FD-350 (Rev. 5-8-81)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

A town-stunning history

Few aware of neighbor's link to Evers slaying

By Bill Nichols
USA TODAY

SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, Tenn. — Thelma Neff says this of her once-again-in-the-headlines husband, Byron De La Beckwith: "If men were a fourth as good ... we wouldn't have any problems in America."

But to most of his neighbors in this fog-shrouded Chattanooga suburb, the man accused of killing civil rights activist Medgar Evers is little more than a quiet eccentric who hung a Confederate flag outside his front door — and who now is bringing a bad name to their town.

Says Joseph Wagner, a Signal Mountain lawyer who's lived here 73 years: "He's just a poor old fellow who's out of kilter, out of date. You can't help but feel sorry for somebody like that. It's kind of pathetic."

UPI (1963 photo)
EVERS: Slain activists' case will be retried after 28 years

An admitted white supremacist, the 70-year-old Beckwith — his middle name is pronounced dee-LAY and friends call him "Delay" — is in isolation in the Hamilton County jail.

He is being held without bond, awaiting hearings next week on his extradition to Jackson, Miss., where he's charged with murdering Evers on June 12, 1963. Beckwith's Chattanooga lawyer, Russell Bean, says his client is a "political prisoner."

Twice he's been tried for the crime, and in both trials, conducted in 1964, all-white juries failed to reach verdicts. Beckwith, whose fingerprints were found on the 30.06-caliber rifle that killed Evers, says the gun was stolen from him and that he's innocent.

Most people here knew nothing of Beckwith's role in the Evers case. Nor did they know of his 1977 conviction in Louisiana for possessing explosives.

So a Mississippi grand jury decision in December to re-indict Beckwith shocked many in this community of 7,200 — a mix of longtime residents and "new money" Chattanooga professionals who can peer down some 1,000 feet at the downtown skyline below.

Beckwith moved to the area eight years ago when he married Neff, a registered nurse whose family has lived on the mountain for generations.

"I mean, Beckwith — who is he?" says Lew Porter, a building inspector. "I think he kept his mouth shut and his sheets clean while he was up here."

G.Z. "Bome" Patten, publisher of the monthly *Signal Mountain Newsletter*, remembers when Neff told friends she'd met "this wonderful man from Mississippi and they were going to get married."

Patten, while stressing that Beckwith was "no trouble at all," also remembers Beckwith tried to sell subscriptions to right-wing publications at the local barber shop.

Beckwith also pushed him to publish an article saying "the Jews are destroying the country."

But Beckwith was always well-dressed, polite — "not what we would call a typical Southern redneck," Patten says. "I like him. I still do. He's a nice guy."

Neff, 80, says she's worried sick that her husband, who suffers from a heart condition, won't survive.

"None of it's fair. He's such a wonderful Christian," she says. Mississippi officials, she says, are "giving in to the blacks too much."

Beckwith, through his lawyer, declined to be interviewed unless he was paid $5,000.

Neff, pointing to a brimming basket of mail in her wood-paneled living room, says Beckwith is getting support from across the nation.

She says the people of Signal Mountain stand behind her husband as well.

In fact, Signal Mountain — a place so safe and quiet that, as developer Tim Downey puts it, "the police will still get your cat down out of the tree" — was once called "paradise" by Beckwith, because of its racial makeup.

Mayor Bernard Wolfe says there are only two or three black families here, and concedes some have been subjected to racial slurs.

Ku Klux Klan activity was reported on the mountain in the past.

Some "good ol' boys" remain, Wolfe says, in the mountain's rural outback.

But residents deeply resent implications that they share Beckwith's outlook.

"He would be a real rarity," says Downey. "If he's a white supremacist, he's the first I've ever met up here."

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

Date: Wednesday, 1/9/91
Edition:
Page: 3A

Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

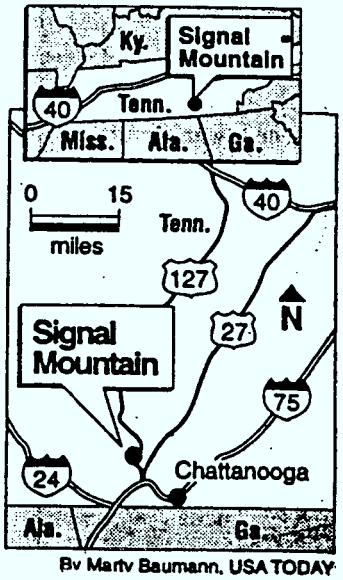
Indexing:

FBI/DOJ

Photos by Jeff Guenther

AT HOME: Byron De La Beckwith on his front porch in Signal Mountain, Tenn. He's now in jail awaiting hearings on extradition to Mississippi.

MOUNTAIN NATIVE: Thelma Neff, a registered nurse whose family has lived on the mountain for generations, is worried that her husband, who suffers from a heart condition, won't survive jail.



By Marty Baumann, USA TODAY

FD-350 (Rev. 5-8-81)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
KNOXVILLE JOURNAL
KNOXVILLE, TN
Date: Tuesday, 12/18/90
Edition:
PAGE: 1

Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:
KNOXVILLE DIVISION

Indexing:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Beckwith faces third trial for 1963 slaying of Evers

BY LEE HOWARD
Gannett News Service

SIGNAL MOUNTAIN — Byron De La Beckwith doesn't look like a man who again faces charges in the 1963 sniper-style shooting death of civil rights activist Medgar Evers.

Beckwith

The grandfatherly 70-year-old is quick with a disarming smile and a welcoming twinkle in his eye. But the image falls apart as soon as he opens his mouth.

"We need to re-establish a confederate state of America as a white Christian republic. We don't need any dark-skinned, yellow-skinned or blue-skinned mongrels running it," Beckwith says.

Beckwith was arrested on a fugitive warrant from Hinds County, Miss., on Monday and was being held in the Hamilton County, Tenn., jail Monday night. Facing an arraignment Tuesday, he says he would fight extradition to Mississippi "tooth, nail and claw."

Evers, the Mississippi NAACP field secretary, was shot in the back in his driveway in Jackson, Miss., on June 12, 1963, with a 1917 model 30.06 Enfield rifle. Beckwith's fingerprint was found on the sight of the rifle, which was discarded near the scene.

He was tried twice for murder in 1964. Two all-white juries were unable to reach a verdict and mistrials were declared. The murder charge against Beckwith was dismissed in 1969.

The drive for a third trial began in October 1989 when the Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger reported

Beckwith

From Page 1A

that the state Sovereignty Commission had investigated prospective jurors and reported its findings to defense attorneys in Beckwith's second trial.

The 1956 Legislature created the commission to preserve and promote segregation. In its heyday of the 1960s, it spied on and harassed civil rights workers.

Hinds County (Jackson) District Attorney Ed Peters said the jury-tampering question may make it possible to try Beckwith again.

The new indictment could improve race relations in Mississippi and help the state's national image, educators and black leaders said.

"It can be good, and it can be bad. It opens old wounds, certainly. But it brings some salvation to persons who thought he would never be brought to trial," said Aaron Henry, president of the Mississippi chapter of the NAACP.

"I think it could have positive effects nationally," said John Marszalek, a history professor at Mississippi State University.

"That was a heinous crime. I just can't believe that, in 1990, there would be anyone who would defend anything like that happening."

