

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**

**SUBJECT: MEDGAR EDGARS**

**FILE NUMBER: FILE #157-901**

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

UPI-65

(EVERS)

WASHINGTON--THE BODY OF SLAIN INTEGRATION LEADER MEDGAR EVANS WAS MET TODAY BY SOME 1,000 PERSONS WHO GATHERED AT UNION STATION TODAY TO ESCORT THE HEARSE THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE CAPITAL TO A FUNERAL HOME.

THE FLAG DRAPED COFFIN WAS LOADED ON A BAGGAGE CART AT THE TRAIN STATION AND WHEELED TO THE WAITING HEARSE. BYSTANDERS WATCHED SILENTLY.

LATER, THEY FELL IN BEHIND THE HEARSE TO FOLLOW IT ON A 25-BLOCK PROCESSION TO A FUNERAL HOME IN NORTHWEST WASHINGTON.

ONE WOMAN MADE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS AS THE BAGGAGE CART WENT BY, BUT MOST OF THE ONLOOKERS JUST STARED.

CLARENCE MITCHELL, DIRECTOR THE WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE NAACP, SAID THAT EVERS' WIFE WOULD ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON TOMORROW WITH HER TWO CHILDREN, DARRYL AND DENISE.

APPROXIMATELY 115 POLICE FLANKED THE CROWD AS IT GATHERED FOR THE PROCESSION. BUT THE GROUP WAS ORDERLY AND QUIET.

ON WEDNESDAY, EVERS, A VETERAN OF WORLD WAR II, WILL BE BURIED IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS.

6/17--TD1141A

157-901-90

ENCLOSURE

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

UFI-78

(KENNEDY-NEGRO)

WASHINGTON--PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS "APPALLED BY THE BARBARITY" OF THE SLAYING OF A TOP NEGRO INTEGRATIONIST LEADER IN JACKSON, MISS., THE WHITE HOUSE SAID TODAY.

"HE HAS BEEN ASSURED BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT THAT ITS FULL INVESTIGATORY MACHINERY HAS BEEN PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF JACKSON POLICE OFFICIALS IN AN EFFORT TO UNCOVER THE ASSASSIN," A SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE TWO-SENTENCE STATEMENT WAS GIVEN TO REPORTERS BY ACTING PRESS SECRETARY ANDREW T. HATCHER IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES.

THE INTEGRATION STRATEGIST, NAACP OFFICIAL MEDGAR EVERS, 37, WAS SHOT TO DEATH BY A SNIPER EARLY TODAY WHILE RETURNING FROM A CIVIL RIGHTS RALLY.

6/12--ID1242FED

UFI-78

ADD SHOOTING REACTION, WASHINGTON

ATTY. GEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY EXPRESSED GROSS AT THE SLAYING AND ORDERED THE FULL SERVICES OF THE FBI TO TRACK DOWN THE KILLER.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SAID THE FBI HAD NOTIFIED JACKSON, MISS., POLICE OFFICIALS THAT ITS "FULL COOPERATION AND SERVICES" WERE AVAILABLE, INCLUDING FACILITIES OF ITS LABORATORIES AND IDENTIFICATION DIVISION.

IN A STATEMENT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID:

"WE WERE GRIEVED AND SHOCKED BY THE NEWS OF THE MURDER OF MR. EVERS... I THINK ALL OF US SHARE IN THE HOPE THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CRIME WILL SOON BE FOUND AND PROSECUTED."

6/12--ID1242FED

157-901-131

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : The Director

DATE: 6 14-63

FROM : N. P. Callahan

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

Page 10167. Senator Javits, (R) New York, spoke concerning the murder of Medgar W. Evers, field secretary of the National Association for the

Advancement of Colored People, pointing out that this is another reminder of the grim seriousness of the civil rights struggle. He stated "I am sure the Attorney General of the United States will invoke the full resources of the FBI as well as the full power and authority of the executive department under existing law to track down the guilty; and I know he will insist upon the State of Mississippi exercising all its authority toward the same end."

Original filed in:

157-901-  
NOT RECORDED  
170 JUN 26 1963

132  
In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for [redacted] was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Denver March, Meeting Honors Evers

About 150 Denver Negroes plus a dozen whites paraded peacefully along sidewalks to Fuller Park Sunday in a demonstration for Medgar Evers, slain civil rights leader.

Singing hymns and carrying small black mourning flags, the marchers moved through 90-degree heat on their 10-block parade to the shady park at E. 28th ave. and Williams st.

There, the group swelled to about 500, who crowded about local Negro leaders and ministers. They eulogized Evers who was shot from ambush in Jackson, Miss., June 12.

"You are here to commemorate the death of a great American," declared Irving P. Andrews, a Denver attorney and president of the Colorado unit of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People.

"He is dead today because he was black," Andrews said. "You can never do enough in this man's memory."

"What Evers tried to do in his lifetime was to restore you to your dignity . . . to stand up and be men and women in this country, to be true upright Americans. You are now experiencing and participating in the winds of change," Andrews said.

The demonstration was the first of two scheduled here this week.

Tuesday night, a march from the East Denver park where Sunday's service was held to the City-County Bldg. downtown is scheduled to end with presentation of demands to the city government for an end to all discrimination against Negroes in housing, employment and job advancement.

Among Negro leaders present were the Rev. L. Sylvester Odom, a Methodist minister who heads the Greater East Denver Action

Committee. He delivered the principal speech at the memorial service.

He chided Negroes who did not participate, saying he had seen several along the route of the march "watering their lawns while Rome burns."

He urged them to "get off your porches" and into the fight for equality.

"We need jobs . . . jobs that pay decent salaries," he said. "We need the right to buy homes wherever our money will enable us to buy, without resorting to subterfuge."

He praised Denver police for their co-operation, but said Negroes need assurance police will continue to treat Negroes here fairly and assurance "that those black men on the force can be advanced to positions of authority."

A white minister, the Rev. Jack H. Alford of Denver, of the National Council of the Churches of Christ, was one of the parade leaders.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

44 ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS  
DENVER, COLORADO

Date: 6/24/63  
Edition: Home Final  
Author:  
Editor: Jack Foster  
Title:

Character: Racial Matter  
or  
Classification: 157-35  
Submitting Office: Denver

157-901-264  
ENCLOSURE



In a quiet memorial parade for Medgar Evers, slain civil rights leader, about 150 Denver march-

ers walked 10 blocks singing hymns in 90-degree heat Sunday.

—Rocky Mountain News Photo by Mike O'Meara.



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## EVERS' BROTHER, WIFE PRAISE FBI

(The Times-Picayune Capital Bureau)  
JACKSON, Miss.—The wife and brother of slain Negro leader Medgar Evers here have expressed their praise of the work done by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the arrest of a Greenwood white man for the Evers murder.

"I appreciate the work the FBI has done," Mrs. Evers said at her modest home here where her husband was slain by a sniper's bullet June 12.

"I'm too emotional about this still, but in due time I will have more to say."

Meantime, Charles Evers, brother of the dead Negro leader, who has replaced him as state field secretary of the NAACP, declared: "I am gratified that the information supplied by the FBI has resulted in the arrest of a prime suspect in the killing of my brother, Medgar."

Byron De La Beckwith was arrested late Saturday night after the FBI had traced a telescopic gunsight used in the slaying and a fingerprint to him.

The intensive investigation by the FBI required the elimination of 15,000 telescopic sights in the country to establish the probable owner of the sight found on the suspected murder weapon. It also required identifying the correct fingerprint from among 168 million sets of prints in the national FBI files.

A single thumb print was taken from the .30-06 Enfield rifle which was found about 300 yards from the murder scene.

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Belmont ✓  
Mr. Mohr ✓  
Mr. Casper ✓  
Mr. Callahan ✓  
Mr. Conrad ✓  
Mr. DeLoach ✓  
Mr. Evans ✓  
Mr. Gale ✓  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Mr. Sullivan ✓  
Mr. Tavel ✓  
Mr. Trotter ✓  
Tele. Room ✓  
Miss Holmes ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 4 SEC 2

THE TIMES PICAYUNE

NEW ORLEANS LA.

Date: JUNE 25, 1963

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: BYRON DE LA  
BECKWITH: MEDGAR  
EVERS: VICTIM

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157 -

Submitting Office: NEW ORLEANS

ENCLOSURE

REC-58

157-401-21

JUL 2 1963

ENCLOSURE

1st to  
attorney General  
Vid 6/16/63  
Send copy to a.g.  
H  
JH

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Fingerprints On A Rifle

THE DILIGENT and thorough FBI went to work in earnest within minutes after it was learned that a Negro returning from an integration meeting in Mississippi was shot in the back as he left his automobile to enter his home.

It was assumed by the entire nation that the Negro was killed by a white segregationist who had let his prejudice outrun his reason. Now an arrest has been made. A 42-year-old white man in Greenwood, Miss., who is a salesman is the man who was arrested. He is a member of the Citizens Council.

Medgar Evers, the Negro who was killed, became a martyr, his death fanning emotional flames to a new pitch. The murder became one of the most sinister of recent developments in connection with the racial strife.

All Americans with a sense of justice were shocked by the murder and hoped for early apprehension and punishment of the guilty person.

However divergent may be views concerning the racial matter, no true American could condone the murderous step that was taken against Medgar Evers.

Shooting a man in the back under cover of darkness or under any other circumstances is not the way to racial harmony. The Mississippi murder only brought on more strife, engendered more hatred.

The white man arrested Saturday

night in connection with the murder, Byron de la Beckwith, was taken before a U.S. Commissioner. He was told he was not taken before the Commissioner to admit guilty or to plead innocence.

A rifle was found near the home of the murdered Negro. From it the FBI obtained fingerprints. The U.S. Attorney General says much more evidence has been gathered in connection with the case.

If the white man arrested is found to be the guilty person, then certainly he should be subjected to the full penalty provided by law.

Whoever killed Medgar Evers did not take the law in his own hands. The Negro had violated no law. He had conducted himself in a way that had obviously stirred ire. So the man who did the killing was simply giving vent in primitive fashion to raging prejudice.

Whatever may be the outcome of the current civil rights campaign, there will be a continuation of racial prejudice. It exists in other countries and has existed through the ages. Laws cannot erase it and laws cannot bring social acceptance.

But we as the people making up a nation that is leading the free world must be a people of law-abiding citizens, striving especially hard at this critical moment to move forward together with the least friction possible, standing solidly against such incidents as the murder in Mississippi.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

— 4 LAKELAND LEDGER

— LAKELAND, FLA.

Date: June 24, 1963

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Harris G. Sims

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

94-42854-13

~14



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## We Congratulate Police And FBI Without Pre-judging Evidence

Without giving any pre-trial judgment on the evidence uncovered, and with a definite desire to avoid trying the case in the newspapers, never-the-less we feel commendation is due the Jackson Police Department and the Federal Bureau of investigation for their work in the Evers case.

For one thing, the cooperation exhibited by the two branches of law enforcement, local and national, has been a fine example of the teamwork which is needed for the proper protection of our people at all levels.

