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G. M. SIMMONS, County Clerk, Brevard County, Court House, Titusville, Florida, produced minutes of the meeting of the county commissioners. The record was County Commissioners Book #24. These records were checked to see if a petition was filed with the county in regard to the elimination of county commissioners. Mr. SIMMONS stated there had been a redistricting of authority of the county commissioners and that this went into effect sometime in November, 1951. In checking the records it was ascertained that on July 3, 1951, a resolution was brought before the commissioners by representatives from Eau Gallie, Florida, asking for redistricting. On page 158 dated August 7, 1951, it was again mentioned in the meeting of the commissioners with no action taken. On page 206 dated September 4, 1951, the resolution was taken under general discussion. No action was taken. On page 271 dated November 6, 1951, the resolution was mentioned briefly. On page 278, dated November 8, 1951, the resolution was taken up by the commission, handled completely and redistricting was put in effect. There was no petition in the minutes representative of the freeholders at Mims. Mr. SIMMONS stated he did not recall any such petition being filed in his office by the colored freeholders at Mims. He stated that should such a petition have been filed it would have been copied into the minutes verbatim, including all signatures.

Mr. ARTHUR A. DUNN, Mims, member of the county commission, advised he knew of no such petition being circulated in the colored quarters and that, in fact, he had never heard of one being passed around there in regard to redistricting of authority for commissioners. He stated he represented all the colored folks in and around Mims and that if such a petition were passed through them he would surely have known about it.

1-18-52 Rev. JOHN M. MITCHELL, Mims, was reinterviewed in regard to the incident of two white men asking for HARRY MCCOY's residence. He at first denied he was ever in the Mims Confectionery Store when two white men came in asking for MCCOY. He said he did not know anything about a petition in regard to Brevard County commissioners. After much additional questioning he recalled he had passed a petition among the negroes in the quarters requiring the signatures of home owners but that this petition had nothing to do with county commissioners but he thought it had to do with the annual county fair and the elimination of one of the fair commissioners and the reduction of taxes. He was very vague in his recollection of what the petition concerned. He did recall.

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however, that he had been requested to pass the petition around in the colored quarters by JAKE OSTERREICHER. To his recollection he had to return this petition to Mr. OSTERREICHER within a given time. He said he circulated the petition one night and early the next morning. He was instructed to return the petition to OSTERREICHER at 7:00 A.M. the following day, having arranged to meet OSTERREICHER in front of the Mims Post Office. He recalled vaguely that OSTERREICHER mentioned the men around Cooca wanted to create something that was no good for the people of north Brevard County which includes Mims. MITCHELL stated he had taken this paper to the BURNETTS to sign and that if he remembered correctly they all signed this petition. Rev. MITCHELL then stated he remembered it was at night he approached the BURNETTS in the store.

He insisted he did not see any white men there at any time. He said it was possible they came there but he did not recall seeing them. He stated he did not tell them to go see JOE WARREN for directions to MOORE's house. He denied that any white men came there while he was there.

He stated that he recalled that afternoon a white man drove up in front of his house while he was sitting on the porch and had asked for HARRY MOORE. Rev. MITCHELL stated he told the white man he did not know where MOORE lived and he thought it was odd because MOORE was not in town at that particular time. He advised he paid no attention to the white man and could not recall the type automobile he was driving nor anything about him. He stated O.K. WASHINGTON asked him the next day about the two white men who came to BURNETT's store. He believed he circulated the petition in about May or June, 1951. He could not state how the set this time but recalled OSTERREICHER had mentioned he had to take the petition and file it at Tallahassee the next morning.

Rev. MITCHELL was shown the above mentioned photographs and asked if he could identify the man who came to his home inquiring of MOORE. He studied each photograph very closely. On two occasions he returned to the photograph of suspect EARL J. BROCKLYN and then went on. At the conclusion of his examining the photographs he stated BROCKLYN looked familiar to him but he did not know why. He stated EMMETT HART looked like a fellow he knew named SIMMONS. He was asked whether HART was SIMMONS or was known as SIMMONS and MITCHELL stated that HART just resembles the fellow he knew as SIMMONS. He could not identify any of the other photographs. He stated he did not know the manager of the new truck stop.

