



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ROY WILKINS

PART 10 OF 11

BUFILE: 62-78270

Section 10

RECORDED

50-1359-1

(b)(5)(E)

November 16, 1937

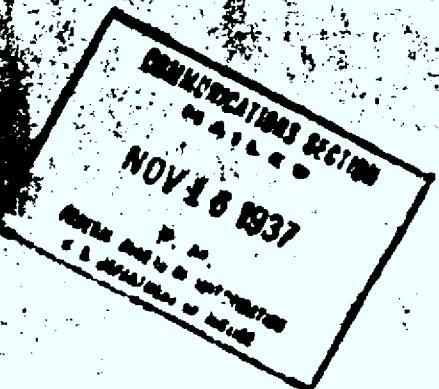
MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROHMER

This will acknowledge receipt of your memorandum dated November 13, 1937, transmitting a photostatic copy of a letter to the Attorney General from Mr. Bay Wilkins, Assistant Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New York, New York dated November 11, 1937, relative to an alleged violation of the Pecorage Statute at Malley, Arkansas.

This matter has been referred to the Little Rock, Arkansas Office of this Bureau for investigation, and you will be appropriately advised of all developments in this case.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.



(b)(5)(E)

SEARCHED [REDACTED] (b)(7)(C)
a 50-1399-1

INDEXED

November 14, 1937

50-1399

Special Agent in Charge,
Little Rock, Arkansas.

Dear Sirs:

Attached hereto are copies of a letter dated November 11, 1937 received by the Attorney General from Mr. Roy Wilkins, Assistant Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New York City, wherein it is stated that thirty negroes are being held virtually as slaves in a stockade at Malley, Arkansas, and are being worked at the point of guns.

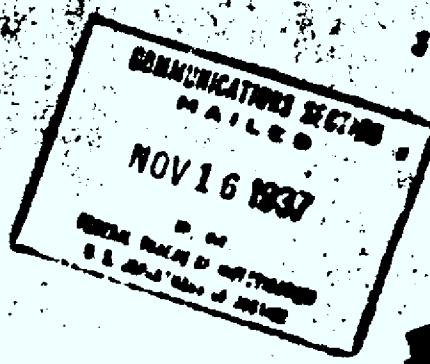
(b)(7)(C) (D)

You are requested to conduct a discreet investigation relative to Mr. Wilkins' allegations to determine whether a violation of the Peonage Statute is involved herein.

This matter should be placed in line for prompt investigative attention, and a report should be submitted to the Bureau at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.



(b)(7)(E)

(b)(6)

January 5, 1938.

SO-1359

Special Agent in Charge,
Little Rock, Arkansas.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
ROY WILLIAMS; COMPLAINTS;
MESSAGE.

Dear Sir:

The Bureau file on the above entitled case
indicates that this case is not receiving prompt investigative
attention in your division.

This matter should be placed in line for early
investigative attention and you should submit a report to
the Bureau at the earliest possible date.

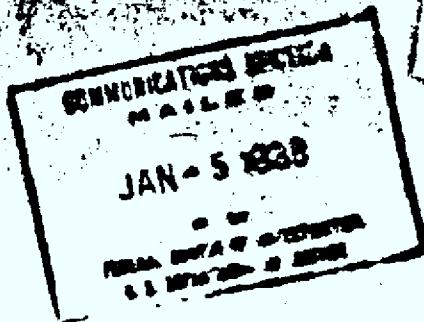
Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover.

ENCLASER

50-1359-2



JAN 10 1938	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Post Office Box 1469
Little Rock, Arkansas
January 12, 1938

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: SUBJECTS;
ROY WILSON; COMPLAINANT;
FEDERAL

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau communication of January 3, 1938 (50-1359), which instructs that this matter be given prompt investigative attention.

The failure to give this matter attention at an earlier date has been due to the fact that the agent to whom the case has been assigned has been unable to proceed with the investigation due to other matters which he has been handling elsewhere. This matter will be given attention at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

Frank J. Decker
FRANK J. DECKER,
Special Agent in Charge.

EX-1000

50-1359-3

b2
17-338-2

Post Office Box 1600
Little Rock, Arkansas
January 19, 1938

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

Mr. ROBERT COOPER,
DEPUTY ATTORNEY, COMPLAINTS,
PARADE.

Dear Sir:

Under date of November 11, 1937, Mr. Roy Wilkins, Secretary of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, 20 Park Avenue, New York City, addressed a communication to the Attorney General, in which he advises that thirty negroes are being held virtually as slaves in a stockade at Halley, Arkansas, and are being worked as peons of geese. It is stated in this letter that the information has been relayed to Mr. Wilkins by way of Chicago, Illinois, and he urges an immediate investigation of this situation at Halley.

