

EJG:egh
MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent EUGENE J. GARBUTT on February 5, 6, 7 and 8, 1952, at Riviera Beach, Florida.

BASIS: JOSEPH PAULK, Riviera Beach, Florida, advised he believed Elder WILLIAMS and Deacon DANSEL of Riviera Beach were close friends of victim HARRY T. MOORE.

Elder FRED WILLIAMS, minister, Church of God and Christ, North Dixie Highway, identified himself as being the state chaplain and member of the executive committee of the Progressive Voters League of Florida. He said he attended HARRY T. MOORE's funeral and that his last contact with MOORE was in November, 1951 and consisted of only a passing conversation. According to WILLIAMS, MOORE never made any remarks concerning threats against his life. He added that MOORE and his wife were well liked in and out of the NAACP and the Progressive Voters League of Florida. However, he remarked that based on the reported vote of the Daytona Beach Convention in November, 1951, there is a possibility that some group may have disliked him. He was unable to supply any facts, names or rumors as to who or what group would possibly have desired abolishment of MOORE's job.

WILLIAMS advised he received a letter from MOORE postmarked Mims, Florida, dated about one week prior to the bombing. The letter requested that WILLIAMS secure some records regarding the shooting of a negro named JACKSON by AL ST. JOHN, policeman, Riviera Beach Police Department. WILLIAMS stated MOORE wanted the records to turn over to an unknown attorney.

According to WILLIAMS, MOORE had no bitter enemies. However, ARTHUR BROWN, president of the Riviera Beach Voters League, has had differences with MOORE. He said BROWN controls a large voting block in the colored element of Riviera Beach and wishes to be the "b" shot. MOORE has always attempted to get the opposing groups to vote in one block. Due to this MOORE and BROWN have occasionally disagreed but there have never been any "terrible frictions" between BROWN and MOORE.

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was going too far in his work with the NAACP and the Progressive Voters League of Florida. He said HARRY at that time told him he was going to carry on that work if it cost him his life. He said HARRY told him that "JESUS CHRIST lost his life doing what he thought was right." Further, that he felt the Lord intended him to carry on this work for the colored race and he intended to do it to his death. He said at the time he may live to be a ripe old age, that he may be killed the following day, the next month or perhaps never.

NORMAN COATES said that at no time did HARRY MOORE indicate to him that he anticipated any trouble with anyone and he at no time heard that he had had any trouble in connection with his work or otherwise. COATES said that he did not accompany HARRY on any of his trips although he himself was very active in NAACP work.

COATES went on to say that HARRY MOORE, together with other individuals, had approached the Sheriff and had asked that consideration be given to the appointment of a colored deputy to work among the colored people in Brevard County. COATES said that his name was one of three submitted to the Sheriff for consideration. COATES said that approximately three or four weeks ago Sheriff WILLIAMS had contacted him and asked if he, COATES, would consider an appointment as a Deputy Sheriff in Brevard County. COATES said he told the Sheriff he would not consider such a position because of his health. In explanation of this he said that he was not allowed by his doctors to engage in any arduous physical exercise or work that he might be called upon to perform as a Deputy Sheriff.

COATES said that he regarded Sheriff WILLIAMS very highly and said that the Sheriff had the utmost respect and was well thought of among the colored people in Brevard County.

COATES said that he had never made any trips to Groveland with HARRY MOORE, however, he believed that C. H. "DEACON" McCLAIN of Melbourne or NELLIN TUCKER of Cocoa may have accompanied HARRY to Groveland in connection with the NAACP.

Mr. C. H. "DEACON" McCLAIN of Melbourne, Florida, advised that he has known HARRY T. MOORE, the victim, for approximately 10 years. He said he last saw him on Friday, December 21, 1951 for a few minutes. McCLAIN stated that a meeting of the NAACP and the Progressive Voters League was planned for the Melbourne area on Sunday, December 30, 1951. He said on the occasion of his meeting with HARRY MOORE on December 21, 1951 that the victim did not indicate to him that he anticipated any trouble or that he had been threatened or feared any violence.

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Regarding the victim's activities McCLAIN said that most of his knowledge concerning MOORE's activities were obtained from reading the "TIMP. BULLETIN", a colored newspaper published weekly in Tampa, Florida. He said occasionally the victim did some writing for the TAMP. BULLETIN.