Evers' 57-year-old widow Myrlie, now a city commissioner in Los Angeles, said the slaying is "an inner part of me that still hurts, that still bleeds, that is still very raw."

Following the murder, she and her three children flew several times to New York for psychiatric treatment.

She said the pain proved too much to stay on in Mississippi. "We couldn't stay in that house because of the memories there," she said. "Every time you walked out the front door you could see Medgar's body and blood. It was hard, very hard."

Beckwith has maintained he is innocent. But his philosophy permits no room for blacks, Jews, Asians or any race other than white.

"There are only three kinds of people that live in Mississippi," he said in an interview Sunday at his home in Signal Mountain, just north of Chattanooga. "Whites, colored and trash, and there's very little trash in Mississippi."

He delivered his lectures in a pair of comfortable khakis, white socks and loafers — one moment sitting on a sofa waving his arms to illustrate a point, the next standing to burst forth with another characterization of all people who are not "white, right and on the Christian side of every issue."

Other Beckwithisms:

- The U.S. income tax is a "Jewish, anti-Christian, communist" tax.
- "Labor unions are about as popular as niggers in white churches."
- "AIDS is as contagious as the common cold. Anyone who tells you different is lying. I don't care what Jewish university they came from."
- "Fifty percent of the Roman Catholic bishops and priests are queer. Hell, everybody knows that."

His health deteriorating, he said he's more concerned about his circulatory system than a possible murder indictment.

Beckwith was released Friday from the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn., after undergoing surgery for a clot in his carotid artery.

"I don't feel good. I don't hear good. I don't see good," Beckwith said. "I'm getting a cataract in my right eye — and that's my shooting eye."

Beckwith is not at a loss when asked to explain why the 27-year-old case has been revived.

"The niggers have run out of something to do," he said.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 31 1961

TELETYPE [redacted] (b)(7)(c)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C.Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

(b)(7)(c)

URGENT 3-31-61 2-41 PM CST [redacted]

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM SAC, NEW ORLEANS 44-1250 1P

CHANGED. UNSUBS, OFFICERS JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI POLICE DEPARTMENT, [redacted] VICTIM, ET AL, [redacted] VICTIM, CR. TITLE CHANGED TO ADD VICTIM [redacted] M MEDGAR EVERS, FIELD SECRETARY, NAACP, JACKSON, MISS., [redacted]

(b)(2)(d)

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[redacted]

SUBSEQUENTLY EVERS CONTACTED RA AND ADVISED FOUR OTHER JACKSON STATE COLLEGE STUDENTS DESIRED TO FURNISH INFO RE QUOTE POLICE BRUTALITY UNQUOTE ARISING OUT OF SAME MARCH ON JAIL. INTERVIEW WITH THESE FOUR PERSONS SCHEDULED. ABOVE FOR INFO BUREAU.

REPORT FOLLOWS.

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MCT-42 REC 93 44-17340-1

EX-112

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10 APR 4 1961

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 31 1961

TELETYPE

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C.Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

(b)(7)(c)

URGENT 3-31-61 4-47 PM CST [redacted] (b)(7)(c)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM SAC, NEW ORLEANS 44-1250 1P

UNSUBS, OFFICERS JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI POLICE DEPARTMENT,

(b)(7)(c) [redacted] VICTIM, ET AL. CR. REMYTELS MARCH THIRTY

AND THIRTY ONE, SIXTYONE. [redacted] (b)(7)(c)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 1 1961

TELETYPE [redacted] (b)(7)(c) [redacted]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
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Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
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Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

(b)(7)(c) URGENT 4-1-61 5-37 PM CST [redacted]

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (b)(7)(c)

FROM SAC NEW ORLEANS /44-1250/ 1P

UNSUBS, OFFICERS, JACKSON, MISS. PD SEMICOLON [redacted] ET AL (b)(7)(c) [redacted]

DASH VICTIMS. CR. REMYTEL MARCH THIRTYONE LAST. [redacted]

[redacted] (b)(7)(c)

(b)(7)(d)

[redacted] MEDGAR EVERS, NAACP,

JACKSON, TODAY TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED JACKSON RA TO STATE

THAT [redacted] W. R. WRENN AND [redacted] HAVE (b)(7)(c)

INFORMATION RE SAME MATTER AND WILL APPEAR JACKSON RA APRIL

THREE NEXT FOR INTERVIEW. BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED. REPORT TO

BE SUBMITTED COVERING INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED MARCH THIRTYONE LAST

AS REFLECTED IN RETEL, TODAYS INTERVIEW, AND INTERVIEW SCHEDULED

FOR APRIL THREE. ABOVE FOR INFO OF BUREAU.

END AND ACK PLS

WA 6-40 PM OK FBI WA [redacted]

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REC-93 44-17340-3

EX-112

25 APR 4 1961

66 APR 6 1961

[redacted] (b)(7)(c)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Travel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C.Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 30 1961

TELETYPE

(b)(7)(c) [redacted]

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URGENT 3--30--61 J 10--05PM CST [redacted]

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM SAC, NEW ORLEANS

CHANGED. ~~UNSUBS~~ UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, OFFICERS JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI POLICE DEPARTMENT, [redacted] VICTIM, [redacted] VICTIM, [redacted] VICTIM, [redacted] VICTIM. ~~CR.~~ Civil Rights RE NEW ORLEANS TELETYPE TO BUREAU CAPTIONED NEGRO STUDENT SIT IN ATTEMPT, JACKSON MUNICIPAL LIBRARY, WHITE BRANCH, JACKSON, MISS., MARCH TWENTYSEVEN, SIXTYONE, ~~RM~~ Racial Matters, AND BUREAU AND NEW ORLEANS TELCALLS MARCH THIRTY. [redacted]

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MCV 21 44-17340-4

APR 4 1961

END PAGE ONE [redacted]

56 APR 10 1961 (b)(7)(c) [redacted] (b)(7)(c) 6- [redacted] (b)(7)(c)

4-750 (Rev. 12-14-88)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

9 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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Section 552		Section 552a
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☐ (b)(2)	☐ (b)(7)(B)	☐ (j)(2)
☐ (b)(3)	☒ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
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☐ (b)(5)	☐ (b)(9)	☐ (k)(6)
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44-17340-4 page 2 thru 10

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X FOR THIS PAGE X
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[redacted] (b)(2)(c) 8 3/31/61 P [redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 3 1 1961
TELETYPE

(b)(2)(c) [redacted]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Malone
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C.Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

URGENT 3-31-61 6-42 PM CST

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

(b)(2)(c) FROM SAC NEW ORLEANS /44-1250/

[redacted] CHANGED COLON UNSUBS, OFFICERS, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI PD; SEMICOLON [redacted] SEMICOLON ET AL; SEMICOLON [redacted] SEMICOLON [redacted] SEMICOLON [redacted] SEMICOLON [redacted] SEMICOLON [redacted] SEMICOLON [redacted] DASH VICTIMS. TITLE CHANGED TO ADD NAMES ADDITIONAL VICTIMS BASED ON INVESTIGATION TODAY. VICTIMS LISTED, WITH EXCEPTION [redacted]

(b)(1)(c)

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MCI-21

APR 4 1961

END PAGE ONE

EX-6

66 APR 7 1961 F33

cc - Subject

6 [redacted] (b)(2)(c)

PAGE TWO -------

(b)(7)(D)

[redacted] REPORT FOLLOWS.