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JOHN HENRY LEE, General Delivery, Mims, Florida, advised that he was in the Mims Confectionery Store when two white men came in inquiring about MOORE. He could recall only that one of these men was rather tall and that one was rather short and heavy set. He also remembered that someone in the store suggested to these men that they go to the residence of JOE WARREN to find out where MOORE lived. LEE said this occurred during the latter part of July, 1951, at about 8:30 or 9:00 PM. LEE could give no description of the automobile the men were riding in because he stated he did not see the car. LEE could not recall how these two men were dressed. LEE stated that he had heard from rumors that the short stocky man who had been in the Mims Confectionery Store was the manager of the new truck stop in Mims, Florida. LEE did not know the source of this rumor and could not recall the person who told him.

Reverend JOHN M. MITCHELL, Pastor of the St. James Missionary Baptist Church at Mims, Florida, stated that he could not remember being at the Mims Confectionery Store when two white men inquired about MOORE. He said that he did recall that in about July, 1951, one white man drove up in an automobile in front of his, MITCHELL's, house and asked where HARRY T. MOORE lived. MITCHELL said he told this white man that he knew where MOORE lived but could not direct him to the house and suggested that he ask someone else farther down the street that could give him directions. MITCHELL said that he could not remember what this man looked like nor could he recall what kind or color car this man was driving. It was pointed out to MITCHELL that other persons in the Mims Confectionery Store had stated that he was in that store when the two white men came in but MITCHELL insisted that he did not remember being at the store on that occasion. MITCHELL stated during the interview that he has been personally acquainted with MOORE and MOORE's family for approximately 12 years, MOORE having frequently attended church services at the St. James Missionary Baptist Church. He described MOORE as being a man of great intellect and leadership and not having any enemies insofar as he knows.

Each of the above persons interviewed was questioned as to whether or not he has any information as to the identity of the persons responsible for the bombing of the MOORE residence as well as to information regarding the activities of MOORE or any suspects in the bombing. Each of the persons stated that he does not have any information in + to report.

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III. INVESTIGATION RE SUSPECT A. FORTENBERRY

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and ROBERT E. SUNKEL on January 6, 1952, at Cocoa, Florida.

BASIS: To interview TIM CANTY for any information in his possession concerning FORTENBERRY and the political situation in Brevard County which would be of pertinence to the investigation.

On interview, CANTY furnished the following incidents indicating the scope of FORTENBERRY's power in Brevard County.

CANTY stated he had had his attorney CURTIS WILKINGTON, now in the United States Army, check the County Tax Records in connection with some property which he, CANTY, owns as compared with property owned by FORTENBERRY. CANTY stated he owns a piece of property having a hundred foot frontage on Merritt Island Road and that FORTENBERRY owns a similar piece of property extending for a half mile on either side of the road. The county records show that CANTY paid \$135 taxes a year on his property and that FORTENBERRY paid only \$113 a year taxes for 528 feet of road frontage. In this connection he stated that FORTENBERRY while on the county commission was a member of the Tax Assessment Equalization Board. He also noted that FORTENBERRY's sawmill was located on part of his property fronting on Merritt Island Road.

CANTY recalled having heard from Mrs. DON LIGHTER who was formerly employed by FORTENBERRY as a part time bookkeeper at his lumber yard that FORTENBERRY owned the Enterprize Lumber Company of Jacksonville, Florida. According to his information this is a dummy corporation. CANTY noted that all of the lumber purchased by the County Commission was purchased from the Enterprize Lumber Company. In fact this lumber came directly from FORTENBERRY's Company located on Merritt Island. The billing was made through the Enterprize Lumber Company for record purposes only. CANTY stated he had also learned from Mrs. LIGHTER that FORTENBERRY at the present time is devoting all of his time to the newspaper, "East Coast Trade Winds" and that his work at the sawmill has generally come to a halt. He advised that Mrs. LIGHTER is the wife of a very good friend and business associate of his, DON LIGHTER, a real estate dealer

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on Merritt Island. According to CANTY, DON LIGHTER was in strong opposition to FORTENBERRY and his political machine in the past 1950 elections. CANTY ventured that Mrs. LIGHTER might possibly be receptive and furnish information to Bureau Agents in this case.

