

SAC, Miami (44-270)

March 10, 1952

Director, FBI (44-4118)

24321

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
HARRY T. MOORE, et al. - VICTIMS.  
CIVIL RIGHTS

Reference is made to the interviews set forth in your report of February 23, 1952, and prior reports concerning information to the effect that Oleatha Edwards McKenzie and two other individuals saw a truck or car parked in the vicinity of the victims' home just prior to the time of the bombing on December 25, 1951.

In this connection, the interviews reflect considerable variance as to whether this fact is true and particularly as to the activities of McKenzie and the other individuals on that evening. It is very important that it be definitely determined whether a car or truck was in the vicinity of victims' home on the pertinent night and, accordingly, additional investigation should be conducted to definitely establish one way or the other whether this information is true. It is suggested that the following additional investigation be conducted:

Determine from whom Crandell "Crom" Warren heard this information and establish this person's identity and interview him. Determine from Robert Mitchell whether Lewis Lee Roy Kinsey is the Roy that reportedly gave information to Mitchell. Re-interview Thomas Lee Johnson to determine from whom he received this information and interview that person. In this regard, it is also noted in your report of January 28, 1952, that Johnson made reference to Bureau interviews with two people who reportedly saw a car near victims' home on the pertinent date; however, they had denied this to FBI Agents. Determine from Johnson the identity of these two individuals to assist in this investigation. Re-interview Adel McKenzie concerning this particular incident, it being noted that he has apparently falsely reported his whereabouts at this pertinent time. Reinterview Arthur McKenzie concerning this matter after all other efforts have been made to substantiate the information.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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It is also noted in your report of February 23, 1952, that Armand Portlock reported seeing a car near victims' home shortly after 9:00 p.m. on December 25, 1951, and that there was one white man in this car. Portlock should be thoroughly reinterviewed in this connection to obtain all possible details and he should be questioned as to how he could say that there was a white man in the car when the incident occurred shortly after 9:00 p.m. at night.

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the lights in the other car having blinded him and since there was a heavy ground fog, thereby decreasing visibility. It is also pertinent in this regard to determine how fast Portlock was driving at the time he passed this car.

The above phases of this investigation should be given expeditious attention.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
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Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent DANIEL B. BRYAN, JR. on March 4, 1952, at Raiford, Florida.

BASIS: ARTHUR and ADEL MCKENZIE and OLEATHA ADAMS reportedly told other residents of Mims they saw the Brevard County Patrol car of EARL T. "TRIGGER" GRIGGS in front of MOORE's home the night of the bombing.

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JAMES LEWIS CLIBORNE, Florida State Prisoner #49300, advised he left West Palm Beach, Florida, about 6:30 P.M. on Christmas Day, 1951, driving a Ford convertible which he had stolen in West Palm Beach three weeks earlier.

He related that he travelled north from West Palm Beach, and on the outskirts of the city he picked up two hitchhikers dressed in civilian clothes and a short distance away picked up two more hitchhikers, a soldier stationed at Charleston, South Carolina, and a sailor stationed at Norfolk, Virginia. CLIBORNE said he did not know the identity of any of the four hitchhikers nor their addresses.

According to CLIBORNE, he was driving around eighty or ninety miles an hour when he passed north of Titusville, Florida, and noticed a car that appeared to be following him. He stated it was foggy and he slowed to sixty miles an hour but the vehicle following made no attempt to overtake the Ford he was driving but stayed behind him. He related that he accelerated his car again and was stopped by Brevard County Patrolman EARL GRIGGS just as he entered the city limits of Daytona Beach, Florida, about 8:30 or 9:00 P.M. CLIBORNE said he had no watch on his person but that the Ford he was driving had a panel clock that was working.

GRIGGS told CLIBORNE he had been following the car from Titusville and was charging him with speeding and that he could post \$35.00 bond and proceed if he desired. CLIBORNE said he did not have any money and they talked with GRIGGS by the road about half an hour; then he was returned to Titusville and rode with GRIGGS in the patrol car and

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the sailor drove the Ford behind the patrol car which was occupied by the other hitchhikers. They did not stop on the way back to Titusville and arrived at the county jail about 10:30 P.M. or later. He advised that upon arrival at the jail the four hitchhikers were released and GRIGGS telephoned CLYDE BATES, the jailer, that he was placing CLIBORNE in jail. CLIBORNE said an old man, assistant jailer, was on duty at the time. His identity was unknown to CLIBORNE.

CLIBORNE stated that GRIGGS did not shake him down but asked him what he had on his person and CLIBORNE gave GRIGGS his Virginia operator's license and a key to a hotel room. According to CLIBORNE, GRIGGS then went upstairs in the jail with CLIBORNE and the assistant jailer and CLIBORNE was placed in a cell; GRIGGS then left the jail and one of the men in another cell, identity unknown, stated it was either 11:00 or 11:30 P.M. CLIBORNE said he thought it was 11:30 or later when GRIGGS left the jail.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JOHN A. HANLEY and PAUL C. CLINKSCALES on January 9 and 10, 1952:

BASIS: As result of information furnished by JERRY ZEIGLER and his wife, VIOLLET, to the effect ANNIE SIMS had been contacted by two unknown white men during September, 1951 relative to the whereabouts of HARRY MOORE, the following investigation was conducted.