END AND ACK PLS

WA 7-47 PM OK FBI WA [redacted] (b)(7)(C)

TU DSI

In Jackson—

FBI Agents Probe Brutality Charges

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — FBI agents today continued their investigation of Negro charges of police brutality in Mississippi's capital city.

At New Orleans, FBI headquarters said agents were conducting a preliminary inquiry at the request of the Justice Department's civil rights division.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People leaders have protested police tactics used in breaking up a demonstration Wednesday. It was the first major racial incident in the state. Policemen used clubs and trained dogs to scatter the Negroes in front of the courtroom where nine Negro college students were tried and convicted for a sit-in at a Jackson public library reserved for whites.

Meanwhile in Washington, the Justice Department said it had received "assurances from responsible leaders in Jackson that no unnecessary force will be used."

Thursday night, Dr. Aaron Henry, president of the NAACP branches in Mississippi, told about 800 persons attending a mass meeting that he had wired President Kennedy to "halt this savage attack on Negro people in Mississippi."

Henry said Mississippi Negroes have been handed a "good do-it-yourself kit" in the struggle for human dignity.

Another Negro leader, the Rev. John D. Mangram called for no violence by Negroes seeking equal rights.

"All the things which our white friends do to us cannot prevent the forces that have been unleashed in this city and state," the minister said.

"Even though we be struck dead, we will not strike back. We must face what we have experienced and, in a measure, accept it. We must not become embittered at our white friends who have not the spiritual maturity we thought they had."

Clarence Mitchell, director of the Washington bureau of the NAACP, promised stronger civil rights action by the federal government.

"If Mississippi is to continue to get the eagle on the American dollar from Washington they had better get rid of Jim Crow," Mitchell said.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
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Mr. Evans
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Mr. Tavel
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Miss Gandy

(b)(7)(c) [redacted]

(b)(7)(c) [redacted]

8-1

VICKSBURG EVENING POST
MARCH 31, 1961
VICKSBURG, MISS.

UNSUBS, OFFICERS,
JACKSON, MISS. PD:
[redacted] ET AL (b)(7)(c)
VICTIMS
CR

RE NO TELETYPE 4-1-61

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6- [redacted] 44-17310

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NOT RECORDED
191 APR 14 1961

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66 APR 17 1961

Report Form
FD-263 (Rev. 5-12-55)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
NEW ORLEANS	NEW ORLEANS	3/31/61	3/29 - 3/31/61

TITLE OF CASE

"CHANGED"
UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, Officers,
Jackson, Miss. Police Department;
[redacted] - VICTIM;
[redacted] VICTIM; MEDGAR
(b)(7)(c) WILEY EVERS - VICTIM; [redacted]
VICTIM; [redacted] VICTIM

REPORT MADE BY: SA [redacted] TYPE: [redacted]

CHARACTER OF CASE: (b)(7)(c) CIVIL RIGHTS [redacted]

~~SYNOPSIS~~

The title of this case is being changed to include MEDGAR WILEY EVERS as a victim and to add the correct name of [redacted]

(b)(7)(c)

REFERENCES

Bureau telephone call to New Orleans, 3/29/61.
New Orleans teletype to Bureau, 3/30/61, entitled, "NEGRO STUDENT SIT-IN ATTEMPT, JACKSON MUNICIPAL LIBRARY, WHITE BRANCH, JACKSON, MISS., 3/27/61; RACIAL MATTERS"
New Orleans teletype to Bureau dated 3/30/61.

- C -

ENCLOSURES

TO BUREAU: Two copies of article appearing on Page 5A of State-Times, a daily newspaper at Jackson, Mississippi, on March 30, 1961, regarding the incidents occurring after the trial in Municipal Court, Jackson, Mississippi, that date.

(b)(7)(c)

APPROVED [redacted] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE: [redacted]

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-1734-6

MCT-23

REC-87

APR 6 1961

(2) - Bureau (Enc. 2) (AM)
1 - USA, Jackson, Miss. (Enc. 1)
2 - New Orleans (44-1250)

ENCLOSURE
no envelope

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

1 Repl. & Encl.
[redacted]
Form 6-30 (8) 4-4-61

(b)(7)(c)

51 APR 18 1961

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NO 44-1250/ (b)(2)(c)

ADMINISTRATIVE

All persons interviewed were advised that this investigation was being conducted at the specific request of JOHN DOAR, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice.

"B" *

COVER PAGE

FD-204 (Rev. 9-23-58)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Jackson, Miss.

(b)(7)(C)

Report of: SA [redacted]
Date: 3/31/61 Office: NEW ORLEANS

File Number: NO 44-1250

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, Officers, Jackson, Miss. Police Department; (b)(7)(C) [redacted] VICTIM; [redacted] VICTIM; MEDGAR WILEY EVERS - VICTIM; [redacted] - VICTIM; [redacted] - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: MEDGAR WILEY EVERS, Field Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Jackson, Miss., advised that he had been informed that officers of the Jackson, Miss. PD on 3/28/61 broke up a peaceful march of Negro college students enroute to city jail to pray for the nine students arrested by the PD on 3/27/61, who had attempted a sit-in at the Municipal Library, Jackson. States tear gas and police dogs used by PD and many students struck with night sticks by officers; that [redacted] was roughly handled by officers. No police officers identified by him. EVERS subsequently advised that at time of trial of the nine Negroes in Municipal Court, Jackson, 3/29/61, that police dogs and officers with billy clubs were used to disperse crowd. States he was struck on back of head with revolver by white man in civilian clothing and also struck by one blow on back with billy club by each of two unidentified police officers. Observed two unidentified uniformed officers chasing and striking unidentified Negroes. On leaving scene, he met victim [redacted] who had been bitten by a police dog and whose coat was torn. EVERS observed victim [redacted] being treated by [redacted] for injuries suffered during incident. Believes he could identify two officers who struck him. [redacted] arrested in connection with assault on [redacted] with snub-nosed .38 revolver. [redacted]

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)
(b)(7)(D)

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FBI, and is a loan to your agency; it and/or its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

NO 44-1250/

(b)(1)(c)
(b)(1)(D)

- C -

Enclosures to U. S. Attorney, Jackson, Mississippi:

One copy of article on Page 5A of State-Times, a daily newspaper at Jackson, Mississippi, on March 30, 1961, regarding the incidents occurring after the trial in Municipal Court, Jackson, Mississippi, that date.

DETAILS:

This limited investigation was instituted on the basis of a request made of the Federal Bureau of Investigation by Mr. JOHN DOAR, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice.

MEDGAR EVERS, Jackson, Mississippi, a representative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), informed the Department on March 29, 1961, that fifty persons had been demonstrating in Jackson that day in connection with the arrest of nine students for a sit-in at the public library in Jackson and that they had been beaten by the police.

(b)(7)(c) NO 44-1250/[redacted]

(b)(7)(c) of [redacted] The Department subsequently requested the interview [redacted]

At Jackson, Mississippi

(b)(7)(c) [redacted] On March 30, 1961, SA [redacted] advised [redacted] and SA [redacted] and [redacted] that an investigation was being instituted.