McCLAIN said that HARRY MOORE had been Secretary to both the NAACP and the Progressive Voters League. Approximately a month ago they had a State Conference of the NAACP in Daytona Beach. McCLAIN said he was one of the delegates from the Brevard County Chapter of the NAACP attending the conference. On this occasion he said it was brought up at the conference that the NAACP in Florida did not have sufficient funds to pay for a State Secretary and therefore it was the intention of the conference to abolish that position. He said HARRY T. MOORE, after the above proposal was made, spoke to the conference and said he would be willing to carry on his work without a salary. He said that the victim told the conference that the NAACP owed him \$2,600.00 in salary and expenses.

McCLAIN said that HARRY T. MOORE was nominated for the position of Secretary, however, only a very few votes, and not sufficient to recreate the job of Secretary were made. He said that he counted the votes and therefore he knew very definitely that very few of the delegates, and as a matter of fact only three or four voted for HARRY MOORE as Secretary, therefore, he said the position was, as far as he knew, abolished. McCLAIN said that he would make collections for dues in the Melbourne area and for each dollar that he would turn over to HARRY MOORE he would receive a dues card. He said that he had wondered himself as to the means of livelihood of HARRY MOORE inasmuch as he was not being paid a salary by the NAACP. He said undoubtedly it cost MOORE quite a lot of money to travel throughout the State of Florida and to pay his expenses for living and the upkeep of his automobile. McCLAIN said that to his knowledge, HARRY MOORE had no other source of income than his NAACP work. McCLAIN said that he did not have any knowledge whatsoever of any of the activities of HARRY MOORE which would possibly lead to or cause his murder.

Mr. HARRY GOODE, owner of "HARRY'S Sporting Goods Store" at Melbourne, Florida, advised that he was Chairman of the Sebastian Inlet District. Mr. GOODE stated that during the war the Sebastian Inlet, between the Indian River and the Ocean, had filled in and the Sebastian Inlet District desired to open the inlet for commercial and pleasure purposes. He said it was necessary for them to obtain considerable explosive material in order to blast the inlet open and through Senator CLAUDE PEPPIER the District obtained some wartime explosive material that was in a solid form. He said that he did not recall the name or type of material but that he did know it was extremely powerful,

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and HARRY discussed the Groveland case and the possibilities of the new trial of WALTER LEE IRVIN. He said most of the afternoon was spent discussing Florida State politics. He said they discussed the last Governor's race and the election of FULLER WARREN and also the coming Governor's race and the possibilities thereof insofar as the negro welfare was concerned.

SILAS said that HARRY did not mention his activities to him during the last month but he did recall him stating he had been in Hilton and Defuniak Springs, Florida. He said HARRY mentioned that the colored homes in these towns appeared to be very nice homes, which were substantially build and that he, HARRY, believed that either town would be a nice place for colored people to live. He made no explanations or showed no indication that he possessed any fear whatsoever for his life. The general conversation was routine.

SILAS was unable to advance any theory as to the identity of any suspects though he did feel that the death of MOORE was a direct result of his activities in connection with the NAACP work as well as the Progressive Voters League, however, in this connection SILAS made the observation that due to his closeness to MOORE he felt that MOORE would not have made any explanation of any threats made against his life or any fear that he possessed because he was not the type who would want him, SILAS, to worry about it.

SILAS said a man by the name of JOHN GILBERT, who resides in Cocoa and who was very active in the Progressive Voters League and NAACP work was active with HARRY MOORE and he believed very close to HARRY MOORE. SILAS explained that JOHN GILBERT was formerly the Principal of the Cocoa Negro High School and had lost his job when he was working with MOORE to raise the negro teachers salaries to the same level as white teachers.

SILAS said that both he and HARRY MOORE were charter members of the Brevard County Chapter of the Progressive Voters League of Florida, Inc. as well as the Brevard Chapter of the NAACP. SILAS likewise expressed the opinion he believed the Groveland case could very likely have been responsible for this incident.

ELMER SILAS stated at the present time he is employed as a building custodian at the Patrick Henry Air Force Base, Cocoa, Florida.

12-30-51 While ASAC BURKE was in telephonic conversation with ANN SIMS, mother of victim HARRIETT MOORE, who was visiting HARRIETT at Sanford Memorial Hospital, Mrs. SIMS stated that Mr. WALTER WHITE was there and would like to

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Brevard County to replace HARRY MOORE, however, after learning of HARRY's position he, the young man, refused to take the job. He said the School Board, without a replacement was obliged to give HARRY MOORE his contract and then in 1946 both HARRY MOORE and his wife's contracts were not renewed. Mr. WHITE said Mrs. MOORE since 1946 had twice approached the School Board to request a teaching contract but the Board did not see fit to give her a contract.

