

INTIMIDATION

May 27, 1963

I, Frank Smith talked to Caldwell at the Hut at approximately 11 pm. He told me that his boss, Roundtree and Mr. Kelsey Smith, operator of Pure Oil Station, Holly Springs, were trying to run him out of town. He says that he has talked to Smith.

Mr. Caldwell attended the May 23rd meeting of the Marshall County voters league at Anderson Chapel Methodist Church, Holly Springs. Caldwell shared his knowledge of the power structure in Holly Springs. He works at the local movie and clears up most of the offices in the downtown area and has a working knowledge of the activities of the political community here.

We requested investigation of these accusations.

Today, May 28, Isabel, who lives on Park Street here in Holly Springs, asked me, Frank Smith, why are they running Caldwell out of town? My boss, (Roundtree, the local movie owner) told me they were running him out.

After a few days of research we have come up with some few factors. I shall present, herein, names, businesses and political affiliations of persons who run this town.

Kensley Smith, a local Pure Oil Station operator, is the center of activity. J.D. Brown, of the Booker Hardware Store, is the next in command and is chairman of the local alderman. Sam Cooperwood is the Mayor of the city and figures in. Mr. Stewart of the Cash Lumber Co.; Mr. Wilkerson of the Westinghouse Appliances; W.H. Font, President of the First State Bank.

This Roundtree, local movie owner, was a very integral part of the power set-up. Recently, one of his employees, Caldwell, was at our voter's league meeting and gave us information. Word got back to the powers that he and Roundtree have been "Black-balled."

The Sheriff, Sel Cox, and Johnny Taylor, (Candidate for Sheriff) are supposed to have a monopoly on the non-tax paid on liquor in this county. They work together. I understand that they are both fronting for a man named Brunse or Puno. There is also one other boss handler named Mackie, who is apparently in the power set up. I don't know about the registrar yet. I understand that he is a puppet for Font, Cox, and some others of the "big wheels".

But dig, last of the barkers here are Jews, but these characters discriminate against Jews in the power structure, about as bad as they do Negroes.

All nine of the persons on the board of Alderman own business in Holly Springs, which makes them pretty vulnerable to a boycott. This we have had under consideration for quite some time and may use eventually.

It is very significant that most of the aforementioned people are members of the First Baptist Church here in Holly Springs. I understand that this is where most of the City election's are decided, almost in dictatorial form. I am presently trying to locate their janitor so I can see what he knows.

I shall report more as it comes in but I have fear now that they know what I am trying to do, (Some of my information came from "Toms") and may be after me. More later.

Yours in the struggle,

Frank Smith

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