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/31/61

Mr. MEDGAR WILEY EVERS, 2332 Guynes Street, Jackson, Mississippi, Field Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, State of Mississippi, was interviewed on March 29, 1961, and furnished the following signed statement:

"Jackson, Mississippi
"March 29, 1961

(b)(7)(c) "I, Medgar W. Evers, make the following free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made me to induce me to make this statement and I have been advised it may be used in a court of law.

"I am Field Secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for the State of Mississippi and live in Jackson, Mississippi.

(b)(7)(c) "At about 3:45 PM on March 28, 1961 I was in the office of [redacted] when [redacted] who is employed at [redacted] and who is a student at Jackson State College came to me.

"He told me that some of the students at Jackson State College were marching down Lynch Street peacefully enroute to the Jackson City Jail to pray at the steps of the jail for the nine young students who had been arrested on March 27, 1961, for sitting in at the City Library on N. State St. He said the group reached Lynch and Poindexter Street and saw a Police barricade. The students, about 50 in number then turned north on Poindexter Street and walked towards Pearl St. and turned east on Pearl, marching east to the vicinity of the Summers Hotel when they were stopped by a number of Jackson Police Department cars out of which officers dismounted with two dogs and began to use tear gas in the group to disperse the

On 3/29/61 at Jackson, Mississippi File # NO 44-1250

(b)(7)(c) by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] Date dictated 3/30/61

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(b)(7)(c) NO 44-1250/[redacted]

students. Many of the students were struck with night sticks by the officers.

[redacted] a student at Jackson State College, was roughly handled by officers, [redacted] told me. At this time [redacted] was carrying the American flag. [redacted] said [redacted] was handcuffed and taken to police headquarters where he was questioned extensively and later released without charge.

"I later learned that one or more of the Jackson State College Students had been struck by officers and needed medical attention. I sent one of the students, whose last name I recall as [redacted] to [redacted] for treatment. I did not learn the extent of his injuries. I was not told the name or description of any officer involved and cannot identify them.

"I have read this statement consisting of this page and two preceding pages and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge."

"/s/ Medgar W. Evers

"Witness:
"/s/ [redacted] Special Agent, FBI, New Orleans, La., 3/29/61
"/s/ [redacted] Special Agent, FBI, New Orleans, 3/29/61.

* * *

Mr. EVERS stated that all his information as set out above was hearsay with the exception of the fact that he sent [redacted] to [redacted]

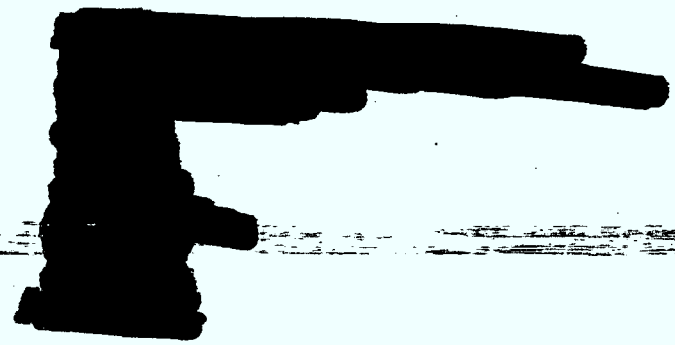
Mr. EVERS said that he could not be more specific as to details of the above since he was only repeating what had been told him for the most part.

He said that the only descriptive data that he could furnish concerning any of the participants was the description of [redacted] whom he described as follows:

(b)(7)(c) NO 44-1250

Name:
Address:

Race:
Sex:
Height:
Weight:
Hair:
Eyes:
Occupation:



FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/31/61

Mr. MEDGAR W. EVERS, Field Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 2332 Guynes Street, was interviewed on March 29, 1961, and furnished the following signed statement:

"Jackson, Miss.
"March 29, 1961

(b1 DE) "I, Medgar W. Evers, make the following free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind were made me to induce me to make this statement and I have been advised that it may be used in a court of law.

"I am Field Secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for the State of Mississippi and live in Jackson, Mississippi.

"At about 3:25 PM March 29, 1961 I parked my car on a commercial parking lot just west of the Jackson Mississippi Municipal Court Building and Police Station. I was accompanied by [redacted] United States who lives in [redacted] for the Southeast Jackson on business. A [redacted] and who was in [redacted] who works for [redacted] was also with me. We had come to observe the trial of the nine students of Tougaloo Southern Christian College who were being tried in the Jackson Municipal Court in connection with a sit in at the Jackson Municipal Library on N. State Street on March 27, 1961.

"Prior to parking the car I had let [redacted] and [redacted] out at the entrance to the parking lot and parked my car alone.

"After parking I walked toward the Pascagoula Street entrance of the lot and passed in view of the

On 3/29/61 at Jackson, Mississippi File # NO 44-1250

by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] Date dictated 3/30/61

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Jackson Police Station which is in the same building as the Municipal Court.

"As I was walking I saw three uniformed officers of the Jackson Police Department, whom I can not identify or describe, looking out a window at me and one of them remarked "There he is, we ought to kill him". I smiled, did not reply, and joined my friends at the parking lot entrance.

"We were told by a police officer, uniformed, of the Jackson Police Department, that we could not get in to the trial because the court room was filled and that we would have to go across the street to stand. This street is Pascagoula Street. We crossed the street and were told by the same officer, whom I would recognize if I saw him again, that we must stand behind the sidewalk on the North side of the street, which borders a parking lot.

"We obeyed these instructions and stood there for about ten minutes when two of the defendants crossed the street at S. West and Pascagoula. At this time there were about 100 or more Negroes in this area together and a larger number of whites were in other areas of the parking lot near to Justice of the Peace Bell's office.

"At this time I would like to state that I parked my car in one parking lot as described and across the street there is another parking lot in the rear of the Mississippi Publishing Company building. The latter lot is where we were standing at this time.

"As the students crossed the street and walked toward the Municipal Court Building many of the Negroes applauded in a spontaneous recognition.

"At this point, which was at about 3:45 PM I heard an officer yell "disperse them" and at this time two police dogs were used to disperse the Negroes while at the same time "billy" clubs were being used. The dogs were on long leashes held by officers who were wearing white shirts.

(b)(7)(c) NO 44-1250/[redacted]

"At this time [redacted] left us and I did not see him again during the day. [redacted] and I were crossing S. West Street going toward Pearl Street when we became separated and I did not see her until about 35 minutes later at my office on Lynch St. As I was going towards Pearl Street I was struck once on the left rear part of my head with an object I assume was a revolver, by a white man in plain clothes. I do not know if he were an officer or not. I believe the object that struck me was a revolver because immediately after being struck I saw a snub-nose revolver, blue steel, approximately .38 caliber in his hand. He did not say anything to me. This blow did not knock me down and must have been a glancing blow. I did not say anything to him but kept on going as uniformed officers were hurring the Negroes along away from the parking lot.

"I reached the corner of Pearl and S. West Street and as I turned to go west on the South side of Pearl Street I saw two uniformed officers chasing and striking Negroes indiscriminately with "billy" clubs. I believe I recognized one of the men being struck as a Tougaloo student, but I can not call his name at this time. I do not know the officers.

"After the officers stopped chasing the young men they turned and headed back toward the Municipal Court Building, going east. As they approached me, one of them who was ahead of the others said "Get going, boy" and I replied that I was going. As I passed him he struck me across the back just above the waist with his "billy" club. The other officer also struck me with his "billy" club in the same general part of the back.