For a second thing, the prompt action of the Jackson police in discovering a weapon that could have been used in the crime is commendable. And commendable also is the careful handling of that discovery by the officers who retrieved it from the weeds and grass into which someone had thrown it.

This careful handling enabled the skill of Captain Ralph Hargrove to locate and de-

velop the latent finger print on the telescopic sight on the weapon. Such things are not super-natural; at the same time, they are not routine. It required knowledge, experience and patience for the accomplishment to be brought about.

For a third thing, the FBI is to be praised for tracking down the set of fingerprints with which the latent print developed by Capt. Hargrove could be matched. Given a full set of ten fingerprints, clearly identifiable, FBI files will easily come through with an identification of an individual whose prints are on file.

But the identification of a lone print is another matter, requiring intensive search of the files and close comparison with possible mates of the print. Again patience, skill and experience are requisites for a completed task.

And so it is that we come to congratulate the Jackson Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for effective work on the case,—and for working together.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 6 SEC "2

THE CLARION LEDGER

JACKSON, MISS.

Date: JUNE 25, 1963

Edition:

Author:

Editor: T. M.

Title: HEDERMAN

BYRON DE LA BECKW1

MEDGAR EVERS VICT1

Character: RM CR

or

Classification: 157

Submitting Office: N.O.

157-901-318

ENCLOSURE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF  
HINDS COUNTY, STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

JUL 15 1963

H. T. ALMOND, JR.  
CLERK

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

PLAINTIFF

VS:

NO. 17894

BYRON De La BECKWITH

DEFENDANT

MOTION TO PRODUCE

TO: HONORABLE LEON F. HENDRICK, CIRCUIT JUDGE  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF HINDS COUNTY,  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

Comes now the Defendant, Byron De La Beckwith, by his Attorneys of record and respectfully files herewith his Motion for the relief hereinafter sought and in support thereof avers to the Court the following:-

That the above named Defendant now stands indicted by the Grand Jury of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, wherein he is charged with the homicide of one Medgar Evers in said District, County and State on or about June 12, 1963. That on arraignment thereof the Defendant entered a plea of not guilty to said charge.

Defendant, through his Attorneys, is informed and believes and avers on information and belief that subsequent to the alleged homicide one Ralph Hargrove, a member of the Police Department of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, made

comparisons and classifications of Defendant's finger prints with a certain finger print, or finger prints, which it is alleged the said Ralph Hargrove found on a certain telescopic sight attached to a certain rifle purportedly being the finger print, or finger prints, of Defendant and that said rifle was presumably used as a weapon in effecting the death of the deceased, Medgar Evers. That the said Ralph Hargrove testified at a preliminary hearing in this cause conducted in Municipal Court in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, that the finger print so found on the telescopic sight attached to the said rifle to be <sup>IDENTICAL TO</sup> the print of the Defendant, Byron De La Beckwith.

The Defendant has good reason to believe and does believe that on a trial in this cause the said Ralph Hargrove as a finger print expert will appear and testify for and on behalf of the State of Mississippi, alleging that said finger print which was found on the telescopic sight on said rifle and is identical with the print of the Defendant.

Defendant, by his Attorneys, here, now asserts and claims his constitutional and statutory lawful right to be confronted by the witnesses against him and to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor and to have at the trial of this cause full, adequate and complete opportunity and facilities for cross examination of witnesses testifying against him and further asserts and claims that in order to have and preserve to the said Defendant such rights, it is necessary that the Defendant or his Counsel, within a reasonable time

prior to the trial of said cause, be permitted to examine, inspect and have a copy of such finger print, or finger prints, taken or developed by the said Ralph Hargrove.

Defendant, by his Counsel, further avers that in order to preserve to him said right and in order to afford to him full, adequate and complete opportunity and facilities for cross examination of the said Ralph Hargrove, it is necessary that the Defendant have a finger print expert of his own selection to examine said finger print, or finger prints, and to make comparisons, tests and classification thereof in order that his Counsel may have sufficient, intelligent information with which to conduct such examination.

Defendant further avers that to protect his rights he is entitled to and now asserts his right and claim to have comparisons, tests and classification of said finger print, or finger prints, taken from the said telescopic sight or the said rifle made by finger print experts of Defendant's own choosing so as to determine whether or not said finger print, or finger prints, taken therefrom are in the opinion of such finger print expert, of his own choosing, in fact the finger print, or finger prints, of the Defendant and to have such finger print expert to so testify in contradiction or explanation of any testimony that may be offered by the said Ralph Hargrove or any other experts of the State's selection and choosing that said finger print, or finger prints, are in fact those of the Defendant.

Defendant asserts and claims that in the event he is put to trial on said charge a denial of this request will constitute denial to him of due process of law and equal protection of law as guaranteed to him by the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Mississippi, in the event such person, or persons, testify for the State that said finger print, or finger prints, found on the telescopic sight or on the rifle are those of the Defendant in that the Defendant thereby would be deprived of an opportunity for full and complete cross examination of such witness, or witnesses, and deprived of a fair and impartial trial for the reasons set out above.

Defendant, by his Attorneys, further avers that in the event he is required to so defend himself in said cause, the facts and subject matter of this Motion are vital and material to his defense against said charge.

WHEREFORE, Defendant by his Attorneys now moves this Honorable Court to hear evidence and ascertain the present custodian of said finger print, or finger prints, and that under such supervision and direction as the Court may prescribe, the custodian thereof produce and deliver unto the Attorneys for the Defendant and a finger print expert for and on behalf of the Defendant be given opportunity



to make such comparisons, tests and classifications thereof  
as the said Defendant's finger print expert may deem necessary  
to enable him intelligently to advise the Defendant and his  
Counsel in the cross examination of such finger print experts  
as the State may offer as witnesses against this Defendant and  
to enable a finger print expert of the Defendant's own choosing  
to testify for and on behalf of the Defendant on the trial of  
this cause and as evidence in behalf of the Defendant.

Respectfully submitted,

BYRON De La BECKWITH, DEFENDANT

BY: STANLEY SANDERS  
HARDY LOTT  
E. H. CUNNINGHAM, JR.

BY:   
E. H. Cunningham, Jr.

Of Counsel for Defendant

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
AUG 9 1963  
TELETYPE

URGENT 8-9-63 4-30 PM CST JLT

TO DIRECTOR, FBI /157-901/

FROM SAC, NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/ 3-P

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH., MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM,  
CR, RM.

RE NEW ORLEANS TELETYPE TO BUREAU AUGUST TWO LAST.  
HEARING ON WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS BEGAN THIS MORNING  
BEFORE RANKIN COUNTY CIRCUIT JUDGE O.H. BARNETT. BECKWITH  
IN COURT BEING REPRESENTED BY ATTORNEYS HARDY LOTT AND HUGH  
CUNNINGHAM. DISTRICT ATTORNEY WILLIAM WALLER, JACKSON, MISS.,  
AND ASST. ATTORNEY GENERAL GARLAND LYLE REPRESENTED STATE OF  
MISSISSIPPI.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY WILLIAM WALLER FILED A DEMURRER TO  
DEFENDANT-S PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS ON GROUNDS  
THAT RANKIN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT DID NOT HAVE JURISDICTION,  
WHICH DEMURRER JUDGE BARNETT OVERRULED.

DEFENSE ATTORNEYS' ALLEGED THAT ORDER UNDER WHICH BECKWITH  
COMMITTED FOR EXAMINATION WAS TOO BROAD IN THAT IT PERMITS AN  
END PAGE ONE

55 AUG 16 1963

REC-25/157-901-353  
EX-103  
MR. DIRECTOR FOR THE DIRECTOR

12 AUG 13 1963

PAGE TWO

EXAMINATION OF BECKWITH-S MENTAL CAPACITY AT TIME OF ALLEGED CRIME, WHEREAS UNDER MISSISSIPPI LAW MENTAL EXAMINATION CAN ONLY GO INTO BECKWITH-S MENTAL COMPETENCY TO CONDUCT A DEFENSE. FURTHER THAT A BROAD EXAMINATION WOULD AFFORD THE STATE WITNESSES IN THE EVENT SANITY AT THE TIME OF ALLEGED CRIME IS RAISED AS A DEFENSE.

BARNETT ADJOURNED COURT AT APPROXIMATELY TWELVE NOON UNTIL TWO P.M. CST.

SHORTLY AFTER COURT RESUMED AT TWO P.M., JUDGE BARNETT ORDERED BECKWITH REMOVED FROM THE MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL AT WHITFIELD, MISSISSIPPI AND REMANDED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE SHERIFF OF RANKIN COUNTY, MISS. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

JUDGE BARNETT SAID SECTION TWO FIVE SEVEN FIVE POINT FIVE OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF NINETEEN FORTYTWO UNDER WHICH BECKWITH COMMITTED FOR MENTAL EXAMINATION PROVIDES ONLY FOR AN EXAMINATION QUOTE "TO DETERMINE HIS ABILITY TO MAKE A DEFENSE" UNQUOTE. FURTHER THAT NOWHERE IN THE ORDER OF JUDGE LEON

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

HENDRICK, HINDS COUNTY CIRCUIT JUDGE, DOES IT PROVIDE THAT THE MENTAL EXAMINATION IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF EVALUATING DEFENDANT-S MENTAL CAPACITY TO MAKE A DEFENSE. BARNETT SAID IN HIS OPINION THE ORDER ENTERED BY JUDGE HENDRICK EXCEEDS THE AUTHORITY AS SET OUT IN ABOVE CODE AND THEREFORE, THE PRIOR ORDER IS VOID AND THE DETENTION OF BECKWITH AS A PATIENT IN THE MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL IS ILLEGAL.

1211 03  
1211 21 7  
FBI  
- CIVIL RIGHTS

END AND ACK PLS

6-37 PM OK FBI WA NH

DISC

CC-MR. ROSEN

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
F.B.I.

JUN 8 3 04 PM '63

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
JUN 10 1963

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
F.B.I.  
JUN 10 5 13 PM '63

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
JUN 10 1963

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# State Will Appeal Directive Halting Beckwith's Exams

By W. C. SHOEMAKER  
Daily News Staff Writer

CARTHAGE, Miss. — State attorneys today planned to appeal a circuit judge's action in ending a mental test for Byron De La Beckwith which was ordered by another judge.

Judge O. H. Barnett ruled in Carthage on Friday that Circuit Judge Leon Hendrick of Jackson violated Beckwith's constitutional rights by ordering him subjected to a through mental examination before standing trial for murder in the slaying of NAACP leader Medgar Evers.

## RULES ORDER VOID

Barnett ruled Hendrick's order is void and ordered the Greenwood fertilizer salesman released from Whitfield mental hospital and held by the Rankin County sheriff pending trial in Hinds County.

District Attorney Bill Waller and Assistant state Attorney General Garland Lyell said they will ask Mississippi's Supreme Court to overrule Barnett.