For your information, several complaints have been received through the above named Association, one particularly to which I refer is a complaint made by [REDACTED] Memphis, Tennessee, who, on July 18, 1937, addressed a letter to the Department of Justice, in Washington, complaining of the fact that three negro boys who were residents of Memphis, had been detained at Halley, Arkansas, on a plantation of one [REDACTED]. For your complete information, I am enclosing a copy of this communication, together with the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Memphis, Tennessee, September 24, 1937, which sets forth an interview with [REDACTED] giving him information to the effect that the victims, [REDACTED] all injured, were at that time residing in Chicago and New York City.

Special Agent [REDACTED] of this office, conducted investigation in connection with this matter, same being reflected in his report rendered in connection with the above mentioned case and dated December 1, 1937, copy of which Report is furnished for your information.

The letter was presented in its entirety to the United States Attorney, at Little Rock, on December 2, 1937, at which time prosecution was dismissed, in view of the fact that the Parole Statute, in the opinion of the said United States Attorney, had not been violated.

It appears that there is a possibility that the [REDACTED] complaint is based upon information which is an outgrowth of the case entitled [REDACTED] and it is for this reason that

50-1359-3X

ONE

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

January 17, 1938

The matter is being referred to your office, with the request that Mr. Wilkins be interviewed and that full and complete information be obtained from him concerning the thirty persons, or at least a few of them, who are being held at Malley, Arkansas, in order that the investigation may be brought to a logical conclusion. At the present time, appropriate inquiry is being made by agents of this office at Malley, Arkansas, particularly of [redacted] (b)(6)(D)

It is further desired that you ascertain from Mr. Wilkins the sources of his information, in order that the complainants may be interviewed.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES PITCHER,
Special Agent in Charge.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
TIME CASE ORIGINATED AT

Little Rock, Ark.

N.Y. FILED 2000 b6 b7c

REPORT NUMBER NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHICH MADE 2/1/38	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/27, 29, 31/38	REPORT NUMBER [REDACTED] b6 b7c
NAME OF SUBJECT: ROY WILKINS - COMPLAINANT		CHARACTER OF CASE PEONAGE	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Roy Wilkins, National Association for Advancement of Colored People, advised his information relative to alleged violation of Peonage Statute at Halley, Arkansas obtained from his Association's representative in Chicago and no information about persons held yet received.

R. U. C.

REFERENCE:

Letter from Little Rock Office dated January 17, 1938.

DETAILS:

AT NEW YORK CITY

ROY WILKINS, (colored), Assistant Secretary of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York City, was interviewed by the writer relative to the communication addressed to the Attorney General under date of November 11, 1937, in which he advised that thirty negroes were being held, virtually as slaves, in a stockade at Halley, Arkansas, and are being worked at the point of guns. Wilkins indicated in his letter that the information had been relayed to him by way of Chicago, Ills.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES			
1 - Bureau	2 - Little Rock	3 - Chicago	4 - New York
50 11357 4 FEB 7 1938			
FEB - 4 A.M.			
C.R.S. 500			

50-3.

At the time of the writer's interview with Mr. Wilkins, he stated that the only information he had relative to the alleged violation of the Peonage Statute at Halley, Arkansas, was contained in a telegram addressed to Attorney CHARLES E. HOUSTON, of the Association, at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York City, from GEORGE A. PLAKEY, the Chicago representative of the Association. He exhibited the telegram to the writer which is being set forth at this point for ready reference:

November 10, 1937

Attorney Charles E. Houston,
69 Fifth Avenue
New York City

[REDACTED] TOGETHER WITH THIRTY OTHER NEGROES SOLD AND HELD SLAVES IN STOCKADE AT HALLEY ARKANSAS. FIFTEEN AT POINT OF GUNS HAVE FEDERAL OFFICERS INVESTIGATE AT ONCE EXTREME CAUTION OF URGENT IMPORTANCE TO [REDACTED] PROTECT PRISONERS LIVES! [REDACTED]

(b)(c); (b)

(signed) George A. Plakey
Chicago Branch N.A.A.C.P.,
Room 215, 345 State St.,
Chicago, Ill. "

As indicated in the above mentioned communication to the Attorney General, Wilkins stated that he had no information as to the names of the negroes allegedly held in peonage aside from the [REDACTED] mentioned in the telegram, and he suggested that agents of the Bureau interview George A. Plakey at Chicago, Illinois for more detailed information.

