

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **MIAMI**

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT SAVANNAH	DATE WHEN MADE 3/15/52	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/14/52	REPORT MADE BY ROGER O'HARA /rjo
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; HARRY T. MOORE, HARRIETT MOORE - VICTIMS (Deceased)			CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

LELAND FRANCIS GEORGE, Route 1, Jackson, S. C., upon reinterview advises was member of KKK at Apopka, Fla. in latter part of 1943 to latter part of 1949. Took part in five floggings, but does not know names of victims. Advises still in sympathy with KKK and refuses to identify members who participated in floggings. Refuses to furnish signed statement concerning KKK activities. Description set forth.

- R U C -

DETAILS:

AT JACKSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

On March 14, 1952 **LELAND FRANCIS GEORGE** was reinterviewed by Special Agent **EDWARD C. BELLETIER** and the reporting agent at his residence at Route 1, Jackson, South Carolina.

GEORGE explained that he joined the Ku Klux Klan at Apopka, Florida upon invitation of WILLIAM BOGART, former Commander of the KKK at Apopka, Florida.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
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GEORGE advised that he resigned from the Klan during the latter part of 1949.

GEORGE admitted that he had participated in the flogging of one white man and four negroes residing in Apopka, Florida during the year 1949, however steadfastly refused to cooperate in naming or identifying the flogging victims. He declined to state where the floggings had taken place or to identify the Klansmen who accompanied him on these floggings. He stated, however, that the caravan consisted of five automobiles, and that the individual Klansman who participated in the floggings did not wear robes or hoods.

He admitted that T. J. ~~McMENNANY~~ was a member of the Ku Klux Klan in Apopka, Florida, and had accompanied him (GEORGE) as a driver of one of the cars on one or two occasions, but that neither he nor McMENNANY took part in any of the floggings. He added that it was customary for the Exalted Cyclops to solicit volunteers from the Klavern when these floggings took place and that the Exalted Cyclops WILLIAM BOGART had never to his knowledge accompanied the group on any floggings. He termed BOGART as "yellow."

GEORGE advised he attended approximately 15 or 20 meetings of the Apopka Klavern of the Ku Klux Klan, and that he had visited the Orlando, Florida Klavern on two occasions.

GEORGE stated he knew EARL BROOKLYN to be a member of the Klan at Apopka, Florida, and admitted that he had met BROOKLYN at a Klan meeting in Orlando, Florida during 1949. He reiterated that he knew nothing of BROOKLYN ever possessing the floor plans of HARRY T. MOORE's home, nor did he know of any members of the Apopka Klavern who are familiar with the use of dynamite blasting caps or fuses.

GEORGE claimed he has never visited Mims, Florida and does not know where the town is located. He stated that he never heard HARRY T. MOORE's

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name mentioned at any of the meetings of the Klan that he attended and further advised that he does not know HARRY T. MOORE.

GEORGE advised that he is still in sympathy with the Ku Klux Klan, and therefore does not care to divulge any information concerning Klan activities which might cause any of the members to become involved with the authorities.

GEORGE stated that he does not believe the Apopka Klavern was involved in the recent bombing of the home of HARRY T. MOORE. He stated that his first knowledge of the bombing was a newspaper report of the incident.

GEORGE declined to furnish a signed statement concerning any of his Klan activities.

The following description of LELAND FRANCIS GEORGE was obtained from observation and interrogation:

Age	28
Date of birth	January 24, 1924 at Artville, New York
Height	5'8"
Weight	135 lbs.
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Red
Complexion	Ruddy
Education	8th grade, Hollywood, Florida
Social Security	#262-26-4719
Military Service	U. S. Army, 2169th Field Artillery Battalion, March 9, 1943 to December 18, 1945, Honorable Discharge.
Army Serial No.	35097570
Relatives:	Wife, LENNA N. GEORGE, age 28, Route 1, Jackson, S. C.; daughter, LYNDIA M. GEORGE, age 4; daughter SYLVIA E. GEORGE, age 2 weeks; son, DANIEL LEE GEORGE, age 3; son, LELAND CHARLES GEORGE, age 2, all of Route 1, Jackson, S. C.;

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Father, FRANK M. GEORGE,
age 62, Route 1, Jackson, S.C.;
Mother, BEULAH A. GEORGE,
age 52, Route 1, Jackson, S.C.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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TELETYPE

FBI, MIAMI 4-5-52 3-27 PM EST ECE
DIRECTOR.....U R G E N T
...ATTN - ASST. DIRECTOR A. ROSEN...

[Handwritten initials]

UNSUBS, HARRY T. MOORE, HARRIETT MOORE, VICTIMS, DECEASED, CR. FRANK LELAND, FRANCIS GEORGE INTERVIEWED AT JACKSON, S.C. BY MIAMI AGENTS. ADMITTED IN SIGNED STATEMENT PARTICIPATION IN CONSIDERABLE TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN APOPKA AND WINTER GARDEN AREA. SPECIFIC DETAILS ON NINE RIDES OR ATTEMPTED RIDES INCLUDING THE BURNING OF ONE WHITE MAN-S QUOTE SHACK UNQUOTE HOME FURNISHED. GEORGE MEMBER OF AGK AT APOPKA FROM ABOUT APR. FORTYNINE TO JUL. FIFTY. CLAIMS BILL BOGAR, WHO WAS HEAD OF KLOKLAN COMMITTEE IN FORTYNINE AND EC IN FIFTY, WAS INSTIGATOR, GUIDING HAND AND PARTICIPANT IN ALL INCIDENTS IN WHICH HE WAS INVOLVED BUT ONE INCIDENT, AS FOLLOWS. ABOUT JUN. OR JUL. FORTYNINE, A SHACK OWNED BY A MAN NAMED DASH WHITE BURNED TO GROUND. ORIGINAL INTENTION TO FLOG WHITE BUT WHEN NOT LOCATED AT HOME, BOGAR INSTRUCTED FIRE BE SET, USING KEROSENE FOUND AT PLACE, AND WHICH WAS IGNITED BY GEORGE. PARTICIPATING IN ADDITION, ALBERT EDWARD

..END PAGE ONE..

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HAYES, T. J. MC NEMNAMY, WALTER GODING, MELVIN WHITE, AND UNRE-
CALLED INDIVIDUAL AND HE BELIEVES POSSIBLY EMMETT HART. ABOUT TWO
MONTHS LATER AFTER DASH WHITE HAD MOVED TOWARD WINTER GARDEN, A
SECOND RIDE WAS ORGANIZED, BUT WHITE MANAGED TO ELUDE THE WRECKING
CREW. PARTICIPATING WERE THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE PLUS MARION EDWARD
WADE, AKA, JOE WADE, HARVEY REISNER, PHIL HUGGINS, ALL OF APOPKA
KLAVERN, ROY RAMSEY, EARL BROOKLYN, EDGAR BROOKLYN, EDDIE JACKSON,
ERWIN FIEDLER, ROBERT JUDAH, KNOWN AS JUDY, AND JUDY-S CLOSEST
ASSOCIATE, KNOWN ONLY AS JACK PAREN. JUDY AND JACK ALWAYS OPERATED
AS A TOP NOTCH LOADING TEAM PAREN. BELIEVE ALEX SMITH MAY ALSO
HAVE BEEN ON THIS RIDE. THIRD RIDE INVOLVED UNKNOWN NEGRO MAN AS-
DUCTED FROM STREET IN APOPKA. BEATEN IN GROVE WITH OFFICIAL KLAN
STRAP. INVOLVED WERE BOGAR, REISNER, WADE, MC NEMNAMY, JUDY AND
JACK, WHITE, HUGGINS, AND HART OR GODING. FOURTH INCIDENT INVOLVED
PURSUIT OF DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, GROVELAND RAPE TRIAL FROM TAVARES TO

..END PAGE TWO..

..PAGE THREE..

ORLANDO, FLA., AIRPORT. INCIDENT REFERRED TO PREVIOUSLY IN REPORTS, WHEREIN THURGOOD MARSHALL, HORACE HILL, TED POSTEN, ALL NEGROES, AND ALEX AKERMAN WHITE OF ORLANDO WERE CHASED OUT OF LAKE COUNTY AND THROUGH APOPKA. KLAN INTENDED TO STOP CAR AND SEVERLY FLOG OCCUPANTS, WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO LEAVE STATE. EIGHT CARLOADS OF KLANSMEN PARTICIPATED, INCLUDED MOST OF THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE. FIFTH RIDE INVOLVED ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND BEAT AN UNKNOWN NEGRO MAN IN CLARCOMA DISTRICT. PARTICIPANTS BOGAR, MCNAMNAMY, WADE, HART, ALTON DIXON, JR., AND POSSIBLY GODING. SIXTH ALSO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND FLOG UNKNOWN WHITE MAN NEAR MAIN STREET IN WINTER GARDEN. PARTICIPANTS WHITE, HAYES, WADE, MCNAMNAMY, JUDAH, BERT CLARK OF ORLANDO, AND POSSIBLY ALEC SMITH. SEVENTH ALSO AN ATTEMPT, INVOLVED ABDUCTION OF UNKNOWN WHITE MAN FROM JUKE JOINT IN WINTER GARDEN. PARTICIPANTS BOGAR, WADE, MC NAMNAMY, DIXON, GODING AND TWO OR THREE UNKNOWN KLANSMEN IN CAR FROM WINTER GARDEN DASH ORLANDO. EIGHTH INVOLVED WHITE MAN, NAME UNKNOWN,

..END PAGE THREE..

..PAGE FOUR..

NEIGHBOR OF WADE WHO RECEIVED A FLOGGING IN WOODS NEAR APOPKA. PARTICIPATING WERE WADE, WHO REMAINED IN BACKGROUND, BOGAR, MCNAMAMY, HUGGINS, REISNER, JUDAH AND JACK, HART, GODING AND POSSIBLY HAYES AND WHITE. NINTH AND FINAL INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED IN ABOUT JUL. FIFTY, INVOLVED UNKNOWN NEGRO MAN. AS GEORGE AND MCNEYNAMY APPROACHED NEGRO ON STREET TO LOAD HIM IN CAR, NEGRO DREW GUN, WHICH GEORGE KNOCKED FROM HAND. ALTHOUGH MC NEMNAMY STRUCK NEGRO ON HEAD SEVERAL TIMES WITH HIS OWN HOME MADE BLACKJACK MADE OF FOOT OF HALF INCH LEAD PIPE AND SLEEVE OF RUBBER HOSE, THE VICTIM BROKE AWAY AND ESCAPED IN WOODS. ALSO FURNISHED INFO CONCERNING GROVELAND RACE RIOT IN WHICH FIVE TO SIX HUNDRED KLANSMEN FROM ALL OVER STATE, AND SOME FROM OUT OF STATE, SOUGHT TO LOCATE RAPISTS AND LYNCH THEM. HE LEARNED FROM BOGAR THAT THE THREE HOUSES BURNED WERE SET FIRE BY THROWING MOLOTOV COCKTAILS MADE OF GASOLINE AND QUART GINGERALE BOTTLES WITH BURNING WICK IN NECK OF BOTTLE. DOES NOT HAVE ANY DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF ARSONIOUS OR OTHER TERRIORISTIC ACTS AT GROVELAND.