Barnett said Hendrick's order

for a mental examination violated Beckwith's right to speedy trial although Waller had argued the test would not cause postponement of the trial.

The mental test would take from 30 to 90 days, he said, and trial could not normally be held until late October.

Barnett said Hendrick had a legal right to order Beckwith to the mental hospital to determine if he is mentally capable of helping defend himself but that he had no right to order a more complete psychiatric test of his sanity at the time of Evers' slaying.

Barnett took custody of Beckwith from Hinds County authorities and ordered him held in the Rankin jail at Brandon until his case is called for trial in Jackson.

The judge rejected a plea from Waller to allow Hinds Sheriff J. R. Gilfoxy to serve a warrant charging murder on Beckwith in the courtroom at Carthage and return him to jail in Jackson.

Barnett said he will have Rankin Sheriff J. R. Edwards deliver Beckwith to the Hinds Court for trial when the case is called.

Waller also unsuccessfully sought to have Barnett re-commit Beckwith to the mental hospital for such examination as he termed legal. The judge said he had no authority to do so since Beckwith faces no criminal charge in Rankin County.

## DIVIDED JURISDICTION

Hendricks' court in Hinds County has custody of the murder charge against Beckwith but the mental hospital is located in Rankin County, which is served by Barnett.

Beckwith's attorneys, Hugh Cunningham of Jackson, and Hardy Lott and Stanny Sanders of Greenwood, argued that they brought a habeas corpus plea before Barnett on grounds Hendrick had illegally ordered the mental tests July 19.

Waller and Lyell argued that Barnett had no jurisdiction in the case and should have referred the habeas corpus plea to Hendrick.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

JACKSON DAILY NEWS  
JACKSON, MISS.

Date: 8/10/63

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: Byron De La  
Beckwith; Medgar Evers  
Victim

Character: RM CR

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: New Orleans

157-901-358  
INDEXED



## White Citizens Legal Fund Is Started Today

Local citizens today started a legal fund for use in defending white people involved in civil rights cases.

A spokesman for the group said: "For many years the NAACP has operated a legal defense fund. They have raised and spent millions of dollars on the prosecution of civil court actions involving civil rights and in the defense of individual negroes charged with various crimes, all this in addition to having the avowed comfort, aid and support of the United States Justice Department. Their success is apparent. This fund has enjoyed a tax exempt status for many years."

"Today we see the lives of white citizens both as individuals and in groups swept into the current racial chaos. Many white citizens are unable or hesitant to secure prompt and competent legal assistance."

"We believe the time has come to establish a white citizens legal fund for counter action against various civil rights suits and to provide legal advice and counsel for white citizens who are threatened with or involved in civil rights litigation at the earliest possible moment in all cases where it is deemed necessary and advisable."

"Byron DeLa Beckwith, an ex Marine wounded in combat, has been charged with the murder of NAACP Field Secretary Medgar Evers. Mr. Beckwith is a 32nd Degree Mason, a Shriner, a Communicant of Episcopal Church, and is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. We do not condone the murder of Medgar Evers and, of course, we have no idea of the guilt or innocence of the accused but we feel that he is entitled to competent legal counsel and to a fair trial."

"Monies collected for this fund initially will be used to provide legal counsel for Mr. Beckwith if he is found to be in need of funds. The fund will be administered by a committee of prominent Greenwood citizens who will make any decision necessary as to disbursement of the fund."

"An attempt will be made to acquire a tax exempt status! A spokesman for the fund said anyone who is interested in contributing to mail his check, cash or money order to the White Citizens Legal Fund P. O. Box 738, Greenwood, Mississippi."

# YOU CAN HELP!

# CONTRIBUTE

# TO THE

# WHITE CITIZENS

# LEGAL FUND

P. O. Box 738

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI

GREENWOOD'S THREE BANK PRESIDENTS ARE ACTING  
FINANCIAL ADVISORS FOR THE FUND.

16

## Directors Chose For Citizens

### Greenwood Group To Defend Whites In Law

Special to The Commercial Appeal  
GREENWOOD, Miss.  
8.—A board of directors has been named to handle the White Citizens Legal Fund, recently organized here for defending white people involved in civil rights cases. The fund was started several weeks ago after a Greenwood man, Byron De La Beckwith, was charged with the murder of NAACP Field Secretary Medgar Evers.

Named to the board are A. Barrentine, J. T. Sr., Sam Williams, J. Guson Ellett, Lawrence Frank K. Odom, Hugh J. H. Stanton, A. H. B. Bert Wingate, Charles I. ders, Noll Davis, G. F. Lean and Howard Star.

The presidents of Greenwood's three banks, Parish Jr., W. C. N. J. H. Peebles, are serving as financial advisers.

A spokesman for the fund said "We do not condone the murder of Medgar Evers; of course, we have no idea of the guilt or innocence of the accused but we feel that he is entitled to competent counsel and to a fair trial."

He added, "It is hoped that the area of the fund will be broader than in assisting financing this one instance. When you consider the awesome spectacle of standing alone against ponderous power, a wealth and ingenuity of the Federal Government, agents of the Federal of Investigation, Federal marshals, the Jackson Department and all the police authorities of the Mississippi, not to mention \$27,000 in reward money, it staggers the imagination."

It was pointed out that the NAACP has operated a defense fund many years and has spent millions of dollars on the prosecution of court actions involving civil rights and in defense of individual Negroes.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 27 1964

FBI WASH DC

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Evans  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

FBI NEW ORLS

901PMCST URGENT 1-27-64 TM

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/ 1 PAGE

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, <sup>also known as</sup> AKA, MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM, GR, RM.

REURTEL TODAY.

TRIAL COMMENCED NINE A.M. TODAY, HINDS COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT.

APPROXIMATELY TWO HUNDRED JURORS CALLED. ENTIRE DAY TAKEN UP  
WITH QUESTIONING PROSPECTIVE JURORS BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY WILLIAM  
WALLER. AS OF FIVE THIRTY P.M. CST TODAY, NO JUROR HAS BEEN ACCEPTED  
HOWEVER WALLER HAS COMPLETED QUESTIONING OF THE TWELVE PROSPECTIVE  
JURORS PRESENTLY IN JURY BOX. COURT WAS RECESSED UNTIL SEVEN  
THIRTY P.M. TONIGHT WHEN IT IS EXPECTED DEFENSE WILL COMMENCE  
QUESTIONING.

BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED ON DAILY BASIS OF

DEVELOPMENTS

END

WA LRA

FBI WASH DC

CC-MR. ROSEN

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

JAN 29 1964

54-1014  
advised  
1/28/64

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FBI WASH DC

JAN 28 1964

TELETYPE ES MAL

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

FBI NEW ORLS

929PM CST URGENT 1-28-64 TM

TO DIRECTOR

(157-901)

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/ 1 PAGE

also known as  
BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM. CR, RM.

Civil Rights Racial Matters

DURING AFTERNOON SESSION OF TRIAL JAN. TWENTYEIGHT, STATE AND  
DEFENSE CONTINUED EXAMINATION OF PROSPECTIVE JURORS. ONE OF  
PROSPECTIVE JURORS WAS A NEGRO MALE WHO WAS EXCUSED BY THE COURT  
WHEN IT WAS BROUGHT OUT ON EXAMINATION THAT JUROR/S FATHER, SEVERAL  
YEARS AGO WAS A MURDER VICTIM SHOT FROM AMBUSH. AT THE CONCLUSION  
OF TONIGHTS SESSION STATE AND DEFENSE HAD ACCERTED SEVEN JURORS.  
SELECTION OF THE REMAINING FIVE SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW WITH  
POSSIBILITY TESTIMONY MAY COMMENCE LATE TOMORROW.

END

WA LRA

57 JAN 31 1964

EX 104

FBI WASH DC

JAN 29 1964

6-

John N. [unclear] advised 1-28-64

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 29 1964

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

FBI NEW ORLS

7-25 PM CST URGENT 1-29-64 TJB

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM SAC NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/ 1-PAGE

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA; MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM CR-RM.

Civil Rights Racial Matters

AFTERNOON SESSION BECKWITH TRIAL TAKEN UP WITH EXAMINATION PROSPECTIVE JURORS. WHEN COURT RECESSED FOR SUPPER TONIGHT TEN JURORS HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY STATE AND DEFENSE. JUDGE ORDERED SESSION TONIGHT AND TOLD ATTORNEYS TO BE PREPARED TO BE THERE UNTIL MIDNIGHT IF NECESSARY TO COMPLETE SELECTION OF JURY.

END

WA OS

FBI WASH DC

TU CLR

6 4 FEB 4 1964

REC-9

EX-112

157-901-415

12 JAN 30 1964

cc - Mr. Rosen



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 28 1964

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

FBI NEW ORLS

TELETYPE

424 PM CST URGENT 1-28-64 JLT

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/ 1 P

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA/ MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM.

CR RM.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF NIGHT SESSION OF BECKWITH/S TRIAL, JANUARY TWENTYSEVEN, THE STATE ACCEPTED TWELVE JURORS. DURING MORNING SESSION, JANUARY TWENTYEIGHT, DEFENSE ATTORNEY STANLEY SANDERS COMMENCED EXAMINATION OF THESE TWELVE JURORS. ONE OF THESE JURORS WAS EXCUSED BY THE COURT WHEN SANDERS ELICITED FROM HIM THE STATEMENT THAT HE HAD IN THE PAST READ SOME LETTERS TO THE EDITOR OF A LOCAL NEWSPAPER FROM BECKWITH AND HE, THE JUROR, CONSIDERED BECKWITH AN QUOTE EXTREMIST UNQUOTE. TWO OTHER JURORS WERE EXCUSED BY THE COURT FOR OTHER REASONS. IN QUESTIONING JURORS, SANDERS IMPLIED REPEATEDLY THAT BECKWITH IS INNOCENT AND THAT STATE MUST PROVE HIS GUILT BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT. AT TIME OF NOON RECESS, DEFENSE HAD NOT ACCEPTED OR REJECTED ANY OF THE TWELVE JURORS PRESENTLY IN BOX. EXAMINATION OF JURORS WILL CONTINUE DURING AFTERNOON. NIGHT SESSION SCHEDULED.

CORR LINE FIVE WORD ONE SHOULD BE /JURORS/ JAN 30 1964

END

WA SML

FBI WASH DC

X

*B*  
*St. John*  
*advised 5:46*  
*1-28-64*

REC-53

157-901-418

6



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 29 1964

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

133 PM CST URGENT 1:29:64 JLT

TO DIRECTOR / 157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/ /P/ 1 P

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA/ MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM. CR. RM.

AS TRIAL OF BECKWITH RESUMED MORNING OF JANUARY

TWENTYNINE, DEFENSE AND STATE HAD ACCEPTED SEVEN JURORS.

MORNING SESSION TAKEN UP WITH EXAMINATION OF ADDITIONAL

JURORS BY STATE. AS COURT RECESSED FOR NOON STATE

ANNOUNCED THAT IT ACCEPTED THE TWELVE JURORS PRESENTLY

IN THE BOX. DEFENSE COUNSEL WILL EXAMINE THE FIVE NEW

JURORS THIS AFTERNOON.

