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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and TOBIAS E. MATTHEWS on February 15, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

BASIS: Ascertain if ALEX AKERMAN defense attorney in the Groveland case could furnish information regarding activities of MOORE or threats to MOORE as a result of the Groveland case.

ALEX AKERMAN was interviewed in his room at the San Juan Hotel, at which time he stated he has known victim MOORE since 1945. The first occasion of their meeting was regarding an incident involving a negro Marine who had returned from the war and gotten into trouble with a deputy sheriff at which time the negro disarmed the deputy and was supposed to have beaten him. MOORE came to AKERMAN and asked him to see the Marine get a fair trial.

AKERMAN again met MOORE while serving on a committee that was seeking to have negroes enrolled at the University of Florida. On this occasion ACKERMAN stated MOORE was not very active other than to supply information to the committee in an effort to build up the case which was to have negroes allowed to study at the University of Florida.

According to AKERMAN, HARRY MOORE was quite active in making inquiries into the Groveland case; however, at no time did MOORE report to, speak to or assist AKERMAN in the defense of SHEPHERD and IRVIN. He stated he may have submitted reports to the NAACP headquarters in New York and some of the information was probably channeled to AKERMAN for the defense. However, he denied MOORE ever submitted any evidence or statements to him directly in regard to the Groveland case. He went on to say that the only time he saw MOORE actually participate in any activity in regard to that case was when MOORE went to the SHEPHERD family and informed them they could recover their son's body and arrange for a funeral.

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He stated he knew of the Daytona Beach meeting of the NAACP and that MOORE's job was discontinued because of lack of funds. He advised MOORE was not fired or let out of his job but it was merely the closing of the job because of lack of funds to pay him.

AKERMAN stated he believed MOORE was killed because of his being a representative of the NAACP. He felt someone killed MOORE, not for anything he said or did as an individual, but because he was a symbol of the effort of the negroes in the state of Florida. He said he would not have been surprised if Sheriff McCALL or someone connected with him killed MOORE. He advised he had no proof or anything to substantiate this statement but that it was merely his opinion. He knew of no threats to MOORE and was shocked to learn of MOORE's death. He would not have been surprised if ED DAVIS, one of the negro leaders of Ocala, had been killed because DAVIS was very outspoken on negro rights, while MOORE was not the aggressive type but was quiet and mannerly.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JOSEPH I. GREELY:

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AT HALLANDALE, FLORIDA:

CRESTE JOHNSON, 314 S. W. 1st Avenue, Hallandale, Florida, was interviewed by Special Agent JOSEPH I. GREELY on December 29, 1951. JOHNSON advised that he was elected as a second vice-president of the NAACP for the State of Florida during the recent convention of that organization held at Daytona Beach, Florida. JOHNSON advised that he was a delegate to this convention from the Hallandale, Florida Branch of the NAACP.

Regarding the convention which was held from November 23 to November 26, 1951 JOHNSON advised that he arrived at Daytona Beach on November 23, 1951 and went immediately to the convention since it was already in session. Upon arrival he was registered by Mrs. HARRIET MOORE, wife of HARRY T. MOORE. JOHNSON stated that he observed HARRY MOORE taking an active part in the convention but did not have any personal contact with him except for Friday evening, November 23, 1951, when he visited with MOORE for an hour with another delegate, EDWARD NORWOOD from Tallahassee, Florida.

In connection with his visit with HARRY T. MOORE, JOHNSON stated that in addition to himself, MOORE, and NORWOOD, Mrs. HARRIET MOORE was also present. He pointed out that the meeting lasted from approximately 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and during the whole time they discussed activities of the NAACP. JOHNSON explained that EDWARD NORWOOD was living with him at the home of Dr. J. L. BROWN, a dentist in Daytona Beach during the convention.

JOHNSON went on to state that on Sunday morning, November 25, 1951, he was preparing to leave Daytona Beach to return to Hallandale, Florida when HARRY MOORE and his wife, HARRIET, stopped by and inquired as to whether they could give him a ride to the convention. JOHNSON told them that he was not able to attend the closing sessions of the Convention since he had to return to work in Hallandale, Florida. MOORE and his wife then offered him a ride to the station but JOHNSON assured them that he had already made plans in this regard.

JOHNSON stated that this was the last time he saw HARRY MOORE, pointing out that he had known MOORE for approximately two years in connection with their mutual work in the NAACP.

