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MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent RUFERT G. ZEIGLER on February 5, 1952, at Pensacola, Florida.

BASIS: SOLOMON BROOKINS stated EBB B. FARROW was well acquainted with victims and might have information concerning instant case.

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By letter dated March 7, 1952, the Mobile Office furnished the following information.

EBB B. FARROW, colored, 905 West Cervantes Street, Pensacola, Florida, advised he had met HARRY T. MOORE at an NAACP conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, in about 1946 and had met him about every six months thereafter at conferences and conventions, and often stayed with him in the same room at hotels. He had met HARRIETT MOORE in Jacksonville, Florida, in December, 1951 when they planned to raise money for the defense of colored people in certain trials.

He stated MOORE stayed at his home when he came to Pensacola to raise funds for NAACP work about October, 1951, and at that time MOORE told him he was threatened for taking too much interest in the Groveland Rape Case and was afraid to travel in the daytime. MOORE did not tell him when, where or who threatened him nor how it was done. FARROW added that MOORE also said he did not want to go back to Lake County to do any work but did not state that the threat came from anyone in Lake County.

FARROW considered MOORE's closest friends to be --- GRAY, President, State NAACP, Tampa, Florida, and --- DUNN, President, Progressive Voters League, St. Petersburg, Florida. FARROW stated MOORE had a very good reputation all over Florida, that he was not radical, and that he did not cross people. He knew of no dissension in the NAACP against MOORE except that at the Tampa convention in November, 1950, MOORE was criticized for not rendering a satisfactory annual financial report. He stated MOORE later presented a satisfactory report.

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FARROW knew of no enemies of HARRY T. or HARRIETT MOORE. He stated he believed their deaths were caused from their having taken too active a part in the Groveland case. He stated he knew MOORE as a fearless man and straight-forward speaker until he visited him in Pensacola in October, 1951, at which time he acted as though he were afraid to speak and told him he was afraid to travel in the daytime.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 7, 1952.

BASIS: Mr. FRANK G. CLARK and daughter one BESSIE CLARK, Indian River Packing Company, Indian River City, Florida, operate one of the largest independent citrus packing plants in Brevard County and they are familiar with many of the white and colored people in the Mims area who work the groves.

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Mr. FRANK G. CLARK, Indian River Packing Company, advised that he first heard of the explosion that killed HARRY T. MOORE on the day following the blast. He advised that he had no idea who might have done the job, but he stated that HARRY T. MOORE was moving along too fast in his Progressive Voters League and his NAACP activities. CLARK qualified himself by saying that MOORE was quite a leader amongst Negroes but it was his opinion that he was going too fast. He advised that he held no animosity toward MOORE and that he had never personally known the man but he knew of him because many of his drivers and packers often spoke of MOORE.

Miss BESSIE CLARK, daughter of FRANK G. CLARK stated many of the white residents in the Titusville - Mims area would have liked to have seen MOORE's activities curb somewhat but she did not feel that murder was the proper way to do it. She frankly admitted that she did not care to see the Negroes get too much power through their voting and she did not care to see them organize such as the NAACP had organized them.

Both Mr. CLARK and Miss CLARK said that they held no hatred for the Negroes whatsoever, that they had many of them working for them and that their relationship had been nothing but the best in the years they had been in the area, however, they were just southern minded people and felt the Negroes should be kept in their place. Neither had any idea who might have perpetrated the bombing and they said that their Negro help seldom mentioned the death of MOORE and his wife. Both advised that if they heard anything that would be of assistance in the matter they would notify the FBI immediately.

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V. MISCELLANEOUS

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent FRED E. GORDON at Ormond Beach, Florida, on February 11, 1952:

BASIS: In a letter Dr. CHARLES COPELAND SMITH claimed that ROY ROBERTS, former State Representative, who now lives in Titusville, Florida, and is a Ford dealer there, is a possible suspect in instant bombing.

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Dr. CHARLES COPELAND SMITH, 33 Dix Avenue, was interviewed in response to a letter he had written to the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Daytona Beach, Florida, pointing out that ROY ROBERTS, a former State Representative from Brevard County, Florida, and now a Ford dealer in Titusville, Florida, should be considered a possible suspect in instant bombing.

He advised he formerly resided at Titusville from 1945 to 1948, during which period he was associated with the Episcopal Church there. In this association with the Episcopal Church he preached to gatherings of Bahama negroes twice a week at Titusville. It was through his association with these negroes, according to Dr. SMITH, that he gained their confidence and they had as a result been very free to tell him of their troubles.