W A L L

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II. INVESTIGATION OF SUSPECT EARL J. BROOKLYN

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents MORRIS E. SWEET and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on April 4, 1952 at Ocoee, Florida.

BASIS: Mrs. PERRY (ADA) FITZGERALD, sister of suspect EARL J. BROOKLYN, interviewed for information regarding his Klan activities and possible implication in instant bombing.

Mrs. FITZGERALD said she and her brother, EARL BROOKLYN, have very little contact inasmuch as the BROOKLYNS all possess very hot tempers and do not get along very well together. She stated that she knew that EARL had at one time, possibly nine years ago, been a member of the Klan and that she had obtained this information from her mother. She stated that EARL had never told her he was a Klansman but that he had told only his mother. Mrs. FITZGERALD noted that her mother has been dead for about seven to nine years.

She stated that at no time has EARL ever discussed any of his private affairs with her or her husband. The last time she saw EARL was shortly after the first of January. At that time he made no statements concerning his Klan activities and had made no mention whatsoever of instant bombing.

She also stated she has no knowledge of any terrorist activities in which EARL might have been engaged at any time in the past.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK P. LEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on April 24, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

BASIS: Attempt made to interview EARL J. BROOKLYN regarding his activities in the Klan regarding his knowledge of HARRY T. MOORE and terrorist activities in which he participated.

EARL J. BROOKLYN was first contacted telephonically by Special Agent LEECH and advised that Agents desired to talk to him. At which time he stated the Agents could come to his home if they desired; however, he said: "Cop'n, I've said all I'm going to say about that case. I don't know anything about it and I don't intend to discuss it."

The Agents proceeded to the residence of BROOKLYN and upon arriving it was noted he was lying on the couch and refused to allow the Agents to enter his home and would not accompany them to the porch; the Agent on an automobile to discuss the case.

He was belligerent and would not discuss the case under any circumstances. He said, "I have nothing to say. If you want to ask any questions, you had better see my attorney BEN FISHBACK." It is to be noted that FISHBACK has counselled the Klan to the effect that Klansmen did not have to come to the Resident Agency of the FBI or discuss any of their activities with Agents of the Bureau unless they personally desired it.

Despite BROOKLYN's refusal to cooperate repeated efforts were made to convince him to at least listen to information in which he should be vitally interested. He was told he was under no obligation to say anything while he listened. However, he persisted in maintaining his position that he would not accede to this request. He said the only way he would even get close to any Agents was if they presented him a warrant for his arrest and at that time he would go with them peacefully.

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because they mentioned the fact that they had a large amount of dynamite stored, I tried, as best I could, for the sake of the Bureau, to find out where that dynamite was stored.

Q Did you ever find out?

A No sir. All I found out was that it was in a warehouse; that's all I ever heard.

Q Were you told where it was in a ware-

A No sir.

Q Have you ever heard any discussion in the Klan at all, anywhere, of the bombing at Mims, Florida, in 1951?

A Yes sir, I heard that discussed in -- -- right after I went in the Klan, in Orlando.

There were several men in Orlando who were interrogated by the F.B.I. for the possible part they may have had in that particular bombing. In fact, one man, Mr. Brooklyn, over there, told me at that time that he participated in one.

Q Mr. Brooklyn, of Orlando, told you he'd participated in the 1951 bombing at Mims, Florida?

A Yes.

Q Is that the bombing of Harry F. Moore's home?

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A Well, I don't know whose home it was, but it was a colored man over there.

Q Was that the bombing in which a colored man and woman were killed?

A I believe it was, yes. I don't remember their names, though.

Q But it was at Mims, Florida?

A (The witness nodded affirmatively)

Q And Mr. Brooklyn, of Orlando, told you he participated in that 1951 bombing at Mims, Florida?

A He said that he had been picked up and questioned on many occasions by the F.B.I. in regard to his activities over there, but that they were never able to prove that he participated in it.

Q But he told you that he had?

A Yes sir.

Q But he didn't tell the Bureau that?

A No sir.

Q Did you report that to the Bureau?

A I'm quite sure I did, yes.

Q When was that that - - -

A Whenever the F.B.I. comes up - - - let me mention this while I'm thinking about it.

There were a number of occasions, while

I was actively working within the Klan, a number of people had suspected that I might be an agent for the F.B.I., and I was accused of it on some occasions.

In fact, on one particular occasion, I think if it hadn't been on the part of some other people, that I might not be sitting here right now, but that's when this question about the F.B.I. arose, as far as the Nims thing was concerned, because I was talking to Mr. Brooklyn about it, about some of the people saying that I was a member of the F.B.I., and he said, "well, so what"; he said, "they're nothing to be afraid of"; said, "they've had me on the Nims bombing over there before," and he called off several names of agents of the Bureau that he claimed to be acquainted with as a result of it.

Q But he said that they had never been able to prove anything on him?

A No sir.

Q But he told you that he was involved in that bombing?

A Yes sir.

Q When was that?

A That he told me that?

Q Yes sir.

A That was in 1956.

that they are organized to primarily try to maintain segregation through violence.

Q The men that you know in the Klan, that you have seen and been with through these two or three years you were in it, do you think they are capable of performing acts of violence, of that nature?

A Mr. Hawes, there are many men that I consider good men in the Klan, that would not participate in anything of that type when it came right down to it.

They want to be members of it, and go as far as they can through their membership, in maintaining segregation, but I don't think that they would go to the point of violence; I think that that's when they would pull out of it, then.

Many men have been in it in the past, that have pulled out because of the fact that there's a certain element that's in the Klan in Florida today that are hotheaded, they are high-tempered, and that's all they can talk about. At the least little thing, that's the first thing they want to do, is to go burn a cross or take somebody out and give them a whipping, and a lot of these men, they don't want to participate in those things, don't want to

be affiliated with it, and when that sort of talk starts, they may just quit coming to the meetings, because they don't want to get involved in it.

Q Does that leave the hotheads in control of it?

A That does, and that's about the situation that the Klan in the State of Florida is in today.

Most of the men, when the Klan was really the strongest, of course, was right after it was reorganized after the Supreme Court decision, in 1954. Of course, at that time, it was very easy to recruit people into the Klan movement, and a lot of people of high standing in the community. Then, after they got into it, and their emotions sort of settled down, they began to see the way a lot of people were acting and talking within the Klan; then they wanted no part of it, and pulled out of it.

Q Now, Mr. Ashe, will you give me, as closely as you can remember, the words that that man Brooklyn, used in Orlando when he told you he was implicated in that Mims bombing, in 1951?

A Well, as best as I can recall, just from memory, was - - - I brought the subject up that some of them had accused me of being a member of the F.B.I.

and he said, "Well, that's nothing to worry about."
He says, "The F.B.I. is nothing to be scared of any-
way." He says, "They've had me up and questioned me
for - - - on many occasions, in regards to the Sims
bombing over there, as to my part in it," he says,
"but they never did find out what my part was."

Q What else did he say?

A I think that that is about the extent of
what he said.

Frankly, I didn't push him, even though
I wanted to, I didn't push him too far, in trying to
get him to talk about it, for the simple reason that
some of them, at that time, had already said that
they thought I was a member of the F.B.I. and I
couldn't afford to try to pick information out of
anyone at that time, for fear of arousing further
suspicion.

Q Did he state to you definitely that he
did have a part in that bombing?

A Well, he - - - that was the impression
that he gave me by his statements, and - - - when
that
he said "they never did find out what my part in it
was," but he very definitely left me with the im-
pression that he had participated in it.

Now, he - - - I will say this, he did

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tell me at that time that that bombing was done in
Mims by members of the Orlando unit.

Q He did tell you what, sir?

A He did tell me at that time that the
bombing at Mims was done by members of the Orlando
unit.

Q By members of the Orlando Klavern?

A Yes.

Q Now, Mr. Ashe, did you report to the
F. B. I. on your conversation with Brooklyn, from
Orlando, in regards to the Mims bombing?

A Yes, I'm quite certain that I did.

Q Did you do that shortly after the con-
versation?

A Yes sir.

Q Did you state that conversation as
clearly as you could remember it at that time in
that report?

A I'm quite certain that I did.

I'll tell you, there were a lot of
these reports. I submitted so many reports to the
Bureau that I kept no notes on whatsoever that it
would be even hard for Mr. Jett, the Agent in charge
of the Lakeland office, to remember just from memory
whether or not I submitted a certain report on

AFTERNOON SESSION

(Whereupon, at 1 o'clock, p.m., pursuant to the taking of the recess, the hearing was resumed, and the following proceedings were had):

THE CHAIRMAN: The Committee will come to order.

MR. HAWES: Mr. Ashe.

(Senator Knight made his appearance as a Committee Member at this time)

Thereupon,

RICHARD L. ASHE,

having been called and duly sworn as a witness, was interrogated and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION

BY MR. HAWES:

Q Please state your full name, sir.

A Richard L. Ashe.

Q Where do you live, Mr. Ashe?

A I live in Winter Haven, Florida.

Q Do you have, or desire counsel to represent you at this hearing?

A I don't have it and don't desire it.

Q Now, Mr. Ashe, how old are you, sir?

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A Thirty-one.

Q How long have you lived in Polk County?

A Since 1952.

Q What is your occupation, sir?

A I'm in public relations, news reporting and commercial photography.

Q What was your residence before you moved to Polk County?

A I lived in Mauchula, Hardee County.

Q How long did you live there?

A About a year and a half.

Q And where is your original home, Mr. Ashe?

A My original home was Augusta, Georgia.

Q Augusta, Georgia.

And have you lived in Georgia and Florida all of your life?

A Practically, yes.

Q Have you had any occupations other than that that you have just stated?

A I have worked in radio stations in Georgia, and also here in Florida, and been in the used car business for a short time.

Q Now, Mr. Ashe, have you ever been a member of the Association of Florida Ku Klux Klans?

A Yes sir.

Q Have you ever been a member of the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan?

A Yes sir.

Q Will you tell the Committee when you first became a member of the Klan, and which unit it was, and which Klan it was? When was it?