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JERRY ZEIGLER, who lives on the Old Dixie Highway approximately 400 yards south of the MOORE residence and his wife, VIOLLET, were reinterviewed for any additional information they might possess concerning the identity of the persons responsible for the explosion. ZEIGLER advised he had had an opportunity to discuss this matter with certain of the other negro residents in Mine but had been unable to obtain any information of value. He indicated it is the general tendency of most of the colored persons in this area to hesitate to discuss the incident and particularly because he was known to be closely associated with the MOORE family.

ZEIGLER added, however, that he had recently been advised by a member of the DAUNTAY family to the effect they had heard that ANNIE SIMS, the mother of victim HARRIETT MOORE, had been contacted sometime during the past summer by two unknown individuals who represented themselves to be members of the School Board of an adjoining county. He indicated this information reflected that ANNIE SIMS refused to turn this information over to the unknown individuals because of their shabby appearance and professed ignorance of MOORE's whereabouts.

He stated that WILLIAM DAUNTAY or LUCILLE WARREN, his mother-in-law, would have more specific information concerning this alleged visit. ZEIGLER reiterated a great deal of the information furnished during original contact as did his wife, VIOLLET. Both individuals professed that the motivating factor in the death of the victims was prejudice on the part of some white persons.

LUCILLE WARREN, who resides directly across the street from the ZEIGLER family and in the immediate vicinity of the MOORE residence, indicated she did not know anything about the report mentioned by ZEIGLER, however she stated she had heard this particular rumor but did not recall the source.

kind of a car it was, he was not looking at the car as it went past his home, was unable to furnish any information concerning the license number or the persons in the car. He said that he picked up his paper and started reading again, leaving the front door open and he later heard someone screaming. He said he made no further effort to find out what had happened until the following morning.

SHARPE owns a small orange grove just to the north of the victim's home and said that he had noted a considerable amount of traffic going north and south on the Old Dixie Highway on Christmas day and had seen several cars containing colored people turn in the road between the two orange groves, which goes back into the MOORE and SIMS residence. He said he had no information concerning any suspects, had never heard anybody make any threats against MOORE and was unable to offer any information of value.

At the suggestion of JOE WARREN, PAUL CUYLER and his wife, GEORGE CUYLER, neighbors and friends of the victims were interviewed but they were unable to furnish any information concerning the victim's activities and were at a loss as to the party or parties who may have been responsible for the bombing of MOORE's residence.

HENRY STICKLAND was also interviewed at the suggestion of WARREN and he was unable to furnish any information concerning the activities of the victim or any information concerning possible suspects. He said he had overheard a radio broadcast during the day which attributed to the victim's wife, MARGARET, a statement to the effect her husband had been cautioned or warned by an official of Brevard County sometime ago. He was unable to elaborate on this statement and had no other information to offer.

According to WARREN, both CUYLER and STICKLAND are believed to be members of the NAACP.

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JERRY ZEIGLER, who lives on the Old Dixie Highway approximately 400 yards south of the MOORE residence, advised he was in bed asleep at the time of the explosion; that he was awakened by his wife and told that an awful blast had occurred. He said he put on his clothes and walked outside to the road and looked around but saw nothing out of the ordinary and heard nothing which aroused his suspicion. He said that possibly some 15 or 20 minutes after the blast and while he was still standing in the road looking around, a car occupied by two neighbor boys, the HUTCHESONS, came by the highway going north and he said the boys stopped him and picked him to take him over to the scene of the bombing. ZEIGLER said that the HUTCHESON boys, who are white, told him they had left their home and gone to Miss to find out what had

happened and had driven back down U.S. #1 and were coming back up the Old Dixie Highway to find out what had actually taken place.

ZEIGLER said he had no information concerning any possible enemies that MOORE or his wife may have had but that he fully realized that by virtue of MOORE's activities he undoubtedly had incurred the wrath of some individuals. He said that while he had nothing definite to base any suspicions on, he regarded the HUTCHESON boys as "the type that just don't like colored folks" and ZEIGLER and his wife, VIOLET, both said "We don't like the HUTCHESON boys because they just don't look right." They were unable to elaborate and said that the HUTCHESON boys had lived in the immediate vicinity for quite a number of years.

ZEIGLER said that he spends the majority of the time around his home, which is located approximately 100 feet off the west side of the Old Dixie Highway and said that he had not observed any suspicious individuals in the area during the recent past and knew of no logical suspects or persons who might be responsible.

ZEIGLER's wife, Mrs. VIOLET ZEIGLER, advised she was in bed just dozing off to sleep when the blast occurred, that she called her husband, who hurriedly dressed and walked outside. She said she put some clothes on and walked out to the front gate and while she was standing there a car went past her home going north. She said the car was traveling at a reasonable rate of speed and that when it went by it stopped behind a large bush at the gate of her yard because she was not adequately clothed and did not wish to be caught in the glare of the headlights or seen by the persons in the car. She said that when this car went by it was subsequent to the time her husband JERRY had gotten in the car with the HUTCHESON boys and gone over to the MOORE's residence.