In preaching to these negroes at Titusville he was warned on two occasions about fraternizing with the negroes, once by L. C. CROFTEN, who is an attorney in Titusville, Florida, and by ROY ROBERTS, the former State Representative in question.

ROBERTS, according to Dr. SMITH, is "bull-headed, egotistical, sort of individual," who will gain his point at all costs. As an example of this, Dr. SMITH recalled that ROBERTS' young son was arrested by CARLOS BULLOCK, a Florida Highway Patrolman, for speeding. ROBERTS' attitude toward this arrest was that he mentioned he would get BULLOCK out of this territory as soon as possible as he did not want him going around arresting his son. As Dr. SMITH pointed out, BULLOCK was transferred from this territory and it was Dr. SMITH'S personal opinion that ROBERTS was chiefly responsible for this transfer.

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Along these same lines Dr. SMITH recalled that ROBERTS had publicly blamed victim MOORE for his defeat in the 1950 reelection campaign for State Representative for this District.

Dr. SMITH stated that while on business in Titusville, Florida, on December 24, 1951, he chanced to talk with a colored boy whom he had known before by the name of STANLEY (last name unknown). STANLEY, according to Dr. SMITH, is well known to BURR of the Casa-Burr Inn at Titusville. In talking to STANLEY this particular day STANLEY advised him in their general conversation about the racial problem that ROBERTS "had it in for" MOORE. Dr. SMITH stated he could recall nothing specific that STANLEY had said in this regard or regarding MOORE's activities but he did recall STANLEY emphasized the fact that ROBERTS was very definitely anti-negro and against victim HARRY T. MOORE.

He continued that, although he has been very active in negro problems both here and in Titusville, he never heard of any Ku Klux Klan activities. He stated the counties of Brevard and Volusia did not need the Klan people to control the negroes in that area.

In conclusion, Dr. SMITH advised it was his opinion that the bombing at Mims, Florida, was done by local Brevard County residents and that ROBERTS would be his chief suspect. He pointed out that ROBERTS' son has had Army experience and possibly could have gained some knowledge of explosives through his Army training and would be able to perpetrate the Mims bombing.

been in the Hims area on one or two occasions and that she knew definitely that he had not been in his home in Hims for a period of about four weeks prior to the blast and that during the immediate past she had not observed any suspicious individuals hanging around the area or driving up and down the road near the MOORE residence. She said she had not talked to any member of the MOORE family or the SIMS family since their arrival in Hims the week prior to Christmas.

She also related that she had overheard conversation concerning a radio broadcast attributing to HARRIETT MOORE a remark to the effect that her husband had been warned by some official of Brevard County sometime ago. She said she had no definite information concerning this matter.

2-11-52 Sergeant OLIVER HOLBERT of the Daytona Beach Police Department, Daytona Beach, Florida, a reliable source of information, advised he did not know MOORE personally but had heard of him in connection with his activities in the NAACP. HOLBERT said since the blast occurred he has been vigorously trying to develop some information concerning the identity of the individuals responsible but that he has been unable to develop any.

He recalled that on or about November 23, 1951 a State Convention of the NAACP was held at Daytona Beach and meetings held at the Campbell Street High School. He recalled that some difficulty had arisen during the convention among the delegates to the convention and HOLBERT said that while he did not attend the convention he was informed by JOHN DICKERSON, a member of the NAACP, that the delegates from Alabama had introduced a resolution abolishing the job held by HARRY T. MOORE, the victim, who was then Executive Secretary of the Florida NAACP. HOLBERT said that DICKERSON told him the Alabama delegates did not feel that the NAACP were getting their money's worth as far as the recruitment of new members was concerned and they were endeavoring to install an Alabama man in the post held by MOORE. HOLBERT said there apparently was considerable discussion concerning the resolution to abolish MOORE'S job and that the resolution was apparently withdrawn after MOORE had eloquently pleaded his case and offered to work for a period of six months without pay if he were allowed to remain in office. HOLBERT said that the real difficulty seemed to be that MOORE had failed to get his quota of new members in the State of Florida because "he had become too engrossed in politics to serve the good of the NAACP in recruiting new members."

HOLBERT said that subsequent to the convention held in Daytona Beach in November he had heard that MOORE was working in South Florida in the vicinity of Miami in connection with his NAACP activities.