A In June of 1956, in the Lakeland Klavern of the Florida Ku Klux Klan.

Q That's the Association of Florida Klans?

A Well, it was known as the Florida Ku Klux Klan, not the Association of Florida Klans.

Q Now, who was the Grand Dragon of that Klan at that time, sir?

A J. E. Frazier, of Macclenny.

Q Does he have any particular nickname that you knew him by?

A "Frog."

Q Now, that's not Senator Frazier?

A That's his brother.

Q Now, that isn't - - - was that a different Klan from the Klan that W. J. Griffin, from Tampa, was the head of?

A Yes sir. I believe that Mr. Griffin originally was head of the Florida Ku Klux Klan before

Mr. Frazier took it over.

Q Now, under what circumstances did you join that Klan in 1956, sir?

A I joined the Klan in June of 1956, at the specific request of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Q And what agent of the Bureau of Investigation were you dealing with when you did that, sir?

A Mr. Rae Jett.

Q Rae Jett?

A Jett, J-e-t-t; that's R-a-e.

Q Where does he live, sir?

A In Lakeland.

Q Is ^{he} the Agent in Charge of the Lakeland office?

A He's the Agent in Charge.

Q How long have you known Mr. Jett?

A Well, I would say about three years.

Q Now, what were the circumstances under which you first had contact with Mr. Jett concerning your joining the Klan?

A Well, the first contact I ever had with Mr. Jett was when I was a special deputy in Polk County, under Pat Gordon's administration.

Mr. Jett approached me in the Sheriff's

office one day in regard to some Communist activities in the Winter Haven area, and the situation at that time was such that I couldn't become involved in that, due to the security clearance that my father and brother needed with the Atomic Energy Commission here in Florida by that agent, and - - - however, I did furnish Mr. Jett with as much information as I could obtain on certain people that were under investigation by the Bureau, who were known to be members of the Communist Party; and there was never any attempt on my part to join the Communist Party for the benefit of the Bureau, but in, oh, about March or April, I believe it was in April, of 1956, Mr. Jett wanted to know if I would become a member of the Ku Klux Klan for the benefit of the Bureau.

Q Now, where did that conversation occur, sir?

A In the Bureau office in the Post Office in Lakeland.

Q Did he call you to come to his office?

A Yes, I believe he did. I'm not certain of that, but I believe he did call me.

Q What I am getting at is, was ^{it} his idea that you do this, or yours?

A Frankly, I don't remember. There had been some discussion previously about Klan activities around there, and I don't remember whether I approached him on it, or he asked me.

I believe, though, that he asked me if I would go into the Klan for the purpose.

Q But you never went into the Klan at all until after you had had this discussion with Mr. Jett?

A That's correct. I was never a member of the Klan at any time in my life except the time that I was working for the Bureau.

Q Now, how long after this conversation with Mr. Jett was it before you actually got in the Klan?

A I immediately began trying to make some contacts with the Klan, and a few weeks after that, the Klan held a big public rally in Lakeland that I covered in my capacity as a news reporter, and at that time had the opportunity of talking to Mr. Frazier and getting the application from him and submitting it.

After I submitted the application, it was, oh, about six weeks before the Lakeland unit of the Florida Klan notified me that I was - - - had

been investigated and passed the Klekann Committee, and that they were ready for the initiation ceremony.

Q Now, during the time that you were in contact with Mr. Jett, and in the Klan, did you receive any compensation from the Bureau?

A Yes, I did.

Q What did you receive from the Bureau?

A Well, Mr. Hawes, I would rather not give the figure on that. I would rather that information be released by the Bureau.

Q But you did receive - - -

A I did receive compensation for it, plus expenses.

Q Does Mr. Jett have that information?

A I'm sure he does, yes.

Q During the time that you were in the Klan there, did you make any reports? Did you make any reports to Mr. Jett or anybody else in the Bureau, concerning your observations of the Klan activities?

A Yes sir, I made many reports on any activity of the Klan that I had knowledge of.

Q Were those reports in writing?

A Yes sir, they are all typewritten, and they are on file in the Miami office of the Bureau.

Q Now, when you first went into the Klan

in the Lakeland Klavern, Mr. Ashe, who was in charge of that Klavern? Who was the Exalted Cyclops?

A I believe at that time Mr. Singleton, from Lakeland, was the E.C. of the unit.

Q How many members did the Lakeland Klavern have at that time, sir?

A I would estimate around two hundred members.

Q Now, during the time that you were with the Klan - - - first, I'll ask you, did that Klan ever break away from the Frazier groups of the Florida Klan?

A Yes sir, it broke away, I believe, in December of last year and affiliated with the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Incorporated, which is headed by E. L. Edwards, of Atlanta.

Q Eldon Edwards?

A Yes sir.

Q Are you acquainted with him?

A Yes sir.

Q During the time that you were in the Klan, and before that breakaway, did you ever have occasion to participate in any burning of any crosses with that local Klavern in Lakeland?

A Yes sir.

Q Will you state the first instance of that?

A The first instance of it was at the home of Harvey Baker, in Winter Haven, and Lois Baker, his wife.

Mrs. Baker at that time was a known Communist, an admitted Communist, and the former secretary of the Communist Party in the State of Florida.

Q Did the Lakeland Klavern burn that cross?

A Yes sir.

Q Were you present?

A Yes sir - - - well, I came by a few minutes after the cross was burned.

Q Who were the men that actually burned that cross?

A There was a man by the name of J. H. Payne, who lived in Lakeland at that time, and I understand is living in Birmingham, Alabama, at this time; and a man by the name of Cothren, who lives in Lakeland.

Q What's his other name, do you know?

A "Bud" is the nickname; I don't recall what his initials are.

Q What was the date of that burning?

A It was in 1956, but I don't remember the exact date of it. It was somewhere around October, I believe.

Q Now, when the decision was made to burn that cross, Mr. Ashe, who made that decision?

A Frankly, I don't know.

I know it was discussed with me, because the Bakers lived just about a half a block from my house; one reason that I got into it, and then, too, I think that it was done more or less as a test, to see whether or not I would go along with it.

Q Was that burning, cross burning discussed in the Klavern?

A No sir.

Q Now, during the time you were in the Klavern there, did you attend the meetings regularly?

A Yes sir.

Q You were supposed to do that, I assume?

A Yes sir. I attended the meetings quite regularly, because, for over a year, I was secretary of the Lakeland unit.

Q How many meetings did your Klavern have a year or a month? What was the regular - - -

A Well, we met each Monday night.

Q Once a week?

A Yes.

Q What would be the average attendance on a weekly meeting?

A Starting out with, I would say the average attendance was around forty to fifty members. Towards the last of it, the last meetings I attended, the attendance would run from ten to fifteen.

Q Now, when and where was the next instance that you engaged in the burning of a cross with the Klavern there in Lakeland?

A I don't know the name of the people that lived at the house, but it was on Weber Street, in Lakeland, which was the latter part of last year.

Mr. Payne was also on that one. There was another man with us, but I don't recall his name just offhand.

It's a little hard for me to remember all these names and dates without any notes. The Bureau never allowed me to keep any notes on that. Of course, my reports would show the exact date, time and place and everything else.

Q Were there only three of you on that occasion?

A Just three of us, that's right.

Q And the other one was Mr. Payne, from

Yakeland?

A Yes.

Q And you don't recall the other man's name?

A I don't recall the other man that was with us, no sir.

Q Now, what month was that in last year? Can you approximate about when it was?

A Around August or September.

Q Now, when was the decision made to burn that cross?

A I believe that Mr. Payne made that decision.

As I understood it, the lady that lived in the house was a relative of another member of the Yakeland unit, and he didn't seem to think that she was providing for her children and living the type of life she should live, and he wanted the cross burned out there to try to get her to mend her ways, so to speak, but I think that Mr. Payne more or less made that decision himself.

Q Now, were these crosses burned without the official sanction of the Klan itself, or the Klavern?

A The Klavern never knew anything about it.

It was never openly discussed on the floor.

Q No official action was taken?

A No sir.

Q Just individual members that burned it?

A That's right.

Q In the name of the Klan?

A Well, I don't know whether you'd say it was in the name of the Klan or not.

In one sense of the word, it was, and in another, it wasn't. They were not robed; none of us were ever robed at any time that these crosses were burned, and the - - - but the purpose of it was being done in the name of the Klan.

Q Now, where did the Klavern meet in Lakeland, Mr. Ashe?

A They met out on the Dade City Highway, about three miles north of the Carpenters' Home. They own five acres of ground out there, and have a tin building, temporary building put up on it.

Q Made of tin?

A Yes.

Q Which side of the road is that on?

A That's on the left hand side of the road, going north.

Q And it's a regular Klan-owned building?

A Yes.

Q Do you know whose name the title to that property is in?

A Yes sir, it's in the name of the United Gun Club, Incorporated. It's chartered and set up as a sort of a sportsman organization or gun club.

Q Is that merely a fiction, illegal fiction, that gun club?

A They have some meetings, known as the gun club meetings, and from time to time have some activity that the general public is invited to, such as a turkey shoot at Thanksgiving and Christmas, but that's about the only thing.

It's strictly a front organization, though.

Q The members of that gun club, are they Klansmen?

A Yes sir.

Q All of them?

A Yes sir.

Q Who is the head of that organization?

A Of the Klan, or the gun club?

Q The gun club?

A Well, the head of the Klan is the head of the gun club.

Q Who is he now?

A I don't know. I was told yesterday that the officers in that unit had been changed.

Q But the head of the gun - - - the officers of the gun club change with the officers of the Klan?

A That's the way it was the last time I attended, yes sir.

Q Well, then, I take it that the man you named when you first joined down there as the - - -

A He is no longer - - - Singleton - - - he's no longer connected with the Klan.

Q But he was the president of that gun club at the time he was the Exalted Cyclops?

A I believe that is correct.

Q Now, was that land and that building paid for by Klan funds?

A Yes sir.

Q And the operation of that gun club, as I understand you, is a Klan operation under another name?

A That's right. It's - - - the gun club is nothing but a front for the Klan.

Q Now - - -

A Now, you mentioned awhile ago it being

paid for with Klan money.

I would like to clarify that to this point, that there was a financial committee set up, originally, of fifteen men, who were members of the Klavern in Lakeland, who would donate \$5 a month toward paying for that property, but there have been some instances where they had to go into the Klan treasury to obtain enough money to make the payment on the property.

Q Mr. Ashe, who are the other members of that local Klavern that were active there when you last were in that Klavern?

A The secretary at that time was P. B. Barlow, who lived in Lakeland.

Q B. B. Barlow?

A P. B.

The Klavern Chief was W. E. Avant.

