



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

# **VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER**

## **PART 9 OF 14**

**FILE NUMBER : 44-28601**

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

The informant is Gary Thomas Rowe  
who furnished information leading to the  
arrest of subjects charged with the murder  
of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo.

*JK*

HGR

*John R*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: May 20, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Gary Thomas Rowe, our informant who furnished information identifying the subjects responsible for the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on 3/25/65

During April, 1965, Rowe was returned to Alabama to testify against subjects before Federal and state grand juries and on 5/3/65 he was returned to Alabama to testify in the state murder trial of subject Collie Leroy Wilkins. Since the trial, which concluded with a hung jury on 5/7/65

has been accompanied by SA [redacted] of the Birmingham Office who was handling the informant at the time he furnished the initial information identifying the subjects in this case. It was felt necessary that SA [redacted] accompany him during the crucial period of his appearances before the grand juries and at the state murder trial in order to insure his protection and to maintain effective control over him.

It is not anticipated that his testimony will be needed in Alabama before the retrial of Wilkins or the initial trials of the other two subjects Eugene Thomas and William Orville Eaton which are tentatively scheduled for September and October, 1965.

## OBSERVATIONS:

REC-19

MAY 26 1965

and we have received no indication that he is in any immediate personal danger, it does not appear necessary that he be accompanied at all times by an Agent.

JWH/ral  
(6)

CONTINUED - OVER

TRUE COPY

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Your comments and letter have been very much appreciated. Our history class was very happy and also proud to receive your comments which were very helpful in helping us draw conclusions.

We understand why you can't give us more information, and we were surprised that you could tell us as much as you did. We realize your position and are glad you answered as you did.

We certainly don't want to be too time consuming-- and if we are, don't bother with us, we understand; but we have more questions! Living in Alabama, we realize that we are looked down on by many--especially those in the North. Still we want to see justice done, and that's why I want to question you on the Liuzzo Case and FBI-man, Rowe. Is this really an FBI agent, and was this an attempt to infiltrate the Klan? It seems like a good idea, if Rowe is what he says he is. (This is what I wonder about.) Another thing I'm interested in is the U. K. A., and that's why I enclosed the newspaper clipping; some of the issues in it raise questions. What do you think about KKK and the others? Answer as you see fit, and thanks again!

Sincerely,

REC-18

21 MAY 25 1965

EX 105



Dear Mr. Hoover:

Your comments and letter have been very much appreciated. Our history class was very happy and also proud to receive your comments which were very helpful in helping us draw conclusions.

We understand why you can't give us more information, and we were surprised that you could tell us as much as you did. We realize your position and are glad you answered as you did.

We certainly don't want to be too ~~big~~ consuming — and if we are, don't bother with us, we understand; but we have more questions! Living in Alabama, we realize that we are looked down on by many — especially those in the north. Still we want to see justice done, and so why it is that to question you on the ~~dinggo~~ Case and FBI-man, Rowe. Is this



really an FBI agent, and was this an attempt to infiltrate the Klan? It seems like a good idea, if Rowe is what he says he is. (This is what I wonder about.) Another thing I'm interested in is the U. K. A., and that's why I enclosed the newspaper clipping; some of the issues in it raise questions. What do you think about KKK and the others? Uncover as you see fit, and think again!

Sincerely,

 b7c

testimony of an accomplice.

see obit.

The state claimed Rowe's testimony was backed up by a number of FBI agents and a state trooper who appeared as witnesses.

Rowe was the man who broke the case within hours of the time Mrs. Liuzzo, a civil rights worker from Detroit, was shot as she ferried marchers between Montgomery and Selma.

He had joined the Klan five years ago to spy for the FBI. He was in the killer's car when the slaying took place, he said.

It was Rowe's testimony that put into Wilkins' hand the gun that fired the fatal bullet as two cars sped through the night.

His testimony also put Klansmen Eugene Thomas and William Orville Eaton in the car as participants. These two men will be tried later.

A question for the jury was whether Rowe himself was in on the killing. He testified he didn't fire his gun.

The racial aspects of the slaying were woven throughout the case. Murphy showed Mrs. Liuzzo to be a member of the NAACP and SNCC, a woman who participated in the Selma to Montgomery march, and a white woman who was driving a car with a Negro boy in the front seat on the night of her death.

He showed the FBI as a group striving to "break the back of the United Klans of America."

State prosecutors Circuit Solicitor Arthur Gamble Jr., County Solicitor Perdue, and Joseph Ganit of the state attorney-general's office told the jury they knew prejudice was at the heart of the case.

They pleaded for "justice" in Lowndes County and a verdict that would reflect credit on the county and the State of Alabama in the eyes of the world.

The case was covered by some 40 newsmen from cities in the U.S. and abroad in the setting of a country courthouse deep in Alabama.

May 25, 1965

REC-18 44 28601-366

EX-105

Dear [REDACTED] b7c

Your letter of May 18th, with enclosure, has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I would like to point out that Gary Thomas Rowe furnished information to this Bureau for which he was compensated; however, he was not a Special Agent. Since litigation in the case to which you referred has not been concluded, I am sure you will understand why it is not possible for me to comment as you desire.

As I pointed out in my prior letter, information in our files must be maintained as confidential. However, general background information concerning the organization you mentioned can be found in "The FBI Story" by Don Whitehead which may be available in your school or local library.

Enclosed is some material which I hope you and your classmates will find of interest.



Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

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

Enclosures (2)

FBI and Civil Rights

The FBI's Role in the Field of Civil Rights

NOTE: [REDACTED]

confidential.

CJJ:pjl (3)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

He was advised at this time that our files are



FBI

Date: 5/21/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-23601)  
FROM: SAC, HOUSTON (100-10146)(C)  
SUBJECT: VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - DECEASED  
RACIAL MATTERS;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

RE: Bureau letter to Houston, 5/10/65.

As directed in referenced Bureau letter, Houston has compared the photograph of [REDACTED] as received from D. [REDACTED] and confirmation of identity of this photograph with that of [REDACTED] aka, has been made. These two persons are identical.

For the information of other offices [REDACTED]

- 3 - Bureau (AM)(RM)  
1 - Albuquerque (Info)(AM)(RM)  
1 - Detroit (Info)(AM)(RM)  
1 - Mobile (Info)(AM)(RM)  
2 - Houston  
(1 - 100-10146)  
(1 - 100-1509)

JSW:pl  
(6)

REC-47

8 MAY 24 1965

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M

367  
J. W. [REDACTED]  
SIX  
MAY 24 1965

## Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (44-28601)  
Attention: Crime Records Division

DATE: 5-11-65

FROM : SAC, Birmingham (44-1236)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;  
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL - VICTIMS  
CR - EL [unclear] [unclear]

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

Remyairtel 5-5-65 setting out information regarding the request of WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE to prepare articles and possibly a novel concerning the activities of GARY THOMAS ROWE, Jr., Bureau informant regarding Klan activities.