CANTY also pointed out that all of the practicing attorneys in the Cocoa-Merritt Island area are subsidized by the political powers as soon as they set up practice. In this connection he pointed out that his attorney CURTIS WITTINGTON, who had checked on the tax matter for him, was within 30 days thereafter working for FORTENBERRY and a strong FORTENBERRY supporter.

Concerning the allegation that FORTENBERRY had had a road built to his home with county funds, CANTY stated he had no absolute proof that this action on FORTENBERRY's part of County Commissioner was in the nature of fraud, but does know that there is a definite rumor to that effect; that the road was built for FORTENBERRY's sole benefit. He stated that the road had been built after FORTENBERRY had been defeated in the 1950 election but before his successor DAVE NISBET took office. CANTY stated he had spoken about this matter to one of the county commissioners whom he declined to name and that this commissioner had stated that he had voted in favor of the road and further that he would vote in favor of any such project for any county commissioner who desired a road built within his district.

CANTY recalled another incident concerning the Canaveral Port project. He stated that there had been a great deal of opposition to the project in the county. He noted that the Cocoa newspaper, owned and operated by a Mrs. HOLDERMAN which is usually neutral on any controversial question came out one hundred per cent for the FORTENBERRY proposal for a bond issue for the Port project. According to CANTY, within a matter of weeks after the bond issue had been approved a good hard top road was built to Mrs. HOLDERMAN's road from the Merritt Island Road. CANTY stated this road is some 8 miles in length and of benefit only to Mrs. HOLDERMAN.

Concerning FORTENBERRY, himself, CANTY stated it is his understanding that the elder FORTENBERRY is an extremely sick man and that he has had some severe attacks of an unknown matter within the recent past. CANTY stated he estimated FORTENBERRY would be worth anywhere from \$500,000 to a million dollars if he were to liquidate all of his holdings.

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CANTY expressed the opinion that FORTENBERY is at this time attempting to regroup his powers for the coming elections, in an attempt to regain control of the County Commissioners and in particular to regain the position of Chairman of the Canaveral Port Project. CANTY pointed out that FORTENBERY'S main purpose in all this was to get back on the Port Project Commission because he had the most to lose by being out of this particular picture.

CANTY recommended very highly one "SCOTTY" CALDWELL, a Cocoa Beach Police Officer. He stated CALDWELL was an extremely reliable and alert officer and that he had been doing considerable speculation and casual questioning of people concerning the bombing. In addition CANTY stated CALDWELL was well acquainted with the political situation in Brevard County and could furnish Agents with considerable information along this line.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT E. SUNKEL and FRANK F. NEECH on January 7, 1952, at Cocoa Beach, Florida.

BASIS: To obtain from T. "SCOTTY" CALDWELL, Cocoa Beach Police Officer any information in his possession concerning the political situation in Brevard County of pertinence to instant investigation.

On interview CALDWELL stated that he has since the bombing talked to a large number of colored people in and around Cocoa Beach and that they all refused to express their opinions as to who might have done the bombing or why it was done.

CALDWELL at first expressed the opinion that there was no one at Brevard County in the political picture who would use a method such as was used on HARRY T. MOORE to eliminate him. He stated he felt certain that the perpetrators of the crime came from outside Brevard County. He mentioned in particular that the white and colored population in and around Mims was unusually harmonious in their relations with one another.

In response to questioning concerning gambling activities in Brevard County, Caldwell stated that prior to his death, JOHNNY WEATHERS, was the "king pin". He stated that one TOMMY GARVIN was WEATHERS' book-keeper and close associate. His immediate partner was one FRED W. MURDOCK. In this connection he noted that MURDOCK is very "close" at the County Seat in Titusville. CALDWELL stated that when WEATHERS died the gambling business was supposed to have been split up and further that MURDOCK seems to have taken over the colored section. He also stated that MURDOCK is operating the baseball team in Cocoa. CALDWELL stated he was not acquainted with anyone by the name of "BAD EYE" MESSER.