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JOHNSON stated that during the first week of December, he received a postal card from MOORE wherein MOORE suggested that they get together for a meeting concerning NAACP activities. He added, however, that this meeting did not take place because it was subsequently called off by the Secretary of the Hallandale Branch because of its conflict with the Christmas Season.

JOHNSON advised that he has been thinking as to who might have caused the death of HARRY MOORE since it occurred and that he has no idea who could have been responsible.

He advised that in the event any information whatsoever that might appear pertinent to this incident should come to his attention, he would immediately advise this Bureau of the same.

- P E N D I N G -

On December 29, 1951 JOHN DICKERSON, operator of a Gulf Filling Station at 603 Second Avenue, Daytona Beach, Florida, member of the NAACP, advised that he had not seen MOORE since November 24th when MOORE attended the NAACP Convention at Daytona Beach. After the convention MOORE left to return to his home in West Palm Beach.

DICKERSON said he had heard MOORE had spoken recently at a meeting in Tampa, Florida. DICKERSON said also that he knew that MOORE was trying to get a negro Deputy Sheriff appointed in Lake County, Florida and had requested DICKERSON to furnish him with the name of some individual who might be considered for the job. DICKERSON said he did not recommend anyone.

DICKERSON said he could furnish no suspects, knew of no enemies and said he had been in Mims, Florida to view the wreckage and had talked with numerous colored people and that it was the opinion of some that the person who bombed MOORE's home came out of Lake County. DICKERSON said frankly he did not believe this was so.

Also interviewed was R. J. GAINOUS, 605 Second Avenue, employed by the Bethune Mortuary. GAINOUS knew of no enemies MOORE may have had and was unable to furnish any suspects. He suggested that one VIGIL HAWKINS, who resides in Leesburg be interviewed concerning MOORE's activities and whereabouts during recent months as he, GAINOUS, was of the impression that MOORE had possibly been in close contact with HAWKINS.

Also interviewed was RICHARD J. MOORE, President of Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach and he advised that he had known MOORE as an active worker in the NAACP for several years and that his duties required him to travel throughout the State. He knew that MOORE had been active in the Progressive Voters League and was one of five men who called on Governor WARREN in 1949 endeavoring to sponsor an anti-lynching bill in the State Legislature.

MOORE said that he was no relation to the victim and had last seen him in West Palm Beach, shortly after the Daytona Beach Convention and was present at the Roosevelt High School in West Palm Beach when WALTER WHITE spoke at the high school during the latter part of November.

MOORE said that the victim had recently written him a letter requesting that MOORE consider him for a position as a teacher in any vacancy which might come to MOORE's attention. MOORE said that he believed that the victim had resigned his job as State Secretary of the NAACP group at the time of his death was Secretary of the Brevard County NAACP.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents EDWIN H. DUFF III and FRED E. GORDON on January 3, 1952:

DATA: JOHN DICKERSON, member of the NAACP group at Daytona Beach, when first interviewed promised complete cooperation in an effort to develop information concerning MOORE's murder. DICKERSON re-interviewed.

JOHN B. DICKERSON, owner of the Gulf Service Station at Campbell Street and Second Avenue, Daytona Beach, Florida, advised that he had attended MOORE's funeral and had discussed the matter with numerous individuals attending the services but that he had been unable to develop any information of value.

DICKERSON said that he had heard some individuals at the funeral services making remarks concerning threatening letter or letters which MOORE may have received prior to his death but he said that none of the individuals to whom he talked could furnish any information along definite lines.

DICKERSON said that MOORE had, during the summer of 1951, believed to be in June, 1951, discussed with DICKERSON the appointment of a colored deputy sheriff in Lake County, Florida and that at that time he and MOORE engaged in several "bull sessions" but at no time did MOORE ever mention that he had received any threats of any nature and there was no particular reason for DICKERSON to believe that MOORE was afraid for any reason on account of the work in which he was engaged.

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Rev. JOHNSON advised he has known HARRY T. MOORE for eight to ten years, but that he had not seen MOORE since the Daytona conference.

Rev. JOHNSON advised that with regard to MOORE's activities and the NAACP generally, that dissention existed in the Florida Chapter. A meeting had been called of the Florida officers on August 24, 1951 to plan for the State conference at which time he was told by HARRY MOORE that there was a move on foot to oust him, JOHNSON, as Treasurer and himself as Executive Secretary.