Q Of Lakeland?

A Yes, he was of Lakeland.

At the last meeting that I attended, I was the Exalted Cyclops.

I'm trying to remember the name of the Kludd down there; but there was also a man by the name of Johnny Adair, who was either the Inner Guard or the Outer Guard, I don't recall which.

The treasurer was W. F. Robbins, who lived in Lakeland also.

Q Now, name the men that you can remember in the general membership, sir?

A There are a lot of - - - Mr. Hanes, there are a lot of members in the Klan that I would prefer not to call their names without having prior clearance with the Bureau, because there's an investigation of the Klan still under way by the Bureau.

Now, these names that I have mentioned, of course, are well known to the Bureau, and are fairly well known to a lot of people outside the Klan, around Lakeland and Polk County and other parts of the state, and I would prefer, if I may, not to give the names of a lot of these other people, due to the fact that the Bureau is still investigating, and I wouldn't - - -

Q Don't those - - -

A - - - want to hinder some phases of that investigation any more than my appearance here today is going to hinder it to start with.

Q Well, those men all know that you know them, and know them to be members of the Klan?

A Oh, yes.

Q Well, how would it hinder the Bureau's

investigation if you named them here? They know you've already reported on them, don't they? They will when they read the paper, won't they?

A Well, I don't know whether they do or not.

REPRESENTATIVE HERRELL: They will when they read the paper. They will tomorrow.

BY MR. HAWES:

Q They will tomorrow, I'm sure.

A They may know that I've reported it to the Bureau. In fact, I'm quite sure they'll have an idea that I have reported it all.

Q Well, how would it - - - do you think that it would hinder the Bureau's investigation if you went ahead and named those names now, anymore than they're going to be hindered?

A Well, Mr. Hawes, the only thing that I could go on there is just through conversation that I have had with the Bureau within the past two days.

Q Have you been in touch with Mr. Jett in the last day or two?

A Yes sir, this morning; and I have also talked to him since I arrived in Tallahassee.

Q Has he cleared you to testify before this

Committee?

A Yes sir.

Q Are you telling me that he has requested you not to name the members that are not generally known down there?

A No sir, he hasn't asked me that, with the understanding that it was hoped that I wouldn't have to.

Q Was that Mr. Jett's hope?

A Well, frankly, I don't know. Mr. Jett has been in conversation with other members of the Bureau, in Miami, and also in Washington.

Q But it was his request to you that he hoped you didn't have to name those other members?

A I think that's correct, yes.

Q Now - - -

A I will name them. I'm not refusing to name them, but I will name them, if you instruct me to do so, but I'm just requesting that I not be put in that position, of having to do it right at this time.

Q Well, we'll pass over that temporarily anyhow, sir.

Now, when did you stop working with the F.B.I. on this matter, Mr. Ashe?

A I actively quit working in this capacity when I decided and announced for the Legislature.

Q When was that, sir?

A It was about six or seven weeks ago.

Q Now, why did you stop? Was that the reason you stopped?

A Well, yes, it was the biggest reason that I stopped, and then, too, I didn't want to have me, being in a political campaign, to put the Bureau at any time in any embarrassing position, should anything arise.

Q Now, we were talking about cross burning a few moments ago.

Did you ever participate in any other cross burning besides the two that you've told us about?

A No sir.

Q Has the Lakeland Klavern burned any, to your knowledge, besides the ones you've told us about?

A Well, I have been told down there that they have burned some, some of the other members, that stated to me that they had burned a cross or two, but I did not participate in it.

Q Well, where were you told the crosses were burned?

A There was one burned in Plant City, at an ice cream freezette over there and - - - last fall, that I was told a Mr. Childs, H. L. Childs, told me that he burned a cross himself.

Q By himself?

A Well, he gave me the impression that it was by himself. I don't know if anyone else was in on it with him or not.

Q Where is Childs from, sir?

A The last I knew of him, he was living in Zephyrhills, but at that time he lived in Lakeland.

Q Now, where else were you told by anybody that they had burned a cross?

A I was told yesterday that there was a cross burned in Lakeland last week, and was given to understand that it was burned by the unit from Mulberry. This was on Greenwood Avenue, in Lakeland.

I don't know for a fact, though, that that cross was burned. I - - - that was the first that I had heard of it.

Q Did you ever have occasion to go to Starke, Florida, on Klan business?

A Yes sir, I was in Starke on two separate occasions.

Q What was the first occasion for your going up there, sir?

A The first time that I went up there was to a public rally that the Starke unit held just south of town - - - Senator, what's the highway number south of town? Is it 301?

THE CHAIRMAN: 301.

THE WITNESS: (Continuing) This was held just south of Starke, on 301, in an open field. This was a well publicized rally.

BY MR. HAWES:

Q When was that, sir?

A That was in - - - I believe it was either in the late fall of '56 or early part of '57.

Q Now, when was the next occasion you had to go to Starke, sir?

A That was a few months after the first meeting up there.

Mr. Frazier had called Lakeland, requesting as many of us from the Lakeland unit to come to Starke that night to try to prevent the Starke unit of the Florida Klan from holding a hooded parade through the colored section of Starke.

Q When was that, Mr. Ashe?

A I believe that was in the early part of 1957.

Q Was it right at the start of the year, or - - -

A I'm inclined to think it was somewhere around March.

Q Did you make a report on that trip to Starke?

A Yes sir.

Q To the F.B.I.?

A Yes sir.

Q Did you make a report on the two cross burnings you participated in?

A Yes sir.

Q Did you make a report on what the other men had told you about burning that cross over - - -

A Yes sir.

Q - - - over at Plant City?

A Yes sir.

Q Did you make those reports at the time those incidents happened, or shortly after?

A Yes sir.

Q Now, when you got up to Starke there, you said that Frazier - - - he was the Grand Dragon for the state at that time?

A That's correct.

Q What condition did you find up there?

A We met up there around 6 o'clock in the afternoon. We were to meet at, I believe it's the Retail Drug Store that's owned by Dr. Cruz there; we were to meet on that corner, and Mr. Frazier was to meet us there, and we got there, waited a few minutes, and the Sheriff there in the county drove across the street, and Mr. Frazier went over and talked to him.

He came - - - Mr. Frazier came back after about ten minutes of talking to the Sheriff, and stated that the Sheriff had asked him to try to prevent the Starke unit from holding this parade through the colored section that night, and that was the reason that he had us up there; and we went from the drug store - - - we waited around until the Starke unit had their meeting fairly well under way, and we drove out there in a body and went into the Klavern meeting.

We had to more or less forcibly go into the meeting, because they didn't want to admit us at the time; and we went in there anyway to let them know that we were there for the purpose of keeping them from holding that parade that night.

This - - - the purpose of us being there to try to keep it, it was due to a sort of an inter-Klan fight going on at that time with that unit.

Q Was that unit a part of the Frasier group?

A Yes sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ashe, Representative Hopkins would like to know if you've ever seen the Chairman at any of those meetings.

THE WITNESS: No sir, I never have.

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS: That was a joke, Charley, and you know it.

BY MR. HAWES:

Q That Klavern in Starke was a Frasier unit, and yet it was going to parade a hooded parade through the colored section over his protest?

A That's right.

Q Now, were there any people there from anyplace other than Lakeland for the purpose of stopping that parade?

A Yes sir, there were some men there from Jacksonville, and also from Orlando.

Q Who, from Lakeland, was there besides yourself?

A Well, Mr. Singleton was there, Mr. Cothren.

There was another man, that drove a bakery truck down there, but I can't recall his name.

I think those are the only ones that I can remember just offhand.

Q Did you know any of the men from Jacksonville?

A Yes sir, but I can't remember the names of them.

Q Did you know any of them from Orlando?

A Yes sir, but I don't remember exactly who was there.

I know a lot of the members in both Jacksonville and the Orlando units, but just offhand, I cannot remember the names of them that were at that particular meeting that night.

THE CHAIRMAN: At those meetings in Starke and Bradford County, Mr. Ashe, were the members hooded, or were they - -

THE WITNESS: No sir.

There were some hooded members at the public meeting that was held there, but not at the regular Klavern meetings.

BY MR. HAWES:

Q Mr. Ashe, one of the Committee Members has to leave in a few minutes, and I want to come back to that in a few minutes.

Now, getting back to your compensation from the F.B.I., were you on full time compensation with them?

A Yes sir.

Q You were?

A Yes sir.

Q Now, did you have any previous F.B.I. experience?

A No sir, I didn't. The only previous law enforcement experience I had was as a deputy in Polk County prior to that.

Q Do you know why those chose you for that job?

A No sir, I don't.

Q Now, why did you request to come here and testify today?

A Well, as you know, when my name was first mentioned before this Committee, as far as the newspapers are concerned, I denied having any connection whatsoever with the Klan, because my activities with the Bureau were strictly on a confidential

basis, and I had not had the opportunity, when it first came up, to consult with the Bureau on it in any respect, and for that reason, I had no choice but to deny being in the Klan, or having ever been in the Klan.

Now, my reason in coming here today was due to the testimony, primarily, that was given by Mr. Edwards yesterday.

Q Now, are there other Klaverns in Polk County, other than Lakeland?

A To my knowledge, Lakeland is the only town in Polk County at this time that has a unit affiliated with the U. S. Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

However, the Florida Klan at one time did have a unit in Haines City, and another one in Lake Wales; one in Winter Haven and one in Mulberry, and I'm quite sure that the one in Mulberry is still operating now under the Florida Klans.

Q Do you know who is the Exalted Cyclops there?

A No sir.

Q Now, to get back to the Starke proposition, Mr. Ashe, how many men would you say were there from away from Starke, for the purpose of preventing

that parade?

A I would say, I would estimate twenty-five to thirty.

(At this point Representative Hopkins was excused and left the hearing)

BY MR. HAWES:

Q Were you men armed?

A Some of them were, yes. I wasn't, but some of the other men were armed with clubs and knives, pistols.

Q Were they going to break that parade up physically, if necessary?

A If it were necessary; that was my understanding, yes.

Q You say Mr. Frazier had been requested by Mr. Reddish, the Sheriff, to stop that parade if he could?

A Well, now, that's what Mr. Frazier told me.

He said that - - - he told me that the Sheriff had asked him to try to stop it, because he did not want the Klan going out in the colored section and stirring up any trouble with them.

Q Now, did you read in the paper where Mr.

Edwards said he expelled you from the Klan?

A Yes sir.

Q Was that true or false?

A That was true.

Q Did you read in the paper where he said that you had been elected Exalted Cyclops of the local Klavern down there in Lakeland?

A Yes sir.

Q Was that true or false?

A Yes sir, it was true.

Q When were you elected?