During the course of the interview CALDWELL of his own recollection and without questioning or prompting by Agents recalled that the elder FORTENBERRY was the big political boss of Brevard County.

CALDWELL noted that FORTENBERRY was the biggest employer of the Negroes in Brevard County employing them in both his sawmill and various

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county jobs. He stated that after the 1950 elections, FORTENBERRY made a canvas of the colored quarters in the county in an attempt to learn for himself why the colored vote had turned against him. CALDWELL stated that this was a well known fact in and around the county. He also added that it was of significance to note that HARRY T. MOORE as the leading representative of the Progressive Voters League was at that time the leader of the Negro people. Also in this connection CALDWELL observed that the Negro people as a class seemed to require a leader and that for all of the years before HARRY T. MOORE appeared on the scene FORTENBERRY had been their leader in that they would do most anything he requested of them. CALDWELL observed that it must have been a great blow to FORTENBERRY to learn that his power over the Negro people in the county had been broken.

He also observed that FORTENBERRY was, in his opinion, hurt the most by the election. By way of explanation he stated that the Canaveral Port project was the "big plum for FORTENBERRY and that by being ousted from the county commission he was automatically ousted from the chairmanship of the Port Authority Board. He stated FORTENBERRY had a great deal to gain by the sale of his land in the immediate vicinity of the Port Project if the project were to go through.

In this connection CALDWELL stated, "FORTENBERRY would do anything to get back in as County Commissioner and head the Port Commission again".

CALDWELL stated that immediately following the 1950 elections, FORTENBERRY was silent. Shortly thereafter the people of Brevard County began questioning the decisions of the Canaveral Port Authority, of which FORTENBERRY was still Chairman until the end of his term December, 1951. Shortly after the beginning of 1951 FORTENBERRY began riding the present Port Authority Board, and has at the present time gone to the extreme of operating the newspaper, East Coast Trade Winds, wherein considerable space is devoted to the Project, its merits and proposed benefits to Brevard County and the stupidity of the present Port Authority Board in the handling of this project.

CALDWELL stated that FORTENBERRY is at this time preparing his forces to regain control of the County Commission and the Port Project and that he, CALDWELL, expects either FORTENBERRY or his son JOHN to qualify as candidate for the County Commission. In this connection he noted

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a membership in the County Commission from that particular district of the County automatically carried with it membership on the Port Authority Board. CALDWELL noted that FORTENBERRY is keeping himself in the lime light at all times and has done so since his defeat in 1950.

CALDWELL volunteered the opinion that the Mims bombing was either going to frighten the colored people in the county into submission or they were going to cause trouble. He stated that in his duties as police officer he has come to the tentative conclusion that it is going to frighten them into submission. In this connection he noted that for the Negro vote to have any effective direction on the coming election whoever in the county qualifies in their minds as a leader will be able to control their vote. He ventured the opinion that it would take a long time for another colored man to accomplish what HARRY T. MOORE had accomplished and that the colored people would in all probability resume their old alliance with the FORTENBERRY powers.

On questioning CALDWELL furnished the following names of individuals whom he considered close associates of FORTENBERRY.

ARTHUR DUNN - CALDWELL stated DUNN is a strong FORTENBERRY man and further that DUNN is the type of individual who would be there if there were any division of spoils to be made. DUNN is a County Commissioner from the Mims district at the present time.

COLONEL BUTT - CALDWELL stated that at one time FORTENBERRY and BUTT were extremely close but they at the present time are bitter enemies. He pointed out that COLONEL BUTT, Mayor of Cocoa at the present time heads the Port Authority Board and that FORTENBERRY is fighting the Board with all of his resources.

JOHN FORTENBERRY - CALDWELL stated JOHN FORTENBERRY is ANDREW FORTENBERRY's oldest son and further that he is the elder FORTENBERRY's constant companion at all meetings.

CALDWELL stated he did not think that anyone of the County Commissioners with the exception of ARTHUR DUNN was in sympathy with FORTENBERRY.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT E. SUNKEL and FRANK F. MEECH on January 8, 1952, at Merritt Island, Florida.

