

TEM/GLP:msf

MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents CLYDE P. ADERHOLD and TOBLAS 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.

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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.

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.

1-2-52 [ 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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He stated that DUNN had been parked in a green pick-up truck. The truck had been parked in a large grove located east of the old Dixie Highway near the MOORE's residence. NOBLES said that to the best of his recollection he had met DUNN sometime in the morning but could not remember the exact time. He also advised that during the time he and DUNN were driving through the grove they had not seen any suspicious persons or activities in that vicinity. NOBLES could not furnish any information as to who might have bombed the MOORE's residence.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent EDWIN H. DUFF III and Assistant Special Agent in Charge W. W. BURKE on January 2, 1952:

BASIS: R. H. JOHNSON, associate of MOORE's, reported that Mr. FLAKE of the Hims Citrus Exchange had sometime ago made remarks concerning MOORE to the effect "he ought to have his neck broken" or some similar remark.

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JOHN C. FLAKE, whose father C. F. FLAKE owns a packing house at Hims, Florida, advised he had known MOORE for a period of 10-12 years and that he had heard of MOORE's activities with regard to his work in the NAACP and despite the fact MOORE had lived in this vicinity for 20 years or more, FLAKE had had no contact with MOORE until the summer of 1950, date not recalled, when MOORE contacted FLAKE and requested that he be furnished a list of all the colored employees employed by FLAKE at the Packing House.

FLAKE said he questioned MOORE as to the use to which he intended to make of this list of employees and when MOORE told him that he desired to use the names in connection with his NAACP work and his work in the Progressive Voters League, FLAKE said that he told MOORE he could not give him such a list.

FLAKE said that MOORE's contact with him was most agreeable and not unpleasant in any way, that they had no words at any time which could possibly indicate animosity on the part of either man.

FLAKE said that he had not seen MOORE for almost one year and he had no information regarding any suspects, known or no known enemies and had never heard that any of the local people had made any threats against MOORE. FLAKE concluded by saying that in view of the fact MOORE had lived in this area for a period of 20 years he did not believe that the job was local.

C. F. FLAKE, owner of a packing house and President of the Hims Citrus Exchange, advised that he had actually only known of MOORE for a period of eight or nine years and that he had never had any personal contact with MOORE at any time. He advised he had heard during the past several years some of his colored employees, whose names he did not recall speak of MOORE's activities among the negroes and FLAKE said that he gathered from this hearsay information that MOORE "was agitating among the negroes."

FLAKE said that he had never made any effort to contact MOORE with

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regard to his activities and had never had any disagreement with any of his employees concerning MOORE's activities.

FLAKE admitted that he was a former member of the Texas Night Riders and also a former member of the KU KLUX KLAN but he said that many years ago he dropped out of the KKK "because it got too rotten."

FLAKE said he knew of no KKK activity in Brevard County and had never heard of any within the area of Sanford, Florida. He said, however that he had read in the Florida papers concerning alleged KKK activity around Orlando, but said he knew none of the members of the Klan in that area and he felt that had there been any agitation on the part of the Klan concerning MOORE, particularly within Brevard County, that he would have been in a position to learn of such activity.

FLAKE said that he did not believe it was a local job and he thinks that the bombing was "a professional idea" possibly engineered by the Communists or Communist sympathizers in an effort to make this country, and particularly the State of Florida, look bad in the eyes of the world.

FLAKE said that he had been a resident of this area for 25 years and personally did not believe that any local individuals would resort to such tactics.

FLAKE admitted that he had been contacted recently by an old colored man out of Orlando associated with some Good Neighbor organization and that JOHNSON had solicited a \$25.00 donation to further his, JOHNSON's, work in promoting good relations among the colored laborers in the citrus industry.

FLAKE admitted that he may have made a remark to JOHNSON or some other person or persons regarding MOORE to the effect that "MOORE ought to have his butt kicked to get him straightened out." FLAKE said that while he had made such a remark it was a remark that was made without any thought of causing any harm to come to MOORE and he said that if he had had any reason whatsoever to disagree with MOORE that he would have met him face to face and not in the cowardly manner in which MOORE was murdered.

