



May 24, 1960

MEMO TO: Director State Sovereignty Commission

FROM: Jack J. Ray Lexington

SUBJECT: Granada Lake Boatring Party

I talked with confidential informant B. L. Bell on May 24, 1960, with reference to the above entitled matter. He said he had attempted to call on Saturday morning and Saturday night, but was unable to reach me.

Bell says from what he had been able to find out, the project with reference to integrating Granada Lake with a colored picnic on May 30, 1960, has collapsed since the negro were unable to secure enough revenue to go through with their plan. Bell says this negro project was promoted by Santa Moore, head of the NAACP in Cleveland. Bell states that Moore and his wife have recently secured a divorce and Moore is having to pay alimony to his wife, and, according to Bell, everything Moore has is presently tied up in court and he owes a lot of money. According to Bell's opinion, Santa Moore is trying to promote this integration project at Granada Lake in order to get the white people in Cleveland down on him so they would run him out of town. In this way he might be able to stop his debts and also make some money on the NAACP already by telling the white people in Cleveland that he had run out of the city and state.

I also talked with Mr. J. E. White at this time, Birmingham, who stated that he has been attempting to learn if there was anything to the proposed negro picnic at Granada Lake, but that he had been unable to verify this matter. He did admit he had been able to give very little time to it as he had been tied up on commencement exercises at the Mississippi Southern College all day yesterday and today. In contrast, however, to make a number of contacts during the day. Should he receive any information, he will call the writer.





He stated that Moore invited Madame Egan to introduce Richard Johnson, Dr. Samuel Hayes who delivered the graduation sermon in the Second Baptist Negro Church in the senior class. He further advised that Madame Egan is here with a very strong NAACP address greater than an introduction of Madame Johnson and that Sam. L. L. Lay, pastor of the church, resented the introduction and strive in words to expressing his resentment and disapproval of what Moore and Madame Egan in his congregation in the same church, same time.

Hell did say that planned activities in Fall were coming through James Henry of Charlestown, Mississippi, and other active NAACP members and that they were getting their instructions from Memphis, Tennessee, but could not give me any definite information concerning their future plans for Mississippi. Most of what he had to say was difficult pertaining to plans relating to integrating public seating facilities.

I contacted the Sheriff's office, but Sheriff Ray was not in. However, Chief Deputy Sheriff Norwood was in and I was able to verify everything Hell said relating to Anna Moore by Mr. Norwood. I also talked with Chief of Police Deputy of Cleveland at the same time and both Deputy Norwood and Chief Deputy said they would do their best to contact Moore's wife in an effort to find out all they could concerning Moore's NAACP activities, since she was one meeting him for dinner and he will probably would be willing to tell everything she might know.

Deputy Norwood advised further that I suppose Dr. William Henry had been sent to Chicago in a NAACP effort last February 1, 1955. The names of these negroes are John Paul, Wood, Robert, John, Moore, Wynon, Samuel, Cleveland, James, James, Cleveland and James, Clawson and that they were coming checking their activities since their return. He also furnished me a list of all known NAACP members in Bellevue County which we will file. He also stated that L. E. Wilson was being investigated in his home and is a NAACP member. However, it was not fitting as well as the Chief of Police's thinking that the NAACP had weakened considerably in Bellevue County in the last 12 months as well as other NAACP municipalities.

After talking with S. L. Bell, the informant, I am able believe that information furnished by Hell should be closely analyzed as he did not give me any absolute facts pertaining to any individual or group, but through FBI that he should be furnished a check list and proceed around the county so that he could travel among the race to collect any type of negro activities. His desire to commit this objective could be strong enough to show he might give information concerning anything he might report. In actuality, he discussed this matter much more than anything else.

The officers of Bolivar County were very cooperative and, in my thinking, are keeping track of negro agitators in a very commendable way. The local officers have information on whom they feel they can rely. They are to advise me further of anything they may hear about further activities in Bolivar County. I do not think there is anything going on up there to be especially alarmed about at this time.

Our present plan was to investigate a Mr. S. J. West, a white man who is allegedly spreading KKKK propaganda in the area in which he is a salesman for the Archer Manufacturing Company. Mr. West is a controversial figure and has been in the limelight before pertaining to his right convictions and condemnation of the white people in general who he resided in DeSoto County. While I am on this investigation I will make further inquiry into any plans which may be formulated pertaining to integrating the Brooks law.

June 12, 1960

MEMO TO: Director, State Sovereignty Commission

FROM: Albert J. Jones, Director

SUBJECT: Graceland Lake Swimming Party

On June 9, 1960, Rosetta Walter Hillers of Hazledean, Mississippi, phoned and advised that E. L. Hill, principal of the school in Cleveland, Mississippi, had informed him that a group of teachers from the NAACP organization in Memphis, Tennessee, were enroute to Hazledean, Cleveland, Carthage, Wesson, and Graceland, Mississippi.

Mr. Hillers stated that Hill informed him to the effect that the group had called off the swimming party planned at Graceland Lake on Hazledean Bay, but were still enroute in carrying out this plan on a later date.

I called Investigator Tom Scarborough who was on the above date working in Oxford, Mississippi, and directed him to proceed to Cleveland, Mississippi, to investigate this report.

I also contacted Percy Greene of Jackson, Mississippi, and he reported him to contact E. L. Hill in order that he might receive information from Hill as to the date planned for the above named lake swimming party. Percy Greene reported on June 11, 1960, that James Henry and E. L. Hill, colored of Hazledean, Mississippi, are very active in this area. He also reported that Anne Moore who is a teacher in the Post Office in Cleveland and Rev. E. L. Smith of Hazledean are participating in this area. Greene stated that Hill advised him that the students from Mississippi Avenue Junior College in Memphis are the ones that this group is attempting to gather to take part in this swimming party.