BASIS: To obtain from DAVID S. NISBET, County Commissioner, any information in his possession concerning ANDY FORTENBERRY and Brevard County politics of pertinence to instant investigation.

It will be noted that DAVID S. NISBET ran against ANDY FORTENBERRY in the November, 1950, general elections for County Commissioner. NISBET was placed on the ballot by a write-in and defeated FORTENBERRY.

On interview Mr. NISBET stated that it was within his knowledge that FORTENBERRY had taken his defeat very hard in connection with instant election. He also stated that he knew that HARRY T. MOORE had campaigned very vigorously for him, NISBET, and further that it was through his influence that the colored vote of Brevard County swung to NISBET.

NISBET volunteered a number of instances indicating fraud on the part of FORTENBERRY during his termination as County Commissioner. These various items have been reported elsewhere in greater detail and will not be set forth in full here.

In addition to those instances previously reported NISBET delved into the manner by which FORTENBERRY accumulated his wealth. He stated that undoubtedly FORTENBERRY had amassed his money indirectly by being a County Commissioner. By this he stated he meant that FORTENBERRY by reason of his position was able to buy thousands of acres of timber land for defaulted taxes. From this land he was able to cut timber which was in turn cut into lumber in his sawmill. Much of this land is located on the west side of Banana River just west of the proposed Port Canaveral Project and through which the proposed highway would enter. It was NISBET's thought that FORTENBERRY would stand to make a considerable amount of money should this road go through; that this money could be made by sales to the County.

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In reply to questioning NISBET furnished the following information about JOHNNY WEATHERS and "BAD EYE" MESSER. He stated WEATHERS was the recognized racket man in Brevard County for many years until his death in 1946. WEATHERS was also a strong FORTENBERRY man. About MESSER, NISBET stated that he was WEATHERS' right hand man until several years ago when he and WEATHERS had a falling out over some matter of MESSER having to sell some numbers on his own failing to account for them to WEATHERS. Immediately after that MESSER disappeared from the County for a year or two. When he came back he settled down in his present place of business, a juice stand, located north of Mims. Nisbet stated MESSER was also a strong FORTENBERRY man particularly in the last election. He recalled one instance when MESSER came to him, NISBET, and told him he had no business getting involved in politics, that things were getting along alright. NISBET expressed the opinion that he did not think MESSER has been involved in any rackets since his return.

NISBET also recalled another incident in which a bar owner, SAM MOODY, of Cocoa was shot at several years ago. He emphasized that he had no proof but the general consensus of opinion was that MESSER was the individual who shot at MOODY. This incident he stated took place prior to the death of JOHNNY WEATHERS.

NISBET named the following individuals as being close associates of ANDY FORTENBERRY:

J. S. BRODERSON - A very close associate of FORTENBERRY. NISBET stated he did not know how BRODERSON made a living but noted that he appeared to be quite well off. He stated BRODERSON has a small citrus grove and a small dairy neither of which would bring in enough income to support him in the manner of his living. BRODERSON is about 60 years of age.

CHARLIE CURTIS - NISBET described CURTIS as a political protege of FORTENBERRY. He recalled that CURTIS under FORTENBERRY's tutelage ran for the School Board. CURTIS owns a small orange grove and has no other outward employment. His wife works in the A & P Grocery Store on Merritt Island. He does not show much financial success.

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FRED LaROCHE - LaROCHE lives in Courtney and maintains a small office near the Merritt Island Laundry. He is an architect and builder of sorts. LaROCHE is one of a large family, some 40 or more, none of whom have anything to do with FRED LaROCHE. It should be noted that one of the LaROCHE's ran against a FORTENBERRY man in the 1950 election. NISBET was unable to recall the name of the position.

OSCAR SMITH - SMITH operates a fruit stand near COCOA. He is not too closely associated with FORTENBERRY, but as noted below was one of the three original editors of the East Coast Trade Winds, FORTENBERRY's newspaper.

SAM KNUTSON - KNUTSON has a small real estate office on Merritt Island. He is not very successful.

ORREN JONES - NISBET stated he believed JONES to be a cousin of FORTENBERRY's from Mississippi.