Mr. WHITE went on to state that HARRIETT MOORE is quite convinced that Sheriff WILLIAMS and Assistant State Attorney HUBERT GRIGGS know who did the bombing.

Mr. WHITE continued that he had learned through Rev. R. K. JOHNSON of Orlando, Florida that one ED FLAKE of the Citrus Exchange in Mims had said on numerous occasions "MOORE should have his neck broken for putting ideas into negroes heads." Mr. WHITE said he wanted to give the above information to the Agents by way of background before Mrs. MOORE was interviewed in his presence.

It will be noted at this point that during the telephonic conversation had by BURKE with Mr. WHITE that the latter mentioned that he had learned that a piece of metal was taken from the body of victim HARRY T. MOORE and that he expected to obtain same from the funeral home and would have it available upon arrival of Agents at the hospital. He stated, however, that it developed into merely a rumor, that he had learned definitely that there was no broken skin and no metal entered the body and same had been determined to be a rumor.

Agents were introduced to victim HARRIETT MOORE by WALTER WHITE at which time Mrs. MOORE furnished substantially the same information as had been related by WHITE. However, upon specific questioning Mrs. MOORE revealed the name of the person who had called her while she and her husband were in Orlando, to advise it would be unsafe to come to their home in Mims that particular weekend, stating it was her brother, ARNOLD SIMS.

HARRIETT on being questioned specifically as to whether or not she possessed any ideas as to who might have perpetrated instant crime, answered in the negative though she did indicate, as previously mentioned, that she felt it came from Titusville. At this point she stated that a Mr. NASH, who is a member of the School Board in Titusville, had at some time told HARRY that he, NASH, did not appreciate some of the activities being carried on by MOORE in connection with trying to get negroes to vote in the Democratic primary and that at sometime Mr. HUTZLER had told HARRY his contract was not

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent EDWIN H. DUFF II on January 1, 1952:

BASIS: HORACE HILL, member of Daytona Beach NAACP.

HORACE HILL, 527 Second Avenue, Daytona Beach, Florida and a member of the Daytona Beach branch of the NAACP, said he had known MOORE intimately since 1949 and had met MOORE shortly after the rape case occurring at Groveland during the summer of 1949. HILL said that he had talked with MOORE during the Daytona Beach convention of the NAACP in November, 1951 and that MOORE had never at any time told of receiving any threats nor had he ever mentioned that he had any enemies and neither had HILL heard of any enemies actually mentioned subsequent to the bombing of MOORE's home.

With regard to specific incidents which might have been the underlying basis for the bombing of MOORE's home, HILL said that he knew MOORE had written a letter to JESS HUNTER, State's Attorney, informing HUNTER that he, MOORE, was doing everything he could "to see that justice was done in the Groveland case." HILL said that as far as he knew, MOORE's letters had been acknowledged by HUNTER and that there had never been any indication of any threat contained in them either veiled or otherwise.

HILL suggested that EDWARD DAVIS, Ocala NAACP, Secretary of the Progressive Voters League, be interviewed as he said that DAVIS and MOORE were very close.

HILL recalled that about two hours after the explosion on Christmas night he had received a telephone call from MOORE's daughter, ANNIE, from Titusville telling him that her father's home had been bombed and that they had just taken her father to the Sanford Hospital.

HILL said he knew that MOORE, as Secretary of the Progressive Voters League had transmitted a resolution to Governor FULLER WARREN vigorously protesting the appointment of Senator JOHN MATHEWS of Jacksonville to the Supreme Court bench in the State. HILL said that MATHEWS' appointment was severely criticized by MOORE because "MATHEWS is one who advocated 100% white supremacy" and who, while serving in the State Legislature, offered a bill to disfranchise the negroes. HILL believed that the letter criticizing the MATHEWS appointment was also signed by F. A. DUMM of St. Petersburg and he remembers reading the letter in its entirety in either the Pittsburgh COURIER or the Tampa BULLETIN.

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HILL recalled that during the November meeting of the NAACP in Daytona Beach, MOORE had come to his, HILL's, office and in a more or less "bull session", MOORE had spoken of some of his past activities, among them, HILL said, was mention of the fact that MOORE had been successful in securing the appointment of a negro deputy sheriff in Broward County. MOORE mentioned that Sheriff AROS HALL had promised that he would appoint a negro deputy and that such a deputy was appointed sometime in 1951.

HILL recalled that while MOORE was attending Bethune-Cookman College an incident occurred at a beer joint in the Tomoka River section, near Ormond Beach, when some colored boy had been cut up by a white man and HILL recalled that MOORE had actively investigated that incident, and during the investigation had talked with ROGER HILLS, Constable and Chief of Police in Ormond Beach, and also with State's Attorney HURRAY SAMS at DeLand. HILL said that this incident occurred several years ago.

HILL said he knew of no information concerning MOORE's activities subsequent to his departure from Daytona Beach in November, 1951, and that he knew that most of the time MOORE traveled alone, but occasionally his wife accompanied him.

HILL advised that he had represented the defendants in the rape case at Tavares during their first trial and that he believed "that all officials in Lake County held the NAACP in contempt."

HILL recalled that MOORE had headed a mass meeting in Orlando one month after the rape case was precipitated in Groveland which was in July or August, 1949. HILL recalled that MOORE was to meet THURGOOD MARSHAL in Orlando on November 9, 1951 in connection with a meeting held there on behalf of WALTER LEE IRVIN and SAMUEL SHEPHERD and that MARSHAL had wired MOORE to meet him there and MOORE had wired MARSHAL that he would be there. However, HILL said that MOORE failed to show up at this meeting on November 9th and failed to notify MARSHAL that he was unable to come.

HILL said that about three weeks ago ROBERT L. CARTER, NAACP Counsel from New York City, had visited HILL in Daytona Beach and told HILL that the NAACP boys were "wondering if MOORE hadn't gotten cold feet" because he had promised to meet MARSHAL in Orlando and had failed to show.

With regard to the dissention in the ranks of the NAACP, HILL said that the Birmingham and Tampa groups felt that MOORE was "not militant enough" and was "not able to stir the people" and that his NAACP work was lagging. He said that there was no personal animosity toward MOORE and that

END:JIS
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the dissention was "just a political situation within the NAACP."

HILL suggested that "Captain" HALL, a member of the NAACP who lives at Eatonville (near Orlando, Florida) be interviewed for information concerning ROOME as HALL is supposed to have been very close to the victim.

He also suggested the name of E. H. JOHNSON, Orlando as one who might be able to furnish information.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents CLYDE P. ADERHOLD and TOBIAS E. MATTHEWS on January 1, and 2, 1952.

BASIS: O. K. WASHINGTON while being interviewed on another matter on January 1, 1952, advised that on approximately December 18, or 19, he was driving a tractor on the old Dixie Highway and saw two men in a green pick-up truck parked in an orange grove in front of HARRY T. MOORE's home. The truck had been backed into the grove on the east side of the highway and was facing directly toward the MOORE home. WASHINGTON said that he identified one of the men in this truck as being the "DUNN boy", son of Brevard County Commissioner DUNN. He also observed GEORGE SHARPE standing in SHARPE's grove near where the green truck was parked.

GEORGE SHARPE, Mims, Florida, advised that he could not remember seeing the green pick-up truck parked in the Orange grove located in front of the MOORE house east of the old Dixie Highway. He explained that they had been working on the grove and that he had not paid any attention to what was going on there.

12-52 TAYLOR DUNN, owner of DUNN's Fruit Stand, Mims, Florida, advised that he had lived in and around Mims all of his life. He said that on about December 18, or 19 he had contacted IRA NOBLES to see about purchasing some tangerines. He said that on one morning he met NOBLES in the orange grove located in front of MOORE's house on the east side of the old Dixie Highway. DUNN advised that this was about 11:00 AM and that he got into NOBLES truck and they drove around the grove looking for some tangerines. DUNN said that to the best of his recollection he had only met NOBLES on one morning. DUNN advised that he had no information as to who might have bombed the MOORE residence.

IRA NOBLES, Tobacco Dealer, Titusville, Florida, advised that he owned some orange groves near the residence of MOORE. He stated that he was not acquainted with MOORE and had never known until the bombing that MOORE had resided near his property. NOBLES recalled that shortly before Christmas he had met TAYLOR DUNN in an orange grove near Mims. He explained that the purpose of this meeting was to sell DUNN some tangerines.

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EXHIBIT

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