FLAKE said that he knew of no known enemies which MOORE may have had and had never heard that MOORE had received any threats of any kind.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents CLYDE P. ADERHOLD and TOBIAS E. MATTHEWS on January 2, 1951.

BASIS: PAUL CUYLER advised that approximately 10 years ago the grandchild of ED BELL was killed in an accident at the Mims Colored School. CUYLER said that BELL had at first held HARRY T. MOORE responsible for the child's death.

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ED BELL, Mims, Florida, advised that he has been living in Mims for about the last 12 years. He stated that approximately 10 years ago one of his grand-daughters ALICIA LEWIS was killed while playing baseball at the Mims Colored School. He said that one of the school boys had accidentally hit his grand-daughter in the head with a ball bat and that she died two days later. BELL advised that at first he had held HARRY T. MOORE responsible for the child's death because of the fact that MOORE had not realized the seriousness of the injury received by the girl. BELL said that MOORE did send his grand-daughter home that day but that she returned to school the following day and became ill and had to come home. He said she died on that day. BELL stated further that he has since learned that MOORE had not thought the injury serious received by his grand-daughter and that he no longer held MOORE responsible for his grand-daughters death. BELL stated that he had no personal animosity toward MOORE and that he considered him to be an outstanding colored citizen of Mims.

BELL stated he did not have any information as to the identity of the persons that were responsible for the bombing of the MOORE home.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents EDWIN H. DUFF and FRANK F. MEECH on January 1, 1952:

BASIS: Information furnished by M. C. CRAPP indicating previous attempt made on MOORE's life at West Palm Beach that possibly emanated from "PRETTY BOY" WOOTEN.

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WOOTEN was interviewed by Special Agent EDWIN H. DUFF and FRANK F. MEECH. His true name is RUBIN WOOTEN but he is more commonly known as "PRETTY BOY". His occupation is that of a gambler and he travels back and forth from New York to Florida.

He claimed that the last time he had seen MOORE was in February, 1951 prior to the time he left to go to New York. He was employed by the OVERDART Foundry at Syracuse, New York and resided at 1015 E. 5th Street, Syracuse. He said that he returned to Mims, Florida on December 21, 1951 and had not seen MOORE subsequent to that time or prior to the explosion, or subsequent to the explosion.

He said he formerly was a member of the NAACP but had not paid his dues for several years. He said he knew of no known enemies, no close associates and had not heard any rumors regarding any individuals who might have had a reason to get rid of MOORE. He said he had never had any close conversations with MOORE.

He said that on the afternoon of December 25, 1951 he, together with one CHESTER MCKENZIE, and another boy, whose first name is NICK, had gone to Winter Garden, Florida and were gambling in and around the negro quarters on Christmas night.

When questioned specifically as to whether he had originated the story concerning the previous threat allegedly made against MOORE at West Palm Beach, he denied he had started the rumor and denied he had ever heard such a story discussed at any time. He recalled a conversation with M. C. CRAPPS and "BROTHER" SIMMONS at a bar in the colored quarters in Cocoa but he said he does not have any recollection of a story to the effect MOORE was threatened at West Palm Beach was ever discussed.

In the group at the bar at the time the discussion was held, he recalled talking to "BROTHER" SIMMONS, CHARLEY RED and M. C. CRAPPS. He said

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those were the only boys he could recall by name.

WOOTEN said that he had always been one to mind his own business and had never attempted to stick his nose in the white man's business and strongly intimated that even if he had any information concerning the bombing that he would be hesitant to furnish it for fear of subsequent reprisals.

WOOTEN indicated that he was leaving Titusville on the afternoon of January 1, 1952 and was returning to Syracuse, New York.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MARCH and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 15, 1952:

BASIS: CARL E. PARKER is immediate supervisor of suspect EARL J. BROOKLYN, being the dispatcher at the Eames Avenue plant of Super Concrete Company, Orlando.

