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M. 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. MIESCHNITZ and ROBERT E. SUREK on March 29, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

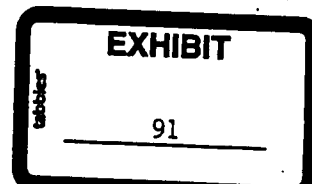
FACTS: JOE W. COX reinterviewed for information in his possession regarding Klan membership of the Association of Georgia Klans inasmuch as he was reportedly secretary as recently as one year ago and a present member.

JOE W. COX, Madlock Tractor Company, on reinterview advised that he had left the Association of Georgia Klans two years ago and then joined the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. He stated he could not name any of the members of either Klan organization because of his oath as a Klansman. He stated he did not have any records of the Klan and had no records since five years ago. When the Florida Klan transferred to the Georgia Klans the records were destroyed. He continually relied on his oath to the Klan and would not name any of its members and advised that he has not been affiliated with or active in the Southern Knights for the past three months. He did not know HARRY T. MOORE and never heard of him until his death. He stated he had never seen any house plans nor heard any plans discussed relative rides or floggings.

It will be noted that during the course of the interview COX repeatedly professed great willingness to assist in any way possible in instant investigation, although he constantly maintained his immunity to furnishing information about the Klan based on his Klan oath.

COX continually asked if the evidence collected by the FBI would hold up in court. He attributed his inquisitiveness regarding the evidence to human nature and emphatically denied this was a point of discussion at any Klan meeting.

In connection with this individual it will be noted he committed suicide on Sunday, March 30, 1952, for reasons unknown. Chief of Police CARL BUCHANAN of Winter Park, Florida, advised COX did not leave a suicide note and his family is unable to offer any explanation for his action. At the time of interview COX displayed no suicidal tendencies whatsoever and appeared to be in good spirits as well as cooperative with the exception of maintaining his immunity because of his oath.



the time the two white men entered and inquired as to the residence of the MOORES. She stated that Reverend JOHN M. MITCHELL at the time the two white men entered was talking to her regarding the signing of a petition and she was occupied discussing the matter with him and did not pay very much attention to the two white men. She also advised that she did not see an automobile nor did she see which direction the two white men went after they left the store.

1-2-52 O. K. WASHINGTON, who resides in the "Hammock Grove" area in Mims, Florida, advised that he was at the Mims Confectionery Store when two white men came in inquiring as to the residence of HARRY T. MOORE. He said that these men had also asked where that "rich professor MOORE lives". They also stated that Professor MOORE that doesn't have to work and just travels around and has money".

WASHINGTON gave the following description of the two men:

NUMBER ONE MAN

Race	White
Height	About 6' 1"
Weight	About 200 lbs.
Age	About 40
Hair	Black
Dress	Had maroon long sleeve shirt and a light tan zipper windbreaker. Was wearing a large white cowboy hat like a "Stetson" and was wearing cowboy boots.

NUMBER TWO MAN

Race	White
Height	About 5' 8"
Weight	About 180 lbs.
Age	About 45
Dress	Was wearing a flannel plaid shirt with checks of green, brown and yellow, checks were outlined in white lines and the checks were approximately

Peculiarities

three inches square. He was wearing khaki colored pants and a checked plaid red cap, the type worn by hunters.

Build

Had heavy dark beard and needed shaved.
Heavy

Washington said that he remembered the shirt that the short man was wearing because he has one just like it. WASHINGTON exhibited the shirt to Agents. WASHINGTON also advised that he went to the door of the Confectionery Store when the men left and saw them get into a maroon colored automobile which he believed to be a mercury. He said that they drove away from the store in the direction of JOE WARREN's house.

WASHINGTON said that when the men asked for directions to MOORE's house he told them that he thought MOORE was living at Daytona Beach, Florida. WASHINGTON said that Reverend JOHN M. MITCHELL advised these men to go to the house of JOE WARREN who is a relative of MOORE's and lives approximately one-fourth of a mile south of the Mims Confectionery Store. WASHINGTON said that he did not know whether or not the men went to WARREN's house. WASHINGTON stated that to the best of his memory these two white men had come into the store at about 8:30 PM. He stated that he thought this was too late for anybody to be inquiring about the residence of MOORE and that was the reason why he had not directed them to the MOORE residence. WASHINGTON also recalled that MOORE had been in Mims that day but had left that night. He said that approximately two or three weeks later he saw MOORE and told him about the two white men inquiring about his residence. He said that MOORE gave no indication of knowing who these white men might be. He also advised that HOWARD T. BURNETT, BURNETT's wife, JOHN HENRY LEE and Reverend JOHN M. MITCHELL were in the store at the time these two white men came in. He recalled definitely that Reverend MITCHELL was there because MITCHELL had a petition that he was trying to get signed by some of the land owners in that section. He recalled that this petition was in connection with having taxes lowered. WASHINGTON said that to the best of his memory no one signed this petition. WASHINGTON also advised that he thought that he would recognize the tall man dressed with the cowboy hat if he saw him again. He has not seen these two white men since that time.