Subsequent to this meeting and prior to the Daytona conference JOHNSON was contacted at his home by Rev. R. H. JOHNSON of Orlando, Florida. At this time JOHNSON from Orlando told him that they (State officers) had had a meeting in Orlando and had decided to petition the conference to abolish the position of Secretary and to put the collection of dues on a commission basis. Rev. K. S. JOHNSON of Sanford said that he did not receive any word concerning the meeting referred to by the Reverend from Orlando. He said on the occasion of this meeting the Orlando Reverend had told him that they had a good man for HARRY MOORE's job but he did not identify this individual.

Rev. K. S. JOHNSON said that at the Daytona meeting he gathered that Mrs. RUBY HURLE from Alabama and one of the National officers, being a "Youth Secretary" and Mr. DANIEL E. BYRD of South Carolina, also a National officer and an "Assistant Field Secretary", appeared to be the driving force behind the abolishment of the Secretary's position and the removal of HARRY MOORE. He believed that the National officers wanted to make a change in the Florida organization because membership had fallen off and the officers believed HARRY MOORE was not doing as good a job as somebody else might do.

Rev. JOHNSON added that nothing was said to his knowledge, at the Daytona conference about reinstating MOORE.

Rev. JOHNSON received a letter from HARRY T. MOORE which was dated November 30, 1951, which letter in substance explains some of the difficulties he, HARRY MOORE, was having in the Florida NAACP. The letter indicated that the membership dues in the NAACP had been raised in 1948 or 1949 from \$1.00 to \$2.00 and that the Florida membership had dropped from 3,917 in 1948 to 3,251 in 1949 and 3,077 in 1950 and through November 15, 1951 to 3,076, and indicated that HARRY MOORE felt that the membership was again going to rise and that they had overcome the difficulties in the 100% increase in the NAACP dues. Instant letter ended by stating "In some respects this meeting was about the worst we have had. Really it was not a state meeting, because the National officers came in and took over."

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Rev. JOHNSON added that he could furnish no information whatsoever that would cast any light on instant case. At no time did HARRY MOORE indicate to him that he had had any trouble with any individuals nor had he ever indicated he had been threatened or feared for his life.

DUNN was unable to furnish any additional information concerning MOORE's activities, movements, projects, associations, friends or possible enemies during this time.

DUNN stated that he has no suggestions to offer regarding what person or organization might be responsible for MOORE's death and that he is of the opinion that MOORE, who was a very mild mannered and well-liked man, was very highly regarded among both Colored and White circles and had no known enemies. DUNN added that he is not familiar enough with victim's social, personal or business life or activities to suggest any possible leads to the solution of this matter.

DUNN further advised that he is of the personal opinion, although he has nothing to base it on, that there is no connection with the bombings and acts of violence in Miami, Groveland and Mims. According to DUNN, MOORE traveled openly as a representative of the NAACP and had never mentioned receiving any threats or encountering any difficulties which might lead to acts of violence against him. DUNN stated that he knows of no split or friction within the NAACP which might have caused this violence. He volunteered the information or opinion that victim's death might have been caused by a colored person as well as by a white person, and that he does not believe that the Ku Klux Klan had anything to do with it, at least on a state level. DUNN is of the opinion that it is entirely a local matter based on some local problem or situation or that it is a personal matter in which the MOORES were involved.

DUNN stated that he would furnish Agent PURDY with any information concerning this matter which comes to his attention in the future.

12-30-51 Reverend JESSE LEE FENNELL, 2027 - 7th Avenue, South, pastor, New Hope Baptist Church and State Vice-President, NAACP, was interviewed December 30, 1951, by Agent PURDY, at which time he advised that he had known Victim HARRY MOORE for approximately two years; had seen him only about five times during that period; and that their entire association had been in connection with the NAACP.

FENNELL stated that he had attended the Convention of the NAACP at Daytona for only about two hours on Saturday, November 24, 1951, and had not had an opportunity to speak to

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MOORE privately during that time, but merely had said hello to him in the crowd. He saw MOORE twice during MOORE's visit to St. Petersburg in October, 1951, as stated above. He had not seen MOORE for approximately one year prior to that. FENNELL stated that he is not a personal friend of MOORE and knew nothing of his personal activities or social or business life other than his contacts with the victim through the NAACP.

FENNELL stated that he knew of no personal, moral or financial difficulties the victim may have been involved in; had never heard of any threats being made against him; and had considered MOORE to be very highly regarded, loved by his people, and very self-sacrificing in his efforts to help the colored people. FENNELL added that he would not be able to offer any opinion as to whether there is a connection between the Miami, Groveland and Mims situations, but that he sees no indication of a connection.

FENNELL further advised that he would promptly furnish any information concerning this matter which came to his attention to Special Agent PURDY.