A In December, about the middle of December of last year.

Q Now, how are these elections held, Mr. Ashe?

A They are supposed to be held by the appointing of a nominating committee, and then voted on by the members present at the - - - at that particular election held in the Klan. The majority rules.

Q Does the nominating committee report at an advance meeting, before the election is held?

A No sir, they report the night of the election.

Q The night of the election?

A Yes sir.

Q Does the membership know when the nominating committee is going to report?

A Yes sir, there is a definite date set, and each member is notified by mail that an election of officers will be held on this particular date.

Q Now, on the date that you were elected, how many members were present, approximately?

A Approximately twenty-five.

Q Now, after you were elected, how long did you hold office?

A About three weeks.

Q Did you preside over three meetings?

A Yes sir.

Q Did any dissatisfaction occur there over your election?

A Yes sir, some of the members of the Lakeland unit seemed to think that I wasn't particularly suited to hold that particular office, and they got a petition up and had - - - I believe - - - I never did see the petition, but I was told that there was forty-seven signatures on the petition to have the Grand Dragon of the state to remove me from office.

Q Who was the Grand Dragon at that time?

A J. C. Kirkland, Sr., from Jacksonville.

Q All right, sir. Then what happened then?

A He was the Grand Dragon under the U. S. Klans.

Q That's after that unit had broken away and gone - - -

A That's right.

Q - - - with the Edwards group?

A That's right.

Mr. Kirkland came down to a meeting - - - I was not present at this meeting. I had other business that particular night, but he came down to this meeting and did, by his authority as Grand Dragon, remove me from that office and order another election held.

Q Did he remove you from the Klan?

A No sir, he didn't.

Q Just took you out of the office?

A Yes.

As the result of me being taken out of that office, it caused the Klavern to split into two groups, the group that thought that I should have remained in office and the group that thought that I should be put out of the office, and it started a continuous squabble between the two groups for quite some time, until finally, it got down to where they

only had from ten to fifteen people attending the meetings there.

People who thought that I should be kept in that office finally just quit going and let the other group take it over, and when they finally took over out there, they came in March - - - I believe it was March 7 of this year, Mr. Avant and Mr. Robbins came to my office one day and stated that they had been appointed as a committee to pick up my membership card, and I refused to give it to them at that time, and that led into a good bit more discussion on the thing.

Finally, Mr. Edwards came down from Atlanta, and I met with him at his motel in Lakeland, and he came by the office and told me that he would personally make a decision on the thing himself, whatever he decided would be the final decision on it.

I had demanded in writing to the unit down there that I be given a trial on having my card removed, because at that particular time, I wanted to maintain my relation with the Klan for the sake of the Bureau, and I was trying to fight to keep my membership card in the Klan for that reason, but Mr. Edwards said that he didn't want a trial held on the

thing because the unit was split wide open at that time, and that if a trial were held, it would completely break it up; so, for that reason, he was going to make the decision on it; and about a month after he was down, I got a letter from him one day, stating that I had been banished from the Klan, quoting some sections out of the constitution, that I did not have the opportunity of getting hold of a constitution and reading; so, for that reason, I don't know exactly on what grounds he had banished me from the Klan.

Q What did you do with that letter of banishment?

A The letter was turned over to the Bureau.

Q Who did you turn it over to?

A Mr. Jett.

Q When did you turn that letter over to Mr. Jett?

A Oh, it was a matter of a few days after I received it.

Q That's been within a matter of a few days of the time that you received the letter; that was several weeks ago, then?

A I would say, roughly, that was about six weeks ago.

Q Now, have you ever been asked to accompany any Klansmen for the purpose of flogging anybody, Mr. Asher?

A Yes sir.

Q When and where was that?

A That was here about, I believe, about February of this year.

They had a girl in the ladies' auxiliary of the Lakeland unit that some of the women down there didn't - - - apparently, didn't like, or like some of the things that she was doing. They thought she was talking too much about Klan activities to people outside the Klan, and a man and his wife called me one night and wanted me to meet them to go out and meet this girl, and I didn't know at that time what their purpose was, but I notified - - - immediately notified the Bureau that I had received a call and was to meet these people, and there was some possibility that there could develop some trouble over it, and we went out and waited about a quarter of a mile from this girl's house that night, waiting for her to come home.

We went to her house, and Mrs. Childs - - - this man and woman I was speaking of was Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Childs.

Q Were they the ones that requested you to go there?

A Yes. And I believe Mrs. Childs is the one that went to her home and asked if she was there, and they said that she wasn't.

So, we went ^{on} down the road and waited for her to come home, but she never did show up, and we waited, I guess, until about 12:30 or 1 o'clock in the morning for her to come home, but she didn't show up.

So, I finally persuaded them just to go on home and forget about it, but all the time that we were setting out there waiting on her - - - in fact, from the time that I first met Mr. and Mrs. Childs that night, all three of us were under constant surveillance by Mr. Jett and - - - no, we were under the - - - it wasn't Mr. Jett that night, it was Mr. Bill Jamison, who is an Agent of the F.B.I. in the Lakeland office, and Steve Labberdy who is, I believe, Senior Agent in Charge of the Tampa office, who was in Lakeland at that time.

Q What did - - - where does Mr. and Mrs. Childs live?

A I believe, now, they're living in Zephyrhills.

Q What did they tell you they wanted to do with that girl that night?

A Well, Mrs. Childs told me that night that - - - after I met them, that she thought the girl should be taken out and, if we couldn't talk to her and get a sensible - - - some sensible answers out of her, that she should be whipped.

Q Was that the purpose of you all going there to see the girl?

A Well, I think it was later, after I got there.

Q I did not know that that was the purpose of it at the time that I got the call.

Q When you got there, was there any Klan regalia worn?

A No sir.

Q Was there any strap or other instrument there to whip the girl with?

A Well, now, if there was, I didn't see it.

Q Have you ever been asked to go on any expeditions to chastise anybody else?

A No.

There was one instance involving a negro man. I don't remember the negro's name. He worked for the railroad there in Lakeland, but it - - - I

never got the full story on why some of them wanted to try to get hold of him and take him out and whip him, but I understood that it was for some remarks that he had made to a white woman in the Lakeland area, and then, of course, this - - - when I was told about this, I immediately contacted the Bureau, and they began to do as much investigating on it as they possibly could, to avoid any flogging or any violation of the man's civil rights.

Q Do you know who that man was?

A No sir, I don't - - - you mean the colored man?

Q Yes.

A I don't remember his name. I did have his name at that time. It's in my report to the Bureau on that.

Q What agent did you report that to?

A Mr. Jett.

Q When was that?

A That was, I think, around August or September of '56.

Q Now, who were the men that wanted to flog that negro?

A I believe Mr. Cethren was in on that, and Mr. Singleton. Those are the two names that

come to my mind right at this time.

Q Cothren and Singleton, of Lakeland?

A Yes sir.

Q They were both members of that Klavern?

A Yes sir.

Q Do you know where those two men live?

A I believe they are both still living in Lakeland. I haven't seen either one of them for quite a few months.

Q And when did you say that occurred?

A In '56.

Q 1956?

A Yes.

Q Did those two men state it to be their purpose to flog that negro?

A Yes, I - - - I'm certain of that.

I recall, now, that they wanted to try to make an arrangement with the constable in that district to have the constable pick this negro up, and they were going to take him away from the constable, but the constable wouldn't - - - I don't think he was ever approached directly on the thing, but I'm quite sure that he was told about the incident, and - - - to see if some of them wanted him to go out there and pick him up, and then they would

take him away from him.

Q Do you know what those two men do, Mr. Cothren and Mr. Singleton?

A I believe Mr. Cothren works for one of the fruit packing houses, but I don't know what Mr. Singleton does. He was - - - did work for the phosphate mines at that time.

Q How old a man is Singleton?

A I would say about thirty-five years old.

Q Is he a large fellow, or medium?

A Well, he's rather tall, but he - - - I wouldn't say he was a large man by any means. He's

Q Did you ever hear any discussion down there among the Klan members about any desire to flog anybody else?

A There was some slight talk that came out in the open to a degree at one of the Klavern meetings, about some negro down there that had made some remarks to some white girls, young white girls down there, and some of them - - - I think they had a little squabble over it, and some of them wanted to take him out and castrate him, and others wanted to take him out and just kill him and dump him in the swamp someplace, but I don't know who this negro was.

and it was nothing ever developed on it.

Q Now, when was that, Mr. Ashe?

A That was in the fall of last year.

Q Latter part of last year?

A Yes.

Q Less than a year ago?

A (The witness nodded affirmatively)

Q Who were the men that wanted to chastise that negro, or throw him in - - - kill him and throw him in the swamp?

A I think the biggest one that said they thought he should be killed was Mr. Avant.

Q Where does he live?

A He lives in Lakeland.

Q What does he do?

A I think he's, oh, in the grove caretaking business; he has his own business there.

Q Grove caretaking?

A Yes.

Q What is his first name and initials?

A W. E.

Q And he stated in a Klavern meeting that they should take that negro out and kill him and - -

A Well, this wasn't - - - this was after the meeting, but it was still inside the Klavern.

There were quite a few people in there. They wanted to get a committee together to go out and take care of him, or perform this job, but they couldn't get together on who was going to get in on the committee, because well, the fact is, as I said awhile ago, they got into a squabble, as to what they were going to do with the negro when they did get him.

Q Now, who wanted to castrate him, sir?

A I believe it was a man by the name of Brown, J. B. Brown.

Q From where?

A From Lakeland.

Q What did he - - -

A I believe, though, that he's living in Georgia at this time.

Q What did he do at that time, sir?

A He was in the mercantile business there.

Q Now, will you name, please, sir, some other men that were at that meeting when that discussion was had, and heard these two men make those statements?

A I don't recall the names of everyone that was there just offhand, but there was about eight or ten of them just standing around in a group.

Q Was Singleton there?

A No sir, he was out of the Klan at that time.

Q Can you remember - - -

A Singleton - - - to clear up his - - - his part in this, he was never affiliated with the U. S. Klans. The whole time that he was affiliated with the Klan movement was under the Florida Klans.

He left the Lakeland unit, and he was appointed by Frazier as a Klengie, or an organizer, and went to Mulberry and set up the Mulberry unit down there, and he took quite a number of the Lakeland members with him, or - - - I say "quite a number," six or eight of them, and set up that unit down there and set himself up as the E. C. of the unit.

Now, this was - - -

Q Can you think of anybody that was there besides yourself and the two men that you have mentioned, one who wanted to castrate the negro, and one who wanted to kill him?

A No sir, I don't recall the names of them just offhand.