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III. INVESTIGATION RE SUSPECT EARL J. BROOKLYN

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents CLYDE P. ADERHOLD and PRUE C. CLINKSCALES on January 30, 1952, at Mims, Florida.

BASIS: Exhibition of photographs of suspects and others to O. K. WASHINGTON, Mims, Florida, who observed two men in Mims about July or August, 1951, who inquired as to the whereabouts of HARRY T. MOORE residence. Photos also exhibited to JOHN HENRY LEE with negative results.

Photographs in various poses of suspects TILLMAN HOLLEY BELVIN and EARL J. BROOKLYN, along with photographs of TOMMIE RICE, EZEKIAL PATRICK HALL, MARION EDWARD WADE and SIMON SMITH MANNING were exhibited to O. K. WASHINGTON at his residence at Mims, Florida, in an effort to determine whether or not WASHINGTON could identify photographs of any of these individuals as being identical with either or both of the white men who had appeared at the Mims Sundry Store about July or August, 1951, inquiring as to the whereabouts and residence of victim HARRY T. MOORE.

During the group exhibition of these photographs WASHINGTON deliberately studied these photographs and picked from the group the standing photograph of suspect EARL J. BROOKLYN, stating that he could not positively identify this photograph as that of one of the men inquiring about MOORE's whereabouts but that this photograph more closely resembled one of the two men making the inquiry than any he has viewed.

WASHINGTON advised that the size and build of suspect BROOKLYN compared very favorably with that of the heavy and stocky individual making the inquiry.

It is to be noted that in looking through the group of photographs exhibited to him WASHINGTON picked the standing photograph of suspect BROOKLYN from the midst of the group, laid it aside, subsequently placed it back in the group of photographs and again, while studying them in detail, selected this standing photograph of BROOKLYN.

It is also noted that WASHINGTON failed to identify and pick out the photograph of suspect TILLMAN H. BELVIN as that of the other individual making inquiry about MOORE. WASHINGTON stated that he would make a positive identification of a photograph only when absolutely certain of the identity and volunteered to view other photographs of other suspects when obtained.

The above mentioned photographs were also exhibited to JOHN HENRY LEE who had been in the Mims Sundry Store when the two unknown individuals inquired as to the whereabouts of MOORE's residence. LEE was unable to make any identification of any of the photographs, but stated the photograph of MARION EDWARD WADE seemed familiar.



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Rev. MITCHELL advised he was not afraid to tell the FBI anything if he knew of anything that would assist in the investigation. He stated he would be 70 years old on his next birthday and that he had no particular fears for his life if he revealed anything to the Bureau Agents. He said he did not know any white men who were antagonistic to MOORE. He advised that the Monday before MOORE's death they had a meeting at which time MOORE had talked of joining the Democratic Party and backing it to the utmost. He stated MOORE often held meetings in regard to politics and at these meetings MOORE would present the voting records of various senators and representatives but he never insisted the colored people vote for any one man. He merely presented the facts of each candidate's record and then allowed the colored people to make their own choice. On the Monday before his death MOORE gave no indication his life was in danger or that he had received any threats of violence because of the work he was doing.

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JOHN HENRY LEE, Mims, was reinterviewed in regard to the white men asking the whereabouts of MOORE's residence at night in BURNETT's store. LEE repeated the same story he told on initial interview and the same story as that given by the BURNETTS. He said two white men came into the store as he, O. K. WASHINGTON, Mr. and Mrs. BURNETT and Rev. MITCHELL were discussing some sort of petition. He stated he paid no particular attention to the white men until the taller man asked for HENRY MOORE. LEE was not sure whether it was HENRY or another name similar to HARRY but the fact the first name was wrong caused him to look up at the white man who asked. LEE insisted it was the tall man who did the talking and stood near the south wall of the store. The tall man said, "Where does HENRY MOORE live?" and someone in the crowd said, "You mean HARRY MOORE." The tall man said, "Yes, the rich school teacher. If I had the money MOORE has I wouldn't work." LEE advised at this point he began to wonder why a white man would make such a statement. He then looked at the man's face and looked him over pretty well. He said the man's sarcasm caused him to be very cautious. He said he decided not to say anything but just get a good look at the man. Someone in the group who he could not remember told the man to go see JOE WARREN for the exact location of MOORE's house. To LEE's knowledge HARRY MOORE was not in town at that time and he could not say whether JOE WARREN was in town either.