On 5-10-65 WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE called me from New York and stated he had been in contact with "The Saturday Evening Post" in New York City. He stated that during those contacts he had determined that JIMMY BRESLIN, "New York Herald Tribune," (whom he described as an excellent writer), had been trying to "peddle ROWE's story to 'The Saturday Evening Post.'" HUIE stated that he also understood that other writers may be trying to "peddle ROWE's story," and that, in his opinion, it would be a "sad mistake" for ROWE to deal with any writer until his services as a Government witness have been completed in full. HUIE expressed the opinion that if it becomes publicly known that ROWE is dealing with writers regarding his story, such information might jeopardize his effectiveness as a witness in any future trial.

No information whatsoever was furnished HUIE, and he was advised that his call would be made a matter of record.

The above has been submitted for the Bureau's information.

( 2-Bureau  
2-Birmingham  
EJI:rlg  
(4)

REC-13

44-28601-370

MAY 17 1965

CRIME RESEARCH



JUN 1 1965

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)  
Attn: Training Division

DATE: 5/26/65

FROM : SAC, DETROIT (44-643)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka, ET AL - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

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

For Bureau information only, please find enclosed herewith a newspaper clipping from the Athens Daily Post of Athens, Greece, of the Friday, May 7, 1965, edition concerning instant trial.

This was forwarded to SA [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] a personal acquaintance of [REDACTED] who is currently traveling abroad. [REDACTED] indicated his continuing admiration of the Director and thought that the enclosed newspaper clipping might be of interest. b7c

Appreciation has been expressed to [REDACTED]

2 - Bureau (Enc. 1) ENCLOSURE  
1 - Detroit  
RHS:sal  
(3)

44-100

REC 8

44-28601-37

21 MAY 28 1965



66 JUN 11 1965

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Klu Klux Klansman In "Alabama" Trial?

HAYNEVILLE, Alabama, May 6 (UPI) — An all-white jury that heard the defense accuse the states star witness of being a "white nigger", today, began deliberating the fate of Klu Klux Klansmen charged with murdering Detroit civil rights workers

Mrs. Violet Liuzzo after four days of dramatic testimony.

Defense atty, Matt Murphy spent one hour and seven minutes before the jury pleading for the freedom of his client, 21-year-old Collie Leroy Wilkins.

Murphy spent much of his time denouncing Gary Thomas Rowe, the FBI informant who testified he saw Wilkins lean from a speeding car and fire the shots that killed Mrs. Liuzzo.

Rowe allegedly infiltrated the Klan. He said he was with Wilkins and two other Klansmen the night Mrs. Liuzzo was shot as she on a negro, Leroy Moran, 21, drove along a bare stretch of Alabama highway the night of March 25, a few hours after the Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights March ended.

Referring to Rowe, Murphy asked the jury: "what kind of man is he? is he a white man or is he a white nigger?"

"What kind of man is this who comes into a fraternal organization (the klan by hook or crook, takes the sacred oath) and sees his soul for 30 pieces of silver?"

He disregarded God."

Are you dealing with the devil himself? "can you believe such a man, treacherous as a rattlesnake, who would sell his soul for a little bit of gold?" "He held himself out to be a white man, but he's worse than a white nigger."

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

? Athens Daily Post  
Athens, Greece

Date: 5/7/65  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor: T  
Title:

Character:

or

Classification: CR  
Submitting Office: Detroit

☐ Being Investigated

100-371

670

67a

**WEA:wea**

DIRECTOR, FBI

5/27/65

SAC, BIRMINGHAM

WAT. ROSS  
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA  
RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)

ReBulet 5/21/65.

Matter described in Bureau letter 5/12/65 to Mr. [REDACTED] ROSS, copies to Birmingham and San Francisco, was discussed with GARY THOMAS ROWE by Inspector JOSEPH A. SULLIVAN 5/26/65.

ROWE stated he regards ROSS' proposal in the same light as that made by WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE. He has no interest in contacting ROSS or in having any commercial exploitation of his activities as an informant for the FBI.

2 - Bureau  
2 - San Francisco  
1 - Birmingham

JAS:mjh  
(5)

44-38601  
NOT RECORDED  
188 JUN 3 1965

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>MOBILE</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MOBILE</b>	DATE <b>5/25/65</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>4/20-5/19/65</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL: VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka; LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA [REDACTED] b7c</b>	TYPED BY <b>18</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>CR - EL</b>	

REFERENCE: Report of SA [REDACTED] at Mobile dated **4/3/65** b7c.

- P -

## ADMINISTRATIVE:

No dissemination of this report will be made to the U.S. Attorney, Montgomery, Ala., or the Departmental Attorney on scene at Selma, Ala., until such time as the Bureau furnishes approval for the dissemination of this report.

Regarding information contained in the second paragraph, Administrative Data, of referenced report, the Houston Office has advised that information furnished by the [REDACTED] appears to refer to an individual named [REDACTED] and not to victim's husband, ANTHONY J. LIUZZO.

APPROVED  COPIES MADE:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
③ - Bureau (44-28601) 1 - USA, Montgomery 1 - Departmental Attorney, Selma 1 - Atlanta (44-1765)(Info) 1 - Birmingham (44-1236)(Info) 2 - Mobile (44-1245)		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">44-28601-376</div> <div style="font-weight: bold;">JUN 4 1965</div>
DISSEMINATION IN KIND OF ATTACHED REPORT AGENCY: <b>94-11</b> REQUEST RECD: <b>6-3-65</b> DATE FWD: <b>6-24-65</b> HOW FWD: <b>228/11</b> BY:		NOTATIONS <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; transform: rotate(-10deg);">1111</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; transform: rotate(-10deg);">SD-7</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; transform: rotate(-10deg);">1cc 2 synopses Sect. 1</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; transform: rotate(-10deg);">Chlorine</div>

70 JUN 8 1965



The investigative period of instant report overlaps with the investigative period of the last report due to the fact that information is contained herein which shows preparatory information concerning the preparations for the trial of subject COLLIE LEROY WILKINS at Hayneville, Ala., on 5/3/65.

LEADS:

ATLANTA AND BIRMINGHAM (INFORMATION)

One copy of this report is designated for the Birmingham and Atlanta Divisions for information purposes due to the close proximity of these Offices to the Mobile Division and to apprise them of the status of instant case.

MOBILE

AT HAYNEVILLE, ALABAMA: Will follow and report results of State prosecution regarding subjects THOMAS, WILKINS and EATON.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

1 - United States Attorney, Montgomery, Alabama  
1 - Departmental Attorney, Selma, Alabama

Report of:

SA [REDACTED] b7c

Office: MOBILE

Date:

May 25, 1965

Field Office File No.:

44-1245

Bureau File No. 44-28601

Title:

EUGENE THOMAS;  
ET AL;  
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO;  
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS

Character:

CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis:

Information developed prior to trial of COLLIER LEROY WILKINS, 5/3/65, that defense attorney, MATT H. MURPHY, JR., is considered the chief "Kloncil" of the United Klans of America; that MURPHY would make possible efforts to have prosecution witness GARY THOMAS ROWE arrested at time of his appearance to testify at Hayneville, Ala., or would make some efforts to embarrass Government witnesses during course of trial.

Nothing developed regarding the above with the exception that MURPHY was extremely critical of ROWE during trial and criticized the President and the Government in general for their participation in the investigation of the murder of victim LIUZZO.

ROWE served with Civil papers at Hayneville, Ala., during trial whereby MURPHY requested payment of \$6,000 in attorney's fees.