(b)(7)(c) "As I was going west on Pearl Street, I met a [redacted] who had been bitten by a police dog and whose coat I observed was torn on the forearm of the left sleeve. He told me he had been bitten by a dog.

"At this point I was picked up by two friends, [redacted] and a lady with him, whom I know, but whose name I can not recall who took me to my office.

(b)(DK) NO 44-1250/[redacted]

[redacted] and [redacted]

"Shortly after arriving at my office I was asked to come to [redacted] Office on [redacted] Upon arriving there I was shown [redacted] who was being treated by [redacted] for lacerations of the head and bruises of the right shoulder and right arm. [redacted] told me that he had been beaten on the arm and shoulder by the police, but as he was recalled he was struck on the head by a white man not in uniform. He said he had been beaten as the crowd was being dispersed. He told me he was refused entrance to the Municipal Court building where he intended to attend the trial.

"While at [redacted] office I asked him to examine me, which he did, and he said I was not seriously hurt. No cuts, bruises or swellings were visible but the places where I was struck give me pain now.

"I have read this statement consisting of this page and two preceeding pages and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge.

"/s/ Medgar W. Evers

"Witness:
"/s/ [redacted] Special Agent, FBI, New Orleans, La., 3/29/61.
"/s/ [redacted] Special Agent, FBI, New Orleans, La., 3/29/61.

* * *

In addition to the above information, Mr. EVERS stated that he could offer no further identification of the parties referred to in his statement.

Mr. EVERS stated that also he did not have any witnesses that he could name as having seen the attacks upon his person unless possibly [redacted] had seen him. He said that [redacted] was alongside him momentarily while he, EVERS, was leaving the scene and [redacted] was taking moving pictures of the action.

(b)(7)(c) NO 44-1250/[redacted]

EVERS said that while he did not know the names of the two officers who struck him with "billy" clubs, he felt that he would be able to recognize them if he saw them in uniform.

Mr. EVERS, while interview was in progress, on three occasions rubbed the back of his head and commented that it was sore. He turned his head to demonstrate where he was struck; however, Agents observed no visible marks or swelling.

EVERS also stated that all Negroes present in the area of the trial were dispersed by many police officers using "billy" clubs and two dogs, while whites in the same area were not molested. Mr. EVERS said that while he could not furnish the names of any witnesses to the above other than as named, he would be able to obtain names of other persons at the scene. He said neither [redacted] nor [redacted] reported injuries to themselves.

(b)(7)(c)

Mr. EVERS furnished the following descriptions:

Name:
Sex:
Race:
Age:
Height:
Weight:
Hair:
Eyes:
Marital status:
Address:

Employment:

[redacted]

Name:
Address:

Race:
Sex:
Age:
Height:
Weight:
Hair:
Eyes:
Occupation:
Marital status:

[redacted]

(b)(2)(c) NO 44-1250/

The following description of MEDGAR W. EVERS was obtained from personal observation and interview:

Name:	MEDGAR WILEY EVERS
Address:	2332 Guynes Street, Jackson, Mississippi
Race:	Negro
Sex:	Male
Age:	34
Date of birth:	July 2, 1925
Place of birth:	Decatur, Mississippi
Height:	5'11"
Weight:	185 pounds
Hair:	Black
Eyes:	Brown
Scars and marks	3/4" scar over right eyebrow; circular scar size of half dollar on right shin; scar on left shin bone.
Parents:	Deceased
Brothers and sisters:	Five brothers and sisters, all residing in Chicago
Marital status:	Married, wife: MYRLIE EVERS, nee BEASLEY
Children:	Son: DARRELL KENYATTA EVERS, 7; Son: JAMES VAN DYKES EVERS, 15 months; Daughter: REENA DENISE EVERS, 6 years.
Arrests:	No prior arrests, claims has case on appeal from conviction of contempt of court in Forrest County, Mississippi, in 1960.
Military service:	2½ years service, U. S. Army from October 28, 1943, to April 16, 1946, ASN 34-87-4245.
Education:	Graduated from Alcorn A & M College, Lorman, Mississippi

Mr. EVERS stated that while he could not identify any of the officers by name and while there were so many officers involved in the affair it was difficult to furnish descriptions, he would furnish the following descriptive data as best he could recall:

(b)(2)(c) NO 44-1250

Police Officer #1 (who hit him first on back with "billy" club:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	25-30
Height:	6 feet
Weight:	200 pounds

EVERS said he did not recall seeing this officer prior to this time.

Police Officer #2 (with one of police dogs):

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Height:	5'8"
Weight:	Stocky build
Age:	40-45
Clothes:	Wore shite shirt and police uniform, no coat

Police Officer #3 (with one of police dogs)

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	Not known
Dress:	White shirt and police uniform, no coat

Man in civilian clothes who hit EVERS with pistol:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	Unknown
Dress:	Dark suit with dark hat

Officer swinging club at Negroes as crowd dispersed:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	50 or over
Height:	Short
Weight:	Heavy, "pot belly"
Rank:	Had gold Lieutenant bar

(b)(7)(c) NO 44-1250/

Mr. EVERS said that he would possibly be able to identify the above described officers if he saw them in uniform, but doubted that he could identify the man who hit him with the pistol. He said that he felt it would be very difficult to identify any of the officers involved with any particular act of violence as there was so much fast action; however, he said that he felt that the above described officers were the only ones that he would be able to identify.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

SUBJECT: MEDGAR EDGARS

FILE NUMBER: FILE #44-17340

4-750 (Rev. 12-14-88)

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☐ (b)(3) _____	☒ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
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44-17340-6pages 15 thru 39

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FBI/DOJ

Enclosures to Bureau from New Orleans:

Two copies of article appearing on Page 5A of State-Times, a daily newspaper at Jackson, Miss., on 3/30/61, regarding the incidents occurring after the trial in Municipal Court, Jackson, Miss., that date.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, Officers of Jackson, Miss Police Department;
[redacted] - VICTIM;
(b)(7)(c) [redacted] - VICTIM;
MEDGAR WILEY EVERS - VICTIM;
[redacted] VICTIM;
[redacted] - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

NO 44-1250

AIR MAIL

ENCLOSURE

44-17340-6

Student 'Sit-Ins' Convicted

Twenty-five Jackson police officers, brandishing night sticks and holding two snarling police dogs on leashes, broke up a demonstration Wednesday by a crowd of about 100 Negroes outside the municipal court building on Pascagoula St.

Inside the building, nine Negro college students were being convicted of staging a sit-in at the Municipal Library on N. State St. They were fined $100 each on breach of peace charges and immediately filed notice of appeal.

Police surrounded the courthouse an hour before the trial began. A capacity crowd of about 120 spectators, Negroes on one side, whites on the other, jammed into the small courtroom.

Outside, groups of Negroes began congregating. Then, without warning, some of them began clapping their hands.

"All right men," shouted Capt. Beavers Armstrong "Move 'em out." Police and the leashed dogs charged into the crowd. A Negro minister, the Rev. S. Leon Whitney, was bitten by one of the German police dogs. Several of the Negroes were struck by the nightsticks and the rest of the crowd scattered over a two-block area.

Thomas Armstrong, a Negro free-lance photographer, on N. Farish St. attempted to enter the building and was ordered to leave. He mumbled something to an officer, who began chasing him. A white man joined the chase, pulled a revolver, and began beating Armstrong on the head and shoulder. Armstrong was taken to a doctor, bleeding.

