

PHONE REPORT FROM JOANNE BOWMAN, Oxford, May 18, 1964

M King

As given over phone:

I am being chased by the Sovereignty Commission. There is a conspiracy led by Clayton Hall and Jerry Coleman, with a guy named Ralph Hemphill as the Brains behind it. They are all from around the Gulf Coast (Biloxi.) About 6 weeks ago Hemphill talked a girl named Nancy Parker into entering my room and taking my correspondence. My correspondence was duplicated and put into a dossier. A letter from me to Clayton Hall was forged. Charles Blackwell, state legislator from Laurel, now is in possession of the dossier. I knew at the time that Nancy Parker had been into my room and taken the stuff. Hall, Coleman, & Hemphill were in the same group of boys, along with 6 others, who 10 days ago went up to Dee Gorton's room. (Gorton is of Joanne's persuasion.) Jerry Coleman is the one who froved Phil Patterson out of his dorm room and beat him. Patterson is supposed to have been the driver of the integrated car from Rust College that attended an Ole Miss function a month ago. Hall & Coleman have been going to my friends with this dossier and belling them that since they already have this much information, they'd better come clean and tell them all they know. My friends have reported this to me. Hall possesses a gun, my friends tell me. I don't know f&r sure if he carries it on campus. Hall & Coleman went to the COFO office a couple of weeks ago to get information. They already had the goods on about 8 people on campus and got more. They violated the law by calling COFO and recording the conversation without the other party's knowledge. I maintain that this is a conspiracy to deprive my civil rights - want the Justice Department brought in; my friends are willing to ~~xxxx~~ testify. Charles Blackwell is now on campus in the company of another unidentified man. Coleman has been seen with him.

Background on Ole Miss. As told by Dona Richards Moses to M King.

About 2 weeks ago Wendy Samstein received a call from some students at Ole Miss who said they were interested in working for the summer project. Wendy said, "well you should talk to Dee Gorton and Joanne Bowman who are on your campus." The students then came down to the COFO office. They talked with Wendy at great length, collected material and left. They said they would call him on the phone. According to Dona, they then went to Gov. Johnson's office, straight from COFO. (Don't know her source for this information.) They called back to COFO, that night I believe. They said: "Wendy, this is your enemy. We know all about the project and we want you to know that we're going to do everything we can this summer to stop you. We're going to follow you all over the state and try to stop you with logic." (A new group called ATAC - Association of Tenth Amendment Conservatives was reported to have been formed by the Clarion Ledger, May 3, 64. "This organization proposes that hundreds of white Mississippi students peaceably meet outside college students when and where they arrive...to present the South's case in a logical and factual manner." Chapters are proposed all over the state, headquarters were listed at Cleveland, Miss.) Wendy had discussed their visit with other staff by then, and knew the conversation would be tapped. So he said nothing committal. It was that night or shortly thereafter that Hall, Coleman & Hemphill went to Dee Gorton's room.