At trial, 5/3 through 7/65, prosecution presented case which established ROWE as eyewitness to the killing of victim LIUZZO and corroborating evidence to support ROWE's testimony consisted of the identification of the gun belonging to subject THOMAS which was identified as the murder weapon. Also established subjects were in the Selma - Montgomery, Ala., area on pertinent date, 3/25/65, when the victim was killed. Cartridge cases found at scene of murder also identified in Court as having been fired by weapon belonging to THOMAS.

Only defense witnesses utilized by MURPHY failed to establish strong alibi.

Case submitted to Jury for deliberation afternoon of 5/6/65 and Jury reported 5/7/65 it was "hopelessly deadlocked." Mistrial declared by Circuit Judge, 5/7/65. Information developed Jury voted 10 for conviction and 2 against.

Various members of United Klans of America observed attending trial during week of 5/3 through 7/65, Hayneville, Ala., who were personally known to Bureau Agents.

- P -

DETAILS:

PREPARATION FOR TRIAL IN  
CIRCUIT COURT, HAYNEVILLE, ALABAMA

On April 23, 1965, an article appeared in the Mobile Press Register, a daily newspaper published at Mobile, Alabama, under by-line of "Three Men Surrender on Liuzzo Charges." This article is set forth in substance as follows:

Three Ku Klux Klansmen surrendered to officers, Thursday, on indictments charging them with murdering a white civil rights worker after the Selma to Montgomery march.

The first degree murder indictments were returned earlier on that day by the Lowndes County Grand Jury at Hayneville, Alabama. The jury was highly critical of statements by President JOHNSON in connection with the death of VIOLA LIUZZO, a Detroit, Michigan, mother of five.

The Klansmen surrendered in Birmingham and posted \$10,000 bond each. Their cases go on the docket for the next term of Circuit Court in Hayneville, Alabama, beginning May 3, 1965, and conviction of first degree murder carries a penalty of death or life imprisonment.

Although the Grand Jury made no specific mention of any case it investigated, the eighteen members in their written report to Judge T. WERTH THAGGARD, deplored the "actions and statements of the President and others in high Government places in connection with" Mrs. LIUZZO's death.

"We feel that these actions and statements have been unjust and unfair and have created undue and unusual problems in this matter," the report declared.

The white men indicted by the white jury were EUGENE THOMAS, age 42, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, age 41, both of Bessemer, Alabama, and COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., age 21, of Fairfield, Alabama.

The indictments charged that each man "unlawfully and with malice aforethought killed VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO by shooting her with a pistol." The language was identical in each of the three indictments.

The three men told a news conference they were innocent. "I am not guilty and I think I've been ridiculed enough as it is" said THOMAS. The other two made similar statements.

Their attorney, MATT H. MURPHY, JR., said he would subpoena the President and possibly FBI Director J. EDGAR HOOVER if necessary in his efforts to defend the men.

He said they could "not possibly have a fair trial" because of JOHNSON's remarks about the arrest of Klan members.

LEROY NOTON, age 19, a Selma Negro, who accompanied victim LIUZZO at the time she was shot, escaped injury and reported the slaying after hitching a ride to Selma, Alabama.

The three arrested Thursday, THOMAS, EATON, and WILKINS, had been indicted by a Federal Grand Jury on Civil Rights charges but the fourth man, GARY THOMAS ROWE, age 34, of Birmingham, was not indicted. He subsequently appeared as a witness before the County Grand Jury.

The New York Times said ROWE, a former operator of a bar in Birmingham, has been paid as an undercover agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation since 1959, working inside of the KKK.

The Grand Jury members who returned eighteen indictments at Hayneville, Alabama, also expressed resentment in their report over actions of civil rights groups which came to Lowndes and neighboring counties during the drive to dramatize demands for equal rights for Negroes.

The Jury commended Lowndes County residents "for the fine manner in which they have conducted themselves during these trying days" and criticized news media which it said

"by their actions and attitudes have also contributed additional problems."

The following contacts were had with Circuit Solicitor ARTHUR GAMBLE by Inspector JOSEPH A. SULLIVAN and SA ROBERT L. FRYE prior to the trial of May 3, 1965:

[REDACTED]

On April 26, 1965, GAMBLE advised that a preliminary hearing was held that date for subjects WILKINS, THOMAS, and EATON at Hayneville, Alabama. They were represented by their attorney, MATT H. MURPHY, JR., and all entered pleas of "not guilty" to charges in the indictment.

On April 27, 1965, it was reported in an article appearing in the Mobile Press Register, Final Edition, that ROBERT M. SHELTON, JR., Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, sat at the counsel table with Klan attorney MATT H. MURPHY, JR. prior to the preliminary hearing in Court at Hayneville, Alabama, on April 26, 1965.

On April 28, 1965, GAMBLE stated that no information had come to his attention indicating that the defense in captioned case might possibly attempt to arrest GARY THOMAS ROWE in connection with his appearance as a witness in County Court in Hayneville, May 3, 1965. GAMBLE stated he had checked with the Sheriff's Office on April 28, 1965, and there was no indication that any action against ROWE of any sort was scheduled based on available data.

He stated he would be alert in connection with this matter and prepare to take any necessary action to offset attempts by the defense to create difficulties for ROWE.

GAMBLE advised that the defense had requested subpoenas for the individuals listed below, indicating that defense was prepared to utilize them as witnesses.

ROBERT THOMAS,  
2519 18th Avenue, North,  
Birmingham or Bessemer, Alabama;

ROBERT CREEL,  
1701 13th Avenue,  
Bessemer, Alabama;

ROBERT CARROL,  
3425 1/2 9th Avenue, North,  
Birmingham or Bessemer, Alabama;

Lieutenant ROBERT LARRY or LONG,  
Birmingham Police Department;

Captain TOM COOK,  
Birmingham Police Department;

HERBERT PAGE,  
54 South 55th Street,  
Birmingham or Bessemer, Alabama;

LORENE FREDRICK,  
Bessemer, Alabama.

FREDRICK and CARROL were believed to be alibi witnesses for the defendant, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS.

On April 29, 1965, GAMBLE advised that the defense in the WILKINS case had requested subpoenas for the following witnesses:

J. EDGAR HOOVER;

LLOYD WALLACE SMITH,  
Route 1,  
Mount Olive, Gardendale, Alabama;

JOYCE POWELL,  
Route 1,  
Mount Olive, Gardendale, Alabama;

TARNIE DAY,  
924 Court West,  
Birmingham, Alabama;



L. HOLT,  
no address listed;

DOROTHY ROWE,  
care of Carraway Methodist Hospital;

Colonel AL J. LINGO.

On April 30, 1965, GAMBLE advised that he had discussed the problems raised concerning the use of Bureau witnesses in the trial and the possibility of the defense making efforts to embarrass the prosecution witnesses with Circuit Judge T. WERTH THAGGARD. He stated that the Judge had indicated that he did not intend to allow the defense to wander afar in any exploratory efforts to secure data from Bureau files or Bureau Agents which was unrelated to the facts of this murder case.

The Judge advised GAMBLE he tentatively planned to hear the arguments raised by the defense counsel, MATT H. MURPHY, JR., as to the jurisdiction of the Court as a result of the President's announcement of the arrest of the Klansmen in his chambers in order to avoid clearing the jury venire from the courtroom.

