greatest Americans of all time, said that this Martin Luther King was the most notorious liar in this country, and Mr. Hoover until this day has not retracted that statement."

Pages 6055-6056. Congressman Gross, (R) Iowa, spoke concerning the Bobby Baker investigation. He included the article written by Paul Hope which was set forth with remarks of Senator Williams earlier in this memorandum.

Pages 6066-6067. Congressman Cleveland, (R) New Hampshire, spoke concerning use of certain materials in construction of public buildings, referring to the substitution of concrete for stone exteriors of new Federal buildings. He stated "Four structures which would have concrete exteriors have recently been authorized for construction in Washington, at a total cost of $120 million. These four buildings are the Federal Office Building No. 5, the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, the Federal Bureau of Investigation Building, and a new headquarters for the Housing and Home Finance Agency." Mr. Cleveland included a brochure entitled "Our Beautiful Capital, Will It Be Marred by the New Trend in Federal Building?" (It is to be noted the General Services Administration advised the architects have not yet presented their recommendations to the Fine Arts Commission as to the exterior treatment for our building.)

Page 6074. The House received a letter from the Attorney General transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled "A bill to amend section 4082 of title 18, United States Code, to facilitate the rehabilitation of persons convicted of offenses against the United States." This was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

HOUSE - continued

Adjournment: Until Tuesday, March 30, 1965, at 12 noon.

APPENDIX

There was nothing contained in the Appendix that was of particular interest to the Bureau.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: March 29, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Casper
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS; GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA - VICTIM LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

With reference to Mobile teletype 3-27-65, referring to the "five-day arrest rule," the following is set forth:

This case involves the arrest of four subjects on Federal charges by Bureau Agents on 3-26-65, in connection with the fatal shooting of Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on the night of 3-25-65. Mobile, in stating that a report would be submitted within the five-day arrest rule, was referring to the rule set forth in the Manual of Rules and Regulations, Part II, Section 4B, Page 2c, which states, "A report must be sent to the U. S. Attorney within five working days of the taking of a subject into Federal custody." The report will, of course, contain the facts developed upon which the arrest was made in order that the U. S. Attorney may proceed with prosecution without delay.

The purpose of the rule is to insure that any delay in the handling of prosecution of subjects arrested by Bureau Agents cannot be attributed by the U. S. Attorney or the Department to delayed reporting on the part of the Bureau. With respect to this case due to its importance, Mobile Division, where the shooting occurred, and the Birmingham Division, where the arrests were made, have both been instructed that the investigation of this matter must be handled on an expeditious basis and the report of the arrests submitted no later than 3-30-65, to the Bureau for clearance before being furnished to Departmental attorneys.

ACTION:

For information.

REC-1 44-28601-168

APR 6 1965

JWH:hw
)7(

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

58 APR 15 1965

FBI

Date: 4/7/65

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka.;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

ReBuairtel to Birmingham, 3/30/65.

Following is a listing of arrests and disposition of same for the four subjects in this case:

Arresting Agency	Date Arrested and Number	Charge	Disposition
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON:			
Alcohol & Tobacco Tax Div., B'ham, Ala.	4/22/54 #Ala N-10569	State charge Viol. of Prohibition Law-distilling	10/8/54, pleade guilty, sentenc 2 yrs. suspende probation 2 yrs

[redacted]

REC-22 44-28601-169

17 APR 9 1965

(3) - Bureau
2 - Birmingham
RCT/rym
(5)

56 APR 19 1965

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

cc - Mich

BH 44-1237

[redacted]

Arresting Agency	Date Arrested and Number	Charge	Disposition
[redacted]			

EUGENE THOMAS:

Alameda, Calif., PD	1/18/45 #4463-D-6	Drunk and 372 Penal Code	Released 1/19/45 on $25 bail ordered forfeited 1/22/45
Sheriff's Office, B'ham, Ala.	11/12/47 #46253	Assault & Battery on wife, LOISE	Charge dismissed 11/21/47 upon request of wife; $17.65 costs paid by husband
Sheriff's Office, B'ham, Ala.	3/5/49 #46253	reckless driving; ---	$25 & costs 11/16/48;
		Public drunk -	$5 and costs 3/5/49
		Affray ---	$5 and costs 3/5/49
Bessemer, Ala. Police Dept.	5/27/50 #11295	Assault & Battery ---	$28 fine paid 5/27/50
		Discharging Firearms in City ---	Dismissed

Arresting Agency	Date Arrested and Number	Charge	Disposition
EUGENE THOMAS (Cont'd)			
Sheriff's Office, B'ham, Ala.	6/5/56 #46253	Assault & Battery on wife (Bessemer, Ala)	Pled not guilty on 6/29/56; found guilty, case continued to 9/28/56; dismissed on payment of $18.40 costs
Sheriff's O Office, B'ham, Ala.	6/8/63 #2269	Carrying concealed weapon and highway intoxication	Nol-prossed on 11/21/63 on motion of State
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.			
Fairfield, Ala., PD	5/15/60 #9501	(1) Petty Larceny (2) Destroying private property	(1) $30 (2) 180 days, suspended sentence
Sheriff's Office, B'ham, Ala.	8/29/61 #100830	Malicious Destruction of property	Nol-prossed 12/6/61
USM, B'ham, Ala.	3/11/64 #02005	26 USC, 5851 possession of sawed off shotgun	2 yrs. probation
Alcohol & Tobacco Tax, B'ham, Ala.	3/11/64 #AN-13788 NFA	National Firearms Act (possession of sawed off shotgun)	Pled guilty, suspended sentence 1 yr 1 day, placed on 1 yr probation

BH 44-1236

Arresting Agency	Date Arrested and Number	Charge	Disposition
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR. (Cont'd)			
Sheriff's Office, B'ham, Ala.	11/7/64 #100830	Violation Firearms Act, Assault & Battery (Bessemer)	Case pending, no date for trial
Sheriff's Office, B'ham, Ala.	12/3/64 #100830	Assault with intent to murder	Pled not guilty 1/5/65; found not guilty same date

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI SELMA ALA

5:29PMCST URGENT 4-8-65 MFH

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA.; ET AL. DASH VICTIMS. CR EL.

REMOTEL APRIL SEVEN LAST.

NO PERTINENT INVESTIGATION REMAINING MOBILE DIVISION.

UACB, DAILY TELETYPE SUMMARY WILL BE DISCONTINUED EFFECTIVE WITH THIS SUBMISSION.

END.

HA....HBS

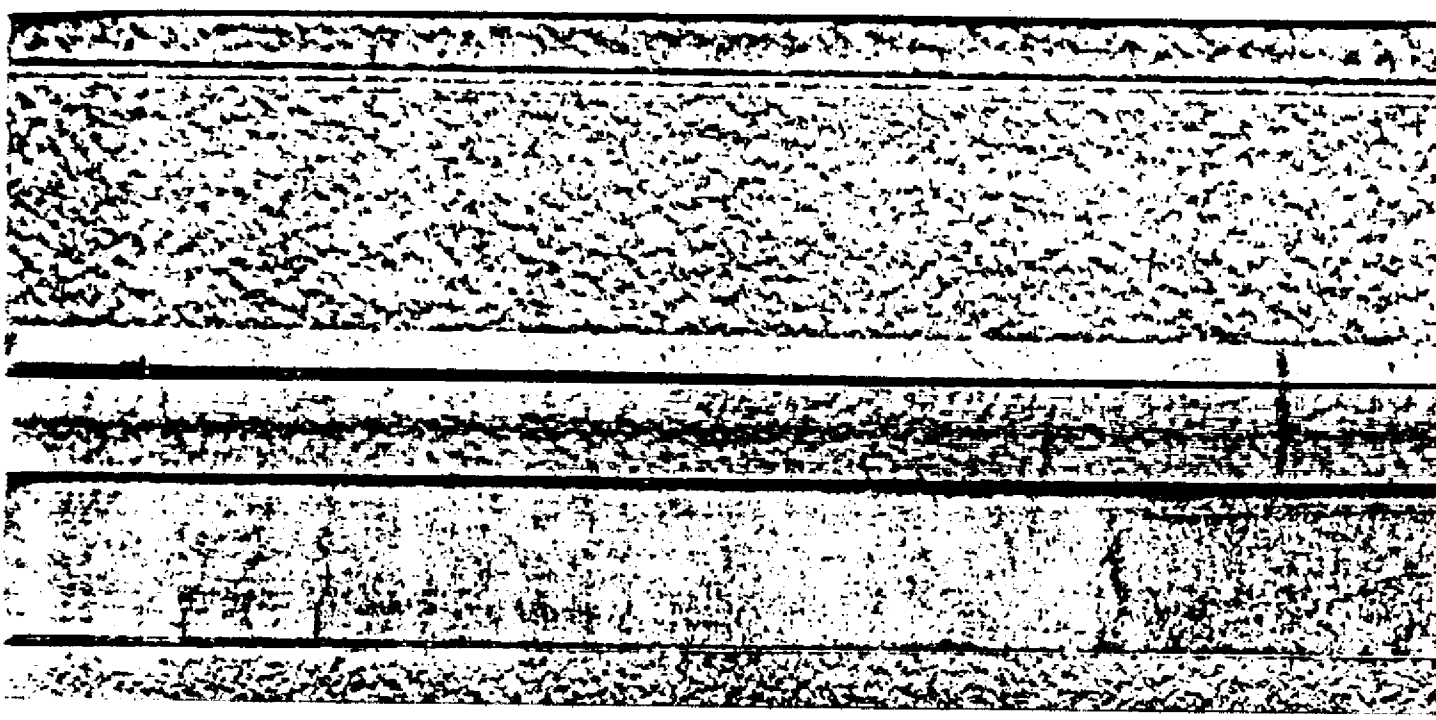
FBI WASH DC

56APR19 1965

REC-22 44-28601-170

APR 9 1965

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: March 31, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

The report of investigation in the Birmingham Division concerning the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on the night of 3/25/65, has been received at the Bureau and reviewed.

The report contains in greater detail information previously received which has been brought to the Director's attention concerning the story of the incident related by the informant and subject Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., to Agents wherein he identifies the other subjects and furnishes details of their actions.

It also sets forth details of the arrests of the four subjects, their arraignment and their release on bond. In addition, interviews to check out the alibis of subjects are also set forth along with the FBI Laboratory report [redacted]

ACTION

Copies of the report are being furnished to the Civil Rights Division of the Department, the Departmental attorney handling this case in Montgomery and the appropriate U. S. Attorney. 44-2860

ADDENDUM

REC-41 21 APR 9 1965

Inspector Sullivan has advised that the report of investigation of this matter in the Mobile Office has been submitted and will arrive at the Bureau today. It will be promptly reviewed and appropriate dissemination will be made. You will be advised of additional developmen

JWH/cac (6)

April 1, 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This matter concerns the murder of a civil rights worker by four Ku Klux Klansmen between Montgomery and Selma, Alabama, on the night of 3/25/65.

[redacted], who furnished the information which led to the arrest of the subjects on 3/26/65. B7D B2

The subjects and other Klan associates have been making an obvious effort to determine if there was an informant in this matter and, if so, to identify him.

[redacted] B7A

Investigation of the conspiracy is being aggressively pursued.

DGL:vew

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: March 29, 1965

FROM : C. L. McGowan

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

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

At 6:15 p.m. on 3/26/65, ASAC Jensen was telephonically advised that no comments or amplifications were to be made regarding instant case as the President had made a statement and there were to be no additions or changes.

At 6:33 p.m., SA Robert Frye of the Selma Resident Agency was advised of the same information. He was also instructed to insure that the Resident Agency at Montgomery, Alabama, as well as the office at Mobile and all Agents were alerted that there were to be no comments or amplifications made regarding any statements on this case.

CLM/cac
(5)

REC- 99 44-28601-17

EX-101

16 APR 9 1965

4-9-65

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE URGENT

1- Mr. Hines

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 9 1965
TELETYPE

TO SAC MOBILE (44-1245)

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-28601)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.; MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL DASH VICTIMS, CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS.

DEPARTMENT PRESENTLY HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION WHAT ACTION IT WILL TAKE WITH REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE STATE PROSECUTION IN THIS MATTER AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT A DECISION WILL BE MADE AT AN EARLY DATE. IN THE EVENT DEPARTMENT AGREES TO FURNISH RESULTS OF OUR INVESTIGATION IN THIS MATTER TO THE STATE FOR INITIATION OF STATE MURDER PROSECUTION, WE MUST BE PREPARED IMMEDIATELY TO FURNISH PERTINENT RESULTS TO THE STATE WITHOUT DELAY.

REC- 99 44-28601-17

IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT REVIEW ALL REPORTS SUBMITTED IN THIS MATTER, TAKE OUT THOSE PORTIONS BEARING DIRECTLY UPON A STATE MURDER PROSECUTION AND WHICH WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A PROSECUTION AND COMBINE THEM INTO A SINGLE OVER-ALL MEMORANDUM PROPERLY LABELED WITH TABLE OF CONTENTS AND INDEX SUITABLE FOR DISSEMINATION TO THE STATE AUTHORITIES. THIS MEMORANDUM WOULD OF COURSE, INCLUDE FD-THREE ZERO TWO'S OF PERTINENT INTERVIEWS

EX-121

JWH:mmb (3)

SEE NOTE PAGE 2.

APR 12 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

TELETYPE TO SAC, MOBILE
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

AND LABORATORY REPORT AS THEY ARE SET FORTH IN THE REPORT AND EXTRANEOUS INFORMATION SUCH AS NEGATIVE INVESTIGATION AND INVESTIGATION RE KLAN ACTIVITIES NOT PERTINENT TO THE MURDER CHARGE ITSELF WOULD BE EXCLUDED. A PROPERTY STATEMENT WILL BE INCLUDED AT THE END OF THE MEMORANDUM STATING THAT THE INFORMATION IS FURNISHED SOLELY FOR THE OFFICIAL USE OF THE PERSON OR AUTHORITY TO WHOM IT WILL BE FURNISHED FOR THE PROSECUTION OF THE NAMED SUBJECTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MURDER OF MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE NORMAL STATEMENT THAT THE DOCUMENTS CONTAIN NEITHER RECOMMENDATIONS NOR CONCLUSIONS OF THE FBI, IT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE FBI AND IS BEING LOANED TO YOU. ITS CONTENTS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE YOUR OFFICE. THIS MEMORANDUM MUST BE PREPARED IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT DELAY, AND A COPY FURNISHED TO THE BUREAU FOR REVIEW BEFORE ANY DISSEMINATION IS MADE.

NOTE: In anticipation of a request that we furnish results of our investigation to the state for prosecution of subjects for murder of Mrs. Liuzzo which is a more serious charge than the Federal charge, the above instructions are being issued. The instructions for the preparation of the memorandum for dissemina to the state above are in accordance with those previously issued in the Lemuel M. Penn case where we furnished results of our investigation to the State of Georgia under similar circumstances.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 9 1965
TELETYPE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/6/65

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Rerep of SA JOSEPH R. CONNORS dated 3/30/65, at Mobile.

Enclosed for Bureau is thirty four photographs of Klan Motorcade on 3/21/65, Montgomery, Alabama. One set of the above photographs are being sent to Atlanta and Birmingham. Departmental Attorneys at Montgomery, Alabama, have been furnished one set of these photographs.

Birmingham and Atlanta display enclosed photographs to appropriate informants to obtain identification of as many Klansmen or automobiles appearing in photographs.

EXP. PROC.

accRTS

(2) - Bureau (Enc. 34) (RM)
2 - Atlanta (Enc. 34) (RM)
2 - Birmingham (Enc. 34) (RM)
1 - Mobile

44-28601-175

REC-99

APR 8 1965

EX-101

JTB/jsw
(7)

ENCLOSURE
BEHIND FILE

58 APR 20 1965

Laboratory Transmittal Form
7-72

1-Office, 7133

FBI
LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Mobile (44-1245)

Date: March 29, 1965

Re: EUGENE THOMAS, et al.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka
Mrs. Anthony J. Liuzzo,
LEROY JEROME MOTON, VICTIMS;
CR - EL

John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. PC-85454 EX HB BV
Lab. No. PC-85455 EX

Examination requested by: Mobile, Birmingham

Reference: Evidence personally delivered by SA M. E. Williams on 3/28/65; Birmingham airtel 3/27/65

Examination requested: Firearms-Spectrographic-Microscopic

Remarks:

On 3/26/65 and 3/27/65, SA M. E. Williams, FBI Laboratory, conducted a detailed examination of a light blue 1963 Oldsmobile Dynamic 88, 2-door Holiday sedan, 1965 Michigan license #EJ-9177, located at 1030 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama, in the Radio Maintenance Shop of the Alabama Highway Patrol. As the result of this examination, items Q1 through Q15 and K1 were obtained.

Specimens Q16 and Q17 were personally delivered to SA M. E. Williams by SA R. H. Eveland (Mobile) in the Montgomery RA on 3/27/65. Items Q1 through Q17 and K1 were personally delivered to the FBI Laboratory by SA Williams on 3/28/65.

REC-1 44-28601-170

This report confirms and supplements the telephonic report furnished Inspector Sullivan on 3/28/65, and Butel 3/29/65, concerning the Laboratory examinations presently underway. You will be subsequently advised concerning the results of the examinations which are not yet completed.

Enclosures (2)(2 Lab report)
2 - Inspector Sullivan (Selma) - Enclosures (2)(2 Lab report)
1 - Birmingham (44-1236) - Enclosure (Lab report)

MAR 29 1965
COMM-FBI

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

MEN: nm (7)

58 APR 15 1965

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Evidence Receipt (to be used in ... of correspondence covering evidence submis... to the Laboratory)
7-16 (6-9-65)

Agency submitting evidence SAC, Birmingham . (44-1236)	Date 3-29-6[illegible] Laboratory # PC-85464 GY HB
Delivered by SA M. E. Williams	Accepted by
Suspect EUGENE THOMAS, et al;	Victim VIOLA LUIZZO, aka Mrs. Anthon LUizzo, LEROY JEROME MOTON
Offense CR - EL	Place and date of offense Alabama

Brief Facts covering case

Prev. exams this case ☐ Yes ☐ No	Evid. located Room # _____	Report to be directed to SAC, Birmingham
Copies to		Evidence to be returned to

Date of hearing, grand jury, trial, or reason why expeditious handling is necessary

Evidence

Q1 through Q17 and K1

(This space for blocking)

(Use reverse side if necessary for additional evidence)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/7/65

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (SEIMA) (44-1245)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL;
MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Enclosed herewith for Bureau's file are four copies of indictment which was returned in the captioned matter by U. S. Grand Jury at Montgomery, Alabama, April 6, 1965.

ENC. 4
JAS/ls
(4)

ENCLOSURE

EC-1 44-28601-181

1 APR 9 1965

60 APR 15 1965

COPY OF INDICTMENT, which was returned on April 6, 1965, by Federal Grand Jury in Montgomery, Alabama.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V.

WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON,

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.,

EUGENE THOMAS

(18 USC 241)

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNT 1

Commencing on or about March 1, 1965, and continuing to on or about March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS JR., and EUGENE THOMAS, within the Middle District of Alabama, conspired together with each other and with other persons to the Grand Jury unknown to injure, oppress, threaten, and intimidate citizens of the United States in the vicinity of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, in the free exercise and enjoyment of certai rights and privileges secured to them by the Constitution and laws of the United States, and because of their having exercised such rights as follows:

44-2406-181

ENCLOSURE

(1) The right to publicly protest unlawful deprivation of the right of Negro citizens of Alabama to register to vote and to vote for candidates for federal office.

(2) The right to encourage and assist Negro citizens of Alabama in the exercise of their right to register to vote and to vote for candidates for federal office.

(3) The right to peaceably assemble, publicly protest, and petition the Governor of the State of Alabama for redress of grievances on behalf of Negro citizens of Alabama, free from arbitrary interference by the State of Alabama.

(4) The right to participate in a march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to present a petition to the Governor of Alabama in Montgomery, and to participate in the carrying out of a proposed plan for such march pursuant to an order entered on March 17, 1965, by the United States District Court for the Middle Distr of Alabama, in the case of WILLIAMS v. WALLACE, Civil Action #2181-N.

(5) The right to travel to and from the State of Alabama and to use interstate highways and other instrumentalities of interstate commerce in and through Alaba

It was a part of the plan and purpose of the conspiracy that the defendants would harass, threaten, pursue and assault citizens of the United States in the area of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, who were participating or had participated in, or who were lending or had lent their support to a demonstration march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, pursuant to the plan, referred to above, that was approved by the order of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama on March 17, 1965.

In violation of Section 241 of Title 18, United States Code.

A TRUE BILL

7-72

1-Office, 713

FBI LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Birmingham (44-1236) Date: April 28, 1965

Re: EUGENE THOMAS; et al.;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, aka;
et al., VICTIMS;
CR - EL

John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. 44-28601 - 182
Lab. No. REC-12 PC-85691 GY

Examination requested by: Birmingham

Reference: Airtel 4/10/65

Examination requested: Firearms

EX-101

Remarks:

5260
7410

MAILED 19
APR 27 1965
COMM-FBI

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

Enclosures (2)(2 Lab report)
1 - Mobile (44-1245) - Enclosure (Lab report)

RJP:NM (5)

MAY 5 1965

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

TELETYPE UNIT

DO-6

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MR. TOLSON
MR. BELMONT
MR. MOHR
MR. DEVELOPMENT
MR. CASPER
MR. CALLAHAN
MR. CONRAD
MR. FELT
MR. GALE
MR. ROSEN
MR. SULLIVAN
MR. TAVEL
MR. TROTTER
MR. JONES
TELE. ROOM
MISS HOLMES
MRS. METCALF
MISS GANDY

April 7, 1965

The following anonymous letter was sent to the Director from Paducah, Kentucky:

"Mr. Hoover:

Has it ever occurred to you that the Negro who was riding with Mrs ------ might have shot her to make it look bad for the white folks of Alabama & Governer Wallace? looks like you could see the way it turned out he guided the steering wheel and come out O. K hisself. I cant say no more cause to many of the Negroes know to much.

one of the Marchers"

COPY:nm

EX 110 REC-24 44-28601-187

5 APR 14 1965

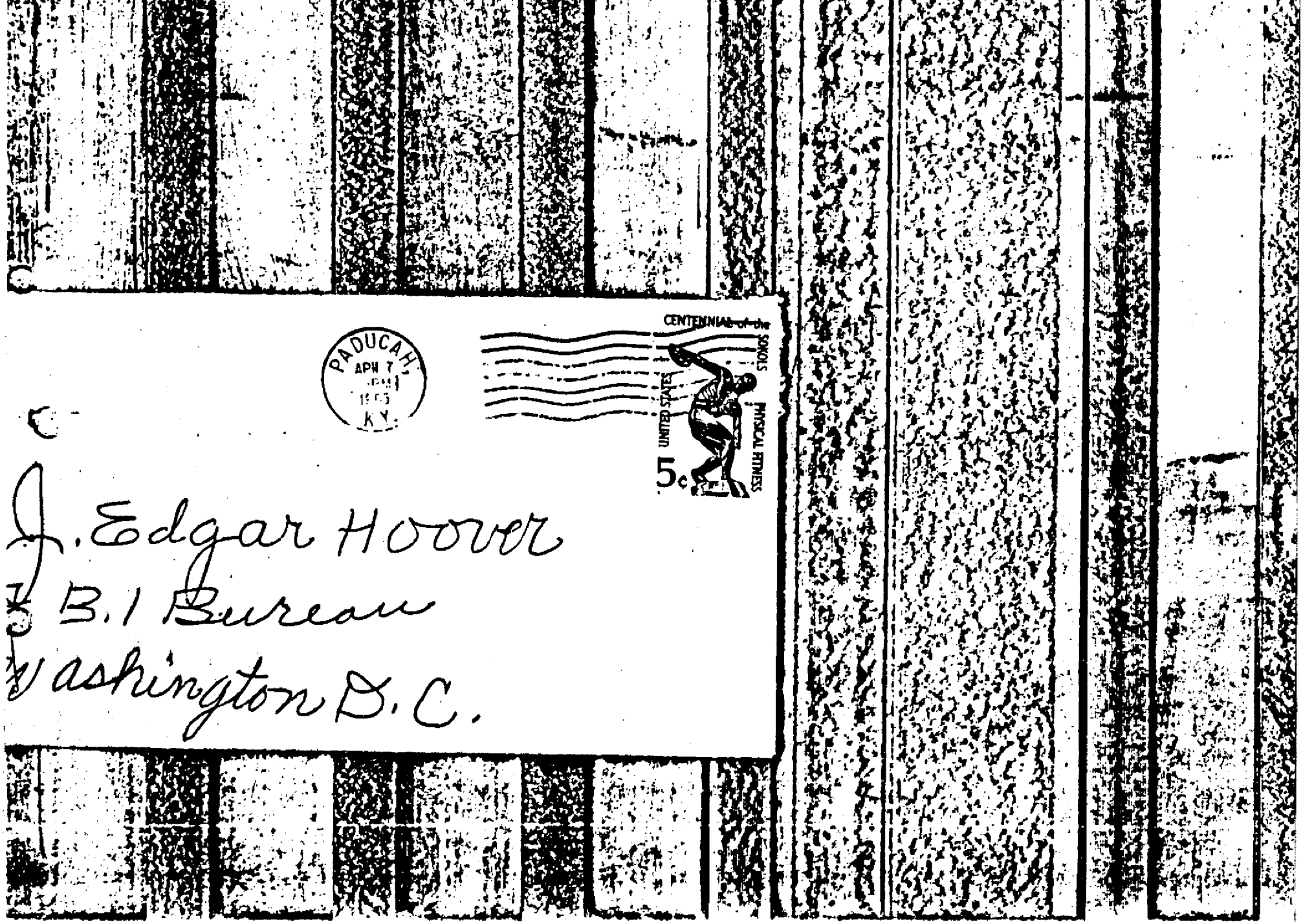
50 APR 22 1965

Mr Hoover

Has it ever occurred to you that the negro who was riding with mrs [redacted] might have shot her to make it look bad for the white folks of Alabama & Governer wallace? looks [redacted] like you could see the way it turned out he guided the steering wheel and come out O.K himself - I cant say no more cause to many of the negroes know to much -

one of the Members

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS
KEEP ENTIRELY AVOIDED


PADUCAH
APR 7
KY.
CENTENNIAL of the
SOKOL
UNITED STATES
PHYSICAL FITNESS
5c
J. Edgar Hoover
F.B.I Bureau
Washington D.C.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 4-7-65

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: FULTON LEWIS, JR.
RADIO PROGRAM
WEDNESDAY, 4-7-65

Mr. Lewis, in his radio program at 7 p. m., today, on WOL-Radio, mentioned the FBI in connection with the killing of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo by members of the Ku Klux Klan. Although he did not come right out and say so, he inferred in his statements that the possibility existed that one of the individuals in the car containing the Klansmen was possibly an informant of the FBI. His basis for making such a statement was the "quickness" in which the FBI made the arrests in this case. He further noted that if the FBI did have an informant in this automobile, he raised the question of whether that person should have had at least the moral obligation to prevent this killing. Lewis went on to say that the situation might have been such that it was impossible for such an individual to prevent the killing.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

JCEems
(4)

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen

144-28601

NOT RECORDED
126 APR 19 1965

APR 16 1965

CRIME RESEARCH

70 APR 21 1965

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 4/7/65

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

SAC Ingram, Birmingham, furnished the following information which has been obtained from a quick review of the indictment:

The substance of the indictment is as follows: The indictment charges violation of Title 18, Section 241, USC. Those named in the indictment are Eugene Thomas, William Orville Eaton and Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr. It is a one-count indictment which charges generally that beginning March 1 and continuing to on or about March 26, 1965, the three named individuals within the Middle District of Alabama, conspired together and with others unknown to injure, oppress, threaten and intimidate citizens of the United States in the vicinity of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, in the free exercise and enjoyment of rights and provisions secured to them by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

The five rights denied are listed as:

(1) The right to publicly protest the unlawful deprivation of the rights of Negroes to vote;

(2) The right to encourage Negro citizens to register and vote;

(3) The right of peaceful assembly;

(4) The right to engage in the protest march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

(5) The right to travel on interstate highways.

REC-6 ST-118 44-28601-18

The indictment charges that it was part of the plan and purpose of the conspiracy to harass, threaten, pursue and assault citizens who had participated in the march from Selma to Montgomery.

6 APR 13 1965

AR:mpd (8)

66 APR 21 1965

CONTINUED - OVER

Memo to Mr. Belmont from A. Rosen
Re: Eugene Thomas, et al

The indictment does not mention the killing of Mrs. Liuzzo near Selma, Alabama, and does not mention the name of Mrs. Liuzzo. The indictment does not mention the name of Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr. who was originally arrested with the other three subjects.

No witnesses are listed in connection with the indictment. The warrant based on the indictment indicates that bail is to be fixed at $50,000 each.

Any additional information obtained will be furnished to you.

[redacted] B7C

March 28, 1965

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Mr. President,

I am a Senior in high school. And I am studing American Government. In class, we learned that the F.B.I. does not have the power or the right to arrest a man for murder, but can only come into the picture he crosses a state line, or if a Federal law has been broken. Yet, in Alabama, the F.B.I. has arrested four men for murder. Why are you allowing them to make illegal arrests? Do two wrongs make a right? Please sir, keep our Federal government honest. The local government is corrupt enough for both.

Sincerely,

[redacted] B7C

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

EX-102

30 APR 6 1965

F.B.I.
DEPT. OF JUSTICE
APR 5 1965
RECEIVED

REC. 44-28601-189

APR 12 1965

CORRESPONDENCE

REC-2 44-28601-189

April 12, 1965

[redacted]

B7C

Dear [redacted]

Your letter to the President was referred to this Bureau on April 6, 1965.

With respect to your inquiry, the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo was a state violation. However, those responsible for this crime also violated her civil rights, which violation falls within the jurisdiction of the FBI. Therefore, I trust you will understand our investigative interest in this case.

In connection with these matters, I am enclosing a copy of the remarks made by Senator Thomas J. Dodd on the Floor of the Senate on February 25, 1965, along with other material which I trust will be of assistance to you in learning of the true nature of the FBI's role in civil rights matters.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (5)

DTP:pjf (3)

See Enclosures and Note on Next Page

MAILED 5
APR 1 0 1965
COMM-FBI

70 APR 21 1965

TELETYPE UNIT

[redacted] b7c

Enclosures (5)
Remarks made by Senator Dodd on Floor of Senate, 2-25-65
Our Heritage of Greatness, 12-12-64
Know your...FBI
LEB Introduction, 2-65
U. S. News & World Report, 12-21-64

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 12 1965

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMINGHAM

3:53PM CST URGENT 4/12/65 WEP

TO DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS. CR; E

REBUTEL APRIL TWELVE, SIXTYFIVE.

EXPLANATIONS IN INSTANT MATTER NOT YET RECEIVED FROM [redacted]

[redacted]

ON RECEIPT AND

OF SAME RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE MADE BY THE BIRMINGHAM DIVISION.

END

WA...RPP

FBI WASH DC

EX-114

44-28601-19

11 APR 13 1965

GS APR 20 1965

April 6, 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Case involves shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, night of 3-25-65. Four subjects arrested, one of whom is Bureau informant who gave data re shooting. One-count indictment returned which charges that generally 3 persons (Eugene Thomas, William Orville Eaton, and Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr.) beginning 3-1-65, and continuing on or about 3-26-65, conspired together and with others unknown to injure, oppress, threaten and intimidate citizens of the U. S. in the vicinity of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, in the free exercise and enjoyment of rights and provisions secured to them by the Constitution and laws of U. S.; that it was part of plan and purpose of conspiracy to harass, threaten, pursue and assault citizens who had participated in march from Selma to Montgomery. Indictment does not mention killing of Mrs. Liuzzo, nor does it mention her name or the informant's.

REC-3

FBI

Date: 3-29-65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: Crime Records Division

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka - VICTIM;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM.
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS.

Enclosed are two copies of an article which appeared in "The Birmingham News" on March 28, 1965, quoting ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard of the United Klans of America, KKK, and MATT H. MURPHY, Jr., Klan lawyer. In this article these individuals have claimed that the FBI was attempting to frame him, SHELTON, and that promises had been made to subject GARY THOMAS ROWE, Jr., and that ROWE had been unduly detained before being permitted to see his attorney. It should be noted that all of these allegations by SHELTON and MURPHY have been made to news media and not to the Birmingham Office of the FBI. In response to inquiries from news media regarding these allegations, I have answered all with a "no comment" reply, as is pointed out in the article itself.

It is interesting to note that MURPHY, according to the article, admits that he is a Klan member. Experience has shown that both of these individuals will stoop to any tactics to try to embarrass and humiliate the FBI, as well as to jeopardize captioned case.

Any future accusations of these individuals or other Klan officials to the press will continue to be answered "no comment," as has been done in the past.

The above is for the Bureau's information.

C.C. Wick

3-Bureau (enc. 2) ENCLOSURE
2-Birmingham
EJI:rle
(5)

REC-3 44-28601-1

ST-112

3 MAR 31 1965

58 APR 23 1965

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

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

HINTS AT CONSPIRACY

Klan is not guilty, Shelton declares

The Klan's not guilty, Imperial Wizard Robert M. Shelton declared angrily Saturday, hinting that the death of Mrs. Viola Gregg Liuzzo, a white civil rights worker, could have been a put-up job.

Shelton, appearing in Birmingham for an announced press conference, also accused the FBI of trying to frame him in connection with the woman's death by bribing one of four men arrested and charged with violating her civil rights.

He said the men were offered up to $100,000 and relocation in another state if they would say he "sent them to Montgomery."

Shelton refused to identify the four as Klansmen, though he said his organization had "made the arrangements" for their release and its lawyer would defend them.

IN RESPONSE to a question, Shelton apologized for using "damned" in saying President Johnson was a "damned liar" when the President linked the men arrested to the slaying and declared war on the Klan.

"I exclude the word 'damned' but the other part sticks," he said.

He said his organization had proof—which it would display at the "proper time"—that the Rev. James Reeb, who died after a Selma beating, was dying of cancer and "another disease" when he came to Alabama.

The Klan leader said the United Klans don't advocate violence and it was "distressing to witness this incident." (The death of Mrs. Liuzzo). But he refused to agree with Gov. George Wallace that the shooting was "an act of cowardice," saying "I don't know the conditions yet."

HOWEVER, HE declared that the FBI has already "established" that the four men arrested were "in no way connected with the death of the woman from Detroit."

Matt H. Murphy Jr., the Klan lawyer who also attended the press conference, said the constitutional rights of his clients were violated.

Murphy said he is a Klansman. He complained that Gary Tommy Rowe Jr., one of the four men arrested, was detained several hours before he was allowed to see him and that Rowe was offered 500 acres of land in Minnesota for a statement about the shooting and cooperation with Federal officers.

Everett Ingram, special agent in charge of the Birmingham FBI office, later said he had no comment on the allegations of Murphy and Shelton.

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

10 BIRMINGHAM NE
BIRMINGHAM, A

Date: 3-28-65
Edition: LATE FINAL
Author: UNKNOWN
Editor: JOHN W. BLOO
Title: ROBERT. M. S
TON, IMPERIAL
RD OF THE KKK
Character:
or
Classification: BH 105-72
Submitting Office: BIRMING

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE 28661-1(13)

Laboratory Transmittal Form
7-72

FBI LABORATORY

1 - Office, 7133

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Mobile (44-1245) Date: April 1, 1965

Re: EUGENE THOMAS, et al.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka
Mrs. Anthony J. Liuzzo,
LEROY JEROME MOTON, VICTIMS;
CR - EL

John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. PC-85454 EX HB BV
Lab. No. PC-85455 EX
PC-85501 EX BV

Examination requested by: Mobile and Birmingham

Reference: * see below

Examination requested: Firearms - Spectrographic - Microscopic

MAILED 8
APR-1 1965
COMM-FBI

Remarks:

Specimens Q1 through Q17 and K1 were collected in Montgomery, Alabama, on 3-26-65 and 3-27-65, and personally delivered to the FBI Laboratory by Special Agent M. E. Williams, on 3-28-65.

* Specimens Q18 through Q52 and K2 through K5 were transmitted to the Bureau by Birmingham airtel dated 3-27-65.

* Specimens Q53 through Q61 were transmitted to the Bureau by Mobile airtel dated 3-29-65.

* See also partial FBI Laboratory report dated 3-29-65, and Butels 3-29-65 and 3-31-65, setting forth results of Laboratory examinations in this case.

This report together with the Laboratory report of 3-29-6 sets forth the results of all examinations conducted with respect t the submitted specimens and confirms the information set forth in

44-28405-194

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
2 - Inspector Sullivan (Selma) - Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
1 - Birmingham (44-1236) - Enclosure (Lab report)
1 - Room - Sent direct

(continued on next page)

MEW:lo (7)

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Tolson, Belmont, Mohr, Casper, Callahan, Conrad, DeLoach, Evans, Gale, Rosen, Sullivan, Tavel, Trotter, Tele. Room, Holmes, Gandy

56 APR 19 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Butel 3-31-65, concerning the examination of the cartridge cases recovered on Highway 80, near the scene. No additional examinatio are now pending with respect to these specimens; however, they are being temporarily retained in the FBI Laboratory pending advic as to their disposition.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 14 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

11:40AM CST URGENT 4/14/65 WEP

TO DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236) (P)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ETAL. - VICTIMS

CR. EL.

RE BUTEL THIS DATE.

REQUESTED INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY AIRTEL BIRMINGHAM DIVISION AMSD ON EVENING OF APRIL THIRTEEN, PAST.

END

WA...SML

FBI WASH DC

REC- 99 44-28601-195

16 APR 21 1965

EX-101

60 APR 22 1965

4/13/65

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE URGENT

1 - Mr. Hines

TO SAC BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-28601)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA., ET AL

DASH VICTIMS, CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS.

REURTEL DATED APRIL TWELVE, SIXTYFIVE.

EXPLANATIONS IN THIS MATTER ALONG WITH YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY YOUR OFFICE TODAY WITHOUT FAIL.

JWH/nkr

(3)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 13 1965
TELETYPE

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

REC-42 44-28601-198

EX-101

19 APR 14 1965

60 APR 19 1965

FBI - BIRMINGHAM TELETYPE UNIT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 13 1965
TELETYPE

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI WASH DC

307PM URGENT 4-13-65 BMS

TO BIRMINGHAM 44-1236

FROM DIRECTOR 44-28601 1P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA., ET AL

DASH VICTIMS, CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS.

REURTEL DATED APRIL TWELVE, SIXTYFIVE.

EXPLANATIONS IN THIS MATTER ALONG WITH YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY YOUR OFFICE TODAY WITHOUT FAIL.

END

FBI BIRMGHAM

FD-36 (Rev. 10-29-63)

FBI

Date: 4-8-65

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL - AIR MAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka, ET AL - VICTIMS.
CR - EL

Enclosed is a copy of the indictment and warrant pertaining to the above captioned matter.

These documents were obtained from the U. S. Marshal, Birmingham, Alabama, and are being submitted for the Bureau's information and completion of the Bureau's file.

cc CRTS

(3-Bureau (enc.
2-Birmingham
EJI:rlg
(5)

ENCLOSURE

cc CRTS

EX 105
REC-24 44-28601-199

17 APR 12 1965

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

RECEIVED
1965 APR 6 PM 5 34
UNITED STATES MARSHAL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
v.)
WILLIAM OTVILLE EATON,) CR. NO. 11 737-N
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.,) (18 USC 241)
EUGENE THOMAS)

Filed in open Court in the presence of the Foreman and 11 other members of the Grand Jury this 1st day of April 1965 at 4:20 o'clock P. M.

R. C. Dobson Clerk
By [illegible] Deputy

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNT ONE

Commencing on or about March 1, 1965 and continuing to on or about March 26, 1965, WILLIAM OTVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., and EUGENE THOMAS, within the Middle District of Alabama, conspired together, with each other and with other persons to the Grand Jury unknown, to injure, oppress, threaten and intimidate citizens of the United States in the vicinity of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama in the free exercise and enjoyment of certain rights and privileges secured to them by the Constitution and laws of the United States, and because of their having exercised such rights as follows:

(1) The right to publicly protest unlawful deprivation of the right of Negro citizens of Alabama to register to vote and to vote for candidates for federal office.

(2) The right to encourage and assist Negro citizens of Alabama in the exercise of their right to register to vote and to vote for candidates for federal office.

(3) The right to peaceably assemble, publicly protest, and petition the Governor of the State of Alabama for redress of grievances

RECEIVED
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U.S. MARSHAL
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

on behalf of Negro citizens of Alabama, free from arbitrary interference by the State of Alabama.

(4) The right to participate in a protest march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to present a petition to the Governor of Alabama in Montgomery, and to participate in the carrying out of a proposed plan for such march pursuant to an order entered on March 17, 1965, by the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, in the case of Williams v. Wallace, Civil Action Number 2181-N.

(5) The right to travel to and from the State of Alabama and to use interstate highways and other instrumentalities of interstate commerce in and through Alabama.

It was a part of the plan and purpose of the conspiracy that the defendants would harrass, threaten, pursue and assault citizens of the United States in the area of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama who were participating or had participated in, or who were lending or had lent their support to a demonstration march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, pursuant to the plan, referred to above, that was approved by the order of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama on March 17, 1965.

In violation of Section 241 of Title 18, United States Code.

A True Bill:

/s/ Moreland Griffith Smith
Foreman

/s/ Ben Hardeman
[illegible] DIVISION
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

RECEIVED
1965 APR 6 PM 5 34
UNITED STATES MARSHAL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

ATTEST: A True Copy
Certified to April 6, 1965

E. C. Dobson,
Clerk, U. S. District Court,
Middle District of Alabama.

By [illegible]
Deputy Clerk

Warrant for Arrest of Defendant (Rev. 7-52) Cr. Form No. 12

United States District Court

FOR THE

MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

RECEIVED
1965 APR 6 PM 5 33
UNITED STATES MARSHAL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

RECEIVED
APR 6 9 01 PM '65
U.S. MARSHAL
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

EUGENE THOMAS

No. 11,736-N

To: any United States Marshal or any other authorized officer

You are hereby commanded to arrest Eugene Thomas and bring h im forthwith before the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama in the city of Montgomery to answer to an Indictment charging h im with conspiring to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having so exercised the same as set out in the attached Certified copy of the Indictment.

in violation of Section 241, Title 18, U.S.C.

Dated at Montgomery, Alabama

on April 6, 1965

Bail fixed at $ 50,000.00

R. C. Dobson
Clerk.

By J. J. Harris
Deputy Clerk.

RETURN

District of

Received the within warrant the day of 19 and executed same.

By

[1] Insert designation of officer to whom the warrant is issued, e. g., "any United States Marshal or any other authorized officer"; or "United States Marshal for ..... District of .....; or "any United States Marshal"; or "any Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation"; or "any United States Marshal or any Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation"; or "any agent of the Alcohol Tax Unit."

Resolution No. 866-65

By Mr. M. Morris Jackson.

WHEREAS, the entire Nation is justifiably proud of the prompt action of the Federal Bureau of Investigation which resulted in the immediate apprehension of the alleged perpetrators of the wanton murder of Mrs. Viola Gregg Liuzzo; and

WHEREAS, this is but another example of the efficient operation of this Organization which, throughout its history, has pioneered in scientific methods of criminal investigation; and

WHEREAS, the knowledge that the FBI is ready and able to use all its resources for the prevention of crime serves as a constant deterrent to those tempted to violate the rights and privileges of others and gives a sense of well-being to the citizens of this Nation; and

WHEREAS, this Council wishes to express the gratitude of this Nation for the constant surveillance provided by the FBI; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That Council hereby extends to the Federal Bureau of Investigation the appreciation of this Community for the efficient and skillful operation of the personnel of the Bureau and for its untiring efforts on behalf of the citizens of this Nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of Council be and she hereby is requested to transmit a copy of this resolution to J. Edgar Hoover, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C.

Adopted March 29, 1965
James V. Stanton, President of Council
Mercedes Cotner, Clerk of Council
Approved by Mayor Ralph S. Locher
March 30, 1965



I, Mercedes Cotner, Clerk of Council of the City of Cleveland, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 866-65, adopted by the Council of the City of Cleveland, March 29, 1965.

WITNESS my hand and seal at Cleveland, Ohio, this Thirtieth day of March, 1965.

Mercedes Cotner

Clerk of Council of the City of Cleveland

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1 - M Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Belmont

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: April 8, 1965

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

I checked with Inspector Sullivan with reference to the personnel on special assignment at Selma. He advised me that he presently has nine men which he can release inasmuch as all investigation which he has instituted has been completed.

At the present time we have a number of cases which are pending in the Department for consideration as to the action the Department intends to take. For example, in the Liuzzo case the Department will probably be talking to the State's Attorney in the next day or so. Consequently, Sullivan should be available in the event he is needed in connection with the turning over of the evidence to state authorities. There are other matters which have been pending such as the march, assault on Reverend Reeb, etc. Any of these matters could require his presence there in the event the Department intends to proceed. Consequently, we feel he should be kept there for the time being. We will watch this on a daily basis so that any changes can readily be brought to the Director's attention.

If approved, we will release the nine Agents on special assignment starting tomorrow (Friday, April 9, 1965).

ARidge
(8)

REC 40 44-28601-200

APR 16 1965

79 APR 19 1965

EX-102

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memoranaum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

DATE: April 6, 1965

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. -
VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

Inspector Sullivan at Montgomery, Alabama, advised at 5:00 p. m. that the Grand Jury had not yet made a return in this case. According to Inspector Sullivan, the Grand Jury finished hearing witnesses today. Grand jurors took the matter under deliberation at 3:00 p. m. Washington time.

Sullivan advised he had received information that the jurors were as of 5:00 p. m., preparing their report which would be given to the court.

ACTION:

Sullivan is closely following this matter and will advise the Bureau of action taken by the Grand Jury.

CLM/nkr
(6)

REC 33 44-28601-201

25 APR 15 1965

56 APR 22 1965

4/14/65

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE URGENT

TO SAC BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

1 - Mr. Hines

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-28601)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. DASH VICTIMS. CR. EL.

REBUTEL APRIL THIRTEEN, SIXTYFIVE.

BUREAU IS NOT IN RECEIPT OF EXPLANATIONS AND YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION IN THIS MATTER.

ADVISE WHEN MATERIAL SENT AND METHOD OF TRANSMITTAL.

BY RETURN TEL.

JW H/cac
(3)

NOTE: Butel of 4/13/65 instructed Birmingham to submit material on 4/13/65 without fail.

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

56 APR 22 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☑

EX 105

REC 33

44-28601-202

19 APR 15 1965

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 14 1965

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 14 1965
TELETYPE

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI WASH DC

1214PM URGENT 4-14-65 RPP

TO BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

FROM DIRECTOR (44-28601) 1P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. DASH VICTIMS. CR. EL.

REBUTEL APRIL THIRTEEN, SIXTYFIVE.

BUREAU IS NOT IN RECEIPT OF EXPLANATIONS AND YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION IN THIS MATTER. ADVISE WHEN MATERIAL SENT AND METHOD OF TRANSMITTAL BE RETURN TEL.

END

BH...DRXXXX DLR

FBI BIRMGHAM

CORR LAST LINE FIRST SXX WRD SHLD BE BY

END

CRXXX CLR

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Office, 7133

FBI
LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: SAC, Birmingham (44-1236) Date: April 14, 1965

Re: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS;
CR - EL

J. Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. 174-35
Lab. No. PC-85633 CF LV

Examination requested by: Birmingham

Reference: Letter 4/8/65

Examination requested: Spectrographic - Microscopic

Remarks:

The instant items of evidence were submitted under the caption "Eugene Thomas; et al., Viola Gregg Liuzzo, aka; Leroy Jerome Moton - Victims; CR - EL"; however, since these items were submitted for comparison with the materials in the GREENDOMBS case the attached Laboratory report carries the "GREENDOMBS" caption and the submitted items are listed as specimens Q76 through Q85 in order to maintain continuity in the specimen listing in the GREENDOMBS case.

Specimens Q76 through Q85 are being returned to your office under separate cover by registered mail.

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
1 - Birmingham (44-1236) Enclosure (Lab report)
1 - Buffalo
1 - Mr. Rosen

DUPLICATE YELLOW

44-28601-
NOT RECORDED
180 APR 19 1965

Tolson
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Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
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Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

WRH:BAS (9)

APR 22 1965

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ORIGINAL FILED IN 174-35-300

REPORT
of the

FBI LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Birmingham
Re: GREENBOMBS

Date: April 14, 1965
FBI File No. 174-38
Lab. No. BC-65633 C7 BV

Specimens received 4/7/65

Q76 Ski mask
Q77 Screwdriver
Q78 Yellow rug, 5' x 3'
Q79 Yellow rug, 3' x 2½'
Q80 Roll of Tuck electrical tape
Q81 Roll of brown Arno tape
Q82 Pair of pliers-cutters
Q83 Pair of pliers
Q84 Pair of work gloves
Q85 Pink blanket

Results of examination:

No significant foreign paints or other deposits were found on specimens Q76, Q77, Q78, Q79, Q82, Q83, Q84 or Q85 which could be associated with the medium green enamel and red-brown wax deposits on the GREENBOMB boxes previously submitted in this case.

No soil suitable for comparison purposes was found in the debris from Q78, Q79 and Q85. No pine needles were found on these specimens.

The black plastic electrician's tape, specimen Q80 is ½" wide and is therefore different from the 3/4" wide black plastic electrician's tape used on the eight unexploded bombs.

No tapes were found on the eight unexploded bombs which were comparable to the 1½" wide brown plastic-coated cloth back adhesive tape, Q81.

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WRH:BAS (9)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

4/15/65

1 - Mr. Hines

Airtel

To: SAC, Mobile

From: Director, FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

To confirm Bureau call to Mr. Sullivan 4/15/65, the Department has advised after review of material from reports as submitted for consideration for use by the state in their prosecution of this matter that they did not desire material from the report of SA Joseph E. Connors dated 4/1/65 at Mobile and the three Detroit reports of SA Coller dated 3/31/65, 4/1/65 and 4/2/65 be furnished to the state. Department requested that the following material be furnished: report of SA Joseph E. Connors, Mobile, dated 3/30/65, Pages 4 and 5, Pages 26 through 65, Pages 67 through 119 and Pages 121 through 155; report of ASAC Robert Jensen, Birmingham, dated 3/30/65, Pages 4 through 77.

It is requested that this material be furnished to Departmental Attorney James Turner for delivery to Circuit Solicitor Arthur Gamble at Greenville, Alabama. Mr. Gamble will prepare a letter to the Department requesting that the information be made available for the state prosecution for murder. The material furnished to Gamble should be enclosed with an appropriate cover letter indicating it is being furnished in response to Gamble's request of the Department of Justice that we furnish results of our investigation in this matter for his use in the state's prosecution.

JWH/ras
(4)

NOTE: See memo Rosen to Belmont, 4/15/65, same caption. Above request was made by Mr. St. John Barrett of the CRD.

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Holmes
Gandy

MAILER 19
APR 15 1965
COMM-FBI

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

EX-116

REC-24 44-28601-20

APR 16 1965

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memoranaum

TO : Mr. Rosen

FROM : C. L. McGowan

DATE: April 14, 1965

1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Leavitt

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL

At 7:14 p. m., 4-14-65, Departmental Attorney St. John Barrett advised Extra-Duty Supervisor T. W. Leavitt that he had talked with Circuit Solicitor Arthur Gamble who had requested the Department furnish such portions of investigative reports that would bear on state prosecution for murder. He stated that Gamble requested that he be furnished the reports tomorrow, 4-15-65, at Greenville, Alabama. St. John Barrett advised that the Department would like him to have these reports on 4-15-65. He stated that Gamble will prepare a letter to the Department requesting that the information be made available for state prosecution for murder and that the letter will be given to the Agent who furnishes him the reports.

Barrett advised he had reviewed material furnished by the Bureau and stated that Mobile report of 4-1-65, and three Detroit reports will all be omitted and not used. He stated he agreed that the following information set forth in Mobile report dated 3-30-65, should be included in data furnished Gamble: Pages 4 and 5, pages 26 through 65, pages 67 through 119, and pages 121 through 155. He further advised that in Birmingham report dated 3-30-65, of ASAC Jensen, pages 4 through 77 should be furnished.

Barrett stated that in addition to Agents already requested to appear before the grand jury, that the presence of SA [redacted] is also desired. He related that Gamble will contact Inspector Sullivan for the purpose of interviewing Agents. He stated that Gamble also desired to talk with SA Marion Williams of the FBI Laboratory before the grand jury session and that the only time he, Gamble, will be free will be Sunday afternoon or evening, 4-18-65. He requested that Departmental Attorney James Turner be advised as to whatever arrangements are made concerning SA Williams. SA [redacted] Laboratory Division, advised.

REC-23 44-28601-208
EX 110 4/15/65

TWL:hw

APR 16 1965

CONTINUED - OVER

70 APR 21 1965

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;

ACTION:

That Departmental Attorney Barrett's request be given appropriate consideration and necessary arrangements made to furnish Mr. Gamble with desired data.

FBI

Date: 4/14/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236) - P -

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL
- VICTIMS
CR - EL

Rec CRD
4-19-65
694-F
Rec-ONI, OSI, C2
Cy-O-1K
Rec-Internal Security Division O-1
Rec'd Airtel enclosure

Remytel to Bureau, 4/7/65, and urairtel to Birmingham, 4/9/65.

Enclosed to the Bureau are eight (8) copies of letterhead memorandum captioned United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (UKA).

Enclosed to Mobile are two (2) copies of this letterhead memorandum.

[redacted]

B7A

3 - Bureau (Enc. 8) (AM) (RM) 44-28601 209
2 - Mobile (Enc. 2) (AM) (RM)
3 - Birmingham
(2 - 44-1236)
(1 - 105-722)

17 APR 16 1965

JTD:mfm
(8)

ENCLOSURE

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC.
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (UKA)

Records of Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, reflect that this Klan organization was granted a corporate charter on February 21, 1961, at Atlanta, Georgia, under the name United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc.

A source advised on February 27, 1961, that United Klans was formed as a result of a split in U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc. According to the source, the split resulted from a leadership dispute and United Klans has the same aims and objectives as the parent group. These are the promotion of Americanism, white supremacy and segregation of the races.

The first source and a second source advised in July, 1961, that United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc., merged with Alabama Knights, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The merged organization established headquarters in Suite 401, the Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. (The organization is directed by ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, and is the dominant Klan group in the South with units in several Southern States.)

Second source advised that at a meeting at Prattville, Alabama, on October 22, 1961, the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, merged with the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Third source advised on September 24, 1964, that the United Klans is currently an active organization, with Klaverns in several Southern states; that ROBERT M. SHELTON was re-elected Imperial Wizard on September 5, 1964, at a National Klonvocation in Birmingham, Alabama. The National Office remains in Suite 401, Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

FD-323 (Rev. 11-29-61)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Birmingham, Alabama

April 14, 1965

Title UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC., KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (UKA)

Character RACIAL MATTERS

Reference Letterhead memorandum dated and captioned as above

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

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.

6-94 (Rev. 1-31-63)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

File Copy

TO : Assistant Attorney General

DATE: 4/19/65

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA; ET AL
- VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

Reference is made to _____ memorandum dated _____ (your file _____).

There is enclosed one copy of ~~the report~~ a letterhead memorandum dated 4/14/65 at Birmingham.

A. ☐ This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. ☐ The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. ☐ The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. ☐ Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. ☐ Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. ☒ This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. ☐ This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H. ☐ This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

Enc. NOTE: Copies have also been furnished to Department of Army, Department of Navy, Department of Air Force, and the Internal Security Division of the Department of Justice.

FBI

Date: 4/15/65

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

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, ALBUQUERQUE (100-0)

SUBJECT: VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO-DECEASED
RACIAL MATTERS; INTERNAL SECURITY-C

[redacted] He stated that he happened to be in either the courthouse or city hall when he overheard a conversation between two policemen. He said one of the policemen had a number of documents in his hand and he asked the other policeman if the name on them looked familiar. From the rest of the conversation, informant advises, it appears the documents concerned the arrest of a man named LIUZZO at Port Arthur, Texas, in 1949. LIUZZO, it seems, was arrested along with about 15 other whites and Negroes for distributing communist literature in the colored section of Port Arthur. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO is the Detroit, Michigan, housewife shot and killed at Lowndesboro, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

Informant advised that the conversation between the two policemen was not for his ears, but that on the other hand they seemed unconcerned as to who heard them. He stated that one of them said that this should be reported to the FBI and the other one said something like, "We'd better think that over."

REC 61 44-28601-213

EX-102

6 APR 17 1965

(3) - Bureau (RM)
1 - Detroit (info) (RM)
2 - Houston (RM)
1 - Mobile (info)(RM)
3 - Albuquerque

[redacted]

VDV:les
(10)

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

AQ 100-0

[redacted] He stated he had no idea whether or not the policemen were kidding or mistaken. b7d

Information copies of this airtel are being furnished Detroit and Mobile.

HOUSTON AT PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS

Search files of PD and SO for any record which would substantiate the above information and advise interested offices of results.

[redacted] b7C

April 1, 1965

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to you to request information concerning the United Klans of America, Knights of the Ku Klux Klans. I am a sociology student and have chosen this topic for my thesis.

I would greatly appreciate any information that you could provide me with about the Klan, its members, its organization, etc. I am particularly interested in the four men held responsible for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo. Viola Could you refer me to someone who would be able to provide facts about their life history, their schooling, their family background?

Thank you for your help and interest.

Very truly yours,

[redacted] b7C

EX-103

44-2860-214

REC 61

18 APR 21 1965

CORRESPONDENCE

April 20, 1965

REC 61 44-28601-214

[redacted] b7C

Dear [redacted]

I have received your letter of April 14th.

In regard to your inquiry, I would like to point out that information contained in our files must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. I am sure you will understand the reason for this policy.

Enclosed is some material which I hope you will find of interest. You may wish to read "The FBI Story" by Don Whitehead which contains general background data regarding the organization you named and may be available at your local or school library.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 5
APR 20 1965
COMM-FBI

Enclosures (5)
Attorney General's List of Subversive Organizations
"Our Heritage of Greatness"
The FBI's Role in the Field of Civil Rights
FBI Jurisdiction does not cover making evaluations
The FBI...Guardian of Civil Rights
NOTE: There is no record of correspondent in Bufiles.
JRP:mel (3)

7 0 APR 28 1965

TELETYPE UNIT

Apr 20 3 15 PM '65
RECD-READING ROOM
FBI

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 1 6 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Wolfrach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI MOBILE

4-42 PM CST URGENT 4-16-65 JEB

TO DIRECTOR AND BIRMINGHAM

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/ 1P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS. CR, EL.

REBUTEL TODAY.

SA MARION WILLIAMS SHOULD ARRIVE MONTGOMERY, ALA., ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL NINETEEN, NEXT AND BE PREPARED TO TESTIFY TO THE SAME EVIDENCE HE TESTIFIED TO PREVIOUSLY BEFORE THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY.

BIRMINGHAM HAS ALREADY BEEN ADVISED THE AGENTS REQUIRED FOR APPEARANCE BEFORE THE GRAND JURY WILL ARRIVE ON APRIL TWENTY, NEXT AND THE CIRCUIT SOLICITOR WILL INTERVIEW THESE AGENTS PRIOR TO THEIR APPEARANCE BEFORE THE STATE GRAND JURY ON THAT DATE.

END

WA SML

FBI WASH DC

BH WA DISC PLSNI

REC-23

44-28601-215

CALLED:
M. Williams
By Time

EX 109

6 APR 21 1965

cc: Mr. Conrad

64 APR 29 1965

4/16/65

PLAIN TEXT

1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Marion Willia

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SACS, MOBILE
BIRMINGHAM

FROM DIRECTOR, FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL DASH VICTIMS;

CR; EL.

[redacted]

B7A

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ADVISED THAT PRESENCE OF SA MARION WILLIAMS OF THE LABORATORY, SAS LAWRENCE G. GETTINGS, EDWARD M. LAHEY AND NEIL P. SHANAHAN OF BIRMINGHAM DIVISION AND SA ARCH RILEY OF MOBILE DIVISION WILL BE REQUIRED FOR CONFERENCES PRIOR TO AND FOR TESTIMONY BEFORE THE STATE GRAND JURY ON APRIL TWENTY NEXT. UPON RECEIPT DETERMINE THROUGH CONTACT WITH CIRCUIT SOLICITOR GAMBLE

REC-19 44-28601-218

3 APR 22 1965

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Callahan
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Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

JWH/ras
(4)
SEE NOTE ON PAGE TWO.

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

TELETYPE

TELETYPE TO MOBILI ND BIRMINGHAM
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;

SPECIFICALLY WHEN THE AGENTS' PRESENCE WILL BE NEEDED INSURING THAT AGENTS' TIME IS NOT UNNECESSARILY EXPENDED WAITING AROUND FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS. WITH RESPECT TO THE REQUESTED PRESENCE OF SA WILLIAMS, PROMPTLY ADVISE THE BUREAU BY RETURN TEL THE EXACT TIME HIS PRESENCE IS ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED AND THE ITEMS OF EVIDENCE HE WILL BE REQUIRED TO BRING WITH HIM AND PRODUCE. IF ITEMS IN ADDITION TO THOSE PRODUCED BEFORE THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY ARE DESIRED, SPELL OUT SPECIFICALLY WHAT ADDITIONAL ITEMS ARE NEEDED. ADVISE BIRMINGHAM OF EXACT TIME THE PRESENCE OF AGENTS OF THAT DIVISION ARE REQUIRED.

NOTE: [redacted]

B7A

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
TELETYPE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: April 22, 1965

FROM : C. L. McGowan

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

The Birmingham Office has advised that three subjects were arrested by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office on first degree murder charges. These subjects are Eugene Thomas, William Orville Eaton and Collie LeRoy Wilkins.

These individuals have been released on $10,000 bond each. The bond, in the nature of real and personal property, was put up by Matt Murphy, the attorney, and Robert Creel, the Alabama Grand Dragon of the United Klans of America.

44-2860

REC-123

44-2860-222

25 APR 26 1965

CLM/cac
(5)

APR 28 1965

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Office Room 7133
1 - Mr. Williams

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Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

TO : Mr. Conrad

DATE: 4/22/65

FROM : R. H. Jevons

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA.;
LEROY JEROME MOTON, VICTIMS;
CR - EL

This case concerns the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo, a civil rights worker, near Selma, Alabama, on the evening of 3/25/65.

The facts in this case were presented to Lowndes County Grand Jury at Hayneville, Alabama, on 4/20/65, and 4/21/65. By previous arrangements perfected by Departmental Attorneys St. John Barrett and James Turner with Mr. Robert Flowers, Attorney General for the State of Alabama, and Mr. Arthur Gamble, Circuit Solicitor for Lowndes County, Alabama, several Agents of the Bureau including SA Marion E. Williams, FBI Laboratory, appeared before the Grand Jury and gave testimony.

[redacted]

At the time SA Williams departed from Montgomery, Alabama, the Grand Jury had not yet reported their findings in this case.

ACTION: For information.

44-28601

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. McGowan

MEW:bsm (9)

70 APR 29 1965

RECEIVED
44-28601-223
EX 109
APR 26 1965

P
6

City of Cleveland

MERCEDES COTNER
CITY CLERK
CLERK OF COUNCIL

March 30, 1965

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

(circle on yellow)

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

By request of Councilman M. Morris Jackson, I am enclosing herewith a certified copy of Resolution No. 866-65, adopted by the Council of the City of Cleveland, March 29, 1965.

44-28601

Very truly yours,

Mercedes Cotner

Mercedes Cotner
City Clerk
Clerk of Council

MC:o
Encl.

ENCLOSURE

REC-93

44-28601-224

APR 1965

~~EXP. PROC.~~

~~APR 1 1965~~

REC-93

April 6, 1965

44-28601-224

Miss Mercedes Cotner
Clerk of Council of the
City of Cleveland
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Miss Cotner:

I received your letter of March 30th, with enclosure, and want to thank you and, through you, the members of the Council for the Resolution approved on March 30, 1965, concerning our investigation of the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo.

Your generous remarks and expression of confidence mean a great deal to me and you may be assured my associates join me in expressing appreciation.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 6
APR 6 - 1965
COMM-FBI

1 - Cleveland - Enclosures (2)
NOTE: Miss Cotner was written in Oct., 1964, in connection with a Petition sponsored by Councilman Jackson concerning racial strife in Cleveland.
DTP:dll (4)

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Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

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6 APR 27 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

The case against Eugene Thomas, William Orville Eaton and Collie LeRoy Wilkins, Jr., in connection with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo is currently being presented to a Lowndes County Grand Jury. [redacted] has in the past been known to be sympathetic with Klan activities in Birmingham. Attorney Matt Murphy is a Klan attorney who represents the three subjects. The Grand Jury has not yet made a return of an indictment.

b7c

JWH/cac

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 21 1965

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

3 11 PM CST URGENT 4-21-65 DLR

TO DIRECTOR AND MOBILE

FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL . VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA; ET AL. CR EL. CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

[redacted] TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE AT HIS OFFICE DURING HIS ABSENCE, REPORTEDLY FROM MATT MURPHY, JR., ATTORNEY, WHO IS REPRESENTING THE THREE SUBJECTS, EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON AND COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR. [redacted] SAID THE MESSAGE WAS AS FOLLOWS, MURPHY SAID HE KNEW THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE THREE SUBJECTS AND WHEN THE GRAND JURY RETURNED AN INDICTMENT, IF SUCH WERE DONE, HE WOULD MAKE THOMAS, EATON AND WILKINS AVAILABLE. [redacted]

[redacted] ADVISED THAT HE TELEPHONICALLY PASSED THIS INFORMATION ON TO ALABAMA ATTORNEY GENERAL FLOWERS OFFICE AND HE IN TURN WAS INFORMED THAT THEY DID NOT ANTICIPATE THE GRAND JURY MEETING IN HAYNEVILLE TO RETURN AN INDICTMENT TODAY, BUT WOULD PROBABLY DO SO TOMORROW MORNING SOMETIME.

END

MO WIL [redacted] WILL BE ADVISED

WA RPP

FBI WASH DC APR 28 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

TU P CC-MR. ROSEN

REC-137 44-28601-226

18 APR 23 1965

6-4-17

April 21, 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This matter relates to murder of civil rights worker, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, on 3/25/65. Rowe, a Bureau informant, was present along with three others during murder. Data supplied by Rowe led to identity of other three subjects and circumstances surrounding Mrs. Liuzzo's death.

Case against Eugene Thomas and two other subjects being presented to State Grand Jury. Washington Post 4/21/65 reports Rowe testified that he was FBI informant and reporters were forcibly prevented from interviewing Rowe. The field has been instructed to submit details of any Agents' encounter with press and determine how press learned of Rowe's informant status.

JWH:vew

TELETYPE READ LATER GIVING FACTS

ENCLOSURE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 20 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. John...
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. R...
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss H...
Miss Gandy

548 PM CST URGENT 4/20/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL DASH VICTIMS. GR [illegible]

Civil Rights Election Laws

GARY THOMAS ROWE APPEARED AS WITNESS BEFORE LOWNDES COUNTY GRAND JURY IN THE CAPTIONED MATTER BETWEEN TWO AND FOUR PM INSTANT. FOLLOWING HIS APPEARANCE ARTHUR GAMBLE, CIRCUIT SOLICITOR, ADVISED ROWE MADE EXCELLENT WITNESS, THAT HE HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO EVALUATE HIS IMPRESSION ON GRAND JURY AT THE TIME OF THE CONFERENCE, BUT FELT THAT SOME OF THE JURORS MIGHT ENTERTAIN SOME DOUBTS AS TO ROWE-S VERACITY IN SOME AREAS.

44-2860H227

REC 33

EX 109

6 APR 27 1965

NONE OF THE BUREAU WITNESSES HAD PRECEDED ROWE IN THE GRAND JURY THEREFORE, THE DATA NECESSARY FOR CORROBORATION OF HIS TESTIMONY HAD NOT BEEN PRESENTED TO THE GRAND JURY AT THE TIME OF ROWE/S APPEARANCE.

ENCLOSURE

FOUR BUREAU WITNESSES REMAIN TO TESTIFY, SA/S NEIL SHANAHAN, EDWIN LEAHY AND LAWRENCE GETTINGS OF THE BIRMINGHAM

END PAGE ONE .....

79 APR 28 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

PAGE TWO ...

DIVISION AND LABORATORY EXAMINER MARION WILLIAMS. LEROY MOTON, THE NEGRO WHO ACCOMPANIED LIUZZO AT TIME SHE WAS SHOT, WAS THE NEXT WITNESS TO FOLLOW ROWE.

GAMBLE INDICATED THAT GRAND JURY WOULD CONTINUE TO HEAR TESTIMONY AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT COMPLETE ITS WORK OR REPORT PRIOR TO APRIL TWENTYONE, NEXT. IF TRUE BILLS ARE RETURNED, HE STATED NO PUBLICATION WOULD BE MADE OF THE INDICTMENTS UNTIL THE SUBJECTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.

NO DIFFICULTIES WERE EXPERIENCED IN HANDLING ROWE/S APPEARANCE. PRESS WAS PRESENT AT THE COURTHOUSE AND IT IS NOT CERTAIN AT THIS POINT WHETHER THEY WERE AWARE THAT ROWE HAD BEEN BEFORE THE GRAND JURY.

END

WA ....ALS...

FBI WASH DC

P

CALLED:
By

CC-MR. ROSEN - Mr. Conrad

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/23/65

FROM : SAC, HOUSTON (100-10146) (RUC)

SUBJECT: VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - DECEASED
RACIAL MATTERS; IS - C

RE: Albuquerque airtel to the Bureau,
dated 4/15/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau, Mobile, and Albuquerque are copies of Houston airtel to Detroit, dated 3/31/65, entitled "ANTHONY JOHN LUCIO, Aka., Tony Lucio, SM - C."

Detroit is requested to determine if ANTHONY JOHN LUCIO is identical to the husband of captioned subject.

ENCLOSURE

2 - Bureau (Encl. 1) (RM)
2 - Albuquerque (Encl. 1) (RM)
(1 - 100-0)
(1 - 137-1391)
1 - Detroit (Info.) (RM)
1 - Mobile (Info.) (Encl. 1) (RM)
1 - Houston

JRK/mem
(7)

REC-120 44-28601-228

APR 23 1965



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

3/31/65

AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED

TO: SAC, DETROIT

FROM: SAC, HOUSTON (100-0)

SUBJECT: ANTHONY JOHN LUCIO,
aka., Tony Lucio
SM - C

[redacted]

The above is furnished for the information of Detroit.

No further investigation being conducted by Houston.

Detroit (AM) (RM) (Encl. 1)
Houston

JHK/mem
(3)

44-28691-228

ENCLOSURE

SAC, Houston (100-10146) 5/10/65

Director, FBI (44-28601)

1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Harrell

VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - DECEASED
RACIAL MATTERS; INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ReHOlet 4/23/65.

Detroit discontinue investigation set out in referenced letter.

[redacted] b7C

[redacted] b7C

MAILED 2
MAY 7 1965
COMM-FBI

2 - Detroit
1 - Albuquerque
1 - Houston (100-1509) (F. Lucio)
1 - Mobile

1 - 100-27574

ERH:jed
(11)

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Mr. Belmont

FROM: A. Rosen

DATE: 4/22/65

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS,
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON,
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.;
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan

Inspector Sullivan called at 2:50 p.m. today. He advised information had been received from [redacted] that a secret indictment had been returned and that three individuals had been named in the indictment, all charged with first degree murder. Jackson did not reveal the identity of the three individuals but there is no question but what the individuals named are identical with the individuals in the caption of this memorandum. b7C

According to [redacted] Solicitor Arthur Gamble and the Sheriff of Lowndes County, were en route at the present time to Birmingham, Alabama, where they expect to take the three individuals named in the indictment into custody.

Submitted for information.

JRM:mpd (8)

REC-22
44-28601-234

APR 27 1965

69 MAY 3 1965

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 21 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Dalbey
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI MOBILE

UR

657 PM CST URGENT 4/21/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, [redacted] ET AL, CR [redacted]

CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

PRESENTATION OF STATE CASE TO LOWNDES COUNTY GRAND JURY COMPLETED FOUR TWENTY-ONE SIXTYFIVE. GRAND JURY SCHEDULED TO REPORT FOUR TWENTY TWO SIXTYFIVE. RESULTS OF DELIBERATION NOT KNOWN AT THIS TIME.

END

WA BMS

FBI WASH DC

P

44-28601233

REC 8

3 APR 27 1965

EX-112

66 MAY 3 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Grand Jury scheduled to report in open court on 4/22/65.

Press reports indicate Lowndes County Grand Jury on 4/21/65 voted to return three murder indictments in the 3/25/65 slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. Under Alabama law the names of those indicted may be released only after the arrest of the defendants and the arrest cannot be made until the indictments have been returned in open court.

Eugene Thomas, Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., and William Orvill Eaton are the subjects involved.

JWH:pah

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This case involves the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on the night of 3-25-65. Three subjects were indicted by a State Grand Jury on 4-22-65 for first degree murder. Gettings' appearance is absolutely necessary for trial which, according to State Circuit Court Judge will take place at the next term beginning 5-5-65. Appropriate instructions to the field will be issued, as soon as the trial date of captioned case can be definitely established.

DMB:mmb

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 23 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI BIRMGHAM

1120 AM CST URGENT 4-23-65 WCR

TO DIRECTOR, MILWAUKEE AND MOBILE

FROM BIRMINGHAM /44-1236/ /P/ 2P

EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM; LEROY JEROME MOTEN - VICTIM. CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS CR, EL. OO, MOBILE. OFFICE OF ORIGIN

SPECIAL AGENT
SA LAWRENCE G. GETTINGS, BIRMINGHAM DIVISION, HAS BEEN ADVISED TO BE IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, APRIL THIRTIETH NEXT AS A NECESSARY WITNESS RE MILWAUKEE FILE THIRTYONE DASH TWO NINE SIX THREE, BUFILE THRITYONE DASH EIGHT NINE TWO SIX ZERO, CASE CAPTIONED "JOHN EDWARD DAVIS, ALSO KNOWN AS; ROSE MARIE DAVIS, AKA; ERNEST HURD, ETAL - VICTIMS; WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT VSTA; ITAR - PROSTITUTION; MISPRISION OF FELONY." AUSA FRANKLYN M. GIMBLE, EDW, MILWAUKEE, HAS ADVISED THESE CASES WILL BE TRIED IN FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT AT MILWAUKEE ON MAY FOUR AND FIVE NEXT. INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION IN AID OF RACKETEERING EASTERN DISTRICT WISCONSIN

IN REGARD TO CASE CAPTIONED "EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO; LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS" REC-7 SA GETTINGS ARRESTED EUGENE THOMAS, OBTAINED STATEMENT FROM THOMAS AT TIME OF ARREST, AND OBTAINED EVIDENCE FROM THE PERSON OF THOMAS IN SEARCH CONDUCTED

APR 26 1965

END PAGE ONE

60 APR 30 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

UNDER ARREST. SA GETTINGS HAS TESTIFIED BEFORE FEDERAL GRAND JURY AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, AND THE LOWNDES COUNTY GRAND JURY AT HAYNEVILLE, ALABAMA, AND INDICTMENTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED IN THIS CASE.

IT IS PRESENT UNDERSTANDING IN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION THAT EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON AND COLLIE LEROY WILKINS WILL BE TRIED FOR MURDER IN LOWNDES COUNTY COURT, HAYNEVILLE, ALABAMA, MAY THREE NEXT AND SA GETTINGS WILL BE CALLED AS NECESSARY WITNESS.

MOBILE REQUESTED TO ADVISE BUREAU, BIRMINGHAM AND MILWAUKEE IF TRIAL DATE HAS BEEN FIRMLY SET FOR MAY THREE NEXT AND IF SA GETTINGS WILL BE NECESSARY WITNESS.

MILWAUKEE WILL ADVISE AUSA FRANKLYN M. GIMBLE, EDW, AT MILWAUKEE.

BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE WHICH TRIAL SA GETTINGS IS TO APPEAR FOR IN EVENT THERE IS A CONFLICT OF TRIAL DATES.

MOBILE ADVISED SEPARATE.

END

WA SXC

FBI WASH DC

MI

MI HNH

FBI MILWAUK

TU CLEA

CC-MR. ROSEN

FBI

Date: 4/21/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Mobile (44-1245)(P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL:
VIOLA LIUZZO aka;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR

Re Birmingham to the Bureau 4/14/65.

On 4/19/65 SA [redacted] furnished appropriate information contained in the letterhead memorandum which accompanied reairtel, to Col. AL LINGO, Director, Alabama Department of Public Safety, Montgomery, Ala. Information contained in reairtel concerning [redacted].

(3) - Bureau
1 - Birmingham (Info)
2 - Mobile
SHR-egp
(6)

REC-2 44-28601-231

APR 23 1965

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

70 APR 30 1965

FBI

Date: 4/23/65

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: Director, FBI (9-NEW)

FROM: SAC, Philadelphia (9-NEW) (C)

SUBJECT: UNSUB; Mrs. WILLIAM J. FARRELL, nee FRANCES MELVIN - VICTIM
EXTORTION

UNSUB; Mrs. WILLIAM P. FARRELL, nee HELEN ROMAYNE LIUZZO - VICTIM
EXTORTION

UNSUB; PATRICK THOMAS LIUZZO - VICTIM
EXTORTION

Re Detroit teletype to Philadelphia this date captioned "UNSUB; JOSEPH LIUZZO - VICTIM; CARMELLA LIUZZO - VICTIM; EXTORTION".

4 - Bureau
3 - 9-NEW
1 - 44-WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON; EUGENE THOMAS ROWE; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.; MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS
1 - Mobile (44-WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON; EUGENE THOMAS ROWE; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.; MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS)
6 - Philadelphia
2 - 9-NEW (UNSUB; Mrs. WILLIAM J. FARRELL - VICTIM; EXTORTION)
2 - 9-NEW (UNSUB; Mrs. WILLIAM P. FARRELL - VICTIM; EXTORTION)
2 - 9-NEW (UNSUB; PATRICK THOMAS LIUZZO - VICTIM; EXTORTION)
JWR:AMS (11)

MCT 19
44-28601-
NOT RECORDED
158, APR 27 1965

ORIGINAL FILED IN 9-43653

See Index

1965

MAY 3 1965

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ Per _____

cc: H

PH 9-NEW

Prior to receipt of referenced teletype, investigation as set forth below was conducted.

[redacted], Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), Dunmore, Pa., afternoon 4/22/65, telephonically advised that Mrs. WILLIAM J. FARRELL, [redacted], Carbondale, on 4/22/65 advised PSP anonymous call received by her that date from unidentified male asking if she were related to the Mrs. LIUZZO who was murdered in Selma, Ala. When she told him she wasn't, he asked her for identity of the Mrs. FARRELL who was related and claimed to have said to her that "You better tell me where the right Mrs. FARRELL lives or your life will be in danger."

Mrs. FARRELL also determined from Mrs. WILLIAM P. FARRELL, [redacted] Carbondale, sister-in-law of Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZI, that she also had received a similar call.

FLANAGAN states both women informed Carbondale Police of receipt of calls and that that agency was presently investigating the matter.

JAMES LIUZZO, Route 106, Carbondale, on 4/22/65, telephonically advised the Philadelphia Office that his sister, Mrs. WILLIAM P. FARRELL, and PATRICK LIUZZO, [redacted], Carbondale, had both received harassing telephone calls similar to the above.

Mrs. WILLIAM J. FARRELL, nee Frances Melvin, [redacted] Carbondale, afternoon of 4/22/65, advised SA JOHN W. REINHARD as follows:

At between 11:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., 4/22/65, she received a call from an unidentified male having a harsh, unfamiliar voice asking if she were the Mrs. FARRELL related to the "woman murdered in Selma, Ala." When she said she wasn't, he then asked, "Do you know which Mrs. FARRELL is related to her?" She then told him, "No, I don't know which FARRELL family it is. Why?" Caller then said something to the effect that he had to get in touch with Mrs. FARRELL and that if she didn't help, her life and her family's lives would be in danger. She then asked who the man was, after which he said, "Never mind who it is," and hung up.

No nationality or sectional accent was noted in voice of caller and call presumed by victim to have been local in origin.

She then called the Carbondale Police and the PSP to report the call.

[redacted]

Mrs. WILLIAM P. FARRELL, nee HELEN ROXANNE LIUZZO, [redacted], Carbondale, (telephone 282-2403), sister-in-law of Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO (deceased), provided the following information concerning two calls received by her:

At 10:10 a.m., 4/21/65, a man with harsh, deep voice called her home and asked if she were the Mrs. FARRELL related to the woman murdered in Selma, Ala. When she asked, "Who is this?," caller said, "Never mind who this is. I'll ask the questions." She then said, "I won't give you any information until I know who I am talking too." Caller then said, "If I were you, I would give me the information." She then hung up. Telephone rang very often remainder of 4/21/65 but was not answered.

No nationality or sectional accent noted in voice of caller, who appeared to be attempting to disguise his voice. Victim is of the opinion calls were local in origin.

At 11:05 a.m., 4/22/65, another call was received by her from unidentified male whom she believes to be the same caller as 4/21/65. Caller asked, "Mrs. FARRELL, Are you the same Mrs. FARRELL related to the woman murdered at Selma?" She then asked caller, "Now come on. Is this a joke or are you the same jerk who called me yesterday?" Caller answered, "No, this isn't a joke. I am out to get you unless you tell me!" She then told him, "You better not bother me. My phone is tapped," which she realized was not true and she should not have said. Caller then said, "Well, you don't have to worry about me calling you anymore," and either "I am out to get you," or "I am coming to get you. I want to

know if you are related to her." She then hung up and immediately called the Carbondale Police.

[redacted]

PATRICK THOMAS LIUZZO, first cousin of Mrs. WILLIAM P. FARRELL, [redacted] Carbondale, on evening of 4/22/65 advised SA REINHARD as follows:

At 11:30 a.m., 4/22/65, unidentified male caller called him at his home and asked if he were "related to the girl killed in Alabama." When he asked the caller who he was, the caller repeated the question. When he asked again who the caller was, the caller said, "You better be," and hung up. Voice of caller had no nationality or sectional accent and appeared to be muffled. Caller believed by victim to have secured his name from the Carbondale Telephone Directory.

LIUZZO immediately called the Carbondale Police regarding the call.

[redacted]

JOSEPH THOMAS LIUZZO, [redacted] Carbondale, telephone 282-4292, on 4/23/65 advised that harassing-type telephone calls had been received by both he and CARMELLA LIUZZO, 28 Green Street, Carbondale, on 4/22-23/65. LIUZZO states that these calls have involved calls at odd hours of the day and night in which when they are answered by either him or CARMELLA, there is no party on the line and that it appears to be a dead line. LIUZZO concluded that neither he nor CARMELLA have received any threatening calls or calls in which the caller has said anything. In view of this, no further action is being taken with regards to JOSEPH or CARMELLA LIUZZO.

PH 9-MM

THOMAS SCALZO, Chief of Police, Carbondale, Pa., afternoon of 4/22/65, advised his office had been advised of instant call and was conducting investigation.

[redacted]

A copy of this airtel is being provided the Mobile Office since it relates to Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO, victim in the above-cited case.

U.S., no further action being taken by this office although close liaison being maintained with Carbondale Police for results of their investigation into the above-mentioned matter.

LHM for dissemination to Department of Justice containing the above information is in preparation and will be forwarded with separate communication.

April 23, 1965

TELETYPE URGENT

1 - Mr. Brown

TO SACS: BIRMINGHAM
MILWAUKEE
MOBILE

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM; LEROY JEROME MOTEN - VICTIM. CR, EL. OO, MOBILE.

REBHTEL FOUR DASH TWO THREE DASH SIX FIVE. BUREAU CONSIDERS IT PREFERABLE IF THERE IS CONFLICT IN TRIAL DATES THAT SA GETTINGS BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR TRIAL OF THIS CASE COUNTY ALABAMA. MILWAUKEE SHOULD CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF USING ANOTHER WITNESS FOR TRIAL OF CASE CAPTIONED "JOHN EDWARD DAVIS, ET AL" AT MILWAUKEE. ALL OFFICES KEEP BUREAU PROMPTLY ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS MATTER.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 23 1965
TELETYPE

REC-23 44-28601-232

EX 105

DMB:jad
(3)

NOTE: Captioned case involves murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, Lowndes County, Alabama, 3/25/65. Three subjects indicted by state grand jury for first degree murder and according to state circuit court judge, trial will begin 5/5/65. BH advised SA Lawrence G. Gettings of BH Division has been advised to be in Milwaukee, Wisconsi as a necessary witness on 4/30/65 for trial of case captioned "John Edward Davis, Et al., WSTA; ITAR, Prostitution; Misprision of Felony." AUSA Gimble, Milwaukee, advises case will be tried 5/4-5/65 at Milwaukee. Trial of subjects in captioned case also scheduled for 5/3/65 at Hayneville, Alabama. Bureau advice requested in which trial Gettings is to testify. MO attempting to definitely establish trial date for captioned case. Gettings needed to testify to arrest and search of subject Thomas and recovery of murder weapon.

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

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER

PART 6 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 44-28601

L BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 27 1965
TELETYPE

Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

BI BIRMGHAM

12 PM CST URGENT 4-27-65 DLR

D DIRECTOR, MILWAUKEE, MOBILE

ROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236) (P)

IGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL DASH VICTIMS. CR DASH EL.

D: MOBILE.

E: MOBILE TELETYPE APRIL TWENTYSIX LAST.

SA [redacted] AND OTHER BH AGENTS WILL APPEAR AS b7c

ECESSARY WITNESS IN MURDER TRIALS OF SUBJECTS AT LOWNDES COUNTY,

LABAMA, COMMENCING MAY THREE, NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE.

ND

\ ...ALS...

BI WASH DC

DAL

BI MILWAUK

J

REC-19 44-28601-235

25 APR 28 1965

ST-108

60 MAY 5 1965

cc Hines

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 26 1965
TELETYPE

Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. G[illegible]
Mr. R[illegible]
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

3I MOBILE

'7 PM CST URGENT 4/26/65 VFP

) DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM AND MIAMI

ROM MOBILE /44-1245/

JGENE THOMAS, ET AL, VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO-VICTIM CR EL.

PRELIMINARY HEARING IN HAYNEVILLE IN THIS CAPT. MATTER
N STATE COURT FOUR TWENTY SIX SIXTYFIVE RESULTING IN SEVERANCE
F THE SUBJECTS CASES. TRIAL SCHEDULED FOR FIVE THREE SIXTYFIVE
OR SUBJECT COLLIER LEROY WILKINS JR.

DEFENDENTS REPRESENTED BY BIRMINGHAM ATTORNEY MATT MURPHY,
NTRODUCED NOT GUILTY PLEAS TO FIRST DEGREE MURDER
HARGES. MURPHY WAS AXIOUS TO PROCEED. INDICATED HE WOULD FILE A
OTION TO QUASH THIS INDICTMENT ON THE BASIS THAT THE PRESIDENT
NNOUNCEMENT THAT OF SUBJECTS ARREST WAS PREJUDICED TO THEM AND
ADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO HAVE A FAIR TRIAL. MURPHY ALSO
ESERVED THE RIGHT TO FILE OTHER MOTIONS AND PLEAS.

[redacted]

b3
b7A
b7C

WO DAY TRIAL.

ND PAGE ONE

APR 28 1965

56 MAY 3 1965

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO AKA (DECEASED)
LEROY JEROME MATSON - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS,
ELECTION LAWS

DATE: April 23, 1965

1- Mr. Belmont
1- Mr. Rosen
1- Mr. Malley
1- Mr. McGowan
1- Mr. Hines

The Lowndes County, Alabama, Grand Jury on 4-22-65 returned an indictment against subjects William Eaton, Collie Leroy Wilkins and Eugene Thomas, charging them with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County on the night of 3-25-65. They were arrested on the indictments on 4-22-65 and released on $10,000 bond each. The three subjects are represented by Klan Attorney, Matt Murphy of Birmingham, Alabama, and according to press reports, Murphy has stated that he would subpoena FBI Director, John Edgar Hoover and President Lyndon Johnson for the trial scheduled for 5-3-65.

The possibility of the issuance of a state subpoena for the Director and President Johnson was discussed with Departmental Attorney, John Murphy, 4-23-65, and Murphy advised that such a subpoena would have absolutely no force and effect outside of the boundaries of the State of Alabama. The law on this point in general states that the subpoena of one state has no extra territorial effect and cannot compel the attendance of witnesses not within the state. He stated that there exists between some states an agreement concerning the production of witnesses. However, the persons involved here reside in the District of Columbia and the District of Columbia has no such agreement with any state.

It is noted that since the presence of the Director and the President cannot be commanded at the trial of this matter in Alabama, any appearance made in answer to the subpoenas would of necessity be voluntary and appropriate only if their appearance could serve the ends of justice. Neither the Director nor the President could testify to the direct facts of the case from a personal observation or participation, and therefore, their appearance would not in any way enhance the ends of justice and would be irrelevant to the trial issue.

EX-116 REC-44 44-[illegible]-247

JWH:mmb

CONTINUED - OVER

1a APR 30 1965

PERS. REC. UNIT

0 MAY 7, 1965

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

ACTION:

In the event a subpoena is issued for the Director's appearance at the trial, you will be advised and the matter will be promptly referred to the Department.

Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele Room
Holmes
Gandy



—UPI Telephoto

Ku Klux Klansmen William Eaton, Collie Leroy Wilkins and Eugene Thomas (left to right) conferred with their lawyer, Matt Murphy (on phone), in Birmingham yesterday after a Lowndes County, Ala., grand jury indicted them on charges of murdering civil rights worker Viola Gregg Liuzzo. They insisted they were innocent. Atty. Murphy said he would subpena FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover and President Johnson — tho, he conceded, the President is immune from answering a subpena — for the May 3 trial. The Klansmen were freed on $10,000 bond each.

EUGENE THOMAS ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO AKA (DECEASED)
LEROY JEROME MATSON VICTIMS
CR - EL
BUFILE 44-28601

The Washington Post and Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star
New York Herald Tribune
New York Journal-American
New York Mirror
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World
Date 4/23/65

File 6-117

ENCLOSURE 44-28601-247

TE: 4/23/65 Re: EUGENE THOMAS; et al.;
MRS. VIOLA LIL O, aka;
et al., VICTIMS;
CR - EL

FBI, Birmingham(44-1236)

Invoice of Contents

716863

K30

Crypt.-Tr
Document
Electroni
P & C
LFPS

REGISTERED MAIL

MAILED 25
APR 30 1965
COMM-FBI

cial Instructions:
l Room: Show shipment date and registry number.
pping Room: Show shipment date; bill of lading number;
ial invoice; return to Section checked in block; after
ailing in block, invoice to be placed in administrative file.

FBI File No. 44-28501

4/23/65 PC-83691 GY

MAY 10 1965

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Tansman Depicted As BI Informant

—Special To The Times
From The Los Angeles Times

ANTA — A Ku Klux man who was arrested in mbush slaying of Mrs. Viuzzo, a white civil rights nstrator from Detroit, apdly has turned state's ev-

ications are he was an FBI nant even before the mur-

leral charges against the man, Gary Tommy Rowe 34, were dropped but a l jury indicted three of his v Klansmen.

AN ATTORNEY Matt H. hy Jr. of Birmingham, who sented all four of the dents, confirmed yesterday he had been unable to lo- Rowe since the charges dropped.

phy said it "may have true" that Rowe was an informant prior to the Licase, but he warned "this may backfire in more than one. There are such s as counterspies."

e attorney, predicting the will be "tremendously emassing to the federal govment," said he plans to file it of habeas corpus to re- the FBI to reveal "where are detaining my client."

rphy was listed as attorney ll four Klansmen when they arrested on March 27, the after the killing. Dismissal he complaint against Rowe arently came as a surprise lurphy.

ABLIER, Murphy had acd the FBI of trying to bribe e to give information.



—AP Wirephoto

Rowe Hides Face At Birmingham Hearing

The four Klansmen were charged with violating Mrs. Liuzzo's civil rights. The Justice Department declined to explain why it withdrew the complaint against Rowe.

Eugene Thomas, 42, steelworker of Fairfield; William Orvill Eaton, 41, former steelworker of Bessemer, and Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21, auto mechanic of Fairfield, are free under $50,000 bond each on the charges.

When Rowe was arrested federal officials told the press the Klansman was "unemployed."

Alabama Atty. Gen. Richmond Flowers has said he will ask the Lowndes County grand jury, which convenes Monday, to return murder indictments in the case. He indicated only three indictments would be sought.

ANY LINKS between Rowe and the FBI prior to the Liuzzo killing would add another strange twist to an already unusual and controversial case.

The day after the murder, President Johnson, in an unprecedented television address, announced the four arrests, identified the defendants as Klansmen, and bitterly denounced the "hooded society of bigots."

To some this sounded like the President had prejudged the guilt of the defendants before an audience of millions. Klan leaders complained bitterly and the American Civil Liberties Union said the President's announcement was incompatible with a system of justice that presumes the defendant innocent until proven guilty.

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

20 St. Petersburg Ti
St. Petersburg, F

Date: April 18, 1965
Edition:
Author:
Editor: Courtland Ander
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-28601-219

ENCLOSURE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

harges Against One of Four ccused Ku Kluxers Dropped

)NTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Justice Department ed charges yesterday st a Birmingham man who rrested within hours after larch 25 civil rights slay- f a Detroit housewife.

order dismissing a con- y charge against Gary as Rowe Jr., 35, was d by U.S. Commissioner s M. Guttery.

motion to dismiss the e came from Asst. U.S. J. O. Sentell.

Washington, a Justice De- ent spokesman said dis- l of the charge was a e action since the grand failed to indict Rowe. The sman did not comment.

Rowe was arrested with three other Birmingham area men—described by President Johnson as being members of the Ku Klux Klan—by FBI agents the day after Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, 39, was shot to death from ambush near Lowndesboro, Ala.

The shooting occurred on the highway being used by civil rights marchers for their Selma-to-Montgomery march to dramatize a voter registration campaign.

Mrs. Liuzzo, one of many out-of-state volunteers drawn to the march, had been shuttling demonstrators from Selma to the state capital. She was slain shortly after she had left a Selma church by car. A Negro youth in the vehicle escaped injury.

The other men arrested after her death were Eugene Thomas, 42, an employe of U.S. Steel at Bessemer; Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21, a self-employed mechanic of Fairfield; and William Orville Eaton, 41, a retired steel worker, also of Bessemer.

A federal grand jury indicted Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins April 6 on charges of violating the constitutional rights of civil rights demonstrators. Rowe was not indicted, and dismissal of the original charges against him thus came as no surprise.

The three indicted men are free on bonds of $50,000 each.

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

3-B The Tampa Tribu
Tampa, Florida

Date: April 15, 1965
Edition:
Author:
Editor: James A. Clendin
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-28601-219

ENCLOSURE

4-29-65

PLAINTEXT

1 - Mr. Hines

TELETYPE URGENT

TO SACS BIRMINGHAM
MOBILE

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. DASH VICTIMS.CR;E

RE MOBILE TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND BIRMINGHAM APRIL TWENTY EIGHTH, ONE NINE SIX FIVE.

BIRMINGHAM REVIEW FILES RE INDIVIDUALS SUBPOENAED BY DEFENSE IN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION AND PREPARE MEMORANDUM SUITABLE FOR DISSEMINATION TO STATE AUTHORITIES, AS SET FORTH IN REFERENCED TELETYPE. FURNISH COPIES OF SUCH MEMORANDA PREPARED TO BUREAU.

[redacted]

JWH:tmt (3)

Memo Rosen to Belmont 4/29/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
APR 30 1965
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 30 1965

INITIALED
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

TELETYPE

This matter relates to murder of
il rights worker, Mrs. V a Liuzzo,
ween Selma and Montgomery, Alabama,
3-25-65. Case is being handled in State
urt.

Murphy is Klan attorney.

VL:hw

APR 26 1965

I MOBILE

5 PM CST URGENT 4/26/65 VFP

DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM AND MIAMI

OM MOBILE 44-1245/

GENE THOMAS, ET AL, VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO-VICTIM CR EL.

PRELIMINARY HEARING IN HAYNEVILLE IN THIS CAPT. MATTER STATE COURT FOUR TWENTY SIX SIXTYFIVE RESULTING IN SEVERANCE THE SUBJECTS CASES. TRIAL SCHEDULED FOR FIVE THREE SIXTYFIVE R SUBJECT COLLIER LEROY WILKINS JR.

DEFENDENTS REPRESENTED BY BIRMINGHAM ATTORNEY MATT MURPHY, TRODUCED NOT GUILTY PLEAS TO FIRST DEGREE MURDER ARGES. MURPHY WAS AXIOUS TO PROCEED. INDICATED HE WOULD FILE A TION TO QUASH THIS INDICTMENT ON THE BASIS THAT THE PRESIDENT NOUNCEMENT THAT OF SUBJECTS ARREST WAS PREJUDICED TO THEM AND DE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO HAVE A FAIR TRIAL. MURPHY ALSO SERVED THE RIGHT TO FILE OTHER MOTIONS AND PLEAS.

[redacted]

DEC. 99

[redacted]

D DAY TRIAL.

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

MAY 10 1965

D PAGE ONE

Memorandum

Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

: Mr. Rosen

DATE: April 30, 1965

OM : C. L. McGowan

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

BJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

With reference to the receipt of a subpoena by SAC Ingram to testify as a witness for the defendant Collie Wilkins in this matter, Departmental Attorney Robert Owen called to verify the fact that SAC Ingram had actually been served. I advised Owen that Ingram had been served with a subpoena yesterday afternoon by the Deputy Sheriff of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and that the subpoena called for him to appear at Wilkins' trial on Monday, 5/3/65. Owen inquired as to whether the subpoena stated a definite time for Ingram's appearance, and I advised him that it did not. It simply called for his appearance on 5/3/65.

Owen stated that the matter is still under discussion at the Department, that he has been in conference with Assistant Attorney General Doar concerning the matter and that a final decision had not yet been reached. Owen indicated that the Department's present feeling in the matter is that they will file a motion to quash the subpoena on the basis that Ingram, from personal knowledge, cannot testify to information pertinent to the trial.

Owen stated that as soon as a definite decision is reached he will advise us.

REC- 99

EX 105

4 MAY 3 1965

6 JGK/cac
(5) MAY 0 1965

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 2 1965

TELETYPE

:I MOBILE

:8 PM CST 5/2/65 URGENT CCM

)- DIRECTOR (44-28601) AND BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

:OM MOBILE (44-1245) 2 PAGES

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

also known as

:GENE THOMAS; ET AL. MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA ET AL

Civil Rights Election Laws

:TIMS; ~~CR - ET~~

ON EVENING OF MAY FIRST LAST AND MAY SECOND [redacted]

[redacted] GROVE HILL, ALABAMA ALA. ADVISED THAT ON MAY FIRST

:ST KLAN HELD MEETING AT BLADON SPRINGS, ALA. BETWEEN

:O HUNDRED AND THREE HUNDRED PERSONS ATTENDED MEETING.

:D DUNAGAN, COFFEEVILLE, ALA. IN CHARGE OF MEETING WHICH

:S HELD IN STATE PARK. DUNAGAN INTRODUCED A MR. CREEL,

:AND DRAGAN OF KLAN FROM BESSEMER, ALA. CREEL LATER

:TRODUCED THREE MEN WHO WERE "IDENTIFIED AS MEN CHARGED

:TH MURDER OF VICTIM LIUZZO". HOLLIS CURL, EDITOR, CHOCTAW

:. ADVOCATE, A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED AT BUTLER, ALA.,

:VISED ROBERT CREEL, GRAND DRAGON, OF KKK FROM

:RMINGHAM, ALA. ATTENDED KLAN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF

:AN AT BLADEN SPRINGS, ALA. CREEL SPOKE AT MEETING AND

:TRODUCED THREE MEN WHO WERE IDENTIFIED AS BEING PERSONS

:O WERE ARRESTED FOR MURDER OF VICTIM LIUZZO. CURL STATES

:PROXIMATELY FIFTY PERSONS JOINED KLAN AT MEETING. BOTH

:ERLEE PAUL AND CURL ADVISED THAT SUBJECTS DID NOT SPEAK

REC-99 1-1-28601-[illegible]

A-102

MAY 4 1965

56 MAY 10 1965

1 167

MR. [redacted] FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Rosen Belmont 5/5/65 JWH:mfr

TFX. Freund

:D PAGE ONE

'D CAN NOT STATE IF FUNDS COLLECTED FOR SUBJECTS
:FENSE SINCE COLLECTION WAS MADE BUT THIS COLLECTION WAS
:LIEVED TO BE FOR KLAN AND MONEY COLLECTED FROM NEW MEMBERS.
)TH CURL AND PAUL STATE THREE SUBJECTS INTRODUCED TO CROWD
(CREEL ~~QUOTE~~ " DO THESE MEN LOOK LIKE MURDERS? ~~UNQUOTE.~~ "
'D
\ BJH
)I WASH DC
(P

)PR
: STILL WIL NOT ACK
:N PLS

MR ROSEN

b7C [redacted]

Corpus Christi Tex
April 21, 1965

Mr. Edgar Hoover
Director of F. B. I.
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:

Please consider this a letter of protest at the actions of the F. B. I. in Alabama concerning the slaying of Mrs Viola Liuzzo. I don't condone murder for any reason whatsoever. But I believe that if this lady had been at home tending her duties as wife and mother, she would still be alive. You, yourself know what an insult Mrs Liuzzo made to the people of Ala., cavorting around with a Negro Buck after dark in their state. Now we come to Mr Gary T. Rowe F. B. I. Agent who incites to violence and then helps murder, But gets away with it because he is protected by his rights with the F. B. I. I think Mr. Rowe is as guilty as the other three men and should receive the same sentence as the other three men. Mr Hoover if you cannot keep the F. B. I. from being used as a political pawn you should resign and let Lyndon B. (Baines or Beans) Johnson give your job to Martin Luther (after all he is a peaceful man? he recieved the Nobel Peace Award?) Until recently the F. B. I. has been an efficient, honest and well behaved law enforcement agency lets get it back that way and keep out the scandals.

Thanks for listening

b7C [redacted]

Corpus Christi Tex

P. S. I have written my Senator, Congressman and the President my views

AEH

COPY:nm

ENCLOSURE

REC-99 44-[illegible]

ST-117

6 MAY 3 1965

1 XEROX

MAY 4 1965

b7C

[redacted]
Corpus Christi
April 21, 1965

Mr J. Edgar Hoover
Director of F.B.I.
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:
Please Consider this a letter of protest at the actions of the F.B.I. in Alabama, Concerning the slaying of Mrs Viola Liuzzo. I don't Condone murder for any reason whatsoever. But I believe that if this lady had been at home tending her duties as wife and mother she would still be alive. You, yourself know what an insult Mrs Liuzzo made to the people of Ala., Cavorting around with a Negro Buck after dark in their state.
Now we come to Mr Gary T. Rowe F.B.I. agent who incites to violence and then helps murder. But gets away with it because

ENCLOSURE (type of correspondence)

CORRESPONDENCE

he is protected by his
rights with the F.B.I.
I think Mr Powe is as
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men and should receive the
same sentence as the other
three men. Mr Hoover if you
cannot keep the F.B.I. from
being used as a political
pawn you should resign
and let Lyndon B. (Baines or Beans) Johnson
give your job to Martin Luther
King after all he is a peaceful man
he received the Nobel Peace Award?
Until recently the F.B.I. has
been an efficient, honest and well
behaved law enforcement agency
lets get it back that way
and keep out the scandals.

Thanks for listening

b7C

[redacted]

Corpus Christi Texas

P.S. I have written
my Senator & Congressman
and the President my
views also.

Please Read

ne Accused in Liuzzo Death

pparently Spy for FBI

By FRED P. GRAHAM
© New York Times News Service

HAYNESVILLE, Ala. — Gary T. Rowe, one of the four men originally accused by federal officers in the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, emerged today as an apparent undercover agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Rowe, 34, testified for about two hours yesterday afternoon before a Lowndes County grand jury which is investigating the killing of the Detroit civil rights worker on March 25.

The grand jury is expected to report its decision today.

Under elaborate cloak-and-dagger security measures by the FBI, Rowe slipped into the grand jury room in the Lowndes County courthouse at ? p.m.

Two hours later, reporters spotted him as he and two FBI special agents dashed for the back door of the courthouse.

An FBI man blocked the door as the sunburned, red-haired Birmingham man sped away in the back seat of a light green car, accompanied by two FBI men.

Rowe was said to have worn what appeared to be a .38-caliber revolver in a hip holster as he entered the grand jury room, and was seen wearing it as he climbed into the car.

It was later learned from reliable sources here that Rowe has been a paid informant of the FBI for the past six years.

It was reported that Rowe said he had been paid by the FBI since 1959 for reporting on Ku Klux Klan activities.

On March 26, Rowe and Eugene Thomas, 43, and William O. Eaton, 41, both of Bessemer, Ala., and Collie Le Roy Wilkins Jr., 21, of Fairfield, Ala., were arrested by FBI agents and charged with conspiring to violate Mrs. Liuzzo's civil rights in the killing. Since murder is not a federal crime, this was the only charge that could be placed against the men.

Last week, when a federal grand jury indicted the other three men but did not indict Rowe, reports began to circulate that he was an undercover informant. Federal charges against Rowe were dropped and he was freed.

It is reported that Rowe telephoned the FBI before he left for Selma the night of the killing, and that he called them after he returned to Birmingham. Indications are that Rowe was in the assailants' car when Mrs. Liuzzo was killed, but could not prevent the shooting.

Rowe's testimony was not disclosed.

After President Johnson announced the arrests in a telecast on March 26, it had been speculated that FBI agents had been able to make such speedy

See FBI, Page 1

44-25601 257

ENCLOSURE

Continued from Page 1

arrests because cars of all known Ku Klux Klansmen in the area had been under surveillance.

The state grand jury of 18 white men heard evidence on the Liuzzo case during the entire day yesterday.

Testimony was also given by Leroy Moton, 19, the Negro civil rights worker for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference who was in the car with Mrs. Liuzzo when she was shot.

FBI agents were conspicuous for their absence during the morning, as state and county prosecutors apparently hoped to make a case without associating the federal government with the charges against the accused persons.

The first indication that Rowe might be an informant came when he was unexplainedly brought to the federal arraignment by FBI agents three hours after the other three defendants had arrived.

The Corpus Christi Times

Published every week-day afternoon by the Caller-Times Publishing Co.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1965

Second class postage Corpus Christi

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 4-29-65

FROM : D. C. Morrell

SUBJECT: MR. [redacted]
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

By letter dated 4-21-65 captioned individual advised the purpose of his letter was to protest the activities of the FBI in connection with the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. Thereafter, he sets forth obvious bigoted views and refers to a newspaper article which clearly labels Gary T. Rowe as a paid informant of the FBI and then deliberately assigns the role to Rowe as an FBI Agent. [redacted] urges Mr. Hoover to prevent President Lyndon "Beans" Johnson from using the FBI and to appoint Martin Luther (King) as director since he received the Nobel Peace Award. He claims the FBI until recently had been efficient and well behave and urges that we return to these precepts and avoid scandal. He mentions he has written his senator, congressman and the President concerning his views.

BUFILES:

There is no information identifiable with Mr. [redacted] in Bufiles.

OBSERVATIONS:

[redacted] has fallen in the same problem many individuals have in understanding the relationship of an informant to the Bureau. However, it would appear his bigoted views would prevent us from advising him of the Bureau's position in this case and therefore, no purpose would be served by acknowledging his communication.

RECOMMENDATION:

EX 110 REC-99

- That his letter not be acknowledged.

44-28601-360

6 MAY 3 1965

1 - Mr. DeLoach
DTP:djg
(4)

XEROX

56 MAY 10 1965

Klansman Released in Liuzzo Slaying Apparently Worked Secretly for FBI

By Jack Nelson
Los Angeles Times

AYNEVILLE, Ala., April -A Ku Klux Klansman who arently witnessed the slay- of Viola Liuzzo of Detroit ile he was working under- er for the FBI, testified ore the Lowndes County nd jury today.

ary T. Rowe Jr., 34, brought e under a heavy FBI guard, tified for two hours before jury, and then was whisked of the County by agents o used force to keep a re- ter from trying to inter- w him.

Rowe was armed with a pis in a holster.

He and three other Klans- n were arrested in the arch 25 killing and booked Federal charges of violat- g Mrs. Liuzzo's civil rights. ut the Justice Department ter dropped the charges ainst Rowe. It has declined say why.

Eugene Thomas, 42, Fair- eld steelworker; William O. aton, 41, a former steel- orker from Bessemer, and ollie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21, a airfield auto mechanic, are ee under $50,000 bond each the Federal charges.

Mrs. Liuzzo, a white civil rights demonstrator, was illed by bullets fired from a passing car as she drove from Selma to Montgomery a few hours after the March 25 march to the State Capitol.

With her was a 19-year-old Negro, Leroy Moton, who works for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Moton, who escaped injury, also testified before the jury today.

The arrest of the Klansmen was announced the day after the slaying. Rowe's role as an undercover informant apparently accounted for the speed. He reportedly called the FBI within four hours—as soon as he could slip away.

Rowe reportedly told the FBI he was sitting in the back seat of the car from which the bullets were fired. A reliable source said Rowe contended the shooting happened quickly and on the spur of the moment and he was helpless to interfere.

Rowe has been supplying the FBI with information on Klan activities since 1960, according to the source.

Rowe and the three defendants were listed as members of the United Klans of America, the Nation's largest Klan with an estimated membership of 5000.

As Rowe emerged from the jury room today, a reporter tried to follow him but was shouldered to the wall by an FBI agent. The reporter continued down the hallway but another agent blocked the exit.

Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele Room
Holmes
Gandy

The Washington Post and Times Herald A-2
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star
New York Herald Tribune
New York Journal-American
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times
The Baltimore Sun
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World
Date 4/21/65

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/28/65

FROM : SAC, TAMPA (170-150)

SUBJECT: DOROTHY M. ROWE
INFORMATION CONCERNING

In connection with the divorced husband of the captioned individual, there are transmitted herewith the following newspaper articles concerning the divorced husband of captioned individual, which I thought might be of interest to the Bureau:

"KKK Men: 'Harassed and Innocent'," 4/23/65 edition, "St. Petersburg Independent," St. Petersburg, Florida;

"Man Arrested in Alabama Killing Proves FBI Agent," 4/21/65 edition, "Clearwater Sun," Clearwater, Florida;

"Liuzzo Case 'Suspect' Apparently FBI Agent," 4/21/65 edition, "The St. Petersburg Times," St. Petersburg, Florida;

"Jury Findings Due on Liuzzo Slaying," 4/22/65 edition, "St. Petersburg Independent," St. Petersburg, Florida;

"FBI Undercover Agent?," 4/23/65 edition "The St. Petersburg Times," St. Petersburg, Florida;

"3 Klansmen Indicted in Woman's Slaying," 4/23/65 edition "St. Petersburg Times," St. Petersburg, Florida;

"FBI Informer No Surprise to Klan," 4/22/65 edition, "The Clearwater Sun," Clearwater, Florida, by TOM CHASE;

"Alabama Grand Jury Readies Report on Night Rider Slaying," 4/22/65 edition, "Clearwater Sun," Clearwater, Florida.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 8)(RM)
1 - Tampa
JFS:jn
(3)

REC 25 44-28601-271

APR 30 1965

INT. SEC.

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

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

KKK Men: 'Harassed And Innocent'

RMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Three Ku Klansmen were free on $10,000 each in Birmingham, Ala., today ng trial on first degree murder s in the ambush death of a De- mother who marched for civil

three said they were innocent ad been subject to almost contin- harassment by telephone calls and in recent weeks.

eir attorney, Matt H. Murphy Jr., zed President Johnson for his re- s in connection with the arrest of members. Murphy said he would to subpoena the President "if I hope to represent these men."

There were these other developments on the racial scene:

—Tear gas and smoke bombs were used by police to stop a demonstration by more than 300 Negroes in the west Alabama city of Demopolis. Five demonstrators were arrested. Fourteen persons were treated for tear gas burns at a hospital.

—The Senate began debate on the voting rights bill in Washington. Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee which sent the bill to the floor said the nation must have "new, strong legislation to protect voting rights." Twelve Southern senators organized forces to oppose the measure.

—Civil rights movement officials said their organizations planned quieter campaigns in Mississippi this summer because the state has experienced marked changes. The appraisals were made at a meeting of the Mississippi Council on Human Relations in Jackson.

—Paul Bellesen, the missing Nampa, Idaho, Negro who briefly held membership in the Ku Klux Klan last February, has turned up in San Francisco and apparently dropped from sight again.

—Some 300 University of Mississippi students demonstrated last night outside a campus dormitory where several Negroes — here for the Southern Literary Festival — were staying. Campus police reportedly had the demonstrators under control shortly after midnight.

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

16 B St. Petersburg
Independent
St. Petersburg,

Date: 4/23/65
Edition:
Author:
Editor: Del Marth
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-28611-2

ENCLOSURE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

an Arrested In Alabama
lling Proves FBI Agent

Y YORK (AP) — Gary T. one of the four men ully arrested by federal s in the slaying of Mrs. Liuzzo in Alabama, has ed as an undercover for the FBI, the New Times said today.

e, 34, of Birmingham, d yesterday at Hayne- Ala., before the Lowndes y grand jury investigating tal shooting of Mrs. Liuz- -year-old Detroit mother e. The government later d charges against Rowe e was freed.

Liuzzo was slain in a hortly after she partici- in the March 25 Selma to Montgomery civil rights march.

The Times said in a dispatch from Hayneville that although the details of Rowe's story are not known, the circumstances indicate he was in the assailants' car when Mrs. Liuzzo was killed, but could not prevent the shooting.

The three other men taken into custody the same day Rowe was arrested — March 26 — have been indicted in Montgomery on federal charges of conspiring to violate the constitutional rights of demonstrators. President Johnson, in announcing their arrests, described them as members of the Ku Klux Klan.

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

11b Clearwater Sun
Clearwater, Fla

Date: 4/21/65
Edition:
Author:
Editor: James L. Beards
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-24601-271

ENCLOSURE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

iuzzo Case 'Suspect' Apparently FBI Agent

Special To The Times
From The New York Times

IAYNESVILLE, Ala. — Gary Rowe, one of the four men ginally accused by federal of-rs in the slaying of Mrs. Vi- Liuzzo, emerged yesterday an apparent undercover nt for the Federal Bureau of estigation (FBI).

Rowe testified for about two rs yesterday afternoon be-e a Grand Jury which is in-tigating the slaying of the troit civil rights worker on rch 25.

he Grand Jury is expected to ort its decision before noon ay.

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

lla The St. Petersbu
Times
St. Petersburg, F

Date: 4/21/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Courtland Anders

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-38661

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Jury Findings Due On Liuzzo Slaying

YNEVILLE, Ala. (AP) — A Grand reports its findings today in the igation of the night rider slaying 39-year-old white civil rights work-

e Lowndes County jury of 18 white completed its investigation yester- nto the ambush slaying of Mrs. Liuzzo of Detroit and of several cases. It reportedly returned indictments, but their nature will known until after the formal re- nd until those indicted have been into custody.

anwhile, the president of the Bo- , La., Civic and Voters League ich claims it speaks for the town's es — was arrested on a charge ing a worthless $15 check.

anwhile polls and petitions fanned rough the Negro community seek- pin down who represents the city's 9,000 Negroes in biracial talks, negotiations and demands for civil rights.

Mayor Jesse Cutrer said the league and members of the Congress of Racial Equality "are a small group of self-styled leaders who do not represent the Negro community." He said they "do not want to negotiate. They want to demonstrate."

In Nampa, Idaho, the Negro who served a one-day term as Grand Titan of the Idaho Ku Klux Klan in February was reported missing. His wife, Mrs. Emmaline Bellesen, told Nampa police her husband, Paul Bellesen, left home in the family car and had not returned.

Later, one of Bellesen's former employes in a janitor service, told police he saw Bellesen in San Francisco International Airport. He said Bellesen told him, "I'm just sort of taking a vacation and I don't want anybody to know you saw me."

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

20b St. Petersbur
Independent
St. Petersbur

Date: 4/22/65
Edition:
Author:
Editor: Del Earth
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Undercover Agent?

ANALYSIS

HINGTON (AP) — Money. ic duty. A favor in court. are the persuasions the es with Ku Klux Klans- Communists and gang- hen it needs information a come only from the in-

m — and usually only for jobs — do FBI agents ives become members of n, the party, or the syn-

uently — and not only for jobs but often for years inuing information — in- ls already in the organ- are tapped.

ETIMES — and this is lifficult — individuals on nges or totally outside. he Klan, are contacted ged to join up and start ng out information.

ry Thomas Rowe was, as en reported, the tipster the FBI to the alleged of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in a, he did so as a Klans- nd not as a member of I.

term "undercover agent," which has been applied to Rowe and others, can be confusing.

It sometimes means a trained FBI agent who conceals his identity and pretends to be something else.

But the term also is loosely applied to informers — men and women who are not in the FBI but who, for some inducement, regularly supply information to the government men.

FBI DIRECTOR J. Edgar Hoover has often said the bureau has the Klan virtually wired for sound with informants.

"At times," Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach quipped recently, "I think we know more about what the Klan is doing than we know about what some divisions in the Justice Department are doing."

The FBI refused to discuss any aspect of the Liuzzo case and issued a terse "no comment" when asked about a New York Times report that Rowe had been its undercover man in the case.

It is commonly known, however, that the FBI will pay for information, strictly on a cash-on-delivery basis. One Justice Department source says as much as $5,000 or $10,000 may be paid for a particularly important piece of information.

But in the day-to-day routine of law enforcement, it's more likely that the payment will only cover a man's expenses or give him a little extra pocket money.

THE AMOUNT SPENT BY Hoover's men for information each year does not appear in the FBI appropriation chart. But experts describe it as "pretty small potatoes."

Money is not the only inducement offered by FBI men seeking information. Much has been gained from a private, discreet discussion of a man's duty to his country and the need for law and order.

And while the FBI won't talk

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

15 The St. Petees
Times
St. Petersburg

Date: 4/23/65
Edition:
Author:
Editor: Courtland And
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-24001 271

ENCLOSURE



GARY THOMAS ROWE

. . . reported tipster.

about it, a potential informant may often be brought around with the oblique reminder that he may, one day, desire leniency for crimes in which he has become involved.

The Times report said that although the details of Rowe's story are now known, the circumstances indicate he was in the assailants' car when Mrs. Liuzzo was killed, but could not prevent the shooting. Three men who were with Rowe have been indicted on federal charges of conspiracy to violate the constitutional rights of civil rights demonstrators. Charges against Rowe were dropped and he was released, a free man.

44-24601-

ENCLOSURE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Klansmen Indicted Woman's Slaying

Analysis, 15-A.

NEVILLE, Ala. (UPI) — ıbama Grand Jury yester- ndicted three Ku Klux nen for the March 25 slay- Detroit civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo. The three arrested in Birmingham ent free on bonds of $10,- h.

was set for May 3 in ville.

IED IN THE murder war- were Collie Leroy Wilkins , and Eugene Thomas, th of Fairfield, and Wil- . Eaton, 41, of Bessemer.

were taken into custody owndes County Sheriff Ryals and taken to Jef- County Jail in Birming- r bonding.

posting the bonds, they jailhouse grinning.

bonds were set by Circuit Court Judge T. Werth Thagard and approved by Jefferson County Sheriff Mel Bailey.

THE BONDS were posted by their attorney, Matt H. Murphy Jr. who filed with Bailey a writ of habeas corpus demanding charges against the three men be dismissed. Bailey said he would forward the writ to Thagard.

The judge set an arraignment hearing for the three men at 10 a.m. EST Monday in his Hayneville court.

The Klansmen's attorney Murphy, held a news conference with his clients and Klan Grand Dragon Robert Shelton last night and announced he would subpoena President Johnson and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover for the trial.

Legal sources, however, said the president of the United States is immune from subpoena.

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

16 A St. Petersb
Times
St. Petersbur

Date: 4/23/65
Edition:
Author:
Editor: Courtland An
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-28601-D.1

ENCLOSURE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Informer No Surprise To Klan

By TOM CHASE

ANTA, Ga. (AP) — Top
ix Klansmen say they are
rprised by FBI claims the
orders have been infil-
but they say government
should spend more time
g Communists.

in Craig, Georgia grand
of the United Klans of
ca, Knights of the Ku
Klan, said the case of Gar-
omas Rowe Jr. of Brim-
n was nothing new.

's one of the men who
been playing a dual role
long," said Craig, 36,
sday night.

was talking to Shelton
that over the weekend,"
d. "Shelton told me he has
it for several years."

g referred to Robert M.
n of Tuscaloosa, Ala., im-
wizard of the United
of America and, as such,
ll head of several state
s. Shelton could not be
d for comment.

Reported Tipster

e was reported to be the
who provided the FBI
nformation which resulted
mpt arrests in the slaying
oll Liuzzo, the Detroit
r of five killed March 25
the civil rights march
Selma to Montgomery.

h federal and Alabama
rities have declined com-
on the Rowe report.

tually," said Craig, "we
hat some of the crimes
ed to the KKK have been
by FBI informers to create
te of hatred against the
ization when true klans-
were not involved."

suggested the House Un-
ican Activities Committee
tigate what he called the
nunistic element involved
e Selma to Montgomery
h rather than starting a
of the KKK.

James R. Venable of Stone Mountain, Ga., imperial wizard of the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan Inc., said the FBI ought to be using its agents "in the Communist field rather than trying to catch KKKs."

At the same time, Venable said, "there has never been any member of the KKK charged with selling any secrets of the U.S. government or with insurrection nor has there been one who hesitated when asked to serve in the military."

Just to be on the safe side, Venable said, "we are setting traps for pimps and infiltrators. We are setting more traps than the FBI."

Nothing To Hide

Asked if he knew of federal agents in his organizations, he said, "I don't know of any, but I'm sure we've got them. We have nothing secret to hide. Our tactics are to use the ballot box to win this race war."

Craig said he would welcome FBI agents to his organization "if they could qualify. But we don't want them coming in as druggists or mechanics or imposters of any kind."

"E. McDaniel, grand dragon of the United Klans of America in Mississippi, declined comment about the FBI when reached at his home in Natchez.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover often has said the bureau has the klan virtually wired for sound with informants.

"At times I think we know more about what the Klan is doing than we know about what some divisions in the Justice Department are doing," Atty. Gen. Nicholas Katzenbach quipped recently in Washington.

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

6a The Clearwater Su
Clearwater, Fla.

Date: 4/22/65
Edition:
Author: Tom Chase
Editor: James L. Beardsl
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-24601 21

ENCLOSURE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Alabama Grand Jury Readies eport On Night Rider Slaying

NEVILLE, Ala. (AP) — A jury reports its findings n the investigation of the

der slaying of a 39-year- ite civil rights worker. Lowndes County jury of

te men completed its in- tion yesterday into the n slaying of Mrs. Viola

of Detroit and of several cases. It reportedly re- some indictments, but nature will not be known fter the formal report and hose indicted have been into custody.

ng those questioned by the vas Gary Thomas Rowe 24-year-old Birmingham who was arrested by fed- uthorities after the Liuzzo but later released.

e was one of four Ku Klansmen arrested on fed- ivil rights charges March day after Mrs. Liuzzo hot to death in her car Lowndesboro. A federal jury meeting in Mont- y earlier this month in- the other three men on s of conspiring to injure s in the exercise of their utional rights.

e indicted were Eugene is, 42, an employe of U.S. t Bessemer; Collie Leroy s Jr., 21, of Fairfield, a mployed mechanic, and n Orville Eaton, 41, also seamer, a retired steel r.

e was not indicted and the against him subsequently smissed. The New York said Rowe had been work- an undercover agent for I. Federal authorities, in- the FBI, and state of- refused to comment on port.

nwhile, the president of galusa, La., Civic and League—which claims it for the town's Negroes— was arrested on a charge of is- suing a worthless $15 check.

A. Z. Young was accused in a warrant of signing a check dated April 10 issued to Ward's Repair Chop, a Bogalusa tele- vision store owned by a white man.

City Judge A. J. Jones signed the warrant and set an April 26 hearings. Young was released on $500 bail.

In Nampa, Idaho, the Negro who served a one-day term as Grand Titan of the Idaho Ku Klux Klan in February was re- ported missing. His wife, Mrs. Emmaline Bellesen, told Nampa police her husband, Paul Bel- lesen, left home in the family car and had not returned.

Later, one of Bellesen's for- mer employes in a janitor serv- ice, Larry Brennan, told police he saw Bellesen in San Fran- cisco International Airport. He said Bellesen told him, "I'm just sort of taking a vacation and I don't want anybody to know you saw me."

In Boston, civil rights leaders went ahead with plans for a massive parade and rally Fri- day with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as the chief speaker. The parade and rally are to protest racial imbalance in schools and sub-standard hous- ing.

Mayor John F. Collins took issue with a statement by the Rev. Virgil Wood, head of the Boston branch of King's South- ern Christian Leadership Con- ference, that the marchers would demonstrate in front of city hall.

Wood said Selma officials didn't want demonstrations either, but they were held nevertheless. "Boston is no dif- ferent from Selma," he said. "If we choose to do it, we will do it."

Collins said that was unreas- onable after the city had freely granted permits for the parade through the principal downtown business streets, plus the use of Parkman bandstand on Boston Common for the rally.

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

6a Clearwater Su
Clearwater, Fl

Date: 4/22/65
Edition:
Author:
Editor: James L. Bea
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-28001-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAY 1 1965
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Y@ XZRPDC

I MOBILE

27 PM URGENT 5-1-65 MMA

DIRECTOR /44-28601/

OM MOBILE /44-1245/

GENE THOMAS; ET AL; MRS VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA ET AL
Civil Rights Election Laws
CTIMS; ~~CR~~ - ~~EL~~ .

BIRMINGHAM POST HERALD, DAILY NEWSPAPER, UNDER DATE LINE
Y FIRST, SIXTYFIVE, CARRIES THE FOLLOWING NEWS RELEASE:

MATT H. MURPHY, JR., ATTORNEY FOR THOMAS, WILKINS AND
TON, SAID "THINGS ARE SHAPING UP FAVORABLY FOR OUR CASE
D I MIGHT ASK FOR ALL THREE TO BE TRIED AT ONCE."
ORIGINALLY WAS GRANTED A REQUEST FOR SEPARATE TRIALS FOR
E MEN.

CONTACTS WITH [redacted] AND [redacted] b7

[redacted] SELMA, DEVELOPED THAT STOKELY CARMICHAEL, FIELD 44-28601-27
Student Non-Violent Co-ordinating Committee
CRETARY, ~~SNCC~~, WAS HANDLING RACIAL ACTIVITIES IN LOWNDES 8 MAY 4 1965
UNTY, ~~ALA~~ ALABAMA. THEY ADVISED THAT CARMICHAEL IS PRESENTING
Student Non-Violent Co-ordinating Committee EX 109
TH SILAS NORMAN, AREA COORDINATOR, ~~SNCC~~, IN ATLANTA, BUT
EXPECTED ~~TO~~ RETURN TO THE SELMA AREA MOMENTARILY.

0 MAY 7 1965
PAGE ONE

~~MR. BELMONT FOR [illegible] DIRECTOR~~

Mrs Rosa Belmont
5/3/65
JW Hinkle

6-A17

GE TWO

EY BOTH ADVISED ON CONTACT THEY KNOW OF NO PLANNED
MONSTRATION FOR MAY ~~THREE~~ 3, 1965 AT HAYNEVILLE, ~~ALA.~~ ALABAMA,
I WILL DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH NORMAN AND CARMICHAEL
ON THEIR RETURN TO SELMA AND HAVE THEM IMMEDIATELY
NTACT THE FBI IF THERE IS ANY SUCH DEMONSTRATION PLANNED.

DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEYS GEORGE RAYBORN AND JAMES TURNER
SCENE AT SELMA AND MONTGOMERY, ~~ALA.~~ ALABAMA, BEING ADVISED.

D

BJH

I WASH DC

IU

C-MR. ROSEN

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 4 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

3I WASH DC

)I BIRMGHAM

)47 PM CST URGENT 5-3-65 GDM

) DIRECTOR

'OM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

GENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL VICTIMS. CR.

SAC INGRAM, BIRMINGHAM, APPEARED IN CIRCUIT COURT, HAYNEVILLE, A., TODAY IN RESPONSE TO SUBPOENA RE: TRIAL CAPTIONED MATTER.

[redacted] b7A

REC-11 44-2801-273

AIR MAIL COPY TO MOBILE.

ACK FOR TWO

MAY 4 1965

EX 109

6

INFORMATIVE 7 1965

WASH DC

cc - Hines

FBI

Date: 4/30/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI 44-28601

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL

Transmitted herewith for the information and assistance of the Bureau are two copies of a photograph which appeared in "The Tuscaloosa News" at Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

One copy of the same newspaper photograph showing MATT MURPHY, the three subjects and ROBERT SHELTON at a Klan rally is forwarded herewith to Mobile.

2 Enclosures

3 Bureau (enc-2)
2 Mobile (enc-1)
1 Birmingham

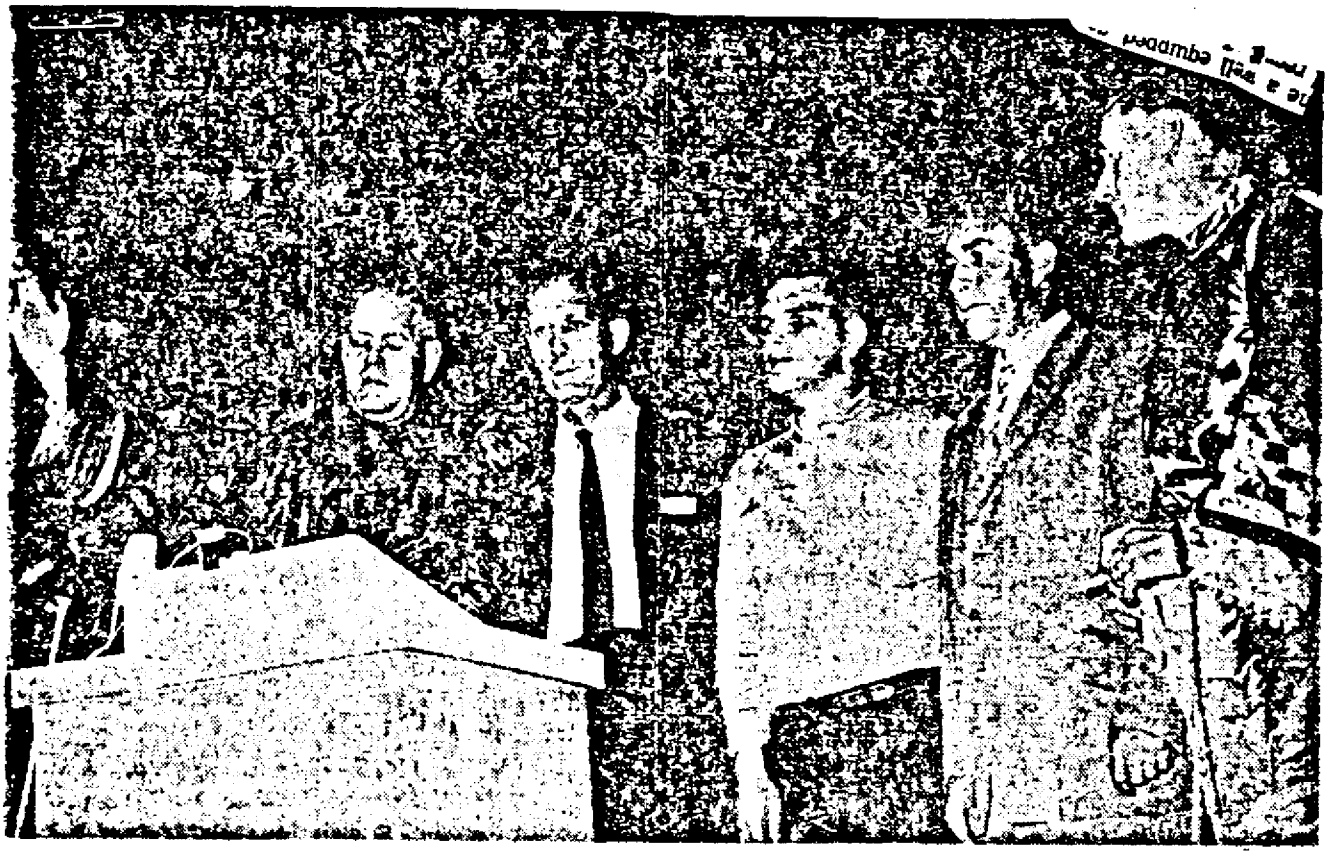
RGJ:fc
(6)

EX 110
REC-23 44-1236-278
21 MAY 4 1965

C.C. WFO

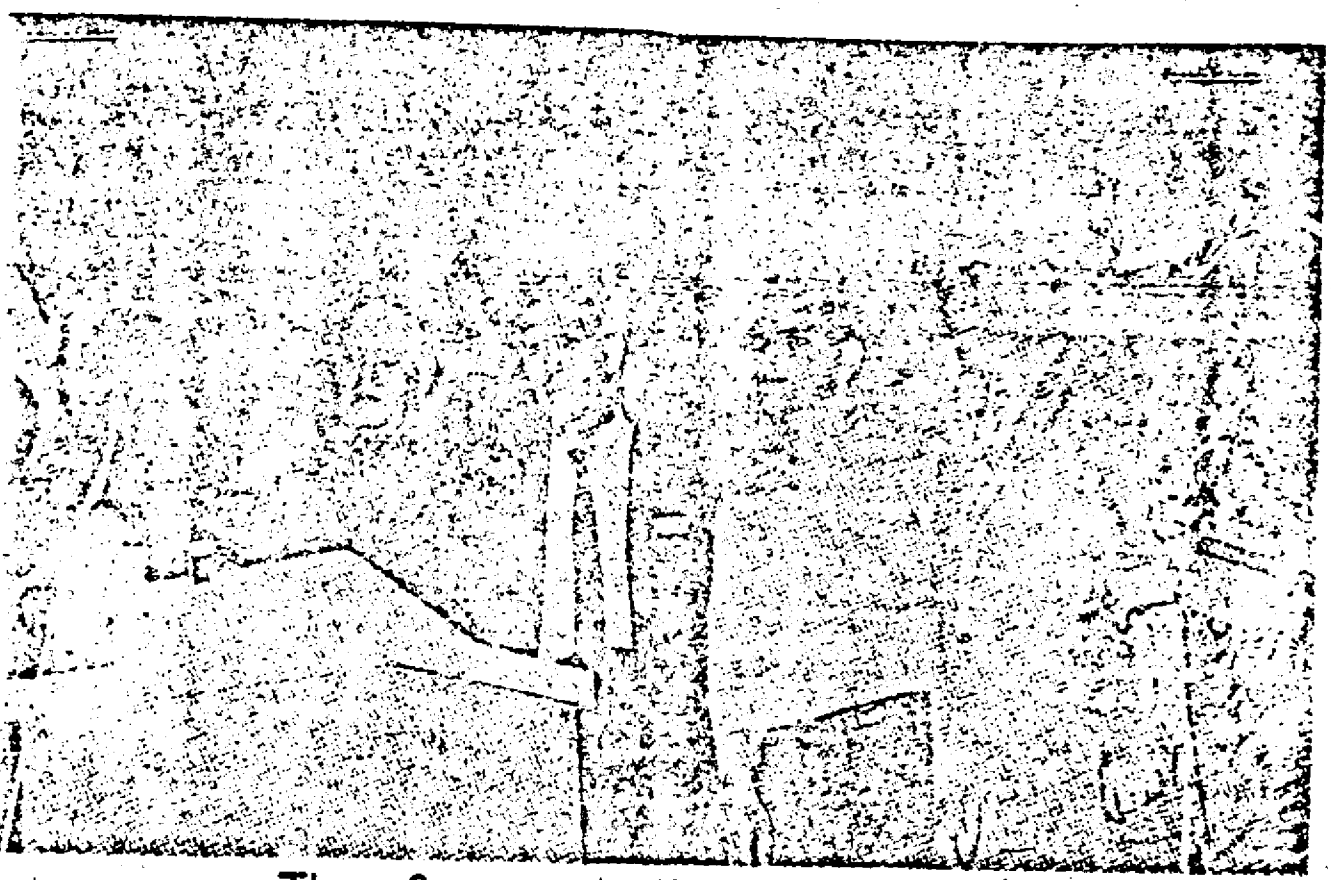
Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

59 MAY 11



Three Suspects At Klan Rally Here

The three men indicted in connection with the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo were introduced at a Ku Klux Klan rally in Tuscaloosa last Saturday night. Shown above, flanked by Imperial Wizard Robert Shelton (right) and Klan attorney Matt Murphy (left) are (from the left): Eugene Thomas, Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., and William Orville Eaton.



Three Suspects At Klan Rally Here

The three men indicted in connection with the slay- (right) and Klan attorney Matt Murphy (left) are
g of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo were introduced at a Ku Klux (from the left): Eugene Thomas, Collie Leroy Wilkins
Klan rally in Tuscaloosa last Saturday night. Shown Jr., and William Orville Eaton.
bove, flanked by Imperial Wizard Robert Shelton

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. -
VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

DATE: April 30, 1965

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

On the afternoon of 4/29/65, SAC Ingram of the Birmingham Office was served with a subpoena to appear for the defense at the trial of Collie Wilkins on 5/3/65. Wilkins is charged with the murder of Viola Liuzzo. The subpoena is for Ingram's personal appearance and it is not requested that he bring any records.

The receipt of the subpoena by SAC Ingram was discussed with Mr. Robert Owen of the Civil Rights Division on 4/29/65. Owen advised that the Department would take the matter under consideration and would take action with regard to the subpoena.

On 4/30/65, Mr. Owen of the Department advised that he had taken the matter of the subpoena of SAC Ingram up with Assistant Attorney General Doar and with attorneys of the Civil Division of the Department and it was the opinion of the Department that there was no basis for filing a motion to quash the subpoena.

Owen advised that the Attorney General has directed a telegram to SAC Ingram advising him that he should appear in answer to the subpoena and testify. It states that Ingram cannot testify to anything contained in the records or files of the Bureau and the Department of Justice pursuant to Order of the Attorney General number 324-64 dated 10/8/64. His testimony is to be limited only to matters of personal knowledge that are relevant to the issue of the trial.

Mr. Owen is furnishing a copy of the Attorney General's telegram and he stated that an attorney from the Civil Division of the Department who is experienced in handling matters of subpoena is proceeding to Hayneville, Alabama, and will be present to protect the Government interest when SAC Ingram is called to testify.

JWH/nkr
(8)

REC-28 [illegible]

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

25 MAY 5 1965

CONTINUED - Over

XEROX
MAY 17 1965

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;

SAC Ingram has advised that he has not been in direct contact with any of the defendants, has not participated in any of the interviews or searches and that there is actually nothing that he can testify to from his personal knowledge.

ACTION:

SAC Ingram will be instructed to answer the subpoena and testify in accordance with the Attorney General's telegram. He is also being advised that an attorney from the Civil Division of the Department will be present to protect the Government's interest when he is called to testify.

United States Senate

Washington, D. C., April 29, 1965

Respectfully referred to

Director J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

For your information.

Frank J. Lausche

U.S.S.

"ENCLOSURE ATTACHED"
ENCLOSURE

44-28601-28

21 APR 30 1965

CORRESPONDENCE

COPY

April 29, 1965

Mr. [redacted] b7C
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Mr. [redacted]

Senator Lausche has discussed with me and requested that I acknowledge your letter of recent date in which you expressed your views concerning the FBI and the death of Mrs. Luizzo in Selma, Alabama.

The Senator appreciates receiving the benefit of your views and will bring your letter to the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Please be assured that your letter was welcome.

Sincerely yours,

Roy M. White
Administrative Assistant to
Senator Frank J. Lausche

RMW:mt

44-28601-287

ENCLOSURE

[redacted] b7C
Columbus, Ohio.

Dear Senator Lausche:

There is something terribly wrong with an FBI man sitting in a car and letting other men kill anyone. I can see no element of justification-even the protection of his own life if by any chance it was in fact in danger.

This disclosure makes the President's speech on Friday evening following the incident most difficult to understand.

Also why is the FBI man not guilty of something? It reminds one of the 38 New Yorkers who stood by during a murder-and offering no help.

This is a most horrible [illegible] have happened, even if she was a nosey woman perhaps not where she belonged.

More than the usual news coverage should be undertaken in this case-the FBI claims its duty is only investigative. Was this mans job investigative? Hardly.

[redacted] b7C

REC-50 EX 109

44-28601-287

May 4, 1965

Honorable Frank J. Lausche
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Senator:

Your note of April 29th, with enclosures, has been received, and I appreciate your bringing this to my attention.

Although I would like to be of service to your constituent, I am not in a position to comment in any manner as he has suggested inasmuch as one of the individuals involved in the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo went on trial May 3rd and prosecution of the others is to follow. I can assure you, however, that the person referred to was not a Special Agent of the FBI, and I trust your constituent will understand why it is not within our prerogative to comment on this case.

Sincerely yours,

1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosures (3)
1 - Mr. Rosen - Enclosures (3)

NOTE: Constituent [redacted] has no record in Bufiles. The enclosures were a copy of [redacted] letter to Senator Lausche and a copy of his answer to [redacted] over the signature of his Administrative Assistant Ray M. White. The individual to whom [redacted] refers is Gary Thomas Rowe, and informant who was present during the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo, a civil rights worker in Alabama. This response was discussed with the Civil Rights Section of the General Investigative Divisi We have had cordial relations with Senator Lausche.

KLS:dll (7)

COMM-FBI

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☐ RADIO xxx TELETYPE

12:30 PM EST URGENT 4-26-65 AJG

TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM, TAMPA AND MIAMI

FROM SAVANNAH 261639

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL, VIOLA LIUZZO; ET AL, VICTIMS

CR; EL.

CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

ON APRIL [redacted] LAST [redacted] ADVISED THAT ON [redacted] SOUTH CAROLINA, GRAND DRAGON BOB SCOGGINS EXHIBITED THE PHOTOGRAPH OF ROWE, FBI INFORMANT, IN THE SELMA, ALABAMA, MURDER AND INSTRUCTED ALL GRAND OFFICERS, EXALTED CYCLOPS AND TITANS AND INVESTIGATORS OF THE KLAN TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR HIM. IF THIS INDIVIDUAL IS LOCATED THE GRAND DRAGON IS TO BE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED OF HIS WHEREABOUTS.

INFORMANT ADVISED THAT THIS MEANT THAT "THE GUN IS OUT FOR HIM" AS AN "FBI FINK" AND THAT HE WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF FOR "LYING." HE ALSO ADVISED THAT THE KLAN IS TRYING TO LOCATE FAMILY OF ROWE, HOWEVER, HE DID NOT KNOW WHY THEY WANTED HIS FAMILY BUT PROBABLY WANTED TO HARASS THEM TO FIND OUT WHERE ROWE IS LOCATED. ALL SOUTHERN OFFICES ADVISED BY LHM. LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM.

RECEIVED: 1:47 PM CLRC

REC-39 44-2601-288

EX-110

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

CC: MR. ROSEN

25 MAY 5 1965

69 MAY 11 1965

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

rights worker, Mrs. Vi[illegible] Liuzzo, between Selma and Montgomery, [illegible]labama, on 3/25/65.

Birmingham has additionally advised that SAC Ingram appeared in Circuit Court, Hayneville, 5/3/65, in response to defense subpoena. Prior to appearance, SAC Ingram conferred with Departmental attorney who furnished SAC with letter from Attorney General outlining the scope and conditions of any testimony to be given by SAC. As entire day spent hearing motions and selecting jury, SAC not called as witness. When court adjourned, defense counsel advised not necessary for SAC Ingram to appear in court until morning of 5/6/65.

EA:pah

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAY 3 1965
TELETYPE

Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

3I WASH DC

3I MOBILE

)2 PM CST URGENT 5/3/65 VFP

) DIRECTOR

(OM MOBILE /44-1245/

IGENE THOMAS, ETAL; MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL-VIC JIM.