END

WA WS

FBI WASH DC

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

REC-53

157-901-419

JAN 30 1964

53 FEB 4 1964

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 30 1964

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

12-55 PM CST 1-30-64 URGENT DAO

TO DIRECTOR

FROM NEW ORLEANS 157-1163

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA; MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM. CR, RM

AT CONCLUSION OF MORNING SESSION OF TRIAL, JAN. THIRTY  
SIXTY FOUR, DEFENSE AND STATE HAD ACCEPTED TWELVE JURORS.  
SELECTION OF ONE ALTERNATE JUROR WILL COMMENCE AFTER NOON  
RECESS WITH POSSIBILITY SOME TESTIMONY MAY BE TAKEN TODAY.

END AND ACK PLS

WAMTC

FBI WASH DC

P

REC-12

157-901-420

JAN 31 1964

53 FEB 6 1964

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 1 1964

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Belmont ✓  
Mr. Mohr ✓  
Mr. Casper ✓  
Mr. Callahan ✓  
Mr. Conrad ✓  
Mr. DeLoach ✓  
Mr. Evans ✓  
Mr. Gale ✓  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Mr. Sullivan ✓  
Mr. Tavel ✓  
Mr. Trotter ✓  
Tele. Room ✓  
Miss Holmes ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

455 PM CST PM CST URGENT 2-1-64 BMN

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/ 901

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, <sup>also known as</sup> AKA. MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM. CR, <sup>Civil Rights</sup>  
RM. RE AFTERNOON SESSION OF BECKWITH TRIAL, FEBRUARY ONE,  
INSTANT.

JOHN W. GOZA, OWNER, DUCKS TACKLE SHOP, GRENADA, MISS.,  
TESTIFIED THAT ON MAY TWELVE, SIXTYTHREE, HE TRADED A SIX  
POWER GOLDEN HAWK UNITED TELESCOPIC CITE TO BYRON DE LA  
BECKWITH. ALSO SHOWN SCOPE ON RIFLE IN INSTANT CASE AND  
SAID IT WAS SIMILAR IN ALL RESPECTS TO SCOPE HE TRADED TO  
BECKWITH, BUT BECAUSE HE HAD NOT RECORDED ANY SERIAL NUMBERS  
ON SCOPE, COULD NOT STATE DEFINITELY IDENTICAL TO SCOPE  
TRADED WITH BECKWITH.

MR. O.P. BROWN, DISTRICT MGR., SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE,  
GREENWOOD, MISS., PRODUCED RECORDS SHOWING PHONE CALL MAY FIVE,  
SISTYTHREE, FROM BECKWITH HOME TO MR. OR MRS. GOZA, GRENADA  
MISS., AND PHONE CALL MADE MAY TWELVE, SIXTYTHREE, FROM  
BECKWITH TO GOZA AT SEVEN TWENTY THREE P.M. LLOYD M. PRICE,

END PAGE ONE

6 FEB 7 1964

EX-115 REC-23 157-901-421

12 FEB 4 1964

cc: Mr. Rosen

54 John Beckwith CRD  
advised 2/3/64

PAGE TWO

GUNSMITH, JACKSON, MISS., TESTIFIED HE HAD EXAMINED INSTANT  
SCOPE AND RIFLE AND IN HIS OPINION, THIS SCOPE MOUNTED BY  
PERSON WITH NO MORE THAN MINIMUM KNOWLEDGE OR ABILITY IN  
MOUNTING SAME. AT TWO FOURTEEN P.M., COURT RECESSED UNTIL  
NINE A.M. FEBRUARY THREE, NEXT.

END

WA WS

FBI WASH DC

TU CLRX

APR 2 1968

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 30 1964

TELETYPE

URGENT

Mr. Tolson ☒  
Mr. Belmont ☒  
Mr. Mohr ☒  
Mr. Casper ☒  
Mr. Callahan ☒  
Mr. Conrad ☒  
Mr. DeLoach ☒  
Mr. Evans ☒  
Mr. Gale ☒  
Mr. Rosen ☒  
Mr. Sullivan ☒  
Mr. Tavel ☒  
Mr. Trotter ☒  
Tele. Room ☒  
Miss Holmes ☒  
Miss Gandy ☒

8-30 PM CST URGENT

1-30-64

TJB

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FRPM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/ 1-PAGE

also known as

Civil Rights Racial Matters

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA, MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM. CR, RM.

BECKWITH TRIAL RECESSED AT FIVE THIRTYFIVE PM TODAY. STATE AND  
DEFENSE HAVE ACCEPTED TWELVE JURORS AND ONE N ALTERNATE. TESTIMONY WILL  
COMMENCE EIGHT THIRTY AM CST TOMORROW.

END

WA RL

FBI WASH DCB FEB 7 1964

REC-139

FEB 3 1964

cc Mr. Rosen



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 31 1964

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

141PM CST URGENT 1-31-64 JLT

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/ 2 P

BYROND DE LA BECKWITH, AKA/ MEDGAR EVERS/VICTIM.

RE MORNING SESSION BECKWITH TRIAL, JAN. THIRTYONE.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY WILLIAM WALLER MADE SHORT OPENING  
STATEMENT TO JURY, STATING HE INTENDED TO TIE BECKWITH TO  
EVERS MURDER WITH TEN DIFFERENT POINTS. DEFENSE ATTORNEY  
HARDY LOTT MADE SHORT STATEMENT TO JURY. MADE NO MENTION  
OF ANTICIPATED PROOF, STATED ONLY BECKWITH NOT GUILTY.

DETECTIVE CAPTAIN BENNIE D. HARRELL /NA/ WAS FIRST WITNESS  
AND TESTIFIED HE RECEIVED CALL AT ABOUT TWELVE FORTYFIVE  
AM, JUNE TWELVE LAST RE SHOOTING.

MRS. MEDGAR EVERS NEXT WITNESS, TESTIFIED AS TO ARRIVAL OF  
VICTIM AT HOME THAT NIGHT, HEARING SHOT AND FINDING HIS BODY.  
TESTIFIED ON CROSS EXAMINATION, HUSBAND HAD RECEIVED NUMEROUS  
TELEPHONE THREATS. DEFENSE COUNSEL ATTEMPTED TO QUESTION HER  
CONCERNING INTEGRATION ACTIVITIES OF HUSBAND AND WHEN SUCH  
QUESTIONS OBJECTED TO, DEFENSE STATED WERE ATTEMPTING TO SHOW  
OTHERS WOULD HAVE MOTIVE FOR KILLING EVER

END PAGE ONE

61 FEB 7 1964

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Bishop  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

CIVIL RIGHTS  
RACIAL MATTER  
CR/ARM.

REC-139

157-901-423

FEB 4 1964

PAGE TWO

HOUSTON WELLS, NEGRO MALE, NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR<sup>R</sup> TO EVERS, TESTIFIED AS TO ARRIVAL AT SCENE IMMEDIATELY AFTER EVERS SHOT. WAS NOT CROSS EXAMINED.

JACKSON PD PATROLMAN JOE ALFORD, TESTIFIED HE WAS FIRST OFFICER ON SCENE AND TRANSPORTED EVERS TO HOSPITAL. WAS NOT CROSS EXAMINED.

DR. FOREST G. BRATLEY, M.D., PATHOLOGIST, TESTIFIED HE PERFORMED AUTOPSY AND THAT CAUSE OF DEATH WAS HEMORRHAGING FROM WOUND CAUSED BY BULLET FROM HIGH POWERED RIFLE. WAS NOT CROSS EXAMINED.

DETECTIVE SGT. JOHN H. CHAMBLEE, JACKSON PD, TESTIFIED AS TO INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER SHOOTING, INCLUDING GENERAL CRIME SCENE SEARCH. INTRODUCED AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF AREA OF EVERS HOME AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR OF HOME AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF AREA FROM WHICH SHOT ALLEGEDLY FIRED. DIRECT EXAMINATION OF CHAMBLEE WAS CONTINUING AT NOON RECESS.

~~CORR PAGE TWO LINE ONE WORD SEVEN SHOULD BE/ NEIGHBOR/~~  
~~LINE TWO WORD EIGHT SHOULD BE /AFTER/~~

LEND

WA NHH

FBI WASH DC

P-

CC- [REDACTED]

FBI NEW ORLS

1010PM CST URGENT

-31-64

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 31 1964

TJB

TELETYPE

Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Evans  
Mr. G.  
Mr. R.  
Mr. S.  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/ 1-PAGE

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA/ MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM/CR/RM.

Civil Rights Racial Matters

REMYTEL TODAY RE AFTERNOON SESSION OF BECKWITH TRIAL JANUARY

THIRTYONE, SIXTYFOUR.

Police Department

DETECTIVE SGT. JOHN H. CHAMBLEE, JACKSON/PD CROSS EXAMINED BY  
DEFENSE, NO SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION ELICITED ON CROSS EXAMINATION.

JOE PARKS, CIVIL ENGINEER TESTIFIED HE HAD PREPARED A PLAT OF CRIME  
SCENE, PLAT INTRODUCED, SHOWED THAT POINT AT WHICH EVERS SHOT WAS IN  
DIRECT UNOBSTRUCTED LINE WITH CLUMP OF TREES WHERE ASSAILANT WOULD HAVE  
TO SHOOT.

Police Department

DETECTIVE SGT. FRED SANDERS, JACKSON/PD TESTIFIED AS TO CRIME SCENE  
SEARCH AND INTRODUCED SPENT SLUG FOUND IN EVER'S KITCHEN.

MRS. BETTY COLEY, TESTIFIED THAT SHE AND KENNETH ADCOCK WERE  
WALKING ON STREET NEAR SPOT WHERE SHOT ALLEGEDLY FIRED, HEARD SHOT AND  
HEARD PERSON RUNNING IMMEDIATELY AFTER SHOT. KENNETH ADCOCK TESTIFIED  
SUBSTANTIALLY SAME.

REC-139

Police Department

DETECTIVE SGT. O.M. LUKE JACKSON, PD TESTIFIED AS TO FINDING RIFLE.

157-901-424

INNES THORNTON MC INTYRE, ITTA BENE, MISS., TESTIFIED RE PURCHASING  
RIFLE FROM INTERNATIONAL FIRE-ARMS COMPANY IN FEBRUARY NINETEEN FIFTY-  
NINE AND TRADING SAME TO BECKWITH. AFTER EXAMINING GUN FOUND AT SCENE  
HE STATED IN HIS OPINION THIS WAS GUN HE HAD TRADED TO BECKWITH.

COURT ADJOURNED UNTIL NINE AM FEBRUARY ONE NEXT.