GAMBLE stated the Judge further advised him that if any effort was made to take any action against GARY THOMAS ROWE, such as arresting him, he would make every effort consistent with his jurisdiction to maintain him as a witness and free from custody during the course of this trial.

The Judge further advised the Circuit Solicitor that any action consistent with his authority that he could take to avoid any complicated situations over the witness ROWE would be taken wherever possible. GAMBLE advised that the Judge was determined that this trial would be conducted in a decorous orderly manner and he was going to permit no demonstrations by any parties which might in any way prejudice the jury.

On May 1, 1965, the Birmingham Post Herald, a daily newspaper published at Birmingham, Alabama, under date line of May 1, 1965, carried the following news release:

MATT H. MURPHY, JR., attorney for THOMAS, WILKINS, and BATON, said, "things are shaping up favorably for our

case and I might ask for all three to be tried at once." He originally was granted a request for separate trials for these men.

On May 2, 1965, [redacted] advised SA [redacted] that on May 1, 1965, the Ku Klux Klan held a meeting at Bladen Springs, Alabama, and between 200 and 300 persons attended the meeting. NED DUNAGAN, Coffeeville, Alabama, appeared to be in charge of the meeting, which was held in a State Park. DUNAGAN introduced ROBERT CREEL, Grand Dragon of the United Klans of America, from Bessemer, Alabama. CREEL later introduced three men who were "identified as men charged with murder of victim LIUZZO."

HOLLIS CURL, Editor, Choctaw County Advocate, a weekly newspaper published at Butler, Alabama, advised SA [redacted] that ROBERT CREEL, Grand Dragon, from Bessemer, Alabama, attended an organizational meeting of the Ku Klux Klan at Bladen Springs, Alabama. CREEL spoke at the meeting and introduced three men who were identified as being the persons that were arrested for the murder of victim LIUZZO. CURL stated that these three men did not speak and were only introduced at this meeting with a comment by CREEL "do these men look like murderers?"

On May 6, 1965, an article appeared in the Choctaw County Advocate of Butler, Alabama, a weekly newspaper published at Butler, under the caption "LIUZZO Defendants appear at Bladen Springs Klan Rally; One on Trial Now."

The article is set out in substance as follows:

For the estimated attendance of approximately 200 persons last Saturday night's rally of the Ku Klux Klan at Bladen Springs, the appearance of three defendants in the LIUZZO slaying came as quite a surprise. WILKINS, EATON and THOMAS appeared at the rally in the company of Alabama Grand Dragon ROBERT CREEL and Klan attorney MATT H. MURPHY, JR.

Klan Grand Dragon CREEL presented the group at the rally at Bladen Springs and asked those attending "do these men look like murderers?" Their appearance at the rally followed a talk by their attorney, MATT MURPHY.

MURPHY, attired in brilliant red robe, was the first speaker of the evening. His talk dealt primarily with

the Klan's opposition to the Federal Reserve System, international finance, and the "Zionist Jew." MURPHY lashed out at the Government's practice of pumping financial aid into countries that are hostile to the United States. Several times he mentioned an unbelievable sum of \$84 billion which he said was given to a small European country hardly larger than Choctaw County, Alabama. He also remarked at the wealth of this country, or any other country, would enjoy if a similar amount was spent there.

While MURPHY's talk was interesting, it was left to the Grand Dragon CREEL to comment on what most of those in attendance had apparently come to hear. CREEL, wearing an emerald green robe which he later removed, talked primarily on the civil rights question and the Klan's opposition to the integration of the races. He commented on the recent trouble at Selma, Alabama, and claimed that Reverend REEB's body was cremated because it was "rotten with cancer and syphilis." Reverend REEB died at a Birmingham hospital after he was beaten during racial incidents at Selma.

CREEL also attacked the proposed free textbook program backed by Governor GEORGE WALLACE. He said that this was one thing he and the Klan differed on with Governor WALLACE. CREEL said that he did not want his three children going to school with a bunch of "runny nosed niggers," said that he would buy his children's books and urged others to be allowed to do the same.

TRIAL OF COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.,  
MAY 3, 1965, AT HAYNEVILLE, ALABAMA

On May 3, 1965, [redacted] advised SA [redacted] that the trial in captioned matter against subject COLLIE LEROY WILKINS began May 3, 1965, at Hayneville. Two motions were filed by the defense counsel, HATT H. MURPHY, JR., and were ruled on by the Court, the first motion contested the justice of the Court because of publicity attendant to the announcement of subject's arrest by President JOHNSON, this motion was denied. A second motion to interview State witnesses, GARY THOMAS ROSE and LEROY MOTON, was granted. ad-67D

At approximately 2:00 p.m., Central Standard Time, of May 3, 1965, SA [redacted] observed that HATT H. MURPHY, JR. accompanied by RALPH MOTON, described as a [redacted] b7c



publicity man for the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, entered the office of County Solicitor in the Courthouse at Hayneville, Alabama. ROTON proceeded to set up a dictaphone and a tape recorder, both of which were placed in front of GARY THOMAS ROWE. MURPHY then asked ROWE the date he testified before the State Grand Jury. ROWE stated he had nothing to say at this time. MURPHY then asked ROWE if he had waived immunity before the State Grand Jury and ROWE answered that he had not waived immunity. MURPHY then asked ROWE if he had waived immunity before the Federal Grand Jury and ROWE again stated he had nothing to say at this time and would answer no questions.

MURPHY then asked ROWE under what circumstances he would answer his questions and ROWE stated he would answer MURPHY's questions from the witness stand in Court. MURPHY then told ROTON to turn off the machines and stated he would ask no further questions at that time. Before the beginning of the interview and prior to the time the recording machines were turned on, MURPHY asked ROWE if he had seen in the paper that he wore a gun at the Grand Jury and asked ROWE if he were armed at that time. ROWE stated he was not armed at that time and he had not been armed during the time he testified before the Grand Jury.

Shortly after the arrival of MURPHY and ROTON in the the County Solicitor's office at Hayneville, Alabama, Lowndes County Sheriff FRANK RYALS served the following summons on GARY THOMAS ROWE: "The State of Alabama, Lowndes County Circuit Court, Second Judicial Circuit of Alabama, to any Sheriff of the State of Alabama, Greetings: You are hereby commanded to summons GARY THOMAS ROWE to appear before the Circuit Court to be held for said County, at the place of holding the same within thirty days from service of this process, then and thereto answer the complaint of MATT H. MURPHY, JR., Witness my hand this third day of May 1965. Signed S. W. CHAMPION, Deputy Clerk." The complaint as noted on this paper set forth the following: "MATT H. MURPHY, JR., plaintiff, versus GARY THOMAS ROWE, defendant. Count One, Plaintiff claims of the defendant the sum of 6,000 and no hundred dollars (\$6,000.00) for professional services rendered by the plaintiff for the defendant at his request, on the, to wit, second day of April, 1965, which sum of money, with interest thereon, is due and unpaid and is the property of the plaintiff, Signed MATT H. MURPHY, JR. pro Se."

ROWE stated at the time he was served that he did

not owe MURPHY any money and if MURPHY is making this charge for legal services for making his bond, he is incorrect as he did not request either of these services of MURPHY.