EL.
Election Laws

TRIAL IN CAPTIONED MATTER AGAINST SUBJECT COLLIE WILKINS
:GAN MAY THREE, INSTANT, AT HAYNEVILLE, ALA. TWO MOTIONS
:RE FILED BY DEFENSE COUNSEL MATT MURPHY AND WERE RULED ON
' COURT, THE FIRST CONTESTING THE JUSTICE OF THE COURT
:CAUSE OF PUBLICITY ATTENDANT TO ANNOUNCEMENT ON SUBJECTS
:REST BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON WAS DENIED. A SECOND MOTION TO
ITERVIEW STATE WITNESSES GARY THOMAS ROWE AND LEROY MOTON
:S GRANTED.

EX. 112 REC. 39 44-28601-28

MURPHY TALKED TO BOTH ROWE AND MOTON. HE WAS ASSISTED
' RALPH ROTON, THE PUBLIC RELATIONS MAN IN ALABAMA FOR THE
IITED KLANS. ROTON HANDLED TAPE RECORDING EQUIPMENT. THE
:SULTS OF ROWES INTERVIEW HAVE BEEN FURNISHED IN SEPARATE
'D PAGE ONE .....

25 MAY 5 1965

86 MAY 10 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

GE TWO ...

LETYPE. RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH MOTON ARE NOT KNOWN.

THE BALANCE OF THE DAY WAS SPENT IN SELECTING JURORS
OM JURY PANEL. COURT ADJOURNED AT FOUR FIFTY PM AT WHICH
ME A JURY HAD BEEN SELECTED AND TRIAL IS SCHEDULED TO PROCEED
NINE AM MAY FOUR, NEXT.

DISSEMINATION OF LETTERHEAD MEMORANDA CONCERNING DEFENSE
~~TESSES~~ Theses FORWARDED WITH BIRMINGHAM AIRTELS APRIL TWENTYNINE
D THIRTY, LAST, TO CIRCUIT SOLICITOR ARTHUR GAMBLE HAS BEEN
MPLETED.

D

RPP

I WASH DC

MR. ROSEN

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: April 29, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

With the forthcoming trial in state court of subject Collie LeRoy Wilkins for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo, which is scheduled to begin Monday, May 3, 1965, at Hayneville, Alabama, the question arises as to the desirability of an Agent being present in the courtroom during the proceedings.

It will be necessary that Agents be available to insure complete protection of our informant during the period that he is in Hayneville for the purpose of testifying. Following the completion of his testimony, he should depart from the area, and it should not be necessary for Agents to remain.

The state prosecutor has indicated to Inspector Joseph Sullivan that he desired to have as few " Federal Agents " as possible at the trial. It is realized that several FBI Agents will necessarily be used as witnesses by the prosecutor. Other FBI Agents may be necessary as rebuttal witnesses following the testimony given by the defense. It is also known that the Depar tment plans to have an attorney at Hayneville during the trial.

RECOMMENDATION

Since Inspector Sullivan will be in close touch with the state prosecutor and can follow the proceedings through him, and as the prosecutor has indicated that he does not desire "Federal Agents" around, it is recommended that we do not have an Agent sitting in the courtroom observing the proceedings. The presence of Agents if known would, of course, be the subject of considerable comment by Alabama news media

CLM/cac
(6)

REC 5

44-28601-290

CONTINUED - OVER

MAY 5 1965

EX 109

and would not in any way assist in the handling of the prosecution. Agents who will necessarily be present to afford protection for our informant and to appear as witnesses for the prosecution will be instructed to remove themselves from the courtroom and the area just as soon as they have finished their specific assignments.

5/3/65

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE URGENT

EX 109

REC 5 44-28601-290

1 - Mr. Hines

TO SAC MOBILE

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.; MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. —
DASH VICTIMS, CIVIL RIGHTS.

WITH REGARD TO THE TRIAL OF SUBJECT COLLIE LEROY WILKINS WHICH BEGAN IN STATE COURT, LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA, THIS DATE, IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR AGENTS TO BE AVAILABLE TO INSURE COMPLETE PROTECTION OF OUR INFORMANT DURING THE PERIOD HE IS IN HAYNEVILLE, ALABAMA, AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF TESTIFYIN HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE STATE PROSECUTOR'S DESIRE THAT AS FEW "FEDERAL AGENTS" AS POSSIBLE BE AT THE TRIAL, YOU MUST INSURE THAT AGENTS WHO WILL NECESSARILY BE PRESENT TO AFFORD PROTECTION FOR OUR INFORMANT AND TO APPEAR AS WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION ARE INSTRUCTED TO REMOV

JWH/nkr (3) See Rosen to Belmont, 4/29/65, same caption, CLM/ca

MAY 11 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAY 3 1965
TELETYPE

TELETYPE TO SAC MOBILE
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

THEMSELVES FROM THE COURTROOM AND THE AREA JUST AS SOON AS THEY HAVE FINISHED THEIR SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAY 3 1965
TELETYPE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

DATE: May 4, 1965

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

Inspector Joseph Sullivan in Selma, Alabama, has telephonically advised that the Circuit Solicitor, Arthur Gamble, has requested a verification or documentation of payments which have been made to the informant (Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr.) over a period of years. According to Sullivan, the Solicitor desires to have some written record if possible to support testimony of Agents that payments had been made to this informant for a substantial period of time.

It should be noted that the Department had previously instructed SAC Ingram of the Birmingham Office that he was not to furnish any information whatsoever from the official files or records of the office in connection with his appearance at the trial.

ACTION TAKEN:

This matter is being taken up with the Civil Rights Division of the Department for a determination as to what action they desire be pursued concerning the request of the Circuit Solicitor to support the testimony of the Agents that payments have been made to this informant for a substantial period of time.

CLM/cac
(9)

REC-26 44-[illegible]-291

ST-108 18 MAY 6 1965

79 MAY 7 1965

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
IOBILE	MOBILE	4/3/65	4/1/65 - 4/3/65

OF CASE	REPORT MADE BY	TYPED BY
EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka; LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS	SA [redacted] b7C	mjr
	CHARACTER OF CASE CR - EL	

REFERENCE:

Report of SA [redacted], 3/30/65, at Mobile. b7C

Report of S[redacted] 4/1/65, at Mobile.

- P -

LEAD:

THE MOBILE DIVISION

AT SELMA, ALABAMA and MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Will follow prosecutive action.

ED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
MADE: 5 - Bureau 1 - USA, Montgomery, Ala. 1 - Departmental Attorney Montgomery, Ala. 4 - Birmingham (1 - USA, Birmingham) 5 - Mobile (44-1245)		44 28611-294 REC- 47 21 APR 6 1965

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

RECD.				

NOTATIONS

A*

COVER PAGE

STAT. SECT.

MAY 1 1965

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

MO 44-1245

DETAILS:

On April 1, 1965, the following report was received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory, Washington, D. C.

On April 2, 1965, the Memphis Division advised that they had interviewed [redacted] at Nashville, Tennessee and he advised as follows: b7C

He first met Victim LIUZZO in Selma, Alabama, about March 17 or 18, 1965, where he and LIUZZO had arrived for Civil Rights work. LIUZZO volunteered her 1963 Oldsmobile for use in transportation of Civil Rights workers, including [redacted] Victim stayed in a Selma housing project apartment with a Negro family and during the march from Selma to Montgomery, March 21 - 25, 1965, LIUZZO walked in the march while her car was used extensively on the march route by several integrated groups of Civil Rights workers. [redacted] also said that LEROY MOTON, Negro male victim, was with LIUZZO the night of the slaying and that MOTON had used LIUZZO's car extensively.

LIUZZO was last seen by [redacted] in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 25, 1965, about 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. upstairs in the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church where fainting and ill victims of the march were resting.

He does not recall if LIUZZO was ill at the time nor does he know if LIUZZO was ever treated by a doctor while she was in Alabama.

LIUZZO planned to return to Detroit, Michigan, with [redacted] in her car, stopping en route at [redacted] home in Nashville, however, after victim's slaying in Alabama, [redacted] made other travel arrangments.

AO 44-1245
LE:gmh

The Philadephia Office on April 1, 1965, forwarded a Certification of irth for Mrs. LIUZZO.

This Birth Certificate was signed by C. L. WILBAR, JR., and was dated Aarch 31, 1965, bearing the seal of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under the lumber 451409. It certified that in file No. 56399-25 a record of birth was filed n April 18, 1925, showing that on April 11, 1925, in Pike Run Township, Pennsylvania, female child, VIOLA FAUVER GREGG, was born to HEBER GREGG and EVA, naiden name WILSON.

Date 1/2/65

[redacted], was contacted at her place of residence, at which time she furnished the following information: b7C

She advised that she is employed as [redacted] in Selma, Alabama.

On March 25, 1965, she finished her day's work at the [redacted] at about 6:00 PM that evening and went directly home. She advised that she has a three-year old child which necessitates her getting home around 6:00 PM each evening. She advised that she has a maid who takes care of her child during the day. [redacted] after observing photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, advised that she could not recognize any of these individuals as being persons she had ever seen. She was also shown photographs of a 1962 Chevrolet automobile, white over red in color, and advised that she could not identify this car as being one that she ever saw in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe.

She could furnish no information concerning the killing of Mrs. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO which occurred on Highway #80 east on the evening of March 25, 1965.

3/31/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

SA [redacted] and
SA [redacted] : bah b7C Date dictated 4/1/65

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

Date Apr 1 2, 1965

1

b7C

[redacted] Selma, Alabama, who is employed as a [redacted] Selma, was contacted and viewed photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number 113073, date of photograph March 26, 1965; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number unknown, photograph dated March 26, 1965; and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number 113076, dated March 26, 1965. She stated that she was unable to identify any of these photographs as individuals known to her.

She advised after viewing the photograph of a 1962 Chevrolet, red and white in color, that she did not observe this car in the vicinity of the Silver Moon Cafe March 25, 1965.

She could not furnish any information in connection with the murder of VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO which took place on Highway 80 East, Selma, Alabama, March 25, 1965

4-1-65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

SAs [redacted] and b7C

Date dictated 4-1-65

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 ___ 3/65

[redacted], was contacted at his place of employment and furnished the following information:

[redacted] advised that he is a regular customer of the Silver Moon Cafe (SMC) and goes there once or twice a week normally to drink beer on his way home from work. He could not recall specifically whether he was at the SMC the night of March 25, 1965, but if he had been there, he probably would have left around 7:00 PM.

He advised he had no information as to who may have been involved in the murder of Mrs. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO.

[redacted] after observing EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., advised that he could not recognize any of these individuals as being persons he had ever seen. He was shown photographs of a 1962 Chevrolet automobile, white over red in color, also and advised that he could not identify this car as being one that he ever saw in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe.

3/31/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

SA [redacted] and
SA /bah b7C

Date dictated 4/1/65

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

INTERVIEWS WITH VARIOUS
KU KLUX KLAN MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS
WHO MIGHT HAVE HAD INFORMATION
RELATIVE TO THIS CASE

1

Date 4/2/65

[redacted] Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information: b7C

He advised that he was formerly affiliated with the Ku Klux Klan at Selma, Alabama. [redacted] also advised he has not been affiliated with the Klan for the past several years.

[redacted] stated he was never formerly initiated into the Klan but paid his dues and was intending to become a member but due to the amount of time taken up by his business he was unable to attend meetings.

[redacted] stated he is not presently active in the Klan and does not know of any present activity of the Klan in the Selma, Alabama area.

4/2/65 Selma, Alabama File # MO 105-17 SF 19

SA [redacted] and b7C
SA CEB/mjr

Date dictated 4/2/65

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

Date 4/2/65

— [redacted] Selma, Alabama, was interviewed at his place of employment, the [redacted] Selma, Alabama. [redacted] advised as follows: b7C

He is ashamed of the fact that he was once a member of Klavern No. 47, U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (USK,KKKK). [redacted] stated he joined the Klan approximately five or six years ago and only attended two meetings at Selma. He voluntarily left the Klan as he became disillusioned. He initially joined thinking it was primarily a social organization; however, after attending two meetings he learned that they preached white supremacy and he felt they were a somewhat radical group.

[redacted] advised that to the best of his knowledge the Klan has not been active in Selma, Alabama, area for the past four years. He has not received any information that they intend to reactivate.

At the time [redacted] joined the Klan [redacted] at Selma, the leader of the Klavern No. 47 was [redacted] does not know if [redacted] is presently active in any Klan organization. The initiation fee was $12.50 and [redacted] is unable to recall the amount of monthly dues. The Klavern at that time met in office space above the Tillman Drug Company, Selma. [redacted] was unable to state who occupied or rented the space used by the Klan at that time for their meetings.

After attending one meeting at Selma, [redacted] was initiated into the Klan at Prattville, Alabama. He was unable to recall the exact location. He advised he took the initiation at Prattville as he was told there was no Klan member or members in Selma capable of performing the initiating ceremony. [redacted] is unable to recall any of the details of the initiating ceremony, due to the lapse of time. He also stated that inasmuch as he only attended two meetings, he is unable to recall any other members of Klavern No. 47 at that time.

[redacted] stated that at the two meetings he attended, he did not hear any member discuss any plans for violent action against any individual or group. [redacted] stated should he learn of the Klan reactivating in the Selma, Alabama, area, or uncover any plans for violent action, he will immediately notify the FBI, Selma.

4/2/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 105-17 SF 19

SAs [redacted] and gmh b7C 12 Date dictated 4/2/65

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

Date April 1, 1965

1

[redacted] Alabama, was interviewed at the [redacted] and he furnished the following information:

[redacted] stated he was visiting in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 16, 1965, and that America is a free country and it was "none of the government's d--- business" as to why he participated in the klan mocorcade on that date.

[redacted] was asked if he were a member of the klan and he advised that his father was a klan member, but he refused to state specifically that he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

b7C

[redacted] advised the announcement to appear in Montgomery for the motorcade was broadcast over the radio but he refused to specify any of the details as to who made the announcement or as to what was said.

[redacted] stated that he had never been interviewed by the FBI before and that he had never been arrested for any type of criminal violation. He stated he was a God fearing man and has attended church all of his life.

During the conduct of the interview [redacted] maintained a very arrogant, cocky attitude and indicated he would refuse to furnish any specific information about the Ku Klux Klan in the [redacted] area.

The following description of [redacted] was obtained through observation and interview:

[redacted]

3-30-65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1746 ~~157-650~~

SAs [redacted] JR :kg 12 b7C Date dictated 3-31-65

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 1, 1965

— 1

[redacted], Resident Address [redacted] Alabama, telephone number [redacted] was interviewed in a Bureau Car in [redacted], Alabama. [redacted] furnished the following information: b7C

[redacted] advised that he had been a member of the United Ku Klux Klan for approximately one and one-half years. He stated after admitting to being a member of the organization that he would not furnish any further information about other members or meeting places for their klavern.

He stated he had participated in the motorcade in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 16, 1965, and that he had been notified about the motorcade through a radio announcement. He advised the radio announcement was made by the White Citizen's Council requesting all white citizens to appear in Montgomery and demonstrate for their civil rights.

[redacted] stated he felt the klan was a fine, worthwhile organization, but that if he ever developed information that members of the klan were to commit violence, he would furnish this information to Bureau Agents.

[redacted] maintained a very cooperative attitude during the entire interview.

The following description of [redacted] was obtained through observation and interview:

[redacted]

3-30-65 at Greensboro, Alabama File # MO 157-651

SAs [redacted] and b7C Date dictated 3-31-65

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

1

Date 4/2/65

[redacted], employed as a [redacted] furnished the following information: b7C

He advised he was formerly affiliated with Klavern 47 of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Selma, Alabama. He further advised he has not been associated with the Klan for [redacted] and was in the Klan for about [redacted]

[redacted] stated he does not plan participating in any Klan activities now and has no knowledge of present activity of Klavern 47.

[redacted] also stated he does not go along with acts of violence which have been committed by some members of the Klan.

[redacted] advised that shortly after he got out of the Klan he received on two different occasions, cards requesting that he pay up his dues and re-affiliate in the Klan. However, POSEY said he had lost interest in the Klan and would not re-affiliate.

4/2/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 105-17 SF 19

SA [redacted] and SA CEB/mjr b7C 20 Date dictated 4/2/65

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

Date 4/2/65

[redacted] was interviewed at the [redacted] Selma, Alabama, and advised the following: b7C

[redacted] advised that he was a former member of Klavern No. 47, U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (USK,KKKK), for a short period of time [redacted] advised that he could not recall the exact dates of his membership and stated that he attended only two or three meetings prior to severing his connection with the Klan. [redacted] advised that at the time he belonged to Klavern No. 47, the Exalted Cyclops was [redacted] stated he does not recall who any of the other members were at this time. [redacted] advised that at the meetings he attended there were only about ten or fifteen members present.

[redacted] advised that the meetings he attended were held in a meeting hall on the second floor above the Tillman Drug Store and that he could not recall who had rented the hall or who had ownership of it at this time. [redacted] advised that since the time he attended these meetings, this building had burned and had been replaced by a one-story structure occupied by the Tillman Drug Company.

[redacted] advised that he was initiated into the Klavern at a meeting which took place i[redacted], at a time and place that he does not recall.

[redacted] advised that while he held membership in Klavern No. 47, he does not recall any mention of violence or any plans having been made by the members to conduct violence of any type. [redacted] advised that he does not now have any knowledge that Klavern No. 47 is still in existence and stated that he would be willing to notify the FBI should he receive any information regarding the reactivation of Klavern No. 47 or any contemplated violence by any individuals in Selma, Alabama.

The following description was obtained through interrogation and observation:

[redacted]

4/2/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 105-17 SF 19

SAs [redacted] and [redacted] gmh b7C 21 Date dictated 4/2/65

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

FD-302 (Rev. 3-24-65)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/3/65

[redacted] Selma, Alabama, who [redacted] voluntarily furnished the following information: b7C

He joined the Ku Klux Klan in 1957 when [redacted] was the head of the Klan in Selma, Alabama. [redacted] was Grand Dragon of the State of Alabama, and he described the local Klan as being very disorganized during time he belonged. A friend, [redacted] was instrumental in getting him to join and the reason for joining was because he understood the Klan was for segregation of the races and was organized to protect segregationists. He said his main objection to integration was intermarriage. During his stay in the Klan, he participated in burning a few crosses and wore the sheets of the Klan members but denied participating in or knowing of any beatings by Klan members.

He got feed up with talking about wanting to beat someone that was brought up at the meetings, but said the leaders were not for this either and all the leaders wanted to do was to to things to scare or intimidate the Negro but some in the Klan wanted to knock heads. At various meetings he attended there were from 25 to 30 individuals present but he only attended about 15 or 20 meetings during his 6 months stay in the Klan. The meetings were usually held at Old Odd-Fellows Meeting Hall.

The Prattville Klan helped organize the Klan in Selma, and he described a man he believed to be named [redacted] as one of them, and said this man was an expert on Klan Kraft. All this man's speeches stressed non-violence.

He quit going to Klan meetings after about [redacted] because there was too much arguing among the members about what they were going to do. He said in addition to participating in a few cross burnings, he and other Klansmen had talked to a few white and Negro drunks who they heard beat their wives in order to try to straighten them out.

He denied knowing anything about a Klan motorcade in

On 4/2/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 105-17 Sub 19

by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] b7C Date dictated 4/3/65

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.

Montgomery, Alabama, on March 21, 1965.

He believed that the murder of Mrs. LIUZZO on March 25, 1965, had dried up all local remanents of Klan feeling which was about gone.

He said his impression of [redacted] is that [redacted] is dedicated to segregation but is not a Negro hater. He described [redacted] as a politician and said he never knew [redacted] to encourage violence.

The following description of [redacted] was obtained from observation and interrogation:

[redacted]

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/3/65

1

[redacted] Selma, Alabama, [redacted] White Citizens Council, Selma, was interviewed in his office in [redacted] and furnished the following information voluntarily: b7C

There are 30 outstanding local men who compose the executive committee of the White Citizens Council and set policy and activity of the organization along with himself. The policy of the White Citizens Council is non-violence and obedience to all laws, but to fight for segregation in the courts of the land. He stressed that the White Citizens Council stays out of church affairs and has no policy in trying to influence church decisions as to segregation and integration. The White Citizens Council attempts to direct those informing the public concerning matters that are believed by the White Citizens Council to be the best interest of all people. They encourage people to send news clippings favorable to their views to other sections of the country.

He said there is no connection whatsoever between the White Citizens Council and the Ku Klux Klan aboveboard or below. He knows of no present members of the White Citizens Council of Selma, Alabama, who has ever had any connection with any Klan, however, he said it is entirely possible that some former Klan members are members of the White Citizens Council. He also stated that he knew nothing about any motorcade organized by the Klan in Montgomery, Alabama, on Sunday, March 21, 1965. He is positive that none of his executive committee or no person holding responsible position in White Citizens Council had any connection with this motorcade or encouraged anyone to join it. He said if any member of the White Citizens Council asked anyone to join this motorcade, they had done so as an individual and not as a White Citizen Council member and he has heard nothing of it.

He said to his knowledge he has had no contact with any Ku Klux Klan officers at any time.

On 4/2/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 105-17 Sub 19

by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] b7C 25 Date dictated 4/3/65

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.

FD-302 (Rev. 3-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/3/65

1

[redacted] Selma, Alabama, advised that he [redacted] Selma, Alabama. He furnished the following information voluntarily: b7C

He said he has never been a member of any Ku Klux Klan but was contacted in 1957 by an unknown individual who does not reside in Selma, Ala., to join a local Klan. He said he refused. He also recalls that one night two men whose names he does not know but who are not from the Selma area came by his house in sheets and hoods and he went with them in their car riding to Selma and out through country roads and back to his house. He said no activity took place and this drive was supposed to be for the purpose of encouraging him to join the Klan. He said he refused and has never filed an application, never attended a meeting, and never paid any dues to any Klan organization.

[redacted] insisted that he did not know the names or identities in any way of the persons who had contacted him to join the Klan, and could furnish no information as to how they got his name or why they selected him to become a member.

On 4/2/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 105-17 Sub 19

by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] b7C 2b Date dictated 4/3/65

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 4/2/65

[redacted] was interviewed at [redacted] Selma, Alabama, and advised the following:

b7C

[redacted] advised he was a former member of Klavern No. 47, U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (USK,KKKK) for a short period of time [redacted] advised he could not recall the exact dates of his membership and stated he attended only two meetings prior to severing his connection with the Klan. [redacted] advised that during the period of time he belonged to Klavern No. 47 he believes that the Exalted Cyclops was [redacted] but that he could not be certain of this. [redacted] advised that he does not recall who any of the other members were during this period of time. [redacted] advised that at the meetings he attended there were only about ten or fifteen members present.

[redacted] advised that he could not recall where these meetings were held but stated that they were in the downtown area of Selma, Alabama, and that they were on the second floor of a building in this area. [redacted] advised he did not know who held ownership of this hall nor any of the details concerning its rental.

[redacted] advised that he was initiated into the Klan at a meeting which was convened in [redacted] Alabama, the time and place he does not recall.

[redacted] advised that while he held membership in Klavern No. 47 he does not recall any mention of violence or any plans having been made by the members to conduct violence of any type. [redacted] advised he does not now have any knowledge that Klavern No. 47 is still in existence and stated he would be willing to notify the FBI should he receive any information regarding the reactivation of Klavern No. 47 or any contemplated violence by any individuals in Selma, Alabama.

The following description was obtained through interrogation and observation:

[redacted]

4/2/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 105-17 SF 19

SAs [redacted] and b7C

Date dictated 4/2/65

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

Date 4/3/65

[redacted] was contacted and advised he was formerly a member of Klavern No. 47 of the KKKK. [redacted] further advised he has not been active in the Klavern in over five years, and he has no plans of reactivating in the Klan.

[redacted] further stated he knows of no present activity of Klavern No. 47 and could furnish no information as to any activities now being engaged in by any Klavern.

4/3/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 105-17 SF 19

SAs [redacted] and 29 Date dictated 4/3/65

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

APPENDIX

U. S. KLANS, KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN, INC., ALSO KNOWN AS THE U. S. KLANS (USK)

A source advised on October 12, 1956, that ELDON LEE EDWARDS organized a new klan group in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1953. This organization received a corporate charter in Georgia in October, 1955, under the name U.S. Klans. The same source, and a second source, advised in May, 1960, that U. S. Klans has no direct affiliation with any previous klan group, but utilizes, with only minor changes, the klan kloran or ritual written in about 1915 by WILLIAM JOSEPH SIMMONS for use by the old Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (1915-1944).

These sources advised that the U.S. Klans has as its principal aims and objectives the promotion of Americanism, white supremacy and segregation of the races. On numerous occasions EDWARDS announced that these objectives would be attained by legal means and without violence.

The first source and a third source advised in February, 1961, that at that time a split occurred in U.S. Klans, which resulted in a great majority of the officers and members pulling out and forming a new klan group known as United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc.

These sources advised in May, 1962, that U. S. Klans is almost out of existence and only a few units remain.

APPENDIX



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER

PART 7 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 44-28601

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/12/65

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL;
MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO (deceased) - VICTIM;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM
ATTACKS ON THE VICTIMS IN LOWNDES COUNTY,
ALABAMA, MARCH 25, 1965

EXP PROC

Re Bureau tel April 10, 1965, ordering the preparation of a summary memo in captioned matter suitable for dissemination outside Bureau.

A copy of the memo prepared is enclosed for completion of Bureau files. No further action will be taken concerning this matter until further advice is received from the Bureau.

In order that the Bureau may be aware of the components of the summary memo, the following is a breakdown on the reports which were incorporated into the summary:

Report of SA [redacted] dated 3/30/65 at Mobile - pages 4 through 65, 67 through 119, and 121 through 155. b7C

Report of ASAC ROBERT JENSEN dated 3/30/65, at Birmingham - Cover page E, and pages 4 through 77.

Report of SA [redacted] dated 3/31/65, at Detroit, - pages 3 and 4. b7C

Report of SA [redacted] dated 4/1/65, at Mobile - pages 2 through 10 (delete 4A), pages 12-16 and 17A, B, and C, 18 through 36, 36A; B, and C, 39 through 41A, and 43 and REC 20 b7C

Report of SA [redacted] dated 4/1/65, at Detroit - Pages 2 through 19 (delete page 3). b7C

ST-117

ENC. 1 ENCLOSURE
JAS/ls
(3)

2 APR 14 1965

6 MAY 18 1965

Report of SA [redacted] dated 4/2/65, at Detroit - b7C
Pages 2 through 4.

Report of SA [redacted] dated 4/3/65, at Mobile - b7C
Pages 3 through 10.

Report of ASAC ROBERT JENSEN dated 4/5/65, at Birmingham -
Pages 2 through 7, 9 through 11, and 13.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Mobile, Alabama
April 12, 1965

EUGENE THOMAS;
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.;
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.;
MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO (deceased) - VICTIM;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM
ATTACKS ON THE VICTIMS IN LOWNDES COUNTY,
ALABAMA, MARCH 25, 1965

Information set forth herein reflects results of investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning the attacks on VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO (deceased) and LEROY JEROME MOTON while they were driving from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, on Highway 80 East in Lowndes County, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965.

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.

44. 28601-295

ENCLOSURE

MO 44-1245

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SECTION I PREDICATION

1
MO 44-1245
JRC/[illegible]

DETAILS:

Negro civil rights demonstrators conducted a march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, March 21-25, 1965. The purpose of the march was to dramatize voting registration restrictions in Alabama and to present to Governor GEORGE C. WALLACE a petition of grievances. The march was led by Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. It culminated in front of the State Capitol, Montgomery, Alabama, March 25, 1965, with some 12,000 demonstrators attending the ceremonies. The ceremonies in front of the State Capitol commenced at approximately 1:35 PM and lasted until approximately 4:10 PM, March 25, 1965. The crowd dispersed generally at the conclusion in all directions at request of Rev. RALPH ABERNATHY, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), who served as master of ceremonies. From observation there appeared no organized plan for the dispersal of the marchers and those from Selma, Alabama, were returning to Selma by common carrier, trucks, and private automobiles.

At Montgomery, Alabama, on March 21, 1965, IRA DE MENT, Attorney for the City of Montgomery, telephonically advised the Montgomery Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that a request was received by the Montgomery City Commission addressed to the Board of Commissioners by Parade Director BOBBY SHELTON signed by F. M. VANN, dated March 20, 1965, and represented the Knights of the Klux Klan of America, Inc. Mr. DE MENT believed that the Ku was probably an error of omission. The reason for the parade was listed as "to protest the order issued by FRANK JOHNSON (struck through and Federal Court written above) allowing 5 day demonstration march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama". DE MENT advised the City Commission had on March 21, 1965, issued a permit allowing a parade beginning at 2 PM, March 21, 1965, in the 1200 block of Madison Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama, proceeding west on Madison Avenue to Madison and Bainbridge Streets, south on Bainbridge to Bainbridge and Dexter, west on Dexter to Court Square. The return route would be the same. All were ordered to conduct themselves in orderly manner and no one in the parade would wear masks. When the parade ended the group was ordered to disperse in an orderly manner. The permit expired 6 PM, March 21, 1965.

A Klan motorcade led by ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, in car number one, and BOB CREEL, Grand Dragon of Alabama, in car number two, consisting of some 240 people in 83 cars decorated with confederate flags departed Patterson Field, Madison Avenue, Montgomery, 2:40 PM, March 21, 1965. Bureau Agents observed this motorcade. Most of the cars were occupied by family groups, well dressed. A few old cars were occupied by men dressed in overalls. Lead cars were observed carrying signs such as "Voting rights - yes; Special attention - no"; "Be a Man - Join the Klan", and "KKK forever".

The motorcade rather than disbanding at the Court Square in Montgomery, Alabama, continued on past the Court Square and proceeded to the city limits of Prattville, Alabama, where the occupants of the cars took the confederate flags off the cars and disbanded completely going away in different directions. No speech making was made at the disbanding spot. The entire group was disbanded at 3:32 PM, March 21, 1965.

MO 44-1245

EARL JAMES, Mayor of Montgomery, Alabama, is the proper person to produce the application for the Parade Permit and the permission given to parade.

3

Date April 1, 1965

1

b7c

[redacted] Commissioners of Public Affairs for Montgomery, Alabama, made available a copy of Parade Permit request by Knights of the Klux Klan dated March 20, 1965, which reads as follows:

"Board of Commissioner
"City of Montgomery
"Attention: L. B. Sullvian

"We The Knights of The Klux Klan of America, Inc. Respectively Request Permission to Parade in Dowtown Montgomery, Alabama, March 21, 1965,

Time: 2 O'Clock.

Route:
Starting Place: 1201 Madison Avenue, Parking Lot Across From Cramton Bowl,

Preceding West on Madison Ave to Bainbridge.
Bainbridge South to Dexter Ave.
West on Dexter Ave. to the Fountain on Court Square

Return Route:

East on Dexter Ave. to Bainbridge
North on Bainbridge to Madison Ave.
East on Madison to 1201 Madison, Parking Lot Across From Cramton Bowl, Disperse.

Reason:
To Protest Order Issued By Federal Court Allowing A Five Day Demonstration March From Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama.

Parade Director,

Bobby Shelton

"/s/ F. M. Vann"

3/31/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7c SA [redacted] /mjr Date dictated 3/31/65

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[redacted]

SECTION II — IDENTIFICATION OF CARS PARTICIPATING IN KLAN RALLY AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, MARCH 21, 1965

[redacted]

02 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

On March 21, 1965, at approximately 12:30 PM, a number of automobiles
s observed being parked in the parking lot of Crampton Bowl, Montgomery, Alabama.
automobiles were parked in lines facing Madison Avenue and persons arriving
these vehicles were observed placing confederate flags on these automobiles.
ERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the
Klux Klan, was observed standing in front of the parked automobiles
king to other people. Several cars were observed bearing signs with the
gan, "BE A MAN JOIN THE KLAN".

J. B. STONER, an attorney who resides near Atlanta, Georgia, was
erved in Crampton Bowl with his 1960 Oldsmobile, bearing 1964 Georgia
nse number 2A8697, parked with the other vehicles. STONER's automobile
a large confederate flag flying from the radio antenna, located on the
t side of this vehicle near the front.

At approximately 2:50 PM, the vehicles left Crampton Bowl parking
forming a motorcade and proceeded through the city of Montgomery and
of Montgomery on U. S. Highway 31 where the motorcade pulled over to
side of the highway and dispersed.

The following license plate numbers were observed parked in the
upton Bowl parking lot or in the motorcade:

1965 Alabama

[redacted]

b7C

3/21/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted] 6

SA

Date dictated 3/26/65

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2
MO 44[illegible]245

1965 Alabama (cont'd)

[redacted]

b7C

7

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 [redacted] Date 3/29/65

The following vehicle license numbers were observed on automobiles which assembled at the Crampton Bowl Parking Lot on the afternoon of March 21, 1965:

Make of Car	Year No.	Car Description	1965 Alabama Tag No. (except as noted)
Chevrolet	1960	Impala, blue, with one white male	Not known
Chevrolet	1964	Impala, black in color	Not known
Ford Mustang	1965	Blue	[redacted] (Remainder unknown) b7C
Pontiac	1962	Grand Prix, two door hardtop, antenna (Shelton)	[redacted] "
Chevrolet	1964	Impala, white	[redacted] "
Plymouth	1964	Fury, blue, two white males	Not known
Plymouth	1964	Fury, two-tone blue and white	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1961	Impala, gray color, two white males	[redacted] b7C
Plymouth	1965	Blue, four door	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1965	Black	[redacted]
Cadillac	1965	Red	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1960	Station wagon, white color	Not known

3/21/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

SAs [redacted] b7C gmh

Date dictated 3/26/65

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Make of Car	Year No.	Car Description	1965 Ala Tag No. (except as noted)
Ford Mustang	1965	Blue color	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1960	One-ton pick-up truck, one male, one female, one child	[redacted]
Pontiac	1964	Green color, four white males, Citizens Band radio	[redacted]
Buick	1951	Gray over cream	[redacted]
Rambler	1965	Maroon over beige	[redacted]
Dodge	1963	Dart, white color	[redacted]
Plymouth	1964	Fury, blue color	[redacted]
Pontiac	1964	Gold, 2-door	[redacted]
Mercury	1961	Black and white 2-door	[redacted]
Chrysler	1963	2-door blue 6 or 7 white males	Alabama tag not known
Cadillac	1955	Brown and beige	[redacted]
Plymouth	1960	White color	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1951	Green pick-up truck	[redacted]
Falcon	1960	White station wagon with 4 white males	[redacted]

b7C

[redacted] 9

Make of Car	Year No.	Car Description	1965 Ala. Tag No. (except as noted)
Ford	1955	Green sedan, four white males	[redacted]
Oldsmobile	1956	Two-tone green and white, two white males	[redacted]
Falcon	1960 or 1961	Red sedan	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1960	Olive green color	[redacted]
Buick	1962	Metallic tan	[redacted]
Ford	1957	Beige and white	[redacted]
Buick	1962	Hardtop Wildcat, blue with black top, one white male and one white female	[redacted]
Plymouth	1956	Station wagon, white	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1963	Bel Air, white male, female and some children	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1951	Black with two males	[redacted]
Ford	1959	White, four-door, with four white males	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1963	Hardtop, four-door white color	[redacted]
Plymouth	1960	Two door	[redacted]

b7C

Make of Car	Year No.	Car Description	1965 Ala.Tag No. (except as noted)
Buick	1962 or 1963	Brown and tan	[redacted]
Ford	1962	Pick-up, two white males	[redacted]
Dodge	1958	Green four-door, four white males	[redacted]
Oldsmobile	1956	Two-tone blue four-door, three white males	[redacted]
Chrysler	1963	Blue four-door, seven white males	No license
Plymouth	1955	Green Savoy with two white males	[redacted] b7C
Chevrolet	1963	White	no license
Ford	1961	Light blue	[redacted] remainder not known)
Chevrolet	1959	Red, two white males and one white female	[redacted]
Cadillac	1963 or 1964	Black Fleetwood, four-door, two antennas	[redacted]
Chrysler	1958	New Yorker, red and white	[redacted]
Plymouth	1965	Blue color, Fury	[redacted]
Ford Mustang	1965	Black	[redacted]
Ford	1963	Beige, four door, two males and two females	[redacted]

[redacted] 11

MO 44-1245
5

Make of Car	Year No.	Car Description	1965 Ala.Tag No. (except as noted)
Nash	Unknown	Red and black, four males	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1963	White	[redacted]
Ford	1964	Blue two door with one white male	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1964	Impala, red and white	Not known
Chevrolet	1965	Two-door, red color	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1958	Station wagon, Red and white	[redacted]
Buick	1956	Special, green over white	[redacted]
DeSoto	1956 or 1957	Gold and white with four white males	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1962	Maroon, two door hard top	Not known
Chevrolet	1956	Two-door Bel Air, green color, white male and white female, approximately 60 years of age	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1954	White over aqua two-door Bel Air	[redacted]
Pontiac	1956	Orange and white	[redacted]

b7c

[redacted] 12

Make of Car	Year No.	Car Description	1965 Ala.Tag No. (except as noted)
Studebaker	1959 or 1960	Lark, black, two white males	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1948	Black	[redacted]
DeSoto	1958	Gold and Cream, three white males	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1963	Red Impala, two white males	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1963	White Impala, one white male	[redacted]
Buick	1962	Black color	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1951	Green	[redacted] b7C
Chevrolet	1958	Light green Impala	[redacted]
Ford	1955	White	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1961	Nova, white one white male	[redacted]
Ford	1953	Station Wagon, red and white	[redacted]
Chrysler	1964	Convertible, beige, two white males	[redacted]
Mercedes Benz	Unknown	Two-door sedan, white, one male and three white females	[redacted]
Pontiac	Unknown	Grand Prix	[redacted]
Chevelle	Unknown	Red, three white males	[redacted]

Make of Car	Year No.	Car Description	1965 Ala Tag No. (except as noted)
Unknown	Unknown	Four-door, blue and white	[redacted]
Unknown	Unknown	Red and white station wagon	[redacted]
Volkswagen	Unknown	Gray in color with Fort Benning sticker	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1962	White	[redacted]
Mercury Comet	1958	3 white males	[redacted] b7C
Chevrolet	1951	Black	[redacted]
Pontiac	1958	Green	[redacted]
Ford	1962	Two males, two females, three children	[redacted]
Chevrolet	1964	-	[redacted]
Falcon	Unknown	White, with two white males	[redacted]

The following license numbers were observed and descriptions of vehicles not obtained:

1965 Alabama

[redacted] b7C

[redacted] 14

MO 44-1245
8

1965 Alabama

[redacted]

b7C

[redacted] 15

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/24/65

The following license plates for 1965 issued in Alabama were observed at the Ku Klux Klan rally in Montgomery on March 21, 1965. Motor Vehicle Registration records reflect these tags issued as follows, by counties:

b7C Tag No.	Issued To b7C	Make of Car
[redacted]	[redacted]	1962 Chevrolet Impala, four-door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1957 Plymouth four-door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1964 Pontiac, four-door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1964 Chrysler NP convertible
[redacted]	[redacted]	1961 Oldsmobile 88, four door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1965 Chevrolet, four door, Impala
[redacted]	[redacted]	1962 Buick Sp, four door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1959 Met, two door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1963 Falcon

3/22/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # Mobile 44-557

SA [redacted] b7C /bah 16 Date dictated 3/22/65

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MO 44[illegible]557
2

b7C

b7C

[redacted]	1950 Dodge, four door
[redacted]	1962 Ford
[redacted]	1962 Chevrolet Impala, two door
[redacted]	1964 Buick Wildcat
[redacted]	1955 Chevrolet
[redacted]	1965 Ford Mustang
[redacted]	1957 Mercury
[redacted]	1964 Rambler, four door
[redacted]	1964 Chevy II, four door
[redacted]	1960 Chevrolet, four door
[redacted]	1962 Buick Special four door
[redacted]	1954 Chevrolet sedan
[redacted]	1951 Chevrolet

17

b7C

b7C

[redacted] 1957 Ford four door

[redacted] 1961 Triumph

[redacted] 1961 Chevrolet Impala, four door

[redacted] 1953 Buick

[redacted] 1965 Cadillac, four door

[redacted] 1955 Buick, four door

[redacted] 1957 Cadillac, four door

[redacted] 1963 Chevrolet

[redacted] 1963 Ford, two door

[redacted] 1965 Ford Mustang

[redacted] 1964 Rambler

[redacted] 1962 Volkswagen KG

[redacted] 1955 Ford, two door

b7C

b7C

1962 Studebaker Lark

1958 Chevrolet, four door

1960 Ford Falcon

1955 Chevrolet, two door

1958 Plymouth, two door

1956 Plymouth, two door

1954 Chevrolet

1956 Pontiac, four door

1954 Cadillac DeVille

1955 DeSoto two door

1964 Pontiac GP, two door

1965 Pontiac, four door

1948 Chevrolet, four door

19

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5

b7C

b7C

[redacted]

1956 Ford

1962 Dodge Dart, four door

1958 Pontiac, two door

1965 Chevrolet Impala

1965 Chevrolet Chevelle Super Sports

1965 Chevrolet Spt

DKW, 1964

1957 Ford

1963 Chevy II, Nova

1954 Ford station wagon

1963 Ford Falcon, four door

1962 Chevrolet Impala, two door

20

MO 44-[redacted]
6

b7C

b7C

[redacted] 1963 Pontiac Sp

[redacted] 1962 Chevrolet BelAir

[redacted] 1955 Oldsmobile

[redacted] 1962 Ford two door

[redacted] 1962 Mercedes, four door

[redacted] 1957 Mercury, four door

[redacted] 1960 Dodge

[redacted] 1965 Chevrolet, two door, Super Sports

[redacted] 1956 Oldsmobile, two door

[redacted] 1961 Falcon station wagon

[redacted] 1960 Dodge, four door

[redacted] 1955 Chevrolet, four door

[redacted] 1963 Chevrolet, four door

[redacted] 21

b7c b7c

[redacted]	[redacted]	1952 Chevrolet, two door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1959 Buick, two door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1956 Chrysler, four door
[redacted]	[redacted]	
[redacted]	[redacted]	1962 Chevrolet, two door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1958 Ford, four door
[redacted]	[redacted]	
[redacted]	[redacted]	1959 Chevrolet, two door VIN FS9J301124
[redacted]	[redacted]	1964 Chevrolet, two door, VIN 41847J143948
[redacted]	[redacted]	1963 Chevrolet Impala, two door, VIN S1847A110043
[redacted]	[redacted]	1963 Chevrolet Impala
[redacted]	[redacted]	1963 Plymouth four door
[redacted]	[redacted]	1964 Pontiac GP
[redacted]	[redacted]	1960 Chevrolet, four door

MO 44-65
8

b7C

b1C

1961 Cadillac,
four door

23

MO [redacted]-1245

It is to be noted that the automobile of subject EUGENE THOMAS was noted in connection with this Rally.

[redacted]

[redacted] 24

SECTION III ACTIVITIES OF VIOLA LIUZZO IN SELMA-MONTGOMERY AREA

302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

1

Miss FRANCES JACKSON, 137C George Washington Carver Homes, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

She first met Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO of Detroit, Michigan, on Friday, March 19, 1965. A boy brought Mrs. LIUZZO from the Brown Chapel AME Church to the residence of Miss JACKSON and her mother and advised the JACKSONs that Mrs. LIUZZO was assigned to live in their apartment during the week of the civil rights demonstration march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

Mrs. LIUZZO stayed Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning at the JACKSON residence. She left Sunday morning and marched with the marchers from Selma, Alabama, toward Montgomery, Alabama, returning to the apartment that same Sunday evening, March 21, 1965.

Mrs. LIUZZO remained at the JACKSON home and in the area until Wednesday morning between 6:30 and 7:00 AM, March 24, 1965. At this time she departed from the JACKSON apartment to join the marchers near Montgomery, Alabama. This was the last time that Miss JACKSON saw Mrs. LIUZZO.

During her residence in the apartment, Mrs. LIUZZO advised Miss JACKSON that she had been working with colored people in Detroit, Michigan, and that she had come to Selma, Alabama, to participate in the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

Miss JACKSON advised that Mrs. LIUZZO had been alone when she came to their home and she did not know if Mrs. LIUZZO had been accompanied by any persons on her trip from Detroit, Michigan, to Selma, Alabama.

3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b1C SA [redacted]
SA [redacted] Date dictated 3/30/65

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62 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

[redacted] Mrs. WILLIE LEE JACKSON, Apartment 137 C, George ashington Carver Apartments, advised that she is manager f Smith's Cafe, 1811 Griffin Street, and works every day rom 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

She stated that she has resided in Selma, labama, during the past twelve years and during the past wo months has been helping with preparation of food erved to the demonstrators at Brown's Chapel on Sylvan treet. She stated that she is not a member of any rganization, however, has been helping with the food and lso making her apartment available for sleeping quarters or some of the people coming to Selma who are involved ith the racial demonstrations.

She stated that when she returned home on riday, March 19, 1965, she found that a Mrs. LIUZZO, om she knows better as "VI," had moved into her apartment, aving been sent there by someone who was in charge of egistering the arriving demonstrators and furnishing them ith places to stay. She stated that she believes Mrs. IUZZO had arrived in Selma sometime during the morning of arch 19, 1965, from Detroit, Michigan. She stated Mrs. IUZZO was traveling alone and, to her knowledge, never ent with any other person while around Selma.

She stated that also staying in her apartment ere four white women, identified as follows:

"KITS" Last name unknown, from California, who tayed until March 21, 1965, at which time she went on he march to Montgomery.

A white woman, name unknown, who departed Saturday orning, March 20, 1965, and she did not know where this oman came from or went to; however, her luggage is still t Mrs. JACKSON's apartment.

3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7c SA [redacted] 27 [redacted]

SA [redacted] RB/jsw Date dictated 3/29/65

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A white woman, named JOAN, last name unknown, from isconsin, who departed the apartment on Wednesday, March 24, 965, enroute to Montgomery.

PAT last name unknown, who arrived from Boston n March 20, 1965, and who left on March 21, 1965.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that there were also two Negro irls, SHIRLEY last name unknown and DEAN last name unknown, ho came together from Boston, Massachusetts, on Friday, arch 19, 1965, and departed Sunday evening, March 21, 1965, t approximately 9:00 p.m. enroute back to Boston.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that her daughter, FRANCES ACKSON, age 17, stayed at the apartment during the day- ime hours and has told Mrs. JACKSON that Mrs. LIUZZO tayed around the apartment all day every day either sleeping r playing with FRANCES' baby, except for an hour or so ach day when Mrs. LIUZZO went to Brown's Chapel.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that she was home every vening during this period and Mrs. LIUZZO stayed in the partment every evening with the exception of about an hour r less each evening when she left the apartment saying he was going to Brown's Chapel.

Mrs. JACKSON said she had numerous conversations ith Mrs. LIUZZO and found her to be a person who likes veryone she meets and after a while, you had the feeling ou had known her a long time. She said during her conver- ations Mrs. LIUZZO never mentioned anything to her ndicating that she had been molested or involved in any rouble while in Selma. Mrs. LIUZZO appeared to be in ood health and the only medication she knows of was on unday, March 21, 1965, when Mrs. LIUZZO took an aspirin. he said Mrs. LIUZZO told her that her husband did not want er to go to Selma, Alabama, however, if she really believed n the march from Selma to Montgomery, for her to go on own to Selma.

Mrs. JACKSON said to her knowledge, Mrs. LIUZZO, hen she left the apartment, was always alone and that she te most of her meals at the apartment.

She stated that it was her impression that some f the workers of the SCLC were using Mrs. LIUZZO's automobile rom the time she arrived in Selma, including taking it on he march from Selma to Montgomery, as Mrs. JACKSON had ever seen her automobile. Mrs. JACKSON recalled that on unday, March 21, 1965, between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., rs. LIUZZO was assigned to answering the telephone in partment 134 C, which is occuppied by ERMATINE WILLIAMS, n which people in connection with the demonstrations were alling, possibly for instructions, but she is not certain hat the calls were about.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that at approximately 6:30 to :00 a.m., on Wednesday, March 24, 1965, Mrs. LIUZZO left he apartment alone on foot stating she was going to rown's Chapel to catch a bus to Montgomery, Alabama, to t. Jude's Hospital, where she intended to take part in he march from St. Jude's onto the Alabama State Capitol uilding in Montgomery. She said Mrs. LIUZZO told her t that time that her automobile was in Montgomery all the hile Mrs. LIUZZO was staying at Mrs. JACKSON's residence.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that she never again saw rs. LIUZZO after about 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 965.

Mrs. JACKSON was shown a photograph of a 962 Chevrolet, white over red in color; however, she stated he has never seen such an automobile in the vicinity f her apartment. She was also shown photographs of ARY THOMAS ROWE, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, EUGENE THOMAS, nd WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, and stated that she had never een any of these men to her knowledge.

MO 44-1245
JRC:gmf
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By communication of March 26, 1965, the Detroit Office advised that records of the Michigan Secretary of State Office, Lansing, Michigan, indicated a 1963 Oldsmobile Coupe, 1965 Michigan license EJ9177, was registered to ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, 19375 Marloe, Detroit, Michigan, Vehicle Registration No. 6326M60486. A Michigan Operators License, No. L200-847-015-283, was issued on April 16, 1963, to VIOLA LIUZZO, born April 11, 1925; address 19375 Marloe, Detroit, Michigan; described as a female, blonde hair, gray eyes, 5 feet 2½ inches tall, weighing 127 pounds.

[redacted]

revealed that VIOLA LIUZZO of 19375 Marloe, Detroit, Michigan, born April 11, 1925, at California, Pennsylvania, was arrested on June 16, 1964, for "failing to send children to school"; no disposition was shown.

The 1964 Detroit Directory revealed that ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, wife VIOLA, resided at 19375 Marloe Street, and that he was employed as Business Agent for the Teamsters of Detroit, Michigan.

It was also known to the Detroit Office that in 1953 an ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, 18491 Marloe Street, Detroit, Michigan, was under investigation in connection with a Labor Management Relations Act investigation in 1947. He was later dropped as a subject in this investigation.

[redacted]

ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, born October 5, 1913, disclosed that LIUZZO was arrested in 1953 on a charge of "Conspiracy to Request and Accept Money." LIUZZO was Business Agent for Teamster Local 247 at the time of arrest. This charge was dismissed.

Date 3/30/65

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Rev. JAMES EDWARD ORANGE, home address 2310 25th Court North, Birmingham, Alabama, was interviewed at the Brown Chapel AME Church, Selma, Alabama. He furnished the following information.

One day during the civil rights march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, held between March 21 and 25, 1965, he had made an announcement at Brown Chapel AME Church concerning transportation for persons on the march. He believed this announcement was made on Tuesday, March 23, 1965. He requested that persons who had automobiles which might be used for transporting marchers come to the front of the audience.

After this announcement one of the persons who came forward and volunteered the use of her automobile for transporting civil rights marchers on the march was Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO of Detroit, Michigan. Rev. ORANGE advised that this was the same individual who had later been killed on Thursday night, March 25, 1965, near Selma, Alabama.

Rev. ORANGE advised that to the best of his recollection this was the only time he held any conversation with Mrs. LIUZZO during the period she was in Selma, Alabama.

3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted]
SA

Date dictated 3/30/65

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[redacted] 31

302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

1

Mrs. LORETTA MITCHELL, 53[illegible] George Washington Carver Homes, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

Mrs. MITCHELL advised that she had been acquainted with Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO only through having met her on the street in the George Washington Carver Homes area during the past week. She recalled that Mrs. LIUZZO had stopped and talked to her a few minutes on the street. Their conversation consisted only of a discussion about the rainy weather. She did not know at this time this white woman's name but was later advised that this person was the woman who had been killed on the highway near Selma, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965.

Mrs. MITCHELL stated that this conversation which she had with Mrs. LIUZZO was the only time she had spoken with her. She believed this conversation was held on Wednesday, March 24, 1965.

3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted]
SA

Date dictated 3/30/65

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32 [redacted]

302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

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Mrs. NANNIE LEA WASHBURN, home address Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at 10C George Washington Carver Homes, Selma, Alabama. Mrs. WASHBURN refused to give her home address and stated as the reason for her refusal, her fear of retribution by the White Citizens Council and the KKK. She furnished the following information.

Mrs. WASHBURN advised she had on one occasion during the period March 21 to 25, 1965, had lunch with a woman who introduced herself as Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO from Detroit, Michigan. This lunch was held at Brown Chapel AME Church, Selma, Alabama, where the civil rights marchers were being fed meals.

During this conversation with Mrs. LIUZZO, Mrs. LIUZZO told Mrs. WASHBURN "I had to come because of brutality in Selma, Alabama. I don't see how anybody could keep from coming". Mrs. LIUZZO indicated she had come to Selma, Alabama, for the specific purpose of participating in the civil rights demonstration march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama.

Mrs. LIUZZO also advised Mrs. WASHBURN "she sent a check here to buy food or something for these people". Mrs. LIUZZO also asked what the demonstrators needed more, food or money.

After this question by Mrs. LIUZZO, Mrs. WASHBURN searched for a person in charge and discussed this question with some minister whose name she can not recall. This minister told her that either food or money would be acceptable. Mrs. WASHBURN relayed this information to Mrs. LIUZZO.

Mrs. LIUZZO asked Mrs. WASHBURN where she was from and Mrs. WASHBURN advised her she was from Atlanta, Georgia. Mrs. WASHBURN stated that she told Mrs. LIUZZO to be careful while in Selma, Alabama, because she knew from personal experience that a lot of innocent persons in the south had been killed. She further advised Mrs. LIUZZO that women in this area were in as much danger as the men.

Mrs. WASHBURN said she told Mrs. LIUZZO that this was a dangerous place, that anywhere police used gas and prods on people is a dangerous place.

3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted]
SA [redacted] Date dictated 3/30/65

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302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

1

Mrs. NELL LAWSON, 5625 Thompson Mill Road, Decatur, Georgia, was interviewed at 10C George Washington Carver Homes, Selma, Alabama. She furnished the following information.

During the period March 21 to 25, 1965, Mrs. LAWSON had been working in the kitchen at Brown Chapel AME Church, Selma, Alabama. One day during this week, exact day not recalled, but believed to be Tuesday, March 23, 1965, a woman introduced herself to Mrs. LAWSON in the kitchen. This woman stated that she was Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO of Detroit, Michigan. Mrs. LIUZZO asked Mrs. LAWSON to ride with her from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, to take some persons to Montgomery for the last day's march on that city. This was to be a portion of the civil rights march made from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Mrs. LAWSON told Mrs. LIUZZO that she could not ride with her as she intended to drive her own vehicle in order that more transportation would be available as needed.

Mrs. LAWSON stated that to the best of her recollection this was the only time she had any discussion with Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO.

3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted]
SA [redacted] Date dictated 3/30/65

34 [redacted]

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SECTION IV REPORT OF SHOOTING

MO 44-1245

The pictures on the following page are of LEROY JEROME MOTON.







SECTION V BACKGROUND OF VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO

AO 44-1245
LE:gmh

The Philadephia Office on April 1, 1965, forwarded a Certification of Birth for Mrs. LIUZZO.

This Birth Certificate was signed by C. L. WILBAR, JR., and was dated March 31, 1965, bearing the seal of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under the Number 451409. It certified that in file No. 56399-25 a record of birth was filed on April 18, 1925, showing that on April 11, 1925, in Pike Run Township, Pennsylvania, a female child, VIOLA FAUVER GREGG, was born to HEBER GREGG and EVA, maiden name WILSON.

By communication of March 27, 1965, the Detroit Office advised as follows:

b7C [redacted] Records Division, Michigan Secretary of State's Office, Lansing, Michigan, on March 26, 1965, advised that 1963 Oldsmobile coupe, with 1965 Michigan license EJ 9177, is registered to ANTHONY J. LIUZZO at 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan. This vehicle has Vehicle Identification Number 632M60486.

b7C [redacted] Drivers' Service Division, Michigan Secretary of State's Office, advised that operator's license number L200-847-015-283 was issued April 16, 1963, to a VIOLA LIUZZO, born April 11, 1925, residing at 19375 Marlowe, Detroit. The license described VIOLA LIUZZO as female, blond hair, gray eyes, 5'2½", 127 pounds.

b7D [redacted] advised that a VIOLA LIUZZO, 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan, born on April 11, 1925, was arrested June 16, 1964, charged with "failing to send children to school." The arrest card indicated that a VIOLA FAUVER LIUZZO, of 19375 Marlowe, a resident of Detroit for 13 years prior to June 16, 1964, had been arrested by officers of the Detroit Police Department on June 16, 1964, at 8:45 a.m. at 13365 Schaefer, Detroit, Michigan. VIOLA FAUVER LIUZZO was arrested on warrant 208967 on the complaint of Mr. WILLIAM LAKIN, 5057 Woodward, Detroit, Michigan, the latter being associated with the Detroit Board of Education. The disposition of the arrest was shown as one year probation and $50.00 fine.

The court file was Detroit Recorders Court file number 208967.

Detroit Recorders Court Judge JOSEPH GILLIS, on March 26, 1965, advised that he recalled the case concerning VIOLA LIUZZO, and stated that he was of the opinion that VIOLA LIUZZO was a professional crusader. Her complaint at the time she was brought before him on a charge of failure to send children to school, was the fact that in Detroit children are permitted to drop out of school at the age of 16 and VIOLA LIUZZO felt that the children should not be

permitted to drop out of school until reaching the age of 18, and for that reason she refused to send her own children to school.

Judge JOSEPH GILLIS stated that he adjourned the case from June 16, 1964, to September, 1964, hoping that VIOLA LIUZZO would be able to adjust this matter without his aid and that during that period he received a letter from the Detroit Board of Education advising that they did not desire to prosecute. Judge GILLIS stated that he was willing to drop the matter but that VIOLA LIUZZO insisted on being tried and entered a plea of guilty, and that he then placed her on one year's probation with a fine of $50.00. Judge GILLIS stated that after the trial he received information from the Probation Department of the Detroit Recorders Court that VIOLA LIUZZO was emotionally disturbed and appeared to be on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

The records of the Detroit Division indicate that one VIOLA LIUZZO had addressed a letter to the "Detroit Free Press," a newspaper published daily at Detroit, Michigan, in which VIOLA LIUZZO belittled the United States Government's charges against JAMES R. HOFFA, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Date 3/30/65

1

The following letters handwritten in ink were found in the car of Mrs. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO and are being set forth in their entirety:

"Dear Dr. Mohsen,

"Prior to today, I felt that any personal contribution I might offer to those individuals in distress in Selma, Alabama, was of little or no significance. I also had concluded that even if such efforts should prove at all helpful, they would have to wait until the quarter ended.

"Nevertheless, upon reading the content of our president's speech today, I am no longer able to sit by while my people are suffering. Again, I am referring to the suffering of the individual. Because of my automatic thoughts of individual suffering, I examined carefully, my own possible reaction if I were one of the Selma victims, not just a spectator. This identification recalled to me an incident whereby I knew the agony of intense and consistent physical pain.

"I was only sixteen at the time, yet the resulting trauma inflicted upon me psychologically, has more clearly etched the suffering in my memory than are many quite recent incidents. I was afflicted with a severe attack of inflamatory rheumatism; although many joints were inflamed, the primary inflamation settled in my left knee. The knee was swollen to such a degree that measures were taken to aid the constricted circulation that resulted. My own reaction is, vividly recalled, is my present conviction to add the small number of 'one' to the present efforts. I pleaded day and night for someone to please do something for me. Although I was in Chicago's Cook County Hospital, some reason inhibited any administration of pain relieving drugs. After four days of this consistent pain I took from my dinner tray a dull butter

3/27/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C BA [redacted]
BA [redacted] Date dictated 3/30/65

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"knife. I still carry the deep scars left from my determined efforts to remove the cause of my pain. Hence, I have before me the agony of severe and repeated brutality my people, even if few in number must be suffering. I know that for him every moment drags ever so slowly. We can easily wait the essential"

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

[redacted]

b7C

57

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 31, 1965

1

Detroit Recorder's Court Judge JOSEPH GILLIS on March 26,1965, stated that he recalled the case concerning VIOLA LIUZZO and said he was of the opinion that VIOLA LIUZZO was a "professional crusader". VIOLA LIUZZO was arrested on the complaint of Mr. WILLIAM LAKIN, an officer of the Detroit Board of Education, and was charged with "failing to send children to school". VIOLA LIUZZO complained at the time she was brought before Judge GILLIS that children in the Detroit school system were permitted to drop out of school at the age of 16 and that she felt that this was wrong and that children should not be permitted to drop out of school until reaching the age of 18 and it was for this reason that she refused to send her children to school. Judge GILLIS stated that he adjourned the case from June 16, 1964, to September, 1964, hoping that VIOLA LIUZZO would be able to adjust the matter without his aid. Before the case went to trial Judge GILLIS received a letter from the Detroit Board of Education stating that they did not desire to prosecute. Judge GILLIS stated that he was quite willing to drop the matter but that VIOLA LIUZZO, represented by an attorney, Mr. MC NALLY, whose first name Judge GILLIS did not recall, appeared in court in September, 1964, at which time VIOLA LIUZZO insisted on entering a plea of guilty. Her plea was accepted and she was fined $50.00 and placed on one year probation. Judge GILLIS stated that after the trial he received information from the Probation Department of the Detroit Recorder's Court that VIOLA LIUZZO was emotionally disturbed and appeared to be on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

On 3/26/65 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44-463

b7C SA [redacted] 3/31/65

by _____ Date dictated _____

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DE 44-463

Records of the Detroit Division indicate that one VIOLA LIUZZO had addressed a letter to the "Detroit Free Press", a newspaper published daily at Detroit, Michigan, in which VIOLA LIUZZO belittled the United States Government's charges against JAMES R. HOFFA, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

[redacted] Records Division, Michigan Secretary of State's Office, Lansing, Michigan, on March 26, 1965, advised SA [redacted] that a 1963 Oldsmobile Coupe with 1965 Michigan License EJ 9177, was registered to ANTHONY J. LIUZZO at 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan. This vehicle had Identification Number 632M60486. 67C

[redacted], Driver's Service Division, Michigan Secretary of State's Office, on March 26, 1965, advised SA [redacted] that Operater's License Number L200-847-015-282 was issued April 16, 1963, to VIOLA LIUZZO, born April 11, 1925, residing at 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan. The license described VIOLA LIUZZO as female, blond hair, gray eyes, 5' 1½" tall, 127 pounds. 67C

[redacted] 67C

1

Date 4/1/65

Mr. EUGENE PLOWDEN, Assistant to the Executive Secretary, National Association For The Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Detroit, Michigan, stated that both VIOLA LIUZZO and her husband, ANTHONY JAMES LIUZZO were members of the NAACP at Detroit.

Mr. PLOWDEN recalled that his only contact with Mrs. LIUZZO was in September of 1964, at which time she came to the NAACP offices to advise that she had just been convicted in Detroit Recorders Court for failing to send her children to school and that she had wanted this conviction to demonstrate what she considered an injustice in allowing children age sixteen to drop out of school and that she thought that this should be changed so that children could not drop out of school until age eighteen.

Mrs. LIUZZO stated that while in court she had seen a young Negro girl who appeared to be suffering from malnutrition and that this girl had been convicted of some minor offense. Mrs. LIUZZO stated that she had wanted to offer the unknown Negro girl money, but did not want to embarass her and she requested that Mr. PLOWDEN make an effort to identify the girl and that, she, Mrs. LIUZZO, would then provide funds. Mrs. LIUZZO made this statement that, "To get involved is my Christian duty".

3/30/65 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44-643

b7C SA [redacted]

4/1/65 Date dictated

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- [redacted] - 64

MOTIVATION FOR TRIP TO SELMA, ALABAMA

On March 27, 1965, an article appeared in "The Detroit Free Press", a newspaper published daily at Detroit, Michigan, entitled, "Four Accused of Killing Detroit Mother" under the by-line of ROBERT B. HOYT.

In this article ANTHONY J. LIUZZO is reported as stating that VIOLA LIUZZO decided to make the trip to Selma, Alabama, on the day that a group of Wayne State University students staged a sympathy demonstration in the Detroit Federal Building to protest attacks on Negro and white demonstrators in Selma and Montgomery, Alabama.

ANTHONY LIUZZO stated he tried to talk VIOLA LIUZZO out of making the trip and told her to come home; however, VIOLA LIUZZO was worked up and took off immediately for Selma, Alabama.

Mrs. LIUZZO was reported to have arrived in Selma, Alabama, on March 18, 1965, where she used her automobile to transport Civil Rights workers around Selma, Alabama, and Mobile, Alabama.

INDICATION OF EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FD-302 (Rev. 10-11-62)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/1/65

[redacted] Recorders Court, Detroit, Michigan on March 31, 1965, [redacted] furnished the sketchy notes contained in her file concerning VIOLA LIUZZO. These notes read as follows: 57C

Parents — EVA WILSON and HERBER E. GREGG were married June 24, 1924, in Little Washington, Pennsylvania.

Mother — EVA GREGG, age 60, lives in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. She is retired school teacher; graduated from University of Pittsburgh. Mother has heart condition, Catholic, but is not active. Describes relationship as normal and good until a few years ago when they had disagreements over VIOLA's children and their rearing.

Father — HERBER GREGG, age 66, lives with wife. He has been disabled since VIOLA was twelve, [redacted]. 57C
VIOLA says she had no relationship with father. He was in and out of Veterans Administration (VA) Hospitals. He worked in coal mines in Pennsylvania; went to school to second grade. VIOLA describes father as "self-educated man". Says father was "somewhat of a wanderer".

Sibling — VIOLA - oldest; second is MARY HIGBEE, age 30, divorced - plans to remarry September 26, 1964, 613 West Michigan, Ypsilanti, Michigan

Maternal Relatives — Uncle DAVE WILSON, Youngstown, Ohio
Uncle HAROLD WILSON, Library, Pennsylvania
Aunt SARAH BIGRIGG, Youngstown, Ohio
Aunt LOU ?, Cytherin, Pennsylvania

Paternal Relatives — Aunt BLANCHE DUFFY, whereabouts unknown

On 3/31/65 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44-643

SA [redacted] was 57C 4/1/65

by _____ Date dictated _____

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[redacted] - 66

Religion	No formal - "Believes in basic good conduct which is basis of all religion" according to VIOLA.
Previous Trouble	She purposely stole microscope at Parkside General - insisted on being arrested - this was to call attention to Doctor PARKS who VIOLA felt was not competent.
Present Trouble	VIOLA states she planned to get in trouble, as she kept the children out of school as a "protest". She feels that the compulsory age for attending school should be eighteen instead of sixteen and felt keeping children out of school would bring attention to her concern.
Impression and Appearance	VIOLA is 5' 1" and weighs about 140 pounds. She is confused, emotionally unstable and appears on the fringe of a serious mental breakdown.
Early Home Life	VIOLA was reared by natural parents - father was in and out of home - VA Hospital. Described childhood as very happy, but says they were very very poor. They did at one time receive public assistance as Mother was pregnant and could not work. Family lived in five states while VIOLA was a child. She never remembers finishing a school term in same city. Claims Mother encouraged early marriage. VIOLA's first marriage was at age sixteen after this she left Tennessee (where family was living at the time.)
Education	Says she cannot remember all schools she attended. Attended St. Marys High in Sewanee, Tennessee. Finished ninth grade (claims high school diploma waived, took entrance examination and is in Sophomore English class in Wayne State University).
Marriage	VIOLA married in Knoxville, Georgia, at age of sixteen to WILLIAM PHILLIPS, age 34. Married to

get away from home. Marriage was in Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1941, separated the day after wedding. Husband divorced VIOLA in about one year - she was not in city.
Second - VIOLA married GEORGE ARGYRIS in 1943 in Detroit, Michigan, - separated in 1949, divorced September, 1950, VIOLA married ANTHONY JAMES LIUZZO in Detroit, Michigan. Describes present marital relationship as good; however, husband does not understand children.

Children

1. PENNILLIPI, born June 5, 1946, in Detroit. Father is GEORGE ARGYRIS, VIOLA's second husband, but child was adopted by present husband. Whereabouts unknown somewhere in Ypsilanti, Michigan, prior to this she lived with maternal aunt. [redacted] 67C

2. MARY EVA, born January 22, 1948, lives with maternal grandparents and has been there since July, 1964. [redacted] 67C

3. THOMAS, born June 23, 1951, attends Winship Junior School, 7A.

4. ANTHONY, born March 8, 1955, attends Winship Elementary (involved in VIOLA's offense).

5. SALLY, born August 6, 1958, attends Winship Elementary School.

Economic Situation

VIOLA lives at home with her husband and three youngest children. They live at 19375 Marlowe. They are buying a home on a fifteen year mortgage - twelve room home. Husband is employed by Local 234 Teamsters as Business Agent - Gross $360.00 per week nets $249.00. Their 1963 Oldsmobile 88 hardtop financed by General Motors Acceptance Corporation (GMAC) - payments $101 per month. They owe Winkleman's $168.00; J. L. Hudson Company

$400.00; Gedringer's Jewelry $400.00. These bills were charged by VIOLA's sixteen year old daughter, MARY. Family is paying on all bills.

Employment Last employment - Parkvue Industrial Receiving Clinic as Medical Assistant for two years 1962-1963. Quit because of investigation going on at hospital regarding doctor who was not qualified. At Sinai Hospital she claims she helped in Research Department 1961 - four months.

Health Good - smokes carton of cigarettes per week; drinks occasionally - vodka. No venereal disease; denies use of drugs. Wayne County General two years for one week - voluntary admission wanted someone to take a look at family and help her with children - nine pregnancies - five living children - four miscarriages.

Habits Enjoys taking children to woods to collect stones; plays scrabble with husband and reads.

Residence In Detroit, Michigan, since 1942 - lived at present address since April, 1963, prior address of 18491 Marlowe sold equity to purchase present home in June, 1953.

September 17, 1964 Lives at 19375 Marlowe with husband ANTHONY and three children. There are two children out of the home, one with grandparents and one in Ann Arbor, Michigan. PENNY, age 18, in Ann Arbor; MARY, age 16, with grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. HERBER GREGG, 61 Polk Circle, Georgia. THOMAS, age 13, home; ANTHONY, age 9, home; SALLY, age 6, home. VIOLA supported by husband, who works for Teamsters Local 247 as a Business Agent. Wife is not employed, but is attending Wayne State University, majoring in English - Sophomore standing. Counselor Mr. BELLEFLEUR. Not attending this quarter.

September 21, 1964 — Reported with daughter, SALLY. VIOLA rambles and talks so it is very difficult to follow any one train of thought. She is probably above average intellectually, however, she is quite disturbed.

September 28, 1964 — Telephone call from husband VIOLA went in Detroit Memorial Hospital - nervous breakdown. Continues to talk about children and her concern about the present school set up, etcetera. VIOLA rattles on so much in such a confused way it is very difficult to follow her train of thought.

October 23, 1964 — Reported.

November 9, 1964 — Reported with daughter, PENNY, who is a very attractive girl. She intends to attend Eastern College in January, 1965. PENNY visiting parents. MARY is now married, but VIOLA does not know who MARY married.

December 7, 1964 — Telephone call requesting permission to be excused from reporting - says children are ill.

b7C [redacted] stated that VIOLA LIUZZO, while waiting to see her, had written the following poem which she presented to [redacted] b7C

"ETERNITY?

"Beneath a dark and dreary night
There stands a man within God's sight
He, alone, can tear away
The power of night that forms a day
So relentlessly this man trods on
To search for what something he fears longgone

"Hence from rising sun, to an endless day
He is never still for he cannot say
So above or below the mud or the rain
He thrashes on through an unknown terrain
So often he's tired; so often he's pained
Yet he still struggles on to the peak he must gain
This peak will he reach? Can this man refrain
From surrender to pain, the cost of life's gain
Ah! the peak he has reached, he did not refrain
Thus everything ventured was everything gained
Tranquil peace is the peak and now also
his right
So he now lies forever, joined with God
in sight

"Truth is not Christian, Jewish, Hindu or Buddist. What is true for one man is true for all men. Just as there is no such thing as Christian medicine, Jewish biology or hindu".

b7d

[redacted] made available a five page report concerning the history of VIOLA FAUVER GREGG LIUZZO, which report contains much of the information as set out above secured from the Probation Department of the Detroit Recorders Court. The report of the Police Department contained the following additional information:

VIOLA LIUZZO was married for the third time in Detroit Michigan, (recorded date of marriage not available) to ANTHONY JAMES LIUZZO, who was presently listed as a Business Agent for Teamsters Local 247. ANTHONY LIUZZO adopted VIOLA's two children of VIOLA's previous marriage. Three more children were born to ANTHONY and VIOLA LIUZZO.

THOMAS was born on June 23, 1951, and is presently attending the Winship Public School located at 14717 Curtis. ANTHONY was born on March 8, 1955, and is also attending the Winship School. SALLY was born on August 6, 1958, and she, too, is attending the Winship School.

The Detroit Police Department records show the following contacts with various members of the LIUZZO family for the reasons specified:

[redacted] b7c

[redacted] b7c

[redacted] b7c

[redacted] b7c

[redacted] b7c

[redacted] b7c

[redacted] b7c

Essentially the problem is that the mother allows the girl to do certain things and then insists that the girl is disobeying her. The father just "wants peace and quiet in the house". ANTHONY LIUZZO was not receptive to the police-woman's suggestion that his wife may be disturbed.

[redacted]

VIOLA LIUZZO took the girl out of school in January because "I want to have a real case to present to the State Board of Education", ie., she wanted to have a test of the compulsory education laws and find out why the State loses interest in children at the age of sixteen years.

On June 16, 1964, at 12:00 p.m., VIOLA LIUZZO, then 39 years of age, was reported missing to the Detroit Police Department on Missing Complaint Number 14-M-404 by her husband, ANTHONY LIUZZO (she had been missing since June 13, 1964, at 6:00 a.m.). She was located in Montreal, Canada, on July 18, 1964. The subsequent investigation of the Women's Division of the Detroit Police Department revealed that VIOLA LIUZZO was located by her husband at the home of a friend, GORDON GREENE, publisher and reporter for "The Toronto Star" in Montreal, Canada. Apparently VIOLA LIUZZO had driven for days in Canada and New York State before reaching her friend.

During the period that VIOLA LIUZZO was missing, ANTHONY LIUZZO received letters from her, each becoming more despondent. One letter was written by VIOLA LIUZZO while she was in a cemetery. She was giving births and deaths of various people and concluded the letter with her own birth date and death date.

At the time ANTHONY LIUZZO stated that he would go to the friend's home for VIOLA and make an immediate appointment with her psychiatrist, Doctor ABRAHAM ELSEN of Northland Shopping Center, Southfield, Michigan.

VIOLA LIUZZO and her husband, ANTHONY LIUZZO reside at 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan, along with their three youngest children: THOMAS, age 13, ANTHONY, age 10, and SALLY, age 6. The oldest daughter, PENNY, lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The second oldest daughter, MARY, is married and is living with her husband in Georgia.

The residence at 19375 Marlowe is a twelve-room house which the LIUZZOs are buying on a fifteen year mortgage. ANTHONY LIUZZO is employed as a Business Agent for the Teamsters Union Local 247 at a salary of approximately $360.00 per week.

The educational background of VIOLA LIUZZO is difficult to determine due to the fact that her family had lived in five states while she was a child. The information available indicates that she went to the ninth grade at St. Mary's High School in Sewanee, Tennessee, also attending East Side Junior High School in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

A check with the Election Commission revealed that VIOLA LIUZZO registered to vote for the first time in the Detroit, Michigan, area on October 8, 1960, Ward 22, Precinct 96; however, her name was stricken from voter records as she failed to exercise her right as a citizen of the United States and has never voted in this area.

On January 28, 1964, her name was taken off voter records.

Date 4/1/65

b7d

[redacted] Sinai Hospital of Detroit, Michigan, 6767 West Outer Drive, Detroit, Michigan, advised that Mrs. VIOLA FAUVER LIUZZO worked at the hospital as a Research Technician (trainee) from August 16, 1962, to October 15, 1962.

b7c [redacted] pointed out that an application form completed by Mrs. LIUZZO on July 26, 1962, contains the following data:

Residence	18491 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan
Telephone Number	BR 2-0858
Social Security Number	381-44-9357
Date of Birth	April 11, 1925 (place not shown)
Age	37 years
Marital Status	Married
Number of Children	Five
Maiden Name	GREGG
Person to Notify in the Event of an Emergency:	JOSEPHINE FLORINI, 6366 Abington Avenue, Detroit, Michigan
Education	Grammar School, St. Marys, Chattanooga, Tennessee
High School	One year
College	None
Other Training	Carnegie Institute as a Medical Assistant in 1962
Previous Employment	Parkvue Medical Center, 28303 Joy Road, Garden City, Michigan, June, 1962 - August, 1962
Health Status	"Good"
Physical Defects	"None"
Personal References:	HAROLD HENDERSON, M.D., 853 Fisher Building, Detroit, Michigan
	SARAH SCHOOTEN, M.D., Medical Arts Building

3/31/65 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44-643

SA [redacted] b7c 4/1/65

Date dictated

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[redacted] - 76

Personal References (Cont'd)	Reverend FRANCIS GRANGER, St. Alphonsus Rectory, Dearborn, Michigan

b7C Also in the personnel file for Mrs. LIUZZO, according to [redacted] is a five page handwritten letter which Mrs. LIUZZO addressed to Mr. BERNARD FUSS in October, 1963, explaining her reason for resigning from her employment at this hospital. [redacted] said that Mr. FUSS at the time was the Associate Director of the Hospital.

b7C

b7C [redacted] advised the letter refers to a misunderstanding which Mrs. LIUZZO apparently had with Mr. SIDNEY KOBERNICK, who was in charge of the laboratory at the hospital where Mrs. LIUZZO worked. He said the misunderstanding involved some tissue slides on which Mrs. LIUZZO worked and the letter also explained that her work at the hospital laboratory had begun to interfere with her pursuit of study at the Wayne State University.

Date 4/1/65

b7d

[redacted] Sinai Hospital of Detroit, 6767 West Outer Drive, Detroit, Michigan, advised that Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO was employed [redacted] in the laboratory of this hospital.

b7d [redacted] recalled that her first contact with Mrs. LIUZZO was early one Sunday morning shortly prior to her beginning work at the hospital laboratory when she encountered Mrs. LIUZZO getting out of one of the cots in the laboratory area. [redacted] explained that she had weekend duty and had come on duty early that morning not anticipating that anyone would be in the laboratory since it is the practice of the hospital for the laboratory area to be completely secured during the evening hours.

b7d [redacted] stated there was also an unidentified woman occupying one of the cots with Mrs. LIUZZO. [redacted] recalled that Mrs. LIUZZO was dressed only in a hospital gown, which contained some blood stains. The other unidentified woman was dressed in street clothing.

Upon this encounter, Mrs. LIUZZO commented, "Oh! you're LAURIE!", and [redacted] responded, "That was correct" and inquired as to the reason for Mrs. LIUZZO's unexpected presence in the laboratory.

b7d

According to [redacted] Mrs. LIUZZO's only explanation was that she was there to volunteer for laboratory experimentation. [redacted] explained the hospital does have a program that individuals voluntarily appear for laboratory experimental work; however, upon checking, she found no record that such an arrangement had been made with Mrs. LIUZZO and she was never able to determine why Mrs. LIUZZO was in the laboratory on this Sunday morning.

b7d [redacted] stated that during Mrs. LIUZZO's employment, she was one of the individuals present in a group of medical technicians [redacted]

On one occasion it was necessary for [redacted] b7d to request that Mrs. LIUZZO be quiet since she continually

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3/31/65 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44-643

SA [redacted] b7c Date dictated 4/1/65

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[redacted]-78

b7d

interfered with the lecture being given by [redacted] in instructing the other laboratory technicians. [redacted] said that Mrs. LIUZZO apparently took offense at this action and shortly thereafter directed a ten page handwritten letter to her containing many derogatory remarks concerning her and medical technologists in general.

b7d [redacted] said the letter derided the status of the medical technologist and stated that she, Mrs. LIUZZO, aspired to become a medical doctor and not a medical technician.

b7d [redacted] advised she has had no contact with Mrs. LIUZZO since Mrs. LIUZZO ceased her work at the hospital. [redacted] advised she had no knowledge concerning any activity of Mrs. LIUZZO apart from her employment with the hospital.

1

Date 4/1/65

b7d

[redacted] He said that although considerable time has passed, he does recall Mrs. LIUZZO [redacted] He said his recollection of Mrs. LIUZZO was that she was an older woman, eager and vivacious and he said she was willing although not a very competent worker.

b7d [redacted] advised he could not say she was the type of person which he could have ever trained to be a laboratory technician. He said he did not know Mrs. LIUZZO before she came to the hospital and had no contact with her when she left, although on one occasion when she contacted him for a reference in connection with her attendance at the Wayne State University.

b7d [redacted] stated he vaguely recalled that she had addressed a letter to him which concerned the reason why she terminated her employment after working for only two months at the hospital. He said he could not remember the details of the letter.

b7d [redacted] said he has no knowledge of any activity of Mrs. LIUZZO except that he does recall that she was a student at Wayne State University.

b7d [redacted] described Mrs. LIUZZO as a very excitable person and an individual who was obviously quite easily upset to an extreme degree on any matter which she did not understand.

3/31/65 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44-643

SA [redacted] b7c Date dictated 4/1/65

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[redacted] - 80

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 1, 1965

b7d

[redacted] furnished the following information on March 26, 1965:

Approximately two years ago, [redacted] was employed by [redacted] Sinai Hospital, Detroit. During this period, she became acquainted with VIOLA LIUZZO, who was employed [redacted] in a technical capacity. [redacted] described VIOLA LIUZZO as a woman of questionable character, who unnecessarily spent a great deal of time away from her home and children.

Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO was dismissed from her employment at Sinai Hospital in 1963. [redacted] stated she was not aware of the complete circumstances surrounding VIOLA LIUZZO's dismissal; however, [redacted] has heard that the [redacted] at Sinai Hospital came to work one morning and discovered Mrs. LIUZZO on a cot in one of the offices in an intoxicated condition and covered with blood.

[redacted] stated VIOLA LIUZZO was admitted to Sinai Hospital as a psychiatric patient shortly after this dismissal. Mrs. LIUZZO subsequently walked away from the hospital grounds, after which hospital authorities refused to readmit her.

3/26/65 at Detroit, Michigan File# Detroit 44-643

IC [redacted] b7c

Date dictated 3/29/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/2/65

SAMUEL LEROY EDMONDSON, age 17, advised that his home address is 1612B 16th Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee. Currently he is staying in Saginaw, Michigan, where he is associated with the Saginaw Non-Violent Movement which is headquartered at 908 North Fourth Street, Saginaw. For the past two years, EDMONDSON and LOUIS J. A. MILLER have traveled and worked together in the interest of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee.

EDMONDSON stated that he and LOUIS J. A. MILLER arrived in Selma, Alabama, about one month before the commencement on March 21, 1965, of the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. They remained in Selma and later Montgomery until this march was completed.

EDMONDSON stated Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO arrived in Selma about nine days prior to the commencement of the march and EDMONDSON and MILLER met her on the day of her arrival. Mrs. LIUZZO, while in Selma, worked out of the March's Headquarters at the First Baptist Church and made her automobile available for use in running errands, transporting persons and engaging in other pre-march activities. This automobile was a 1963 or 1964 light blue colored Oldsmobile or Pontiac two-door with Michigan license plate. From the day after her arrival until about March 19, 1965, MILLER drove Mrs. LIUZZO's car and EDMONDSON usually rode with him. MILLER made the arrangements with Mrs. LIUZZO for the use of the car. Subsequent to March 19, 1965, LEROY MOULTON, person who was riding with Mrs. LIUZZO on the night she was killed, drove Mrs. LIUZZO's automobile.

In Selma, Mrs. LIUZZO worked out of the March's Headquarters at the First Baptist Church. EDMONDSON saw her most every day but was not directly associated with her. The last time EDMONDSON saw Mrs. LIUZZO was about 3:00 P.M. on March 25, 1965, at the Dexter Avenue Church, Montgomery. She was accompanied by an unknown Negro male and was trying to locate her automobile. Mrs. LIUZZO was directed to go to the Graystone Hotel, Montgomery, because LEROY MOULTON, who had her car, reportedly was there. Mrs. LIUZZO was told to obtain her automobile from MOULTON because the latter did not have a driver's license.

On 4/1/65 at Saginaw, Michigan File # Detroit 44-643

SAs [redacted] and [redacted] b7C

by [redacted] Date dictated 4/1/65

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[redacted] - 82

EDMONDSON said that DAVE BEY, one of the march participants who stayed at the Torch Motel, Selma, told him that subsequent to 3:00 P.M. on March 25, 1965, he (BEY) saw Mrs. LIUZZO in a tavern in Montgomery with an unidentified Negro male. The name and address of the tavern was not indicated; however, it was believed to be located across from a park. DAVE BEY's home address was unknown to EDMONDSON; however, it might be obtained from March records maintained at Brown's Chapel in Selma.

EDMONDSON stated that while in Selma, Mrs. LIUZZO stayed with a Negro woman (name unknown) who had an apartment at the George Washington Carver Housing Project in Selma. Possibly the apartment number was 528C. In any event, one MARY DE BOSE, a resident of the same apartment house in that housing project, knew Mrs. LIUZZO and would be able to identify the person with whom Mrs. LIUZZO stayed.

EDMONDSON furnished the following directions by which one could locate the apartment where Mrs. LIUZZO stayed:

Starting at the First Baptist Church, proceed north on Sylvia Street to the alley which marks the south boundry of the housing project. There is an apartment house on the northeast corner of Sylvia Street and the alley. Proceed east down the alley to the fourth or fifth apartment. It was in one of these apartments that Mrs. LIUZZO stayed.

EDMONDSON had no knowledge of other places where Mrs. LIUZZO may have roomed in the Selma-Montgomery area. He was not aware that Mrs. LIUZZO received any type of medical attention and treatment or that she consulted a doctor while in Alabama. If she needed such treatment, she most likely would have contacted the medical unit and doctors for the march located at the First Baptist Church, Selma.

On April 2, 1965, the Memphis Division advised that they had interviewed LOUIS JULIUS MILLER, at Nashville, Tennessee and he advised as follows:

He first met Victim LIUZZO in Selma, Alabama, about March 17 or 18, 1965, where he and LIUZZO had arrived for Civil Rights work. LIUZZO volunteered her 1963 Oldsmobile for use in transportation of Civil Rights workers, including MILLER. Victim stayed in a Selma housing project apartment with a Negro family and during the march from Selma to Montgomery, March 21 - 25, 1965, LIUZZO walked in the march while her car was used extensively on the march route by several integrated groups of Civil Rights workers. MILLER also said that LEROY MOTON, Negro male victim, was with LIUZZO the night of the slaying and that MOTON had used LIUZZO's car extensively.

LIUZZO was last seen by MILLER in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 25, 1965, about 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. upstairs in the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church where fainting and ill victims of the march were resting.

He does not recall if LIUZZO was ill at the time nor does he know if LIUZZO was ever treated by a doctor while she was in Alabama.

LIUZZO planned to return to Detroit, Michigan, with MILLER in her car, stopping en route at MILLER's home in Nashville, however, after victim's slaying in Alabama, MILLER made other travel arrangments.

Date 4/1/65

1

FRED LOUIS DALBETT, Manager, Milner Graystone Hotel, Montgomery, Alabama, advised that to his knowledge VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO was not registered in the hotel on March 24 or 25, 1965, and that no medical doctor had been called to the hotel to treat a civil rights worker or guest in the hotel on March 24 or 25, 1965. DALBETT further advised that there were many instances of persons other than registered guests bringing sleeping bags into the hotel and sleeping on the floor in rooms of registered civil rights workers.

DALBETT stated he observed a woman in the lobby on several occasions on the 24th and 25th of March, 1965, who he believed to be associated with the demonstrators and from conversations he overheard and telephone calls she made from the desk, believed that she was involved with the arranging of transportation and transporting civil rights demonstrators between Selma and Montgomery.

DALBETT furnished the following description of this unknown woman:

Race	White
Sex	Female
Age	About 38 or 39
Weight	About 135
Height	5' 4" to 5' 5"
Hair	Straight, reddish color
Dress	Farm type blue jeans and T-shirt
Manner of speech	Educated, intelligent speech with northern accent.

3/30/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

SA [redacted] b7C Date dictated 3/31/65

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SECTION VI — INTERVIEWS OF PASSENGERS IN CAR OF VIOLA LIUZZO ON MONTGOMERY TO SELMA TRIP, MARCH 25, 1965

82 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 26, 1965

[redacted]

Mrs. BRENTON (CLARISSA) BROWN, 1830 Hillside Road, Southampton, Pennsylvania, furnished the following information:

She stated she attended the civil rights rally near the Capitol Building in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 25, 1965. She left this area approximately 5:30 p.m., and rode in a car belonging to Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO of Detroit, Michigan, to the Municipal Airport at Montgomery, Alabama. The car was driven by a colored male by the name of LEROY MOTON from the area near the Capitol to the city of St. Jude located on Highway 80 West of Montgomery, Alabama. At the city of St. Jude they let a colored man out of the car and Mrs. LIUZZO entered the car at this place. Mrs. LIUZZO then drove her car from the city of St. Jude to the Municipal Airport where a man by the name of BART COOPERSMITH left the vehicle to catch a plane. When they left the Municipal Airport at Montgomery, Alabama, Mrs. BROWN was seated in the rear seat on the left side immediately behind the driver, Mrs. LIUZZO . In the center of the back seat, next to Mrs. BROWN, was LIZ STEWART, white female, age 16. On the right of the rear seat was seated CARLA AUSTIN, white female, age 16.

A young Negro male from Selma, Alabama, by the name of CLARENCE SMITH, was seated in the center of the front seat and LEROY MOTON was seated in the right side of the front seat.

Some place between Montgomery and Selma, Alabama, Mrs. LIUZZO stopped and purchased $3.00 worth of gasoline. Mrs. BROWN advised that she cannot recall where this gasoline was purchased as to geographic location; nor could she recall the brand of gasoline sold at this service station.

Just before driving away from the area of the capitol in Montgomery, Alabama, a military jeep driven by white military police with a colored military policeman as a passenger in the front seat, stopped the car and asked LEROY MOTON what part of Michigan they were from. LEROY answered that he did not know.

Sometime after they drove away from the airport in Montgomery, Alabama, the exact location not known, a car approached Mrs. LIUZZO's vehicle from the rear. The car turned its lights on high beam and left them on. VIOLA remarked, "Two can

[redacted]

3/26/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

SAs [redacted] b7c 87

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[redacted] "play at the same game." She slowed down and shortly thereafter the car behind passed them at a high rate of speed. Mrs. BROWN stated she had no idea concerning the make or model of the vehicle which passed them. She could furnish no information concerning the license displayed on this vehicle. She advised that it was dark at this time; however, it was her impression that this vehicle was a buff color.

Sometime after the incident occurred, as they were proceeding on the way to Selma, a car approached the vehicle from the rear and pulled up alongside Mrs. LIUZZO's automobile. The car ahead of their vehicle had slowed down and it was her impression that the car alongside had "boxed them in." Mrs. LIUZZO had slammed on the brakes and slowed the vehicle down. Mrs. BROWN described the vehicle which had pulled alongside them as also buff in color and a two-door model. She stated she had no idea as to the make of this vehicle or any other description concerning it.

To the best of Mrs. BROWN's knowledge, the drivers of neither of the two vehicles described above had stated any words or made any remarks to the occupants of her car; nor did they make any attempt to stop Mrs. LIUZZO's vehicle.

A short time later, the vehicle in which Mrs. BROWN was riding passed a car with a Negro family in it. They observed that this automobile had no taillights. Mrs. LIUZZO honked at the occupants of this car and they shouted to the Negro family that the automobile had no taillights.

Mrs. BROWN could not recall any further incidents out of the ordinary which may have occurred on their trip from Montgomery to Selma, Alabama. She advised that the only stops they made were the stops at St. Jude's Church, the Municipal Airport, and the service station where the gasoline was purchased. No other stops were made until they arrived at the George Washington Carver Homes in Selma, Alabama, where Mrs. BROWN left the car.

[redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 26, 1965

[redacted]

CARLA BARD AUSTIN, age 16, 922 Second Street Pike, Southampton, Pennsylvania, furnished the following information:

She stated she attended the civil rights rally at the front of the Capitol Building in Montgomery, Alabama, on the afternoon of March 25, 1965. She left there shortly before dark and walked one or two blocks to an automobile owned by Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO. She entered the vehicle with several others and was driven in this car to the city of St. Jude on Highway 80 outside Montgomery, Alabama. One of the passengers, whom she described only as a colored man with a beard, and whose name she does not know, left the vehicle at this point. LEROY MOTON had driven the automobile from downtown Montgomery to the city of St. Jude. Mrs. LIUZZO entered the car as the driver at the city of St. Jude and drove the vehicle to the Municipal Airport in Montgomery, Alabama. A white man whose last name was COOPERSMITH left the vehicle at this airport in order to catch a plane back to Washington. This left Mrs. CLARISSA BROWN, LIZ STEWART, and CARLA AUSTIN in the rear seat of the vehicle with CLARENCE SMITH and LEROY MOTON in the front seat of the vehicle alongside Mrs. LIUZZO, who was driving.

Shortly after they left the airport, they stopped at a service station for gasoline. She could not recall the brand of gasoline sold at this station but she described it as being the service station "just across the street" from the airport. She stated this service station was on the righthand side of Highway 80 coming towards Selma, Alabama, from Montgomery, Alabama. She noticed no particular incidents which might have occurred at any of the stops described above. They left the service station just about dusk.

They traveled then to Selma, Alabama; and en route to Selma, one car came up behind their vehicle pretty close. The driver of this vehicle turned his bright lights on their car. She recalls Mrs. LIUZZO remarked that the man wanted to see the license plates and who was in the car. They were travelling at about sixty miles per hour at this time. Mrs. LIUZZO remarked that she would give the driver of the car behind a taste of his own medicine, and she slowed down to approximately thirty-five miles per hour. The driver of the car behind them then passed the vehicle in which she was

[redacted]

3/26/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

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riding and continued on down the highway.

Miss AUSTIN advised that she did not know the make of the vehicle which passed them at this time; nor did she know the model or color. She did not notice the license plates on the car. She does recall that she looked out a back window of the vehicle when the bright lights were turned on and observed that the car behind them had four headlights, one large light and one small light on each side of the front with the smaller light on the outside.

Sometime later in the trip she recalls that the tires screeched as Mrs. LIUZZO put on the brakes. At this time a car had pulled alongside their automobile. Miss AUSTIN advised she had the impression this was a police car, but she stated she did not know why she had this impression as she could not recall that this vehicle had any police markings or red lights on it to her knowledge. She stated that the car alongside of them pulled over to the right lane of the traffic as Mrs. LIUZZO slowed down and continued on west towards Selma, Alabama.

Miss AUSTIN advised that she did not observe the occupants of either of the vehicles in the incidents described above. The occupants of neither car made any remarks to them to her knowledge; nor did they attempt to get the vehicle in which she was riding to stop.

When they reached the bridge over the river at Selma, Alabama, they saw a car filled with Negroes, which car had no taillights. Mrs. LIUZZO remarked, "These are our people." So they shouted to them that they should get their taillights fixed.

After the stop at the service station for gasoline, the car in which Miss AUSTIN was riding made no stops whatsoever between Montgomery, Alabama, and the George Washington Carver Homes at Selma, where Miss AUSTIN alighted from the car.

She recalled from discussion in the car that Mrs. LIUZZO and LEROY MOTON were going to drive back to Montgomery, Alabama, after Miss AUSTIN and her companions got out of the car at the George Washington Carver Homes.

Miss AUSTIN further advised that she could not recall any descriptive matter whatsoever concerning the vehicle which had pulled alongside of them and then pulled in front of them on the highway while enroute to Selma, Alabama.

62 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 26, 1965

[redacted]

LIZBETH STEWART, age 16, 1585 Winding Road, Southampton, Pennsylvania, furnished the following information:

She stated she left the civil rights rally at Montgomery, Alabama, shortly before dark on March 25, 1965. She walked to an automobile owned by Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO, which vehicle was parked approximately three to four blocks away. She got into the rear seat of this automobile with Mrs. CLARISSA BROWN and CARLA AUSTIN. CLARENCE SMITH was also sitting in the rear seat. A colored man with a beard and a white man whose name she did not know sat in the front seat of the vehicle with LEROY MOTON, who was driving.

MOTON drove the vehicle to the city of St. Jude, where the colored man with the beard got out. Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO entered the car as the driver at this point. At this time CLARENCE SMITH also got out of the rear seat and got into the front seat.

Miss STEWART could not recall whether the vehicle stopped for gasoline anywhere en route from Montgomery, to Selma, Alabama, on this trip. She advised that she was very tired and was not clear on the details of the ride.

Somewhere en route between the airport and Selma, Alabama, possibly on the two lane section of the highway, another automobile got behind them and blinked his bright lights. VIOLA slowed down and they passed. She advised that she could not furnish any information concerning the make, model, color, lights, or license which might have been on this automobile. She did not have any idea as to the number of occupants. She again stated she was very tired and had not paid much attention to this incident.

Sometime later during the same trip, the car in which she was riding braked suddenly. She heard others in the vehicle talking about being "boxed in." She advised that she could not recall anything further about this incident, such as any cars involved or why the brakes were suddenly applied.

3/26/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SAs [redacted] and [redacted] 91 Date dictated 3/26/65

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

Again Miss STEWART stated that she did not believe that they had stopped anywhere along the road between the Municipal Airport at Montgomery, Alabama , and the George Washington Carver Homes at Selma, Alabama, where she left the vehicle.

She advised she could recall no other incidents out of the ordinary which might have occurred along the road. Specifically, she could not recall any vehicle passing them slowly or anyone casting remarks at them in a manner to arouse her suspicion.

62 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 26, 1965

[redacted]

CLARENCE SMITH, JR., 1430 Eugene Street, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

He stated he had attended the civil rights rally in front of the Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama, and left that area at approximately 6:00 p.m. He walked to a car which was parked about two blocks from the Capitol Building. LEROY MOTON drove this vehicle from the area of the Capitol grounds to the city of St. Jude on Highway 80 outside of the city of Montgomery, Alabama. In the car besides MOTON and SMITH was a Mrs. BROWN and two young white girls named LIZ and CARLA. There was also one other white man and one colored man whose names are not known to SMITH.

After MOTON had driven to the city of St. Jude, the colored man got out of the vehicle at this place. Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO then got into the auto as the driver and drove to the Municipal Airport outside Montgomery, Alabama. The white man got out of the car at the airport.

After they drove away from the airport they stopped at a service station near the Municipal Airport. SMITH stated he does not recall what brand of gasoline was sold at this service station but it was the closest service station to the airport entrance. Nothing out of the ordinary occurred while they were at the city of St. Jude, at the airport, or at the service station.

After they left the service station, they drove on to Selma, Alabama, without any further stops. Somewhere along the road he recalls an automobile came up behind them and turned on his bright lights. The lady driving the car in which he was riding slowed up considerably at this time. The car stayed behind them with his lights on. His car then slowed even more. About this time, the car behind them, which he believes was occupied by one white man, passed them and continued on down the highway towards Selma, Alabama. Mrs. LIUZZO then speeded up in her car and turned her bright lights on behind the car which had passed them.

3/26/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SAs [redacted] and 93

Date dictated 3/26/65

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SMITH advised that he cannot be sure as to the color of the vehicle which passed them at this time, but stated it seemed that the color was between an orange and a red, but more of an orange color. He thought from the taillights of this vehicle that it might be a 1964 or 1965 Pontiac Bonneville model. He described the taillights as being tall and slender. He stated he did not notice the model of this automobile; nor could he describe the license plate which appeared on it.

SMITH stated that he could recall no other incident out of the ordinary which had occurred during their travel from the airport to Selma, Alabama. When they arrived at Selma, Alabama, they went directly to the George Washington Carver Housing Project, where he and the white lady and two white girls got out of the car. LEROY MOTON remained in the car with Mrs. LIUZZO as they were going to return to Montgomery, Alabama, in order to bring more of the civil rights workers back to Selma.

[redacted]

SECTION VII CRIME SCENE

[redacted]

MO 44-1245

SECTION VIII CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHS AND SKETCHES

62 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

1

On March 25, 1965, photographs were taken
b7C by Special Agent [redacted] of VIOLA GREGG LUIZZO
at White Chapel Funeral Home, 43 S. Jackson.

3/25/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

131

b7C SA [redacted] Date dictated 3/26/65

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MO 44-1245

On April 1, 1965, PAUL E. SHOFFEITT, Assistant Director, State of Alabama, Department of Toxicology and Criminal Investigation, Auburn, Alabama, furnished SA [redacted] 67C [redacted] a copy of the autopsy report prepared by his Department in connection with the case of VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, Case Number 50-49455.

The details of this report are as follows:

SUBJECT: Post-Mortem Examination

At the request of Major W. R. Jones, State Investigator, and with authorization of Circuit Solicitor Arthur E. Gamble, Jr., a post-mortem examination was conducted on the body of Viola Gregg Liuzzo, white female, at the White Chapel Funeral Home, Montgomery, Alabama. Time of examination was 12 midnight on March 25, 1965. Body was identified by State Investigator J. F. Gardner. State and Federal Officers and funeral home personnel were present part of the time during the post-mortem examination. Guy V. Purnell, Toxicologist, of this Department assisted with the examination.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:

This is the unembalmed body of a moderately obese, white female, measured height 5 feet 2 inches and estimated weight 150 pounds, resembling the reported age of 39 years. Scalp hair is reddish-blonde. Teeth are natural with three upper left, two upper right, three lower left, and four lower right missing but not of recent extraction. After photographs are made, bloodstained clothing consisting of a girdle, torso brassiere, slip and dress is removed from body. Two rings on ring finger on left hand, one ring on right finger of right hand, and wrist watch on left wrist are delivered to State Investigator Lt. E. J. Dixon.

Bloodstains cover the major portion of the head, neck, and face; expecially, the left side. Bloodstains are also on hands and smaller stains are on lower extremities below the knees. Feet are soiled. Soiled areas also appear on the

[redacted]-133

back of right hand. Body is washed and additional photographs are made. On lateral surface of upper arms are small dark areas. Fingernails are short with no free edge present. An old linear scar of the lower mid-abdomen is judged to be surgical. Lower abdomen is marked with white lines (striae atrophicae).

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7A

THORACIC-ABDOMINAL;

The thoracic and abdominal cavities are opened with a Y incision. There is appreciable fat in the abdominal wall. No evidence of physical trauma is observed to organs of these cavities. Lungs possess the typical mottled, glistening outer surface with a crepitant feel. Heart is not remarkable in size. Coronaries are patent in the large observed sections. There is evidence of minimal atherosclerosis of the aorta in the area of the coronary orifices. An appreciable quantity of fat is around the kidneys. Capsules of kidneys peel easily revealing a smooth, slightly congested surface. A small quantity of a white milky liquid is observed in pelvis of each sectioned kidney. Stomach contains an estimated 5 ounces of a brownish, thick semiliquid. The appendix is not located. Uterus is non-pregnant. Adrenals, spleen, liver, and pancreas are not remarkable grossly.

SECTION XII ACTIVITIES OF SUBJECTS

1 C 3/29/65

At approximately 4 p.m., March 26, 1965, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., was placed under arrest by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] at a location on the outskirts of Birmingham in the vicinity of the southern city limits of Birmingham, Alabama.

b7C

ROWE was advised that he did not have to furnish any information, that any information he furnished could be used against him in a court of law and that he could consult an attorney. He was informed that he would be transported immediately to the office of the U. S. Commissioner in the U. S. Post Office Building at Birmingham, Alabama, where bond would be set and that while at the U. S. Post Office Building he would be placed in the custody of the U. S. Marshal. ROWE made no statement except to the effect that he would contact his attorney while at the office of the U. S. Marshal.

ROWE was immediately transported to the office of the U. S. Marshal at Birmingham, Alabama, and was afforded an immediate appearance before U. S. Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, it being noted that ROWE's attorney, MATT MURPHY, JR., was present.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

b7C by SAs [redacted] Date dictated 3/29/65

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- 157

D 3/26/65

1

At 1:48 p.m., March 26, 1965, a search warrant was served at the apartment of GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Apartment Number 35A, 205 16th Place, Southwest, Birmingham, Alabama, in the company of Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] Special Agent [redacted] executed search warrant issued by the U. S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama.

The apartment was entered through the unlocked rear door, after permission to enter had been requested. It was determined upon entering the apartment that it was unoccupied. A copy of the search warrant and a list of items taken pursuant to the search warrant was left at the premises at 2:35 p.m.

The premises were searched by SA [redacted] and [redacted] and the search was completed at 2:35 p.m. March 26, 1965.

The following items were taken:

1) One metal container, army brown in color with the following markings " Do not use as food container, 900 cartridges .30 carbine ball M1 in 50 round cartons lot LC 13029."

Containing as follows:

A) 4139 rounds of various caliber live ammunition and one spent .22 cartridge casing.

B) One 30 round capacity magazine for .30 caliber revolver.

C) One cloth bag containing 126 rounds various caliber live ammunition and one spent .38 cartridge casing. The bag is marked Cherry-Burrell Corp.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SAs [redacted] Date dictated 3/26/65

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[redacted] - 158

D) Four boxes of "Western Brand Super-Match" midrange .30 caliber ammunition containing a total of 80 rounds of live ammunition and 80 spent cartridges.

2) One German made bayonet and sheath.

3) One .38 caliber Western live cartridge found on bedroom dresser.

3/26/65

EUGENE THOMAS was placed under arrest by [redacted] b7C
Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]
at Lorene's Cafe, Bessemer, Alabama, at 11:08 a.m.,
March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

b7C by SA [redacted] mjh Date dictated 3/26/65

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-[redacted] 161

1 D 3/26/65

EUGENE THOMAS arrived at the FBI Office, 18th Floor, 2121 Building, Birmingham, Alabama, at 11:45 a.m., March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

b7C

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 3/26/65

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1

D 3/26/65

EUGENE THOMAS departed the FBI Office, 14th Floor, 2121 Building, Birmingham, Alabama, at 1:22 p.m., March 26, 1965, en route to the U. S. Commissioner's Office, located in the U. S. Courthouse, 5th Avenue and 19th Street. He arrived at the U. S. Commissioner's Office in the U. S. Courthouse at 1:29 p.m. on March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

b7C

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 3/26/65

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- [redacted] 169

Using a Speed Graphic, 4 x 5 Camera and Kodak 4 x 5 Ektacolor film, six photographs were taken of a 1962 Impala, white over red, bearing 1965 Alabama License Plate 1B 36964.

Each photograph was taken using a Sylvania 40B bulb while vehicle was parked in front of Lorene's Cafe, 2200 - 8th Avenue North.

The photographs were made in the following sequence:

(1) 3/4 view of passenger side of automobile from front.

(2) Front view of vehicle

(3) 3/4 rearview showing license plate.

(4) 3/4 view of passenger side of vehicle from rear.

(5) 3/4 view of front and driver side of vehicle

(6) Driver side view of vehicle.

Transparencies and one copy of each photograph have been identified with the date taken and the initials KND.

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

b7C

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 3/26/65

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[redacted] 175

D March 27, 1965

In connection with the serving of a search warrant, served on Mrs. FLOSSIE LOISE THOMAS, wife of EUGENE THOMAS, 1519 12th Avenue, North, Bessemer, Alabama, on March 26, 1965, and in connection with a Consent to Search statement voluntarily furnished by Mrs. FLOSSIE LOISE THOMAS concerning her 1958 Oldsmobile, bearing 1965 Alabama license 1B-19643, the following articles were taken, as indicated below: b7A

Article:	b7C [redacted]
1 - Smith & Wesson .38 revolver, SN C418827	[redacted]
6 rounds R-P .38 Special ammunition	[redacted]
1 - .38 Smith and Wesson snub-nosed revolver SN 179485	[redacted]
5 rounds .38 caliber ammunition (4 - REM-UMC .38 special, 1 - R-P .38 special)	[redacted]
1 box Peters 12 gauge SP extra long range shotgun shells	[redacted]
3 boxes Winchester .38 special ammunition	[redacted]

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by b7C SA [redacted] Date dictated 3/26/65

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[redacted] 179

b7C b7A

Article:	[redacted]
6 Remington .38 special rounds of ammunition in box	[redacted]
1 Revelation 12 gauge shotgun shell	[redacted]
1 Newport Model CN double barrel sawed off shotgun, Serial Number T70594	[redacted]
1 box Remington 12 gauge shotgun shells containing 21 shells	[redacted]
1 box of spent .38 caliber shells	[redacted]
6 rounds Peters .38 caliber ammunition	[redacted]

[redacted] 180

D 3/29/65

1

In connection with a search conducted at the residence of EUGENE THOMAS, 1519 12th Avenue North, Bessemer, Alabama, pursuant to a search warrant dated March 26, 1965, the following articles were observed in the residence of EUGENE THOMAS and are as follows:

b7A

Description of Article	b7C [redacted]
1 bullwhip	[redacted]
1 rusty chain, 30" in length	"
1 rubber hose, metal lined, approximately 15" in length	"
White Klan robe and hood	"
5 United Klans of America applications	"

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BY 44-1236

b7C by SA [redacted] mfm Date dictated 3/29/65

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- [redacted] 181

D 3/29/65

Pursuant to a consent to search, voluntarily furnished by EUGENE THOMAS, Special Agents [redacted] b7C and [redacted] b7C proceeded to search a 1963 Chevrolet, two-door hardtop, white over red, which bore Alabama license LH36964, Vehicle Identification Number 21847A118465. The following articles were taken:

Articles	[redacted] b7C	[redacted] b7A
1 ski mask	[redacted]	[redacted]
1 box Peters .38 caliber ammunition, which contained 10 rounds of ammunition	[redacted]	[redacted]
screwdriver	[redacted]	[redacted]
1 yellow rug, 6' x 31"	[redacted]	[redacted]
1 yellow rug, 2' x 2½'	[redacted]	[redacted]
1 roll Tuck Electrical Tape	[redacted]	[redacted]
1 roll brown Arno Tape	[redacted]	[redacted]
1 pair pliers-cutters	[redacted]	[redacted]
1 pair pliers	[redacted]	[redacted]

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by b7C SA [redacted] /61A Date dictated 3/29/65

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1

Dc 3/26/65

At 11:16 a.m., March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON was apprehended at his residence, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama, by SAs [redacted] and

b7C

When EATON was placed under arrest he was standing in the middle of his living room on the first floor of his premises.

b7A

[redacted]

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

b7C by SA [redacted] 3/26/65

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[redacted] 182

1

Dc. 3/26/65

b7C

At 11:27 a.m., March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON was placed in an FBI car by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] He was then transported from his residence, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama, to FBI Headquarters, 2121 Building, Birmingham, Alabama. The arrival time at FBI Headquarters was 12:06 p.m., March 26, 1965.

b7A

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

b7C

by SAs [redacted] Date dictated 3/26/65

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[redacted] 123

Date March 27, 1965

WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON arrived at the FBI Office, Birmingham, Alabama, in the custody of Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at 12:10 p.m., March 26, 1965. EATON was immediately taken into a private room and a physical description was obtained from him. The contents of his wallet were examined but nothing was taken from his wallet. EATON had no money on his person.

b7C

EATON was not interviewed at this time since he had previously advised that he wished to furnish no further information pertaining to the matter involved.

At 12:56 p.m., March 26, 1965, EATON was photographed in the FBI Office. At 1:01 p.m. on March 26, 1965, EATON was fingerprinted in the FBI Office. The fingerprinting was completed at 1:06 p.m.

At 1:22 p.m., March 26, 1965, EATON was transported by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] from the FBI Office to the office of U. S. Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, Room 300, Federal Building, Birmingham, Alabama. EATON arrived at Mrs. CHARLTON's office at 1:36 p.m., March 26, 1965.

b7C

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

b7C by SA [redacted]
SA [redacted]

Date dictated 3/27/65

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[redacted] 187

Date March 27, 1965

At 11:05 a.m., March 26, 1965, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., 4005 - 40th Way, Fairfield, Alabama, was arrested at Highway 11, Bessemer, Alabama, while driving a two-tone green Chevrolet, bearing 1965 Alabama License Number 1B37863. WILKINS was advised of the identity of the Agents and SA [redacted] exhibited his credentials to WILKINS. WILKINS was advised that he was under arrest and no threats, force or promises were made to WILKINS. WILKINS was advised by SA [redacted] that he did not have to make a statement, any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law and that he had a right to consult an attorney prior to making a statement.

b7C

[redacted]

b7A

At 11:09 a.m., WILKINS was placed in an automobile of the FBI and was driven to FBI Headquarters by SAs [redacted]

b7C

3/26/65 Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by SAs [redacted]

b7C

Date dictated 3/27/65

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[redacted] 1971

1

Da. March 27, 1965

b7C

At 11:49 a.m., March 26, 1965, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., accompanied by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] arrived in the Birmingham Office of the FBI. WILKINS was photographed and fingerprinted and departed the office in the company of Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at 1:21 p.m.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

b7C by SA [redacted] & [redacted] Date dictated 3/27/65

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- [redacted] 195

D March 29, 1965

Pursuant to a search warrant issued by LOUISE O. CHARLTON, United States Commissioner, Birmingham, on March 26, 1965, the living quarters of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., who resides with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, SR., at 4005 40th Way, Fairfield, Alabama, were searched by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] The search warrant was presented to Mr. and Mrs. WILKINS at their residence, by SA [redacted] at which time Mr. WILKINS stated that he would interpose no objections to the search.

b7C

b7A [redacted]

one Wards Western Field Repeating Rifle, Model 31A, .22 caliber, long rifle, which was disengaged from the stock, and contained in a brown canvas carrying case. No ammunition for this rifle was located.

b7A [redacted]

A copy of the search warrant as issued by United States Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON was left with Mr. and Mrs. WILKINS, SR., reflecting the above described items had been taken pursuant to the search warrant [redacted] at 5:30 P.M. on March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Fairfield, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

b7C by SA [redacted] Date dictated 3/29/65

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[redacted] 200

1 D March 29, 1965

Using a Speed Graphic, 4 x 5 Camera and Tri-X 4 x 5 Kodak film, the following individuals were photographed during the time set forth. In each instance a front, profile and stand-up view were made.

12:46 - 12:54 p.m. - COLLIE LEROY WILKINS

12:54 - 1:01 p.m. - WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON

1:15 - 1:22 p.m. - EUGENE THOMAS

Negatives 1, 2 and 3 contain photographs of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS.

Negatives 4, 5 and 6 contain photographs of WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON.

Negatives 7, 8 and 9 contain photographs of EUGENE THOMAS.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

b7C SA [redacted]

by Date dictated 3/26/65

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[redacted] 202A

SECTION XIII LAB REPORTS

SECTION XV INVESTIGATION AS TO ACTIVITIES OF SUBJECTS

MO 44-1045
MGT/mcr
1

b7C The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] at Prattville, Alabama, on March 29, 1965.

JEAN COLLINS, employee, Go Go Restaurant, was shown photographs of four subjects and she related she did not recall them being at that restaurant on the morning of Thursday, March 25, 1965. She said she felt she would recall the boys had they been in the restaurant together for breakfast. She stated that Mr. R. K. JACKSON eats breakfast there almost every morning and might recall the four subjects.

R. K. JACKSON was shown photographs of the subjects and was unable to identify them. He stated he had breakfast at the Go Go Restaurant on March 25, 1965, but does not recall the four subjects being there for breakfast on that date.

FLORENCE ALINE POWELL, employee, Go Go Restaurant, said she was the waitress working at the Go Go Restaurant on the morning of March 25, 1965. She viewed photographs of the subjects and stated she did not recall any of them eating breakfast there on that date. She stated the restaurant is operated by a Mr. BOIN and he had owned the restaurant for only two weeks and he was not there on the morning of March 25, 1965.

Mr. R. C. CARLTON advised he frequently eats breakfast at the Go Go Restaurant but was not there on the morning of March 25, 1965.

From observation it was observed that the Go Go Restaurant is located on a cross street just West of U. S. Highway 31. It is the first place of business located on this cross street and the restaurant faces South. The cross street is the first cross street South of the water tank which bears the name Prattville, Alabama.

TOM H. KENNEDY, owner, Bek's Frostop Cafe, advised he does not serve breakfast and does not open each day until approximately 10:00 a.m. He stated he serves almost exclusively barbeque at the cafe. He was shown photographs of the subjects and stated he did not recall seeing any of them at his cafe.

[redacted] 238

Date March 30, 1965

Mr. MURRAY PATTERSON, Owner, American Service Station, 351 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, advised as follows:

He stated that during the afternoon of the civil rights demonstration and march, which took place on March 25, 1965, a spectator to the march entered his station and advised him that one of the demonstrators had cut the line to a public phone booth located outside of his station. He stated he did not know the identity of the spectator. He added that during this same day, an Army Major was sometimes parked outside of his station in an Army jeep. He stated that on about two occasions this Army Major entered his station. He stated that he believed the Major's last name was GIBSON, but added that he was not positive of this. He added that he did not know if the Major was attached to the regular Army or the Army National Guard.

3-30-65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted] :ko 245 Date dictated 3-30-65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

RAY MC DANIEL, Office Manager, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, furnished the following information:

He located a repair order for telephone number 269-9731 reflecting that at 1:07 PM, March 25, 1965, a report was received marked PATTERSON, 351 Dexter, reporting a cord broken during march. The report reflects that installer-repairman with initials "A.T.S." was dispatched at 7:15 AM on March 26, 1965, and he reported the receiver cord was cut during march. The cord was replaced and the complaint cleared at 8:22 AM, March 26, 1965.

Mr. MC DANIEL advised that M. H. MITCHAM, Plant Manager, is the custodian of repair records quoted above. MITCHAM's home address is 112 Brantwood Drive, Montgomery, Alabama.

Mr. MC DANIEL advised that installer-repairman A. T. SUMMERLIN was the man who repaired the telephone. His home address is 833 Martha Street, Apartment B, Montgomery, Alabama.

3/30/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted] /bah [redacted] Date dictated 3/30/65

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44-1245
/jsw

On March 29, 1965, MURRAY PATTERSON, American
vice Station, 351 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama,
ephone Number 262-9402, advised Special Agents [redacted]
and [redacted] that he is the owner and manager
the service station. He stated that he was at the station
March 25, 1965, all day and that due to the march of
il rights demonstrators, did not attempt to conduct business
t day inasmuch as the streets were blocked off and the
wds were too large.

PATTERSON advised that there were mass numbers
people in the vicinity of his gas station all day long
that he could not recall any four individuals who were there
any length of time. PATTERSON was shown photographs of EUGENE
MAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, and
Y THOMAS ROWE, JR. PATTERSON said he could not state that
se four individuals were at his gas station on March 25,
5, as the crowds were so large he could not recognize any
ticular person.

PATTERSON further advised that RICHARD CASTLEBERRY
working part time at the gas station on March 25, 1965,
it was his day off. He said that CASTLEBERRY lives on
nville Road, Montgomery, Alabama, and works for the
board Railroad Company.

On March 29, 1965, JOHN J. HORTON, U-Park
king Lot, Montgomery, Alabama, advised he was working
day on March 25, 1965, and stated that he recalled that
cars were parked in his lot that day and inasmuch as this
king lot is a self-park type place, he could not recall
specific cars that were parked there. HORTON was
cifically asked if he recalled a 1962 red and white, two
r, hardtop Chevrolet in the lot on that date and HORTON
lied that he could not recall make or color of any
cific car in his lot.

On March 29, 1965, JOHN B. GRIMES, employee,
ark Parking Lot, Monroe and Lawrence Streets, advised he
ld not recall seeing the red and white, two door, hardtop
vrolet on that lot inasmuch as the cars are parked by the
ers, and due to the large number of vehicles in the lot.

SECTION XVI — INVESTIGATION REGARDING SUBJECTS AT SELMA, ALABAMA

Date 3/30/65

SPENCER EUGENE COONER, home address, Route #1, Townley, Alabama, employed as lineman, Alabama Power Company, advised that he has been in Selma since January 25, 1965, working on cross-country power lines to the Dan River Project.

He related that he eats dinner regularly at three or four restaurants in Selma, one of which is the Silver Moon Cafe.

COONER recalls eating at the Silver Moon Cafe on Thursday evening, March 25, 1965. He estimates that he arrived at the cafe at approximately 7:00 PM and stayed from 45 minutes to an hour.

COONER does not recall observing any well-dressed individuals in the cafe. He was shown photographs of subjects WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, EUGENE THOMAS, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., but he could not identify them as being individuals he had ever seen. He was also shown a photograph of a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red, and advised that he could not recall having seen this vehicle in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe at any time.

COONER explained that he always goes to dinner with a group of four or five other Alabama Power Company employees who work on the same crew that he does. Whenever this group goes into a restaurant for dinner, they always sit at the same table, converse among themselves, and generally do not associate, pay any attention to, or converse with local citizens who may be in the restaurant.

COONER could furnish no further information.

3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

b7c SA [redacted] /bah Date dictated 3/30/65

[redacted]-252

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/31/65

1

DAVID GAMBLE, also known as SHORTY, 1214 Railroad, was interviewed at his residence and furnished the following information:

He advised that he works on a part-time basis at the Silver Moon Cafe, 138 Washington Street, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. His duties consist of washing dishes and cleaning the restaurant on these two days.

He stated that on March 25, 1965, he was not working at the Silver Moon Cafe, and the first time that he heard that a person was killed on Highway 80 east of Selma was that evening while he was watching television, and a news bulletin was flashed over television concerning the killing.

He advised that he could not furnish any information in connection with this killing nor did he hear of anyone who may have been involved in the killing of VIOLA LIUZZO the night of March 25, 1965.

3/31/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted] PMC/jsw 253 Date dictated 3/31/65

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Date 3/30/65

Mr. MORRIS PERRY, 2520 Water Street, advised that he recalls being in the Silver Moon Cafe on Thursday, March 25, 1965, at approximately 3:00 PM for a little while after which he left. He said later on that evening between 6:00 and 6:30 PM, he came back to the Silver Moon Cafe where he met HUGHIE CLAY NICHOLS, a fellow employee at Baggett Transfer Company who was already in the cafe. He said that they had a cup of coffee together, during which NICHOLS told him about a trip he was making for the company hauling material to various nearby cities and also to Birmingham, Alabama. PERRY stated that he was on vacation and had planned to take a ride with NICHOLS on this trip, and after approximately 20 minutes in the cafe, he went across the street to the Coffee Pot Cafe to call his mother to tell her he was going on this trip and would be away from home over night, whereupon they departed in a company truck and returned to Selma the next day.

PERRY recalled that PETE LACKEOS and OUIDA LARSON were the only two people he can specifically remember who were working at the Silver Moon but could not recall what other customers, if any, were in there at that time. He stated that he and NICHOLS sat at a table in front of the juke box, and he did not notice any strangers, particularly four men dressed in suits.

PERRY stated he was unable to identify photographs of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, and GARY THOMAS ROWE as anyone he has ever seen and stated he did not notice a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red, parked anywhere around the Silver Moon that evening.

He stated that he recalls seeing photographs in the newspapers of the four men arrested in Birmingham, Alabama, for killing some white woman on the highway between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, and at that time looked them over carefully and did not recognize any of them as people he knew.

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b7C SA [redacted]
SA [redacted] Date dictated 3/30/65

[redacted] 254

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/27/65

1 [redacted]

Mr. PETE Z. LACKEOS, 804 7th Avenue, Selma, Alabama, proprietor of Silver Moon Cafe (SMC), 138 Washington Street, Selma, furnished the following information:

He advised that on March 25, 1965, he reported on duty at the SMC at approximately 9 AM and as usual worked there until about 5:30 PM, when he was relieved by his wife, Mrs. CUOLA LACKEOS, who normally relieves him between the hours of 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM daily. Following a period of about 2 hours at his home, he returned to the SMC and remained there until closing time, midnight. Mr. LACKEOS stated that his wife left the SMC by cab at about 7:30 PM, however, he could not recall the cab company she used.

Mr. LACKEOS advised that the following employees of the SMC were on duty March 25, 1965, beginning at 2 PM that date:

OUIDA A. LARSON, 2 PM - 10 PM
ELSIE GREINER (phonetic), 11 AM - 9 PM
HELEN BEVERLY MARTIN, 10 PM - midnight.

The above three individuals are waitresses; HELEN BEVERLY MARTIN is not regularly employed at SMC and filled in the two hour period for LARSON who requested two hours off that evening.

In addition to the above, EDGAR STRIPLING, a general handyman, who also assists behind the bar and has no regular hours, was around the SMC most of the day and evening.

LACKEOS advised that he did not know exactly how long he was off duty during approximate period 5:30 to 7:30 PM, March 25, 1965, but believed he left at about 5:30 PM and returned at 7:30 PM or slightly later. On return to the SMC, he recalled the cafe was about ½ full of people, Among those he noted as being there was NAMON O'NEAL HOGGLE, who was sitting on one of the bar stools and he believed HOGGLE left at about 8 PM alone. He did not observe HOGGLE to be with anyone while he was at the SMC. He also observed R. B. KELLY to be at SMC, however, he did not see him come in and first observed him at about 10 PM. He was alone, had one or two beers,

3/26/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7c SA [redacted] 255

SA [redacted] Date dictated 3/27/65

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and left alone about 10:30 PM. LACKEOS advised that he did not see EIMER L. COOK or WILLIAM STANLEY HOGGLE in the SMC the evening of March 25, 1965.

He stated that the only other persons he could recall by name who were customers in the SMC during that night were MARIE and her husband (FNU) LANGSTON (phonetic) or LIVINGSTON (phonetic), and GRADY DEASON, a mechanic for the Ford Company in Selma who has a limp and whose father is in the vegetable business. He said that MARIE and her husband were there sometime after he returned to duty shortly after 7:30 PM, but he could not recall how long they stayed or when they left.

LACKEOS stated that GRADY DEASON arrived at SMC sometime between 7:30 PM and 8 PM with unknown male, stayed there with him about 1½ hours and then they left together. He could not recall these two individuals having any contact with other patrons in the SMC during that period. He described this unknown individual as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	About 35 years
Height	5' 9" - 5' 11"
Weight	Unrecalled
Build	Slim
Hair	Dark, full head of hair
Clothing	Dark blue suit, no hat, no top coat.

He stated he had not seen this individual previously to his knowledge.

LACKEOS stated that two other male individuals arrived at SMC shortly after 7:30 PM and a few minutes after GRADY DEASON and his companion arrived. These two individuals were unknown to him and to his knowledge he had not previously seen them in the SMC. He observed no contact between GRADY DEASON and his companion and these two unknown males. These individuals left SMC together after being there approximately 10 to 15 minutes. He believed that each had a beer although he was not sure of this and it was his recollection

they sat in a booth toward the back of the cafe. He described these two unknown individuals as follows:

#1

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	35 to 40 years
Height	5' 9" to 5' 10"
Weight	180 - 190
Build	Large
Hair	Black, full head
Clothing	Dark suit and light-weight, dark rain coat, or top coat, no hat.

#2

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	35 to 40 years
Height	5' 9"
Weight	170 - 180
Build	Large
Hair	Dark, full head
Clothing	Dark suit, no rain coat, no hat.

LACKEOS advised that he could recall nothing further at this time concerning other patrons in the SMC during evening of March 25, 1965.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

Mrs. CUOLA LACKEOS, proprietor, with her husband, TE Z. LACKEOS, of the Silver Moon Cafe, 138 Washington reet, was contacted at the Silver Moon Cafe and she advised at she did not desire to discuss any matters or be estioned by the FBI as she was ill. She stated she knew no information she could furnish to the FBI and any rther discussion would cause her condition to become rse.

She refused to view the photographs of the following dividuals for identification purposes:

EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office # 113 073, Birmingham, Alabama, date of photograph, March 26, 1965.

GARY THOMAS ROWE, Jr., Sheriff's Office #113 076, Birmingham, Alabama, date of photograph March 26, 1965.

WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965.

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965.

The interview was terminated at this point.

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b7C SA [redacted] 258

SA [redacted] RLE/jsw [redacted] Date dictated 3/29/65

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302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

Mr. PETE Z. LACKEOS was contacted at his place business, the Silver Moon Cafe, 138 Washington Street, d he advised that he did not desire to talk to the FBI y further concerning matters of an official nature. said he was ill and that any further discussion concerning e Silver Moon Cafe or what may have happened in the lver Moon Cafe or on Washington Street outside the Silver on Cafe would upset him further.

He refused to view the photographs of the following dividuals for identification purposes:

EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office # 113 073, Birmingham, Alabama, date of photograph, March 26, 1965.

GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office #113 076, Birmingham, Alabama, date of photograph March 26, 1965.

WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965.

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965.

The interview was terminated at this point.

3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C [redacted] 259

RLB/jsw Date dictated 3/29/65

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302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

Mr. PETE LACKEOS, owner of the Silver Moon Cafe, 134 Washington Street, advised that since he was last contacted by FBI Agents he had spoken with his waitress, OUIDA LARSON, in an attempt to determine who may have been around the Silver Moon Cafe on the evening of March 25, 1965. He said the only strangers OUIDA mentioned having seen that evening were three young men who told her they were in Selma in connection with some new factory which supposedly is moving to Selma. He said he knows nothing more about these men and does not recall seeing them.

Mr. LACKEOS viewed the photographs of THOMAS, EATON, WILKINS, and ROWE but stated he could not identify any of them as persons he has seen in the Silver Moon Cafe or elsewhere. He was also shown a photograph of a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red in color, and said he could not recall ever seeing this automobile at any time.

He added that the only persons he recalls specifically seeing at the Silver Moon Cafe on the evening of March 35, 1965, were DEASON and his friend, name unknown, who was a complete stranger.

3/30/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

b7c SAs [redacted] 260 Date dictated 3/30/65

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From observation it is noted the Frostop Cafe faces West and is located on the East side of U. S. 31 just North of the above-mentioned cross street.

SARAH COOK, waitress, American Cafe and Pan-Am Service Station, U. S. Highway 31, advised she was the only employee working at that Cafe on Thursday morning, March 25, 1965. She viewed photographs of the subjects and advised she does not recall them having breakfast at that Cafe on March 25, 1965. She stated she felt sure she would recall them had they eaten breakfast there.

L. GODWIN, employee, Pan-Am Service Station, located on U. S. Highway 31, was shown photographs of the subjects and he related he does not recall ever seeing either of them in the past.

Through observation it was observed that the American Cafe faces East on U. S. 31 and is across the street from the Frostop Cafe. It is on the West side of U. S. 31 and is on the corner of the first cross street below the water tower.

H. F. GATES, Old Hickory Barbeque Restaurant, stated he was the only employee working at that restaurant on the morning of March 25, 1965. He stated that restaurant does not serve breakfast and only sells barbeque and camp stew. He viewed photographs of the subjects and stated that they are unknown to him and he does not recall them being in his restaurant.

Mr. J. J. FULLER and his wife, THELMA, stated they have operated the Old Hickory Restaurant for two weeks. They stated they were not working on the morning of March 25, 1965 as only Mr. GATES was there. They viewed photographs of the subjects and stated the subjects were unknown to them.

Through observation it was observed that the Old Hickory Barbeque faces North and is across the street from the Go Go Restaurant. It has an artificial brick front and upon leaving the restaurant a person would view the Prattville water tower.

[redacted] 139

Through observation it was determined there is no all-day parking lot in the Prattville area near the area of the Go Go Restaurant.

W. H. MARTIN, operator of a Standard Oil Service Station on Page Court, Prattville, Alabama, advised there are no all-day parking lots in the area of that station or the Go Go Restaurant.

JOE PENTON, Joe's Cities Service Station, 615 North Main Street, Prattville, Alabama, advised there are no parking lots in the area of his service station or the Go Go Restaurant.

1

Date March 29, 1965

b7C

During the morning and afternoon of March 25, 1965, this Agent, in the company of SA [redacted] was assigned to follow the march of the demonstrators from the camp site at the City of St. Jude, Montgomery, Alabama, to the State Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama, and thereafter to mingle in the area of the assembly to observe any incidents in violation of Federal law.

At an unrecalled time early during this afternoon, this Agent went to an Amoco Service Station located on Dexter Street, and which is recalled to be Hull Street, approximately two blocks away from the Capitol for the purpose of attempting to get something to eat.

In order to leave the immediate area of the assembly, this Agent was requested by National Guard personnel to show his credentials. Immediately thereafter, "Security Officers" of the marchers requested identification at the perimeter of the crowd.

Upon entering onto the premises of the Amoco Station, with credentials still in hand, the owner of same asked for identification. At this time the credentials were shown again.

At the Amoco Station this Agent obtained two Coca Colas, a package of donuts, a package of fig bars, and a package of cigarettes. While in this station, this Agent did not use the telephone.

Upon obtaining the afore-mentioned items, this Agent left the station and returned to an observation point established b7C by Agent [redacted] where the refreshments were consumed.

While at the service station, observation determined that there were approximately 17 to 20 white males on the premises. These persons were observing the demonstration and speaking to each other and at the time were not heckling the marchers.

The person who waited on this Agent spoke of having lost money by the day's activities, which indicated he was the owner of this service station. He was observed to be a white male, approximately 48 - 50 years of age, 5' 8", 175 pounds, graying hair, wearing glasses and a gray uniform.

3/25/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C

SA [redacted] /mjr [redacted] Date dictated 3/28/65

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: 44-1245
R/jsw

On March 1, 1965, Special Agent [redacted] b7C
:certained the following information from Major General
LFRED HARRISON, Adjutant General for State of Alabama:

The military personnel guarding the route of
:e March on March 25, 1965 in Montgomery, was integrated
.th units from the 503 MP Battalion (regular Army), Ft.
'agg, North Carolina; the 31st MP Company, Alabama National
:ard from Birmingham; and the 156th MP Battalion, Headquarters,
'om Linden, Alabama.

There is no record of names or ranks of persons
:ationed at particular points along the parade route, and
:her than the above, there is no way of pinpoining the name
' rank of any individual.

The remaining manner of determining the identity
' this Major would be to interview all majors assigned to
:e above listed units.

[redacted]

Date 4/1/65

1

Photographs of the following business establishments were taken using a 4x5 Speed Graphic Camera with Kodak Tri-X film:

American Oil Company Service Station, 351 Dexter Avenue, on northwest corner of Dexter Avenue and Hull Street, Montgomery, Alabama. Photo taken from center of Dexter Avenue looking north.

Jack's Grill, located on U. S. Highway 31 north of Montgomery, Alabama, and about ¼ mile west of the overpass leading to the main entrance to Maxwell Air Force Base. Photo taken looking northwest. Grill is located on north side of Highway 31.

Old Hickory Bar-B-Q located on southwest corner of intersection of U. S. Highway 31 and Alabama Route 14 at Prattville, Alabama. This establishment is directly across Route 14 from the Go-Go Restaurant.

Go-Go Restaurant, located on northwest corner of intersection of U. S. Highway 31 and Alabama Route 14 at Prattville, Alabama. This photo shows a water tank in the background with the lettering "PRATTVILLE". The tank is painted aluminum while the lettering is faded red. This restaurant is directly north across Route 14 from the Old Hickory Bar-B-Q.

The original negatives of these photos were developed in Montgomery, Alabama.

3/31/65 at Montgomery, Alabama, and Prattville, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

SA [redacted] b7C [redacted] Date dictated 4/1/65

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MO 44-1245
/bah
1

The following investigation was conducted by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] b7C

On April 1, 1965, photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., and a 1962 Chevrolet, Impala, color red and white, bearing Alabama License 1B-36964, were shown to the following individuals with negative results:

CHARLES FREEMAN, Owner, Freeman's Amoco Station, Route #6, Box 35-A, Montgomery, Alabama;

NORMAN WELCH, Manager, Taylor's American Station, 2310 Birmingham Highway, Montgomery, Alabama.

Mr. FREEMAN stated he is the owner and operator of Freeman's Amoco Station, and remains at the station until closing time each night. He stated he can think of no one else who was at the station, other than himself, on March 25, 1965, between the hours of 8:30 and 9:00 PM.

Mr. WELCH stated he is the manager of Taylor's American Station and was the only employee there during the evening of March 25, 1965. Mr. WELCH further stated that on March 25, 1965, Taylor's American Station was closed at about 8:00 PM, which is the normal closing time for each Thursday.

It is to be noted that the above-described American Service Stations were the only ones observed on Highway #31, North, from the North City Limits of Montgomery, Alabama, to within fifty miles of Birmingham, Alabama.

W. TOM JONES, American Oil Company Distributor in Montgomery, Alabama, advised SA [redacted] that all charge tickets for March 25, 1965, have been forwarded to the Credit Department, American Oil Company, 910 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. b7C

[redacted]

249

Date 3/30/65

1

HELEN BEVERLY MARTIN, 210 Franklin Street, Selma, Alabama, was interviewed at her residence and was advised of the identity of interviewing Agents and MARTIN furnished the following information:

She advised that on the evening of March 25, 1965, OUIDA A. LARSON, waitress at Silver Moon Cafe (SMC) telephonically contacted her and asked MARTIN if she would work that evening between hours 10 PM and midnight because LARSON wanted to go out on a date. MARTIN stated that she arrived at the SMC at approximately 10 PM on the evening of March 25, 1965, and worked until 12 midnight.

During this time she did not observe anything out of the ordinary other than some of the regular customers who patronize the SMC whom she can not recall by name. She advised that she can recognize them when she sees them due to the fact they are customers of the SMC. She did state that about 11:15 PM, R. B. KELLY came into the cafe by himself, had a beer and stayed about 15 minutes and left. She stated that during the time she was at the cafe, she could not recall seeing ELMER L. COOK, RAMON O'NEAL HOGGLE, or WILLIAM STANLEY HOGGLE that evening.

She could furnish no further information.

3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7c SA [redacted] 264

SA [redacted] Date dictated 3/30/65

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302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

1

HELEN BEVERLY MARTIN, 210 Franklin Street, Selma, Alabama, was interviewed at her residence and furnished the following information:

HELEN MARTIN after viewing the photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Number 113073, photo taken March 26, 1965; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, number not available, but photo taken March 26, 1965; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., number not known, but reflects date photo taken as March 26, 1965; and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., Number 113076, photo taken March 26, 1965, stated she was unable to identify any of the persons represented by the photographs as having been in the Silver Moon Cafe, Selma, Alabama, the evening of March 25, 1965.

3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted] 266

S[redacted] Date dictated 3/29/65

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02 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

ELSIE GRINER, 38 Mechanic Street, furnished the following information:

She advised that she is a waitress at the Silver Moon Cafe in Selma, Alabama, and on March 25, 1965, she worked from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m.

She further advised she does not know EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM EATON, GARY ROWE, and COLLIE WILKINS and could not remember any strangers being in the Silver Moon Cafe on the evening of March 25, 1965.

GRINER also stated she remembers the following persons as being customers at the Silver Moon sometime during the evening of March 25, 1965: BILLY HALL, "SLIM" WRIGHT, and GRADY DEASON.

3/26/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

b7C SAs [redacted] 267

Date dictated 3/29/65

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102 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

EDGAR WILTON STRIPLING, who lives over Gordon's Cafe, Washington Street and Selma Avenue, Selma, Alabama, advised he worked on the evening of March 25, 1965, at the Silver Moon Cafe. STRIPLING advised he could not remember the names of any customers who were in the Cafe during the evening of March 25, 1965.

STRIPLING stated that EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM EATON, GARY ROWE, and COLLIE WILKINS are unknown to him and he was unable to say if they were in the Silver Moon Cafe during the evening of March 25, 1965.

3/26/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

b7C SAs [redacted] 268 Date dictated 3/29/65

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Date 3/29/65

1

EDGAR WILTON STRIPLING who lives in a room over BILL GORDON's Cafe, Washington Street and Selma Avenue, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

STRIPLING after viewing the photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, #113073, photo taken March 26, 1965; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., number not available, but photo taken March 26, 1965; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., number not known, but reflects date photo taken as March 26, 1965; and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., #113076, photo taken March 26, 1965, stated he was unable to identify any of the persons represented by the photographs as having been in the Silver Moon Cafe, Selma, Alabama, the evening of March 25, 1965.

3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted] 269 [redacted] Date dictated 3/29/65

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Date 4/3/65

Mr. HENRY H. BAGGETT, 114 Mabry Street, a technician at the LaPorte TV Shop, was contacted at his place of employment and furnished the following information:

BAGGETT advised that he is a regular customer of the Silver Moon Cafe (SMC) and goes there once or twice a week normally to drink beer on his way home from work. He could not recall specifically whether he was at the SMC the night of March 25, 1965, but if he had been there, he probably would have left around 7:00 PM.

He advised he had no information as to who may have been involved in the murder of Mrs. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO.

BAGGETT, after observing EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., advised that he could not recognize any of these individuals as being persons he had ever seen. He was shown photographs of a 1962 Chevrolet automobile, white over red in color, also and advised that he could not identify this car as being one that he ever saw in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe.

3/31/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted] 270 Date dictated 4/1/65

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182 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

GRADY DEASON, 523 Hooper Drive, advised on the evening of arch 25, 1965, he and a friend, CECIL A. BRASHER, arrived at the Silver oon Cafe in Selma sometime between 6 and 7 p.m. and remained at the Cafe til approximately 8:30 p.m.

DEASON stated he and BRASHER were together and he, DEASON, d not talk with any other customers at the Cafe. DEASON further stated the only erson he remembers being in the Silver Moon Cafe was J. P. WRIGHT. DEASON dvised he does not know EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM EATON, GARY ROWE, nd COLLIE WILKINS and does not know if these persons were in the Silver Moon afe on the evening of March 25, 1965.

3/26/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted] 271 Date dictated 3/29/65

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FED. AL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

[redacted]

CECIL A. BRASHER, 408 West Miriom Street, Baytown, Texas, furnished the following information at the residence of GRADY DEASON, 523 Hooper, Selma, Alabama:

He advised that on March 25, 1965, he was visiting in Selma, Alabama, and that during this visit he and GRADY DEASON went to the Silver Moon Cafe. BRASHER stated that he arrived at the residence of GRADY DEASON sometime between 5:30 and 6 p.m., March 25, 1965, and that sometime later, early in the evening, they both went to the Silver Moon Cafe and stayed approximately thirty minutes. While at the Silver Moon Cafe, BRASHER stated that the only individuals he recalls talking to were one (FNU) HALL, about 23 years old from Maplesville, Alabama, and one "SLIM" WRIGHT, whom he believes to be a welder. BRASHER stated he did not talk to any other persons and could not identify any other customers in the Cafe.

BRASHER advised he does not know EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM EATON, GARY ROWE, and COLLIE WILKINS.

3/26/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted] 272 Date dictated 3/29/65

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Date 3/30/65

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JESSE P. WRIGHT, 528 Alabama Street, Selma, Alabama, advised that on the evening of March 25, 1965, he had coffee at the Silver Moon Cafe (SMC) around 8 PM and stayed there about 10 minutes. While at the SMC he sat at a table with GRADY DEASON, an employee of the Reliable Olds Company in Selma, and an unknown individual who now lives in Texas who formerly lives in Selma and formerly worked for GRADY DEASON at a body shop on Green Street about 5 or 6 years ago. He stated he could not recall this individual well enough to describe him but believed he was visiting Selma and intended to return that same night or the next day.

WRIGHT advised that he could not recall any other customers of the SMC, during the time he was there, by name, although he believed some construction workers may have been in the cafe. He could not recall any of these individuals by name. He stated that he did not observe ELMER L. COOK, MAMON O'NEAL HOGGLE, WILLIAM STANLEY HOGGLE or B. B. KELLY at the SMC during the time he was there and further that he recalls no one being there who are dressed up in a suit and everyone to his recollection was dressed casually.

After leaving the SMC, he went to Zimmerman Billard Parlor near SMC and played pool, visited his mother, and then went to his home, arriving there about 9:15 PM. He stayed there the remainder of the evening.

WRIGHT viewed photographs of the following individuals and stated to his knowledge he has never seen any of them at any time:

EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, #113073, date of photograph March 26, 1965;

GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, #113076, date of photograph March 26, 1965;

WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, number unknown, photo dated March 26, 1965;

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965.

3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted] 273 [redacted] Date dictated 3/30/65

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WRIGHT also viewed a photograph of subject's car, a 1962 red and white Chevrolet Impala, at which time he advised he could not identify this car as being in the vicinity of the 100 block of Washington Street, Selma, Alabama, on the evening of March 25, 1965.