He estimated the time of this incident as in August or September, 1951. He could not say why other than that it was very warm and he knew the fruit in the groves was not being picked.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents CLYDE P. ADERHOLD and TOBIAS E. MATTHEWS, on December 31, 1951, and January 1, and 2, 1952.

BASIS: Brevard County Sheriff H. T. WILLIAMS advised that he had received information that two white men in about July, 1951, had stopped at the Mims Confectionary Store, Mims, Florida, and asked for information as to where HARRY T. MOORE lived. Sheriff WILLIAMS advised that persons in the store at the time these two men came in were O. K. WASHINGTON, Reverend JOHN M. MITCHELL and HOWARD T. BURNETT, owner of the Mims Confectionary Store.

HOWARD T. BURNETT, owner of the Mims Confectionary Store, advised that during the latter part of July, 1951, two white men came into his store at approximately 9:00 PM and asked where HARRY T. MOORE lived. He said that one of these men described MOORE as being a rich fellow that did not have to work. These two men also referred to MOORE as Professor MOORE. BURNETT stated that he could only remember that one of these men was rather tall and the other was rather short and heavy set. He could not recall what clothing they were wearing at that time and he did not see the automobile they were riding in. BURNETT said he remembered that Reverend JOHN M. MITCHELL advised these two men to go to the house of JOE WARREN who is related to MOORE. BURNETT did not know whether or not these men had gone to WARREN's house. BURNETT explained that during the time the two white men were in his store inquiring as to the residence of MOORE, he BURNETT, was occupied behind the counter waiting on customers and therefore did not pay too much attention to the white men.

Mrs. HOWARD T. BURNETT advised she is present in the store at the time the two white men entered the store and inquired as to the location of the residence of MOORE. She said that she did not pay very much attention to the white men and therefore does not recall how they were dressed or a description of the two white men other than one was a tall man and the other a short and stout man. She said she recalls the short stout man had on some type of a cap although she is unable to recall the description of the cap. She also advised that she recalls that Reverend JOHN M. MITCHELL and JOHN HENRY LEE were present in the store at

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the time the two white men entered and inquired as to the residence of the MOORES. She stated that Reverend JOHN M. MITCHELL at the time the two white men entered was talking to her regarding the signing of a petition and she was occupied discussing the matter with him and did not pay very much attention to the two white men. She also advised that she did not see an automobile nor did she see which direction the two white men went after they left the store.

O. K. WASHINGTON, who resides in the "Hammock Grove" area in Mims, Florida, advised that he was at the Mims Confectionery Store when two white men came in inquiring as to the residence of HARRY T. MOORE. He said that these men had also asked where that "rich professor MOORE lives". They also stated that Professor MOORE that doesn't have to work and just travels around and has money".

WASHINGTON gave the following description of the two men:

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Race	White
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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and ROBERT E. SUNKEL at Mims and Titusville, Florida, on February 18 and 19, 1952.

BASIS: Determine date two white men put in an appearance at the Mims Confectionery Store, reported to be about the latter part of July, 1951, inquiring for the whereabouts of MCCOY's house.

By way of background, previous investigation has revealed HOWARD T. BURNETT, owner, and his wife, Rev. JOHN M. MITCHELL, JOHN HENRY LEE and O.K. WASHINGTON were all present at the Mims Confectionery Store at the time the two white men appeared to inquire of the whereabouts of victim MCCOY's home. On original interview their best recollection was that this incident took place either in the latter part of July or the early part of August, 1951.