On May 4, 1965, an article appeared in the Mobile Press Register, a daily newspaper published at Mobile, Alabama, under the caption "White, Male Jury Chose for WILKINS." The article is set forth in substance as follows:

A white, male jury was chosen on May 3, 1965, to try a young Alabamian for his life in the slaying of a white woman civil rights demonstrator. A Ku Klux Klan leader sat at the defense table as the trial opened.

Of the 84 men ruled eligible to serve on the jury, three admitted to Klan membership. This did not disqualify them, but the State quickly eliminated the three men when it exercised its right to excuse prospects without a stated cause.

Defendant COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, his dark hair crew cut, seemed very calm. He sat quietly with the other two defendants in the jury box during the selection of a jury. Facing a charge that could bring life imprisonment or death, the youth was sober faced.

The chunky WILKINS watched intently as prospective jurors - many of them farmers - were questioned about their attitudes. One of the prospective jurors was a Negro, ARTHUR MEANS, foreman of a cattle ranch. Most of the men wore suits or jackets.

Sitting with WILKINS and his companions part of the time was ROBERT H. SHELTON, JR. of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Imperial Wizard of the United Klans of America, Inc. SHELTON said "I'm here in the interest of seeing that these individuals get a fair trial."

At the beginning of the trial, defense attorney MATT H. MURPHY, JR. called attention to the absence from the Courtroom of President JOHNSON for whom he had obtained a subpoena as a defense witness.

Also on the defense witness list and absent was FBI Director J. EDGAR HOOVER. Neither official is expected to answer the subpoena which can be served only in the State and is not binding on the President in any event.

Defense attorney contended that when the President announced the arrest of the Klan members in the killing of Mrs. LIUZZO and he condemned the Klan for what he called its use of "the rope and the gun, the tar and feathers to terrorize their neighbors," their constitutional right to a fair trial was violated.

On May 4, 1968, [REDACTED] advised SA [REDACTED] of the following concerning the course of the trial: ad- b7D, b7C

Five witnesses for the prosecution had been called to the stand, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Alabama, followed [REDACTED] on the stand and testified as to the crime being within the jurisdiction of Lowndes County, Alabama. b7D, b7A



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7A

[REDACTED] b7A

After testimony of GARY THOMAS ROSE [REDACTED] A

[REDACTED], the Court recessed and defense attorney RATT MURPHY gave an immediate impromptu press conference outside of the Courthouse wherein he called GARY THOMAS ROSE a "prostitute, pimp, and stated he would take money from the FBI, taxpayers, or Castro."

[REDACTED] further advised that during the afternoon of May 6, 1968, defense counsel MURPHY

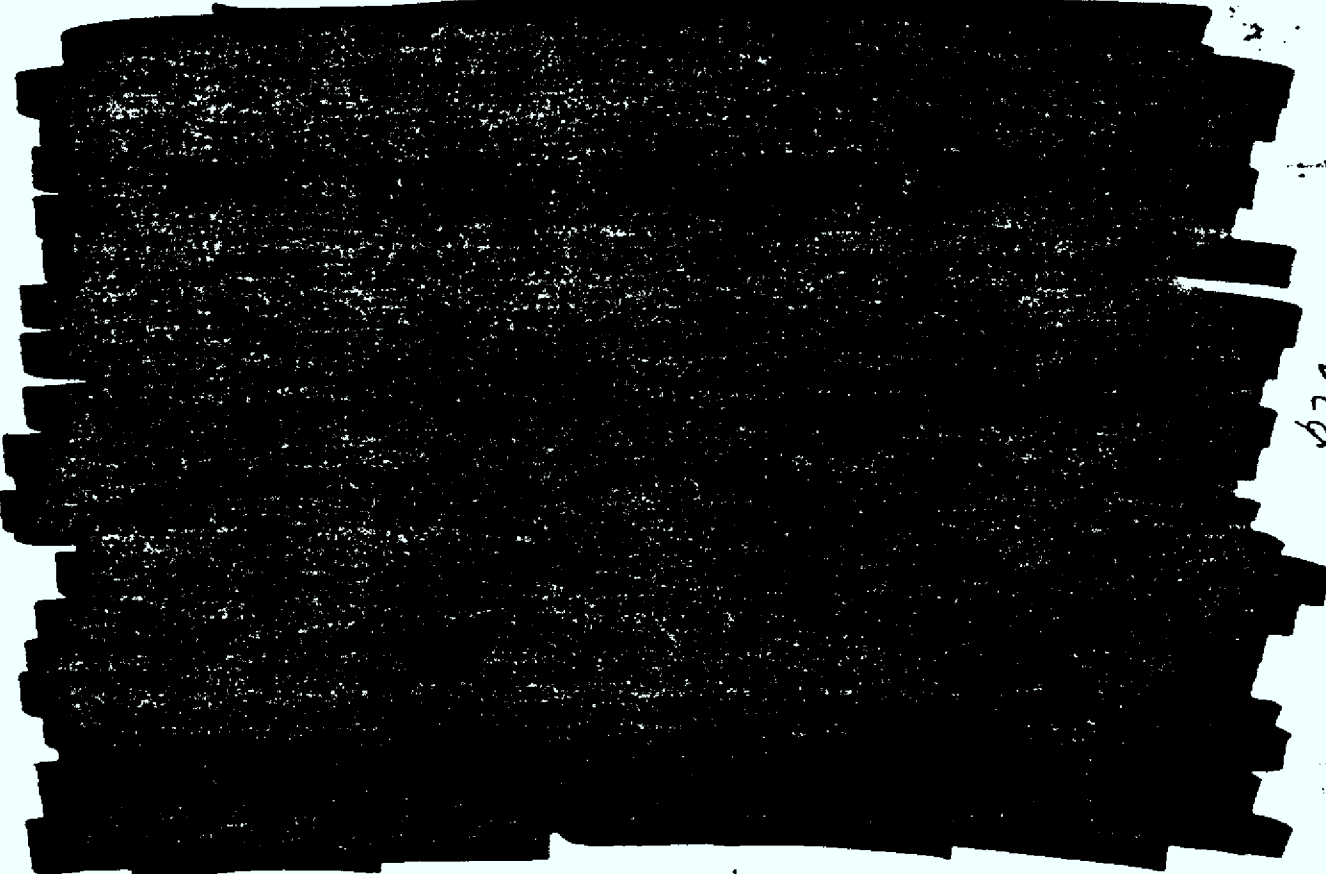

[REDACTED] after the day's proceeding, MURPHY told the press that WILLIAMS could not make the same examination on the witness stand that he made in the Laboratory in Washington. MURPHY stated this indicated that this problem was a very vital issue in the case. He said that considerable pressure was placed on this case in seeking a conviction by the President and this might be the reason that the same examination could not be done on the witness stand as was done in the Laboratory by WILLIAMS.

[REDACTED] b7C

After presentation of this testimony, the prosecution rested its case, pertaining to the murder of victim LUZZO.



ARTHUR GAMBLE, Circuit Solicitor, in his closing arguments before the jury summarized the testimony presented by ROVE.

67A

After the above argument by defense attorney MURPHY, Circuit Judge THAGGARD used approximately twenty minutes to charge the jury and explain the different degrees of murder and manslaughter and various legal aspects in reaching a verdict.