Date April 2, 1965

1

ELSIE GRINER, 38 Mechanic Street, Selma, Alabama, who is employed as a waitress at the Silver Moon Cafe, 138 Washington Street, Selma, was contacted and viewed photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number 113073, date of photograph March 26, 1965; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number unknown, photograph dated March 26, 1965; and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number 113076, dated March 26, 1965. She stated that she was unable to identify any of these photographs as individuals known to her.

She advised after viewing the photograph of a 1962 Chevrolet, red and white in color, that she did not observe this car in the vicinity of the Silver Moon Cafe March 25, 1965.

She could not furnish any information in connection with the murder of VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO which took place on Highway 80 East, Selma, Alabama, March 25, 1965.

4-1-65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SAs [redacted] 275 Date dictated 4-1-65

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Date 4/2/65

Mrs. BONITA JEAN FULLER, #77 Capps Trailer Park, (Buddy Trailer), was contacted at her place of residence, at which time she furnished the following information:

She advised that she is employed as secretary to ELMER L. COOK, owner of the C & C Novelty Company in Selma, Alabama.

On March 25, 1965, she finished her day's work at the C & C Novelty Company at about 6:00 PM that evening and went directly home. She advised that she has a three-year old child which necessitates her getting home around 6:00 PM each evening. She advised that she has a maid who takes care of her child during the day. FULLER, after observing photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, advised that she could not recognize any of these individuals as being persons she had ever seen. She was also shown photographs of a 1962 Chevrolet automobile, white over red in color, and advised that she could not identify this car as being one that she ever saw in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe.

She could furnish no information concerning the killing of Mrs. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO which occurred on Highway #80 east on the evening of March 25, 1965.

3/31/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted] 276 Date dictated 4/1/65

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MO 44-1245
SMM:mf
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b7c SA [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by

At Selma, Alabama:

On March 25, 1965, WINTHROP WORMLEY, Dispatcher for Southwind Taxi Service, 1st and Range Street, advised that he comes on duty each night at 11:00 p.m. He advised that the preceeding shift is handled by TERESA ADAMS, who runs the dispatching radio from 3:00-11:00 p.m. He stated that he had noticed nothing peculiar since he had been on duty and had not seen any cars in the area that he paid any particular attention to. He stated that the area of 1st and Range is almost entirely Negro, with the exception of some white civil rights workers who have been living in the area. WORMLEY added that the taxi-cab drivers for Southwind often are at the dispatching office when they are not in service and that it is possible some of them might have noticed if any cars containing a group of white males was in the vicinity for any length of time on March 25, 1965.

[redacted]

02 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 3/26/65

RICHARD MOORE, 901 Green Street, Selma, Alabama, who is a cab driver for the Southwind Cab Company, Selma, Alabama, advised the Southwind Cab Company is just off the corner of Range Street and First Avenue and stated that he had come on duty at about 9:30 p.m., March 25, 1965. He added that PHILLIP GREEN, Green's Service Station, Range Street and First Avenue, had told him about the murder which happened on Highway 80, east of Selma, at about midnight. He added that he could not remember if Mr. GREEN told him where he received the information.

Mr. MOORE further advised that directly across from Green's Service Station is the B and P Gulf Station, which is operated by PHILLIP POYKIN; and also that the CMA Market, 1624 Range Street, is directly across the street from the B and P Gulf Station. Mr. MOORE added that the area of Range Street and First Avenue is populated mainly by Negroes and that all the businesses in the area are operated by Negroes. He further advised that there are some white persons living in the area and purchase food at the local grocery store.

Mr. MOORE advised that he knew nothing else concerning the murder and that the only person who had mentioned it to him was Mr. GREEN.

3/26/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

b7C SAs [redacted] 278

Date dictated 3/26/65

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02 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 3/26/65

VIRGINIA LACKOIS, owner, Jet Restaurant, Highway 80 East, Selma, Alabama, advised she had been on duty since 11 a.m., March 25, 1965. She added that business during the evening of March 25, 1965, had been very slow and that she had had practically no customers at all.

Mrs. LACKOIS further advised that during no period after 5 p.m., March 25, 1965, did three men in any one car come into the restaurant. She added that she does not remember anyone being at the restaurant in a Ford with the model from 1955 to 1960. She also stated she could not remember anyone in a 1964 or 1965 Chevrolet.

Mrs. LACKOIS further stated she has no information regarding the murder which took place on Highway 80 between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, on the evening of March 25, 1965, but that she had heard about it from a Deputy Sheriff.

3/26/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

b7c SAs [redacted] 279

Date dictated 3/26/65

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02 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 3/26/65

MARY MIMS, 313 Warren, Selma, Alabama, waitress, Jet Restaurant, Highway 80 East, Selma, Alabama, advised that she had been on duty since 11 a.m., March 25, 1965. She stated that business had been very slow during the early and late evening of March 25, 1965.

Miss MIMS stated that at no time during the evening did three men in any one car come into the restaurant. She added that she does not remember seeing a Ford car with model from 1955 through 1960 at the restaurant during the evening. She added that she does not remember seeing a 1965 or 1965 white Chevrolet during the evening of March 25, 1965.

She further stated that she knows nothing concerning the murder which took place on Highway 80, east of Selma, Alabama, but that she had heard about it from a Deputy Sheriff.

3/26/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

b7C SAs [redacted] 280

Date dictated 3/26/65

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Date 3/31/65

Mr. GRADY DEASON was contacted at the Reliable Oldsmobile Company, 16 Lawrence Street, and was shown photographs of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, at which time he stated that he could not identify any of those persons as anyone he saw in the Silver Moon Cafe during the evening of March 25, 1965, and could not identify the photograph of the 1962 Chevrolet, red and white in color, as any automobile he noticed parked near the Silver Moon.

DEASON stated that while he was in the Silver Moon Cafe that evening he was with a friend of his, CECIL BRASHER, and they were talking together, and he did not notice who may have been around the Silver Moon while he was in there.

3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted] 18/ Date dictated 3/30/65

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Date 4/1/65

WILLIAM TROY MITCHELL, employed as timekeeper with the Alabama Power Company, advised that he has been in Selma since January 25, 1965, working on cross-country power lines to the Dan River Project.

He related that he eats dinner regularly at three or four restaurants in Selma, one of which is the Silver Moon Cafe. MITCHELL stated he does not recall whether he ate at the Silver Moon Cafe on March 25, 1965.

MITCHELL, after observing photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, advised that he could not recognize any of these individuals as being persons he had ever seen. He was also shown photographs of a 1962 Chevrolet automobile, white over red in color, and advised that he could not identify this car as being one that he ever saw in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe.

3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted] /bah 282 Date dictated 3/30/65

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Date 4/1/65

NAMON O'NEAL HOGGLE was contacted at the Selma Motor Company, 100 block of Franklin Street, at which time he advised that he had been in the Silver Moon Cafe on the evening of Thursday, March 25, 1965, for a few minutes between 8:00 and 8:30 PM. He stated that he does not recall seeing anyone in the cafe wearing a suit, and he was unable to identify photographs of WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, EUGENE THOMAS, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, or GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., as anyone he has ever met. He stated that he does not recall having any conversation whatever with any strangers in the Silver Moon Cafe that evening and could not identify photographs of a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red in color, as any car he has seen around Selma.

HOGGLE stated that he has no information whatever regarding this matter.

3/30/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted] /bah 283 Date dictated 3/30/65

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MO 44-1245
RTB/ls

The following investigation was conducted at Craig Air Force Base, Selma, Alabama, on April 1, 1965, by SA [redacted] b7c and SA [redacted]

A2/C CURTIS SNEED and A3/C EDWARD ZILIAK advised that they were on duty at the main gate, Craig Air Force Base, between hours 3:30 PM and 12 midnight, on March 25, 1965. Both were displayed photographs of subjects and the car subjects were travelling in. Both SNEED and ZILIAK stated that this vehicle is unknown to them. They pointed out that they were the only officers on duty at the main gate and that there was no military police vehicle in the area. Both SNEED and ZILIAK are attached to Headquarters Squadron, 3166th Training Wing, in the capacity of Air Police.

284

[redacted]

) 44-1245
'B/jsw

The following persons, all residents of Lawrence
:reet, Selma, Alabama, were contacted on March 31, 1965,
/ Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] 67C
:ey were extensively interviewed and displayed photographs
' subjects and subjects' vehicle to determine if any of
:em had observed this vehicle in the area of Lawrence
:reet on the evening of March 25, 1965. All persons contacted
:re unable to make any identification.

CHARLIE OLDS, 1518 Jeff Davis.
MILTON HOPKINS, 113 C, Carver Homes.
GERTRUDE SMITH, 713 Lawrence Street.
AMANDA KEMP, 711 Lawrence Street.
WILLIE SMITH, 707 Lawrence Street.
ARTHUR SMITH, 707 Lawrence Street.
ISAAC FULLER, 802 Lawrence Street.
Mrs. BILLY LESTER, 904 Lawrence Street.
Mrs. GREEN, 716 Lawrence Street.
Mrs. STELLA DAVIS, 712 Lawrence Street.
SALLY PEARL LUNDY, 708 Lawrence Street.
Mrs. SMILEY, 710 Lawrence Street.
Mrs. CHERIN, 710 Lawrence Street
ROSIE MARSHALLN, 614 Lawrence Street.
JOHN MC GHEE, 612 Lawrence Street.

Numerous other persons were located on Lawrence
treet and displayed photographs of subjects' vehicle. All
ere unable to make any type of identification and their
ames were to numerous to record.

[redacted]
285

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Date 4/1/65

Mr. W. W. CUNNINGHAM, JR., construction foreman, Alabama Power Company, was contacted on Highway 10, eight miles west of Luverne, Alabama, at which time he advised that G. K. SNOW, WILLIAM J. WEBSTER, and JERRY V. LEITH are members of his crew but at that time were out of contact back inthe woods in an inaccessible area on the power line.

He stated that he knew the FBI had contacted SPENCER E. COONER and WILLIAM T. MITCHELL recently, who are members of his crew, regarding some activity around the Silver Moon Cafe in Selma, Alabama. He said he and his crew worked out of Selma for the past several weeks and they ate in several restaurants in Selma, including the Silver Moon. He stated they ate together and had no contact with local people in the restaurant and he was unable to identify photographs of ELMER L. COOK, R. B. KELLY, NAMON O'NEAL HOGGLE, and WILLIAM STANLEY HOGGLE. He was also unable to identify photographs of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., EUGENE THOMAS, and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, as any persons he saw around the Silver Moon Cafe and was also unable to identify photographs showing a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red, as any vehicle he noticed in that area.

He stated that he does not recall if he even ate at the Silver Moon Cafe during the evening of March 9 and March 25, 1965, and did not witness any assault on three men in that area.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM said since he had learned that two of his men had been contacted by the FBI, he has questioned his entire crew of seventeen and they all have stated that they knew nothing about any assault or other incidents around the Silver Moon Cafe.

4/1/65 at Luverne, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1233
Mobile 44-1245

b7C SAs [redacted]

Date dictated 4/1/65

286

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Date 3/30/65

O. T. JACKSON, home address 128 Washington Avenue, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

JACKSON advised that on Monday, March 22, 1965, he began working for his father at the Black and White Cab Company on Washington Avenue, Selma, Alabama, as a taxicab dispatcher.

He stated that he was not in the Silver Moon Cafe on March 25, 1965, and could not identify photographs of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, and GARY THOMAS ROWE as being any individuals he has ever seen. JACKSON also observed photographs of a red and white 1962 Chevrolet. He related that he had never seen this vehicle parked in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe to the best of his recollection.

JACKSON could furnish no further information in regard to this matter.

3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted] /bah Date dictated 3/30/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/31/65

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R. E. LANGSTON, Route 1, Box 188, Billingsley, Alabama, was interviewed at his place of employment, Baggett Transportation Company, Selma, Alabama, and furnished the following information:

He advised he is a truck driver for Baggett Transportation Company and on March 25, 1965, he reported for work about 3:00 a.m. that morning. He stated he did not return from making his regular deliveries until 7:30 p.m. When he returned that evening, his wife, MARIE LANGSTON, was at the Baggett Transportation Company, waiting for him, at which time he got off work and his wife and he proceeded home and stayed there all evening. He stated that they did not stop along the way and were not at the Silver Moon Cafe that evening.

He stated that his wife was employed as a waitress at the Silver Moon Cafe for approximately 14 years and he stated that they visited the Silver Moon Cafe frequently.

He stated that he knows ELMER L. COOK, WILLIAM STANLEY and NAMON O'NEAL HOGGLE and R. B. KELLY, due to the fact that his wife worked at the Silver Moon Cafe and he became acquainted with them.

Mr. LANGSTON, after viewing the photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Sheriff's Office Number 113073, date of photograph March 26, 1965; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Sheriff's Office Number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Sheriff's Office Number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965; and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Sheriff's Office Number 113076, date of photograph March 26, 1965, stated he was unable to identify any of these persons as being known to him.

Mr. LANGSTON, after viewing photographs of a 1962 red and white Chevrolet Impala, was unable to state whether

3/30/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

67C SAS [redacted] Date dictated 3/31/65

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ie had seen this automobile in the vicinity of Selma, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

Mr. LANGSTON could furnish no further information in connection with the killing which happened on Highway 80 east of Selma, Alabama, the evening of March 25, 1965.

302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/31/65

MARIE LANGSTON, Route 1, Box 188, Billingsley, Alabama, was interviewed at the Baggett Transportation Company, Selma, Alabama, and furnished the following information:

She advised that she leaves her house at approximately 4:30 p.m. each day and arrives at the Baggett Transportation Company approximately 5:00 p.m., where she waits for her husband, R. E. LANGSTON, who is employed at the Baggett Transportation Company as a truck driver.

On March 25, 1965, she arrived at Baggett Transportation Company as usual and picked up her husband who arrived late that evening approximately between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. She advised that both went directly home and did not leave their residence that night.

The first time she heard of a person being killed on Highway 80, east of Selma, Alabama, was that night when she was watching television and a news bulletin was flashed over television concerning this murder.

She further stated that she has worked at the Silver Moon Cafe, 138 Washington Street, Selma, Alabama, for about 14 years, but has not worked at this cafe during the past two years. Mrs. LANGSTON was unable to furnish any names of people who might patronize the Silver Moon Cafe.

She advised she knows R. B. KELLY, WILLIAM STANLEY and NAMON O'NEAL HOGGLE and ELMER COOK, due to the fact that they patronize the Silver Moon Cafe and she knew them when she was a waitress.

Mrs. LANGSTON could not furnish any information in connection with the killing which happened on Highway 80 east of Selma, Alabama, the evening of March 25, 1965.

3/30/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted]

PMC/jsw 2-50 Date dictated 3/31/65

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Date 1/65

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Mrs. FRANCES E. BOWDEN, 813 Pettus Street, Selma, Alabama, was interviewed and stated that she was in the vicinity of the 100 block of Washington Street, Selma, from 2 PM, March 25, 1965, until about 6 PM that evening at which time she left the Coffee Pot Cafe and went home. She advised she went home so her mother could attend church that evening. She advised she could furnish no information about the killing which took place on Highway 80 east of Selma, on March 25, 1965.

Mrs. BOWDEN after viewing the photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, #113073, date of photo March 26, 1965; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., number unknown, date of photo March 26, 1965; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., number unknown, date of photo March 26, 1965, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., #113076, date of photo March 26, 1965, stated she was unable to identify any of these persons as being known to her.

BOWDEN after viewing photographs of 1962 red and white Chevrolet Impala, was unable to state whether she had seen this automobile in vicinity of Selma, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

3/31/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7C SA [redacted] 291 Date dictated 3/31/65

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SECTION XVII — MISCELLANEOUS INTERVIEWS WITH NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN CIVIL RIGHTS WORK, SELMA, ALABAMA

MO 44-1245
EGP:ma

Colonel CARL MORGAN, 156 M.P. Battalion, Army National Guard, Lindon, Alabama, on March 26, 1965, advised Special Agent [redacted] that he had received orders to pull his M.P.'s out of the Selma, Alabama, area as of 4 P.M., March 25, 1965. Colonel MORGAN advised that he would maintain a skeleton force in the Selma area during the period of 4 P.M. to 10 P.M., March 25, 1965. b7C

Colonel MORGAN advised that he was informed by the Alabama State Troopers that a shooting of an individual had taken place on Highway 80 East on the evening of March 25, 1965. Colonel MORGAN did not dispatch any troops to the scene as he had previously received orders to take all troops out of the area.

Lt. JAMES S. OVERSTREET, 156 M.P. Battalion, Army National Guard, advised that he was the only officer on duty in Selma, Alabama, during the period of 4 P.M. to 10 P.M., March 25, 1965. Lt. OVERSTREET further advised that there were nine other men on duty during this period. They were assigned at various points throughout the city. Lt. OVERSTREET, whose home address is Box 312, Clanton, Alabama, was unable to furnish any information that would be of assistance in any way.

According to Lt. OVERSTREET, Warranty Officer W. P. COSBY was the duty officer on March 25, 1965.

Warrant Officer COSBY stated that he had received the information concerning the shooting that occurred on Route 80 East the evening of March 25, 1965, from the Alabama State Troopers and passed this call directly to Colonel CARL MORGAN. He stated that while on duty March 25, 1965, he received no reports concerning suspicious activity, persons or vehicles in the Selma, Alabama, area.

The following men, all members of 156 M.P. Battalion, who were on duty 4 P.M. to 10 P.M., Selma, Alabama, March 25, 1965, including the vicinity of Brown

[redacted]

MO 44-1245
KGP:kg
2

Chapel, were interviewed on March 26, 1965. They were questioned concerning [illegible] person, cars or events that took place during the afternoon and evening of March 25, 1965. They were questioned as to whether they had seen a 1963 [illegible] Oldsmobile bearing Michigan license or if they had observed a red and white vehicle in the area. They could furnish no information of value:

GEORGE THOMAS TURNER, SP4, interviewed by Special Agent KENNETH G. POLLARD;

NORRIS LOVETT, SP4, interviewed by Special Agent WILLIAM B. HAGERTY, JR.;

DON JENKINS, SP4, interviewed by Special Agent WILLIAM B. HAGERTY, JR.;

ED HENRY BRADLEY, Corporal, interviewed by Special Agent WILLIAM B. HAGERTY, JR.;

JESSIE GRIFFITH, PFC, interviewed by Special Agent MICHAEL R. KILGALLON;

JAMES THOMPSON, PFC, interviewed by Special Agent MICHAEL R. KILGALLON;

JAMES H. CARPENTER, PFC, interviewed by Special Agent MICHAEL R. KILGALLON;

JOE HOFFMAN, SP4, interviewed by Special Agent MICHAEL R. KILGALLON;

DON GRIFFITH, PFC, interviewed by Special Agent JOHN R. RILEY;

JAMES E. TURNER, SP4, interviewed by Special Agent JOHN R. RILEY;

BILLY TAYLOR, Sergeant, interviewed by Special Agent DANIEL T. CLANCY

MO 44-1245
TEB/bah
1

Mr. THOMAS BISSINGER, 116 Perry Street, New York 14, New York, presently residing at 121-C George Washington Carver Apartments, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information to SA [redacted] b7c

At about 11:00 PM, March 25, 1965, he received a telephone call at the First Baptist Church from a white male, southerner. The caller stated he had heard on the news that a woman had been shot and that he had some information. The caller disclosed that at about 8:30 or 9:00 PM that evening he had observed a 1960 or 1961 red Chevrolet convertible following very closely behind a blue Oldsmobile driven by a white woman and containing one Negro passenger. The Chevrolet appeared very suspicious, and the caller stated that he followed the two cars along Broad Street and out Highway 80 to Cap's Service Station where he discontinued following the vehicles. The caller stated there were four white males in the Chevrolet, two in the front and two in the rear.

The informant refused to disclose his name to Mr. BISSINGER but stated that he might come around to the Baptist Church the following morning.

295

[redacted]

MO 44-1245
1
CB:kq

On March 25, 1965, the following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] b7c

TOM BESSINGER, who was presently residing at 121 George Washington Courts, advised that the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee office had received a telephone call at approximately 11 P.M. from an unidentified male indicating that this unidentified male had heard on a news report that a woman had just been killed. The unidentified caller had refused to make his identity known, but advised that at approximately 7 P.M. on March 25, 1965, he had seen a 1960 or 1961 red convertible following a 1963 blue Oldsmobile that was being driven by a white woman and carrying a Negro passenger. BESSINGER advised that the unidentified caller stated that he was quite suspicious of the red Chevrolet in that it had followed the Oldsmobile very closely. He stated that this unidentified caller advised him that he had followed the red Chevrolet and Oldsmobile down Broad Street and out route 80 East to Kapps Service Station before turning around. BESSINGER advised he would immediately contact the FBI if he received any more information in reference to the case of if he received information that would identify the person making the call.

BILL BURDICK, First Baptist Church, who was residing at 2216 Hardy in Selma advised he was driving a rented truck for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and had left Montgomery, Alabama, at an unrecalled time. He stated he was carrying two adults and four youths as passengers and the electrical equipment that had been used for the demonstration march. He advised that approximately 25 miles from Montgomery he saw a light and dark car parked on the right side of the roadway. He advised these vehicles were headed towards Selma, but that he could not recall any further description as to the type of cars. BURDICK stated he did not see the 1961 Oldsmobile on the left side of the highway.

296

MO 44-1245
CB:kg

B. T. BONNER, Negro, [illegible] home address 1907 Witters Street, Augusta, Georgia, advised he had been following BILL BUSBEY and was about five miles behind him when he advised he also saw two cars on the highway approximately 25 miles from Montgomery. He stated as he approached the vehicle one car pulled out in front of him and disappeared, heading east towards Selma. He stated he got behind the other vehicle and noticed it to be a cream colored car, type of vehicle unknown, pulling a trailer with large tail fins. He advised he had seen a green and light colored 1955 Ford on the left side of the highway as he was driving east towards Selma ten or fifteen miles from Montgomery. He stated that this vehicle was parked near a gasoline station, name unrecalled. He advised he was unable to recall any further descriptive information as to the type of vehicles he saw on the highway. He stated that as he proceeded east on Highway 80 a Negro male came from the side of the highway and attempted to flag him down. He advised it was at that time that he saw a car to the left of the highway. He stated he did not stop at that time and that he did not know who the Negro was. He advised he proceeded on to Selma and upon his return he determined that LEROY MOTON was a Negro who had attempted to stop him.

EVAN HACKER, 211 East Freeman Street, Carbondale, Illinois, advised he was one of the last buses to leave the capitol area. He advised when they passed St. Jude's Church on Highway 80 traveling east an ambulance passed them at a high rate of speed with its red light on. He advised when the bus passed the scene of the murder, several State Police cars were in the area. HACKER stated that he had seen a 1960 model light colored car on the right side of the roadway near the scene of the accident, but that this car was probably an unmarked law enforcement vehicle. He advised that he could not recall seeing a 1955 Ford along the roadway.

The following individuals were contact with negative results as to developing information about suspect's vehicle:

JAMES HOUSER, 102 Bridge Street, St. Augustine, Florida:

MO 44-1245
CB:kg
3

ABRAHAM BANKS, 12[illegible] Vaughan, Selma, Alabama;

LEWIS DAVIDSON, 1[illegible]49 Union Avenue;

JONATHON DANIELS, 1180 George Washington Carver;

JOHN UPHAM, 1180 George Washington Carver;

LYNN ADDISON, 1180 George Washington Carver;

MARGARET DOBBIE, 1180 George Washington Carver;

DAVID BEY, Torch Motel;

JIM WILSON, Torch Motel;

FRANK SORACCO, [illegible]021 Eugene;

WILLIE JAMES HANKIN, 869 Lucy Street, Montgomery, Alabama;

JAMES BROWN, Route 1 Box 180, Bratt, Alabama.

296

SECTION VIII FEDERAL PROSECUTION

MO 44-1245
JRC/mjr
1

The facts of this matter were brought to the attention of Acting Assistant Attorney General JOHN DOAR who authorized the filing of a complaint for violation of Section 241, Title 18, United tates Code. Accordingly, a complaint was filed by SA [redacted] before United States Commissioner JAMES M. GUTTERY, Montgomery, Alabama, at 10:25 a.m., March 26, 1965. Warrants were issued the same date.

b7C

The complaint states that on or about March 25, 1965, at Lowndes County, in the Middle District of Alabama, did, commencing on or about January 1, 1965, and continuing to date of this complaint, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., EUGENE THOMAS, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., within the Middle District of Alabama, Northern Division, conspired together with each other and with other persons unknown to injure, oppress, threaten, and intimidate citizens of the United States in the vicinity of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, in the free exercise and enjoyment of the following rights and privileges secured them by the Constitution and laws of the United States:

1) The right to peacefully assemble, publicly protest and petition the Governor of Alabama for redress of grievances on behalf of Negro citizens of Alabama free from arbitrary and oppressive interference from the State of Alabama.

2) The right to publicly protest unlawful deprivation of the right of Negroes of Alabama to register to vote and to vote for candidates for Federal offices.

3) The right to encourage and assist Negro citizens of Alabama in the exercise of their right to register to vote and to vote for candidates for Federal Offices.

4) The right to participate in a protest march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to present a petition to Governor of Alabama in Montgomery, Alabama, and to participate

[redacted] 300

in the carrying out of a proposed plan for such march pursuant to and under the terms of an order entered on March 17, 1965, by the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama in the case of WILLIAMS versus WALLACE, No. 2181-N.

It was part of the plan and purpose of the conspiracy that the defendant [illegible] threaten, assault, shoot and kill persons who came to the area of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, to participate in and lend their support to a demonstration march from Selma to Montgomery pursuant to a plan approved by an order of the United States District Court, Middle District of Alabama on March 17, 1965, referred to above, and to harass, threaten, assault, shoot and kill Negro citizens of Alabama who participated in or supported the march, in violation of Section 241, Title 18, United States Code, and complainant stated that this complaint is based on information coming to the attention of Special Agent SPENCER ROBB of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, during the course of an official investigation.

[redacted] 301

MO 44-1245
JRC/gmh/mjr
1

By communication of March 26, 1965, the Birmingham Office advised that subject ROWE was taken into custody at 11:06 a.m., March 26, 1965; subject THOMAS was arrested at 11:08 a.m., at Lorene's Cafe, Bessemer, Alabama; subject WILKINS was arrested at 11:07 a.m., in his automobile on Highway 11 in Bessemer; and subject EATON was arrested at 11:16 a.m., March 26, 1965, at his residence on Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama.

All four subjects were arraigned before United States Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, at Birmingham, Alabama, on March 26, 1965. Subjects THOMAS, EATON and WILKINS were represented by Attorney MATT MURPHY. Bond for the subjects was fixed at $50,000 each and they were remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal at Birmingham and committed to the Jefferson County Jail, Birmingham, Alabama.

Subjects THOMAS, EATON and ROWE were released on bond from the Jefferson County Jail, Birmingham, Alabama, at 8:19 p.m., March 26, 1965. Bond was arranged by Attorney MATT MURPHY. Bond had also been arranged for subject WILKINS; however, he was not released since the United States Marshal received a Probation Violator's Warrant on WILKINS in connection with a Federal Firearms violation.

[redacted]

1

BH 44-1236
RGJ:mjh

Miss MILLIE DAVIS, U. S. Marshal's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, advised that EUGENE THOMAS, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON were released on $50,000 bond at 9:30 p.m., March 26, 1965.

She advised that COLLIE LEROY WILKINS was not released on March 26, 1965, as he was held on a probation violator's warrant issued by U. S. District Judge C. W. ALGOOD, Birmingham, Alabama. Miss DAVIS said that WILKINS was subsequently released on $50,000 bond for the warrant in connection with the shooting of victim, Mrs. ANTHONY J. LIUZZO and an additional $500 bond on the probation violator's warrant. WILKINS was released at approximately 2:30 p.m., March 29, 1965.

Da March 27, 1965

At 1:41 p.m. on March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, EUGENE THOMAS and COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., appeared before U. S. Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, Room 300, Federal Building, Birmingham, Alabama. All three men were represented by Attorney MATT MURPHY. The U. S. Government was represented by Assistant U. S. Attorney R. MACEY TAYLOR.

Mr. TAYLOR advised the U. S. Commissioner that warrants had been issued for EATON, THOMAS and WILKINS in the Middle District of Alabama on March 26, 1965, for violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 241. Mr. TAYLOR further stated the original warrant had not arrived at that time in Birmingham but should be in the possession of the U. S. Marshal in Birmingham on or before March 29, 1965.

At this time U. S. Commissioner CHARLTON stated that she would then set a temporary bond for the above three men. Mr. TAYLOR asked the Commissioner if she wished the recommendation of the U. S. Attorney's Office pertaining to the amount of the bond. The U. S. Commissioner stated she did not wish this recommendation and then set bond for each of the three above-listed men at $50,000 each.

At this point, EATON, THOMAS and WILKINS were placed in the custody of the U. S. Marshal in Birmingham, Alabama, in lieu of bond.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

b7C SA [redacted]

by Date dictated 3/27/65

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.

[redacted] 304

Dc March 29, 1965

LOUISE O. CHARLTON, U. S. Commissioner, Birmingham, Alabama, issued the following search warrants on affidavits sworn to by SA [redacted] on March 26, 1965: b7C

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18408, for the search of Apartment #35-A, 205 - 16th Place, Southwest, Birmingham, Alabama, the residence of GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18406, for the search of the residence and automobile of WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama.

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18409, for the search of the residence and automobile of EUGENE THOMAS, 1519 - 12th Avenue, North, Bessemer, Alabama.

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18407, for the search of the residence and autombile of COLLEY LEROY WILKINS, JR., 4005 - 40th Way, Birmingham, Alabama.

On March 26, 1965, the above-described search warrant issued in Case #18406 was returned unexecuted.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

b7C by SA [redacted] Date dictated 3/29/65

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.

[redacted] 305

SECTION XVIV STATE PROSECUTION

MO 44-1245
JRC:gmh
1

Governor GEORGE C. WALLACE, State of Alabama, telephonically contacted Special Agent [redacted] at Montgomery, Alabama, on March 26, 1965, and expressed complete disgust with the "cowardly act" perpetrated by the subjects of the case or anyone who would do such an act of violence. Governor WALLACE stated he had instructed Colonel AL LINGO, Director, Alabama State Department of Public Safety, to make available all resources of his department and to afford complete cooperation to the FBI in pursuing the investigation in this matter. Governor WALLACE stated he also had requested the State Toxicologist Office at Auburn, Alabama, to cooperate fully with the FBI. He also advised that he would contact Circuit Solicitor ARTHUR GAMBLE, JR., Greenville, Alabama, and request that he also afford his cooperation.

b7C

--Governor WALLACE requested that State authorities be afforded the results of the FBI investigation that would support the issuance of a warrant for murder, as soon as completed.

RUFUS HEAD, Alabama Highway Patrol Investigator, advised on March 26, 1965, that LEROY JEROME MCTON was being held at the Dallas County Jail as a "material witness."

[redacted] 307

MO 44-1245

Information in this memo is furnished solely for the official use of the persons and authorities to whom it has been furnished for the prosecution of the subjects who have been identified in the investigation of the attacks on VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO (deceased) and LEROY JEROME MOTON.

This document contains niether 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.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER

PART 8 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 44-28601

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE 5-3-65

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA (DECEASED)
LEROY JEROME MATSON - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS,
ELECTION LAWS

1- Mr. Mohr
1- Mr. DeLoach
1- Mr. Belmont
1- Mr. Rosen
1- Mr. Malley
1- Mr. McGowan
1- Mr. Hines

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

On 4-29-65, Inspector Joe Sullivan at Selma, Alabama, advised that Matt Murphy, Defense Attorney in this case, had obtained a subpoena for FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover. This is to advise that the subpoena has been received today, (5-3-65). The subpoena is directed to "J. Edgar Hoover, Director FBI, Washington, D. C." and commands the Director's appearance in the Lowndes County Circuit Court in Alabama in the case of the "State of Alabama versus Collie Leroy Wilkins." The subpoena is issued for appearance on May 3, 1965. Subpoena dated 4-28-65 and issued by M. E. Marlette, Clerk.

As you have been previously advised, the Department has stated that such a subpoena would have no force and effect outside the boundaries of the State of Alabama.

ACTION:

This subpoena ~~is being~~ has been referred to the Civil Rights Division of the Department for appropriate handling.

JJB:mmb
(8)

REC- 16

1 MAY 6 1965

EX-1

DD MAY 12 1965

May 4, 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This case relates the murder of civil rights worker, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, on 3-25-65.

Matt H. Murphy, Jr., is the defense attorney for the three subjects charged with the murder.

Trial of subject Collie Leroy Wilkins began 5-3-65, at Hayneville, Alabama. Motion by defense attorney Murphy for interview of Rowe, our informant and key witness, granted by court.

Information was previously received that Murphy planned to have Rowe arrested when he appeared to testify on 5-3-65.

RJD:hw

TELET

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI MOBILE

516 PM CST URGENT 5/3/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

Civil Rights

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL- VICTIMS. CR.

AT APPROXIMATELY TWO OCLOCK PM THIS DATE MATT H. MURPHY JR. ACCOMPANIED BY RALPH ROTEN, DESCRIBED AS A PUBLICITY MAN FOR UNITED KLANS OF AMERICAN, INC., KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN, ENTERED OFFICES OF COUNTY SOLICITOR IN COURTHOUSE AT HAYNEVILLE, ALA., WHERE [redacted] b7D AND SA [redacted] WERE AWAITING MURPHY. ROTEN PROCEEDED b7C TO SET UP A DICTAPHONE AND A TAPE RECORDER, BOTH OF WHICH WERE PLACED IN FRONT OF [redacted] MURPHY THEN b7C ASKED INFORMANT THE DATE HE TESTIFIED BEFORE THE STATE GRAND JURY. INFORMANT STATED HE HAD NOTHING TO SAY AT THIS TIME. MURPHY THEN ASKED IF INFORMANT HAD WAIVED IMMUNITY BEFORE THE STATE GRAND JURY AND INFORMANT ANSWERED THAT HE HAD NOT WAIVED IMMUNITY. MURPHY THEN ASKED INFORMANT IF HE HAD

REC 56 44-1245-298

MAY 6 1965

END PAGE ONE .....

MR. DELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

PAGE TWO ....

WAIVED IMMUNITY BEFORE THE ~~FGJ~~ Federal Grand Jury AND INFORMANT AGAIN STATED HE HAD NOTHING TO SAY AT THIS TIME AND WOULD ANSWER NO QUESTIONS. MURPHY ASKED INFORMANT UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES HE WOULD ANSWER HIS QUESTIONS AND INFORMANT STATED HE WOULD ANSWER QESTIONS FROM THE WITNESS STAND. MURPHY THEN TOLD ROTEN TO TURN OFF THE MACHINES AND STATED HE WOULD ASK NO FURTHER QUESTIONS AT THIS TIME. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE INTERVIEW BEFORE THE RECORDING MACHINES WERE TURNED ON, MURPHY TOLD INFORMANT THAT HE HAD SEEN IN THE PAPER THAT HE WORE A GUN AT THE GRAND JURY AND ASKED INFORMANT IF HE WERE ARMED AT THIS TIME. INFORMANT STATED HE WAS NOT ARMED AT THIS TIME AND HAD NOT BEEN ARMED IN GRAND JURY.

MOMENTS BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF MURPHY AND ROTEN IN THE SOLICITORS OFFICE, LOWNDES COUNTY SHERIFF FRANK RYALS, SERVED THE FOLLOWING SUMMONS ON [redacted] b7D

~~QUOTE~~ THE STATE OF ALABAMA, LOWNDES COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ALABAMA, TO ANY SHERIFF OF THE STATE OF ALBAMA, GREETINGS; YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO

END PAGE TWO .....

PAGE THREE .....

SUMMONS GARY THOMAS ROWE TO APPEAR BEFORE THE CIRCUIT COURT TO BE HELD FOR SAID COUNTY, AT THE PLACE OF HOLDING THE SAME WITHIN THIRTY /THREE ZERO/ DAYS FROM SERVICE OF THIS PROCESS, THEN AND THERETO ANSWER THE COMPALAINT OF MATT H. MURPHY, JR., WITNESS MY HAND THIS THIRD DAY OF MAY, SIXTYFIVE, SIGNED S. N. CHAMPION, DEPUTY CLERK, UNQUOTE."

COMPLAINT;

~~QUOTE~~ "MATT H. MURPHY, JR., PLAINTIFF VERSUS GARY THOMAS ROW, DEFENDENT, COUNT ONE, PLAINTIFF CLAIMS OF THE DEFENDENT THE SUM OF SIX, ZERO ZERO ZERO AND NO SLASH HUNDRED DOLLARS /SIX/ ZERO ZERO ZERO DOLLARS/ FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RENDERED BY THE PLAINTIFF FOR THE DEFENDENT AT HIS REQUEST, ON THE, TO WIT, SECOND DAY OF APRIL, SIXTYFIVE WHICH SUM OF MONEY, WITH INTEREST THEREON, IS DUE AND UNPAID AND IS THE PROPERTY OF THE PLAINTIFF, SIGNED MATT H. MURPHY, JR., PRO SE, ~~UNQUOTE~~."

INFORMANT STATED HE DOES NOT OWE MURPHY ANY MONEY AND IF MURPHY IS MAKING THIS CHARGE FOR LEGAL SERVICES FOR MAKING HIS BOND HE IS INCORRECT AS HE DID NOT REQUEST EITHER

END PAGE THREE ....

PAGE FOUR ...

OF THESE SERVIESE OF MURPHY.

ABOVE SUMMONS BEING CALLED TO THE ATTENTION OF DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY JAMES TURNER IN MONTGOMERY.

END

WA SML

FBI WASH DC

P

CC: MR. ROSEN

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

DATE: May 4, 1965

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

Circuit Solicitor Arthur Gamble, who is handling the state's prosecution of subject Collie LeRoy Wilkins on charges of murdering Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, has requested a verification or documentation of payments which have been made to the informant (Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr.) over the period since 1960 when he became a Bureau informant.

The request of Solicitor Gamble has been taken up with the Department, and the Department requests that we furnish the documentation of payments as requested by Solicitor Gamble. They state that they are making an effort through Departmental Attorney James Turner in Selma to determine if a summary of such payments would be admissible under Alabama law. However, in any event, it is necessary that complete documentation be available to Solicitor Gamble in the event such a summary will not suffice.

Department indicated that the documentation material, which will consist of the original receipts for payments signed by Rowe, should be taken from the Bureau where they are kept to Hayneville, Alabama, by a person from the Voucher Section of the Bureau who is familiar with the records and their custody in order that the chain of evidence will not be broken.

EX-116 REC 44

The Department's request was brought to the attention of the Voucher Section of the Bureau, and they have instituted preparation of the documentation material on an expedite basis.

18 MAY 10 1965

JWH/cac
(9)

CONTINUED - OVER

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

79 MAY 11 1965

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

ACTION

As soon as preparation of the material is completed, an appropriate person from the Voucher Section will transport the documentation material to Hayneville, Alabama, where such records will be made available to Solicitor Gamble.

3:11 PM May 7, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. BELMONT
MR. DE LOACH
MR. ROSEN
MR. SULLIVAN

I called the Attorney General's office and advised his secretary that I knew the Attorney General was out of town but I wanted to get word to him when he comes in regarding the case in Alabama, the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo. I stated the jury has asked two questions: First, as to the difference between the various degrees of murder and manslaughter; and second, how much weight can be given to the testimony of an accomplice under Alabama law. I stated it looks as if certain members of the jury are inclined to convict and the Attorney General and I both felt that if we only got disagreement, it would be a victory, but this indicates a possibility of conviction.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

44-[illegible]-302

EX 105

1 - Miss Holmes

JEH:edm (9)

18 MAY 10 1965

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 4:41 PM
DATE 5/7/65
BY

52 MAY 11 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI

Date: APR 27 1965

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, SAVANNAH (174-7)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL

Re Savannah teletype to Bureau, Birmingham, Tampa, and Miami, 4/26/65.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are original and six copies of letterhead memorandum suitable for dissemination concerning information received on [redacted] from [redacted] b7D regarding ROWE and attempts by Klan to locate him.

One copy each of letterhead memorandum is being furnished to Atlanta, Charlotte, Birmingham, Mobile, Jackson, Jacksonville, Tampa, Miami, Memphis, Knoxville, and New Orleans.

ENCLOSURE

3- Bureau (Encs. 7) (RM)
1- Atlanta (Enc. 1) (RM)
1- Birmingham (174-6) (Enc. 1) (RM)
1- Charlotte (Enc. 1) (RM)
1- Jackson (Enc. 1) (RM)
1- Jacksonville (Enc. 1) (RM)
1- Knoxville (Enc. 1) (RM)
1- Memphis (Enc. 1) (RM)
1- Miami (Enc. 1) (RM)
1- Mobile (Enc. 1) (RM)
1- New Orleans (Enc. 1) (RM)
1- Tampa (Enc. 1) (RM)
1- Savannah

NLP:elh
(15)

5- Fo Ppl.
CRD
4-29-65
6-94B
JWH-
44 airtel CRum
304

EX-112 REC-39

3 APR 28 1965

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Savannah, Georgia
April 27, 1965

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL
VIOLA LIUZZO; ET AL - VICTIMS

[redacted] a source advised that [redacted], Grand Dragon Bob Scoggins exhibited the photograph of Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., FBI informant in the Selma, Alabama murder, and instructed all grand officers, Exalted Cyclops, Titans and investigators of the Klan to be on the lookout for him. If this individual is located, the Grand Dragon is to be immediately notified of his whereabouts.

The source advised that this meant that "The gun is out for him" as an "FBI fink" and that he will be taken care of for "lying". The source also advised that the Klan is trying to locate the family of Rowe, however, the source did not know whey they wanted his family but they probably wanted to harass them to find out where Rowe is located.

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.

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No. —

Savannah, Georgia
April 27, 1965

Title	EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO; ET AL - VICTIMS
Character	CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS
Reference	Savannah memorandum dated April 27, 1965, captioned as above

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

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.

COMM... SECTION

MAY 1965

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

URGENT 5/5/65 P1 FBW

TO: DIRECTOR

ATT: N. P. CALLAHAN, ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

FROM: MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, IT AL - VICTIMS. CR - EL.

TESTIMONY M. S. ROW NOT REQUIRED HAYNEVILLE, ALA. WILL ARRIVE AT DULLES AIRPORT, FLIGHT ONE ONE SIX SIX FORTYTHREE P.M., EDT.

END

WA RPP

FBI WASH DC

TU DIS

REC 44

44-... 306

6 MAY 6 1965

CALLED:
By ... Time ...

Noted in Comm. Sect
By ...

5 6 MAY 12 1965

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

DATE: April 29, 1965

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

In connection with the trial of subject Collie Leroy Wilkins for the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo now set for 5-3-65, at Hayneville, Alabama, we have received information from a confidential source that Matt Murphy, the Klan attorney representing Wilkins, planned to have Gary Thomas Rowe, our informant and key witness, arrested when he appeared to testify. Arthur E. Gamble, Circuit Solicitor Lowndes County, Alabama, who is handling the state's prosecution of Wilkins, was furnished this information on 4-28-65. Gamble said that he had checked with the Sheriff's Office, Lowndes County, and there was no indication that any action against Rowe of any sort was scheduled. He said he would be alert in connection with any such attempt to arrest Rowe and would prepare to take necessary action to offset any attempts by the defense to create difficulties for Rowe.

The possibility of the defense having Rowe arrested was also discussed with United States Attorney (USA) Ben Hardeman, Montgomery, Alabama, on 4-28-65. Hardeman stated that if a warrant was served on Rowe in Hayneville, during his appearance there as a witness, there is a strong possibility that he may be able to get the case removed to Federal Court, if such action became necessary. Hardeman said if bond is required of Rowe, some preparation should be made either on the part of the Department or the FBI to provide this bond immediately, as he was unable to find any authority whereupon he, as USA, could authorize appearance bond in a matter of this type.

EX 104 REC 20 44-24001-307

The above information was furnished to Mr. James Turner of the Civil Rights Division 4-29-65, and Mr. Turner advised that the Department would take the matter of providing bond for Rowe, if such became necessary, under consideration. Mr. Turner stated that he was going to Alabama on the night of 4-29-65, at which time he would take the matter up directly with USA Hardeman. He stated he would also discuss the matter of the possible arrest of Rowe with Solicitor Gamble.

JWH:tmt
(6)

1 MAY 7 1965

Enclosure - Rec'd 4-29-65

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

Solicitor Gamble advised that the defense had requested subpoenaes for Robert Creel, Grand Dragon, United Klans of America (UKA), Robert Thomas, Exalted Cyclops, Bessemer Klavern UKA, Lt. Robert Larry or Long, and Capt. Tom Cook of the Birmingham Police Department, Herbert Page former Klan official in Alabama, Robert Carrol and Lorene Fredrick. All of these persons are from the Birmingham area and Carrol and Fredrick are believed to be alibi witnesses for the defendant Wilkins. In addition to these persons from the Birmingham area Gamble advised that Sheriff James G. Clark of Dallas County, Alabama, had also been subpoenaed as a defense witness.

Mobile has suggested that Birmingham review their files and prepare a memorandum suitable for dissemination to state authorities on each of the individuals subpoenaed by the defense so that this information could be used by the prosecution in the cross-examination of defense witnesses. Mobile also stated that they would review their files concerning Sheriff James G. Clark and furnish any admissible derogatory information to state authorities for the same purpose.

ACTION:

1. By teletype attached Birmingham is being instructed to review their files concerning witnesses in their division subpoenaed by the defense and furnish results to Mobile to be furnished to the state.

2. In view of possible warrant being obtained for Rowe in an area other than Lowndes County, Birmingham is being instructed to make discreet inquiries of reliable sources in the Birmingham, Bessemer area to determine if any action taken to obtain a warrant against Rowe.

3. Mobile is being instructed to furnish in detail any derogatory information in their files concerning Sheriff James G. Clark to the Bureau for consideration and approval prior to furnishing any such information to state authorities.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Belmont

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: April 29, 1965

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA (DECEASED)
LEROY JEROME MATSON - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS,
ELECTION LAWS

Inspector Joe Sullivan, Selma, Alabama, has advised that the defense attorney, Matt Murphy, had today obtained a subpoena for FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. The defense has also obtained subpoenas for additional individuals, including Mrs. Dorothy Rowe (the informant's wife) in care of Carraway Methodist Hospital, Birmingham, Alabama (the institution where Mrs. Rowe was formerly employed), and for Colonel Al Lingo of the Alabama Highway Safety Patrol.

With regard to the subpoena for the Director, this question was discussed with the Department on 4/22/65 and Departmental Attorney John Murphy of the Civil Rights Division advised that such a subpoena would absolutely have no force and effect outside of the boundaries of the State of Alabama.

EX 109

REC 20 44-2[illegible]

ACTION:

Sullivan is advising the Birmingham Office of the identities of the other individuals who have been subpoenaed and obtaining background information regarding these individuals. The identities of the individuals who have been subpoenaed for the defense are also being brought to the attention of the Miami Office so that they may be discussed with the informant and any information of value he has concerning these individuals obtained.

1 MAY 7 1965

The matter of the subpoena for the Director, as well as the subpoena for Mrs. Rowe, was brought to the attention of the Department today (4/29/65). Attorney D. R. Owen of the Civil Rights Division advised that the subpoenas would have no effect outside of the State of Alabama.

CLM:ige

May [illegible] 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIV[illegible] DIVISION

This concerns the t[illegible]l of Collie LeRoy Wilkins in state c[illegible]urt, Lowndes County, Ala., for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo which is currently in progress. Wilkins', attorney, Matt Murphy, before the trial began had a subpoena issued for SAC Ingram to appear to testify on the opening day of trial 5/3/65. Ingram appeared with a Department attorney present to protect Government's interest on 5/3/65 and was told his testimony would not be needed until today. Since defense has rested its case, it does not appear Ingram will be called. Any such letter from Murphy as described in attached will be promptly brought to your attention and appropriately handle We certainly will not afford Murphy or Rowe any polygraph tests regarding a matter that has been testified to in court under oath.

JWH/cac

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 6 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Tele. Room
[illegible]
Miss [illegible]

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

3-03 PM CST URGENT 5-6-65 GR

TO DIRECTOR

FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)(P)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA - VICTIM, LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM. CR EL.

SAC INGRAM, BIRMINGHAM, AGAIN APPEARED IN CIRCUIT COURT HAYNEVILLE, ALABMA TODAY IN RESPONSE TO SUBPOENA. DEFENSE ATTORNEY MATT MRPHY COMPLETED PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE FOR THE DEFENSE WITHOUT CALLING SAC. AS DEFENSE RESTED CASE AND COURT ADJOURNED FOR LUNCH, MURPHY APPROACHED SAC AND STATED HE INTENDED TO WRITE A LETTER TO DIRECTOR HOOVER DEMANDING THAT GARY THOMAS ROWE AND HE, MRPHY, BE GIVEN "LIE DETECTOR" TESTS IN ORDER TO PROVE THAT ROWE WAS LYING WHEN ROWE CLAIMED IN COURT YESTERDAY THAT MURPHY HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO SAY THAT THE FBI HAD OFFERED HIM A FARM IN MINNESOTA AND A CONSIDERABLE SUM OF MONEY TO FURNISH INFORMATION TO THE GOVERNMENT. NO COMMENT WAS MADE TO MURPHY BY SAC INGRAM REGARDING MURPHY,S INTENTIONS.

REC-26 44-1236-301

19 MAY 11 1965

ABOVE FOR BUREAU,S INFORMATION.

END

WA BMS

7 MAY 12 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

FBI WASH DC 66 MR. ROSEN

We will report any demands of Murphy

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

2-15 PM CST URGENT 5/4/65 TEB

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: MOBILE (44-1245) 2P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA ET AL DASH VICTIMS. CIVIL RIGHTS — ELECTION LAWS CR DASH EL.

AS OF NOON RECESS TODAY FIVE WITNESSES FOR PROSECUTION HAVE BEEN CALLED TO STAND. TWO ASTS, BURGESS AND MC GEE (ALABAMA STATE TROOPERS) TESTIFIED RELATIVE TO FINDING BODY OF VICTIM LIUZZO IN AUTOMOBILE OFF HIGHWAY EIGHTY EAST IN LOWNDES COUNTY. SHERIFF FRANK RYALS, LOWNDES COUNTY, ALA., TESTIFIED AS TO CRIME BEING WITHIN JURISDICTION OF LOWNDES COUNTY.

STATE INVESTIGATORS, WILLIE B. PAINTER AND E. J. DIXON, TESTIFIED AS TO PRESERVATION OF CRIME SCENE AND VEHICLE BELONGING TO LIUZZO PLUS FINDING VARIOUS ARTICLES IN AUTOMOBILE INCLUDING A BULLET THAT WAS FOUND ON THE RIGHT REAR FLOOR MAT.

VICTIM LEROY JEROME MOTON, DR. PAUL SHOFFEIT, AND GARY THOMAS ROWE EXPECTED TO TESTIFY THIS AFTERNOON DEPENDING UPON

END PAGE ONE

REC-50 44-286011-310

MAY 7 1965

MR. DELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

MO 44-1245

TIME IT TAKES TO EXAMINE WITNESSES ON DIRECT AND CROSS.

DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY JAMES TURNER ON SCENE AND COGNIZANT.

END

WA.....SXC

FBI WASH DC

TU DISC

CC-MR ROSEN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
MOBILE	MOBILE	5/3/65	4/5 - 4/29/65

TITLE OF CASE

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka.;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS

REPORT MADE BY: SA [redacted] b7c

TYPED: /1

CHARACTER OF CASE

CR - EL

b7c

REFERENCE Report of SA [redacted] Mobile, 4/3/65.

Summary memorandum of Mobile to Bureau, 4/12/65.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE

No dissemination will be made of this report to the U. S. Attorney, Mobile, Ala., or Departmental Attorney until such time as the Bureau furnishes approval for the dissemination of this report.

b7D

[redacted] vised that recently he had been on a business trip to Port Arthur, Texas. He stated that he happened to be in either the courthouse or the City Hall when he overheard a conversation between two policemen. He said one of the policemen had a number of documents in his

APPROVED: [signature] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

3 - Bureau (44-28601)
1 - USA, Mobile, Ala.
1 - Departmental Attorney Selma, Ala.
1 - Birmingham (Info.) (44-1236)
1 - Atlanta (Info.)
2 - Mobile (44-1245)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44 28601-211

REC

EX IC

1 MAY 6 1965

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

AGENCY	[illegible]			
REQUEST RECD.				
DATE FWD.	5/7/65			
HOW FWD.	[illegible]			
BY	[illegible]			

NOTATIONS

[illegible]

STAMP SPCT

58 MAY 13 1965

F113

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

hand and he asked the other policeman if the name on them looked familiar. From the rest of the conversation, informant advises, it appears that documents concerned the arrest of a man named LIUZZO at Port Arthur, Texas, in 1949. LIUZZO, it seems, was distributing communist literature with about 15 other whites and Negroes at the time of his arrest in the Negro section of Port Arthur. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO is the Detroit, Michigan, housewife shot and killed in Lowndes County, Ala., on 3/25/65.

Informant advised that the conversation between the two policemen was not for his ears, but that on the other hand, they seemed unconcerned as to who heard them. He stated that one of them said that this should be reported to the FBI and the other one said something like, "We'd better think that over."

The Albuquerque Division set forth a lead for Houston at Port Arthur, Texas, to search the files of the Police Department and the Sheriff's Office for any record which would substantiate the above information and advise interested offices of the results.

LEADS

ATLANTA AND BIRMINGHAM DIVISIONS (INFORMATION)

One copy each of this report is being designated for the Birmingham and Atlanta Divisions due to the close proximity of these offices to the Mobile Division and they may desire to be apprised of the status of instant case.

MOBILE DIVISION

AT HAYNEVILLE, ALABAMA Will follow and report results of State prosecution regarding subjects THOMAS, WILKINS and EATON.

AT SELMA, ALABAMA Will report results of the Houston Office check of the Police Department and Sheriff's Office records at Port Arthur, Texas.

FD-204 (Rev. 8-2-56)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - U. S. Attorney, Mobile, Ala.
1 - Departmental Attorney, Selma, Ala.

Report of: SA [redacted] b7C Office: MOBILE
Date: 5/3/65

Field Office File No.: 44-1245 Bureau File No.: 44-28501

Title: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis: Federal charges against subjects THOMAS, WILKINS and EATON presented to the Federal Grand Jury, MDA, on 4/5/65. A true bill returned against the above 3 subjects 4/6/65, for violation T18, S241, USC.

Summary memorandum prepared regarding captioned case at Selma, Ala., 4/12/65, for the purpose of dissemination of the results of investigation in this case to State authorities so that they might present murder charges against the above three subjects to the Grand Jury, 4/19/65. Subjects THOMAS, WILKINS and EATON indicted for First Degree Murder in the death of victim LIUZZO, by Lowndes County Grand Jury, 4/22/65.

Subjects THOMAS, WILKINS and EATON arraigned 4/26/65, Lowndes County, pled not guilty to the charges in the indictment, grated severance to be tried separately and subject WILKINS scheduled for trial 5/3/65. Supplemental FBI Laboratory report regarding ammunition examination and supplemental toxicology report from Alabama State Department of Toxicology set forth herein.

- P -

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.

DETAILS:

AT SELMA, ALABAMA

On April 8, 1965, the U. S. Attorney's Office, Middle District of Alabama, furnished a copy of a true bill of indictment against subjects THOMAS, WILKINS and EATON which indictment was returned against these subjects by a Federal Grand Jury on April 6, 1965, for violation Title 18, Section 241, U. S. Code. The contents of the Federal Grand Jury indictment are as follows:

"COPY OF INDICTMENT. which was returned on April 6, 1965, by Federal Grand Jury in Montgomery, Alabama.

"IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA, EASTERN DIVISION

"UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
V.
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON,
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.
EUGENE THOMAS

"(18 USC 241)

"The Grand Jury charges:

COUNT 1

"Commencing on or about March 1, 1965, and continuing to on or about March 26, 1965. WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR. and EUGENE THOMAS, within the Middle District of Alabama, conspired together with each other and with other persons to the Grand Jury unknown to injure, oppress, threaten, and intimidate citizens of the United States in the vicinity of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, in the free exercise and enjoyment of certain rights and privileges secured to them by the Constitution and laws of the United States, and because of their having exercised such rights as follows:

"(1) The right to publicly protest unlawful deprivation of the right of Negro citizens of Alabama to register to vote and to vote for candidates for federal office.

"(2) The right to encourage and assist Negro citizens of Alabama in the exercise of their right to register to vote and to vote for candidates for federal office.

"(3) The right to peaceably assemble, publicly protest, and petition the Governor of the State of Alabama for redress of grievances on behalf of Negro citizens of Alabama, free from arbitrary interference by the State of Alabama.

"(4) The right to participate in a march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to present a petition to the Governor of Alabama in Montgomery, and to participate in the carrying out of a propsoed plan for such march pursuant to an order entered on March 17, 1965, by The United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, in the case of WILLIAMS v. WALLACE, Civil Action #2181-N.

"(5) The right to travel to and from the State of Alabama and to use interstate highways and other instrumentalities of interstate commerce in and through Alabama.

"It was a part of the plan and purpose of the conspiracy that the defendants would harass, threaten, pursue and assault citizens of the United States in the area of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, who were participating or had participated in, or who were lending or had lent their support to a demonstration march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, pursuant to the plan, referred to above, that was approved by the order of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama on March 17, 1965.

"In violation of Section 241 of Title 18, United States Code.

"A TRUE BILL"

On April 12, 1965, pursuant to instructions received from the U. S. Department of Justice, a summary memorandum containing pertinent details in reference to the shooting of victim LIUZZO in Lowndes County, Alabama was prepared and was to be furnished to local authorities after review by the Department.

Subsequently, the Department requested deletions in the summary memorandum which deletions were made and thereafter the summary memorandum was delivered to Circuit Solicitor ARTHUR GAMBLE, JR. at Greenville, Alabama.

On April 19, 1965, the State murder case involving subjects THOMAS, WILKINS and EATON was presented to a State Grand Jury which convened at Hayneville, Alabama, and on April 22, 1965, the State Grand Jury returned a First Degree Murder indictment against COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, age 21, EUGENE THOMAS and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, according to Circuit Solicitor ARTHUR GAMBLE, JR. who furnished the above information on April 22, 1965.

Solicitor GAMBLE advised on April 23, 1965, that he and Sheriff FRANK RYALS of Lowndes County, Alabama, had traveled to Birmingham, Alabama; on the evening of April 22, 1965, and all three subjects, WILKINS, THOMAS and EATON, were surrendered to their custody by their attorney, MATT MURPHY. They were arraigned and admitted to bond on same date at Birmingham.

On April 26, 1965, ARTHUR GAMBLE, Circuit Solicitor, advised that on instant date WILKINS, THOMAS and EATON had been afforded a formal hearing before Circuit Judge T. WERTH THAGARD at Hayneville, Alabama and all of the subjects pled not guilty to the first degree murder charges in the indictment. Their attorney, MURPHY, requested separate trials in reference to the three above individuals and they trial of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS was set for the week of May 3, 1965.

On April 9, 1965, the following laboratory examination was conducted by the FBI Laboratory in reference to a comparison of various cartridge cases obtained from the subjects of this case at Birmingham, Alabama:

MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601) DATE: 5/3/65

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (44-1245) (P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;
LEROY JAMES MOTON - VICTIMS
CR - EL
(OO: MOBILE)

Attached hereto is report of SA [redacted] b7c Mobile. 5/3/65. As indicated on the administrative page, dissemination of this report is being withheld until such time as Bureau furnishes approval. The Bureau is requested to promptly advise.

2 - Bureau (Enc 1)
1 - Mobile
JRC: leh
(3)

5 - ENCLOSURE

EXP. PROC.

REC 1 44-28601-5/2

EX 10

1 MAY 6 1965

STAT. SECT.

5/7/65

1 - Mr. Hines

Airtel

EX 109

To: SAC, Mobile (44-1245)

From: Director, FBI (44-28601) REC-7 3/2

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA;
LEROY JAMES MOTON - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS;ELECTION LAWS

Reurlet 5/3/65 enclosing the report of SA [redacted] b7
[redacted] at Mobile dated 5/3/65.

Bureau approval is granted for immediate dissemination of this report to Departmental Attorney in Selma and appropriate U. S. Attorney.

JWH/ral
(4)

NOTE: The report of SA [redacted] at Mobile dated 5/3/65 has been reviewed by appropriate Bureau supervisor. The report sets forth Federal and state prosecutive action against the subjects in this case and also includes the supplemental toxicolo report from the Alabama State Department of Toxicology re autopsy performed on the body of Mrs. Liuzzo.

b7A [redacted]

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

MAY 16 1965

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

FILED 5
MAY 7 1965
COMM-FBI

FBI
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAY
TELETYPE

FBI MOBILE

12-45 PM CST URGENT 5/7/65 LLO

TO DIRECTOR AND BIRMINGHAM

FROM MOBILE (44-1245) 2P

EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, ETAL - VICTIMS, CR - EL.

REMOTEL MAY SIX, SIXTYFIVE, CONCERNING THE PROGRESS OF THE TRIAL IN CAPTIONED MATTER IN STATE CIRCUIT COURT AT HAYNEVILLE, ALA.

DURING THE MORNING OF MAY SEVEN, SIXTYFIVE, THE JURY CONTINUED ITS DELIBERATIONS RETURNING TO THE COURTROOM ONCE WITH SEVERAL INQUIRIES WHICH THE JUDGE HEARD. ONE INQUIRY AGAIN CONCERNED THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE DEGREES OF MURDER AND MANSLAUGHTER. THE OTHER INQUIRY RELATED TO THE AMOUNT OF WEIGHT THAT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE TESTIMONY OF AN ACCOMPLICE.

THE JUDGE ANSWERED JURY'S QUESTIONS AND INSTRUCTED THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR DELIBERATIONS. THEY INDICATED THAT THEY WERE NOT IN AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME. AT NOON, JURY WAS PERMITTED

END PAGE ONE

EX 110
REC 64
MAY 10 1965
MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR
64

TO RECESS FOR LUNCH AND IT WILL RESUME DELIBERATIONS IN THE AFTERNOON OF MAY SEVEN, SIXTYFIVE.

THE JUDGE HAS INDICATED THAT HE HAS A FISHING COMMITMENT FOR THIS WEEKEND AND HE THINKS AT THIS TIME THAT IF THE JURY DOES NOT ARRIVE AT ITS DECISION AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS TODAY, HE MAY LOCK THEM UP FOR THE WEEKEND.

END AND ACK PLS

WA RPP

FBI WASH DC

BH WCR

FBI BIRMGHAM

TUDISC

CC-MR. ROSEN

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOV NMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: May 7, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

SA [redacted] of the Mobile Office advised at 6:07 p.m., Washington time, that the jury had returned and stated that they had been unable to reach any agreement. The jury returned at 6:05 p.m., Washington time. A mistrial was declared by the Judge.

b7c

Information was received that the jurors stood 10 for conviction and 2 for acquittal. This reportedly was the vote of the jurors from the beginning of their deliberations up until the end.

ACTION:

The Mobile Office has been instructed to discreetly check the names of the jurors through the office files and to furnish any information concerning the jurors particularly with reference to the individual jurors who may have questioned the witnesses. Mobile was also instructed to furnish any further details or plans of the prosecution for a new trial.

EX 103
REC 8

44-3[illegible]/31

3 MAY 10 1965

CLM:hw
)8(

70 MAY 17 1965

TRUE COPY

Wed 5-5-65

Dear Mr. Hoover;

At 8:55 this A. M. I heard a news broadcast on station WJMI) (FM).

Referring to the Luizzo slaying, the announcer mentioned the F. B. I. "informer" in the case.

It seems to me that a man who risks his life for his country is deserving of a better reference than this, so, I called the F. B. I. to inquire. Was nicely turned away. It didn't surprise me as I realize your bureau rarely discusses the status of it's personnel.

It seems that every group or individual interested in America and freedom, receives a "title" always negative, by the press and news casters. One thinks of the term "rebels" applied to the Communists in the Congo who murdered our people and the other term "mercenaries" for their opponents. Surely all the defenders were not "mercenaries."

Keep up your wonderful efforts to maintain our freedom.

God bless you.

[redacted] b7C

KLS:ejc

Dear Mr. Hoover,

At 8.55 this A.M. I heard a news broadcast on station W J M D (FM).

Referring to the Luzzo slaying, the announcer mentioned the F.B.I. "informer" in the case.

It seems to me that a man who risks his life for his country is deserving of a better reference than this, so, I called the F.B.I. to inquire. Was nicely turned away. It didn't surprise me as I realize your bureau rarely discusses the status of its personnel.

(cont'd)

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Keep up your wonderful efforts to maintain our freedom.

God bless you.

[redacted]

bjc

May 7, 1965

REC. 40

[redacted] b7c

Dear [redacted]

Your letter of May 5th has been received, and I want to thank you for your kind sentiments and generous comments concerning my administration of the FBI. It is hoped that our future endeavors continue to meet with your approval.

It was good of you to write and give me your observations. In view of your interest, I am enclosing some material which I trust will be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAY 7 12 53 PM
FBI - READING ROOM

Enclosures (3)
U. S. News & World Report 12/21/64
"Our Heritage of Greatness"
The FBI's Role in the Field of Civil Rights

NOTE: Correspondent cannot be identified in Bufiles.

KLS:ejc
(3)

MAILED 7
MAY - 7 1965
COMM-FBI

DEC 17 1965

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

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

955 PM CST URGENT 5/6/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO DASH VIC CR.

REMOTEL TODAY.

JURY IN INSTANT CASE DELIBERATED UNTIL EIGHT PM CST WHEN FOREMAN ADVISED COURT THAT A DECISION DID NOT APPEAR POSSIBLE WITH THE SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. JUDGE ORDERED THE JURY BE TAKEN TO MONTGOMERY ALA AND FED AND MAINTAINED THERE UNTIL TOMMORROW MORNING NINE AM., AT WHICH TIME HE BELIEVED THE FOOD AND REST WOULD HELP THEM REACH A DECISION EARLY TOMMORROW.

END

EX 105

REC-34 44-1245-317

2 MAY 10 1965

WA HFL

FBI WASH DC

P

WESTERN UNION

BIA005 943A EDT MAY 5 65 (39)SYB013

SY RHB010 PD 4 EXTRA AR ROCHESTER NY 5 918A EDT

J EDGAR HOOVER

DIRECTOR FBI THE JUSTICE DEPT WASHDC

PLEASE ADVISE UNDER WHAT LAW UNDER COVER MEN LIKE ROWE IN SELMA CASE ARE HIRED BY YOUR DEPARTMENT. HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD SUCH TYPE AGENTS OPERATING AND HOW MANY ARE THERE. IN WHAT AREAS OF THE COUNTRY ARE THEY OPERATING AND IN WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITY IN ADDITION TO KLAN WORK

5 MAY 11 1965

A VERNON CROOP MANAGING EDITOR TIMES UNION ROCHESTER NY (38).

CORRESPONDENCE

5-6-65; ELR; cal

5-6-65; ELR

Find out first what kind of paper the Times Union is then prepare reply. N.

44-28601-

MAY 11 1965

May 6, 1965

44-28601-

Honorable A. Vernon Croop
Managing Editor
Rochester Times-Union
Rochester 14, New York

Dear Mr. Croop:

Your telegram of May 5, 1965, has been received.

With regard to your inquiries, the development of good informants is an important function of the FBI in handling its responsibilities in the criminal and subversive fields. As in the case of Mr. Gary T. Rowe, informants have made tremendous contributions to our work, not only providing valuable assistance in the solution of cases, but often furnishing tips which allow us to take preventive action.

While many informants voluntarily help through a sense of public duty, we do pay them for their efforts on occasion. Under no circumstances, however, are they considered employees of the FBI [illegible].

I regret that I am unable to furnish you data concerning the numbers of informants who are assisting the FBI or the areas of the country in which they are operating. There is enclosed a copy of the FBI Annual Report for the 1964 fiscal year which contains, on page 5, information relating to informants which I trust will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: See M. A. Jones to DeLoach Memo, dated 5-6-65, captioned, "A. Vernon Croop, Managing Editor, Rochester Times-Union, Rochester, New York." Address obtained from files.

Enclosure

1 - Buffalo - Enclosure
1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent with cover memo)
1 - Mr. Rosen (sent with cover memo)
1 - Mr. Sullivan (sent with cover memo)

ELR:jol (9)

79 MAY 12 1965

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

MAY - 6 1965
COMM-FBI

ORIGINAL FILED IN 94-8-276-40

READING ROOM
B I
44 PM

MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memoranaum

1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Office, Room 7133

TO : Mr. Conrad

DATE: 5/7/65

1 - Mr. Williams

FROM : R. H. Jevons

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA.; LEROY JEROME MOTON, VICTIMS; CR - EL

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

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise that SA Marion E. Williams testified in Hayneville, Alabama, on May 5, and May 6, 1965, as to his examinations of evidence in this case and to identify the items of evidence introduced during his testimony which remained in the custody of the court.

Q1 Bullet fragment from under right front seat
Q4 Mutilated bullet from inside top of car over right door
Q14 Piece of metal removed from body of car below left rear window
Q15 Piece of metal removed from left door of car
Q16 Bullet from victim's body
Q17 Bullet from rear floor mat, passenger side
Q25 - Q30 Six cartridges from K3
Q52 One .22 caliber cartridge
Q53 - Q57 Five .38 Special cartridge cases found approximately .55 mile east of victim's car
K3 .38 Special Smith and Wesson revolver, Serial No. C-418827

The prosecutive action in this case will be reported by the Mobile Office.

ACTION:

For information:

44-28601

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. M. A. Jones, Room 4264

REC- 34

44-28601-319

EX 105

25 MAY 11 1965

MEW:bsm
(8) MAY 1 ...

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: May 8, 1965

FROM : C. McGowan

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. McGrath
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Dobbs

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAW

Assistant Director Belmont requested SA O. L. Dobbs to determine if it was known as to which juror asked if the Bureau had examined the gun and cartridge cases used in the killing of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo for fingerprints as the Director would probably be interested in knowing if this juror was one of the two jurors who voted for acquittal.

After reviewing available ticklers and newspaper articles, Inspector Joseph A. Sullivan was contacted at Selma, Alabama, who advised this information had not been obtained to date. Inspector Sullivan mentioned that it probably would not be possible to obtain information except through direct contact of one of the jurors.

Mr. Belmont was advised of the above information. Mr. Belmont advised that the juror should not be contacted to obtain this information.

Inspector Sullivan was advised of Mr. Belmont's comments, but was requested to immediately furnish this information to the Bureau should it come to his attention through other sources.

ACTION

For information.

OLD:imt
(7)

EX-105

REC 61

44-2861-

10 MAY 10 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This matter relates to murder of civil rights worker, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, on 3-25-65.

Murder trial of subject Collie Leroy Wilkins began in State Court on 5-3-65.

Gary Thomas Rowe is our informant and key prosecution witness.

WJD:hw

FBI MOBILE

MAY 5 1965

TELETYPE

635 PM CST URGENT 5/5/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR AND BIRMINGHAM

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO. ET AL- VICTIMES

Civil Rights - Election Laws

~~CR EL~~.

REMOTEL THIS DATE, SUMMARIZING MORNING PROCEEDINGS IN TRAIL IN CAPTIONED MATTER AT HAYNEVILLE, ALA.

DURING THE AFTERNOON SESSION OF THE TRIAL, THE STATE COMPLETED THE PRESENTATION OF ITS CASE, ALTHOUGH IT DID NOT REST. ALABAMA HIGHWAY PATROLMAN HAGOOD, BIRMINGHAM AGENTS GETTINGS, LAHEY, SHANAHAN, MOBILE AGENT ARCHIBALD L. RILEY, AND LABORATORY EXAMINER MARIAN WILLIAMS ALL TESTIFIED.

FOLLOWING DIRECT EXAMINATION OF LABORATORY EXAMINER WILLIAMS, DEFENSE COUNSEL MURPHY SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME ON CROSS-EXAMINATION. FOLLOWING RECESSING OF THE PROCEEDINGS FOR THE DAY, THE PRESS ASKED MURPHY WHY HE SPENT SO MUCH TIME CROSS -EXAMINING WILLIAMS. MURPHY STATED THAT THE PRESS HAD NOTED THAT WILLIAMS COULD NOT MAKE THE SAME EXAMINATION ON THE WITNESS STAND THAT HE MADE IN THE

END PAGE ONE .....EX 110 REC 99 28601-324

MAY 11 1965

56 MAY 19 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

LABORATORY IN WASHINGTON. HE INDICATED THAT HE REGARDED THIS AS A CRITICAL ISSUE. HE SAID THAT CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE WAS PLACED ON THIS CASE IN SEEKING A CONVICTION, BY LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON, AND THIS MIGHT BE THE REASON WHY THE SAME EXAMINATION COULD NOT BE DONE ON THE WITNESS STAND AS WAS DONE IN THE LABORATORY.

MURPHY WAS ASKED WHAT TYPE OF DEFENSE HE PROPOSED TO MAKE. HE INFERRED THAT HE WOULD ASK FOR DISMISSAL UPON COMPLETION OF STATES CASE, AND DID NOT SPECIFY BEYOND THIS AS TO THE DEFENSE PLANS.

ROBERT SHELTON, IMPERIAL WIZARD OF THE ~~UKA~~ United KLANS of America, WAS ASKED WHAT TYPE OF DEFENSE WOULD BE MADE AND HE INFORMED THE PRESS THAT THE DEFENSE WOULD SHOW WHAT TYPE OF PERSON ROWE WAS, AND THAT HE HAD AN ARREST RECORD FOR CARRYING AUTOMATIC WEAPONS..

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF ~~KKK~~ Ku Klux KLAN MEMBERS WHO WERE OBSERVED IN ATTENDANCE DURING THE PROCEEDINS ON THIS DATE; ROBERT SHELTON, ROBERT M. CREEL, MELVIN SEXTON; CHARLES C. KELLEY, CURTHIS DOLES, RALPH ROTON, ALL BELIEVED TO BE FROM BIRMINGHAM AREA, AND LORENZO BENDER OF DOTHAN, ALA., WHO WAS FORMERLY A KLANSMAN IN LOWNDES CO., ALA.

END PAGEE TWO.....

PAGE THREE .....

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE ~~NSRP~~ NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY WERE OBSERVED IN ATTENDENCE ON THIS DATE: DR. EDWARD R. FIELDS, FNU GENTRY, ROBERT J. VICKERSON, RALPH D. SIXTON, ALL FROM BIRMINGHAM AREA.

THE DATA CONCERNING THE AUTOMATIC WEAPON REFERRED TO BY SHELTON CONCERNS AN ARREST OF ROWE WITH OTHER KLANSMEN IN CONNECTION WITH A ~~CR~~ CIVIL RIGHTS DEMONSTRATION IN MONTGOMERY, ALA. BIRMINGHAM IS BEING REQUESTED TO CHECK THIS MATTER TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE IS ANY PERTINENT REBUTTAL DATA WHICH MAY BE CALLED TO THE ATTTENTION OF THE CIRCUIT SOLICITOR. ~~P~~ Pending.

END.

WA ...SML

FBI WASH DC

BH GR

FBI BIRMSHAM

CC-MR. ROSEN

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 5/6/65

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

Inspector Joseph Sullivan has advised that the defense rested its case at 11:30 a. m. Alabama time (1:30 p. m. Washington time) today. The defense called only six witnesses. Closing arguments and the charge to the jury are scheduled to be given this afternoon.

Robert Shelton, Robert Thomas and Eugene Reeves and Mildred Thomas were called as witnesses by the defense. These four all testified that they were present with Attorney Matt Murphy when the Bureau's informant, Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., made the statement to Murphy that he had been offered a farm in Minnesota by FBI Agents. It should be noted that Rowe had stated yesterday on the stand that the idea of the farm was concocted by Attorney Murphy.

Mildred Thomas was also asked if Rowe had not made the statement to her that he was a card-carrying member of the Communist Party. The prosecutor objected and the objection was upheld.

Lorene Frederick testified for the defense that the defendant, Collie LeRoy Wilkins, as well as Rowe, Thomas and Eaton, were in her restaurant before 10:00 p. m. on the night of March 25, 1965, the night of the killing. On cross examination she admitted that she had not clocked the individuals into the restaurant and that it could have been after 10:00 p. m. when she saw them in her place.

Another witness called by the defense was a Mr. Powell. He was asked if Rowe, the Bureau informant, had assaulted him. The prosecutor objected to this and the objection was upheld.

25 MAY 11 1965

ACTION: This is being closely followed and Inspector Sullivan will advise us of further developments in the trial.

CLM:mpd (7)

MAY 12 1965

FBI

Date: 5/6/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

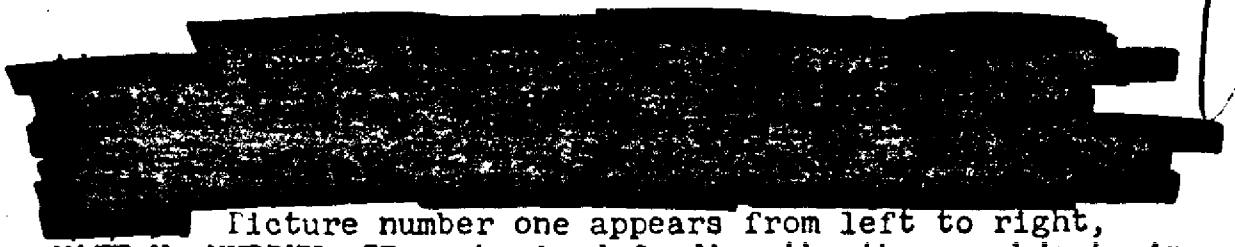
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)(P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka,
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are two copies of an article appearing in the Choctaw Advocate, Butler, Ala., in the edition dated 5/6/65, entitled, "Liuzzo Defendants Appearing at Bladon Springs Klan Rally, One on Trial Now."

Also enclosed for the Bureau is one copy each of two photographs taken at the Klan rally at State Park, Bladon Springs Ala., 5/1/65. Enclosed for the Birmingham Office is one copy each of the two photographs.



[redacted] Picture number one appears from left to right, MATT H. MURPHY, JR., who is defending the three subjects in the Liuzzo case, WILLIAM EATON, LEROY WILKINS, EUGENE THOMAS, and Klan Grand Dragon ROBERT CREEL. Picture number two is a photograph of MATT H. MURPHY and ROBERT CREEL who are standing

3 - Bureau (Enc. 4)
2 - Birmingham (Enc. 2)
4 - Mobile
(2 - 44-1245)
(1 - 157-190)
(1 - 157-190, SF7)
RGR:gjl
(9)

REC 25 44-28601-326

MAY 10 1965

ENCLOSURE

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

in the foreground in the picture. The Mobile Office is forwarding to the Bureau and Birmingham Poloroid copies of these photographs and at a later date will forward to the Bureau and Birmingham 8" x 10" copies of these photographs which will be the exact dimensions of the photographs furnished to the Mobile Office by [redacted] b7D

The Birmingham Office is requested to examine photograph number two which is a picture of MURPHY and CREEL in their Klan robes and attempt to identify the individual wearing glasses and a dark suit appearing directly behind MURPHY.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Liuzzo defendants appear at Bladon Springs Klan rally; one on trial now

For most of the estimated 200 who attended last Saturday night's rally of the Ku Klux Klan the appearance of the three defendants in the Liuzzo slaying case came as quite a surprise. The three, Leroy Wilkins, Jr., 21 William Eaton, 41, and Eugene Thomas, 42, appeared at the rally in the company of Alabama Grand Dragon Robert Creel and Klan attorney Matt H. Murphy, Jr.

Wilkins, youngest of the trio, is on trial today at Hayneville, Alabama. He is charged with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a white civil rights worker who was slain on the night of March 25 near Lowndesboro as she drove with a young Negro between Selma and Montgomery. His trial, presently in its fourth day, is expected to end by tomorrow. Eaton and Thomas are expected to be tried in the fall.

Klan Grand Dragon Creel [illegible] greeted the group at the rally [illegible] Bladon Springs and asked those attending, "do these men look like murderers?" Their appearance at the rally followed a call by their attorney, Matt Murphy.

Murphy, attired in a bright red robe, was the first speaker of the evening. His talk dealt primarily with the Klan's opposition to the Federal Reserve System, international finance and the "Zionist Jew." Murphy lashed out at the government's practice of pumping financial aid into countries that are hostile to this nation. Several times he mentioned an unbelievable sum of 84 billion dollars that he said was given to a small European country hardly larger than Choctaw County. He also remarked at the wealth this county, or any other in this country, would enjoy if a similar amount were spent here.

While Murphy's talk was interesting, it was left up to Grand Dragon Creel to comment on what most of those in attendance had apparently come to hear. Creel, wearing an emerald-green robe which he later removed, talked primarily on the civil rights question and the Klan's opposition to the integration of the races. He commented on the recent trouble at Selma and claimed that the Rev. Reeb's body was cremated because it was "rotten with cancer and syphilis." Reeb died at a Birmingham hospital after he was beaten during racial incidents at Selma.

Creel also attacked the proposed free textbook program backed by Gov. George Wallace. He said that this was one thing he and the Klan differ with Gov. Wallace on. Creel, who said that he didn't want his three children going to school with a bunch of "runny nosed niggers," said that he would buy his children's books and urged that others be allowed to do the same.

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

Page 1A
Choctaw Advocate
Butler, Alabama

Date: 5/6/65
Edition:
Author:
Editor:
Title: Eugene Thomas; Et Al; Viola Gregg Liuzzo, Et Al - Vics.
Character: CR
or MO 44-1245
Classification:
Submitting Office: Mobile

[x] Being Investigated

44 - 28601-326

ENCLOSURE

The Grand Dragon went on to say that it was the aim of the Klan to place men in every phase of government in an effort to restore constitutional government. He urged that everyone make an effort to support only those men who adhered to these principles. He charged that all of our present politicians are courting the black vote and don't really care about the working white man. He also charged that most businessmen are complying with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act too readily. He said that businessmen are not concerned with the man in the street as long as they keep on making money. "They have got theirs," he said, "and all they care about is getting richer." He said that the Klan would not stand for this. "If they want nigger business," he said, "that's what we'll give them."

Following talks by Creel and Murphy those attending the rally were invited to join the Klan. Creel urged that both men and women who were willing to stand up for the Klan's beliefs were welcome to join. Many of those in attendance did fill out membership applications. In asking for members, Creel stressed that those looking for an opportunity to night-ride on a white horse were at the wrong place. He said that violence was not the aim of the Klan.

An estimated 200 persons were on hand at the Bladon Springs State Park when the rally began at 8:00 p.m. Considering the fact that it was a Saturday night, and fairly cold too, Klansmen were pleased with the turnout. Most of those attending were residents of the southern portion of Choctaw County. Some, including the organizers of the rally, were from Clarke County. Few, other than the editor of The Advocate, made the trip from Butler to Bladon Springs.

DO THESE MEN LOOK LIKE MURDERERS? That was the question Ilam Eaton, Leroy Wilkins and Eugene Thomas, Wilkins, center, is posed by Klan Grand Dragon Robert Creel, right, as he and Klan presently on trial at Hayneville, Alabama. He is charged with the attorney Matt H. Murphy, Jr., left, presented the three defendants slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, civil rights working wife of a Detroit in the Liuzzo slaying case. The three, shown in the middle, are Wil- Teamster official.

ENCLOSURE - 44 - 28101 - 3





May 5, 196

GENERAL INVESTIGATIV DIVISION

This matter concerns the murder of civil rights worker, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, on 3-25-65. Trial of subject Collie Leroy Wilkins on murder charge began in State court on 5-3-65.

Rowe is our informant and key witness.

Moton is Negro male who was riding with Mrs. Liuzzo at time of murder.

RJD:hw

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMM-FBI
CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION
MAY 4 1965
TELETYPE

FBI MOBILE

628 PM CST URGENT 5/4/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR AND BIRMINGHAM

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO-VICTIM ET AL.

Civil Rights
~~CR EL.~~
Election Laws

REMOTEL THIS DATE, SUMMARIZING TRIAL IN THE CAPTIONED MATTER AT HAYNEVILLE, ALA.

DURING THE AFTERNOON OF MAY FOUR, INSTANT, LEROY JEROME MOTON TESTIFIED AS TO THE LIUZZO KILLING, DR. PAUL SHOFFEITT TESTIFIED CONCERNING THE AUTOPSY HE PERFORMED, AND THE DIRECT EXAMINATION OF GARY THOMAS ROWE WAS COMPLETED. CROSS EXAMINATION OF ROWE SCHEDULED FOR OPENING OF COURT, NINE AM, MAY FIVE, NEXT.

REC-61
EX-116
9 MAY 11 1965

NO INCIDENTS WERE OBSERVED IN THE TRIAL OR ELSEWHERE. THE DEFENSE SERVED A SUBPOENA ON COL. AL LINGO, AHP, TO PRODUCE THE LIUZZO CAR AND ITS CONTENTS. THESE ITEMS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO HAYNEVILLE AND LOCKED UP AS EVIDENCE.

THE THEME OF DEFENSE COUNSEL MATT MURPHY-S CROSS EXAMINATIO

END PAGE ONE

MAY 17 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

PAGE TWO ....

OF WITNESSES CONCENTRATED ON AN INQUIRY AS TO WHY THE FBI DID SO MUCH INVESTIGATION IN A STATE CASE. PENDING

END

WA OMS

FBI WASH DC

BH ADVISED P

CC: MR. ROSEN

May 7, 19[illegible]

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This matter relates to murder of civil rights worker, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, on 3-25-65.

Trial of subject Collie Leroy Wilkins on murder charge began in State Court at Hayneville, Alabama, on 5-3-65.

Gary Thomas Rowe is our informant and key prosecution witness.

RJD:hw

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAY 7 1965

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

736 PM CST 5/7/65 URGENT CCM

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL. MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS.

Civil Rights
~~CR~~, ~~ET~~.
Section Laws

REMYTELS INSTANT CONCERNING TRIAL IN CAPTIONED MATTER AT HAYNEVILLE, ALA.

AT FOUR ZERO FIVE P.M., TODAY, JUDGE T. WERTH THAGGARD DECLARED A MISTRIAL IN INSTANT MATTER. HE HAD CALLED THE JURY IN FROM ITS DELIBERATIONS AT FOUR P.M., AND QUESTIONED THE JURY FOREMAN AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING A DECISION. THE FOREMAN STATED IT STOOD THE SAME AS IT HAD RIGHT AFTER THEY STARTED DELIBERATIONS AT THREE FORTY P.M, MAY FIVE, LAST. THE JUDGE OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM ALL ATTORNEYS INVOLVED TO QUESTION THE FOREMAN AS TO THE STATUS. THE CONSENT WAS GIVEN AND THE FOREMAN STATED THE VOTE WAS TEN TO TWO IN FAVOR OF CONVICTION. HE SAID IT WAS HIS OPINION THAT NONE OF THOSE ON EITHER SIDE WOULD CHANGE. THE JUDGE ASKED JURY COLLECTIVELY IF IT WAS THEIR OPINION AND ALL NODDED THEIR HEADS. HE THEN THANKED THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE AND DECLARED A MISTRIAL.

EX 109
REC 44-1245-328

11 MAY 12 1965

END PAGE ONE

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

COUNTY SOLICITOR CARLTON PERDUE AND CIRCUIT SOLICITOR ARTHUR GAMBLE, JR., BOTH ADVISED THEY WERE HEARTENED BY TEN TO TWO IN FAVOR OF CONVICTION AND IN VIEW OF GRAND JURY SEEING FIT TO INDICT SUBJECT AND PRESENT TRIAL ENDING IN TEN TO TWO MISTRIAL, THEY SAID THEY HAD EVERY INTENTION OF PRESENTING THE CASE FOR TRIAL, BUT NO DATE COULD BE SET AT THIS TIME.

JUDGE T. WERTH THAGGARD RECESSED WITHOUT SETTING ANY DATE FOR CONTINUANCE OR NEW TRIALS.

OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM DEFENSE ATTORNEY MATT MURPHY HELD AN IMPROMPTU CONFERENCE FOR NEWSMEN AND TV CAMERAS AND ADVISED HE WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO FIGHT THIS CASE AND HE HAD BUILT HIS CASE THIS TIME ON CROSS EXAMINATION AND HAD DONE A GOOD JOB, BUT WOULD RETURN NEXT TIME AND BLOW STATE'S CASE OUT OF THE WATER. HE UNLOOSED A TIRADE AGAINST FEDERAL INTERVENTION AND THE ~~QUOTE~~ "NIGGERS" ~~UNQUOTE~~ AND JEWS AND LIBERAL LEFT WING GROUPS.

JOE ZELLNER, ASSOCIATED PRESS, MONTGOMERY, ALA., INTERVIEWED JURORS DAN LEE AND BILLY R. CHEATHAM FOLLOWING TRIAL. THESE MEN ADVISED THEY HAD VOTED AGAINST CONVICTION. CHEATHAM STATED

~~QUOTE~~ "I DID NOT ACCEPT ROWE'S TESTIMONY, NOT WHEN HE SWORE BEFORE GOD AND BROKE HIS OATH" ~~UNQUOTE~~. CHEATHAM'S COMMENT IN THIS REGARD REFERS TO ROWE'S OATH AS A KLANSMAN.

LEE STATED ~~QUOTE~~ "ME AND HIM (REFERRING TO CHEATHAM) ARE PRETTY WELL ON THE SAME SIDE" ~~UNQUOTE~~.

BOTH OF THESE MEN DENIED THEY WERE MEMBERS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN. LEE STATED HE WAS MEMBER OF WHITE CITIZENS COUNCIL AND CHEATHAM STATED HE WAS FORMER MEMBER.

WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SEEN ROWE AS DEFENDANT WITH WILKINS, CHEATHAM STATED ~~QUOTE~~ "VERY MUCH SO" ~~UNQUOTE~~, AND LEE STATED ~~QUOTE~~ "I AGREE" ~~UNQUOTE~~.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES OF THE TWELVE JURORS: GEORGE SPIVEY, HUGH M. TUBERVILLE, DAN LEE, ROY O. LOFTIN, CLIFFORD MC MURPHEE, E. L. HOLLINGSHEAD, T. R. HOLLINGSHEAD, W. F. AUTREY, EDMUND SALLEE, BILLY R. CHEATHAM, C. H. ROGERS, ROBERT B. SMITH.

ABOVE NAMES WERE CHECKED THROUGH MOBILE INDICES, AND NO SECURITY REFERENCES WERE LOCATED. THIS INCLUDES THE ~~KKK~~ Ku Klux Klan, AND NSRP. National States [illegible] IT IS NOTED THE JURY PANEL LIST FROM WHICH THESE TWELVE WERE CHOSEN INCLUDED ONE W. C. AUTREY, JR., A COUNTY EMPLOYEE.

END PAGE THREE

FROM BRAGGS, ALA., SAME TOWN FROM WHICH W. F. AUTREY, WHO DID SERVE ON THE JURY, IS FROM. MOBILE HAS NO REFERENCE TO A W. C. AUTREY, JR., BUT DOES HAVE A REFERENCE TO W. COLVIN AUTREY, WHO WAS A MEMBER OF KLAVERN THIRTY-TWO, U. S. KLANS, FT. DEPOSIT, ALA., AS OF MAY TWENTY-SEVEN, NINETEEN FIFTY-SEVEN. THE FILES REFLECT THAT AUTREY IS DECEASED. MOBILE FILES DO NOT REFLECT WHETHER OR NOT W. COLVIN AUTREY IS ANY RELATION TO W. F. AUTREY, WHO SERVED ON JURY. P.

END CORR -- PAGE 4, LINE 1, WORD 5 SHOULD BE "TOWN"

END

WA OMS

FBI WASH DC

TU - DISC

The name of the juror who asked questions re fingerprints on the gun is not known. The foreman acted as spokesman.

CC-MR ROSEN

F B I

Date: 5-5-65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

On 5-5-65 Mr. WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE, well-known author who resides at Hartselle, Alabama, contacted me and made known his desire to contact GARY THOMAS ROWE, Bureau informant in the above captioned matter, in order to write articles covering ROWE's activities, possibly for Readers Digest and Look Magazine. Mr. HUIE also stated he would be interested in writing a book regarding ROWE's activities and might even possibly be interested in discussing with ROWE the possibility of a movie version of his activities.

Mr. HUIE pointed out that he has just completed work on a book entitled "Three Lives for Mississippi," which deals with the three Civil Rights workers murdered in Mississippi last summer. He stated this book is due for early release. He explained that he has always been "proFBI" and that he could assure us that anything he wrote pertaining to ROWE's activities would be favorable to the FBI. HUIE also stated that in his opinion the public has an improper and distasteful image regarding informants used by law enforcement agencies and that he would welcome the opportunity of using ROWE's activities to try to change the public's attitude generally regarding informants used in law enforcement. He indicated that he would be willing to pay ROWE

3-Bureau - RM
1-Mobile (info.) - RM
2-Birmingham
EJI:rlg
(6)

44-28601-324

REC 32

3 MAY 13 1965

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

well for his collaboration in connection with articles or a book and would be willing to pay ROWE's expenses to meet him in order to discuss the matter.

Mr. HUIE stated that he will be leaving Alabama on 5-7-65 and will be in New York for 3 or 4 days at the New Western Hotel. He will then be in Chicago for 3 or 4 days at the Ambassador East Hotel. He then plans to spend approximately one week in Los Angeles at the Belair Hotel. He stated following his visit to Los Angeles he will return to Hartselle, Alabama, and remain there for the summer.

I advised Mr. HUIE that his interest in collaborating with ROWE in the preparation of articles and possibly a book would be made known to the Bureau and if there is any interest in his proposition that we would be in contact with him at a later date.

This matter has not been mentioned to GARY THOMAS ROWE, and no further action is being taken by the Birmingham Office regarding HUIE's request pending advice from the Bureau.

5-12-65

airtel

To: SAC, San Francisco REC-32

From: Director, FBI (44-28601)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)
BUDED 5-24-65

RECD-READING ROOM
FBI
MAY 17 6 16 PM '65

Enclosed are two copies of a self-explanatory airtel, dated 5-6-65, from our Birmingham Office. For your information, Huie is a free-lance writer on controversial subjects who covered the Miburn case and indulged in highly speculative writing about the fate of the three victims and those persons responsible for their deaths. On 10-20-64, he contacted the Jackson Office, stated he was preparing a book on the Miburn case and unsuccessfully attempted to obtain information. Huie visited the Jackson Office on 1-21-65 and offered several chapters of his book, "Three Lives for Mississippi," for review. He was advised the Bureau had no desire to review this book.

He has been described as an "unscrupulous individual" and the Bureau does not plan to cooperate with him in any manner whatsoever in connection with his recent request regarding Rowe.

However, to avoid the possibility of any future unwarranted criticism, this matter should be brought to Mr. Rowe's attention. [redacted]

MAILED 10
MAY 1 3 1965
COMM-FBI

Enclosures (3)

2 - Birmingham (44-1237)
1 - Mobile (for information)
1 - Mr. DeLoach (Sent with cover memo)
1 - Follow-up made for 5-24-65.
1 - Mr. Rosen (Sent with cover memo)

NOTE: See M. A. Jones to DeLoach Memo dated 5-11-65, captioned "William Bradford Huie, Author, Request to Do Articles on Gary Thomas Rowe

JCF:smg (9)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Evans
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Airtel to SAC, San Francisco

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7A

Birmingham, upon receiving information concerning contact with Rowe will then contact Hule and orally advise him that this matter has been brought to Mr. Rowe's attention. Birmingham, after contacting Hule, will immediately advise the Bureau under above caption.

- 2 -

1 - Of , Room 7133
1 - Mr. Williams

SAC, Mobile (44-1245) 5/10/65

Director, FBI (44-28601)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA.; LEROY JEROME MOTON, VICTIMS; CR - EL

Reurairtel 4/28/65, forwarding four rolls of 35 mm black and white film with contact sheets and four color prints and a roll of 35 mm color negatives.

The four rolls of black and white film with contact sheets marked HFC-1, HFC-2, JMA-41 and JMA-42 and the color negatives and four prints marked JMA-C7 are being returned herewith.

For your information, the following specimens identified by Laboratory number were introduced as evidence during the course of the trial in Hayneville, Alabama, between May 3 and May 6, 1965, and are presently in the custody of that court:

Q1 Bullet fragment from under right front seat
Q4 Mutilated bullet from inside top of car over right door
Q14 Piece of metal removed from body of car below left rear window
Q15 Piece of metal removed from left door of car
Q16 Bullet from victim's body
Q17 Bullet from rear floor mat, passenger side
Q25 - Q30 Six cartridges from K3
Q52 One .22 caliber cartridge
Q53 - Q57 Five .38 Special cartridge cases found approximately .55 mile east of victim's car
K3 .38 Special Smith and Wesson revolver, Serial No. C-418327

MAILED 30
MAY 11 1965
COMM-FBI

In the event of subsequent trials, these specimens will be essential to the successful prosecution of the case.

Enclosures (5)

REC 37 44-28601

MEW:bsm (5)

19 MAY 13 1965

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

TELETYPE UNIT

56 MAY 21 1965

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601) DATE: 5/11/65
ATTENTION: GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

FROM : SAC, TAMPA (44-313)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Enclosed for the information of the Bureau are newspaper clippings concerning captioned matter, which are described as follows:

"Klan Seeks to Disprove FBI Testimony," 5/5/65 issue, Clearwater Sun, Clearwater, Florida;

"Attorneys Link KKK Member's Gun to Fatal Shooting," 5/6/65 issue, Clearwater Sun, Clearwater, Florida;

"Alabama Jury Weighs Fate of Klansman," 5/7/65 issue, St. Petersburg Times, St. Petersburg, Florida;

"Jury Deadlocked in Rights Murder; Mistrial Declared," 5/8/65, St. Petersburg Times, St. Petersburg, Florida;

"Shadow on the South," editorial, Tampa Tribune, 5/11/65.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 5) ENCLOSURE
1 - Tampa
ACL:jn
(3)

REC 9

12 MAY 12 1965

EX 107

56 MAY 19 1965

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

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Editorials

Shadow on the South

IT WAS bound to come. After the failure of an Alabama jury to convict a young Ku Kluxer of the civil rights murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo of Detroit, Dr. Martin Luther King asserted a new Federal law is needed. It should provide that in civil rights cases in the South the government could obtain a change of venue to some place where a fairer trial could be had—"such as Washington, D.C."

Any such law would conflict both with American tradition and the Sixth Amendment, which assures the accused the right to trial "by an impartial jury *of the State and District* wherein the crime shall have been committed. . . ."

But the pressure for some procedure to move civil rights trials out of the South will increase if Southern juries seem incapable of viewing evidence except through the distorted lenses of racial bigotry.

The mistrial in the case of Collie Wilkins, Jr., 21, caused by the refusal of two jurors to vote for conviction, was appalling. The jury had eyewitness testimony, from an FBI informant who was present in the car with Wilkins and two other Klansmen when the shots were fired at Mrs. Liuzzo on the Selma-Montgomery highway. Bullets recovered from the murder scene were shown to have come from a pistol found in the home of one of those riding with Wilkins. The accused killer did not testify in denial of the prosecution's evidence. All in all, it was as strong a case as the law could hope to obtain.

But the two jurors, both former members of the White Citizens Council, chose to disregard this evidence. One explained that he couldn't believe the FBI informant, Gary Rowe, because Rowe admittedly had violated his Klan oath not to divulge its secrets to any outsider.

To this juror, loyalty to the violent, lawless Klan was more important than respect for the laws of the state and nation — even where wanton murder was involved.

The sacredness of the Klan oath was heavily emphasized by the defense lawyer, himself a Kluxer, in a disgraceful argument deriding as "white niggers" anyone involved in integration movements.

The state of mind typified by the two holdout jurors and the defense attorney is diminishing in the South. It represents a small area of darkness. Unhappily, when it frustrates justice, as it has done too often in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi, it is so magnified as to cast a shadow upon an entire region.

Many Southerners are angered and embarrassed by the actions of the ignorant and vicious in their midst. Last Sunday, after some 900 Kluxers paraded at Anniston, Alabama, with Wilkins and two others indicted in the Liuzzo murder marching as honored members, community voices at Anniston were raised in protest. Spokesmen for ministers, business and civic groups deplored the Klan demonstration; the Anniston Star editorially criticized it.

It behooves other Southerners who place justice above race, and law above tradition, to proceed by word and deed to help lift the shadow on the South.

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

4b The Tampa Tri
Tampa, Florida

Date: 5/11/65
Edition:
Author:
Editor: James A. Clen
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSU

44-28601-

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

KLANSMAN SET FREE

Jury Deadlocked In Rights Murder; Mistrial Declared

Special To The Times
From The Washington Post

HAYNEVILLE — Twelve white Alabama jurors were unable to reach a verdict yesterday in the murder trial of Ku Klux Klansman Collie Leroy Wilkins and Judge T. Werth Thagard declared a mistrial.



—UPI Telephoto

Defendant Wilkins: Another Trial Possible

The jury was deadlocked with ten favoring conviction and two wanting an acquittal.

Both hold-out jurors said their votes were partly affected by the fact that the state's key witness broke a Klan oath when he informed on Wilkins to the FBI.

WILKINS could be tried again for the murder of Viola Liuzzo, a civil rights worker from Detroit, but Circuit Solicitor Arthur E. Gamble said he had not decided whether to seek another trial in this tiny Deep South town.

Jury foreman Clifford McMurphy, after ten hours of deliberation Thursday and yesterday, told the judge that the jurors were hopelessly deadlocked.

Later, jurors explained that the ten-to-two ballot was to convict Wilkins of manslaughter, which carries a maximum penalty of ten years imprisonment. The jury early ruled out a conviction of first-degree murder, which calls for a possible death sentence.

44-2561-331

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

la St. Petersburg Ti
St. Petersburg, Fl

Date: 5/8/65
Edition:
Author:
Editor: Courtland Ander
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

AT ONE POINT, McMurphy said the jury was split eight-to-four for a conviction on manslaughter.

Wilkins, the 21-year-old Klansman from Fairfield, Ala., would say nothing but "no comment" to reporters after the verdict.

The two jurors favoring acquittal later were identified as Billy R. Cheatham, a bookkeeper and White Citizens Council member, and Dan Lee, a mechanic who formerly belonged to that segregationist organization.

ASKED WHY he opposed a guilty verdict, Cheatham referred to the testimony of Gary Thomas Rowe, the FBI informer who infiltrated the Klan and who was in the alleged murder car on March 25.

"I didn't accept his testimony — not when he swore before God and broke his (Klan) oath," Cheatham said. Lee was asked if the oath-breaking affected his opinion of the evidence. "I would say it had some bearing on the case," he replied.

McMurphy said that there was no sectional or racial reason for the decision. "It was just different set of eyes looking at the same evidence," the pipe-smoking, slow-talking farmer said.

SEVERAL jurors expressed the opinion that if Rowe had been under indictment along with the three bona fide Klansmen, the verdict would have been for conviction.

One of the jurors, U. M. Turberville, a farmer, said "This is the worst hell I have ever been through. I think every juror looked into his conscience and to his God and did the very best he could. You couldn't pin the decision on one thing."

SEVERAL JURORS said that the racist speech with which Murphy concluded his defense Thursday did not appeal to them.

"I don't believe he did his case any good with that speech," McMurphy told newsmen. "Personally, he didn't enrich himself with me."

In his fiery, shouted final argument to the jury, Murphy said:

"I'm proud to be a white man and I stand for white supremacy, not for black supremacy. When white people join up with them (Negroes), they become white niggers . . . God didn't intend us to mix with the black race. I don't care what Lyndon Baines Johnson says."

CIRCUIT Solicitor Gamble, a prosecutor as tall as Murphy but trimmer, spoke of the integrationist motive that brought Mrs. Liuzzo south and declared in his summation:

"I don't agree with it. It's repugnant to me. But she had a right to be here without being shot down in the middle of the night. This was a cold-blooded middle-of-the-night killing."

AFTER THE judge declared the mistrial, Murphy held a press conference at the foot of a Confederate statue outside the courthouse.

"I'll say this to you, I did a good job," said Murphy, the bombastic defense attorney who is the imperial klonsel of the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

"I tried the case on my art of cross-examination, but next time a full-scale hearing will be laid on the line. I'll blow that government case out of the water."

IF THE state seeks another trial, it would be held in September, when the next term of court begins. The prosecution also must decide whether to try Eugene Thomas and W. O. Eaton, two Bessemer, Ala., Klansmen who were indicted with Wilkins.

The case against Wilkins was the strongest of the three because Rowe, the FBI informer, testified he saw him lean from the car and fire two shots directly at Mrs. Liuzzo as she drove with a young Negro along the Selma-Montgomery Highway.

Assistant State Attorney General Joe Gantt said he was confident of a conviction at the next trial.

"I think maybe this vote will wake up a few people and show them that there is a slight case of murder involved here," Gantt said.

GANTT SAID the state attorney general's office in Montgomery headed by Richmond Flowers would continue its investigation of the Klan.

"We are going to try to put the Klan out of business," Gantt said. "And we have some pretty startling facts already."

Robert Shelton, imperial wizard of the Klan, was asked if the Klan would try to seek revenge on Rowe.

"I wouldn't think we'd have to," Shelton replied. "A man like that will destroy himself."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Alabama Jury Weighs Fate Of Klansman

HAYNEVILLE, Ala. (UPI) — The jury hearing the first-degree murder trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., charged with the slaying of Detroit civil rights worker Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, retired last night at 9 EST without reaching a verdict. The jury had been deliberating for more than four hours.

The case of 21-year-old Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr. went to the jury at 3:40 p.m. CST (4:40 p.m. EST) after four days of dramatic testimony.

THE JURY CAUSED a flurry of excitement when it returned to the courtroom one hour and 15 minutes later to ask whether it was limited to any special sentence under a first-degree murder charge.

Second Circuit Judge T. Werth Thagard explained the two penalties for first-degree murder were death and life imprisonment.

The jury then returned to the jury room to continue deliberations.

DEFENSE ATTY. Matt H. Murphy spent one hour and seven minutes in final arguments before the jury pleading for the freedom of Wilkins.

Murphy spent much of his time denouncing Gary Thomas Rowe, the FBI informant who testified he saw Wilkins lean from a speeding car and fire the shots that killed Mrs. Liuzzo, 38-year-old mother of five.

Rowe allegedly infiltrated the Klan. He said he was with Wilkins and two other Klansmen the night Mrs. Liuzzo was shot as she and a Negro, Leroy Moton, 21, drove along a dark stretch of Alabama highway the night of March 25, a few hours after the Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights march ended.



T. WERTH THAGARD
. . . death or life.

REFERRING TO Rowe, Murphy asked the jury:

"What kind of man is he? Is he a white man or is he a white nigger?"

PROSECUTOR Arthur Gamble Jr. handled the main prosecution argument.

Speaking in a calm voice, Gamble said:

"The Bible says 'Thou shalt not kill.' It doesn't say who, what, where or when."

Gamble did not ask for the death penalty.

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

la St. Petersburg Ti
St. Petersburg, Fl

Date: 5/7/65
Edition:
Author:
Editor: Courtland Anders
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated



—AP Wirephoto

Wilkins (Left) With Attorney Matt Murphy

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

WEAPON TRACED IN CIVIL RIGHTS SLAYING

Attorneys Link KKK Member's Gun To Fatal Shooting

HAYNEVILLE, Ala. (AP) — State attorneys have linked Ku Klux Klan member Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr. with the weapon an expert says was used in the slaying of a Michigan mother taking part in civil rights demonstrations.

An earlier witness had traced a 38-caliber revolver to Wilkins, and Marion Williams, an FBI weapons expert, identified it Wednesday as the gun which killed Viola Liuzzo, 39, mother of five.

The chief prosecutor, Circuit Solicitor Arthur E. Gamble Jr., said he had "a few more questions" to ask Williams today before the state rested its case.

Matt H. Murphy Jr., the klan's attorney, already had indicated through cross examination of prosecution witnesses the course his defense may take. He also has shown a revolver which he said he took from FBI informer Gary Thomas Rowe Jr.

Murphy has not said how he will connect the pistol to the case. His only comment was, "I took it away from Rowe before he killed someone and blamed it on us."

The klan attorney has sought to portray Rowe, the state's star witness, as a troublemaker hoping to collect a rich reward from the federal government if he could "help break the back of the klan."

Three Face Trial

Wilkins, 21, a self-employed automobile mechanic at Fairfield, Ala., near Birmingham, is the first of three KKK members brought to trial for the slaying of the Detroit housewife.

Mrs. Liuzzo, the wife of a Teamsters Union official, was shot to death near Lowndesboro the night of March 25 after taking part in the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery and ferrying some of the marchers back to Selma.

Indicted with Wilkins — and awaiting trial — were Eugene Thomas, 42, an employe of U.S. Steel at Bessemer, Ala., and William Orville Eaton, also of Bessemer, who at 41 is a retired steel worker with heart trouble.

Tells Of Shooting

Rowe, who said he joined the klan at the FBI's request to get information, told the 12-man jury that he was in the car with Wilkins, Thomas and Eaton when Mrs. Liuzzo was killed.

He said Wilkins used Thomas' revolver to fire two shots at almost point blank range as their car pulled alongside her automobile in a high speed chase and emptied his gun at the car as they pulled away.

Williams, who works at the FBI laboratory at Washington, testified that a bullet found lodged at the base of the Detroit woman's brain was fired from Thomas' gun.

Pistol Traced

Another agent told the jury that the gun used in the laboratory test came from Thomas' home, and still another said a gun permit found on Thomas was issued for the same pistol.

Williams first testified that three bullets found in the car were determined by laboratory tests to have come from the gun which Rowe had said Thomas handed to young Wilkins just before the shooting.

Gamble, the prosecutor, wanted to pin it down still closer. So the questioning of the FBI agent went like this:

Q. Based on your experience, is it your opinion that the bullet found in the head of Mrs. Liuzzo was fired from that pistol?

A. Yes sir.

The defense attorney refused to accept ballistics tests as valid but the FBI witness insured him they are.

No Two Alike

When the lawyer pursued the challenge, Williams told him:

"Mr. Murphy, I have made thousands of tests and I have never seen two guns make the same marking."

That brought this exchange:

Q. You never make a mistake?

A. That question has no answer.

In cross examining Rowe, the defense attorney asked repeatedly whether the witness himself had threatened to "kill some niggers."

That line of questioning went this way:

Q. Before going to Tuscaloosa (shortly before the University of Alabama integration in June, 1963) you made the statement that you were going to kill some niggers. Is that true?

A. No sir. That is untrue.

Then, on to the civil rights march this year:

Q. Did you make the statement in Montgomery to a man at a filling station that you didn't drive that far for nothing?

Question Unanswered

That question went unanswered because the state's objection was upheld by the court. Murphy protested, "This shows his (Rowe's) tendency toward violence and trouble making."

Then in another part of the cross examination:

Q. On the way to Selma, didn't you say continually that you hadn't come all that way for nothing, that you were going to cause some niggers some trouble?

A. No sir. Very definitely not. It was Wilkins who said that.

Murphy became so enraged that the court took a five-minute recess when Rowe accused the attorney of telling him to put out a story that the FBI had offered him land in Minnesota to cooperate with them after the

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

2a Clearwater Sun
Clearwater, Fla.

Date: 5/6/65
Edition:
Author: Rex Thomas
Editor: James L. Beards
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

Liuzzo killing.

Q. I'll ask you if you didn't tell me that the FBI offered to give you 500 acres of land, a farm in Minnesota and pay you a sufficient amount to run the farm the rest of your natural life if you would cooperate and help break the back of the klan?

A. No sir. You told me to put that story out. That's how it got out.

After Murphy had regained his composure following the recess he asked the question again.

Denies Payoff

The witness, a one time client for the klan attorney, replied:

"You asked me if they offered me large sums of money and I told you no. I told you the agent told me I could say anything I wanted to. They couldn't care less. The agent told me I could say I was offered 500 acres of land or apple trees; he couldn't care less. You came back and said, 'Well, good.' You said make it 550 acres and $160,000, I believe."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ATTORNEY CALLS UNDERCOVER AGENT A 'LIAR'

Klan Seeks To Disprove FBI Testimony

HAYNEVILLE, Ala. (AP) — A Ku Klux Klan attorney promised today to disprove an FBI undercover agent's story which named a young Klansman as the killer of a white civil rights worker.

The heavily guarded FBI informer, Gary Thomas Rowe, a Klan member, was called back to the witness stand to face intensive cross-examination by defense attorney Matt H. Murphy Jr. who had called him a liar.

Rowe, escorted to and from the courtroom by federal agents, testified in state court Tuesday that Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21, fired two pistol shots at close range into the car in which Viola Liuzzo was slain the night of March 25.

Wilkins, a heavy-set, crew-cut auto mechanic from Fairfield, Ala., near Birmingham, is the first of three Klansmen brought to trial on first-degree murder indictments.

Attorney Makes Promise

After Rowe left the stand, Murphy, the Klan attorney representing Wilkins, commented angrily to newsmen that Rowe had "told a G— d— lie and I'll prove it tomorrow."

Mrs. Liuzzo, 39, the mother of five and the wife of a teamsters Union official, was shot to death while shuttling other marchers back to Selma following the civil rights march to Montgomery in which she, too, had taken part. A young Negro riding in the front seat with her escaped injury.

Rowe, a husky former Birmingham barroom operator, now unemployed, told the 12-man jury he saw young Wilkins, on the back seat of a car beside him, fire two shots into Mrs. Liuzzo's car on a lonely stretch of U.S. 80 near Lowndesboro.

Two Others Indicted

Driving the Klansmen's car as it pulled alongside the Liuzzo automobile, the witness said, was Eugene Thomas, 42, of Bessemer. Seated next to Thomas was William Orville Eaton, 41, also of Bessemer. Thomas and Eaton also are under murder indictment and awaiting trial.

Eaton also opened fire with a .22-caliber pistol, Rowe said. But a state toxicologist, Dr. Paul Shoffeitt, who removed the death bullet from the victim's brain, had testified it was a .38 caliber slug which killed her.

Rowe said he had been a paid undercover agent for the FBI for five years. He and his colleagues first noticed Mrs. Liuzzo and her Negro companion, he said, while waiting at a traffic light in Selma and followed their car for some 25 miles before finally overtaking it.

At the traffic light, the witness said, Wilkins looked at the automobile parked alongside and remarked, "Look there, baby brother. I'll be damned." Then, Rowe continued, "Gene Thomas spoke up and said, 'Let's get 'em'."

Wouldn't Turn Back

They tried several times to pull alongside Mrs. Liuzzo's car, Rowe went on, but each time something intervened. Once they spotted a highway patrol car. Another time it was a crowd of Negroes standing near the highway. Later, it was oncoming traffic.

The witness said he tried several times to get his companions to turn back to Selma but that Thomas insisted, "We're going to take 'em. We're not going to give up."

When the time came, Rowe continued, "Gene Thomas got out his pistol and handed it to Wilkins. As we got directly even with the car, Wilkins said, 'Give it some gas'. We speeded up a little bit.

Two Shots Fired

"Wilkins held his arm out the window, elbow length. Just as he got even with the front window of the other car, the lady turned and looked directly at us. As she looked, Wilkins fired two shots.

"Thomas said, 'Men, shoot the hell out of them'."

Rowe said he also had a pistol but did not fire it.

As they pulled ahead, Rowe said he noticed Mrs. Liuzzo's car still traveling in a straight line and told his colleagues it seemed the shots may have missed. But, he added, "Wilkins spoke up and said, 'Baby brother, I don't miss. That so-and-so is deader than hell'."

After returning to Bessemer later in the night, Rowe said they went to a place known as Lorene's and, after talking with a woman inside, Thomas assured the other men, "I've got us an alibi."

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

8a Clearwater Sun
Clearwater, Fl

Date: 5/5/65
Edition:
Author:
Editor: James L. Bear
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

CLOSURE

44-38601



(AP Wirephoto)

INFORMER UNDER HEAVY GUARD — TESTIFIES — Gary Thomas Rowe Jr. (foreground), walks between two FBI agents on his way to court room in Hayneville, Ala., yesterday where he testified he saw Klansman Collie Wilkins Jr. shoot white civil rights worker Mrs. Viola Luizzo as she transported Negroes during Selma to Montgomery march. Wilkins is on trial for the murder of Mrs. Luizzo.

Ma[illegible] 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This concerns the s[illegible]te trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins who is one of 3 subjects indicted for the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on 3/25/65. Gary Thomas Rowe is our informant who was with subjects at the time of the shooting and is currently testifying for the state. Prior to his arrest on 3/26/65 Rowe had accompanied Agents to the scene of the crime and at his bond hearing he furnished a false story about the FBI making offers to him in order to cover his having met with the Agents. Murphy encouraged him to embellish his story and say the FBI had made offers to him. The subjects received a traffic warning ticket about an hour prior to the shooting of Mrs. Liuzzo in the Selma area which places them at the immediate vicinity of the shooting.

JWH/ral

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 5 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI MOBILE

1-33 PM CST URGENT 5/5/65 LLO

TO DIRECTOR AND BIRMINGHAM

FROM MOBILE (44-1245) 3P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, ET AL -
VICTIMS, CR - EL.

Civil Rights - Elections Laws

REMOTEL MAY FOUR, SIXTYFIVE CONCERNING PROGRESS OF TRIAL AT HAYNEVILLE, ALA., IN CAPTIONED MATTER.

IN THE FORENOON PERIOD OF THE TRIAL AT HAYNEVILLE ON MAY FIVE, SIXTYFIVE, GARY THOMAS ROWE WAS UNDER CROSS EXAMINATION BY DEFENSE COUNSEL MATT MURPHY. AT THE NOON HOUR RECESS, CIRCUIT SOLICITOR ARTHUR E. GAMBLE ADVISED THAT ROWE HAD BEEN AN OUTSTANDING WITNESS ON CROSS EXAMINATION AND EVEN STRONGER THAN HE HAD BEEN UNDER DIRECT EXAMINATION.

EC 5 44-2[illegible] 332

ONE LINE OF CROSS EXAMINATION EMPLOYED BY MURPHY WAS TO INFER THROUGH INTERROGATION THAT ROWE INITIATED THE MAY 1965 MONTGOMERY AND SELMA IN ORDER TO HAVE SOMETHING TO REPORT TO THE FBI.

END PAGE ONE

ENCLOSURE

5 MAY 12 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

MURPHY ASKED ROWE ABOUT THE FBI OFFERING HIM A FARM AND ENOUGH MONEY TO LIVE COMFORTABLY THE REST OF HIS LIFE AFTER HE WAS INITIALLY ARRESTED. THE STATE OBJECTED AND THE COURT UPHELD THE OBJECTION TO THIS QUESTION, HOWEVER, ROWE ASKED TO BE PERMITTED TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION. HIS REQUEST WAS GRANTED. HE STATED THAT FOLLOWING HIS ARREST BY THE GOVERNMENT WHILE MURPHY WAS ACTING AS HIS COUNSEL, THAT HE AND MURPHY TRUMPED UP THE STORY THAT THE FBI HAD OFFERED HIM A FARM AND ENOUGH MONEY TO LIVE COMFORTABLY IN ORDER TO GIVE SOME BAD PRESS TO THE ARREST.

AT THE NOON HOUR RECESS WHEN MURPHY LEFT THE COURTROOM, HE HELD AN IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE WHEREIN HE MADE THE STATEMENT THAT ROWE WAS A PROSTITUTE, PIMP, AND WOULD TAKE MONEY FROM THE FBI, TAXPAYERS, OR CASTRO. MURPHY STATED FURTHER THAT ROWE COULD BE FOUND AFTER THE TRIAL IS OVER AND HE WOULD LIKE TO BE THERE.

ROWE WAS EXCUSED UNTIL LATER IN THE DAY. THE STATE WILL PROCEED WITH S. A. NEAL P. SHANAHAN AS THE NEXT WITNESS FOLLOWED BY THE STATE TROOPER WHO ISSUED A TRAFFIC TICKET

END PAGE TWO

TO THE SUBJECTS' VEHICLE ON THE EVENING OF MARCH TWENTYFIVE, SIXTYFIVE.

THERE WERE MORE KLANSMEN AND NSRP (National States Rights Party) MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE TRIAL THAN YESTERDAY. DR. EDWARD B. FIELDS OF NSRP PASSED OUT THE PUBLICATION, THE THUNDERBOLT IN THE COURTROOM AND WAS STOPPED BY THE JUDGE FROM THIS ACTION.

~~CORR LINE TWO LAST PARA PAGE TWO A PERIOD SHOULD APPEAR AFTER WORD YESTERDAY~~

WA ....SML

FBI WASH DC

BH WCR

FBI BIRMGHAM

TUDIS

CC-MR. ROSEN

Mr. McGowan

FD-36 (Rev. 10-29-63)

FBI

Date: 5/11/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL

[redacted], Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, telephonically advised this date that one NEAL MAXWELL a reporter with the Wall Street Journal, is in Birmingham. [redacted] advised that MAXWELL told him that he had talked with ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, UKA, Inc., KKKK, yesterday. [redacted] advised that he told MAXWELL that he was not at liberty to discuss such matters with him. MAXWELL requested that if possible [redacted] arrange an appointment with MATT MURPHY, who is Klan Attorney, and did represent the three subjects in instant case. [redacted] advised that MAXWELL has an appointment with MATT MURPHY at 8:30 AM on 5/12/65. MAXWELL also has an appointment with ROBERT CREEL, Grand Dragon, UKA, Inc., KKKK 5/12/65 at 3:30 PM.

This is being submitted for the information of the Bureau.

3 Bureau
2 Mobile
2 Birmingham

RGJ:fc
(7)

EX 105

REC 11

44-28601

2 MAY 13 1965

Wick

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601) DATE: 5/13/65
ATTENTION: GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

FROM : SAC, TAMPA (44-313)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EI.

Enclosed for the information of the Bureau is a newspaper clipping, 5/10/65 issue of "The Tampa Times," captioned "Ten Jurors Said Klansman Guilty,"

2 - Bureau (Enc. 1) ENCLOSURE
1- Tampa
jn
(3)

38 MAY 14 1965

EXP PROC

REC. 39 44-2 11-11-334

EX 105

12 MAY 14 1965



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

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ten Jurors Said Klansman Guilty

That hung jury in Lowndes County, Alabama, tells us something very important about Southern attitudes in racially-connected murder cases.

The jury deadlocked by a vote of 10 to two in the trial of a young Ku Klux Klansman charged with the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a white civil rights demonstrator who took part in the march between Selma and Montgomery last March.

There were ten votes for conviction and two for acquittal.

A ten to two ratio for conviction in tiny Lowndes County reflects an interesting situation. First, it tells us that a majority of Lowndes citizens will not countenance murder, even though it is murder masked as a "defense of our way of life." Second, the vote reflects both courage on the part of those voting for conviction and their contempt for that over-rated organization of human scum, the Ku Klux Klan.

The ten who voted for conviction refused to be intimidated by rantings of the Klan attorney or the angry glares of Klan supporters.

The two who voted for acquittal based their vote on the fact that an FBI undercover eyewitness to the crime had previously "sworn before God" not to divulge secrets of the Klan. The two holdout jurors argued that the man had broken this oath and could not under any circumstances be believed.

It is sheer blasphemy to assume that God would expect anyone to honor an oath to support and protect the Klan. Using the same reasoning, the minority jurors might reject testimony of an undercover agent exposing subversive activities on grounds he was sworn to conceal them.

The accused Klansman will be tried again. Meanwhile, he and his associates might reflect rather seriously on that 10 to two ballot.

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

10 The Tampa Time
Tampa, Florida

Date: 5/10/65
Edition:
Author:
Editor: Bennett DeLoa
Title: EUGENE THOMAS ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO,
Character: VICT
or
Classification: CR TP EL
Submitting Office: Tampa
Bufile 44-28601
[ ] Being Investigated

44-28601-334

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach DATE: 5-11-65

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE
AUTHOR
REQUEST TO DO ARTICLES
ON GARY THOMAS ROWE

BACKGROUND:

By airtel dated 5-5-65, Birmingham advised that Huie, well-known author who resides in Hartselle, Alabama, has expressed a desire to contact Rowe, Bureau informant in the Viola Liuzzo investigation, in order to write articles on Rowe's activities. Huie stated he has always been "pro-FBI" and that he could assure us that anything he wrote pertaining to Rowe would be favorable to the FBI.

Huie noted that he would be willing to pay Rowe well for his collaboration in connection with articles or a book and would be willing to pay Rowe's expenses to meet him to discuss this matter.

SAC, Birmingham, advised Huie that this matter would be made known to the Bureau and if there is any interest in his proposition, we would be in contact with him at a later date. SAC further advised that this matter has not been mentioned to Rowe and no further action is being taken by the Birmingham Office pending advice from the Bureau.

WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE:

Huie has just completed a book entitled "Three Lives for Mississippi" which relates to the murder of the three civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Mississippi. Although the book has not been released as yet, it is being serialized in the "New York Herald Tribune" and a daily summary is being sent through for the Director's information.

The "Herald Tribune" describes Huie as a former newspaperman who has written 14 books of fiction and nonfiction. He is a southerner, residing in the Tennessee Valley of North Alabama. He has further been described as an unscrupulous individual.

Enclosure sent 5-12-65

- Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure
- Mr. Rosen - Enclosure

JCF:smg (5)

18 MAY 17 1965

CRIME RESEARCH

(Continued next page)

M. A. Jones to DeLoach Memo
RE: William Bradford Huie

Huie is a free-lance writer on controversial subjects who covered the Miburn case and indulged in highly speculative writing about the fate of the three victims and those persons responsible for their deaths. On 10-20-64, he contacted the Jackson Office, stated he was preparing a book on the Miburn case and unsuccessfully attempted to obtain information. Huie visited the Jackson Office on 1-21-65 and offered several chapters of his book, "Three Lives for Mississippi," for review. He was advised the Bureau had no desire to review this book.

OBSERVATIONS:

Although we will not collaborate or assist Huie in this matter whatsoever, it is felt to avoid any possibility of being subjected to unjustified criticism in the future, Rowe should be made aware of Huie's offer. [redacted] b7C b7A

We should, however, have Huie advised that this matter has been brought to Rowe's attention.

RECOMMENDATION:

That attached airtel to San Francisco with copies to Birmingham be sent instructing them along the lines indicated above, since Mr. Rowe is currently being kept undercover in the area handled by the San Francisco Office.

Appearance Bond (Rev. 7-60) Cr. Form No. 11

United States District Court

FOR THE

Northern District of Alabama

RECEIVED

APR 16 1965

CLERK U. S. DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DIST. OF ALA. MONTGOMERY, AL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

William Orville Eaton

Rt 6 Box 566, Bessemer, Ala.

APPEARANCE BOND

FOR

No. 75: 18,423

Viol: Ti.18 Sec 241 on Bench Warrant 11,735-N, Mid. Dist.

We, the undersigned, jointly and severally acknowledge that we and our personal representatives are bound to pay to the United States of America the sum of Fifty Thousand dollars ($ 50,000.00).

The conditions of this bond are that the defendant, William Orville Eaton is to appear before , United States Commissioner for the District of , at , and in the United States District Court for the Middle District District of Alabama at Montgomery, Ala. , and at such other places as the defendant may be required to appear, in accordance with any and all orders and directions relating to the defendant's appearance in the above entitled matter as may be given or issued by the commissioner or by the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama or any other United States District Court to which the defendant may be removed or the cause transferred; that the defendant is not to depart the Northern District of Alabama ,or the jurisdiction of any other United States District Court to which the defendant may be removed or the cause transferred after he has appeared in such other district pursuant to the terms of this bond, except in accordance with such orders or warrants as may be issued by the Commissioner or the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama or the United States District Court for such other district; that the defendant is to abide any judgment entered in such matter by surrendering himself to serve any sentence imposed and obeying any order or direction in connection with such judgment as the court imposing it may prescribe.

If the defendant appears as ordered and otherwise obeys and performs the foregoing conditions of this bond, then this bond is to be void, but if the defendant fails to obey or perform any of these conditions, payment of the amount of this bond shall be due forthwith. Forfeiture of this bond for any breach of its conditions may be declared by any United States District Court having cognizance of the above entitled matter at the time of such breach and if the bond is forfeited and if the forfeiture is not set aside or remitted, judgment may be entered upon motion in such United States District Court against each debtor jointly and severally for the amount above stated, together with interest and costs, and execution may be issued and payment secured as provided by the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and by other laws of the United States.

It is agreed and understood that this is a continuing bond which shall continue in full force and effect until such time as the undersigned are duly exonerated.

This bond is signed on this 7 day of April 1965

at Birmingham, Alabama

Name of Defendant William Orville Eaton Address Bessemer, Ala. Rt 6 Box 566

Name of Surety [illegible] Address 1447 [illegible] Rd 809 No. 21 St - Bham Ala

Name of Surety [illegible] Address RT 4 Box 172 - Bham Ala

Signed and acknowledged before me this 7 day of April 1965.

L. D. Charlton

Approved: Louise D. Charlton

Appearance Bond (Rev. 7-59) Cr. Form No. 17

United States District Court

FOR THE

Northern District of Alabama

RECEIV

APR 16 196

CLERK U. S. DISTRICT CO MIDDLE DIST. OF MONTGOMERY, A

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

Collie Leroy Sr Wilkins, Jr

4005 - 40th Way, Fairfield, Ala.

APPEARANCE BOND FOR

No. 75: 18,424

Viol: Ti.18 Sec 241 on Bench Warrant 11, Middle Dist. o

We, the undersigned, jointly and severally acknowledge that we and our personal representatives are bound to pay to the United States of America the sum of Fifty Thousand dollars ($ 50,000.00).

The conditions of this bond are that the defendant Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr is to appear before , United States Commissioner for the District of , at , and in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama at Montgomery , and at such other places as the defendant may be required to appear, in accordance with any and all orders and directions relating to the defendant's appearance in the above entitled matter as may be given or issued by the commissioner or by the United States District Court for the Middle District of Ala. or any other United States District Court to which the defendant may be removed or the cause transferred; that the defendant is not to depart the No. District of Ala. ,or the jurisdiction of any other United States District Court to which the defendant may be removed or the cause transferred after he has appeared in such other district pursuant to the terms of this bond, except in accordance with such orders or warrants as may be issued by the Commissioner or the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama or the United States District Court for such other district; that the defendant is to abide any judgment entered in such matter by surrendering himself to serve any sentence imposed and obeying any order or direction in connection with such judgment as the court imposing it may prescribe.

If the defendant appears as ordered and otherwise obeys and performs the foregoing conditions of this bond, then this bond is to be void, but if the defendant fails to obey or perform any of these conditions, payment of the amount of this bond shall be due forthwith. Forfeiture of this bond for any breach of its conditions may be declared by any United States District Court having cognizance of the above entitled matter at the time of such breach and if the bond is forfeited and if the forfeiture is not set aside or remitted, judgment may be entered upon motion in such United States District Court against each debtor jointly and severally for the amount above stated, together with interest and costs, and execution may be issued and payment secured as provided by the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and by other laws of the United States.

It is agreed and understood that this is a continuing bond which shall continue in full force and effect until such time as the undersigned are duly exonerated.

This bond is signed on this 7 day of April 19 65

at Birmingham, Ala.

Name of Defendant Collie [illegible] Wilkins Address 4005 - 40th Way, Fairfield,

Name of Surety Jas. [illegible] Address B9 No. 21 St. Bha

Name of Surety Willie [illegible] Address [illegible]

Matt H [illegible]

Signed and acknowledged before me this 7 day of April 1965.

L. O. Charlton

Approved: Louise O. Charlton

Appearance Bond (Rev. 7-59) Cr. Form No. 17

United States District Court

FOR THE

Northern District of Alabama

RECEIV

APR 16 19

CLERK
U. S. DISTRICT C
MIDDLE DIST. OF
MONTGOMERY, A

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

Eugene Thomas

APPEARANCE BOND FOR

No. 75: 15,425

Viol: Ti.18 Sec 241 on Bench Warrant

1513 - 12th Ave No., Bessemer, Ala. Middle Dist. Ala.

We, the undersigned, jointly and severally acknowledge that we and our personal representatives are bound to pay to the United States of America the sum of Fifty Thousand dollars ($).

The conditions of this bond are that the defendant Eugene Thomas is to appear before , United States Commissioner for the District of , at , and in the United States District Court for the Middle District District of Alabama at Montgomery , and at such other places as the defendant may be required to appear, in accordance with any and all orders and directions relating to the defendant's appearance in the above entitled matter as may be given or issued by the commissioner or by the United States District Court for the Middle District of Ala. or any other United States District Court to which the defendant may be removed or the cause transferred; that the defendant is not to depart the No. District of Ala. or the jurisdiction of any other United States District Court to which the defendant may be removed or the cause transferred after he has appeared in such other district pursuant to the terms of this bond, except in accordance with such orders or warrants as may be issued by the Commissioner or the United States District Court for the No District of Ala. or the United States District Court for such other district; that the defendant is to abide any judgment entered in such matter by surrendering himself to serve any sentence imposed and obeying any order or direction in connection with such judgment as the court imposing it may prescribe.

If the defendant appears as ordered and otherwise obeys and performs the foregoing conditions of this bond, then this bond is to be void, but if the defendant fails to obey or perform any of these conditions, payment of the amount of this bond shall be due forthwith. Forfeiture of this bond for any breach of its conditions may be declared by any United States District Court having cognizance of the above entitled matter at the time of such breach and if the bond is forfeited and if the forfeiture is not set aside or remitted, judgment may be entered upon motion in such United States District Court against each debtor jointly and severally for the amount above stated, together with interest and costs, and execution may be issued and payment secured as provided by the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and by other laws of the United States.

It is agreed and understood that this is a continuing bond which shall continue in full force and effect until such time as the undersigned are duly exonerated.

This bond is signed on this 7 day of April 1965

at Birmingham, Ala.

Name of Defendant [signature] Address 1513 - 12th Ave No. Bessemer, 1447 [illegible]

Name of Surety [signature] Address 809 No. 21st - Bham

Name of Surety [signature] Address Rt 4 Box 172 Bham

Signed and acknowledged before me this 7 day of April 1965.

[signature]

Approved: [signature]

Insert place

NOTICE—This Bond MUST be signed with Ink and will not be approved if signatures are made with pencil.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, LOWNDES COUNTY.

We, William Orville Eaton, Principal,

and Mary Ellen Murphy, Mate to Murphy Jr & Robert M Creel

sureties agree to pay to the State of Alabama

TEN THOUSAND Dollars

unless the said William Orville Eaton appear at the

next term of the Circuit Court of Lowndes County, and

from term to term thereafter, until discharged by law, to answer a

prosecution for the offense of Murder 1st degree

and we hereby waive the benefits of all laws exempting property from levy and sale under execution or other process for the collection of debt, by the Constitution and Laws of the State of Alabama, and we hereby severally certify that we have property over and above all debts and liabilities to the full amount of above bond.

Approved this 22nd day of William Orville Eaton (L. S.)

April 1945 Mary Ellen Murphy (L. S.)

Melvin Bailey Sheriff. by Mate to Murphy Jr (L. S.)

By [illegible] Deputy Sheriff. Mate to Murphy Jr (L. S.)

[illegible]

NOTICE—This Bond MUST be signed with Ink and will not be approved if signatures are made with pencil.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, LOWNDES COUNTY.

We, Eugene Thomas Eugene Thomas Principal,

and Mary Ellen Murphy, Mate to Murphy & Robert M Creel

sureties agree to pay to the State of Alabama

TEN THOUSAND Dollars

unless the said Eugene Thomas appear at the

next term of the Circuit Court of Lowndes County, and

from term to term thereafter, until discharged by law, to answer a

prosecution for the offense of Murder 1st degree

and we hereby waive the benefits of all laws exempting property from levy and sale under execution or other process for the collection of debt, by the Constitution and Laws of the State of Alabama, and we hereby severally certify that we have property over and above all debts and liabilities to the full amount of above bond.

Approved this 22nd day of Eugene Thomas (L. S.)

April 1945 Mary Ellen Murphy (L. S.)

Melvin Bailey Sheriff. by Mate to Murphy Jr (L. S.)

NOTICE—This Bond MUST be signed with Ink and will not be approved if signatures are made with pencil.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, LOWNDES COUNTY.

We, Collie Lorey Wilkins Principal,

and Mary Ellen Murphy & Matt & Murphy Jr & Robt Am Coul

sureties agree to pay to the State of Alabama

TEN THOUSAND Dollars

unless the said Collie Lorey appear at the

next term of the Circuit Court of Lowndes County, and

from term to term thereafter, until discharged by law, to answer a

prosecution for the offense of Murder 1st degree

and we hereby waive the benefits of all laws exempting property from levy and sale under execution or other process for the collection of debt, by the Constitution and Laws of the State of Alabama, and we hereby severally certify that we have property over and above all debts and liabilities to the full amount of above bond.

Approved this 22nd day of April 1945

Melvin Bailey Sheriff.

By R E Belcher, Chief Deputy Sheriff.

Collie Lorey Wilkins (S.)

Mary Ellen Murphy (S.)

by Matt & Murphy (S.)

Matt & Murphy Jr (S.)

[illegible]

NFBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAY 13 1965
TELETYPE

FBI BIRMGHAM

714PM CST URGENT 5-13-65 HEP

TO DIRECTOR

FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236) 1P

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL DASH VICTIMS, CR-EL.

RE TELCALL FROM BUREAU TO BIRMINGHAM THIS DATE.

BIRMINGHAM INDICES REFLECT MR. PAUL JOHNSTON IS MEMBER OF LAW FIRM CABANISS, JOHNSTON, GARDNER, AND CLARK, BIRMINGHAM. THIS LAW FIRM CONSIDERED ONE OF OUTSTANDING FIRMS IN BIRMINGHAM HANDLING PRIMARILY CIVIL CASES AND REPRESENTING MANY MAJOR BUSINESSES IN BIRMINGHAM.

AGENTS, BIRMINGHAM OFFICE, KNOW JOHNSTON TO BE PERSON OF EXCELLENT CHARACTER AND REPUTATION, OUTSTANDING LEGAL ABILITY, GREAT INTEGRITY, AND HIGHLY REGARDED THOUGHOUT AREA AS CITIZEN AND ATTORNEY.

BIRMINGHAM INDICES REFLECT JOHNSTON IS MEMBER OF UNITARIAN CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM, AND THIS CHURCH ACTIVE IN SUPPORT OF INTEGRATION ACTIVITIES IN PAST. THIS HAS RESULTED IN CRITICISM OF CHURCH BY MORE CONSERVATIVE GROUPS. NO DEROGATORY INFO RE JOHNSTON IN BIRMINGHAM FILES.

AIRMAIL COPY TO MOBILE

END

WBS

FBI WASH DC

TO MAY 20 1965

14-28601-335

MAY 14 1965

FBI

Date: 4/29/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

(1)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL

As the Bureau is aware, in connection with the search of the residence of EUGENE THOMAS, with search warrant, one Newport Model CN Double Barrel (short) Shotgun, Serial #T70594, was located [redacted] b7C

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7

It is requested that the Bureau, by liaison, ascertain whether or not weapon described above is registered in the Central Records of ATU in Washington, D. C. In the event this weapon is not registered the Bureau is requested to consult with the Department regarding an opinion and possible prosecution of EUGENE THOMAS in connection with his possession of the sawed off shotgun described above.

12 MAY 6 1965

REC-108

3 Bureau
2 Birmingham

RGJ:fc
(5)

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. D. J. Brennan, Jr.

DATE: May 4, 1965

FROM : P. D. Putnam

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATION
ELECTION LAWS

In connection with the search of the residence of subject Eugene Thomas, one Newport Model CN double-barrel (short) shotgun, serial number T70594, was located [redacted]. Birmingham, by airtel 4-29-65, requested that the Bureau, through Liaison, ascertain whether or not the foregoing weapon is registered in the central records of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division (ATTD), Internal Revenue Service, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

On 5/4/65, [redacted] ATTD, after checking ATTD central records, advised that he could locate no record of registration for the foregoing weapon in the name of Eugene Thomas. [redacted] added that in the event the barrel or barrels of this weapon is less than 18 inches or in the event the weapon has been altered to an over-all length of less than 26 inches, subject could be in violation of Section 5851, Chapter 53, Title 26, United States Code. [redacted] remarked that if the Department authorizes prosecution of Thomas in connection with his possession of the weapon, that his office be contacted for an appropriate representative thereof to testify or in lieu of the testimony of a representative of ATTD, a certification from an appropriate official of ATTD.

Enclosed for the information of the Civil Rights Section is a copy of the National Firearms Act and Federal Firearms Act which may be of assistance in this matter.

ACTION:

Refer to Civil Rights Section.

REC-108

PDP:cd
(5)
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Putnam

Enclosure

MAY 14 1965

NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT

and

FEDERAL FIREARMS ACT



U. S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Internal Revenue Service

PUBLICATION NO. 364 (Rev. 3-64)

NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT AND FEDERAL FIREARMS ACT

Internal Revenue Service
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division
Enforcement Branch

The National Firearms Act and the Federal Firearms Act are administered by the Enforcement Branch of this operational division of your Internal Revenue Service. Uniform enforcement of these laws is in the best public interest, contributing to the suppression of crime by the process of regulating traffic in firearms and ammunition and providing the basis for prosecution of willful violators. The laws which govern the scope of the firearms program are reprinted herein for distribution as a public service.

Your cooperation and support in our effort to effectively administer the firearms program are solicited in the interest of better law enforcement.

DWIGHT E. AVIS, *Director,*
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division.

NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT

Law: United States Code, Title 26, Chapter 53.

Regulations: Part 179 of Title 26 (1954), Code of Federal Regulations.

Weapons coming within the purview of the National Firearms Act may be legally acquired and lawfully possessed subject to regulatory requirements. However, any such weapon is contraband unless properly registered, and unlawful possession thereof is subject to statutory penalties.

SPECIAL (OCCUPATIONAL) TAXES

Section 5801. Tax. (a) *Rate.*—On first engaging in business, and thereafter on or before the first day of July of each year, every importer, manufacturer, and dealer in firearms shall pay a special tax at the following rates:

(1) *Importers or manufacturers.*—Importers or manufacturers, $500 a year or fraction thereof;

(2) *Dealers other than pawnbrokers.*—Dealers, other than pawnbrokers, $200 a year or fraction thereof;

(3) *Pawnbrokers.*—Pawnbrokers, $300 a year or fraction thereof:

Provided, That manufacturers and dealers in guns with combination shotgun and rifle barrels, 12 inches or more but less than 18 inches in length, from which only a single discharge can be made from either barrel without manual reloading, and manufacturers and dealers in guns classified as "any other weapon" under section 5848(5), shall pay the following taxes: Manufacturers, $25 a year or fraction thereof; dealers, $10 a year or fraction thereof.

(b) *Cross Reference.*—For license to transport, ship, or receive firearms or ammunition under the Federal Firearms Act, see section 3 of the Act of June 30, 1938 (52 Stat. 1251; 15 U.S.C. 903).

Section 5802. Registration. *Importers, Manufacturers, and Dealers.*—On first engaging in business, and thereafter on or before the first day of July of each year, every importer, manufacturer, and dealer in firearms shall register with the Secretary or his delegate in each internal revenue district in which such business is to be carried on his name or style, principal place of business, and places of business in such district.

Section 5803. Exemptions. For provisions exempting certain transfers, see section 5812.

political subdivision thereof, or the District of Columbia, or

(B) any peace officer or any Federal officer designated by regulations of the Secretary or his delegate.

Any person who makes a firearm in respect of which the tax imposed by subsection (a) does not apply by reason of the preceding sentence shall make such report in respect thereof as the Secretary or his delegate may by regulations prescribe.

(c) *By Whom Paid; When Paid.*—The tax imposed by subsection (a) shall be paid by the person making the firearm. Such tax shall be paid in advance of the making of the firearm.

(d) *How Paid.*—Payment of the tax imposed by subsection (a) shall be represented by appropriate stamps to be provided by the Secretary or his delegate.

(e) *Declaration.*—It shall be unlawful for any person subject to the tax imposed by subsection (a) to make a firearm unless, prior to such making, he has declared in writing his intention to make a firearm, has affixed the stamp described in subsection (d) to the original of such declaration, and has filed such original and a copy thereof. The declaration required by the preceding sentence shall be filed at such place, and shall be in such form and contain such information, as the Secretary or his delegate may by regulations prescribe. The original of the declaration, with the stamp affixed, shall be returned to the person making the declaration. If the person making the declaration is an individual, there shall be included as part of the declaration the fingerprints and a photograph of such individual.