Several hours later police arrested G.W. Hydrick, 55, a convicted bootlegger from nearby Rankin County, and charged him with the assault.

Hydrick met bond for $125 at 2:50 p.m. and will appear in court Friday afternoon unless he forfeits bond on the charges of assault and battery and carrying a concealed weapon, both misdemeanors.

THE CHASE — Rankin county bootlegger G. W. "Red" Hydrick, with a pistol in his right hand, is shown chasing a Negro up South West Street as police dispersed mobs which gathered outside the Municipal Court Building Wednesday afternoon. Hydrick was later arrested by city police on charge of assault and battery and carrying a concealed weapon after he was seen beating a Negro over the head with a pistol.

(Staff Photo by Bart Parker)

STATE-TIMES
MAY 30 1961
JACKSON, MISS.
NEW ORLEANS OFFICE
Page 5A

In New York, NAACP executive secretary Roy Wilkins fired off a telegram to Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett, branding Jackson police "attackers rather than protectors." He told Barnett: "call off the dogs, Legree. Slavery is over."

Barnett said he had no comment on the matter. "I don't know a thing about the facts. I have so many things that are more important to attend to."

One of the Negroes struck was Medgar Evers, state field secretary for the NAACP. He was walking away when a police officer said, "You better run" and started swinging his night stick.

The only witnesses to appear at the trial were veteran police officers, Capt. J. L. Ray and Lt. C. R. Wilson, testifying for the state, expressed the opinion that the presence of the students in the library constituted a breach of the peace.

Ray was asked by one of the two Negro defense lawyers why there was a breach of the peace involved in the sit-in. "It was the first time," replied Ray, "that the group, or any other out-of-town group had gathered there." The Negroes are students at Tougaloo College, a mile north of the Jackson city limits.

The word "Negro" was not mentioned in the trial.

Wilson testified he was called to the library and, upon arriving, found "a group of Ne—uh, people there."

DOG ROUTS NEGROES — A German police dog belonging to the Vicksburg Police Department lunges at an unidentified Negro and rips his coat sleeve after officers used dogs to drive away noisy by-standers from the Municipal Court Building Wednesday afternoon.

LAWMAN AND PHOTOGRAPHER — Free-lance Negro photographer Thomas Armstrong is shown being chased from the area around the Municipal Court Building by a Jackson policeman.

4-750 (Rev. 12-14-88)

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- ☐ (b)(7)(E)
- ☐ (b)(7)(F)
- ☐ (b)(8)
- ☐ (b)(9)

Section 552a

- ☐ (d)(5)
- ☐ (j)(2)
- ☐ (k)(1)
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FBI/DOJ

8 47 PM

(b)(7)(c) [redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 3 1961

(b)(2)(c) [redacted]

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C.Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

(b)(7)(c) [redacted]

URGENT 4-3-61 6-03 PM CST

TO DIRECTOR FBI

FROM SAC NEW ORLEANS /44-1250/ 2-P [redacted]

UNSUBS, OFFICERS, JACKSON, MISS. PD [redacted] ETAL, VICTIMS, CR. REMYTEL APRIL ONE. WILLIS RANDALL WRENN IN INTERVIEW TODAY STATES WAS IN CROWD IN FRONT OF MUNICIPAL COURT BUILDING, JACKSON, MARCH TWENTYNIN AND IN DISPERSAL OF CROWD WAS STRUCK ONE BLOW ON WRIST BY UNIDENTIFIED JACKSON POLICE OFFICER WITH BILLY CLUB WHICH BLOW KNOCKED HIM TO GROUND WILLIS, WHO IS EIGHTYONE YEARS OLD, VISITED A DOCTOR CHRISTIAN, JACKSON WHO SUGGESTED XRAY OF WRIST WHICH WRENN HAS NOT HAD DONE [redacted]

(b)(7)(c)
(b)(7)(D) [redacted]

END PAGE ONE

394

12 APR 4 1961

66 APR 7 1961

[redacted] (b)(2)(c)

[redacted]

(b)(D1C)
(b)(D1D)

HE WILL BE INTERVIEWED WHEN HE CONTACTS RA. REPORT REFLECTING ALL INTERVIEWS SINCE SUBMISSION OF INITIAL REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED.

END AND ACK PLS

7-11 PM OK FBI WA [redacted] (b)(D1L)

Report Form
FD-263 (5-12-55)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period
NEW ORLEANS	NEW ORLEANS	4/10/61	4/5-6/61

TITLE OF CASE

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, Officers of Jackson, Mississippi Police Department; [redacted] ET AL - VICTIMS

Report made by: SA [redacted]

Type: [redacted]

CHARACTER OF CASE

(b)(7)(C)

CR

[redacted]

REFERENCE

Report of SA [redacted], 4/6/61, at New Orleans.

(b)(7)(C)

- C -

Approved: JB

Copies made: 7

Special Agent In Charge

Do not write in spaces below

44-17340-8

14 APR 18 1961

REC-91

EX-100

2 - Bureau
1 - USA, Jackson
2 - New Orleans (44-1250)

1cc: AAG Civil Rights Division

Form 6-94 F 4-14-61

[redacted] (b)(7)(C)

57 APR 18 1961 285

A*
COVER PAGE

[redacted]

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FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: U. S. Attorney, Jackson, Mississippi

(b)(7)(C)

Report of: SA [redacted]

Date: April 10, 1961

Office: NEW ORLEANS

Field Office File No.: NO 44-1250

Bureau File No.:

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, Officers of Jackson, Mississippi Police Department; [redacted] ET AL - VICTIMS

(b)(7)(C)

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: MEDGAR EVERS, Field Secretary, NAACP, Jackson, Miss., advised that [redacted] desired to furnish info to FBI. EVERS stated [redacted] had told him he had been interviewed by FBI. [redacted] has not contacted Jackson, Miss. FBI agents and EVERS, informed of this, stated he would attempt to contact [redacted] to determine what had happened. [redacted]

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(C)
(b)(7)(D)

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NO 44-1250

(b)(7)(c)
(b)(7)(D)(O)

[redacted]

Description of victim set out.

- C -

DETAILS:

AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI:

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 10, 1961

Mr. MEDGAR EVERS, Field Secretary, NAACP, Jackson, Mississippi, telephonically contacted the Jackson Resident Agency to advise that [redacted], also known as [redacted] desired to furnish some information to the FBI and would contact the Jackson Resident Agency on April 6, 1961.

(b)(7)(c)

At this time SA [redacted] informed Mr. EVERS that [redacted], for whom an appointment had been made by Mr. EVERS for an interview to take place on April 3, 1961 had not contacted the Jackson Resident Agency. Mr. EVERS was informed that inquiry was made by SA [redacted] at his, EVERS, office in an effort to have [redacted] advise if he desired to furnish any information. At this time, Mr. EVERS stated that he had seen [redacted] that day, April 5, 1961, and asked him if he had contacted the FBI and [redacted] told him that he had done this and EVERS had the impression that he had been interviewed. SA [redacted] informed EVERS that [redacted] had not been interviewed at the Jackson Resident Agency or at any other place in this matter by Special Agents of the FBI. Mr. EVERS stated that he would attempt to contact [redacted] to determine what had happened.