Of the above individuals NISBET noted that BRODERSON, LaROCHE, and SMITH were the original editors and publishers of FORTENBERRY's newspaper, the EAST COAST TRADE WINDS, when it was first published. In this connection he noted that FORTENBERRY is the type of man who never comes out in the open on any of his pet projects. He always has someone else fronting for him. It will also be noted that the present editor of the Trade Winds is a man by the name of RALPH MOODY. NISBET stated MOODY is a stranger in these parts and as a matter of fact has never heard of anyone who has ever seen MOODY.

NISBET went on to state that FORTENBERRY seldom comes to any of the meetings of the Port Canaveral Commission. Instead either BRODERSON, JONES or KNUTSON comes in his place. According to NISBET these individuals never have anything of a constructive nature to put before the meeting and generally confine their remarks to criticism.

NISBET noted that there has been no one fired from the County Payroll as a result of FORTENBERRY's defeat in the 1950 elections. NISBET did state, however, that there is a strong political association between FORTENBERRY and TRIGGER GYIGGS and that he NISBET has tried to

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fire GRIGGS since he has taken off, however, no one else on the County Commission appears to be interested, and whenever he brings the matter up before the Commission it is passed off with some comment to the effect that GRIGGS has only about one more year to serve before he is eligible for retirement and therefore he should be allowed to serve this time.

NISBET stated that he knows of no KKK activity in Brevard County and expressed the belief that there has been no activity for many years. He did recall that when he was in his early teens there was a Junior KKK and he was a member of it. He stated, however, that it was purely a social club. He recalled that his scout master had quit his job as scout master and became the leader of the Junior KKK. All the members of his former scout troupe quit the Boy Scouts and joined the Junior KKK. He stated he does not know if FORTENBERRY has ever been a member of the KKK at any time.

NISBET attempted to evaluate individuals who are FORTENBERRY's associates who might be approachable concerning instant investigation and who would not divulge the contact to FORTENBERRY. He stated that none of FORTENBERRY's close associates were in his opinion approachable. He did, however, mention that COLONEL NOAH BUTT, Mayor of Cocoa, has for many years been a very close associate of FORTENBERRY's but that since FORTENBERRY's defeat he has been strongly opposed to FORTENBERRY. NISBET also mentioned one RUSSELL RAMSEY.

RAMSEY is a former close associate of FORTENBERRY, who has since FORTENBERRY's defeat turned against him.

NISBET also stated that the present Secretary of the Port Canaveral Project Mr. N. M. ARGABRITE of Cocoa Beach would be an excellent person to talk to concerning the present condition of the Port Authority. In this connection he noted that the records of the Port Authority during the period FORTENBERRY was Chairman of the Commission are either missing or very poorly kept. In either event it appears impossible to determine from these records the disposition of the funds which have been made available to the Port Authority Commission. NISBET noted that a bond issue of one million dollars had been voted for the Port Authority.

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Concerning FORTENBERRY's publication, the EAST COAST TRADE WINDS, NISBET stated that the paper is edited and assembled at the office of FORTENBERRY's sawmill the Merritt Island Lumber Company located on Merritt Island Road. The telephone number of the Merritt Island Lumber Company, 258W, was formerly the number listed to the newspaper. At the present time the telephone of the newspaper is 838.

II. INVESTIGATION RE SUSPECT A. FORTENBERRY

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents TOBIAS E. MATTHEWS, JR. and FRANK F. MEECH on February 5, 1952, at Cocoa, Florida.

BASIS: A. FORTENBERRY was interviewed inasmuch as he was one of the suspects in instant case.

Mr. A. FORTENBERRY, who does not have a given name, but merely an initial, was interviewed at his place of business, the Merritt Island Lumber Company on Merritt Island, Cocoa, Florida, at which time he advised he was born in 1886 near Columbus, Mississippi. He came to Florida in 1914 and homesteaded a plot of 160 acres which was granted to him under a government homesteading act.

He established the Merritt Island Lumber Company in about 1929 or 1930 and this has been his principal occupation and business since that time. Mr. FORTENBERRY personally owns the original 160 acres of land he homesteaded in 1914 and an additional 160 acres in the developed section of Merritt Island. In addition, the Merritt Island Lumber Company owns in various localities in Brevard County, somewhere between three and four thousand acres of land.