OTHER TAXES

Section 5831. *Cross Reference.*—For excise tax on pistols, revolvers, and firearms, see section 4181.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 5841. Registration of Persons in General. Every person possessing a firearm shall register, with the Secretary or his delegate, the number or other mark identifying such firearm, together with his name, address, place where such firearm is usually kept, and place of business or employment, and, if such person is other than a natural person, the name and home address of an executive officer thereof. No person shall be required to register under this section with respect to a firearm which such person acquired by transfer or importation or which such person made, if provisions of this chapter applied to such transfer, importation, or making, as the case may be, and if the provisions which applied thereto were complied with.

Section 5842. Books, Records and Returns. Importers, manufacturers, and dealers shall keep such books and records and render such returns in relation to the transactions in firearms specified in this chapter as the Secretary or his delegate may by regulations require.

Section 5843. Identification of Firearms. Each manufacturer and importer of a firearm shall identify it with a number and other identification marks approved by the Secretary or his delegate, such number and marks to be stamped or otherwise placed thereon in a manner approved by the Secretary or his delegate.

Section 5844. Exportation. Under such regulations as the Secretary or his delegate may prescribe, and upon proof of the exportation of any firearm to any foreign country (whether exported as part of another article or not) with respect to which the transfer tax under section 5811 has been paid by the manufacturer, the Secretary or his delegate shall refund to the manufacturer the amount of the tax so paid, or, if the manufacturer waives all claim for the amount to be refunded, the refund shall be made to the exporter.

Section 5845. Importation. No firearm shall be imported or brought into the United States or any territory under its control or jurisdiction, except that, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary or his delegate, any firearm may be so imported or brought in when—

(1) the purpose thereof is shown to be lawful and

(2) such firearm is unique or of a type which cannot be obtained within the United States or such territory.

Section 5846. Other Laws Applicable. All provisions of law (including those relating to special taxes, to the assessment, collection, remission, and refund of internal revenue taxes, to the engraving, issuance, sale, accountability, cancellation, and distribution of taxpaid stamps provided for in the internal revenue laws, and to penalties) applicable with respect to the taxes imposed by sections 4701 and 4721, and all other provisions of the internal revenue laws shall, insofar as not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, be applicable with respect to the taxes imposed by sections 5811(a), 5821(a) and 5801.

Section 5847. Regulations. The Secretary or his delegate shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary for carrying the provisions of this chapter into effect.

Section 5848. Definitions. For purposes of this chapter—

(1) *Firearm.*—The term "firearm" means a shotgun having a barrel or barrels of less than 18 inches in length, or a rifle having a barrel or barrels of less than 16 inches in length, or any weapon made from a rifle or shotgun (whether by alteration, modification, or otherwise) if such weapon as modified has an overall length of less than 26 inches, or any other weapon, except a pistol or revolver, from which a shot is discharged by an explosive if such weapon is capable of being concealed on the person, or a machine gun, and includes a muffler or silencer for any firearm whether or not such firearm is included within the foregoing definition.

(2) *Machine gun.*—The term "machine gun" means any weapon which shoots, or is designed to

shoot, automatically or semiautomatically, more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.

(3) *Rifle.*—The term "rifle" means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger.

(4) *Shotgun.*—The term "shotgun" means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed shotgun shell to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger.

(5) *Any other weapon.*—The term "any other weapon" means any weapon or device capable of being concealed on the person from which a shot can be discharged through the energy of an explosive, but such term shall not include pistols or revolvers or weapons designed, made or intended to be fired from the shoulder and not capable of being fired with fixed ammunition.

(6) *Importer.*—The term "importer" means any person who imports or brings firearms into the United States for sale.

(7) *Manufacturer.*—The term "manufacturer" means any person who is engaged within the United States in the business of manufacturing firearms, or who otherwise produces therein any firearm for sale or disposition.

(8) *Dealer.*—The term "dealer" means any person not a manufacturer or importer, engaged within the United States in the business of selling firearms. The term "dealer" shall include wholesalers, pawnbrokers, and dealers in used firearms.

(9) *Interstate commerce.*—The term "interstate commerce" means transportation from any State or Territory or District, or any insular possession of the United States, to any other State or to the District of Columbia.

(10) *To transfer or transferred.*—The term "to transfer" or "transferred" shall include to sell, assign, pledge, lease, loan, give away, or otherwise dispose of.

(11) *Person.*—The term "person" includes a partnership, company, association, or corporation, as well as a natural person.

Section 5849. Citation of Chapter. This chapter may be cited as the "National Firearms Act" and any reference in any other provision of law to the "National Firearms Act" shall be held to refer to the provisions of this chapter.

UNLAWFUL ACTS

Section 5851. Possessing Firearms Illegally. It shall be unlawful for any person to receive or possess any firearm which has at any time been transferred in violation of sections 5811, 5812(b), 5813, 5814, 5844 or 5846, or which has at any time been made in violation of section 5821, or to possess any firearm which has not been registered as required by section 5841. Whenever on trial for a violation of this section the defendant is shown to have or to have had possession of such firearm, such possession shall be deemed sufficient evidence to authorize conviction, unless the defendant explains such possession to the satisfaction of the jury.

Section 5852. Removing or Changing Identification Marks. It shall be unlawful for anyone to obliterate, remove, change, or alter the number or other identification mark required by section 5843. Whenever on trial for a violation of this section the defendant is shown to have or to have had possession of any firearm upon which such number or mark shall have been obliterated, removed, changed, or altered, such possession shall be deemed sufficient evidence to authorize conviction, unless the defendant explains such possession to the satisfaction of the jury.

Section 5853. Importing Firearms Illegally. It shall be unlawful—

(1) fraudulently or knowingly to import or bring any firearm into the United States or any territory under its control or jurisdiction, in violation of the provisions of this chapter; or

(2) knowingly to assist in so doing; or

(3) to receive, conceal, buy, sell, or in any manner facilitate the transportation, concealment or sale of any such firearm after being imported or brought in, knowing the same to have been imported or brought in contrary to law.

Whenever on trial for a violation of this section the defendant is shown to have or to have had possession of such firearm, such possession shall be deemed sufficient evidence to authorize conviction, unless the defendant explains such possession to the satisfaction of the jury.

Section 5854. Failure To Register and Pay Special Tax. It shall be unlawful for any person required to register under the provisions of section 5802 to import, manufacture, or deal in firearms without having registered and paid the tax imposed by section 5801.

Section 5855. Unlawful Transportation in Interstate Commerce. It shall be unlawful for any person who is required to register as provided in section [redacted] who shall not have so registered, or any other person who has not in his possession a stamp-affixed order as provided in section 5814 or a stamp-affixed declaration as provided in section 5821, to ship, carry, or deliver any firearm in interstate commerce.

PENALTIES AND FORFEITURES

Section 5861. Penalties. Any person who violates or fails to comply with any of the requirements of this chapter shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than

$2,000, or be imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both, in the discretion of the court.

Section 5862. Forfeitures. (a) *Laws Applicable.*—Any firearm involved in any violation of the provisions of this chapter or any regulation promulgated thereunder shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture, and (except as provided in subsection (b)) all the provisions of internal revenue laws relating to searches, seizures, and forfeiture of unstamped articles are extended to and made to apply to the articles taxed under this chapter, and the persons to whom this chapter applies.

(b) *Disposal.*—In the case of the forfeiture of any firearm by reason of a violation of this chapter: No notice of public sale shall be required; no such firearm shall be sold at public sale; if such firearm is forfeited for a violation of this chapter and there is no remission or mitigation of forfeiture thereof, it shall be delivered by the Secretary or his delegate to the Administrator of General Services, General Services Administration, who may order such firearm destroyed or may sell it to any State, Territory, or possession, or political subdivision thereof, or the District of Columbia, or at the request of the Secretary or his delegate may authorize its retention for official use of the Treasury Department, or may transfer it without charge to any executive department or independent establishment of the Government for use by it.

FEDERAL FIREARMS ACT

Law: United States Code, Title 15, Chapter 18.
Regulations: Part 177 of Title 26 (1954), Code of Federal Regulations.

All firearms (including parts thereof), silencers, and pistol or revolver ammunition come within the purview of this Act, and commercial (interstate) traffic therein is subject to licensing requirements. This Act is designed primarily to deny the criminal lawful access to such items, but violations of the law arise from the operations of the licensee and/or the criminal status of the person involved rather than the mere possession of a weapon.

Section 901. Definitions. As used in this chapter:

(1) The term "person" includes an individual, partnership, association, or corporation.

(2) The term "interstate or foreign commerce" means commerce between any State, Territory or possession (not including the Canal Zone), or the District of Columbia, and any place outside thereof; or between points within the same State, Territory, or possession (not including the Canal Zone), or the District of Columbia, but through any place outside thereof; or within any Territory or possession or the District of Columbia.

(3) The term "firearm" means any weapon, by whatever name known, which is designed to expel a projectile or projectiles by the action of an explosive and a firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any part or parts of such weapon.

(4) The term "manufacturer" means any person engaged in the manufacture or importation of firearms, or ammunition or cartridge cases, primers, bullets, or propellent powder for purposes of sale or distribution; and the term "licensed manufacturer" means any such person licensed under the provisions of this chapter.

(5) The term "dealer" means any person engaged in the business of selling firearms or ammunition or cartridge cases, primers, bullets or propellent powder, at wholesale or retail, or any person engaged in the business of repairing such firearms or of manufacturing or fitting special barrels, stocks, trigger mechanisms, or breech mechanisms to firearms, and the term "licensed dealer" means any such person licensed under the provisions of this chapter.

(6) The term "fugitive from justice" means any person who has fled from any State, Territory, the District of Columbia, or possession of the United States to avoid prosecution for a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year or to avoid giving testimony in any criminal proceeding.

(7) The term "ammunition" shall include only pistol or revolver ammunition. It shall not include shotgun shells, metallic ammunition suitable for use only in rifles, or any .22 caliber rimfire ammunition.

Section 902. *Transporting, Shipping, or Receiving Firearms or Ammunition in Interstate or Foreign Commerce; Acts Prohibited.* (a) It shall be unlawful for any manufacturer or dealer, except a manufacturer or dealer having a license issued under the provisions of this chapter, to transport, ship, or receive any firearm or ammunition in interstate or foreign commerce.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to receive any firearm or ammunition transported or shipped in interstate or foreign commerce in violation of subdivision (a) of this section, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe such firearms or ammunition to have been transported or shipped in violation of subdivision (a) of this section.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any licensed manufacturer or dealer to transport or ship any firearm in interstate or foreign commerce to any person other than a licensed manufacturer or dealer in any State the laws of which require that a license be obtained for the purchase of such firearm, unless such license is exhibited to such manufacturer or dealer by the prospective purchaser.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person to ship, transport, or cause to be shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce any firearm or ammunition to any person knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that such person is under indictment or has been convicted in any court of the United States, the several States, Territories, possessions, or the District of Columbia of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year or is a fugitive from justice.

(e) It shall be unlawful for any person who is under indictment or who has been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year or who is a fugitive from justice to ship, transport, or cause to be shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce any firearm or ammunition.

(f) It shall be unlawful for any person who has been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year or is a fugitive from justice to receive any firearm or ammunition which has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce, and the possession of a firearm or ammunition by any such person shall be presumptive evidence that such firearm or ammunition was shipped or transported or received, as the case may be, by such person in violation of this chapter.

(g) It shall be unlawful for any person to transport or ship or cause to be transported or shipped in interstate or foreign commerce any stolen firearm or [illegible] reasonable cause to

(h) It shall be unlawful for any person to receive, conceal, store, barter, sell, or dispose of any firearm or ammunition or to pledge or accept as security for a loan any firearm or ammunition moving in or which is a part of interstate or foreign commerce, and which while so moving or constituting such part has been stolen, knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe the same to have been stolen.

(i) It shall be unlawful for any person to transport, ship, or knowingly receive in interstate or foreign commerce any firearm from which the manufacturer's serial number has been removed, obliterated, or altered, and the possession of any such firearm shall be presumptive evidence that such firearm was transported, shipped, or received, as the case may be, by the possessor in violation of this chapter.

Section 903. *License To Transport, Ship, or Receive Firearms or Ammunition.* (a) Any manufacturer or dealer desiring a license to transport, ship, or receive firearms or ammunition in interstate or foreign commerce shall make application to the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall prescribe by rules and regulations the information to be contained in such application. The applicant shall, if a manufacturer, pay a fee of $25 per annum and, if a dealer, shall pay a fee of $1 per annum.

(b) Upon payment of the prescribed fee, the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue to such applicant a license which shall entitle the licensee to transport, ship, and receive firearms and ammunition in interstate and foreign commerce unless and until the license is suspended or revoked in accordance with the provisions of this chapter: *Provided*, That no license shall be issued to any applicant within two years after the revocation of a previous license.

(c) Whenever any licensee is convicted of a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, it shall be the duty of the clerk of the court to notify the Secretary of the Treasury within forty-eight hours after such conviction and said Secretary shall revoke such license: *Provided*, That in the case of appeal from such conviction the licensee may furnish a bond in the amount of $1,000, and upon receipt of such bond acceptable to the Secretary of the Treasury he may permit the licensee to continue business during the period of the appeal, or should the licensee refuse or neglect to furnish such bond, the Secretary of the Treasury shall suspend such license until he is notified by the clerk of the court of last appeal as to the final disposition of the case.

(d) Licensed dealers shall maintain such permanent records of importation, shipment, and other disposal of firearms and ammunition as the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe.

Section 904. *Excepted Persons.* The provisions of this chapter shall not apply with respect to the transportation, shipment, receipt, or importation of any firearm, [illegible] shipped to, or issued for the use

of, (1) the United States or any department, independent establishment, or agency thereof; (2) any State, Territory, or possession, or the District of Columbia, or any department, independent establishment, agency, or any political subdivision thereof; (3) any duly commissioned officer or agent of the United States, a State, Territory, or possession, or the District of Columbia, or any political subdivision thereof; (4) or to any bank, public carrier, express, or armored-truck company organized and operating in good faith for the transportation of moneys and valuables, (5) or to any research laboratory designated by the Secretary of the Treasury: *Provided*, That such bank, public carriers, express, and armored-truck companies are granted exemption by the Secretary of the Treasury; nor to the transportation, shipment, or receipt of any antique or unserviceable firearms, or ammunition, possessed and held as curios or museum pieces: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prevent shipments of firearms and ammunition to institutions, organizations, or persons to whom such firearms and ammunition may be lawfully delivered by the Secretary of War, nor to prevent the transportation of such firearms and ammunition so delivered by their lawful possessors while they are engaged in military training or in competitions.

Section 905. Penalties. (a) Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter or any rules and regulations promulgated hereunder, or who makes any statement in applying for the license or exemption provided for in this chapter, knowing such statement to be false, shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than $2,000, or imprisoned for not more than five years, or both.

(b) Any firearm or ammunition involved in any violation of the provisions of this chapter or any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture, and all provisions of Title 26 relating to the seizure, forfeiture, and disposition of firearms as defined in section 2733 [1] of Title 26 shall, so far as applicable, extend to seizures and forfeitures incurred under the provisions of this chapter.

Section 906. Effective Date of Chapter. This chapter shall take effect thirty days after June 30, 1938.

Section 907. Rules and Regulations. The Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe such rules and regulations as he deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

Section 908. Separability Clause. Should any section or subsection of this chapter be declared unconstitutional, the remaining portion of the chapter shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 909. Short Title. This chapter may be cited as the Federal Firearms Act.

[1] Sec. 5848, Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

Information regarding the firearms laws may be obtained at any regional or branch office of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax. For the exact location of the office in your vicinity, it is suggested you consult the Government listings in your local telephone directory.

Assistant Regional Commissioner
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Located at:

Address and Telephone

ATLANTA, Georgia (522–4121), 275 Peachtree Street NE., Atlanta, Ga., 30303

BOSTON, Massachusetts (523–8600), 55 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass., 02108

CHICAGO, Illinois (222–8468), 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill., 60601

CINCINNATI, Ohio (381–2200), 5th and Main Streets, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45201

DALLAS, Texas (748–5611), Santa Fe Building, 1114 Commerce Street, Dallas, Tex., 75202

NEW YORK, New York (732–9130), 90 Church Street, New York, N. Y., 10007

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (923–2400), Third Floor, 2 Penn Center Plaza, Philadelphia, Pa., 19102

SAN FRANCISCO, California (986–3500), Flood Building, 870 Market Street, San Francisco, Calif., 94102

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: May 11, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATION
ELECTION LAWS

In connection with the search of the residence of subject Eugene Thomas on 3/26/65 with a search warrant, one Newport Model CN double-barrel (short) shotgun, serial number T70594, was located [redacted] b7A Possession of such a weapon with a barrel of less than 18 inches or which has been altered to an over-all length of less than 26 inches which has not been registered with the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division (ATTD) of the Treasury Department could be a violation of the Federal Firearms Act (Title 26, Section 5851, Chapter 53, U. S. Code). The barrel of Thomas' gun is 12 1/2 inches long. The over-all length of the gun is 28 7/8 inches.

Upon recovery of this weapon the facts of its possession in possible violation of the Federal Firearms Act were presented to Departmental Attorney St. John Barrett in Birmingham who was there handling the Liuzzo case for the Department. Mr. Barrett advised that he would not render an opinion regarding this violation until he had reviewed other material being developed in the case.

Birmingham has advised that the local ATTD Office in Birmingham could locate no record of the registration of this weapon and requested that a check be made of the central ATTD records at Washington. This has been done and no record for the registration of the weapon can be located in the central records in Washington.

Birmingham also requested that this matter be discussed with the Department for an opinion as to whether or not prosecution would be instituted against Thomas regarding this violation.

REC-108 44-24691-338

On 5/10/65 the Civil Rights Division of the Department advised that they had reviewed this matter and had forwarded the facts to the Criminal Division of the Department with the

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MAY 14 1965

CONTINUED - OVER

recommendation that prosecution be instituted. If the Criminal Division agrees with the Civil Rights Division recommendation, appropriate instructions will be issued to the U. S. Attorney by the Department to present this matter to the next Federal Grand Jury.

ACTION:

This matter is being closely followed.

5/13/65

1 - Mr. Hines

Airtel

To: SAC, Birmingham

From: Director, FBI 44-28601-536

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

ReBHairtel to Bureau 4/29/65.

The matter of possible prosecution of Eugene Thomas in connection with the sawed-off shotgun recovered during the search of his residence on 3/26/65 was discussed with the Civil Rights Division of the Department. The Civil Rights Division has advised that they have reviewed this matter and forwarded the facts to the Criminal Division of the Department with the recommendation that prosecution of Thomas under the Federal Firearms Act be instituted. It is expected that the Criminal Division will agree with the recommendation of the Civil Rights Division and, if so, appropriate instructions will be issued by the Department to the U. S. Attorney at Birmingham to present this matter to the next Federal Grand Jury.

Birmingham insure that the U. S. Attorney is in possession of all information developed in our investigation regarding this charge. Any additional investigation necessary to fully substantiate the charge should be promptly conducted and the results furnished to the U. S. Attorney.

For your information on 5/4/65 [redacted] b7 ATTD, after checking ATTD central records, advised that he could locate no record of registration for the foregoing weapon in the name of Eugene Thomas. [redacted] added that in the event the barrel or barrels of this weapon is less than 18 inches or in b7

1 - Mobile

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SEE NOTE ON PAGE TWO.

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Delmarch
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

the event the weapon has been altered to an over-all length of less than 26 inches, subject could be in violation of Section 5851, Chapter 53, Title 26, U. S. Code. [redacted] remarked that b7c if the Department authorizes prosecution of Thomas in connection with his possession of the weapon, that his office be contacted for an appropriate representative thereof to testify or in lieu of the testimony of a representative of ATTD, a certification from an appropriate official of ATTD.

NOTE:

In connection with the search of the residence of subject Eugene Thomas on 3/26/65 with a search warrant, one Newport Model CN double-barrel (short) shotgun, Serial Number T70594, was located [redacted] b7d The barrel of the gun is 12½ inches long which is under the 18 inches prescribed in the Federal Firearms Act. Birmingham advised that the gun was not registered with the ATTD locally and requested that we check ATTD central records at Washington which was done by liaison. Birmingham also requested that we contact the Departmentfor their opinion as to possible prosecution of subject Thomas for violation of Federal Firearms Act.

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 13 1965

TELETYPE

FBI DETROIT

12-00NOO URGENT 5-13-65 DMR

TO DIRECTOR (44-28601)

ATTENTION TRAINING DIVISION

FROM DETROIT (44-643) 2P

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS.
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS. OO MOBILE.

REDETEL MAY TWELVE, SIXTYFIVE.

FOR FURTHER INFO OF BUREAU, ARTICLE IN DETROIT FREE PRESS MAY THIRTEEN, SIXTYFIVE, BY WALTER RUGABER, STAFF WRITER, STATES DIXIE DEMOCRAT URGES PROBE "LEAK" OF LIUZZO FILE. ARTICLE STATES REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES LONGSTREET WELTNER, ATLANTA DEMOCRAT, HAS SPEARHEADED INVESTIGATION OF THE KLAN BY THE HOUSE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE. WELTNER IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "ONE OF THE EXPRESSED PURPOSES OF THIS INQUIRY IS TO DETERMINE WHAT LIAISON OR CONNECTION THERE IS BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND THE KLAN ORGANIZATION." WELTNER IS FURTHER QUOTED AS STATING, "THE APPEARANCE OF THIS DOSSIER ON MRS. LIUZZO UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IS MOST ASSUREDLY A MATTER THAT WILL BE OF DEEP INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE." THE FREE PRESS NEWS ARTICLE MADE REFERENCE TO THE

END PAGE ONE

REC 16

1 MAY 18 1965

58 MAY 21 1965

Belmont
MR. MOHR FOR THE DIRECTOR

REPORT PREPARED BY POLICE COMMISSIONER MARVIN G. LANE, WARREN, MICHIGAN, WHICH WAS SENT TO DALLAS COUNTY, ALABAMA SHERIFF JAMES G. CLARK.

ON MAY THIRTEEN, SIXTYFIVE, RUGABER CONTACTED THE DETROIT OFFICE SEEKING CONFIRMATION OF A REPORT ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED BY A FREE PRESS REPORTER TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FBI HAD BEEN ASKED TO LOOK INTO AND MAKE INVESTIGATION OF THE ALLEGED DISSEMINATION OF THE LANE REPORT ON LIUZZO TO THE KLAN. RUGABER WAS ADVISED THERE WOULD BE NO COMMENT MADE TO HIS INQUIRY.

COPY OF RUGABER'S ARTICLE APPEARING IN MAY THIRTEEN, SIXTYFIVE, FREE PRESS FOLLOWS.

AM COPY BEING SENT MOBILE FOR INFORMATION.

END

BJH

CC-MR. ROSEN

FBI WASH DC

P

F B I

Date: 5/12/65

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

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44-643) (RUC)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO; ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Re Detroit teletypes to Bureau, dated 5/12/65.

Enclosed for Bureau are five copies of an LHM covering matter mentioned in referenced teletype, one copy of LHM enclosed for Mobile, one copy of LHM enclosed for Birmingham, one copy of LHM enclosed for USA, Birmingham, and one copy of LHM enclosed for USA, Montgomery.

ENCLOSURE - CC CRD

(3) - Bureau (Enc. 5) (RM)
1 - Birmingham (Enc. 3) (Info) (RM)
1 - Mobile (Enc. 1) (Info) (RM)
1 - Detroit

MFC/emo
(6)

EX 110

CC CRD

REC 28 44-28601-342

21 MAY 13 1965

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Detroit, Michigan
May 12, 1965

Re: Eugene Thomas; Et Al;
Viola Liuzzo; Et Al - Victims

COMPLAINANT

Mr. Anthony J. Liuzzo, 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan, the husband of slain civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo, on the evening of May 11, 1965, advised that he had been contacted earlier on the same date by "Detroit Free Press" staff writer Mr. Walter Rugaber concerning an article which was to appear in the "Detroit Free Press", a daily newspaper published in Detroit on May 12, 1965.

Mr. Rugaber had advised Mr. Liuzzo that the "Detroit Free Press" had learned that a six-page report had been sent early in April, 1965, to Sheriff James Clark, Selma, Alabama, by Warren, Michigan, Police Commissioner Marvin G. Lane.

Mr. Lane was formerly Chief of Detectives at the Detroit Police Department.

According to Mr. Liuzzo, the report was alleged to have contained detailed information concerning his deceased wife's voting history and Mr. Liuzzo's financial background.

Mr. Liuzzo stated that he was upset over the invasion of his privacy and stated that he felt that in view of Mr. Lane's cooperation with Sheriff Clark that Mr. Lane might be considered as a person who would cooperate with and assist the Ku Klux Klan.

ENCLOSURE
44-25601-342

Re: Eugene Thomas; Et Al
Viola Liuzzo; Et Al - Victims

A copy of the article which appeared in the "Detroit Free Press" City Edition on the evening of May 11, 1965, dated May 12, 1965, entitled, "Klan Gets Secret Report On Life of Mrs. Liuzzo" is attached.

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

Klan Gets Secret Report On Life of Mrs. Liuzzo

BY WALTER RUGABER
Free Press Staff Writer

A "confidential" report by a Detroit-area police official on some intimate details of Mrs. Viola Gregg Liuzzo's life has wound up in a Ku Klux Klan dossier on the slain civil rights worker.

The six-page report was prepared by Police Commissioner Marvin G. Lane, of suburban Warren, who said he gathered the information from "confidential sources."

It was sent by Lane to Dallas County Sheriff James G. Clark, of Selma, the Alabama officer who popularized "Never" buttons during civil rights demonstrations there.

Klan Imperial Wizard Robert M. Shelton, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., revealed copies of the report to a number of reporters in Alabama last week.



Marvin G. Lane

How he obtained the document remained a mystery.

• • •

SHELTON DENIED that the report—which contains details on Mrs. Liuzzo's voting history and the family's financial means—came to him from Clark.

"I got it through some other source," Shelton said. He declined to name the source.

Lane said he produced the information as a courtesy to a fellow enforcement officer.

Mrs. Liuzzo was shot on US-80 in Lowndes County, Ala. Clark's jurisdiction is neighboring Dallas County.

Lane, former chief of detectives of the Detroit Police Department, said he had made only two copies of the report. He said the original went to Clark. The other, he said, remains in his desk.

"If anything got out," Lane said, "the sheriff (Clark) was responsible."

Told that something did "get out" and was now in the hands of the Klan, Lane said:

"It shouldn't be done. There's

Turn to Page 2A, Column 1

Klan Gets 'Secret' Report On Mrs. Liuzzo's Life

• Continued from Page One •

nothing I can do about it. There's nothing in the report other than facts. But it was never intended to be circulated other than to . . . officers."

• • •

THE DOCUMENT contains allegations of Liuzzo family problems, details of Mrs. Liuzzo's three marriages and a detailed rundown on family indebtedness.

Shelton disclosed copies of the report to newsmen who were in Alabama for the trial of Mrs. Liuzzo's accused killer, Klansman Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21.

Wilkins is one of three Klansmen charged with the highway shooting of Mrs. Liuzzo after she participated in the civil rights walk from Selma to Montgomery in March.

He was released on bond Friday after a jury in Hayneville reported that it was deadlocked. Alabama officials have promised that Wilkins will be tried again.

Shelton said Klan Imperial Kleagle Matt H. Murphy, Wilkin's attorney, made a number of efforts to introduce the Lane report at the trial. He was unsuccessful.

• • •

BUT THE Klan leader indicated that when legal proceedings against the three Klansmen are concluded the report will be more widely circulated.

Shelton said the Klan is "holding up releasing anything" on Mrs. Liuzzo to prevent critics from charging that the Klan is trying to influence a jury.

The report is hardly the Klan's deepest secret, however.

Newsmen said the information in it has been widely circulated in the region.

The Jackson (Miss.) Daily News, in a recent account of a speech there by Sheriff Clark, reported:

"He (Clark) said Mrs. Liuzzo had a police record in Detroit four pages long."

• • •

DETROIT POLICE said their records do not substantiate that report.

Lane said he knew Clark through work in police organization. The sheriff is an acquaintance, Lane said, no personal friend."

Clark called Lane and asked for a background report after Mrs. Liuzzo was killed.

"I don't know what his purpose was," Lane said. "I didn't question it."

Lane has been a policeman more than 30 years and takes obvious pride in his well-developed "ways of getting information."

In his report to Clark, written on City of Warren stationery Lane said:

"This information was obtained from the law enforcement agencies of this area and other people."

In return, Lane asked a favor of Clark.

". . . We would like, if it is at all possible, to determine the method of transportation to Selma, Ala., by Mrs. Liuzzo and who may have accompanied her to your city from this area," he wrote.

The report, dated April 2, says that:

—Mrs. Liuzzo's husband, Anthony J., is a business agent for Teamsters Union Local 247 and receives a salary of "approximately $360 per week."

—The family car "is being financed through the GMAC plan at payments of $ per month."

—Mrs. Liuzzo's first marriage, at 16, "lasted one day, both parties separating the day after the wedding."

—The family has charge accounts at The J. L. Hudson Co. and Winkleman's.

—Mrs. Liuzzo and two of her children, on separate occasions, "ran away" from home.

—On one occasion, "when the policewoman assigned to the case made her initial house call, she felt that the mother was most disturbed and was unable to get any sensible information from her."

—When Mrs. Liuzzo was missing she wrote her husband a series of letters, "each becoming more despondent. One letter was written by Viola while she was in a cemetery."

"She was giving births and deaths of various people and concluded the letter with her own birth date and death date."

—Mrs. Liuzzo's student identification number at Wayne State University was 283-009 and she was considered an "off and on student."

Liuzzo said no one from the Warren police or any other officer questioned him about personal affairs.

• • •

HE SAID he never has lived in Warren nor received "so much as a parking ticket there."

"My wife was a good woman," he said. "She's never done anything to be ashamed of."

Detroit police officials said they have received no requests for information about Mrs. Liuzzo from other law enforcement officials.

Commissioner Ray Girardin, told of the nature of the Lane report, said the Detroit Police Department "wouldn't have occasion to make an investigation like this." He added:

"It would be very unusual. There may be circumstances that I don't know about but I would say we certainly wouldn't do anything like that."

• • •

IF ANOTHER police department sought such a detailed report on a person's private life, Girardin said, it would have to send one of its own men to gather it.

Lane said he often supplies other police departments with confidential reports such as the one he compiled on Mrs. Liuzzo.

The Detroit Police Department has changed its chief of detectives as many times since he left the job, Lane said, that other officers don't know whom to contact.

Sometimes requests for Detroit information are passed on to the Detroit department, Lane said, but not in the Liuzzo case. He said he doubted whether the Detroit department would gather such a report "with the civil rights thing like it is."

Asked why he included so many details on Mrs. Liuzzo's private life, Lane said:

"Everything that comes to your attention, you put it in."

5/18/65

1 - Mr. Hines

Airtel

To: SAC, Mobile

From: Director, FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Subjects Eugene Thomas, William Orville Eaton and Collie Leroy Wilkins are currently on $25,000 Federal bond and $10,000 state bond each pending trial.

By return mail furnish the Bureau with the exact text of these bonds; in particular, it should be noted whether or not the bonds contain any restrictions concerning travel of the subjects outside of the Federal district or the State of Alabama.

JWH/ral
(4)

NOTE: News reports indicate that subjects Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins traveled to North Carolina over the past weekend where th appeared with Klan Attorney Matt Murphy at several Klan rallies t promote funds and new memberships for the Klan. The bonds posted for subjects to insure their appearance would not necessarily con restrictions as to travel unless they were specifically set forth in the bond at the time the bonds were issued. If their bonds should contain such restrictions, it might be an advantage to cal their travel to the attention of appropriate officials who could enforce the restriction.

MAY 18 1965

ST-100 REC-10

19 MAY 19 1965

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

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI

Date: 5/18/65

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

Via IRTEL (Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)
Attn: Training Division

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44-643)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS
(OO: Mobile)

Reyairtel dated 5/17/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies each of articles appearing in the "Detroit News" 5/17/65, and for Mobile one copy each of above articles.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)
1 - Mobile (Enc. 2)
1 - Detroit
IRA:sal
(5)

ENCLOSURE

44-28601-1

MAY 19 1965

EX-116

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

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

[illegible]
Inspector Transferred

[illegible]

The mysterious "third man" involved in the Ku Klux Klan's acquisition of a police report on Mrs. Viola Liuzzo was revealed today as a former sheriff from Port Huron.

He is Harris Lucas, now executive director of the National Sheriffs' Association with offices in Washington.

HEADED STATE [illegible]

The former St. Clair County sheriff is also a past president of the Michigan and national sheriffs' associations.

Michigan officials have been trying to find out how the confidential report on the murdered civil rights worker got into the Klan's hands in Alabama.

The report was compiled by Marvin [illegible], police commissioner of Warren and former Detroit chief of detectives.

SENT TO ALABAMA

Lucas indirectly put the segregationist sheriff of Selma, Ala., in touch with Lane.

Lane sent the report to Sheriff James G. Clark of Dallas County, Ala., near where Mrs. Liuzzo was shot to death March 25 after the Selma-to-Montgomery freedom march.

Both Lane and Clark have referred to a "third party." But neither would divulge his identity.

"I presume I'm the one," Lucas today told J. F. ter Horst, chief of The Detroit News Washington Bureau. "I told Clark to call Mary Lane in Detroit."

INTRODUCED THEM

Lucas said Clark, in Washington for a sheriffs' insurance meeting, discussed the Liuzzo case with him. Clark is second vice-president of Lucas' organization.

Lucas said he once introduced Clark to Lane in Detroit, and reminded Clark of this. The introduction, he said, came "five or six years ago" while Clark was here to extradite a prisoner and Lane was Detroit's chief of detectives.

"He's still a great guy," Lucas said of Lane.

'HAVEN'T SEEN FILE'

He said he did not transmit Clark's request for information to Lane. He assumed that Clark telephoned Lane to arrange for a compilation of data in Mrs. Liuzzo's file in the Detroit Police Department.

Lucas said he has no knowledge of how the file got into the Klan's hands.

"I haven't seen it and don't want to," he said.

Meanwhile, Clark said at Selma yesterday that he is sorry Lane has "gotten into trouble" over the report and that he "intends" to telephone Lane and apologize.

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

1 The Detroit News
Detroit, Michigan

Date: 5/17/65
Edition: 6 Star Final
Author:
Editor: Martin S. Hayden
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Detroit

☐ Being Investigated

44-28601-347

ENCLOSURE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

EARL C. MILLER
Inspector Transferred

* * *

Liuzzo File 'Sent Plan' [illegible]

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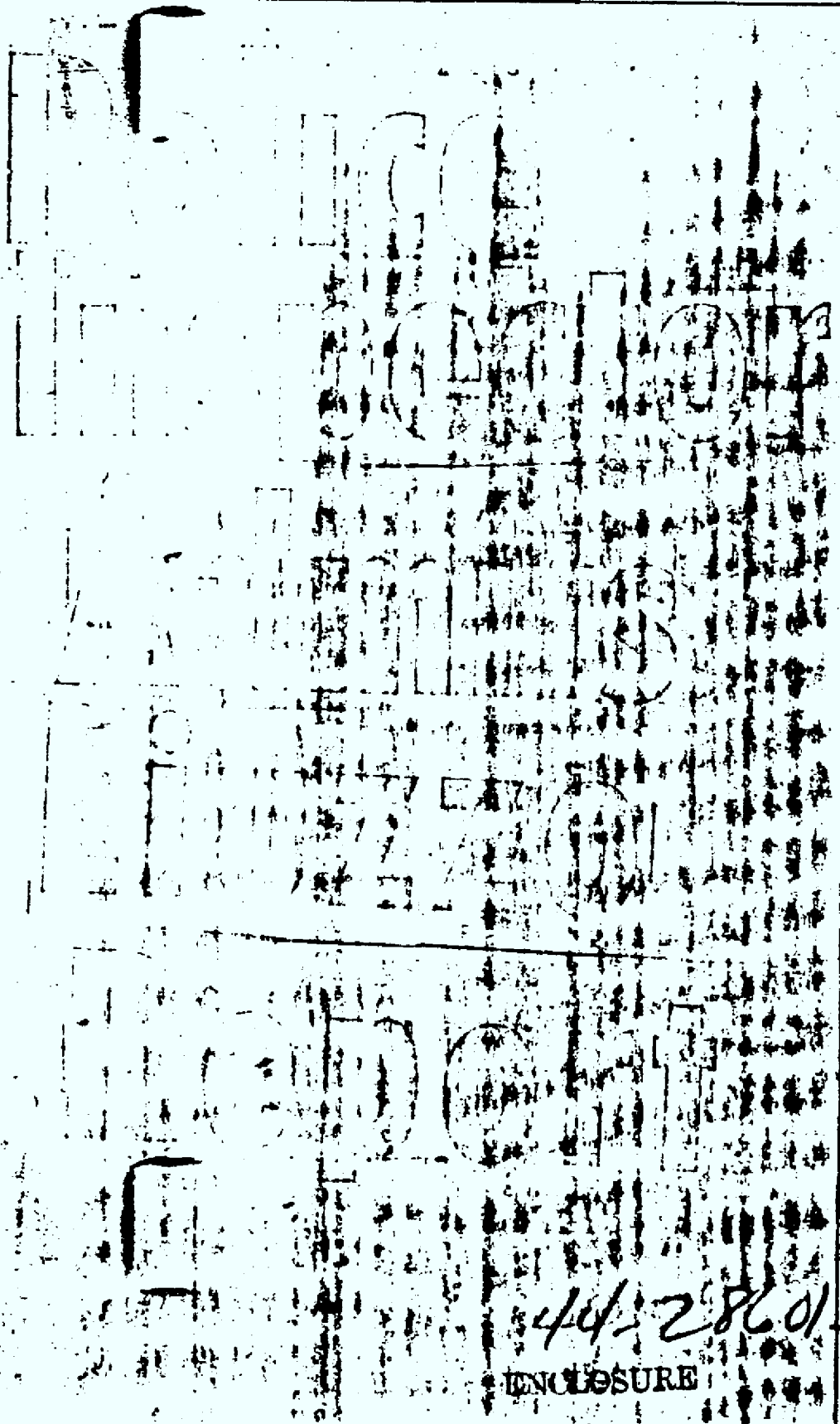
Detroit, Michigan

Date: 5/17/65
Edition: 6 Star Final
Author:
Editor: Martin S. Hayden
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Detroit

☐ Being Investigated

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



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

1 The Detroit News
Detroit, Michiga

Date: 5/17/65 M
Edition: 8 Star Final
Author:
Editor: Martin S. Hayd
Title:

Character:
Classification:
Submitting Office: Detroit

☐ Being Investigated

44-28601-B47

ENCLOSURE

CIB Chief Cussed by Girardin

Miller Rapped on Judgment in Assisting Lane

Detroit police Detective Inspector Earl C. Miller revealed today that it was he who furnished the Viola Liuzzo report information.

Police Commissioner Ray Girardin promptly removed him as head of the Criminal Intelligence Bureau (CIB).

Girardin said "Miller's motives were good, but his judgment was not."

AWAY ON LEAVE

The commissioner assigned Inspector Robert Grindle, of the crime control center (the former detective bureau desk), to exchange jobs with Miller.

Miller returned from furlough [illegible] it was revealed that Warren Police Commissioner Marvin G. Lane wrote the report on Mrs. Liuzzo for an Alabama sheriff—to say that he furnished Lane the information from CIB files.

Mrs. Liuzzo, a civil rights worker, was murdered March 25 on a highway near Selma, Ala., after a freedom march on Montgomery.

OBTAINED BY [illegible]

[illegible] a former Detroit chief of detectives, wrote a report for Sheriff James G. Clark, of Selma, which [illegible] fell into the [illegible] of the Ku Klux Klan.

Lane's letter was [illegible] a word-for-word copy of [illegible] file on Mrs. Liuzzo which, for various reasons, was compiled over a two-year period before her killing.

Girardin said Miller gave the information to Lane "in good faith and on a confidential basis" and that Miller believed Lane "needed it in his professional police work."

POLICE AIDES CONFER

Girardin conferred at length with top police officials, then announced his action in the following statement saying he would not comment further:

"Chief of Detectives Vincent Piersante, who was assigned to determine how the Liuzzo report was transmitted from this department to the head of the Warren Police Department, Commissioner Marvin Lane, completed this investigation today.

"Detective Inspector Earl Miller, head of the Detroit Police Department's Criminal Intelligence Bureau, returned from furlough today and reported to Chief Piersante that he transmitted this information in good faith and on a confidential basis.

'REPUTATION GOOD'

"This was done at the request of Commissioner Lane, of Warren, a retired chief of detectives from the Detroit Police Department who has enjoyed a good reputation for reliability.

"Inspector Miller had no idea that this information would go any further than to Commissioner Lane, who Inspector Miller believed needed it in his professional police work.

"The information was compiled in this department between April 18, 1963, when an investigation was made on a missing report on one of the Liuzzo children, and the date of Mrs. Liuzzo's death.

'NORMAL PRECAUTION'

"After Mrs. Liuzzo was murdered and the Detroit Police Department was informed her funeral would be in this city and that several prominent persons were coming here from various parts of the United States, the information in our files was put together and evaluated.

"This is a normal precaution taken by the police who are charged with the responsibility of security.

"It was necessary to know whether there was any further danger to any members of the Liuzzo family or to anyone else. No further investigation was made after Mrs. Liuzzo was murdered.

'MOTIVES GOOD'

"After a thorough discussion this morning with Supt. Eugene Reuter, Deputy Supt. James Lupton and Chief of Detectives Vincent Piersante, it is concluded that Inspector Miller's motives were good but his judgment was not, and he is being relieved of his command. He will serve in the Crime Control Center.

"Detective Inspector Robert Grindle has been assigned to the CIB."

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 5/14/65

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

Via AIRTEL
(Priority)

Mr. Mohr
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)
Attn: Training Division

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44-643)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS
(OO: Mobile)

Remyairtel 5/13/65.

For additional information of Bureau and Mobile, enclosed for Bureau are two copies each of article appearing in "Detroit News" 5/13/65, and "Detroit Free Press" 5/14/65, and for Mobile one copy each of above articles.

ENCLOSURE

3 - Bureau (Enc. 4)
1 - Mobile (Enc. 2)
1 - Detroit
IRA:sal
(5)

REC-16 44-28601-348

17 MAY 20 1965

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

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Quiz Detroit Police on Liuzzo File

Police Commissioner Ray Girardin today asked Chief of Detectives Vincent Piersante to try to find out whether any Detroit police officer gave a report on Mrs. Viola Liuzzo to Marvin G. Lane, Warren police commissioner.

Girardin denied that Detroit's Criminal Intelligence Bureau had investigated Mrs. Liuzzo's background after she was slain by a sniper's bullet in Alabama March 25.

KLAN GETS REPORT

Lane's controversial report to Sheriff James Clark, of Selma, Ala., said the bureau began such an investigation the day after the slaying.

The uproar over the "confidential" report, which turned up in the hands of a Ku Klux Klan leader in Alabama, was intensified today after three developments:

- A Georgia Democratic congressman said the House Un-American Activities Committee would take "a deep interest" in how the Klan got the report.
- Sheriff Clark said he asked Lane for the report after his life was threatened by a caller who identified himself as a Teamster.
- Lane refused to say where he got the information for his report to the Alabama sheriff.
- Warren Mayor William A. Shaw and six of the suburb's councilmen backed Lane. One councilman was critical; two were silent.
- Two human relations groups and a UAW official severely criticized Lane and the labor leader demanded his dismissal.

Girardin, obviously angry at the mention of the Detroit police Criminal Intelligence Bureau in news stories about the Lane report, said neither he nor Piersante nor Supt. Eugene A. Reuter had received any request from any police department for information about Mrs. Liuzzo.

Three such requests were received from individuals in the South after Mrs. Liuzzo's death, he said, but all were ignored.

CONSOLIDATES FILES

Girardin denied that the bureau had made any investigation of Mrs. Liuzzo's background but he said it had consolidated all existing reports and files on her after the Alabama shooting.

This was done, he said, because police expected that there might be demonstrations or disturbances here in the wake of the slaying and they wanted to know what organizations she might have belonged to.

"You must remember that Lane (a retired Detroit chief of detectives) spent 33 years in the department," Girardin said. "If he asked to check a record he would probably get cooperation."

Clark made the report public yesterday.

Last night, he said he had asked for the report from Lane when he received an anonymous threat to his life a few hours after Mrs. Liuzzo's murder, allegedly at the hands of Ku Klux Klan members.

Clark said he received a telephone call from someone who identified himself as a Teamster Union member.

"You have killed the wrong one this time," Clark quoted the unknown man as saying. "Now we are going to kill you and your family."

SOUGHT TEAMSTER TIE

Clark said he did not know what connection Mrs. Liuzzo had with the Teamsters (her husband, Anthony J., is a Teamster business agent, and asked Lane to find out for him.

Clark said he had met Lane at a couple of police association meetings.

(Earlier, Both Clark and Lane said that a third party in Mich-

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

1A Detroit News
Detroit, Mich

Date: 5/13/65
Edition: 4 Star Final
Author:
Editor: Martin S. Hay
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Detroit

[ ] Being Investigated

igan had been contacted by Clark to reach Lane. Both men declined to name the third party.)

IN KLAN CHIEF'S HANDS

Clark said he gave a copy of the report to prosecutors in Lowndes County where the murder occurred, next to Clark's Dallas County.

He said he gave it to them because Alabama law required that all records and evidence in a case must be submitted for review by defense attorneys.

During the Lowndes County trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, one of three Ku Klux Klansmen charged in the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo, copies of the report were in the hands of Robert M. Shelton, imperial wizard of the United Klans of America. Wilkins' trial ended when the jury couldn't agree on a verdict and was discharged.

Lane today refused to comment on his sources for the report except to say, "I put it together from a number of places."

'CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE'

"A good newspaperman could have got the same information in 40 minutes," he said.

"I respect my sources just as a good reporter does. Once you reveal a confidential source, you no longer have a source. I regarded this as a confidential report."

The acting head of the Criminal Intelligence Bureau, Detective Lt. Louis Collins, said today that he didn't know where Lane got his information. The bureau head, Inspector Earl Miller, is on furlough.

SEES CONGRESS' INTEREST

In Washington, Rep. Charles L. Weltner, Georgia Democrat, who has led an investigation of the Klan by the House Un-American Activities Committee, said the Liuzzo report and how it came into the hands of the Klan would be "of deep interest" to the committee.

The committee will begin hearings on the Klan within six or eight weeks, he said.

Weltner said an effort would be made to determine what connection there may be, if any, between law enforcement agencies and the Klan.

Shelton has denied that he got the report from Clark.

BACKED BY MAYOR

Warren Mayor William A. Shaw said he talked with Lane about the report yesterday and supported what Lane had done.

"I feel that Lane only did what any police officer might have done," Shaw said. "It's the sort of thing they do every day across the country.

"Sheriff Clark might have asked for this kind of a report from any community in this area. It is not surprising that he singled out Warren, however, because Lane is well-known.

Shaw, who appointed Lane to his police post as an official outside the jurisdiction of the Warren city council, said he did not think that controversy over the report had hurt Warren.

"The way the situation is now, Commissioner Lane is secure in his job here," Shaw said.

60-40 SUPPORT

Shaw said that telephone calls by citizens to the Warren city hall ran about 60 percent in Lane's favor. The other 40 percent was critical, he said.

Six Warren city councilmen supported Lane and said there were no plans for a special council meeting to discuss what Lane had done. A seventh member was critical.

Councilman Norman Hill was the first council member to criticize Lane.

"It seems to me," Hill said, "that it was out of order to send such a report to Alabama when the request for it should have been addressed to Detroit, where Mrs. Liuzzo lived."

GROUP IS SHOCKED

Another criticism came from the Rev. David H. McAlpin Jr., president of the 150-member South Macomb Council for Human Relations. In a statement today, Mr. McAlpin said:

"The council wishes to express its profound shock and opposition to the action of Commissioner Lane for his invasion of the privacy of the murdered Mrs. Liuzzo.

"It appears that the result of the action by Commissioner Lane could only be to aid and abet her murderers."

Mr. McAlpin questioned the propriety of all Lane's actions, "in view of Sheriff Clark's national reputation as a diehard segregationist."

He asked if elected city officials in Warren would condone "such undercover, police state tactics."

REMOVAL IS URGED

George Merrelli, UAW Region 1 codirector, criticized Lane for the report and said he should be "removed from office immediately."

Merrelli described Lane's investigation as "none of his business," "surreptitious," an "invasion of privacy" and "contemptible for its disregard for civil liberties."

William Immergluck, 8240 Ritter, Center Line, president of the small Warren-Center Line Human Relations Council, an independent citizens group, said the council would protest Lane's actions in a letter to Warren officials today.

"We're writing to condemn the use of a high city office in something that was not Lane's business nor the business of the Alabama sheriff Lane sent the report to," Immergluck said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Detroit File On Liuzzo Was Rifled

Girardin Orders Police Dept. Quiz

BY WALTER RUGABER
Free Press Staff Writer

Virtually every detail in a "confidential" report of Mrs. Viola Gregg Liuzzo was smuggled out of a file in the Detroit Police Department, the Free Press learned Thursday.

The supposedly secret report on the slain civil rights worker's private life and family problems was put together by Police Commissioner Marvin G. Lane, of suburban Warren.

• • •

IT WAS SENT by Lane to Dallas County Sheriff James G. Clark of Selma, Ala., and wound up in the hands of Ku Klux Klan Imperial Wizard Robert M. Shelton, of Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Lane has said he obtained the data on Mrs. Liuzzo from "confidential sources." It was obvious, however, that File No. 1782 of the Detroit Criminal Intelligence Bureau (CIB) supplied his every need.

Chief of Detectives Vincent W. Piersante said it was "an obvious conclusion" that just about all Lane's information came from the Detroit file.

Piersante said that between 40 and 50 Detroit detectives would have had "normal access" to the file on Mrs. Liuzzo. Even more officers would have had "practical access," he said.

Police Commissioner Ray Girardin has asked Piersante to investigate how the detailed information in the file was obtained by Lane.

• • •

"I'M JUST GOING to have to have an open mind on this thing," Girardin said.

Asked whether disciplinary action will be taken if the officer who smuggled out the information is found, Girardin said:

"We'll have to cross that bridge when we come to it. If the rules of the department have been violated . . . this is an iffy sort of a thing."

Piersante said the CIB began to put together the Liuzzo file after the Detroit housewife was shot to death March 25 in Lowndes County, Ala.

"The funeral was going to be here," Piersante said, "and we wanted to know what sort of security arrangements we would have to maintain."

• • •

DEMONSTRATIONS and counter demonstrations were anticipated, the detective chief said, and "we were just trying to prepare ourselves."

So, Piersante reported, the CIB pulled together everything available on Mrs. Liuzzo and her family from a number of diverse records.

The file even includes newspaper clippings on Mrs. Liuzzo's funeral and the trial last week in Hayneville, Ala., of her accused killer, Klansman Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21.

It was also learned Thursday that Mayor Cavanagh's office had asked for and received background information on the slain civil rights volunteer.

• • •

IN WARREN, the City Council, Mayor William A. Shaw and Lane discussed the report for about 15 minutes in a closed session Thursday evening.

After the meeting Shaw told newsmen: "As far as we are concerned, I think it (the controversy over the report) is closed."

Then Shaw read a prepared statement which said:

"We are all in accord that Marvin Lane did his duty as he saw fit and that we feel that his motives were above reproach."

• • •

IN ANOTHER development, it was disclosed that two Alabama sheriffs asked the Detroit police for information on Mrs. Liuzzo.

The first request came from Dallas County Sheriff Frank Ryals, of Hayneville, on April 8—eight days after the Lane report was sent to Sheriff Clark.

Sheriff Ryals, in whose jurisdiction Mrs. Liuzzo was shot, was sent a nine-line, special delivery letter outlining Mrs. Liuzzo's record in the barest terms.

The letter noted only that Mrs. Liuzzo, seeking to test the Michigan compulsory school attendance law, was convicted for "failure to send children to school" and received one year's probation in Recorder's Court.

• • •

ON MAY 4, a month after the Lane report went to Sheriff Clark, the Detroit police got a second inquiry on Mrs. Liuzzo. This came from Jefferson County Sheriff Melvin Bailey, of Birmingham, another civil rights hotspot in the South. Sheriff Bailey got the same cryptic answer as Sheriff Ryals.

Detroit police officials described the two communications as "routine" in police circles.

The extensive background information in the CIB file would not be — and was not — officially divulged, officers said.

Nevertheless, a Free Press reporter examined the Detroit file and found constant similarities—even in wording—between the CIB data and the Lane report.

• • •

A PORTION of the Lane report to Sheriff Clark said:

"On March 26, 1965, the Criminal Intelligence Bureau began an investigation regarding the background of Viola Liuzzo . . ."

Girardin said the CIB made no "investigation" of the slain woman's background. He said it may have pulled together diverse records from other sections and agencies.

The central feature of the CIB file is several pages of typewritten notes which Piersante said resulted from a policewoman's "post - arrest interview" with Mrs. Liuzzo in 1964.

These notes contained the Liuzzo family financial data which subsequently showed up in the Lane report to Clark.

44-25601

ENCLOSURE

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

1A Detroit Free Pr
Detroit, Michig

Date: 5/14/65
Edition: Metro Final
Author:
Editor: Lee Hills
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Detroi

☐ Being Investigated

34

FBI

Date: 5/13/65

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: Director, FBI (44-28601)
Att: Training Division

FROM: SAC, Detroit (44-643)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS
OO: MOBILE

ReDetel 5/13/65.

Enclosed are two copies of article under by-line of WALTER RUGABER, Staff Writer, which appeared in the 5/13/65 issue of the Detroit Free Press concerning captioned matter.

(3) Bureau (Enc. 2)
1 - Mobile (Enc. 1)
1 - Detroit
TJN:HLH
(5)

44-28601-316

EX-116

MAY 14 1965

Approved _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Probe Leak of Liuzzo File, Dixie Dem Urges

Klan Foe Sees Link To Sheriff

Clark Says Life Was Threatened

BY WALTER RUGABER
Free Press Staff Writer

A Southern congressman investigating the Ku Klux Klan called Wednesday for a "full inquiry" on how a Klan official obtained a supposedly confidential report on Mrs. Viola Gregg Liuzzo prepared by a Detroit area police official.

Copies of the report — which contains details on the slain civil rights worker's private life and family problems — showed up last week in the hands of Klan Imperial Wizard Robert M. Shelton, of Tuscaloosa, Ala.

• • •

THE REPORT was prepared by Police Commissioner Marvin G. Lane, of suburban Warren, and addressed to the Dallas County sheriff, James G. Clark, of Selma, Ala.



Weltner

Lane and Clark both have said they are unaware of how the document reached the Klan. Lane said he purposed the report as a "courtesy" to Clark.

Rep. Charles Longstreet Weltner, a young Atlanta Democrat, has spearheaded an investigation of the Klan by the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC).

Weltner, appointed to HUAC last January, said hearings on the hooded order would probably begin within six or eight weeks. The congressman said:

"One of the express purposes of this inquiry is to determine what liaison or connection there is between law enforcement agencies and the Klan organization.

"The appearance of this dossier on Mrs. Liuzzo under these circumstances is most assuredly a matter that will be of deep interest to the committee."

In a telephone interview late Wednesday, Sheriff Clark said he asked Lane for the report on Mrs. Liuzzo within three hours after she was killed because his life had been threatened.

Clark said he received a telephone call from a man "whose name sounded like Osborn." Clark said the man said he was a Teamster official and told him:

"You killed the wrong one this time. We are going to kill you and your family."

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

1A DETROIT FREE PR
DETROIT, MICH.

Date: 5/13/65
Edition: METRO FINAL
Author: 2 STAR
Editor:
Title: LEE HILLS

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: DETROI

☐ Being Investigated

44-2761

ENCLOSURE

Clark said his request to Lane was "routine."

He denied he gave a copy of the report to the Ku Klux Klan.

He said he gave a copy to the prosecuting attorney in the trial of Collie Lee Wilkins, accused in the slaying of Mrs. Liuzzo.

Clark said that, under Alabama law, the defense in a trial is entitled to all the evidence and records whether it is used in court or not.

"I suppose that may be how they got hold of it," Clark said.

Local reaction to the Lane report on Mrs. Liuzzo—first reported in Wednesday's editions of the Free Press—ranged from mild to scorching.

• • •

WARREN MAYOR William Shaw said he hasn't seen a copy of the report and hasn't discussed it with Commissioner Lane. The mayor said:

"I plan to talk to him, yes, but I don't know when." In the meantime, the mayor declared, "I have no comment at all to make."

Norman Hill, a Warren councilman, said he doesn't see "why we should be involved in this case at all."

Hill said he felt the council is entitled to "some explanation" of the Lane report and said he "will have some questions regarding this in store for Mr. Lane."

The councilman pointed out that the commissioner is an appointee of the mayor and said the explanation of the report should come through the mayor.

Council President Orville R. Young said he could see no reason to chastise Lane.

"He was doing his job and working well within his authority as a policeman," Young said. "I'm sure he would respond to a similar request from Highland Park or Dearborn—so why not Selma?"

Councilman Howard D. Austin agreed that Lane's report was "routine police courtesy."

"When a request comes from a legitimate police source, Lane should not be expected to look into motives," he said.

Councilman Harold H. Perry said, "It's an administrative matter and should be handled by Shaw."

• • •

WILLIAM IMMERGLUCK, president of the Warren - Center Line Human Relations Council, said the group voted to seek and explanation of the report.

"We feel that the people of Warren are entitled to an explanation of commissioner Lane's involvement in a case that concerned neither the City of Warren nor the police agency in Alabama to which it was sent."

(Mrs. Liuzzo lived in Detroit and was shot while driving along U.S. Highway 80 in Lowndes County, Ala. Clark is sheriff of neighboring Dallas County.)

• • •

THE SOUTH Macomb Council for Human Relations voiced "profound shock and opposition" to what it called Lane's "invasion of the privacy of the murdered Mrs. Viola Liuzzo." In a statement, the council asked:

"Why did Commissioner Lane want Sheriff Clark to determine how Mrs. Liuzzo got to Alabama and who accompanied her there? What does Commissioner Lane plan to do with this information? And who are the 'we' who Lane says want it?"

(Lane's report to Sheriff Clark said:

"... We would like, if it is at all possible, to determine the method of transportation to Selma, Ala., by Mrs. Liuzzo and who may have accompanied her to your city from this area.")

• • •

ONE OF THE most outspoken reactions came from George Merrelli, co-director of Region One of the United Automobile Workers. Merrelli said:

"... Lane should be removed immediately for his actions in secretly conducting an investigation which was none of his business and, without authority, surreptitiously furnishing a report of that investigation to the notorious Sheriff James Clark ..."

Merrelli, whose reaction came in a formal statement issued by UAW headquarters, is co-director of the region in which Warren is located.

• • •

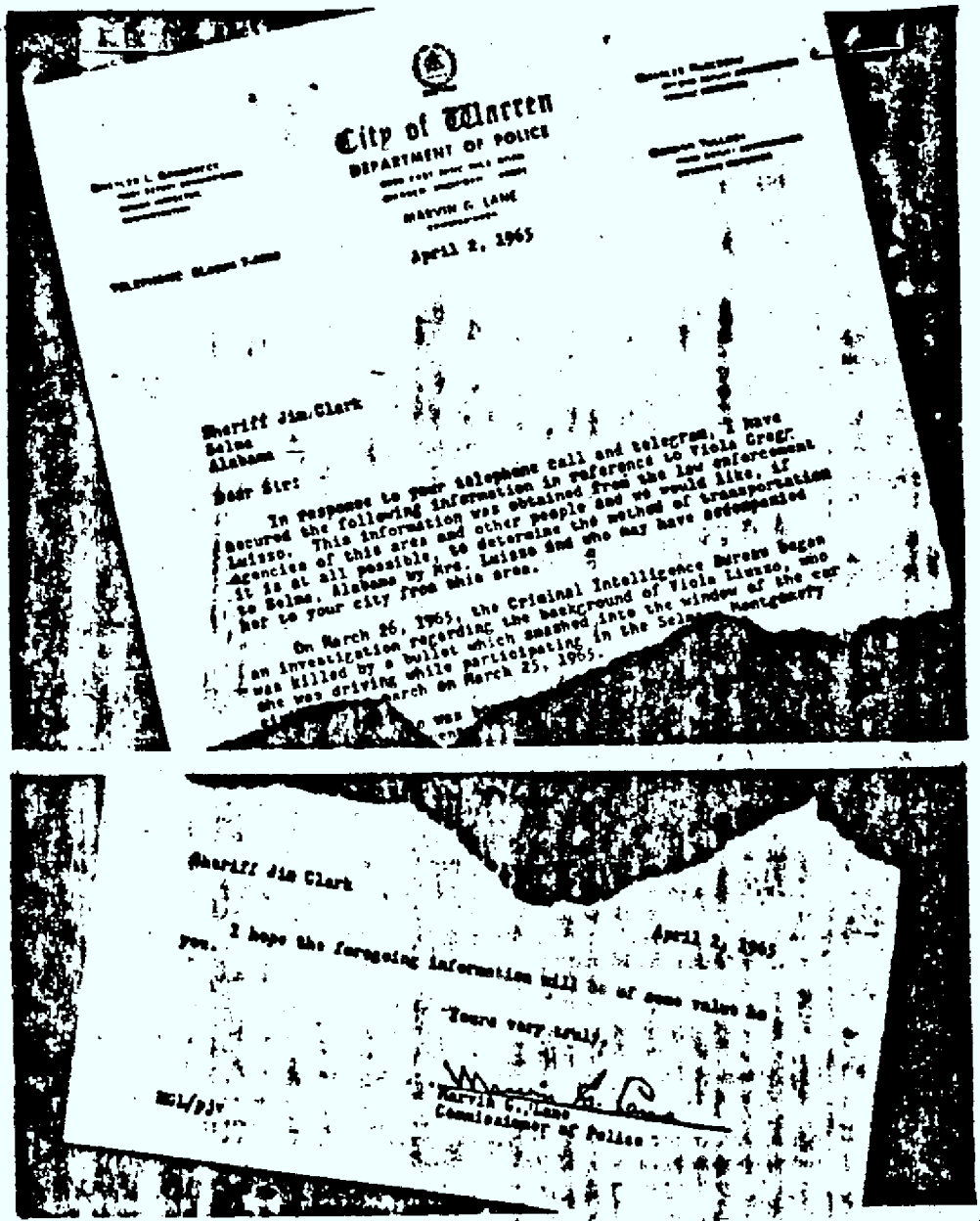
LANE, FORMER chief of detectives of the Detroit Police Department, disclaimed any sympathy with the Klan and said that he was not involved in the Southern racial situation in any way.

"I don't care to get mixed up in it," he said.

"I'm absolutely innocent in this matter of anything other than trying to co-operate with another law enforcement agency."

Rep. Weltner said a team of HUAC investigators has just returned from an eight-week probe of Klan activities in seven Southern states, including Alabama and Mississippi.

It was thought that they will return to look into how the Lane report found its way into the Klan's dossier on Mrs. Liuzzo.



City of Warren
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
MARVIN G. LANE

April 2, 1965

Sheriff Jim Clark
Selma
Alabama

Dear Sir:

In response to your telephone call and telegram, I have secured the following information in reference to Viola Gregg Luizzo. This information was obtained from the law enforcement agencies of this area and other people and we would like, if it is at all possible, to determine the method of transportation to Selma, Alabama by Mrs. Luizzo and who may have accompanied her to your city from this area.

On March 26, 1965, the Criminal Intelligence Bureau began an investigation regarding the background of Viola Luizzo, who was killed by a bullet which smashed into the window of the car she was driving while participating in the Selma-Montgomery [illegible] March on March 25, 1965.

[illegible]

Sheriff Jim Clark

April 2, 1965

you. I hope the foregoing information will be of some value to

Yours very truly,

Marvin G. Lane
Commissioner of Police

MGL/pjv

DETAILED REPORT by Police Commissioner Marvin G. Lane on Mrs. Viola Gregg Liuzzo was dispatched to Dallas County Sheriff James G. Clark of Selma, Ala., on official City of Warren stationery. The report, signed by Lane as commissioner of police, was dated April 2—slightly more than a week after the Detroit civil rights worker was slain.

FBI

Date: 5/17/65

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)
Attn: Training Division

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44-643)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS
(OO: MOBILE)

An article appeared in the 5/17/65 issue of The Detroit News indicating Detroit Police Detective Inspector EARL C. MILLER admitted furnishing report concerning VIOLA LIUZZO to Warren Police Commissioner MARVIN G. LANE (NA).

MILLER, head of the Criminal Intelligence Bureau, Detroit Police Department, has been removed from this assignment because of his action in this instance.

The Detroit News article indicates that MILLER furnished the LIUZZO report to Commissioner LANE, retired Chief of Detectives of the Detroit Police Department with the understanding that LANE needed it in his professional police work and with the further understanding that LANE would not disseminate it.

Copies of the newspaper article will follow.

The foregoing is for the Bureau's information.

3 - Bureau
1 - Mobile (Info)
1 - Detroit

TJN:MMR
(5)

FBI REC-61 44-28601 351

EX-116

21 MAY 19 1965

C C - Wick

Approved: PHS/N Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

60 MAY 2 1965

[redacted]

b2c

Edgar J. Hoover,
F.B.I.
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir—

I am sending you some
clippings from 4 different papers, to
ask you I read them very carefully and
to let me know if you did any better
by telling L.B.J. that 3 K.K.K. men kill
his wonder. It was either the F.B.I.
K.K.K. man or the Negro Barber she
was having dealers with, I am wondering
what who sold the K.K.K. and the 5 S. States
on or L.B.J. I wonder if you both
don't remember Judas betrayed Jesus
for 30 pieces. I silver then committed
Suicide so his deed - you men who are
selling our country to the commonest
for what and how much I hope God
in his wonder [illegible] way [illegible]
[illegible]

353

[illegible]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

6-

Noach file -
Acc 1-5 + 6-33 Ans 785,763 -

[illegible] in June 1963 Re
Northern Trouble Makers Coming
To South & Causing Trouble. Also
[illegible] Reference To [illegible]
[illegible] Don't [illegible]
[illegible] White Mine Gandy
Thanking Her For The Reply.

EXP. PROC.
~~88 MAY 10 1965~~

ENCLOSURE

REC- 39

MAY 10 1965

CORRESPONDENCE

sensible writings like Taylor

R. M. THIGPEN SR.,
Fairhope, Ala.

King

The Editor,

Dear Sir: Can it be that the King's (Martin Luther) crown is becoming the least bit tarnished in the Yankee part of our country? From the article in your Monday paper by Henry J. Taylor, it would seem that his public and columnist promoters are also getting a bit fed up with his dictator's way of ignoring the laws of our land when they are not in accordance with his own personal convenience.

Here's hoping that other widely read columnists will fall in line behind Taylor and David Lawrence and put King in his proper place in the one-time good old U.S.A. Maybe his pal, LBJ, might also follow suit and disregard the hold that King has over him.

Here's hoping for more really



OWNER OF THE SIGN



BOBBY F. CHERRY, WIFE, AND SEVEN CHILDREN

Family Man Complains Of 2 Years Of FBI Harrassment

Bobby F. Cherry of the Ensley section of Birmingham is one of many who can tell very interesting stories of just how far America has slipped into the police state. After the bombing of the Negro Church in Birmingham two years ago, he has been under regular harassment by the FBI. Mr. Cherry is married and has seven children. In order to put pressure upon him the FBI has twice sought to question him on his job. Four times he has been stopped by FBI agents while driving his truck ("We just want to ask you a few more questions.")

To try and prove his innocence, Mr. Cherry did make one mistake, he agreed to take a lie detector test at the FBI office. After taking the test the FBI told him, "You have lied on about every question we asked you on this test. Your in trouble, but we want to help you. If you will confess now, it will go easy on you." Poor Mr. Cherry didn't know that the FBI NEVER tells you if the lie detector test cleared you. To further terrorize Mr. Cherry, FBI agents Weldon and Aires told him: "At this phase of the investigation, we have got to have results. We don't care who we pin this on." This happened two months after the Church bombing. They also went to his friends and relatives and told them. "Bobby is in trouble and we want to help him. So, if you know anything about him and this bombing, you had better tell us."

This lasted many months. The heat was on from Washington to get someone, anyone! Three different times FBI agents went to question Mr. Cherry's wife after he left for work. Agent Downey accused her of withholding information. To this day FBI agents watch his home, keep driving through his alley and frightening his children. During this investigation he received mysterious threatening calls, even though his number is unlisted? Over and over again agents told him, "We know you were in on the bombing and you will soon be arrested - so talk now and it will go easy on you."

The only trouble was Mr. Cherry was innocent and has no knowledge of the bombings. That did not satisfy the FBI. Two years later, Mr. Cherry is still harassed from time to time. It doesn't bother him any more. He simply tells them to leave and that he has nothing to say to them. (No one is required to answer any questions or take these phony lie detector tests.) Mr. Cherry is working with the "Committee To Stop Federal Harassment" P O. Box 3674, Birmingham.

Mr. Cherry is only one of over a thousand persons who have been directly accused of the bombing. Hundreds of others have taken the lie detector test and the FBI told each one that he had failed the test.

ome Sweet Day

The Editor,

Dear Sir: What I can't understand is why the Blunderer of the Great Society and his hatchet man seem determined to integrate all of our public schools in the South, either by force or intimidation, when so many public schools in Chicago, New York, and Pittsburgh are segregated.

Jack Star, senior editor of Look magazine said Chicago public schools are in deep trouble, because 530,000 public school students are segregated and that 230,000 Negro students have no contacts with whites.

The teachers in the Negro schools say their students have the largest drop-outs and the highest absence rate. They said some Negro children come to school who don't even know their own names, and have never held a pencil in their hands, and when their students reach 16, that 50 per cent drop out. They said most of the children live in slum homes, but a leading Negro leader said the superintendent of schools was dragging his feet, and that Negroes were united in their anger and were ready to take to the streets unless they integrate the schools.

But the federal government stands idly by and doesn't lift a finger to force them to integrate. But if it were Alabama or Mississippi they would withdraw troops from Viet Nam to see that we integrated our schools.

Their newest weapon is dollars to force the Negroes in our schools. They say "if you don't let them in, we will cut off federal aid." It's not their money — it belongs to the taxpayers. When the literacy tests are eliminated in voting, the Negro won't need education. The new frontiers will take care of them in exchange for their votes. The truth is finally leaking out from behind the iron curtain up North.

Not too far in the distant future the Negro will do his demonstrating above the Mason-Dixon line, and some sweet day in the bye and bye there will arise a great leader who will loosen the shackles from the American people. Constitutional government will be restored, the Constitution will be returned by those who stole it, the spite laws passed by Congress will be revoked, and the rights reserved for the states will be made secure.

Then we will have a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, and this nation of ours shall not perish from the earth.

JOHN R. MAYES
714 Old Middle Minor

Liuzzo Note Cause Actio

DETROIT (AP) — Polic ficials here were attem Saturday to determine how urban Warren Police Con sioner Marvin G. Lane obt details of a confidential p report on a murdered c rights worker.

A copy of the report on Viola Liuzzo, Detroit ho wife shot to death followi civil rights demonstration Selma, Ala., later tur up in the hands of Dallas (ty, Ala., Sheriff James Cla

Lane said he sent the r to Clark on Clark's req Robert Shelton, imperial w of the United Klans of A ca, also displayed a cop the report.

Detroit police officials s the information about Mrs uzzo apparently was obt from the files of the p department's Central I gence Bureau.

Officers in the bureau s dossier of Mrs. Liuzzo was piled after her slaying M 25.

Detroit Police Commiss Ray Girardin ordered an i tigation to determine who the file to Lane.

The action came as Ma Jerome Cavanagh called disciplinary measures ag the responsible policeman.

"There is no question that the information wa leased or surreptitiously t out of the Detroit Police partment and given to Warren department," Vava said.

He said transmission o information by Lane wa called for.

Orgies Occur During March

The true face of the Martin Luther King, Selma to Montgomery march is now coming to light. The lowest elements of society were attracted to this spectacle from as far away as Canada and England. Most all were beatniks, peace creeps and Communists. Numerous incidents of sexual intercourse were reported on the grounds around the Selma Negro church. A number of cases were reported every night, of Negro men lying on the ground having sex relations with White women demonstrators.

Associated Press writer, Kelso Sturgeon of Atlanta stated that he personally witnessed these public acts of sexual debauchery. Sturgeon said, "I personally saw at least three racially mixed couples engaged in sexual intercourse on the ground." When the demonstrators reached the capitol, two "Birmingham News" reporters charged they saw a number of racially mixed demonstrators lock arms and urinate on the sidewalk in front of the State Capitol. Even pro-negro Selma police chief Wilson Baker stated: "There very definitely was many incidences of open petting, drinking and love making going on between mixed couples." There could be no arrests in these cases, because the 'demonstrators' were being protected by the FBI and L.B.J.'s armed federal troops.



CONFEDERATE FLAG BURNED BY SELMA DEMONSTRATOR

MRS. LIUZZO HAD ARREST RECORD

The nations press has tried to build up Mrs. Viola Liuzzo as a Saint. The truth of the matter is that she has been a racial agitator and trouble maker for some time. She has participated in CORE demonstrations and other street activity in Detroit.

Last year Mrs. Liuzzo was arrested and brought to trial in Detroit for violating Michigan's school compulsory law. She was found guilty of keeping two of her children out of school. (Thomas Liuzzo 13, was kept out of school for 43 days and Anthony 10, for 47 days.) Judge Joseph A. Gillis fined her $50 and gave her 1 year's probation for violating the law. He also denounced her as a trouble-maker.

This record proves that Mrs. Liuzzo was extremist, who came to Alabama to cause trouble. She proved herself an unfit mother by trying to prevent them from obtaining an education, and by coming to Alabama and driving young Negro men around in the front seat of her car. Who really shot and murdered this woman is not known. Lyndon Johnson certainly has violated the Constitutional rights of the four young men arrested by condeming them before they even have a trial.



Mrs. Liuzzo

From what we know of t case, the FBI has no evidence these 4 White men. We feel the men will be found innocent wh tried before a impartial jury. is our belief that a Negro m have killed Mrs. Liuzzo. She m have resisted sexual advances some black buck, and he m have violently turned upon he Her death has been a great ho to the Communist propagan conspiracy—it is possible sh she was killed on purpose paid communist agents so th the deed could be blamed on i nocent Southern Whites.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 12 1965

TELETYPE

FBI DETROIT

3-47 PM URGENT 5-12-65 DMR

TO DIRECTOR (44-28601)

ATTENTION: TRAINING DIVISION

FROM DETROIT (44-643) 5P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS.

CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS. OO MOBILE.

REDETEL MAY TWELVE, SIXTYFIVE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OF BUREAU, ARTICLE IN DETROIT FREE PRESS MAY TWELVE, SIXTYFIVE, BY WALTER RUGABER, STAFF WRITER, STATED THAT A "CONFIDENTIAL" SIX PAGE REPORT MADE BY POLICE COMMISSIONER MARVIN G. LANE (NA), WARREN, MICHIGAN, CONCERNING MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO WAS PREPARED AND SENT BY LANE TO DALLAS COUNTY SHERIFF JAMES G. CLARK, SELMA, ALABAMA. LANE, FORMER CHIEF OF DETECTIVES, DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT, ALLEGEDLY SAID HE MADE ONLY TWO COPIES OF REPORT, ORIGINAL GOING TO CLARK AND THE OTHER COPY REMAINING IN LANE'S DESK. LANE IS QUOTED BY THE FREE PRESS AS STATING, "IF ANYTHING GOT OUT THE SHERIFF (CLARK) WAS RESPONSIBLE." WITH RESPECT TO THE REPORT GETTING OUT, LANE IS FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING, "IT SHOULDN'T BE DONE. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO

END PAGE ONE

Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

44-28601-1354

MAY 25 1965

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

ABOUT IT. THERE IS NOTHING IN THE REPORT OTHER THAN FACTS. BUT IT WAS NEVER INTENDED TO BE CIRCULATED OTHER THAN TO... OFFICERS." LANE REPORTEDLY SAID HE KNEW CLARK THROUGH WORK IN POLICE ORGANIZATION. LANE SAID CLARK WAS NO PERSONAL FRIEND CLARK ALLEGEDLY CALLED LANE AND AKSED FOR A BACKGROUND REPORT AFTER MRS. LIUZZO WAS KILLED. THE REPORT WAS DATED APRIL SECOND, SIXTYFIVE. LANE ADVISED FREE PRESS HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT CLARK'S PURPOSE WAS IN REQUESTING A REPORT, AND SAID HE DID NOT QUESTION CLARK'S PURPOSE. IN THE REPORT WRITTEN ON THE CITY OF WARREN STATIONERY LANE SAID, "THIS INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF THIS AREA AND OTHER PEOPLE."

THE REPORT, ACCORDING TO THE FREE PRESS, STATED -

"MRS. LIUZZO'S HUSBAND, ANTHONY J., IS A BUSINESS AGENT FOR TEAMSTERS UNION LOCAL TWO FOUR SEVEN AND RECEIVES A SALARY OF 'APPROXIMATELY EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY DOLLARS PER WEEK.'

"THE FAMILY CAR 'IS BEING FINANCED THROUGH THE GMAC PLAN AT PAYMENTS OF ONE HUNDRED ONE DOLLARS PER MONTH.'

END PAGE TWO

"MRS. LIUZZO'S FIRST MARRIAGE, AT SIXTEEN, 'LASTED ONE DAY, BOTH PARTIES SEPARATING THE DAY AFTER THE WEDDING.'

"THE FAMILY HAS CHARGE ACCOUNTS AT THE J. L. HUDSON CO. AND WINKLEMAN'S.

"MRS. LIUZZO AND TWO OF HER CHILDREN, ON SEPARATE OCCASIONS, 'RAN AWAY' FROM HOME.

"ON ONE OCCASION, 'WHEN THE POLICEWOMAN ASSIGNED TO THE CASE MADE HER INITIAL HOUSE CALL, SHE FELT THAT THE MOTHER WAS MOST DISTURBED AND WAS UNABLE TO GET ANY SENSIBLE INFORMATION FROM HER.'

"WHEN MRS. LIUZZO WAS MISSING SHE WROTE HER HUSBAND A SERIES OF LETTERS, 'EACH BECOMING MORE DESPONDENT. ONE LETTER WAS WRITTEN BY VIOLA WHILE SHE WAS IN A CEMETERY.'

"SHE WAS GIVING BIRTHS AND DEATHS OF VARIOUS PEOPLE AND CONCLUDED THE LETTER WITH HER OWN BIRTH DATE AND DEATH DATE.'

"MRS. LIUZZO'S STUDENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AT WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY WAS TWO EIGHT THREE DASH ZERO ZERO NINE AND SHE WAS

"CONSIDERED AN 'OFF AND ON STUDENT.'"

THE FREE PRESS STATES THAT COMMISSIONER RAY GIRARDIN, DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT, UPON BEING ADVISED BY A REPORTER OF THE NATURE OF THE LIUZZO REPORT SAID THAT THE DETROIT PD "WOULDN'T HAVE OCCASION TO MAKE AN INVESTIGATION LIKE THIS." HE ADDED, "IT WOULD BE VERY UNUSUAL. THERE MAY BE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT BUT I WOULD SAY WE CERTAINLY WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT."

THE FREE PRESS ARTICLE STATES THAT KLAN IMPERIAL WIZARD ROBERT M. SHELTON, TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA, REVEALED COPIES OF THE REPORT TO A NUMBER OF REPORTERS IN ALABAMA LAST WEEK. SHELTON REPORTEDLY DENIED THAT THE REPORT CAME TO HIM FROM CLARK, BUT HE DECLINED TO NAME HIS SOURCE.

THE FREE PRESS REPORTED THAT LANE SAID HE PRODUCED THE INFORMATION AS A COURTESY TO A FELLOW LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. HE CLAIMED THAT HE OFTEN SUPPLIES OTHER POLICE DEPARTMENTS WITH CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS SUCH AS THE ONE HE COMPILED ON MRS. LIUZZO.

END PAGE FOUR

ASKED WHY HE INCLUDED SO MANY DETAILS ON MRS. LIUZZO'S PRIVATE LIFE, LANE SAID, "EVERYTHING THAT COMES TO YOUR ATTENTION, YOU PUT IN."

DETROIT REPORTS DATED MARCH THIRTYONE AND APRIL SECOND, SIXTYFIVE, AND SPECIFICALLY THE REPORT DATED APRIL ONE, SIXTY-FIVE, CAPTIONED AS ABOVE, SET FORTH INFORMATION FROM DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT RECORDS REGARDING THE LIUZZO BACKGROUND. THE DETROIT OFFICE WAS NOT CONTACTED BY LANE IN THIS MATTER.

AS THE BUREAU IS AWARE, LANE RETIRED AS CHIEF OF DETECTIVES, DETROIT PD, IN NINETEEN SIXTYONE COMPLETING THIRTY FIVE YEARS SERVICE, TO ACCEPT THE POSITION AS POLICE COMMISSIONER AT WARREN, MICHIGAN. HE IS A GRAUDATE OF THE TWENTY FOURTH SESSION OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY. LANE IS PAST PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE AND THE NATONAL ACADEMY ASSOCIATES. HE IS WIDELY RESPECTED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT CIRCLES.

AM COPY BEING SENT MOBILE FOR INFORMATION.

END

WA BMS

FBI WASH DC

Well he isn't respected here. Cut him off entirely from N. Ave.

CC-MR. ROSEN

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Viola Liuzzo is the civil rights worker who was murdered between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, on 3/25/65.

Of three subjects indicted on state charges, Collie Leroy Wilkins was tried for murder in State Court last week, the trial resulting in a hung jury. Wilkins was represented by Matt Murphy, a Klan attorney.

Department being advised.

WLM:pah

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 12 1965

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI DETROIT

132 AM URGENT 5-12-65 LTU

TO DIRECTOR

FROM DETROIT (44-643)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL, VIOLA LUIZZO ET AL DASH VICTIMS

Civil Rights – Election Laws

CR DASH EL.

MR. ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, ONE NINE THREE SEVEN FIVE MARLOVE, DETROIT, MICH., HUSBAND OF SLAIN CIVIL RIGHTS WORKER, VIOLA LIUZZO, TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED DETROIT OFFICE, EVENING OF MAY ELEVEN LAST, THAT HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED EARLIER IN THE EVENING BY A "DETROIT FREE PRESS" REPORTER.

REC-1 44-2465-355

THE REPORTER TOLD LIUZZO OF INFORMATION IN AN ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED LATER IN THE EVENING OF MAY ELEVEN LAST WHEREIN THE MAY 25 1965 FREE PRESS HAD LEARNED THAT A SIX PAGE REPORT HAD BEEN SENT EARLY APRIL, TO SHERIFF JAMES CLARK, SELMA, ALA., BY WARREN, MICH., POLICE COMMISSIONER MARVIN G. LANE (NATIONAL ACADEMY). LANE IS FORMER CHIEF OF DETECTIVES, DETROIT PD.

LIUZZO STATED THE REPORTER, WALTER RUGABER, HAD TOLD HIM THE REPORT CONTAINED DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING HIS WIFE'S VOTING HISTORY AND HIS FINANCIAL BACKGROUND. THE REPORT

END PAGE ONE

79 MAY 26 1965

XEROX

MAY 25 1965

WAS ALLEGEDLY TURNED OVER TO KU KLUX KLAN IMPERIAL WIZARD ROBERT M. SHELTON BY CLARK.

MR. LIUZZO ADVISED HE WAS UPSET OVER THIS APPARENT INVASION OF HIS PRIVACY AND FELT IN VIEW OF LANE'S CO-OPERATION WITH SHERIFF CLARK, THAT LANE MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IN THE FUTURE AS A PERSON WHO WOULD CO-OPERATE WITH AND ASSIST THE KLAN.

HE HAD NO SPECIFIC INSTANCES TO CITE RE LANE'S POSSIBLE AFFILIATION WITH THE KLAN OTHER THAN TO OBJECT TO LANE'S ACTION AND ITS IMPLICATION. THE FBI'S JURISDICTION WAS CAREFULLY POINTED OUT TO MR. LIUZZO WHO APPEARED SATISFIED WITH ALL EXPLANATIONS.

AN ARTICLE APPEARED IN DETROIT FREE PRESS, CITY EDITION, EVENING MAY ELEVEN, DATED MAY TWELVE WHICH NOTED "KLAN GETS COPIES OF SECRET REPORT ON MRS. LIUZZO". THE ARTICLE NOTED THE SIX PAGE REPORT CONTAINED ALLEGATIONS OF LIUZZO FAMILY PROBLEMS, DETAILS OF MRS. LIUZZO'S THREE MARRIAGES AND A DETAILED RUNDOWN ON FAMILY INDEBTEDNESS.

DETROIT FILES CONTAIN NO INFO RE POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN KLAN ACTIVITY BY LANE.

FOREGOING BEING SUBMITTED FOR BUREAU'S INFORMATION.

END

WA..HFL

FBI WASH DC

P

I think we ought to find out if Lane did this. If he did he should be dropped from NA associates -

K

FBI

Date: 5/21/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO : Director, FBI (44-28601)

FROM : SAC, Mobile (44-1245)(P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL:
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR

ReBuairtel 5/18/65.

Enclosed herewith are copies of the State and Federal bonds on WILKINS, THOMAS and EATON. These were obtained 5/20/65 by SA [redacted] from M. E. MARLETTE, Clerk of Court, Hayneville, Ala., and from JAMES M. GUTTERY, Deputy Clerk, U. S. District Court, Montgomery, Ala., respectively.

3 - Bureau (Enc 5)
2 - Mobile
SHR-egp
(5)

EX 110

REC 16

"ENCLOSURE ATTACHED"

cc
oth enclosures
sent to Dept
5-25-65
6-74 f
JJO/kk

357

10 MAY 24 1965

C U - Wick

170

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 5-19-65

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: INEZ ROBB

BACKGROUND:

Captioned individual's column entitled "Some Disturbing Questions" which appeared in the May 17th issue of "The Washington Daily News" concerns the murder of Mrs. Viola G. Liuzzo, white civil rights worker from Detroit, Michigan. Robb mentions the actions of both the defense attorney and the County Solicitor during the trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, and then goes into a critical diatribe concerning Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., and his inability to prevent the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo.

Robb states that, "What sorely troubles me, if we accept the prosecution's account of the slaying, is the moral aspect of Rowe's presence in the car when an innocent woman, whose only crime was her aid to civil rights marchers, was gunned down." She attempts to show that Rowe had every opportunity to prevent this killing but neglected to do so, and questions why he did not at least attempt to protect Mrs. Liuzzo. She raises such other questions as "Under what kind of secret orders did Rowe work? Was the infiltration of the Ku Klux Klan more important than the saving of an innocent woman who, in the eyes of the great majority of her country men, was doing a commendable service to a just cause?" Robb concludes her article by stating, "It is one woman's opinion that the FBI owes the nation an explanation of its action in the Liuzzo case."

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

NOT RECORDED
133 JUN 10 1965

10 JUN 10 1965

Our files reveal no information of a derogatory nature identifiable with Robb who is a well-known syndicated columnist, whose column reportedly appears in some 132 daily newspapers. Our information regarding her for the most part consists of articles she has written in the past concerning her trip to Russia in 1959 and general living conditions in that country. These articles were written in a satirical vein in which she criticized the manner of living in Russia as compared to life in the United States.

CRIME RESEARCH

This is absolutely untrue. Back in the 30s or 40s she vilified the [illegible] me personally when I was in Miami Beach & even picketed my cottage there.

1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure
1 - Mr. Rosen - Enclosure

JCF:mm
(6)

Continued...

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 5-25-65

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: INEZ ROBB

BACKGROUND:

In a memorandum dated 5-19-65 concerning captioned individual's column in the May 17th issue of "The Washington Daily News" regarding Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., the statement was made that our files reveal no information of a derogato nature identifiable with Robb. Also, it was recommended that you contact Robb and set her straight.

In connection with the first statement, the Director has noted, "This is absolutely untrue. Back in the 30's or 40's she vilified the FBI and me personally when I was in Miami Beach and even picketed my cottage there. H." The Director has also advised that nothing would be gained by contacting Robb.

ACTION:

All references in Bureau indices on Inez Ro.. were recalled. They we carefully and thoroughly reviewed without locating additional pertinent data. Upon request, the Miami Office reviewed their indices for any information on Robb. SAC, Miami, advised that their files contained no references identifiable with Robb. Old research files in the Crime Records Division were reviewed along with reference projects regarding smear campaigns against the Bureau in the 1940 era. This included the "New York Post" series, Fred Cook's articles in the "Nation" magazine and Max Lowenthal's book. No data concerning Robb was located in this reference material.

NOT RECORDED
15 JUL 10 1965

After negative efforts to locate data in Bureau files and the Miami Offic indices, a check was made of the special newspaper clippings in the Director's Office. These clippings revealed two articles by Inez Robb. One in the 3-5-40 issue of the "Atlanta Constitution," Atlanta, Georgia, entitled "Miami Hurt to the Quick By G-Man Hoover's Charge." The other appeared in the 3-5-40 issue of the "Memphis Commerc Appeal," Memphis, Tennessee, entitled "Palm Beach's Famous Casino Rolls Along Despite G-Men." These both referred to the Director's efforts to clean up the Miami Beach area. These clippings further revealed a column by Walter Winchell appearing the 3-6-40 issue of the "New York Daily Mirror" as follows "Reporter Inez Robb and Edgar Hoover have phffft, too...'He has,' she barks, 'the worst tact and the most wonderful brown eyes.'"

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

10 JUN 10 1965

1 - Mr. DeLoach
JCF:jol/skd (6)

1 - Mr. Rosen

CRIME RESEARCH

M. A. Jones to DeLoach Memo
RE: Inez Robb

Our most recent data regarding Robb was in connection with a controversy in which she became embroiled with the owner of the Camelback Inn, Phoenix, Arizona, where she was addressing a group of women. She criticized the fact that her room did not contain a Bible but did contain anticommunist literature. She also criticized the Inn's "freedom shelf" which contained anticommunist books and literature, including the Director's book "Masters of Deceit," noting in her speech "there is no danger within from communism, only from without." (94-55940-4) (62-72670)

OBSERVATIONS:

In reading Robb's column, it is clear to see that she is completely misinformed concerning our responsibilities in connection with the Liuzzo murder investigation, and it is felt she should be personally contacted and set straight on this matter. She should be advised that, although Mr. Rowe furnished us informati from time to time concerning Klan activities, he was not an employee of the FBI.

Since this matter is still under litigation, it is felt that in response to some of her contentions as to what Rowe should have done to prevent this accident, we should merely respond by referring to Rowe's testimony at the trial to the effect that he was taken by surprise and when he found out what was actually going on, he was afraid for his own life. It is also felt, at this time, that it would not be advisable to expand on this explanation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you, Mr. DeLoach, contact Inez Robb and set her straight concerning the questions she has raised in this article regarding our responsibiliti in the Liuzzo murder case, along the lines indicated above.

not much use!

5/21

-2-

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE

William Bradford Huie, a free
nce writer on controversial subjects,
reviously contacted Bureau requesting
desire to prepare articles and
ossibly a novel concerning activities
f Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., regarding
lan activities. Bureau is not
ooperating with Huie in writing any
rticles on Rowe or the Klan. Huie's
request, however, was brought to the
attention of Rowe and as stated in
the attached Rowe does not desire to
meet with Huie.

[redacted]

b7A

JJB/ral

4-5 (Rev. 12-14-64)

DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☐ RADIO ☒ TELETYPE

10:58 AM PDST URGENT 5-24-65 KSJ
TO DIRECTOR (44-28601) BIRMINGHAM, AND ATLANTA
FROM SAN FRANCISCO 241651

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA; ET AL; VICTIMS; CR-EL; CIVIL RIGHTS-ELECTION
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS).

RE BUAIRTEL MAY 12 LAST, AND INSPECTOR JOSEPH SULLIVAN'S CALL TO SAN FRANCISCO MAY 24 INSTANT, FOR A SCHEDULED MEETING WITH INFORMANT IN ATLANTA.

CONTENTS OF REAIRTEL DISCUSSED WITH ROWE BY SA [redacted]

[redacted] ROWE STATED THAT HE DOES NOT DESIRE TO MEET WITH HUIE AND ROWE'S PRESENT ATTITUDE IS THAT HE DOES NOT WISH TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH ANY OTHER WRITERS WHO MIGHT MAKE SIMILAR REQUE AT LEAST UNTIL PROSECUTION OF CASE CONCLUDED. [redacted]

[redacted]

RECEIVED: 2:10 PM JLD

FX-116

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

MAY 25 1965

CC: MR. ROSEN

CC: MR. DELOACH

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

5/25/65

1 - Mr. Boyd

Airtel

To: SACs, Atlanta
Birmingham
San Francisco

EX-116

From: Director, FBI (44-28601)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

ReSFrad to Director, Birmingham and Atlanta 5/24/65.

Reference is made to the inquiry by free lance writer William Bradford Huie as to the possibility of writing a story on Rowe and Rowe's present attitude that he does not wish to meet Huie.

The Bureau also does not desire to have Huie meet Rowe and you should take appropriate steps to insure that such a meeting does not take place.

JJB/ral
(8)

NOTE: Rerad advised that Rowe did not care to meet Huie or any other writers with similar requests. The Director has noted he does not want Huie to meet Rowe.

MAILED 8

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

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER

PART 9 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 44-28601

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

The informant is Gary Thomas Rowe who furnished information leading to the arrest of subjects charged with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo.

HGR

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: May 20, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Gary Thomas Rowe, our informant who furnished information identifying the subjects responsible for the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on 3/25/65 [redacted]

During April, 1965, Rowe was returned to Alabama to testify against subjects before Federal and state grand juries and on 5/3/65 he was returned to Alabama to testify in the state murder trial of subject Collie Leroy Wilkins. Since the trial, which concluded with a hung jury on 5/7/65, [redacted]

[redacted] has been accompanied by SA [redacted] of the Birmingham Office who was handling the informant at the time he furnished the initial information identifying the subjects in this case. It was felt necessary that SA [redacted] accompany him during the crucial period of his appearances before the grand juries and at the state murder trial in order to insure his protection and to maintain effective control over him.

[redacted] It is not anticipated that his testimony will be needed in Alabama before the retrial of Wilkins or the initial trials of the other two subjects Eugene Thomas and William Orville Eaton which are tentatively scheduled for September and October, 1965.

OBSERVATIONS:

REC-19 — 6 MAY 26 1965

[redacted] and we have received no indication that he is in any immediate personal danger, it does not appear necessary that he be accompanied at all times by an Agent.

JWH/ral
(6)

CONTINUED - OVER

TRUE COPY

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Your comments and letter have been very much appreciated. Our history class was very happy and also proud to receive your comments which were very helpful in helping us draw conclusions.

We understand why you can't give us more information, and we were surprised that you could tell us as much as you did. We realize your position and are glad you answered as you did.

We certainly don't want to be too time consuming--and if we are, don't bother with us, we understand; but we have more questions! Living in Alabama, we realize that we are looked down on by many--especially those in the North. Still we want to see justice done, and that's why I want to question you on the Liuzzo Case and FBI-man, Rowe. Is this really an FBI agent, and was this an attempt to infiltrate the Klan? It seems like a good idea, if Rowe is what he says he is. (This is what I wonder about.) Another thing I'm interested in is the U. K. A., and that's why I enclosed the newspaper clipping; some of the issues in it raise questions. What do you think about KKK and the others? Answer as you see fit, and thanks again!

Sincerely,

[redacted] b7c

[redacted] b7c

REC- 18 44-28601-366

EX 105

21 MAY 25 1965

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Your comments and letter have been very much appreciated. Our history class was very happy and also proud to receive your comments which were very helpful in helping us draw conclusions.

We understand why you can't give us more information, and we were surprised that you could tell us as much as you did. We realize your position and are glad you answered as you did.

We certainly don't want to be too time consuming — and if we are, don't bother with us, we understand; but we have more questions! Living in Alabama, we realize that we are looked down on by many — especially those in the north. Still we want to see justice done, and that is why it is vital to question you on the Liuzzo Case and FBI-man, Rowe. Is this

Sincerely,

really an FBI agent, and was this an attempt to infiltrate the Klan? It seems like a good idea, if Rowe is what he says he is. (This is what I wonder about.) Another thing I'm interested in is the U.K.A., and that's why I enclosed the newspaper clipping; some of the issues in it raise questions. What do you think about KKK and the others? Answer as you see fit, and thanks again!

Sincerely,

[redacted]

b7c

timony of an accomplice.

The state claimed Rowe's testimony was backed up by a number of FBI agents and a state trooper who appeared as witnesses.

Rowe was the man who broke the case within hours of the time Mrs. Liuzzo, a civil rights worker from Detroit, was shot as she ferried marchers between Montgomery and Selma.

He had joined the Klan five years ago to spy for the FBI. He was in the killer's car when the slaying took place, he said.

It was Rowe's testimony that put into Wilkins' hand the gun that fired the fatal bullet as two cars sped through the night.

His testimony also put Klansmen Eugene Thomas and William Orville Eaton in the car as participants. These two men will be tried later.

A question for the jury was whether Rowe himself was in on the killing. He testified he didn't fire his gun.

The racial aspects of the slaying were woven throughout the case. Murphy showed Mrs. Liuzzo to be a member of the NAACP and SNCC, a woman who participated in the Selma to Montgomery march, and a white woman who was driving a car with a Negro boy in the front seat on the night of her death.

He showed the FBI as a group striving to "break the back of the United Klans of America."

State prosecutors Circuit Solicitor Arthur Gamble Jr., County Solicitor Perdue, and Joseph Gantt of the state attorney-general's office told the jury they knew prejudice was at the heart of the case.

They pleaded for "justice" in Lowndes County and a verdict that would reflect credit on the county and the State of Alabama in the eyes of the world.

The case was covered by some 40 newsmen from cities in the U.S. and abroad in the setting of a country courthouse deep in Alabama.

May 25, 1965

REC 18 94 28601-366

EX 105

[redacted]

Dear [redacted] b7c

Your letter of May 18th, with enclosure, has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I would like to point out that Gary Thomas Rowe furnished information to this Bureau for which he was compensated; however, he was not a Special Agent. Since litigation in the case to which you referred has not been concluded, I am sure you will understand why it is not possible for me to comment as you desire.

As I pointed out in my prior letter, information in our files must be maintained as confidential. However, general background information concerning the organization you mentioned can be found in "The FBI Story" by Don Whitehead which may be available in your school or local library.

Enclosed is some material which I hope you and your classmates will find of interest.

MAILED 6
MAY 25 1965
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

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

Enclosures (2)
FBI and Civil Rights
The F[illegible]'s Role in the Field of Civil Rights

NOTE: [redacted] He was advised at this time that our files are confidential. b7c

CJJ:pjf (3)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI

Date: 5/21/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, HOUSTON (100-10146)(C)

SUBJECT: VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - DECEASED
RACIAL MATTERS;
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

RE: Bureau letter to Houston, 5/10/65.

As directed in referenced Bureau letter, Houston has compared the photograph of [redacted] as received from D. [redacted] and confirmation of identification of this photograph with that of [redacted] aka, has been made. These two persons are identical.

For the information of other offices [redacted]

3 - Bureau (AM)(RM)
1 - Albuquerque (Info)(AM)(RM)
1 - Detroit (Info)(AM)(RM)
1 - Mobile (Info)(AM)(RM)
2 - Houston
(1 - 100-10146)
(1 - 100-1509)

JSW:yk
(8)

367

REC-AF 8 MAY 24 1965

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (44-28601)
Attention: Crime Records Division

DATE: 5-11-65

FROM : SAC, Birmingham (44-1236)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL [illegible]

Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Remyairtel 5-5-65 setting out information regarding the request of WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE to prepare articles and possibly a novel concerning the activities of GARY THOMAS ROWE, Jr., Bureau informant regarding Klan activities.

On 5-10-65 WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE called me from New York and stated he had been in contact with "The Saturday Evening Post" in New York City. He stated that during those contacts he had determined that JIMMY BRESLIN, "New York Herald Tribune," (whom he described as an excellent writer), had been trying to "peddle ROWE's story to 'The Saturday Evening Post.'" HUIE stated that he also understood that other writers may be trying to "peddle ROWE's story," and that, in his opinion, it would be a "sad mistake" for ROWE to deal with any writer until his services as a Government witness have been completed in full. HUIE expressed the opinion that if it becomes publicly known that ROWE is dealing with writers regarding his story, such information might jeopardize his effectiveness as a witness in any future trial.

No information whatsoever was furnished HUIE, and he was advised that his call would be made a matter of record.

The above has been submitted for the Bureau's information.

(2-Bureau
2-Birmingham
EJI:rlp
(4)

REC-13 44-28601-370

4 MAY-17 1965

CRIME RESEARCH

JUN

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)
Attn: Training Division

DATE: 5/26/65

FROM : SAC, DETROIT (44-643)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

For Bureau information only, please find enclosed herewith a newspaper clipping from the Athens Daily Post of Athens, Greece, of the Friday, May 7, 1965, edition concerning instant trial.

This was forwarded to SA [redacted] by [redacted] a personal acquaintance of [redacted] who is currently traveling abroad. [redacted] indicated his continuing admiration of the Director and thought that the enclosed newspaper clipping might be of interest.

b7C

Appreciation has been expressed to [redacted]

2 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
1 - Detroit
RHS:sal
(3)

ENCL

44-100
REC 8
44-28601-37
21 MAY 28 1965

66 JUN 11 1965

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

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Klu Klux Klansman In "Alabama" Trial?

HAYNEVILLE, Alabama, May 6 (UPI) — An all - white jury that heard the defense accuse the states star witness of being a « white nigger », today, began deliverating the fate of Klu Klux Klausmen changed with murdering Detroit civil rights workers Mrs. Violet Liuzzo after four days of dramatic testimony.

Defense atty, Matt Murphy spent one hour and seven minutes before the jury pleading for the freedom of his client, 21-year-old Collie Leroy Wilkins.

Murphy spent much of his time denouncing Gary Thomas Rowe, the FBI informant who testified he saw Wilkins lean from a speeding car and fire the shots that killed Mrs. Liuzzo,.

Rowe allegedly infiltrated the Klan. He said he was with Wilkins and two other Klansmen the night Mrs. Liuzzo was shot as she and a negro, Leroy Moton, 21, drove along a bare stretch of Alabama highway the night of March 25, a few hours after the Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights March ended.

Reffering to Rowe, Murphy asked the jury : « what kind of man is he ? is he a white man or is he a white nigger ?»

« What king of men is this who comes into a fraternal organization (the klan by hook or crook, takes the sacred oath) and sees his soul for 30 pieces of silver ?»

« He disregarded God ».

« Are you dealing with the devil himself ?» « can you believe such a man, treacherous as a rattlesnake, who would sell his soul for a little bit of gold ? » « He held himself out to be a white man, but he's worse than a white nigger ».

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

? Athens Daily Pos
Athens, Greece

Date: 5/7/65
Edition:
Author:
Editor: ?
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: CR
Submitting Office: Detroit

☐ Being Investigated

Paul Johnston is the attorney who is representing the informant as a result of arrangements made by the Department. Matt Murphy, Klan attorney who represents the three subjects, has sued the informant for $6000 legal fees for allegedly representing him one day.

[redacted]

b7a

WEA:wea

DIRECTOR, FBI 5/27/65

SAC, BIRMINGHAM

[redacted]
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA
RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)

ReBulet 5/21/65.

Matter described in Bureau letter 5/12/65 to Mr. [redacted] copies to Birmingham and San Francisco, was discussed with GARY THOMAS ROWE by Inspector JOSEPH A. SULLIVAN 5/26/65.

ROWE stated he regards ROSS' proposal in the same light as that made by WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE. He has no interest in contacting ROSS or in having any commercial exploitation of his activities as an informant for the FBI.

2 - Bureau
2 - San Francisco
1 - Birmingham

JAS:mjh
(5)

44-28601

NOT RECORDED
188 JUN 3 1965

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
MOBILE	MOBILE	5/25/65	4/20-5/19/65

TITLE OF CASE

EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL:
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS

REPORT MADE BY: SA [redacted] b7c

TYPE: /8

CHARACTER OF CASE: CR - EL

REFERENCE: Report of SA [redacted] at Mobile dated b7c 4/3/65.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

No dissemination of this report will be made to the U.S. Attorney, Montgomery, Ala., or the Departmental Attorney on scene at Selma, Ala., until such time as the Bureau furnishes approval for the dissemination of this report.

Regarding information contained in the second paragraph, Administrative Data, of referenced report, the Houston Office has advised that information furnished by the [redacted] appears to refer to an individual named [redacted] and not to victim's husband, ANTHONY J. LIUZZO.

APPROVED — SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

3 - Bureau (44-28601)
1 - USA, Montgomery
1 - Departmental Attorney, Selma
1 - Atlanta (44-1765)(Info)
1 - Birmingham (44-1236)(Info)
2 - Mobile (44-1245)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44 28601-376

EX 105

11 JUN 1 1965

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

AGENCY	[illegible]			
REQUEST RECD.				
DATE FWD.	6-3-65			
HOW FWD.	6-4-65			
BY	[illegible]			

NOTATIONS

SIX 171

STAT. SECT.

ice of synopsis CR Unit

70 JUN 8 1965

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

The investigative period of instant report overlaps with the investigative period of the last report due to the fact that information is contained herein which shows preparatory information concerning the preparations for the trial of subject COLLIE LEROY WILKINS at Hayneville, Ala., on 5/3/65.

LEADS:

ATLANTA AND BIRMINGHAM (INFORMATION)

One copy of this report is designated for the Birmingham and Atlanta Divisions for information purposes due to the close proximity of these Offices to the Mobile Division and to apprise them of the status of instant case.

MOBILE

AT HAYNEVILLE, ALABAMA: Will follow and report results of State prosecution regarding subjects THOMAS, WILKINS and EATON.

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - United States Attorney, Montgomery, Alabama
1 - Departmental Attorney, Selma, Alabama

Report of: SA [redacted] b7c Office: MOBILE
Date: May 25, 1965

Field Office File No.: 44-1245 Bureau File No.: 44-28601

Title: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL:
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis: Information developed prior to trial of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, 5/3/65, that defense attorney, MATT H. MURPHY, JR., is considered the chief "Kloncil" of the United Klans of America; that MURPHY would make possible efforts to have prosecution witness GARY THOMAS ROWE arrested at time of his appearance to testify at Hayneville, Ala., or would make some efforts to embarrass Government witnesses during course of trial.

Nothing developed regarding the above with the exception that MURPHY was extremely critical of ROWE during trial and critized the President and the Government in general for their participation in the investigation of the murder of victim LIUZZO.

ROWE served with Civil papers at Hayneville, Ala., during trial whereby MURPHY requested payment of $6,000 in attorney's fees.

At trial, 5/3 through 7/65, prosecution presented case which established ROWE as eyewitness to the killing of victim LIUZZO and corroborating evidence to support ROWE's testimony consisted of the identification of the gun belonging to subject THOMAS which was identified as the murder weapon. Also established subjects were in the Selma - Montgomery, Ala., area on pertinent date, 3/25/65, when the victim was killed. Cartridge cases found at scene of murder also identified in Court as having been fired by weapon belonging to THOMAS.

Only defense witnesses utilized by MURPHY failed to establish strong alibi.

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.

Case submitted to Jury for deliberation afternoon of 5/6/65 and Jury reported 5/7/65 it was "hopelessly deadlocked." Mistrial declared by Circuit Judge, 5/7/65. Information developed Jury voted 10 for conviction and 2 against.

Various members of United Klans of America observed attending trial during week of 5/3 through 7/65, Hayneville, Ala., who were personally known to Bureau Agents.

- P -

DETAILS:

PREPARATION FOR TRIAL IN
CIRCUIT COURT, HAYNEVILLE, ALABAMA

On April 23, 1965, an article appeared in the Mobile Press Register, a daily newspaper published at Mobile, Alabama, under by-line of "Three Men Surrender on Liuzzo Charges." This article is set forth in substance as follows:

Three Ku Klux Klansmen surrendered to officers, Thursday, on indictments charging them with murdering a white civil rights worker after the Selma to Montgomery march.

The first degree murder indictments were returned earlier on that day by the Lowndes County Grand Jury at Hayneville, Alabama. The jury was highly critical of statements by President JOHNSON in connection with the death of VIOLA LIUZZO, a Detroit, Michigan, mother of five.

The Klansmen surrendered in Birmingham and posted $10,000 bond each. Their cases go on the docket for the next term of Circuit Court in Hayneville, Alabama, beginning May 3, 1965, and conviction of first degree murder carries a penalty of death or life imprisonment.

Although the Grand Jury made no specific mention of any case it investigated, the eighteen members in their written report to Judge T. WERTH THAGGARD, deplored the "actions and statements of the President and others in high Government places in connection with" Mrs. LIUZZO's death.

"We feel that these actions and statements have been unjust and unfair and have created undue and unusual problems in this matter," the report declared.

The white men indicted by the white jury were EUGENE THOMAS, age 42, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, age 41, both of Bessemer, Alabama, and COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., age 21, of Fairfield, Alabama.

The indictments charged that each man "unlawfully and with malice aforethought killed VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO by shooting her with a pistol." The language was identical in each of the three indictments.

The three men told a news conference they were innocent. "I am not guilty and I think I've been ridiculed enough as it is" said THOMAS. The other two made similar statements.

Their attorney, MATT H. MURPHY, JR., said he would subpoena the President and possibly FBI Director J. EDGAR HOOVER if necessary in his efforts to defend the men.

He said they could "not possibly have a fair trial" because of JOHNSON's remarks about the arrest of Klan members.

LEROY MOTON, age 19, a Selma Negro, who accompanied victim LIUZZO at the time she was shot, escaped injury and reported the slaying after hitching a ride to Selma, Alabama.

The three arrested Thursday, THOMAS, EATON, and WILKINS, had been indicted by a Federal Grand Jury on Civil Rights charges but the fourth man, GARY THOMAS ROWE, age 34, of Birmingham, was not indicted. He subsequently appeared as a witness before the County Grand Jury.

The New York Times said ROWE, a former operator of a bar in Birmingham, has been paid as an undercover agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation since 1959, working inside of the KKK.

The Grand Jury members who returned eighteen indictments at Hayneville, Alabama, also expressed resentment in their report over actions of civil rights groups which came to Lowndes and neighboring counties during the drive to dramatize demands for equal rights for Negroes.

The Jury commended Lowndes County residents "for the fine manner in which they have conducted themselves dur in these trying days" and criticized news media which it said

"b[redacted] their actions and attitudes have also contributed additional problems."

The following contacts were had with Circuit Solicitor ARTHUR GAMBLE by Inspector JOSEPH A. SULLIVAN and SA ROBERT L. FRYE prior to the trial of May 3, 1965:

[redacted]

On April 26, 1965, GAMBLE advised that a preliminary hearing was held that date for subjects WILKINS, THOMAS, and EATON at Hayneville, Alabama. They were represented by their attorney, MATT H. MURPHY, JR., and all entered pleas of "not guilty" to charges in the indictment.

On April 27, 1965, it was reported in an article appearing in the Mobile Press Register, Final Edition, that ROBERT M. SHELTON, JR., Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, sat at the counsel table with Klan attorney MATT H. MURPHY, JR. prior to the preliminary hearing in Court at Hayneville, Alabama, on April 26, 1965.

On April 28, 1965, GAMBLE stated that no information had come to his attention indicating that the defense in captioned case might possibly attempt to arrest GARY THOMAS ROWE in connection with his appearance as a witness in County Court in Hayneville, May 3, 1965. GAMBLE stated he had checked with the Sheriff's Office on April 28, 1965, and there was no indication that any action against ROWE of any sort was scheduled based on available data.

He stated he would be alert in connection with this matter and prepare to take any necessary action to offset attempts by the defense to create difficulties for ROWE.

GAMBLE advised that the defense had requested subpoenas for the individuals listed below, indicating that defense was prepared to utilize them as witnesses:

ROBERT THOMAS,
2519 18th Avenue, North,
Birmingham or Bessemer, Alabama;

ROBERT CREEL,
1701 13th Avenue,
Bessemer, Alabama;

ROBERT CARROL,
3425½ 9th Avenue, North,
Birmingham or Bessemer, Alabama;

Lieutenant ROBERT LARRY or LONG,
Birmingham Police Department;

Captain TOM COOK,
Birmingham Police Department;

HERBERT PAGE,
54 South 55th Street,
Birmingham or Bessemer, Alabama;

LORENE FREDRICK,
Bessemer, Alabama.

FREDRICK and CARROL were believed to be alibi witnesses for the defendant, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS.

On April 29, 1965, GAIDLE advised that the defense in the WILKINS case had requested subpoenaes for the following witnesses:

J. EDGAR HOOVER;

LLOYD WALLACE SMITH,
Route 1,
Mount Olive, Gardendale, Alabama;

JOYCE POWELL,
Route 1,
Mount Olive, Gardendale, Alabama;

TARNIE DAY,
924 Court West,
Birmingham, Alabama;

L. HOLT,
no address listed;

DOROTHY ROWE,
care of Carraway Methodist Hospital;

Colonel AL J. LINGO.

On April 30, 1965, GAMBLE advised that he had discussed the problems raised concerning the use of Bureau witnesses in the trial and the possibility of the defense making efforts to embarrass the prosecution witnesses with Circuit Judge T. WERTH THAGGARD. He stated that the Judge had indicated that he did not intend to allow the defense to wander afar in any exploratory efforts to secure data from Bureau files or Bureau Agents which was unrelated to the facts of this murder case.

The Judge advised GAMBLE he tentatively planned to hear the arguments raised by the defense counsel, MATT H. MURPHY, JR., as to the jurisdiction of the Court as a result of the President's announcement of the arrest of the Klansmen in his chambers in order to avoid clearing the jury venire from the courtroom.

GAMBLE stated the Judge further advised him that if any effort was made to take any action against GARY THOMAS ROWE, such as arresting him, he would make every effort consistent with his jurisdiction to maintain him as a witness and free from custody during the course of this trial.

The Judge further advised the Circuit Solicitor that any action consistent with his authority that he could take to avoid any complicated situations over the witness ROWE would be taken wherever possible. GAMBLE advised that the Judge was determined that this trial would be conducted in a decorous orderly manner and he was going to permit no demonstrations by any parties which might in any way prejudice the jury.

On May 1, 1965, the Birmingham Post Herald, a daily newspaper published at Birmingham, Alabama, under date line of May 1, 1965, carried the following news release:

MATT H. MURPHY, JR., attorney for THOMAS, WILKINS, and EATON, said "things are shaping up favorably for our

case and I might ask for all three to be tried at once." He originally was granted a request for separate trials for these men.

On May 2, 1965, [redacted] advised SA [redacted] that on May 1, 1965, the Ku Klux Klan held a meeting at Bladon Springs, Alabama, and between 200 and 300 persons attended the meeting. NED DUNAGAN, Coffeeville, Alabama, appeared to be in charge of the meeting, which was held in a State Park. DUNAGAN introduced ROBERT CREEL, Grand Dragon of the United Klans of America, from Bessemer, Alabama. CREEL later introduced three men who were "identified as men charged with murder of victim LIUZZO."

HOLLIS CURL, Editor, Choctaw County Advocate, a weekly newspaper published at Butler, Alabama, advised SA [redacted] that ROBERT CREEL, Grand Dragon, from Bessemer, Alabama, attended an organizational meeting of the Ku Klux Klan at Bladen Springs, Alabama. CREEL spoke at the meeting and introduced three men who were identified as being the persons that were arrested for the murder of victim LIUZZO. CURL stated that these three men did not speak and were only introduced at this meeting with a comment by CREEL "do these men look like murderers?"

On May 6, 1965, an article appeared in the Choctaw County Advocate of Butler, Alabama, a weekly newspaper published at Butler, under the caption "LIUZZO Defendants appear at Bladen Springs Klan Rally; One on Trial Now."

The article is set out in substance as follows:

For the estimated attendance of approximately 200 persons last Saturday night's rally of the Ku Klux Klan at Bladen Springs, the appearance of three defendants in the LIUZZO slaying came as quite a surprise. WILKINS, EATON and THOMAS appeared at the rally in the company of Alabama Grand Dragon ROBERT CREEL and Klan attorney MATT H. MURPHY, JR.

Klan Grand Dragon CREEL presented the group at the rally at Bladen Springs and asked those attending "do those men look like murderers?" Their appearance at the rally followed a talk by their attorney, MATT MURPHY.

MURPHY, attired in brilliant red robe, was the first speaker of the evening. His talk dealt primarily with

the Klan's opposition to the Federal Reserve System, international finance, and the "Zionist Jew.". MURPHY lashed out at the Government's practice of pumping financial aid into countries that are hostile to the United States. Several times he mentioned an unbelievable sum of $84 billion which he said was given to a small European country hardly larger than Choctaw County, Alabama. He also remarked at the wealth of this country, or any other country, would enjoy if a similar amount was spent there.

While MURPHY's talk was interesting, it was left to the Grand Dragon CREEL to comment on what most of those in attendance had apparently come to hear. CREEL, wearing an emerald green robe which he later removed, talked primarily on the civil rights question and the Klan's opposition to the integration of the races. He commented on the recent trouble at Selma, Alabama, and claimed that Reverend REEB's body was cremated because it was "rotten with cancer and syphilis." Reverend REEB died at a Birmingham hospital after he was beaten during racial incidents at Selma.

CREEL also attacked the proposed free textbook program backed by Governor GEORGE WALLACE. He said that this was one thing he and the Klan differed on with Governor WALLACE. CREEL said that he did not want his three children going to school with a bunch of "runny nosed niggers," said that he would buy his children's books and urged others to be allowed to do the same.

TRIAL OF COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.,
MAY 3, 1965, AT HAYNEVILLE, ALABAMA

On May 3, 1965, [redacted] advised SA [redacted] that the trial in captioned matter against subject COLLIE LEROY WILKINS began May 3, 1965, at Hayneville. Two motions were filed by the defense counsel, MATT H. MURPHY, JR., and were ruled on by the Court, the first motion contested the justice of the Court because of publicity attendant to the announcement of subjects arrest by President JOHNSON, this motion was denied. A second motion to interview State witnesses, GARY THOMAS ROSE and LEROY MOTON, was granted.

b7D
b7C

At approximately 2:00 p.m., Central Standard Time, on May 3, 1965, SA [redacted] observed that MATT H. MURPHY, JR. accompanied by ROLLIN MOTON, described as a

publicity man for the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, entered the office of County Solicitor in the Courthouse at Hayneville, Alabama. ROTON proceeded to set up a dictaphone and a tape recorder, both of which were placed in front of GARY THOMAS ROWE. MURPHY then asked ROWE the date he testified before the State Grand Jury. ROWE stated he had nothing to say at this time. MURPHY then asked ROWE if he had waived immunity before the State Grand Jury and ROWE answered that he had not waived immunity. MURPHY then asked ROWE if he had waived immunity before the Federal Grand Jury and ROWE again stated he had nothing to say at this time and would answer no questions.

MURPHY then asked ROWE under what circumstances he would answer his questions and ROWE stated he would answer MURPHY's questions from the witness stand in Court. MURPHY then told ROTON to turn off the machines and stated he would ask no further questions at that time. Before the beginning of the interview and prior to the time the recording machines were turned on, MURPHY asked ROWE if he had seen in the paper that he wore a gun at the Grand Jury and asked ROWE if he were armed at that time. ROWE stated he was not armed at that time and he had not been armed during the time he testified before the Grand Jury.

Shortly after the arrival of MURPHY and ROTON in the the County Solicitor's office at Hayneville, Alabama, Lowndes County Sheriff FRANK RYALS served the following summons on GARY THOMAS ROWE: "The State of Alabama, Lowndes County Circuit Court, Second Judicial Circuit of Alabama, to any Sheriff of the State of Alabama, Greetings: You are hereby commanded to summons GARY THOMAS ROWE to appear before the Circuit Court to be held for said County, at the place of holding the same within thirty days from service of this process, then and thereto answer the complaint of MATT H. MURPHY, JR., Witness my hand this third day of May 1965. Signed S. H. CHAMPION, Deputy Clerk." The complaint as noted on this paper set forth the following: "MATT H. MURPHY, JR., plaintiff, versus GARY THOMAS ROWE, defendant. Count One, Plaintiff claims of the defendant the sum of 6,000 and no hundred dollars ($6,000.00) for professional services rendered by the plaintiff for the defendant at his request, on the, to wit, second day of April, 1965, which sum of money, with interest thereon, is due and unpaid and is the property of the plaintiff, Signed MATT H. MURPHY, JR. pro se."

ROWE stated at the time he was served that he did

not owe MURPHY any money and if MURPHY is making this charge for legal services for making his bond, he is incorrect as he did not request either of these services of MURPHY.

On May 4, 1965, an article appeared in the Mobile Press Register, a daily newspaper published at Mobile, Alabama, under the caption "White, Male Jury Chose for WILKINS." The article is set forth in substance as follows:

A white, male jury was chosen on May 3, 1965, to try a young Alabamian for his life in the slaying of a white woman civil rights demonstrator. A Ku Klux Klan leader sat at the defense table as the trial opened.

Of the 84 men ruled eligible to serve on the jury, three admitted to Klan membership. This did not disqualify them, but the State quickly eliminated the three men when it exercised its right to excuse prospects without a stated cause.

Defendant COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, his dark hair crew cut, seemed very calm. He sat quietly with the other two defendants in the jury box during the selection of a jury. Facing a charge that could bring life imprisonment or death, the youth was sober faced.

The chunky WILKINS watched intently as prospective jurors - many of them farmers - were questioned about their attitudes. One of the prospective jurors was a Negro, ARTHUR MEANS, foreman of a cattle ranch. Most of the men wore suits or jackets.

Sitting with WILKINS and his companions part of the time was ROBERT M. SHELTON, JR. of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Imperial Wizard of the United Klans of America, Inc. SHELTON said "I'm here in the interest of seeing that these individuals get a fair trial."

At the beginning of the trial, defense attorney MATT H. MURPHY, JR. called attention to the absence from the Courtroom of President JOHNSON for whom he had obtained a subpoena as a defense witness.

Also on the defense witness list and absent was FBI Director J. EDGAR HOOVER. Neither official is expected to answer the subpoena which can be served only in the State and is not binding on the President in any event.

Defense attorney contended that when the President announced the arrest of the Klan members in the killing of Mrs. LIUZZO and he condemned the Klan for what he called its use of "the rope and the gun, the tar and feathers to terrorize their neighbors," their constitutional right to a fair trial was violated.

On May 4, 1966, [redacted] advised SA [redacted] of the following concerning the course of the trial: b7D b7C

Five witnesses for the prosecution had been called to the stand, [redacted] b7A

followed [redacted] Alabama, b7D on the stand and testified as to the crime being within the jurisdiction of Lowndes County, Alabama.

[redacted] b7A b7

[redacted]

-- Following HOTON on the stand was the State witness, Toxicologist Dr. PAUL E. SHOFFEITT, who told the jury he performed an autopsy on victim LIUZZO [redacted]

[redacted]

MURPHY asked Dr. SHOFFEITT if he could tell if the victim LIUZZO had had sexual relations with any individual. The prosecution objected to this question and was sustained by the Court. Defense attorney MURPHY also asked about the condition of the body of Mrs. LIUZZO and Dr. SHOFFEITT replied "it was generally unclean."

After testimony by Dr. SHOFFEITT, the prosecution placed on the stand [redacted] who testified as follows, according to [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

b7A

b7A

After testimony of GARY THOMAS ROWE [redacted], the Court recessed and defense attorney PATT MURPHY gave an immediate impromptu press conference outside of the Courthouse wherein he called GARY THOMAS ROWE a "prostitute, pimp, and stated he would take money from the FBI, taxpayers, or Castro."

[redacted] further advised that during the afternoon of May 5, 1965, defense counsel MURPHY [redacted] conference after the day's proceedings, MURPHY told the press that WILLIAMS could not make the same examination on the witness stand that he made in the laboratory in Washington. MURPHY stated this indicated that this problem was a very vital issue in the case. He said that considerable pressure was placed on this case in seeking a conviction by the President and this might be the reason that the same examination could not be done on the witness stand as was done in the laboratory by WILLIAMS.

[redacted]

b7A

After presentation of this testimony, the prosecution rested its case pertaining to the murder of victim LIUZZO.

ARTHUR GAMBLE, Circuit Solicitor, in his closing arguments before the jury summarized the testimony presented by ROWE

[redacted]

[redacted]

674

After the above argument by defense attorney MURPHY, Circuit Judge THAGGARD used approximately twenty minutes to charge the jury and explain the different degrees of murder and manslaughter and various legal aspects in reaching a verdict.

At 3:40 p.m., Central Standard Time, the Lowndes County jury took the case under consideration and went into deliberation on May 6, 1965.

Shortly after the jury went into deliberation, they

returned to the courtroom and inquired again concerning the distinction between the degrees of murder and manslaughter and returned to the jury room for the purpose of considering the case further.

The jury remained in deliberation until the morning of May 7, 1965, when they again returned to the courtroom and made several inquiries of Circuit Judge THAGGARD. One inquiry concerned again the distinction between the degrees of murder and manslaughter and the other inquiry related to the amount of weight that should be given to the testimony of an accomplice.

At 4:00 p.m., Central Standard Time, the jury was called into the courtroom by Circuit Judge THAGGARD and the jury foreman, CLIFFORD McMURPHY, was questioned as to the possibility of reaching a decision. The foreman stated that they had reached no decision and that the jury was "hopelessly deadlocked." At 4:05 p.m., Central Standard Time, on May 7, 1965, the Circuit Judge declared a mistrial in reference to the prosecution of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.

[redacted] advised on May 7, 1965 b7C that various members of the jury had been questioned after the trial concerning their feelings and the progress of the trial. He said that CLIFFORD McMURPHY had stated "each member of the jury assessed the evidence with a different pair of eyes. I don't believe there was any racial prejudice or sectional feeling in this decision. I don't believe any man in the jury room was affected or persuaded by the affiliations of anyone on either side."

McMURPHY also stated that the vote was ten for conviction and two had held out for acquittal.

EDMUND SALLEE, another one of the jurors, had advised the press "it would have had to be on manslaughter because we could not have come that near to a conviction at all on a higher charge."

When SALLEE was asked as to the affect upon the jury of defense attorney MURPHY's remarks on racial prejudice, SALLEE replied "I think a great many of us were insulted to a great extent and he must have thought we were very, very ignorant to be taken in by that act." SALLEE also stated "We cannot allow murder on the highway here."

The two hold out jurors in the case were also questioned by the press. BILLY R. CHEATHAM, a bookkeeper, said of his reasons for voting acquittal, "I didn't accept his (ROWE's) testimony - not when he swore before God and broke his oath."

The other hold out juror, DAN LEE, a mechanic, told newsmen, referring to CHEATHAM, "me and him pretty well are on the same side." Both jurors denied any Klan affiliation, however, CHEATHAM said that he is a member of the White Citizens Council and LEE said he was a former member. Asked if he would have liked to see ROWE as a defendant with WILKINS, CHEATHAM replied, "very, very much so," and LEE said, "I agree."

The oath that the hold out jurors referred to, according to REX THOMAS, was the Klan oath which an individual takes upon admission to the Klan and this oath ends with "I will die rather than divulge same, so help me God."

KLANSMEN OBSERVED AT THE TRIAL OF COLLIE LEROY WILKINS

SA [redacted] of the Birmingham FBI Office is one acquainted with the following individuals and observed them at the trial of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS:

ROBERT M. SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, was present each day of the trial. He sat at the counsel table with attorney PATT H. MURPHY, JR. part of the time. MURPHY is known to be Imperial Counsel of the United Klans of America.

MELVIN SEXTON, a member of the United Klans of America from Tuscaloosa Klavern No. 5, was observed in the courtroom and was observed to bring in a large metal box or file cabinet and place it by SHELTON's chair.

On Tuesday morning, May 4, 1965, CHARLES CLAYTON KELLEY, a member of Bessemer Klavern No. 20, United Klans of America, was observed entering the courtroom. On May 5, 1965, SA [redacted] pointed out one CURTIS O. DOLES whom he knew as a member of the United Klans of America.

ROBERT S. THOMAS, Grand Titan, United Klans of America, also testified as a defense witness for COLLIE LEROY WILKINS.

MO 44-1245

EUGENE REEVES, Exalted Cyclops of Klavern No. 13 of the United Klans of America, was also used a defense witness.

It was also observed by SA [redacted] that Dr. EDWARD R. FIELDS, Director of the National States Rights Party, was present in the courtroom on May 5, 1965.

A characterization of United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and of the National States Rights Party are contained in the appendix to this report.

1

APPENDIX

UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (UNITED KLANS)

Records of Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, reflect that this Klan organization was granted a corporate charter on February 21, 1961, at Atlanta, Georgia, under the name United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc.

A source advised on February 27, 1961, that United Klans was formed as a result of a split in U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klans, Inc. According to the source, the split resulted from a leadership dispute and United Klans has the same aims and objectives as the parent group: These are the promotion of Americanism, white supremacy and segregation of the races.

The first source and a second source advised in July, 1961, that United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc., merged with Alabama Knights, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The merged organization established headquarters in Suite 401, The Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The organization is directed by ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, and is the dominant Klan group in the South with units in several southern states.

Second source advised that at a meeting at Prattville, Alabama on October 22, 1961, the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, merged with the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

1

APPENDIX

NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY
(NSRP)

On November 26, 1957, a source advised that the United White Party (UWP) was organized at a convention held in Knoxville, Tennessee, on November 10, 1957. An article in the November 26, 1957, issue of the "Greenville Piedmont," a newspaper of Greenville, South Carolina, reported "the recent formation of a new political party, to be known as the United White Party." According to the article, the party was formed at a recently held meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee, at which many klansmen were represented. The UWP was reported as being opposed to all "race mixing organizations and individuals."

The July 1958 issue of "The Thunderbolt," self-described as the "official Racial Nationalist Organ of the National States Rights Party" (NSRP), reported that rank and file "States Rights Party" had merged with the UWP under "the banner of the National States Rights Party," with national offices at Post Office Box 261, Jeffersonville, Indiana.

In November 1958 a source advised that the NSRP is composed of past members of klan-type organizations and notorious anti-Semites.

Issue Number 19, dated June 1960, "The Thunderbolt," announced the address of the headquarters of the NSRP had been changed from Jeffersonville, Indiana, to Post Office Box 783, Birmingham, Alabama.

Issue Number 54, dated November 1963, "The Thunderbolt," reflects the mailing address of the NSRP is still Post Office Box 783, Birmingham, Alabama.

On December 12, 1963 a source advised that EDWARD R. FIELDS, the Information Director of the NSRP and Editor of "The Thunderbolt," is the individual who "runs the NSRP."

"The Thunderbolt" continues to publish articles attacking Negroes and persons of the Jewish faith.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 5/4/65

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

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
ATT: ASSISTANT DIRECTORS ALEX ROSEN AND
W. C. SULLIVAN

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA.,
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL
OO:MD

CIVIL SUIT AGAINST GARY THOMAS ROWE

On 5/3/65, GARY THOMAS ROWE, the Bureau informant who is appearing as a witness in the Liuzzo murder trial in Lowndes County, Alabama, was served with a civil summons by the Sheriff of Lowndes County. This summons notified ROWE that he was the defendant in a suit for the nonpayment of funds due for professional services rendered to him by MATT MURPHY. MURPHY is the counsel for the defendants in the Liuzzo case.

MURPHY's claim calls for a reply within 30 days in the Circuit Court for Lowndes County, and there is no question about ROWE's being within the jurisdiction of the court, since he was served by the Sheriff at the Lowndes County Courthouse in the presence of Bureau Agent.

INVESTIGATIVE POTENTIAL IN THIS SUIT

The potential for gain in undertaking an investigation of MURPHY's claim against ROWE is described below:

44-28601-377

REC-11

3 - Bureau
2 - Mobile
JAB:gjk
(5)

MAY 6 1965

Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

1. It should be relatively easy to establish in this investigation that MATT MURPHY is a member of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK).

2. The KKK oath which MURPHY may have taken in joining the Klan, if it follows the pattern of some other Klan oaths, may possibly place him in the position where he is sworn to uphold the KKK over his country, his God, and his profession. This situation is noticeably true with the White Knights of the KKK of Mississippi, and a similar argument may be found in the case of the oath MURPHY may have taken.

3. It appears that it may be possible to establish that MURPHY knew prior to the day he performed the legal service for which he is claiming reimbursement, that ROWE was acting in the role of a government witness. For MURPHY to purport to represent ROWE, under the circumstances where he also represented three other defendants and had sworn loyalty to the KKK, be at best unethical and the basis for censure at least by the State Bar and possibly even disbarment action.

4. MURPHY may be embarrassed by being required to produce his records to show the consistency of this fee with his normal fees, for example his charges for the defense of WILKINS and the other LIUZZO defendants. A showing may be required of fees he has charged in other situations where he has appeared before U. S. Commissioners in other preliminary hearings.

5. It may be shown that no actual contract was ever entered into between ROWE and MURPHY; that MURPHY merely presumed to act on the behalf of ROWE, operating in his role as attorney for the KKK. It may be possibly shown in this regard that MURPHY is now bringing this civil action with a view to hurting ROWE's reputation and intimidating him as a witness.

6. It may further be shown that MURPHY was not diligent in dispatching his responsibilities as counsel for ROWE, since he had failed to learn that the matter had been before the Federal Grand Jury, and ROWE had not been indicted. The fact that this Grand Jury was prominently known and information

available through news services, suggests that normal
e would have caused an attorney representing a poten-
endant to consult with the USA's Office to determine
the grand jury actually had affected a forthcoming
against his client. MURPHY's failure to take such
y be labeled as complete disregard for his client's
nd most unprofessional.

7. With the showing of the foregoing items, an
y possibly be made in open court or the grand jury
rofessional services MURPHY furnished ROWE for lack of
e and for bias against his client. His lack of good
bringing this suit may also be exposed to public
. On this basis, relief for ROWE may be asked in the
t of court costs against MURPHY.

8. It is apparent that a successful prosecution
laim by MURPHY would result in an expense to the
t since ROWE was acting under the guidance of Bureau
nd Departmental Attorneys in permitting MURPHY to
t him at all.

MURPHY'S PURPOSE IN THIS SUIT

Lowndes County Circuit Solicitor ARTHUR E. GAMBLE
ed that his press contacts have indicated to him
HY plans a comeback as a lawyer and possibly a
l comeback as a result of the victory he anticipates
ling the subjects in this case. MURPHY is most
to embarrass the government and the FBI in connection
defense of this case.

POTENTIAL FOR GAIN IN DEFEATING MURPHY'S SUIT

It is apparent that an excellent opportunity exists
situation for showing in open court that MATT MURPHY
versive; that he is dishonest, and of dubious
onal competence. Such a showing would be a severe
MURPHY and would also affect the prestige of the KKK.

Consideration should be given to suggesting to House
on Un-American Activities that they consider MURPHY's
topic for future hearing on the role of the subversive
in promulgating the aims of the KKK.

MURPHY, along with ROBERT SHELTON andJ. B. STONER, and a few other key people, has a major role in Klan activity in the South. There have been indications that the people in this group have some knowledge of the facts in the Bapbomb case, and these people may also have some knowledge of the Greenbombs situation. An opportunity to move against one of these men is rarely found. In view of MURPHY's vulnerability in this case, we may be able to negotiate the disclosure of pertinent investigative data by dealing directly with him over this claim against ROWE.

Since there appear to be no serious objections to a Bureau investigation of MURPHY's claim, and we have the opportunity to rebuff an attempt to extort $6,000 in addition to damaging the reputation of MURPHY and the KKK, the recommendations set forth hereafter are entitled to serious consideration.

A further issue which must be considered is the question of whether the government will represent ROWE in the defense of this suit, or whether he will require private counsel. This is a matter which should be taken up with the Department at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Bureau authorize the investigation of the claim made by MURPHY in his civil action against ROWE. Any investigation should be conducted by following the general lines described herein. Mobile should be designated as origin in this matter, since this suit is lodged in State Circuit Court for Lowndes County in the Mobile Division.

2. That the Bureau consult the Department about ROWE's course of action in defending himself in MURPHY's suit against him. A specific determination should be made as to whether the Department will represent him or whether he will require private counsel.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

DATE: May 11, 1965

1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO,
AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

44-28601

FACTS:

On 5/3/65 Gary Thomas Rowe, Bureau informant who is appearing as a witness in the Liuzzo murder trial currently in progress in Lowndes County, Alabama, was served with a civil summons by the sheriff of Lowndes County. The summons notified Rowe that he was the defendant in a suit for nonpayment of funds due in the amount of $6,000 for professional services rendered to him by Attorney Matt Murphy. Murphy is the Klan attorney who represented Rowe and the other three subjects at the time of their initial arrests on 3/26/65 and arranged for their release on $25,000 bond each. The summons requires Rowe to answer within thirty days in the circuit court for Lowndes County, Alabama. If he does not answer, it is possible that a default judgment could be obtained against him in the amount of $6,000.

44-28601-37

THE POTENTIAL FOR INVESTIGATION: 102 REC-125 12 JUN 2 19

The Mobile Office points out that should we undertake to investigate Murphy's claim against Rowe, it would afford us an opportunity to establish his membership in the Klan to discredit him as an attorney and expose to public scrutiny his lack of good faith in bringing such a suit resulting in his possible disbarment or censure by the state bar association.

According to Lowndes County Circuit Solicitor Gamble, Murphy plans a comeback as a lawyer and possibly a political comeback as a result of the victory he anticipates in defending the subjects in the Liuzzo murder and Murphy is anxious to embarrass the Government and the FBI in connection with the defense of the case. This is set forth by Mobile as a possible reason for Murphy's having brought this suit against Rowe and points out that as there would appear to be no serious objection

JWH/rat
(7)

CONTINUED - OVER

1 XEROX
JUN 7 1965

to a Bureau investigation of Murphy's claim as it would afford the Bureau an opportunity to rebutt any attempt to extort $6,000 and in addition would damage the reputation of Murphy and the Ku Klux Klan.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF MOBILE OFFICE:

Mobile recommended that the Bureau authorize the investigation of Murphy's claim against Rowe and consult the Department concerning Rowe's course of action in defending himself to determine if the Department would represent him or if he would require private counsel.

OBSERVATIONS OF GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION:

Attorney Murphy has publicly stated his connection with the Klan and has been publicly photographed in Klan robes. Under our domestic intelligence responsibilities we need no entree such as this suit to conduct an investigation of Matt Murphy. Murphy's claim of $6,000 for professional services rendered is a private civil suit between a lawyer and his alleged client which does not constitute any basis for a Bureau investigation. To inject the Bureau into the situation without full and complete justification would place the Bureau in an embarrassing position and Murphy would take full advantage of this. This same reasoning would also apply to any direct participation by the Department in this suit.

Murphy's claim against Rowe would appear to be exorbitant and there is some real question as to contractual arrangements for his services which should be resolved to avoid a default judgment being rendered against Rowe for the entire amount. If such a judgment was rendered it might offer a serious obstacle to the return of Rowe to the State of Alabama when and if further testimony is needed.

[redacted] b7A

[redacted]

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;

[redacted]

ACTION:

1. The field will be instructed that they are to conduct no investigation whatever concerning Murphy's civil claim against the informant.

[redacted]

[redacted]

REC-125 -77-28601-578

5/13/65

1 - Mr. Hines

Airtel

EX-102

To: SAC, Mobile

From: Director, FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO,
AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

ReMOairtel 5/4/65 regarding the civil suit against Gary Thomas Rowe. The civil suit of Attorney Matt Murphy against Gary Thomas Rowe is not a matter in which the Bureau desires to become directly involved, therefore, you are to conduct no investigation whatever concerning this suit.

[redacted]

b7A

1 - Birmingham
1 - San Francisco

JWH/ral
(6)
SEE NOTE ON PAGE TWO.

MAILED 8
1965
COMM-FBI

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JUN 7 1965

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66 JUN 10 1965

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

DATE: 5/25/65

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)(P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL:
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;
LROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS
CR - EL
(OO: Mobile)

Re report of SA [redacted] Mobile, 5/25/65. b/c

It is to be noted that no dissemination of referenced report will be made to the U.S. Attorney, Montgomery, Ala., or to the Departmental Attorney at Selma, Ala., until such time as the Bureau furnishes approval for such dissemination. Copies are being held in Mobile pending receipt of this approval.

2 - Bureau
2 - Mobile
JRC:gre
(4)

EX-100

REC-10 44-28601-380

11 JUN 1965

STAT. SECT.

EXP. PROC.

6/3/65

1 - Mr. Boyd

Airtel

To: SAC, Mobile (44-1245)

From: Director, FBI (44-28601) - 340

REC-10

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Reurlet 5/25/65 enclosing report of SA [redacted] 67C
[redacted] at Mobile dated 5/25/65.

Bureau approval is granted for immediate dissemination of this report to Departmental Attorney at Selma and appropriate U. S. Attorney.

JJB/ral
(4)

NOTE: The report of SA [redacted] dated 5/25/65 has been reviewed by appropriate Bureau supervisor. This report sets forth information concerning the state trial for murder of subject Collie LeRoy Wilkins. The trial lasted from 5/3/65 through 5/7/65 and resulted in a mistrial being declared on 5/7/65 when jury reported hopelessly deadlocked. Information developed that jury voted 10 for conviction and 2 against. Report also contains information developed prior to the trial that the Klan attorney would possibly attempt to embarrass informant Rowe and the Government. Nothing developed concerning this other than Murphy being extremely critical of Rowe during the trial and he criticized the President and the Government for being involved in this case. Various members of the United Klans of America observed attending the trial.

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JUN - 4 1965
COMM-FBI

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May 25, 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Rowe scheduled to have conference with his attorney 5/26/65 in Birmingham Field Office. The Department has previously indicated it will stand behind Rowe to the fullest extent (example: he was not indicted with other subjects by the Federal Grand Jury; Department secured a prominent attorney to represent him in local suit; [redacted] Rowe's testimony was praised by local prosecutor and Rowe should expect the Klan to go all out to discredit him [redacted] b1A

JJB:jgs

44-2860-384

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: May 7, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

INFORMANT'S TESTIMONY RE FBI OFFERS:

In the "New York Daily News" in an article headlined, "FBI Man Stings Klan Lawyer" it is reported that informant Rowe testified in the state trial of Collie LeRoy Wilkins for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo that an FBI Agent told him "we couldn't care less what you say. Tell him (Murphy) we offered you 500 acres of apple trees."

[redacted]

JJH/pak
(9)
Enclosure

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

CONTINUED - OVER

5/7/65

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This case concerns the murder of civil rights worker, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, on 3/25/65.

Murder trial of subject Collie Leroy Wilkins began in State Court on 5/3/65.

Gary Thomas Rowe is our informant and key prosecution witness.

The jury deliberated until 8 p.m., 5/6/65, at which time they advised the court a decision did not appear possible within a short period of time. The jury was locked up at Montgomery, Alabama, until 9 a.m. today.

[redacted]

674

WEA:pah

44-28601-390

9 Q

6/2/65

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE ~~DIVISION~~

This case involves the murder of civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo near Selma, Alabama, 3/25/65.

[redacted] b7A

WLM:pah

44-2760-391

ENCLOSURE

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DeLoach
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Liuzzo Gun Not Tested For Prints, FBI Says

HAYNEVILLE, Ala. (AP)—The defense rested its case in the civil rights murder trial of a young Ku Klux Klansman today after FBI agents testified that a gun identified as the one which killed the civil rights worker was not tested for fingerprints.

Klan attorney Matt H. Murphy Jr., brought his testimony to an abrupt close after questioning six witnesses in an effort to discredit a story told earlier by the prosecution's chief witness, Gary Thomas Rowe Jr.

Circuit solicitor Arthur E. Gamble Jr., the chief prosecutor, did not indicate immediately whether he would put in rebuttle testimony. If not, the case would go to the jury this afternoon in the fourth day of the trial.

The defendant, Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21, did not testify.

One of the defense witnesses, Mrs. Lorene Frederick, gave what could be an alibi for Wilkins.

Mrs. Frederick, who operates a cafe at Bessemer, Ala., said Wilkins, Rowe and two other Klansmen also charged with killing Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a Detroit (Mich.) civil rights worker, were in her place the night of March 25 when Mrs. Liuzzo was slain.