FEB 4 1964

END

WA CORRECTION PARA ONE, LINE TWO, XXXX FIFTH WORD SHOULD BE ELICITED

FBI WASH DC

9 FEB 1964

cc Mr. Rosen

6

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 3 1964

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

2-32 PM CST URGENT 2:3:64 LH

TO DIRECTOR 157-901

FROM NEW ORLEANS 157-1163 5 P

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA, MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM, CR, RM.  
RE MORNING SESSION BECKWITH TRIAL, FEBRUARY THREE, SIXTYFOUR.  
FORMER SHERIFF J. R. GILFOY, HINDS COUNTY, TESTIFIED WAS  
PRESENT JACKSON PD WHEN RIFLE FOUND AT MURDER SCENE BROUGHT IN.  
TESTIFIED AS TO OBSERVING FINGERPRINT EXAMINATION AND TESTIFIED  
THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER BREECH WAS OPENED AND EMPTY SHELL EJECTED,  
HE SMELLED OF BREECH AND DETERMINED IT HAD BEEN VERY RECENTLY  
FIRED. WAS NOT CROSS EXAMINED REGARDING HIS OPINION RECENTLY  
FIRED BUT WAS QUESTIONED AS TO WHETHER OR NOT MAY HAVE BEEN OIL  
ON GUN.

CAPTAIN RALPH HARGROVE, IDENTIFICATION OFFICER, JACKSON PD,  
TESTIFIED HE PHOTOGRAPHED EVERS BODY AT HOSPITAL AND MADE  
PHOTOGRAPHS CRIME SCENE, AND THAT HE EXAMINED INSTANT FILE FOR  
LATENTS AND DEVELOPED ONLY ONE GOOD LATENT WHICH WAS ON SCENE. 53 FILE FOR  
ST-107 157-901-425  
STATED ON DIRECT TESTIMONY THAT PRINT QUOTE 'JUMPED UP' UNQUOTE  
WHEN PUT POWDER ON IT AND SAID QUOTE 'THERE WAS AN ABUNDANT AMOUNT  
OF PERSPIRATION IN LATENT' UNQUOTE. WAS ASKED IF HE HAD AN

61 FEB 11 1964 195

2/11/64  
ST. John  
Bureau  
advised  
Secretary  
61



NO 157-1163

PAGE TWO

OPINION AS TO THE AGE OF LATENT. DEFENSE OBJECTED AND COURT OVERRULED OBJECTION. STATED QUOTE I BELIEVE THIS PRINT IS NOT OVER TWELVE HOURS OLD UNQUOTE. SAID HIS OPINION FORMED BASED ON THE CONSIDERATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING WHERE RIFLE FOUND. TESTIFIED THAT ON JUNE TWENTYTHREE, LAST, FINGERPRINTED BECKWITH AND COMPARED FINGERPRINTS AGAINST LATENT. DEFENSE OBJECTED TO TESTIMONY CONCERNING FINGERPRINTING OF BECKWITH INASMUCH AS BECKWITH, ACCORDING TO HARGROVE, SAID QUOTE I OBJECT TO HAVING MY FINGERPRINTS BEING MADE UNQUOTE. DEFENSE CONTENDED THIS WAS VIOLATION OF BECKWITH-S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. JUDGE OVERRULED OBJECTION. HARGROVE TESTIFIED THAT LATENT WAS IDENTICAL WITH RIGHT INDEX FINGER OF BECKWITH, BASED ON FOURTEEN POINTS OF IDENTIFICATION. IN TESTIMONY, HARGROVE USED COLORED SLIDE SHOWING LATENT FINGERPRINT SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE ROLLED IMPRESSION.

HARGROVE WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY DEFENSE ATTORNEY HARDY LOTT FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE AND ONE HALF HOURS. LOTT ATTACKED HIS QUALIFICATIONS BY SHOWING HARGROVE WAS GRADUATE OF INSTITUTE



NO 157-1163

PAGE THREE

OF APPLIED SCIENCE, A CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL, AND THAT HARGROVE HAD ONLY HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION. ALSO SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME ATTEMPTING TO ATTACK IDENTIFICATION OF THE LATENT AS THAT OF BECKWITH-S PRINT. ALSO QUESTIONED HARGROVE CONCERNING FACT THAT OTHER PORTIONS OF LATENTS MAY HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED ON GUN WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN COMPARABLE WITH BECKWITH-S PRINTS. HARGROVE TESTIFIED IN THAT REGARD THAT THE ONE LATENT HE DEVELOPED WAS ONLY LATENT WHICH BORE ANY CHARACTERISTICS SUITABLE FOR IDENTIFICATION, AND THAT ANYTHING ELSE DEVELOPED WERE SMEARS AND SMUDGES. LOTT ALSO SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME CROSS EXAMINING CONCERNING LENGTH OF TIME FINGERPRINT WOULD LAST. HARGROVE SAID WOULD LAST, INDEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME DEPENDING ON SURROUNDINGS. ASKED HARGROVE COMPOSITION OF LATENT FINGERPRINT, AND HARGROVE STATED MADE UP OF PERSPIRATION, SALT AND OIL. LOTT QUOTED BOOKLET, SCIENCE OF FINGERPRINT EXAMINATION, PUBLISHED BY FBI AND READ CERTAIN PORTIONS DEALING WITH FACT THAT SUBSTANCE ON FINGERPRINT RIDGES ON HAND COULD BE OILS AND OTHER SECRETIONS FROM BODY AND HAIR WHERE HAND WOULD HAVE COME IN CONTACT WITH SAME. QUOTED FROM MEDICAL BOOKLET SHOWING THAT PERSPIRATION IS MADE UP OF

PAGE FOUR

VARIOUS DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHEMICAL IN VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE BODY. ALSO ASKED IF BLOWING HOT HUMID BREATH OVER AN UNDEVELOPED LATENT WOULD ASSIST IN BRINGING THIS LATENT OUT. HARGROVE STATED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES THIS PROCEDURE WOULD ASSIST IN DEVELOPING LATENT.

LOTT CITED A NINETEEN FIFTYEIGHT MURDER CASE IN WHICH HARGROVE TESTIFIED IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION THAT THERE WAS NO WAY TO TELL HOW LONG A FINGERPRINT HAD BEEN ON A GUN IN THAT CASE. OR REDIRECT EXAMINATION, HARGROVE STATED THAT IN NINETEEN FIFTYEIGHT CASE, CIRCUMSTANCES WERE DIFFERENT, MURDER WEAPON HAD BEEN FOUND IN A ROOM, AND THE SURROUNDINGS DIFFERENT FROM INSTANT CASE.

ON CROSS EXAMINATION, HARGROVE GENERALLY CONFINED HIS JUSTIFICATION OF OPINION AS TO AGE OF FINGERPRINT ON EXTERIOR FACTS SUCH AS LOCATION OF GUN, NO INDICATION THAT LEAVES, OR TWIGS, HAD BRUSHED AGAINST LATENT, AND LACK OF EVIDENCE OF DUST OR DEW OVER LATENT FINGERPRINT. DID NOT STATE ON EITHER DIRECT OR CROSS THAT THERE WAS ANY SCIENTIFIC METHOD FOR

PAGE FIVE

DETERMINING AGE OF FINGERPRINT, AND THIS WAS HIS OPINION ONLY.

EXAMINATION OF HARGROVE COMPLETED AT NOON RECESS.

FBI FINGERPRINT EXAMINER GEORGE GOODREAU SCHEDULED AS FIRST  
STATE WITNESS AFTER NOON RECESS.

END

WA RL

FBI WASH DC

X

CC- [REDACTED] (b)(7)(c)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 4 1964

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

PLEASE HOLD FOR TWO MESSAGES

319PM CST URGENT 2-4-64 JLT

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/ 4 P

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA. MEDGAR EVERS, VICTIM.

CR, RM.

RE MORNING SESSION BECKWITH TRIAL, FEB. FOUR.

ROBERT LEROY PITTMAN, TEENAGE SON OF OPERATORS,  
PITTMAN GROCERY, LOCATED VICINITY EVERS HOME, TESTIFIED  
THAT SATURDAY NIGHT BEFORE SHOOTING SAW WHITE VALIANT AUTO  
PARKED NEAR FATHER/S STORE ABOUT TEN THIRTY PM. SAW LONG  
ANTENNA ON BACK OF THIS CAR. STATED PHOTO OF BECKWITH/S  
CAR LOOKED LIKE CAR HE SAW. TESTIFIED THAT ON NIGHT EVERS  
SHOT HE SAW WHITE VALIANT PASSING BY SLOWLY ABOUT NINE  
FIFTEEN PM. TESTIFIED THAT SHORTLY AFTER SHOOTING HE WENT  
OVER TO EVERS RESIDENCE AND MRS. EVERS /CUSSED HIM OUT/  
AND HE RAN OFF.

MARTHA GENE O'BRIEN, WHO WAS BAROP AT JOE/S  
DRIVEIN, NIGHT OF MURDER, TESTIFIED THAT DURING PERIOD  
EIGHT THIRTY TO TEN PM, NIGHT OF JUNE ELEVEN, SHE SAW WHITE  
VICTIM WITH LONG AERIAL ARRIVE ON LOT OF DRIVEIN. MAN GOT  
END PAGE ONE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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6

PAGE TWO

OUT AND WENT TO REST ROOM. GOT BACK IN CAR AND BACKED CAR INTO CORNER OF LOT. DID NOT SEE IT LEAVE. COULD NOT IDENTIFY DRIVER AS BECKWITH. TESTIFIED LATER SAW BECKWITH/S WHITE VALIANT, POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED IT AS CAR SHE HAD SEEN IN LOT.

RONALD JONES, TEENAGER, FRIEND OF ROBERT PITTMAN, SUPRA, TESTIFIED HE WAS WITH ROBERT PITTMAN NIGHT EVERS KILLED. TESTIFIED SAW WHITE VALIANT WITH HIGH ANTENNA PASS BY PITTMAN/S GROCERY SLOWLY. TESTIFIED AS TO GOING OVER TO EVERS HOUSE AFTER SHOOTING AND THAT MRS. EVERS SAID SOMETHING AND HE AND ROBERT PITTMAN RAN OFF. TESTIFIED ON CROSS-EXAMINATION THAT HE HEARD THREE SHOTS ON NIGHT OF MURDER, ONE WAS WHEN HE WAS RUNNING FROM EVERS HOUSE AND AT SAME TIME OF SHOT HEARD SOMETHING LIKE /A ROCK/ HIT BUILDING NEAR HIM.

RONNIE MARK ACY, AGE SIXTEEN, EMPLOYED PITTMAN/S GROCERY, TESTIFIED SAT. NIGHT BEFORE SHOOTING OBSERVED WHITE VALIANT AUTO PARKED ALONGSIDE PITTMAN/S GROCERY. HAD LONG ANTENNA ON REAR WITH SHRINER EMPLEM HANGING FROM CHAIN FROM REAR VIEW MIRROR. SAW NO ONE IN CONNECTION WITH CAR.