Concerning recent events, Mr. FORTENBERRY informed the Agents that for many years he has been on the County Commission and in recent years the chairman and, in addition, by reason of his being a member of the County Commission, the chairman of the Canaveral Port Authority.

In the Democratic Primary elections held in the spring of 1950 he was reelected as County Commissioner and, according to FORTENBERRY, approximately two weeks before the general elections held in November, 1950, a group of people got together and supported DAVE NISBET as his opponent. The main reason back of the group of Brevard County citizens in opposing him was that, according to FORTENBERRY, they wanted to wrest control of the Port Authority so that they could manipulate property holdings in the vicinity of the port to the advantage of certain people whom he did not identify. He was opposed while he was chairman of the Port Authority to any manipulations in favor of any individual and thus the reason for the opposition.

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FORTENBERRY had heard that the above mentioned group had raised between fifteen and twenty thousand dollars to promote DAVE NISBET in the general election.

Concerning the bombing of the resident of HARRY T. MOORE, Mr. FORTENBERRY advised he had no information which would be helpful in investigating the case. He was of the opinion that in every act of violence there had to be a motive and he could see no motive arising in Brevard County for killing HARRY MOORE. Mr. FORTENBERRY had heard of MOORE but had never met him. He understood that for some time before MOORE's death he was active in NAACP and Progressive Voters League of Florida, Inc. work; however, this was hearsay and without direct knowledge on his part.

Concerning the recent election Mr. FORTENBERRY advised that he did not believe the final outcome had anything to do with MOORE's death. His opposition in the election did without question go after the negro vote but he personally did not know what part MOORE played in county politics. He said he has heard that some of the politicians in the county who were opposing him did meet with HARRY MOORE and turn over to him money to be used to swing the negro vote. As far as FORTENBERRY was concerned, this was strictly rumor. It was also rumored, according to FORTENBERRY, that someone in Brevard County had reached HARRY MOORE and had gotten him to support DAVE NISBET for County Commissioner. FORTENBERRY also heard it rumored that MOORE was instrumental in swinging the negro vote to DAVE NISBET. In past elections, according to FORTENBERRY, the negro voting population in Brevard County had supported him.

Mr. FORTENBERRY advised the Agents he had no feeling himself toward HARRY MOORE whatsoever as a result of the election but his friends blamed his defeat, not on MOORE or the negroes, but on the white people who stopped so low as to solicit the negro vote. He stated he personally never contacted MOORE or solicited him for assistance in the election and to his knowledge none of his friends had attempted to get to MOORE to receive his support in the election. It was FORTENBERRY's belief that MOORE was acting as a go-between from the politicians opposing him to the negroes in Brevard County.

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Mr. FORTENBERRY advised he had never heard any of his friends or associates make any statements or indicate any feelings toward MOORE which would indicate to him that any attempt would be made to injure or kill him or in any way take vengeance on him.

Officially, as chairman of the County Commission, Mr. FORTENBERRY had no connections whatsoever with MOORE with regard to his past school activities as the Brevard County Board of Instruction is an independent county entity with full authority for handling all school problems and, therefore, he would have no reason to come in contact with HARRY MOORE officially.

He believed the death of HARRY MOORE was caused by some of his activities elsewhere in the state of Florida "because it looked like a professional job according to the papers". Mr. FORTENBERRY did not believe there was anyone in Brevard County with experience with explosives to set up the explosion that killed MOORE.

Mr. FORTENBERRY believed MOORE's death resulted from people in the south and that they may have been some of the "racketeers" in West Palm Beach or points south. He stated he based this opinion on the fact the bombing appeared to have been the work of a person or persons experienced in this type of violence, which activities are generally attributed to the racketeering and gangster elements. Mr. FORTENBERRY had no information upon which he could base such a belief and no information to indicate HARRY MOORE was involved with any gambling elements anywhere in the state. He said any man who could swing a block of votes would certainly be of interest to the gambling element and in the event they were ever double-crossed in any election issue they would not hesitate to do away with their doublecrosser.