She said to her best recollection it was about 9:30 or 10 p.m., which would be about two or two and one-half hours and approximately 125 miles away from the scene of the slaying.

On cross-examination, however, Mrs. Frederick said she wasn't sure of the time and it could have been later that night.

The FBI testimony that no fingerprint tests were made on the death weapon came after a member of the jury asked that question, even though the state already had rested its case.

FBI agent Edward Lakey and Marion Williams testified that they did not make fingerprint tests.

The juror interrupted the trial with his questions and delayed the start of the case for the defense.

"I want to know if there were

— Why wasn't a fingerprint test made?

The Washington Post and Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star
New York Herald Tribune
New York Journal-American
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times
The Baltimore Sun
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World
Date

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any fingerprints on the shell cases and whether there were any fingerprints on the gun," juryman Clifford McMurphee, a farmer, told the trial judge.

Prosecution testimony earlier omitted any reference to fingerprints on the weapon, a .38 revolver, or spent shells found near the murder scene on U.S. highway 80 near here.

State Attorneys rested their case without producing testimony about fingerprints on the pistol which FBI informer Gary Thomas Rowe Jr., chief prosecution witness, said was wielded by Wilkins in shooting Mrs. Liuzzo.

McMurphee also said he wanted to know about "the condition of Rowe when the FBI agent talked to him in Birmingham after he (Rowe) had returned from Lowndes County that night."

Rowe had testified that he, Wilkins and two other Klansmen pursued Mrs. Liuzzo's auto the night of March 25 and sped past her in a hail of gunfire. Rowe, who said he had a loaded pistol but did not fire it, had told of the four drinking beer that night.

The juror's questions followed a recess after solicitor Gamble Jr., rested the state's case.

Agrees On Delay

Although Defense Attorney Matt H. Murphy Jr., already had called his first witness, a state investigator, he agreed to let the prosecution clear up the points raised by the juror.

Gamble had indicated earlier he would ask more questions of FBI ballistics expert Williams, who testified that the revolver identified by Rowe fired the death shot.

But when court reconvened today, Gamble said he was through.

Defense attorney Murphy, through his cross-examination of prosecution witnesses, had indicated already the course he might take.

He has shown a revolver which he said he took from FBI informer Rowe.



Matt H. Murphy, Jr., Klan attorney and counsel for Klansman Collie Wilkins, Jr., in the Liuzzo slaying trial at Hayneville, Ala., holds pistol he says he took from FBI informer Gary Rowe, Jr.—AP Wirephoto.

Took Pistol From Rowe

Murphy did not say how he would connect the pistol to the will connect the pistol to the case. His only comment was, "I took it away from Rowe before he killed someone and blamed it on us."

The Klan attorney had sought to portray Rowe, the state's star witness, as a troublemaker hoping to collect a rich reward from the federal government if he could "help break the back of the Klan."

Wilkins, 21, a self-employed automobile mechanic at Fairfield, Ala., near Birmingham, is the first of three KKK members brought to trial for the slaying of the Detroit housewife.

Mrs. Liuzzo, the wife of a Teamsters Union official, was shot to death near Lowndesboro the night of March 25 after taking part in the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery and ferrying some of the marchers back to Selma.

Indicted with Wilkins — and awaiting trial — were Eugene Thomas, 42, an employe of U.S. Steel at Bessemer, Ala., and William Orville Eaton, also of Bessemer, who at 41 is a retired steel worker with heart trouble.

Rowe, who said he joined the Klan at the FBI's request to get information, told the 12-man jury that he was in the car with Wilkins, Thomas and Eaton when Mrs. Liuzzo was killed.

Fired at Close Range

He said Wilkins used Thomas' revolver to fire two shots at almost point-blank range as their car pulled alongside her automobile in a high speed chase and emptied his gun at the car as they pulled away.

Williams, who works at the FBI laboratory in Washington, testified that a bullet found lodged at the base of Mrs. Liuzzo's brain was fired from Thomas' gun.

Another agent told the jury that the gun used in the laboratory test came from Thomas' home, and still another said a gun permit found on Thomas was issued for the same pistol.

Williams first testified that three bullets found in the car were determined by laboratory tests to have come from the gun which Rowe had said Thomas handed to young Wilkins just before the shooting.

Jury Begins Deliberating Liuzzo Case

All-White Panel Retires for Night After Four Hours

By William Chapman
Washington Post Staff Writer

HAYNEVILLE, Ala., May 6—An all-white Alabama jury began deliberations today to decide whether to convict Ku Klux Klansman Collie Leroy Wilkins of murdering a white civil rights worker.

After deliberating for four hours and fifteen minutes, the jury reported it was not near a decision and Judge T. Werth Thagard sent it to its night quarters in nearby Montgomery.

"We haven't reached a decision and we don't appear to be near a decision," jury foreman Clifford McMurphee said.

Earlier, the jury had returned to the courtroom to ask if it could select a charge less serious than first-degree murder. Thagard told them that both second-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter convictions could be returned.

The Lowndes County jury received the case at 3:40 p.m. after hearing two hours of emotional argument that included a blatant racist appeal by Klan lawyer Matt H. Murphy in Wilkins's behalf.

In his arguments, Murphy referred to the murder victim, Viola Liuzzo, as a "white nigger" who came down from Detroit to help the Selma civil rights movement. She was

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The Washington Post and
Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star
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New York Journal-American
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times
The Baltimore Sun
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World
Date

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slain March 25 after the Montgomery protest march.

Gesturing wildly, he denounced "niggers," Jews, President Johnson, J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI.

But an Alabama Assistant Attorney General, Joseph B. Gantt, blasted back, telling the jury that crime could not go unpunished regardless of local racial beliefs.

"This is the murder of a defenseless woman . . . by a yellow-bellied coward," he charged, looking straight at Wilkins. "I'm saying that Wilkins did that murder." Gantt even reminded the jury that segregationist Gov. George C. Wallace had called Mrs. Liuzzo's killing "A cowardly act that should not go unpunished."

And Lowndes County Solicitor Carlton L. Perdue told the jury that local people had nothing to do with the shooting. "You have an opportunity today," he said, "to stand up and say, 'Murders must stop.' "

The state had built its case on the testimony of FBI informer Gary Thomas Rowe, who testified that he was in the car when Wilkins fired at Mrs. Liuzzo's car. The defense offered no alibi today, and Murphy banked all on his chance of swaying the jury in a bombastic summation.

The Klan lawyer ripped into Rowe as a paid informant who had violated the Klan's oath of secrecy and could not be believed.

"He is a liar and a perjurer, holding himself out to be a white man," Murphy declared. "That's worse than a white nigger."

Murphy's main legal basis for requesting acquittal was an assertion that Rowe's eyewitness testimony was not corroborated sufficiently. He said that under Alabama law the testimony of an accomplice is not sufficient to support a murder conviction.

In his 25-minute charge to the jury, Judge Thagard told the panel that if it determined Rowe was an accomplice, it could not convict Wilkins on the strength of Rowe's testimony alone.

The chief prosecutor, Circuit Solicitor Arthur E. Gamble, in a low-keyed but still strong summation, said that Lowndes County cannot "wink at a cold-blooded killing or we will be lowering our moral standards."

Defense Tactic

Murphy's first defense tactic was to get into evidence the dead woman's blood-stained purse. Over objections from the prosecution, he introduced some of its contents, including Mrs. Liuzzo's NAACP membership card. The judge ruled some items irrelevant.

During the 21 minutes of defense testimony, Murphy called no alibi witnesses who could have placed Wilkins anywhere else on the murder night.

He produced three witnesses, including Imperial Wizard Robert M. Shelton of the Klan, who testified that Rowe had told a story about being offered a farm and money by the FBI to testify against Wilkins and other Klansmen. Rowe testified yesterday that Murphy actually instructed him to put out such a story.

Murphy called six defense witnesses and tried to get in their answers to such questions as whether Rowe had once admitted carrying a Communist Party card. The questions were ruled irrelevant before the witnesses could answer them.

Juror's Question

At one point today, jury Foreman McMurphee said he wanted to know the condition of Rowe "in regards to his sobriety" after the murder ride and whether fingerprint tests had been made of empty shell casings and the alleged murder weapon.

FBI agent Neil Shanahan testified that Rowe was not under the influence of alcohol when he met him that night. Other FBI witnesses said no fingerprint tests were made of the gun or shells.

Hence forth I want all tests made as a routine procedure. This will protect us from charge of not thoroughly & penetratively conducting our investigations.

B

[redacted]

[redacted]

b7C

May 21,1965.

The President
Washington,D.C.

RE: HAYNEVILLE ALABAMA TRIAL OF WILKINS
(GARY THOMAS ROWE)

Dear Mr. President:

All America should be grateful for men like Mr. Rowe and for the splendid way that J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI handled this tragic matter.

Surely our two New York Senators will cooperate in any nation wide recognition for Mr. Rowe.

The liberty is being taken of sending a copy of this letter t The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover as a personal expression of grateful for the way this case was handled - which redounds to the great c of our courts and the FBI in particular.

Cannot our President do something in a public way, with the and advice of the House and Senate, so that proper recognition ma be made for their action.

No person in uniform ever did more for his country with great personal risk, than did Gary Thomas Rowe.

Rather then diminish - it would seem to exalt that great hon that goes with a Congressional Medal of Honor.

What can our President do to let the world know how we feel about a brave man like Gary Thomas Rowe?

The significant pages of the May 5th,1965 issue of New York' picture Newspaper - the Daily News - are enclosed.

44-28601

EX-100

Respectfully,

[redacted]

b7C

JCT/b

21 MAY

C.C.To: Honorable J. Edgar Hoover,Director,Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C.
Daily News, 220 East 42nd Street,Manhattan,N.Y.City
Dr. C.B.Powell,Publisher,Amsterdam News, 2340 Eighth Avenu Manhattan N.Y.City

FBI

Date: 6/4/65

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

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, MIAMI (44-1549) (RUC)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL;
Mrs. VIOLA LUIZZO,
ET AL - VICTIMS;
CR - EL

Re Miami letter to Birmingham 5/25/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and six copies of letterhead memorandum concerning info furnished by [redacted] re money collected in Ft. Pierce, Fla., for defense fund of subjects.

One copy each of letterhead memorandum being furnished to Birmingham and Mobile. No further investigation of captioned matter is contemplated by the Miami Division.

ENCLOSURE

(3) - Bureau (Enc. 7) (RM)
1 - Birmingham (44-1236) (Enc. 1) (Info) (RM)
1 - Mobile (Enc. 1) (Info) (RM)
2 - Miami (1-44-1549)
[redacted]

HKP:kr
(7)

44-28601-595

REC-100

16 JUN 8 1965

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Miami, Florida
June 4, 1965

Re: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL;
Mrs. VIOLA LUIZZO,
ET AL - VICTIMS

On May 24 and June 3, 1965, a source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that he has learned that during the trial of Collie LeRoy Wilkins, Jr., Ray Owens, owner, South Dixie Restaurant, 1010 South 4th Street, Ft. Pierce, Florida, had reportedly collected $600 in free will donations to be sent to Alabama for the defense fund. The collection was reportedly arranged under the leadership of Wallace Owens, who was head of St. Lucie County Rebels, Ft. Pierce, Florida.

Informant stated that from his past knowledge of Wallace Owens he doubted if all or any of the money actually reached Alabama.

Informant described the St. Lucie County Rebels as a hastily organized group which met prior to the Fourth of July weekend, 1964, in Ft. Pierce, Florida, to protest proposed racial integration of the beaches and restaurants in Ft. Pierce. The organization never met after June 4, 1964, and disbanded.

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.

ENCLOSURE 44-38395

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FBI Man Stings Klan Defense Chief

By ANTHONY BURTON
Staff Correspondent of THE NEWS

Hayneville, Ala., May 5—FBI undercover man Gary Thomas Rowe accused bullnecked klan lawyer Matt H. Murphy Jr. today of conspiring to smear the FBI by producing false evidence.

As the accusation came from the witness stand in Lowndes County Court House, Murphy's pale blue eyes widened in fury. He grabbed his hat from the defense table and flung it away, shouting: "You, you . . ."

Judge T. Worth Thagard ordered a recess so the defense lawyer could cool down. Five minutes later, Murphy apologized and the murder case against klansman Collie Leroy Wilkins, 21, in the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a white civil rights worker, continued.

Rowe, who told a macabre story yesterday of watching night riders pump bullets into the car of Mrs. Liuzzo, killing her, was the state's most damaging witness against Wilkins.

Murphy, the imperial klonsal (counsel) of the klan, was trying to destroy Rowe's credibility when the courtroom explosion came.



Gary Thomas Rowe
He sticks to his guns

'500 Acres of Farmland'

Murphy charged that the FBI had offered Rowe 500 acres of farmland in Minnesota if he would cooperate in breaking the back of the United Klan of America.

But Rowe denied it and, switching the attack, accused Murphy of instructing him at a meeting in Murphy's office to put that information out.

"Are you saying I told you that?" Murphy demanded.

"Yes," Rowe calmly replied.

Murphy: "You didn't tell me that?" His voice was pitched high with fury.

Rowe: "No, sir."

Then Murphy flung his hat and the judge ordered the recess.

Day After the Murder

Back on court, Rowe told his side of the meeting in Murphy's office, the day following the murder. He said that the FBI had told him in an offhand fashion that he could say whatever he liked to Murphy.

This was after the accused men had been questioned by the FBI following the March 25 murder but before Rowe had been revealed as an FBI undercover agent.

Rowe testified that an FBI agent had told him "we couldn't care less what you say. Tell him [Murphy] we offered you 500 acres of apple trees."

But, according to Rowe, when he mentioned this to Murphy, the lawyer immediately seized on it and said "we will make it 550 acres and $650,000."

Earlier, Rowe came under heavy attack from Murphy when the lawyer asked him if he had

what about this?

The Washington Post and Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star
New York Herald Tribune
New York Journal-American
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times
The Baltimore Sun
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World
Date

EX 110
25
47-2[illegible] 601-396
JUN 17 1965
MAY 6 1965
CRIME RESEARCH

50

taken the klan oath. Rowe replied "Yes, such as it was."

Murphy then read out the oath of allegiance which includes the words, "I will die rather than divulge the (klan) secrets. So help me God." Murphy demanded: "You swore before God?"

Rowe replied quietly, "Yes, to the best of my knowledge."

Rowe told of joining forces with the FBI five years ago after he had been approached by an agent named Barry Kemp. Five weeks later he said he received his first payment "for expenses" of $40. He said he signed a receipt for the cash and State Prosecutor Arthur Gamble later flourished a bunch of receipts covering the period up to March.

From $20 to $200

They were for various sums ranging from $20 to more than $200.

Rowe said he used his first payment for klan dues and to buy a klan robe.

Murphy pressed Rowe on why he had not tried to prevent the shooting of Mrs. Liuzzo. Rowe said he did not fire any shots himself.

"I did not know anything was going to be done until they started shooting," he said. "I thought they were just going to stop the car. There are various ways of stopping another car without shooting at it."

Murphy twice tried to connect Rowe with the Communist Party, asking if he was a member or had ever received money from it. The judge sustained a prosecution objection to the questions.



(UPI Telephoto)

Defense attorney Matt Murphy Jr. holds mysterious revolver as he arrives at court house yesterday.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

DATE: 7/1/65

TO: FBI, Birmingham (44-1236)

Re: EUGENE THOMAS; et al;
VICLA LIUZZO, aka
Mrs. Anthony J. Luizzo,
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS;
CR - EL

Invoice of Contents

Re Bureau airtel dated 6/29/65

Q31 - Q35

K4

RAILWAY EXPRESS

Sent 7-1-65
R.E.A.
B/L A7952081
on-1 unit 2#

7/1/65

☐ Crypt.-Tra
☐ Document
☐ Electronic
☐ P & C
☐ LFPS

Special Instructions:
Mail Room: Show shipment date and registry number.
Shipping Room: Show shipment date; bill of lading number; initial invoice; return to Section checked in block; after initialing in block, invoice to be placed in administrative file.

FBI File No. 44-28601

3/29/65 PC-35455 EX

50 JUL 7 1965

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601) DATE: 6/25/65

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Re Mobile airtel to Bureau, 5/6/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau and Birmingham are two copies each of two photographs.

Number 1 shows from left to right MATT H. MURPHY, JR., Klan Attorney, and ROBERT CREEL, Klan official, Bessemer, Ala. Photo Number 2 shows MATT H. MURPHY, JR.; WILLIAM EATON; LEROY WILKINS; EUGENE THOMAS; ROBERT CREEL.

(2) - Bureau (Enc.4) (RM)
2 - Birmingham (Enc.4) (RM) (44-1236)
3 - Mobile (44-1245)
(1 - 157-190 SF 7)
RGR:lch
(7)

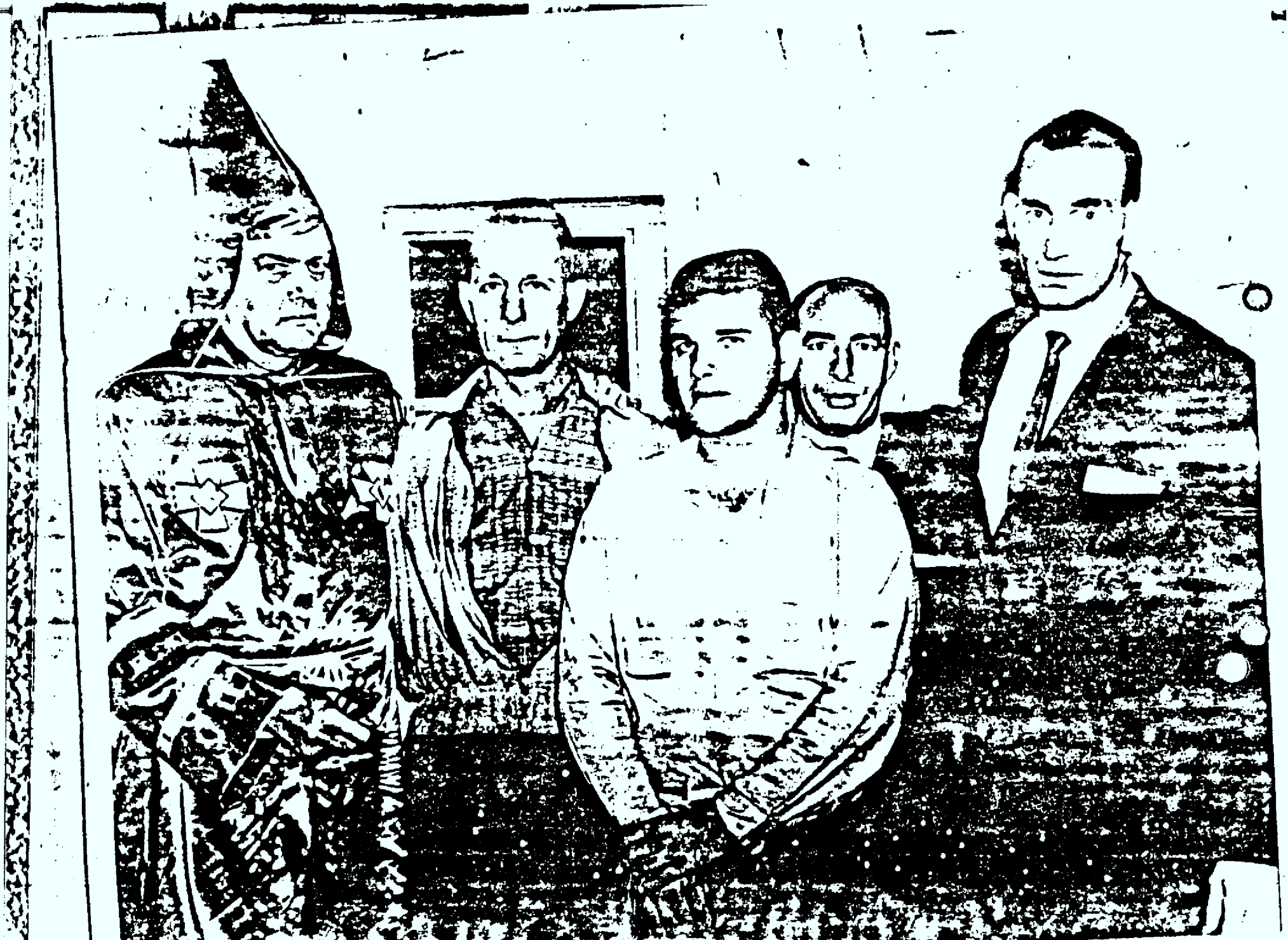
REC-109 44-28601-40

JUN 25 1965

FBI - MOBILE

JUL 12 1965





OPR

6/25/65

1 - Mr. Hines

Airtel

To: SAC, Birmingham (44-1236)
REC 14

From: Director, FBI (44-28601) - 406

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Reurairtel 6/22/65 entitled "Collie Leroy Wilkins; Racial Matters."

With regard to proceeding against subject Collie Leroy Wilkins on the probation violators warrant currently outstanding against him, the Bureau considers this a matter entirely within the province of the U. S. Attorney's Office and the Department of Justice and therefore cannot render any opinion whatever regarding initiation of proceedings to revoke his probation.

[redacted] b7A

MAILED 29
JUN 25 1965
COMM-FBI

JWH/ral
(4)
SEE NOTE ON PAGE TWO.

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

14 JUN 28 1965

50 JUL 9 1965

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

ORR.

NOTE:

Collie Leroy Wilkins is one of the three subjects presently under state indictment for the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. His initial trial on the indictment resulted in a hung jury and he is expected to be retried in September, 1965. At the time of his arrest on 3/26/65 he was on probation for violation of the National Firearms Act which charge was brought by the Alcohol Tobacco Tax Division of the Treasury Department and a probation violators warrant was issued. He is currently under $500 bond on that warrant. Birmingham has advised that AUSA Taylor has requested the Bureau's opinion and that we obtain the Department's opinion as to whether or not now would be the proper time to proceed against Wilkins to revoke the probation. The parole violators warrant issued from a matter entirely outside of the Bureau's jurisdiction and the opinion requested of the Bureau by Taylor is entirely prosecutive and beyond the scope of the Bureau's authority to render

[redacted]

b7

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

OPR

FBI

Date: 6/22/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (157-1159)

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS
RM

Captioned subject was one of three persons indicted in connection with the murder of VIOLA LIUZZO. At the time of his arrest in Birmingham on 3/26/65 a Probation Violator's warrant was also issued. He was not released at the same time as the other two subjects in this case because of the Probation Violator's warrant. He was subsequently released on an additional $500 bond because of the Probation Violator's warrant.

Action seeking to revoke his probation was withheld by the U. S. Attorney's office until the State trial in Hayneville, Ala. had been completed. As the Bureau knows, the initial State trial at Hayneville ended in a hung jury.

[redacted]

3 Bureau
2 Mobile
3 Birmingham
(2 157-1159)
(1 44-1236)

RGJ:fc
(8)

REC 14 157-1159-406

1 JUN 24 1965

CC - Wick

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

FBI

Date:

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

Via _____ _____
(Priority)

BH 157-1159

taken by the Federal Government might well interfere with future action planned by the State.

Therefore, it is requested that the Bureau furnish its opinion and the opinion of the Department as to whether or not this is an appropriate time to proceed against COLLIE LEROY WILKINS.

The Mobile Office should ascertain from the appropriate authorities their views as to whether or not Federal action insofar as revoking the probation of WILKINS would have any appreciable bearing on the future retrial of WILKINS in local Court.

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 6-28-65

FROM : A. Rosen

1- Mr. Mohr
1- Mr. DeLoach
1- Mr. Callahan
1- Mr. Belmont
1- Mr. Rosen
1- Mr. Malley
1- Mr. McGowan
1- Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL -
VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

St. John Barrett, Attorney in Civil Rights Division, advised on 6-28-65 that the Department is in receipt of a letter which Mr. Liuzzo, husband of the victim, wrote to the White House. According to Mr. Barrett, Mr. Liuzzo requests that certain personal items belonging to the victim such as her wedding ring be returned to him; and that he also be compensated for loss of the use of the Liuzzo automobile which victim was driving at the time of her murder; and also compensate for any damage that might have occurred to the car from processin by authorities. The instant car is being held by Alabama State Authorities for evidence in connection with the state prosecution of this matter. Liuzzo states that he has no basis for a claim against the insurance company covering the car and he still is required to make payments on the purchase of the car.

Mr. Barrett advised that the Department is replying to Mr. Liuzzo informing him that the Department is writing to the Alabama State Authorities requesting that all items belonging to Mrs. Liuzzo not of evidentiary value be returned to Mr. Liuzzo and is suggesting to him that he also write Alabama authorities along the same lines. The Department is furnishing Mr. Liuzzo an inventory of personal items belonging to Mrs. Liuzzo, as reflected in its files, which items are in possession of the Alabama State Authorities.

Mr. Barrett stated Mr. Liuzzo is also being furnished appropriate forms in the event he feels he has a claim against the Federal Government in connection with the processing of the car. Any such claim would be handled by the Civil Division of the Department.

REC-10 44-28609 401

JJB:mmb
(9)

ST-100

CONTINUED - OVER

10 JUL 21 1965

69 JUL 8 1965

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

It was pointed out to Mr. Barrett that at the time Mrs. Liuzzo was murdered on 3-25-65, [redacted] b7A.

Mr. Barrett advised that he was aware of the fact [redacted] however, he still intended to furnish the above forms to Mr. Liuzzo and to contact the state authorities as the Department desired to lend a sympathetic ear to his problems.

ACTION:

None. Submitted for information.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Mr. Belmont

FROM: A. Rosen

DATE: July 8, 1965

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Martindale

Tolson
Boardman
Nease
Loach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

It is noted that Matt Murphy, the Klan attorney who represents the defendants in this case, has filed a civil action against our informant seeking $6,000 for legal services allegedly rendered at the time of the U. S. Commissioner's hearing when Murphy represented the informant to the extent of arranging his bond. He has not represented the informant since that time.

ASAC Jensen, Birmingham, advised that the local Sheriff's Office holds a subpoena calling for the informant to appear in this matter on 7/8/65. The Sheriff's Office attempted to serve the subpoena at the FBI Office in Birmingham and service was refused. It is noted that informant is not in Alabama.

A local press inquiry was received by the Birmingham Office this morning, apparently instigated by Matt Murphy. The press inquired as to whether the informant will appear today and the reporter was given "no comment."

ACTION

This is for information and the Department is being advised.

WLM/cac
(8)

REC-73 44-28601-416

18 JUL 18 1965

51 JUL 21 1965

The Birmingham Division is not in possession of a transcript of the WILKINS trial, wherein subject informant was a key witness. It is therefore requested that the Mobile Division obtain and forward [redacted] UACB, a copy of the transcript of this trial dealing with that portion which concerns informant's testimony in order that he may refresh his recollection and be in a position to be an effective witness in the forthcoming trial scheduled 9/27/65. b7A

6-94 (Rev. 1-31-63)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General DATE: 7/16/65
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS,
ET AL
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA;
ET AL - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

File copy

Reference is made to _____ memorandum dated _____ (your file _____).

There is enclosed one copy of ~~[redacted]~~ a letterhead memorandum dated 7/12/65 at Birmingham.

A. ☐ This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. ☐ The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. ☐ The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. ☐ Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. ☐ Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. ☒ This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. ☐ This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H. ☐ This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

NOTE: Copies of letterhead memorandum have been furnished to the Department of the Army, the Department of the Air Force, the Department of the Navy, and to the United States Secret Service. Appropriate state and local authorities as well as FBI personnel also alerted to contents.

Enc.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: July 19, 1965

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS
GARY ROWE - INFORMANT

For record purposes, Mike Dorman, a reporter formerly employed by "Newsday," a daily newspaper in Long Island but now a free-lance writer, on 7-13-65 came in to see Wick. He said he is associated with William Bradford Huie who has written considerably on civil rights matters in the South particularly the murder of the three civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Mississippi, last year. Dorman said he and Huie, through the attorneys of Gary Rowe, will soon make an offer to Rowe of a three-way money split intended to convince him he should cooperate with them in telling his story concerning the Liuzzo murder.

Dorman said that he will write the book after talking to Rowe and that Huie will write the screen version for movie use. Already said Dorman he has a $75,000 guarantee for the book and a $75,000 promise for the movie. The resulting $150,000 would be split three ways, $10,000 would be given to Rowe immediately after the trial and the remaining $40,000 of his share within a few months thereafter. Also Rowe would share, according to Dorman, in any upward negotiation adjustments in the movie and book rights, sales, etc.

ACTION TAKEN:

REC-18 44-28601-46

Wick told Dorman this was all well and good but that the FBI would have absolutely nothing to do with any of this, could not and would not help Dorman and Huie and would have no part of this. Dorman said he understood. He stated, however, he believed Huie and he will be successful in giving the highest money offer to Rowe eventually. Dorman said further that he himself intended to travel around the country digging into the background of the case. Wick reiterated we could not help him.

6 JUL 26 1965

For record purposes.

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Jones

50 JUL 28 1965

REW:bpk (6)

FBI

Date: 7/2/65

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (170-9)

BH 248-R

Viola Liuzzo

Attached hereto is a Xerox copy of a Notice of Taking Deposition addressed to PAUL JOHNSTON, Attorney at Law, the Attorney of Record for GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.

It is noted that Notice of Taking Deposition requests the issuance of a subpoena to ROWE, deposition to be taken on 7/8/65 at Birmingham, Alabama.

PAUL JOHNSTON has not been in contact with this office concerning the taking of such a deposition. It is assumed, however, that as the Attorney of Record for ROWE, necessary action in response to this notice will be taken by JOHNSTON.

UACB, this office does not contemplate contact with JOHNSTON in response to this deposition.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
2 - Birmingham

JLMc:mjh
(5)

"ENCLOSURE ATTACHED"

ENCLOSURE

REC-113

cc CRD (Xerox)
7-7-65
6-94-2
JWH/GH

44-28601-424

363

XEROX
JUL 28 1965

17 JUL 6 1965

Approved: 09 AUG 3 1965 Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

CHECK COPY AND CHECK OF ENCL FILED IN 137-2

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

DATE: 7/7/65

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

Reference is made to _____ memorandum dated _____ (your file _____).

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent _____ dated _____ at _____.

A. ☐ This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. ☐ The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. ☐ The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. ☐ Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. ☐ Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. ☐ This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. ☒ This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H. ☐ This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

Enc. NOTE: Enclosed is Notice of Taking Deposition dated 6/29/65. Copy of attached notice enclosed pursuant to discussion of SA H with Mr. Parsons 7/7/65. Mr. Johnson has not contacted our Birmingham office regarding this notice and no action is being taken in the absence of a specific request.

FILED IN OFFICE
JUN 30 1965
JULIAN SWIFT

[illegible] H. MURPHY, JR.,	CLERK THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE
Plaintiff	[illegible] JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF [illegible]
vs.	
[illegible] ROWE, JR.,	CASE NO. [illegible]
Defendant	No. _____

NOTICE OF TAKING DEPOSITION

TO: [illegible]
Attorney at Law
c/o [illegible], Mitch & Crawford
[illegible] Bank for Savings Bldg.,
[illegible], Alabama [illegible] H. Murphy, Jr., Pro Se,
AS ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR [illegible] Defendant.

You are hereby notified that the [illegible] will take the testimony by deposition upon oral examination for the purpose of [illegible] in this cause in accordance with the laws of Alabama and particularly in accordance with the provisions of, to-wit, Act No. 375, of the 1955 Legislature of Alabama of the following named persons, to-wit: [illegible] Rowe, Jr., the defendant, c/o [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible]

TIME: Said deposition shall be taken on [illegible], 19[illegible], commencing at [illegible], and from time to time thereafter as said deposition may be continued for completion.

PLACE: Said deposition shall be taken in the Hearing Room of Birmingham Court Reporting Co., 503 Frank Nelson Building, Birmingham, Alabama (or) _____

PERSON BEFORE WHOM TAKEN: Said deposition shall be taken before Ramon A. Crockett or _____, who is authorized to administer oaths by the laws of the State of Alabama.

The Clerk will please issue a subpoena to [illegible] for the taking of [illegible] deposition at the above stated time and place.

This [illegible] day of [illegible], 19[illegible].

By [illegible]
Attorney [illegible]
Pro Se,

CERTIFICATE AS TO SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing notice has this day been mailed postage prepaid to [illegible] as Attorney of Record for [illegible] at [illegible] on this the [illegible] day of [illegible], 19[illegible].

[illegible]
Attorney for Matt H. Murphy, Jr.

FD-192 (Rev. 11-16-64)

Date

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
44-28601	P	~~Birmingham~~ Mobile	File 44-1236

Title and Character of Case

EUGENE THOMAS;
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.;
GEARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.

VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM.
CR - FL

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
3-26-65	Authorized search Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr. Apt. 35A 205 16th. Place S.W. ~~Birmingham~~ Ala.

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
Gun Vault	Evidence

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. One German made Bayonet and Sheath.
2. One Newport Model CN double barrel sawed off shutgun, SN T 70594.
3. One box twelve gauge Peters extra long range shells.
4. One Revelation twelve gauge shotgun shell.
5. One box twelve gauge shotgun shells (21) located in closet of front bedroom Eugene Thomas's house.
6. One box Peters 38 caliber ammunition, containing ten rounds.

44-28601-
NOT RECORDED
8 AUG 4 1965

44-1236-1813
SEARCHED ... INDEXED ...
SERIALIZED ... FILED ...
MAR 29 1965
FBI—BIRMINGHAM

SUBMITTED BY: [redacted]

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

8/1/65 [redacted]

FD-192 (Rev. 11-16-64)

Date 3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
44-28601	P	BIRMINGHAM	44-1236
		Office of Origin: MOBILE	File #

Title and Character of Case

EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka, ETAL - Victims
CR, EL

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
3-26-65	Search of residence of W. O. EATON, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Ala

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
Gun Vault	Evidence

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. 3 boxes Federal .22 long rifle Hi-Power rimfire ctgs.
2. 1 box Hi-Power rimfire ctgs.
3. 1 box Canuck .22 long rifle standard velocity ctgs.

44-28601

AUG 4 1965

44-1236-189

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAR 26 1965
FBI — BIRMINGHAM

SUBMITTED BY: SA [redacted]

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

8/1/65
50 AUG 6—1965

FD-192 (Rev. 11-18-64)

Date 3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
44-28601	P	BIRMINGHAM	44-1236
		Office of Origin: MOBILE	File #:

Title and Character of Case

EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka, ETAL - Victims
CR, EL

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
3-26-65	Search of residence of EUGENE THOMAS, Bessemer, Ala
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	**Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same**
Gun Vault	Evidence

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. 3 boxes Winchester .38 special ammo
2. 6 rds. Remington special ammo, in box
3. 1 Remington clean bore box containing .38 cal. shells
4. 6 rds. Peters .38 cal. ammo

44-28601-

AUG 4 1965

44-1236-138

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAR 26 1965
FBI — BIRMINGHAM

SUBMITTED BY: SAS [redacted]

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

8/1/65 RY

50 AUG 6 1965

FD-192 (Rev. 11-18-64)

Date 3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
44-28601	P	BIRMINGHAM	44-1236
		Office of Origin: MOBILE	File #

Title and Character of Case

EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka, ETAL - Victims
CR, EL

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
3-26-65	Search of Apt. of GARY THOMAS ROWE, 35A 205 16th Place, SW., Birmingham, Ala

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
Gun Vault	Evidence

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. Metal container, army brown, with markings "Do not use as food container", 900 ctgs. .30 carbine ball M-1 in 50 rd cartons, lot LC 13029, with following therein:

   (a) 139 rds. various cal. live ammo and one spent .22 ctg.
   (b) 1 30 rd. capacity magazine for .30 cal. revolver
   (c) 1 cloth bag containing 126 rds. various cal. live ammo and one spent .38 ctg. casing. Bag marked "Cherry-Burrell Corp".
   (d) 4 boxes "Western Brand Super-Match" midrange .30 cal. ammo containing a total of 80 rds. live and 80 spent ctgs.

2. One each .38 cal. Western Special bullet located on bedroom dresser.

X

44-1236-1B10

SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
SERIALIZED ___ FILED ___
MAR 26 1965
FBI — BIRMINGHAM

SUBMITTED BY: SAS [redacted]

44-28601-

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

3 AUG 4 1965

8/1/65

50 AUG 6 1965

FD-192 (Rev. 11-18-64)

Date 3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
44-28601	P	BIRMINGHAM	44-1236
		Office of Origin: MOBILE	File #

Title and Character of Case

EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka, ETAL - Victims
CR, EL

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
3-26-65	Search of automobile of EUGENE THOMAS

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
Exhibit section	Evidence

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. One ski mask located in glove compartment
2. One screw driver located in trunk compartment
3. One yellow rug, 5' x 31" located in trunk compartment
4. One yellow rug, 3' x 2½' located in trunk compartment
5. One roll Tuck electrical tape located in trunk compartment
6. One roll brown Arno tape located in trunk compartment
7. One pair pliers-cutters located in trunk compartment
8. One pair pliers located in trunk compartment
9. One pair work gloves located in trunk compartment
10. One pink blanket located in trunk compartment

44-1236-1B11

SEARCHED ✓ INDEXED ✓
SERIALIZED FILED
MAR 26 1965
FBI — BIRMINGHAM

SUBMITTED BY: SAS [redacted]

44-28601-

NOT RECORDED
8 AUG 4 1965

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

8/1/65

50 AUG 6 1965

Date 3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
44-28601	P	BIRMINGHAM	44-1236
		Office of Origin: MOBILE	File #

Title and Character of Case

EUGENE THOMAS, etal
VIOLA BIUZZO, aka; LEROY JEROME MOTON - Victims
CR, EL.

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
3-26-65	WAYNE THOMAS, 1519 12th Avenue, North, Bessemer, Ala

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
GUN VAULT	Evidence

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. .38 cal. S & W Revolver, SN 418827
2. 6 rds. .38 cal. ammunition taken from above revolver.

[illegible] x 31" located in trunk compartment
[illegible] located in trunk compartment
[illegible] located in trunk compartment
[illegible] located in trunk compartment
[illegible] located in trunk compartment
[illegible] located in trunk compartment
[illegible] located in trunk compartment
[illegible] 44-28601 cnt

NOT RECORDED
AUG 4 1965

44-1236-1B2

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAR 26 1965
FBI — BIRMINGHAM

SUBMITTED BY: S[redacted]

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

8/1/65 DY
3/26

50 AUG 9 1965

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 11-18-64)

Date 3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
44-28601	P	BIRMINGHAM	44-1236
		Office of Origin: MOBILE	File #:

Title and Character of Case

EUGENE THOMAS, etal
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; LEROY JEROME MOTON - Victims
CR, EL

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
3-26-65	EUGENE THOMAS, 1519 12th Avenue, North, Bessemer, Ala

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
GUN VAULT	Evidence

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. 8 rds. .38 cal. ammunition, as follows:
   3 - R-P .38 special
   1 - Rem-Umc .38 special
   2 - Peters .38 special
   1 - R-P .38 special (brass casing, flat nose)
   1 - Federal .38 special (brass casing)

2. 1 pocket knife, Tree Brand.

44-28601-

NOT RECORDED
44-1236-185
AUG 4 1965

SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
SERIALIZED ___ FILED ___
MAR 26 1965
FBI — BIRMINGHAM

SUBMITTED BY: SA [redacted]

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

8/1/65

50 AUG 9 1965

Attorney [illegible] Murphy

FD-192 (Rev. 11-18-64)

Date 3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
44-28601	P	BIRMINGHAM	44-1236
		Office of Origin MOBILE	File #

Title and Character of Case

EUGENE THOMAS, etal
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; LEROY JEROME MOTON - Victims
CR, EL

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
3-26-65	Recovered from window sill of right front door of EUGENE THOMAS' car.

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
GUN VAULT	Evidence

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. .22 cal. bullet, with letters "HP" on head of bullet.

44-28601-

RECORDED
AUG 4 1965

44-1236-1862

SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
SERIALIZED ___ FILED ___
MAR 26 1965
FBI — BIRMINGHAM

SUBMITTED BY: SA [redacted]

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

8/1/65 DY

5C AUG 9 1965

D-182 (Rev. 11-18-64)

Date 3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
44-28601	P	BIRMINGHAM	44-1236
		Office of Origin MOBILE	File #

Title and Character of Case

EUGENE THOMAS, etal
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; LEROY JEROME MOTON - Victims
CR, EL

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
3-26-65	FBI, Birmingham, Ala

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
GUN VAULT	Possible evidence

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. 1 gun patch which was run through barrel of weapon belonging to GARY THOMAS ROWE, weapon described as .38 cal. S & W Revolver, nickle plated, bone handle, SN V12864 (frame #57673)

44-28601-
NOT
AUG 4 1965

44-1236-187

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAR 26 1965
FBI — BIRMINGHAM

SUBMITTED BY: ASAC ROBERT G. JENSEN

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

8/16/65 DY

50 AUG 9 1965

Date 3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
44-28601	P	BIRMINGHAM	44-1236
		Office of Origin: MOBILE	File #:

Title and Character of Case

EUGENE THOMAS, etal
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; LEROY JEROME MOTON - Victims
CR, EL

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
3-26-65	W. O. EATON, Rt. 6, Box 866, Dessomor, Alabama

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
GUN VAULT	Evidence

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. .22 cal. ROHM pistol, RG 10, SN 623285
2. 6 rds. .22 cal. ammunition taken from above pistol.
3. One black holster, with strap, in which above pistol was found.

X.

44-28601-

NOTRECORDED
8 AUG 4 1965

44-1236-1B1

SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
SERIALIZED ___ FILED ___
MAR 26 1965
FBI — BIRMINGHAM

SUBMITTED BY: SA [redacted]

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

8/1/65

50 AUG 3 1965

FD-192 (Rev. 11-18-64)

Date 3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
44-86601	P	BIRMINGHAM	44-1236
		Office of Origin: MOBILE	File #

Title and Character of Case

EUGENE THOMAS, etal
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; LEROY JEROME MOTON - Victims
CR, EL

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
3-26-65	GARY THOMAS ROWE, Birmingham, Alabama

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
GUN VAULT	Evidence

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. .38 cal. S & W Revolver, nickle plated, bone handle, SN V12864 (frame #57673).
2. 6 rds. .38 cal. ammunition taken from above revolver.

X.

44-86601-

44-1236-134

SUBMITTED BY: SA [redacted]

RECORDED
AUG 4 1965

SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
SERIALIZED ___ FILED ___
MAR 26 1965
FBI — BIRMINGHAM

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

8/1/65

365

5(AUG 9 1965

FBI

Date: 8/10/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL (Priority)

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1235) (P)

EUGENE THOMAS;
ETAL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka;
ETAL - VICTIMS
CR-EL
OO: MOBILE

Enclosed for the Bureau are 6 copies of LHM suitable for dissemination.

Enclosed for Mobile are 2 copies and for San Francisco 1 copy of above LHM.

Confidential source mentioned in LHM is [redacted]

No dissemination is being made to the military intelligence agencies in the Birmingham area inasmuch as the subject matter contained in enclosed LHM is restricted to a particular incident currently being handled by prosecution on the state level.

ENCLOSURE

3 - Bureau (Enc. 6) (RM)
1 - Mobile (44-1245) (Enc. 2) (RM)
1 - San Francisco (44-609) (Enc. 1) (RM)
1 - Birmingham
NPS/gah
(6)

REC-57

20 AUG 14 1965

CC-WFO

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M

Special Agent in Charge

57 AUG 24 1965

FBI

Date: 8-17-65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

ReBHAirtel to Bureau 5-5-65, BUAirtel to San Francisco, with copy for Birmingham and Mobile, 5-12-65, and BHAirtel to Director captioned "BH 248-R," dated 7-8-65, all of these communications dealing with the interest of WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE in preparing magazine articles and a book involving the activities of GARY THOMAS ROWE.

On 8-16-65 Mr. WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE appeared at the Birmingham Office and stated that he and MICHAEL DORMAN are presently in Birmingham staying at the Downtowner Motel and are developing background information regarding Klan activities during the past ten years. He stated that the purpose of developing this background information is to be prepared to write a story concerning the activities of GARY THOMAS ROWE at a later date, provided, of course, he can obtain the approval of the Department and the Bureau. HUIE pointed out that developing background information is a time-consuming task and that he was willing to "gamble" on the possibility of writing this story by going ahead and developing the necessary background information regarding the Klan and some of its activities.

During the conversation HUIE pointed out that he is a close personal friend of Mr. PAUL JOHNSTON, Birmingham attorney

EX-100

3-Bureau
1-San Francisco (44-809 (info.)) - CAM
2-Birmingham
EJI:rlg
(6)

REC-2 44-28601-432

3 AUG 19 1965

Approved: _____ Sent _____ Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

...orney ... Matt H. Murphy

who is representing ROWE in the suit against ROWE filed by MATT MURPHY, Klan attorney. He indicated that through JOHNSTON and other contacts of his (HUIE's) in the Department he expects to eventually obtain approval to write the story concerning ROWE.

HUIE stated that he had recently contacted GARY THOMAS ROWE, SR., in Birmingham, and had let it be known that he will eventually want to talk to him and his wife, as well as the wife of GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., for background information concerning ROWE. He stated such inquiries would not be made until such time as he has been given the "go ahead" to write the story on ROWE. He explained that he, of course, would pay all of these individuals for any information he obtained from them.

HUIE stated he realizes that it will not be possible for him to obtain a decision concerning the writing of a story on ROWE prior to the completion of the pending trials in the LIUZZO murder case, and that he does not intend to take any action before that time other than obtaining background information concerning Klan activities. He stated he realized full well that he would not be able to write a story on ROWE without the approval of the FBI.

HUIE stated that his sole purpose in coming to the FBI Office was to let it be known that he is presently in Birmingham developing background information concerning the Klan. He asked for no information and, of course, none was furnished to him concerning the Klan or any other matter.

The above has been furnished for the Bureau's information. The Bureau will be advised promptly of any further information which is received concerning HUIE's activities in the Birmingham area.

...orney for Matt Murphy

4-3 (Rev. 12-14-64)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☐ RADIO ☒ TELETYPE

12:09 PM CST URGENT 8-19-65 WEP
TO DIRECTOR (44-28601) TAMPA, MOBILE AND SAVANNAH
FROM BIRMINGHAM 101720

EUGENT THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO; ET AL; AKA; VICTIMS; CR-EL

RE TAMPA TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AUGUST 17 LAST.

"BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD" ON AUGUST 17 QUOTED ATTORNEY MATT MURPHY AS MAKING SAME STATEMENT QUOTED IN REFERENCED TELETYPE. IT IS NOTED MURPHY HAS MADE SIMILAR PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN PAST, INDICATING GARY THOMAS ROWE BEING HIDDEN BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN VARIOUS PLACES, INCLUDING MIAMI, NASSAU, BAHAMAS, "UP NORTH" AND WEST COAST. BASED ON PAST STATEMENTS AND LACK OF SUBSTANTIATING INFORMATION, BIRMINGHAM OF OPINION MURPHY HAS NO INFORMATION REGARDING ROWE'S WHEREABOUTS.

FOR INFO TAMPA, MOBILE AND SAVANNAH, MURPHY HAS FILED SUIT AGAINST ROWE FOR $6,000 FOR LEGAL FEES. SUIT SCHEDULED FOR HEARING IN BIRMINGHAM SEPTEMBER 7 NEXT.

RECEIVED: 2:15 PM MCS

EX-100

REC-22

25 AUG 20 1965

54 AUG 27 1965

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

GENERAL INVESTIGA[redacted]IVISION

This case concerns the murder of ivil Rights worker Viola Liuzzo near Selma, labama, 3-25-65. Gary Rowe furnished nformation in this case leading to the arrest nd indictment of 3 subjects charged with illing of Mrs. Liuzzo. [redacted]

DNA

Matt Murphy, Klan attorney, represents defendants in this case and also filed civil suit against Rowe seeking $6,000 for legal services allegedly rendered when he represented Rowe at US Commissioner's hearing to the extent of arranging bond. He has not represented Rowe since that time. Paul Johnston is attorney obtained by the Department to defend Rowe in the civil suit. [redacted] will be instructed to make arrangements for Rowe to contact his attorney as requested. Department being advised of contents of attached.

RHA:blk (5)

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☐ RADIO ☒ TELETYPE

7:08 PM CST URGENT 8-18-65 WEP
TO DIRECTOR AND SAN FRANCISCO
FROM BIRMINGHAM 182220

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL-VICTIMS, CR-EL.
Civil Rights - Election Laws

TODAY MR. PAUL JOHNSTON, BIRMINGHAM ATTORNEY, REPRESENTING GARY THOMAS ROWE IN SUIT BROUGHT AGAINST ROWE BY KLAN ATTORNEY MATT MURPHY, CONTACTED BIRMINGHAM OFFICE AND REQUESTED THAT ROWE CALL HIM AT BIRMINGHAM TELEPHONE NUMBER 322-3338 BETWEEN 2 PM AND 5 PM CST ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, NEXT. JOHNSTON STATED HE DESIRES TO DISCUSS WITH ROWE SEVERAL QUESTIONS THAT HAVE COME UP CONCERNING THE SUIT REFERRED TO ABOVE. JOHNSTON ALSO STATED HE HAS IN HIS POSSESSION A CONTRACT FROM AUTHOR WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE, IN WHICH HUIE AGREES TO PAY ROWE $25,000 FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF WRITING A STORY COVERING ROWE'S ACTIVITIES AS A KLAN INFORMANT. JOHNSTON STATED HUIE HAS REQUESTED HIM TO HAVE ROWE SIGN THE CONTRACT AT A TIME THAT WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH PENDING TRIALS IN CAPTIONED MATTER. JOHNSTON STATED HE WILL ADVISE ROWE NOT TO SIGN THIS CONTRACT UNTIL THE TRIALS IN THIS MATTER ARE DISPOSED OF.

JOHNSTON ADVISED PRESENCE OF ROWE WILL BE NECESSARY IN BIRMINGHAM ON SEPTEMBER 7, NEXT, WHEN SUIT AGAINST ROWE WILL BE HEARD IN LOCAL COURT UNLESS CASE IS SETTLED OUT OF COURT PRIOR TO THAT TIME. REC-65 44-25601 434

[redacted] ARRANGE FOR ROWE TO CALL JOHNSTON AT TIME AND DATE SPECIFIED ABOVE.

AUG 20 1965

RECEIVED: 9:19 PM RJP

20 AUG 25 1965

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

...orney Matt Murphy...

DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☐ RADIO ☒ TELETYPE

12:44 PM CST URGENT 8-20-65 WEP
TO DIRECTOR AND SAN FRANCISCO
FROM BIRMINGHAM 201804

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS,
CR ~~EL~~
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

REBUTEL TO BUREAU AND SAN FRANCISCO AUGUST 18, LAST, AND TELCALL BUREAU TO BIRMINGHAM TODAY.

MR. PAUL JOHNSTON, ATTORNEY REPRESENTING GARY THOMAS ROWE IN SUIT BROUGHT AGAINST ROWE BY KLAN ATTORNEY MATT MURPHY, HAS ADVISED WILL NOT BE NECESSARY FOR ROWE TO CONTACT HIM TODAY BY TELEPHONE AS PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED IN REFERENCED BIRMINGHAM TELETYPE IN VIEW OF DEATH OF MATT MURPHY IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT NEAR TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA, EARLY TODAY.

JOHNSTON STATED MURPHY'S DEATH WILL CHANGE MANY PLANS AND HE WILL LET BIRMINGHAM OFFICE KNOW WHEN CONVERSATION WITH ROWE IS DESIRED AT LATER DATE. JOHNSTON EXPRESSED OPINION HEARING SCHEDULED IN SUIT AGAINST ROWE AT BIRMINGHAM SEPTEMBER 7, NEXT, WILL BE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. BUREAU AND SAN FRANCISCO WILL BE ADVISED FURTHER WHEN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RECEIVED.

[redacted] IMMEDIATELY ADVISE ROWE OF ABOVE.

REC 30 44-29601-435

RECEIVED: 2:56 PM MCS

AUG 23 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

...orney Matt Murphy ...

MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOV NMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: August 20, 1965

FROM : C. L. McGowan

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

44-28601

Information was received that attorney Matt Murphy was killed in an automobile accident near Tuscaloosa, Alabama, early in the morning of August 20, 1965.

It is noted Murphy presently has pending a suit against Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., Bureau informant. The suit seeks to recover $6,000 which Murphy contended was for professional services rendered. As this matter is scheduled for a hearing early in September, Paul Johnston, Birmingham attorney who is representing Rowe, had requested that Rowe contact him telephonically between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m., central standard time, on Friday afternoon 8/20/65. Arrangements had been set up for Rowe to be in contact with the attorney.

137-6295
157-2971

ACTION:

SAC Ingram of the Birmingham Office was telephonically contacted and advised to immediately get in touch with attorney Paul Johnston. Ingram was to advise Johnston of the death of attorney Matt Murphy and ascertain whether or not it will now be necessary for our informant to make contact with attorney Johnston. Ingram will contact Johnston and advise [redacted] and the Bureau of Johnston's reply.

b7A

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

CLM:jds
(5)

REC 37 44-28601-436

X-101 AUG 23 1965

57 AUG 27 1965

AUG 25 1965 XEROX

...rney ... Matt Murphy

Augt 18, 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This case concerns the murder of civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo near Selma, Alabama, 3/25/65.

Gary Rowe furnished the information in this case leading to the arrest and subsequent indictment of the three subjects on charge of killing Mrs. Liu[redacted] b7A

Matt Murphy, attorney for the Ku Klux Klan, who represents the defendants in this case, has filed a civil action against Rowe seeking $6,000 for legal services allegedly rendered at the time of the U. S. Commissioner's hearing when Murphy represented Rowe to the extent of arranging his bond. He has not represented Rowe since that time. Birmingham being instructed to expedite information re Murphy's remarks.

CDC/pak

[redacted]

...rney ... Matt Murphy

DERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
AUG 17 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

9

FBI TAMPA

9\00 PM EST VED URGENT 8-17-65

TO DIRECTOR, MOBILE, BIRMINGHAM, SAN FRANCISCO AND SAVANNAH

PERSONAL ATTENTION SAC

FROM TAMPA \44-313\ 1-P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL\ VIOLA LIZZUO, AKA ET AL, VICTIMS.

CR DASH EL.

TV STATION WTVT TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED ME SEVEN FIFTY-FIVE P.M. TONIGHT STATING THAT ATTORNEY MURPHY IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA. IN CONNECTION WITH HIS SUIT TO COLLECT FEE FROM GARY ROWE STATED THAT GARY ROWE IS IN TAMPA, FLA., UNDER HEAVY GUARD BY SIX FBI AGENTS AROUND THE CLOCK, COSTING TAX PAYERS ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS A DAY. HE SAID IF GARY ROWE DOES NOT APPEAR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS SUIT HE WILL COLLECT A DECLARATORY JUDGEMENT OF FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS.

MCT-26 44-26601-437

TV STATION, TAMPA WANTED TO KNOW IF GARY ROWE IN TAMPA, I TOLD THEM I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT. [redacted]

BIRMINGHAM ADVISEBUREAU AND TAMPA AND OFFICES RECEIVING THIS TELETYPE DETAILS CONCERNING MURPHY\S STATEMENT.

END

AUG 30 1965

MR. DEL... ...CTOR

...orney ... Matt Murphy

FBI WASH DC

MO...VFP

FBI MOBILE

BH...DLR

BIRMINGHAM

SF...WRF

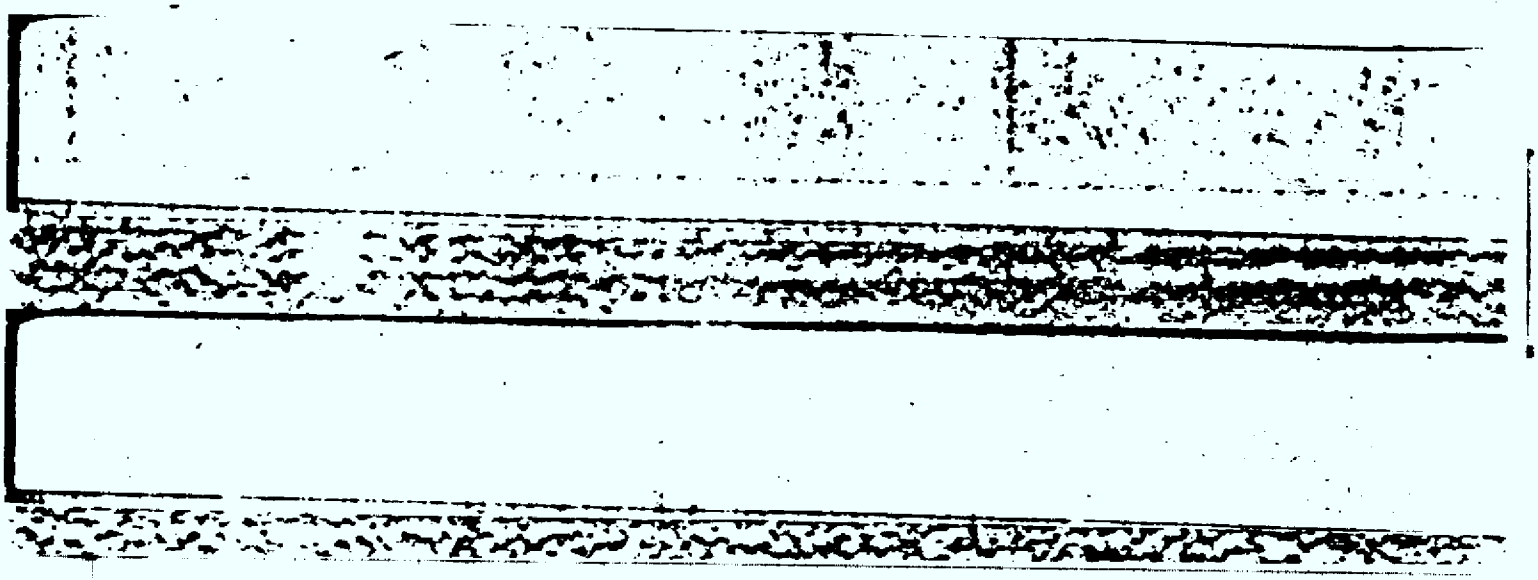
FBI SAN FRAN

SV...SPT

SAVANNAH

TU CLR

MR. ROSEN



FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 8/17/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (44-609)

RE: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.;
VIOLA LIUZZO; ET AL. - VICTIMS
CR - EL

An article in the "Oakland-Tribune," Oakland, California, daily newspaper, under caption, "Dixie Trio Faces Trial in Slaying," quotes Alabama Lowndes County Prosecutor ARTHUR GAMBLE, JR. as saying that COLLIE WILKINS would go on trial during the week of 9/27/65, for the slaying of Mrs. LIUZZO. EUGENE THOMAS and WILLIAM EATON are also accused in this crime. San Francisco is assuming that GARY T. ROWE, JR. will have to be available for conferences and testimony beginning 9/26/65.

[redacted]

REC 45 44-28601-440
EX 105
14 AUG 25 1965

(3) - Bureau (AM-RM)
1 - Birmingham (44-1236)(AM-RM)
1 - Mobile (44-1245)(AM-RM)
1 - Tampa (44-313)(AM-RM)
2 - San Francisco (1 - 44-609)
(1 - 170-14)
JGC/jr (#9)
(8) C. C. Wick

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

SF 44-609
JGC/jr

[redacted]

b7A.e

[redacted]

b7A.e

[redacted]

As requested earlier, Mobile is requested to immediately furnish a readable copy of the transcript of the first trial. If Mobile desires, it may send a transcript of the trial [redacted] who will Xerox it and immediately return the transcript to Mobile.

8/24/65

1 - Mr. Hines

Airtel

To: SACs, San Francisco (44-609)
Mobile (44-1245)

From: Director, FBI (44-28601)

EX 103 REC 49 440

AUG 27 3 56 PM '65
FBI - READING ROOM

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

ReSFairtel 8/17/65.

Recent public statements made by Attorney Matt Murphy prior to his death on 8/20/65 quoted him as stating that Rowe was being maintained by the FBI under guard in Tampa, Florida. Although the Bureau recognizes that these reports are completely false, it is logical to assume that persons looking for Rowe would do so in the Tampa area as a result of these reports. Also it can be expected that the death of Attorney Matt Murphy will result in a postponement of the retrial of Wilkins which was initially scheduled for 9/27/65.

[redacted] b3A

Mobile will follow the appointment of a new attorney for Wilkins closely and keep the Bureau currently advised of developments. Also advise the Bureau promptly of any postponement of the scheduled retrial of Wilkins as initially set for 9/27/65.

MAILED 10
AUG 24 1965
COMM-FBI

1 - Birmingham (44-1236) (for info)

JWH/ral
(7)

NOTE: See memo Rosen to Belmont, 8/23/65, same caption, JWH/ral.

AUG 31 1965
MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

... orney ... Matt Murphy ...



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER

PART 10 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 44-28601

FBI

Date: 8/16/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)(P)

RE: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, Aka; ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL
(OO: MOBILE)

Re Birmingham airtel to Bureau dated 7/9/65.

On 8/13/65, ARTHUR GAMBLE, Circuit Solicitor, Greenville, Ala., advised that transcript of the trial of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, wherein GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR. testified, is presently in the hands of the Department Of Justice in Washington, D.C., and specifically, Departmental Attorney ST. JOHN BARRETT.

GAMBLE stated that if it was necessary the court reporter could possibly have another transcript prepared; however, it would necessitate some charges being assessed.

For the information of the Bureau, the San Francisco Office requested that they be furnished a copy of the testimony of GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., in order that he can review his previous testimony he gave in the May, 1965 WILKINS Trial for the forthcoming trial of Defendants WILKINS, THOMAS, and EATON.

(3) - Bureau
1 - Birmingham (Info)(44-1236)
1 - San Francisco (Info)(44-609)
2 - Mobile
RLP:jcs
(7)

REC-9 44-1

15 AUG 18 1965

EX 101

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M _____
Special Agent in Charge

MO 44-1245

The Bureau is requested to contact Departmental Attorney ST. JOHN BARRETT, obtain copy of testimony of GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., which testimony was recorded during the May, 1965 trial of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, and forward same to San Francisco Division.

Information copies of this airtel are being furnished to San Francisco and Birmingham Divisions.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 8/19/65

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

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (44-313)

EUGENE THOMAS, et al.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, et al. - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Re Tampa teletype 8/17/65.

Transmitted herewith for the Bureau and recipient offices are copies of the following news clippings which have appeared in the press in this division concerning the reported presence of GARY ROWE in Tampa:

"Tampa Tribune" 8/19/65
"Tampa Times" 8/18/65
"St. Petersburg Times" 8/18/65

ENCLOSURE

3) Bureau (enc.-3) (RM)
1 SAC, San Francisco (personal attention) (44-609) (enc.-3) (RM)
1 SAC, Birmingham (personal attention) (44-1236) (enc.-3) (RM)
1 SAC, Mobile (personal attention) (44-1245) (RM) (enc.-3)
1 Tampa
JFS:KH
(8)

REC-9 44-28601-442

EX 109 16 AUG 20 1965

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

66 AUG 23 156

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Klan Lawyer Says FBI 'Spy' Living It Up in Tampa

The attorney for the Alabama Ku Klux Klan and for Collie LeRoy Wilkins charged with the murder of a white civil rights worker, said yesterday in Birmingham that an FBI undercover agent who testified against Wilkins has been located in Tampa.

Joseph F. Santoiana, agent in charge of the Tampa FBI office said: "I don't know anything about it."

Pressed for further information, Santoiana persisted he simply didn't know anything about it.

The undercover agent, Gary Thomas Rowe, 31, testified at Wilkins' trial last May that he was in the car when Wilkins and two other men fired on and killed Mrs. Violet Liuzzo of Detroit.

Mrs. Liuzzo, a civil rights worker, was driving a car in Lowndes County, Ala., returning a Negro from a civil rights demonstration in Selma.

Rowe was a surprise witness in the trial of Wilkins which ended in a hung jury because two of the jurymen said they could not believe Rowe because he had said he had joined the Klan, taken Klan oaths of secrecy and was violating his oath by testifying at the trial.

A new trial for Wilkins is scheduled Sept. 27 in Haynesville, Ala.

Since the trial Rowe dropped out of sight.

Yesterday, Matt Murphy who defended Wilkins, said in Birmingham that Rowe had been located in Tampa — "living like a lord and roaming the gands, eating chicken and steaks — filet mignon."

Murphy also said six FBI agents were guarding Rowe round the clock and "costing the taxpayers $180 a day."

Murphy said he has a suit against Rowe to be heard in a Jefferson County court Sept. 7 for the collection of back attorney fees.

Murphy did not explain how he received his information that Rowe was in Tampa.

Rowe testified he had been an undercover agent for the FBI for five years and had been paid by the government during that time, that his instructions were to infiltrate Klan and Communist groups.

It was pointed out by a federal employe yesterday that it would be a natural thing for the FBI to guard Rowe.

In the first place he is one of them and is a federal employe who might possibly be in danger of his life from members of the Klan.

Without Rowe's testimony the state of Alabama would not have as tight a case against Wilkins. Rowe was an eye-witness, riding in the car from which the shots were fired.

The FBI has been engaged in investigating civil rights violations for some time and the Justice Department, under which the bureau operates, is charged with enforcing civil rights laws under the 1963 Civil Rights Act.

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

1B The Tampa Tribune
Tampa, Florida

Date: August 19, 196
Edition:
Author:
Editor: James A. Clendin
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE



MRS. LIUZZO



ROWE



WILKINS



MURPHY

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Local FBI Head Mum on Talk Informer Here

Joseph F. Santoiana, special agent in charge of the FBI in Tampa, today said he "knew nothing" concerning reports FBI informer Gary Thomas Rowe was under heavy guard in Tampa.

Rowe originally had been accused, along with three other members of the Ku Klux Klan, with the slaying of a civil rights worker, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, shortly after she took part in the March 25 Selma-Montgomery civil rights march.

Rowe testified against one of the accused men, klansman Collie Leroy Wilkins, and told the court Wilkins was the trigger man. The trial ended in a hung jury, and a new one is scheduled for Sept. 27.

The report Rowe is in Tampa came from klan attorney Matt H. Murphy, who said six FBI men were guarding him around the clock.

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

4 The Tampa Times
Tampa, Fla.

Date: August 18, 1965
Edition:
Author:
Editor: Bennett DeLoach
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-1

ENCLOSURE

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Informer Rowe Said In Tampa

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (UPI) — Matt H. Murphy, attorney for the Ku Klux Klan, said yesterday FBI informer Gary Thomas Rowe, who testified against a Klansman on trial for the murder of a civil rights worker, is in Tampa, Fla., under heavy guard.

Murphy said six FBI agents were guarding Rowe around the clock "costing the taxpayers $180 a day."

J. F. Santoiana, special agent in charge of the FBI in Tampa, told the St. Petersburg Times, "I don't know anything about it."

Murphy said his suit against Rowe to collect a lawyer's fee has been set in Jefferson County Court Sept. 7. Rowe originally was accused with three Ku Klux Klansmen in connection with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo shortly after she took part in the March 25 Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights march.

However, it turned out Rowe joined the Klan to inform the FBI, and charges against him were dropped. Rowe testified at the Hayneville murder trial of Klansman Collie Leroy Wilkins that Wilkins was the triggerman.

The trial ended in a hung jury and a new trial was set for Sept. 27 in Hayneville. The two other accused Klansmen, Eugene Thomas and William Eaton, have yet to be tried. All three say they are innocent.

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

pg St. Petersburg Time
St. Petersburg, Fla

Date: August 18, 1965
Edition:
Author:
Editor: Courtland Anders
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

8/25/65

1 - Mr. Hines

Airtel

To: SAC, Mobile (44-1245)

From: Director, FBI (44-28601)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

Reurairtel 8/13/65.

Inclosed herewith is a copy of the transcript of the trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., at Hayneville, Alabama, May 3, 1965.

Review this transcript and furnish those portions pertinent to the testimony of Gary Thomas Rowe to San Francisco pursuant to San Francisco's previous request. Mobile maintain the balance of the transcript in your office for possible use of Agents who may be called upon to testify at a future trial.

Enclosure

REC-57 44-28601-

2 - San Francisco (44-609)
1 - Birmingham (44-1236)

AUG 26 1965

JWH/ral
(6)

NOTE: In response to the request of the San Francisco Office that the informant be allowed to review his testimony in the previous trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins for the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, before he is called upon to testify at the retrial currently scheduled for 9/27/65. A copy of the transcript was obtained from Mr. St. John Barrett of the Civil Rights Division. Since Agents al testified at the trial, Mobile will maintain the balance of the transcript in order that Agents who testified at the former trial may be able to review their testimony prior to testifying in a futu trial in order to refresh their memories. Gary Thomas Rowe is our informant who has been relocated to San Francisco. Due to the death of Defense Attorney Matt Murphy, the retrial now scheduled for 9/27/65 will likely be postponed as a new defense attorney has not yet been named.

MAILED 10
AUG 25 1965
COMM-FBI

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

ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

8/[illegible]/65

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This case concerns the murder of civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo near Selma, Alabama, 3/25/65. Matt Murphy was the defense attorney for three Klansmen, including Collie LeRoy Wilkins, who were charged with murdering Liuzzo. Matt Murphy was killed in an automobile accident near Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 8/20/65.

Art Hanes when mayor of Birmingham, was politically affiliated with Bull Connor, former Police Commissioner of Birmingham and extreme segregationist.

CDC:pah

FBI BIRMGHAM

I HAVE TWO

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
AUG 24 1965
TELETYPE

FBI BIRMGHAM

329 PM CST

URGENT 8-24-65 JGA

TO DIRECTOR 44-1285

FROM BIRMINGHAM 44-1236 (P) 1P

Also Known As — Civil Rights-Elections Laws

EUGENE THOMAS; ETAL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA; ETAL - VICTIMS. CR; EL.

DURING BRIEF CONFERENCE HELD EIGHT FORTYFIVE A.M., INSTANT, BETWEEN SA [redacted] BIRMINGHAM ATTORNEY ART HANES (FORMER FBI AGENT AND FORMER MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM), AND ~~USA~~ U.S. Attorney MACON L. WEAVER CONCERNING ANOTHER CASE, ART HANES WAS OVERHEARD TO MENTION TO USA WEAVER THAT HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED TO DEFEND COLLIE LEROY WILKINS IN HAYNEVILLE, ALABAMA, NOW THAT MATT MURPHY IS DEAD. HANES STATED HE HAS GIVEN THIS MATTER A LOT OF CONSIDERATION AND BELIEVES THAT WILKINS IS ENTITLED TO A DEFENSE IN THIS MATTER. HE STATED FURTHER THAT HE HAD NOT AS YET DECIDED WHETHER HE WOULD DEFEND HIM AND HAS NOT AS YET MADE ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TO THAT EFFECT. THE ABOVE IS SUBMITTED FOR BUREAU'S INFORMATION.

AIRMAIL COPY TO MOBILE.

END AND HOLD

REC 45 44-28001-44

EX-107

AUG 31 1965

CORRECTION: LINE 1 WORD 10 SHLD BE "MACON"

61 SEP 2 1965

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 8/28/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)(P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

(OO: MOBILE)

Re Mobile airtel to Birmingham dated 8/12/65, captioned "COLLIE LEROY WILKINS; RM", BH 157-1159.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum suitable for dissemination reflecting the feelings of ARTHUR GAMBLE, JR., Circuit Solicitor, Greenville, Alabama, regarding the revocation of WILKINS' federal probation.

Two copies of LHM are being furnished the Mobile Office. Copy of LHM is also being furnished the USA, Birmingham.

REC 45 44-28601-448

AUG 31 1965

(3) - Bureau (Enc. 8) ENCLOSURE
2 - Mobile (Enc. 2)(44-1245)
2 - Birmingham
(1 - 44-1236)
(1 - 157-1159)

NPS:hss
(7)

CC WICR

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

5 SEP 7 1965

Special Agent in Charge

UN[illegible] STATES DEPARTMENT OF [illegible]ICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

1400 - 2121 Building
Birmingham, Alabama
August 28, 1965

RE: EUGENE THOMAS;
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM
LEROY JEROME MOTEN - VICTIM.

Mr. Arthur Gamble, Jr., Circuit Solicitor, Greenville, Alabama, who was the prosecuting attorney in the trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr. at Hayneville, Alabama, advised that he had discussed the matter concerning the revocation of Wilkins' probation with Assistant U. S. Attorney R. Macey Taylor while in Birmingham, Alabama, during the Alabama Bar Convention in July 1965. He stated it had been agreed that any federal action against Wilkins to revoke his probation at this time would possibly jeopardize any chance of a conviction in Lowndes County, Alabama.

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.

ENCLOSURE

MAY 1963 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GO NMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 8-24-65

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: ARTHUR J. HANES
FORMER FBI AGENT
FORMER MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

The United Press International under dateline of August 22nd at Birmingham, Alabama, reported that the captioned was one of the pallbearers at the funeral of Matt H. Murphy, Jr., the Ku Klux Klan attorney who defended the three Klansmen accused of killing Mrs. Liuzzo on March 25, 1965.

The article reported that former Birmingham mayor Art Hanes was "near tears throughout the ceremony." It also speculated that Hanes may replace Murphy as Klan attorney and as such would defend the three Klansmen accused of murdering Mrs. Liuzzo at their new trial scheduled for September 27th.

[redacted] b7c

[redacted]

REC- 66 [illegible]

[redacted] b7c

RECOMMENDATION: EX 105 170 SEP 7 1965

Mailing List
Change Noted

[redacted] b7c

1 - Mr. Mohr
JWO 'B:gms (6)

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Sullivan

FBI

Date: 8/26/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)(P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, Aka; ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL

ReBuairtel 8/25/65.

The transcript of the trial of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR. at Hayneville, Ala., 5/3/65 as mentioned in reairtel not received by Mobile. Please forward.

3 - Bureau
2 - Mobile
DWH-pr
(5)

REC-21

10 AUG 28 1965

66 SEP 8 1965

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

FBI MOBILE

10:25 AM CST URGENT 9/21/65 LLO

TO: DIRECTOR (44-28601), BIRMINGHAM AND SAN FRANCISCO

FROM: MOBILE (44-1245) 2P

EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL. VIOLA LIUZZO, ETAL - VICTIMS. CR, EL.

ON NIGHT SEPT. TWENTY LAST CIRCUIT SOLICITOR ARTHUR GAMBLE, GREENVILLE, ALA., TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED SA SPENCER M. ROBB THE RETRIAL OF COLLIE LEROY WILKINS HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPT. TWENTYNINE NEXT. [redacted]

[redacted] b6,b7a

[redacted]

END PAGE ONE

PAGE TWO

[redacted] b7a,c

CLOSE LIAISON WILL BE MAINTAINED WITH GAMBLE AND BUREAU KEPT ADVISED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS.

END AND ACK PLS

WA MRW

FBI WASH DC

BH BH ARE U THERE

SF JEL

FBI P

Cc: [illegible]

[illegible] Williams

By [illegible] Time [illegible]

DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☒ RADIO ☐ TELETYPE

R-80

URGENT 9-20-65 6:36 PM

TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM, MOBILE AND TAMPA

FROM SAN FRANCISCO 202049

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, ~~AKA~~; ET AL - VICTIMS; also known as

~~CR - EL~~.

A SOUTHERN PAPER HAS PRINTED THAT DEFENSE ATTORNEY HANES IS NOT GOING TO ASK FOR A TRIAL DELAY AND THAT TRIAL WILL BEGIN SEPTEMBER 27, NEXT.

[redacted]

b1a

RECEIVED: 7:20 PM RTS

REC 44-28601-468

SEP 28 1965

EX-113

RELAYED TO BIRMINGHAM, MOBILE AND TAMPA

70 SEP

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

9/22/65

CODE

TELETYPE URGENT

1 - Mr. Hines

TO SACS, MOBILE, BIRMINGHAM AND SAN FRANCISCO

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS; CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS.

RE MOBILE TEL TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM AND SAN FRANCISCO SEPTEMBER TWENTY-ONE, SIXTYFIVE.

THE STATEMENT OF ALABAMA ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOE BRECK GANTT THAT HE IS ATTEMPTING TO GET A CONTINUANCE IN THE WILKINS CASE BUT DOUBTS THAT HE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL [redacted]

JWH/pak

(3)

NOTE ON NEXT PAGE...

SEP 22 1965
4:36 P LLD
ENCIPHERED

SEP 22 1965
4:23 P LLD

NR 2218 301
ENC
CK
APPROVED
TYPED BY
LOGGED BY

REC 66

EX-113

SEP 23 1965

70 SEP 23 1965

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Delloach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☑

NOTE: The state murder trial of Collie LeRoy Wilkins and possibly the other two subjects for the shooting of Viola Liuzzo has been set for 9/29/65, [redacted]

[redacted] Alabama Assistant Attorney General Gantt has advised that the state Attorney General's Office had taken over these two cases from the circuit solicitor Joe Gamble and would attempt to obtain a continuance in both cases but that he doubted if he would be successful in the Wilkins case. [redacted]

b7c

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP

TELETYPE

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Rohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI SAN FRAN

4:44PM PDST URGENT 9-23-65 CAN

TO DIRECTOR (44-28601) AND MOBILE (44-1245)

FROM SAN FRANCISCO (44-609) 1P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA ET AL DASH VICTIMS.

CR DASH EL.

MOBILE SUTEL BUREAU AND SAN FRANCISCO TONIGHT DATE SET FOR

TRIAL.

END

WA...MSE

FBI WASH DC

MO...VFP

FBI MOBILE

TU CLR

REC-62 44-28601-464

SEP 24 1965

69 SEP 28 1965

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 23 1965

U 712 PM CST URGENT 9/23/65 TELETYPE VFP

TO DIRECTOR /44-28601/ BIRMINGHAM AND SAN FRANCISCO /44-609/

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA ET AL DASH VICTIMS

CR DASH EL.

REBUTEL THIS DATE AND SF TEL THIS DATE.

JOE BRECK GANTT, ALA AAG THIS DATE ADVISED THAT HE IS STILL MOST ANXIOUS TO OBTAIN CONTINUANCE IN BOTH COLEMAN AND WILKINS CASES AND WILL HAVE NO DEFINITE KNOWLEDGE UNTIL AFTER MOTIONS ARE MADE AND RULED UPON NINE TWENTY SEVEN SIXTYFIVE IN CIRCUIT COURT IN HAYNEVILLE. [redacted]

BUREAU AND INTERESTED OFFICES WILL IMMEDIATELY BE ADVISED WHEN TRIAL DATE KNOWN.

END

WA JRL

FBI WASH DC

BH HEP

FBI BIRMGHAM

SF KMH

FBI SAN FRAN

TU ALL CLEAR

REC-9 46-28601-465

EX-109

SEP 24 1965

53 OCT 4 1965

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
SEP 27 1965

TELETYPE

FBI TAMPA

OK GA PL

8 543 PM EST URGENT 9/27/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM AND TAMPA

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ETAL - VICTIMS;

CR EL.

REMOTEL THIS DATE.

JOE BRECK GANTT, AAG, MONTGOMERY, ALA., ADVISES WILL NOT HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING DATE WITNESSES NEEDED UNTIL SOMETIME DURING SEPT. TWENTYEIGHT INSTANT. BUREAU AND INTERESTED OFFICES WILL BE ADVISED.

END

WA MSE

FBI WASH DC

BH WCR

FBI BIRMGHAM

TP CWL

FBI TAMPA

TU OP ALL CLE

EX-103

REC 61 44-1245-1168

SEP 28 1965

50 OCT 5 1965

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 27 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI MOBILE

3:53 PM CST URGENT 9/27/65 TJ LLO

TO: DIRECTOR (44-28601), BIRMINGHAM (44-1236) AND
TAMPA (44-313)

FROM: MOBILE (44-1245) 2P

EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL; VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM, ETAL; CR - EL.

REMOTEL SEPTEMBER TWENTYSEVEN SIXTYFIVE.

AT CONCLUSION OF HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER IN BOTH [redacted] AND INSTANT CASE HELD IN USDC, MONTGOMERY, ALA., THIS DATE, CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE RICHARD T. RIVES, WHO HEARD CASE IN ABSENCE OF JUDGE FRANK M. JOHNSON, JR., DENIED MOTION BY ACLU ATTORNEY FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER. ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHMOND FLOWERS ADVISED IS STILL NOT CERTAIN EXACT DATE ROWE AND AGENT WITNESSES WILL BE REQUIRED, BUT STATED WILL ADVISE THIS AFTERNOON. BUREAU AND INTERESTED OFFICES WILL BE ADVISED IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT OF THIS INFORMATION.

EC-103 44-28601-469

[redacted]

60 OCT 1

11 SEP 28 1965

PAGE TWO

[redacted]

END AND ACK PLS

WA LLD

FBI WASH DC

BH JGA

FBI BIRMGHAM

TP AMS

FBI TAMPA

TUDISC

[redacted]

9-25-65

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE URGENT

1- Mr. Kelly

TO SAC BIRMINGHAM

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

EUGENE THOMAS ROWE; ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL

DASH VICTIMS, CR DASH EL.

RETPTEL NINE TWENTY FOUR LAST.

BIRMINGHAM INSURE PERTINENT INFORMATION RETEL

FURNISHED MOBILE AND INSTRUCT MOBILE TO IMMEDIATELY

ADVISE BUREAU AND TAMPA WHEN TRIAL DATE SET.

JGK:mmb

(3)

EX-100

REC 49 44-28601-47

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
SEP 25 1965
TELETYPE

SEP 27 1965

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

57 SEP 30 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☑

22/65

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

The trial of Collie LeRoy Wilkins for the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo 3/25/65, is set for 9/29/65 [redacted] 7C Hayneville, Alabama, on state indictments.

The Department will be advised of information in attached and their recommendation regarding furnishing our reports in the Coleman case will be followed. [redacted] b1a

JWH:pah

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
SEP 21 1965
TELETYPE

FBI MOBILE

[redacted] 743 PM CST URGENT 9/21/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM AND SAN FRANCISCO

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

(C) (C)

EUGENE THOMAS , ETAL. VIOLA LIUZZO, ETAL-VICTIMS; CR, EL.

REMOTEL THIS DATE.

AT FIVE TEN PM THIS DATE JOE BRECK GANTT, ASSISTANT AG, STATE OF ALA., TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED SA [redacted] THAT ON THIS DATE AG RICHMOND FLOWERS HAD RELIEVED CIRCUIT SOLICITOR ARTHUR GAMBLE OF HIS DUTIES AS PROSECUTOR IN THE CASES OF COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, ETAL, [redacted] IN LOWNDES COUNTY, ALA., AND HAD ASSIGNED THE PROSECUTION OF THESE TWO CASES TO GANTT. GANTT STATED HE IS GOING TO ATTEMPT TO GET A CONTINUANCE IN BOTH CASES BUT HAS DOUBTS OF BEING SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING CONTINUANCE IN THE WILKINS, ETAL CASE, ALTHOUGH EXPECTS CONTINUANCE IN [redacted] CASE. GANTT STATED DESIRES COPIES OF FBI REPORTS IN WILKINS, ET AL CASE, AS WELL AS [redacted] CASE. HE WAS

END PAGE ONE .....

REC-26 44-24601 474

EX 110

5 SEP 27 1965

51 OCT 1 1965

PAGE TWO .....

ADVISED ALL INFORMATION WHICH COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE BY FBI WAS GIVEN TO GAMBLE IN WILKINS CASE [redacted] GANTT STATED STATUS OF WITNESSES FOR WILKINS CASE SHOULD REMAIN THE SAME AND IF CONTINUANCE GRANTED HE WILL IMMEDIATELY CONVEY INFROMATION TO FBI SO TRAVEL OF WITNESSES CAN BE STOPPED.

BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

END

WA ...MSE

FBI WASH DC

BH WCR

FBI BIRMGHAM

SF R;LH

FBI SAN FRAN

TU ALL CLEARP

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

2:35 PM CST URGENT 9/29/65 FBW

TO: DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM: MOBILE (44-1245) P1

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS; CR, EL.

REBURAD, NINE TWENTYEIGHT INSTANT.

IN REGARD TO SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM ISSUED TO SA ROBERT L. FRYE MOTION TO QUASH AND HEARING WAS HELD INSTANT DATE AND MOTION TO QUASH WAS GRANTED. [redacted] b7c

END

WA... BMS

FBI WASH DC

EX-103

12 SEP 30 1965

FBI MOBILE

642 PM CST URGENT 9/29/65 VFP

TO BUREAU /44-28601/, BIRMINGHAM /44-1236/AND TAMPA /44-313/

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS; ETAL, VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA ETAL DASH VICTIMS

CR EL.

REMOTEL SEPTEMBER TWENTYNINE INSTANT.

CIRCUIT JUDGE THAGGARD, LOWNDES COUNTY ALA AFTER CONFERENCE WITH PROSECUTION AND DEFENCE ATTORNEYS POST PONED TRIAL OF INSTANT CASE UNTIL OCTOBER EIGHTEEN NEXT.

BUREAU AND BIRMINGHAM REQUESTED TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS TO TAMPA.

END

WA LLD

FBI WASH DC

BH HEP

FBI BIRMGHAM

TP LS

FBI TAMPA

TU ALL CLE

A

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

REC-28 44-28601-

OCT 6 1965

EX-103

MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (44-28601) DATE: 10/5/65

FROM : SAC, Birmingham (44-1236) (P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR

At regular weekly meeting of Eastview Klavern Number 13, United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, on September 23, 1965, which was attended by 17 members, including [redacted] the topic of the forth-coming trial of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS was discussed from the floor. b1d

Exalted Cyclops EUGENE REEVES stated he had recently received a summons to appear at the trial in Hayneville, Alabama. It was stated that ROBERT THOMAS, Great Titan, was also due to be there, but he did not say whether or not he had received an official summons.

[redacted] b1d

No further discussion on the trial was made at the Eastview Klavern meeting.

REC-15 44-28601-4

1 OCT 6 1965

2-Bureau (RM)
2-Mobile (RM)
2-Birmingham
AJG:ela
(6)

53 OCT 11 1965

FBI BUREAU
U.S. DEPARTMENT
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
OCT 12 1965
TELETYPE

910 PM CST URGENT 10/12/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR /44-28601/, ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM AND SAN FRANCISCO.

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA.; ET AL

VICTIMS. CR EL.

FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU, CIRCUIT SOLICITOR ARTHUR E. GAMBLE, JR., GREENVILLE, ALA., CONFIDENTIALLY ADVISED ON OCTOBER ELEVEN, LAST, THAT JUDGE T. WERTH THAGARD HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO BE PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH COLLIE LEROY WILKINS TRIAL ON OCTOBER EIGHTEEN, NEXT. ~~SIAD~~ SAID HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE CASE BY ALA. ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHMOND FLOWERS, BUT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPRESENTATIVE PLANNING TO ASK FOR CONTINUANCE OF TRIAL IN VIEW OF LOCAL RACIAL SITUATION AND APPARENT CRITICISM OF HANDLING OF CASE INVOLVING THOMAS L. COLEMAN IN HIS SHOOTING OF JONATHAN DANIELS IN HAYNEVILLE, ALA.

ADDED IT IS HIS OPINION TRIAL SHOULD BE HELD AT THIS TIME. HE ANTICIPATES JUDGE THAGARD ORDERING HIM TO PROCEED WITH CASE AFTER REMOVAL OF THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL FROM CASE, AS HAPPENED IN COLEMAN TRIAL. REC-43 44-28601-442

OCT 15 1965

END PAGE ONE.... CORR LINE 7 WORD 5 SHOULD BE "SAID"

EX-103

PAGE TWO .....

HE ASKED THAT GOVERNMENT WITNESSES, INCLUDING GARY THOMAS ROWE, LAB EXPERT [redacted] BIRMINGHAM FBI AGENTS WHO [redacted] TESTIFIED IN PREVIOUS TRIAL, AND VOUCHER SECTION EMPLOYEE WHO TESTIFIED AS TO PAYMENTS MADE TO ROWE

BE ALERTED FOR TRAVEL TO BE IN HAYNEVILLE ON OCTOBER NINETEEN, NEXT FOR TESTIMONY. HE SAID IF TRIAL IS HELD, MONDAY WILL BE TAKEN UP WITH SELECTION OF JURORS AND LOCAL WITNESSES IF TESTIMONY IS TAKEN ON THAT DATE. HE ALSO REQUESTED THAT LEROY MOTON, WHO IS PRESENTLY ON STAFF AT A FREEDOM SCHOOL IN CRAWFORDVILLE, GA, BE NOTIFIED TO BE AVAILABLE ON SHORT NOTICE FOR TRIAL. HE WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOCAL FBI AGENT TO BE NOTIFIED ON MONDAY IF TRIAL IS TO PROCEED. BUREAU AND INTERESTED OFFICES WILLL BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY UPON RECIEPT OF THIS INFORMATION.

ATLANTA DIVISION, LOCATE AND NOTIFY MOTON.

BIRMINGHAM AND BUREAU REQUESTED TO ALERT PERSONNEL. P.

END

WA JMS

FBI WASH DC

AT LWG

FBI ATLANTA

BH WCR

FBI BIRMGHAM

SF WE

FBI SA FRAN

TU ALL CLEARQUI

CALLED:

By

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

3:51 PM CST RUGENT 10-13-65 DLR

TO DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA; ET AL -
VICTIMS. CR - EL.

ON THE AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER TWELVE, LAST, MR. PAUL JOHNSTON, ATTORNEY FOR GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., CALLED THE BIRMINGHAM OFFICE AND REQUESTED THAT ROWE CONTACT HIM BY PHONE SOMETIME NEXT WEEK IF ROWE IS IN ALABAMA FOR THE TRIAL OF COLLIE LEROY WILKINS.

JOHNSTON STATED HE WISHED TO DISCUSS FURTHER OFFER FROM WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE RE STORY ON ROWE.

UACB ROWE WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO TELEPHONE MR. JOHNSTON SOMETIME NEXT WEEK WHILE IN ALABAMA. ROWE WILL NOT REVEAL HIS SPECIFIC WHEREABOUTS AT THE TIME OF THE [redacted]

REC-43 44-28601-473

AIR MAIL COPIES TO MOBILE AND [redacted]

END

WA DLH

FBI WASH DC

OCT 15 1965

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
OCT 12 1965
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

4-10 PM CST URGENT 10-12-65 JEB

TO DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM MOBILE (44-1245) 3P

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA.; ET AL.
VICTIMS. CR - EL.

SA ROBERT L. FRYE WAS DELIVERED A SUBPOENA TODAY AT SELMA RA REQUESTING HIS APPEARANCE AS A WITNESS FOR THE DEFENSE IN THE FORTHCOMING TRIAL OF COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, OCTOBER EIGHTEEN, NEXT.

IT IS BELIEVED DEFENSE ATTORNEY ARTHUR J. HANES HAD SUBPOENA ISSUED TO UTILIZE SA FRYE FOR PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING INFORMATION

[redacted]

REC 68

494

OCT 15 1965

D7A

END PAGE ONE

66 OCT 20 1965

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] INVESTIGATOR RUFUS HEAD HAS ALSO BEEN SUBPOENAED BY DEFENSE AND HANES WAS OVERHEARD TALKING TO HEAD ON SEPTEMBER TWENTY-NINE, LAST, IN COURTHOUSE, HAYNEVILLE, ALA., REGARDING THIS PARTICULAR INFORMATION.

SA FRYE HAS HAD NO OTHER CONNECTION WITH CAPTIONED CASE, FROM AN INVESTIGATIVE STANDPOINT, AND ONLY HANDLED ADMINISTRATION OF CASE [redacted] b7A

[redacted]

THIS MATTER WAS DISCUSSED WITH AUSA J. O. SENTELL, MDA; MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
(Assistant United States Attorney)
MONTGOMERY, ALA., TODAY IN ABSENCE OF USA BEN HARDEMAN, WHO IS (United States Attorney)
UNAVAILABLE UNTIL OCTOBER SIXTEEN, NEXT.

SENTELL STATED HE HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF SA FRYE TESTIFYING WITH USA HARDEMAN, AND THEY HAVE NO (United States Attorney)
OBJECTION TO TESTIMONY THAT IS COMPETENT AND RELEVANT; THAT SA FRYE [redacted] HOWEVER, SENTELL POINTED OUT THAT IF HANES DESIRED PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

END PAGE TWO

WITH SA FRYE. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE USA'S OFFICE SHOULD BE PRESENT AT TIME OF CONFERENCE.

SUGGEST BUREAU BRING THIS MATTER TO ATTENTION OF DEPT. ATTYS. JAMES TURNER AND SAINT JOHN BARRETT, WHO HAVE HANDLED GOVERNMENT'S CASE IN THIS MATTER IN MDA IN COOPERATION WITH USA, MDA.

UACB, SA FRYE WILL APPEAR IN ANSWER TO THE SUBPOENA, HAYNEVILLE, ALA., OCTOBER EIGHTEEN, NEXT. P.

END

WA ..JXM

FBI WASH DC

FBI

Date: 10/13/65

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR /AIRMAIL//44-28601/, ATLANTA, AND MOBILE /44-1245/

FROM SAVANNAH /174-7/

EUGENE THOMAS; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA.; ET AL - VICTIMS. CR EL.

RE MOBILE TEL, OCT. TWELVE, LAST.

[redacted]

ADVISED ON OCT. THIRTEEN, INST., THAT LE ROY MOTON LEFT b7c
CRAWFORDVILLE, GA., ELEVEN P.M., OCT. ELEVEN, LAST, TO RETURN TO SCOPE HOUSE, FIVE SIX THREE JOHNSON AVE., ATLANTA, GA. MOTON PRESENTLY EMPLOYED AS COOK THERE.

ATLANTA, HANDLE.

AIRMAIL COPY INST. TEL TO BUREAU.

END.

REC-56 44-28601-495

OCT 14 1965

(1)- Bureau (44-28601) (AM)(RM)

1- Savannah (174-7)

WCT:ehr

Approved: 30 OCT 20 1965 Sent M Per

Special Agent in Charge

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: October 13, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

The retrial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., for the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on 3/25/65 is scheduled to take place in the Alabama Circuit Court, Hayneville, Alabama, 10/18/65. It will be recalled that when this case was first called for retrial on 9/27/65, Alabama Attorney General Richmond Flowers took over prosecution of the case from Circuit Solicitor Arthur E. Gamble, Jr., who tried the case initially in May, 1965. The initial trial resulted in a hung jury.

[redacted]

Gamble asked that Government witnesses, including our informant Gary Thomas Rowe, our FBI Laboratory expert who handled examination of the murder weapon and our Voucher Section employee who can testify [redacted] be alerted for travel to be in Hayneville on 10/19/65. Gamble said he will notify the local FBI on Monday, 10/18/65, if trial is to proceed. The Government witnesses and Agents requested by Gamble to testify have been alerted, however, they will not undertake travel until notice is received on Monday, 10/18/65, that their testimony is actually needed on 10/19/65.

REC-38

JWH/ral
(8)

EX 110

11 OCT 19 1965

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;

In connection with the upcoming trial, SA Robert L. Frye of the Selma, Alabama, Resident Agency, received a subpoena 10/12/65 commanding his appearance as a witness for the defendant Collie Leroy Wilkins on 10/18/65. From information available it is believed that defense attorney Arthur J. Hanes, who is former FBI Agent and adamant segregationist, had the subpoena issued in order to utilize SA Frye for the purpose of introducing information obtained [redacted] It is noted that Moton was the young Negro boy who accompanied Mrs. Liuzzo at the time of the shooting. [redacted]

b7A

The matter of the receipt of the subpoena by SA Frye was discussed with the U. S. Attorney's Office, Montgomery, Alabama, and the U. S. Attorney advised they have no objection to testimony of SA Frye that is competent and relevant. [redacted] Since Moton will be ~~has been~~ called to the stand to testify. [redacted]

b7A

ACTION:

SA Frye will appear in answer to the subpoena as suggested by the Department and his testimony will be limited to that which is competent and relevant. This matter is being closely followed and you will be advised of developments.

FBI MOBILE

7:40 P M CST 10/15/65 URGENT - CCM

TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM AND SAN FRANCISCO

FROM MOBILE (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA.; ET AL -
VICTIMS. CR - EL.

REBURAD, OCTOBER FIFTEEN, INSTANT.

JOE BRECK GANTT, ASSISTANT TO ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHMOND FLOWERS, ADVISED TODAY THAT HE IS REMOVING COUNTY SOLICITOR ARTHUR GAMBLE FROM TRIAL OF INSTANT CASE, AND THAT HE WOULD TRY THE CASE. WILL ASK FOR A CONTINUANCE, KNOWING THAT IT WILL BE DENIED, BUT HE WILL THEREAFTER TRY THE CASE. P.

REC 1 44-2860-499

8 OCT 18 1965

END

WA SC SXC

FBI WASH DC

BH HEP

FBI BIRMINGHAM

SF ADVISED SEPARATELY

TU DISC

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 10/15/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)

FROM : SAC, ATLANTA (44-1765)

SUBJECT : EUGENE THOMAS;
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS;
ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Re Mobile teletype 10/12/65 and Savannah teletype 10/13/65.

LEROY MOTON is presently living and working in the SCLC Freedom House, 563 Johnson Ave., Atlanta, Ga. He was advised to be available on short notice for trial, and he stated that he will notify the Atlanta FBI Office if he should do any travelling at all.

(3) - Bureau
2 - Mobile
2 - Atlanta

CSH:mcl
(7)

REC-17 44-28601-50

17 OCT 16 1965

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

10/ /65

GENERAL INVESTIGA[illegible]E DIVISION

At 2:25 a.m. on 10/19/65, John Doar, Civil Rights Division, advised he received call from Dr. Rosen, Medical Committee for Human Rights, Selma, Alabama, advising that Mrs. Barbara Butler, who is associated with the committee, had not returned from trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., on 10/18/65, as scheduled. Wilkins being retried on state murder charges in connection with shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County on night of 3/25/65. Trial taking place in Hayneville, Alabama.

[redacted]

574

FCF:pah

10-16-65

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

The retrial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr. for the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, is expected to commence in State Court, Hayneville, Alabama, on 10-18-65.

Departmental Attorney Turner, mentioned herein, is coordinating trial for the Government.

State Attorney General's Office plans to remove County Solicitor from trial and handle the prosecution.

This matter is being closely followed.

HCS:tmt
)5(

COPY SENT TO MI[illegible]

FBI MOBILE

7:37 PM CST 10/15/65 URGENT CCM

TO DIRECTOR AND BIRMINGHAM

FROM MOBILE (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA.; ET AL

VICTIMS. ~~GR~~ - EL.

DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY JAMES TURNER HAS MADE REQUEST FOR A CHECK OF THE INDICES OF THE JURY PANEL IN INSTANT CASE. HE STATES THE RESULTS OF THE INDICES CHECK WOULD BE ORALLY GIVEN TO THE PROSECUTOR OF INSTANT CASE IN THE EVENT IT IS ASKED FOR. THE INDICES CHECK INDICATES SOME NINE PERSONS LISTED ON THE VENIRE WHO HAD SOME CONNECTIONS WITH EITHER THE U.S.KLANS, UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, A CITIZENS COUNCIL, OR WERE AT ONE TIME UNDER INVESTIGATION. DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY ADVISES THAT HE WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ONLY UPON EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL DOAR. P.

END

END AND HOLD

WA SXC

FBI WASH DC

BH HEP

FBI BIRMINGHAM

TU - HOLD

REC 23 44-28601-506

OCT 20 1965

10/19/65

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This matter concerns the retrial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., on State murder charges in connection with the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowdnes County on the night of 3/25/65 which began in State Circuit Court, Hayneville, Alabama. Was initially tried on this charge in May, 1965, which resulted in a hung jury. Trial in this matter is being closely followed and you will be kept advised of developments.

JWH:mfd

44-28604507

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
OCT 18 1965

TELETYPE

610 PM CST URGENT 10/18/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR /44-28601/ AND BIRMINGHAM /44-1236/

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, ~~AKA~~; ET AL

VICTIMS. ~~GR. EL.~~

COURT BEGAN TODAY AT NINE AM, ~~CST.~~ CENTRAL STANDARD TIME IN CAPTIONED MATTER AT HAYNEVILLE, ~~ALA.~~ ALABAMA

ENTIRE MORNING TAKEN UP WITH INTENSIVE QUESTIONING OF EACH JUROR ON VENIRE REGARDING THEIR FEELINGS CONCERNING CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVITIES, MEMBERSHIP IN SECRET ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE KU KLUX KLAN, AND THEIR SYMPATHIES REGARDING THE KILLING OF WHITES WHO SOCIALIZE AND ARE ACTIVE IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND IF THEY COULD IMPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY IN THE EVENT OF A CONVICTION.

SIX NEGROES WERE ON JURY VENIRE AND TWO HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED AS OF NOON TODAY. THEY WERE QUESTIONED CLOSELY

END PAGE ONE ....

REC 45 44-28601-507

18 OCT 21 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

PAGE TWO ....

BY DEFENSE COUNSEL ARTHUR J. HANES AND PROSECUTION COUNSELS JOE BECK GANTT AND STATE ~~ATTY.~~ ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHMOND FLOWERS. LINE OF QUESTIONING POSED BY DEFENSE SURROUNDED THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN NEGRO CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS AND THEIR GENERAL FEELINGS REGARDING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. PROSECUTION QUESTIONS WERE POINTED AT DEVELOPING THEIR GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS AS JURY MEMBES AND WHETHER THEY COULD IMPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY IN THE EVENT OF A CONVICTION.

ONE JURY MEMBER, CHARLES E. BENDER, WHO IS EMPLOYED BY GOLSON MOTOR ~~CO.~~ COMPANY, FT. DEPOSIT, ~~ALA.~~ ALABAMA, ADMITTED KLAN MEMBERSHIP " SOME TWELVE YEARS AGO."

DURING THE AFTERNOON ADDITIONAL JURY MEMBERS WERE EXCUSED FOR EIGHTER NOT BELIEVING IN THE DEATH PENALTY, HAVING FIXED OPINION OR BEING A MEMBER OF THE AUXILLIARY POLICE FORCE.

END PAGE TWO .....

COURT RECESSED AT THREE PM, ~~CST~~ CENTRAL STANDARD TIME, FOR A PERIOD OF FIFTEEN MINUTES AND DURING RECESS IT WAS OBSERVED THAT GRAND DRAGON, ~~AKA~~ ROBERT CREEL WAS PRESENT IN COURTHOUSE SQUARE AND HE, WITH EUGENE THOMAS AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO SEEMED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH HIM, PASSED A FOOTBALL BACK AND FORTH WITH DEFENSE COUNSEL ARTHUR J. HANES.

AFTER RECESS FURTHER QUESTIONING TOOK PLACE OF THE JURORS, AND AS OF FOUR FIFTEEN PM, CST ONLY TWENTYNINE MEMBERS OF THE JURY REMAINED. THE STATE CODE REQUIRES A TOTAL OF THIRTY MEMBERS TO BE ON VENIRE IN ORDER TO STRIKE A JURY. ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE JURY BEING DRAWN BY JUDGE THAGGARD AND QUALIFYING TO RESUME NEXT DATE.

P.

END

MA NHH

FBI WASH DC

BH WCR

FBI BIRMGHAM

TU ALL CLEAR

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

[redacted] 67A

Viola Liuzzo was the civil rights worker who was killed in Lowndes County, Alabama, 3/25/65. Collie Leroy Wilkins was one of three subjects charged by the State of Alabama with the murder and is to be retried by the state 10/18/65, following a hung jury in earlier trial in May, 1965.

Information furnished by Dept. Attorney Turner will be discussed with the Department and appropriate action taken.

DGL:gs (5)

44-28601-508

REC-74 44-28601 509

October 15, 1965

1 - Mr. Hines

EUGENE THOMAS,
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON,
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS;
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, civil rights worker, was shot and killed in Lowndes County, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965. The subjects Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins are under indictment by the State of Alabama on charges of murdering Mrs. Liuzzo. In May, 1965, Collie Leroy Wilkins was brought to trial on the indictment and, when the jury could not agree on a verdict, a mistrial was called. The retrial of Wilkins is scheduled to begin in the Circuit Court, Lowndes County, Alabama, on October 18, 1965.

[redacted]

JWL/ral
(6)

NOTE: Information taken from teletype to the Director from Mobile 10/14/65, same caption.

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
OCT 20 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

F

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

12:37 PM CST URGENT 10/20/65 TEB

TO: DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM: MOBILE (44-1245) 1 PAGE

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA; ET AL

VICTIMS. CR, EL.

REMOTEL TEN NINETEEN LAST.

ALABAMA SUPREME COURT THIS DATE DENIED ATTORNEY GENERAL'S PETITION IN CONNECTION WITH DISQUALIFICATION OF ELEVEN PROSPECTIVE JURORS. ATORNEY GENERAL FLOWERS ADVISED AT TWELVE NOON, HE INTENDS TO PROCEED WITH TRIAL OF CASE THIS DATE. BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS. P.

CORR LINE 6 WORD 3 SHOULD BE "ATTORNEY"

END

WA.....MRW

FBI WASH DC

TU DISC

REC-79 44-28601-511
EX-100
OCT 22 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

CC-MR. ROSEN

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele Room
Holmes
Gandy

UPI-113
ADD KLANSMAN, MONTGOMERY (UPI-104)

THE ALABAMA SUPREME COURT TODAY REJECTED A PLEA TO BAR 11 WHITE SUPREMACISTS FROM THE JURY IN THE MURDER TRIAL OF KU KLUX KLANSMAN COLLIE LEROY WILKINS AND ORDERED THE TRIAL TO PROCEED.

10/20--SG202PED

ENCLOSURE

44-28601-511

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

6-20 (Rev. 12-14-64)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele Room
Holmes
Gandy

UPI-104
(KLANSMAN)

MONTGOMERY, ALA.--THE ALABAMA SUPREME COURT TODAY HEARD AND TOOK UNDER ADVISEMENT A PLEA BY STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHMOND FLOWERS TO BAR "WHITE SUPREMACY" JURORS IN THE MURDER TRIAL OF KU KLUX KLANSMAN COLLIE LEROY WILKINS.

FLOWERS TOLD THE COURT THAT THE STATE COULD NOT GET A FAIR TRIAL WITH SOME OF THE WHITE MEN ON THE JURY WHO HAVE BEEN TENTATIVELY APPROVED AS PROSPECTIVE JUROPS.

THE TRIAL ITSELF, FOR THE KILLING OF CIVIL RIGHTS WORKER MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, HAS BEEN DELAYED IN HAYNEVILLE, ALA., SO THAT THE SUPREME COURT COULD HEAR FLOWERS' PLEA.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY ARTHUR HANES ASKED THE STATE HIGH COURT TO DENY FLOWERS' PETITION "SO THAT WE CAN GET ON WITH THE TRIAL OF THIS YOUNG MAN."

A SPEEDY DECISION BY THE COURT WAS EXPECTED. IF IT UPHELD FLOWERS REQUEST, IT MEANS THAT THE TRIAL OF WILKINS FOR THE SLAYING OF MRS. VICLA LIUZZO PROBABLY WOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT SPRING.

CIRCUIT JUDGE T. WERTH THAGARD WAS WAITING IN HAYNEVILLE FOR A DECISION AND SAID IF HE COULD RESUME THE TRIAL BY 2 P.M. EDT HE WOULD GO AHEAD.

10/20--GE143P

COURT

... WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

94-25000-51

Belmont
Mohr
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Conrad
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Trotter
Tele Room
Holmes
Gandy

Letters to the Editor

Published letters are subject to condensation, and those not selected for publication will be returned only when accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelopes. The use of pen names is limited to correspondents whose identity is known to The Star.

A 72

The Hayneville Trial

SIR: Attorney General Katzenbach's glib dismissal of the Coleman acquittal in Hayneville, Alabama, as "the price you have to pay for the jury system," adding that he didn't consider it "too high," is a shocking endorsement of an even more shocking travesty of justice. One can only hope that the Justice Department will look more deeply into the implications of such perverted judicial proceedings for social order and justice in Deep South communities.

Part of the price is already apparent in the sharp decline of Negro voter registration in Lowndes County—reduced from 80 to 20 a day since the August 20 slaying of Jonathan Daniels, Episcopal seminarian and civil rights worker in the Alabama black belt. The shooting, the speedy and predictable acquittal of the killer, and the many similar incidents in recent years are all parts of a pattern of deliberate terror, designed to frustrate the long-overdue efforts of the Federal government to incorporate the Negro into American life.

Jon Daniels and countless others will have died in vain unless a radical reform of the court system and law enforcement procedures is undertaken by this administration and the next session of Congress.

Bert H. Cooper, Jr.

* * * *

SIR: The possibility that there may have been a miscarriage of justice in Hayneville, Alabama, is not nearly as frightening as the self-righteous bleating of a host of quasi-liberals (including many columnists) which has flooded the land. How can anyone claiming to be concerned with justice and the sanctity of our system of trail by jury, feel qualified to pass judgment on a man they have never seen in a courtroom they have never entered based on evidence they themselves did not hear?

Guilty men often go free. It is unfortunate, but it certainly is more in keeping with our liberal system of justice, and does less harm to that system, than the attitude that a defendant and a trial can and should be condemned by proxy.

Alexandria William J. Smith

The Washington Post and Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star
New York Herald Tribune
New York Journal-American
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times
The Baltimore Sun
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World
Date

OCT 20 1965

44-28601-1511

10/13/65

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Gary Thomas Rowe is our informant who ırnished the initial information leading to the lentity of subjects responsible for shooting lrs. Viola Liuzzo and is a material witness xpected to testify in the retrial of Collie Leroy ilkins now set for 10/18/65.

[redacted]

Information attached will be brought to ıe attention of the Department.

WH:gfs (5)

44-2860-5

MO TWENTY-THREE R, AND BUREAU AND BIRMINGHAM WILL BE IMMEDIATELY ADVISED OF ANY ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. P.

WA ...DLH

FBI WASH DC

CC-I D. DOT

10/21/65

GENERAL INVESTIGA[illegible] DIVISION

This case concerns the retrial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., in Alabama State Court charged with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo on the night of 3/25/65. Wilkins was originally tried in May, 1965, on this charge which resulted in a hung jury. Present trial began 10/18/65. We are closely following this matter and you will be kept advised of developments. Leroy Moton is the young Negro boy accompanying Mrs. Liuzzo at the time of the shooting.

JWH/ral

44-28601-513

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
OCT 20 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

556 PM CST URGENT 10/20/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR /44-28601/

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, ET AL-VICTIMS.
Civil Rights Election Laws Office of Origin
~~CR EL~~. OO MOBILE.

RE TELETYPE INSTANT.

TRIAL AT HAYNEVILLE RESUMED AT ONE PM, THIS DATE. STATE TROOPERS AND STATE INVESTIGATORS TESTIFIED TO FINDING OF VEHICLE AND BODY AND LEROY MOTON TESTIFIED.

COURT RECESSED AT FIVE ZERO FIVE PM.

ATTORNEY GENERAL FLOWERS ADVISED COURT HE EXPECTED TO REST STATE CASE BY TOMORROW AFTERNOON.

END

WA MRW

FBI WASH DC

X

EX 110

REC- 69 44-3860-F-513

OCT 22 1965

10/19/65

CODE

1 - Mr. Hines

RADIOGRAM

URGENT

TO SAC, MOBILE

FROM DIRECTOR, FBI

THREE MALE TEENAGERS; BARBARA BUTLER DASH VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS.

REURTEL TEN NINETEEN INSTANT. INSURE THAT LOCAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES ARE ADVISED OF THE INCIDENT INVOLVING VICTIM. ALSO ADVISE SECRET SERVICE AND LOCAL INTELLIGENCE GROUPS.

JWH/ral
(3)

NOTE: Barbara Butler, who attended trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins at Hayneville, Alabama, 10/18/65, alleged that while returning to Selma on the night of 10/18/65 in her Volkswagen was forced off of the highway by three white male teenagers who accused her of being an "outsider" and a "troublemaker" and verbally abused her. She also thought that one of the teenagers did something to her automobile as she could not get it started after the incident. She says she did not notify local authorities because she does not trust them.

REC-11 44-2860-514

19 OCT 20 1965

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

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

VIA RADIOGRAM
OCT 19 1965

NR
ENC
CC
ACKNOWLEDGED BY
TYPED BY
LOGGED BY

October 22, 1965

PLAIN TEXT

1 - Mr. Hines

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: SAC, DETROIT

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL., MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. - VICTIM, CR; EL.

RECGTEL TODAY.

IMMEDIATELY ADVISE MR. LIUZZO AND APPROPRIATE LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF ANONYMOUS THREAT TO KILL LIUZZO RECEIVED AT CHICAGO OFFICE TODAY.

RHA:pah
(3)

NOTE: This case concerns the retrial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., in State Court charged with murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo on the night of 3/25/65. Wilkins was originally tried in May, 1965, on this charge which resulted in a hung jury. Present retrial began 10/18/65. Retel sent to Bureau, Detroit and Mobile; advised Chicago Office received anonymous call from male individual stating, "Wilkins is innocent. If Wilkins gets convicted, I am going to get a bus tomorrow for Detroit and kill Liuzzo's husband." This teletype confirms instructions telephonically furnished Detroit Office by Extra Duty Supervisor R. H. Ash.

REC-13 44-28601-516

109

OCT 22 1965

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

53 OCT 28 1965

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
OCT 22 1965
TELETYPE

GENERAL INVESTIGAT[illegible] DIVISION

This case concerns the retrial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr. in State court charged with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo on the night of 3/25/65. Wilkins was originally tried in May, 1965, on this charge which resulted in a hung jury. Present trial began 10/18/65. Wilkins was found not guilty on 10/22/65, 1 hour and 47 minutes after the jury received the case.

WAF:mfd

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
OCT 22 1965

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

6:01 PM CST 10/22/65 URGENT CCM

TO DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM MOBILE (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA ET AL; VICTIMS, CR-EC.

REMOTEL INSTANT DATE.

AT FOUR FORTYSEVEN P.M. CST INSTANT DATE THE JURY RETURNED A VERDICT OF NOT GUILTY.

END

WA ACK AND HOLD

WA NHH

FBI WASH DC

TU AND HOLD

Ex. 107

REC-35 44-28601-577

OCT 25 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

10/22/65

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This case concerns the retrial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., in State Court charged with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo on the night of 3/25/65. Wilkins was originally tried in May, 1965, on this charge which resulted in a hung jury. Present trial began 10/18/65.

Detroit Office telephonically advised to notify Mr. Liuzzo and appropriate local authorities of this threat.

RHA:pah

FBI CHICAGO

158 AM CDST URGENT 10-22-65 BAA

TO: DIRECTOR; DETROIT, MOBILE TELETYPE

FROM: CHICAGO (44-773)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIM; also known as

CR; -EL. Civil Rights Election laws

RE CG TEL TODAY.

AT ONE THIRTY AM TODAY CHICAGO OFFICE RECEIVED ANONYMOUS CALL FROM MALE INDIVIDUAL, NO DEFINITE ACCENT, NO BACKGROUND NOISE STATING "WILKINS IS INNOCENT. IF WILKINS GETS CONVICTED I'M GOING TO GET A BUS TOMORROW FOR DETROIT AND KILL LIUZZO'S HUSBAND". CALLER THEN HUNG UP. FOR INFO DETROIT SIMILIAR CALL RECEIVED TEN TWENTY ONE LAST THREATENING TO KILL GARY ROWE. NO OTHER INFO FURNISHED BY CALLER.

END

WA...BJH

FBI WASH DC

REC-68 44-28601-520

16 OCT 25 1965

MO...LPB

FB MOBILE

DE... CORR PLS LINE SIX WD EIGHT W CORRECTION

LINE SIX WORD EIGHT SHOULD READ CONVICTED RP: CONVICTED

FDB

BI

10 ?/65

GENERAL INVESTIGA..VE DIVISION

This case concerns the retrial of Collie ..eroy Wilkins, Jr., in State Court charged with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo on the night of 3/25/65. Wilkins was originally tried in May, 1965, on this charge which resulted in a hung jury. Present trial began 10/18/65.

[redacted]

RHA:pah

BJA

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
OCT 22 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI CHICAGO

1257 AM CDST URGENT 10/22/65 AAA

TO: DIRECTOR AND MOBILE

FROM: CHICAGO (44-773)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA; ET AL - VICTIMS,
Civil Rights
~~CR~~; ~~EL~~. Election Laws

AT ELEVEN FIFTY FIVE PM CDT TEN TWENTY ONE LAST CHICAGO OFFICE RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS TELEPHONE CALL FROM MALE INDIVIDUAL, NO DEFINITE ACCENT, NO BACKGROUND NOISE STATING "IF WILKINS IS CONVICTED, I AM GOING TO KILL GARY ROWE, GBI INFORMER. FIVE OTHER MEN ARE GOING TO ALABAMA WITH ME TONIGHT TO DO THE JOB". CALLER THEN HUNG UP. NOTED NO PREVIOUS CHICAGO CALLS OR OTHER INFORMATION RE THIS MATTER.

END

WA..COCC CORRECTION PLS LINE SIX FIFTH WORD SHOULD READ TO ~~RPT TO~~ AND SIXTH LINE NINETH WORD SHOULD READ FBI ~~RPT FBI~~

WA...LRC

FBI WASH DC

44-28601-521

REC-68

16 OCT 25 1965

MO...LPB

FBI MOBILE

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

55 OCT 28 1965

10/22/65

GENERAL INVESTIGATI[illegible] DIVISION

This case concerns the retrial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr. in State Court charged with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo on the night of 3/25/65. Wilkins was originally tried in May, 1965, on this charge which resulted in a hung jury. Present trial began 10/18/65. We are closely following this matter and you will be kept advised of developments.

WAF:mfd

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

9:07 PM CST URGENT 10-21-65 MMA

TELETYPE

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, ~~AKA~~, ET AL - VICTIMS

Civil Rights Election Laws

~~CR - EL~~.

RETRIAL OF COLLIE LEROY WILKINS PROCEEDED TODAY WITHOUT INCIDENT. TESTIMONY WAS HEARD FROM DR. PAUL SHOFFEITT, STATE TOXICOLOGIST AND ~~SAS~~ SPECIAL AGENTS EVELAND, RILEY, LAHEY, GETTINGS, SHANAHAN AND MAURICE ROW. ALL TESTIFIED AS IN PREVIOUS TRIAL. SA ROBB TESTIFIED TO THE FACT THAT COL. AL LINGO, THEN DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY, HAD REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN THE CASE.

[redacted]

SA MARION WILLIAMS IS THE ONLY REMAINING WITNESS FOR THE STATE AND IS TO TESTIFY IN A.M. TEN TWENTY TWO NEXT.

JUDGE THAGGARD COMMENTED CASE WILL PROBABLY GO TO JURY LATE TOMORROW AFTERNOON.

END

WA BJH

FBI WASH DC

TU

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

10/23/65

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This matter concerns the retrial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr. in State court charged with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo on the night of 3/25/65. Wilkins was originally tried in May, 1965, on this charge which resulted in a hung jury. Present trial began 10/18/65. Wilkins was found not guilty 1 hour and 47 minutes after the jury received the case on 10/22/65.

WAF:mfd

COPY SE[illegible]

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

4-25 PM ~~CST~~ URGENT 10-22-65 FLK

TO DIRECTOR /44-28601/

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/ 3P

EUGENE THOMAS. ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, ~~AKA~~ Also known as ET AL. VICTIMS

Civil Rights Election Laws

~~OR - EL.~~

REBHTEL TO BUREAU OCT. TWENTYTWO INSTANT.

TRIAL RECONVENED TODAY AT NINE AN CST IN HAYNEVILLE, ALA. FIRST WITNESS TO TESTIFY WAS LABORATORY EXPERT MARION WILLIAMS WHO TESTIFIED RELATIVE TO BALLISTICS EXAMINATION AND EXAMINATION OF AUTOMOBILE. AFTER COMPLETION OF WILLIAMS' TESTIMONY THE STATE RESTED CASE TEN FIFTEEN AM CST. THE DEFENSE CALLED TEN WITNESSES WHICH WERE WITNESSES TO DISCREDIT TESTIMONY OF EYEWITNESSES LEROY MOTON AND GARY THOMAS ROWE.

AS OF ELEVENTHIRTY AM CST THE DEFENSE RESTED.

COURT RECONVENED ONE PM CST WITH OPENING SUMMATION BY STATE ATTY JOE BECK GANTT. GANTT REVIEWED THE EVIDENCE SUBMITTED IN THE CASE AND REFERRED TO THE KILLING AS.

END PAGE ONE

44-28601-523

REC-56

16 OCT 26 1965

101

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Gandy

" COLD BLOODED MURDER."

DEFENSE ATTY ARTHUR J. HANES POINTED OUT VARIOUS DISCREPANCIES IN TESTIMONY OF LEROY MOTON AND GARY THOMAS ROWE, WHICH HE STATED WERE THE STATE'S MAIN WITNESSES IN CASE. HE ALSO REFERRED TO ROWE AS A "JUDAS GOAT" AND CALLED DEFENDANT WILKINS THE "SCAPE GOAT" AND ENDED HIS SUMMATION BY REFERRING TO THE CASE AS THE "PARABLE OF TWO GOATS" AND CONTENDED THAT WILKINS WAS NOT GUILTY AND SHOULD VOTE FOR THE SCAPE GOAT.

ATTY GENL FOR STATE OF ALABAMA RICHMOND FLOWERS GAVE FINAL SUMMATION BY POINTING OUT ALSO THE CASE WAS A "COLD BLOODED MURDER." HE POINTED OUT THAT TESTIMONY GIVEN BY ROWE WAS WELL CORROBORATED BY CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE SUBMITTED AND ALSO THE WITNESSES FOR THE DEFENSE CORROBORATED ROWE'S TESTIMONY. FLOWERS BECAME EMOTIONAL AT THE END OF HIS SUMMATION AFTER TELLING JURY HISTORY OF HIS FAMILY AND OF GRANDFATHER WHO WAS A PRIVATE IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY AND DESCRIBED A "TRUE VERDICT." HE STATED TO THE JURY THAT IF THEY DID NOT BRING BACK A VERDICT OF GUILTY THEY WOULD TEAR THE DEFINITION OF A TRUE VERDICT OUT OF THE ALA. CODE AND HE

ND PAGE TWO

EMPHASIZED HIS WORDS BY RIPPING PAGES OUT OF THE ALA. CODE AND SLAMMING THEM TO THE FLOOR.

CIRCUIT JUDGE T. WERTH THAGARD FINISHED HIS CHARGE TO THE JURY AT APPROX. THREE PM ~~CST~~ CENTRAL STANDARD TIME AND, AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE JURY IS DELIBERATING.

END

WA .:. NHH

FBI WASH DC

TUP

CC-MR. ROSEN

F 1-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 10/22/65

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

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44-643)(RUC)

EUGENE THOMAS, Et Al;
Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO, aka,
Et Al - VICTIM
CR - EL
(OO: Mobile)

Re Bureau and Chicago teletypes today.

Mr. ANTHONY LIUZZO and Executive Lt. TIMOTHY HUTCHERSON, Special Investigations Bureau, PD, Detroit, Mich., were both advised this AM of anonymous threat to kill LIUZZO received at Chicago Office this date.

Mr. LIUZZO advised he has his own armed guard at his residence from 9:00 PM to 5:00 AM each evening and is also aware he is receiving protection from Detroit PD.

Lt. HUTCHERSON stated he would immediately notify the 14th Precinct, Detroit PD, of this additional data as this precinct is affording coverage with regard to LIUZZO's residence.

3 - Bureau
1 - Chicago (Info)(44-773)
2 - Mobile (44-1245)
1 - Detroit
FJP:sal
(7)

REC-56 44-28641-524

OCT 26 1965

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memoranaum

TO : Mr. Conrad

1 - Mr. Conrad

DATE: 10/25/65

FROM : R. H. Jevons

1 - Office, Room 7133
1 - Mr. Williams
1 - Mr. Herndon

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA.; LEROY JEROME MOTON, VICTIMS; CR - EL

This case concerns the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo, a civil rights worker, near Selma, Alabama, on the evening of 3/25/65.

In the first trial in this case which was held in May, 1965, the jury was unable to reach a verdict. In connection with the second trial which was held at Hayneville, Alabama, last week, Alabama Attorney General Richmond Flowers assisted by Mr. Joe Gantt presented the State's case before Judge T. Werth Thagard. The defendant Wilkins was represented by Mr. Arthur Hanes, a former Special Agent. SA Marion E. Williams testified concerning his examination of the automobile in which the victim was killed and to the results of Laboratory examinations of the bullets, bullet fragments, cartridge cases and gun recovered in connection with this investigation.

The State rested following SA Williams' testimony on the morning of 10/22/65. The case went to the jury that afternoon. After approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes of deliberation, the jury found the defendant not guilty.

ACTION:

For information.

44-28601

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. M. A. Jones, Room 4264

MEW:bsm
(7)

REC-48 44-28601-525

4 OCT 27 1965

6 NOV 2 1965

SEVEN

[illegible]25/65

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Alabama Attorney General Richmond Flowers, mentioned in attached, handled the prosecution of the retrial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., in State Court, who was charged with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo on the night of 3/25/65. Wilkins was acquitted on 10/22/65.

Civil Rights Division being advised.

HCS:pah

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

OCT 22 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH-DC

FBI MOBILE

7:59 PM CST 10/23/65 URGENT CCM

TO DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM MOBILE (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS. ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA ET AL; VICTIMS. ~~BR - ET.~~

ON THIS DATE ALABAMA ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHMOND FLOWERS TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED SA SPENCER H. ROBB AND ADVISED THAT DURING AFTERNOON OF THIS DATE WHILE ATTENDING FOOTBALL GAME AT AUBURN, ~~ALA~~., AN UNIDENTIFIED MALE TELEPHONED HIS HOME AND SPOKE TO THE MAID, ASKED IF FLOWERS AND WIFE WERE HOME AND WHEN MAID ADVISED THEY WERE AT BALL GAME MAN SAID "THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO BOMB THE HOUSE, YOU HAD BETTER GET OUT OF THERE". FLOWERS ADVISED THAT HE HAS NOTIFIED THE MONTGOMERY, ~~ALA~~., PD OF ABOVE AND WANTED THE FBI TO BE COGNIZANT OF MATTER.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND U. S. SECRET SERVICE BEING ADVISED.

L-H-M FOLLOWS.

BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS.

REC 74 44-28601-527

15 OCT 27 1965

END

WA ACK AND HOLD

WA JRL

FBI WASH-DC

REV 2 1:5

GENERAL INVESTIGATI[illegible] DIVISION

This matter concerns the tr[illegible] f Collie roy Wilkens on charges of shooting Viola uzzo on 3/25/65 which is now in progress in yneville, Alabama.

[redacted]

VH/nkr

B7A

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES G[illegible]NMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

DATE: October 18, 1965
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

In connection with the trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins for the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo by the State of Alabama which began today in Circuit Court, Hayneville, Alabama, Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., our informant, is expected to be a major witness. The state prosecutor has requested that an employee of our Voucher Unit appear and testify as to expenditures made to Rowe and in his behalf from the time he became an FBI informant to date. The same testimony was requested and authorized in the initial trial of Wilkins in May, 1965. (AS OF 10-20-65 THIS TRIAL IS AT A STANDSTILL-PENDING [illegible] ON A PETITION

[redacted]

B7A

OBSERVATIONS:

[redacted]

Enclosure

JWH/ral
(9)

ENCLOSURE

REC-17

#4-28601-529B7A

OCT 26 1965

70 OCT 29

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;

ACTION:

If approved, our Voucher Unit employee will be instructed to appear and testify to these miscellaneous expenses as above stated.

ADDENDUM: JPM:DW 10/20/65

Maurice Row, Supervisor of the Voucher Unit of the Administrative Division, will testify in this case. Mr. Row's section has custody of all of the documents as well as the accounts concerning payments to informants. He has testified previously and is well qualified to handle this assignment. He has already departed for Hayneville, Alabama.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER

PART 11 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 44-28601

This matter concerns retrial of Collie Leroy W[illegible]kins, Jr., charged in State court wi[illegible] the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo on the night of 3/25/65. Wilkins initially tried May, 1965, on this charge which resulted in a hung jury. The present trial began 10/18/65 This matter being closely followed & you will be kept advised of developments. Attached reflects trial adjourned approximately 10 a.m. today to be continued 9 a.m.,10/20/65. Alabama Attorney General wants alleged prejudice of 11 jurors to be reviewed by State Supreme Court.

JJB/pak

F. AL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
OCT 19 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI MOBILE

11:28 AM CST URGENT 10/19/65 FBW

TO: DIRECTOR (44-28601) AND BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

FROM: MOBILE (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO; ET AL - VICTIMS.
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS.
~~CR - EL~~.

REMOTEL OCT. EIGHTEEN, LAST.

TRIAL OF KLANSMAN COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR. COMMENCED SECOND DAY AT NINE AM TODAY AT HAYNEVILLE, ALA., AND AT ~~APPROX.~~ APPROXIMATELY TEN AM, CASE WAS CONTINUED UNTIL NINE AM OCT. TWENTY, NEXT. ALABAMA ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHMOND FLOWERS PRESENTED MOTION TO LOWNDES COUNTY COURT THAT ELEVEN OF THE JURORS TESTIFIED YESTERDAY THAT THEY FELT CIVIL RIGHTS WORKERS WHO ASSOCIATED CLOSELY WITH THE NEGROES IN LOWNDES COUNTY WERE INFERIOR, THEREFORE, ACCORDING TO ATTORNEY GENERAL FLOWERS, THESE JURORS WOULD BE PREJUDICED AND HURT THE STATE'S CASE. SAID THE STATE COULD PROVE MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO WAS A CIVIL RIGHTS WORKER. FLOWERS REQUESTED THE TWENTY-FOUR HOUR CONTINUANCE SO THE FACTS CONCERNING THESE ELEVEN JURORS COULD

END PAGE ONE

EC-47 44-28601-53

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

A-101

OCT 28 1965

67 NOV 2 1965

BE REVIEWED BY THE ALABAMA STATE SUPREME COURT AND IT IS ANTICIPATED A RULING WILL BE RENDERED LATE THIS AFTERNOON.

END

WA...LRA

FBI WASH DC

BH...JGA

FBI BIRMGHAM

TU CLEAR OYX

CC MR. [redacted]

10/28/65

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This case concerns the retrial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., in State court charged with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo on the night of 3/25/65. Wilkins originally tried in May, 1965, on this charge which resulted in a hung jury. Present trial began 10/18/65. The "prosecution witness" mentioned herein is our informant. We previously received information he may be served with a subpoena or warrant arising from a lien against him for unpaid State sales taxes. We are closely following this matter and you will be kept advised of developments.

FCF:pah

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
OCT 19 1965

TELETYPE

PM CST URGENT 10/19/65 LLO

TO: DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM: MOBILE (44-1245) 2P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS.
~~CR, ET, OO~~ MOBILE.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHMOND FLOWERS CONFIDENTIALLY ADVISED HE STRONGLY FEELS A CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM EXISTS WHICH WILL PREVENT THE STATE OF ALABAMA FROM OBTAINING A FAIR TRIAL. HE BASES THIS ARGUMENT UPON THE FACT THAT ELEVEN OF THE THIRTY VENIREMEN ANSWERED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE TO THE QUESTION OF DEFENSE COUNSEL AS TO WHETHER THEY FELT CIVIL RIGHTS WORKERS WERE INFERIOR WHITES. HE POINTED OUT THAT UNDER ALABAMA LAW, ONLY THE DEFENSE AND NOT THE PROSECUTION CAN OBTAIN A CHANGE OF VENUE AND THAT A FAIR TRIAL CANNOT BE OBTAINED WITH THE PRESENT LIST OF PROSPECTIVE JURORS.

REC-70 44-28601-534

BASED ON THIS ARGUMENT, HE REQUESTED THE ELEVEN JURORS BE STRUCK FROM THE PANEL AND WHEN THIS MOTION WAS OVERRULED BY JUDGE THAGGARD, HE OBTAINED A TWENTYFOUR HOUR RECESS TO APPEAL

OCT 28 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

END PAGE ONE

PAGE TWO

THIS RULING TO THE ALABAMA STATE SUPREME COURT BUT EXPECTS JUDGE THAGGARD'S RULING TO BE UPHELD, AT WHICH TIME HE WILL REQUEST REMOVAL OF MOTION TO FEDERAL COURT AS A CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM, AND IF NECESSARY WILL APPEAL DIRECTLY FOR A RULING ON THE MOTION TO THE U. S. SUPREME COURT.

FLOWERS ADVISED HE CHECKED WITH STATE DEPT. OF REVENUE, MONTGOMERY, ALA., TODAY AND NO CIVIL ACTION INVOLVING PROSECUTION WITNESS FOR NONPAYMENT OF SALES TAXES OUTSTANDING.

[redacted], ADVISED THAT b7d DURING FIRST TRIAL OF SUBJECT, CIVIL PAPER ORIGINATING IN BESSEMER, ALA., CHARGING PROSECUTION WITNESS WITH NONPAYMENT OF SALES TAXES WAS SENT TO HIS OFFICE BUT WAS NOT SERVED AND WAS RETURNED TO BESSEMER. HE STATES HIS OFFICE NOT NOW IN POSSESSION OF ANY SUCH CIVIL PAPERS.

BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS.

END AND ACK PLS

WA BMS

FBI WASH DC

P

CC-MR. ROSEN

[redacted]

OPR

FBI

Date: 10/26/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-2236)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

AUSA R. MACEY TAYLOR telephonically contacted ASAC on 10/25/65. At this time AUSA TAYLOR advised that the U. S. Attorney's Office in Birmingham was not at all pleased with the verdict which had been returned in this case in Lowndes County. AUSA TAYLOR stated he realized that there was still an indictment outstanding in Federal Court in this case which was scheduled for arraignment on 11/5/65 in Montgomery.

AUSA TAYLOR stated he had been in contact with a representative of the Justice Department and had presented his views regarding possible revocation of probation of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS. For the Bureau's information it should be noted that COLLIE LEROY WILKINS has been on probation since sometime in November, 1964, when he was convicted for violation of the National Firearms Act.

AUSA TAYLOR stated that in order to revoke the probation of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS a probation hearing would, by necessity, have to be held. AUSA TAYLOR pointed out that among the things that would have to be proved at this hearing would be the fact that COLLIE LEROY WILKINS did depart the State of Alabama or the areas of his supervision without permission from his Probation Officer. AUSA TAYLOR requested that any such information available in Birmingham files be furnished to the Probation Officer for assistance. The Birmingham Office can secure information as contained in various newspaper accounts which disclose that COLLIE LEROY WILKINS did appear in the various surrounding states.

REC-24 44-28601-537

EX-112

OCT 28 1965

3 Bureau
3 Birmingham
(2 44-1236)
(1 157-1159)
RGJ:fc
(6)

T C - Wick

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

FBI

Date:

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

Via _____
(Priority)

BH 44-1236

It is known that COLLIE LEROY WILKINS did not secure permission to attend all of these rallies, although permission has been granted for at least one rally out of state. In addition, the identification record of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS discloses various addtional arrests since his being placed on probation. This information will be furnished by the Birmingham Office to the Probation Officer for his assistance in this matter.

AUSA TAYLOR also stated that he hoped to be able to use a transcript of the testimony of the LIUZZO case in connection with the revocation hearing for COLLIE LEROY WILKINS. AUSA TAYLOR stated the possibility existed that this transcript might not be accepted and, therefore, in order to revoke the probation of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS it might be necessary that the testimony of GARY THOMAS ROWE be offered in person at this hearing. It was pointed out to AUSA TAYLOR that unless absolutely mandatory the presence of ROWE in the city of Birmingham could create unusual security problems insofar as insuring the safety of the informant. AUSA TAYLOR stated he recognized this and preferred not having to use the informant if at all possible. He did, however, indicate he wanted to point this possibility out to the Bureau in the event the revocation hearing is scheduled in the near future.

AUSA TAYLOR stated that even though the Department might be willing to proceed on an immediate basis insofar as the probation hearing, he wished to point out the possibility that it could have some bearing on the scheduled arraignment in Montgomery. AUSA TAYLOR also stated that regardless of the Department's wishes the ultimate decision as to whether or not to proceed against COLLIE LEROY WILKINS rested with the Federal Judge. TAYLOR also stated the maximum sentence which could be hoped for was only 1 year and 1 day. He was of the opinion that it would be advantageous, if at all possible, to revoke the probation of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS and have him serve at least the 1 year and 1 day sentence. AUSA TAYLOR stated that his primary purpose in making the telephone call was to insure that the FBI knew of the plans and contemplated action that might be taken against COLLIE LEROY WILKINS.

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

MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memoranaum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: October 22, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Inspector McGovern advised that the state and the defense have rested their cases in the trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins for the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. The closing arguments are being given to the jury and it is anticipated that the Judge will give the charge to the jury sometime today.

[redacted]

b2a

[redacted]

b2a

OBSERVATION

REC-98 44-2411-1538

[redacted]

b2a

25 NOV 1 1965

CLM:ige
(6) 53 NOV 8 1965

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
Re: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. - VICTIMS

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

[redacted]

b2n

I concur.

Inspector McGowan was advised 1:40 PM 10/22/65 cbw

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
OCT 29 1965
TELETYPE

FBI BIRMGHAM

2:47 PM CST URGENT 10-29-65 WKP

TO: DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM: BIRMINGHAM (44-1236) (P) 1P

CHILDREN'S SECTION

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA; ET AL - VICTIMS. ~~CR; EL.~~

OO: MOBILE.

AT ONE TWENTYONE P.M., INSTANT, SA [redacted] RECEIVED TELCALL FROM MAN IDENTIFYING SELF AS [redacted] CANADIAN BROADCASTING COMPANY, TORONTO, CANADA, TELEPHONE NUMBER AREA CODE FOUR ONE SIX, NINE TWO FIVE - THREE THREE ONE ONE, [redacted] WHO ADVISED TV CREW HIS COMPANY WILL BE PRESENT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, EIGHT FIFTEEN P.M., INSTANT, TO INTERVIEW PRINCIPALS OF LIUZZO TRIAL FOR CANADIAN TV SHOW. [redacted] SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED PRESENCE OF GARY THOMAS ROWE FOR INTERVIEW.

[redacted] WAS ADVISED PERSONNEL THIS OFFICE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE ROWE'S CURRENT WHEREABOUTS OR AVAILABILITY FOR INTERVIEW [redacted] STATED HE MAY MAKE SIMILAR REQUEST OF FBI HEADQUARTERS OR USDJ IN WASHINGTON, D.C. DK

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIRMAIL COPIES FURNISHED MOBILE AND SAN FRANCISCO.

END

ENCLOSURE

WA.....X OMS

FBI WASH DC

REC-78 44-28601-541

TU DISC 31 NOV 12 1965 MOIT TO THE DIRECTOR

9 NOV 5 1965

CC-MR. ROSEN

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

10/29/65

Gary Thomas Rowe is our informant who testified in the recent trial in Hayneville, Alabama, of Collie Leroy Wilkens in connection with the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965. We will not under any circumstances make Rowe available for interview by any news media. The Department is being advised of the request made by the Canadian Broadcasting Company.

JVH

Right.

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-341

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NOV 5 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

4-40 PM CST URGENT 11-5-65 JEB

TO DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM MOBILE (44-1245) 1P

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA.; ET AL - VICTIMS.
CR - EL.

REMYTEL INSTANT.

CONTACT WITH CLERK, CIRCUIT COURT, HAYNEVILLE, TODAY DEVELOPED THAT EVIDENCE INTRODUCED AT TRIAL OF COLLIE LEROY WILKINS IS PRESENTLY IN CUSTODY OF COURT REPORTER CHARLES HIGGINS, GREENVILLE, ALA. HIGGINS IS PRESENTLY IN STATE OF TEXAS AND NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN UNTIL NOVEMBER EIGHT, NEXT.

MOBILE HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO CONTACT COURT REPORTER, OBTAIN EVIDENCE AND DELIVER SAME TO USM, MONTGOMERY, WHEN REPORTER RETURNS TO GREENVILLE.

EX 109

END

WA LLD

FBI WASH DC

P

REC-57

14 NOV. 8 1965

51 NOV 12 1965

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

DATE: October 20, 1965

1 - Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Inspector McGovern telephonically advised the Bureau today that the trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo had begun today in Hayneville, Alabama. Testimony is being taken from witnesses at this time.

The prosecutor for the State has requested that Marion Williams who conducted examination for the FBI Laboratory for this case and Maurice Row of the Administrative Division who can testify as to the payments made to the informant (Gary Rowe) be available at the court house at Hayneville, Alabama, the first thing in the morning, Thursday, October 21, 1965. The trial is scheduled to begin at 9 a. m. Central Standard Time and the prosecutor desires to confer with these men prior to that time.

ACTION:

The FBI Laboratory and the Administrative Division have been advised of the above information. Arrangements are being made for Messrs. Williams and Row to proceed to Hayneville, Alabama.

CLM:jds
(10)

REC 58

NOV 4 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This matter relates to the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on 3/25/65. One subject Collie Leroy Wilkins was tried by the State of Alabama on charges of murder the week of 10/25/65 and was acquitted. At Department's request we furnished to the state the results of our investigation and evidence obtained for their use in the Wilkins trial. The evidence will be picked up from the state as requested by Mr. Turner today. Subjects Eugene Thomas, William Orville Eaton and Wilkins are under Federal indictment charged with violation of the Civil Rights - Conspiracy Statute (T. 18, Sec. 241, USC) and were arraigned this date on the Federal indictment and as indicated in attached teletype they entered pleas of not guilty.

JWH/ral

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

1:01 PM CST URGENT 11/5/65 TEB

TO: DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM: MOBILE (44-1245) 2 PAGES

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO AKA; ET AL - VICTIMS.
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS
CR - EL.

ON THIS DATE DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY JAMES TURNER ADVISED ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN DOAR INSTRUCTED HIM TO REQUEST FBI TO PICK UP THAT EVIDENCE WHICH STATE OF ALABAMA OBTAINED FROM FBI AND ENTERED INTO EVIDENCE DURING TRIAL OF WILKINS IN HAYNEVILLE, ALA. ATTORNEY STATED HE HAD CONTACTED STATE JUDGE WERTH THAGGARD WHO AGREED THAT THE EVIDENCE COULD BE PICKED UP AND REQUESTED THAT ANY WRITTEN EVIDENCE BE REPRODUCED AND REPRODUCTION LEFT IN HANDS OF CLERK OF COURT IN HAYNEVILLE.

TURNER REQUESTED EVIDENCE BE PICKED UP THIS DATE.

REC-6

ADVISED TO CONTACT
UACB REQUEST WILL BE COMPLIED WITH.

NOV 9 1965

FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU, SUBJECTS THOMAS, EATON AND WILKINS ACCOMPANIED BY ATTORNEY ART HANES WERE ARRAIGNED IN USDC, MONTGOMERY, THIS DATE AND ENTERED PLEAS OF NOT GUILTY.

END PAGE ONE

MO 44-1245

DATE OF TRIAL NOT SET, BUT BELIEVED TO BE NOVEMBER TWENTYTWO, NEXT. BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED.

END

WA.....ALS

FBI WASH DC

TU DIS

FBI

Date: 11/10/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: Director, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, Birmingham (44-1236) (P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, NR
ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka; NR
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

The Birmingham Division has not received any official information regarding the trial in Federal Court scheduled herein. Newspaper accounts disclose that trial set for term beginning November 22, 1965. It is not known in the Birmingham Division whether or not the testimony of SAs [redacted] and [redacted] will be required; however, both of these Agents were necessary and essential witnesses in the state trials held in this case. Neither has had any opportunity for pre-trial conferences in this case. b7c

At the present time, both SAs [redacted] and [redacted] are scheduled for in-service training to begin November 15, 1965, extending through November 26. In view of fact that it appears both of these Agents will be necessary witnesses and will need time for pre-trial conferences with Federal Attorneys in this matter, their attendance at in-service scheduled November 15, 1965, is being cancelled. b7c

3-Bureau
1-Mobile (44-1245)
2-Birmingham
RGJ:ela
(6)

REC-74 44-2801-550

EX-101

NOV 12 1965

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: NOV 18 1965
JD:JPT:db #144-2-470
DJ 1-085-2

FROM : John Doar
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: Eugene Thomas; et al., Subjects;
Viola Liuzzo, et al., Victims.
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

The trial of Subjects Eugene Thomas, W.O. Baton and Collie Leroy Wilkins for violation of 18 U.S.C. 241 has been set for the term beginning November 22, 1965, at Montgomery, Alabama. It will probably be reached on November 29, 1965.