At 3:40 p.m., Central Standard Time, the Lowndes County jury took the case under consideration and went into deliberation on May 6, 1955.

Shortly after the jury went into deliberation, they

returned to the courtroom and inquired again concerning the distinction between the degrees of murder and manslaughter and returned to the jury room for the purpose of considering the case further.

The jury remained in deliberation until the morning of May 7, 1965, when they again returned to the courtroom and made several inquiries of Circuit Judge THAGGARD. One inquiry concerned again the distinction between the degrees of murder and manslaughter and the other inquiry related to the amount of weight that should be given to the testimony of an accomplice.

At 4:00 p.m., Central Standard Time, the jury was called into the courtroom of Circuit Judge THAGGARD and the jury foreman, CLIFFORD McMURPHY, was questioned as to the possibility of reaching a decision. The foreman stated that they had reached no decision and that the jury was "hopelessly deadlocked." At 4:05 p.m., Central Standard Time, on May 7, 1965, the Circuit Judge declared a mistrial in reference to the prosecution of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.

[REDACTED] advised on May 7, 1965 <sup>6K</sup> that various members of the jury had been questioned after the trial concerning their feelings and the progress of the trial. He said that CLIFFORD McMURPHY had stated "each member of the jury assessed the evidence with a different pair of eyes. I don't believe there was any racial prejudice or sectional feeling in this decision. I don't believe any man in the jury room was affected or persuaded by the affiliations of anyone on either side."

McMURPHY also stated that the vote was ten for conviction and two had held out for acquittal.

EDMUND SALLEE, another one of the jurors, had advised the press "it would have had to be on manslaughter because we could not have come that near to a conviction at all on a higher charge."

When SALLEE was asked as to the affect upon the jury of defense attorney MURPHY's remarks on racial prejudice, SALLEE replied "I think a great many of us were insulted to a great extent and he must have thought we were very, very ignorant to be taken in by that act." SALLEE also stated "We cannot allow murder on the highway here."

The two hold out jurors in the case were also questioned by the press. BILLY R. CHEATHAM, a bookkeeper, said of his reasons for voting acquittal, "I didn't accept his (ROWE's) testimony - not when he swore before God and broke his oath."

The other hold out juror, DAN LEE, a mechanic, told newsmen, referring to CHEATHAM, "me and him pretty well are on the same side." Both jurors denied any Klan affiliation, however, CHEATHAM said that he is a member of the White Citizens Council and LEE said he was a former member. Asked if he would have liked to see ROWE as a defendant with WILKINS, CHEATHAM replied, "very, very much so," and LEE said, "I agree."

The oath that the hold out jurors referred to, according to REX THOMAS, was the Klan oath which an individual takes upon admission to the Klan and this oath ends with "I will die rather than divulge same, so help me God."

KLANSMEN OBSERVED AT THE  
TRIAL OF COLLIE LEROY WILKINS

SA [REDACTED] of the Birmingham FBI Office is *bec* acquainted with the following individuals and observed them at the trial of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS:

ROBERT M. SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, was present each day of the trial. He sat at the counsel table with attorney PATT H. MURPHY, JR. part of the time. MURPHY is known to be Imperial Counsel of the United Klans of America.

WELVIN SEXTON, a member of the United Klans of America from Tuscaloosa Klavern No. 5, was observed in the courtroom and was observed to bring in a large metal box or file cabinet and place it by SHELTON's chair.

On Tuesday morning, May 4, 1965, CHARLES CLAYTON KELLEY, a member of Dessemmer Klavern No. 20, United Klans of America, was observed entering the courtroom. On May 5, 1965, SA [REDACTED] pointed out one CURTIS O. DOLES whom he knew as a member of the United Klans of America.

ROBERT S. THOMAS, Grand Titan, United Klans of America, also testified as a defense witness for COLLIE LEROY WILKINS.



MO 44-1245

EUGENE REEVES, Exalted Cyclops of Klavern No. 13 of the United Klans of America, was also used a defense witness.

It was also observed by SA [REDACTED] that Dr. EDWARD R. FIELDS, Director of the National States Rights Party, was present in the courtroom on May 5, 1965.

A characterization of United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and of the National States Rights Party are contained in the appendix to this report.

APPENDIXUNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED  
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (UNITED KLANS)

Records of Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, reflect that this Klan organization was granted a corporate charter on February 21, 1961, at Atlanta, Georgia, under the name United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc.

A source advised on February 27, 1961, that United Klans was formed as a result of a split in U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc. According to the source, the split resulted from a leadership dispute and United Klans has the same aims and objectives as the parent group: These are the promotion of Americanism, white supremacy and segregation of the races.

The first source and a second source advised in July, 1961, that United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc., merged with Alabama Knights, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The merged organization established headquarters in Suite 401, The Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The organization is directed by ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, and is the dominant Klan group in the South with units in several southern states.

Second source advised that at a meeting at Prattville, Alabama on October 22, 1961, the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, merged with the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

APPENDIXNATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY(NSRP)

On November 26, 1957, a source advised that the United White Party (UWP) was organized at a convention held in Knoxville, Tennessee, on November 10, 1957. An article in the November 26, 1957, issue of the "Greenville Piedmont," a newspaper of Greenville, South Carolina, reported "the recent formation of a new political party, to be known as the United White Party." According to the article, the party was formed at a recently held meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee, at which many klansmen were represented. The UWP was reported as being opposed to all "race mixing organizations and individuals."

The July 1958 issue of "The Thunderbolt," self-described as the "official Racial Nationalist Organ of the National States Rights Party" (NSRP), reported that rank and file "States Righters" had merged with the UWP under "the banner of the National States Rights Party," with national offices at Post Office Box 261, Jeffersonville, Indiana.

In November 1958 a source advised that the NSRP is composed of past members of klan-type organizations and notorious anti-Semites.

Issue Number 19, dated June 1960, "The Thunderbolt," announced the address of the headquarters of the NSRP had been changed from Jeffersonville, Indiana, to Post Office Box 783, Birmingham, Alabama.

Issue Number 54, dated November 1963, "The Thunderbolt," reflects the mailing address of the NSRP is still Post Office Box 783, Birmingham, Alabama.

On December 12, 1963 a source advised that EDWARD R. FIELDS, the Information Director of the NSRP and Editor of "The Thunderbolt," is the individual who "runs the NSRP."

"The Thunderbolt" continues to publish articles attacking "crosses and persons of the Jewish faith."

APPENDIX

F B I

Date: 5/4/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority)

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

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
 ATT: ASSISTANT DIRECTORS ALEX ROSEN AND  
 W. C. SULLIVAN

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
 MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA.,  
 ET AL - VICTIMS,  
 CR - EL  
 OO:MO

CIVIL SUIT AGAINST GARY THOMAS ROWE

On 5/3/65, GARY THOMAS ROWE, the Bureau informant who is appearing as a witness in the Liuzzo murder trial in Lowndes County, Alabama, was served with a civil summons by the Sheriff of Lowndes County. This summons notified ROWE that he was the defendant in a suit for the nonpayment of funds due for professional services rendered to him by MATT MURPHY. MURPHY is the counsel for the defendants in the LIUZZO case.