On 4/5/61 at Jackson, Mississippi File # NO 44-1250

(b)(7)(c) by SA [redacted] Date dictated 4/6/61

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44-17340- 8 pages 4 thru 13

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FBI/DOJ

Report Form
FD-563 (5-12-55)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period
NEW ORLEANS	NEW ORLEANS	4/6/61	3/31 - 4/3/61

TITLE OF CASE

CHANGED
UNSUBS, Officers of Jackson, Mississippi Police Department;
[redacted] VICTIM
[redacted] VICTIM
[redacted] VICTIM
[redacted] - VICTIM
[redacted] VICTIM
[redacted] - VICTIM
MEDGAR WILEY EVERS - VICTIM
[redacted] - VICTIM
[redacted] VICTIM
[redacted] - VICTIM
[redacted]
VICTIM
[redacted] - VICTIM
[redacted] - VICTIM
WILLIS RANDALL WRENN - VICTIM

Report made by: SA [redacted]

Typed: [redacted]

CHARACTER OF CASE: CIVIL RIGHTS [redacted]

(b)(2)(c)
cle

Title of this report is changed to show the names of [redacted] and WRENN as additional victims based on investigation reported therein. The full name of victim [redacted] which is [redacted] is also set forth.

REFERENCES:

Report of SA [redacted] dated 3/31/61 at New Orleans.

- C -

Approved: [signature] Special Agent In Charge

Copies made:
2 - Bureau (AM)
1 - USA, Jackson
2 - New Orleans (44-1250)

Do not write in spaces below

44-17340-9

MCI

REC-

12 APR 10 1961

EX-10

[redacted]

FBI
APR 10 12 30 PM '61
RECEIVED
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
CIVIL RIGHTS
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

A* APR 10

COVER PAGE

1cc: AAG Civil Rights Division
Form 6-94 [redacted] 4-10-61

EDI
SEC'D - CIVIL RIGHTS

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56 APR 24 1961

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955 O—344750

FD-204 (Rev. 9-23-58)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Jackson

(b)(7)(C)

Report of: SA [redacted] Office: NEW ORLEANS

Date: April 6, 1961

File Number: New Orleans 44-1250

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, Officers of Jackson, Mississippi Police Department;
[redacted] - VICTIM
[redacted] - VICTIM
[redacted] - VICTIM
[redacted] - VICTIM
[redacted] - VICTIM
[redacted] - VICTIM
MEDGAR WILEY EVERS - VICTIM
[redacted] - VICTIM
[redacted] - VICTIM
[redacted] VICTIM
[redacted] VICTIM
[redacted] - VICTIM
[redacted] - VICTIM
WILLIS RANDALL WRENN - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: Title is changed to add additional victims, [redacted] and WRENN and to reflect full name of [redacted] as REV. [redacted] On 3/31/61 Mr. MEDGAR EVERS, Field Secretary, NAACP, Jackson, Miss. advised he had been contacted by other persons who had information concerning "police brutality" which they desired to furnish FBI. Victims [redacted] and [redacted] interviewed 3/31/61 [redacted]

(b)(7)(C)
(b)(7)(D)

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16—74635-1 GPO

NO 44-1250

[redacted]

(b)(7)(c)
(b)(7)(D)

On 4/1/61 Mr. EVERS advised that [redacted] and [redacted] had information to furnish in this matter [redacted]

[redacted] Victim WRENN, 81 years old, was struck one blow on wrist by unidentified police officer of Jackson PD during dispersal of crowd near Municipal Court Building 3/29/61. Was treated by doctor who suggested an x-ray but WRENN has not had this done. [redacted]

- C -

DETAILS:

AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI:

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/5/61

Mr. MEDGAR EVERS, Field Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Jackson, Mississippi, telephonically advised that he had been contacted by five persons who could furnish information concerning "police brutality" in connection with recent events involving the Jackson, Mississippi Police Department. He said these individuals desired to furnish this information to the FBI. Arrangements were made with Mr. Evers for these persons to be interviewed at the Jackson Resident Agency on March 31, 1961.

On 3/31/61 at Jackson, Mississippi File # NO 44-1250

(b)(7)(c) by SA [redacted] Date dictated 4/4/61

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4-750 (Rev. 12-14-88)

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Section 552

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- ☐ (b)(2)
- ☐ (b)(3)
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- ☐ (b)(4)
- ☐ (b)(5)
- ☐ (b)(6)
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- ☒ (b)(7)(C)
- ☒ (b)(7)(D)
- ☐ (b)(7)(E)
- ☐ (b)(7)(F)
- ☐ (b)(8)
- ☐ (b)(9)

Section 552a

- ☐ (d)(5)
- ☐ (j)(2)
- ☐ (k)(1)
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44-17340-9 pages 3 thru 27

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FBI/DOJ

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/5/61

(b)(7)(c)

Mr. MEDGAR EVERS, Field Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Jackson, Mississippi, telephonically advised that [redacted] had information he desired to furnish the FBI in connection with this matter and stated that [redacted] would be at the Jackson Resident Agency on April 3, 1961, at 4:00 PM.

On 4/1/61 at Jackson, Mississippi File # NO 44-1250

(b)(7)(c)

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 4/1/61

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/5/61

Mr. WILLIS RANDALL WRENN, 1523 Valley Street, Jackson, Mississippi, was interviewed at the Jackson Resident Agency. WRENN furnished the following signed statement:

"Jackson, Miss.
"4/3/61

(b)(2)(C) "I, WILLIS RANDALL WRENN, hereby furnish the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. On 3/29/61 I was in front of the Municipal Court Building, Jackson, Miss. in a large crowd which had gathered there. This was at about 4:00 PM. I had come there in hopes of attending the trial of some students from Tougaloo College who were being tried for going into a public library in Jackson. I was standing across the street from the court building when a number of Jackson police officers came running across the street yelling at us to get out. I started to head North across a parking lot and felt a blow across my left wrist and back. The blow knocked me down on my back and I looked up and saw a uniformed police officer standing over me. He had a billy club in his hand. I do not know if he was the officer who struck me, but he was the only one with a club nearby. I was only struck once. I do not know this officers name and I cannot describe him other than that he was a white man and tall. I got back on my feet and walked off. My wrist was hurting me where I had been struck so I went the same day to see [redacted] who has an office on Farish St., Jackson. He examined my arm and wrapped it up. He told me I should have an X-Ray made but I haven't had the X-Ray yet.

(b)(2)(C)

"I have Read the abovve Statement and it is True and Correct."

"/s/ Willis Randall Wrenn

On 4/3/61 at Jackson, Mississippi File # NO 44-1250

(b)(2)(C) by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] / Date dictated 4/3/61

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(b)(7)(c)

NO 44-1250/[redacted]

"Witnessed:

(b)(7)(c) "/s/ [redacted], Special Agent, FBI, New Orleans, La.

"/s/ [redacted] Special Agent, FBI, New Orleans, La., 4/3/61.

* * *

The following description of WRENN was obtained through observation and interview:

Race:	Negro
Sex:	Male
Age:	81
Date of birth:	March 12, 1880
Place of birth:	Yazoo County, Mississippi
Height:	5'7"
Weight:	145 pounds
Hair:	Gray
Eyes:	Brown
Complexion:	Medium brown
Occupation:	Sells weekly papers
Marital status:	Divorced
Former wife:	[redacted] Mississippi
(b)(7)(c) Son:	[redacted] age [redacted] Mississippi
Military service:	None
Education:	Tenth grade
Previous arrests:	Early 1920's in Magee, Arkansas, for murder, claims acquitted.