[redacted]

b7aC

12 NOV 16 1965

ST-101

[redacted]

b7a

11/16/65

1 - Mr. Hines

Airtel

To: SAC, Birmingham

REC-18

From: Director, FBI (44-28601)- 557

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Enclosed herewith are two copies of a Department memorandum dated 11/13/65 requesting background information on possible defense witnesses. Also enclosed are two copies of Department memorandum dated 11/13/65 requesting investigation relating to some events not directly connected with the shooting of Mrs. Liuzzo. With regard to Department's request for background information on possible defense witnesses, you should obtain this information from a check of your files, a credit criminal check and a check with logical informants and confidential sources. Do not conduct any active investigation.

Birmingham will conduct the investigation concerning the events as set forth in Department's memorandum. Furnish necessary background information to Mobile for handling lead in Item 4 at Selma. It will not be necessary to handle the lead set forth in Item 5.

Surep setting forth the results of your investigation no later than 11/23/65. Furnish copy to Mobile for Departmental Attorney James Turner who will be in Montgomery.

MAILED 19
NOV 15 1965
COMM-FBI

Enclosures (4)

1 - Mobile (Enc. 2)

JWH/ral
(5)

SEE MEM NOTE ON PAGE TWO.

Tolson
Mohr
DeLoach
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

NOV MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NOV 9 1965

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI 810-221-7333 CLG FBI CONF CALL HOLD LINE PLS

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

4-48 PM CST URGENT 11-9-65 JEB

TO DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM MOBILE (44-1245) 1P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS. CR, EL. OO MOBILE.

REMOTEL NOV. FIVE, LAST.

THE MOBILE OFFICE HAS SECURED THE EVIDENCE THAT WAS INTRODUCED IN THE TRIAL OF THIS CASE AT HAYNEVILLE, ALA.

DEPT. ATTORNEY TURNER HAS INDICATED HE MIGHT POSSIBLY DESIRE FURTHER EXAMINATION OF PORTIONS OF THE EVIDENCE BY THE LAB.

IN VIEW OF THE NEARNESS OF THE TRIAL, IT IS RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED THE BUREAU CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE THE RETENTION OF THE EVIDENCE IN MOBILE TERRITORY AND WHETHER FURTHER EXAMINATION IS DESIRED.

END

WA LED

FBI WASH DC

11/10/65

FBI WASH DC

TELETYPE

FBI 870-221-7333 CLG FBI CONF CALL HOLD LINE PLS

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

5-48 PM CST URGENT 11-9-65 JEB

TO DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM MOBILE (44-1245) 1P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS. CR, EL. OO MOBILE.

REMOTEL NOV. FIVE, LAST.

THE MOBILE OFFICE HAS SECURED THE EVIDENCE THAT WAS INTRODUCED IN THE TRIAL OF THIS CASE AT HAYNEVILLE, ALA. REC-79 44-28601-553

DEPT. ATTORNEY TURNER HAS INDICATED HE MIGHT POSSIBLY DESIRE FURTHER EXAMINATION OF PORTIONS OF THE EVIDENCE BY THE LAB. EX 105

IN VIEW OF THE NEARNESS OF THE TRIAL, IT IS RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED THE BUREAU CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE THE RETENTION OF THE EVIDENCE IN MOBILE TERRITORY AND WHETHER FURTHER EXAMINATION IS DESIRED.

25 NOV 17 1965

END

WA LLD

FBI WASH DC

X

FBI

Date: 11/15/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Re San Francisco telcall this date.

Telephonic inquiry of the Mobile Office discloses that no new information has been furnished from the office of the U. S. Attorney relative to the date trial in instant case will start. The Mobile Office advised that in the event any positive information received regarding the trial date herein, it will be immediately furnished to the San Francisco Office for its information and guidance.

Concerning the inquiries made by San Francisco in its airtel dated 11/9/65, Birmingham Office feels that it is premature at this time to make any recommendations with respect to final arrangements for relocation, employment and severance.

3 Bureau
2 Mobile (44-1245)
2 San Francisco (44-609)
2 Birmingham

RGJ/JLM:fc
(9)

REC-79 44-28601-554

11 NOV 17 1965

EX-130

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Conrad

FROM : H. H. Jevons

1 - Mr. Conrad
DATE: 11/15/65

1 - Office, Room 7133
1 - Mr. Williams

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA.; LEROY JEROME MOTON, VICTIMS; CR - EL

This case concerns the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo, a civil rights worker, near Selma, Alabama, on the evening of 3/25/65.

The Federal trial involving a conspiracy indictment has been set for 11/29/65, in Montgomery, Alabama.

[redacted] b3a,c

ACTION:

For information.

44-28601

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen

MEW:bsm
(8)

REC 20

NOV 18 1965

NOV 29 1965

FBI

Date: 11/16/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)(P)

RE: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Re San Francisco airtel, 11/12/65, no copy to the Bureau or Birmingham.

Referenced airtel requested the Mobile Office to forward to San Francisco Xerox or readable transcript of that portion of ROWE's testimony in the second WILKINS trial.

ARTHUR GAMBLE, Circuit Solicitor, advised that Departmental Attorney and State officials had made requests for transcript of the retrial of WILKINS, however, it has not as yet been completed. GAMBLE advises that PAUL HIGGINS, Court Reporter, will be in Court at Hayneville for the remainder of the week and doubts whether the transcript will be completed this week.

GAMBLE advises that Departmental Attorney has been requesting an expedite copy of ROWE's testimony only.

(3) - Bureau
2 - Birmingham (44-1236)
2 - San Francisco (44-609)
2 - Mobile
JRC:gre
(9)

REC 20 44-28601-56

25 NOV 18 1965

57 NOV 24 1965

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

Considering economy, it is suggested that the Bureau may wish to maintain contact with Departmental Attorney TURNER to make available a copy of ROWE's testimony or the transcript of record as he receives it.

Close liaison has been maintained with U.S. Attorney BEN HARDEMAN, Montgomery, Ala. He advises that the Federal charges against the subjects will be handled by Departmental Attorneys. The next session of Court begins 11/22/65, however, he confidentially advises that according to the Department instant matter will be heard 11/29/65. He does not desire this information to be given any publication.

Mobile will keep the Bureau and interested offices advised.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
MOBILE	MOBILE	11/16/65	10/14-11/16/65

TITLE OF CASE
EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;
ET AL - VICTIMS

REPORT MADE BY: SA [redacted] b/c

TYPED BY: :gre

CHARACTER OF CASE: CR - EL

NB

REFERENCE: Mobile report of SA [redacted] 5/25/65. b/c

Mobile teletype to Bureau, 10/14/65.

Mobile teletype to Bureau, 11/5/65.

39

- P -

LEADS:

BIRMINGHAM AND SAN FRANCISCO (INFORMATION)

Information copy being sent Birmingham and San Francisco in view of their interest.

MOBILE

AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA. Will follow prosecutive action.

- A* -

COVER PAGE

APPROVED: DWH

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

2 - Bureau (44-28601)
1 - USA, Montgomery
1 - Birmingham (44-1236)(Info)
1 - San Francisco (44-609)(Info)
3 - Mobile (44-1245)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-28601-

REC. 47

22

NOV 10 1965

EX. 107

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

AGENCY	RD			
REQUEST RECD.				
DATE FWD.	11/22/65			
HOW FWD.	1-44(B)			
BY	DWH/hb			

NOTATIONS

STAT. SECT.

66 NOV 24 1965

231

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: [redacted] 1 - United States Attorney, Montgomery, Alabama

Report of: SA [redacted] b7c Office: MOBILE
Date: November 16, 1965

Field Office File #: 44-1245 Bureau File #: 44-28601

Title: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO; ET AL - VICTIMS

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis: [redacted] Retrial of subject WILKINS was held at Hayneville, Ala., on 10/18-22/65, resulting in not guilty verdict on the State murder charges. All subjects arraigned in USDC, Montgomery, Ala., on Federal charge and entered pleas of not guilty. Next session of Court begins 11/22/65. b7c, b7d

- P -

[redacted] b7c, b7d

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.

MO 44-1245

Retrial of subject COLLIE LEROY WILKINS was held at Hayneville, Alabama, October 18 to 22, 1965, the Jury returning a verdict of not guilty.

Subjects THOMAS, EATON and WILKINS, accompanied by their attorney ARTHUR HANES, were arrianged in United States District Court, Montgomery, Alabama, November 5, 1965, and entered pleas of not guilty.

[redacted] Office of the Clerk of United States District Court, Montgomery, Alabama, advised there was no date of trial set but the next session of Court would begin November 22, 1965.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 18 1965

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

537 PM CST URGENT 11/18/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS ET AL; VILA LIUZZO, ET AL-VICTIMS, CR.

AT HEARING THIS DATE IN USDC ON MOTIONS FILED EARLIER THIS WEEK BY ART HANES TO DISMISS THE INDICTMENT AGAINST SUBJECTS AND FOR A BILL OF PARTICULARS FROM GOVERNMENT. JUDGE FRANK M. JOHNSON JR, STRONGLY INDICATED HE WOULD DENY THE MOTION TO DISMISS AND HINTED WOULD DENY MOTION FOR BILL OF PARTICULARS ALTHOUGH STATED WOULD GIVE FORMAL JUDGMENT NEXT DATE.

BUREAU WILL BE ADIVSED.

NOT RECORDED
NOV 18 1965

END

WA ALS

FBI WASH DC

P

52 NOV 26 1965

cc: Nease

25 NOV 19 1965

FBI

Date: 11/12/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)(P)

RE: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL
(OO: Mobile)

Re Bureau teletype, 11/10/65.

Under separate cover are being personally delivered the evidence as referred to in referenced teletype. The evidence will be in possession of S[redacted] who is scheduled for In Service on 11/15/65. The package will be delivered to the Physics-Chemistry Section, FBI Laboratory, care of [redacted], Room 7133. b1c

3 - Bureau
1 - Package
2 - Mobile
JRC:gre
(6)

44-28601-567

14 NOV 15 1965

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

53 NOV 26 1965

11/22/65

1 - Mr. Hines

Airtel

REC 13 44-38601-568

To: SACs, Birmingham (44-1236) (Enc. 2)
Mobile (44-1245) (Enc. 2)

From: Director, FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

ReBuairtel 11/17/65.

Enclosed herewith for Birmingham and Mobile are two copies of a self-explanatory memorandum from the Department dated 11/20/65 requesting certain additional investigation in connection with the upcoming trial in this matter.

Birmingham conduct the investigation as set forth in Items 1, 2 and 4. Mobile will handle Item 3. Sureps no later than 11/27/65. Furnish appropriate copies to Departmental Attorney James Turner who is in Montgomery preparing for the trial.

JWH/ral
(6)

MAILED 11
NOV 22 1965
COMM-FBI

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

66 NOV 24 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

11/22/65

1 - Mr. Hines

Airtel

To: SAC, Mobile (44-1245)

From: Director, FBI (44-28601) REC-13 - 569

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

ReBuairtel 11/22/65.

Enclosed herewith for Mobile are two copies of a memorandum from the Department dated 11/19/65 requesting that we furnish certain information concerning logical routes to Birmingham as reportedly traveled by subjects. A copy is also enclosed to Birmingham for information.

Mobile handle and surep no later than 11/27/65. Results may be included in the report of investigation forwarded to you by Bureau airtel dated 11/22/65. Furnish copy to Departmental Attorney, Montgomery, Alabama.

Enclosures (2)

1 - Birmingham (44-1236) (Enc.) (for info)

JWH/ral
(5)

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

MAILED 10
NOV 22 1965
COMM-FBI

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

DATE: 11/24/65 Re: EUGENE TE[illegible]AS; ET AL.; VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL. - VICTIMS CR - EL

TO: Federal Bureau of Investigation
Room 301D, Federal Building
Montgomery, Alabama

44-28601

Attention: Special Agent [redacted]
FBI Laboratory

Invoice of Contents

Evidence specimens

Sent 11/24/65 R Butler B/A-795 V830

MT 31 1/2 11/24/65

AIR [redacted] EXPRESS

- [ ] Crypt.-Tran
- [ ] Document
- [ ] Electronics
- [x] P & C
- [ ] LFPS

Special Instructions:
Mail Room: Show shipment date and registry number.
Shipping Room: Show shipment date; bill of lading number; initial invoice; return to Section checked in block; after initialing in block, invoice to be placed in administrative file.

FBI File No. 44-28601

FBI WASH DC

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 23 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI MOBILE

5:37 PM CST URGENT 11/23/65 TEB

TO: DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM: MOBILE (44-1245) 1 PAGE

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL: VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS

CR - EL.

ON THIS DATE AAG JOHN DOAR, AND DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY JAMES TURNER ADVISED SA [redacted] MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, b1c THAT ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER TWENTYNINE, NEXT, WHEN THEY RECEIVE JURY LIST FOR TRIAL IN THIS MATTER, THEY WILL WANT AN IMMEDIATE CHECK MADE OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE JURY. DOAR INDICATED THAT A MERE INDICES CHECK WILL NOT SUFFICE AND SUGGESTED THAT AGENTS BE STANDING BY IN MONTGOMERY AND IN OTHER RESIDENT AGENCIES IN THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA TO DO IMMEDIATE BACKGROUND CHECKS ON ALL MEMBERS, STATING ONLY APPROXIMATELY THREE HOURS WILL BE ALLOWED FOR THIS CHECK AND REPORTING SAME.

THE ABOVE IS FOR INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU AND BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED WHEN SUCH REQUEST IS ACTUALLY RECEIVED.

~~CORRECTION~~

~~LINE 8 WORD 7 SHOULD BE "NOT"~~ REC-24 44-28601-51

END

10 NOV 26 1965

WA ... JRL

FBI WASH DC

TU DIC

11/24/65

PLAIN TEXT

1 - Mr. Hines

TELETYPE URGENT

TO SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)

REC- 24

FROM DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601) 573

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL DASH VICTIMS; CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS.

REURTEL NOVEMBER TWENTY THREE LAST. BY REFERENCED TELETYPE YOU ADVISED THAT AAG JOHN DOAR WILL DESIRE AN IMMEDIATE CHECK BE MADE OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE JURY ON THE JURY LIST FOR TRIAL IN THIS MATTER WHEN IT IS RECEIVED AND THAT A MERE INDICES CHECK WILL NOT SUFFICE. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THIS MATTER WAS TAKEN UP WITH MR. DOAR AT THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT NOVEMBER TWENTY FOUR INSTANT AND DOAR ADVISED THAT DEPARTMENT DID NOT DESIRE ANY CHECK OF THE JURY LIST BEYOND A CHECK OF YOUR INDICES, CREDIT AND CRIMINAL CHECK AND A CHECK WITH LOGICAL CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES AND INFORMANTS OF YOUR OFFICE. UPON RECEIPT OF DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR A CHECK OF THE JURY LIST FROM MR. DOAR OR MR. TURNER WHO WILL BE IN MONTGOMERY AT THE TRIAL YOU WILL INSURE THAT NECESSARY PERSONNEL ARE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO CONDUCT THE CHECK AS ABOVE LIMITED. YOU MAY FURNISH RESULTS ORALLY TO DOAR OR TURNER AND CONFIRM BY APPROPRIATE FD-THREE ZERO TWO'S WHICH WILL BE INCLUDED IN YOUR

JWH/ral

(B)

SEE NOTE ON PAGE TWO.

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Gasper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 24 1965
TELETYPE
MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☑

TELETYPE TO SAC MOBILE
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;

REPORT. DO NOT FURNISH ANY AGENTS' NOTES OR ROUGH DRAFT THREE ZERO TWO'S OR ANY OTHER WRITTEN RESULTS OF YOUR CHECKS WHICH ARE NOT IN TYPED AND APPROVED FINAL FORM.

NOTE:

Mobile advised that AAG Doar and Department Attorney Turner on 11/23/65 stated that on the morning of 11/29/65 when they received the jury list that they will want an immediate check made of jury members on the list. Mobile said Doar indicated a mere indices check would not suffice and that there would only be approximately 3 hour's time within which to conduct the checks before the jury will be selected for the list. This matter was discussed with Mr. Doar in Washington, D. C., on 11/24/65. Mr. Doar stated that he had not wished to indicate that he deisred any actual investigation into the background of the members of the jury list and that a check of our field office indices, a credit and criminal check and a check with confidential sources and informants who could possibly be in a position to be acquainted with any jury members would be sufficient. This does not constitute a jury panel investigation and we conducted a similar check of the state jury panels in the two state trials of Collie Leroy Wilkins.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 24 1965
TELETYPE

FBI

Date: 11/24/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)(P)

RE: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

ReBUairtel, 11/22/65, with attached Departmental request.

As indicated, the birth certificate is being forwarded directly to the Departmental Attorney at Montgomery, Ala. U.S. Attorney, Montgomery, furnished copy of letterhead memorandum.

6 - Bureau (Encs 4) ENCLOSURE
2 - Mobile
JRC:gre
(5)

cc CRD
11/26/65
[illegible]
[illegible]
cc CRD

REC-35 44-28601-595

14 NOV 26 1965

EX-10

C.C. [illegible]

F127

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Mobile, Alabama
November 24, 1965

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL
VIOLA LIUZZO; ET AL - VICTIMS

Reference is made to Departmental request of November 20, 1965, and particularly Paragraph 3 thereof in reference to the certification of the birth of Viola Liuzzo.

Being forwarded herewith to the Departmental Attorney at Montgomery, Alabama, is the requested certification of birth.

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.

ENCLOSURE 44-28601-575

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 23 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI MOBILE

8\57 PM CST URGENT 11/23/65 LLO

TO\ DIRECTOR, ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, KANSAS CITY, NEW ORLEANS, NEW YORK, SAVANNAH, AND ST. LOUIS.

NEW YORK VIA WASHINGTON

FROM\ MOBILE \44-1245\ 3P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL\ VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS.

CR, EL.

DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY JAMES TURNER ADVISED THIS DATE HE DESIRES FOLLOWING AGENTS REPORT TO U. S. ATTORNEY\S OFFICE, MONTGOMERY, ALA., ELEVEN A.M., CST, NOVEMBER TWENTYEIGHT, NEXT, FOR CONFERENCES IN CONNECTION WITH TRIAL OF THIS CASE, WHICH STARTS IN USDC, MONTGOMERY, NOVEMBER TWENTYNINE, NEXT\

[redacted] ATLANTA\ [redacted] SAVANNAH\

[redacted] NEW ORLEANS\ [redacted] KANSAS CITY

AND [redacted] MOBILE. b7C

TURNER STATED WILL BE IN BIRMINGHAM TEN A.M., NOVEMBER TWENTYFOUR, NEXT, AND DESIRES TO MEET AT BIRMINGHAM OFFICE WITH AS MANY OF FOLLOWING AGENTS AS ARE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS INSTANT CASE, AFTER WHICH WILL SELECT THOSE AGENTS WHOM HE DESIRES TO REPORT TO MONTGOMERY, ELEVEN A.M., NOVEMBER

END PAGE ONE

RELAYED TO

PAGE TWO

TWENTYEIGHT, FOR ADDITIONAL CONFERENCES\

INSPECTOR MC GOVERN, SA\S [redacted] b7c

TURNER ADVISED DESIRES FOLLOWING PERSONS BE AVAILABLE AT AREAS OF ASSIGNMENT FROM NOVEMBER TWENTYNINE, NEXT, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE FOR POSSIBLE SUBPOENAS, ALTHOUGH DOES NOT DESIRE THEIR PRESENCE UNLESS ADVISED\

[redacted] AND [redacted] BOTH OF ATLANTA. b7c

TURNER DESIRES FOLLOWING AGENTS BE AVAILABLE AT THEIR USUAL AREAS OF ASSIGNMENT FROM NOVEMBER THIRTY, NEXT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE SO THEY CAN BE CALLED FOR REBUTTAL TESTIMONY IF NEEDED\ [redacted] NEW YORK CITY\ [redacted] KANSAS CITY\ [redacted] ST. LOUI [redacted] BIRMINGHAM\ [redacted] AND [redacted] BOTH OF NEW ORLEANS [redacted] AND [redacted] BOTH OF MOBILE. b7c

UACB EACH OFFICE WILL INSURE ABOVE DEPARTMENTAL REQUEST COMPLIED WITH.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

OFFICES OF ASSIGNMENT OF ABOVE AGENTS COMPILED FROM DATA AVAILABLE MOBILE AND BIRMINGHAM OFFICES. IF AGENT ASSIGNED AT OFFICE OTHER THAN INDICATED, PLEASE FORWARD REQUEST TO OFFICE OF ASSIGNMENT.

ALL OTHER OFFICES ADVISED SEPARATELY

END AND ACK PLS

WA R RELAY JXM

FBI WASH DC --

\5

1124/65

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE URGENT

TO SAC NEW YORK 1 - Mr. Hines

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS, CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS.

THE FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS TRIAL IN THIS MATTER IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ELEVEN TWENTY-NINE, SIXTYFIVE, IN U. S. DISTRICT COURT, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA. DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY JAMES TURNER WHO IS IN MOBILE PREPARING FOR THE TRIAL HAS REQUESTED THAT SA [redacted] NOW ASSIGNED TO YOUR OFFICE REPORT TO THE USA'S OFFICE AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, AT ELEVEN A.M., CST, ELEVEN TWENTY-EIGHT, SIXTYFIVE, FOR CONFERENCES IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRIAL. INSTRUCT SA [redacted] TO REPORT AS REQUESTED. b7c

REC 39 EX-107 1114-28601 577

JWH/pak

(3)

NOV 26 1965

TELETYPE UNIT
NOV 2[illegible] 1965
ENCODED MESSAGE

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele Room
Holmes
Gandy

DEC 2 1965 MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

FBI

Date: 11/24/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)(P)

RE: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, Aka; ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL
(OO: MOBILE)

ReBuairtel dated 11/22/65.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are 4 copies of letterhead memorandum reflecting investigation conducted as requested by the Department Of Justice memorandum dated 11/19/65.

Copies of this letterhead memorandum are being made available to the U. S. Attorney and Departmental Attorney at Montgomery, Ala.

(3) - Bureau (Encs. 4 ENCLOSURE)
2 - Mobile
SHR:jes
(5)

REC-61

44-28601-582

15 NOV 26 1965

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

50 DEC 3

U[illegible]ED STATES DEPARTMENT O[illegible]STICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Mobile, Alabama
November 24, 1965

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO; ET AL - VICTIMS

Set forth below are results of investigation conducted to determine routes between Selma and Birmingham, Alabama:

44-28601-582

ENCLOSURE

1

EDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIC

Date November 24, 1965

Observation of official Alabama State Highway Map reflects that the following are the routes from Selma, Alabama to Birmingham and Bessemer, Alabama:

The most direct route is United States Highway 80 from Selma, Alabama to State Highway 14, State Highway 14 to State Highway 219, State Highway 219 to State Highway 5, State Highway 5 to United States Highway 11, and United States Highway 11 to Bessemer, Alabama.

Another route is State Highway 22 from Selma to Maplesville, Alabama and State Highway 191, State Highway 191 to United States Highway 31, United States Highway 31 to Birmingham, Alabama, or to State Highway 150, which cuts off to Bessemer, south of Birmingham, Alabama.

Another route is State Highway 22 to Maplesville, Alabama and State Highway 139, State Highway 139 to State Highway 25, State Highway 25 to Montevallo, Alabama and State Highway 119, State Highway 119 to United States Highway 31, and United States Highway 31 to Birmingham, Alabama, or to State Highway 150, as stated above.

A map with a legend reflecting any road repairs, automobile accidents, landmarks, and bridges will be made available directly to the Departmental Attorney in Montgomery, Alabama.

On 11/24/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

SA [redacted] DK sjes 11/24/65

by 2 Date dictated

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.

1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 24, 1965

[redacted] Bureau Of Construction, State Highway Department, Montgomery, Alabama, advised that on March 25, 1965 there was no construction jobs under construction from his office in the following counties: Dallas, Autauga, Perry, Chilton, Bibb, Shelby, and Jefferson. All routes from Selma to Birmingham, Alabama or Bessemer, Alabama would pass through these counties. b7c

On 11/24/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] b7c ljes Date dictated 11/24/65

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.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 24, 1965

[redacted] b7c

Bureau Of Engineers, State Highway Department, Montgomery, Alabama, advised that in travel from Selma to Bessemer, Alabama by United States Highway 80 to State Highway 14, State Highway 14 to State Highway 219, State Highway 219 to State Highway 25, and thence to United States Highway 11 the only bridge of major size is the bridge over the Cahaba River in Centerville, Alabama.

In travel from Selma, Alabama via State Highway 22 to Maplesville, Alabama, then State Highway 191 to United States Highway 31, and thence to Birmingham, Alabama the only major bridge would be that at the Jefferson County-Shelby County Line over the Cahaba River.

In travel from Selma, Alabama via State Highway 22, State Highway 139, State Highway 25, and State Highway 119 to United States Highway 31, and thence to Birmingham or Bessemer, Alabama the only major bridge would be that over the Cahaba River at the Jefferson County - Shelby County Line.

On 11/24/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] b7c :jes Date dictated 11/24/65

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.

1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 24, 1965

[redacted] b7C

Alabama Department Of Public Safety, Montgomery, Alabama, advised that a check of accident reports for March 25, 1965 reflected that between 6:20 P.M. and 10:30 P.M. there were no accidents on the following highways in the following counties:

United States Highway 80, State Highway 14, State Highway 219, State Highway 5, United States Highway 11, State Highway 22, State Highway 191, United States Highway 31, State Highway 139, State Highway 25, State Highway 119, State Highway 150, in Dallas, Autauga, Perry, Bibb, Jefferson, Chilton, and Shelby Counties, Alabama.

On 11/24/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] b7C :jes Date dictated 11/24/65

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.

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO; ET AL - VICTIMS

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.

FD-4 (Rev. 4-4-64)

Date 11/26/65

To:
[X] Director (AM SD)

FILE [illegible] 44-2[illegible]01
Cyfile 44-773

Att.:

Title [illegible], Etal;
[illegible], [illegible]
Etal - [illegible]
[illegible] - EL

- [ ] SAC
- [ ] ASAC
- [ ] Supv.
- [ ] Agent
- [ ] SE
- [ ] IC
- [ ] CC
- [ ] Steno
- [ ] Clerk

ACTION DESIRED

- [ ] Acknowledge
- [ ] Assign ____ Reassign ____
- [ ] Bring file
- [ ] Call me
- [ ] Correct
- [ ] Deadline ____
- [ ] Deadline passed
- [ ] Delinquent
- [ ] Discontinue
- [ ] Expedite
- [ ] File
- [ ] For information
- [ ] Initial & return
- [ ] Leads need attention
- [ ] Open Case
- [ ] Prepare lead cards
- [ ] Prepare tickler
- [ ] Recharge serials
- [ ] Return assignment card
- [ ] Return file
- [ ] Return serials
- [ ] Search and return
- [ ] See me
- [ ] Send Serials ____ to ____
- [ ] Submit new charge out
- [ ] Submit report by ____
- [ ] Type
- [ ] Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

CONSOLIDATION

SD

~~STAT-SEST~~

CONSOLIDATION

Rerep S[redacted] 11/2[illegible]/65, at Chicago b7c
cant[illegible] [illegible].
Name of SA [redacted] inadvertly b7c
omitted on [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] rerep.
Please make addition. Chicago copy being
corrected.
cc - S C, [illegible] (44-1245)

SAC [illegible] /MP

(2)

____ See reverse side

Office [illegible]

Report Form
FD-263 (5-12-55.)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period
CHICAGO	MOBILE	11/24/65	11/23/65

TITLE OF CASE

EUGENE THOMAS,
Etal;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka
Etal - VICTIMS

Report made by: [redacted] b7c

Typed By: lmv

CHARACTER OF CASE

CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

REFERENCES: Mobile teletype to Chicago dated 11/22/65.
Chicago teletype to Bureau dated 11/23/65.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE

As is noted in this report, individuals interviewed furnished the names [redacted] b7c, b7d

Leads to interview above two individuals were set out in referenced Chicago teletype to Bureau, Jacksonville.

39

Approved

Special Agent in Charge

Do not write in spaces below

Copies made:

2 - Bureau (44-28601)
2 - Mobile (44-1245)
1 - USA JAMES TURNER, Montgomery, Alabama
1 - Chicago (44-773)

44-28601-595

REC-67

30 NOV 29 1965

1cc CRD
11/29/65
1-44(B)
EJM/bjb
1cc CRU
DEC 3 1965

STAT. SECT.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1965 O—[illegible]

Milwaukee, and Mobile.

Additionally all interviewed noted a "ABC News car" variously described as a white Ford or Chevrolet, parked near the police car. Also several were of opinion an additional private vehicle was stopped at that location when they pulled up, and were of opinion another vehicle was stopped behind them. This information was also set out in referenced Chicago teletype for consideration of Mobile Office, as additional leads assuming the Alabama State Trooper may have also ticketed these vehicles.

COVER PAGE

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA JAMES TURNER
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Report of: SA [redacted] Office: CHICAGO
Date: 11/24/65 b7c

Field Office File #: 44-773 Bureau File #: 44-28601

Title: EUGENE THOMAS,
Etal;
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIMS

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis: [redacted] Volkswagen microbus, all residents of Chicago, Illinois, advised 11/23/65, that they recall being stopped for speeding on the Montgomery, Alabama to Selma, Alabama Highway while en route to Selma on evening of 3/25/65, by Alabama State Trooper [redacted] Estimate time as between 8:30 AM - 9:30 PM. None noted identities or descriptions of passing vehicles going either direction. Noted "ABC News car" parked near police car as well as an additional unidentified vehicle believed stopped by police prior to their arrival. Several believed additional vehicle following theirs was stopped under similar circumstances. b7c

- RUC -

DETAILS: AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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DERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/24/65

1

[redacted] He is the owner of 1961 Volkswagen microbus [redacted]

[redacted] advised that he was in the company of a group of people from Chicago who went to Selma, Alabama, in March, 1965, to join in the Selma to Montgomery march by civil rights advocates. The group was made up primarily of students and associates who frequent the Campus Christian Association which is next to the Illinois State Teachers College. His 1961 Volkswagen was used as the transportation. b7c

[redacted] continued that he recalls leaving Montgomery, Alabama, on March 25, 1965, with some of the group referred to above, in his Volkswagen en route to Selma, Alabama. He recalls they drove on the main highway from Montgomery to Selma, were heading west and believed departed Montgomery at approximately 8:00 PM. b7c

The group consisted in addition to himself, of [redacted] b7c

After driving approximately 25 miles, they were flagged down by an Alabama State Trooper holding a flashlight and subsequently pulled over on the gravel shoulder. Both he

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On 11/23/65 at Chicago, Illinois File # CG 44-773

SA [redacted] mv/mav 11/24/65

by AND [redacted] b7c Date dictated

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and [redacted] got out of the vehicle at which time they were advised by the trooper that they had passed a radar car and were noted as speeding. [redacted] was given a ticket although he, [redacted] signed the ticket as owner of the vehicle. b/c

He would estimate the time at about 8:30 p.m., and that they were only stopped for "a few minutes". He did not notice the identities of any passing vehicles but does seem to recall there was some traffic on the road. He does recall an "ABC News car", possibly a white Chevrolet parked next to the police car but did not notice a driver. He thought there was another vehicle stopped there prior to their arrival but also the make and model are unknown. He seems to recall that another vehicle following them was stopped probably after running through the radar but also did not notice the make and model. He stated that several in the bus were of the opinion that this was a road block and did not realize it was a traffic radar set up.

[redacted] continued that all times referred to by him are estimated, however, he does recall leaving St. Judes Roman Catholic Church in Montgomery about 8:00 p.m. that evening and noted from the ticket received, they were eleven miles from Selma. b/c

[redacted] advised he can furnish no additional information. He stated he would be willing to testify in court to this information and would furnisha signed statement at a latter date, if necessary. b/c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 [redacted] Date 11/24/65

[redacted] b7c

[redacted] advised he was in Alabama during the latter part of March, 1965, for the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery. He went to that area from Chicago with a group of people who frequent and are associated with the Campus Christian Association at 6720 South Stewart Avenue, Chicago, which group was primarily made up of students. b7c

He recalls that on March 25, 1965, he was in the company of [redacted] all of Chicago, as well as [redacted] in Montgomery, Alabama. The group departed Montgomery at approximately 8:00 p.m. on March 25, 1965, i[redacted] Volkswagen for the trip to Selma. [redacted] was tired and as a result he, [redacted] did the driving. After approximately 20 or 25 miles while heading towards Selma along Highway 80, they passed an Alabama State Patrol radar car and were subsequently flagged down by an officer with a flashlight standing near the highway. After stopping the vehicle on the shoulder, both he and [redacted] got out and discussed the matter with the officer. He was told he had been exceeding the speed limit by at least five miles per hour and was issued a ticket. Following this they continued their trip to Selma. [redacted] tated that he believes he may hame been exceeding the limit about five miles per hour but certainly no more than that. b7c

On 11/23/65 at Chicago, Illinois File # CG 44-773

SAs [redacted] and

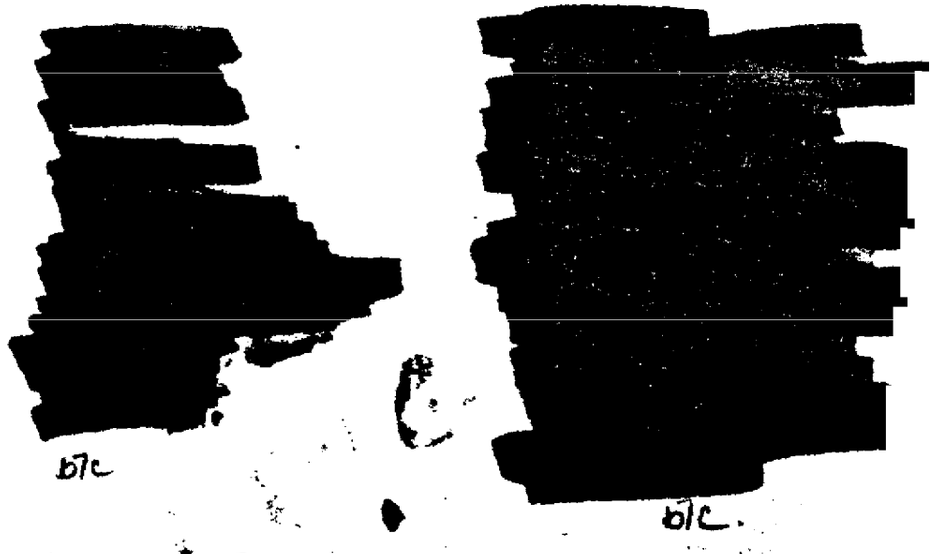
by [redacted] sm/jau b7c Date dictated 11/24/65

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.

b7c [redacted] stated that he would estimate the time they were stopped as between 8:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on March 25, 1965. He did not take any special notice of any passing vehicles and cannot identify any such vehicle by description, make, or model. He is sure that some traffic passed or at least assumes that some passed at that time as there were certainly other automobiles on the road.

He recalls a News car, believed to be from ABC News, parked near the State Trooper's car although did not notice any driver. He also observed another vehicle parked which probably was stopped for a similar violation. This vehicle, make and model unknown, left before they did. He is also of the opinion that a vehicle following theirs was subsequently stopped, also make and model not noted. In view of this, he was of the opinion at first it was a State Police road block and that they were stopping all traffic to Selma; however, when advised of the speeding charge, he realized it was a radar installation.

b7c [redacted] stated he has a copy of the ticket issue him which is described as follows:



b7c

b7c

3.

CG 44-773

b1c [redacted] advised he could furnish no additional information and did not care to furnish a statement, however, would testify to the above information.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/24/65

1.

[redacted] b7c

[redacted] advised she had been in Alabama during March of 1965 for the civil rights march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama. She recalls being in Montgomery on March 25, 1965, as that is the date they departed Montgomery for Selma and subsequently began their return to Chicago. She continued she orginally left Chicago with a group representing the Campus Christian Association, a student group affiliated with an Episcopal Church at 6720 South Stewart Avenue, Chicago, which is near the Illinois Teachers College. She cannot recall the entire group nor who was riding with whom on each and every occasion as automobiles were at a premium and transportation was scarce. She believes that on the trip from Montgomery to Selma she was in the company of [redacted] She is not sure of [redacted] that is as to whether he actually made this trip but does recall him being in the crowd from time to time. b7c

b7c [redacted] ntinued that she recalls leaving St. Judes Roman Catholic Mission near Montgomery at about 8:00 p.m. that date. She would estimate that sometime between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. their car was stopped by an Alabama Police officer. She did not get out of the car but did look out the window and observed the driver getting a ticket. She also noticed a police car and at least one other car parked near it. She did not note the description of this other car. She believes there was traffic on the highway going the opposite direction but

On 11/23/65 at Chicago, Illinois File # Chicago 44-773

by SA [redacted] b7c Date dictated 11/24/65

SA

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64

in view of the darkness, did not notice any makes or models. She had no reason to take any undue notice of any passing vehicles.

After approximately 10 minutes they again were on their way and went to Selma. Several hours later they heard rumors that a woman had been killed somewhere on the highway. She estimates they departed Selma for Chicago at about 11:30 p.m. March 25, 1965.

b7c [redacted] advised she could furnish no additional information.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 11/24/65

III
A 13

[redacted] b1c

[redacted] c

[redacted] advised that she was in Alabama b7c during the latter part of March, 1965, and participated in the civil rights march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama. She left Chicago with a group from the Campus Christian Association (CCA), 6720 South Stewart Avenue, Chicago, primarily students, all of whom participated in the march.

On March 25, 1965, she, along with about six others of their group, departed Montgomery, Alabama, for Selma, Alabama, in a Volkswagen bus owned by [redacted] Another associate, [redacted] was driving. They were at St. Judes Mission near Montgomery on that evening and would estimate they departed at 8:00 p.m. for their trip to Selma. To the best of memory she believes that besides [redacted] and herself, the occupants of the vehicle included [redacted] b7c

She recalls that after approximately a half hour drive their vehicle was stopped by the Alabama Highway Patrol. The driver, [redacted] was subsequently ticketed for speeding. She believes only [redacted] and Reverend [redacted] got out of the car. b7c

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On 11/23/65 at Chicago, Illinois File # CG 44-773

SAs [redacted] and

by csm/jau b7c Date dictated 11/24/65

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[redacted] stated that it was dark and that she did note some automobiles passed; however, they were only "headlights"to her. She did observe a "News car" parked near the police car and assumed the driver had been stopped by the police. She also believes another car, which had been following them, was also stopped but cannot be sure. She stated the rear of the Volkswagen bus had no seats and those in the rear, which were at least four, sat on the floor which restricted their vision. b7c

[redacted] advised that she could furnish no additional information on this matter. b7c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/24/65

1.

[redacted] b7c

[redacted] stated he was in Alabama during the latter part of March, 1965, for the civil rights march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama. Although he does not belong to the Campus Christian Association located at 6720 South Stewart Avenue, Chicago, he is acquainted with members of this group as well as [redacted] He accompanied a group from this organization to Alabama and participated in the activities there with them. He recalls being in a Volkswagen owned by [redacted] and driven by a [redacted] on March 25, 1965, which was stopped by the Alabama State Patrol. He is hazy on the details and cannot place in his mind all the events as they occurred. He simply recalls that he was riding in the bus and it was stopped and a ticket given to the driver for speeding. It was just prior to their leaving Alabama and he connects it up with the date on which the woman from Detroit was killed. b7c

b7c [redacted] stated that insofar as the incident wherein their vehicle was stopped, he was asleep on the floor and awakened when they stopped. He did not notice too much of the activities except that there was at least one other vehicle, possibly a News automobile, parked near a police car. He did not take any special notice of the traffic and cannot identify any passing vehicles which moved in either direction.

[redacted] advised he could furnish no additional information on this matter. b7c

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On 11/23/65 at Chicago, Illinois File # Chicago 44-773

by SA [redacted] b7c Date dictated 11/24/65

SA [redacted] CSM.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
MILWAUKEE	MOBILE	11/24/65	11/24/65

TITLE OF CASE

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL -
VICTIMS

REPORT MADE BY: SA [redacted] b7c

TYPED BY: sbt

CHARACTER OF CASE

CR - ELECTION LAWS

10

REFERENCE

Chicago teletype to Bureau, 11/23/65.

- RUC -

COVER PAGE
A*

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

2-Bureau
1-Departmental Attorney
James Turner, Montgomery
2-Mobile (44-1245)
1-Milwaukee (44-249)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

41-28601-591

REC-35

14 NOV. 26 1965

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	KRD			
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.	11/26/65			
How Fwd.				
By	ESM/6,1			

50 DEC 8 1965

1 cc synopsis Call

Notations

STAT SECT.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: Departmental Attorney JAMES TURNER, Montgomery, Alabama

Report of: SA [redacted] b7c Office: Milwaukee
Date: November 24, 1965

Field Office File #: MI 44-249 Bureau File #:

Title: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO,
ET AL - VICTIMS

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis: [redacted] occupant of 1961 Volkswagen bus detained on State Highway 80, near Selma, Alabama on night of 3/25/65, stated he observed no passing vehicles on highway during the time Volkswagen was stopped for speeding violation. b7c

- RUC -

DETAILS: AT WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

On November 24, 1965 [redacted] advised that on the night of March 25, 1965, he was an occupant of a 1961 Volkswagen bus, owned by one [redacted] which had been stopped for speeding by local authorities on State Highway 80, east of Selma, Alabama. The bus, after being stopped, was later released with the driver having been issued a warning ticket on the speeding charge. [redacted] advised he saw no cars passing on the highway during the time the Volkswagen bus was stopped, as this vehicle, as well as several others, after being stopped were directed into a roadside parking area. The Volkswagen, in which [redacted] was a front seat occupant, was parked facing away from the highway at a 90 degree angle. [redacted] stated that as he had stayed in the bus the entire time it was detained, he was in no position to see any passing traffic on the highway and saw none during the entire time the vehicle was retained. b7c

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
BIRMINGHAM	MOBILE	11/22/65	11/16-19/65

TITLE OF CASE

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL -
VICTIMS.

REPORT MADE BY: SA [redacted] 57c

TYPED BY: hss

CHARACTER OF CASE

CR - EL

REFERENCES: Report of ASAC ROBERT G. JENSEN dated 3/30/65 at Birmingham.

Report of ASAC ROBERT G. JENSEN dated 4/5/65 at Birmingham.

St. Louis letter to Birmingham, 11/16/65, captioned [redacted] 57c

Bureau airtel to Birmingham dated 11/16/65.

Bureau airtel to Birmingham dated 11/17/65.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

A copy of this report is being designated for Departmental Attorney JAMES TURNER at Montgomery, Alabama, as directed in referenced Bureau airtel dated 11/16/65.

APPROVED: EJJ

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

3 - Bureau (44-28601) AM - RM
2 - Mobile (44-1245) RM
1 - Departmental Attorney JAMES TURNER, Montgomery, Alabama (RM)
2 - Birmingham (44-1236)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44 - [illegible] - 4 38

REC-10

EX-113

4 NOV 24 1965

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

AGENCY	2cc GRD			
REQUEST RECD.				
DATE FWD.	11/26/65			
HOW FWD.	[illegible]			

NOTATIONS

STAT. SECT.

53 DEC 6 1965

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

FD-323 (Rev. 11-29-61)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Birmingham, Alabama
November 22, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Title EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO; ET AL - VICTIMS

Character CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Reference Report of SA [redacted]
dated 11/22/65 at Birmingham,
Alabama.

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

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
BIRMINGHAM	MOBILE	11/24/65	11/23-24/65

TITLE OF CASE

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL -
VICTIMS

REPORT MADE BY: SA [redacted]

TYPE: hs

CHARACTER OF CASE

CR - EL

REFERENCE: Bureau airtel to Birmingham dated 11/22/65.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Records of the bankruptcy proceedings regarding WILLIAM O. EATON, requested in Section 4 of Departmental Memorandum dated 11/20/65, were obtained from the Clerk's Office, U. S. District Court, Birmingham, Alabama, which office prepared one complete copy of the entire proceedings, which document was turned over to JAMES TURNER, Attorney, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice, at Birmingham, Alabama, on 11/24/65.

[redacted]

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

3 - Bureau (44-28601) AM - RM
2 - Mobile (44-1245) AM - RM
1 - Departmental Attorney
JAMES TURNER, c/o USA,
Montgomery, Alabama
2 - Birmingham (44-1236)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-28601-589 REC-

30

NOV 29 1965

EX-113

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

AGENCY	CRD			
REQUEST RECD.				
DATE FWD.	11/29/65			
HOW FWD.	AV/B			
BY	66 DEC 3 1965			

NOTATIONS

STAT SECT

A*

COVER PAGE

APPENDIX

UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC., KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN

Records of Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, reflect that this Klan organization was granted a corporate charter on February 21, 1961, at Atlanta, Georgia, under the name United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc.

A source advised on February 27, 1961, that United Klans was formed as a result of a split in U.S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc. According to the source, the split resulted from a leadership dispute and United Klans has the same aims and objectives as the parent group. These are the promotion of Americanism, white supremacy, and segregation of the races.

The first source and a second source advised in July, 1961, that United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc., merged with Alabama Knights, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The merged organization established headquarters in Suite 401, the Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. (The organization is directed by Robert Shelton, Imperial Wizard, and is the dominant Klan group in the South, with units in several Southern states.)

Second source advised that at a meeting at Prattville, Alabama, on October 22, 1961, the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, merged with the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Third source advised on August 4, 1965, that the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, is currently an active organization, with Klaverns in several Southern states. This source said that Robert M. Shelton is the Imperial Wizard of this organization, and was last elected to this position on September 5, 1964, at a National Klonvocation in Birmingham, Alabama. Source said that the activity of the UKA is increasing and that the national office remains in Suite 401, Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

APPENDIX

BH 44-1236

RE: WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON

On November 24, 1965, ANTHONY TRIOLA, Deputy Clerk, U. S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama, prepared one copy of the entire file captioned "Record of Proceedings, U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama, Southern Division; RE: WILLIAM O. EATON - Debtor in Bankruptcy", dated February 12, 1965, Case No. X-38,305. This single copy of the Record of Proceedings was personally furnished on the same date at Birmingham, Alabama, to JAMES TURNER, Attorney, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER

PART 12 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 44-28601

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] DATE: 4/27/65

FROM : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (170-9)(P)

SUBJECT: CONF. INFT [redacted]

Re Birmingham letter to the Bureau 12/17/64 (Progress Letter) and Miami airtel to the Bureau 4/9/65 captioned, "EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS; CR - EL."

Recommendation

[redacted]

During the past month, informant has had to testify before the Federal Grand Jury, Montgomery, Alabama, and the State Grand Jury, Lowndes County, Alabama, and it is anticipated that his testimony will be required at additional proceedings.

[redacted]

3 - Bureau (Airmail Registered)
3 - Birmingham
2 - 170-9
1 - 44-1236
D:mjh

RECORDED 16 APR 29 1965

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: June 2, 1965

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: HAL ROSS
ZIEGLER ROSS AGENCY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

GARY ROWE

BACKGROUND:

By letter dated 5/17/65 above-captioned Hal Ross wrote the Director suggesting that he be permitted to contact Gary Rowe for the purpose of interesting him in selling rights to his life story. By letter dated 5/21/65 Miss Gandy advised Mr. Ross that his proposal would be brought to Mr. Rowe's attention. This is being done. Gary Rowe is the informant in the Viola Liuzzo murder case in Alabama, the trial of which resulted in a hung jury.

DEVELOPMENT:

At 2:35 p.m. today Hal Ross telephoned from Los Angeles and talked to Wick. He referred to the receipt of Miss Gandy's letter and asked whether there had been any change in the situation and whether it would be appropriate for him to press further in attempting to contact Rowe. He said his company did not wish to take any action which might jeopardize the future trial in the murder case, but he did want it known that his company is very much interested in securing the rights to Rowe's story which ultimately will be told.

Mr. Ross was told there had been no change in the situation but that his inquiry would be maintained as a matter of record.

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - M. A. Jones
1 - D. C. Morrell

REW:amr
(7)

REC-20 EX 110

6 JUN 8 1965

MCT-41

CRIME RECORDS

FBI

Date: 6-21-65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL - REGISTERED
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (170-9) (P)

CONF. INFT.

[redacted] 7d B2

[redacted] 7c

Re San Francisco airtel to Bureau, dated 6-4-65, captioned "EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.; VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS; CR - EL."

Upon receipt of referenced communication, immediate contact was made with [redacted] in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, who advised on 6-11-65, that ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, Inc., KKKK, was observed to be in Tuscaloosa as late as 6-9-65. [redacted] 7d

On the same date, SA [redacted] Tuscaloosa RA, advised that he had contacted a reliable source [redacted] in Tuscaloosa and determined that [redacted] was seen on the street on that date and is known to be currently unemployed. Also, on the same date SA [redacted] Birmingham, advised that he had recently been in contact with a reliable source who advised that RALPH ROTON was currently living and working in the Birmingham area and personally observed there as late as 6-9-65. 7c 7d 7c

44-98601

NOT RECORDED
21 JAN 27 1966

3 - Bureau (AM-RM)
2 - San Francisco (AM-RM)
2 - Birmingham
NPS:jls
(7)

REC-55 [redacted] 7d B2

cc-CNT 6

JUN 23 1965

JAN 27 1966

Approved _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

70 JUL 15 Special Agent In Charge

FBI

Date: 7-8-65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (137-6295)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (170-9)

SUBJECT: CONF [redacted]

ReBHAirtel 5-27-65 and BUlet 5-21-65.

On 7-7-65 WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE appeared at the Birmingham Office. HUIE at this time again repeated his request for an opportunity to do a story on GARY THOMAS ROWE and his activity in the Klan. HUIE said that if ROWE had a story to tell which he believed he had, he would willingly pay the sum of $25,000 for the story regarding the Klan and ROWE's activities therein. HUIE also said that in the event this story was suitable for developing into a movie, he was willing to make an additional payment of $25,000 for the movie rights to this story.

HUIE said that he had a representative by the name of MICHAEL DORMAN, who was a newspaperman on Long Island, who would be in touch with Mr. JOHN DOAR, Assistant Attorney General, sometime next week. He said that DORMAN would make this offer of HUIE's known to Mr. DOAR. DORMAN reportedly will act as a legman for HUIE and run out the various details that are necessary to complete a story.

No commitments of any kind were made to Mr. HUIE beyond the fact that his wishes would be made known. HUIE said that this was the primary purpose of his call so that the FBI would be aware of his interest in GARY THOMAS ROWE. This is being furnished for the Bureau's information only.

[redacted]

3-Bureau
2-Birmingham
RGJ:rlg
(5)

20 JUL 10 1965

RECORDED

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

JAN 27 1966

The information received in referenced communication was immediately disseminated to all Agents in this Division who maintain contact with Klan sources requesting them to determine whether ROBERT SHELTON or any of his close associates or other members of the Klan plan any trips out of the immediate Birmingham area in the near future. To date, contacts have been made with [redacted] and [redacted] (protect identity) and no positive information has been developed that would indicate that SHELTON or any of his Klan associates are planning a trip to the west coast in the near future.

All Agents maintaining contact with Klan sources have been asked to immediately report any information that would indicate that the Klan is aware of subject's relocation area and it is felt that if any known members of the organization leave the immediate Birmingham area we will be immediately aware of their destination and purpose of their trip.

BH 70-9

It might be noted that Mr. HUIE was advised that Mr. ROWE had previously indicated he had no interest in having a story prepared until at least the completion of the trial herein. He was also advised that ROWE had advised he did not know if he would be interested in telling a story even after completion of the trial.

79

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
JACKSONVILLE	MOBILE	11/26/65	11/24/65

TITLE OF CASE

EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka;
ET AL - VICTIMS

REPORT MADE BY [redacted] 7c

TYPED BY -sla

CHARACTER OF CASE

CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

10
6

Reference: Chicago teletype to Jacksonville, 11/23/65.

Status: - RUC -

Administrative:

7A
7c

[redacted]

EXP PROC.

P OVER 1 YR.: YES NO

P. PROS. 6 MOS.: YES NO

39

APPROVED [signature] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

2 - Bureau (AM)
1 - Departmental Attorney
JAMES TURNER, Montgomery, Ala.
2 - Mobile (44-1245)
1 - Jacksonville (44-487)

- A* -
COVER PAGE

41 | 2 | 590 | REC-50

NOV 30 1965

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	[illegible]			
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.	11/23/65			
How Fwd.	[illegible]			
By	[illegible]			

Notations

STAT. SECT.

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - Departmental Attorney JAMES TURNER, Montgomery, Ala.

Report of: SA [redacted] Office: JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
Date: 11/26/65

Field Office File #: 44-487 Bureau File #:

Title: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO;
ET AL - VICTIMS

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis: [redacted] 7A 7d

Status: - RUC -

Details: AT PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA

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.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 11/22/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Mobile (44-1245)(P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL

Re Mobile teletype 11/18/65.

On 11/19/65 Judge FRANK M. JOHNSON, JR., USDJ, denied motion of Attorney ART HANES that indictment be dismissed and also denied request for Bill of Particulars.

3 - Bureau
2 - Mobile
SHR:egp
(5)

REC-19 44-2101-591

12 NOV 26 1965

Y-107

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

1 - Office, 7133
1 [redacted]
11/24/65

Airtel

To: SAC, Mobile (44-1245)

From: Director, FBI (44-28601)

EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka;
ET AL. - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Re conspiracy trial, this case, set for 11/30/65, Montgomery, Alabama.

In connection with this matter, one box of evidence specimens is being forwarded today under separate cover to the Montgomery Resident Agency by Air Express marked "Attention: SA [redacted] FBI Laboratory."

The second shipment, containing a chart and photographic exhibits, is also being directed to the RA "Attention: SA [redacted]

Those shipments should not be opened prior to [redacted] arrival in Montgomery to testify.

MEW:BLM (5)

[redacted]

MAILED 11
NOV 24 1965
COMM-FBI

EX. 102

REC 19 44-28601

31 NOV 29 1965

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

DEC 3 19

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

11/12/65

AIRTEL AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)(P)

RE: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL
(OO: Mobile)

Re Bureau teletype, 11/10/65.

Under separate cover are being personally delivered the evidence as referred to in referenced teletype. The evidence will be in possession of SA [redacted] who is scheduled for In Service on 11/15/65. The package will be delivered to the Physics-Chemistry Section, FBI Laboratory, care of [redacted], Room 7133. 7C 7C

3 - Bureau
1 - Package
2 - Mobile
JRC:cre
(6)

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 30 1965
TELETYPE

FBI MOBILE

808 PM CST URGENT 11/30/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR /44-28601/

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/ Also known as

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA; ET AL DASH VICTIMS; CR DASH EL.

TRIAL RESUMED AT NINE AM CST TODAY WITH TESTIMONY OF INFORMANT GARY THOMAS ROWE, WHICH LASTED UNTIL TWO FIFTEEN PM CST AFTER RECESS FOR LUNCH.

ROWE, AMONG OTHER THINGS TESTIFIED TO MAKING A PREVIOUS TRIP TO JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA WITH DEFENDANTS THOMAS AND WILKINS AND AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL THERE ROWE LEARNED OF A PLANNED ASSINATION.

FEMALE GOVERNMENT WITNESS, MISS LARSON, WAITRESS AT SILVER MOON CAFE, SELMA, ALABAMA, TESTIFIED THAT DEFENDANTS THOMAS, WILKINS AND EATON WERE PRESENT AT THIS CAFE SHORTLY PRIOR TO SHOOTING OF VICTIM ON NIGHT MARCH TWENTY FIVE SIXTYFIVE.

EIGHT OTHER WITNESSES TESTIFIED IN NORMAL FASHION.

COURT RECESSED AT FIVE TWENTY FIVE PM CST TO RESUME AT NINE AM DECEMBER ONE SIXTYFIVE.

REC 1 44-28601-576
EX-113
16 DEC 1 1965

END

WA SXC

FBI WASH DC 1965

X

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL

ACTION CONTINUED:

[redacted] It is noted that Mr. Doar is going to Montgomery, Alabama, on 1/25/65, where he will remain throughout the trial.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

DATE: 11/29/65

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL -
VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Inspector James L. McGovern and ASAC Thomas Jordan of the Mobile Office have advised the Bureau had less than one hour to conduct a check of members of the jury panel for Assistant Attorney General John Doar. They advised that the case which was to proceed instant case fell through and the Klan conspiracy case would be the first case in court.

After 10:20 a.m., Montgomery time today, the Agents were given the names of 59 individuals who had been summoned for jury duty. One of the individuals under subpoena was the Identification Officer of the Montgomery, Alabama, Police Department. ASAC Jordan advised that when this officer is subpoenaed there is no way of checking the records at the Montgomery Police Department. Twenty of the 59 persons subpoenaed were from Montgomery County, Alabama.

As of 11:20 a.m. the box of trial jurors had been filled. The Agents at the request of Doar had concentrated on the first 30 names on the jury list and were able to furnish to the Departmental attorneys the results of a check of the office indices, information available through Agents' personal knowledge, and other local checks. Eleven of the 30 resided in Montgomery and we were not able to check the records of the Montgomery Police Department inasmuch as the Identification Officer was under subpoena and was at the Federal court.

REC-40 1 DEC 1 1965

ACTION:

[redacted]

CLM:jds
/8/

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 29 1965
TELETYPE

FBI MOBILE

1013 PM CST URGENT 11/29/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR AND KANSAS CITY

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO DASH VICTIMS, CR EL

DEPT ATTORNEY ROBERT OWENS STATES DESIRES SA [redacted] [redacted] REPORT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE ELEVEN THIRTY SIXTYFIVE FOR TESTIMONY. TRIAL CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS. TESTIMONY DESIRED PERTAINS TO INTERVIEW LOG MAINTAINED DURING INTERVIEW WITH SUBJECT WILKINS.

END

WA JMS

FBI WASH DC

KC JJB

FBI KAN CITY

TU CLEARI;XP

REC-68 44-28601-601

DEC 1 1965

Copy to Hines

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: November 28, 1965

FROM : C. L. McGowan, Jr.

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA; ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

At 1:57 a.m., 11/28/65, Mr. Robert Owen, Department Attorney, called from Montgomery, Alabama, advising he was preparing captioned case for trial. He advised that SA Harold F. Charron, presently assigned to WFO, took eight photographs on 3/21/65 at a Klan motorcade in Montgomery and will be needed to testify on Monday, 11/29/65 regarding the photographs. Each photograph has the initials HFC and the 3/21/65 on the back, and Mr. Owen is interested in knowing positively if these are SA Charron's initials.

Mr. Owen wants SA Charron to call either Department Attorney James Turner or St. John Barrett in Montgomery at 9 a.m., 11/28/65, (10 a.m. Washington time) at 205-263-3136 regarding these photographs.

SA Charron is expected to testify on Monday, 11/29/65, or at the latest Tuesday, 11/30/65. Owen advised Charron not needed until afternoon, 11/29/65, and suggested he take a Delta flight from Washington National Airport leaving 7:30 a.m. and arriving in Montgomery, Alabama, about 11 a.m.

ACTION:

SA Charron advised to proceed to Montgomery to testify in captioned case and to call the Department Attorney on 11/28/65 as requested.

WAM:gfs
(9)

REC-28 44-1976-[illegible]

12 DEC 1 1965

See ADDENDUM page 2.

6 0 DEC 10 1965

DEC 8 1965

PERS. REC. UNIT

ADDENDUM: CAN:pah 11/28/65

At 7:40 p.m., 11/28/65, SA Charron advised he has contacted Department Attorney Barrett as requested and will proceed to Montgomery via Delta, Flight 917 departing Friendship Airport 8:10 a.m., 11/29/65, to arrive Montgomery 11:05 a.m.

At 8:50 p.m., 11/28/65, Department Attorney James Turner called from Montgomery, Alabama, to advise Extra Duty Supervisor [redacted] that [redacted] Voucher-Statistical Section, who has previously been alerted as to possible need for testimony, will be needed in Montgomery on 11/29/65 to testify in the trial.

ACTION:

[redacted] was advised of the foregoing at 8:55 p.m. at which time he stated he will depart National Airport 11/29/65 at 7:30 a.m. on Delta, Flight 725 arriving Montgomery at 11:05.

807 PM C T URGENT 11/29/65 VF

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO DASH VICTIMS; CR EL.

JURY LIST RELEASED BY USA TEN TWENTY ONE AM TODAY AND LAST JUROR PICKED AT ELEVEN NINETEEN AM.

FIRST WITNESS, MONTGOMERY POLICE COMMISSIONER L. B. SULLIVAN IDENTIFIED REQUEST FOR XXX PARADE THREE TWENTY ONE SIXTYFIVE AND RESPONSE FROM CITY COMMISSON PERMITTING PARADE. SECOND WITNESS MAJ. WILLIAM R. JONES, ADPS, TESTIFIED TO ASSIGNING OF TWO INVESTIGATORS TO PARTICIPATE IN KLAN PARADE AND TWO INVESTIGATORS TO OBSERVE AND GET LICENSE NUMBERS OF CARS IN PARADE. LT. PAUL DUMAS MONTGOMERY PD, TESTIFIED GENERALLY ABOUT KLAN RALLY AND PARADE.

W. RAY BUTSS, WCOV-TV TESTIFIED TO TAKING PICTURES OF KLAN MOTOR CADE. ROBERT C. ROTON, ALA MOTOR VEHICLE DIV. IDENTIFIED LICENSE NUMBERS. SA-S HAROLD CHARRON, STEPHEN J. FEARON AND JACK BEVERSTEIN TESTIFIED TO TAKING PICTURES OF KLAN RALLY AND PARADE AND TAKING LICENSE NUMBERS FROM CAR PARTICIPATING IN PARADE.

SA. NEIL SHANAHAN TESTIFIED TO RELATIONSHIP OF ROWE AND BUREAU. CAPT. R. W. GODWIN, ADPS, TESTIFIED TO RECEIVING TEL CALL FROM FBI CONCERNING RED AND WHITE CHEV OF THOMAS THREE TWENTY FIVE SIXTY FIVE.

END PAGE ONE ....

REC 36 44-28601-604

DEC 1 1965

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

PAGE TWO ...

CAPT. E. J. DIXON, ADPS TESTIFIED TO THE CONDITION VEHICLE HE FOUND THE LIUZZO CAR AND VICTIMS BODY ON NIGHT OF THREE TWENTY FIVE SIXTY FIVE.

COURT AJOURNED UNTIL NINE AM NEXT DATE.

END

WA ...DLH

FBI WASH DC

X

11/29/65

GENERAL INVESTIGATI[illegible] DIVISION

Trial of subjects on Federal civil rights indictment growing out of shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, 3/25/65, scheduled to begin U. S. District Court, Montgomery, Alabama, 11/29/65. Informant Rowe has agreed to testify at trial following conferences in Tampa with Assistant Attorney General Doar of Department.

[redacted]

ESM:pah

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO Mr. Belmont

FROM A. Rosen

DATE: 11/30/65

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA,
ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Inspector James L. McGovern has telephonically furnished the following information. Gary Thomas Rowe, our informant, finished cross examination at 3:10 p. m., Washington, D. C., time, subject to recall. His testimony was essentially that given by him in the two previous state murder trials of Collie Wilkins and the defense attorney, Art Hanes, was unsuccessful in his efforts to shake the informant.

As was done by the late Matt Murphy during the state murder trial of Wilkins, defense attorney Hanes introduced the factor that the informant had violated his Klan oath in disclosing information concerning the Klan and for that reason his testimony was not worthy of belief.

Inspector McGovern stated that it is believed that this tactic was unsuccessful and could backfire on the defense since the Departmental attorneys in refutation were able to introduce the entire Klan oath which provides that Klan members should cooperate with duly constituted law enforcement agencies, particularly in relation to crimes such as treason and murder.

ACTION:

REC-21 EX-113 -607

The Mobile Office is continuing to follow the trial closely and will keep the Bureau advised of all pertinent developments.

8 DEC 2 1965

JGK:jds
(8)

5 DEC 6 1965

CEFBI W H DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEC 1965
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. T
Mr. W
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI MOBILE

659 PM CST URGENT 12/2/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR /44-28601/

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

Civil Rights Election Laws

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL DASH VICTIMS OR EL.

REMOTEL TWELVE TWO SIXTYFIVE.

TRIAL AT MONTGOMERY ALA RESUMED FOR FOURTH DAY AT NINE AM CST. JUDGE FRANK M. JOHNSON, JR. CHARGED JURY FOR APPROXIMATELY FIFTYFIVE MINUITES. JURY COMMENCED DELIBERATION AT APPROXIMATELY TEN ZERO FIVE AM CST AND HAVE NOT YET REACHED A VERDICT.

COURT RECESSED AT FIVE THIRTY PM CST AND JURY WILL RESUME DELIBERATION AT EIGHT AM CST TWELVE THREE SIXTYFIVE.

END

WA OMS

FBI WASH DC

X

REC 35 44-28601-60

DEC 8 1965

53 DEC 8 1965

12/3

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Trial of subjects on Federal civil rights indictment began 11/29/65 in U. S. District Court, Montgomery, Alabama.

VFL:mfd

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: December 1, 1965

FROM : C. L. McGowan

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET al.;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO (DECEASED)
ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

Inspector James McGovern telephonically advised at 1:30 p. m. that in connection with the trial of the three defendants the Government has rested its case and the Court has recessed until 1:45 p. m., EST.

Defense Attorney Arthur Haynes made a motion for dismissal on the basis that the Government had not made a prima facie case and was promptly overruled by the Judge. Haynes will commence the defense when Court reconvenes at 1:45 p. m.

With reference to arrangements to record the audio tape made available by the Canadian Broadcasting Company, it has not been possible to record the tape on available local radio station equipment due to background interference. Arrangements have now been made through the local telephone company which has superior high fidelity facilities and equipment to "boost" the volume, to record it. The intention of the Departmental attorneys is to use pertinent material in the tape, if a recording of sufficient quality can be obtained, in rebuttal.

EX-113
REC-47

ACTION:

Mobile is continuing to follow the progress of the trial closely and will keep the Bureau advised of all pertinent developments.

JGK/nkr
(5)

59 DEC 8

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

DATE: November 30, 1965

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO,
(DECEASED) - ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

United Press International today reported that the informant in this case testified he had gone to Jacksonville, Florida, with Eugene Thomas to plan an assassination of a Klansman. He reportedly did not give any details but it was stated in the release that the planned assassination apparently had no connection with the Liuzzo case. It was also reported informant testified he had met with high-ranking officials of the Klan in Jacksonville to plan the assassination of a Klansman who had revealed information about the Klan.

[redacted]

CLM/nkr
(9)

CONTINUED - Over

57DEC 8 1965

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;

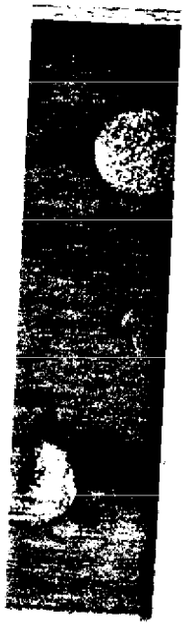
[redacted]

Rosecrans referred to above is William Sterling Rosecrans, Jr., who was arrested by Bureau Agents in March, 1964, charged with a Federal Civil Rights violation in connection with the bombing of the home of Iona Godfrey, Jacksonville, 2/16/64. The Godfrey residence was bombed because a six-year-old Godfrey child was the first Negro to attend an all-white school.

Rosecrans pleaded guilty in Federal court on March 13, 1964, and was sentenced to serve seven years. He later served as a Government witness in the trial of five Klansmen who had been involved in the bombing. These five subjects were tried 6/30/64. One subject was acquitted and the jury was unable to reach a verdict on the others. Four of these subjects were retried in Jacksonville beginning 11/25/64 and were acquitted 11/27/64. Rosecrans has been in prison since his conviction and no attempt is known to have been made against his life.

ACTION:

Mobile is closely following the trial and will keep the Bureau advised of pertinent developments.





UPI-65

(KLAN)

MONTGOMERY, ALA.--AN FBI INFORMER TESTIFIED IN FEDERAL COURT TODAY HE MET WITH HIGH-RANKING WU KLUX KLAN OFFICIALS IN JACKSONVILLE, FLA., TO PLAN THE ASSASSINATION OF A KLANSMAN WHO REVEALED INFORMATION ABOUT THE SECRET ORDER.

THE TESTIMONY OF GARY THOMAS ROWE CAME AS FEDERAL ATTORNEYS WORKED TO SOLIDIFY THEIR CASE AGAINST THREE KLANSMEN WHOSE ALLEGED ROLE IN THE SLAYING OF A NEGRO CIVIL RIGHTS WORKER WAS REVEALED IN A MIDNIGHT RENDEZVOUS WITH ROWE.

ROWE WAS THE FIRST PROSECUTION WITNESS TODAY IN THE FEDERAL CONSPIRACY TRIAL OF COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, WILLIAM EATON AND EUGENE THOMAS.

ROWE SAID HE WAS WITH THE THREE WHEN THEY ALLEGEDLY KILLED MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO THE NIGHT OF MARCH 25.

ROWE BROKE DOWN THE DAY HE SAID HE SPENT WITH THE THREE BEFORE THE MURDER AND DETAILED A HIGH-SPEED CHASE AFTER THE MURDER OF MRS. LIUZZO OF DETROIT.

ROWE DROPPED A BOMBSHELL DURING HIS TESTIMONY WHEN HE TOLD THE COU HE HAD GONE WITH THOMAS TO JACKSONVILLE TO PLAN AN ASSASSINATION OF A KLANSMAN. HE DID NOT GIVE ANY DETAILS, BUT THE PLANNED ASSASSINATION APPARENTLY HAD NO CONNECTION WITH THE LIUZZO CASE.

THE COURT TOOK A 15-MINUTE RECESS BEFORE DEFENSE ATTORNEYS WERE ALLOWED TO CROSSEXAMINE ROWE.

THE THREE DEFENDANTS ARE CHARGED WITH CONSPIRING TO VIOLATE THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF PARTICIPANTS IN LAST SPRING'S SELMA-TO-MONTGOMERY "FREEDOM MARCH."

11/30--SE1204P

44 — 28601-610

ENCLOSURE

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
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Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: 12/3/65

FROM : A. H. Belmont

cc Mr. Belmont
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Rosen
Mr. McGowan

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, et al
Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, et al - Victims
CIVIL RIGHTS

Inspector McGovern called from Montgomery, Alabama at 3:15 p.m. today to advise that the jury had just returned a verdict of guilty against subjects Eugene Thomas, Collie Leroy Wilkins and William O. Eaton.

These subjects were charged under Section 241, Title 18, of the Civil Rights Statute, and McGovern said the maximum penalty is 10 years. While McGovern, of course, does not know, he feels from the action of the judge that sentence may be passed today and that the judge may give the defendants the maximum sentence. He will advise the Bureau when sentence is passed.

Director [illegible] advised by pink note of sentencing [illegible]

AHB:CSH (5)

McGowan

DEC 19 [illegible]

EX-113

4 DEC 6 1965

66 DEC 9 1965

Memorandum to Mr. Conrad
Re: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA; ET AL. - VICTIMS;
CR [redacted] EL
44-28601 [redacted]

Assistant Attorney General Doar was assisted by United States Attorney Ben Hardeman in presenting the Government's case. Mr. Hardeman questioned both SAs Flach and Williams. The defendants were represented by Arthur Hanes (a former Bureau Agent). Hanes represented Collie L. Wilkins in second trial in Hayneville, Alabama.

ACTION: For information. The Mobile Office will follow and report the prosecutive action in this case.

FBI WASH DC

DEC 1965

TELETYPE

FBI MOBILE

3-34 PM CST URGENT 12/3/65 RWP

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS.

CR, EL. OO MOBILE.

AT TWO TEN P. M. TODAY, CST, JURY AT MONTGOMERY, ALA., RETURNED A CONVICTION AGAINST COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, WILLIAM O. EATON, AND EUGENE THOMAS CHARGING THEM WITH THE COUNTS MENTIONED IN THE INDICTMENT. AFTER A CONFERENCE WITH DEFENSE ATTORNEYS AND PROBATION OFFICER, ALL THREE WERE SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS EACH AND WERE RELEASED ON TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR APPEAL BOND.

END

WA....NLL

FBI WASH DC

X

REC 1 157-2-1001616

EX-113

DEC 6 1965

57 DEC 10 1965

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W. C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Wick
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 12/3/65

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA
ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

U. S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., of the Middle District of Alabama contacted Inspector McGovern after the sentencing of the three defendants in Federal Court today.

The Judge stated that some of the jurors were somewhat apprehensive following a return of the verdict of guilty against the three subjects. Judge Johnson requested that Agents contact the jurors and obtain their names, residence addresses and telephone numbers. He also desired that each juror be furnished the name of the nearest Agent whom they could contact in the event a threat was received. The Judge understands that the Bureau will not be affording protection of any type to the individual jurors.

ACTION:

Agents are complying with the request of Judge Johnson and will furnish the jurors with the identity of the Agent whom each can contact in the event any threats are received. Mobile will advise the Bureau of any pertinent developments in this matter.

CLM:jds
(8)

REC. 40

DEC 6 1965

50 DEC 16 1965

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Conrad

FROM : R. H. Jevons

1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Williams

DATE: 12/3/65

1 - Office, Room 7133
1 - Mr. Herndon

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Wick
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA; ET AL. - VICTIMS;
CR - EL

Mrs. Viola Liuzzo was shot near Selma, Alabama, on the evening of 3/25/65, while engaging in the transportation of civil rights workers between Montgomery and Selma. One of the defendants Collie L. Wilkins has been tried twice in State Court in Hayneville, Alabama. The first trial ended in a mistrial, the second in acquittal.

The three defendants were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury setting in Montgomery, Alabama, in April, 1965, for conspiracy to violate the civil rights of the victims.

In connection with the Federal trial which began in Montgomery on 11/29/65, SAs Richard W. Flach and Marion E. Williams were called as witnesses.

SA Williams testified concerning his examination of the victim's car in Montgomery immediately following the shooting and the physical evidence which he obtained. He also testified concerning the examinations he conducted in the Laboratory which resulted in the identification of a bullet from the victim's head and two bullets recovered from the car as having been fired in the revolver recovered by Bureau Agents from a car located at the residence of Eugene Thomas, a defendant in this case.

SA Flach testified concerning his examination of glass fragments removed from the recovered bullets. These fragments were compared with known specimens obtained from the door window and windshield of the victim's car. On the basis of this examination, SA Flach was able to testify concerning which specimens passed through the door window and which passed through the windshield.

44-28601

REC-10

DEC 6 1965

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Wick
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Hines, Room 2262
1 - Mr. Gallagher, Room 4264

15 DEC 13 1965

MEW:bsm (12)

(CONTINUED - OVER)

3:18 PM

December 3, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. BELMONT
MR. DE LOACH
MR. ROSEN
MR. WICK

11-1

Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr.

After being advised by Mr. Belmont, I immediately called the Attorney General and advised him that I just wanted to let him know that all three people were convicted in the case in Birmingham. The Attorney General said he was just going to call me and tell me the Bureau did a terrific job not only originally but in the way the testimony went and the way they conducted themselves and it was really a victory for the Bureau as in this one, the Bureau was itself on trial in a sense. I stated I thought it may be the turning point. I stated the defense counsel had made a great issue of the fact that the witness (Gary Thomas Rowe) had broken his Klan oath and I thought that is insulting the intelligence of the jury and that may have been the turning point. The Attorney General said that he and John (Doar?) talked over the trial and decided one of the things which was really essential was that the Bureau be put forward in this. He stated the Bureau was held back, in a sense, in the State court trials and they felt the way to win this was to rely on the reputation of the Bureau and he thought that is what won it.

I stated I was glad the informant came through, as he is temperamental and if we had lost this we could probably not use him again because he was pretty well torn to pieces when he came back from the West Coast. The Attorney General stated he thought it was terrific and I commented that I was happy about it.

44-2860 T-617

I commented that we have that Mississippi thing to which we will have to face up some of these days, and the Attorney General said those fellows must be feeling uneasy. I stated I thought there was a different attitude in Mississippi today and the Governor had helped materially and if we can get to trial, I thought the Supreme Court would sustain the position the Department had taken. The Attorney General stated he thought they would in Mississippi but he did not know about the Georgia case. The Attorney General reiterated that he really congratulates me and the Agents involved and I expressed my appreciation to him.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Tolson
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Callahan
Conrad
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Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Wick
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

79 DEC 9 - 1965

JEH:edm (9)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 4:44 PM
DATE 12/3/65
BY

FBI WASH DC

3MSGS

FBI BIRMGHAM

545PM CST URGENT 11-24-65 HEP

TO DIRECTOR AND SAN FRANCISCO

FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236) 2P

EUGENE THOMAS; ETAL. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA; ETAL - VICTIMS. CR

DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY TURNER, PRESENTLY IN BIRMINGHAM, ADVISED HE NEEDS IN MONTGOMERY, ALA., ON NOVEMBER TWENTYEIGHT NEXT, AT TEN A.M., THE FOLLOWING AGENTS: [redacted] AND [redacted] THESE AGENTS WILL APPEAR IN MONTGOMERY AT TEN A.M. DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY TURNER REQUESTED THAT THE FOLLOWING BIRMINGHAM AGENTS REMAIN ON STANDBY IN BIRMINGHAM FOR POSSIBLE CALL IN FORTHCOMING TRIAL: [redacted] AND [redacted]

IN ADDITION, TURNER ADVISED HE FELT SA [redacted] WOULD BE ESSENTIAL WITNESS IN CASE. COLLIER CURRENTLY ASSIGNED LANGUAGE SCHOOL, MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO REQUESTED TO ADVISE SA [redacted] TO SECURE RESERVATION ON JET FLIGHT ON MONDAY NEXT, NOVEMBER TWENTYNINE NEXT. TURNER STATED EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO PLACE [redacted] ON

END PAGE ONE

TYPE

1965

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

44-2601-118

DEC 7 1965

PAGE TWO.

STANE EARLY TUESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER THIRTY NEXT AND HE WOULD THEN BE PERMITTED TO RETURN TO LANGUAGE SCHOOL.

TURNER STATED THAT IN THE EVENT ANY CHANGES OCCUR RE USE OF [redacted] E WILL PROMPTLY ADVISE BIRMINGHAM OFFICE, WHO WILL THEN MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR CANCELLATION OF [redacted] TRIP.

END

FBI WASH DC

cc - [redacted]

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 12/3/65

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Inspector McGovern has advised that the Federal Court jury which has this case under consideration returned to the courtroom at approximately 11:20 a. m. (Washington, D. C. time) today and informed the court that they were hopelessly deadlocked and unable to reach a verdict.

The District Court Judge advised the jurors that this was a very important case. He said that the presentation of the case had been very expensive to the Government and also involved considerable expenseto the individual defendants. The court indicated that the jurors had heard the testimony of approximately 50 witnesses and informed the jurors in effect "you have just begun to deliberate this matter." The Judge then sent them back for further consideration of the case.

[redacted]

ACTION:

REC 58 44-28601-

This matter is being closely followed and you will be advised of pertinent developments.

DEC 7 1965

CLM:jds
(6)

53 DEC 13 1965

DO-6

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MR. TOLSON
MR. DELOACH
MR. MOHR
MR. CASPER
MR. CALLAHAN
MR. CONRAD
MR. FELT
MR. GALE
MR. ROSEN
MR. SULLIVAN
MR. TAVEL
MR. TROTTER
MR. WICK
MR. JONES
TELE. ROOM
MISS HOLMES
MRS. METCALF
MISS GANDY

11:40 a.m. December 3, 1965

Mr. Belmont called to advise as follows:

The Birmingham office advised that a few minutes ago the jury in the civil rights case arising from the Liuzzo murder came into the court and told the Judge they were "hopelessly hung." The Judge told the jury that this was a highly expensive case to the Government with some 50 witnesses called and an expensive case to the defense, and that they had only begun to deliberate and to go back and resume deliberation.

[redacted]

AB:nm

44-28601

NOT RECORDED
5 DEC 7 1965

44-28601

40

DEC 9

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson ✓
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Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: 12/3/65

FROM : A. H. Belmont

cc Mr. Belmont
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Rosen
Mr. McGowan

SUBJECT:

EUGENE THOMAS, et al
Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, et al - Victims
CIVIL RIGHTS

Inspector McGovern called to advise that the three subjects in this case, namely Eugene Thomas, Collie Leroy Wilkins, and William O. Eaton, had been sentenced to 10 years each, this afternoon, and were being released on $10,000 appeal bonds.

AHB:CSH (5)

MCT-20

44-2601-121

EX-111 REC-11

12 DEC 6 1965

53 DEC 13 1965

CODE

12/6/65

1 - Mr. Hines

TELETYPE

URGENT

SENT BY CODED TELETYPE

TO SAC SAN FRANCISCO

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA; ET AL - VICTIMS;

CR-EL.

REFERENCE YOUR RADIOGRAM DECEMBER 6, 1965.

[redacted] 7A

REFERENCED RADIOGRAM.

VIA RADIOGRAM
DEC 6 1965
7:39PM DLA

1 - GAC, Birmingham (info)

JWH:mls
(4)

NOTE: [redacted] is Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., Bureau informant who testified at the Federal trial of 3 subjects in connection with the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo during the week of 11/29-12/3/65. The trial resulted in conviction of the 3 subjects, who have been sentenced to serve 10 years each on the charges. They have been released on $10,000 bond each pending appeal.

[redacted] 7A

REC-73 44-2xxx-623

CR-113

19 DEC 9 1965

NR
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CK
APPROVED BY
TYPED BY
LOGGED BY

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MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

0-19 (Rev. 12-14-64)

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Convictions in Alabama Heartening to Johnson

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

AUSTIN, Tex., Dec. 3 President Johnson said today that the Nation "can take heart" from the conviction of three Alabamans for conspiracy in connection with the slaying of Viola Gregg Liuzzo.

Mr. Johnson also congratulated the Federal officials who prosecuted the case in Montgomery, Ala.

Acting White House press secretary Joseph Laitin quoted the President as saying "the whole Nation can take heart from the fact that there are those in the South who believe in justice in racial matters and were determined not to stand for acts of violence and terror."

Laitin said the President telephoned Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach and made the comment to him.

Mr. Johnson also told the Attorney General, Laitin said, that Assistant Attorney General John Doar, who handled the prosecution along with Ben Hardeman, the United States Attorney in Montgomery, and the FBI were "to be congratulated on the successful conclusion of the conspiracy trial."

A civil rights worker from Michigan, Mrs. Liuzzo was killed early this year on the highway between Selma and Montgomery after participating in the march on Montgomery.

The President made the original announcement of arrest of the three men in a televised statement from the White House.

The President was reported to have worked most of the day at his desk following an early morning physical examination by Vice Adm. George G. Burkley, White House physician.

Laitin said the doctor was "quite satisfied" with the President's condition and found "everything within normal range."

The President's weight is between 190 and 195 pounds and the doctor wants him to maintain it, Laitin said.

When the President makes a sudden turn he feels twinges from muscle sensitivity, Laitin said, but the doctor found that the incision "has healed nicely."

The President announced the selection of Rear Adm. Edward J. Fahy as chief of the Bureau of Ships. Fahy will succeed Rear Adm. William A. Brockett, who is retiring Feb. 1 after disagreeing with shipbuilding policies of Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara.

Fahy is a 55-year-old honor graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He currently is commander of the San Francisco Bay Naval Shipyard and of the Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

In a statement issued today, Mr. Johnson also announced that paratroopers serving in Vietnam will be able to draw their extra incentive pay—$55 a month for enlisted men and $110 for officers—if involvement in ground fighting prevents them from making the required one jump every three months. The action amended an earlier executive order.

NOT RECORDED
184 DEC 10 1965

The Washington Post and Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star
New York Herald Tribune
New York Journal-American
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times
The Baltimore Sun
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World
Date

DEC 4 - 1965

44-28661

66 DEC 13 1965

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson ✓
DeLoach
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Callahan
Conrad
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Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
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Wick
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 12-4-65

FROM : Mr. DeLoach

SUBJECT: TELEGRAM FROM PRESIDENT
LYNDON B. JOHNSON

The Director received the attached telegram dated December 4, 1965, from the President at the temporary White House in Johnson City, Texas. The telegram reads "My congratulations to you on the successful conclusion of the U. S. vs. Eaton, Thomas, and Wilkins case. The work which you and the Bureau did in preparing this case for trial in conducting the necessary investigations, I am sure, made possible this victory for justice. Lyndon B. Johnson."

Pursuant to my conversation with the Director this morning there is attached a copy of our acknowledgment of this telegram which was approved by the Director and reads as follows "It was typically thoughtful of you to extend congratulations regarding the Eaton, Thomas and Wilkins case. I am very grateful to you for your continued faith and confidence in the FBI's handling of its responsibilities in this field. I am taking great pride in passing your fine message on to the many FBI personnel who tenaciously and patiently handled this matter. J. Edgar Hoover."

Mrs. Stegall at the White House advised that there are no facilities in either Austin or Johnson City for delivering telegrams to the LBJ ranch. She stated all telegrams sent to either of these cities are sent back to the White House and they put them on the direct line to the little White House at the LBJ ranch. She stated that this handling is much faster and accordingly, a copy of the attached telegram was delivered personally to Mrs. Stegall at approximately 10:20 a.m. and she assured that it would be sent to the President immediately.

Enclosures (2)
1 - Mr. Tolson - Enclosures
1 - Miss Gandy - Enclosures
1 - Mr. Rosen - Enclosures
1 - Mr. Gale - Enclosures
DJH:cal
(6)

RECOMMENDATION:

None, for the Director's information.

REC 17

17 DEC 10 1965

CRIME RECORDS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEC 4 1965

WESTERN UNION

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Wick
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

BIA007 107A EST DEC 4 65 PC002 WHA018 GOVT PD

TEMPORARY WHITE HOUSE JOHNSON CITY TEX DEC 3 105AP CST

THE HONORABLE J EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHDC

MY CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ON THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE U.S. VS. EATON, THOMAS, AND WILKINS CASE.

THE WORK WHICH YOU AND THE BUREAU DID IN PREPARING THIS CASE FOR TRIAL IN CONDUCTING THE NECESSARY INVESTIGATIONS, I AM SURE, MADE POSSIBLE THIS VICTORY FOR JUSTICE.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

DEC 1 [illegible]

17 DEC 10 1965

CRIME RESEARCH SEC

12/4/65

PLAINTEXT

TELEGRAM

URGENT

THE PRESIDENT
LBJ RANCH
JOHNSON CITY, TEXAS

MY DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

IT WAS TYPICALLY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU TO EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS REGARDING THE EATON, THOMAS AND WILKINS CASE. I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN THE FBI'S HANDLING OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS FIELD. I AM TAKING GREAT PRIDE IN PASSING YOUR FINE MESSAGE ON TO THE MANY FBI PERSONNEL WHO TENACIOUSLY AND PATIENTLY HANDLED THIS MATTER.

SINCERELY,

J. EDGAR HOOVER

DGH:jev
(10)

Tolson
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Wick
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

17 DEC 10 1965

0-9 (Rev. 12-13-56)

F B I

Date: 12/4/65

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plain text or code)

Via TELEGRAM URGENT
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

THE PRESIDENT
LBJ RANCH
JOHNSON CITY, TEXAS

MY DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

IT WAS TYPICALLY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU TO EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS REGARDING THE EATON, THOMAS AND WILKINS CASE. I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN THE FBI'S HANDLING OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS FIELD. I AM TAKING GREAT PRIDE IN PASSING YOUR FINE MESSAGE ON TO THE MANY FBI PERSONNEL WHO TENACIOUSLY AND PATIENTLY HANDLED THIS MATTER.

SINCERELY,

J. EDGAR HOOVER

DGH:jev
(10)

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

FBI

Date: 12/11/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, Birmingham (44-1236) (P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Assistant United States Attorney R. MACEY TAYLOR, Birmingham, Alabama, on December 10, 1965, advised that U. S. District Judge CLARENCE W. ALLGOOD has set hearing date on December 20, 1965, to receive evidence regarding revoking probation of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS. Assistant U. S. Attorney TAYLOR anticipates need for testimony from SA HILBERT ARPS, Atlanta Division, and SA HAROLD F. CHARRON, Washington Field Office, regarding photographs taken on March 21, 1965, at Montgomery, Alabama, and Atlanta, Georgia, on June 6, 1965.

TAYLOR requested that necessary Agents be alerted and that appropriate subpoenaes will be issued.

3-Bureau
2-Atlanta
2-Mobile
2-Washington Field
2-Birmingham
NPS:cla
(11)

REC-48

44-2860-67

EX-111

DEC 13 1965

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

NOTE: Gary Thomas Rowe is our informant who furnished the initial information identifying the subjects responsible for the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on 3/25/65. He testified at the successful prosecution of the 3 subjects in Federal Court during the week ending 12-3-65.

[redacted]

1 - Office, 7133
1 - Mr. Williams
11/29/65

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SAC MOBILE (44-1245)

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-28601)

RE EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.; VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL., VICTIMS; CR - EL.

SA'S R. W. FLACH AND M. E. WILLIAMS, FBI LABORATORY, ARRIVING MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, DELTA AIR LINES FLIGHT SIX THREE FIVE, FOUR FORTY P.M. TODAY TO TESTIFY TRIAL THIS CASE.

NOTE: Department has required testimony of laboratory examiners in this case.

MRW: BMM (4)

REC-63 EX 109

19 DEC 14 1965

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 29 1965
TELETYPE

DEC 17 1965

ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☑

FBI BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 29 1963
TELETYPE

FBI MOBILE

FBI WASH DC

2-22 PM URGENT 11-29-63 JXM

TO MOBILE (44-1245)

FROM DIRECTOR (44-28601) 1P

RE EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.; VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL., VICTIMS; CR - EL.

SA'S R. W. FLACH AND M. E. WILLIAMS, FBI LABORATORY, ARRIVING MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, DELTA AIR LINES FLIGHT SIX THREE FIVE, FOUR FORTY P.M. TODAY TO TESTIFY TRIAL THIS CASE.

END AND ACK PLS

MO...FBW

FBI MOBILE

TU CLR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC 14 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Wick
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI BIRMGHAM

939 AM CST URGENT 12-14-65 JGA

TO DIRECTOR AND WFO AND ATLANTA

FROM BIRMINGHAM 44-1236

EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ETAL - VICTIMS. CR - EL.

BUFILE FORTYFOUR DASH TWO EIGHT SIX ZERO ONE.

REVOCATION OF PROBATION HEARING FOR COLLIE LEROY WILKINS SCHEDULED IN USDC, BIRMINGHAM, TWO P.M., DECEMBER TWENTY NEXT. SUBPOENAS ISSUED DECEMBER THIRTEEN LAST COMMANDING APPEARANCE AS ESSENTIAL WITNESS OF SA HAROLD F. CHARRON, JR., ASSIGNED WFO, AND SA HILBERT ARPS, ATLANTA DIVISION.

PRESENCE OF SAS CHARRON AND ARPS EXPECTED AT FEDERAL BUILDING, BIRMINGHAM, TWO P.M. DEC. TWENTIETH NEXT, UACB.

END

ACK IN ORDER

WA ALS

FBI WASH DC*

AT RDB

FBI ATLANTA

CLRGZZA

REC- 18

EX- 112

44-28101-632

DEC 15 1965

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
MOBILE	MOBILE	12/9/65	12/3 - 7/65

TITLE OF CASE

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, Aka,
ET AL - VICTIMS

REPORT MADE BY [redacted] 7C

TYPED BY :pr

CHARACTER OF CASE

CR; EL

REFERENCE: Report of SA [redacted] 11/16/65, Mobile.

- P - 7C

ENCLOSURES TO BUREAU: Three copies of parole report and one disposition sheet for each of the three subjects, THOMAS, WILKINS, and EATON.

LEADS

BIRMINGHAM AND SAN FRANCISCO (INFO)

Information copies are sent these offices in view of their interest in the case.

Pending Over One Year: No

Pending Prosecution Over Six Months: Yes

STATISTICS

APPROVED [redacted] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

REC-34

EX 109

DEC 16 1965

COPIES MADE:

(2) - Bureau (44-28601)(Encs. 12)
1 - Departmental Attorney, Selma
1 - USA, Montgomery
1 - Birmingham (44-1236)(Info)
1 - San Francisco (Info)(44-609)
2 - New Orleans
2 - Mobile (44-1245)

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

AGENCY			
REQUEST RECD.			
DATE FWD.	12/17/65		
HOW FWD.			
BY			

NOTATIONS

MC 44-1245

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

At New Orleans, Louisiana

Will follow the appeal of subjects with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - Departmental Attorney, Selma, Alabama
1 - U. S. Attorney, Montgomery, Alabama

Report of: [redacted] 7C Office: MOBILE

Date: December 9, 1965

Field Office File #: 44-1245 Bureau File #: 44-28601

Title: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis: Subjects THOMAS, EATON, and WILKINS tried in USDC, Montgomery, Ala., during week beginning 11/29/65 through 12/3/65. Federal jury reached verdict of guilty as charged 12/3/65, and each of the above three subjects sentenced to period of ten years in custody of the Attorney General. On 12/4/65 subjects released from Montgomery County Jail on $10,000 appeal bond as defense attorney appealing case to Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

- P -

DETAILS: On December 7, 1965, U. S. Marshal [redacted] 7C Montgomery, Alabama, advised subjects THOMAS, EATON, and WILKINS were tried in U. S. District Court, Montgomery, during the week of November 29, 1965, through December 3, 1965. A Federal Jury returned a verdict of guilty as charged, violation of Section 241, Title 18, U. S. Code, against all three subjects on December 3, 1965. On December 3, 1965, U. S. District Judge FRANK M. JOHNSON, JR., Middle District of Alabama, sentenced each of the three subjects to a term of ten years in custody of the Attorney General.

Defense Attorney ARTHUR J. HANES stated at the time of sentencing he intended to appeal the conviction in this case to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, and Judge JOHNSON continued bonds on the above three subjects of $10,000 each.

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.

MG 44-1245

On December 4, 1965, all subjects were released from custody at the Montgomery County Jail, Montgomery, Alabama, after posting $10,000 appeal bonds each.

FD-362 (Rev. 11-21-63)

PAROLE REPORT
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date
MOBILE	MOBILE	12/9/65

Name of Convict with Aliases:	Report Made By	Typed By
EUGENE THOMAS	[redacted]	pr

Violation:

7C

CIVIL RIGHTS

Outline of Offense:

On 3/25/65, Mrs. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO died as a result of gunshot wounds received that date in Lowndes County, Ala., while en route from Selma to Montgomery, Ala. Mrs. LIUZZO had participated in a civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., 3/21-25/65. Investigation determined COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, and EUGENE THOMAS had conspired to commit actions depriving Mrs. LIUZZO of her civil rights.

Date and place of indictment or information filed: 4/6/65, USDC, Montgomery, Alabama

Code and section under which charged: U. S. Code, Title 18, Section 241

Section under which sentenced: Section 241

Date and nature of plea: 11/5/65; not guilty

Date and place of conviction: 12/3/65; USDC, Montgomery, Alabama

Date and duration of sentence: 12/3/65; ten years in custody of Attorney General

Fines: None

Aggravating or Mitigating circumstances:

There are no known mitigating circumstances.

Approved	Special Agent in Charge	Do Not Write in Spaces Below
Copies Made:		
3 - Bureau (44-28601) Dissemination of SRI/		
2 - Bureau of Prisons Date Fwd.: By:		
1 -		

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PAROLE REPORT
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date
MOBILE	MOBILE	12/9/65

Name of Convict with Aliases:	Report Made By: [redacted]	Typed By
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.	Violation: 7c CIVIL RIGHTS	pr

Outline of Offense:

On 3/25/65, Mrs. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO died as a result of gunshot wounds received that date in Lowndes County, Ala., while en route from Selma to Montgomery, Ala. Mrs. LIUZZO had participated in a civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., 3/21-25/65. Investigation determined COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, and EUGENE THOMAS had conspired to commit actions depriving Mrs. LIUZZO of her civil rights.

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Date and place of conviction: 12/3/65; USDC, Montgomery, Alabama

Date and duration of sentence: 12/3/65; ten years in custody of Attorney General

Fines: None

Aggravating or Mitigating circumstances:

There are no known mitigating circumstances.

Approved	Special Agent in Charge	Do Not Write in Spaces Below
Copies Made: 3 - Bureau (44-28601) Dissemination of SOC: 2 - Bureau of Prisons Date Fwd.: By: 1 -		

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ENCLOSURE 44-28601-11

Form (Rev. 11-1-61)

PAROLE REPORT
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date
MOBILE	MOBILE	12/9/65

Name of Convict with Aliases:	Report Made By	Typed By
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON	[redacted]	:pr

Violation: 7c

CIVIL RIGHTS

Outline of Offense:

On 3/25/65, Mrs. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO died as a result of gunshot wounds received that date in Lowndes County, Ala., while en route from Selma to Montgomery, Ala. Mrs. LIUZZO had participated in a civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., 3/21-25/65. Investigation determined WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, EUGENE THOMAS, and COLLIE LEROY WILKINS had conspired to commit actions depriving Mrs. LIUZZO of her civil rights.

Date and place of indictment or information filed: 4/6/65, USDC, Montgomery, Alabama

Code and section under which charged: U. S. Code, Title 18, Section 241

Section under which sentenced: Section 241

Date and nature of plea: 11/5/65; not guilty

Date and place of conviction: 12/3/65, USDC, Montgomery, Alabama

Date and duration of sentence: 12/3/65; ten years in custody of Attorney General

Fines: None

Aggravating or Mitigating circumstances:

There are no known mitigating circumstances.

Approved	Special Agent in Charge	Do Not Write in Spaces Below
Copies Made: 3 - Bureau (44-38601) Dissemination of SOC; 2 - Bureau of Prisons Date Fwd.: By: 1 -		

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ENCLOSURE

2:22 PM

November 24, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. BELMONT
MR. ROSEN
MR. DE LOACH

[redacted]

b7a

[redacted]

b7a

[redacted]

b7a

44-[illegible]-635

[redacted]

b7a

29 DEC 1 - 1965

Vert: edm (8)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

EX-101

NOV 29 1965

November 24, 1965

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, Rosen, DeLoach

but had moved it up to Friday. Mr. Malley stated we did have previous information about the jury checking and he will make certain we have ample personnel there. I asked that he do this, particularly in view of our having sent 20 men to Charlotte as I did not want to take anybody from Charlotte. Mr. Malley said he would take care of it.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 5:35 PM
DATE 11/24/65
BY JCA

November 24, 1965

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, Rosen, DeLoach

the assistance of some experts in that area as to who are members of the Klan, et cetera. I stated we were pretty well covered by informants and took occasion to mention to the Attorney General that I have ordered more Agents into the Charlotte area, including Inspector Joseph Sullivan. The Attorney General stated he did not know that the information he gave me re the starting of the trial is public knowledge, but we are going to have a very short time to check on the jury panel. I stated I would lay plans accordingly so we would have enough men in that office so they can respond to it.

The Attorney General inquired if I thought we would break the case in Charlotte. I stated I was not certain and he inquired if it depended upon somebody talking and I agreed, stating we have to get somebody from within.

I also took occasion to mention to the Attorney General the fact that there is coming out in the January Reader's Digest a fine article on the accomplishments in the civil rights field. I stated I have found that people are amazed when I begin to tell them of the things that have been done and this article will be excellent. I commented that I had seen an editorial in a Cumberland paper which was critical of the Department for not doing more in the civil rights and organized crime fields, but we have made a substantial record in both and mentioned the case in Chicago yesterday where Murray Humphreys died. The Attorney General asked if I would send him the names of the two Agents in Chicago who made the arrest of Humphreys as he thought he might write them. I told him I would do so. (Mr. Belmont has been advised.)

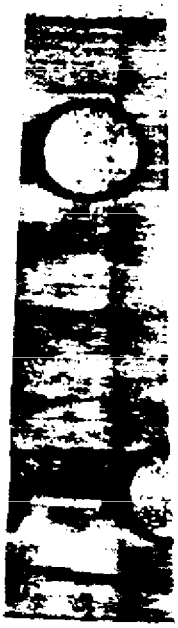
The Attorney General stated that John Doar would be down there sometime Friday and be in touch with the Bureau people and if I had any further thoughts on the matter to give him a call, but he thought Rowe would have to be toned down a bit but we can try to do most of what he wants. I stated I saw in a wire I had received from the West Coast that Rowe said he had no confidence in the attorneys of the Department but did have confidence in the FBI so we will have that leverage. The Attorney General stated he thought Doar is a calm man and I stated he is a good prosecutor and that is important because I think this case is being viewed rather as a "symbol" case.

November 24, 1965

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, Rosen, DeLoach



[redacted]



The Attorney General stated that we are going to have about four hours from the time the jury panel is drawn to find out something about the people on it so they are going to need some help from my sources there as there will be 75 names on that panel and they have to be able to identify them. I inquired as to when they anticipate going to trial and the Attorney General indicated Monday; that the Judge is going to draw a new jury on Monday and he has one case coming before this case which will probably be about a three-hour case and we will know the 75 names on that jury panel when court convenes and the chances are that at 2 o'clock that afternoon they will start selecting the jury for the case. The Attorney General stated that consequently they will need

FD-302 (Rev 3-3-59)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
MOBILE	MOBILE	11/24/65	11/18-24/65

TITLE OF CASE:

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;

VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO;
ET AL - VICTIMS

REPORT MADE BY: [redacted] TYPED BY: egp

CHARACTER OF CASE: 7L

CR; EL

REFERENCE: Bureau airtel to Mobile and Birmingham 11/17/65
Mobile teletype to Chicago 11/22/65
Chicago teletype to Mobile 11/23/65

- P -

LEADS:

MOBILE

AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA. Will follow and report prosecutive action in this case.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

44-28601-636

The warning ticket which was issued to RONALD [redacted] DABNER for speeding, was among State evidence which was obtained from

APPROVED: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

2 - Bureau (44-28601)
1 - USA, Montgomery
1 - Departmental Attorney
James Turner, Montgomery
3 - Mobile (44-1245)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-28601-580 REC-99

30 NOV 29 1965

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

AGENCY	CRD
REQUEST RECD.	
DATE FWD.	11/29/65
HOW FWD.	
BY	EJM

NOTATIONS

STAT. SPCT.

5 DEC 2 1965 CRD

197

the Clerk of Court in Hayneville, Ala., and is currently in possession of Departmental Attorney James Turner. On 11/22/65 TURNER advised that since the original was in his possession, it would be unnecessary for a copy to be made of this warning ticket.

A copy of the accident report referred to in the details of this report is being made available directly to Departmental Attorney TURNER in Montgomery, and will not be made an enclosure to this report.

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - U. S. Attorney, Montgomery, Alabama
1 - Departmental Attorney James Turner, Montgomery

Report of: S[redacted] Office: MOBILE
Date: 11/24/65

Field Office File #: 44-1245 Bureau File #: 44-28601

Title: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL:
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO;
ET AL - VICTIMS

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis:

Efforts to identify Army Major at American Service Station, Montgomery, Ala., 3/25/65 negative. [redacted] part-time employee of American Service Station on Dexter Avenue, reportedly not known as "GENE." [redacted] Montgomery, Alabama PD, dispersed group of white and Negro men at American Service Station on Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, 3/25/65, in early afternoon. Background of [redacted] set forth. [redacted], states night of 3/25/65 was told by two foreign air cadets from Craig AFB that Negro on U. S. Highway 80 had attempted to stop them. States made no written report but radioed information to [redacted] Record of this transmission not located [redacted] Copy of report of accident occurring 10:00 p.m., 3/25/65 on Interstate Highway 65 10.3 miles north of Prattville Ala., in which two Negro women were injured, obtained from [redacted] Efforts to determine if 6 X 6 truck parked near First Baptist Church, Selma, 3/25/65 negative. Service records of subjects THOMAS and EATON set forth.

- P -

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MO 44-1245

DETAILS:

Under date of November 17, 1965 the Bureau forwarded a request from the Civil Rights Division for additional investigation. This investigation is limited to the following request:

NO 44-1245

AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

On November 22, 1965 [redacted], advised that a check of his files reflected no major in the Alabama National Guard by the name of GIBSON.

[redacted] advised that descriptive data concerning personnel in the Alabama National Guard is of no value unless the name is known, and the fact that a person is 6' 2" tall with red hair is of no value in locating National Guard personnel.

44-1245

On November 22, 1965 [redacted] 7d
advised that [redacted] was on duty on March 25, 1965. He stated that if there were a choice between a man named [redacted] and a man named [redacted] from the [redacted] 7c having led a detail on Dexter Avenue on that date, it would more than likely be [redacted] as [redacted] did not engage in any activity of this sort on that date.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/24/65

[redacted] furnished the following information:

On March 25, 1965 he was assigned, along with numerous other members of [redacted] to be in the Dexter Avenue area in order to prevent any illegal activity, violence or incidents of any kind. Among the instructions, they were told they should keep groups from congregating on any street corners or in the street.

He recalls that an hour or two after the marchers had reached the capitol area on Dexter Avenue, probably in the early afternoon, he was in the vicinity of the American Service station located about two blocks from the capitol building on the north side of Dexter Avenue, when he observed a group of approximately four or five Negro men and another group of four or five rough-looking white men gathered on the corner of the service station property. These two groups were exchanging insults and harsh words and it appeared to him they were about to engage in a fight. He went over to this group, accompanied by a uniformed policeman, believed by him to b[redacted] and ordered both groups to break it up and leave the area. Both the Negro and white groups immediately walked away in different directions and no further trouble was observed at that vicinity by him, although there were numerous people milling about, but not congregating in groups.

[redacted] stated this incident was merely observed by him and he did not receive a call and no one sent him to this area for this specific incident.

To his knowledge no other incident of this nature occurred in this vicinity on March 25, 1965.

On 11/23/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 11/24/65

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FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/24/65

Observation of Alabama State Troopers warning ticket number 62506 reflected the following information:

The ticket was issued at 7:50 p.m., March 25, 1965 to RONALD H. BAENKER, 340 West Normal Parkway, Chicago, Illinois, for speeding. The ticket was issued eleven miles east of Selma on U. S. Highway 80. The vehicle being driven was a 1961 Volkswagen bus with Illinois license HE9810. The ticket was signed by RICHARD LAWRENCE. The ticket was issued by State Trooper [redacted] 7c

On 11/22/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by [redacted] RP 12 Date dictated 11/24/65

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7c

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/24/65

71 [redacted] Alabama State Troopers, was interviewed at the Alabama Police Academy, Montgomery, where he was attending school. He stated he is attached with the Alabama State Troopers at Oneonta, Alabama, out of the Birmingham Division of the Alabama State Troopers.

71 [redacted] furnished the following information:

On March 25, 1965 he was on special assignment in Selma, Alabama. In the early nighttime of that date, he was patrolling at the Dallas County - Lowndes County line vicinity, when two men, driving a Corvette convertible stopped and talked to him. He stated these men identified themselves as being attached to Craig Air Force Base, Selma, Alabama, and were cadets from some foreign country, the identity of which he does not recall. These men told him they had observed a Negro man standing in the highway about three miles back toward Montgomery on U. S. Highway 80, and the man was waving his arms, apparently attempting to stop them. They almost hit this man and had to swerve to keep from hitting him. They did not see anyone else around and suspected he might be trying to rob them, but stated there was a possibility he had been involved in an accident.

He radioed the Selma State Troopers post and furnished this information to them and then proceeded about three miles east toward Montgomery on U. S. Highway 80, but seeing nothing unusual, he returned to his post of assignment and continued patrolling in the area of the county line. In about five to ten minutes he heard a dispatch on his radio to the effect that there had been a shooting in the same general area where the men had reported seeing the Negro; therefore, he proceeded immediately to the vicinity of Craig Air Force Base, where he spotted the convertible with the two men in it and stopped them. He had them repeat the information to him, got them to exhibit their identification cards, from which he copied their names, which were very

On 11/23/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MM 44-1245

by SA [redacted] 12 Date dictated 11/24/65

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72

difficult for him to understand when they were pronouncing them, and then he carried the names to the State Troopers Post, where he turned them over to the radio operator, telling him these were the men who previously furnished the information about the Negro man.

On November 23, 1965 [redacted] Alabama State Troopers, advised he had caused a check to be made of the radio rooms in both Montgomery and Selma, and no record of a transmission from Trooper [redacted] was located pertaining to the contact by the two Craig Air Force Base cadets on March 25, 1965.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/24/65

[redacted] Alabama State Troopers, advised the following is a report of the only accident occurring on the highway between Birmingham and Montgomery on the morning of March 25, 1965:

> Accident investigation report number 02450; location of accident, 10.3 miles north of the city limits of Prattville, Alabama, on Interstate 65, 1500 feet north of intersection of U. S. Highway 31 and Interstate 65.

The accident occurred on Thursday, March 25, 1965 at 10:00 p.m. The car involved was a 1965 Valiant sedan, 1965 Alabama license 1A-46470 and was driven by [redacted] Alabama. The report reflects the driver was driving at a speed of 80 miles an hour when a tire blew out, causing her to lose control and run off the road and turn over. The report reflected [redacted] -year old Negro female, received injuries of the chest and shoulder, and the passenger, [redacted] year old Negro female, received bruises and scratches. Both were taken to the Prattville General Hospital and were treated. There were no other witnesses.

The accident was investigated by State Troopers [redacted] station at Prattville, Alabama. It reflects they were notified at 10:05 a.m., and arrived at the scene of the accident at 10:35 a.m. The date of the report is March 26, 1965.

[redacted] advised that [redacted] Alabama Department of Public Safety, is the proper person to subpoena for producing this accident report.

On 11/23/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MM 44-1245

by SA [redacted] 26 Date dictated 11/24/65

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.

[redacted] 44-1245 :egp

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] on November 22, 1965, at Selma, Alabama:

[redacted] of [redacted] National Guard Armory, Orrville Highway, advised they knew of no possible way to verify that a 6X6 truck was located at the corner of Lawrence Street in Selma, Alabama, on March 25, 1965. They pointed out that trip tickets are only maintained a period of 60 days to show movement of vehicles in any particular area.

The trip tickets which are kept by the Armory and the National Guard units at the present time do not require detailed information as to the movement of a vehicle, and if a unit noted on the trip ticket, "to downtown area," this would fulfill existing regulations and it could mean any area in Selma.

They concluded that they have no personal recollection of any 6X6 truck being assigned to the area of the churches - First Baptist Church and Brown's Chapel AME Church - on March 25, 1965.

44-1245

On November 22, 1965 [redacted] National Guard, Montgomery, Alabama, advised Special Agent [redacted] that unless the number on the 6 X 6 truck, which had been observed in Selma, were known, there would be no way to determine the unit to which it was assigned. [redacted] further advised that no record was maintained of the assignment areas of the various units of military police, which were assigned to the march from Selma to Montgomery.

By communication dated November 20, 1965, the St. Louis Division advised as follows:

[redacted]

12/21/65

Airtel

2 - Mr. McDonough

To: SAC, San Francisco (44-609)

From: Director, FBI (44-28601)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Enclosed is a post card addressed to Rowe which you should furnish to him.

Enclosure

EJM/pak
(5)

2 - ENCLOSURE

MAILED 2
DEC 21 1965
COMM-FBI

REC-11 44-28601-631

DEC 22 1965

53 DEC 27 1965

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

4 - 65

Dear Mr. Kowe,

I want to commend you on your courage and perserverance and on the great service you have done for the country. I have only a small conception of the difficulties involved but I am sure that many lesser men would have "chickened out."

Please accept my thanks.

Sincerely,

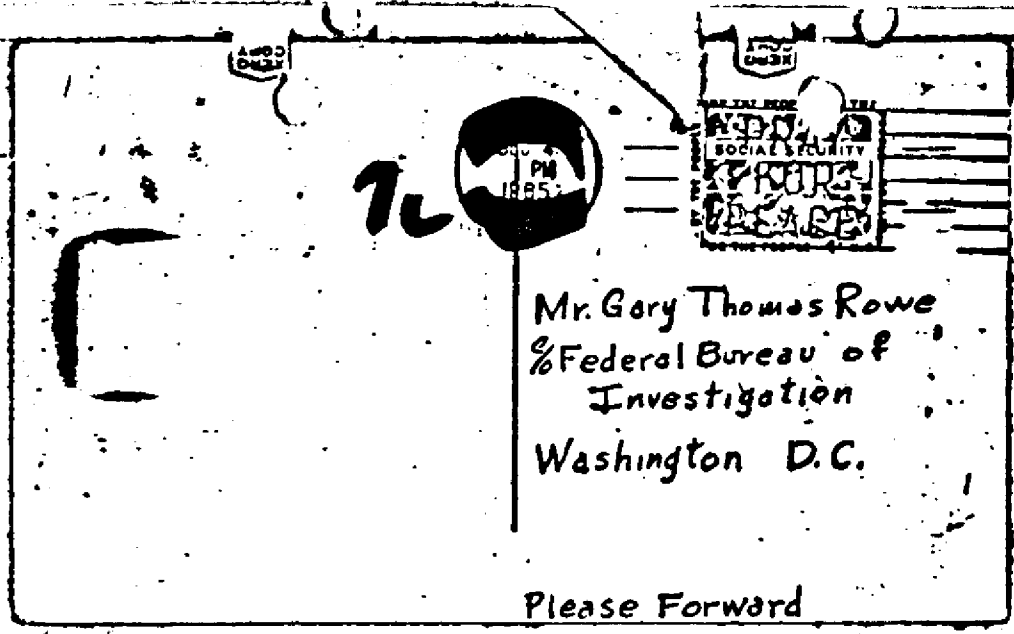
[redacted]

7c

Orig post card
Rm to MS, SF
2-21-65
by airtel
Eyin Kpak

44-28601-37

ENCLOSURE



44-28601-637

ENCLOSURE

December 21, 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Subjects Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins found guilty, U. S. District Court, Montgomery, Alabama, 12-3-65, in connection with the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo and released on bond pending appeal. Wilkins previously placed on one year and one day probation 11-16-64, for violation of Federal Firearms Act. Probation revoked.

JGH:hw

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEC 20 1965

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMINGHAM

525 PM CST URGENT 12-20-65 JGA

TO DIRECTOR

FROM BIRMINGHAM 44-1236

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach ✓
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Civil Rights Election Laws

EUGENE THOMAS; ~~ETAL~~ AND OTHERS; VIOLA LIUZZO; ~~ETAL~~ AND OTHERS - VICTIMS. ~~CR — EL.~~

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, ONE OF THREE SUBJECTS CAPTIONED CASE APPEARED ~~USDC~~ U. S. District Court, BIRMINGHAM TWO P.M., INSTANT DATE, BEFORE JUDGE CLARENCE W. ALLGOOD IN THE MATTER OF A REVOCATION OF PROBATION HEARING. WILKINS, THROUGH ATTORNEY ART HANES, OFFERED NO DEFENSE TO INDIVIDUAL CHARGES, AND JUDGE ALLGOOD REVOKED HIS PROBATION AND ORDERED HIM TO PRESENT HIMSELF TO THE ~~U. S.~~ United States MARSHAL AT NINE A.M., JANUARY FOUR, SIXTYSIX, TO BEGIN SERVING PREVIOUS SENTENCE OF ONE YEAR AND ONE DAY.

MOBILE ADVISED BY AIR MAIL.

END ACK PLS

WA NLL

FBI WASH DC

P

REC. II 44-28601-638

11 DEC 22 1965

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

50 DEC 30 1965

cc-Mr. Rosen

16 16

12/23/65

AIRTEL

10-6

TO: SAC, San Francisco

FROM: Director, FBI (44-28601)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

The Department has advised that the House Committee on Un-American Activities plans to subpoena Gary Thomas Rowe to appear before the Committee in Washington, D. C., probably during January of 1966. This is in connection with the Committee's hearings concerning the various Klan organizations. The Department has advised that it does not know the exact nature of the testimony desired from Rowe.

MAILED 5 DEC 23 1965 COMM-FBI

The Department has pointed out that the Committee does have the power to subpoena any individual in the United States and that the Department desires to cooperate with the Congressional Committee. The Department has requested that the informant be contacted and it be specifically ascertained whether or not Rowe is willing to appear before this Committee.

In this regard, it is the Department's opinion that he should be made available, however, you should not in anyway endeavor to influence the decision of Rowe either one way or the other. The Bureau should be advised of the informant's opinion so that the Department may be notified of his feelings no later than 12/29/65.

1 - Birmingham (44-1236)

REC-111 44-28601-641

16 DEC 27 1965

CEM:jds
(9)

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

69 DEC 29 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

12-29-65

1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Hines

Airtel

To: SAC, San Francisco (44-609)
Birmingham (44-1236)

From: Director, FBI (44-28601)

[redacted]

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Re Birmingham airtel 12-18-65 captioned [redacted]

The San Francisco Office should furnish the letter from Mr. Johnston, with attachments, to Rowe for his consideration. The decision as to accepting the settlement outlined is Rowe's alone.

Since the employment of Matt Murphy in this instance was in furtherance of Rowe's position as an informant, if Rowe requests that the Government provide him the necessary funds to handle the settlement as outlined by Mr. Johnston, you will furnish such funds.

You should obtain Rowe's decision in writing in a letter addressed to Mr. Johnston, with a copy to SAC, San Francisco, and have the Birmingham Office furnish the original letter to Mr. Johnston.

The San Francisco Office should handle immediately and advise the Bureau of developments.

EJM:JWH/mls
(7)

REC-52 44-28601-643

EX-103

NOTE: See memo A. Rosen to Mr. Belmont dated 12-28-65 same caption, EJM:JWH/mls. JOHNSTON'S ORIGINAL LETTER SENT TO SAN FRANCISCO BY BIRMINGHAM.

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
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Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Wick
Sole
Holmes
Gandy

53 JAN 1966

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

12/29/65

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Gary Thomas Rowe was the informant in the killing of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo.

[redacted]

FDF:mfd

Ltr. advised 1/7/66

The Attorney General

December 29, 1965

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Wick
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. Hines

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

Gary Thomas Rowe, who testified for the Government in connection with the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, March 25, 1965, has been contacted pursuant to the request of Mr. Kimon Zachos, your Special Assistant, on December 23, 1965, that we determine from Rowe whether or not he would be willing to appear before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

[redacted]

MAILED 7
DEC 29 1965

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 137-6315-44

44-28601-64

7A

Tolson
DeLoach
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Wick
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

JWH:mmp:ige
(8)

79 JAN 6 - 1966

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

1-4-66

1 - Mr. Hines

Airtel

To: SAC, San Francisco (44-609)

REC-133

From: Director, FBI (44-28601) 650

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Re San Francisco airtel dated 12-30-65.

No information can be located in Bureau files identifiable with [redacted] No arrest record can be located for [redacted] by name check and birthdate in the Identification Division.

1 - Birmingham (44-1236)(info)
1 - Tampa (44-313)(info)

JWH:mls
(6)

MAILED 7
JAN 4 1966
COMM-FBI

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

JAN 12 1966

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 12/27/65

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

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] 7d B2

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (170-14)(P)

CONF. INFT.

[redacted] 7d B2

GARY THOMAS ROUE

Re Birmingham airtel, 12/18/65, which states that Motion to Revive has been made in the former lawsuit of MATT MURPHY, JR., against the informat.

[redacted]

7c 7A

NOT RECORDED
JAN 27 1966

3 - Bureau (AMRM)
1 - San Francisco
JGC/evs 1-BH (170-9)(Info)
(4)

[redacted] 7d B2

REC-6

14 DEC 28 1965

JAN 27 1966 BC

Approved: 30 JAN 12 1966 Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

FROM : A. Rosen

DATE: 1/6/66

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA. ET AL. - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

As you are aware, Chief Marshal James McShane initially made an appointment with Mr. DeLoach at 3:00 P. M. on 1/4/66 which he failed to keep. His secretary subsequently called and stated that McShane had found it necessary to confer with the House Committee on Un-American Acitivities and that he would make an appointment for the morning of 1/5.

For your information, this appointment was made; however, McShane again failed to keep the appointment. On the afternoon of 1/5/66 at 2:45 P. M., Jack Cameron of McShane's office called on Mr. DeLoach and told him McShane was home sick.

[redacted]

JWH:mfd
(6)

CONTINUED - OVER

15 JAN 7 1966

67 JAN 10 1966

EIGHTY-NINTH CONGRESS

EDWIN E. WILLIS, LA., CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM M. TUCK, VA.
JOE R. POOL, TEX.
RICHARD H. ICHORD, MO.
GEORGE F. SENNER, JR., ARIZ.
CHARLES L. WELTNER, GA.

JOHN M. ASHBROOK, OHIO
DEL CLAWSON, CALIF.
JOHN H. BUCHANAN, JR., ALA.

FRANCIS J. MCNAMARA, DIRECTOR

WILLIAM [illegible]TZ, GENERAL COUNSEL
ALFRED [illegible]NTTLE, COUNSEL

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
WASHINGTON
January 7, 1966

Honorable John Edgar Hoover
Director
The Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am writing to express the strong interest of the Committee in interviewing Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., former Federal Bureau of Investigation informant in the United Klans of America, Realm of Alabama.

I am advised that Mr. Rowe has indicated complete willingness to be interviewed by members of the Committee's staff, although he has expressed the view that, as of now, he is not inclined to testify before it in public or private session.

It is my request that Philip Manuel, an investigator for the Committee, be permitted to interview Mr. Rowe at a place other than Mr. Rowe's current residence, and preferably in Los Angeles, California. It would be most helpful to the Committee if the meeting could take place next Monday, January 10, at the Mayflower Hotel, 531 South Grand, Los Angeles.

For security purposes, I have had reservations made at the hotel for that date in the name of Mr. Manuel and Mr. Louis Russell; another staff investigator. With Mr. Rowe registering under the name of Mr. Russell, his presence should go unnoticed. The Committee, of course, will bear the expense of Mr. Rowe's travel to, and stay in, Los Angeles.

If these arrangements meet with your approval and are agreeable to Mr. Rowe, I would appreciate your having a member of your staff so notify Mr. Donald T. Appell, Chief Investigator of the Committee, so that Mr. Manuel can make arrangements to be in California by noon on Monday.

44-24611-
NOT RECORDED
21 JAN 27 1966
REC 113
137-6215-47
MCT-3
JAN 13 1966
JAN 14 1966
JAN 25 1966
JAN 27 1966 BC

May I take this opportunity to again thank you for the wonderful spirit of cooperation which you and your Department have always displayed toward the Committee on Un-American Activities, and particularly to me as its current chairman.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

E E Willis

Edwin E. Willis
Chairman

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 1/6/66

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: Director, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, Birmingham (44-1236) (P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Re Bureau radiogram to Birmingham, Mobile, San Francisco, and Tampa, dated 12/30/65.

[redacted] 7c

[redacted] A

3-Bureau
3-San Francisco
(1-Package)(RM)
2-Birmingham
NPS:ela
(8)

EX-103

Rad to SF & PH 1-11-66, [illegible]

REC 30 44-28601-[illegible]

4 JAN 17 1966

C. C. Wick

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

1/11/66

CODE

RADIOGRAM

URGENT

TO SAC SAN FRANCISCO AND BIRMINGHAM

1 - Mr. Hines

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-28601)-666

REC 30

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS, CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS.

RE BIRMINGHAM AIRTEL TO THE BUREAU ONE SIX, SIXTYSIX.

[redacted]

JWH/pak
(3)
NOTE:

[redacted]

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

69 JAN 20 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☒

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 4:00 PM
DATE 1/11/66
BY

11/29/65

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Trial of subjects on Federal civil rights indictment growing out of shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, 3/25/65, scheduled to begin U. S. District Court, Montgomery, Alabama, 11/29/65

[redacted]

JSM:pah

1/17/66

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Information in attached teletype furnished to St. John Barrett, Civil Rights Division, on 1/15/66. He stated Department has no objection to [redacted] contemplated contact with Hanes.

Hanes' information has no merit.

RJD:gfs

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JAN 15 1966
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Ros
Mr. Sul
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Tr
Mr. Wick
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI MOBILE

1:42 PM CST URGENT 1/15/66 TEB

TO: DIRECTOR (44-28601) AND BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

FROM: MOBILE (44-1245) 3P

EUGENE THOMAS, ~~ET AL~~ and others. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, ~~ET AL~~ and others - VICTIMS.
Civil Rights, Election Law Office of Origin
~~CR, EL. OO~~ MOBILE.

ON THIS DATE, [redacted] SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH CO., TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED BUREAU AGENT AT MONTGOMERY, ALA., ART HANES, BIRMINGHAM ATTORNEY WHO REPRESENTED DEFENDANTS DURING TRIAL AND CONVICTION ~~USDC~~ U. S. District Court, MONTGOMERY, TOLD HIM THURSDAY AFTERNOON HE HAD INFORMATION FROM A HIGHLY RELIABLE SOURCE THAT THE ~~USDC~~ U. S. District Court ROOM IN MONTGOMERY HAD BEEN "BUGGED" DURING THE TRIAL OF THE THREE DEFENDANTS DECEMBER, LAST AND THE PROCEEDINGS WERE MONITORED IN ROOM TWO ZERO ONE TIN THE TELEPHONE COMPANY BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE U. S. POST OFFICE AT MONTGOMERY. HANES TOLD HIM SEVERAL ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERALS WERE OBSERVED GOING IN AND OUT OF THE PHONE COMPANY BUILDING THROUGHOUT THE DAY FOR THE PURPOSE OF MONITORING THE PROCEEDINGS. HANES STATED HIS INFORMATION WAS THAT PARTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS IN THE U. S. COURT ROOM WERE TAPED AND LATER BROADCAST FOR THE CANADIAN BROADCASTING SYSTEM. HANES ADVISE[redacted]NCE THE RULE HAD BEEN INVOKED DURING THIS TRIAL, HE INTENDED TO FILE A MOTION FOR A REVERSAL END PAGE ONE

REC. 69 44-27641-671
EX-100
12 JAN 18 1966

57 JAN 25 1966

* EXCLUSION OF WITNESSES.

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

OF THE VERDICT SINCE WITNESSES MAY HAVE HEARD THE CANADIAN BROADCAST.

b7c [redacted] ADVISED HE WAS AWARE THAT BUREAU PERSONNEL AND U. S. ~~DEPT.~~ Department OF JUSTICE PERSONNEL UTILIZED PHONE COMPANY EQUIPMENT IN ROOM TWO ZERO ONE DURING ONE DAY OF THE TRIAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECORDING A TELEVISION TAPED INTERVIEW DURING WHICH COLLIE LEROY WILKINS WAS INTERVIEWED AT GREAT LENGTH BY A REPORTER OF THE CANADIAN BROADCASTING CO. [redacted] ADVISED HE DID NOT RECALL THIS AT THE TIME HANES RELATED THE ABOVE TO HIM; HOWEVER, AFTER TALKING TO MONTGOMERY PHONE COMPANY PERSONNEL, HIS RECOLLECTION WAS REFRESHED. [redacted] STATED THAT UNLESS HE IS ADVISED TO THE CONTRARY BY MONDAY, JAN. SEVENTEEN, NEXT, HE INTENDS TO CONFRONT HANES WITH THE EXACT NATURE OF THE ACTIVITY AT THE PHONE COMPANY DURING THE TRIAL.

THE BUREAU WILL RECALL THAT DURING THE TRIAL OF THE THREE DEFENDANTS IN MONTGOMERY, DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEYS, ST. JOHN BARRETT AND ~~AAG~~ Assistant Attorney General JOHN DOAR LEARNED OF A TAPED INTERVIEW BY A CANADIAN BROADCASTING CO. REPORTER OF WILKINS AND REQUESTED THE BUREAU TO LOCATE THE TAPE AND HAVE IT TELEPHONICALLY TRANSCRIBED IN MONTGOMERY IN ORDER THAT IT COULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE TRIAL.

END PAGE TWO

RECORD. THE INTERVIEW WAS TAPED THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF THE SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH CO. IN MONTGOMERY, [redacted] TORONTO; HOWEVER, EFFORTS BY THE ~~DEPT.~~ Department of JUSTICE TO INTRODUCE THE CONTENTS INTO THE TRIAL RECORD WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. THIS ACTION IS UNDOUBTEDLY WHAT HANES LEARNED OF THROUGH SOME UNKNOWN SOURCE.

Special Agent in Charge
~~SAC~~, BIRMINGHAM, TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED OF ABOVE. ABOVE BEING FURNISHED TO BUREAU FOR REFERRAL TO BARRETT OR DOAR. BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

~~CORR LINE 15 WORD 8 PAGE TWO SHOULD BE "TRIAL"~~

END

WA.....RPP.....

FBI WASH DC

TU DISC

cc - Mr. Rosen

1/17/6

NERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVI ON

Victim, Viola Liuzzo, w e female civil rights worker, was shot in Lowndes County, Alabama, 3/20/65. State prosecution unsuccessful on one subject and outstanding on other two subjects. Federal Civil Rights prosecution successful on all three subjects.

Automobile of victim was in custody of state authorities as evidence. We never had custody of automobile and it was not used in Federal trial. It does not appear reasonable that automobile available for public sale if title remains with Liuzzo family.

Crime Records Division was advised. Civil Rights Division of Department is being advised.

JRA:pah

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 16 1966

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Walk
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI DETROIT

9:10 PM URGENT 1/16/66 C W H

TO DIRECTOR (44-28601) AND BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

FROM DETROIT (44-643) (RUC) 1P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIM

Civil Rights C.R. - Election Laws E.L.

FOR INFORMATION.

ANTHONY LIUZZO, VICTIM'S HUSBAND, ADVISED INSTANT DATE SENSATIONAL ADVERTISEMENT APPEARED ONE FIFTEEN LAST BIRMINGHAM NEWS OFFERING NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE ~~OLDS~~ OLDSMOBILE AUTOMOBILE IN WHICH VICTIM KILLED FOR SALE FOR THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS, "WITH BULLET HOLES INTACT - IDEAL TO BRING IN CROWDS."

LIUZZO CONTACTING ATTORNEY.

PRESS INQUIRIES DETROIT BEING ANSWERED ~~QUOTE~~ "NO COMMENT" ~~UNQUOTE~~.

END

WA...BJH

FBI WASH DC

BH...HEP

FBI BIRMGHAM

CLRX

EX-100 REC-69 44-28601-172

12 JAN 18 1966

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

51 JAN 25 1966

Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
-8 (Rev. 11-18-64)

Date _____

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
1	P	Birmingham	44-1236
		Office of Origin: Mobile	File #

Title and Character of Case
EUGENE THOMAS et al;
VIOLA LIUZZO et al, aka, VICTIM
CR-EL

10
6

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
3-26-65	Authorized search of the residence of EUGENE THOMAS at 1519 12th Ave North, Bessemer, Ala.

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
Gun Vault	Evidence

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. One Newport Model CN Double Barrelled sawed off shot gun, SN T 70594
2. One box Peters twelves gage extra long range shells.
3. One Revelation twelve gage shotgun shell.
4. One box twelve gage shotgun shells containing 21 shells.
5. One box Peters 38 caliber ammunition containing ten rounds.

44-1236-1B

NOT RECORDED
12 FEB 9 1966

SUBMITTED BY: [redacted] 7C

44-1236-1B13

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

2-1-66

6 FEB 14 1966

FBI — BIRMINGHAM

FD-192 (Rev. 11-18-64) — Acquired as Evidence

Date 3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
	P	BIRMINGHAM	44-1236
		Office of Origin	File #
		MOBILE	

Title and Character of Case

EUGENE THOMAS, etal
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; LEROY JEROME MOTON - Victims
CR, EL.

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
3-26-65	WAYNE THOMAS, 1519 12th Avenue, North, Bessemer, Ala.

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
GUN VAULT	Evidence

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. .38 cal. S & W Revolver, SN 418827
2. 6 rds. .38 cal. ammunition taken from above revolver.

44-2-601

NOT RECORDED
12 FEB 9 1966

3-27-65 sent to FBI Lab, REA
11-30-65 Item 2 only returned

44-1236-187

SEARCHED — INDEXED
SERIALIZED — FILED
MAR 26 1965
FBI — BIRMINGHAM

SUBMITTED BY: SA [redacted]

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

2-1-66 MSP

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 11-18-64)

Date 3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #
	P	BIRMINGHAM	44-1236
		Office of Origin	File #
		MOBILE	

Title and Character of Case

EUGENE THOMAS, etal
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; LEROY JEROME MOTON - Victims
CR, EL

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
3-26-65	EUGENE THOMAS, 1519 12th Avenue, North, Bessemer, Ala
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	**Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same**
GUN VAULT	Evidence

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. 8 rds. .38 cal. ammunition, as follows:
   3 - R-P .38 special
   1 - Rem-Umc .38 special
   2 - Peters .38 special
   1 - R-P .38 special (brass casing, flat nose)
   1 - Federal .38 special (brass casing)

2. 1 pocket knife, Tree Brand. returned 2-1-66 to Eugene Thomas 44-28601

NOT RECORDED
12 FEB 9 1966

3-27-65 sent to FBI Lab, REA

Returned from LAB 11-30-66 JWR

44-1236-135

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____
MAR 26 1965
FBI — BIRMINGHAM

SUBMITTED BY: SA [redacted]

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

2-1-66 JWR

6C FEB 14 1966



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER

PART 13 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 44-28601

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

DATE: December 27, 1965

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA.,
ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

Gary Thomas Rowe our informant in this case involving the shooting of Mrs. Liuzzo was advised of the Department's desire that he testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Rowe stated that he did not desire under any circumstances to testify before the Committee and in his previous discussion with Departmental attorneys before the last Federal trial he had made it very clear to them that he did not wish to testify at any future trials or hearings. He stated that insofar as testifying is concerned he felt that he had fulfilled his obligation to the Government and he feared for his personal safety if he were called upon to testify further.

Mr. Kimon Zachos, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, who requested that we determine Rowe's attitude regarding testifying before the Committee was advised on 12/27/65 that Rowe had been contacted as requested and that Rowe had stated that he does not desire to testify before the Committee. Zachos was advised that the matter of whether or not Rowe would or should be subpoenaed to testify in spite of his present attitude was strictly a matter between the Department, the Committee and Rowe, and the Bureau assumed no further responsibility.

REC-13

[redacted]

Enclosure

JWM:vew
(6)

JAN 20

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont

RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;

ACTION:

1. Attached for approval is a letter to the Attorney General confirming the above advice furnished to Mr. Zachos that Rowe does not wish to testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities and that the Bureau will no longer accept responsibility, either financially or security wise for Rowe after December 31, 1965.

2. [redacted] b7A

The Attorney General

December 27, 1965

Director, FBI

[illegible] THOMAS, ET AL.;
[illegible] LIUZZO, [illegible],
[illegible] - VICTIMS
[illegible] RIGHTS

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

This will confirm the conversation of Mr. J. William Hines of the FBI with Mr. Kimon Zachos, your Special Assistant, on December 27, 1965, wherein Mr. Zachos was advised that Cary Thomas Rowe had been contacted and stated that he did not wish to testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. [redacted] b2A

[redacted] b2A

[redacted] b2A

JWH:vew
(8) vew
NOTE:

See Rosen to Belmont memorandum same date, same caption, JWH:vew.

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

PA

The Attorney General

REC-13 44-1001-676

Director, FBI

December 27, 1965

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA.,
ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

This will confirm the conversation of Mr. J. William Hines of the FBI with Mr. Kimon Zachos, your Special Assistant, on December 27, 1965, wherein Mr. Zachos was advised that Gary Thomas Rowe had been contacted and stated that he did not wish to testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7A

JWH:vew
(8)

NOTE:

See Rosen to Belmont memorandum same date, same caption, JWH:vew.

79 JAN 20 1966

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

JAN 20 1966

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Mr. Cartha D. DeLoach
Assistant to the Director, FBI

DATE: December 27, 1965

FROM: The Attorney General

SUBJECT:

Per our conversation.

N. deB. K.

Enclosures (2)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Wick
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

ENCLOSURE

REC-13 44-28[illegible]-677

JAN 19 1965

JAN 20 1965

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : The Attorney General

DATE: December 27, 1965

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA.,
ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

This will confirm the conversation of Mr. J. William Hines of the FBI with Mr. Kimon Zachos, your Special Assistant, on December 27, 1965, wherein Mr. Zachos was advised that Gary Thomas Rowe had been contacted and stated that he did not wish to testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7A

[redacted] b7A

JAN 20 1966

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Gary Thomas Rowe is [redacted] informant who furnished information which lead to the successful prosecution of three subjects in the shooting of Mrs. Liuzzo. At the request of the Attorney General we contacted him to determine if he would consent to interview by a representative of the House Committee on Un-American Activities and if he would accept a Deputy Marshall job. A letter is being sent to the Attorney General today advising him of information in attached.

[redacted]

ICG:gfs

DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☐ RADIO ☒ TELETYPE

7:5[illegible] PM PST URGENT 12-31-65 KMH

TO DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM SAN FRANCISCO (44-609) 010014

ATTENTION: GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION

CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTIONS

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO; ET AL-VICTIMS. CR-EL.

RE BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL THIS DATE.

ROWE STATED HE WOULD BE HAPPY AND WILLING TO MEET WITH ONE OR TWO MEMBERS OR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HCUA AT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TIME AND PLACE. HE ASKS ONLY THAT THE PLACE NOT BE SAN FRANCISCO. HE FEELS THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE HIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THEM BUT FOR PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED REASONS OF SECURITY DOES NOT WANT TO APPEAR BEFORE A FULL HCUA HEARING. [redacted]

REC-13 44-28601-[illegible]

JAN 19 1966

79 JAN 20 1966

JAN 20 1966

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

According to Welborn Rowe inquired of the San Francisco Office whether McShane was aware of the discussions that Rowe had had with Departmental representatives concerning the plan for an "ultimate settlement." Welborn further stated that Rowe indicated he is looking to the Department for satisfaction in connection with his discussions with Departmental representatives and made no reference to the FBI in this connection. Welborn was instructed to advise Rowe that if he had any question whatsoever concerning discussions he had had with Departmental representatives, he should take them up with McShane.

ACTION:

San Francisco is continuing to follow this matter closely and will keep the Bureau advised of all pertinent developments.

Rowe's reference to "ultimate settlement" obviously refers to a lump sum settlement which was the subject of discussion with Departmental representatives. Inasmuch as Rowe indicated he is looking to the Department for satisfaction in connection with his discussion with Departmental representatives and made no reference to the FBI in connection with this and inasmuch as he was told to take up any question concerning it with the Department, it is recommended that we alert the Department to this current development. It is recalled we have previously referred to the Department for their immediate attention any comments which Rowe has made to us heretofore concerning this and other matters relating to a possible settlement. There is being prepared a memorandum to the Attorney General, with copies to the Deputy Attorney General and Assistant Attorney General John Doar, concerning this current development.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38601) DATE: 1/20/66

FROM : SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3954) (P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka.,
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL
OO: MOBILE

Rerep of SA [redacted] Mobile, 12/9/65. b7C

On January 19, 1966, Mr. RICHARD WINDHORST, Deputy Clerk, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that the case was docketed January 7, 1966, and an extension of time to file record to March 1, 1966, has been granted.

Will advise the Bureau and Mobile of decision in this matter.

(2) - Bureau
2 - Mobile (44-1245)
2 - New Orleans

CLH/mrk
(6)

REC-82 44-38601-683

14 JAN 21 1966

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Wick
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI

Date: 1/17/66

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

Via AIRTEL REGISTERED
(Priority)

TO: Director, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, Detroit (44-643)

EUGENE THOMAS, Et Al; -
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka.,
Et Al - VICTIM
CR - EL
(OO: MOBILE)

Re Detroit teletype to Bureau, 1/16/66.

Enclosed is LHM concerning above matter. One copy of LHM being furnished Mobile and Birmingham.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 2) (RM)
1 - Mobile (Selma) (Enc. 1) (Info) (RM)
1 - Birmingham (Enc. 1) (Info) (RM)
1 - Detroit
MFC/rms
(6)

Agency CRD
Date Forw. JAN 20 1966
How Forw 6-94 (6)
By SW A/b b

1 cc CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT (xerox)

REC. 3 44-28601-(1)

JAN 19 1966

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Detroit, Michigan
January 17, 1966

Re: Eugene Thomas, Et Al;
Viola Liuzzo, Et Al - Victim

Mr. Anthony Liuzzo, husband of Viola Liuzzo, deceased, on January 16, 1966, telephoned the Detroit Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to advise that he had received information that an advertisement had appeared in the "Birmingham News" at Birmingham, Alabama, offering the 1963 Oldsmobile in which his wife had been killed for sale. Mr. Liuzzo did not know the current owner of the vehicle at the time of his call on January 16, 1966.

On January 17, 1966, Mr. Anthony Liuzzo again telephoned the Detroit Division and advised that he had originally heard of the advertisement appearing in the "Birmingham News" when he received a telephone call on January 16, 1966, from "United Press" advising him of the advertisement which was quoted as follows:

"Notice -- Do You Need A Crowd Gatherer? I have a 1963 Oldsmobile in which Mrs. Viola Liuzzo was killed. Bullet holes and everything still intact. Ideal to bring in crowds. $3,500.00."

Mr. Liuzzo stated that on January 17, 1966, he contacted the General Motors Acceptance Corporation (GMAC) at Detroit, Michigan, and through them he learned that the Birmingham Division of GMAC had sold the 1963 Oldsmobile to one J. [redacted] Turner, 2303 20th Place, Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Liuzzo stated that he had spoken to his attorney, William Buffalino, concerning this matter.

Mr. Liuzzo stated that he was considering telephoning Mr. John Doar, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, of the Department of Justice concerning this matter.

[redacted]

ENCLOSURE

44-27601-6-1

Re: Eugene Thomas, Et Al;
Viola Liuzzo, Et Al - Victim

Attached is a copy of an article appearing on Page 6, Column 1, of the "Detroit Free Press", a daily newspaper published at Detroit, Michigan, on January 17, 1966.

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.

Liuzzo Asks Court On Death Car Ad

Anthony Liuzzo, husband of [illegible] Viola Liuzzo, said Sunday he will [illegible] court action in Alabama to stop the sensational [illegible] of the car in which his wife was killed.

An advertisement in the Birmingham (Ala.) News Saturday called the car a "crowd-getter" and listed the 1963 Oldsmobile, complete with bullet holes, for $3,[illegible].

"I don't care what they do with the car," said Liuzzo. "But I definitely intend to stop the use of my wife's name in this way. It's incredible that anyone would try to capitalize on this."

• • •

MRS. LIUZZO, a Detroit housewife, was fatally shot the night of March 25 as she drove along US-250 in Lowndes County, Ala.

"Never [illegible] grotesque [illegible] "I have [illegible] Oldsmobile [illegible] door [illegible] Mrs. Viola Liuzzo was killed. Bullet holes and everything [illegible] intact. Need to bring in [illegible]. $3,[illegible]."

No name or phone number was listed and prospective buyers were instructed to write to a postal box in care of the newspaper.

44-2760-684

[illegible]

HQ 29[illegible]-686 IN THIS FILE SKIPPED DURING SERIALIZATION.

[illegible]

[illegible]

9-6-6

FBI

Date: 1/19/66

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)(P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ETAL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

(OO: MOBILE)

Re Detroit teletype to Bureau dated 1/16/66.

Enclosed for information of the Bureau are two copies each of classified advertisement which appeared in "The Birmingham News" and "Birmingham Post-Herald" on 1-15-66, and which was referred to in referenced teletype.

[redacted], "The Birmingham News", Birmingham, Alabama, advised on 1/18/66 that it was his understanding the LIUZZO automobile had been purchased by a private individual from a finance company, which held legal title, with the express intention of making a large profit by resale. [redacted] stated it was the policy of "The Birmingham News" not to reveal the names of individuals placing classified advertisements; however, he felt this information could be obtained, if necessary, through subpoena.

[redacted] advised he has reliable information that the LIUZZO automobile was recently purchased by one JAMES W. TURNER, 2308 - 20th Place, Ensley,

3 - Bureau (Enc. 4) ENCLOSURE
1 - Detroit (44-643)(Enc. 1)(Info)
1 - Mobile (44-1245)(Enc. 1)(Info)
2 - Birmingham
NPS:bss
(7)

REC-9 44-28601-68

JAN 21 1966

JAN 21 1966

1 - CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT (XEROX)

C C - WFO

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

55 FEB 3 1966

Special Agent in Charge

Birmingham, Alabama, from GENERAL MOTORS ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION, and that TURNER is the individual who has placed the enclosed advertisement in "The Birmingham News".