BARBARA ANN HOLDER, AGE TWENTYTWO, TESTIFIED SHE WAS  
END PAGE TWO



PAGE THREE

CUSTOMER IN JOE/S DRIVEIN NIGHT OF JUNE ELEVEN. HAD FORMERLY WORKED THERE AS WAITRESS. TESTIFIED WHILE THERE SHE OBSERVED WHITE VALIANT WITH RADIO ANTENNA ON BACK AND DIRTY CONDITION PULL UP NEXT TO DRIVEIN AND MAN GOT OUT OF CAR AND WENT INTO REST ROOM. SAW HIM COME OUT OF REST ROOM, GET IN CAR AND BACK CAR UP TO REAR OF LOT, WHERE HE SAT IN CAR. TESTIFIED CAR WAS STILL THERE WHEN SHE LEFT AT APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN THIRTY PM THAT NIGHT. WAS SHOWN PHOTO OF BECKWITH/S CAR AND TESTIFIED /THAT-S THE CAR I SAW THAT NIGHT./ DISTRICT ATTORNEY BILL WALLER ASKED HER IF SHE HAD AN OPINION AS TO THE IDENTITY OF MAN WHO WAS DRIVING. DEFENSE OBJECTED TO QUESTION AND JURY EXCLUDED WHILE COUNSEL ARGUED OBJECTION. SHE TESTIFIED TO COURT IN ABSENCE OF JURY AS FOLLOWS/

/FROM PICTURES I HAVE SEEN AND HIS DESCRIPTION AND ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, I BELIEVE IT WAS BECKWITH./

JUDGE SUSTAINED DEFENSE OBJECTION TO HER TESTIFYING AS TO OPINION. SHE WAS NOT CROSS-EXAMINED.

SPECIAL AGENT SAM H. ALLEN, JR., FBI, MEMPHIS DIVISION, TESTIFIED AS TO CONTACT WITH BECKWITH JUNE TWENTYONE FOR PURPOSE OF INQUIRY RE BECKWITH/S PURCHASE OF TELESCOPIC SIGHT AND TESTIFIED AS TO BECKWITH/S /NO COMMENT/ RESPONSE.

- SA V. WALSER PROSPERE, FBI, MEMPHIS DIVISION,  
END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

TESTIFIED WAS PRESENT WITH SA ALLEN AND CORROBORATED ALLEN/S  
TESTIMONY ABOVE. ALSO TESTIFIED AS TO EVENTS LEADING UP TO  
ARREST OF BECKWITH BY AGENTS JUNE TWENTYTWO LAST.

DETECTIVE JOHN CHAMBLEE, JACKSON PD, TESTIFIED  
BECKWITH ANSWERED ALL QUESTIONS CONCERNING MURDER OF MEDGAR  
EVERS WITH NO COMMENTS OR WORDS TO THAT EFFECT. TESTIFIED  
BECKWITH WAS OFFERED OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN SCAR ON FOREHEAD  
AND ASKED TO FURNISH WHEREABOUTS NIGHT OF KILLING BUT DECLINED  
TO DO SO.

SA JOSEPH G. PEGGS, FBI, NEW ORLEANS DIVISION,  
TESTIFIED THAT ON JUNE TWENTYTHREE HE OBSERVED CIRCULAR-SHAPED  
SCAR OVER BECKWITH/S RIGHT EYE AND WHEN QUESTIONED BECKWITH  
AS TO POSSIBILITY THIS WAS SCAR FROM TELESCOPIC SIGHT,  
BECKWITH MADE NO COMMENT ANSWER.

WALLER EXPECTS TO CONCLUDE STATE/S CASE EARLY THIS  
AFTERNOON.

END

WA

FBI WASH DC

RECEIVED DEPT OF JUSTICE  
JUN 24 1964

JUN 24 1964

cc: [REDACTED]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 1 1964

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI NEW ORLS

PLS HOLD FOR THREE TELETYPES EACH TWO PAGES

4-29PM CST URGENT 2-1-64 BMN

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/

also known as

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM. CR,

Racial Matters

RE MORNING SESSION BECKWITH TRIAL, FEBRUARY ONE, INSTANT.

SA FRANCIS FINLEY, MEMPHIS DIVISION, TESTIFIED AS TO RECEIVING FIFTY THREE EMPTY CARTRIDGE CASES FROM INNES T. MC INTYRE, ITTA BENA, MISSISSIPPI, ONE TWENTY FOUR, SIXTY THREE, AND TURNING OVER SAME TO SA DONALD J. STORAKER, NEW ORLEANS DIVISION. SA STORAKER TESTIFIED AS TO RECEIPT OF SAME AND THAT HE TURNED THEM OVER TO SA RICHARD J. POPPLETON, FBI LAB. SA POPPLETON TESTIFIED THAT HE DETERMINED THIRTY OF THESE CARTRIDGE CASES FIRED FROM RIFLE FOUND NEAR MURDER SCENE AND TESTIFIED AS TO HIS EXAMINATION OF SIX CAR-

TRIDGES AND ONE CARTRIDGE CASE FOUND IN RIFLE. HE ALSO TESTIFIED AS TO HIS EXAMINATION OF BULLET FOUND IN EVERS- HOME. SA POPPLETON TESTIFIED THAT EVIDENCE BULLET WAS FIRED FROM AN ENFIELD RIFLE SIMILAR TO ONE FOUND NEAR EVERS- HOME, BUT THAT IT WAS TOOMUTULATED TO IDENTIFY WITH THIS GUN. SA.

END PAGE ONE

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PAGE TWO

SAMUEL E. VIRDEN, II, NEW ORLEANS DIVISION, TESTIFIED AS TO RECEIVING RIFLE, SIX ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION, ONE CARTRIDGE CASE AND ONE BULLET FROM JACKSON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND TRANSPORTING SAME TO WASHINGTON, D.C. AND RETURN.

AFTERNOON SESSION OF COURT WILL BE HELD.

END

WA CORRECTION FIRST PAGE NINETH LINE LST 1ST WRD SHD BE  
SCENE

WAWS

FBI WASH DC

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FBI WASH DC

1-55 AM CST

FEB 5 1964

TELETYPE

URGENT

2-5-64

WW

DIRECTOR

FROM SAC NEW ORLEANS 157-1163

also known as

Civil Rights Racial Matters

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH AKA MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM, CR RM?

RE AFTERNOON SESSION BECKWITH TRIAL 2-4-64.

LLOYD M. PRICE, GUNSMITH, JACKSON MISS., TESTIFIED AS TO CONDUCTING EXPERIMENTS WITH INSTANT RIFLE AT NIGHT, STATED IN NORMAL FIRING POSITION PERSONS EYE WOULD BE ABOUT ONE AND THREE EIGHTS INCHES FROM SCOPE. DR. FOREST G. BRATLEY, PATHOLOGIST TESTIFIED EXAMINED BECKWITH JUNE TWO THREE LAST. OBSERVED SCAR NEAR RIGHT EYEBROW WAS OPINION SCAR HAD BEEN PRESENT LESS THAN THIRTY DAYS AND AT LEAST TEN DAYS. STATED THAT SCAR WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE BY SCOPE ON INSTANT RIFLE OR SIMILAR OBJECT. STATED ~~RESTED~~ CASE AT THIS POINT. DEFENSE MOVED FOR DIRECTED VERDICT OF AQUITTAL FOR DEFENDANT. MOTION OVERRULED. FIRST DEFENSE WITNESS WAS MRS. WILLIE MAE PATTERSON WHO RESIDED NEAR EVERS HOME. STATED AFTER HEARING SHOTS NIGHT OF MURDER RAN TO FRONT DOOR SAW ~~VICTIM~~ VICTIM FALL AND ABOUT ONE MINUTE LATER SAW THREE PERSONS RUNNING DOWN STREET. ON CROSS EXAMINATION SHE SAID NOT SURE OF IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS AND THAT ONE OF THESE PERSONS COULD HAVE BEEN WOMAN WEARING SLACKS.

LEE H. COCKRELL TESTIFIED HE OWNED AND OPERATED LEE/S DRIVE INN AKA JOE/S DRIVE INN NEAR EVERS HOME. TESTIFIED NIGHT OF MURDER ARRIVED DRIVE INN ABOUT ELEVEN THIRTY P.M. DID NOT SEE

END OA PAGE ONE FEB 11 1964 195

cc: Mr. Rosen

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PAGE TWO

VALIANT AUTOMOBILE ON LOT. TESTIFIED COOK TOLD HIM OF SHOOTING DID NOT HEAR SHOTS, DID NOT SEE OR HEAR ANY CAR SUBSEQUENTLY LEAVE PARKING LOT OF DRIVE INN. ON CROSS EXAMINATION TESTIFIED ATTENTION DIVERTED BY SOME DRUNKS IN FRONT OF PLACE. HE ADMITTED THAT HE WAS NOT ALWAYS IN A POSITION TO OBSERVE CAR LEAVING.

DORIS SUMRALL, WAITRESS JOE/S DRIVE INN, NIGHT OF MURDER TESTIFIED DID NOT SEE OR HEAR AUTO LEAVING PARKING LOT.

ANCIE LEE HAVEN, WAITRESS JOE/S DRIVE INN, WORKED NIGHT OF MURDER TILL ELEVEN PM TESTIFIED SHE SAW WHITE OR CREAM COLORED DODGE PARKED AT BACK OF LOT SAID WAS NOT VALIANT AND NOT BECKWITHS CAR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY INTRODUCED STATEMENT TAKEN FROM HER JANUARY TWO SEVEN LAST BY JACKSON PD WHICH SHE SAID AUTOMOBILE SHE SAW WAS WHITE DODGE OR PLYMOUTH.

COURT RECESSED UNTIL EIGHT THIRTY AM TOMORROW. 2-5-64.

~~END CORRECT PAGE ONE LINE EIGHT WORD NINE RESTED~~

~~OMIT SECOND WORD PAGE ONE LINE THIRTEEN VICTIM.~~

~~PAGE TWO LINE TWO WORD TWELVE SHOULD BE SUBSEQUENTLY.~~

END DND ACK .PLS

WA G ENT

FBI WASH DC

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 5 1964

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

2-37 PM CST 2-5-64 URGENT NJA

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/ 5 P

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA.; MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM.

CR. RM.

RE MORNING SESSION BECKWITH TRIAL, FEB. FIVE, INSTANT.

ROY E. ADKINS AND WENDELL STRINGER, EMPLOYEES OF FUNERAL HOME IN JACKSON, TESTIFIED THEY WERE PART OF LINEUP AT JACKSON PD SUNDAY AFTER BECKWITH'S ARREST. TESTIFIED PERSONS IN LINEUP INCLUDING BECKWITH WORE TROUSERS, SHIRTS, AND TIES, BUT THAT BECKWITH HAD NO BELT OR JEWELRY ON PERSON AND THAT HE WAS WEARING SHIRT MONOGRAMMED QUOTE BDB UNQUOTE.

ON CROSS EXAMINATION, ADKINS ADMITTED HE WAS VERY SIMILAR IN ALL PERSONAL APPEARANCES, WITH BECKWITH AND STATED DID NOT KNOW WHAT IDENTIFICATION HAD BEEN MADE FROM LINEUP.