HOWARD T. BURNETT, owner, Mims Confectionery Store, on re-interview repeated his original story. He stated he had forgotten about the incident of the two white men until it was brought to his attention by O.K. WASHINGTON. He stated his store is sort of an "information bureau" in the colored quarters and that often people will drop in and ask where various residents of the quarters live. He stated he is very cautious about this and will tell the people who ask that he has only been there a couple years and does not know exactly where the person lives or, if there is a resident in the store at the time, he usually says to ask that individual as he has been here longer. On the particular night he recalls O. K. WASHINGTON and JOHN HENRY LEE were sitting on the stools at his ico cream bar and that he, his wife and Rev. JOHN MITCHELL were sitting at one of the tables discussing a petition which Rev. MITCHELL wanted them to sign. He stated at the particular time the white men came into the store Rev. MITCHELL was in a heated argument with BURNETT and his wife regarding the petition. BURNETT stated he did not sign the petition as he did not know what it was for and MITCHELL insisted it was a good thing and that all the

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property owners should sign it. At the point where the white men walked in they asked for MOORE and MITCHELL became perturbed and at a glance from the men said for them to go on down the road to see JOE WARREN. "He is a relation of MOORE and he will tell you where he lives." With that MITCHELL tried to return their attention to the petition. BURNETT said he paid no particular attention to the white men other than the fact one was tall and stood near the display case to the south side of the store and the other was a little shorter and stood near the door at the west wall. He advised he could not give any definite description of these white men and recalled only that just one of them did the talking. He stated that to his knowledge JOE WARREN was in Mins at that time; however, he did not know if HARRY MOORE was home.

BURNETT stated that neither he nor his wife signed the petition and he did not know whether LEE or WASHINGTON had signed it. He stated he would have completely forgotten the incident had not O.K. WASHINGTON brought it up. He described WASHINGTON as being a fairly intelligent fellow who was always watching strangers in and about Mins. He stated WASHINGTON had told him later he had caught a glimpse of the white men's car but BURNETT stated he had not seen it and had paid little attention to the whole incident.

Photographs of the following individuals, including suspects in this case, were shown to BURNETT: TILLMAN H. BELVIN, EARL J. BROOKLYN, SIMON SMITH MANNING, JAMES THOMAS RICE, WILLIAM S. LEE, EZEKIAL PATRICK HALL, MARION EDWARD WADE, WILL TANNER, EMMETT HURT, ROY C. RAMSEY and T. J. McMENAMY. He was unable to identify any of the photographs.

In regard to the manager of the new truck stop in Mins, BURNETT said he saw him on a couple occasions. In fact, the manager had brought one of his negro employees into the store and outfitted him with work clothes and paid the bill. He said he would not be able to identify the manager if he saw him. He just recalled he was in his store on one or two occasions and he felt he was good to his colored help.

Mrs. HOWARD T. BURNETT was interviewed separately and recalled the incident. Her story was identical to that of her husband with the exception that she stated when the white men entered the store they asked where HENRY MOORE lived. She said at this point those present

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looked at one another and wondered why they asked for HENRY MOORE. She said someone said "you mean HARRY MOORE". Reverend MITCHELL who was trying to obtain their signatures on a petition turned and said, "Go see JOE WARREN. He is a relation of MOORE. He can tell you exactly where he lives." Mrs. BURNETT stated she does not recall too much about the men. She believed they were from 35 to 40 years of age and she recalled one had a red peaked baseball cap. She stated it was her impression that the shorter of the two men did the talking. She was not sure of this fact. She did say the men referred to MOORE as the "school teacher with plenty of money." One said, "If I had his money I wouldn't work". She added the man said this in a sarcastic tone.

The above mentioned photographs were displayed to Mrs. BURNETT and she was unable to pick any of the persons from the group as being the men who came into the store. She advised she did not pay much attention to them and would be unable to identify them. In trying to name the day of the week when the men entered the store she was sure it was not Saturday or Sunday as business in the store was almost nil at that time. She stated that on weekends they are very busy all day and night. She felt sure it was a week day and recalled they had been listening to a baseball game on the radio when Rev. MITCHELL came with the petition.

In regard to the petition she stated it was of two pages, the top page had a paragraph or so of typewritten words and she had told Rev. MITCHELL she would not sign anything unless she read it first at which time Rev. MITCHELL explained he had to have the signature of all property owners in the colored quarters and had to turn in this petition the next morning. She advised he was very disturbed because neither she nor her husband would sign it and it was at this time the white men entered the store and Rev. MITCHELL told them to see JOE WARREN.

To the best of her knowledge Mrs. BURNETT thought this petition had to do with the elimination of county commissioners. She was not sure of this but thought it had to do with the elimination of county commissioners in Brevard County.

In regard to the manager of the new truck stop in Mims, Mrs. BURNETT felt she would know him if he came into her store as she had waited on him once or twice when he bought some small articles for his colored help. She did not know him well.