Birmingham indices negative regarding TURNER and no further investigation anticipated by this division, UACB.

Copy of above-mentioned ad is being enclosed for Mobile and Detroit.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FINANCIAL

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES 12(

NOTICE. Do you need a crowd
[illegible]? I have 1963 Oldsmobile 2 dr.
that Mrs. Viola Liuzzo was killed in.
Bullet holes & everything still intact.
Cost $ to bring in crowd $3,500
Write Box care News

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

17 THE BIRMINGHAM NE
Birmingham, Alabam

Date: 1-15-66
Edition: Red Star Final
Author:
Editor:
Title: EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, aka
ETAL - VICTIMS
Character: CR; EL
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE [illegible]-137

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

★ FINANCIAL

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES 120

NOTICE. Do you need a crowd drawer? I have 1963 Olusmobile 2-dr. that Mrs. Viola Liuzzo was killed in. Bullet holes & everything still intact. Ideal to bring in crowd. $3,500. Write D-46, care News.

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

22 BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD
Birmingham, Alaba

Date: 1-15-66
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor:
Title: EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, aka
ETAL - VICTIMS.
Character: CR;EL
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

1 - Mr. Griffith
1 - Mr. Thompson

SAC, Mobile (44-1245)

January 25, 1966

Director, FBI (44-28601)

EUGENE THOMAS;
et al.;
VICLA LIUZZO, aka;
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS
CR - EL

ReBulet 10/29/65 and Laboratory report 4/14/65 regarding nine plaster of Paris casts of tire impressions described as Q63 through Q71.

The plaster casts will be destroyed by the Laboratory in thirty days unless advised to the contrary by your office.

NOTE: This evidence was not material in this case and no examinations were actually conducted although they were being maintained by the Laboratory for possible future comparisons.

REC-24 44-28601-

JAN 25 1966

MAILED 4
JAN 24 1966
COMM-FBI

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter

CET:ML (5)

5 FEB 3 1966

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Conrad

FROM : R. H. Jevons

DATE: January 26, 1966

1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Jevons
1 - Mr. Herndon
1 - Mr. Williams

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA; ET AL. - VICTIMS;
CR - EL

Attached is Interesting Identification Laboratory Draft No. 1157 entitled "LABORATORY EXPERTS ASSIST IN PROSECUTION OF LIUZZO SLAYERS."

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information only.

Enclosure

44-28601

1 - Budget Unit, Room 5509
1 - Mr. J. E. McHale, Room 1523
2 - Mr. M. A. Jones, Room 4264

BPH:SAC
(9)

1 ENCLOSURE

CRIME RESEARCH
THREE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 44-28601

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

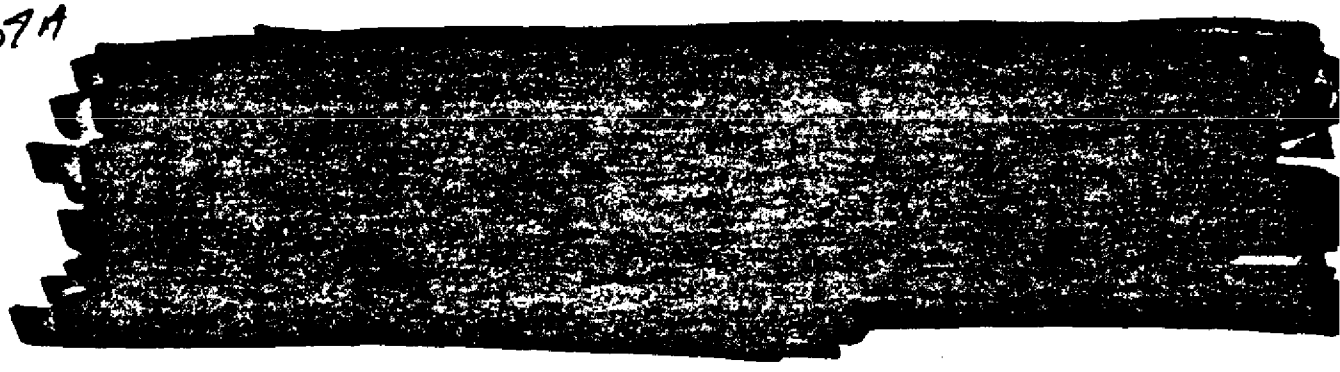
January 26, 1966

I. I. L. Draft No. 1157

LABORATORY EXPERTS ASSIST IN PROSECUTION OF LIUZZO SLAYERS

Late on the evening of March 25, 1965, near Selma, Alabama, civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo was shot while engagin in the transportation of civil rights workers between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama. A FBI Laboratory examiner was immediately dispatched to the scene to obtain and examine any physical evidence found in an examination of the victim's car.

b7A



After much publicity and two unsuccessful state trials, three defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury for conspiracy to violate the civil rights of the victims. In the federal trial, the FBI Laboratory experts testified to their findings. The defendants were found guilty and each was sentenced to ten years in prison.

44 2[illegible] 1-1

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 1/28/66

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (44-313) (RUC)

EUGENE THOMAS, et al.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka, et al. - VICTIMS
CR-EL
OO: BH

ReTPairtel 1/5/66.

As instructed in Butelcall 12/31/65, no further contact has been had with Mrs. DOROTHY M. ROWE and this case is considered RUC.

3 Bureau (RM)
1 Birmingham (RM) (44-1236)
1 Tampa
JEW-KH
(5)

REC-18 44-28601-697

17 JAN 31 1966

C C. Wick

66 FEB 7 1966

Special Agent in Charge

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Wick
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI

Date: 2/8/66

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44-643)

EUGENE THOMAS, Et Al;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka,
Et Al - VICTIM
(OO: Mobile)

Enclosed is letterhead memorandum in duplicate concerning above matter. Two copies of LHM being furnished Mobile and one copy being furnished Louisville for information purposes.

No further action is indicated and no investigation will be instituted concerning receipt of these news clippings by ANTHONY LIUZZO, UACB.

Material mentioned in LHM was furnished by Mr. LIUZZO to SA's [redacted] and [redacted].

ENCLOSURE

REC 30 44-28601-7

3 - Bureau (Enc. 2)
1 - Louisville (Enc. 1)(Info)
2 - Mobile (Selma)(44-1245)(Enc. 2)(Info)
1 - Detroit
FJP/sal
(7)

FEB 11 1966

Agency CRD
Date FEB 11 1966
How Forw
By

xendx 1 cc CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT FEB 11 1966

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

54 FEB 13 1966

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Detroit, Michigan
February 8, 1966

Re: Eugene Thomas, Et Al;
Viola Liuzzo, Et Al - Victim

Mr. Anthony Liuzzo, husband of Viola Liuzzo, deceased, furnished two envelopes with the same news clipping enclosed to Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on February 8, 1966.

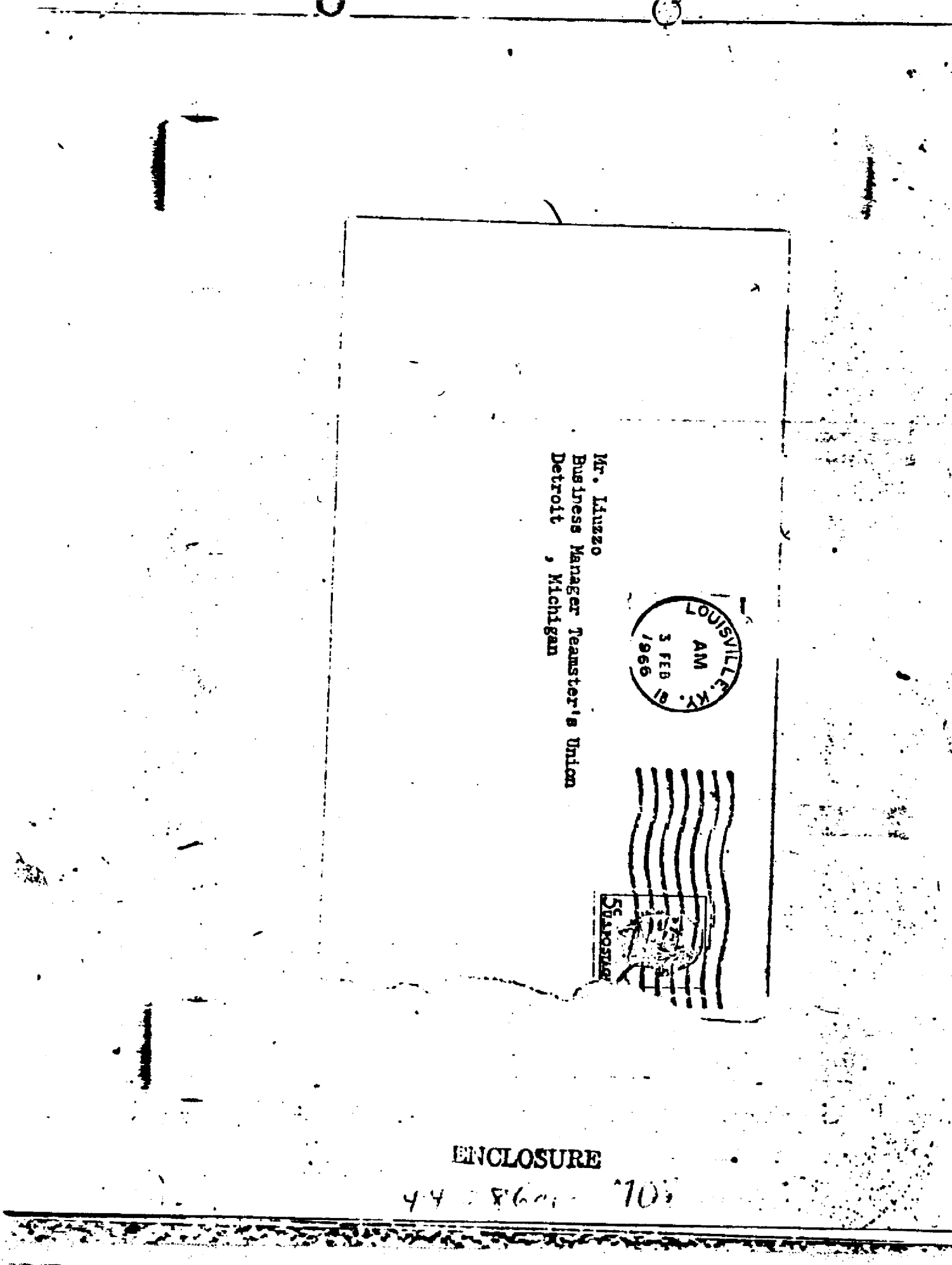
Xerox copies of each of the two envelopes and of the news clipping enclosed are attached.

Mr. Liuzzo advised that he attaches no significance to his receipt of these news clippings at his Teamsters office, Local 247, 2741 Trumbull, Detroit, Michigan, except that since they were mailed from a southern state as is indicated by the postmark on each of the envelopes, they may have some connection with the slaying of his wife in March, 1965 in the South.

Mr. Liuzzo advised he has no idea who may have mailed these news clippings to him and he said that they were received at his office in the normal course of business and were opened and handled by numerous employees.

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.

ENCLOSURE



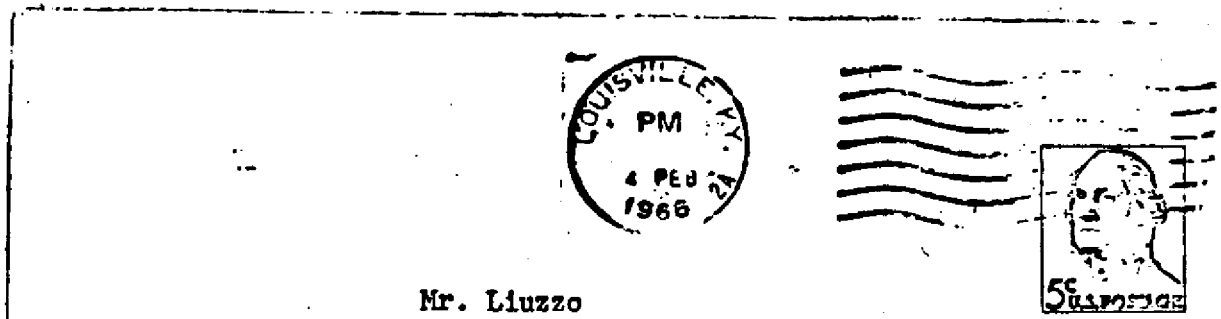
LOUISVILLE, KY.
AM
3 FEB 18
1966

5c U.S. POSTAGE

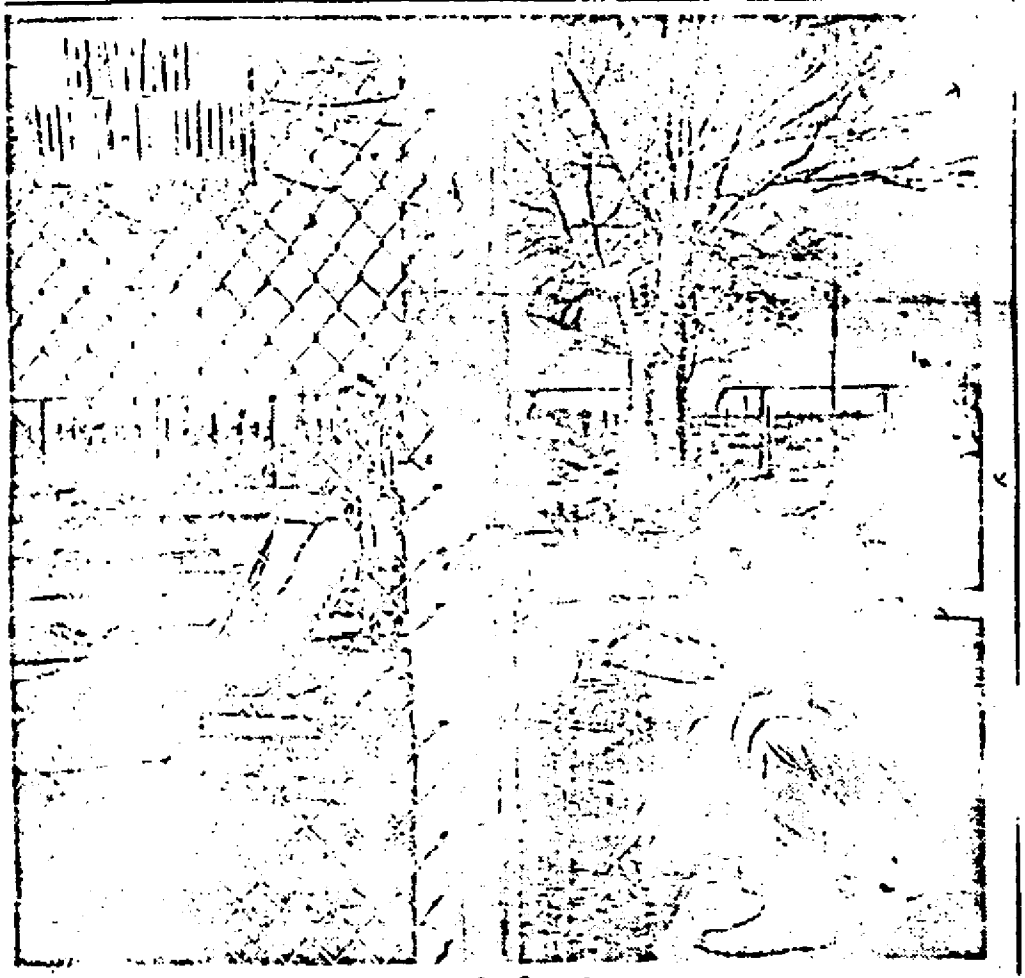
Mr. Liuzzo
Business Manager Teamster's Union
Detroit , Michigan

ENCLOSURE

44-8601-703



Mr. Liuzzo
Business Manager Teamster's Union
Detroit , Michigan



Site of slaying

A sheriff's deputy in Las Vegas examines blood-soaked ground, where Ralph Alsup, 54, business agent of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 525, was assassinated Wednesday by an unknown killer who felled him with a single shotgun blast in front of his home. The labor leader's son, Ralph Jr., was alerted earlier by the family dog, but failed to spot the hidden slayer when he investigated. (UPI Telephoto)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601) DATE: 3/2/66
ATTENTION: CRIME RECORDS DIVISION

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (44-1245) (P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL
(OO: MOBILE)

Re BUlet 1/27/66 requesting submission of IC write-up.

Following is current status of prosecution in this case. All three subjects were convicted in USDC, MDA, Montgomery, Ala., 12/3/65 and each was sentenced to serve ten years. All three were released on bond and the case is presently on appeal to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

In a separate case, subject THOMAS was sentenced in USDC, Birmingham, 2/25/66 to serve two years on NFA conviction. In another case, subject WILKINS appeared in USDC, Birmingham 12/20/65 and his probation on a 1954 firearms violation was revoked and he is now serving the previous one year sentence.

It is recognized that the Bureau may wish to delay the submission of the IC write-up while the sentence in this case is on appeal. However, in the absence of notification from the Bureau to that effect, Mobile will continue preparation of this write-up.

(2 - Bureau
2 - Mobile
JTB - mcl
(4)

REC 13 44-28601-712

MAR 2 1966

57 MAR 9 1966

CRIME RESEARCH

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

Mr. John Doar
Assistant Attorney General

Director, FBI

March 7, 1966

1 - Mr. Wick
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

EUGENE THOMAS, AND OTHERS
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

This is to advise you of an inquiry received by this Bureau on March 4, 1966, from Mr. Hal Ross of the Ziegler Ross Agency, 9255 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, 90069, concerning Gary Thomas Rowe who furnished information to the FBI leading to the arrest and conviction of three subjects in connection with the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965. Mr. Ross desired to know the whereabouts of Rowe and whether or not the FBI would have any objections to his company making contact with him in order to acquire literary rights to Rowe's story.

I have advised Mr. Ross that this Bureau no longer has any contact with Rowe.

The above is being brought to your attention for whatever action you may deem desirable.

MAR 8

JWH:hw
(9)

MAILED 4
MAR 7 1966
COMM-FBI

REC-11

NOTE: See Rosen to DeLoach memo 3-7-66, captioned "Eugene Thomas, Et al., Mrs. Viola Liuzzo - Victim, Civil Rights," JWH:hw.

44-28604-713

11 MAR 7 1966

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

54 MAR 11 1966 TELETYPE UNIT

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: March 7, 1966

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Wick
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

Hal Ross of the Ziegler Ross Agency, Los Angeles, California, by letter dated 3/2/66, requested that FBI advise him of the whereabouts of Gary Thomas Rowe and asked whether or not the Bureau would have any objection to his company making a contact with Rowe to acquire literary rights to his story.

Gary Thomas Rowe was our informant who furnished information leading to the arrest and conviction of the three subjects on Federal charges in connection with the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a civil rights worker, in Lowndes County, Alabama, on 3/25/65. [redacted]

It is noted that Hal Ross by letter dated 5/17/65, to the Bureau suggested that he be permitted to contact Rowe for the purpose of interesting Rowe in selling rights to his life sto By letter dated 5/21/65, he was advised his proposal would be brought to Rowe's attention. This was done.

ACTION:

1. Attached for approval is a letter to Mr. Ross advis him that the Bureau has no longer any contact with Gary Thomas Ro and referring him to Mr. John Doar, Assistant Attorney General, C Rights Division, Department of Justice.

2. Also attached for approval is a letter to Mr. Doar advising him of the inquiry from Mr. Ross for whatever action the Department may deem desirable.

REC-35 44-24101

Enclosures (2)
JWH/pak
(7)

3-7-66

MAR 10 1966

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601) DATE: 3/10/66

FROM : SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3954) (P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, Aka.,
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL

(OO: MOBILE)

Re New Orleans letter to Bureau, 1/20/66.

On 3/9/66, Mr. RICHARD WINDHORST, Deputy Clerk, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that the Record on Appeal was filed 3/2/66, and is in the process of being printed.

Will advise the Bureau and Mobile of decision in this matter.

REC 70 157-3954-915

2 - Bureau
2 - Mobile (44-1245)
2 - New Orleans

CLM/jas
(6)

MAR 17 1966

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

UNITED STATES GC RNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: March 10, 1966

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS,
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS,
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO -
VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Wick
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Martindale

SAC McGovern, Birmingham, advised that William Orville Eaton dropped dead of a heart attack on the night of 3/9/66. Eaton, who is one of the three subjects convicted in U. S. District Court on Federal civil rights charges in connection with the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo near Selma, Alabama, 3/25/65, was sentenced to serve ten years imprisonment. At the time of his death, he was free on appeal bond.

ACTION:

This is for information.

REC- 48 44-28601-717

14 MAR 16 1966

WLM/mkt
(8)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memoranaum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-23601) DATE: 2/15/66
Attn: FBI Laboratory, [redacted]

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)(P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL
(OO: Mobile)

Re report of SA [redacted] 12/9/65, Mobile, reflecting that all three subjects were found guilty in USDC, MDA, on 12/3/65 and were sentenced to a period of ten years in custody of the Attorney General. The matter is presently on appeal to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

There is being returned herewith by Railway Express one box containing evidence utilized by [redacted] in the trial in instant case.

b7C

b7C

(3) - Bureau
1 - Package
2 - Mobile
JRC:gre
(5)

REC-23

EX-114

1 FEB 17 1966

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601) DATE: 4/21/66

FROM : SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3954)(P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka.,
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL

Re New Orleans letter to Bureau, 3/10/66.

On 4/19/66, Mr. RICHARD WINDHORST, Deputy Clerk, 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, New Orleans, Louisiana, made available two copies of Order Dismissing Appeal of WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, #23289, filed 3/17/66, copy of which is enclosed for the Bureau and Mobile.

Will advise the Bureau and Mobile of decision in this matter.

ENCLOSURE

2 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
2 - Mobile (44-1245)(Enc. 1)
2 - New Orleans

CLM/scr
(6)

EX-PROC

ST-107

REC 33

APR 25 1966

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

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

NO. 22203

WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, CHARLIE LEROY WELLONS, JR.
and EUGENE GROOMS

Appellants

VERSUS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Appellee

Appeals from the United States District Court
for the Middle District of Alabama

Before PHILLIPS, Senior Judge*, and RIVES and COLEMAN, Circuit Judges.

BY THE COURT:-

It appearing that Appellant, William Orville Eaton, is now deceased,

IT IS ORDERED that the appeal of William Orville Eaton

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Rosen

FROM : C. L. McGowan

DATE: May 10, 1966

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Hudson

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

At 7:15 p. m., St. John Barrett, Civil Rights Division of the Department, telephonically contacted Extra-Duty Supervisor F. J. Hudson and advised the Department has received an inquiry from Associated Press regarding a statement made by Art Haynes, attorney for the subjects, who had allegedly stated Eugene Thomas would never be brought to trial in Hayneville, Alabama, because the Federal Government would not make Gary Thomas Rowe available as a witness. Barrett wanted to be advised the first thing on the morning of 5-11-66, whether or not a request has ever been received by the Bureau concerning making Rowe available for testimony.

Supervisor [redacted] was contacted and he advised he would contact Barrett on the morning of 5-11-66.

ACTION:

For record purposes.

FJH:hw
(6)

REC 12

16 MAY 12 1966

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAY 13 1966

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Wick
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

4:30 P.M./CST URGENT 5/13/66 WEB

TO: DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM: MOBILE (44-1245) 4P

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL: VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO; ET AL-VICTIMS.
CR-EL. OO MOBILE.

FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU, FOLLOWING INFORMATION EXTRACTED FROM MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER-JOURNAL, MORNING EDITION, MAY THIRTEEN, INSTANT.

HEADLINE: ROWE "NOT AVAILABLE" FOR HAYNEVILLE TRAIL.

BYLINE: REPORT SAYS FBI INFORMANT "FED UP."

THE TRAIL OF A SECOND KU KLUX KLANSMAN ACCUSED IN THE KILLING OF CIVIL RIGHTS WORKER, VIOLA LIUZZO, WAS POSTPONED THURSDAY, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE THE FBI CANNOT LOCATE ITS STAR WITNESS, INFORMANT GARY THOMAS ROWE. ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHMOND FLOWERS SAID JUDGE T. WERTH THAGGARD INFORMED HIM THE FIRST DEGREE MURDER TRAIL OF EUGENE THOMAS WILL NOT BE CALLED NEXT WEEK IN HAYNEVILLE. FLOWERS SAID HE HAS ASKED THAT IT BE SCHEDULED FOR THE OCTOBER TERM OF COURT.

139 44-28601-123

IN THE MEANTIME, UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL SAID IN A STORY

69 MAY 19 1966

16 MAY 16 1966

END PAGE ONE

MO 44-1245

PAGE TWO

THURSDAY IT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY A FEDERAL OFFICAL THAT ROWE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR ANY FUTHER TESTIMONY IN THE LIUZZO CASE. UPI SAID IT WAS TOLD THAT ROWE HAS A SIGNED STATEMENT FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SAYING THAT ROWE WILL NOT BE ASKED TO TESTIFY FURTHER.

THE STORY SAID ROWE HAS HAD A "BELLY FULL" OF THE CASE AND WANTS NO FURTHER PART OF IT.

BIRMINGHAM ATTORNEY ART HANES WHO TOOK OVER DEFENSE OF THE THREE KLANSMEN AFTER KLAN ATTORNEY MATT MURPHY WAS KILLED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT, SAID THURSDAY THAT JUDGE THAGGARD TOLD HIM THE TRAIL WAS POSTPONED BECAUSE THE FBI COULD NOT LOCATE ROWE. THAGGARD CONFIRMED THIS STATEMENT.

LOWNDES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY ARUTHUR GAMBLE SAID THAT THE FBI DID NOT ACTUALLY SAY ROWE CANNOT BE LOCATED. GAMBLE SAID HE CALLED THE FBI BEFORE THE TRAIL TO FIND OUT WHETHER ROWE WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR TESTIMONY. HE SAID THE FBI TOLD HIM ROWE HAD BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, AND THAT THE FBI WOULD CONTACT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ATTORNEYS AND ASK THEM TO CONTACT GAMBLE.

END PAGE TWO

GAMBLE SAID HE NEVER HEARD FROM THEM AND THAT HE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ASK THAT THE CASE BE POSTPONED. HE SAID HE COULD NOT CONDUCT THE TRAIL WITHOUT "THE STAR WITNESS."

FLOWERS DENIED THE REPORT THAT ROWE COULD NOT BE FOUND. "THERE IS NO BASIS FOR SUCH A REPORT," HE SAID. "HE WILL BE AVAILABLE WHEN WE ARE READY TO TRY THE SUIT," FLOWERS TOLD UPI. UNITED PRESS QUOTED THE FEDERAL OFFICIALS SAYING "THEY (FBI) KNOW WHERE HE IS. HE JUST WON'T COME BACK TO TESTIFY. HE'S HAD A BELLY FULL, THAT'S ALL. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, HE DID NOT WANT TO TESTIFY IN FEDERAL COURT, BUT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT PERSUADED HIM TO. THMN HE GOT A SIGNED STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE TO TESTIFY AGAIN."

HAINES ALSO TOLD THE UPI THAT ROWE DID NOT WANT TO TESTIFY AGAIN. "THE FBI HAD A HELL OF A TIME GETTING HIM TO TESTIFY IN MONTGOMERY," HE SAID.

THE ARTICLE CONTAINED OTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION REGARDING SUBSTANTIVE CASE NOT PERTINENT TO PRESENT PUBLICITY GIVEN ROWE AND IMPENDING STATE TRAIL.

END PAGE THREE

MO 44-1245

PAGE FOUR

REGARDING DISTRICT ATTORNEY ARTHUR GAMBLE'S STATEMENT ABOVE, BUREAU HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY ADVISED THAT ONLY CONTACT OF GAMBLE WITH MOBILE OFFICE WAS GAMBLE'S TELEPHONE CALL TO SA [redacted] b7c [redacted] APRIL TWENTY-TWO, LAST, IN WHICH GAMBLE INQUIRED CONCERNING EVIDENCE IN CASE, TO WHICH SA [redacted] REFERRED GAMBLE b7c TO THE DEPARTMENT. GAMBLE DID NOT DISCUSS GARY THOMAS ROWE WITH SA [redacted], AND NO COMMENTS REGARDING ROWE WERE MADE. P. b7c

END

WA...CORRECTIONS PAGE TWO LINE EIGHT WORD THREE

ART HAINES PAGE THREE LINE WORD FOUR "THEN"

JPM

FBI WASH DC

TU

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: May 11, 1966

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Wick

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

Mr. St. John Barrett, Civil Rights Division of the Department advised on 5/10/66, that the Department had received an inquiry from Associated Press regarding a statement made by Art Haynes, the attorney for the subjects in this case, who had allegedly stated that Eugene Thomas would never be brought to trial on the state murder charge in Hayneville, Alabama, because the Federal Government would not make Gary Thomas Rowe available as a witness. Barrett desired to know whether or not a request had ever been received by the Bureau concerning making Rowe available to the state for testimony.

It is noted that of the three subjects in this matter, Collie Leroy Wilkins was tried by the state for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo and was acquitted. Subject William Orville Eaton who was not tried by the state is now deceased. Subject Eugene Thomas has never been tried on the state charges. The Government produced Rowe to testify before the state grand jury and in the two state trials involving the subject Wilkins. The Bureau has received no request to produce Rowe to testify at the state trial of Eugene Thomas. A check was made with the Birmingham and Mobile Offices and they advised that no such request had been received by those offices. Mobile advised that the only contact they had received from state authorities with regard to this matter was on 5/10/66.

5/10/66 Alabama Attorney General Richmond Flowers on that date called SA [redacted] for the purpose of advising him that in the future Circuit Solicitor Arthur Gamble would have absolutely nothing to do with the case involving Eugene Thomas. He said that the state might bring Eugene Thomas to trial in the Fall of this year at which time they might want us to locate Rowe. He made no request and SA [redacted] did not comment on the matter one way or the other.

b7
b7c

JWH/par
(7)

CONTINUED - OVER

REC-82

MAY 16 1966

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;

Mr. St. John Barrett on 5-11-66, was advised of the above information. He was specifically advised that the FBI had not received any request concerning making Rowe available to the state for testimony. Mr. Barrett was also advised that in the event such a request was received by the Bureau, it would be immediately referred to the Department.

ACTION:
For information.

MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: May 12, 1966

FROM : C. L. McGowan

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Hudson

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

At 11:30 p.m., 5-12-66, SAC James McGovern, Birmingham, telephonically advised the Bureau that United Press International had contacted him at 9:15 p.m., Central Standard Time (11:15 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time). The reason for calling was that a story was circulating attributed to Art Haynes, attorney for the subjects, to the effect that the state trial of Eugene Thomas was called off because the FBI cannot find Gary Thomas Rowe, the informant. SAC McGovern replied to UPI's inquiry with "No comment."

SAC McGovern also stated that UPI said a second story was circulating attributed to a "reliable Federal official" in Montgomery, Alabama, to the effect the FBI knows where Rowe is but that Rowe is reluctant to testify in view of the fact he has previously testified on the same matter.

SAC McGovern advised there has been no request made of the Birmingham Office nor has there been any request made of the Mobile Office regarding the whereabouts or availability of Gary Thomas Rowe.

The Civil Rights Division of the Department advised on 5-10-66, that an Associated Press inquiry had been received concerning the same information.

REC-82105 44-[illegible]

ACTION:

Crime Records Division has been advised. 18 MAY 16 1966

FJH:hw
(3)

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

TO : Mr. Rosen

FROM : C. L. McGowan

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

DATE: May 12, 1966

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Hudson

At 8:15 p.m., 5-12-66, Extra-Duty Supervisor [redacted] talked with ASAC Edward S. Miller at Mobile concerning the information the Department received relative to Solicitor Arthur Gamble allegedly having inquiried of SA [redacted] three or four months ago concerning the availability of informant Rowe to testify at the state trial of Thomas.

ASAC Miller advised that Gamble did not contact [redacted] relative to Rowe being made available to testify and in fact [redacted] has not talked to Gamble since September or October, 1965. ASAC Miller further advised that Gamble has not discussed the subject with any Agents of the Mobile Office regarding Rowe's availability.

On 4-22-66, Gamble did telephonically contact SA [redacted] at the Selma, Alabama, Resident Agency and said he was preparing his case for trial and inquired regarding evidence. He did not make any inquiries concerning Rowe. SA [redacted] advised Gamble that any questions he had should be directed to the Department of Justice.

ASAC Miller also advised he talked with SAC McGovern at Birmingham who stated Gamble has not contacted any Birmingham Agents regarding Rowe's availability.

ACTION:

For record purposes.

REC-82 L-28601-1
ST-105
11 MAY 16 1966

FJH:hw
(6)

Mr. John Doar
Assistant Attorney General

May 16, 1966

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Wick

EUGENE THOMAS, AND OTHERS;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

This will confirm information furnished to Mr. St. John Barrett of the Civil Rights Division on May 10, 1966, in response to his inquiry concerning a statement allegedly made by Art Haynes, the attorney for Eugene Thomas, who reportedly stated that Thomas would never be brought to trial on the state charge of murder in connection with Mrs. Viola Liuzzo's death, because the Federal Government would not make Gary Thomas Rowe available as a witness.

On May 11, 1966, Mr. Barrett was advised that the FBI had not received any request to make Rowe available to the state for testimony, and that in the event such a request was received by the Bureau, it would be immediately referred to the Department.

Mr. Barrett's attention was called to a contact made by Alabama Attorney General Richmond Flowers with Special Agent [redacted] of our Mobile Office on May 10, 1966, wherein Mr. Flowers advised [redacted] that in the future Circuit Solicitor Arthur Gamble would have nothing to do with the case involving Eugene Thomas. Flowers said that the State of Alabama might bring Thomas to trial in the Fall of this year, at which time they might want the FBI to locate Rowe. He made no request and Special Agent [redacted] did not comment on the matter one way or the other.

On May 12, 1966, Mr. Barrett advised that the Department had received information indirectly to the effect that Solicitor Arthur Gamble had made inquiry of Special Agent [redacted] Resident Agent at Selma, Alabama, about three months ago concerning the availability of Rowe to testify at the state trial of Thomas. Mr. Barrett requested that he be furnished details of any such contact.

MAILED 4
MAY 16 1966
COMM-FBI

REC-82 44-2[illegible]

ST-105

19 MAY 16 1966

JWH:rmr
(9)

NOTE: See Memo Rosen to DeLoach, 5-13-66, same caption.

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Gandy

69 MAY 25 1966

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Mr. John Doar

In response to this request, Special Agent [redacted] b7c
[redacted] states that Solicitor Gamble has not contacted him relative to Rowe being made available to testify. He stated further that he has not talked to Gamble since September or October, 1965. On April 22, 1966, Solicitor Gamble did telephonically contact Special Agent [redacted] b7c
[redacted] at Selma, Alabama. He said that he was preparing the Thomas case for trial and inquired regarding the evidence. He did not make any inquiries concerning Rowe. Special Agent [redacted] b7c advised Solicitor Gamble that any questions he had should be directed to the Department of Justice and he did not comment further concerning the matter.

Recent statements have appeared in the public press concerning the availability of Gary Thomas Rowe for testimony in the state trial of Eugene Thomas. You may be assured that the FBI has made no comment to the press whatever concerning Rowe or his availability to testify.

GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memoranaum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: May 16, 1966

FROM : R. E. Wick

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

Reference is made to memorandum from Mr. Rosen to Mr. DeLoach dated May 13th, copy attached, in which it was recommended and approved that John Doar, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice, be assured that the FBI had made no comment whatsoever to the press re the availability of Gary Thomas Rowe to testify in the forthcoming state murder trial of Eugene Thomas. On this memorandum, the Director noted: "O.K. but I don't understand why we don't tell anyone contacting our Field representatives to contact the Dept.as we have nothing more to do in Federal Field in this case. H."

In accordance with the Director's instructions, we will continue to refer any inquiries we receive from the press concerning this matter to the Department.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

Enclosure

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen

TEB:par
(4)

REC 29

57 MAY 26 1966

MAY 1966

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO Mr. DeLoach

DATE: May 13, 1966

FROM A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Wick

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

The United Press International in a release dated 5-12-66 stated "FBI informer Gary Thomas Rowe will not testify again against three Ku Klux Klansmen in connection with the nightrider slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. The release quoted a Federal official who refused to be identified as stating that Rowe "has had a belly full." "They (the FBI) know where he is, he just won't come back to testify." The release further quoted the Federal official as stating that Rowe did not want to testify in Federal Court in the Federal trial in December, 1965, which resulted in conviction of the three subjects but the Justice Department pursuaded him to and he then got a signed statement that he would not have to testify again.

As you were advised by my memorandum of 5-11-66, Mr. St John Barrett of the Civil Rights Division on 5-10-66 advised that Department had received an inquiry from Associated Press regarding a statement made by Art Haynes, the attorney for Eugene Thomas to the effect that Thomas would never be brought to trial on a state murder charge because the Federal Government would not make Gary Thomas Rowe available as a witness. Barrett inquired as to whether or not a request to produce Rowe for testimony in a state trial had been received by the Bureau.

Barrett was advised on 5-11-66 after a check with our Mobile and Birmingham Offices that the FBI had not received any request to make Rowe available to the State for testimony.

Enclosure sent 5-16-66

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

JWH:cnj

CONTINUED - OVER

ENCLOSURE

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: EUGENE THOMAS

Barrett was advised Alabama Attorney General Richmond Flowers on 5-10-66 had contacted SA [redacted] of the Mobile Office for the purpose of advising him that in the future Circuit Solicitor Arthur Gamble would have nothing to do with the case involving Eugene Thomas. He told [redacted] that the state might bring Thomas to trial in the fall, at which time they might want the FBI to locate Rowe. Flowers made no request and SA [redacted] did not comment on the matter one way or the other. Barrett was advised that if any such request was received by the Bureau it would be immediately referred to the Department.

Subsequent to above on 5-12-66 Barrett advised that the Department had received a rumor from the press that Solicitor Arthur Gamble had made inquiry of SA [redacted] Resident Agent of Selma, Alabama, three or four months ago concerning the availability of Rowe to testify at the state trial of Thomas. Barrett desired to know if there was any merit to this rumor.

SA [redacted] has advised that Solicitor Gamble did not contact him relative to Rowe being made available to testify and Frye stated that he has not talked to Solicitor Gamble since September or October, 1965, which was prior to the Federal trial of Thomas and the other two subjects.

ASAC Edward S. Miller of the Mobile Office on 5-12-66 advised that Solicitor Gamble has not discussed the subject of availability of Rowe with any Agents of the Mobile Office. He said that on 4-22-66 Gamble telephonically contacted SA [redacted] at Selma, Alabama, and said that he was preparing the Thomas case for trial and inquired regarding evidence. He did not make any inquiry concerning Rowe. SA [redacted] advised Gamble that any questions he had should be directed to the Department of Justice and made no further comment. This information was furnished to Mr. Barrett on 5-13-66.

On the night of 5-12-66 SAC McGovern of the Birmingham Office advised that United Press International had contacted him at 9:15 p.m. and advised him that a story was circulating attributed to Art Haynes, attorney for Thomas to the effect that the state trial of Thomas was called off because the FBI cannot find Gary Thomas Rowe. SAC McGovern answered the United Press International inquiry with "no comment."

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: EUGENE THOMAS

As indicated above the Department has been receiving inquiries from the press and it is true that Rowe did not want to testify in the Federal trial of the three subjects in Hayneville, Alabama, in late November, 1965.

[redacted] b7A

ACTION:

Attached for approval is a letter to John Doar, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, confirming the information furnished to Mr. Barrett, and assuring him that the FBI has made no comment whatever to the press relative to the availability of Rowe for testimony.

Ok but I don't understand why we don't tell anyone contacting our field representatives to contact the Dept as we have nothing more to do in Federal building this case.

DeLoach
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Around the Nation

A9

Liuzzo Trial

MONTGOMERY, Ala. The murder trial of Ku Klux Klansman Eugene Thomas in the slaying of civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo has been delayed until the fall term at the request of a state's attorney.

District Attorney Arthur E. Gamble said he asked for the delay because he had heard nothing from the Justice Department when he asked whether the chief witness, FBI informer Gary Thomas Rowe, would be on hand to testify when the trial began Monday. There had been reports that Rowe did not want to testify.

The Justice Department in Washington said Rowe would have been available to testify.

The Washington Post and A 9
Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star
New York Herald Tribune
New York Journal-American
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times
The Baltimore Sun
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World
Date

MAY 14 1966

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

DATE: 5/23/66

FROM : SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3954) (P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, Aka.,
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL

Re New Orleans letter to Bureau, 4/21/66.

On 5/18/66, Mr. RICHARD WINDHORST, Deputy Clerk, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, New Orleans, La., advised that the printed record was filed 5/3/66.

Will advise the Bureau and Mobile of decision in this matter.

2 - Bureau
2 - Mobile (44-1245)
2 - New Orleans

CLM/med
(6)

REC- 18 44-28601-729

MAY 27 1966

JUN 1966

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO Mr. DeLoach

DATE: May 13, 1966

FROM A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Wick

The United Press International in a release dated 5-12-66 stated "FBI informer Gary Thomas Rowe will not testify again against three Ku Klux Klansmen in connection with the nightrider slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. The release quoted a Federal official who refused to be identified as stating that Rowe "has had a belly full." "They (the FBI) know where he is, he just won't come back to testify." The release further quoted the Federal official as stating that Rowe did not want to testify in Federal Court in the Federal trial in December, 1965, which resulted in conviction of the three subjects but the Justice Department pursuaded him to and he then got a signed statement that he would not have to testify again.

As you were advised by my memorandum of 5-11-66, Mr. John Barrett of the Civil Rights Division on 5-10-66 advised that Department had received an inquiry from Associated Press regarding a statement made by Art Haynes, the attorney for Eugene Thomas to the effect that Thomas would never be brought to trial on a state murder charge because the Federal Government would not make Gary Thomas Rowe available as a witness. Barrett inquired as to whether or not a request to produce Rowe for testimony in a state trial had been received by the Bureau.

Barrett was advised on 5-11-66 after a check with our Mobile and Birmingham Offices that the FBI had not received any request to make Rowe available to the State for testimony.

Enclosure 5-12-66

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

JWH:cry (7)

CONTINUED - OVER

RLC 33

MAY 31 1966

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: EUGENE THOMAS

Barrett was advised Alabama Attorney General Richmond Flowers on 5-10-66 had contacted SA [redacted] of the Mobile Office for the purpose of advising him that in the future Circuit Solicitor Arthur Gamble would have nothing to do with the case involving Eugene Thomas. He told [redacted] that the state might bring Thomas to trial in the fall, at which time they might want the FBI to locate Rowe. Flowers made no request and SA [redacted] did not comment on the matter one way or the other. Barrett was advised that if any such request was received by the Bureau it would be immediately referred to the Department.

Subsequent to above on 5-12-66 Barrett advised that the Department had received a rumor from the press that Solicitor Arthur Gamble had made inquiry of SA [redacted] Resident Agent of Selma, Alabama, three or four months ago concerning the availability of Rowe to testify at the state trial of Thomas. Barrett desired to know if there was any merit to this rumor.

SA [redacted] has advised that Solicitor Gamble did not contact him relative to Rowe being made available to testify and [redacted] stated that he has not talked to Solicitor Gamble since September or October, 1965, which was prior to the Federal trial of Thomas and the other two subjects.

ASAC Edward S. Miller of the Mobile Office on 5-12-66 advised that Solicitor Gamble has not discussed the subject of availability of Rowe with any Agents of the Mobile Office. He said that on 4-22-66 Gamble telephonically contacted SA [redacted] at Selma, Alabama, and said that he was preparing the Thomas case for trial and inquired regarding evidence. He did not make any inquiry concerning Rowe. SA [redacted] advised Gamble that any questions he had should be directed to the Department of Justice and made no further comment. This information was furnished to Mr. Barrett on 5-13-66.

On the night of 5-12-66 SAC McGovern of the Birmingham Office advised that United Press International had contacted him at 9:15 P.M. and advised him that a story was circulating attributed to Art Haynes, attorney for Thomas to the effect that the state trial of Thomas was called off because the FBI cannot find Gary Thomas Rowe. SAC McGovern answered the United Press International inquiry with "no comment."

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: EUGENE THOMAS

As indicated above the Department has been receiving inquiries from the press and it is true that Rowe did not want to testify in the Federal trial of the three subjects in Hayneville, Alabama, in late November, 1965.

[redacted] b7A

ACTION:

Attached for approval is a letter to John Doar, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, confirming the information furnished to Mr. Barrett, and assuring him that the FBI has made no comment whatever to the press relative to the availability of Rowe for testimony.

Off hand I don't understand why we don't tell anyone anything our field representatives to contact the Dept as we have nothing more to do in federal civil rights cases.

DeLoach
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Gandy

Around the Nation

Liuzzo Trial

MONTGOMERY, Ala. The murder trial of Ku Klux Klansman Eugene Thomas in the slaying of civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo has been delayed until the fall term at the request of a state's attorney.

District Attorney Arthur E. Gamble said he asked for the delay because he had heard nothing from the Justice Department when he asked whether the chief witness, FBI informer Gary Thomas Rowe, would be on hand to testify when the trial began Monday. There had been reports that Rowe did not want to testify.

The Justice Department in Washington said Rowe would have been available to testify.

The Washington Post and Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star
New York Herald Tribune
New York Journal-American
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times
The Baltimore Sun
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World
Date

44-[illegible]-13

ENCLOSURE

MAY 14 1966

5-16-66

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE ST-103 DEFERRED

REC 33 44-35601-730 1 - Mr. Hines

TO: SACs, BIRMINGHAM AND MOBILE
FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.; MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS.

U. S. Department of Justice
Communications Section
MAY 16 1966
TELETYPE

REMOBILETEL FIVE THIRTEEN LAST.

THE BUREAU'S OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY WERE FULFILLED UPON COMPLETION OF SUCCESSFUL FEDERAL PROSECUTION IN THIS MATTER AND THE FBI HAS NOTHING MORE TO DO IN THE FEDERAL FIELD IN THIS CASE. INSURE THAT ALL PERSONNEL OF YOUR OFFICES WHO ARE CONTACTED CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF EVIDENCE OR WITNESSES OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON CONCERNING THIS CASE ADVISE THE PERSON CONTACTING THEM SPECIFICALLY TO CONTACT JOHN DOAR, CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND MAKE NO FURTHER COMMENT.

ADVISE THE BUREAU PROMPTLY OF THE RECEIPT OF ANY CONTACTS BY YOUR RESPECTIVE OFFICES CONCERNING THIS CASE AND SPECIFICALLY WHAT THE PERSON CONTACTING A REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR OFFICE WAS TOLD. [illegible]

AIRTEL COPY TO SAN FRANCISCO.

1 - San Francisco

JWH:cxy (4)

NOTE: Above instructions being forwarded to offices involved in handling of this case and of informant Rowe pursuant to instruction of the Director. See memo Rosen to DeLoach dated 5-13-66.

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MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☑

b7C

[redacted]

6-27, 1966

Mr. J. E. Hoover,

Hon. Sir: I note in your explanation of your duties, in Human Events, you did not say why one of your Agents rode along with the man who is accused of shooting Mrs. Luigi last year, and did nothing to prevent her slaying. In other words, your agent was there aiding and abetting her murder, for the purpose of getting "evidence" for your files. If that isn't the sneakenest way to get the knowledge you want, I am a goat.

God knows he could have prevented her loss of life had he not been a sneak with power of the law behind him, And your office. This Johnson Mess, is the blackest page in our history. Every one Connected, even blacker than these Communist Negroes you are so prone to push down the throats of those who are gagged by that So Called Rights law. And all for cheap, dirty, Politics to Elect Even Cheaper and dirtier creatures to office. Shame.

[redacted]

COPY mjm

Viola Luzzo

EX-103
REC-1 77-28601-1

JUL 6 1966

CORRESPONDENCE

53 JUL 13 1966

P. 6 – 27, 1966

Mr. J. E. Hoover,

Hon. Sir: I note in your Explanation of yo
duties, in Human Events, you did not s
why one of your agents rode along wit
the man who is accused of shooting Mrs
last year, and did nothing to prevent h
slaying. In other words, your agent wo
there aiding and abetting her murder,
the purpose of getting "evidence" for your fi
If that isn't the sneakiest way to get
knowledge you want, I am a goat.
God knows he could have prevented her
of life, had he not been a sneak with po
of the law behind him, and your office.
This Johnson Mess, is the blackest page in
history. Everyone connected, even blacker tha
these communist negroes you are so
to push down the throats of those wh
are gagged by that so called Rights la
And all for cheap, dirty Politics to Elect E
Cheaper and dirtier creatures to office. Sha

RE: 2.4. ... DFC: 14

33 JUN 28 1966

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Wick

DATE: 6-30-66

FROM : D. C. Morrell

SUBJECT: [redacted] b7c

By letter dated June 27th to the Director, captioned individual accuses this Bureau of aiding and abetting in the murder of Mrs. Luigi in as much as one of our "Agents" was present when she was shot and did nothing to prevent it.

The general tenor of his letter indicates that he is a racist and against the present administration. His communication is generally intemperate and irrational and does not warrant a response. Accordingly, captioned individual's communication will not be acknowledged.

RECOMMENDATION:

That captioned individual's letter not be acknowledged.

1 - Mr. Wick - Enclosure

DFC:jls
(3)

REC-1 44-28601-73

EX-103

4 JUL 6 1966

53 JUL 13 1966

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

DATE: 6/24/66

FROM : SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3954) (P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka.,
et al - VICTIMS
CR: EL

Re New Orleans letter to Bureau, 5/23/66.

On 6/21/66, Mr. RICHARD WINDHORST, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, New Orleans, La., made available 2 copies of Brief for Appellants, Number 23289 filed 6/20/66, copy of which is enclosed for the Bureau and Mobile.

Will advise the Bureau and Mobile of decision in this matter.

(2) - Bureau (Enc. 1)
2 - Mobile (44-1245) (Enc. 1)
2 - New Orleans
CLM/jmc
(6)

ENCLOSURE

REC-38

EX-110

56 JUL 13 1966

44-28601-734

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

NO. 23289

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., and
EUGENE THOMAS,

Appellants

versus

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Appellee

APPEALS FROM THE UNITED STATES
DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

BRIEF FOR APPELLANTS

U. S. COURT OF APPEALS
FILED
JUN 20 1966
EDWARD W. WADSWORTH
CLERK

Attorneys for Appellants:
ARTHUR J. HANES
Suite 506
Frank Nelson Building
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

FRED BLANTON, JR.
Suite 1627
Twenty-One Twenty-One Building
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

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2. The court erred in denying appellants' motion for a bill of particulars (R. 16-17).

3. The court erred in admitting over objection the following testimony and evidence:

   A. U. S. Exhibits 1 and 2 (R. 194-195).
   B. U. S. Exhibits 3 and 4 (R. 204; 208-9).
   C. U. S. Exhibits 6, 13 through 18 (R. 400).
   D. U. S. Exhibit 10 (R. 400).

E. Testimony as to Klan organization (R. 404, *et seq.*).
F. Testimony as to telephone booth (R. 413).
G. Testimony as to Klan activities and purpose (R. 440-442).
H. U. S. Exhibits 36, 37, 38 and 41 (R. 756; 708).

4. The court erred in denying appellants' motion as for judgment of acquittal (R. 823).

5. The court erred in allowing the United States to close the argument to the jury, even without objection (R. 934-942).

6. The court erred in charging the jury, even at the request of defendants, concerning their failure to testify (R. 96-97).

7. The court erred in its supplemental charge in that it was coercive and did define incorrectly a Sec. 241 conspiracy (R. 114-117).

8. The court erred in entering a judgment of guilty against appellants in that said judgment was contrary to the weight of the evidence and was not supported by substantial evidence (CLW, R. 72; ET, R. 73).

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UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

NO. 23289

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., and EUGENE THOMAS,

Appellants

versus

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Appellee

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

In Criminal Case No. 11,736-N, United States District Court, Middle District of Alabama, a true bill against appellants, Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr.* and Eugene Thomas,* and also William Orville Eaton,(1) was filed on April 6, 1965 (R. 2-4).

Such indictment charged a conspiracy in violation of Title 18, Section 241, United States Code, "to injure, oppress, threaten and intimidate citizens of the United States in the vicinity of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama in the free exercise and enjoyment of certain rights and privileges secured to them by the

---

*In this brief, in matters pertaining to only one appellant, Wilkins will be referred to as: CLW, R., and Thomas as: ET, R.

(1) William Orville Eaton also appealed his conviction, but subsequent to docketing this cause he died; and upon notification of such fact, this Court did, on March 17, 1966, dismiss the appeal as to him as moot.

Constitution and laws of the United States, and because of their having exercised such rights." (R. 2)

One specific right of these unnamed citizens alleged to have been abridged in said manner by indictees was, among others. The right to participate in a protest march pursuant to a plan approved by the United States District Court, Middle District of Alabama (R. 3).

Appellants were arrested on April 7, 1965, and each released on bond of $50,000 (CLW, R. 5-6; ET, R. 6-7). They were arraigned by the Court on November 5, 1965, and each pleaded "Not Guilty" (R. 7-10).

A motion to dismiss the indictment was filed on November 19, 1965 (R. 15-16), after proceedings about said motion were held on the preceding day (R. 18-37). The ultimate basis for such motion was that the indictment did not state facts sufficient to constitute an offense against the United States (R. 16). The Court overruled the motion to dismiss informally (R. 37); later a formal order was entered (R. 16-17). Appellants contend this was error.

A motion for a bill of particulars was also filed on November 19, 1965 (R. 10-15), after proceedings about said motion were held on the preceding day (R. 38-47). The basic thrust of this motion was to obtain from the United States the name and address of any person defendants were alleged to have conspired to injure, oppress, threaten and intimidate as laid in the indictment (R. 10-14). In a colloquy between the Court and counsel for the United States (R. 38-41; 46-47) the following statements are of particular interest:

> Mr. Doar: "We contend that the defendants conspired to injure members of a class of people; the people are those persons that were engaged in the march from Selma to Montgomery, and those persons are identified; we don't claim any individual person." (R. 39)
>
> * * *
>
> Mr. Doar: "It is our claim they were engaged in the conspiracy to harass that class of persons; it wasn't against any particular person; they didn't — their conspiracy was not directed against a particular person." (R. 40)
>
> The Court: "All right. So there won't be any misunderstanding, if I understand your case, it is that the conspiracy wasn't directed to harass and intimidate and threaten, oppress any particular person, but the effect of it may have been." (R. 40-41)
>
> Mr. Doar: "That's right." (R. 41)

The Court overruled the motion of defendants for a bill of particulars (R. 17). Appellants assert this was manifest error.

Prior to the commencement of the trial on November 29, 1965, before the Honorable Frank M. Johnson, Jr., Judge, and a jury at Montgomery, Alabama, certain proceedings were held in chambers, of which the following is deemed significant: The Court, at R. 139-140, indicated the United States had approached him about certain matters concerning a Mrs. Luizzo, her murder on the Selma-Montgomery highway being a matter of common knowledge. It was strong by implication here the immediately forthcoming trial would in effect evolve around this specific occurrence (R. 141), and counsel for defendants appropriately noted that on argument to dismiss the indictment and for a bill of particulars he was led to understand the alleged activities of defendants were directed against a *class* and not any *individual* (R. 140).

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The evidence adduced at the trial is of importance to the position of these appellants. To assist the Court and to substantiate the position of appellants that the United States failed to sustain its burden a concise narrative statement of the relevant and significant testimony and other evidence is presented.[2] A motion as for a judgment of acquittal was denied (R. 823).

The Honorable John Doar for the United States opened (R. 189-193), and it was clear the damning point to be proved against defendants was the murder of a Mrs. Luizzo. Counsel for defendants relied on pleas of "Not Guilty" (R. 193).

U. S. Exhibit 1 was a certified copy of the order of the United States District Court, Middle District of [illegible]a, of March 17, 1965, which concerned a pro[illegible]n of march of certain people from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama (R. 194). U. S. Exhibit 2 was a certified copy of the order of this Court dated March 19, 1965, which declined to stay the proposed plan of march (R. 195).

L. B. SULLIVAN testified he was Commissioner of Public Affairs of Montgomery, Alabama (R. 196). He knew of a march of certain Negro and white citizens from Selma to Montgomery in March, 1965, pursuant to an order of theUnited States District Court (R. 196-197). Witness had a request for a parade permit dated March 20, 1965, from Fred Vann on behalf of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc. (R. 199). Witness stated he had authority to issue parade permits for the Commission (R. 201). U. S. Exhibit 3 was the parade permit request of March 20, 1965 (R. 203), and U. S. Exhibit 4 was the approval of such request dated March 21, 1965 (R. 204). Over objection (R. 208), Exhibits 3 and 4 were admitted into evidence (R. 209).

(2) The proceedings anent the selection of a jury (R. 149-187) and other matters have been included in the record on appeal not for the purpose of unduly extending it, but solely for the purpose of allowing this Court, if it so sees fit, to savor the flavor of the entire trial below.

The parade was to take place on March 21, 1965, "to protest order issued by Federal Court allowing a five day demonstration march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama." (R. 209) The colloquy between the Court and Mr. Doar emphatically showed Exhibits 3 and 4 were admitted for a limited purpose and not one extending to any rights exercised by defendants (R. 210).

There was another parade in Montgomery after the one of March 21, 1965, the Selma to Montgomery affair (R. 214). This parade proceeded from the St. Jude area along its court-outlined route to the Capitol, and included several thousand persons who remained in front of the Capitol for three to four hours (R. 215).

On cross examination by Mr. Hanes, Sullivan testified there were no incidents during the Klan parade of March 21, 1965 (R. 215); no trouble was caused; the parade proceeded quietly (R. 216).

The crowd on March 25, 1965—the Selma to Montgomery march — was estimated between 20 and 30 thousand (R. 216). The march was a walking one composed of males and females, white and colored. Sullivan concluded his testimony by stating on redirect examination the march of March 25, 1965, was orderly (R. 218).

WILLIAM RAYNES JONES stated he lived in Montgomery, and was Chief of the Investigative and

Identification Division, Department of Public Safety, during March, 1965 (R. 219-220). He received in his official capacity information there was to be a parade by the United Knights of the Ku Klux Klan on March 21, 1965 (R. 220-221). Four men were detailed, 2 to participate in and 2 to observe this parade (R. 221-222).

PAUL JAMES DUMAS testified he lived in Montgomery, and for 5 years had been with the police department (R. 224). He was on duty on March 21, 1965, and attended the motorcade and rally at Cramton Bowl, and had Sergeant Farr in the car with him (R. 225). Sergeant Farr obtained photographs and both took automobile license numbers (R. 226). U. S. Exhibits 13 through 18 were marked for identification (R. 227-228), and generally they purported to present scenes at Cramton Bowl on March 21st (R. 229). U. S. Exhibit 6, consisting of 3 photographs, was marked for identification (R. 234). Witness testified they were pictures of the rally at Cramton Bowl (R. 235).

Dumas on cross examination testified he did not take any photographs personally; he saw someone from his department take photographs; he recognized the photographs shown to him previously (R. 240-241).

On the occasion of the meeting on the 21st at the field, there was no commotion; there were no public affrays; and witness did not hear any threats made (R. 242).

WALTER RAY BUTTS informed the Court and jury he lived in Montgomery and was news director of WCOV radio and television and held such position on March 21, 1965 (R. 246-247). Butts took pictures on the 21st of a Klan motorcade in Montgomery. U. S.

Exhibit 10, consisting of 3 photographs, and U. S. Exhibit 11, consisting of 2 photographs, were marked for identification (R. 247). As to U. S. Exhibit 10, the pictures were described as accurate portrayals of a close up and the side of an automobile; they were taken on Dexter Avenue, just below the Judicial Building (R. 248-249). U. S. Exhibit 11 consisted of 2 more pictures of cars in the motorcade (R. 249).

ROBERT C. ROTON identified himself as a resident of Montgomery employed as Supervisor of Motor Vehicle Division, State Department of Revenue (R. 250). Roton had with him 2 registration receipts of vehicles (R. 250-251). These were marked for identification U. S. Exhibits 7 and 8 (R. 251-252). Witness described the general contents of the documents, including, *inter alia*, tag number and name and address of licensee (R. 253).

HAROLD R. CHARRON, JR., testified he was a special agent with FBI, stationed in Washington, D. C.; was engaged on his official duties in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 21, 1965; was observing a motorcade at a parking lot across from Cramton Bowl. U. S. Exhibits 13 through 18, a series of photographs, were displayed to witness (R. 257) and he identified them as enlargements of pictures he had taken on the day in question (R. 258).

On cross examination, witness stated his primary assignment that day was to take photographs of the crowd, etc. (R. 259-260), but he did note some license numbers. *Witness stated he did not hear anybody on that occasion threaten to injure, oppress, or intimidate anyone* and he was there from almost the beginning to the end of the gathering (R. 260).

STEPHEN J. FEARON identified himself as a

special agent of FBI, and he was on official duties on March 21, 1965, in Montgomery (R. 262). Witness stated he was to observe the motorcade; he took down some license numbers of cars; he was driving a car in the vicinity of Cramton Bowl; he would call out tag numbers as he observed them, and another agent in the car, Beverstein, would write them down; and also he, Beverstein, would write down ones he observed. Witness was engaged in this about 1½ hours (R. 263).

On cross examination, witness stated he went to the field shortly after noon, about 12:30 P. M., and cars had begun to gather (R. 265). After about an hour, there were over 100 cars and about 200 to 250 people (R. 265-266).

procedure for listing automobile tag numbers, ...ght out on direct examination, was reiterated (R. 266-267); but witness stated he did not know whether the numbers he called out were written on the sheet or not. Witness was at the meeting more or less from beginning to end and *he did not hear anyone threaten to injure, oppress, intimidate or hurt anybody* (R. 267).

JACK T. BEVERSTEIN stated he was a special agent for FBI; was on duty on March 21, 1965, in Montgomery, observing a Klan parade (R. 268-269). His special duty was to record license numbers, some of which numbers he observed himself and some of which were called to him by the preceding witness, Agent Fearon (R. 269-270). U. S. Exhibit 5 was shown to witness and identified as his report of motor vehicle license numbers, dictated from his original notes (R. 270).

On cross examination, witness stated he heard no speakers on the occasion of the rally of March 21,

1965; he heard only of a parade permit for that date; he came to the field a few minutes after 12:00 noon; the parade left about 2:50 P. M.; he followed and observed the parade in Montgomery until it disbanded; the parade lasted about 25 minutes (R. 272-273). *While Beverstein was with the Klan group, he did not hear anyone singly or conspiring with others to threaten, injure, oppress or intimidate anybody* (R. 274).

NEIL P. SHANAHAN stated he was a special agent of FBI (R. 276-277).

Witness stated he had known a man named Tommy Rowe for about 1½ years. The acquaintance was an official one, inasmuch as Rowe was furnishing information to FBI, and Shanahan had, since September 1, 1964, been assigned to control his activities and receive the information. Rowe had been working with FBI since 1960 (R. 280), and Rowe gave information by personal contact, telephone conversations, and written information mailed in (R. 281). Rowe worked with FBI through March 25, 1965 (R. 282). On this date, in the morning, Shanahan was in communication with Rowe who had information for him, which information was almost immediately sent by teletype to Montgomery, Mobile and Selma (R. 282-283). U. S. Exhibit 9, consisting of 3 teletyped documents, was identified by witness (R. 283), the time sent being 9:27 A. M., on March 25, 1965 (R. 284).

Later that same day, Rowe called Shanahan again, and communication was established about 11:20 P. M. Shanahan met Rowe personally in the parking lot of West End Baptist Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama, and had a conversation with him. Rowe gave Shanahan a gun. The conversation lasted from about 12:30

A. M., to about 2:00 A. M., the morning of March 26, 1965 (R. 285).

On cross examination, Mr. Hanes directed his questions to witness to develop the exact association of Tommy Rowe with FBI. Rowe had reported to Agent Blake prior to September 1, 1964, when Rowe began reporting to witness. Rowe was not a special agent of FBI; he was not a special employee, nor was he a regular employee. Rowe was an informant (R. 287). He was paid on the basis of information delivered; his product was selling information. Witness stated Rowe was paid for services rendered; he always had something to sell (R. 288). Shanahan stated he had had other informants (R. 289). Shanahan presumed he had received false information; could not recall any specific instances; but did state he had received information he could not corroborate one way or the other (R. 290).

On the morning of March 25, Shanahan received word Rowe wanted to talk with him; Rowe stated to Shanahan he had been asked to go to Montgomery by Gene Thomas; this was shortly before 8:00 A. M. (R. 290-291). The delay of about 1 hour and 27 minutes from the time the information was received until the information about the car was placed on the teletype was explained by Shanahan to have been occasioned because he was at home (R. 291-292).

Rowe and Shanahan had a telephone conversation about 8:50 A. M., in Birmingham, then all was quiet until the approximately 11:20 P. M., telephone call. Shanahan stayed in Birmingham all day (R. 293). During this telephone conversation, Shanahan told Rowe he had heard a woman had been shot in Lowndes County, Alabama; Rowe had asked him about this (R. 295); Shanahan had heard this on the 11:00 P. M., news; it was possible Rowe had also heard this on the news (R.296).

Rowe gave Shanahan a gun which he kept until later that morning when he tagged it and gave it to the Assistant Agent in Charge (R. 299). The gun was examined by Shanahan; he smelled the muzzle; removed the cartridges (R. 299). No fingerprint examination was made since witness knew Rowe's prints were on the gun (R. 299-300). Witness did not know the serial number of the gun; did not know whether or not it had been fired; did not look at the gun in the light (R. 300).

Rowe told Shanahan about a shooting; they were together about 1½ hours; Rowe was not taken into custody; Shanahan did not go to headquarters but returned home (R. 300). The incident was reported to the Special Agent in Charge, Everett Ingram, at about 2:20 A. M., March 26.

Shanahan worked further on the investigation. Since September 1, 1964, Shanahan had paid Rowe an average of $275.00 to $290.00 a month (R. 305).

On redirect examination, Shanahan related the conversation he had with Rowe on the morning of March 25 (R. 307-309). Rowe told him Gene Thomas had called; told him to come to Bessemer; they were going to Montgomery. Rowe advised Thomas he had received Klan instructions as late as 10:00 P. M., the previous night they were not going to Montgomery. Rowe said he would have to check with his immediate superior; Robert called and told him to go to Montgomery with Gene Thomas. Shanahan thought it would be suspicious if Rowe did not go and later advised him to go. This line of questioning was objected

to, but objection was overruled on the theory this examination was merely the narration of the rest of a conversation probed into by the defense (R. 307).

After Rowe returned, he related his activities to Shanahan (R. 309-314). These concerned Gene Thomas, Wilkins, and Eaton.[3]

Mr. Hanes recross examined Shanahan as to these activities (R. 315-323). Further, on recross examination, Shanahan stated he, Rowe, Special Agents Alexander and Downey left Birmingham for the scene of the shooting about 9:30 A. M., March 26 (R. 323-325). Shanahan had picked Rowe up about 5:00 A. M., at the parking lot of GES store in West End, Birmingham, and taken him to FBI headquarters (R. 323).

[illegible]y proceeded to Selma; stopped on the outskirts [illegible] Agent Archibald Riley; transferred to his [illegible]icle; and retraced the route of the activity of the preceding night (R. 325). The group started from the Edmund Pettus (Alabama River) Bridge toward Selma; went to Silver Moon Cafe but no one was talked to there (R. 326). The visit was to identify the place; no one was asked if Rowe and the 3 defendants had been present the night before (R. 327). Leaving Silver Moon, the men went down a street next to the cafe where Gaston Super Market was pointed out by Rowe as the place where a U-turn was made to try to go past Brown's Chapel Church, but the street was blocked and the next street was taken (R. 328). Although the distance or time was clocked, Shanahan did not recall the figure (R. 323-329); he estimated from Pettus Bridge back to Pettus Bridge along the route traveled

(3) Inasmuch as a narration of what Rowe told Shanahan would be repetitive, since Rowe did testify (R. 391, *et seq.*), such narration will be omitted at this point.

took about 15 or 20 minutes. Leaving Pettus Bridge once more, the group headed east toward Montgomery; the distance was taken from there to the place of the shooting but Shanahan did not know who did this (R. 329); he estimated the distance to be about 25 miles. Shanahan and his companions went on into Montgomery (R. 330); he did not know if they went by St. Francis Motel; they went back to Birmingham (R. 331); it is about 25 miles from the shooting scene to St. Francis Motel, *i. e.*, 50 miles from Pettus Bridge to St. Francis (R. 332).

The car at the scene of the shooting was on the right side of the road proceeding east, elevated above the level of the road about 4 or 5 feet, and about 35 feet from the edge of the road (R. 332). The road at this point was upgrade and straight for about half a mile. On down the highway, Rowe pointed out the approximate place where the shell casings were thrown out the window (R. 333). At the next major intersection, probably Lowndesboro, a switch from Riley's vehicle was made to another car; the party returned to Birmingham (R. 334-339). Rowe did not point out the service station where gasoline was purchased the night before; or the point where Rowe's party missed the road and doubled back (R. 334). It is about 110 miles from Montgomery to Birmingham; it would be fairly close to the same mileage from Montgomery to Midfield, which is just to the west of and contiguous to Birmingham (R. 339).

Rowe is about 6 feet tall, even, and weighs about 215 or 220 pounds (R. 341). The Rowe group was in Thomas' car, a red and white Chevrolet (R. 341-342), with bucket seats and a console. Witness was of opinion 2 big people could ride on the back seat (R. 342).

Shanahan stated Rowe did not tell him when his group returned to Birmingham; did not take Shanahan by the filling station it stopped at; he and Rowe went by St. Francis Motel (R. 345).

R. W. GODWIN was from Montgomery and was an investigator for Alabama Department of Public Safety on March 25 (R. 348-349). On that date, Godwin received a call from FBI that a car, license number 1B-36964, carrying 6 Klan members was supposed to be headed to Montgomery, such license having been issued to Eugene Thomas, Bessemer (R. 349).

Godwin on cross examination stated the distance from Montgomery to Selma on U. S. 80 was about 50 miles; the distance from Montgomery to Birmingham 100 miles (R. 350-351).

EARL E. CAMPBELL lived in Montgomery and was radio dispatcher on March 25, which position entailed putting calls out to cars for assignment. A record of such calls was kept (R. 352); witness had such a record from 6:00 A. M., until 7:16 P. M., for the 25th (R. 353). U. S. Exhibit 20 was a copy of the foregoing record, with an entry at 10:38 A. M., concerning a Chevrolet automobile with a certain license number and a call was sent out (R. 352). Exhibit 20 was marked for identification (R. 354). Witness stated the entry for 10:38 A. M., concerned a 1965 Cheverolet, on cross examination (R. 354). Witness testified the license number was 1B-36964, on redirect examination (R. 355).

E. J. DIXON was a state investigator for Department of Public Safety; was engaged on his official duties on March 21 and 25 (R. 356-357). On the former day he observed the Klan demonstration in Montgomery, described previously. Aside from law enforcement personnel, he recognized only Robert Shelton. On the latter day, Dixon was at St. Jude's; at the Capitol; and at night on U. S. 80 (R. 357). He was called to U. S. 80 by Major Jones, the head of his division, to whom a shooting had been reported (R. 358).

A diagram was exhibited to witness, which, without being to scale, depicted U. S. 80 from Selma to Montgomery; and witness had made certain mileage measurements (R. 358-359). Using such drawing, Dixon pointed out Alabama River Bridge (Pettus) and Craig Field (R. 349); Tyler Crossroads; where the highway was two-lane and where it was four-lane (generally two-lane in Lowndes County) (R. 360). Witness also marked Dannelly Field and St. Jude's Church (R. 361). An inquiry was made about measurements to the scene of the investigation (R. 362). Distances were stated to be as follows: Selma to Dannelly Field—43.7 miles; Selma to Craig Field—4.2 miles; Selma to end of four lane—14.1 miles; Selma to scene of investigation—27.4 miles; Selma to four-lane leading into Montgomery—34.4 miles (R. 363). These were placed on the diagram (R. 364).

On the arrival of Dixon at the scene, he found the body of a white woman in an automobile about 50 feet off the south side of the highway (R. 364). Mr. Doar showed him U. S. Exhibit 12 for identification, which were 5 photographs taken by witness of the car and the body in the car (R. 365). They were admitted into evidence (R. 365). The automobile was on the south side of the highway facing east. The road was uphill toward Montgomery (R. 366). U. S. Exhibits 21 through 25, blow-ups of the 5 photographs of Exhibit 12, were admitted into evidence (R. 367); and witness described each with particular reference to the location of the car (R. 367-368).

Dixon merely observed the interior of the car that night; he did not examine it (R. 368). On that occasion, Dixon identified the body as Viola Luizzo from Michigan (R. 370).

Trooper Burgess gave him a piece of lead and he saw him get it from the right rear floorboard. This was turned over to Dr. Shoffeitt about 2:30 A. M., the morning of the 26th (R. 372).

Mr. Hanes cross examined. On March 21, Dixon was at Cramton Bowl about an hour to an hour and a half, having arrived around 1:00 P. M. (R. 373). He followed the motorcade to the Capitol. During this period, *Dixon did not hear anybody or any combination of people make any threats to hurt, intimidate, injure, oppress anybody* (R. 374).

On the night of the 25th, witness received a call at his home to proceed to U. S. 80. When he arrived Troopers Burgess and McGaha were present (R. 374), along with 2 or 3 other troopers. Dixon testified tracks led from the rear of the car back toward the highway for about 250 feet (R. 375). Witness was shown U. S. Exhibit 25 (R. 376). The car was identified; it had come to rest going uphill east toward Montgomery; the grade of the slope would be 30 degrees; the car was about 150 or 200 yards from the crest (R. 376-377). On reaching the crest, one would have a slight curve to the left (or right?) (R. 377).

Witness deposed he saw Burgess retrieve the piece of lead from the automobile (R. 377); but not from any exact spot. Burgess did turn at once and hand him the piece of lead, there being no time gap (R. 378).

Dixon later that night, or the next day, went back down the trail to where the car left the road (R. 378).

It went down the shoulder, then upgrade. At the point where the automobile left the road there was glass on the road, about 400 feet from the car. On that night, Dixon heard talk of other automobile tracks (R. 379), which were across the road (on the north side) about 150 feet from where the glass was found. They appeared to be tracks made by a car smaller than a standard Ford, Chevrolet or Plymouth (R. 380). The car which made these tracks had gone into the driveway and returned to the highway, but witness could not state whether it went toward Selma or Montgomery. The tracks were west of the point the principal car left the road (R. 381); a small car had turned around (R. 382).

Besides the troopers at the scene, there were 2 or 3 other cars parked on the road (R. 382). Dixon approached the scene from Montgomery; he arrived about 9:15 P. M.; he did not see anyone walking or running along the highway while coming to the scene. Traffic was light, which was normal (R. 383). There were some trooper cars deployed on the highway that night (R. 384).

Apparently Mr. Hanes then referred to the diagram on which Dixon had placed mileage measurements (R. 384, *et seq.*). The distances were measured from the center of Pettus Bridge (R. 384). Holiday Inn was placed about a mile east of the intersection of U. S. 31 and 80 (R. 384-385). It was about 4 to 5 miles from Dannelly Field to St. Francis Motel (R. 386), or about 50 miles from Pettus Bridge to St. Francis Motel (R. 386-387). Witness stated it was probably 95 miles from St. Francis Motel to Birmingham; and probably 90 miles from St. Francis Motel to a point midway between Birmingham and Bessemer on the Bessemer super highway (R. 387).

GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., testified he was 32; lived in Birmingham in March, 1965; had lived there about 12 or 13 years (R. 391). Rowe had been contacted by FBI about furnishing information concerning racial activities in and around Birmingham in 1961. An agent came into his home about this, and, at the time, he was not a Klan member (R. 392). At the request of FBI, Rowe joined the Klan, Eastview 13 Chapter, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan located in Birmingham. He was a member of that chapter through March 25, 1965, although the name changed to United Klans of America, of which Robert Shelton, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, was the head (R. 393). Rowe attended Klan meetings; had known defendant Thomas about 5 years; defendant Eaton about 1 year; and defendant Wilkins about 2 years; they were members of United Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. All during the 5 years prior to March, 1965, Rowe had furnished information about the Klan to FBI on a regular basis (R. 394).

Rowe came to Montgomery on March 21 (R. 394) with 3 Klansmen, other than defendants, from the Birmingham area to participate in a parade and motorcade. Witness was shown U. S. Exhibits 13 through 18, so marked for identification (R. 395); recognized them as being taken on the 21st at or near Cramton Bowl in Montgomery. As to U. S. Exhibit 18, Rowe was able to single out, among others, defendants Eaton, Wilkins and Thomas (R. 396), whose faces he circled and marked (R. 397). The automobile of Gene Thomas was identified in U. S. Exhibits 13 through 15 and circled (R. 398-399).

Rowe was shown U. S. Exhibit 6—three photographs—and stated they were taken on March 21 at Cramton Bowl (R. 399-400). Witness was *not* shown

and did *not* identify U. S. Exhibit 10 for identification (R. 395-400); but these photographs were admitted into evidence over objection. Also, over objection, U. S. Exhibits 6, 13 through 18 were admitted (R. 400).

Rowe deposed he did not go to Montgomery on the 21st with any of the 3 defendants. He was instructed to go to Montgomery on the 25th by Gene Thomas, and Robert Thomas, such instructions being received at his home (R. 401-403). Robert Thomas was the superior of Rowe in United Klans of America; Rowe was Klan investigator for Eastview 13 unit and K. B. I.; a Klan investigator checked on membership applications and other matters detrimental to the Klan's way of thinking (R. 403). Robert Thomas was a Titan in United Klan; a Titan headed a province of 6 or 8 different units; Eastview 13 was in his province (R. 403-404). Gene Thomas was in Chapter 20 in Bessemer, also in the province of Robert Thomas. Eaton and Wilkins were in Chapter 20 (R. 404).

Over objection (R. 404), witness testified the superior of a Titan would be Grand Dragon for the State of Alabama, who was Robert Creel. Creel had been identified in one of the pictures taken in Montgomery on the 21st. Superior to Grand Dragon was Imperial Wizard, who was Robert Shelton of Tuscaloosa, not identified in any of the pictures, but he was present (R. 405).

The instructions came "from down the road", which meant Tuscaloosa, or Robert Shelton's Imperial office (R. 406). Rowe deposed he told Shanahan about his call from Gene Thomas and the change of plans; that Shanahan told him he would call Rowe back (R. 407). Shanahan did so and instructed Rowe to go along; Rowe prepared to do so; he went

to Bessemer to a place about 2 blocks from the Klan meeting hall; Gene Thomas, Wilkins and Eaton were in the car; Rowe parked his car at the house of Gene Thomas, a trip of several blocks (R. 408-409).

Gene Thomas was driving a 1962 Chevrolet, the car in the pictures at the rally of the 21st. The group proceeded to Prattville. They discussed the march they were going to observe (R. 409). The party arrived in Montgomery about 10:00 A. M.; rode around a few minutes; parked the car; walked toward the Capitol. They were within a block of the Capitol. Eaton, Gene Thomas, and Rowe were armed; the guns were left in the car. The four went to an American filling station where they stayed about 5 hours (R. 410). U. S. Exhibit 26 for identification, a photograph, was shown to Rowe, who recognized the scene and recalled the filling station the group remained at for 5 hours (R. 411). It was admitted into evidence. During the time at the filling station, the four stood around, talked, harassed the marchers, hollered at them, booed them, got in an argument with some of the colored spectators (R. 412). The crowd reached beyond the filling station about three quarters of a mile or a mile (R. 412-413).

A telephone booth was located on filling station property. Gene Thomas and Wilkins got in the booth. Over objection, Rowe testified he observed the wire was cut after they left the booth (R. 413). The record is silent as to the condition of the telephone wire immediately prior to the time Gene Thomas and Wilkins entered the booth.

At the conclusion of the parade and speeches, Rowe's group went to the car; Rowe and Eaton armed themselves; Gene Thomas placed his weapon in a compartment between the bucket seats of his car; they then proceeded to Jack's Beverages located near Maxwell Air Force Base (R. 414-415). On the way to Jack's, the four discussed going to Selma (R. 415). Gene Thomas said they were going to Selma because they had things to do; they were going to get them done; and they might even get some entertainment from Shelley Winters, a real pig. The party ate at Jack's, staying probably a little longer than an hour. They proceeded to Selma on U. S. 80 (R. 416). On the way a hitchhiker was observed by Eaton; Wilkins asked Gene Thomas to slow down to see if he was a marcher and, if so, to "give him a little fun and a surprise"; on further observation, Wilkins remarked the hitchhiker was too clean to be a marcher (R. 417).

Rowe saw a highway patrolman later when the latter flagged the car down about 6:18 P. M. (R. 417-418). This occurred on the four-lane highway next to Selma on U. S. 80 (R. 418), where the radar was. Gene Thomas was asked for and produced his driver's license; was informed he was barely in the maximum not to be ticketed for speeding; he was stopped for defective mufflers. A ticket was issued for improper mufflers, which Rowe saw (R. 419).

The trip was continued on into Selma where the first stop was Silver Moon Cafe, about 2 or 3 blocks from Pettus Bridge; beer was ordered (R. 420). Prior to this all four had 2 beers each at Jack's, but that was all during the day (R. 420-421). The group remained at Silver Moon about 30 or 45 minutes. They discussed going to a colored A. M. E. Church where Shelley Winters was to entertain the marchers. While there, Gene Thomas left the table and talked with a man (R. 421). Upon returning, he informed his cohorts the man was the one who was out on the Reeb killing (R. 422).

Gene Thomas left the table again and returned. The ensuing discussion was about going to the church. When the group started to depart, this otherwise unidentified person from the record came up and stated he had done his job and for them to do theirs (R. 423).

The four left Silver Moon, got into the car, drove toward the church, which was less than 12 blocks away (R. 423). Gene Thomas got the car on a street 1 block over from the church. There a colored couple was walking (R. 424); Gene Thomas and Wilkins remarked they were going to have some fun and "take them." Rowe saw an Army truck with soldiers sitting in it; the four passed these colored people and went on. Gene Thomas removed his gun from the compartment be- the seats prior to this and handed it to Wilkins, ing it after the colored people were passed (R.

Rowe and the 3 defendants prepared to leave Selma over the Pettus Bridge (R. 425-426); about 2 or 3 blocks from the bridge they were stopped by a red light; an automobile pulled up on the left with a white woman driving and a Negro sitting beside her; Gene Thomas said they should follow the car to see where they were going. Thomas said he thought they were going out to the woods on a dirt road and park. Thomas told those in the back to get down out of sight; that they were going to follow and take them (R. 426). Thomas remarked he believed they had some of the brass. Rowe stated Gene Thomas constantly remarked the two were going out on the highway and make love; that they were going to get them. The car was a light colored Oldsmobile with a Michigan license plate (R. 427). Wilkins and Rowe, in the back seat, were told to sit up by Gene Thomas after the latter started following the car (R. 428).

Gene Thomas drove fast—from 10 miles an hour up to 90 and 100 (R. 428). (In what transpired subsequently, Rowe testified there were constant comments, particularly by Gene Thomas, that they were going to take them tonight). As the Rowe car approached Craig, the Oldsmobile was in the left lane, veered to the right, then speeded down the highway. Gene Thomas followed at speeds of 80 to 90 miles an hour (R. 429).

Rowe saw a green Volkswagon type station wagon and a highway patrolman at the point they received their ticket. The next time Gene Thomas tried to go around, the Oldsmobile was on the two-lane (R. 430). Rowe saw a two-story building with automobiles and Negroes around it; Rowe wanted to go back to town and find somebody else; they were going to get caught; it was not worth it (R. 431).

In a swamp area, Gene Thomas started around the Oldsmobile, handing Wilkins his pistol (R. 432). This was a .38 caliber pistol. The rest got their guns out on orders from Gene Thomas. Wilkins stuck his arm out the window about at elbow length; the woman turned her head and kind of looked toward Rowe's car; Wilkins fired 2 fast shots into the glass of the Oldsmobile, into the front window. Eaton started firing; Rowe put his gun up near the side of Wilkins' head; Wilkins continued firing as Gene Thomas passed the Oldsmobile; Eaton continued firing even after the Oldsmobile had been completely passed (R. 433). A little further on, Wilkins threw his casings out and reloaded; then Eaton threw his casings out at the window on the right hand side of the highway. The four proceeded at an extremely high rate of speed to Montgomery (R. 434).

In Montgomery, the four went to St. Francis Motel and turned in the direction of Birmingham (R. 435). They stopped at a filling station between Montgomery and Birmingham about 6 to 8 miles north of the south end of the freeway to Birmingham on another road (R. 435-436). After getting gas, Gene Thomas made a U-turn and returned to get on the freeway to Birmingham. The four went to VFW club in Bessemer (R. 436). On the return trip, Gene Thomas stated they were going to VFW Club to see Bob; he would give them an alibi in case the white woman and Negro were dead (R. 437). The four went to the club; did not see Bob; they ordered 2 beers; Gene suggested going to Lorene's for an alibi; Lorene ran a cafe; the group went to the cafe; Gene Thomas went away for about minutes; on his return, he stated everything was care of (R. 438); she would alibi for them. The four had a beer; left, and went to Gene Thomas' house; there they disbanded (R. 439).

Over objection, Rowe was allowed to testify the purpose of the Klan was to maintain white supremacy by any means necessary (R. 442).

On cross examination, Rowe stated he joined the Klan in 1960 or 1961 (R. 452). There was a ritual during which he took an oath, part of which is in the record at p. 453. After taking this oath of which the above was a part, and which was marked Defendant's Exhibit 1 for identification, Rowe admitted he divulged and revealed secrets of the organization and the names of members of the organization (R. 454). The Klan oath was admitted into evidence (R. 455), Defendants' Exhibit 1.

Rowe denied he agitated and provoked the Klan into activity; nor did he urge them to do certain things (R. 458).

While Rowe denied he participated in the attack on the first Freedom Riders on Mother's Day in Birmingham at the bus station he admitted he was present (R. 458). He went with some Klan buddies. Rowe admitted there was quite a melee at the bus station for about 15 minutes. After this, Rowe, along with others, got into an affray with 6 Negroes at 7th Avenue and 18th Street, North. Rowe got his throat cut rather severely and was bleeding profusely (R. 462). Rowe went to the bus station voluntarily and nothing forced him to go to the scene of the affray (R. 464). Rowe went to University of Alabama when there was trouble on integration matters, probably in June, 1963 (R. 464). He was arrested in Tuscaloosa.

Rowe admitted he was at Sandy Ridge Country Club in Birmingham with Lt. Dave Orange and others (R. 467). This club had a reputation for entertaining racially mixed couples (R. 468). Rowe denied he told some friends Lt. Orange wanted them with guns to meet Rowe at Sandy Ridge Club on March 18, 1965, at night. Rowe denied that prior to entering the Club he said to men waiting outside, including these defendants, "When I fire the first shot, rush in and shoot hell out of the place" (R. 469). Witness stated he went to Montgomery on Sunday, the 21st, with Leroy Rutherford, Robert Thomas, and Jack Crawford (R. 470). The group met at the house of Robert Thomas about 9:00 A. M., and left shortly thereafter for Montgomery. This quartet went U. S. 31 South. He had his gun, but did not inquire as to the others and did not know if they had them or not (R. 472). On U. S. Exhibit 18, a photograph, Rowe identified himself and marked the exhibit (R. 475-476). They arrived at the gathering around 11:00 or 11:30 A. M. Rowe did not recall any speech on that occasion by Robert Shel-

ton or Creel; he was not there full time (R. 477). Rowe testified he heard Crawford and Rutherford make some threats, but not publicly in a speech (R. 478). Rowe participated in the motorcade, which lasted about 20 or 30 minutes, then disbanded on the Selma road (R. 478). These four proceeded on toward Selma; they saw some marchers (R. 479).

Witness deposed he went to Montgomery on the 25th with the 3 defendants in Gene Thomas' automobile (R. 481). This was a 1962 Chevrolet, red and creamish white in color. They possibly took Route 150 from Bessemer to the freeway for Montgomery, arriving about 10:00 or 10:30 A. M. The car was parked in a regular paying parking lot. He left his gun in car (R. 485); he asked Gene Thomas to put it ...e; he was not sure about what he did with the ...ister (R. 486). All in the group left their guns; they went to an American filling station at Hull and Dexter about a block from the Capitol. There was a crowd at the filling station (R. 487); later a crowd in the street; very definitely curiosity seekers and mere spectators (R. 488).

They left the station about 3:00 P. M. (R. 489); went to the parking lot; got into the car; Rowe got his gun; they left the parking lot with Gene Thomas driving (R. 490). Eaton was sitting in front by Gene Thomas (R. 490-491); Rowe sat behind Gene Thomas; Wilkins sat to the right of Rowe. These were the positions maintained during the entire trip. They drove to Jack's, which is several miles from the parking lot (R. 491), arriving around 4:00 P. M., the trip taking about 20 or 25 minutes. They parked and went inside; they ate; they each drank 2 beers (R. 492).

Rowe and his helpmates left Jack's about 5:00 P. M.; they resumed their usual seating positions;

started to Selma (R. 494) on U. S. 80. A state trooper stopped the car at a crossroads nearer Selma than Montgomery; he flagged them down with a light (R. 495). Gene Thomas was cited for improper mufflers, *i. e.*, a warning ticket (R. 498). They proceeded to Selma (R. 498) and first stop was Silver Moon Cafe, which was reached in the vicinity of 6:00 P. M., perhaps later. The car was parked and all went inside. Witness stated the time was "closer to seven" (R. 499). Rowe and Thomas had a beer; Wilkins probably milk and Eaton probably a soft drink; nothing to eat. Their stay at Silver Moon was approximately 35 or 40 minutes; maybe longer (R. 500). Resuming their usual car positions, the group started toward the colored church (R. 500-501). Gene Thomas apparently missed the street as he made a U-turn and doubled back toward Silver Moon, which was in the same proximity (R. 501). Thomas then went on a dirt street one block over from the church, and returned to a main thorofare leading to the steel bridge (Pettus) (R. 502).

The other car was seen about the 2nd or 3rd traffic light from the bridge toward Selma (R. 502). Traveling from Silver Moon to this traffic light consumed in time about 25 minutes, maybe not that long. The car in which Rowe was riding proceeded out the highway; Rowe had his gun. Rowe's car caught up to the other car by going 10 to 15 miles an hour fluctuating to over 100 miles an hour (R. 503). When passing the other car the speed was about 60 or 65 (R. 504). From the traffic light in Selma to the place of shooting was about 25 miles and took about 25 or 30 minutes to reach, maybe not that long. When Wilkins shot, Rowe testified he placed his arm beside that of Wilkins; but did not knock Wilkins' arm to keep him from firing nor tell him not to fire (R. 505). Rowe did not tell Eaton or anybody not to fire (R. 506).

After the shooting, Wilkins threw his cartridges out the window, then Eaton did likewise almost simultaneously (R. 506-507). At the time the speed of the car was 90 or better (R. 506), and the road was two-lane. The car was in the right hand lane (R. 507), fairly close to the edge of the pavement (R. 508).

Rowe next recognized St. Francis Motel, at which point a left turn was made. It was 15 or 20 miles from point of shooting to St. Francis (R. 508), and time-wise 20 minutes. The left turn at St. Francis put the car on the road to Birmingham (R. 509). They stopped at a filling station, bought gas, and all went to the rest room in less than 6 minutes. This service station was about 10 or 15 miles from St. Francis (R. 510), and about 15 minutes to reach. It was some 6 or 8 beyond the southern end of the Birmingham freeway and Rowe and the three doubled back to connect with the freeway (R. 511).

A county road was taken at Alabaster to Bessemer (R. 512), where VFW Club was visited on the outskirts of Bessemer between 9:00 and 10:00 P. M. (R. 513). Each of the four consumed right at 1½ beers (R. 514). They remained at VFW approximately 10 or 15 minutes, and then journeyed to Lorene's Cafe in Bessemer, about a mile or 2 from VFW. It required just a short time to reach Lorene's (R. 515), where the four stopped for 20 or 25 minutes. Rowe had a beer at Lorene's and maybe 2; each of the four ordered the same (R. 516).

Leaving Lorene's the quartet returned to in front of the house of Gene Thomas, probably a mile or so from Lorene's, which distance required only a few minutes to negotiate, maybe 6 (R. 517). On arrival at Thomas' house, all alighted from the car; this was

about 11:00 P. M. After managing to get his car started after some difficulty, Rowe drove into Central Park (R. 518). Shanahan met Rowe at West End Baptist parking lot about an hour later (R. 519). After a time Rowe got into Shanahan's station wagon and they talked for 2 or 3 hours (R. 520-521). Rowe left Shanahan about 2:00 or 3:00 A. M., and went home (R. 521).

Shanahan and Rowe next met about 6:00 A. M., between FBI office and Rowe's home (R. 521), where Rowe got into Shanahan's FBI vehicle and was driven to FBI office in Birmingham (R. 522). Agents Shanahan, Downey and Alexander, with Rowe, left about 9:00 or 9:30 A. M., to sojourn to Selma, taking U. S. 31 to Montgomery, thence U. S. 80 to Selma. Rowe did not point out the service station where he and his Klan brothers stopped the night previous for gas (R. 523), but returning he did point out St. Francis Motel. However, no stops were made. They slowed down, but did not stop, at that point on U. S. 80 where there was considerable activity and there was a car off the road (R. 524).

In Selma Silver Moon was given a passing glance (R. 525) about 11:00 A. M. (R. 531). The church was looked at (R. 532) and this group proceeded to Pettus Bridge and out U. S. 80, taking the same route back (R. 533), slowing down once more at the scene of the activity on U. S. 80. Birmingham was reached about 3:00 or 4:00 P. M. (R. 534) where Rowe was incarcerated in county jail. Bond was made for him that same night (R. 535).

On redirect examination, Rowe stated at the Klan rally in Montgomery on March 21, Rowe, together with Crawford and Rutherford, harrassed and booed

state officers, took pictures of FBI agents, and tried to get a license tag number of a state car (R. 544).

Rowe related that at the time of the shooting Gene Thomas asked Eaton what he was shooting. Eaton replied his .22 and justified this by stating he was using long rifle bullets which had to have their heads cut off so they would fit the chamber, making them more deadly (R. 545).

After Rowe stated he had been sent by FBI to infiltrate the Klan, Mr. Doar then questioned Rowe about the Klan oath and had Rowe read 2 paragraphs thereof (R. 546). Mr. Hanes had Rowe read other sections of the oath of allegiance (R. 547-549).

PAUL E. SHOFFEITT stated he was a toxicologist and assistant director of the State Department of Toxicology and Criminal Investigation stationed at Auburn (R. 551). Witness saw the body at White's Chapel Funeral Home in Montgomery around midnight on March 25 (R. 552). That body was identified to him as Viola Gregg Luizzo, and he performed an autopsy. This post-mortem examination revealed the cause of death was "hemorrhage and brain damage as result of a bullet wound which penetrated the left side of the head" (R. 553). A bullet was recovered and the Doctor received another piece of lead from a state investigator (R. 554). These were delivered to Roy Eveland, an FBI agent at Opelika (R. 555), on the 27th (R. 556). After cross, redirect and recross examination, witness was excused.(4)

(4) Since many of the points elicited from this witness and several others which follow are otherwise developed, such points will be deferred until that more appropriate time to avoid repetition.

ROY EVELAND stated he was special agent of FBI (R. 564-565). Dr. Shoffeitt on March 27, delivered to him 2 lead bullets which were in small brown envelopes. After Eveland saw the bullets they were resealed in different envelopes by the Doctor and identfied (R. 565-566). Eveland delivered these envelopes to Marion Williams that same day. The 2 envelopes were marked for identification as U. S. Exhibit 28 and 29 (R. 566).

OUIDA LARSON lived in Selma and worked at Silver Moon Cafe (R. 571). She worked there on March 25 from 2 until 12. On that day 4 persons came into Silver Moon between 7:00 and 8:30 P. M. (R. 572). Witness identified defendants Thomas, Wilkins and Eaton as 3 of those 4 persons and said she did not see the fourth in the courtroom (R. 573). The four sat in a booth and she served 2 of them beer. Witness could not recall any particular person from among the many others who were present at that time, nor did she remember how long they stayed (R. 574).

ARCHIBALD L. RILEY was a special agent for FBI (R. 577). He was stationed at Selma on March 26, 1965. He met Rowe and some Birmingham agents in Selma (R. 578). Rowe directed Riley as to the route he had taken the night before, from Pettus Bridge through Selma and back to U. S. 80 to the scene (R. 579-581).

On Monday, the 29th, Riley was searching the shoulders of the road on the Montgomery side from the scene of the shooting (R. 581). With some others, Riley found 5 .38 caliber shells, which had been fired. These casings were identified on the inside by a marking, and handed to witness who mailed them to FBI laboratory, Washington (R. 583).

On cross examined by Mr. Hanes, Riley stated he [illegible] Rowe and the 3 agents with him when the [illegible] Rowe and his 3 companions was being re[illegible] left the car past the scene towards Mont[illegible] returning to Selma to his office (R. 586). The [illegible] Rowe were Shanahan, Gettings and Leahy [illegible]

[illegible] started looking for empty shells on the 26th, [illegible] about 1:30 P. M. (R. 588). Riley and his [illegible] started the search about 1 mile from the [illegible] toward Montgomery and worked toward Mont[illegible] R. 588-589). The shells were found on Mon[illegible] 588). They were between the edge of the [illegible] and the ditch; they were right on the shoul[illegible] was about 2 feet off the road, another one [illegible] feet off, another one about 3½, the farthest [illegible] about 9 feet off. They were scattered along[illegible] highway on the shoulder at no particular [illegible] parallel thereto (R. 589).

[illegible] Hardeman on redirect elicited the information [illegible] were found .55 of a mile from the scene [illegible]

[illegible] *JEROME MOTON* lived in Atlanta, Geor[illegible] was 20 years of age. During the Selma-Mont[illegible] march he was in transportation from March [illegible] the 25th (R. 594); he lived in Selma then (R. [illegible] Moton met Viola Luizzo March 18; he had her [illegible] that time until she was killed (R. 594). Moton saw Mrs. Luizzo Wednesday, March 23, when he took [illegible] the march, and on Thursday evening the 24th [illegible] R. 595). She drove the car from St. Jude [illegible] R. 596).

Moton and Mrs. Luizzo left for Montgomery (R. [illegible] Mrs. Luizzo was driving; Moton was to the

right in front (R. 597). On U. S. 80, someone passed the car and shot; he was tampering with the radio; the car ran off the road; Moton stopped it; turned switch and lights off. A car came over the hill, stopped, shot a light at the Luizzo car (R. 598). He passed out in the car (R. 598-599). His next recollection was blowing the horn at some cars. Moton departed the car and ran toward Montgomery; he was picked up and returned to Selma. He went to Brown's Chapel Church (R. 599).

On cross examination, in addition to the foregoing, Moton stated he did not know whether Mrs. Luizzo was working or not (R. 601), but she came to the transportation office (R. 602). On the trip from St. Jude to Selma, another car tried to run the Luizzo one off the road (R. 605); and bumped the Luizzo car 2 or 3 times (R. 606). Mrs. Luizzo started back to Montgomery and was driving 70 to 75 miles an hour (R. 608). Moton did not hear any shots fired; he heard glass shattering; witness did not know where shots came from (R. 608-609). They had left Selma at 7:34 P. M. so this was close to 8:00 P. M. (R. 609-610, 621).

When a car shined lights on the Luizzo car, Moton got down; he did not touch Mrs. Luizzo (R. 609; 622); the car went back toward Selma (R. 609). When the car shined its lights Leroy stayed in the car about 5 minutes. He tried to flag a truck (R. 610). While he was in the road, a little red Sprite headed toward Montgomery (R. 611) came by at about 70 miles an hour and tried to run him down (R. 610). Leroy was in the ditch for a while; then got on the front seat and passed out for about 30 minutes (R. 611). Leroy ran and walked down the highway toward Montgomery for about 3½ miles. He did not see any state troopers or other cars (R. 612).

Leroy got into the rear of a truck he flagged and went to Brown's Chapel Church (R. 614). He saw Lt. Nichols but did not tell him of the shooting (R. 615-616). At First Baptist Church he talked with Hosea Williams, an SCLC official (R. 616). Lt. Nichols took Leroy into custody there and carried him to Selma Police Station (R. 616-617). Moton denied twice that he stated to those present the car that came alongside and shot was a black 1955 Ford, which went on up the hill, turned around, came back, shined its lights on the car, and went back to Selma (R. 618). On cross examination, Leroy said he stopped the car by using the brake pedal. Leroy was 6 feet, 4 inches tall (R. 622).

JESSE McGAHA lived at Metairie, Louisiana. On [illegible] 25, he was a state trooper (R. 623) on duty on [illegible] 80 east from Selma on radar detail; his partner was Trooper Hagood. The radar detail was set up at Tyler Crossroads, 11 miles east of Selma (R. 624), which McGaha marked on the drawing of U. S. 80. His unit was stopping violators. McGaha was shown U. S. Exhibit 31 for identification, a warning ticket (R. 625). Hagood flagged a 1962 Chevrolet and wrote the warning ticket and the driver asked if "the niggers been giving you boys any trouble" (R. 627). The ticket was admitted into evidence. Witness was shown U. S. Exhibit 32, which he recognized as issued to a Volkswagen bus on the same detail about 7:50 P. M. Over objection, this was admitted (R. 628).

Additional testimony on cross examination set the time at 6:20 P. M., for the muffler warning (R. 629). The troopers were working the westbound lane of the four-lane (R. 630). Traffic was on the medium to heavy side. Witness was sure other troopers were working U. S. 80 (R. 631). McGaha did not observe,

arrest, or hear of any arrest on that night of cars doing 100 miles an hour (R. 632).

THOMAS M. SHAUGHNESSY was an agent for FBI (R. 635); and his testimony concerned W. O. Eaton, the appeal being moot as to him. However, it may be noted Eaton was arrested at his residence; a search was conducted; a hand gun was found under the mattress in the bedroom on the first floor. This gun was marked U. S. Exhibit 33 for identification, which witness said was the one he obtained at the Eaton residence (R. 637). Eaton stated after his arrest he arrived home at 10:30 P. M. (R. 636) on March 25. Shaughnessy also identified a small box with the gun as containing 6 .22 caliber bullets with which the gun was loaded (R. 647). This was part of U. S. Exhibit 33, which was admitted (R. 646).

EDWARD M. LEAHY was an FBI agent during March, 1965 (R. 653), stationed in Birmingham (R. 654). On March 26, Thomas was arrested by other agents in Lorene's Cafe in Bessemer (R. 655). U. S. Exhibit 34 for identification was 6 photographs of Thomas' car outside of Lorene's and it was admitted (R. 656). On the passenger side of Thomas' car there was a .22 caliber bullet sitting on the ledge where the window came out of the door (R. 657). Agent Connaughton directed attention to the bullet and, over objection, witness was allowed to state Thomas turned ashen or gray (R. 658-659).

Leahy with Agents Connaughton, Byron and Maynor went to the home of Thomas with a search warrant, which was U. S. Exhibit 35, for the residence and automobile of Thomas (R. 659-661). This was admitted into evidence (R. 661). Thomas' home was searched; some .38 caliber ammunition was found;

these were U. S. Exhibits 36, 37 and 38 for identification (R. 662-663). A Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolver (R. 667), serial C418827 (R. 670), was found in the car of Mrs. Flossie Thomas and marked for identification U. S. Exhibit 39 (R. 666-667). Mrs. Thomas executed a consent form, U. S. Exhibit 40 for identification (R. 678-679), for Agent Byron. Exhibits 39 and 40 were admitted without objection (R. 679).

The testimony of *AGENT CHARLES DONALD BYRON* (R. 677-685) is omitted. Byron did read an inventory of things taken from the house of Thomas pursuant to the search warrant including one Newport model CN double barrel sawed off shotgun, serial number T70594 (R. 683-684).

JOHN F. CONNAUGHTON was an agent of FBI on duty in Birmingham on March 26 (R. 707). He participated in the search of Thomas' house and seized pursuant to warrant a sawed off shotgun, U. S. Exhibit 41 for identification (R. 707), admitted into evidence over objection (R. 708). The basis for such a ruling, as stated in chambers, was that these defendants belonged to an organization dedicated to the preservation of white supremacy, regardless of the means, ballots or bullets (R. 694-695). This would go to intent as to what they were doing here, yonder, on their trip (R. 696; 708-709).

RALPH BUTLER was an agent of FBI, stationed in Birmingham on duty March 26. Butler arrested Thomas at Lorene's (R. 713). The .22 caliber shell was marked U. S. Exhibit 42 for identification and was described as having the nose of lead cut or shaven off with a hollow point in it; it was a misfire (R. 714). It was admitted into evidence (R. 715).

LAWRENCE G. GETTINGS was an agent of FBI, stationed in Birmingham and on duty on March 26. Gettings arrested Thomas (R. 719). Thomas made a statement (R. 720-725) which affirmed the activities of March 25 as previously testified to except: (1) Thomas had no knowledge of the slaying of Mrs. Luizzo; (2) They only watched the people come in, and watched the speeches in Montgomery; (3) About 4:30 P. M., they left in his automobile for Selma; (4) He went right back to Birmingham via Selma and got back there at 9:30 P. M., and went to Lorene's Cafe in Bessemer; (5) He had no knowledge of the murder of Mrs. Luizzo from Detroit and he did not murder her; (6) He had a permit for a .38 caliber Smith and Wesson. The citation for a defective muffler given Thomas was admitted as U. S. Exhibit 43 (R. 723); the pistol permit as U. S. Exhibit 44 (R. 725).

By *RILEY* and *SHANAHAN*, U. S. Exhibits 45 (R. 512, *et seq.*), the 5 casings, and 46, the Rowe gun, were admitted (R. 741, 744). Shanahan, in response to recross examination, stated Rowe's gun was sent to FBI only to determine whether it had been fired (R. 744).

The following exhibits were received without objection: 5, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 20. The following were admitted over objection by defense counsel: 36, 37 and 38. U. S. Exhibit 19 was not admitted (R. 754-757).

MARION E. WILLIAMS was an agent of FBI (R. 757-758), assigned to FBI Laboratory, Washington. On examination of the automobile removed from U. S. 80 (R. 763) he found 2 indentations on the driver's side of the car, pointed out on U. S. Exhibit 23 (R. 764). Williams found 3 unusual holes. On U. S. Exhibit 22 he noted 1 hole in the window in the driver's door and 2 holes in the windshield slightly to the

driver's side of center (R. 764-765). Witness found a fragment of a bullet under the back seat on the passenger side (R. 765). Inspection of the rear view mirror revealed an indentation in which there were smears of lead (R. 766). He had no way of determining when the door indentations were made; they had not rusted but appeared to be rather new (R. 767). Test firings was made on door panels of a 1963 Oldsmobile, which indicated .38 caliber bullets would penetrate and .22 caliber bullets would not (R. 768).

U. S. Exhibit 47 for identification was a chart with line drawings of a 1963 Oldsmobile, not to scale (R. 769). One indentation was made by a projectile which hit the car at a slightly forward angle, nearly level. The other was caused by a missile which hit the car on an angle slightly to the rear, nearly level, perhaps slightly upward (R. 770). Witness indicated the hole in the door glass and stated the bullet had coursed across the car and come to rest in the rain gutter on the opposite side (R. 770). He said one windshield hole was slightly lower than the other and this bullet struck the window on the passenger side and left a lead smudge without breaking it, the bullet being fired at an angle of something like 45 or 50 degrees with respect to the long axis of the car. The bullet through the upper hole struck the rear view mirror, being fired at an angle of about 30 degrees (R. 771).

U. S. Exhibit 48 was 2 pieces of metal from door of the 1963 Oldsmobile used in test firing with a .22 caliber weapon; U. S. Exhibit 59 was 2 pieces of metal from the Luizzo car. They were admitted without objection (R. 773-774). U. S. Exhibit 28 was a mutilated .38 caliber lead bullet (R. 776). U. S. Exhibit 29 was a mutilated .38 caliber lead bullet, marked by

him as Q 16. These were the Eveland exhibits (R. 778-779). U. S. Exhibit 39 (R. 679) was the Thomas Smith and Wesson (R. 779). Test specimens were fired from the gun and these test cartridge cases and bullets were the ones used in his examinations (R. 780). U. S. Exhibit 46 (R. 744) was the Rowe Smith and Wesson (R. 780). U. S. Exhibit 33 (R. 645) was the Eaton .22 caliber hand gun (R. 781). U. S. Exhibit 50 was the fragment of a .38 caliber bullet found under the rear seat of the car (R. 782). U. S. Exhibit 51 was the badly mutilated .38 caliber bullet recovered from beneath the rain gutter (R. 782-783). The bullets were admitted without objection (R. 777-779; 783). Witness stated his opinion to be that the bullets in Exhibits 28, 29 and 50 were fired from Exhibit 39. Exhibit 51 was not identified with Exhibit 39 because of its mutilated condition (R. 784-785). This was illustrated by the comparison photographs of U. S. Exhibit 55 (R. 794). Exhibit 45, the 5 casings on U. S. 80, was shown to witness and he stated he had come to the conclusion they had been fired from the Thomas S. & W., and not the Rowe S. & W. (R. 787). This was demonstrated technically by U. S. Exhibit 52, a casing from a .38 caliber special cartridge fired in Exhibit 46; U. S. Exhibit 53, a photographic exhibit prepared from photomicrographs of one of the casings; and U. S. Exhibit 54, a photographic exhibit of the other four casings (R. 787-793). Witness said: "These photographs (of the bullets and casings) in and of themselves do not prove the identification; the identification is based upon the microscopic study and the experience of the Examiner." (R. 795) Williams further stated his conclusion the .22 caliber cartridge of Exhibit 42, taken from Thomas' car, was not fired from the .22 caliber gun of Eaton, Exhibit 33 (R. 798).

The 2 bullets received from Eveland (one was the Luizzo bullet) had a foreign substance in the nose which appeared to be glass (R. 798). An additional point developed on cross examination was that witness could not say the marks on the door were fired by a .22 caliber weapon to the exclusion of all others (R. 804). Further, it is possible one being 6 feet, 4 or 5 inches tall sitting in the passenger seat could have been hit by one of these 2 bullets, the lower one through the windshield or the one through the door window (R. 805-810). Williams stated as a result of his examination of the Luizzo car he found the front seat or the front bloody; the driver's side; driver's side door; floor mat on the driver's side; floor mat in rear on driver's side were heavily soaked with blood as was the front seat cushion and the front portion of the floor and on the passenger's seat. Blood was pretty general in the area of the brake pedal and the accelerator (R. 812). Also, it is possible, if the driver's foot were normally on the accelerator, that a passenger who reached over to depress the brake pedal would have to touch the body of the driver (R. 812-813).

Williams did not report whether or not the Rowe gun had been fired.

RICHARD W. FLACK was an agent for FBI assigned to the laboratory in Washington (R. 818). Some bullets were examined for glass by him. Exhibits 28 and 50 had traces of laminated glass, used in windshields; Exhibits 29 and 51 had traces of tempered glass, used in side windows of cars (R. 820-821).

The United States rested its case (R. 821) and defense counsel Hanes, in effect, moved for a judgment of acquittal, which motion was denied (R. 823).

After the case for the defense and rebuttal, Mr Doar opened the summation for the United States (R 911-918); Mr. Hanes argued for the defense (R. 919-933); Mr. Hardeman concluded (R. 934-942).

Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., charged the jury (R 75-101), limiting the consideration of the jury to Item 4 in the indictment concerning the protest march (R 82-83). Jurors were cautioned the sawed *off shotgun* was not admitted for proving Thomas committed another crime, but solely on the question of intent (R. 94). Mr. Hanes requested, and the Court gave, a charge on the failure of defendants to testify (R. 96).

On December 3, 1965, the jury reported a hopeless deadlock (R. 114). The Court further charged the jury (R. 114-116), to which Mr. Hanes objected (R. 117) Of especial import were the following excerpts, among others:

"So you haven't commenced to deliberate the case long enough to reach the conclusion that you are hopelessly deadlocked . . ." (R. 115)

"This trial has been long, and the trial has been expensive. Your failure to agree upon a verdict will necessitate another trial equally as expensive; that is expensive as far as the Government is concerned, it is *expensive as far as the defendant is concerned.*" (R. 115)

"It is therefore very desirable that you jurors should agree upon a verdict in this case." (R. 115)

Defendants were found guilty by jury verdict on December 3, 1965 (CLW, R. 51; ET, R. 52). Each was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment (CLW, R. 56; ET, R. 57).

Hence this appeal.

SPECIFICATIONS OF ERROR

1. The court erred in denying appellants' motion to dismiss the indictment (R. 16-17).

2. The court erred in denying appellants' motion for a bill of particulars (R. 16-17).

3. The court erred in admitting over objection the following testimony and evidence:

A. U. S. Exhibits 1 and 2 (R. 194-195).
B. U. S. Exhibits 3 and 4 (R. 204; 208-9).
C. U. S. Exhibits 6, 13 through 18 (R. 400).
D. U. S. Exhibit 10 (R. 400).
E. Testimony as to Klan organization (R. 404, *et seq.*).
F. Testimony as to telephone booth (R. 413).
G. Testimony as to Klan activities and purpose (R. 440-442).
H. U. S. Exhibits 36, 37, 38 and 41 (R. 756; 708).

4. The court erred in denying appellants' motion for judgment of acquittal (R. 823).

5. The court erred in allowing the United States to close the argument to the jury, even without objection (R. 934-942).

6. The court erred in charging the jury, even at the request of defendants, concerning their failure to testify (R. 96-97).

7. The court erred in its supplemental charge in that it was coercive and did define incorrectly a §241 conspiracy (R. 114-117).

8. The court erred in entering a judgment of guilty against appellants in that said judgment was contrary to the weight of the evidence and was not supported by substantial evidence (CLW, R. 72; ET, R. 73).

ARGUMENT

POINT I

An indictment under 18 USC Sec. 241(5) is fatally defective where the right alleged to have been conspired against is not one secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States.

At the outset, it is emphasized this case was su posedly tried on the theory defendants conspire against the right of *unnamed citizens* to participa in a protest march according to a plan ordered by th lower court, paragraph 4 of the indictment (R. 3 since the court in its charge eliminated from the co sideration of the jury the remaining paragraphs (I 82-83). Thus, if paragraph 4 did not embrace a pr tected right, the entire case falls and defendants motion to dismiss this paragraph should have bee granted, as well as the motion for judgment of ac quittal.

As to paragraph 4, neither *U. S. v. Guest*, –US–, no *Price v. U. S.*, –US–, decided March 28, 1966, are con trolling as authority the indictment was not subjec to dismissal. *Guest* involved, insofar as Amendmen XIV rights were concerned, the equal protectio clause, and the Court stated rights under this claus arose only where there had been involvement of th state or of one acting under the color of its authority The Court found such involvement by the state suffi

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(5) "If two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress threaten, or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise o enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by th Constitution or laws of the United States, or because o his having so exercised the same; . . .

"They shall be fined not more than $5,000 or imprisone not more than ten years, or both."

cient to prevent dismissal of that branch of the indictment in the statement of the means of accomplishing the conspiracy. Our case did not involve the equal protection clause, especially since there was no allegation Negroes were being denied any right or privilege.

The indictment in *Price* charged the defendants "conspired together . . . to injure, oppress, threaten and intimidate" 3 named individuals "in the free exercise and enjoyment of the right and privilege secured to them by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States not to be deprived of life or liberty without due process of law by persons acting under color of the laws of Mississippi". In the purpose part of the indictment, the involvement of the ..te of Mississippi in the person of Deputy Sheriff ..e was alleged. The Court stated "that this lan-..uage (of §241) includes rights or privileges protected ..y the Fourteenth Amendment; that whatever the ultimate coverage of the section may be, it extends to conspiracies otherwise within the scope of the section, *participated in by officials alone or in collaboration with private persons;* and that the indictment...properly charges such a conspiracy in violation of §241 . . ." (Emphasis supplied). The present indictment was totally devoid of allegations showing involvement by the State of Alabama, although as noted in the separate opinions of Clark and Brennan, JJ., in *Guest*, Congress possibly could legislate constitutionally against a private conspiracy to violate Amendment XIV rights. It had not done so!

The question must then be reached: What right or privilege secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was involved? The right to march and protest, as stated in paragraph 4, *if secured to the unnamed citizens solely by order of the court of March 17, 1965*, was patently not one "secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States". Contempt proceedings suggest themselves as the proper method to punish interference with rights or privileges granted by a court order. Amendment I[6], as subsumed into Amendment XIV by its due process clause, is urged as the sole basis of the right alleged to have been involved. Freedom of speech and of the press have been denominated as fundamental personal rights and liberty, *Schneider v. Irvington*, 308 US 147, as would be the right to assemble peaceably and the right to petition the government, since they lie at the foundation of free government by free men. See *U. S. v. Cruikshank*, 92 US 542,552. Hence, the right involved was a right vindicated against state action and was not one "secured by the Constitution and laws of the United States". Compare *Powe, et al. v. U. S.*, 109 F2d 147 (CCA5). The indictment as to paragraph 4 was fatally defective under the *Price* doctrine since no state involvement was alleged; and it was, of course, not cured by the verdict. *Sutton v. U. S.*, 157 F2d 661 (CA5). The motion to dismiss as to paragraph 4 should have been granted, and in the posture of this case, the defendants should be freed, since it is obvious the United States cannot return an indictment on the proof adduced which can allege any state involvement.

(6) "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for redress of grievances."

POINT II

Where the means alleged in an indictment for conspiracy enlarge the statutory definition of conspiracy in Sec. 241 the indictment is fatally defective.

The indictment in *Price* alleged *specific acts* which were part of the plan and purpose of the conspiracy, as did the *Guest* indictment, *e.g.*, "1. By shooting Negroes; 2. By beating Negroes", etc. Further, the means in *Price* clearly showed state action. This indictment did not allege any specific acts by persons acting under the laws of Alabama, or even acts by private individuals. Instead it merely enlarged generally the scope of the alleged right to participate in the protest march by extending "participation" to those "who were lending or had lent their support" (R. 3). The court in its charge also extended the alleged right to persons "who were lending or had lent their support to a demonstration march". (R. 83; 97) It is difficult to see under any concept of §241 wherein any federal right, Amendment XIV or otherwise, was involved. "Lending support" is not the exercise of freedom to peaceably assemble or petition for redress of grievances. There can be no federal role involved in a person's contributing money to a cause, lending his automobile, or doing any of the other things pertaining to a protest march other than actual and direct participation. To elevate this to a constitutional right, and further to punish by federal law denials of the alleged right by private individuals only, inevitably would affect adversely "the wise adjustment between state responsibility and national control . . .". See *U. S. v. Williams*, 341 US 70, 73. The indictment was due to be dismissed because of this addition to the substance of §241, as approved by the court in its charge to the jury. *Viereck v. U. S.*, 318 US 236.

POINT III

Failure to exercise a sound judicial discretion in denying a motion for a bill of particulars requires a reversal of a conviction.

Defendants moved for a bill of particulars[7] (R. 10-15) to ascertain the names and addresses of the persons conspired against, together with the dates and places where the acts occurred (R. 12-13). The motion was denied (R. 17) after colloquy among court and counsel (R. 37-47). It is settled law "the granting or denial of a bill of particulars rests within the sound discretion of the trial court, and in the absence of abuse or prejudice, its ruling will not be disturbed on appeal." *Johnson v. U. S.*, 207 F2d 314, 321 (CA5). See also *Robertson v. U. S.*, 263 F2d 872 (CA5) and *Reynolds v. U. S.*, 225 F2d 123 (CA5).

A reading of the record of the trial below shows primary reliance was had by the United States on the murder of Viola Luizzo, even though Mr. Doar and the court emphasized the conspiracy alleged under §241 was not directed against a particular person but a class of persons (R. 40-41; 140-141). That this was to be the primary reliance was evident before trial because United States attorneys, out of the presence of counsel for defense, mentioned certain evidence concerning Viola Luizzo to the court (R. 139); and because the court *immediately prior to trial* stated it assumed the prosecution would attempt to show this murder (R. 141, and see also R. 361). The court also charged the jury on "overt act" (R. 91-92) and the Luizzo murder (R. 97).

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(7) Rule 7 (f). "Bill of Particulars. The court for cause may direct the filing of a bill of particulars . . ." Fed. R. Crim. Proc.

Since an overt act, the murder, was to be given such a prominent role, even though proof of an overt act *possibly* was not required for conviction, appellants submit they were entitled to be given information of such act as to name, date, time and place, as in a §371 conspiracy. *U. S. v. Lopez*, 26 FRD 174 (DC,NY). Judge Whittaker in *U. S. v. Smith*, 16 FRD 372 (DC,Mo), stated:

> "Without definite specifications of the time and place of commission of the overt acts complained of, and of the identity of the person or persons dealt with, there may be difficulty in preparing to meet the general charges of the information and some danger of surprise . . ." p. 375.

The court below further stated the defendants were not entitled to a bill of particulars because they were more aware of what was asked for than anybody else (R. 44). Judge Whittaker in *Smith* showed the fallacy of such reasoning:

> "Nor is it any answer to a motion for a bill of particulars for the government to say: 'The defendant knows what he did, and, therefore, has all the information necessary.' This argument could be valid only if the defendant be *presumed to be guilty* . . . Being presumed to be innocent, it must be assumed 'That he is ignorant of the facts on which the pleader founds his charges'." p. 375.

The United States attorneys assuredly had definite knowledge they would present many witnesses with evidence and testimony to try to establish the defendants murdered Viola Luizzo; they so informed the court by inquiring if certain evidence were admissible (R. 139); and the court itself, on the day of the trial, knew the defendants would have to meet this presentation by warning certain evidence would not be admissible (R. 139-140). In this posture of the matter, and by presuming the defendants to be guilty, the court did not exercise a sound discretion in denying the motion but abused its authority to the prejudice of defendants. A reversal is in order.

POINT IV

Admission of testimony and evidence over objection, where testimony and evidence is prejudicial to a substantial right of a defendant, is error.

In the following, proper objection was made as noted.

A. U. S. Exhibit 1 (R. 194), the plan of march and the temporary injunction issued thereon, and U. S. Exhibit 2 (R. 195), the order of this court declining to stay enforcement of the injunction, were admitted in error since they did not concern a federal right made definite by decision or rule of law. See Point I, *supra*. They would have probative value in contempt proceedings for violating the injunction.

B. U. S. Exhibit 3 (R. 204; 208-209), the Klan parade request, and U. S. Exhibit 4 (R. 204; 208-209), the parade permit, were erroneously admitted because defendants were not shown to have been connected with them and they had no probative value as to specific intent under §241. See Point VI, *infra*. This was a protest parade against the order of March 17, 1965 (R. 211), which order did not concern a federal right made definite by decision or rule of law. See Point I, *supra*.

C. U. S. Exhibits 6, 13 through 18 (R. 400), photographs of scenes at Cramton Bowl on March 21, 1965

(R. 229; 257-258), were erroneously admitted because they had no probative value as to specific intent under §241. See Point VI, *infra*. At most, the exhibits could be used in contempt proceedings to show knowledge of the court's order (Cf. 231-232). Otherwise, they merely show a peaceable assembly, a constitutional right.

D. U. S. Exhibit 10 (R. 400), 3 pictures of cars in the Klan motorcade of March 21 (R. 248-249), were never properly identified and hence erroneously admitted, nor did they have probative value. See Point VI, *infra*.

E. Rowe testified as to the organization of the Klan and the meaning of certain Klan expressions (R. 404-406). This was error because it was proof of nothing ıd sanctioned "guilt by association", and had no pro- ıtive value of the specific intent required in §241. See Point VI, *infra*. As was aptly stated by defense counsel, "Klan organization is not here on trial." (R. 404)

F. Rowe was allowed to testify, on the question of intent, that he saw a telephone line cut after Gene Thomas and Wilkins left a booth on March 25 (R. 413). This had no probative value as to a specific intent to deprive a person of a federal right made definite by division or rule of law. See Point VI, *infra*. It is further objectionable because the predicate was not laid as to the condition of the wire before they entered the booth.

G. The testimony of Rowe as to Klan activities with defendants and the purpose of the Klan (R. 440-442) was highly prejudicial as offering to prove a specific intent by mere association. That the purpose of the Klan was to maintain white supremacy was legitimate, in and of itself, under Amendment I, and the

addition of the phrase "by ballots or bullets", stated by Rowe to have been used "very often", adds nothing. In fact, one would have to infer defendants used this expression, which is not a reasonable inference, or infer they heard the phrase used, which did not appear, and further infer they ascribed to it. As an inference on an inference it was highly prejudicial, since the court on the basis of this statement alone admitted into evidence U. S. Exhibit 41, a sawed off shotgun found in Gene Thomas' home (R. 694-695; 708-709).

H. U. S. Exhibits 36, 37 and 38 were packages of rounds of .38 caliber ammunition (R. 662-663) and U. S. Exhibit 41 was a sawed off shotgun (R. 707). These were seized purportedly under a search warrant, U. S. Exhibit 35. Rules 41 (b) (2) and 41 (c)[8], Fed. R. Crim. Proc., are quite specific a valid warrant shall issue only on establishing the grounds therefor, one ground being the property had been used as a means of committing a criminal offense. These facts are considered pertinent: (1) The autopsy on the body of Viola Luizzo was concluded about 2:00 A. M., on March 26, and a mutilated .38 caliber bullet recovered (R. 553-555); (2) The search warrant was issued presumably during business hours of the United States Commissioner on March 26; (3) The warrant described the property as "guns, rifles, pistols, ammuni-

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(8) Rule 41 (b): "Grounds for Issuance. A warrant may be issued under this rule to search for and seize any property. . . . (2) Designed or intended for use or which is or has been used as the means of committing a criminal offense; . . ."

Rule 41 (c): "Issuance and Contents. A warrant shall issue only on affidavit sworn to before the judge or commissioner and establishing the grounds for issuing the warrant . . . (and) he shall issue a warrant identifying the property . . ."

tion and various and sundry weapons"; (4) The criminal offense was "the shooting of Viola Luizzo"; (5) Eugene Thomas was arrested about 11:15 A. M., March 26 (R. 654, 670); (6) The search of Thomas' home was at 2:07 P. M., March 26. See Exhibit 35.

Appellants, particularly Eugene Thomas, assert the shotgun and ammunition were obtained by an illegal search and seizure in violation of Amendment IV.[9] No motion was made to suppress this evidence before the trial because "opportunity therefor did not exist."[10] Rule 41 (e), Fed R. Crim. Proc. The "shooting of Viola Luizzo" did not state a federal offense, although it was a "criminal offense". Appellants have been unable to locate any authority which answers the question of this case: Is a federal search warrant valid when it did not show on its face the property to be seized could be used as the means to commit a federal offense?[11] This is a nation of two sovereigns and homi-

(9) "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath and affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the person or things to be seized."

(10) This supports the argument in Point III, *supra*, that the court abused its discretion in not allowing a bill of particulars.

(11) But see *U. S. v. Office 508 Ricou-Brewster Building*, 119 FSupp 24 (DC, La), wherein the court stated, at p. 26, an arrest warrant had to be founded on facts constituting probable cause a *federal* offense had been committed.

Particularly as to defendant Eaton, and the prejudicial effect of admitting the .22 caliber gun as to the other defendants, the court below erred in not allowing defense counsel to go into the arrest warrants (R. 704; 747-750). See *Giodenello v. U. S.*, 357 US 480.

cide is a state offense, not a federal one.[12] The court stated in its charge "that it is not necessary to establish the offense here charged (conspiracy) to prove that the defendants intended to kill or did kill Mrs. Luizzo." (R. 97) Appellants contend the search warrant was invalid because on its face only a state offense was shown, over which the United States had no jurisdiction, and also the homicide was not a necessary part of the proof of the alleged conspiracy, the federal offense involved. Assuming, *arguendo*, a federal offense did not have to be recited for a valid federal search warrant, then were "guns, rifles, pistols, ammunition and various and sundry weapons" the *means* used to commit the homicide? These items are not the "means"; the "means" in homicide is that agency which caused the death, the person who pulled the trigger. A gun may give evidence that the person caused the death, no more, since a gun in and of itself cannot cause a death and a conviction can be secured without the instrument. The validity of this analysis is buttressed by cases involving other types of crime. In *U. S. v. Harris*, 331 US 145, a search incident to a legal arrest revealed some draft cards, the possession of which was unlawful. The draft cards, being part and parcel of the crime, were "means", not mere evidence. In *U. S. v. Rabinowitz*, 339 US 56, forged government stamps

(12) Murder while committing a Sec. 241 conspiracy was a federal crime until the demise of Rev. Stat. Sec. 5509: "If, in the act of violating any provision in either of the two preceding sections, any other felony or misdemeanor be committed, the offender shall be punished for the same with such punishment as is attached to such felony or misdemeanor by the laws of the state in which the offence is committed."

Acquittal of the felony or misdemeanor in a state court was a bar to prosecution under this statute in the federal court. *U. S. v. Mason*, 213 US 115.

were seized. They were at the core of the crime of possession of the stamps. In *U. S. v. Olmstead*, 7 F2d 760 (DC,Wash), a search warrant issued to seize intoxicating liquors. Papers and documents indicating a conspiracy were taken and the court said illegally because they were only evidence. In *Woo Lai Chun v. U. S.*, 274 F2d 708 (CA9), the search warrant described certain items. Letters concerning the items were seized, and the court said illegally since they were not instrumentalities of the crime itself. See also *Marron v. U. S.*, 275 US 192. Appellants' contention is that the items described in the warrant were mere evidence. Some of the cases above involved a search incident to a valid arrest, but the principle remains the same with or without a search warrant that evi-[illegible]e cannot be seized since it is not that "means" of [illegible] 41 (b) (2). To put it another way, in *Rabinowitz* and *Harris* a conviction could not be obtained without the items seized. In *Olmstead, Woo Lai Chun* and *Marron*, conviction for conspiracy, if applicable, could be obtained without the items seized. See also *U. S. v. Lefkowitz*, 285 US 452. If the items described in this warrant be "means" and not evidence, then it follows all one would have to do to escape punishment for murder by shooting would be to destroy totally the weapon.

The warrant did not *particularly* describe the things to be seized as commanded by Amendment IV. What could be more general than "guns, rifles, pistols, ammunition and various and sundry weapons"? Were all these used in the shooting of Viola Luizzo? How could that be when it was known from a fragment previously recovered (R. 372; 555) and the bullet found on the autopsy (R. 555) that in all probability .38 caliber bullets had been fired into the car and one killed

her? And how could ammunition on the Thomas premises have been used in the shooting of Viola Luizzo? On its face, therefore, this was a general search warrant proscribed against by Amendment IV. While a search incident to a legal arrest cannot by its nature be particularized, a search warrant, whose office is a search before arrest, can be particularized, especially one issued after the commission of an offense and the search made after the arrest of a suspect. (Query: What purpose can a warrant after arrest serve except to obtain evidence?)

This search was not incident to a lawful arrest, so if possession of a sawed off shotgun be a federal offense, which was seemingly recognized (R. 94), still the offense was not committed in the presence of the searching officers so as to make its seizure legal. *U. S. v. Harris, supra.* Stated otherwise, if there be an entry under a legal search warrant, and during the search the FBI discovers the actual commission of another crime—which must be committed in their presence—then they may arrest for that crime and have the legal right as an incident of the arrest, without a warrant, to search the place contemporaneously in order to find and seize the things used to carry on the crime discovered.

Assuming, also *arguendo*, the shotgun and ammunition were legally seized they still would not be admissible, even on the question of intent (R. 709). Cf. *Woo Lai Chun v. U. S., supra.* No inference could be drawn from possession of this shotgun or ammunition defendant Thomas entertained the specific intent necessary for a §241 conspiracy. It was far too remote to have probative value on this issue.

Summarizing, appellants contend an illegal search and seizure because (1) the warrant was invalid since

no federal offense was shown on its face, (2) the items listed to be seized were evidence, and (3) the items were not particularized. If the warrant were invalid, the seizure was not justified as an incident to a legal arrest; and, if valid, the shotgun and ammunition were not admissible into evidence.

POINT V

The practice of allowing the prosecution to close the argument to the jury violates the due process clause of Amendment V, U. S. Constitution, even without objection.[13]

Mr. Doar opened the argument to the jury (R. 911-918); Mr. Hardeman concluded the argument (R. 912). Since *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 US 483, 493-495, fn. 11, it is not unsophisticated to argue psychological effects as determinative of constitutional issues. Appellants urge a reconsideration of the rule first announced in *U. S. v. Bates*, Fed Cas No. 14,543, 2 Cranch, CC405, which gave to the U. S. Attorney the right in criminal prosecution to close the argument before the jury on the general issue[14]. This involves so fundamental and basic a proposition this Court can and should consider the question under the "plain error" rule.[15]

(13) It is the right of counsel for every litigant to press his claim, even though it appears far-fetched and untenable, to obtain the court's considered ruling. *Sacher v. U. S.*, 343 US 1, 9.

(14) Rule 57, Fed. R. Crim. Proc., leaves to the District Court the order of argument. See *Hardie v. U. S.*, 22 F2d 803 (CA5); *U. S. v. El Rancho Adolphus Products, Inc.*, 140 FSupp 645 (DC, Pa).

(15) Rule 52 (b) "Plain error. Plain errors or defects affecting substantial rights may be noticed although they were not brought to the attention of the court." Fed. R. Crim. Proc. See also *Wagner v. U. S.*, 171 F2d 354, 364 (CA5).

As in debate, apparently the rationale for the rule is to compensate the prosecution for having the burden of proof, or ultimate risk of non-persuasion; but even then it must be obvious defendants are unfairly handicapped, having no opportunity to reply. See Musgrove, *Competitive Debate Rules and Techniques*, (Wilson,NY,1957) pp. 29-30. This even though the prosecution not be allowed to develop new arguments. See *Moore v. U. S.*, 344 F2d 558, 560 (CA,DC). Although a jury be charged as to the burden of proof and the presumption of innocence (R. 86-88), nonetheless the determinative beliefs of the jury depend very largely on the final argument. See Summers, Whan & Rousse, *How to Debate*, (Wilson,NY,1963) pp. 201-271.

Some states by statute, see, *e.g.*, *Meade v. State*, 85 So2d 613 (Fla1956); *Hart v. State*, 88 GaApp 334, 76 SE2d 561, allow a defendant the "important right" to conclude the argument where he offers no testimony but his own. Others do this by rule. See, *e.g.*, *State v. Roper*, 203 NC 489, 166 SE 314. Still other states follow the practice a defendant has no right to close even when he does not offer testimony. See, *e.g.*, *Royals v. State*, 36 AlaApp 11,56 So2d 363. The differing procedures in state and federal courts concerning the right to close to the jury, particularly in the present advanced state of psychological study, indicate a new examination of this proposition is overdue in terms of federal constitutional standards.[16] The psychological effects of having the final argument to the jury in the prosecution must, of necessity, dilute the presumption

(16) *Hall v. Ware*, 92 US 778, affirming a plaintiff's right to open and close argument to the jury in a civil case, is the last case in the Supreme Court found to treat the topic. Civil defendants do not have a presumption of innocence.

of innocence clothing a defendant. Such a dilution, it is urged, cannot but violate the due process clause of Amendment V.

POINT VI

The failure of a court in a conspiracy trial under 18 USC Sec. 241 to charge the jury the defendants must act with a specific intent to interfere with the federal right in question, which specific intent must be proved by the prosecution, is reversible error, as in violation of Amendment V, U. S. Constitution, even without objection.

In *Price*, the Court stated:

> "This Court has rejected the argument that the constitutionality of §241 may be affected by undue vagueness of coverage. The Court held with reference to §242 that any deficiency is cured by the requirement that specific intent must be proved. *Screws v. United States*, 325 U. S. 91. There is no basis for distinction between the two statutes in this respect. See Williams I, 341 U. S., at 93-95 (Douglas, J.)." 16 Led2d 279, fn20.

Screws teaches a requirement of a specific intent to deprive a person of a *federal right made definite by decision or rule of laws* saves the act from any charge of unconstitutionality, and *the issue must be submitted under appropriate instructions to the jury. Screws v. U. S., supra*, pp. 101, 103. A close reading of the charge on the technical aspects of conspiracy (R. 88-96) reveals only general instructions the evidence must show defendant "knowingly and willfully participated in the unlawful plan with the intent to advance or further some object or purpose of the conspiracy." At no place did the Court charge that the jury had to find a specific intent to deprive a person of a federal right. Furthermore, the alleged federal right by court order

to participate in a protest march had not been mad definite by decision or other rule of law, a requiremen of *Screws* recognized in the Court's opinion in *Guest* 16 Led2d 247. Also, in Justice Brennan's separat opinion he said:

> "But, as the Court holds, a stringent scienter re quirement saves §241 from condemnation as criminal statute failing to provide adequate no tice of the proscribed conduct. . . . We have con strued §241 to require proof that the person charged conspired to act in defiance, or in reck less disregard, of an announced rule making th federal right specific and definite . . ." 16 Led2 265.

The court compounded and magnified its error in a supplemental charge (R. 107-108) which defined "con-spiracy" at the jury's request. Specific intent was no mentioned; specific intent had to be charged to avoi the unconstitutionality of vagueness.

For these failures to charge on specific intent of th alleged conspirators concerning the alleged specifi and definite federal right, the court below must b reversed, even without objection, under the "plai error" rule. *Supra*, fn. 15. Likewise this argumen supports the propositions the indictment as to para graph 4 should have been dismissed and the motio for judgment of acquittal granted.

POINT VII

For a court to instruct a jury, even at the request of a defendant, that his failure to testify does not create any presumption against him is fundamental error in violation of Amendment V, U. S. Constitution.

The court below, at the request of the defendants, instructed the jury on the effects of their failure to testify (R. 96-97). Title 18 §3481[17] reads that failure of a defendant to request to be a witness shall not create any presumption against him. *Bruno v. U. S.*, 306 US 287, held this provision gave an accused an indefeasible right to have the jury instructed by the court his failure to testify did not create any presumption against him. This decision rested on §3481. In *Griffin v. California*, 380 US 609, the Supreme Court stated in essence the provision of the California Constitution which allowed court and prosecutor to comment on the failure of defendant to testify violated the self-incrimination guaranty of Amendment V, as the same is made applicable to the states by Amendment XIV. Thus, the right to have the court refrain from comment is now a constitutional right and not a statutory one in the federal courts. Compare *Wilson v. U. S.*, 149 US 60. Since the right is a constitutional

(17) "In trial of all persons charged with the commission of offenses against the United States, and in all proceedings in courts martial and courts of inquiry in any State, District, Possession or Territory, the person charged shall, at his own request, be a competent witness. His failure to make such request shall not create any presumption against him."

one, serious doubt is cast upon the validity of *Bruno*. See *Griffin, supra*, p. 615, fn. 6.[18].

Prior to *Griffin*, the majority of states held there was a duty to grant a request to charge that failure to testify should not be taken against a defendant. Anno., 84 Led 261, *et seq.* A basis for such a conclusion was waiver by the defendant. See, *e.g.*, *Carter v. State*, 6 OklaCrimRep 232, 118 P 264. Other state courts had held such a request to charge should be refused. See, *e.g.*, *Roberson v. Com.*, 274 Ky 49, 118 SW2d 157; *Hanks v. Com.*, 248 Ky 203, 58 SW2d 394; *Tines v. Com.*, 25 KyLRep 233, 77 SW 363. See also *State v. Long*, 324 Mo 205, 22 SW2d 809 (statute forbade comment on testimony). The rationale of this line of cases appears to be that the court's giving the instruction did the very injury which it was the object of the law to prevent.

Before *Griffin*, a defendant had only a statutory right which precluded comment in a federal trial. Now the right is a fifth amendment one. The question becomes: Does a defendant by requesting a charge waive his constitutional right for the court to refrain from commenting on his failure to testify? The answer, in reason and logic, must be "No." When a defendant takes the stand as a witness in his behalf he does so *entirely* at his own volition; and the court would have no power or authority to prevent him from doing so. By refusing to take the stand he has done so *entirely* at his own volition; and the court would have no power or authority to compel him to do so. But when a defendant merely requests a charge, his own volition

(18) "We reserve decision on whether an accused can require as in *Bruno v. United States*, 308 US 287, that the jury be instructed his silence must be disregarded."

must be supplemented by action by the trial court, upon whose judge rests the duty of charging the jury as to the law. Courts frequently refuse instructions which are not the law, and in so doing reject the position of a defendant. A defendant, as noted, has a constitutional right for the judge not to comment on his failure to testify, *i.e.*, since *Griffin*, a judge is under a constitutional duty not to comment. When a judge decides to give such a charge requested by the defendant, which decision belongs to the judge alone, then that judge by his own act has breached his constitutional duty not to comment. He has determined the law to be he can comment on the failure to testify. Since that is not the law, the only action he can take nstitutionally on a request by a defendant to instruct jury on the effects of his failure to testify is to ny it.

The rationale of the minority of states is persuasive. There can be no waiver of this now substantial constitutional right and corresponding duty, and hence, in the present case, there was reversible error. See *U. S. v. Lawson*, 337 F2d 800, 811 (CA3).

POINT VIII

A supplemental charge to a jury in a criminal case which is coercive demands a reversal of a verdict and judgment of conviction.

After the jury had been deliberating about 8½ hours and had been retired for deliberations some 24 hours (R. 103-113), they reported a hopeless deadlock (R. 114). The court, *sua sponte*, gave a supplemental charge, the greater part of which tracked that charge approved in *Allen v. U. S.*, 164 US 492. See also *Orton v. U. S.*, 221 F2d 632 (CA4). The court, however, added to the charge in language set forth in the Statement of the Case, *supra*, p. 41. The charge was objected to (R. 117).

The statement concerning the time the jury had deliberated, it is submitted, was coercive in that these 12 men could more properly construe it as one the jury would be forced to deliberate, no matter how long, until a verdict was reached (R. 115). Coupled with the statement it was "very desirable" for the jurors to agree upon a verdict (R. 115), the instruction was tantamount to "You have got to reach a verdict in this case." This was reversible error. *Jenkins v. U. S.*, 380 US 445.

Expense has absolutely nothing to do with a jury reaching a verdict, yet expense was given explicitly as a reason a verdict should be reached (R. 115). In *Wolin v. U. S.*, 211 F2d 770 (CA4), expense was mentioned; but there, contrary to here, the court instructed the jury by saying costs had nothing to do with a verdict and was not to be taken into consideration in determining guilt or innocence. *Id.*, at 772. Without the benefit of the clarifying instructions of *Wolin*, it is submitted the charge as to expense was coercive and erroneous requiring a reversal.

POINT IX

The evidence, taken in the light most favorable to the prosecution, manifests it was not sufficient to support a verdict and judgment of conviction and the verdict of judgment was against the great weight of the evidence.

The defendants moved as for a judgment of acquittal when the United States rested (R. 823). Evidence for defense primarily was directed toward impeachment of certain witnesses and an alibi (R. 826-910). Appellants would argue the testimony and evidence with each and every doubt resolved in favor of the prosecution precludes everything except a verdict and judgment of "Not Guilty". Appellants would give full weight to the testimony of Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., an acknowledged paid informer whose testimony was not thereby invalidated but which fact would go to the weight thereof; and the court may properly should have instructed the jury on paid informers. *U. S. v. Baxter*, 342 F2d 773 (CA6).

The part of Viola Luizzo in the protest march came only from Leroy Moton. He got her car on March 18 and had it until March 25 (R. 594-595). For what purpose she gave him the use of this car is not disclosed. On March 24, Moton carried her to the march (R. 595), but it is not known whether she went as a mere spectator, or for some other purpose entirely apart from a participation therein. On the 25th, after the march was over, Viola Luizzo took some people from St. Jude to the airport and Selma (R. 596). Although not shown to have been of his own knowledge, Moton said these people had participated in the march (R. 596). He further stated he did not know whether or not she was working with the march (R. 601). Viola Luizzo, then, had lent her car to Moton for an unknown purpose; had gone to St. Jude for an unknown purpose; had given a ride to some participants. Appellants contend with no proof of her participation in the march as averred in paragraph 4 of the indictment, her modicum of support could not be raised to the point it could be said she had exercised a right or privilege secured to her by the Constitution or laws of the United States. See Points I and II, *supra*. If so, the cloak of federal power extended to anyone and everyone not participating in the march who gave money, food or lodging; who spoke or wrote in favor of the march; who was a member of any organization that endorsed the march, etc., *ad infinitum*. The only possible conclusion which could be drawn to escape Amendment V due process vagueness was that Viola Luizzo had not exercised any right within the purview of §241, and the crime, if any, was a substantive one committed in concert, not a conspiracy.