MURPHY's claim calls for a reply within 30 days in the Circuit Court for Lowndes County, and there is no question about ROWE's being within the jurisdiction of the court, since he was served by the Sheriff at the Lowndes County Courthouse in the presence of Bureau Agent.

INVESTIGATIVE POTENTIAL IN THIS SUIT

The potential for gain in undertaking an investigation of MURPHY's claim against ROWE is described below:

3 - Bureau  
 2 - Mobile  
 JAG:gjk  
 (5)

REC-11

44-28601-377

MAY 8 1965

ST-109

E O. Mice

66 JUN 1 1965

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

Per

1. It should be relatively easy to establish in this investigation that MATT MURPHY is a member of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK).

2. The KKK oath which MURPHY may have taken in joining the Klan, if it follows the pattern of some other Klan oaths, may possibly place him in the position where he is sworn to uphold the KKK over his country, his God, and his profession. This situation is noticeably true with the White Knights of the KKK of Mississippi, and a similar argument may be found in the case of the oath MURPHY may have taken.

3. It appears that it may be possible to establish that MURPHY knew prior to the day he performed the legal service for which he is claiming reimbursement, that ROWE was acting in the role of a government witness. For MURPHY to purport to represent ROWE, under the circumstances where he also represented three other defendants and had sworn loyalty to the KKK, be at best unethical and the basis for censure at least by the State Bar and possibly even disbarment action.

4. MURPHY may be embarrassed by being required to produce his records to show the consistency of this fee with his normal fees, for example his charges for the defense of WILKINS and the other LIUZZO defendants. A showing may be required of fees he has charged in other situations where he has appeared before U. S. Commissioners in other preliminary hearings.

5. It may be shown that no actual contract was ever entered into between ROWE and MURPHY; that MURPHY merely presumed to act on the behalf of ROWE, operating in his role as attorney for the KKK. It may be possibly shown in this regard that MURPHY is now bringing this civil action with a view to hurting ROWE's reputation and intimidating him as a witness.

6. It may further be shown that MURPHY was not diligent in dispatching his responsibilities as counsel for ROWE, since he had failed to learn that the matter had been before the Federal Grand Jury, and ROWE had not been indicted. The fact that this Grand Jury was prominently known and information



available through news services, suggests that normal  
e would have caused an attorney representing a poten-  
endant to consult with the USA's Office to determine  
the grand jury actually had affected a forthcoming  
against his client. MURPHY's failure to take such  
y be labeled as complete disregard for his client's  
and most unprofessional.

7. With the showing of the foregoing items, an  
y possibly be made in open court or the grand jury  
professional services MURPHY furnished ROWE for lack of  
and for bias against his client. His lack of good  
bringing this suit may also be exposed to public  
. On this basis, relief for ROWE may be asked in the  
it of court costs against MURPHY.

8. It is apparent that a successful prosecution  
claim by MURPHY would result in an expense to the  
t since ROWE was acting under the guidance of Bureau  
nd Departmental Attorneys in permitting MURPHY to  
t him at all.

#### MURPHY'S PURPOSE IN THIS SUIT

Lowndes County Circuit Solicitor ARTHUR E. GAMBLE  
sed that his press contacts have indicated to him  
HY plans a comeback as a lawyer and possibly a  
l comeback as a result of the victory he anticipates  
ling the subjects in this case. MURPHY is most  
to embarrass the government and the FBI in connection  
defense of this case.

#### POTENTIAL FOR GAIN IN DEFEATING MURPHY'S SUIT

It is apparent that an excellent opportunity exists  
situation for showing in open court that MATT MURPHY  
versive; that he is dishonest, and of dubious  
onal competence. Such a showing would be a severe  
MURPHY and would also affect the prestige of the KKK.

Consideration should be given to suggesting to House  
on Un-American Activities that they consider MURPHY's  
topic for future hearing on the role of the subversive  
in promulgating the aims of the KKK.

MURPHY, along with ROBERT SHELTON and J. B. STONER, and a few other key people, has a major role in Klan activity in the South. There have been indications that the people in this group have some knowledge of the facts in the Bapbomb case, and these people may also have some knowledge of the Greenbombs situation. An opportunity to move against one of these men is rarely found. In view of MURPHY's vulnerability in this case, we may be able to negotiate the disclosure of pertinent investigative data by dealing directly with him over this claim against ROWE.

Since there appear to be no serious objections to a Bureau investigation of MURPHY's claim, and we have the opportunity to rebuff an attempt to extort \$6,000 in addition to damaging the reputation of MURPHY and the KKK, the recommendations set forth hereafter are entitled to serious consideration.

A further issue which must be considered is the question of whether the government will represent ROWE in the defense of this suit, or whether he will require private counsel. This is a matter which should be taken up with the Department at this time.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Bureau authorize the investigation of the claim made by MURPHY in his civil action against ROWE. Any investigation should be conducted by following the general lines described herein. Mobile should be designated as origin in this matter, since this suit is lodged in State Circuit Court for Lowndes County in the Mobile Division.

2. That the Bureau consult the Department about ROWE's course of action in defending himself in MURPHY's suit against him. A specific determination should be made as to whether the Department will represent him or whether he will require private counsel.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: May 11, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO,  
AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

## FACTS:

On 5/3/65 Gary Thomas Rowe, Bureau informant who is appearing as a witness in the Liuzzo murder trial, currently in progress in Lowndes County, Alabama, was served with a civil summons by the sheriff of Lowndes County. The summons notified Rowe that he was the defendant in a suit for nonpayment of funds due in the amount of \$6,000 for professional services rendered to him by Attorney Matt Murphy. Murphy is the Klan attorney who represented Rowe and the other three subjects at the time of their initial arrests on 3/26/65 and arranged for their release on \$25,000 bond each. The summons requires Rowe to answer within thirty days in the circuit court for Lowndes County, Alabama. If he does not answer, it is possible that a default judgment could be obtained against him in the amount of \$6,000.

THE POTENTIAL FOR INVESTIGATION: 102 REC-125

The Mobile Office points out that should we undertake to investigate Murphy's claim against Rowe, it would afford us an opportunity to establish his membership in the Klan to discredit him as an attorney and expose to public scrutiny his lack of good faith in bringing such a suit resulting in his possible disbarment or censure by the state bar association.

According to Lowndes County Circuit Solicitor Gamble, Murphy plans a comeback as a lawyer and possibly a political comeback as a result of the victory he anticipates in defending the subjects in the Liuzzo murder and Murphy is anxious to embarrass the Government and the FBI in connection with the defense of the case. This is set forth by Mobile as a possible reason for Murphy's having brought this suit against Rowe and points out that as there would appear to be no serious objection

JWH/raT  
(7)

XEROX  
JUN 7 1965

CONTINUED - OVER



Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;

to a Bureau investigation of Murphy's claim as it would afford the Bureau an opportunity to rebutt any attempt to extort \$6,000 and in addition would damage the reputation of Murphy and the Ku Klux Klan.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF MOBILE OFFICE:**

Mobile recommended that the Bureau authorize the investigation of Murphy's claim against Rowe and consult the Department concerning Rowe's course of action in defending himself to determine if the Department would represent him or if he would require private counsel.