Now, there were a lot of people in these meetings from time to time, and of course, I knew

their faces, but I didn't know their names, the names of all of them.

Q Did you make a report on that - - -

A Yes sir.

Q - - - to the F.B.I.?

A Yes sir.

Q Did you put the names of the men present in that report?

A Yes sir, if I knew who they were, I did.

Q Did you furnish any names other than the ones you've mentioned there?

A Well, it's quite possible I could have, yes sir, but I didn't - - - right now, I don't recall who was there.

There was quite a bit of confusion just as the meeting was breaking up that night and everything, everybody standing around and talking, walking back and forth, and all that.

Q Did you ever hear any discussion down there in your Klan meetings of any proposed violence on any other occasion?

A They had an instance that more or less the entire unit would have participated in down there, involving the NAACP.

We had information that the NAACP was

holding some pretty regular meetings on Fish Lake, on Sundays, and Mr. Singleton and I went to Fish Lake this particular Sunday to see if the negroes were holding the meeting over there. I believe - - - I say "this Sunday"; I believe it was on the 4th of July that we went over there, and there was - - - there was evidence of the fact that they were going to hold a meeting.

Q What year was that, sir?

A That would have been in - - - last year,

'57.

Q All right, sir, go ahead.

A Now, that could have been '56. Let me think a little more.

No, I believe that was July 4, 1956, sir.

Q Go ahead, sir.

A But anyway, we went over there, and there was evidence of the fact that they - - - a group of negroes were going to hold a meeting there.

They had the drink boxes setting out on the side of the lake and everything, and two or three automobiles were parked there at that time. In fact, we drove right up there where they were and got out, walked around, and then, throughout the day, we checked back in there, but they - - - we could

never find any activity of what you might call a meeting. It appeared to be more of a picnic than anything else.

They had ~~these~~ cold drinks and hot dogs and a few things like that out there, but the - - - according to the license plates on the automobiles that were there, there were cars from Sarasota County and Hillsborough County and Pasco County, and cars from Alabama, and several with New York tags on them.

Q What was the discussion in the Kievern with regards to those meetings there on that lake, sir?

A Well, the only discussion that was ever held was, if we determined that it was a meeting of the NAACP, that they would go over there and try to break it up.

Now, Fish Lake is an isolated place. It's - - - all the property and the lake and everything is owned by one of the phosphate companies down there, and there are no houses for quite a few miles around there.

Q How was it proposed to break that meeting up if they were having them there?

A Physically.

Q When that discussion was had, was that in a Klavern meeting?

A No, I believe that was mostly discussed by some of the members of the unit there, but the plan was that if it did develop, that they would take the whole Klavern out there, or as many men as they could get together.

Q And break that meeting up physically?

A Yes sir.

Q Did you give us Mr. Singleton's first name or initials yet, sir?

A I don't remember. It's Charles D.

Q Does he live in Lakeland?

A Yes sir.

Q What - - -

A As far as I know now, he does.

Q What does he do for a living?

A I don't know what he does now. He did work for one of the phosphate companies.

Q Did you ever have occasion to hear any other discussion of proposed violence down there in that Klavern?

A Well, there was always a lot of talk about what they were going to do if the schools and the busses were ever - - - there was ever any attempt

to integrate, anything like that, that they would all have to get together and more or less mobilize into one unit to try to prevent it; and frankly, there are some members in the organization that are nothing but ktheads. They - - - that's all they ever think about; that's all they think the Klan is.

They - - - in fact, some of them have said before that the only reason they got in there, they wanted more action about things.

Q Did you ever see any sign of any Communist activity in the Klan, Mr. Ashe?

A Well, it's hard to say.

I have felt like, personally, that there was, probably, some connection some way or another - - - not direct connection, but possibly some of these things may have been provoked by the Communist cause, but I have nothing along those lines that I could use to absolutely prove that the Communist Party had any connection with it at all.

Q Was there any discussion as to what steps would be taken to prevent desegregation of the busses or the schools?

A There was never any firm plan made on it. However, a number of times I have heard various ones, not only in the Lakeland unit, but in

units around the state, that if it ever came up, that there would be some killing going on.

I do know that a lot of them have bought guns, ammunition, and things like that, just for the time that integration of the schools or anything like that should occur.

That was one reason - - - I might add this, talking about the guns and ammunition, that was one reason that the United Gun Club was formed down there, because they understood, by operating the gun club, that they could buy guns and ammunition at a wholesale price, and also in large quantities.

Q Was that reason discussed on the floor of the Klavern?

A Yes sir, it was, on several occasions.

Q That was more or less the purpose for organizing that gun club at Lakeland?

A I believe it was one of the reasons and then, too, as I said before, it was more or less as a front for some of the activities.

Q Now, where, besides Lakeland, have you become aware of the fact that Klansmen have bought guns and ammunition, preparing for the day of forced integration?

A Well, in Orlando, and in Jacksonville,

and even here in Tallahassee.

I've had members out of these units to tell me that they had quite a bit of ammunition stored up, and various things.

In fact, I was told one time that there was, in Orlando, quite a large stockpile of dynamite.

Q Who told you that, sir?

A I don't recall for certain, but I believe Mr. Edgar Brooklyn, who was the E.C. of the Orlando unit at that time, did tell me that.

Q When was that, Mr. Ashe?

A That was in August of 1956.

Q Who, in the Tallahassee area, told you that they had stored up guns and ammunition?

A Mr. W. B. Rodgers.

Q W. B. Rodgers?

A (The witness nodded affirmatively)

Q Was he the Exalted Cyclops of the Tallahassee Klavern?

A Yes sir.

Q Is he a large, heavy man?

A Yes sir; wears glasses.

Q Have you read his name as having been a witness before this Committee --

A Yes sir, I have.

Q - - - yesterday?

A Well, I read where, to start with, where he had been subpoenaed, but I haven't read anything pertaining to any of his testimony.

Q When did Mr. Rodgers tell you that?

A That was in 1956.

Q Where were you when you had that conversation?

A That was here in Tallahassee, when they held a public meeting out off of U. S. 90, out west of town here.

Q Who, if anybody else, was present on that occasion?

A I believe Mr. Frazier was.

Q "Frog" Frazier, from Macclenny?

A Yes sir.

Q Did he hear that statement?

A I don't know, for sure, that he heard it, but I do recall that he was standing there with us; the three of us were standing together.

Q He's a big, stout man, is he not?

A Yes sir. You mean Mr. Frazier?

Q Yes sir.

A Yes sir.

Q Has a large stomach?

A That's correct.

Q Who told you that the Klan in Jacksonville had stored up arms and ammunition?

A Mr. Beach.

Q Mr. Bill Beach?

A Yes sir.

Q Whose name you've read in the paper as a witness before this Committee?

A (The witness nodded affirmatively)

Q Is he the same Bill Beach that wrote you the letter that you sent on to - - -

A Mr. Edwards.

Q - - - Mr. Edwards?

A That's right.

Q When did Bill Beach tell you that, sir?

A That was in the early part of 1957.

Q Where was that conversation?

A In Jacksonville.

Q Where at in Jacksonville?

A I believe that that - - - he told me that at their Klavern meeting.

Now, that - - - I think that's correct. I was at a meeting of the Klan in Jacksonville only one time, I'm quite sure. However, I did go to a public meeting in Jacksonville once, and he could

have mentioned it to me at that time.

Q Who, if anyone, was present when that was told to you?

A Mr. Hawes, that's going to be hard to remember - - -

Q Well, let me ask you this, Mr. Ashe: Did you make reports on those conversations - - -

A Yes sir.

Q - - - to the F.B.I.?

A Yes sir.

Q Shortly after that?

A Yes sir.

Q Did you give the names of the persons close by?

A If I knew who they were, I did, yes sir. Any time I made a report to the Bureau, I tried to have someone else there that would have been in a position to overhear it, or did hear the conversation.

Q Now, where was the other place you mentioned, that you understood they had stored up guns and ammunition?

You said Lakeland, Tallahassee, and Orlando and Jacksonville.

A That's right.

Q Did you name another place?

A I don't think so.

Q And W. B. Rodgers, from Tallahassee, Florida, told you that?

A That's right.

Q Is there any doubt about it in your mind at all?

A Well, Mr. Hawes, you hear so many things in the Klan, a lot of it, you don't know what to believe.

Q No, I mean any doubt about whether he told you that or not?

A Oh, no, no.

Q Is there any doubt in your mind about whether or not Bill Beach told you that?

A No sir.

Q Is there any doubt at all in your mind about the fellow from Orlando telling you that?

A Yes sir. I - - - as I said awhile ago, I couldn't be certain, but I am quite sure that Mr. Brooklyn is the man that told me that in Orlando.

Q But there's no doubt in your mind - - -

A It could have been someone else out of the Orlando unit.

I knew, on that particular occasion,

because they mentioned the fact that they had a large amount of dynamite stored, I tried, as best I could, for the sake of the Bureau, to find out where that dynamite was stored.

Q Did you ever find out?

A No sir. All I found out was that it was in a warehouse; that's all I ever heard.

Q Were you told where it was in a warehouse?

A No sir.

Q Have you ever heard any discussion in the Klan at all, anywhere, of the bombing at Mims, Florida, in 1951?

A Yes sir, I heard that discussed in - - - right after I went in the Klan, in Orlando.

There were several men in Orlando who were interrogated by the F.B.I. for the possible part they may have had in that particular bombing. In fact, one man, Mr. Brooklyn, over there, told me at that time that he participated in one.

Q Mr. Brooklyn, of Orlando, told you he'd participated in the 1951 bombing at Mims, Florida?

A Yes.

Q Is that the bombing of Harry T. Moore's home?

A Well, I don't know whose home it was, but it was a colored man over there.

Q Was that the bombing in which a colored man and woman were killed?

A I believe it was, yes. I don't remember their names, though.

Q But it was at Mims, Florida?

A (The witness nodded affirmatively)

Q And Mr. Brooklyn, of Orlando, told you he participated in that 1951 bombing at Mims, Florida?

A He said that he had been picked up and questioned on many occasions by the F.B.I. in regard to his activities over there, but that they were never able to prove that he participated in it.

Q But he told you that he had?

A Yes sir.

Q But he didn't tell the Bureau that?

A No sir.

Q Did you report that to the Bureau?

A I'm quite sure I did, yes.

Q When was that that - - -

A Whenever the F.B.I. comes up - - - let me mention this while I'm thinking about it.

There were a number of occasions, while

I was actively working within the Klan, a number of people had suspected that I might be an agent for the F.B.I., and I was accused of it on some occasions.