She said that shortly after the explosion occurred she heard screams coming from the direction of the MOORE's residence or the SIMCO residence. She said that sometime after the blast occurred the HUTCHESON boys returned her husband to his home and she then learned that the MOORE home had been bombed and that HARRY was probably dead.

She was unable to furnish any information concerning any definite suspects and she said that as far as she knew or had ever heard, MOORE had no definite enemies except "those who don't want right." She would not elaborate further on this remark.

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EDWIN H. DUFF II, he was again interviewed at which time he verified all information previously furnished and in addition, stated that he had heard something, though remembered no details concerning the fact, that HARRY MOORE had been run out of Orlando after a meeting there. ARNOLD was unable to elaborate on this rumor but suggested that his sister VALERIE SIMS be contacted at Melbourne, Florida as he had gotten this information from VALERIE. It is pointed out that VALERIE is a sister of victim HARRIETT MOORE and ARNOLD SIMS. It was ARNOLD'S opinion that this incident resulted directly from the work being carried on by HARRY MOORE in connection with the trial of the two subjects of the Groveland case, WALTER LEE IRVIN and SAMUEL STEPHEN.

ARNOLD mentioned ELLER SIMS and JOHN GILBERT as being, in his estimation two men who were the closest to HARRY MOORE in his work and he felt that these two men would know most about HARRY'S more recent works and travels.

AT MELBOURNE, FLORIDA.

On December 28, 1951 MELVIN CORBETT, who resides in Melbourne, Florida, advised that he was a nephew of HARRY T. and HARRIETT MOORE, victims. He said his mother and HARRIETT were sisters. MELVIN said he did not see HARRY MOORE very often but occasionally he and HARRIETT would visit them for a few minutes when they were traveling through Melbourne.

MELVIN said that since his uncle was killed he had heard that his uncle had told a NORMAN CORTES that he was "going to do something if it cost his life." MELVIN said he was not able to elaborate on what that meant, however, he was sure NORMAN CORTES could furnish the details.

MELVIN stated he had heard from his mother that HARRY MOORE had, sometime in the past had trouble in Groveland, Florida and that he, HARRY, had been "run into Orange County".

MELVIN said that he had last seen HARRY MOORE on Christmas day at the victim's home. He said they had talked a few minutes about the McCALL case and also about the payment of the NAACP dues. He said that HARRY did not express at the time any fears nor did his general demeanor indicate that he anticipated any trouble whatsoever.

NORMAN CORTES, who owns a small grocery store in Melbourne, Florida, advised that he has known the victim, HARRY MOORE, for several years. He said that he has only seen him once in the past month, on which occasion they had quite a discussion concerning the Groveland case. CORTES said that he told HARRY MOORE on the occasion of their last meeting that he felt he, HARRY 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 has 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 NEWELL 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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proceeded from Hims, Florida to Titusville, Florida by the Old Dixie Highway. He said that at a point approximately one mile and a half south of the MOORE residence they observed an automobile parked on the side of the road with three men gathered around it. According to BOTLAND this was at approximately 9 P.M. and that the automobile was an old model car which had been converted into a truck. He said the truck was light blue. As they passed these individuals the ROBERTS made the comment they looked like "bank robbers dividing the loot" inasmuch as they were huddled together beside the car.

BILL ROBERTS had told BOTLAND that he had seen this automobile on the high school grounds being driven by a high school student.

Mr. and Mrs. EARL ROBERTS and their son, BILL, were interviewed at their home on the corner of Orange and Line Streets, Titusville. Mr. and Mrs. ROBERTS stated that they placed the time of seeing these individuals as about 8 P.M. instead of 9 P.M. BILL ROBERTS advised that the automobile was light green in color, about a 1941 or 1942 Ford that had been converted into a truck. He said that the cab of the automobile was still on the frame but that the back end of the car was open. BILL ROBERTS stated he would be able to identify the car if he saw it again.

Mr. and Mrs. ROBERTS and their son, BILL, accompanied Agents and pointed out the place where this automobile had been parked. It was estimated that this place was a mile and a half south of the MOORE home on the Old Dixie Highway. While enroute to Titusville from this spot Mr. and Mrs. ROBERTS and BILL spotted the car they had seen at the place. It was noted at this time that this car bore 1951 Florida license tag #19-309.

Records of the Florida State Auto License Bureau, Chamber of Commerce Building, Titusville, reflected that this car was registered in the name of B. B. CARLILE, Hims, Florida.

B. B. CARLILE advised that he had owned a 1939 Ford sedan but that he had sold it to the Roberts Motor Company in Titusville, Florida. He had heard that an individual by the name of DARBY, who is employed at the Titusville Ice Company had purchased this automobile.

JOHN H. DARBY, Titusville Ice Company, advised that on the night of December 25, 1951 he and his uncle, JACK CORBITT and his cousins, DONALD SNOWDEN and GLORIA JEAN SNOWDEN, drove to Hims, Florida at about 7 P.M. He said they proceeded to Hims by U.S. Route #1. DARBY stated further that when they returned to Titusville they came by the Old Dixie Highway and stopped