(b)(1)(A)

He indicated at this time that he had no information about the alleged violation of the Peonage Statute involving negroes named [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] from Memphis, Tenn., in Desha County at McGehee, Arkansas, in June 1937, as reflected in the reports of Special Agent [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], dated at Little Rock, Arkansas, dated December 1, 1937, and Special Agent [REDACTED], dated at Memphis, Tenn., September 24, 1937.

(b)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

who is being, or has been, interviewed by agents of the Little Rock Office at [REDACTED] with reference to this matter.

DEVELOPED LEADS:

CHICAGO OFFICE:

At Chicago, Ill. - Will interview GEORGE A. HALEY, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Room 213, 345 South State Street, for detailed information relative to the alleged violation of the Peonage Statute, as contained in his telegram to the New York office of the Association, dated November 10, 1937, as set out in the body of this report.

The names and addresses of the negroes allegedly held, together with the details surrounding their arrest, should be obtained.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

March 1, 1938

(b) (5)(c)

50-1359

Special Agent in Charge,
Little Rock, Arkansas.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
BOY SAILORS - COMPLAINTS;
PROHIB.

Dear Sir:

The Bureau file in the above entitled case indicates that this case is not receiving prompt investigative attention in your division.

This matter should be placed in line for early investigative attention and you should submit a report to the Bureau at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.



50-1359-5

SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED
MAR 1 1938 r.m.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

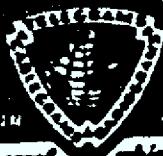
C. E. G.

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	FOREIGN
TELEGRAM	TELEGRAPH
DAY LETTER	LETTER
NIGHT MESSAGE	MESSAGE
NIGHT LETTER	NOTICE
TELE	TELEGRAPH
TELEGRAM	TELEGRAPH

PATRON SHOULD CHECK CLASS OF SERVICE
DESIRED. STANDARD TELEGRAM WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FULL-DAY MESSAGE.

Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM



TELEGRAMS - CABLEGRAMS - RADIOGRAMS

RECEIVER'S NUMBER

CODE

TIME PLATE

STANDARD TIME

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to:

FBI LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

MAY 7, 1938 1:20 PM

D. W. LADD
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
1900 BANKERS BUILDING
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

EXSUB RAY WILKINS COMPLAINT PROHAGE DISCONTINUED CASE CLOSED

FLETCHER

50-1327-

RECEIVED	
MAY 10 1938 A.M.	
FBI LITTLE ROCK	
FBI	

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
GOVERNMENT RATE
CHARGE - FBI LITTLE ROCK

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

PAGE NO. 9
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

FILE NO. 5-38

REPORT NUMBER	DATE WHEN MADE	REPORTER'S SIGNATURE	REPORT MADE BY
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS	5-6-38	6-25, 5-5-38	[REDACTED]
NAME	CHARACTER OF CASE		
THEODORE STURGIS, ATTY. GENERAL - C. W. CLARK			(b)6(c)
ADDRESS	PHONAGE		

SUMMARY OF FACTS:

No evidence discovered to indicate complaint by National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New York, New York, that thirty negroes are being held virtually as slaves in a stockade at Malley, Arkansas, and worked at the point of gun.

United States Attorney at Little Rock, certified prosecution, May 3, 1938.

- 3 -

REFERENCE:

Bureau letter dated December 16, 1937.

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED]
New York City, dated February 1, 1938.

DETAILS:
This investigation is predicated upon a letter received by the Attorney General from Mr. EUGENE MILLIKEN, Assistant Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New York City, dated November 11, 1937, in which it was stated that thirty negroes were being held virtually as slaves in a stockade at Malley, Arkansas, and were

New York City
Received [REDACTED] R. S.
Date dictated [REDACTED] from Bureau
2-11-38 MAY 12 1938

MAY 10 1938

~~he has worked at the point of [redacted]~~

~~This letter was referred by the Attorney General to
the Bureau for appropriate investigation.~~

b6 b7c (b)

(b) (6)(B) (b)

(b)(6)(C)

These facts were discussed on May 3, 1938 with the United States Attorney, Fred A. Legris, at Little Rock, Arkansas, who stated that there is no indication of any violation of the Peonage Statute; that the county work farm at Halley, Arkansas was a regular detention farm for prisoners, and as long as the prisoners were formally charged and sentenced in the Court of Law they were lawfully detained; that since there was no indication that any negroes were being unlawfully detained at Halley, Arkansas, prosecution would not be authorized in this case.

ENCLOSURE

TO THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, LITTLE ROCK:

Letter dated November 22, 1937 from Elton McElroy, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. to FRED A. LEGRIS, United States Attorney, Little Rock, Arkansas.