In fact, on one particular occasion, I think if it hadn't been on the part of some other people, that I might not be getting here right now, but that's when this question about the F.B.I. arose, as far as the Nims thing was concerned, because I was talking to Mr. Brooklyn about it, about some of the people saying that I was a member of the F.B.I., and he said, "well, so what"; he said, "they're nothing to be afraid of"; said, "they've had me on the Nims bombing over there before," and he called off several names of agents of the Bureau that he claimed to be acquainted with as a result of it.

Q But he said that they had never been able to prove anything on him?

A No sir.

Q But he told you that he was involved in that bombing?

A Yes sir.

Q When was that?

A That he told me that?

Q Yes sir.

A That was in 1956.

Q Where?

A In Orlando.

Q Was anybody present?

A I don't believe there was, no sir.

Q Did you ever hear any other discussion of the bombing at Mims, Florida, in 1951?

A I think that's the only time that I ever really heard it discussed to any extent. It may have been mentioned a few times, but never actually discussed.

Q Now, do you know of any dynamite supposedly stored in the Miami area?

A No sir, I don't. I know very little about the Miami area, other than the fact that on several occasions, they have tried to organize the Klan in Miami, but have not had very much success at it.

Q Mr. Ashe, have you heard any discussion in the Klan of the bombings of the various synagogues and negro churches in Jacksonville or Birmingham or Nashville or Miami?

A I haven't heard anything in regard to the bombing in Jacksonville.

However, there has been some open discussion in one Klavern meeting in Lakeland, in regard to

bombing in Montgomery, Alabama, by a man by the name of Britt, who was arrested in Montgomery at that time, and who is now living in Jacksonville, and affiliated with the Klan, with the U. S. Klan, in Jacksonville.

He stated on the open floor of the Lakeland meeting that he was arrested in regards to the bombing of the NAACP headquarters - - - I believe he said it was in the basement of a church - - - in Montgomery at the time of the bus boycott up there, I believe.

Q Did he - - -

A In fact, he solicited funds at this meeting from members of the Klan throughout Florida. He came to Florida with J. C. Kirkland for the express purpose of trying to get members of the Lakeland unit to raise some money for the defense of some of the men up there.

Q Did he succeed in raising any money?

A He got some, but I don't know how much.

Q Now, when was that, sir?

A That was the first - - - I believe it would be either in December or January of this year.

Q Of this year?

A Yes, December of last year or January of

this year.

Q That was a rather recent bombing, then; those men are still under - - -

A I think that - - - I think that bombing occurred about a year ago up there.

Q Did he say whether or not he had anything to do with that bombing?

A He claimed that he was innocent of it, but he did state that the members of the Klan in Alabama had participated in the bombing.

Q He stated that to you there?

A Yes sir.

He said some of the boys who had been arrested were Klan members.

Q Did he say they had participated in the bombing?

A Yes sir.

Q Now, who was present at that meeting of your Lakeland Klavern besides yourself and Strickland - - - or Kirkland - - - I seem determined to tie our Investigator into this Klan, Mr. Chairman - - besides yourself and Mr. Kirkland, from Jacksonville?

A Mr. Robbins was at that meeting.

Q From where?

A From Lakeland.

Q What are his initials?

A W. F.

Q What is his occupation?

A He drives a truck for Frostie Root Beer, I believe it is.

Q Who else was present?

A I believe Mr. Barlow was present at that meeting.

Q What are his initials?

A That's P. B. Barlow.

Q Where does he live? Lakeland?

A Lakeland.

Q What does he do?

A I believe he drives a truck for a dairy.

Q All right, sir. Who else?

A I believe Mr. W. E. Avant was also present at that meeting.

Q Who else?

A Johnny Adair.

Q From Lakeland?

A From Lakeland.

Q What's his occupation?

A He works for Mr. Avant. He's Avant's son-in-law.

Q Who else?

A That's the only ones I can remember just offhand, although there were others there.

Q Did you make a report of that incident to the F.B.I.?

A Yes sir.

Q Did you name the people present at that meeting in that report?

A Yes sir.

Q Who did you give that report to, sir?

A Mr. Jett.

Q How do you spell the name of "Brooklyn" in Orlando?

A B-r-o-o-k-l-y-n.

Q And his initials?

A His first name is Edgar.

Q Do you know what he does?

A I think he's a dragline operator. I know he did operate a dragline at one time, because he had an accident on one of them, and lost one arm. I believe he's still operating a dragline.

Q He's a one-armed man?

A Yes.

Q How old is he?

A I would say he's somewhere around forty

years old.

Q Is he a large man?

A Yes, he is.

Q Have you ever heard any other discussion of bombings or anything of that nature in any Klan meeting, or from any Klansmen, Mr. Ashe?

A There was one instance that came up at the state meeting, in August of 1956, in Orlando.

One of the Klan members - - - I'm not certain of his name, but anyway, he stated that some of the members of the Klan in Mississippi had had some trouble, or this negro out there had gotten into some trouble of one type or another; anyway, that they had put the negro on the bottom of the Mississippi River.

Q But you don't know who he was?

A I don't know who he was, and I don't know where that occurred, but that - - - I remember that that was immediately - - - that particular instance, I immediately reported to the Bureau, because I knew, of course, that they had the facilities of checking out in Mississippi on any case of any missing person or anything like that, and possibly work it from that angle.

Q Did you report on that matter fully to

the F.B.I.?

A Yes sir.

Q Including the names of the people who were present?

A Yes sir.

In fact, if I am not mistaken, I made a special report on that one particular instance, due to the nature of it.

Q Have you ever heard anybody in the Klan discuss that Miss bombing, other than Brooklyn?

A No, nothing more than just conversation in passing; nothing definite on it.

Q Is there any other incident in your mind that stands out at all, with regard to discussions of violence in Florida?

A No, not offhand. However, I have observed, while I was in the Klan, that that, basically, is what they are organized for today. I mean, that's the only thing that they - - - or the only way, I should say, that they feel like that they can accomplish what they consider their goal on anything, is through violence.

Q What is your personal opinion of the real purpose of the Klan today, sir?

A Well, that's my personal opinion of it.

that they are organized to primarily try to maintain segregation through violence.

Q The men that you know in the Klan, that you have seen and been with through these two or three years you were in it, do you think they are capable of performing acts of violence, of that nature?

A Mr. Hawes, there are many men that I consider good men in the Klan, that would not participate in anything of that type when it came right down to it.

They want to be members of it, and go as far as they can through their membership, in maintaining segregation, but I don't think that they would go to the point of violence; I think that that's when they would pull out of it, then.

Many men have been in it in the past, that have pulled out because of the fact that there's a certain element that's in the Klan in Florida today that are hotheaded, they are high-tempered, and that's all they can talk about. At the least little thing, that's the first thing they want to do, is to go burn a cross or take somebody out and give them a whipping, and a lot of these men, they don't want to participate in those things, don't want to

be affiliated with it, and when that sort of talk starts, they may just quit coming to the meetings, because they don't want to get involved in it.

Q Does that leave the hotheads in control of it?

A That does, and that's about the situation that the Klan in the State of Florida is in today.

Most of the men, when the Klan was really the strongest, of course, was right after it was reorganized after the Supreme Court decision, in 1954. Of course, at that time, it was very easy to recruit people into the Klan movement, and a lot of people of high standing in the community. Then, after they got into it, and their emotions sort of settled down, they began to see the way a lot of people were acting and talking within the Klan; then they wanted no part of it, and pulled out of it.

Q Now, Mr. Ashe, will you give me, as closely as you can remember, the words that that man, Brooklyn, used in Orlando when he told you he was implicated in that Mims bombing, in 1951?

A Well, as best as I can recall, just from memory, was - - - I brought the subject up that some of them had accused me of being a member of the P.B.L.

and he said, "Well, that's nothing to worry about."
He says, "The F.B.I. is nothing to be scared of any-
way." He says, "They've had me up and questioned me
for - - - on many occasions, in regards to the Mine
bombing over there, as to my part in it," he says,
"but they never did find out what my part was."

Q What else did he say?

A I think that that is about the extent of
what he said.

Frankly, I didn't push him, even though
I wanted to, I didn't push him too far, in trying to
get him to talk about it, for the simple reason that
some of them, at that time, had already said that
they thought I was a member of the F.B.I. and I
couldn't afford to try to pick information out of
anyone at that time, for fear of arousing further
suspicion.

Q Did he state to you definitely that he
did have a part in that bombing?

A Well, he - - - that was the impression
that he gave me by his statements, and - - - when
that
he said "they never did find out what my part in it
was," but he very definitely left me with the im-
pression that he had participated in it.

Now, he - - - I will say this, he did

tell me at that time that that bombing was done in Nims by members of the Orlando unit.

Q He did tell you what, sir?

A He did tell me at that time that the bombing at Nims was done by members of the Orlando unit.

Q By members of the Orlando Klavern?

A Yes.

Q Now, Mr. Ashe, did you report to the F.B.I. on your conversation with Brooklyn, from Orlando, in regards to the Nims bombing?

A Yes, I'm quite certain that I did.

Q Did you do that shortly after the conversation?

A Yes sir.

Q Did you state that conversation as clearly as you could remember it at that time in that report?

A I'm quite certain that I did.

I'll tell you, there were a lot of these reports. I submitted so many reports to the Bureau that I kept no notes on whatsoever that it would be even hard for Mr. Jett, the Agent in Charge of the Lakeland office, to remember just from memory whether or not I submitted a certain report on

things.

There have been many instances in the past, when things would come up, that we have had to refer back to the Miami office of the Bureau to see if there was a report on file.

Q But all the reports that you made to the F.B.I. are in their office in Miami?

A Yes sir.

Q Is there anything else, Mr. Ashe, that you think you should tell this Committee about your experiences while in the Klan?

A Well, there are a number of things, of course, that I could get into on it.

There's one instance that I would like to bring out - - - or rather, several instances, and that's in regard to the flogging of Jesse Woods, at Wildwood.

During the time that that went on, or just after that happened, there were some men from Wildwood that came to Lakeland one night, wanting us to raise some money for the defense of some of the men that had been arrested there, and we were told - - - and Mr. Frazier was in Lakeland that night, and we were told then that the men who had actually taken thing thing through and taken the man

out of the jail at Wildwood that night, were members of the Klan in Wildwood, but we were also told that they were members of the Georgia Klan, and not the Florida Klan; however, that - - - Frazier seemed to think that since they were Klansmen, whether they be affiliated with the Florida group or the Georgia group, that we should go along and try to help them raise some money in preparing for their defense in that particular case; and that money was done.

Then, there was another meeting held at Lacombee, several months after that Wildwood incident. It was held out just north of town in a pasture, oh, several miles off the highway, and I would estimate that approximately fifty people from around the state was there at that time; and that was also done to discuss the Wildwood incident, and also, in trying to raise some more money for the men who were - - - had been charged in Wildwood, or had been arrested; I don't recall if they had been charged at that time.