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CARL E. PARKER, who is known as GENE PARKER, of 1135 Utah Boulevard, Orlando, telephone 3-0394, who has been dispatcher at the Eames Avenue plant of the Super Concrete Company, Orlando, for the past two years and previously a driver out of the same plant for an additional two years, furnished the following information concerning suspect EARL J. BROOKLYN who has been employed for the past four years as a driver operating out of that plant:

Brooklyn earns 7.90 an hour for a 50 hour week, prior to present employment he was in the fruit business and engaged in commercial fishing. He does not associate with BROOKLYN and therefore does not know too much of his outside or social activities. However, he does know that BROOKLYN lives in the Lake Mann section of Orlando, goes hunting a lot, frequently talking of hunting trips with ED JACASO, who operates a Sinclair Station on Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando and with a wealthy rancher TOM RICE.

BROOKLYN reported for work every day closest to the Christmas holidays except for the four day holiday commencing Saturday, December 22, 1951 and ending Christmas day. BROOKLYN reported for work Wednesday morning, December 26, 1951.

Mr. PARKER advised that BROOKLYN is a likable fellow except for the fact he is prejudiced against negroes. BROOKLYN has expressed anti-negro sentiments and strenuously objected to the construction of a new negro high school in the area and expressed his extreme dislike for the new negro project constructed by the Housing Authority of the City of Orlando on the side of Lake Mann opposite his residence.

BROOKLYN, who has lived in the Orlando area all of his life, is supposed to be known to everyone in West Orange County, Florida. BROOKLYN has discussed the Groveland case and the McCALL case but the discussion was mainly based on information obtained from the newspapers and was of a general nature.



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He has heard people say that BROOKLYN is in the Klan but could not furnish the identity of any person who could definitely state of his own knowledge that BROOKLYN was a member. He described BROOKLYN as a man of violent temper who tries to act tough, who reads a lot in the newspaper about politics and sports and does not hesitate to talk about both and express his own opinions about them.

He has never heard BROOKLYN pass any remark about the Mims case except possibly in connection with some newspaper article. At one time BROOKLYN made the remark, "If we don't watch out the negroes will control everything in ten years and we might even have a negro President." BROOKLYN seems to believe he has some influence in politics and has been generally talking to people in order to oust MATTIE FARMER, Woman Juvenile Judge of Orange County, Florida. He talks as though he could have anyone thrown out of office.

Mr. PARKER knows nothing of BROOKLYN's actual activities of an anti-negro nature or direct activities as a member of the Klan.

To further illustrate BROOKLYN's personality and character, Mr. PARKER states that he has noticed that if BROOKLYN engaged in a friendly wrestling match with a person he would make every effort to actually hurt that person out of meanness. BROOKLYN, who has a very fast, violent temper, was operated on by a Dr. SUTTER two or three years ago because of ulcers and had a part of his stomach removed. In the past week or so, he had X-rays taken at the Florida Sanatorium. To Mr. PARKER's knowledge, BROOKLYN has never had anything to do with dynamite and does not own any pump shot gun. He does own a double barrel 12 gauge shot gun.

BROOKLYN at one time tried to induce ALVIE L. LEWIS, Jr., a former employee at the Plant, to join the Klan.

BROOKLYN's wife, ANNIE, is in the habit of driving him to work in their medium green jeep, which has a canvas top over the front seat and has yellow trim. He has two daughters, one DOROTHY BROOKLYN, who is about 20 years of age, and the second daughter 14 or 15 years of age, who is known by the name of "JUNK".

Mr. PARKER has been at the BROOKLYN home on two occasions for social visits. PARKER had never heard of an individual named TILLMAN BELVIN (who has been considered a suspect in this case).

The following other employees of the Super Concrete Company, know EARL BROOKLYN, according to Mr. PARKER:

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HARMON BAARSHAG, a driver  
WILLIAM R. ROBE, a driver  
VIRGON BULLER, a batchman, all at the Hemes Avenue plant  
HERMAN MASSEBURG, driver at temporary plant, Pinecastle Air Base  
HOWER CHRISTIAN, also at the Pinecastle Base.