ON CROSS EXAMINATION, STRINGER WAS UNABLE TO SPECIFICALLY RECALL HOW OTHER PERSONS IN LINEUP DRESSED.

END PAGE ONE

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10 FEB 6 1964

PAGE TWO

NO 157-1163

MRS. ETHEL MAE MC COY, OPERATOR OF A BAIT STORE ON DELTA DRIVE NEAR PITTMAN'S GROCERY STORE IN AREA OF EVERS' RESIDENCE, TESTIFIED SHE HEARD A SHOT NIGHT OF MURDER, LOOKED OUT HER WINDOW IN DIRECTION OF PITTMAN'S GROCERY AND JOE'S DRIVE IN AND DID NOT SEE ANYONE OR ANY CAR LEAVING AREA.

MRS. MARY BRANCH, SIDON, MISS., WHICH IS EIGHT MILES SOUTH OF GREENWOOD, MISS., TESTIFIED THAT ON NIGHT OF JUNE NINE, LAST, SHE AND SON WENT TO GREYHOUND BUS STATION IN GREENWOOD AND AT ABOUT NINE THIRTY PM PARKED NEAR BUS STATION. AT THAT TIME SAW A MAN NEAR CAR PARKED ON LOT. THIS CAR LATER IDENTIFIED AS BECKWITH'S CAR. COULD NOT TELL WHAT MAN WAS DOING NEAR CAR BUT SAW HIM GO FROM WHITE CAR TO PICKUP TRUCK PARKED NEARBY. WAS ASKED IF HE WAS CARRYING ANYTHING AND SAID SHE COULD NOT TELL. DESCRIBED HIM AS FORTYFIVE TO FIFTY, HEAVY, TALL, WEARING SUN GLASSES, WITH WHITE HAT. STATED OBSERVED BECKWITH COME OUT OF GREENWOOD BUS STATION.

END PAGE TWO

NO 157-1163

PAGE THREE

CHARLES BRANCH, SON OF MARY BRANCH, TESTIFIED THAT HE AND MOTHER WERE AT GREENWOOD BUS STATION AS SET OUT ABOVE. SAW CAR ON LOT WHICH HE KNEW TO BE BECKWITH'S. SAW A MAN GETTING IN OR OUT OF BECKWITH'S CAR. CHARLES BRANCH THEN WENT INTO GREYHOUND STATION AND TALKED TO BECKWITH. WAS NOT ALLOWED TO SAY WHAT BECKWITH AND HE DISCUSSED. BECKWITH THEN CAME OUT OF BUS STATION AND WENT OVER TO SEE THE MAN WHO HAD BEEN NEAR BECKWITH'S CAR AND WAS THEN AT A PICKUP TRUCK NEARBY. TESTIFIED ALSO HE SAW SCAR OVER BECKWITH'S EYE AT THIS TIME. ON CROSS EXAMINATION STATED HE AND BECKWITH WERE GOOD FRIENDS, THAT HE HAD NOT REPORTED THIS INFORMATION TO THE POLICE AND THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE BECKWITH ACQUITTED.

FRED CONNER, SIDON, MISS., EMPLOYED NIGHTS AT GREYHOUND BUS STATION, TESTIFIED HE IS ACQUAINTED WITH BECKWITH AND SAW BECKWITH AT BUS STATION NIGHT OF JUNE NINE, LAST. SAID BECKWITH CAME IN BETWEEN SIX AND SEVEN PM AND STAYED FEW

END PAGE THREE

NO 157-1163

PAGE FOUR

MINUTES. S TATED BECKWITH RETURNED ABOUT EIGHT THIRTY PM SAME NIGHT AND STAYED ABOUT ONE HOUR. TESTIFIED HE SAW SCAR OVER BECKWITH'S EY E JUNE NINE, LAST.

CONNER ALSO TESTIFIED THAT ON THE NIGHT OF TUESDAY, JUNE ELEVEN, LAST, HE ATE SUPPER WITH BECKWITH BETWEEN SIX AND SEVEN PM AT THE CRYSTAL GRILL CAFE IN GREENWOOD. TESTIFIED BECKWITH APPEARED NORMAL AND CALM.

C.E. BROOKS, BIRMINGHAM, ALA., WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS SELF EMPLOYED INDEPENDENT CONSULANT TO ATTORNEYS IN FORENSIC SCIENCE MATTERS, TESTIFIED. DEFENSE ATTORNEYS ATTEMPTED TO QUALIFY HIM AS FINGERPRINT EXPERT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY EXAMINED HIM VIGOROUSLY ON HIS QUALIFICATIONS AS FINGERPRINT EXPERT, AND AFTER EXAMINATION JUDGE RULED THAT BROOKS WAS NOT A QUALIFIED EXPERT ON FINGERPRINTS. DEFENSE ATTORNEY THEN ATTEMPTED TO QUALIFY BROOKS AS AN EXPERT TO SHOW HIS QUALIFICATIONS TO TESTIFY AS TO DETERMINING THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT A LATEN FINGERPRINT HAS EXISTED. AFTER  
END PAGE FOUR



PAGE FIVE

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONING, COURT STATED WITNESS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO TESTIFY IN THIS REGARD BUT INSTRUCTED THE JURY THAT WITNESS' CREDITABILITY WILL BE SAME AS ANY OTHER WITNESS. BROOKS SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME DISCUSSING COMPOSITION OF LATENT FINGERPRINTS AND SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME DEVELOPING FACT THAT COMPOSITION OF FINGERPRINTS WOULD INCLUDE VARIOUS FOREIGN MATTERS, SUCH AS HAIR OIL, MARGARINE OR OTHER GREASY SUBSTANCES. TESTIFIED THAT HE HAS EXPERIMENTED IN PAST ~~WAS~~ IN EFFORT TO DETERMINE IF AGE OF LATENT FINGERPRINT CAN BE DETERMINED AND TESTIFIED THAT WITHOUT KNOWING THE SUBSTANCE OF LATENT FINGERPRINT, THERE WOULD BE NO MEANS BY WHICH TO DETERMINE THE LENGTH OF TIME LATENT FINGERPRINT HAD BEEN ON AN OBJECT. SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO STATE THAT A FINGERPRINT EXPERT WHO LIFTED LATENT COULD HAVE AN OPINION AS TO THE LENGTH OF TIME A LATENT FINGERPRINT WAS ON AN OBJECT.

FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

END PAGE FIVE

NO 157-1163

FBI WASH DC

CC.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 4 1964

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Evans  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

2-15 AM CST URGENT 2-4-64 WW

TO DIRECTOR 157-901

FROM SAC NEW ORLEANS 157-1163

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, <sup>also known as</sup> AKA, MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM, CR,

RE AFTERNOON SESSION BECKWITH TRIAL TWO THREE SIXTYFOUR.

BUREAU FINGERPRINT EXAMINER GEORGE GOODREAU TESTIFIED TO THE LATENT IDENTIFICATION OF BECKWITH, WAS NOT QUESTIONED ON DIRECT OR CROSS EXAMINATION AND NO TESTIMONY WAS OFFERED CONCERNING AGE OF LATENTS.

HUBBARD R. SPRIGHT, CAB DRIVER JACKSON TESTIFIED ON JUNE SEVEN LAST WAS PARKED IN FRONT OF TRAILWAYS BUS STATION JACKSON MISSISSIPPI FOUR PM. INDIVIDUAL HE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED AS BECKWITH APPROACHED AND ASK HIM IF HE KNEW NEGRO MEDGAR EVERS, NAACP LEADER.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

SPRIGHT DID NOT. STATED OBSERVED BECKWITH ENTER BUS STATION THREE SEPERATE OCCASSIONS, CHECK PHONE BOOK, AND EACH TIME CAME OUT AND ASKED ABOUT CERTAIN ADDRESSES AND RETURNED TO RECHECK PHONE BOOK AFTER BEING TOLD ADDRESSES MENTIONED WERE WHITE NEIGHBORHOODS. MAINTAINED HIS POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION UNDER CROSS EXAMINATION.

LEE SWILLEY, CAB DRIVER JACKSON TESTIFIED WAS PRESENT WITH SPRIGHT AT ABOVE TIME. COORBORATED SPRIGHTS TESTOMONY, POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED BECKWITH AND SAID BECKWITH COMMENTED REGARDING EVERS QUOTE "I GOT TO FIND WHEREHE LIVES IN A COUPLE DAYS" UNQUOTE.

W. T. LEE, OFFICE MANAGER TBT TESTIFIED PHONE DIRECTORY IN USE JUNE SIXTYTHREE DID NOT CONTAIN LISTING FOR EVERS AS THIS WAS NON PUBLISHED NUMBER.

END OF PAGE ONE

6 4 FEB 12 1964

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12 FEB 7 1964

157-901-433

St. John  
Secretary

PAGE TWO

DEWITT WALCOTT, GREENVILLE, MISS., OPERATOR DELTA LIQUID PLANT FOOD CO., BECKWITHS EMPLOYER, TESTIFIED BECKWITH CONSTANTLY DROVE COMPANY CAR WHICH WAS A NINETEEN SIXTYONE WHITE PLYMOUTH VALIENT AND HAD UNRESTRICTED USE OF SAME. ON CROSS EXAMINATION TESTIFIED ON JUNE TEN LAST BECKWITH SHOWED HIM TARGETS WHICH HE SAID HE SHOT WITH RIFLE. SAID ALSO OBSERVED CUT SCAR OVER BECKWITHS RIGHT EYE ON JUNE TEN. WALCOTT WAS ASKED BY DEFENSE ATTY. IF BECKWITH HAD TOLD HIM HIS GUN WAS STOLEN, STATES OBJECTION TO THIS QUESTION SUSTAINED AND QUESTION NOT ANSWERED.

B.L. PITTMAN, GROCER IN AREA EVERS HOME TESTIFIED THURSDAY BEFORE MURDER, A WHITE MAN WEARING DARK GLASSES WAS IN AREA NEAR OF HIS GROCERY STORE LOOKING AROUND AND HAD VIEW OF EVERS HOUSE FROM THIS SPOT. COULD NOT MAKE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION THAT THIS MAN WAS BECKWITH  
MRS. B.L. PITTMAN TESTIFIED SAME AS HUSBAND.

COURT RECESSED UNTIL EIGHT THIRTY AM TWO FOUR SIXTYFOUR.

~~AND ACK PLS~~

~~WA CORRECT LINE FIFTEEN PAGE ONE FIRST WORD /SPRIGHT/~~

~~LINE SEVENTEEN WORD SIX /WHERE/ PAGE TWO LINE FOURTEEN FIRST WORD MRS.~~

END AND ACK PLS

WA HFL

FBI WASH DC

P

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 6 11:34

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI WASH DC

McGowan

910 221 1112 CLG ON CONF HOLD LINE PLS CLG CANCELX

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

945 PM CST URGENT 2-6-64 TJB

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-3163/ 1-PAGE

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA/MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM/CR, RM

AS OF NINE FIFTEEN PM CST FEBRUARY SIX BECKWITH JURY HAD NOT

REACHED A DECISION. JUDGE DIRECTED JURY TO RETIRE FOR NIGHT TO RESUME

DELIBERATION MORNING FEBRUARY SEVEN NEXT. EX-103

END

266  
FEB 13 1964  
FBI WASH DC

FEB 7 1964

TUX



FBI WASH D

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 6 1964

FBI NEW ORLS

TELETYPE

1125 PM CST URGENT

2-5-64

TJB

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA. MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM, GR, RM.