Incidentally, that meeting at Lacombee is the time that I was referring to, that there was a remark made there that - - - about the conversation getting too open, as to who was involved in the Wildwood incident, that there may be an agent of the

F.B.I. setting in the crowd; and a man by the name of "Bud" Huett, J. T. Huett, from Mount Dora, was there, and he said, "well, you can rest assured that there is a member of the F.B.I. here," and of course, I was the only one that was setting in that meeting that had ever been accused of being a member of the F.B.I. in the Klan, and I - - - by that time, I had been accused of it on quite a number of occasions, by various members of the Klan, but Mr. Huett also stated that he had asked Mr. Frazier not to bring a certain man along with him at that meeting, but that he had brought him anyway, and he was referring to me, because I met Mr. Frazier in Lakeland, and he talked to Mr. Huett on the telephone, and he had told him at that time not to bring me to that meeting, as some of them up there didn't want me in that meeting, that they were afraid of me, and - - - but he says, "I want you to go anyway."

So, I met him at Lacochee, and we went on out to the meeting.

There was a man by the name of Sikes, that lives somewhere in the Dade City area, got up and stated to Mr. Huett, he says, "Well, if you'll tell me who that man is, I'll assure you he'll never leave this pasture."

Well, along about that time, there were some of the men from Lakeland, that were setting in that meeting, and of course, knew that they were referring to me, and Prazier knew it, and quite a number of others, and a move was made right then to adjourn the meeting and to settle it down before there was any violence there, but I am convinced, in my own mind, that had Huett named me at that time as the man who was with the F.B.I., that Mr. Aikes and some of the rest of them there would have made an attempt to either beat me or kill me and leave me in that pasture.

That was about the closest call that I ever had towards any personal violence, as far as any personal violence is concerned, the whole time that I was in the Klan.

Q Do you know anything about Bill Hendrix? Klan?

A No sir. I have talked to Bill Hendrix only on one occasion; that was in Brooksville, when he held a meeting there about a year ago. He held a public meeting over there, and I talked to him at that time, and that's the only time that I have ever even seen him.

Q Do you know of any - - -

A Generally speaking, Bill Hendrix is not liked within the Klan itself.

Q Do you know of any violence supposedly promoted by his Klan?

A No sir, I don't.

MR. HAWES: Is there any other question by any of the Members of the Committee?

THE CHAIRMAN: I have no questions.

MR. HAWES: I have no further questions.

THE WITNESS: I would like to say one other thing, if I may, Mr. Hawes:

There are men who are either now or have, in the past, been members of the Klan since I have been in it, who are in the law enforcement business in this state, and a lot of people in the Klan around the state seem to think that, in particular, certain areas, due to the fact that they have certain members who are in the Klan and also law enforcement officers, that they could fairly safely carry out some of their activities without too much of an investigation taking

place.

Now, I remember Mr. Frazier made the remark one time that the Chief of Police in Perry was a member of the Klan. He never did identify him by name, but he told me and several other people that if we were ever in Perry and ever got into any trouble, just to let the man up - - - the Chief of Police up there know that we were Klansmen, and he would take care of us, but I tried to check that out one time when I went through Perry.

I called the Chief of Police on the telephone, tried to break him down with some of the Klan code, and see if he was, and the man that I talked to didn't even know what I was talking about.

As well as I recall, I got him on the telephone and asked him - - - or told him that I was trying to locate Dr. Ayak, and he says, "I don't know a Dr. Ayak." He says, "There's no doctor here in Perry by that name," and he called off the names of several doctors around town. He says, "He must be someplace else."

Well, if - - - I believe, in my own mind, that if the Chief of Police there at that time that I talked to had been a member of the Klan, he would certainly have known who Dr. Ayak was, because I went even further and talked to him even further about things, trying - - I thought at first that he may have - - - the word "Ayak" may have just slipped his mind, but after talking to him further, I was convinced, in my own mind, that he didn't know anything about what the Klan words meant.

BY MR. HAWES:

Q What is "Ayak?"

A "Ayak" is - - - means "are you a Klansman?" A-y-a-k.

That's one way the Klan has of - - - Klan members have of identifying one another, or each other, I should say, on the street. If they think a man happens to be a Klansman, they'll ask him if he knows where Dr. Ayak is, something like that; or go into a service station, they'll want to know, "Have you got ayak oil?" And if the man's a Klansman, he'll come back, say "No, I don't have any ayak oil, but I have Akia oil," which means "A Klansman I am."

Q How do you spell that last?

A That would be A-k-i-m - - - or i-a,
A-k-i-a, but - - -

Q Now, Mr. Ashe, you realize, of course,
that you're under oath here?

A Yes sir.

Q And you realize the penalties of per-
jury in Florida?

A Yes.

Q You know what perjury is?

A Quite well.

Q And you realize that some of the things
you've said here are quite serious accusations
against some individuals?

A Yes sir.

Q And you positively state that your tes-
timony is the truth, so help you, God?

A Yes sir, I do.

I would like to say one thing further, if
I may.

I notice our Sheriff setting back here,
and I would like to say one thing with regards to
this: We - - - Sheriff Hagan Parrish of Polk County;
we had information one time that - - - Sheriff
Parrish had made the remark that there was not room

enough in Polk County for him and the Klan too, and one of them had to go; and some of them out there had made the remark that if anybody went, that the Sheriff was going to have to go, that the Klan was there to stay.

They - - - that was brought up in the event that he should ever decide to try to make any raid or anything like that on the - - - a meeting of the Lakeland Klavern.

Q Where was that remark made, sir?

A That was made in the Klavern meeting.

Q By who?

A I don't recall who made it. It was just an open discussion on the floor.

Q Who was present at that meeting?

A Been so long ago, I don't remember everyone, but I do remember that Mr. Singleton was present at that particular meeting, and I believe Mr. Robbins was in that meeting; Mr. Payne was in on that meeting. That's about the ones that I can definitely remember that were there. The reason that I can - - - I might say this, the reason that I can remember these names as easily as I can is because those are the men that I spent most of my time with. There were other members of ^{it} that I never saw them, except on

meeting nights when they came in, and most of them left immediately, but these men usually stayed around after the meetings, and either were coming by my house or I was going by their house, coming by my office, over the telephone, every few days.

MR. HAWES: All right, Mr. Ashe, I think that's all, and thank you very much, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: We appreciate your coming down, Mr. Ashe.

Is there anything else, Counselor?

MR. HAWES: Mr. Chairman, I know of no other business for this Committee at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair will entertain a motion to adjourn.

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS: So moved.

(The motion was seconded)

THE CHAIRMAN: The Committee will stand adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 3 o'clock, p.m., the Committee stood in adjournment)

CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

I, NATHAN I. FRIEDMAN, Reporter to the Committee, and Deputy Court Reporter to R. H. Lee, Official Court Reporter for the Circuit Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of the State of Florida, in and for Hillsborough County, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that I was present at the time and place hereinabove shown; that there were also present the persons hereinabove shown; that the witnesses, M. B. SHERRILL, BILL HENDRIX and RICHARD L. ASHE, after having been duly sworn by the Chairman, did testify upon their oaths, and that testimony was recorded by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced to type-writing under my personal supervision and direction; that the foregoing pages, numbered 1026 to 1142, inclusive, constitute a true and correct transcription of my shorthand record of such testimony.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 5th day of July, A. D. 1958.

Nathan I. Friedman

Reporter to the Committee.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CASE ORIGINATED AT

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT SAVANNAH	DATE WHEN MADE FEB 4 1952	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/2, 3, 23/52	REPORT MADE BY E. FLEMING MASON/cs.
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS: HARRY T. MOORE - VICTIM HARRIET MOORE - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

JAY EDWARD BELVIN, Sumter, South Carolina, son of suspect TILLMAN HOLLY BELVIN, advised that entire family including father stayed at residence entire day of 12/25/51. Father sickly and spent most of afternoon in bed. Mr. and Mrs. SOTREY, Mr. and Mrs. JOEHY BARRINGER and several other individuals, names not remembered visited in suspects home Christmas afternoon. JAY BELVIN further advised that he went to KKK meetings with father many years ago and acquired a distaste for the KKK, further that when he learned of the bombing the thought went through his mind that the KKK could be involved. Upon inquiring of his mother as to father's affiliation, was advised by mother that father to her knowledge had not attended a meeting of KKK for over a year. JAY BELVIN stated that he and father did not get along well and he left Orlando 3 years ago and lived in Sumter, S. C. since, therefore not familiar with father's friends or KKK activity. WILL TANNER, former game warden, Orlando, known to be close and intimate friend of father. Contact with informants negative.

----- R U C -----

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EXHIBIT

80

Sv. 44-262

DETAILS: AT SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

JAY EDWARD BELVIN, 19 Kendrick Avenue, advised that on December 22, 1951, he departed from Sumter, South Carolina, and went to visit parents Mr. and Mrs. TILLMAN BELVIN at R# 4, Box 400, Orlando, Florida. While at residence he was joined by brother THOMAS, sister, ELAINE BAGNAL, and brother-in-law, BOB BAGNAL. On December 24, 1951, the entire family of six went to Orlando in father's Hudson and rode around. On December 25, 1951, the entire family stayed at home entire day, dinner of fried chicken served about noon. No visitors present for meal. Shortly after noon THOMAS, BOB and JAY went into the pasture for a short while, practiced some shooting with rifles. Father TILLMAN BELVIN sickly and spent afternoon in bed. Many people visited BELVIN home during the afternoon and night. Two couples remembered, a Mr. and Mrs. STAREY and Mr. and Mrs. JOHNY BARRINGER of Orlando, several other people including a man who recently purchased the Belvin farm.

JAY further advised that when he was about 10 years of age he attended KKK meetings with his father and acquired a dislike for the KKK due to the rough and ignorant type of individuals present. He further advised that he had not resided in Orlando, Florida, for several years and did not know of father's affiliation with KKK. He advised that after hearing about the bombing on the radio, inquired of his mother as to his father's KKK affiliation. She advised that father to her knowledge had not attended a KKK meeting for over a year. JAY advised further that he and father did not get along together well and therefore he did not know who were his friends, however, knew that WILL TANNER a former game warden at Orlando was a very close friend.

According to JAY, father owns a home at 419 South Hughey Street, Orlando, Florida, and formerly owned an apartment house in 1500 East Central Avenue, now owned by Mrs. OSTEEEN.

JAY stated that when he learned of bombing he promptly gave thought to KKK activity, which prompted his inquiry