HOLBERT recalled that MOORE had made a speech at the Daytona Beach Convention of the NAACP on "Fight for Civil Rights through State Legislation" and had also decried the action of Sheriff WILLIS McCALL in connection with the Lake County case. Many of MOORE's remarks were directly quoted in numerous State newspapers. HOLBERT said he had discussed the bombing of MOORE's home with DICKERSON and many others in Daytona Beach and that no one seemed to be able to attribute the motive to any particular person or group, and that they were unable to suggest any clues or ideas and had no suspects.

LEON HUTCHESON, who lives approximately one and a half miles south-west of the MOORE residence, was interviewed on December 27, 1951 at which time he advised that at the time of the explosion he was in bed asleep. According to HUTCHESON he had retired at approximately 10 P.M. and had been in bed about 25 minutes when the blast came. According to HUTCHESON he got up and dressed to see what had caused the explosion and at that time noticed his brother, DONNIE, who lives next door to him, had come over to his house to see about the same thing. HUTCHESON stated that together they got in his car and drove from their house to the hard top road referred to as the Old Dixie Highway and from there turned left going into Mims, Florida.

As HUTCHESON recalled they went by the MOORE residence, which sets back off the hard top road approximately 300 to 400 yards, he noticed lights on at the MOORE house and one or two cars moving about with their headlights on. HUTCHESON stated they stopped the car approximately 100 yards from the intersection of the Old Dixie Highway and the railroad to determine if there were following blasts, then proceeded on into Mims.

Arriving in Mims they stopped at DUFFY's Fruit Stand and overhead some unknown party say "We are just waiting for the debris to fall." Leaving DUFFY's fruit stand HUTCHESON stated they then proceeded south on the main highway of U. S. #1 to a point where the road intersects that leads to their home at which time they saw a colored fellow by the name of ZEIGLER standing on the road.

According to HUTCHESON they picked ZEIGLER up and from that point proceeded to the MOORE residence. Arriving at the MOORE residence, according to HUTCHESON, the only person around was a colored boy by the name of SIMS, first name unknown. HUTCHESON stated that his brother, DONNIE, left at that time to go back into Mims and call "the law" while he looked around to see if he could be of any help.

HUTCHESON stated he has known MOORE for many years and, to his knowledge, had no enemies in the Mims vicinity. HUTCHESON stated MOORE was well-

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FORD also advised that he does not have any information as to the identity of the persons responsible for the bombing of the MOORE residence, adding that the bombing came as a complete surprise to him. He also stated he does not have any information regarding the activities of MOORE since his employment as a teacher was discontinued at Mims, Florida.

2-11-52 IRVING A. HOLDER, Mims, Florida, advised that he was appointed to fill the vacancy on the School Board of Trustees at the death of Mr. DARDEN and that to the best of his memory he served as a Trustee from about September, 1946 to January, 1946 and does not recall HARRY T. MOORE and his wife resigning from their teaching positions. He stated further that he could only recall having one contact with MOORE and that that was in about 1940. He explained that during that time he went to the colored school to help fill out Selective Service questionnaires for the colored people of Mims. HOLDER stated he found MOORE to be uncooperative and never contacted him after that. HOLDER could give no information as to what persons might have bombed the MOORE residence.

JOHN D. NASH, Brevard Title and Abstract Company, Titusville, advised he is presently Chairman of the Brevard County Board of Instruction and was a member of the Brevard County Board of Public Instruction during 1945-46. NASH stated he personally recalls that HARRY T. and HARRIETT MOORE resigned as teachers during either 1945 or 1946, he does not recall the reason for their resignations.

He further advised that after MOORE's services had been discontinued MOORE and another colored man came to NASH's residence and at that time MOORE asked NASH if MOORE might again be employed as a teacher. NASH said he advised MOORE that he would not personally recommend MOORE for employment as long as MOORE was engaged in any political activity. In this regard NASH explained MOORE was very active in the Progressive Voters League. He said that he is of the opinion school teachers should not engage in politics and he so advised MOORE. He also stated that MOORE at that time did not mention HARRIETT's employment or desire that she should be reemployed but was concerned with employment for himself. He said that when he heard of the bombing of the MOORE's residence he was quite surprised inasmuch as he thought MOORE had left Mims a few years ago and was living elsewhere. He could suggest no suspects.

JOHN S. BOWLING, 1214 S. Hopkins Street, Titusville, Florida, was interviewed at his request on December 27, 1951. BOWLING advised that he is a teacher at the Titusville Grammar School and that on the night of December 25, 1951 he and his wife and Mr. and Mrs. EARL ROBERTS and their son BILL,