RE AFTERNOON SESSION BECKWITH TRIAL, FEB. FIVE, INSTANT.

L.B. BAYNARD, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA FORMERLY WITH LOUISIANA STATE POLICE BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION TESTIFIED AS FINGERPRINT EXPERT AND SAID NO WAY TO TELL AGE OF LATENT FINGERPRINT.

JOHN BOOK, GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI, JAMES MC COY, SR., AND JAMES MC COY, JR., GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI TESTIFIED THEY SAW SCAR OVER BECKWITH'S EYE ON JUNE TEN LAST.

ROY JONES, OPERATOR NEON SIGN COMPANY AND AUXILIARY POLICE OFFICER GREENWOOD, MISS., TESTIFIED HE SAW BECKWITH ELEVEN FORTYFIVE PM JUNE ELEVEN LAST IN GREENWOOD.

LT. HOLLIS CRESSWELL AND PATROLMAN JAMES HOLLY, GREENWOOD, MISS., POLICE DEPARTMENT TESTIFIED THEY SAW BECKWITH'S WHITE VALANT ONE ZERO FIVE AM JUNE TWELVE LAST.

BECKWITH TOOK THE STAND, TESTIFIED DID NOT SHOOT EVERS, CLAIMS WAS NOT IN JACKSON, DENIED CONVERSATION WITH TAXI DRIVERS. TESTIFIED GOT SCAR OVER EYE SUNDAY PROCEEDING MURDER WHILE TARGET SHOOTING WITH THIRTY OUGHT SIX RIFLE WITH SCOPE. BECKWITH WOULD NEVER ADMIT RIFLE AND SCOPE IN EVIDENCE WAS HIS, BUT DID NOT DENY IT WAS HIS. STATED THAT AFTER TARGET SHOOTING ON SUNDAY CLEANED GUN AND PUT IT IN CLOSET IN HOME. TESTIFIED THAT NIGHT OF JUNE TEN LAST DISCOVERED RIFLE.

-END PAGE ONE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

Civil Rights Racial Matters

68 FEB 13 1964

PAGE TWO

MISSING, CLAIMS NO KNOWLEDGE AS TO WHAT HAPPENED TO GUN. WHEN QUESTIONED AS TO COMMENT ~~QUOTE~~ "NO COMMENT" ~~UNQUOTE~~ TO FBI AGENTS WHEN ORIGINALLY APPROACHED HE SAID WAS DOING THIS BECAUSE PRIOR TO THIS TIME LE FLORE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION HAD PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE INFORMING CITIZENS THAT THEY WERE NOT UNDER LEGAL OBLIGATION TO ANSWER QUESTIONS BY FBI AGENTS IN CIVIL RIGHTS MATTERS. ARTICLE IN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI AUGUST SEVEN, NINETEEN SIXTY TO THIS EFFECT INTRODUCED IN EVIDENCE. CLAIMS SUBSEQUENT NO COMMENT ANSWERS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WERE MADE ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS ATTORNEY.

ON CROSS EXAMINATION, <sup>INTRODUCED</sup> LETTER WRITTEN BY BECKWITH TO NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JANUARY TWENTYSIX, SIXTYTHREE IN WHICH BECKWITH REQUESTED INFORMATION REGARDING SETTING UP RIFLE RANGE AND IN WHICH LETTER HE STATED WE IN MISSISSIPPI ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DO A LOT OF SHOOTING TO PROTECT OURSELVES FROM BAD NEGROES. ALSO INTRODUCED LETTER FROM BECKWITH TO FIELD AND <sup>STREAM</sup> ~~STRMAM~~ MAGAZINE IN JANUARY SIXTYFOUR, IN WHICH BECKWITH PROPOSED TO WRITE AN ARTICLE REGARDING VARMINT HUNTING AT NIGHT IN THE SUMMER TIME IN THE SOUTH, ALSO INTRODUCED LETTER IN WHICH BECKWITH STATES IS WRITING A BOOK INTITLED ~~QUOTE~~ "MY ASS, YOUR GOAT AND THE REPUBLIC" ~~UNQUOTE~~, EXPLAINED BOOK DEALT WITH STATES RIGHTS AND INTERGRATION.

D.H. HAWKINS, INDIANOLA, MISSISSIPPI TESTIFIED THAT ON MORNING JUNE ELEVEN SIXTYTHREE SAW BRUISE OVER BECKWITH'S RIGHT EYE.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE.

DEFENSE RESTED AT THIS POINT. STATE CALLED DETECTIVE SGT.O.M. LUKE JACKSON PD AS REBUTTAL WITNESS.LUKE TESTIFIED THAT HE INTERVIEWED ANCEY LEE HAVEN JUNE TWELVE, LAST WHO TOLD HIM THEN SHE HAD SEEN WHITE VALANT WITH LONG RADIO AERIAL PARKED IN LOT AT JOE/S DRIVE INN NIGHT OF JUNE ELVEN.HAVEN HAD TESTIFIED AS DEFENSE WITNESS THAT SHE HAD NOT SEEN WHITE VALANT BUT THAT CAR WAS A DODGE.

STATE RESTED.COURT ADJORNED UNTIL NINE AM FEB.SIX WHEN WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE GIVEN JURY AND CLOSING ARGUEMENTS WILL BE HEARD.  
END

WA ~~CORRECTION PAGE TWO PARA TWO, LINE ONE INSERT WORD INTRODUCED~~  
~~AFTER WORD EXAIMINATION SO IT WILL READ ON CROSS EXAMINATION INTRODUCEI~~

END

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 6 1964

TELETYPE

Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

510 PM CST URGENT 2-6-64 LH

TO DIRECTOR 157-901

FROM NEW ORLEANS 157-1163 3- P

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, <sup>also known as</sup> AKA/ MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM/ CR, RM. Civil Rights Racial Matters

RE MORNING SESSION BECKWITH TRIAL, FEBRUARY SIX INSTANT.

ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOHN FOX OPENED ARGUMENT FOR STATE. STARTED WITH REFERENCE TO NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WRITTEN BY BECKWITH EIGHT YEARS AGO IN WHICH HE SAID QUOTE "I BELIEVE IN SEGREGATION LIKE I BELIEVE IN GOD" UNQUOTE, AND THEN WENT FORWARD CHRONOLOGICALLY, BRINGING IN ALL FACETS OF INVESTIGATION TYING BECKWITH TO MURDER. CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY STATING QUOTE "BECKWITH IS A FANATIC, PURE AND SIMPLE" UNQUOTE.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY HARDY LOTT ARGUED NEXT. LOTT SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME ON THE TESTIMONY OF THE THREE ALIBI WITNESSES, AND PURSUED QUESTION OF REASONABLE DOUBT. HE REVIEWED STATE-S CASE ATTEMPTING TO SHOW WEAKNESSES.

STANNY SANDERS, DEFENSE ATTORNEY, ARGUED NEXT. HE SPENT

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157-901-431  
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MOST OF ARGUMENT TRYING TO SHOW THAT A REASONABLE PERSON WOULD NOT HAVE DONE WHAT BECKWITH IS ALLEGED TO HAVE DONE IN CONNECTION WITH THE MURDER, THAT IS , SUCH THINGS AS PUBLICLY EXAMINING SCENE PRIOR TO SHOOTING, PUBLICLY MAKING INQUIRY AS TO WHERE EVERS LIVED, AND THE LIKE.

OF INTEREST TO THE BUREAU IS COMMENT MADE BY SANDERS IN ARGUMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT STATE DID NOT USE AN FBI EXPERT TO BACK UP CAPTAIN RALPH HARGROVES TESTIMONY CONCERNING THE AGE OF A LATENT PRINT. DWELLED ON FACT NO EYE WITNESSES TO SHOOTING. REITERATED TESTIMONY OF ALIBI WITNESSES TO SHOOTING. ~~REITERATED TESTIMONY OF ALIBI WITNESSES~~ AND SAID THE DEFENSE HAD MET THE BURDEN OF PROOF REQUIRED OF THE STATE. SANDERS LAST COMMENT TO JURY WAS QUOTE "I DO NOT BELIEVE THIS JURY WANTS TO RETURN A VERDICT MERELY TO SATISFY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE NATIONAL PRESS" UNQUOTE.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY WILLIAM WALLER LISTED THE FOLLOWING POINTS WHICH HE SAID TIED BECKWITH TO THE MURDER: COLON

MOTIVE, PLANNING, ABILITY AND CAPACITY, TELESCOPIC SIGHT, WEAPON, SCAR, FINGERPRINT, CAR, BECKWITH-S PRESENCE IN JACKSON, BECKWITH-S SILENCE COUPLED WITH HIS ACTIVITIES

JK



PAGE THREE

SINCE HIS ARREST. WALLER REVIEWED THE DEFENSE WITNESSES ONE BY ONE, POINTING OUT DISCREPANCIES AND WEAKNESSES IN THEIR TESTIMONIES. HE SUMMED UP THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED BY THE STATE AND ATTACKED THE STOLEN GUN DEFENSE. HE TOLD JURORS THERE MAY HAVE BEEN VARIOUS REASONS WHY ALIBI WITNESSES MIGHT HAVE TESTIFIED EITHER MISTAKENLY OR DELIBERATELY FALSE AND THAT JURORS SHOULD DECIDE THEMSELVES AS TO WHAT WITNESSES TOLD THE TRUTH. HE DESCRIBED THE MURDER AS A COLD BLOODED KILLING.

THE JURY RETIRED AT TWELVE THIRTYONE PM., FEBRUARY SIX INSTANT FOR DELIBERATION.

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 7 1964

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Evans  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

4-32 PM CST URGENT 2-7-64 DAO

TO DIRECTOR 157-901

FROM NEW ORLEANS 157-1163 2P

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA, MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM, CR. RM.

REFERENCE NEW ORLEANS TELCALL TO BUREAU TODAY.

BECKWITH JURY RESUMED DELIBERATION SEVEN FORTY AM, CST,  
FEBRUARY SEVEN. AT NINE AM JUDGE TOOK BENCH MOMENTARILY AND  
ASKED IF JURY HAD BEEN HEARD FROM. WHEN ADVISED IN THE  
NEGATIVE, HE RECESSED.

AT ELEVEN TWENTY SEVEN AM THE JUDGE TOOK BENCH AGAIN AND  
CALLED FOR THE JURY. HE ASKED EACH INDIVIDUAL JUROR IF, IN

END PAGE ONE

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