This Court is asked to take judicial notice of approximate distances between certain municipalities and points in the State of Alabama. *Carroll v. U. S.*, 267 US 132, 159, 160; *Weaver v. U. S.* 298 F2d 496 (CA5); *Mutual Ben. Life Ins. Co. v. Robison*, 58 F 723 (CCA8). (*See Ricaud v. American Metal Co.*, 246 US 304, as to determinative effect a fact established by judicial notice may have in an appellate court). The distances are well within limits testified to (R. 339; 350-351; 387).

Rowe testified they were stopped at about 6:18 P. M., by state troopers at a radar post enroute from Montgomery to Selma on Thursday, March 25, 1965 (R. 418), confirmed by McGaha (R. 629). This point was 11 miles east of Selma (R. 624). Rowe said his group went to Silver Moon Cafe, about 2 or 3 blocks from Pettus Bridge (R. 420), arriving at a time closer

to 7 than 6 P. M. (R. 499). Ouida Larson testified the four came in between 7 and 8:30 P. M. (R. 572). Rowe stated they were in Silver Moon about 35 or 40 minutes, perhaps a little longer (R. 500). If we grant Rowe arrived at Silver Moon at 6:45 P. M., and stayed 35 minutes, the time was 7:20 P. M. The trip to the vicinity of Brown's Chapel Church took 20 or 25 minutes (R. 503). The time was 7:40 P. M., and they were at the 3rd traffic light from the bridge (R. 503). Leroy Moton was quite positive he and Viola Luizzo left Selma at 7:34 P. M. (R. 609).

At the radar point 11 miles east of Selma, Rowe said he saw a Volkswagen type station wagon (R. 430). The ticket for this vehicle was timed at 7:50 P. M. (R. 628). Rowe said the speed along this 11 miles went up to 90 and 100 miles an hour (R. 428). From Selma to the scene was 27.4 miles (R. 363), hence 16.4 miles from the radar point to the scene, and 3.1 miles from that point to the end of the 4 lane highway (R. 363). Rowe stated they were going 60 to 65 miles an hour when the shooting occurred (R. 504); Shanahan said Rowe told him it was in excess of 90 and 100 miles an hour (R. 315). At 60 miles an hour they arrived at the scene about 8:17 P. M. Rowe told Shanahan the shooting occurred about 8:30 P. M. (R. 310). Moton said the time was about 8:00 P. M. (R. 610).

Rowe stated to Shanahan that Viola Luizzo turned and looked directly at the automobile just before Wilkins and Eaton fired (R. 313). Rowe confirmed this position of Mrs. Luizzo (R. 433), and he said Wilkins fired 2 fast shots into the front window when the back of their car was just about even with the front of hers and before Eaton fired (R. 433). After Wilkins fired Thomas speeded up to get around the Luizzo car and

this was when Eaton started to fire (R. 433). (The testimony of Marion Williams, R. 769-770, is entirely inconsistent with this). Dr. Shoffeit testified the bullet entered the head at a point "slightly forward of the lower part of the left ear and ranged to the right, slightly upward and slightly to the rear to a point at the base of the brain where the cord is connected to the brain" and the cord was almost severed at the base of the brain (R. 554). Marion Williams testified the only bullet hole found in the driver's window, which bullet went into the rain gutter, was about 2½ inches down from the top and about 6 or 8 inches forward of the back edge of the window (R. 765). If Viola Luizzo were looking directly at the Rowe car when the shots were fired and Rowe and she practically opposite each other it seems highly improbable the bullet would have struck Viola Luizzo where it did and take the course it did. And, if Thomas speeded up immediately it is similiarly highly improbable Rowe could have seen the window "shatter and break" (R. 309-313), especially with Wilkins occupying the right hand seat.

Rowe said after the shooting they accelerated to 90 or better, and threw the casings out at that speed (R. 506); Rowe to Shanahan was 110 miles an hour (R. 316). The casings found by Riley were .55 of a mile from the scene (R. 591), which at 90 miles an hour would take 22 seconds, at 110 miles an hour about 18 seconds, all the while engaged in conversation and unloading weapons (R. 317-318). It will be noted Agent Riley found the .38 caliber casings scattered along the shoulder of the road from 2 to 8 or 9 feet from the edge (R. 589). Common sense dictates the conclusion casings thrown from an automobile traveling from 90 to 110 miles an hour would be caught in the windstream, carried to the rear of the car, and in all probability

would be in the road. (Query: Where were the .22 caliber casings thrown out almost simultaneously?)

Leaving the scene at about 8:17 P. M., they proceeded to St. Francis Motel, arriving about 8:37 P. M. (R. 509). It was about 50 miles from Pettus Bridge to St. Francis (R. 386), so it was about 22.6 miles from the scene to St. Francis. If Thomas were driving at speeds 90 and above, this took only 15 minutes. There was a 90 degree turn at St. Francis to get onto the bypass, a 90 degree turn at an entrance to Maxwell Field, and another 90 degree turn to get onto U. S. 31 North. The Court is asked also to notice judicially from the point around the intersection of U. S. 31 and 80 to Prattville was a congested area, and that it was approximately 73.3 miles from Montgomery (St. Francis) to Alabaster, two incorporated municipalities in Alabama. They detoured for about 12 miles (R. 435; 511) and stopped at a service station about 6 minutes (R. 511). Total distance was 85.3 miles and at 90 miles an hour *average* this took about 64 minutes or 70 minutes total. The time was about 9:47 P. M., in Alabaster, another congested area, or 9:42 P. M., if a 90 mile an hour *average* from the scene to St. Francis is allowed.

From Alabaster to Bessemer, both incorporated municipalities in Alabama, over County Roads 44, 17 and 52 and State 150, was about 23.4 miles, with three 90 degree turns in Alabaster, 1 to get onto County 17, and 5 miles of winding, narrow road on County 52. Bessemer was also a congested area. This 23.4 miles at 90 miles an hour *average* took about 17 minutes and the time was 9:59 P. M. From Bessemer to Brighton, both incorporated municipalities, and both congested, was about 1.3 miles, or 1 minute. The time was 10:00

P. M., at Brighton VFW, which was Rowe's positive outside time of arrival at VFW (R. 513). Thus, the Rowe group traveled about 132.6 miles in 1 hour 33 minutes to average about 90 miles an hour. This is fantastic when one considers the congested areas traversed, with traffic lights and the like; the 90 degree turns; and with 20,000 to 30,000 people in Montgomery that day there most certainly was considerable traffic on the highway. It is submitted no reasonable man could accept this, or if he did, he was influenced by bias or prejudice. The statement of Thomas to Gettings (R. 724) was more reasonable and consistent in that the group went back to Birmingham (Bessemer) via Selma, which was about 120 miles through Prattville or about 100 miles through Maplesville and Clanton. Leaving Selma around 7:45 P. M., the group, at a realistic *average* speed, arrived within the time testified to.

Appellants contend the verdict and judgment was against the great weight of the evidence, and inasmuch as primary reliance was had by the United States on the murder of Viola Luizzo, there should be a judgment here of reversal.[19]

---

(19) Many, many questions could be asked about this case, any one of which would raise a doubt in the mind of any reasonable man. However, to belabor the evidence now would add nothing more to the error shown.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

THE JUDGMENT OF CONVICTION OF COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., AND EUGENE THOMAS SHOULD BE REVERSED.

Appellants submit demonstrative and prejudicial error occurred in the trial: (A). *Price* and *Guest* make it clear a §241 indictment is fatally defective which does not allege state involvement where an Amendment XIV right is concerned, *i.e.*, one not secured by the Constitution and laws of the United States. (B). An indictment is fatally defective which enlarges the statutory definition of the crime. (C). Abuse of judicial discretion in denying a bill of particulars is error to a reversal. (D). Testimony and evidence admitted over objection which works a substantial injury requires a reversal. (E). Allowing the United States to close the argument on the general issue is a violation of due process. (F). Failure to charge on specific intent causes §241 to be vague in violation of the due process clause. (G). An instruction to a jury on the failure to testify violates the self-incrimination clause of Amendment V. (H). A coercive charge to a jury violates due process. (I). For proof of guilt to be predicated on conjecture and against the great weight of the evidence is error to a reversal.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur J. Hanes

Arthur J. Hanes
Suite 506, Frank Nelson Building
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Fred Blanton, Jr.
Suite 1627, 21-21 Building
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Fred Blanton, Jr., of counsel for Collie Leroy Wil kins, Jr., and Eugene Thomas, appellants herein, an a member of the Bar of the United States Court o Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, hereby certify I serve the requisite copy of the foregoing Brief for the Ap pellants upon the United States Attorney for th Middle District of Alabama, Montgomery, Alabama the Honorable Ben Hardeman, by depositing the sam in the United States mails, postage first class prepaid and properly addressed to him at his office in Mont gomery, Alabama.

It is further certified a copy of Brief for Appellant was served on the Honorable John Doar, Assistant At torney General, Washington, District of Columbia, b mailing the same to him at his office in Washingtor District of Columbia, United States postage first clas prepaid.

This the .... day of June, 1966.

Fred Blanton, Jr.
Of Counsel for Appellants
Suite 1627
Twenty-one Twenty-one Buildin
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: July 7, 1966

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Boyd
1 - Mr. Wick
1 - Mr. Sullivan

The Bureau has received a copy of Appellants' Brief to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, New Orleans. Brief reviewed. No criticism made of FBI. Appellants raise nine points in argument; some concern wording of the indictment and/or the search warrant prepared by the U. S. Attorney and/or Departmental Attorney. Subjects are Klan members and copy of Brief sent by their attorneys to the Director. No acknowledgment being made. One of Appellants' attorneys is Arthur J. Hanes who entered on duty as a Special Agent on 10-25-48 and resigned 8-4-51. Hanes is also a former mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, and has been a staunch segregationist. No derogatory information located in Bufiles on other attorney Fred Blanton, Jr.

BACKGROUND OF CASE

Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, civil rights worker of Detroit, Michigan, was shot and killed on the night of 3-25-65 in Lowndes County, Alabama. She had participated in the march that day from Selma to Montgomery and was engaged in transporting marchers back to Selma at time of her death. On basis of information furnished by Bureau informant Gary Thomas Rowe, three subjects were identified and arrested on Federal Civil Rights charges (Title 18, Section 241), within twenty-four hours of the shooting.

PROSECUTIVE ACTION

One of the subjects, Collie Leroy Wilkins, was tried twice in state court and his second trial ended in acquittal. The three subjects were tried in U. S. District Court on the Civil Rights charges and were found guilty by jury on 12-3-65. Each was sentenced to ten years and released on $10,000 bond pending appeal. One subject, William Eaton, suffered a hear attack 3-9-66, and died.

REVIEW OF APPELLANTS' BRIEF

Appellants' Brief was filed 6-20-66. A review of

Bufile 44-28601
Enclosure - one copy of Appellants' Brief

JJB:cry (8)

56 JUL 25 1966

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

the Brief determined the appeal is based on issues of law and trial procedures. The Appellant set forth portions of testimony of fourteen Special Agents of the FBI as reflected in the trial record. No allegations or criticisms were made about the FBI or its employees. The Appellant raises nine points in the Argument. Some of the points concern wording of the indictment and/or the search warrant prepared by the U. S. Attorney and/or Departmental Attorney.

Point number IV alleges that a shotgun and ammunition seized on 3-26-65 at subject Thomas' home were obtained by an illegal search and seizure. However, the Special Agents obtained the weapon pursuant to a search warrant issued by the U. S. Commissioner on same date. The evidence seized was admitted into the record during the trial.

Appellant contends that the search warrant describing the property as "guns, rifles, pistols, ammunition and various and sundry weapons" connected with "the shooting of Viola Liuzzo" was invalid because (1) the shooting was a state crime and no Federal offense was shown on the face of the warrant, (2) the items to be seized were evidence, and (3) the items seized were not particularized.

Copies of the Brief have been served on Assistant Attorney General John Doar of the Civil Rights Division and no dissemination is required by the Bureau.

ACTION:

This appeal is being followed by the New Orleans Office and you will be kept advised.

DO-6

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MR. TOLSON
MR. DELOACH
MR. MOHR
MR. WICK
MR. CASPER
MR. CALLAHAN
MR. CONRAD
MR. FELT
MR. GALE
MR. ROSEN
MR. SULLIVAN
MR. TAVEL
MR. TROTTER
MR. JONES
TELE. ROOM
MISS HOLMES
MRS. METCALF
MISS GANDY

June 27, 1966

The attached copy of the Brief for Appellants in the Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr. and Eugene Thomas, versus United States of America case was sent to the Director from Fred Blanton, Suite 1627, 2121 Building, Birmingham, Alabama.

Frad Blanton, Jr. was one of the attorneys for the appellants.

Numerous references are made to the FBI and Bureau personnel throughout the Brief.

nm

1 ENCLOSURE

EX-103

REC 14 44-28601-736

NOT RECORDED
16 JUL 14 1966

56 JUL 25 1966

TELEPHONE
251-6821

FRED BLANTON

LAW OFFICES
SIXTEENTH FLOOR
2121 BUILDING

EIGHTH AVENUE AT TWENTY-SECOND STREET, NORTH
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35203

ENCLOSURE



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER

PART 14 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 44-28601

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601) DATE: 8/18/66

FROM : SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3954) (P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, Aka.
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL

Re New Orleans letter to Bureau, 6/24/66.

b7c

On 8/17/66, [redacted] Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, New Orleans, Louisiana, made available two copies of Brief for Appellee, #23289, filed 8/16/66, copy of which is enclosed for the Bureau and Mobile.

Will advise the Bureau and Mobile of decision in this matter.

EXP. PROC.

ENCLOSURE

2 - Bureau (enc. 1)
2 - Mobile (44-1245) (enc. 1)
2 - New Orleans

CLM/jas
(6)

14 AUG 22 1966

REC 29

56 SEP 12 1966

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

FBI MOBILE

530 PM CST, URGENT 9-16-66 MMA

TELETYPE

TO DIRECTOR 44-28601

FROM MOBILE 44-1245

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS. CR; EL. OO MO.

ON THIS DATE, USA BEN HARDEMAN ADVISED STATE OF ALABAMA HAS FILED PETITION WITH THE FIFTH CIRCUIT JUDGE JOHN GODBOLD REQUESTING ALL ITEMS OF EVIDENCE ENTERED IN THE TRIAL OF SUBJECTS IN USDC, MONTGOMERY, ALA., BE MADE AVAILABLE TO STATE ATTORNEY FOR USE DURING STATE TRIAL OF SUBJECT THOMAS IN HAYNEVILLE, ALA., MONDAY, NINE TWENTYSIX NEXT.

HARDEMAN STATES HE DESIRES AGENT PRESENT WHEN EVIDENCE TRANSFERRED IF REQUEST GRANTED BY COURT OF APPEALS IN ORDER TO PRESERVE CHAIN OF EVIDENCE.

44-28601-741

UACB, HARDEMAN'S REQUEST WILL BE HONORED IN EVENT EVIDENCE TRANSFERRED.

BIRMINGHAM ADVISED AIRMAIL.

END

WA...GJ88PE

FBI WASH DC -

IT [illegible]

57 SEP 23 1966

WG...GJG

FBI WASH DC

1 SEP 19 1966

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 21 1966

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMINGHAM

254 PM URGENT 9-21-66 JGA

TO DIRECTOR 44-28601 AND NEW YORK

FROM BIRMINGHAM 44-1236

EUGENE THOMAS; ETAL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA; ETAL - VICTIMS.

CR. EL. 00: MOBILE.

RE MOBILE TEL TO BUREAU AND BIRMINGHAM, INSTANT DATE.

FOR INFO OF NEW YORK, ALABAMA ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, MONTGOMERY, ALA. THIS DATE ADVISED SUBJECT THOMAS SLATED FOR TRIAL IN CIRCUIT COURT, LOWNDES COUNTY, HAYNEVILLE, ALA., AT ONE PM, SEPTEMBER TWENTYSIX, NEXT. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL DESIRED SA [redacted] BE PRESENT FOR TRIAL AND PREPARED TO PRESENT SAME TESTIMONY AS DURING PREVIOUS TRIALS.

UACB SA [redacted] WILL APPEAR AS NECESSARY WITNESS IN REGARD TO ABOVE DESCRIBED TRIAL. ONE AIRMAIL COPY TO MOBILE. OTHER OFFICE ADVISED SEPARATELY.

REC-51 44-28601-742

END

LLD

EX-102

34 SEP 22 1966

FBI WASH DC

P

61 SEP 29 1966

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 21 1966

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

349 PM CST URGENT 9-21-66 JGA

TO DIRECTOR 44-28601 AND NEW YORK

FROM BIRMINGHAM

CORRECTION:

TO TELETYPE SENT AT PM INSTANT DATE CAPTIONED "EUGENE THOMAS: ETAL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA; ETAL - VICTIMS. CR. EL. OO MOBILE" .

PLEASE INSERT FOLLOWING AS FIRST PARAGRAPH AFTER REFERENCE.

"FOR INFO OF BUREAU SA [redacted] NOW ASSIGNED NEW YORK DIVISION."

b7C

ECORR TIME IN LINE 1 SHLDB BE "254 PM

REC-51 44-28601-714

EEND

EX-102 14 SEP 22 1966

GJG

FBI WASH DC

P

b7D

SEP 20 1966

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

2:08PM CST URGENT 9/20/66 WEB

TO DIRECTOR (44:28601)

FROM MOBILE (44-1245) 2P

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS.

CR; EL. OO: MOBILE.

REMOTEL TO BUREAU, SEPTEMBER SIXTEEN LAST.

ON THIS DATE, USA BEN HARDEMAN, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, MADE AVAILABLE ORDER ISSUED BY FIFTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE JOHN C. GODBOLD SEPTEMBER NINETEEN, SIXTYSIX IN CONNECTION WITH REQUEST OF THE STATE FOR RELEASE OF CERTAIN EVIDENCE FROM THE CLERK OF USDC, MDA. THIS ORDER READS IN PART AS FOLLOWS:

"THE SAID MOTION IS GRANTED SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS: ONE, THE ITEMS OF EVIDENCE SHALL BE RELEASED INTO THE TEMPORARY CUSTODY OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND SHALL REMAIN IN HIS CUSTODY AT ALL TIMES EXCEPT WHEN ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE (IF ADMITTED) IN SAID STATE TRIAL. AFTER COMPLETION OF THE STATE TRIAL

END PAGE ONE

REC-102 44-28601-744

29 SEP 26 1966

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA, ALL OF SAID EVIDENCE (INCLUDING ANY PLACED IN EVIDENCE) SHALL BE TAKEN BACK INTO THE CUSTODY OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND RETURNED TO THE CLERK OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA."

UACB, THE EVIDENCE INCLUDED IN THE MOTION FILED BY THE STATE OF ALABAMA WILL BE OBTAINED FORM CLERK OF USDC SEPTEMBER TWENTYTHREE NEXT BY A BUREAU AGENT AND MADE AVAILABLE FOR STATE USE IN CIRCUIT COURT IN LOWNDES COUNTY MORNING OF SEPTEMBER TWENTYSIX NEXT.

BIRMINGHAM ADVISED AIRMAIL. P.

END

RCS

FBI WASH DC

P

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: September 21, 1966

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Wick

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. -
VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS
OO: MOBILE

On September 16, 1966, the State of Alabama filed a motion with the Fifth U. S. Circuit Court Judge John Godbold, requesting that all items of evidence entered in the trial of subjects Eugene Thomas, Leroy Wilkins, and William Eaton in U. S. District Court, Montgomery, Alabama, be made available to the State Attorney for use during the state trial of subject Thomas in Hayneville, Alabama, September 26, 1966.

On September 19, 1966, U. S. Circuit Judge Godbold issued an order granting the motion of the state for release of the evidence from the Clerk of the U. S. District Court, Middle District of Alabama. The order grants the motion of the state on the condition that the items of evidence be released by the Clerk of the District Court to the custody of a representative of the FBI and shall remain in his custody except when admitted into evidence in the state trial. After completion of the state trial, all of the evidence shall be returned to the Clerk of the District Court by the representative of the FBI.

It is noted that the State of Alabama is bringing subject Eugene Thomas to trial on September 26, 1966, on charges of murdering Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Hayneville, Alabama, on March 25, 1965. In April, 1965, all three subjects were indicted by the state on murder charges. They were granted a severance, and subject Wilkins was tried by the state in May, 1965. This trial ended in a hung jury. Wilkins was again tried by the state in September, 1965, and was acquitted. All three of the subjects were tried in U. S. District Court on Federal Civil Rights charges and were

JWH:sjk
(7)

REC. 77-29601-745

CONTINUED - OVER

26 1966

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

found guilty by the jury on December 3, 1965. Each of the subjects was sentenced to ten years in prison. Subjects Eugene Thomas and William Eaton were never tried on the murder charges by the state. Subject William Eaton suffered a heart attack on March 9, 1966, and died.

The evidence now in the custody of the U. S. District Court, which the state has now requested for use in the state trial of Eugene Thomas, is evidence primarily developed in the FBI's investigation of the shooting and consists primarily of the murder weapon and bullets and material obtained at the crime scene search. Any such evidence produced in the state trial will necessarily have to be introduced by the Agents who obtained the evidence. The United States Attorney Ben Hardeman, Middle District of Alabama, has advised that it would be desirable for a Bureau representative to be present when the evidence is transferred from the District Court to the state and returned in order to preserve the chain of evidence.

ACTION: The evidence included in the motion filed by the State of Alabama will be obtained by a Bureau Agent from the Clerk of the U. S. District Court and made available for state use in Circuit Court, Lowndes County, Alabama, on September 26, 1966, at the trial of Eugene Thomas. Agents will testify as to their obtaining the evidence and the examinations made of the evidence if called upon to do so.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 9/22/66

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

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (44-1140)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL
VIOLA GREGG LUIZZO aka;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL
(OO:MOBILE)

Re Birmingham teletype to Director and NY, 9/21/66.

UACB, SA [redacted] on subpoena in instant case, will drive POA to Washington, D. C., Friday, 9/23/66 and fly to Birmingham, 9/25/66. SA will return to Washington, D. C., via plane and return to NYC via POA. Cost to government will not exceed cost of trip from NY to Birmingham. Agent will be on annual leave Friday. Per diem will not start till Sunday.

OK

3-Bureau
2-Birmingham
2-New York

EML:bca
(8)

REC-38 44-28601-746

11 SEP 23 1966

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
SEP 1 1966
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Wick
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

11-42 AM URGENT 9-21-66 JEB

TO DIRECTOR AND BIRMINGHAM

FROM MOBILE (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS.

CR; EL. OO MOBILE.

ALABAMA ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, JOE BRECK GANTT, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, THIS DATE STATED TRIAL OF SUBJECT THOMAS IN CIRCUIT COURT, LOWNDES COUNTY, HAYNEVILLE, ALABAMA, IS SET FOR ONE P.M., SEPTEMBER TWENTYSIX NEXT. STATE DESIRES FOLLOWING AGENTS TO BE PRESENT TO PRESENT SAME TESTIMONY AS DURING PREVIOUS TRIALS: SA [redacted] FBI LABORATORY; SAS [redacted] AND [redacted] BIRMINGHAM; AND SAS [redacted] AND [redacted] OF MOBILE DIVISION.

P.

END

SXC

FBI WASH DC

54 SEP 30 1966

15 SEP 26 1966

REC-10 44-28601-747

Teletype: SACs, MO, PH, NY
Rosen to DeLoach Memo - [illegible]

CC 11

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 9/19/66

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)(P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL:
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka.;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Re Mtel, 9/16/66.

SA [redacted] Senior Resident Agent, Selma, Alabama, was served 9/19/66 with a subpoena on behalf of the Defendant in instant case to appear in local court at Hayneville, Alabama on 9/26/66. USA BEN HARDEMAN, Montgomery, Ala., was advised, and he has no objection to SA [redacted] responding. He does not know the name of the defense attorney, as attorney ARTHUR H[illegible] has withdrawn from the case. [redacted]

b7C
b7A

(3) - Bureau
2 - Mobile
JRC:pww
(5)

REC-10 44-[illegible]-7[illegible]

EX. 106

12 SEP 21 1966

C C McR

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

FBI WASH DC

TELETYPE

FBI MOBILE

125PM CSTURGENT 9/26/66 TEB

TO DIRECTOR 44-28601

FROM MOBILE 44-1245 2P

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA.; ET AL - VICTIMS. CR - EL.

REMOTEL, SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SIX, INSTANT.

JOE BRECK GANTT, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE OF ALABAMA, PRESENTED THE MONTGOMERY RESIDENT AGENCY WITH A LIST OF SEVENTY-FIVE NAMES ON THE VENIRE FROM WHICH A PETTY JURY IS TO BE DRAWN IN CONNECTION WITH THOMAS' TRIAL. HE REQUESTED AN INDICES CHECK TO DETERMINE ANY KLAN CONNECTIONS OR RACIAL INVOLVEMENT. RESULTS OF INDICES CHECK WILL NOT BE GIVEN GANTT UNTIL BUREAU APPROVAL IS RECEIVED. MOBILE INDICES NEGATIVE AS TO ANY DEROGATORY INFORMATION CONCERNING GANTT.

REC-71 44-28601-7113

DURING THE MORNING OF INSTANT DATE, COUNSELS QUESTIONED THE VENIRE. ACCORDING TO REX THOMAS, AP, EXCUSES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED, AND THE VENIRE IS NOW REDUCED TO THIRTY-TWO, TWENTY-ONE OF WHOM ARE NEGROES. COURT RECESSED ELEVEN TEN A.M. INSTANT DATE, UNTIL EIGHT THIRTY A.M., SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SEVEN NEXT. ACCORDING TO THOMAS, AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BETWEEN

SEP 28 1966

END PAGE ONE

CLOSED

COUNSELS THAT TRIAL WOULD COMMENCE SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SEVEN, NEXT, AND BE COMPLETED SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SEVEN, NEXT. BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED. P.

END

BJG

FBI WASH DC

P

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 28 1966

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Wick
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

10-35 AM URGENT 9-26-66 JEB

TO DIRECTOR (44-28601) AND BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

FROM MOBILE (44-1245)* 1P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL,
VICTIMS. CR; EL.

ON THIS DATE, ALABAMA AAG JOE BRECK GANTT STATED DESIRES SA [redacted] BIRMINGHAM OFFICE, AS WITNESS THIS CASE, HAYNEVILLE, ALA., ONE P.M. THIS DATE. UACB, BIRMINGHAM INSURE PRESENCE OF SA BYRON.

END

TMA

FBI WASH DC

P

b7C

EX-110

REC 61 44-28601-150

SEP 28 1966

54 SEP 30 1966

1 - Office, Room 7133
1 - Mr. Williams
9/22/66

Airtel

To: SAC, Mobile (44-1245)

From: Director, FBI (44-28601)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA., ET AL.,
VICTIMS; CR; EL

Reurtel 9/21/66.

SA [redacted] arriving Montgomery Delta Air Lines Flight 623 at 4:09 p.m. 9/26/66, to testify instant case.

REC-47 44-28601-1351
EX-113
19 SEP 26 1966

MEW:bsm
(5)

MAILED 4
SEP 22 1966
COMM-FBI

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 27 1966

TELETYPE

FBI MOBILE

733 PM CST

URGENT - 9/27/66 VFP

TO DIRECTOR /44-28601/

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA; ET AL - VICTIMS. CR -EL.

REMOTEL SEPTEMBER TWENTYSIX SIXTYSIX.

TRIAL RESUMED AT EIGHT THIRTY AM SEPTEMBER TWENTYSEVEN SIXTYSIX AND A JURY WAS QUICKLY PICKED, COMPOSED OF EIGHT NEGROES AND FOUR WHITES. TESTIMONY PROCEEDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LINE OF PREVIOUS TRIALS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE TESTIMONY OF ROWE WHO DID NOT APPEAR. DEFENSE CONSISTED OF TESTIMONY OF COTTON NICHOLS, OF SELMA PD, WHO GOT FIRST REPORT FROM LEROY MOTON AND TWO PERSONS IN BAR IN BIRMINGHAM, TO WHICH DEFENDANTS HAD GONE AFTER SHOOTING. DEFENDANT DID NOT TESTIFY AS OF FOUR THIRTY PM, CST, ALL TESTIMONY HAD BEEN ENTERED AND CLOSING ARGUMENTS WERE IN PROCESS. JUDGE INDICATED HE WOULD REMAIN UNTIL A DECISION WAS REACHED. 44-28601-732

BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED. P.

END

WA AZXP

FBI WASH DC

SP

REC 62 44-28601-732 SEP 28 1966

54 OCT 5 1966

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: September 23, 1966

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Wick
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Conrad

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS
OO: MOBILE

Eugene Thomas, the only remaining subject charged by the state for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo who has not been tried, is scheduled for trial September 26, 1966. Subject Collie Leroy Wilkins was previously tried by the state and acquitted. Thomas, Wilkins, and William Eaton were all tried on Federal Civil Rights charges and convicted and sentenced to ten years. Subject William Eaton died in May, 1966.

Mobile advised the state has requested that Special Agents Marion E. Williams of the Laboratory, Lawrence Gettings and Edward N. Lahey* Birmingham, and Archibald L. Riley and Roy H. Eveland of Mobile, also appear and testify as they did in the previous trials of subjects. The defense has subpoenaed SA Robert L. Frye to testify concerning his interview of Leroy Moton who accompanied Mrs. Liuzzo on the night of the shooting.

SA Marion Williams has testified at previous trials concerning the crime scene search and his examination of the murder weapon and bullets. SA's Riley and Eveland of Mobile have testified regarding their investigation at the crime scene and their participation in the crime scene search. SA's Gettings and Lahey have testified at previous trials concerning their arrest of Eugene Thomas and the search of his residence by search warrant.

Departmental Attorney James Turner was advised on September 20, 1966, of the subpoena of SA Frye and of the request of the state that the other Agents testify at Eugene Thomas' state trial on September 26, 1966. On September 22, 1966, Turner advised that the Department had no objection

Enclosure

JWH:sjk
(9)

REC 26

CONTINUED - OVER

SEP 28 1966

* SA Lahey now assigned to New York.

OCT 4 1966

Rosen to DeLoach Memorandum
RE: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.;

to SA Frye testifying for the defendant regarding his interview with Leroy Moton and the other Agents appearing and testifying as they did at previous trials and stated that they should do so.

ACTION: Attached for approval is a teletype to the Field instructing the Agents to appear and testify in line with their testimony at previous trials of this matter.

SA Marion E. Williams of the Laboratory has been advised and will testify as requested.

September 28, 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Eugene Thomas, William D. Eaton, and Collie Leroy Wilkins were previously convicted in Federal court on conspiracy charges relating to the fatal shooting of civil rights worker Mrs. Viola Liuzzo on 3/25/65; all received 10-year sentences.

Subject Wilkins previously acquitted in state court regarding local charges related to shooting. Subject Eaton died earlier this year. Attached teletype advises subject Thomas acquitted of local charges.

RJD:ctj

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
SEP 27 1966
TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

902 PM

URGENT 9/27/66 VFP

TO DIRECTOR /44-28601/

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA ET AL-
VICTIMS. CR EL.

REMOTEL NINE TWENTYSEVEN INSTANT.

AT APPROXIMATELY SEVEN THIRTY PM INSTANT DATE THE JURY RETURNED A AQUITALL VERDICT AS TO SUBJECT THOMAS.

END

WA RAM

FBI WASH DC

REC-9 44-28601-724

SEP 30 1966

62 OCT 4 1966
CC-MR. ROSEN

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 9/26/66

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. -
VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Eugene Thomas, the only remaining subject charged by the State with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo who has not been tried, is scheduled for trial in state court, Haynevillo, Alabama, today. Subject Collie Leroy Wilkins was previously tried by the state and acquitted. Thomas, Wilkins and William Eaton were all tried on Federal Civil Rights charges and convicted and sentenced to ten years. Subject William Eaton died in May, 1966.

[redacted] of the Mobile Office called today and stated that Alabama Assistant Attorney General Joe Breck Gantt who is handling the prosecution of Thomas, contacted the Montgomery Resident Agency and requested that the names of 33 individuals on the juror list from which the Thomas jury will be selected be checked through the indices of the Mobile Office. Gantt requested that any pertinent information in the files of the Mobile Office indicating Klan or citizen council membership on the part of individuals on the jury list be furnished to him for his assistance in connection with the selection of the jurors.

According to [redacted] the selection of the jury is to commence at 1 p. m. CST (3 p. m. Washington time) today.

In connection with the second trial in state court of Collie Leroy Wilkins in October, 1965, the Department requested that a similar check be conducted for state officials for their assistance and the results thereof orally furnished to the State Prosecutor. This was done. The request of Prosecutor Gantt today for similar information has been discussed with Departmental attorney James Turner who requested that we comply with this current request.

EX-101

JGK:jds
(6)

Continued - Over

SEP 28 1966

57 OCT 7 1966

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: EUGENE THOMAS

The Mobile Office has advised that there is nothing derogatory in the files of that office concerning Joe Breck Gantt, Assistant Attorney General of the State of Alabama. It is noted that Gantt is Assistant to Richmond Flowers, the Alabama attorney who has been opposed to Governor George Wallace in the manner in which Alabama has handled its integration and Negro problems. Gantt handled prosecution of Wilkins in October, 1965.

The Mobile Office has further advised that of the 33 individuals on the list to be checked, more than half of them are Negroes and therefore, will not have any Klan or citizen council affiliation.

The Mobile Office recommends that check of the indices be made and that the United States Attorney or the Departmental Attorney on the scene in Montgomery, Alabama, be orally advised of the results of the check and that either the United States Attorney or the Departmental Attorney furnish the information to the Assistant Attorney General of the State of Alabama.

ACTION: If approved, the Mobile Office will be authorized to furnish orally to the United States Attorney or the Departmental Attorney on the scene the results of the office indices check so that such person may orally furnish the information to Assistant Attorney General Gantt.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Office, Room 7133

TO : Mr. Conrad

DATE: 9/29/66

FROM : R. H. Jevons

1 - Mr. Williams

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA., ET AL.,
VICTIMS; CR; EL

At the request of Alabama Attorney General Richmond Flowers, SA Marion E. Williams appeared in Hayneville, Alabama, on 9/27/66, and testified at the trial of Eugene Thomas. Flowers was assisted by Mr. Joe B. Gantt. Judge T. W. Thagard presided. The defendant was represented by Mr. Arthur Hanes (former Bureau Agent).

Thomas, along with Collie L. Wilkins and W. O. Eaton, was indicted for the murder of Viola Liuzzo, a civil rights worker who was shot near Selma, Alabama, on the evening of 3/25/65, while engaging in the transportation of civil rights workers between Montgomery and Selma, Alabama.

SA Williams testified that two bullets recovered from the victim's automobile, one from the body of the victim and four .38 Special cartridge cases found on the shoulder of the highway near the scene of the shooting were fired in a revolver found in an automobile parked in the yard of Thomas's residence. He also testified concerning his examination of the victim's car.

The case went to the jury late on the afternoon of 9/27/66, and a verdict of not guilty was returned in approximately one hour.

The jury, made up of eight Negro and four white persons, was the fir biracial jury chosen in the four trials growing out of the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo. Wilkins was tried twice in 1965, the first trial resulting in a hung jury and the second in acquittal. All three individuals were tried in Federal Court in Montgomery for conspiracy to violate the civil rights of the victims and were fou guilty. This verdict is now on appeal.

44-28601

EX-114 REC-44 44-28601-75

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen (Attention: Mr. J. W. Hines, Room 2262)
1 - Mr. Wick (Attention: Mr. M. A. Jones, Room 4264)

OCT 5 1966

MEW:bsm

(CONTINUED - OVER)

(8)
62 OCT 14 1966

SEVEN

Memorandum to Mr. Conrad
Re: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA., ET AL.,
VICTIMS; CR; EL
44-28601

Eaton died several months ago and, hence, cannot be tried.

In the trial of Thomas, Attorney General Flowers decided not to use the testimony of Thomas Rowe (FBI informant) nor the testimony of Leroy Moton, a Negro teenager who was riding with Mrs. Liuzzo when she was shot. Flowers stated that several jurors in the previous trials had remarked that they did not believe Rowe's story because he had violated his Klan oath and Moton made an exceedingly poor witness.

ACTION:

For information.

FBI

Date: 10/5/66

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)(P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL:
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka.; ET AL
- VICTIMS
CR - EL

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of letterhead memorandum concerning the trial of EUGENE THOMAS at Hayneville, Ala. on local charge. One copy furnished USA, Montgomery, Ala.

3 - Bureau (Encs. 4)
2 - Mobile
JRC:pww
(5)

ENCLOSURE

97

97

REC 54 44-28601-1758

EX-108

16 OCT 7 1966

10/7/66

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Mobile, Alabama 36601
October 5, 1966

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL:
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO; ET AL - VICTIMS

This memorandum pertains to the trial of Eugene Thomas in Lowndes County, Alabama, on September 26-27, 1966, on a charge of murder.

On September 16, 1966, U. S. Attorney Ben Hardeman, Montgomery, Alabama, advised that the State of Alabama had filed a petition with Fifth Circuit Judge John Godbold requesting all items of evidence that were entered in the trial of Thomas, Et Al, in U. S. District Court, Montgomery, Alabama, be made available to the Alabama State Attorney for use during the state trial of subject Thomas in Hayneville, Alabama, set for Monday, September 26, 1966. Hardeman stated he desired that an agent be present when the evidence was transferred if the request was granted by the Court of Appeals, in order to preserve the chain of evidence.

On September 20, 1966, U. S. Attorney Hardeman made available the order issued by the Fifth District Court of Appeals, which granted the motion for the release of the evidence. The order reads in part as follows: "Said motion is granted subject to the following conditions; (1) the items of evidence be released into the temporary custody of a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and shall remain in his custody at all times, except when admitted into evidence (if admitted) in said state trial. After completion of the state trial in the Circuit Court of Lowndes County, Alabama, all of the said evidence (including any placed in evidence) shall be taken back into the custody of a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and returned to the Clerk of the U. S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama."

On September 21, 1966, Alabama Assistant Attorney General Joe Breck Gantt, Montgomery, Alabama, desired the presence of the following agents to be present to present the same testimony as during previous trials: SAs [redacted]

44-2-7 GC 1-158

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL:
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO; ET AL - VICTIMS

[redacted], and [redacted] independently requested the presence of SA [redacted] of the Birmingham Office.

Special Agent [redacted] of the Mobile Office on September 19, 1966, was served a subpoena on behalf of the defendant. From prior trials it was believed that the testimony to be elicited from Agent [redacted] would be concerning the contradictory statements made by Leroy Moton in describing the automobile from which the shots were fired that killed victim Liuzzo.

On the morning of September 26, 1966, Special Agent [redacted] obtained the evidence from [redacted] of the U. S. District Court, Montgomery, Alabama. All evidence was returned to [redacted] on September 28, 1966.

The trial of instant case began September 26, 1966. The day of September 26, 1966, was taken up with the impaneling of the jury, and a jury was finally selected on the morning of September 27, 1966, composed of 8 Negroes and 4 whites.

Testimony proceeded as in previous trials. However, Gary Thomas Rowe and Leroy Moton were not subpoenaed to testify. Special Agent [redacted] therefore did not testify.

Trial was concluded on September 27, 1966, resulting in an acquittal verdict.

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.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 10-6-66

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

Via: AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, SAN DIEGO (44-312)

EUGENE THOMAS; ETAL
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA - ETAL - VICTIMS
CR - EL

Re San Diego airtel to Bureau 8-22-66.

On 10-5-66 [redacted] California, advised that no further action has been taken by the District Attorney's Office in this matter, and it is his personal opinion that no prosecution will take place due to a lack of evidence.

[redacted] said he will immediately advise this office of any additional developments in this matter.

The Bureau will be appropriately advised of any developments.

3 - Bureau
1 - SD
CJN:jec
(4)

REC-21 44-28601-791

OCT. 8 1966

EX 108

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

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601) DATE: 10/18/66

FROM : SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3954) (P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka,
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL

Re New Orleans letter to Bureau, 8/18/66.

On 10/12/66, [redacted] Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, New Orleans, La., advised that no date of hearing has as yet been assigned in this matter.

Will advise the Bureau and Mobile of decision in this matter.

(2) - Bureau
2 - Mobile (44-1245)
2 - New Orleans
CLM - cst
(6)

EX-104 REC-3 OCT 21 1966

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

FBI

Date: 10-21-66

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

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA;
ET AL - VICTIMS;
CR - EL

Re Birmingham teletype 10-20-66.

For the information of the Bureau and Mobile, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS appeared before Judge of Recorders Court, Bessemer, Alabama, 10-20-66, and after being found guilty on charges of drunk, resisting arrest, and assault and battery of an officer, was sentenced to 30 days in the Jefferson County Jail. He was also fined $225.00.

3-Bureau
1-Mobile (44-1245)
2-Birmingham
1 - 44-1236
1 - 157-1159
JLM:rlg
(6)

44-28601-16

REC 45 12 OCT 24 1966

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

October 20, 1966

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Mrs. Viola Gregg Liuzzo is the civil rights worker who was killed in Lowndes County, Alabama, on 3/25/65. Collie Leroy Wilkins is one of the three subjects convicted on Federal Civil Rights charges in December, 1965, and sentenced to ten years. The three subjects were released on $30,000 appeal bond each on this charge. Subject William Eaton died in May, 1966.

Department being advised of information attached.

JWH:wjc

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

OCT 20 1966

TELETYPE

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

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

200 PM URGENT 10-20-66 JGA

TO DIRECTOR 44-28601

FROM BIRMINGHAM 44-1236

EUGENE THOMAS; ETAL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA; ETAL

DASH VICTIMS. CR. CIVIL RIGHTS

CHIEF OF POLICE GEORGE BARRON, BESSEMER, ALABAMA, ADVISED THIS DATE THAT COLLIE LEROY WILKINS WAS ARRESTED NIGHT OCT. NINETEEN, LAST, AT BESSEMER, CHARGED WITH DRUNK, RESISTING ARREST, AND ASSAULTING AN OFFICER. BARRON EXPLAINED THAT OFFICERS HAD BEEN CALLED TO LOCAL BESSEMER CAFE ON DISTURBANCE COMPLAINT. WHEN ARRIVING AT CAFE, OBSERVED WILKINS AND ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL IN AN INTOXICATED CONDITION. OFFICERS ATTEMPTED TO PLACE WILKINS UNDER ARREST AT WHICH TIME HE RESISTED, STRIKING ONE OF OFFICERS. OFFICERS THEN RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM FOUR OTHER POLICEMEN, ONE OF WHOM WAS STRUCK BY WILKINS. WILKINS WAS SUBDUED, HANDCUFFED, AND TAKEN TO CITY JAIL, BESSEMER, WHERE PRESENTLY BEING HELD UNDER TWELVE HUNDRED DOLLARS BOND. THIS CHARGE WILL BE HEARD THIS AFTERNOON.

EX-101 REC-43 44-28601-17

18 OCT 25 1966

53 NOV 3 1966

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

BARRON STATES THAT IN TALKING WITH WILKINS, WILKINS INDICATED HE DOES NOT RECALL INCIDENT AS WAS TOO INTOXICATED.

FOR BACKGROUND BUREAU, WILKINS PRESENTLY UNDER APPEAL BOND FOLLOWING CONVICTION MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, NOVEMBER, SIXTY FIVE, IN CONNECTION WITH CIVIL RIGHTS PROSECUTION INVOLVING SLAYING OF VIOLA LIUZZO. ON DEC. TWENTYONE, SIXTYFIVE, WILKINS WAS TAKEN BEFORE USDC, BIRMINGHAM, AND HEARING HELD IN CONNECTION WITH PROBATION REVOCATION. WILKINS AT THAT TIME UNDER FEDERAL PROBATION FOLLOWING CONVICTION FOR POSSESSION OF SAWED OFF SHOTGUN. ON DEC. TWENTYONE, SIXTYFIVE, WILKINS' PROBATION WAS REVOKED AND SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR AND A DAY IN CUSTODY U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL. WAS REMOVED FROM BIRMINGHAM TO FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS. FEDERAL PROBATION OFFICE, BIRMINGHAM ADVISES WILKINS RELEASED FROM CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, TEXARKANA, OCT. THREE, LAST, RECEIVING AN UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE. IS PRESENTLY NOT UNDER SUPERVISION.

ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY
AUSA, BIRMINGHAM, INDICATED INTENTION OF CONTACTING CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO DETERMINE WHETHER ACTION COULD BE INSTITUTED TO SECURE REVOCATION OF

PAGE THREE

WILKINS' APPEAL BOND IN CONNECTION WITH CIVIL RIGHTS CONVICTION.

AIR MAIL COPY TO MOBILE.

END

BJS

FBI WASH DC

P

DC-MR. ROSEN

Novem[illegible] 21, 1966

GENERAL INVESTIGATIV[illegible] DIVISION

Mrs. Viola Liuzzo was the white civil rights worker slain in Lowndes, County, Alabama, on 3/25/65. At the request of the Department, we conducted an extensive investigation of the slaying. Three subjects were tried and convicted in December, 1965, on Federal Civil Rights charges and sentenced to ten years. Information in attached will be furnished the Department. No investigation being conducted.

JWH:pah

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
NOV 21 1966
TELETYPE

Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bick
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI DETROIT

2-01 AM URGENT 11-21-66 FWB

TO DIRECTOR 44-28601

FROM DETROIT 44-643

Office of Origin EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, ~~AKA~~ also known as, ET AL DASH VICTIM.

~~OO~~ MOBILE.

MR. ANTHONY LIUZZO, HUSBAND OF VICTIM, TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED AT TWELVE ~~TWELVE~~ TWENTYFIVE AM, THIS DATE THAT AT ELEVEN THIRTY PM, ELEVEN TWENTY LAST, SHOT WAS FIRED THROUGH FRONT WINDOW OF HIS HOME. MR LIUZZO ADVISED CHILDREN IN THE HOUSE AT TIME BUT NO INJURIES SUSTAINED.

Police Department

DETROIT ~~PD~~ ADVISED THIS DATE INVESTIGATION HAS DEVELOPED NO SUSPECTS. MATTER BEING INVESTIGATED BY DETROIT PD. DETROIT OFFICE IS CONDUCTING NO INVESTIGATION.

LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM

~~LHM~~ FOLLOWS.

~~CORR LINE FOUR WD TWO "TWELVE" DELETE~~

HFL

FBI WASH DC

WA..

REC 32

44-28601-71

NOV 22 1966

53 NOV 25 1966

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 11/22/66

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: Director, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, Detroit (44-643)

EUGENE THOMAS, Et Al;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka.,
ET AL - VICTIM
CR - EL
(OO: Mobile)

Re Detroit teletype 11/21/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies of LHM pertaining to captioned matter. One copy being furnished USA, Detroit.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 2) (RM)
1 - Detroit
TJR/cc
(4)

Agency CRD
Date Form NOV 2 [illegible] 1966
How Form 6-94 (G)
By JWH-FHP
1 cc CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT

E4103
REC 37
44-28601
NOV 23 1966

Approved: [illegible] 1966 Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No. —

Detroit, Michigan
November 22, 1966

Re: Eugene Thomas, Et Al;
Viola Liuzzo,
Et Al - Victim

On November 21, 1966, Anthony Liuzzo, husband of Viola Liuzzo, 19375 Marlow, Detroit, Michigan, advised the Detroit Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that at about 11:30 p.m., on November 20, 1966, a shot was fired through the front window of his home. Mr. Liuzzo advised that he was not at home at the time of the shooting, but that his children were at home. He advised that no injuries were sustained.

b7D

[redacted] Detroit, Michigan, Police Department, advised on November 22, 1966, that a .22 caliber bullet was shot through the front window of the Liuzzo residence and was recovered after hitting the wall opposite the window. [redacted] advised that Thomas Liuzzo, age 15, found a .22 spent cartridge in front of the Liuzzo residence.

[redacted] advised that a similar incident was reported about a week ago from a neighbor of the Liuzzos. He advised that this incident could be the result of union activity on the part of Anthony Liuzzo because about two weeks ago paint was thrown into the automobile of Anthony Liuzzo.

[redacted] advised that no suspects have been developed regarding this incident and that investigation is continuing.

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.

44-2860-175

1

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601) DATE: 12/2/66

FROM : SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3954) (P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka,
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL

Re New Orleans letter to Bureau, 10/18/66.

On 11/28/66, [redacted] Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that the case is assigned for January 19, 1967 at New Orleans, Louisiana.

Will advise the Bureau and Mobile of decision in this matter.

b7C

EX-PROC

B

2 - Bureau
2 - Mobile (44-1245)
2 - New Orleans

CLM/cmg
(6)

REC. 61 44-28601-764

15 DEC 7 1966

DEC 13 1966

SIX

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

4-312 (Rev. 1-18-62)

Date of Mail 12-5-66

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

Subject JUNE MAIL Eugene Thomas

Removed By [illegible] 3-71

File Number 44-28601-767

Permanent Serial Charge Out

12/8/66

1 - Mr. Boyd

Airtel

To: SACs Mobile (44-1245) Enc. (4)
Birmingham (44-1236) Enc. (4)

From: Director, FBI (44-28601)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.; JUNE
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. -
VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS
CO: MOBILE

Enclosed herewith for each office are two copies of a Departmental memorandum from AAG J. Walter Yeagley, dated 12/5/66, together with two copies of its attachment, memorandum for The Attorney General from AAG John Doar.

Both offices are to check appropriate logs, indices, and any other appropriate records for any information which may have been obtained from any microphone or technical surveillance concerning any of the subjects or attorneys mentioned under Item No. Four of enclosed memorandum from AAG Doar.

Both offices handle this matter immediately and sutel results under "JUNE" caption. Specifically advise in your communications the identity of the source, its location, dates of operation, and circumstances in any instance where pertinent information was obtained. Also specifically advise whether or not any technical or microphone surveillance was directed at any of the individuals mentioned under Item No. Four of AAG Doar's memorandum.

You are to afford this matter immediate and continuous attention until the project is completed. No delays will be tolerated.

JJB:sjk sjk
(6)

REC 13 44-28601-767

SEE NOTE - PAGE TWO

DEC 12 1966

F288

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Airtel to SACs Mobile and Birmingham
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
44-29601

If your files contain any information indicating the listed persons resided or were active in any territory covered by other divisions, you should have the records of those divisions checked and the results included in your reply. Airtel within three days.

NOTE: The case involving Eugene Thomas, Et Al., concerns the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a white CR worker, in Lowndes County, Alabama, on 3/25/65. At Department's request we conducted extensive investigation of the slaying. Three subjects were tried and convicted in 12/65 on Federal CR charges and sentenced to ten years. The CRD has advised the case is now on appeal.

The Department has requested that the names of defendants, subjects, and attorneys be checked against indices to determine whether any appear in any technical or microphone surveillance recording, log, or file.

Request being submitted by airtel in view of numerous names forwarded by the Department to be checked against field office records. Department's request regarding other cases being handled separately.

Director, FBI December 5, 1966

J. Walter Yeagley, Assistant Attorney
General, Internal Security Division

WIRETAPPING OR ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCES
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

--The Acting Attorney General has asked me to forward to you the attached memo which he received from Assistant Attorney General John Doar of the Civil Rights Division. It is requested that all of the listed names of defendants, subjects and attorneys be checked against your indices to determine whether any appears in any wiretap or electronic surveillance recording, log or file.

--It would be appreciated if you could give this matter your prompt attention. I would suggest your reply be sent directly to Mr. Doar with a copy to this office.

1 ENCLOSURE

44-28671
NOT RECORDED
145 DEC 13 1966

Department of Justice
Washington

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: Evidence obtained by wiretapping or electronic surveillance. MEMO NO. 493, November 3, 1966.

In your memorandum of November 3, 1966, to all United States Attorneys, you solicited information regarding cases or investigations in the development of which wiretapping or electronic surveillance may have been used by investigating agents.

I have no information that wiretapping or electronic eavesdropping were used in developing evidence in any investigations or cases pending in this Division. However, this Division has had several complicated cases involving allegations of conspiracy by members of various Ku Klux Klan groups. Confidential information from various sources unknown to me was used in developing the facts in several of these cases. In considering court action, or further court action, in these cases and matters I would like to have the assurance, and would like to be in a position to assure the court, that no wiretapping or electronic surveillance had been used in developing the facts.

The cases and matters which I refer to, the defendants or subjects involved, and the attorneys for the defendants, are as follows:

[redacted]

b7c

ENCLOSURE
44-38601

12/9/66

1 - Mr. Fehl

Airtel

To: SACs Mobile (44-1245)
Birmingham (44-1230)

From: Director, FBI (44-28601)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. -
VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS
CO: MOBILE

ReBuairtel 12/8/66.

In searching your indices and records pertaining to the names submitted with reBuairtel, you should include in your search all known aliases, variations, breakdowns, and build-ups.

FCF:sjk
(6)

REC 22 EX-103

6 DEC 13 1966

MAILED 2
DEC 9 1966
COMM-FBI

DEC 9 1966

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

4-312 (Rev. 1-18-62)

Date of Mail 12 13 66

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

Subject JUNE MAIL Eugene Thomas, Viola Luizzo

Removed By 65 DEC 22 1966

File Number 44-28601-769

Permanent Serial Charge Out

-4-3 (Rev. 1-27-66)

NPT 5 PM
9:8
12/13

DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☐ RADIO ☒ TELETYPE

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

4:42 PM CST URGENT 12-13-66 DLR

TO DIRECTOR

FROM BIRMINGHAM 132105

JUNE

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL, VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL-VICTIM. CR-EL.

OO: MOBILE.

REBUAIRTELS TO BIRMINGHAM DECEMBER 8 AND DECEMBER 9 LAST.

CAREFUL CHECK OF APPROPRIATE RECORDS THIS DIVISION CONCERNING PERSONS NAMED IN ITEM NUMBER FOUR OF AAG DOARS MEMO DATED NOVEMBER 3 LAST JUSTIFY STATEMENT THAT NO EVIDENCE OBTAINED DURING INVESTIGATION OR UTLILIZED DURING TRIAL OF THIS CASE WAS OBTAINED FROM WIRE TAP OR ELECTRONIC SURVELLANCE SOURCE.

ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE TECHNIQUES UTILIZED WIDELY ON THIS DIVISION DURING INVESTIGATION OF BAPBOMB CASE (BUFILE 157-1025) BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 15, 1963, AND FEBRUARY, 1966. ONLY PERSON NAMED IN ITEM NUMBER FOUR DIRECTLY COVERED BY TECHNICAL

X 108 REC 13 44-2561-769

F 288 cc: Hines

DEC 16 1966

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

J-3 (Rev. 1-27-66)

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

DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☐ RADIO ☒ TELETYPE

PAGE TWO FROM BIRMINGHAM 132105

SURVEILLANCE IS [redacted] INSTALLATION INVOLVING TRESPASS MADE IN [redacted] RESIDENCE EVENING JUNE 24 - 25, 1964. INSTALLATION DESIGNATED BH314-R MONITORED UNTIL JULY 25, 1964 WHEN DISCONTINUED. OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN ITEM NUMBER FOUR ARE NOT SUBJECT OF TECHNICAL INSTALLATION. RESULTS OF PREVIOUS SE OF RECORDS AND LOGS MAINTAINED BY THIS DIVISION SUBMITTED TO BUREAU OCTOBER 29 LAST UNDER CAPTION, MICROPHONE AND TELEPHONE SURVEILLANCES (BUFILE 66-5815 AND 66-580). THIS COMMUNICATION INCLUDED BREAKDOWN ON THREE BY FIVE INDEX CARDS OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY INSTALLATION AND INDIVIDUALS WHOSE NAMES MENTIONED DURING MONITORING.

THE CRIME INITIATION INVESTIGATION IN THIS CASE OCCURRED MARCH 25, 1965. ALL TECHNICAL SURVEILLANCE COVERAGE TERMINATED PRIOR TO THIS DATE EXCEPT BH325-R WHICH WAS INSTALLATION IN AUTOMOBILE OF BH305-R WITH HIS KNOWLEDGE UTILIZED AGAINST SUSPECTS IN BAPBOMB CASE NOT MENTIONED IN ITEM NUMBER FOUR. NO FURTHER SEARCH CONTEMPLATED BY BIRMINGHAM UACB.

RECEIVED 6:04 PM AKJ

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitabl paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

4-512 (Rev. 1-18-62)

Date of Mail 12-17-66

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

Subject JUNE MAIL Eugene Thomas

Removed By [illegible] 1966

File Number 44-28601-770

Permanent Serial Charge Out

12/19/66

1 - Mr. Hines

Airtel

To: SAC, Mobile (44-1245) JUNE

From: Director, FBI (44-28601)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. -
VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS
OO: MOBILE

For the information of offices other than Mobile receiving this communication, this case involves the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on 3/25/65. Three subjects, Eugene Thomas, William Orville Eaton (deceased), and Collie Leroy Wilkins, were convicted on Federal Civil Rights charges in connection with the shooting and sentenced to ten years each. They were represented by attorneys Matt Murphy (deceased), a Ku Klux Klan attorney, and Arthur J. Hanes. The subjects were all connected with the Klan, and other Klansmen considered as suspects in connection with the Civil Rights charges were Robert Shelton, Robert Creel, Robert Thomas, Eugene Reeves, Ralph Roton, and Leroy Rutherford. The conviction of the subjects is now pending appeal.

The Department has requested that it be advised whether the name of any of the above subjects, attorneys, or suspects appears in any wire tap or electronic surveillance recording, log, or file. In this regard, the Department has posed the following specific questions:

Enclosures (14)

44-28601-

REC-62

DEC 21 1966

2 - Atlanta (Enclosures 2)
2 - Birmingham (Enclosures 5)
2 - New York (Enclosures 5)
2 - Pittsburgh (Enclosure 1)
2 - Washington Field (Enclosure 1)

JWH:mjk
(14)

CONTINUED - OVER

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

Airtel to SAC, Mobile
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
44-38601

1. "Whether the named individual appears to be present at, or a participant in, conversations overheard by any electronic device which are reflected in any recordings, transcripts, logs, notes, memoranda or other records of any such device.

2. "If so, and if such recordings, transcripts, logs, notes, memoranda or other records still exist, would you please make them available to us.

3. "Did the information from any such device appear directly or indirectly in reports made in reference to the above individual by your agency. If so, would you please advise us of the reports in which such information appeared and furnish us with copies of these reports if you have not already done so."

A search of index cards which have been submitted by the field with regard to persons monitored on technical and microphone installations has provided a number of cards on individuals who may or may not be identical with the persons listed above. Copies of these cards are enclosed for the following offices as indicated below.

Atlanta:	1 card
	1 card
Birmingham:	2 cards
	1 card
	1 card
	1 card
New York:	4 cards
	1 card
Pittsburgh:	1 card
WFO:	1 card

The search of records by offices receiving copies of index cards is not to be limited to the individual conversations indicated by the cards but will include all conversations monitored for the persons whose names appear on the cards.

Offices receiving copies of index cards are to immediately check their files for information pertinent to the Department's request. It is anticipated that in many instances the office will be able to eliminate the reference on the basis that the files of the office will contain sufficient information to show that the person monitored could not be identical with any of the persons listed above.

Offices receiving cards are to complete their file review and submit the results to the Mobile Office within two days of receipt of this communication. With regard to names which are determined to be either identical with the listed persons or which cannot be eliminated on the basis of established nonidentity, the Mobile Office, in addition to being furnished the details of the conversations monitored and copies of the logs, should also be furnished all available background information relating to the person who was monitored in order that the Mobile Office may make a determination as to whether the person monitored is identical with the listed persons.

The Mobile Office will submit a summary to the Bureau no later than 12/30/66, setting forth the information necessary for the Bureau to reply to the Department's inquiry.

One copy of each card is also enclosed for the Mobile Office.

12/22/66

PLAINTEXT

1 - Mr. Hines

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SACS ATLANTA
BIRMINGHAM
MOBILE
NEW YORK
PITTSBURGH
WASHINGTON FIELD

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. - VICTIMS; CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS; OO: MOBILE.

REBUAIRTEL DECEMBER NINETEEN LAST.

ALL OFFICES ARE TO HANDLE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND REPLY BY TELETYPE RATHER THAN MAIL WHENEVER FEASIBLE IN ORDER THAT THIS PROJECT CAN BE COMPLETED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT AND NO LATER THAN CLOSED OF BUSINESS DECEMBER THIRTY NEXT.

JWH:sjk
(5)

TELETYPE UNIT
DEC 22 1966
ENCODED MESSAGE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEC 22 1966
TELETYPE

REC'D

EX-103

DEC 23 1966

57 DEC 30 1966

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEC 28 1966
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Wick
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI MOBILE

400 PM CST URGENT 12/28/66 FLK

TO DIRECTOR (44-28601)

FROM MOBILE (44-1245) 1P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL, VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL,
VICTIMS, CR, ELECTION LAWS.

REBUTEL DECEMBER TWENTY EIGHT, INSTANT. AIRTEL WITH
ATTACHMENTS REFLECTING COMPLETION OF INVESTIGATION BEING
FORWARDED THIS DATE.

END

RAM

FBI WASH DC

EX-110

REC 29 44-28601-772

DEC 29 1966

61 JAN 4 1967

Date of Mail [illegible]

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

Subject - JUNE MAIL [illegible]

Removed By [illegible]

File Number [illegible]

Permanent Serial Charge Out

PLAIN TEXT

12/28/66

TELETYPE

1 - Mr. McDonough

URGENT

All SAC radio contact at
2 p.m. Message must rea
Code Room by 12:00 noon.
Send by urgent teletype
offices not having radio
contact today.

TO SACS MOBILE
BIRMINGHAM
NEW YORK
PITTSBURGH
WASHINGTON FIELD

JUNE

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.; VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS; CR, ET.

REBUAIRTEL DECEMBER NINETEEN LAST AND BUTEL DECEMBER

TWENTY TWO LAST.

THIS MATTER MUST BE COMPLETED AND RESULTS SUBMITTED TODAY.

BUTELS.

EJM:sjk
(5)

NOTE: This case involves the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, white CR worker in Lowndes County, Ala., on 3/25/65. Department requested any information as to use of wiretaps or electronic surveillances in this case.

REC-82 44-28101-17

108

4 DEC 28 1966

TELETYPE UNIT
DEC 28 1966
12:58 PM
ENCODED MESSAGE

JAN 5 1967
MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEC 28 1966
TELETYPE

Date of Mail _____

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

Subject JUNE MAIL

Removed By _____

File Number _____

Permanent Serial Charge Out

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GAN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: December 22, 1966

JUNE

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS
OO: MOBILE

The Department, by letter dated December 5, 1966, furnished a list of the names of the subjects, suspects, and defense attorneys in this case and requested information as to whether any wiretapping or electronic surveillance had been used in obtaining evidence in this case and whether or not any of the listed defendants, suspects, or attorneys had ever been monitored in connection with any other investigation.

This case concerns the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a white civil rights worker in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965. We conducted an extensive investigation of the slaying, and three subjects were tried and convicted in December, 1965, on Federal Civil Rights charges and sentenced to ten years. The case is now pending appeal.

A check with the field offices involved in the investigation of this case and a check of Bureau files has established that no wiretapping or electronic surveillance was used at any time in connection with the investigation of this case.

A review of the special indices maintained at the Bureau reveals that persons of similar names have been monitored at various times by various field offices in other investigations. These field offices have been instructed to review pertinent records concerning these persons and furnish the results to the Mobile Office, Office of Origin of this case, to determine if they are identical with persons involved in this case. The field has been instructed that complete results must be furnished to the Bureau at the earliest possible date.

REC-64 44-28601-774

Enclosure

JWH:sjk
(6)

JAN 3 1967

CONTINUED - OVER

Rosen to DeLoach Memorandum
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;

By letter dated December 21, 1966, Assistant Attorney General John Doar advised that the appeal in this case is scheduled to be argued on January 16, 1967, and requested a reply to Department's request as soon as possible.

ACTION:

1. Attached for approval is a letter to Mr. Doar advising him that no wiretapping or electronic surveillance was used in developing the facts of this case. He is also being advised that in order to determine if any of the attorneys, suspects, or subjects were ever monitored in connection with any other investigation, it is necessary to have certain of our offices conduct a review of their files and records, and he will be promptly advised as soon as the results are obtained.

2. The field has been instructed to handle this matter as quickly as possible and reply by teletype where feasible in order that this project can be completed at the earliest possible time.

June

Mr. John Doar
Assistant Attorney General

December 23, 1966

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. Hines

REC-64 44-28601-774

EUGENE THOMAS;
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Reference is made to your letter of December 21, 1966, captioned "Wiretapping or Electronic Surveillances, Civil Rights Division" and letter from J. Walter Yeagley, Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, December 5, 1966, bearing the same caption.

This case is referred to in your letter as United States v. Eaton.

In your memorandum to the Acting Attorney General, which was forwarded by Mr. Yeagley's letter, you indicated assurance was desired that no wiretap or electronic surveillance was used in developing the facts of this case. In this regard, no information concerning any of the listed suspects, defendants, or attorneys which was developed in the course of this investigation came from any wiretapping or electronic surveillance and no wiretapping or electronic surveillance was used in developing the facts in this case. None of the information that has been furnished to you concerning this matter emanated from any wiretap or electronic surveillance.

In Mr. Yeagley's letter he requested advice as to whether any of the listed names appears in any wiretap or electronic surveillance recording, log, or file, which would include other investigations besides this case. In this regard, the records of our Mobile, Alabama, office indicate that none of the suspects, defendants, and attorneys of this case have ever been monitored or mentioned in any wiretap or electronic surveillance employed by that office.

44-28601

JWH:ajk
(5)

NOTE: See Rosen to DeLoach memorandum 12/22/66, captioned, "Eugene Thomas, Et Al.; Viola Liuzzo, aka, Et Al. - Victims; Civil Rights - Election Laws, OO: Mobile," JWH:ajk.

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

Mr. John Doar

With regard to whether the names of the suspects, defendants, and attorneys appear in wire taps or electronic surveillance recordings, logs, or files relating to any other investigations conducted by this Bureau, this is being handled and the results will be furnished you as soon as completed.

1 - Mr. J. Walter Yeagley
Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division

Date of Mail 12-11-66

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

Subject JUNE MAIL Eugene Thomas

1967

Removed By

File Number 44-38601-177

Permanent Serial Charge Out

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

TO : The Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: December 21, 1966

FROM JD John Doar
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

JUNE

SUBJECT: Wiretapping or Electronic Surveillance
Civil Rights Division

With reference to Mr. Yeagley's memorandum to you of December 5, 1966, I wish to call your attention to the cases [redacted] scheduled to be resubmitted to a grand jury at a session which opens on January 16, 1967 in Jackson, Mississippi. I would therefore appreciate receiving a reply to Mr. Yeagley's memorandum as soon as possible.

b7c

In addition, the case of United States v. Eaton is scheduled to be argued in the Court of Appeals on January 19, 1967, and for that reason I would appreciate a reply about that case as well.

USN. PRICE (MIAMI)
LET to AAG Doar
12/23/66
RHA

TT-SAC's AT, CV, DE, IP, JN, NY, PG, WFO
12/22/66
WKD b/w

REC 10 44-28601-777

6 JAN 3 1967

U.S. v. Eaton (6 Cir. & Thomas)
Letter to De Loach Memo
12/23/66
JWH/ajh

Let to AAG Doar
12/23/66
JWH/ajh

TT - SACs. AT
12/22/66 CH
JWH/ajh MO
NY
PG
WFO

U.S. v. Barnes
Let to AAG Doar
12/23/66
EJM/ajh

44-28601. 6-Jan

JAN 9 1967

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

255 PM URGENT 12-28:66 JGA

TO DIRECTOR 44-28601

FROM BIRMINGHAM 44-1236 P

EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL; VIOLA LIUZZO, ETAL DASH VICTIMS;

CR DASH EL.

REURAIRTEL DECEMBER NINETEEN, LAST, AND URTELS DECEMBER TWENTY TWO, LAST, AND INSTANT DATE.

INFORMATION REQUESTED IN REFERENCED AIRTEL OF DECEMBER NINETEEN, LAST, SUBMITTED TO THE MOBILE DIVISION BY AIRTEL ON DECEMBER TWENTYTWO, LAST, AS DIRECTED IN REFERENCED AIRTEL.

END ACK FOR TWO MSG.

REC TWO MSG

FBI WASH DC

P

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC 28 1966

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Wick
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

ST-117

REC 86 44-28601-77

12 JAN 3 1967

70 JAN 6 1967

Date of Mail 12-22-66

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

Subject JUNE MAIL Eugene Thomas

Removed By [illegible] 1967

File Number 44-28601-774

Permanent Serial Charge Out

RE: BERNARD S. LEE V. CLARENCE M. KELLEY, ET AL. (U.S.D.C., D.C.) CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 76-1185

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC) V. CLARENCE M. KELLEY, ET AL (U.S.D.C., D.C.) CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 76-1186

Serial 779 pulled from this file under court order of U.S. District Judge John Lewis Smith, Jr., and sent to National Archives.

44-28601-779

Date of Mail 12-5-66

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

Subject JUNE MAIL Viola Luizzo; Eugene Thomas

Removed By [illegible]

File Number 44-28601-780

Permanent Serial Charge Out

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: December 5

FROM : J. Walter Yeagley, Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division

SUBJECT: WIRETAPPING OR ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCES
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

The Acting Attorney General has asked me to forward to you the attached memo which he received from Assistant Attorney General John Doar of the Civil Rights Division. It is requested that all of the listed names of defendants, subjects and attorneys be checked against your indices to determine whether any appears in any wiretap or electronic surveillance recording, log or file.

It would be appreciated if you could give this matter your prompt attention. I would suggest your reply be sent directly to Mr. Doar with a copy to this office.

ENCLOSURE

Department of Justice
Washington

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: Evidence obtained by wiretapping or electronic surveillance. MEMO NO. 493, November 3, 1966.

In your memorandum of November 3, 1966, to all United States Attorneys, you solicited information regarding cases or investigations in the development of which wiretapping or electronic surveillance may have been used by investigating agents.

I have no information that wiretapping or electronic eavesdropping were used in developing evidence in any investigations or cases pending in this Division. However, this Division has had several complicated cases involving allegations of conspiracy by members of various Ku Klux Klan groups. Confidential information from various sources unknown to me was used in developing the facts in several of these cases. In considering court action, or further court action, in these cases and matters I would like to have the assurance, and would like to be in a position to assure the court, that no wiretapping or electronic surveillance had been used in developing the facts.

[redacted] b/c

44-[illegible]

4 [illegible] 12/7/66

~~ENCLOSURE~~ ENCLOSURE

Date of Mail 1-5-67

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

Subject JUNE MAIL Eugene Thomas

Removed By [illegible]

File Number [illegible]

Permanent Serial Charge Out

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 1-5-67

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

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236 SF-1)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka,
ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS
(OO: MOBILE)

"JUNE"

ReBUtel call 1-4-67.

BH [redacted] (RAC), which provided technical coverage at Ku Klux Klan National Klonvocation, Tutwiler Hotel, Birmingham, Alabama, February 8-9, 1964, was installed without trespass.

3-Bureau
1-Mobile (44-1245) AM - RM
2-Birmingham
JLM:rlg
(6)

REC-4 EX-103 44-28601-781

JAN 6 1967

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

Date of Mail 4-5-66

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

Subject JUNE MAIL Eugene Thomas

Removed By 11 JAN 1967

File Number 44-1601-152

Permanent Serial Charge Out

FBI

Date: 12/28/66

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245) JUNE

RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. -
VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS
OO: MOBILE

Re Bureau airtel 12/19/66, to Mobile and other offices.

Information has been submitted by auxiliary offices concerning the names listed on Page 2 of referenced airtel. The following documents were furnished by auxiliary offices and are enclosed herewith for the Bureau, these documents being referred to later in this airtel:

1. Atlanta FD 297 for 11/21/63, concerning information received from [redacted]* b2

2. Birmingham log for 2/8-9/64, reflecting information from [redacted]* (RAC) b2

3. Birmingham log for 11/8/63, reflecting information from [redacted]* (RAC) b2

4. Birmingham log for 11/9/63, reflecting information from [redacted]* (RAC) b2 EX-103 REC 62

5. Birmingham log for 10/23/63, reflecting information from [redacted]* (RAC) b2

(3) - Bureau (Encls. 6) (RM)
2 - Mobile
JTB:iwd
(5)

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

6 JAN 13 1967 53

64 3[illegible]1-C (RAC)*

Log - 2/8/64

Time	Information	Initials of Oper.
7 35	Seatings at Speakers' Table	AN
7 52	Invocation	
8 39 p	First Speaker introduction of officials	VTD
8 45	Reverend Howard	VTD
9 12	Speaker Robert Shelton	VTD
9 41	Change of reels	VTD
9 42	2nd Reel - R Shelton (cont'd).	VTD
9 53	End of Shelton's speech.	"
	Speaker Matt Murphy.	"
10 32	End of Murphy's speech.	"
10 33	Toastmaster's remarks - Klan rally in Atlanta -	"
10 35	Ministers dismissal.	"
10 37	End of meeting.	

44-[illegible]601-78 End #1

ENCLOSURE

BH 304-C (RAC)

Log 2/9/64

TIME	Information	Initials of operator
11 03 am	Nominations - Fred Smith, Bob Thomas for some office - Election of other officers held.	KBC MB
11 25 am	Business session	KBC MB
11 26 am	Speaker	KBC MB
11 52 "	Above speech concluded - unable to ascertain name of speaker	KBC MB
12 04 P	Recess - apparently for lunch	KBC MB
12 05	Change reel - start of reel #3	KBC MB

4-312 (Rev. 1-10-62)

Date of Mail 12-7-66

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

Subject - JUNE MAIL Eugene Thomas

Removed By

File Number 62-24611-723

Permanent Serial Charge Out

DeLoach
Mohr
Wick
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Ro
Holmes
Gandy

DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☐ RADIO ☒ TELETYPE

3:41PM URGENT 12-9-66 AAH

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE 092050

JUNE.

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL, VICTIM, CR-ELECTION LAWS.

MOBILE OFFICE DID NOT UTILIZE ANY MICROPHONE OR TECHNICAL SURVEILLANCE CONCERNING ANY OF THE SUBJECTS OR ATTORNEYS IN THIS CASE.

RECEIVED: 4:51PM MCS

LX-103

REC'D 44 11601-783

6 JAN 5 1967

6-

55

JAN 1967

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitable [illegible] in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

Date of Mail 1-6-67

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

Subject JUNE MAIL Eugene Thomas 353

65 JAN 2 1967

Removed By

File Number 44-28601-784

Permanent Serial Charge Out

Mr. John Doar
Assistant Attorney General

January 8, 1967

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

EUGENE THOMAS;
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

JUNE

44-28601

Reference is made to my letter to you dated December 23, 1966, in which you were advised that no wiretap or electronic surveillance was used in developing the facts of this case and that none of the information that had been furnished to you concerning this matter was obtained through the use of any wiretap or electronic surveillance.

b7A
b7C

[redacted]

[redacted]

44-28601

JWH:ajk
(9)

EX-104

CONTINUED - OVER

44-28601-78

ENCLOSURE

JAN 24 1967

TELETYPE UNIT

JAN 9 1967

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601) DATE: 1/24/67

FROM : SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3954) (P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL

Re New Orleans letter to Bureau, 12/2/66.

On 1/18/67, [redacted] b7C
Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, New Orleans, La., advised no further action has taken place since case has been assigned.

Will advise the Bureau and Mobile of decision in this matter.

EXP. PROC.

(2) - Bureau
2 - Mobile (44-1245)
2 - New Orleans
CLM/jmc
(6)

REC-50 44-28601-75

JAN 26 1967

EX-104

253

JAN 31 1967

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

DATE: 3/23/67

FROM : SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3954) (P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS,
ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL

Re New Orleans letter to Bureau dated 1/24/67. b7c

On 3/16/67, Mr. [redacted] Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that no decision has been reached as of this date.

Will advise the Bureau and Mobile of decision in this matter.

2 - Bureau
2 - Mobile (44-1245)
2 - New Orleans

CLM/jms
(6)

REC 20 44-28601-787

MAR 31 1967
28

MAR 31 1967

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

FBI

Date: 5/2/67

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3954)(RUC)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS,
ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka
FT AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL
(OO: MOBILE)

Re New Orleans letter to Bureau, 3/23/67.

On 5/1/67, Mr. [redacted] b2c
Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, New Orleans, La., made available three copies of decision, No. 23289, dated 4/27/67, two copies of which are enclosed for the Bureau and one copy for Mobile.

The decision states that it is affirmed.

3 - Bureau (Enc 2) (RM)
2 - Mobile (44-1245)(Enc 1)(RM)
1 - New Orleans
CLM/jpb
(6)

ENCLOSURE

REC 51

44-28601-188

MAY 5 1967

56 MAY 24 1967

C C - Wick

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

N-572 (Rev. 7-18-63)
OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : The Director

DATE: 7-19-67

FROM : N. P. Callahan

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

(12) Pages A3620-A3621. Congressman Irwin, (D) Connecticut, placed in the Record an article entitled "Convict the Killers for a Change" written by Alfred Baker Lewis and published in the Chicago Daily Defender in three installments on July 3, 5, and 6. The article makes reference to the murder of the three civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Mississippi, and states "It is known who did the job, for someone pointed out to the F.B.I. where they were buried and they could not have been found otherwise." The article also comments on the murder of civil rights worker Mrs. Liuzzo in Haynesville, Alabama. It states "One of those who was in the murder car, Gary Thomas Rowe, was an agent of the F.B.I. who had succeeded in gaining membership in the Klan. He gave evidence at the trial and pinned the shooting on Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr. But the defense counsel waved Mrs. Liuzzo's membership card in the NAACP at the jury, and the jury at the first trial failed to convict and at the second trial acquitted him." (Gary Thomas Rowe was an informant from 2-13-62 until 1-17-66 per the Domestic Intelligence Division.)

Original filed in: 66-1731-2113

44-28604
NOT RECORDED
133 JUL 26 1967

In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for 7-18-67 was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

63
53 AUG 3 1967

December 4, 1967

Airtel

1 - Mr. Boyd
1 - Mr. Hines
1 - UAF

To: SAC, Mobile (44-1245) (C)

From: Director, FBI (44-28601)

EUGENE THOMAS,
ET AL.;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA
ET AL. - VICTIMS
CR; EL
OO: MOBILE

Reurairtel 11/30/67.

In the second paragraph of the LHM forwarded by reairtel, the second sentence states "Upon arrival, Wilkins was not accepted by present officials, and he was returned to Montgomery." Advise if this wording is correct, and if not, submit amended LHM and score errors against appropriate personnel.

JJB:bjf
(6)

MAILED 5
DEC 4 1967
COMM-FBI

REC-10
EX 101

44-28601

DEC 4 1967

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI

Date: 11/30/67

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245) (C)

RE: EUGENE THOMAS,
ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka
ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL
(OO: MOBILE)

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of a self-explanatory letterhead memorandum, dated and captioned as above.

One copy of this letterhead is being furnished to the USA, Montgomery, Ala.

ENCLOSURE

ID 3-Bureau (Encs 4)
1-Mobile
DOS: kws
(4)

REC-2

44-28601-792

3 DEC 2 1967

U.C. Bishop

1 (+ SAC, MO
P: bjG
12/4/67

54 DEC 12 1967

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Post Office Box 2128
Mobile, Alabama 36608
November 30, 1967

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS

On November 29, 1967, J. B. Lassiter, Chief Deputy United States Marshal, Middle District of Alabama, Montgomery, Alabama, advised that Eugene Thomas and Collie Leroy Wilkins surrendered to his office at 8:00 a.m., November 28, 1967, as ordered by United States District Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr.

Both individuals were transported at the same time to the United States Penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia. Upon arrival, Wilkins was not accepted by present officials and he was returned to Montgomery. He is now scheduled to be delivered to the Federal Correctional Institution, Terre Haute, Indiana, for confinement.

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.

ENCLOSURE

FBI

Date: 12/6/67

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

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)(C)

RE: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL.
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO; ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL
(OO: MOBILE)

Re Bureau airtel of 12/4/67.

Enclosed herewith to the Bureau are 4 copies of an amended letterhead memorandum changing the word present to prison. All other wording is correct.

Appropriate errors have been scored.

3 - Bureau (Encs. 4) ENCLOSURE
1 - Mobile
FAG:jes
(4)

Agency CRD
Date Forw. DEC 12 1967
How Forw. 6-94 (6)
By [illegible]

44-28601
NOT RECORDED
DEC 8 1967

SIC
CONSOLIDATION
THREE

Approved: [signature] Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

U. ED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Mobile, Alabama
December 5, 1967

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO; ET AL - VICTIMS

On November 29, 1967, J. B. Lassiter, Chief Deputy United States Marshal, Middle District Of Alabama, Montgomery, Alabama, advised that Eugene Thomas and Collie Leroy Wilkins surrendered to his office at 8:00 A.M. on November 28, 1967, as ordered by United States District Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr.

Both individuals were transported at the same time to the United States Penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia. Upon arrival, Wilkins was not accepted by prison officials, and he was returned to Montgomery. He is now scheduled to be delivered to the Federal Correctional Institution, Terre Haute, Indiana, for confinement.

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.

28[illegible]-

8-13 (Rev. 8-30-67)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Director
- [x] General Investigative Division
- [ ] Identification Division
- [ ] Laboratory Division
- [ ] Special Investigative Division
- [ ] Training Division
- [ ]

DATE: 1-24-68

FROM : T. E. Bishop

SUBJECT: Eugene Thomas; William Orrville Eaton;
Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr.
Viola Gregg Liuzzo-Victim
Civil Rights-Election Laws

Following check-marked item was processed in Crime Records Division and is enclosed for your approval:

- [x] Interesting Case Memorandum
- [ ] Interesting Identification
- [ ] Interesting Identification - Laboratory
- [ ] National Academy Item
- [ ] Police Training Item

NOT RECORDED
13 FEB 6 1968

Upon approval, it is suggested that this memorandum be returned to the Crime Records Division for further handling. 5630

Enc. 3 ENCLOSURE

FEB 14 1968

EUGENE THOMAS;
WILLIAM ORRVILLE EATON;
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.

VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM

CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

SYNOPSIS: On March 25, 1965, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo who came from Detroit, Michigan, on March 19, 1965, was shot to death while driving her car along Highway 80 in Lowndes County, Alabama. Earlier in the day she had participated in a march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, conducted by civil rights workers. Mrs. Liuzzo and a young Negro man were returning to Montgomery after driving marchers to Selma. [redacted]

Together they drove to Montgomery and then to Selma. After leaving a tave[rn] in Selma, the four men continued to Highway 80 where they observed a car being driven by a white woman with a Negro passenger. Thomas, who operated the automobile, overtook the Liuzzo car as Eaton and Wilkins fired into the vehicle. [redacted] On March 26, 1965, Eaton, Thomas, Wilkins and Rowe were charged with violation of Section 241, Title 18, U.S. Code and were arrested by FBI Agents on the same date. [redacted] On April 5, 1965, an indictment was returned by a Federal Grand Jury at Montgomery charging Wilkins, Thomas and Eaton with violation of the U.S. Civil Rights Statute. The State of Alabama indicted Wilkins, Eaton and Thomas for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo. Wilkins was tried for first degree murder on

I.C. #44-21601

GWJ

TLB

ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

May 3, 1965. On May 7, 1965, the judge declared a mistrial after the jury was deadlocked. Wilkins was retried beginning on October 18, 1965, and a jury returned a verdict of not guilty. Wilkins, Eaton and Thomas were arraigned in Federal Court and pleaded not guilty. All three were tried in U.S. District Court in Montgomery from November 29, 1965, through December 3, 1965, with Rowe as the principal witness for the prosecution. All three were found guilty, and each was sentenced to 10 years in custody of the U.S. Attorney General. They were released on bond, pendi appeal. At the time of the shooting Wilkins was serving one year's Federal probation. His probation was revoked, and he was ordered to begin serving the one-year sentence on January 4, 1966. William Eaton died on March 9, 1966. Eugene Thomas was tried for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo in state court beginning on September 26, 1966, and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. On April 27, 1967, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the 10-year sentences Wilkins and Thomas had received on December 3, 1965

SYNOPSIS SHOULD BE REMOVED PRIOR
TO RELEASE OUTSIDE THE BUREAU

Travelin

EUGENE THOMAS;
WILLIAM ORRVILLE EATON;
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.

VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM

CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

National attention was focused on the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, March 21st to March 25th, conducted by civil rights workers under Federal court authorization to dramatize voter registration restrictions in Alabama and to present a petition of grievances to Governor George Wallace. The march culminated with ceremonies in front of the State Capitol in Montgomery the afternoon of March 25, 1965, with about 12,000 persons in attendance. The marchers began to disperse about 4:00 p.m. on that date without any apparent organized plan of dispersal, and those from Selma began returning by common carrier, trucks and private automobiles.

Among the white civil rights workers in Selma during this period was Mrs. Viola Gregg Liuzzo, who had come to Selma from Detroit, Michigan, on March 19th. She was assigned to live in the apartment of a local Negro woman along with several other women. Mrs. Liuzzo, thrice married and the mother of five children, had reportedly made the trip to Selma after attending a sympathy demonstration in Detroit. Her automobile, a 1963 Oldsmobile coupe, was used by other civil rights workers from the time of her arrival in Selma. On the day the march began, she performed telephone duties in Selma. On March 24th she told an associate she was going to a local Negro church where the march had started and would travel by bus to Montgomery in order to take part in the march on the final day in approaching the State Capitol Building in Montgomery.

A 19-year-old Negro man from Selma who served as transportation officer for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference during the Selma to Montgomery march was driving Mrs. Liuzzo's automobile on

I. C. #44-28601
GW

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

On the same date, Wilkins, an unmarried auto mechanic who had no military service, was arrested by FBI Agents in Bessemer. He refused to make any statement whatsoever.

An autopsy was conducted by the Alabama Department of Toxicology, and the report of a post-mortem examination of the body of Mrs. Liuzzo showed a bullet hole about one-half inch in diameter in the left face, one inch forward of the lower part of the ear. [redacted] was lodged at the base of the brain. The bullet had gone through the spinal cord at the base of the brain and caused almost instantaneous death. Numerous superficial small skin breaks appeared on the left face and neck from which fragments of lead and glass were recovered.

[redacted]

At 10:25 a.m., on the morning of March 26, 1965, complaints authorized by an Assistant Attorney General of the United States were filed before a U.S. Commissioner in Montgomery charging Eaton, Wilkins, Thomas and Rowe with violation of Section 241, Title 18, U.S. Code, in a conspiracy to injure, oppress, threaten, and intimidate citizens in the vicinity of Selma and Montgomery in the free exercise and enjoyment of rights and privileges secured them by the Constitution of the United States. All four were arraigned the same date before a U.S. Commissioner in Birmingham. Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins were represented by an attorney who had been publicly identified as counsel of the Ku Klux Klan. Thomas, Eaton and Rowe were released on bonds of $50,000 each. Wilkins was not released on bond until March 29th because of a separate Federal probation violator's warrant outstanding against him.

Charges against Thomas, Wilkins and Eaton were presented to a Federal Grand Jury at Montgomery on April 5, 1965, and an indictment was returned the following day charging all three with conspiracy in violation of the U.S. Civil Rights Statute. Rowe was not indicted by the Federal Grand Jury.

On May 3rd state authorities began their prosecution with the trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., on a charge of first degree murder. Wilkins, Eaton and Thomas all had been indicted by the State of Alabama for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo. The case went to a jury on May 6, 1965, and the following day the judge declared a mistrial after the jury was hopelessly deadlocked. Rowe offered testimony for the state in this trial.

Wilkins was retried by the state in Hayneville, Alabama, from October 18th to October 22nd during which time Rowe again testified. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

Following the acquittal of Wilkins in state court, Wilkins, Thomas and Eaton were arraigned in Federal court, and all entered pleas of not guilty to the Federal indictment.

The three were tried jointly in U.S. District Court in Montgomery, from November 29th to December 3rd with Rowe as the principal prosecuting witness, and the Federal jury returned a verdict of guilty against all three. On December 3rd the Federal judge sentenced Thomas Eaton and Wilkins to serve 10 years each in the custody of the U.S. Attorney General. All were released the following day on $10,000 bond each, pending appeal to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Wilkins at the time of the shooting was on one year's Federal probation, which had been previously imposed against him on a charge of possession of a sawed-off shotgun following an arrest by local authorities at Hueytown, Alabama, on March 11, 1964. Wilkins was arraigned in Federal Court, Birmingham, on December 20, 1965, and the one year's probation was revoked. He was ordered to begin serving a sentence of one year and a day on January 4, 1966.

William Orrville Eaton died on March 9, 1966, at Bessemer of natural causes.

Eugene Thomas was tried for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo in state court in Hayneville, on September 26, 1966. On September 27th a jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

On April 27, 1967, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the 10-year sentences Wilkins and Thomas had received on December 3, 1965 in U.S. District Court, Montgomery.

IC #44-28601

EUGENE THOMAS; WILLIAM ORRVILLE EATON;
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.:
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

National attention was focused on the march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, March 21-25, 1965, conduc by civil rights workers under federal court authorization to drai tize voter registration restrictions in Alabama, and to present a petition of grievances to Alabama Governor George Wallace. The march culminated with ceremonies in front of the State Capitol i Montgomery, Alabama, the afternoon of March 25, 1965, with about 12,000 persons in attendance. The marchers began to disperse about 4:00 p.m. that date without any apparent organized plan of dispersal, and those from Selma began returning by common carrier, trucks and private automobiles.

(Mobile summary memo, 4/12/65, page 1)

Among the white civil rights workers in Selma, Alabama during this period had been Mrs. Viola Gregg Liuzzo, who came to Selma from Detroit, Michigan, March 19, 1965, and was assigned t live in the apartment of a local Negro woman along with several other white and Negro women. Mrs. Liuzzo, age 40, thrice marrie and the mother of five children, had reportedly made the trip to Selma after attending a sympathy demonstration at Detroit, Michi

by Wayne State University students protesting attacks on Negro and white demonstrators in Selma and Montgomery. In Selma her automobile, a 1963 Oldsmobile coupe, bearing Michigan license EJ-9 was used by other civil rights workers from the time of her arriv in Selma. On the day the march began, she was assigned to telephone duty in Selma, and on March 24, 1965, she told an associate she was going to a local Negro church from which the march had started and would catch a bus to Montgomery in order to take part in the march on the final day from the outskirts of Montgomery to the State Capitol Building.

(Mobile summary memo, 4/12/65, pages 27-30, and pages 53-65)

Leroy Jerome Moton, a 19 year old Negro male of Selma, Alabama, who served as transportation officer for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) during the Selma to Montgomery march, was driving Mrs. Liuzzo's automobile on March 25, 19

[redacted]

On the morning of March 26, 1965, at 10:25 a.m., complaints authorized by a U. S. Assistant Attorney General were filed before U. S. Commissioner in Montgomery, charging Eaton, Wilkins, Thomas and Rowe with violation of Section 241, Title 18, U. S. Code, in a conspiracy to injure, oppress, threaten, and intimidate citizens in the vicinity of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, in the free exercise and enjoyment of rights and privileges secured them by the Constitution of the United States. All four were arraigned this same date before U. S. Commissioner in Birmingham. Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins were represented by Attorney Matt Murphy, (publicly identified as the klan attorney.) Thomas, Eaton and Rowe were released on bonds of $50,000 each that night, but Wilkins was not released until March 29, 1965, in view of a separate federal probation violator's warrant outstanding against him.

(Mobile summary memo, 4/12/65, pages 300-305)

Charges against Thomas, Wilkins and Eaton were presented to a Federal Grand Jury at Montgomery, Alabama, April 5, 1965, and an indictment was returned the next day charging all three with conspiracy in violation of the U. S. Civil Rights Statute.

(Report of SA [redacted] 5/3/65, at Mobile)

State authorities started prosecution with the trial of Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr. on a first degree murder charge May 3, 1965. The state had indicted Wilkins, Eaton and Thomas for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo. The case went to a jury on

May 6, 1965, and the following day the Judge declared a mistrial after the jury was hopelessly deadlocked. Rowe testified for the state in this trial.

(Report of SA [redacted]
5/25/65, at Mobile)

The state retried Wilkins in Hayneville, Alabama, October 18-22, 1965, at which time Rowe again testified, and a jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

(Report of SA [redacted]
11/16/65, at Mobile)

Following the acquittal of Wilkins in State Court, Wilkins, Thomas and Eaton were arraigned in Federal Court, and pleaded not guilty to federal indictment.

(Report of SA [redacted]
November 16, 1965, at Mobile)

All three were tried jointly in U. S. District Court in Montgomery, November 29, 1965, through December 3, 1965, with Rowe as the principal prosecuting witness, and the federal jury returned a verdict of guilty against all three. On December 3, 1965, the federal judge sentenced Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins each to serve 10 years in custody of the U. S. Attorney General. All three were released the following day on $10,000 bond each, pending appeal to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

(Report of SA [redacted]
12/9/65, at Mobile)

Wilkins at the time of this shooting was on one year's federal probation, which had been previously imposed against him on a charge of possession of a sawed-off shotgun following an

arrest by local authorities at Hueytown, Alabama, March 11, 1964. Wilkins was arraigned in Federal Court, Birmingham, December 20, 1965, and this one year's probation was revoked and he was ordered to begin serving on January 4, 1966, a sentence of one year and a day.

(Birmingham teletype to the Bureau, 12/20/65)

Eugene Thomas on February 28, 1966, was tried in Federal Court, Birmingham, on a National Firearms Act violation, and was convicted and sentenced to serve a period of two years in federal custody.

(Report of SA [redacted] 2/25/66, at Birmingham)

The third subject, William Orrville Eaton, died during the evening of March 9-10, 1966, at Bessemer, of natural causes, and was buried on March 12, 1966.

(Birmingham letter to Mobile, 3/29/66)

State authorities have indicated that the trial of a second Ku Klux Klansmen in this shooting had been contemplated for May of 1966, but was postponed until the fall term of court, 1966, due to the unavailability of witness Rowe.

(Mobile teletype to the Bureau, 5/13/66)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601) DATE: 3/27/68

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)(C)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL.
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO; ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL
(OO: MOBILE)

Re New Orleans airtel to Bureau dated 5/2/67, forwarding 2 copies of the decision of the Fifth Circuit Court Of Appeals, New Orleans, La., affirming the conviction of the subjects; and Mobile airtel of 12/6/67, with accompanying letterhead memorandum, showing that the convicted subjects are imprisoned.

Mobile is in possession of 2 spools of magnetic tape with recording of a Canadian Broadcasting Company interview with COLLIE LEROY WILKINS and 2 cartridges of magnetic tape concerning above.

[redacted]

The Bureau is requested to discuss this matter with the appropriate Departmental Attorney for authority to dispose of, or return, the items not used in the trials of the subjects.

(3) - Bureau (1 - FBI Laboratory)
2 - Birmingham (44-1236)
1 - Mobile
JRC:jes
(6)

REC-20

cc - [illegible]

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

SAC, Mobile (44-1245) April 9, 1968

Director, FBI 44-38601-1791

REC-20

1 - Mr. Hines
1 - FBI Laborat

EUGENE THOMAS;
ET AL.
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO;
ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS
ELECTION LAWS
OO: MOBILE

ReMOlet to Bureau dated 3/27/68, with cc to BH, and FBI Laboratory.

The matter of disposal of exhibits in this case as described in referenced letter was brought to the attention of the Department on 4/2/68. The Department currently has the matter under consideration and will advise. Continue to maintain the exhibits pending receipt of instructions from the Department.

This matter is being closely followed with the Department and you will be promptly advised of their instructions when received.

1 - SAC, Birmingham (for info)

JWH:mt
(4)

MAILED 24
COMM-FBI
62 APR 15 1968
MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601) DATE: 5/14/68

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)(C)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO; ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL
(OO: MOBILE)

There are being transmitted to the Bureau under separate cover the following items:

2 spools of magnetic tape with recording of a Canadian Broadcasting Company interview with COLLIE LEROY WILKINS. Tape is a recording of a video tape played back over telephone from Canada to Montgomery, Ala.

2 cartridges of magnetic tape with recording of above.

The above items were provided to this office by ST. JOHN BARRETT, Departmental Attorney, on 12/1/65 for use in investigation of captioned matter. It is requested that these items be returned to ST. JOHN BARRETT.

(2) - Bureau
1 - Package (RM)
1 - Mobile
JRC:jes
(4)

REC-52

13 MAY 16 1968

54 MAY 27 1968

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

UNITED STATES G ERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DATE: May 17, 1968

FROM : Director, FBI

FILE COPY

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO; ET AL - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS
ELECTION LAWS

Reference is made to your memorandum dated 4/30/68 (your file 144-2-470).

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent _____ dated _____ at _____.

A. ☐ This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. ☐ The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. ☐ The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. ☐ Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. ☐ Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. ☐ This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. ☒ (G) This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H. ☐ This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

Enc. NOTE: There is being transmitted herewith the following items:

(OVER)

NOTE: CONT.

Two spools of magnetic tape with recording of a Canadian Broadcasting Company interview with Collie Leroy Wilkins. Tape is a recording of a video tape played back over telephone from Canada to Montgomery, Alabama.

Two cartridges of magnetic tape with recording of above.

The above items were furnished to our Mobile Office by Mr. St. John Barrett on 12/1/65, for use in the investigation of this matter.

These items are being returned to you pursuant to your memorandum of April 30, 1968, advising that exhibits being held by this Bureau, which were not used at trial may now be appropriately disposed of.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: APR 30 1968

SJP: RAA:jjb

FROM : Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DJ 144-2-470
#1-085-2

SUBJECT: Collie Leroy Wilkins, William O. Eaton, and Eugene Thomas, Subjects; Viola Liuzzo, Victim; Lowndes County, Alabama; CONSPIRACY AGAINST RIGHTS CIVIL RIGHTS

The Supreme Court having denied certiorari in this case, material held for possible use at trial as evidence or exhibits but not used at trial may now be appropriately disposed of.

EXP. PROC.
APR 30 1968

REC-28 44-[illegible]-796

10 APR 30 1968

Pet to MO
5-1-68
JWilley

SAC, Mobile (44-1245) 5-1-68

Director, FBI (44-28601) - 7 1 6 1 - FBI Laboratory (For Appropriate A

REC-28 1 - Mr. Hines

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO; ET AL. -
VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS
ELECTION LAWS
CO: MOBILE

Re Bureau letter to Mobile 4-9-68.

The Department by letter dated 4-30-68, has advised that material held for possible use at trial as evidence or exhibits which was not used at trial and submitted in evidence may now be appropriately disposed of.

Accordingly, material being held in the Mobile and Birmingham Offices and by the FBI Laboratory which falls in the above category should be disposed of in accordance with standard Bureau procedures for disposition of such exhibits.

1 - Birmingham (44-1236) (For Appropriate Action)

JWH:erg
(6)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

MAILED 27
MAY 1 - 1968
COMM-FBI

Room
TELETYPE UNIT

61 JUL 12 1968

NOTE:

This case involves the shooting of Mrs. Viola Gregg Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on 3-25-65. Two subjects, Eugene Thomas and Collie Leroy Wilkins, were convicted and sentenced on civil rights charges and they are now serving their sentences in Federal prison. On appeal to the Fifth Circuit Court, New Orleans, Louisiana, their conviction was affirmed. The Supreme Court has denied certiorari and all legal recourse to their convictions has been exhausted.

Mobile, by letter dated 3-27-68, requested permission to dispose of certain exhibits in possession of their office, the Birmingham Office and the FBI Laboratory which were gathered as evidence but were never actually submitted in evidence at the trial of subjects. This was brought to the attention of the Department and by letter dated 4-30-68, Department states that these exhibits not actually submitted in evidence at trial may be appropriately disposed of.

July 1, 1968

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

In the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in 1964 or 1965 in Alabama the Federal Bureau of Investigation, if my memory serves correctly, obtained an indictment (or indictments).

I request you to inform me how - and where - I may obtain a copy of the indictment (or indictments) relative to such slaying, and I request you to inform me of the result of such indictment (or indictments).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Chicago, Illinois.

REC-38

FX-103

JUL 10 1968

CORRESPONDENCE

EX-103

REC-38

July 9, 1968

[redacted]
Chicago, Illinois 60624

Dear Sir:

Your letter dated July 1st has been received.

In response to your inquiries, it is suggested that you correspond with the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, Government Building, Montgomery, Alabama 36104, to secure information of the type you requested.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAILED 24
JUL 9 1968
COMM-FBI

[redacted]

DCL:lvc
(3)

51 JUL 17

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : [illegible]

DATE: 6/4/69

FROM : [illegible]

SUBJECT: [illegible]

The attached [illegible] has been received in the Records Branch, appropriately initialed, and indicated for file. By use of instant transmittal memorandum, all necessary recording and indexing will be accomplished. It is to be noted this form is for internal use only within the Records Branch, principally by the Routing Unit where bulky material not accompanied by memorandum is usually received.

The enclosure, if bulky and not usually filed with other papers in file, may be detached but this action should be clearly noted under the word "Enclosure."

Enc.

NOT RECORDED
11 JUN 4 1969

ENC. BEHIND FILE

54 JUN 5 - 1969

LAW OFFICES
PROVIZER AND EISENBERG, P.C.

HAROLD M. PROVIZER
GARY EISENBERG
FREDERICK H. GRUBER

24800 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY, SUITE 207
SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

TELEPHONE (313) 352-9080

March 27, 1972

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Civil Rights Division
Justice Department
Washington, D.C.

re: Viola Liuzzo

Gentlemen:

Please be advised that this office has been retained to represent Mr. Liuzzo, whose wife, Viola Liuzzo, was murdered in Alabama on March 25, 1965. Your office has previously written Mr. Liuzzo concerning the personal effects of Mrs. Liuzzo, some 52 items, which have not as yet been returned to Mr. Liuzzo. Mr. Liuzzo has indicated to this office that he has been trying to acquire these items for the past three years, and has not as yet received them. We would greatly appreciate your efforts in this matter. May we please hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

Harold M. Provizer

HMP:sk

REC-7 44-28601-7

MAR 29 1972

March 31, 1972

1 - Mr. McDonough

REC-7

Mr. Harold M. Provizer
Suite 207
24800 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Mr. Provizer:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated March 27, 1972.

You are advised that no record has been located of a communication from this Bureau to Mr. Anthony Liuzzo concerning the personal effects of Mrs. Liuzzo to which your letter of March 27th refers.

The Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice has advised that it has been in contact with you concerning this matter and I am referring a copy of your letter to that Division for its consideration.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, it is suggested that you may desire to communicate directly with Assistant Attorney General David L. Norman, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. 20530.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

1 - Assistant Attorney General - Enclosure (copy of incomi
Civil Rights Division

EJM/pwl (4)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

54 APR 14 1972

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Letter to Mr. Harold M. Provizer

NOTE:

Bureau is in receipt of letter from an attorney representing Mr. Anthony Liuzzo, husband of Viola Liuzzo who was shot and killed by Klansmen in Alabama on 3/25/65. State murder trials resulted in mistrial and dismissal. Three subjects convicted of civil rights charges in Federal Court and two presently incarcerated (one died). According to letter, Mr. Liuzzo reportedly received written reply from Bureau re 52 items of personal effects of his wife (items not identified). Bureau files and Mobile Office files (office of origin in Civil Rights case) contain no record of such prior inquiry or reply to Mr. Liuzzo and Bureau never in possession of this material as not of evidentiary value. Last reported to be in possession of state authorities.

This was discussed with Civil Rights Division (CRD) and Miss Monica Gallagher, Assistant Section Chief, Criminal Section, advised SA McDonough she had received telephonic inquiry last week from this attorney and she told him to put request in writing and CRD would handle. It appears letter may have been misdirected to Bureau instead of CRD; however, it is felt we should respond to clear the record as it may relate to Bureau and furnish copy of incoming and reply to CRD for further handling as they may desire.

Bureau files contain no pertinent information identifiable with the law firm.

NR002 MO PLAIN

415 PM URGENT 3/30/72 CTO

TO BUREAU 44-23601

FROM MOBILE 44-1345 3 PAGES

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, ET AL - VICTIMS;
CR - EL.

RE BUREAU TELCON MARCH TWENTY-NINE, SEVENTY-TWO.

IN RELATION TO THE PERSONAL EFFECTS OF VIOLA LIUZZO, THE MOBILE OFFICE OF THE FBI HAS NOT HAD ANY POSSESSION OF ANY PERSONAL EFFECTS. SEVERAL INQUIRIES HAVE BEEN MADE OF THE MOBILE OFFICE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT WHEREIN THE VICTIM'S HUSBAND HAS CALLED COMPLAINING ABOUT THE FACT THAT HER PERSONAL EFFECTS HAD NOT BEEN RETURNED. THESE PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE IN THE POSSESSION OF THE LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA LOCAL AUTHORITIES, AND IT IS POINTED OUT THAT AS OF APRIL TWELVE, SIXTY-FIVE, FORMER DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY CHARLES QUAINTANCE HAD ADVISED THAT THE USA, DETROIT, MICHIGAN, HAD CALLED IN AN EFFORT TO DETERMINE THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE VICTIM'S PERSONAL EFFECTS, INCLUDING POCKET BOOK, ETC.

44-28601-808

END PAGE ONE

APR 4 1972

5 APR 10 1972

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Felt
Mr. Campbell
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Miller, E.
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Casper
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Dalbey
Mr. Cleveland
Mr. Ponder
Mr. Bates
Mr. Walkart
Mr. Walters
Mr. Soyars
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

INQUIRY WAS MADE AT THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, AND IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE EFFECTS LAST KNOWN TO BE IN THE POSSESSION OF E. J. DIXON, STATE INVESTIGATOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, WHO EXHIBITED SAME TO BUREAU AGENTS ON MARCH TWENTY-SEVEN, SIXTY-FIVE.

AT THAT TIME FORMER DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY QUAINTANCE WAS SO ADVISED THAT THE PROPERTY WAS IN THE POSSESSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

IT IS NOTED THAT A REPORT WAS SUBMITTED AND IT WAS REPORTED THAT DR. PAUL E. SHOFFEITT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TOXICOLOGY AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION, CONDUCTED AN AUTOPSY AFTER VICTIM LIUZZO WAS KILLED. IN HIS REPORT IT WAS INDICATED THAT AMONG OTHER PERSONAL EFFECTS THERE WERE TWO RINGS ON RING FINGER OF HER LEFT HAND, ONE RING ON THE RIGHT FINGER OF HER RIGHT HAND, AND A WRISTWATCH ON HER LEFT WRIST, ALL OF WHICH WERE DELIVERED TO INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT E. J. DIXON.

MR. LIUZZO HAS HAD NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE FBI OFFICE

AT MOBILE, ALABAMA, AND ALL REQUESTS CONCERNING PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

END

HOLD

LMR FBI WA DC

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

DATE: January 11, 1971

ATTENTION: Mr. Norman

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka., ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Reference is made to _____ memorandum dated _____ (your file _____).

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent ____a memorandum_____ dated ____1-6-71_____ at ____San Diego_____.

A. ☐ This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. ☐ The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. ☐ The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. ☐ Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. ☐ Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. ☐ This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. ☒ This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H. ☐ This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

44-28601

NOT RECORDED SEE NOTE ATTACHED

6 JAN 19 1971

176 JAN 15 1971

FBI

Date: 1/6/71

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

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: Director, FBI (137-6295)

FROM: SAC, San Diego (44-312)

GARY THOMAS ROWE, AKA
THOMAS NEIL MOORE
FORMER RACIAL INFORMANT

Viola L. Liuzzo

Re San Diego letter 12/8/70.

Enclosed herewith are three copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning the above-captioned individual. It is requested that the Bureau make this letterhead memorandum available to the Department of Justice. It is also requested that the Bureau, if possible, advise as to the identity of the individual in the Department of Justice that Mr. ROWE should contact concerning information set forth in the enclosed letterhead memorandum.

1 ENCLOSURE

44-28601

NOT RECORDED
176 JAN 15 1971

(3) - Bureau (Enclosure - 1)
1 - SD

CER:mah
(3)

ORIGINAL FILED IN 137-6295-7

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

San Diego, California
January 6, 1971

GARY THOMAS ROWE
also known as
THOMAS NEIL MOORE

INFORMATION CONCERNING

On 12/7/70 the above-captioned individual appeared at the San Diego Office of the FBI and provided the following information:

ROWE advised he was currently unemployed and had been unemployed for some time and was experiencing financial difficulties as well as being unable to obtain employment. He stated that as a result of this, the following items had been preying on his mind and he felt that the FBI and particularly Mr. HOOVER were not aware of the activities of former Assistant Attorney General JOHN DOAR. ROWE had the highest praise for the FBI, stating that he would be happy to serve in the same capacity he had in the past if he were in a position where he could be of benefit. He felt that he had done a great service for his country. He stated, however, that he felt the Department and particularly Mr. DOAR had not been fair with him and cited the following:

b7A

[redacted]

44-28601-

ENCLOSED

January 11, 1971

1 - Mr. McDonough

Airtel

44-28601-

TO: SAC, San Diego (44-312)

FROM: Director, FBI

GARY THOMAS ROWE, aka.,
THOMAS MIKEL MOORE
FUGITIVE RACIAL INFORMANT

Your LHM 1-6-71, has been furnished to the Civil Rights Division. In the event of any further inquiries from Rowe, advise him he should communicate directly with Assistant Attorney General, Jerris Leonard, Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., Attention Mr. D. L. Norman. You should not act as an intermediary for Rowe.

EJM:smp
(4)

FILED

COMM-FBI

Tolson
Sullivan
Conrad
Bishop
Bowman
Callahan
Casper
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Tavel
Walters
Soyars
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

55 JAN 20 1970

ORIGINAL FILED IN 137-4295-71

THIS MAIL SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED WITHIN 48 HOURS

Phone 543-2400

60

COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON ADDRESS:
SUITE 2435
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
PHONE 202: 225-6130

The United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Mr. Felt
Mr. Campbell
Mr. Rosen
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Miller, ES
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Casper
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Dalbey
Mr. Cleveland
Mr. Ponder
Mr. Bates
Mr. Waikart
Mr. Walters
Mr. Sayers
Tele. Room

July 4, 1972

JUL 5 1 13 PM '72
DEPT OF JUSTICE

Office of Congressional Liaison
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Luizzo

A few years ago Mrs. Viola Luizzo of Detroit was killed in Mississippi where she was working to help register blacks to vote.

At the time, the F.B.I. confiscated all her personal belongings and according to her husband, they have never been returned. Mr. Luizzo is very anxious to have these items.

Any assistance you can provide in this regard will be most appreciated.

Thank you.

ST-115
REC-28
44-28601-801

Sincerely,

Wm. Broomfield

William S. Broomfield
Member of Congress
(R-Mich.)

JUL 19 1972

DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
FEDERAL BU. OF INV.

6 JUL 5 1972

FEDERAL BU. OF INV.

WSB/nc

Letter acknowledged
VA/TL
EJM/PWL
CC: AAG, CRD-ENC

1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Bowers
Administrative Review Unit

BT-115

REC-28 44-28601-801

July 18, 1972

Honorable William S. Broomfield
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Broomfield:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 4, 1972, directed to the Office of Congressional Liaison, Department of Justice, which was forwarded to this Bureau on July 14, 1972. The letter was in reference to efforts being made by Mr. Anthony Liuzzo to obtain personal belongings of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo "confiscated" by the FBI when she was killed while working to help register blacks to vote.

For your information this Bureau does not possess any personal belongings of Mrs. Liuzzo who was shot and killed in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965. Our files show that previous inquiry has been made of the Civil Rights Division of the U. S. Department of Justice concerning Mrs. Liuzzo's belongings by an attorney reportedly representing Mr. Liuzzo.

In light of that, I am taking the liberty of furnishing a copy of your letter to the Civil Rights Division and if you have any further questions in this matter it is suggested you may desire to communicate directly with Mr. David L. Norman, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. 20530.

MAILED JUL 18 1972 FBI

I hope this will be of assistance to you in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray III

L. Patrick Gray, III
Acting Director

EJM/pwl (6)
44-28601

1 - Assistant Attorney General - Enclosure (copy of incoming)
Civil Rights Division

Felt
Bates
Bishop
Callahan
Campbell
Cleveland
Conrad
Dalbey
Jenkins
Marshall
Miller, E.S.
Ponder
Soyars
Walters
Tele. Room
Mr. Kinley
Mr. Armstrong
Mr. Herwig
Mrs. Neenan

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

70 JUL 24 1972

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

Letter to Honorable William S. Broomfield

NOTE: Representative Broomfield (Republican - Michigan) with whom relations have been satisfactory, requests assistance concerning efforts on part of Mr. Anthony Liuzzo in obtaining personal belongings of his wife who was shot and killed by Klansmen in Lowndes County, Alabama, on 3/25/65. Representative Broomfield refers to her murder in Mississippi. Although this letter was not addressed to us, it is felt we should respond to insure the statement referring to our "confiscation" of Mrs. Liuzzo's belongings is clarified by us. Our Mobile Office which handled this case previously advised it does not possess any of Mrs. Liuzzo's personal belongings and they were last known to be in possession of Lowndes County, Alabama, local authorities in March, 1965. The Civil Rights Division (CRD) has been advised of this previously and has handled prior inquiries concerning this material. It is felt Congressman Broomfield's inquiry should be referred to CRD since we are not aware of any further action which CRD may have taken on such inquiries. It is noted the Congressman's letter carries the spelling Luizzo. Correct spelling is Liuzzo.

Oct. 1974
Port Royal, S.C.
29902

Mrs. Viola Luizzo

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Sir, I am writing to you, in hopes that you might be able to help me [illegible] my [illegible] father.

Sir, I have only seen him four (4) times in my 23 years.

You see in 1965 (Sept) he was accused of having killed a Civil Rights, worker by the name of Viola Luizzo, in Birmingham, Alabama.

The war supposed to have been connected with the Klu-Klux-Klan.

My father, turned state's witness of the F.B.I. had him sent to Kingston, Jamaica.

My father's name is (or was Gary Thomas Rowe) he was born in South Georgia, in the 1940's.

Sir, I have been trying for almost 10 years to find my father, but I have struck a dead end.

I pray to God almighty, that you will be able to help me in the search for my father.

I will accept any collect phone calls, concerning my father and/or his whereabouts.

44-28611

NOT RECORDED
OCT 28 1974

Thanks [redacted]

[redacted] Port Royal,

[redacted]

b7C

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

44-28601

October 18, 1974

1 - Mr. McDonough

[redacted]
Port Royal, South Carolina 29902

Dear [redacted]

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated October 1, 1974, inquiring as to the whereabouts of your father, Gary Thomas Rowe.

I am sorry I cannot be of assistance in this matter inasmuch as the records of this Bureau do not contain any information concerning Mr. Rowe's present whereabouts.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

1 - SAC, Birmingham (Enclosure) (Enclosed is a copy of incoming.)
1 - SAC, Columbia (Enclosure) (Enclosed is a copy of incoming.)
1 - SAC, San Diego (Enclosure) (Enclosed is a copy of incoming.)

EJM:bap (6)

137-6295

44-28601

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

DUPLICATE YELLOW

56 OCT 29 1974

ORIGINAL FILED IN 137-6295-12

Ms. Cathy Carver

b7c

NOTE: [redacted] claims she is daughter of Gary Thomas Rowe, former Birmingham informant who identified the subjects who shot and killed Mrs. Viola Luizzo, a Civil Rights worker on 3/25/65. The last known contact with Rowe was on 1/6/71 when he telephonically contacted our San Diego Office stating he was unemployed and would be interested in Federal Narcotics Agent or sky marshal's job. Rowe's Ident record shows last entry as drunk charges on 3/21/69 when arrested by San Diego Police Department.

We have no information to establish [redacted] claim of being Rowe's daughter and it is not felt we should encourage her to request further assistance from the FBI in locating Rowe in the event she is a "plant."

IN THE

United States Court of Appeals

FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

No. 23289

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., and EUGENE THOMAS,

Appellants,

versus

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Appellee.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama.

(April 27, 1967.)

Before COLEMAN and DYER, Circuit Judges, and ESTES, District Judge.

COLEMAN, Circuit Judge: In the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, these appellants were convicted of and sentenced to the maximum term of imprisonment for a violation of section 241, Title 18, United States Code, which

makes it a criminal *offense* to conspire against rights of citizens secured to them by the Constitution or laws of the United States.[1] We affirm.

The guilt or innocence of the appellants was submitted to the jury on an indictment which, after amendment by deletion during the charge to the jury, read as follows:

> "Commencing on or about March 1, 1965 and continuing to on or about March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON,[2] COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., and EUGENE THOMAS, within the Middle District of Alabama, con-ired together, with each other and with er persons to the Grand Jury unknown, to

[1] "241. Conspiracy against rights of citizens

If two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having so exercised the same; or

If two or more persons go in disguise on the highway, or on the premises of another, with intent to prevent or hinder his free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege so secured—

They shall be fined not more than $5,000 or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both."

Former section 51 of this Title read as follows:

"If two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having so exercised the same; or if two or more persons go in disguise on the highway, or on the premises of another, with intent to prevent or hinder his free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege so secured, they shall be fined not more than five thousand dollars and imprisoned not more than ten years; and shall, moreover, be thereafter ineligible to any office or place of honor, profit, or trust created by the Constitution or laws of the United States."

Act of May 31, 1870, 16 Stat. 141, Rev. Stat. §5508, 18 U.S.C. §51.

[2] Mr. Eaton died during the pendency of this appeal and the case against him has been dismissed as moot.

> injure, oppress, threaten and intimidate citizens of the United States in the vicinity of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama in the exercise and enjoyment of certain rights and privileges secured to them by the Constitution and laws of the United States, and because of their having exercised such rights as follows:
>
> * * * * * *
>
> [(4)] The right to participate in a protest march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to present a petition to the Governor of Alabama in Montgomery, and to participate in the carrying out of a proposed plan for such march pursuant to an order entered on March 17, 1965, by the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, in the case of *Williams v. Wallace*, Civil Action Number 2181-N.
>
> * * * * * *
>
> It was part of the plan and purpose of the conspiracy that the defendants would harass, threaten, pursue and assault citizens of the United States in the area of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, who were participating in or had participated in, or who were lending or had lent their support to a demonstration march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, pursuant to the plan referred to above, that was approved by the order of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama on March 17, 1965.

In violation of Section 241 of Title 18 United States Code."

The numbered sections eliminated by the Court read as follows:

(1) The right to publicly protest unlawful deprivation of the right of Negro citizens of Alabama to register to vote and to vote for candidates for federal office.

(2) The right to encourage and assist Negro citizens of Alabama in the exercise of their right to register to vote and to vote for candidates for federal office.

(3) The right to peaceably assemble, publicly protest, and petition the Governor of the State of Alabama for redress of grievances on behalf of Alabama.

(5) The right to travel to and from the State of Alabama and to use interstate highways and other instrumentalities of interstate commerce in and through Alabama.

In his charge to the jury the Court discusses these excisions as follows:

"You will only be concerned with the fourth paragraph, as numbered in this indictment—because of their having exercised the right to participate in a protest march—and I am going to, for your assistance, without obliterating, mark out the other four that are enumerated in the indictment, leaving only the fourth right that the Government in its indictment says the conspiracy was formed to oppress, threaten, and intimidate citizens in the exercise of, and this right is—to participate in a protest march from Selma to Montgomery, to present a petition to the Governor in Montgomery, and to participate in the carrying out of a proposed plan for such march pursuant to an order that had been entered on March 17, 1965, by the United States District Court in the Middle District of Alabama. The indictment says, further, that it was a part of the plan and purpose of the conspiracy that the defendants would harass, threaten, pursue, and assault citizens of the United States in the area of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, who were participating in, or had participated in, or who were lending or had lent their support to a demonstration march from Selma to Montgomery pursuant to the plan that was just referred to, and which march had been approved by the court."

Whatever the reason, the affirmative allegations of these sections [1,2,3,5] containing averments as to federal elections and traveling in interstate commerce were withdrawn from the consideration of the jury.

The Court order alluded to in the indictment, but not copied therein, will be set forth in the margin.[3] It will be noted that the order does not mention protests, petitions, or federal elections. It mentions only the march and the plans for the march.

[3] Ordered, adjudged and decreed that, pending further order of this Court, George C. Wallace, as Governor of the State of Alabama, Albert J. Lingo, as Director of Public Safety for the State of Alabama, and James G. Clark, Jr., as Sheriff of Dallas County, Alabama, their successors in office, agents, representatives, employees, and other persons in active concert and participation with them be and each is hereby restrained and enjoined from:

(1) Arresting, harassing, threatening, or in any way interfering with the efforts to march or walk, or the marching or walking, by the plaintiffs, members of their class, and others who may join with them, along U. S. Highway 80 from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, said march as presently approved by this Court, to commence in Selma, Alabama, not earlier than Friday, March 19, 1965, and not later than Monday, March 22, 1965, and to terminate in Montgomery, Alabama; and

(2) Otherwise obstructing, impeding, or interfering with the peaceful non-violent efforts by said plaintiffs, members of their class, and others who may join with them, in protesting and demonstrating by assembling and by marching along U. S. Highway 80 from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, as said march is proposed in plaintiffs' plan filed with this Court and served on the defendants on March 16, 1965, and to the extent that said plan is presently approved by this Court.

It is further ordered, adjudged and decreed that, pending further order of this Court, the defendants George C. Wallace, as Governor of the State of Alabama, Albert J. Lingo, as Director of Public Safety for the State of Alabama, and James G. Clark, Jr., as Sheriff of Dallas County, Alabama, their successors in office, agents, representatives, employees, and all others acting in concert with them, be and each is hereby restrained and enjoind from failing to provide police protection for the plaintiffs, members of their class, and others who may join with them, in their march, as presently scheduled and presently approved by this Court, to commence not earlier than Friday, March 19, 1965, and not later than Monday, March 22, 1965, along U. S. Highway 80 from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama.

It is further ordered, adjudged and decreed that the motion for preliminary injunction filed by the defendant Governor Wallace, the motion by the plaintiff-intervenor, United States of America, for relief in addition to that herein specifically granted, and the motion of the plaintiffs for relief in addition to that herein specifically granted be and each is hereby denied.

The opinion of the Court preliminary to the order, 240 F. Supp. 102, stated that the plaintiffs "seek to have this Court guarantee their right to assemble and demonstrate peaceably for the purpose of redressing their grievances concerning the right to register to vote in the State of Alabama without unlawful interferences". The Court further stated. "Under Alabama law, registration is prerequisite to voting in any election [including federal elections]".

On its face, *Williams v. Wallace, supra*, was a typical Fourteenth Amendment proceeding. It sought to enjoin State action. There were no defendants other than the governor and other named officials of the State of Alabama and Dallas County. The Court order was directed only against these officials, "their successors in office, agents, representatives, employees, and other persons in active concert and particpation with them". State interference with the right to make the march according to prescribed plan was prohibited; state police protection was commanded. No private citizens were named as defendants or mentioned in the injunction. Yet, the right to qualify to vote in federal elections, undeniably a right of national citizenship, was an essential ingredient of the proceedings.

There is no contention that these appellants in any way acted with the knowledge of, approval of, or in concert with any state authority. Appellants contend that, if they violated the court order, redress should be in the form of contempt proceedings. Obviously,

has received little consideration, if any, because appellants were not parties to nor included in the

Although the court order on which the prosecution is based was essentially Fourteenth Amendment action against state officials, the Government in its (page 27) stipulates:

> "We do not deal with consideration of rights under the Fourteenth Amendment and the requirement or the immateriality of some degree of State action. The asserted federal right here derives from an explicit federal court order, specific in terms of time, place, and purpose. The right of which we speak is no less protected from private interference than it is from official interference".

In its supplemental brief, filed in response to a request from the Court, the Government reiterates its original position, as follows:

> "[T]he right to enjoy the benefits of the federal court order entered by Judge Johnson is derived from Article III of the Constitution and exists without regard to the Fourteenth Amendment. That being so, we urged [in the original brief] that, like other distinctly national rights, privileges, and immunities, it is protected from interference by conspiracies of private persons, whether or not state officers are involved in the conspiracy. We adhere to that view".

I

The essential facts supporting the guilty verdict, shown by the testimony of eyewitnesses, will now be summarized.

The Court order was entered March 17, 1965. The march commenced in Selma on March 21. It ended at the State Capitol in Montgomery on March 25. On March 21 the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc., held a rally at Crampton Bowl in Montgomery and conducted a public parade in that City, the announced purpose of which [stated in the request for a parade permit] was "to protest [an] order issued by [a] Federal Court allowing a five day demonstration march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama". That these appellants attended the protest rally and participated in the parade was established by an abundance of proof.

The jury was specifically instructed that appellants had a right to attend the protest meeting and to participate in the parade. Nevertheless, the evidence was highly relevant as to their actual notice of the existence of a court order. It was relevant as to the intent of the appellants when they traveled, as will later be set forth, to Montgomery and Selma on March 25. It would justify a jury finding that as early as March 21 these appellants had begun acting in concert in opposition to the march.

On March 25, the day the march was scheduled to arrive, and did arrive, at the Capitol in Montgomery,

a government informer, posing as a member of the Ku Klux Klan, whose FBI connection was then unknown to these appellants, received a telephone call from Eugene Thomas advising that he [Thomas] had to join a group of Klansmen and go to Montgomery that day. Immediately thereafter, a Klan official telephoned the informer to go to Montgomery, stating that this instruction came from the Imperial Office of the Klan. The informer then contacted an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was instructed to go to Montgomery along with the appellant Thomas and any others who might accompany him.

Thereafter, the informer met Eugene Thomas, Colleroy Wilkins, and William Orville Eaton at a point about two blocks from the Klan meeting hall in Bessemer, Alabama. All four men then went to Montgomery in Thomas' automobile, arriving about 10 o'clock, A.M. The informer, as well as Eaton and Thomas, was armed but the guns were left in the parked automobile, after which they went to a filling station near the Capitol, where they remained for about five hours. While at the filling station, the appellants harassed the marchers, shouted at them, booed them, and got into an argument with some of the Negro spectators.

Upon the conclusion of the speechmaking at the Capitol, all four men returned to the automobile and went to a restaurant. On the way there, Eugene Thomas announced that they were going to Selma.

Eaton asked why and Thomas replied, "We got things to do, and we are going to get them done". After leaving the restaurant they spotted a hitchhiker on the road and Eaton said, "There is a hitchhiker, wonder if it is one of the marchers?" Wilkins replied, "I don't know, slow down, * * * we will see. If it is, we will give him a little fun and a surprise". Upon a closer approach, Wilkins said, "No, he is not a marcher, he is too clean to be a marcher". The hitchhiker was not disturbed.

After being stopped at a Highway Patrol radar speed check point on Highway 80, where Thomas received a warning ticket for an improper muffler, the party of four completed the journey to Selma. They went to a cafe, where they remained for about thirty or forty-five minutes. An individual there, identified as one charged in the "Reeb killing", came up to Eugene Thomas, put his arm on his shoulder, and said, "God bless you, boys, . . . you go do your job, I have already did (sic) mine".

Upon leaving the Silver Moon Cafe, the party then drove toward the church where the marchers had gathered. Eugene Thomas was the driver, Eaton sat beside him on the front seat, the informer sat behind Thomas, and Wilkins was behind Eaton.

Near the church they saw a couple of Negroes walking down a dirt street. Eugene Thomas slowed the car down and said, "Looka there, . . . We are going to have some fun", or—words to that effect. Wilkins told the informer, "Get ready, Baby Brother, we are

going to take them". When they were within a short distance of the people, the informer saw an Army truck with soldiers sitting within and exclaimed, "be careful, there is troops up there, the best thing we can do is get the hell out of here". At that they passed these people and drove on. During the period when they had spotted these people, and while the car slowed down, Eugene Thomas took his gun from between the seats and handed it to Wilkins, but when they noticed the Army truck the gun was replaced between the seats.

Leaving this scene, the party then drove through Selma toward the Alabama River bridge. About two or three blocks West of the bridge they stopped for a traffic light and saw a light colored Oldsmobile bearing a Michigan license plate. A white woman was driving the car and a Negro was seated in the front seat with her. The following conversation ensued:

Eugene Thomas: "Wonder—wonder where they are going? Let's follow them, we are going to see where they are going, I think they are going out to the woods on a dirt road and park somewhere together".

Thomas then told the others to get down in the back, below window level, because "we are going to follow them and take them". Thomas then said, "I believe we got some of the brass. We are going to get them tonight".

After the informer and Wilkins had been down in the back seat for several minutes and while Thomas

was following the Oldsmobile he told them to sit up again. They continued to follow the Michigan car and Thomas said again, "All right men . . . tonight is the night we are going to take them".

While Thomas was trying to catch the Oldsmobile he said to the informer, "Baby Brother . . . get ready, we are going to get them on our side".

As Thomas started to pull alongside the Oldsmobile the informer saw Craig Air Force Base to the right in front of them. He told Thomas to "go back" because "that woman is trying to turn into the Air Force Base". Thomas said, "Nope . . . we are going to get them tonight". At this time the Oldsmobile veered to the right as if it were going to turn into the Air Force Base, but it did not. It veered out and the woman driver stepped on the gas and went on down the highway.

Eugene Thomas followed it at speeds of eighty to ninety miles an hour and exclaimed, "Well, this is a good place' . . . we will take them now". Wilkins told Thomas that he better be careful because the highway patrol radar is "right up there a little piece". However, Thomas continued to chase the Oldsmobile and throughout the chase the discussion was that they were "going to get them tonight". Thomas asked whether he should bump the automobile in order to stop it. Wilkins answered, "No, brother . . . you can't stop it like that; if you get one speck of paint on this automobile, we will get caught . . . . You just get up beside of it, and we will stop it".

When the pursuing car overtook the Oldsmobile Thomas said, "this is it . . . we are going to take them right here and now". Wilkins stuck his arm out the window, with Thomas' pistol in hand, and as the woman driver of the other car turned her head toward them Wilkins fired two shots into the front window of her automobile. At this point, Eugene Thomas said, "Shoot the hell out of them, everybody shoot the hell out of them". Eaton began firing his 22 pistol, loaded with shaved bullets. Wilkins continued to fire as their car passed the automobile. Eaton was leaning out of the car trying to fire. The Oldsmobile continued straight down the highway and the informer stated that the shooters had missed [the target]. Wilkins responded, "Baby brother, don't worry. I don't miss. That .... and .... are dead and in hell".

Wilkins and Eaton threw their cartridge casings out the window. When they reached Bessemer they attempted to arrange alibis.

The dead body of the woman driver of the Oldsmobile was, of course, soon found. The proof showed that she had participated in the march and had given aid and assistance to others who did participate. The informer immediately reported what he had witnessed.

As stated in the outset, these are the bare, unadorned essentials of the evidence upon which the jury returned its verdict. There was extensive, detail corroboration. We have not the slightest doubt that this evidence, credited by the jury in its verdict,

along with the inferences reasonably to be drawn therefrom, was quite enough to support the verdict that these appellants did intentionally conspire against citizens participating in the march and/or petitioning the Governor of Alabama for a redress of grievances.

II

Section 241 of Title 18, *U.S.C.* originated as §2 of the Act of April 9, 1866, 14 Stat. 27. It later became §6 of the Act of May 31, 1870, 16 Stat. 141. It has since existed as §5508 of the revised statutes of 1874-1878, as §19 of the Criminal Code of 1909, 35 Stat. 1092, and as §51 of the United States Code, 1926 Codification, 44 Stat. 462. It came to its present form in the 1948 revision of the United States Code. For a comparative table of the various forms of these several statutes, see the Appendix to the opinion of Mr. Justice Frankfurter in *United States v. Williams* (1951), appearing at page 82 of 341 U.S. Reports.

A detailed judicial history of the statute prior to 1892 is to be found in the opinion of Mr. Justice Gray in *Logan v. United States*, beginning at page 281 of 144 U. S. Reports.

Two of the latest decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States are, of course, *United States v. Guest*, 383 U.S. 745, 86 S. Ct. 1170, 16 L. Ed. 2d 239, and *United States v. Price*, 383 U.S. 787, 86 S. Ct. 1152, 16 L. Ed. 2d 267, (both decided March 28, 1966).

Price was concerned with an alleged conspiracy to deprive three individuals of their Fourteenth Amendment rights. Fourteenth Amendment rights were held to be within the purview of 18 *U.S.C.* 241, and private individuals alleged to have been acting in concert with state officers were held to be acting under color of law.

In *United States v. Guest*, supra, all those indicted were private individuals. In one respect, the indictment was held sufficient to charge a violation of Fourteenth Amendment rights under §241. In the opinion of the Court, 388 U. S. 755, we find the following language:

> "It is a commonplace that rights under the Equal Protection Clause itself arise only where there has been involvement of the State or of one acting under the color of its authority. The Equal Protection Clause 'does not . . . add any thing to the rights which one citizen has under the Constitution against another.' *United States v. Cruikshank*, 92 U.S. 542, 554-555. As Mr. Justice Douglas more recently put it, 'The Fourteenth Amendment protects the individual against state action, not against wrongs done by individuals.' *United States v. Williams*, 341 U.S. 70, 92 (dissenting opinion). This has been the view of the Court from the beginning *United States v. Cruikshank, supra; United States v. Harris*, 106 U.S. 629; *Civil Rights Cases*, 109 U.S. 3; *Hodges v. United States*, 203 U.S. 1; *United States v. Powell*, 212 U.S. 564. It remains the Court's view today. See, e. g., *Evans v. Newton*, 382 U.S. 296; *United States v. Price*, post, p. 787."

The Court went on to say that the involvement of the State need not be either exclusive or direct.

Guest further held that if the predominant purpose of a conspiracy is to impede or prevent exercise of the right of interstate travel, or to oppress a person because of his exercise of that right, then, whether or not motivated by racial discrimination, the conspiracy is a proper object of 18 *U.S.C.* §241.

In the case now before us, we are dealing exclusively with the acts of private individuals and the Government expressly concedes that the case presents no Fourteenth Amendment question.

That being true, we must determine whether the alleged conspiracy violated "safety and protection to persons in the exercise of rights dependent on the laws of the United States, including, of course, the Constitution and treaties as well as statutes * * *", *United States v. Waddell*, 112 U.S. 76, 79 (1884).

We now quote what the Supreme Court said in *Logan* concerning *Cruikshank, supra:*

> "In *United States v. Cruikshank*, 92 U.S. 542, at the same term, in which also the opinion was delivered by the Chief Justice, the indict-

ment was on section 6 of the Enforcement Act of 1870, (reenacted in Rev. Stat. §5508, under which the present conviction was had,) and the points adjudged on the construction of the Constitution and the extent of the powers of Congress were as follows:

1st. It was held that the First Amendment of the Constitution, by which it was ordained that Congress should make no law abridging the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances, did not grant to the people the right peaceably to assemble for lawful purposes, but recognized that right as already existing, and did not guarantee its continuance except as against acts of Congress; and therefore the general right was not a right secured by the Constitution of the United States. But the court added: '*The right of the people peaceably to assemble for the purpose of petitioning Congress for a redress of grievances, or for anything else connected with the powers or the duties of the national government, is an attribute of national citizenship, and, as such, under the protection of, and guaranteed by, the United States.* [Emphasis added]. The very idea of a government, republican in form, implies a right on the part of its citizens to meet peaceably for consultation in respect to public affairs and to petition for a redress of grievances. If it had been alleged in these counts that the object of the defendants was to prevent a meeting for such a purpose, the case would have been within the statute, and within the scope of the sovereignty of the United States.' 92 U.S. 552,553."

In *United States v. Cruikshank, supra*, the Court said this:

"From this it appears that the right of suffrage is not a necessary attribute of national citizenship: but that exemption from discrimination in the exercise of that right on account of race, &c. is. The right to vote in the States comes from the States; but the right of exemption from the prohibited discrimination comes from the United States. The first has not been granted or secured by the Constitution of the United States; but the last has been."

Since *Cruikshank*, it has been well settled that the right to vote in elections for the selection of federal officials, in accordance with applicable State law, is a right secured by the federal Constitution. See *United States v. Classic*, 313 U.S. 299, 61 S. Ct. 1031, 85 L. Ed. 1368; *Ex parte Yarbrough*, 110 U.S. 651, 4 S. Ct. 152, 28 L. Ed. 274; *United States v. Mosley*, 238 U.S. 383, 35 S. Ct. 904, 59 L. Ed. 1355. Conspiracies to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any citizen in the exercise of or for having exercised this right are in violation of 18 U.S.C. §241, *United States v. Saylor*, 322 U.S. 385, 64 S. Ct. 1101, 88 L. Ed. 1341;

Fields v. United States, 4 Cir., 1955, 228 F.2d 544; *Crolich v. United States*, 5 Cir., 1952, 196 F.2d 879, *cert. denied*, 344 U. S. 830, 73 S. Ct. 36, 97 L. Ed. 646 (1952).

In *Powe v. United States*, 1940, 109 F.2d 147, 151, this Court held that the right to speak freely and print about matters *in general* was not secured by the Constitution and laws of the United States, but the Court went ahead to quote from *Cruikshank*, 92 U. S. at 552, the language we have already cited, "if it had been alleged * * * that the object of the defendants was to prevent a meeting for such a purpose, the ... would have been within the statute, and within ...ope of the sovereignty of the United States".

The Selma to Montgomery march (assembly) was not in connection with any specifically impending federal election. The proceedings in *Williams v. Wallace, supra*, were expressly pleaded in the indictment, however, by title and number. Those proceedings directly concerned the denial of the right to register to vote in federal elections and with an assembly for the purpose of protesting that condition. Therefore, guided by the cited language in *Cruikshank*, we hold that any citizen of the United States participating in the march was exercising an attribute of national citizenship, guaranteed by the United States, and that a conspiracy against those participating would be a violation of 18 *U.S.C.*, §241.

We thus find it unnecessary to pass upon the contention of the Government that the rights of the participants emanated from the Court Order, that the Court Order emanated from the Constitution and laws of the United States, and that such Court Order thus conferred a right within the ambit of §241.

In touching upon this point, however, we would point out that the Court Order was directed solely to state action and the Government admits that there was none here involved. Moreover, we are impressed with the consideration that if a right or privilege is secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States it requires no advance validation by a court order. Likewise, if not so secured it would be hard to see how a court order could do that which the Constitution or the federal laws had failed to do. The Court Order was, however, a very pertinent factor in the alleged offense in that it described times, places, and the nature of the federally guaranteed rights to be exercised. It thus fully informed the defendants of the offense charged against them and it limited the bounds within which the prosecution had to operate.

III

APPELLANTS' ATTACK UPON THE CONVICTION

The defendants in the Court below made a timely motion to dismiss the indictment on the ground that it did not state an offense against the United States. What we have already said in Section II provides the answer to this point.

What are the essential requisites of a valid indictment for a violation of §241?

It must allege that it was the intent of the defendants, by their conspiracy, to hinder or prevent the enjoyment of some right granted or secured by the Constitution, and must charge positively and not inferentially everything essential, *United States v. Cruikshank, supra.*

It is not necessary, however, that the indictment should set out in detail the evidence of conspiracy or to describe it with the same degree of particularity required in an indictment for the substantive offense, *Crolich v. United States, supra.*

Neither is it necessary to aver any overt act. Any averment must necessarily be referred to the charge of conspiracy as describing or particularizing such charge, *Smith v. United States,* 8 Cir., 1907, 157 F. 721, *cert. denied,* 208 U. S. 618, 28 S. Ct. 569, 52 L. Ed. 647 (1908). See also, *Montoya v. United States,* 8 Cir., 1919, 262 F. 759.

On the other hand, an indictment [under former section 51] which charged that defendants conspired to injure, etc., certain named persons, male citizens of Kentucky over 21 years of age, "in the free exercise and enjoyment of a right and privilege secured to them" was bad as indefinite, in that it failed to state what particular right and privilege was meant, though it continued with a recital that the defendants were officers of an election precinct, conspired together "for the purposes aforesaid", and "to carry out and effect the object of the same" failed to open

the polls promptly, and by a tardy discharge of their duties and frequent absences prevented the persons named from voting, *McKenna v. United States,* 6 Cir., 1904, 127 F. 88.

Not only must a specific intent to interfere with a federal right be alleged in the indictment but it must be proven by the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, *Buchanan v. United States,* 8 Cir., 1916, 233 F. 257; *United States v. Guest, supra.*

These appellants had full notice of the proceedings and Court order in *Williams v. Wallace.* They took an active part in protesting the order. The Court order, including the plan of march, was introduced in evidence and submitted to the jury. Appellants never at any time objected to or took exception to the form of the indictment but stood on the proposition that it charged no offense under the laws of the United States. The District Court correctly denied the motion to dismiss.

Appellants urge that reversible error was committed in the denial of their motion for a bill of particulars in which they sought the names of any others with whom they were charged to have conspired, demanded specification of the overt acts, if any, committed in furtherance of the alleged conspiracy, and demanded the names of the persons conspired against. It will be noted from what we have already said that in a §241 prosecution it is not necessary that overt acts be averred. In the hearing on the motion,

Government counsel verbally stipulated that there were no other known conspirators. As to the names of those conspired against, the Government responded, "We contend that the defendants conspired to injure members of a class of people: the people are those persons that were engaged in the march from Selma to Montgomery, and those persons are identified; we don't claim any individual person". There was no effort at the trial to prove the names of other conspirators; further, the proof was all directed to oppressive action taken against marchers as such. Obviously, the appellants themselves did not know and could not have known in advance the names of those participating in the march. They did not know the initial names of those whom they later encountered in Montgomery or on the highway to Selma or on the return trip to Montgomery. The proof, as already discussed, was sufficient to support a jury finding that the appellants were conspiring against persons whom they believed to have participated in the march. Apparently they cared not what their names were. The prosecutor is not required to detail his evidence in response to a bill of particulars; it is only necessary that defendants be advised of any essential detail omitted from the indictment, 8 Moore, *Federal Practice* 7-28 (1965 ed.). At the hearing on the motion the defendants, in fact, learned all they could have obtained had the motion been granted. There was no error in this regard.

The record reveals that much of the trial was centered on the shooting of the woman in the automobile,

but this was competent to show intent, an indispensable element of the offense and one which had to be proven by the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt. The appellants were not on trial for the shooting; yet it hardly can be disputed that the acts of the parties were highly relevant as to the presence or absence of guilty intent.

Appellants next say that the evidence was insufficient to support the verdict. Leaving aside the omission of a motion for a directed verdict at the close of all the evidence, as required by Rule 29, F. R. Cr. P., which operates as waiver of the benefit of the earlier motion, we have no hesitation in holding, as reflected in our preceding discussion of the proof, that the evidence was more than ample to sustain the conviction.

Appellants next complain of the admission of at least eight different categories of documentary, pictorial, and physical evidence, as well as testimony. These contentions have been carefully considered but we can perceive no good service to be performed by unduly prolonging an already lengthy opinion in a discussion of these points. Counsel are to be commended for the diligent manner in which they have raised these points but we perceive no basis for saying that any error was committed in this respect. As to the search of the home of one of the appellants there was no objection below, see Rule 41 (e), F. R. Cr. P.

It is next complained that the trial court should not have allowed the Government to close the arguments to the jury and that he should not have charged, al-

though appellants requested it, that defendants' failure to testify could not be considered in determining their guilt or innocence. These contentions are without merit.

There was no error in the original charge to the jury. In fact, upon its completion and upon being given an opportunity to state any objections or exceptions defense counsel very properly stated that they were entirely satisfied with it.

The author of this opinion has heretofore stated his individual views of the Allen charge, given after the jury for some time had been considering its verdict. To date, however, the decisions are to the contrary, see *Thaggard v. United States*, 354 F.2d 735, *cert. denied*, 383 U. S. 958, 86 S. Ct. 1222, ... L. Ed. 2d .... (1966).

The crucial issue in this case was whether the acts alleged and shown to have been committed constituted a violation of 18 *U.S.C.*, §241. Being of the opinion that the question must be answered in the affirmative, and so answering it, the judgment of conviction must be

AFFIRMED.

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