4-750 (Rev. 12-14-88)

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44-17340-9 pages 33 thru 37

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FBI/DOJ

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/5/61

Mr. MEDGAR EVERS, Field Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Jackson, Mississippi, telephonically advised that [redacted] Jackson, and Mr. W. R. WRENN, 1523 Valley Street, Jackson, had information they desired to furnish the FBI in this matter. He said WRENN would be at the Jackson Resident Agency on April 3, 1961, for interview.

(b)(2)(c)

On 4/1/61 at Jackson, Mississippi File # NO 44-1250

(b)(7)(c) by SA [redacted] Date dictated 4/1/61

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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FBI/DOJ

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/5/61

(b)(7)(c)

On April 1, 1961, Mr. MEDGAR EVERS, Field Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Jackson, Mississippi, advised that [redacted] who had information he desired to furnish the FBI in this matter, would contact the Jackson Resident Agency on April 3, 1961, for interview at 4:00 PM.

[redacted] did not contact the Jackson Resident Agency either in person or by phone and SA [redacted] telephonically attempted to contact Mr. EVERS but learned through his secretary that he was out of the city and not expected to return until the end of the week. She was informed of the fact that arrangements had been made by Mr. EVERS for [redacted] to contact the FBI and that [redacted] had not done so.

The secretary stated that she would attempt to get work to [redacted] and request him to contact SA [redacted] to arrange a future time for the interview.

On 4/3/61 at Jackson, Mississippi File # NO 44-1250

(b)(7)(c) by SA [redacted] Date dictated 4/3/61

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4-750 (Rev. 12-14-88)

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44-17340-9 page 39

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FBI/DOJ

Report Form
FD-263 (5-12-55)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period
NEW ORLEANS	NEW ORLEANS	4/12/61	4/11/61

TITLE OF CASE

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, Officers of Jackson, Mississippi, Police Department; [redacted] ET AL - VICTIMS (b)(7)(c)

[redacted] (b)(7)(c)

Report made by

SA [redacted] (b)(7)(c)

CHARACTER OF CASE

CR (b)(7)(c)

[redacted]

REFERENCE: (b)(7)(c)

Report of SA [redacted], dated 4/10/61, at New Orleans.

- C -

A

Approved [redacted] (b)(7)(c) Special Agent In Charge

Copies made:

(2) - Bureau

1 - USA, Jackson, Mississippi

2 - New Orleans (44-1250)

Do not write in spaces below

44-17340-10

REC-

9 APR 17 1961

[redacted]

1cc: AAG Civil Rights Division

Form 6-95 [redacted] (b)(7)(c)

- A* -

COVER PAGE

[redacted] (b)(7)(c)

6 APR 21 1961

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FD-204 (Rev. 9-23-58)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: USA, JACKSON

Report of: SA [redacted] Office: NEW ORLEANS
Date: (b)(7)(c) 4/12/61

File Number: NEW ORLEANS (44-1250)

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, Officers of Jackson, Mississippi Police Department;
(b)(7)(c) [redacted] ET AL - VICTIMS

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis:

(b)(7)(c)
(b)(7)(D)

[redacted]

-C-

DETAILS:

AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

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4-750 (Rev. 12-14-88)

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FBI/DOJ

(b)(2)(c)

4/18/61

[redacted] AIRTEL

44-17340-11

EX 100

To: SAC, New Orleans (44-1250)

From: Director, FBI

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS
Officers, Jackson, Mississippi
Police Department
(b)(2)(c) [redacted] et al. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

ReNOrep 4/12/61.

Attached are two copies of a self-explanatory memorandum from the Civil Rights Division dated 4/17/61.

You should conduct the investigation requested makin certain you advise all persons contacted that this investigation is being made at the specific request of Mr. Burke Marshall, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice. Once again you should notify appropriate officials at the outset.

Complete and surep within ten days of receipt of this airtel and include statement therein that this is a limited investigation.

Enclosures (2)

(b)(2)(c) [redacted]

MAILED 5
APR 18 1961
COMM-FBI

NOTE:

On 3/27/61 nine Negro students were arrested by local authorities, Jackson, Miss., for staging a sit-in demonstration at the public library for whites in Jackson. Their trial was held 3/29/61 at which time a large group of Negroes and whites assembled outside the courthouse. Police broke up the mob whic accumulated and Medgar Evers, NAACP official, alleged police treated Negroes brutally in connection with dispersing the mob. Department has requested additional investigation consisting of interviews with 10 individuals having pertinent information re dispersal of this mob. Department also requests a review of film taken by [redacted] which purportedly shows pertinent action by police.

(b)(2)(c) [redacted]

Tolson
Parsons
Mohr
Belmont
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Tavel
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

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XEROX

APR 20 1961

58 APR 24 1961

[redacted] (b)(7)(c)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Mo[redacted]
Mr. R[redacted]
Mr. Ta[redacted]
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C.Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Ingram
Miss Gandy

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100 Negroes Chased From Courthouse

Nine Students Are Convicted in First Mississippi Sit-In

JACKSON, Miss., March 29 (UPI)—Club swinging police and two vicious German Shepherd dogs today chased more than 100 Negroes from a courthouse where nine Negro students were convicted for staging Mississippi's first sit-in demonstration.

Several of the Negroes were struck by the clubs and at least one person was bitten by the police dogs, held on leashes by two officers.

State NAACP field representative Medgar Evers, one of those hit by police, said "women and children in the group were beaten unmercifully."

The incident occurred shortly before trial of the students under a 1960 law making it a misdemeanor to refuse an officer's order to disperse. The nine Negroes, arrested Monday when they refused to leave a public library, were fined $100 each and given suspended 30-day jail sentences.

"MOVE 'EM OUT"

One side of the municipal courtroom had been reserved for Negroes and it was filled 40 minutes before the trial began. Fourteen officers and the two dogs lined the front steps of the courthouse and turned away other Negroes who tried to enter. Separate groups of Negroes and white formed across the street.

Shortly before court convened, the Negroes began clapping their hands and an officer yelled, "move 'em out."

Police, swinging night-sticks, and the dogs waded into the scattering Negroes.

Officers then returned to the courthouse steps and asked the crowd of white persons—totalling about 70—to disperse. Traffic in front of the building was blocked and officers ordered bystanders to move on as the trial was conducted.

City Attorney Jack Travis put two prosecution witnesses on the stand, both veteran police officers. Capt. J. L. Ray and Lt. C. R. Wil-

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son each testified they were called to the library Monday and saw the nine defendants there. They testified the youths refused orders to leave.

Both officers also expressed the opinion that the presence of the defendants in the library constituted a breach of the peace.

As the trial began, Thomas Armstrong, a Negro free-lance photographer, was stopped in front of the building by officers. "It's full up, uncle. Let's move along," an officer said.

Officers nudged him away with night sticks and as he walked down the sidewalk one policeman followed him. Armstrong mumbled something to the officer, who began chasing him.

A white man joined the chase, pulled a revolver, and began beating Armstrong on the head and shoulder. The Negro was taken to a doctor, bleeding. After the incident a Hinds County deputy sheriff gave the man directions in backing his car from a parking lot.

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