ENCLOSURES: (Cont.)

TO THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, LITTLE ROCK:

Photostatic copy of letter dated November 11,
1967 from ROY WILKINS, Assistant Secretary, National Associa-
tion for the Advancement of Colored People, New York City,
New York to the Attorney General at Washington, D. C.

C L O S E D

====

b6(c)

50-1359-6

May 16, 1938

MR

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL NOVAK

To: UNKNOWN SUBJECT
ROY WILKINS - Complaint
PHOENIX

Reference is made to my memorandum of November 16, 1937, acknowledging the receipt of your memorandum dated November 13, 1937, relative to an alleged violation of the Peonage Statute at Malley, Arkansas, reported to the Attorney General by Mr. Roy Wilkins, Assistant Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New York, New York.

Please be advised that investigation of this matter has been completed by the Little Rock, Arkansas, office of this Bureau, with the result that it has been ascertained that no factual basis exists for the allegations made.

A copy of the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Little Rock, Arkansas, May 6, 1938, reporting the closing of this investigation, has already been furnished to you.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 16 1938

P. D.
FBI - LITTLE ROCK
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

b7c

b6(c)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This case originated at LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

FILE NO. 50-3

REPORT MADE BY Chicago, Ill.	DATE OF INFORMATION 5/16/38	REPORT PERIOD 4/22, 23/38	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] (b)(c)
TITLE MISSOURI SUBJECTS ROY WELDERS - CO-PLAINTANT		CHARACTER OF CASE PROBATE	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS GEORGE A. BLAKEY, Chicago, informed [REDACTED] b7c, b1 no information			
R.O.C.			
REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] b7c New York City, dated 2/1/38.			
DETAILS: <u>AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS:</u>			
<p>GEORGE A. BLAKEY, Negro Attorney, 3456 South State Street, upon interview informed that he was an attorney as well as a member of the Executive Committee for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the offices of this association being just across the hall from those of MR. BLAKEY. He informed that during November, 1937, upon receipt of the original complaint in this matter from [REDACTED] he merely relayed the information to the national headquarters of the association at New York City in the absence of the President of the association at Chicago. He stated that he furnished the national headquarters of New York of this Association with a copy of the complaint letter which [REDACTED] b7c</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>reձ</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">DO NOT DESTROY OR TURN OVER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">50-1359-7</p> <p style="text-align: right;">MAY 18 1938</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(b)(c) MAY 18 A.M.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(b)(c)</p>			
<p>Bureau - 3 Little Rock - 3 Chicago - 2</p>			

[REDACTED] BLAKEY was unable to locate his file on this matter, and, accordingly, informed Agent that he could not furnish him with any other information, therupon suggesting an interview with [REDACTED].
BLAKEY stated that in the event he found his file containing a copy of the original of this letter from [REDACTED], he would advise the Chicago Office of this Bureau in order that the file might be made available to an Agent.

b6c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

REMAINED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

Post Office Box 1400
Little Rock, Arkansas
May 26, 1938

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

Reference is made to your letter dated May 27, 1938
(50-1200), pertaining to the information contained in a letter directed
by the Memphis Office to the Bureau dated May 16, 1938, with respect to [REDACTED] (b)(7)(C)

Reference is respectfully made to the cases entitled as
follows:

[REDACTED] "Peonage", Little Rock Origin
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] Statutes; 107 WILLIAMS, Complaint; Peonage".
[REDACTED] Little Rock Origin, Bureau File No 50-1200
[REDACTED] Peonage", Little Rock Origin, Bureau
File No 50-1200

All of these cases reflect an initial complaint similar
or identical with that contained in the letter of the Memphis Office dated
May 16, 1938, and it is particularly noted that that letter reflects the
lawful conviction of [REDACTED]
As indicated in the above letter, these facts have been presented to the
United States Attorney at Little Rock, Arkansas, and he has consistently
advised that so long as the plantation constitutes a regular detention
farm for prisoners, and so long as prisoners are lawfully charged and
sentenced in a court of law, they are lawfully detained and there is no
indication of violation of the Peonage Statute.

It is noted that in the case entitled [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the plantation owner and operator by [REDACTED] is a
[REDACTED] Arkansas State for St. Francis, Cross and Woodruff Counties, and
[REDACTED] Arkansas, the point of the alleged offense, is located in
[REDACTED] County, Arkansas.

It is respectfully requested that this office and the Memphis
Office be advised whether an investigation is desired in view of the fact
that the United States Attorney's office holds that those facts, as
indicated, do not constitute a violation of the Peonage Statute.

Very truly yours,

E. O. PLUMMER
Special Agent in Charge

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY