

CPA:msf

MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents CLYDE P. ADERHOLD and TOBIAS E. MATTHEWS on January 3, 1952.

BASIS: Employees of the Spar Service Station, Mims, Florida, were interviewed for any information they might have concerning the bombing of the MOORE residence.

EARL ADAMS, Service Station Attendant, Spar Service Station, Mims, Florida, advised that on the night of the bombing he was at his home which is located on U. S. Route #1 approximately three miles south of Mims. He said that he heard the explosion and that immediately thought that one of the gasoline storage tanks in the service station had exploded. He stated that he drove to the service station and found that there had been no explosion there and he then returned to his home. He said it was not until the next morning that he found out that the MOORE's residence had been bombed. ADAMS stated that he did not know MOORE and had not known where he lived until the explosion. He also advised that no one had inquired at the service station as to where MOORE lived.

BILLY ATKINSON, Service Station Attendant, Spar Service Station, Mims, Florida, stated that he was not working on the night of the explosion. He said that he was at Cocoa, Florida, and did not know of the explosion until the next morning. He said that he had heard of HARRY T. MOORE, but that he had not known where he lived.

ATKINSON stated that to the best of his memory no one had ever been in the service station asking where MOORE resided.

RTN:msf

MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JAMES P. SHANNON and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on January 6, 1952.

BASIS: PAUL DACUT, also known as "POPCORN" was with JOE SMITH the night of the explosion and was the boy who had told JAMES SMITH that the MOORE house had been bombed.

PAUL DACUT advised that he is known by the name of "POPCORN" in the Mims area and that he is a grove worker. He advised that he came to this area from St. George, South Carolina about a year and one-half or two years ago and that he did not know HARRY T. MOORE. DACUT stated that on the night of the explosion he and JOE SMITH were returning from a movie at Cocoa, Florida in the SMITH's pick-up truck, and from Titusville on he recalled they had used the old Dixie Highway. He stated he had not seen anyone nor had they passed any automobiles from the time they left Titusville until they stopped at JOE SMITH's home. He advised that JOE SMITH went to his house and was changing clothes getting ready to go to work when Deputy Sheriff CLYDE BATES stopped in front of the house and asked them about an explosion. He said he had not heard any explosion and was curious to know what had happened. BATES drove off in the direction of Mims in the search of the explosion. When SMITH had completed changing clothes they started to drive into Mims to the Service Station where JOE worked when they passed a woman whose name DACUT could not recall and she told them there was an explosion over by Mr. MOORE's place at which time JOE caught up with Deputy Sheriff BATES and advised him of the information this woman had given him.

DACUT further advised that a little while after Deputy Sheriff BATES left for the MOORE residence he and JOE SMITH drove down to see what had happened. He stated the house was badly damaged by some kind of a blast but they did not ask any questions and left soon after their arrival. He stated that after JOE SMITH went back to work, he went on up in the Negro quarters and stopped by a house that was having a party. He did not know whose house this was but said that JOE's father JAMES SMITH as there and he told him that MOORE's house had been blown up. DACUT stated that he knew nothing more about instant explosion and said that the Negro boys do not have much to say about it.

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EXHIBIT

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FLOYD "BUSTER" ADAMS, manager of the new truck stop, Mims, was interviewed and advised that on the night of instant explosion he was on duty at his station and about fifteen minutes after the explosion JOE EDWARD SMITH of Mims had come in to go to work and told him Professor MOORE's house had been bombed. ADAMS stated he had gone to BURNETT's store on one or two occasions to get articles of clothing for some of his colored help but he did not go into the store asking for MOORE.

He stated he knew little of HARRY MOORE until after his death which received much publicity. During the interview ADAMS asked if someone were trying to slander him because of his success in operating the truck stop. He was advised the investigation had nothing to do with business practices in or around Mims. He advised that POP ADKINS at the other truck stop had been giving him trouble recently because ADAMS had procured a couple contracts with trucking companies to handle all their business and that ADKINS did not like it and he felt possibly ADKINS had been in BURNETT's store making statements to the effect ADAMS had been asking for MOORE. He was assured by the Agents that this was not true.

Photographs of ADAMS were obtained during this interview. He was very cooperative in furnishing information.

The following is a description obtained from observation and interrogation:

Name	FLOYD THEODORE "BUSTER" ADAMS
Height	5'10"
Weight	230
Eyes	blue
Hair	grey
Scars and marks	1" thin scar middle right forearm
Military record	none
Birth date	January 16, 1908
Birthplace	Washington, Pennsylvania
Employment	owner-operator Spar Truck Stop, Mims, Florida. contract with Or- lando Fuel Oil Co. operated by J. PAUL PEEK
Prior employment	trucker for Fort Wayne Corrugated Paper Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., for 27 years

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Marital status	married
Wife	MARIE MCGANN ADAMS
Daughters	PAMELA and SUE

ADAMS was asked if he is or ever has been a member of the Klan. At this he seemed surprised and stated he was a "yankee" from Pennsylvania and that he never believed in such groups and that if he knew any members of the Klan he would be glad to reveal them to the FBI. ADAMS advised that if he heard any rumor or talk regarding the MOORE bombing he would contact the FBI immediately.

Mr. JAKE OSTERREICHER, P.O. Box 112, Mims, recalled he had Rev. JOHN MITCHELL circulate a petition among the property owners in the colored quarters of Mims. He advised this petition was in regard to a resolution by the Taxpayers Committee of North Brevard County which had as its goal better representation of the cities in north Brevard County in county affairs. He stated this petition was circulated by Rev. MITCHELL in the negro quarters of Mims. He recalled the incident and said he had to have that petition back at a certain time so he could turn it over to VIRGIL CONKLIN and LLOYD MESSER. These two men were to take the petition to A. FORTENBERRY and if he recalled correctly FORTENBERRY and MESSER took the petition to Tallahassee. However, he could not recall the exact date but stated he remembered he gave Rev. MITCHELL a check for \$10.00 the same morning Rev. MITCHELL turned the petition over to him. He looked through his cancelled checks for 1951 and found the check he had written to Rev. J. M. MITCHELL. The check was endorsed by MITCHELL and was dated May 18, 1951. OSTERREICHER said he was positive this was the only check he had ever written to MITCHELL and he recalled the morning he wrote the check as MITCHELL was supposed to meet him in front of the Post Office at Mims at 7:00 and was about 30 minutes late. MITCHELL turned the petition over to OSTERREICHER and OSTERREICHER wrote the check for \$10.00 for MITCHELL's services in having the petition signed. He stated MITCHELL had worked for him before but he never paid him by check at any other time and he has not worked for him for some years. OSTERREICHER further stated that the petition had little time in which to be signed by the various property owners and he had thought MITCHELL could work among the negroes rather quickly since he was well acquainted with them. He remembered writing the check on the day the petition was handed to him. It is to be noted the date of this check was the day following the date two white men appeared in BURNETT's store in Mims inquiring about MOORE.

responsible.

Mrs. DAVIE LEE CARLILE and her husband, CHARLES, reside on the Old Dixie Highway approximately one mile north of the victim's residence, the second nearest neighbors on the north side, advised they had retired about 9:30 P.M. on Christmas night and that they had noted no suspicious individuals hanging around the neighborhood or in the vicinity of the MOORE residence and that during the Christmas Day period she had noted a considerable amount of automobile traffic going north and south over the Old Dixie Highway. She said that they paid no particular attention to the traffic and there was nothing which caused them to become suspicious.

They said they were awakened rudely by the blast which severely shook their home and CHARLES said that he went outside to see what had taken place and he noticed Mr. SHARPE, the next door neighbor, standing on his front porch and that they yelled to one another as to what had happened but that SHARPE apparently did not know and CARLILE said he returned to his house and retired and did not know actually what had taken place until the following morning.

Both Mr. and Mrs. CARLILE said it was common knowledge within the County that HARRY T. MOORE, the victim, was actively engaged in NAACP activities, however, they knew of no particular enemies and did not know anyone who might be considered a logical suspect. They said that as far as they knew, MOORE was well liked and well respected by the folks in Brevard County.

GEORGE SHARPE and his wife, GERALDINE, reside approximately 75 yards south of the CARLILE residence and are the nearest neighbors to the victims on the north side, were interviewed and Mrs. SHARPE advised she was in bed asleep at the time the blast occurred and that she was awakened by the noise and she got up and went into the living room where her husband was reading the newspaper. She inquired as to what had happened and her husband walked out on the front porch, looked around to see if he could see or hear anything and Mr. SHARPE said that he had not noted anything out of the ordinary and turned to go back in the house to resume reading his paper when, as he turned to go in the door, he noticed coming from the south, about 100 yards south of his home on the highway, a car going north which he said was proceeding at a normal and reasonable rate of speed.

He said that naturally the severe blast caused him to wonder just what had taken place but had just surmised that possibly it was just some kids or individuals making a lot of noise on Christmas night. He said that he paid no attention to the automobile as it went by his home, he has no idea what

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