He advised that the negroes get out a slate the night before an election and all voting negroes are given slips of paper showing how to vote. The individual who is able to swing the negro vote will have recorded on the slips of paper those persons he desires in office and as a result the negro vote goes in a solid block. Mr. FORTENBERRY does not believe voting in a block is democratic and he personally is against such activities. He does not know how much influence MOORE had in this regard but he had heard that MOORE was after control of the negro vote and wanted social equality.

Mr. FORTENBERRY said that in the event the bombing was done by people in Brevard County it was his belief it would have been done by negroes rather than white people. He based this belief on the fact that if MOORE had trouble with anyone it would more likely be with his own race than with white people.

He stated that the ratio of colored voters to white voters at Mims is greater than in Cocoa although he pointed out the colored vote in Cocoa is numerically larger than at Mims. The colored voting population in Cocoa amounts to approximately 30% of the entire Brevard County colored vote.

Mr. FORTENBERRY advised that he was instrumental in the publication of the county newspaper named "East Coast Trade Winds". The paper company is a stock company with a majority of stock being controlled by the Merritt Island Lumber Company. The editor of the paper is one RALPH MOODY who is employed out of Orlando. The newspaper was started to carry on the progress of the Canaveral Port project. He was the founder of the Port and was the driving force while he was chairman of the Port Authority but, according to him, the Port was dying a natural death since his defeat as County Commissioner and removal as a member of the Port Authority.

Inasmuch as previous investigation indicated that EARL T. "TRIGGER" GRIGGS had been sent to a negro election meeting on Merritt Island with the purpose of breaking up the meeting, Mr. FORTENBERRY was questioned concerning his knowledge of this. He said he recalled hearing something about a meeting being held on Merritt Island, he believed just prior to the primary election in the spring of 1950. He said County Road Patrolman GRIGGS happened to be driving by a church on Merritt Island and, seeing quite a gathering of colored people and noticing three white men were present, he stopped to see if there was any trouble and what was going on. According to FORTENBERRY, when GRIGGS ascertained it was a peaceful meeting, that there was no trouble existing, he merely departed. FORTENBERRY denied sending GRIGGS to the meeting to find out what was going on or to break up the meeting. Upon inquiry Mr. FORTENBERRY said that GRIGGS is not only the County Road Patrolman but also a Deputy Sheriff and while his jurisdiction is usually limited to traffic on the highway, it is his duty upon seeing any trouble anywhere in the county to investigate the matter. He said he had taken no interest in the meeting and did not recall who the white men were but had heard that DOYLE CARLTON was one of the three men present discussing the election with the negroes.

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The Agents advised FORTENBERRY that it was noted his newspaper, the "East Coast Trade Winds", one issue of which was published on Thursday, December 27, 1951, and the next on Thursday, January 3, 1952, the first after the bombing and the second after HARRIETT MOORE died, contained no information of the events, to which FORTENBERRY replied that the daily newspapers had carried full accounts of the bombing and he had not sent any reporters to the scene and therefore had no information to publish in the newspaper.

Concerning his general attitude in regard to the negroes, Mr. FORTENBERRY advised he is of the opinion that the negroes should be protected by the laws as well as the whites.

It is to be noted that Sheriff H. T. WILLIAMS of Brevard County advised that A. FORTENBERRY had on February 5, 1952, announced his candidacy for Florida State Representative from Brevard County in the forthcoming election.

The following is a description of FORTENBERRY obtained from interrogation and observation:

Name	A. FORTENBERRY (no given name)
Age	65
Birth date	1886 (month and date unknown)
Birthplace	near Columbus, Mississippi
Race	white
Sex	male
Height	5'10"
Weight	185
Build	heavy
Eyes	blue
Hair	grey
Complexion	ruddy
Scars and marks	mole right cheek
Marital status	married
Wife	FANNIE MAE
Sons	WINBURN E. FORTENBERRY, age 40 CUBIC RAY FORTENBERRY, age 38 JOHN FORTENBERRY, age 26
Half brother	ANDREW FORTENBERRY, Hattiesburg, Mississippi