**OBSERVATIONS OF GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION:**

Attorney Murphy has publicly stated his connection with the Klan and has been publicly photographed in Klan robes. Under our domestic intelligence responsibilities we need no entree such as this suit to conduct an investigation of Matt Murphy. Murphy's claim of \$6,000 for professional services rendered is a private civil suit between a lawyer and his alleged client which does not constitute any basis for a Bureau investigation. To inject the Bureau into the situation without full and complete justification would place the Bureau in an embarrassing position and Murphy would take full advantage of this. This same reasoning would also apply to any direct participation by the Department in this suit.

Murphy's claim against Rowe would appear to be exorbitant and there is some real question as to contractual arrangements for his services which should be resolved to avoid a default judgment being rendered against Rowe for the entire amount. If such a judgment was rendered it might offer a serious obstacle to the return of Rowe to the State of Alabama when and if further testimony is needed.

[illegible]

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;

[REDACTED]

ACTION:

1. The field will be instructed that they are to conduct no investigation whatever concerning Murphy's civil claim against the informant.

OK  
H

[REDACTED]

b7c

4-11-61  
R  
OK  
R  
Clerk  
Q  
V  
OK

REC-125

5/13/65

1 - Mr. Hines

Airtel

To: SAC, Mobile

From: Director, FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO,  
AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

ReMOairtel 5/4/65 regarding the civil suit against Gary Thomas Rowe. The Civil suit of Attorney Matt Murphy against Gary Thomas Rowe is not a matter in which the Bureau desires to become directly involved, therefore, you are to conduct no investigation whatever concerning this suit.

[REDACTED]

- 1 - Birmingham
- 1 - San Francisco

JWH/ral  
(6)

SEE NOTE ON PAGE TWO.

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

MAILED  
JUN 11 1965  
COMM-FBI

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JUN 7 1965

86 JUN 10 1965 TELE. ROOM [ ] TELETYPE UNIT [ ]

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 157-6275

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

DATE: 5/25/65

FROM : *[Signature]* SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)(P)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;  
ET AL;  
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;  
LROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS  
CR - EL  
(OO: Mobile)-

Re report of SA [REDACTED] Mobile, 5/25/65. *hcd*

It is to be noted that no dissemination of referenced report will be made to the U.S. Attorney, Montgomery, Ala., or to the Departmental Attorney at Selma, Ala., until such time as the Bureau furnishes approval for such dissemination. Copies are being held in Mobile pending receipt of this approval.

2 - Bureau  
2 - Mobile  
JRC:gre  
(4)

EX-100

REC-10

44-28601-380

JUN 1 1965

STAT. SECT.

EXP. PROC.

6/3/65

1 - Mr. Boyd

Airtel

To: SAC, Mobile (44-1245)

From: Director, FBI (44-28601) - 380

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; REC-10  
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA;  
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

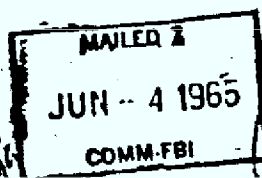
Reurlet 5/25/65 enclosing report of SA [REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] at Mobile dated 5/25/65.

Bureau approval is granted for immediate dissemination of this report to Departmental Attorney at Selma and appropriate U. S. Attorney.

JJB/ral  
(4)

NOTE: The Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 5/25/65 has been reviewed by appropriate Bureau supervisor. This report sets forth information concerning the state trial for murder of subject Collie LeRoy Wilkins. The trial lasted from 5/3/65 through 5/7/65 and resulted in a mistrial being declared on 5/7/65 when jury reported hopelessly deadlocked. Information developed that jury voted 10 for conviction and 2 against. Report also contains information developed prior to the trial that the Klan attorney would possibly attempt to embarrass informant Rowe and the Government. Nothing developed concerning this other than Murphy being extremely critical of Rowe during the trial and he criticized the President and the Government for being involved in this case. Various members of the United Klans of America observed attending the trial.

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MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

May 25, 1965

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Rowe scheduled to have conference  
with his attorney 5/26/65 in Birmingham  
Field Office. The Department has previously  
indicated it will stand behind Rowe to the  
fullest extent (example: he was not indicted  
with other subjects by the Federal Grand  
Jury; Department secured a prominent  
attorney to represent him in local suit; [REDACTED])

[REDACTED] Rowe's  
testimony was praised by local prosecutor  
and Rowe should expect the Klan to go all  
out to discredit him [REDACTED]

JJB:jgs

44-28601-384



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: May 7, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL  
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

Tolson  
Belmont  
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Casper  
Callahan  
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Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

## INFORMANT'S TESTIMONY RE FBI OFFERS:

In the "New York Daily News" in an article headlined, "FBI Man Stings Klan Lawyer" it is reported that informant Rowe testified in the state trial of Collie LeRoy Wilkins for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo that an FBI Agent told him "we couldn't care less what you say. Tell him (Murphy) we offered you 500 acres of apple trees."

[REDACTED]

JWH/pak  
(9)

Enclosure

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

CONTINUED - OVER

5-7-65

5/7/65

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This case concerns the murder of civil rights worker, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, on 3/25/65.

Murder trial of subject Collie Leroy Wilkins began in State Court on 5/3/65.

Gary Thomas Rowe is our informant and key prosecution witness.

The jury deliberated until 8 p. m., 5/6/65, at which time they advised the court a decision did not appear possible within a short period of time. The jury was locked up at Montgomery, Alabama, until 9 a. m. today.

WEA:pah

674  
44-28601-390

6/2/65

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This case involves the murder of civil  
rights worker Viola Liuzzo near Selma,  
Alabama, 3/25/65.

[REDACTED]

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*Right*  
*of*

WLM:pah

*[Handwritten mark]*

44-28601-391

ENCLOSURE

# Liuzzo Gun Not Tested For Prints, FBI Says

HAYNEVILLE, Ala. (AP)—The defense rested its case in the civil rights murder trial of a young Ku Klux Klansman today after FBI agents testified that a gun identified as the one which killed the civil rights worker was not tested for fingerprints.

Klan attorney Matt H. Murphy Jr., brought his testimony to an abrupt close after questioning six witnesses in an effort to discredit a story told earlier by the prosecution's chief witness, Gary Thomas Rowe Jr.

Circuit solicitor Arthur E. Gamble Jr., the chief prosecutor, did not indicate immediately whether he would put in rebuttal testimony. If not, the case would go to the jury this afternoon in the fourth day of the trial.

The defendant, Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21, did not testify.

One of the defense witnesses, Mrs. Lorene Frederick, gave what could be an alibi for Wilkins.

Mrs. Frederick, who operates a cafe at Bessemer, Ala., said Wilkins, Rowe and two other Klansmen also charged with

killing Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a Detroit (Mich.) civil rights worker, were in her place the night of March 25 when Mrs. Liuzzo was slain.

She said to her best recollection it was about 9:30 or 10 p.m., which would be about two or two and one-half hours and approximately 125 miles away from the scene of the slaying.

On cross-examination, however, Mrs. Frederick said she wasn't sure of the time and it could have been later that night.

The FBI testimony that no fingerprint tests were made on the death weapon came after a member of the jury asked that question, even though the state already had rested its case.

FBI agent Edward Lakey and Marion Williams testified that they did not make fingerprint tests.

The juror interrupted the trial with his questions and delayed the start of the case for the defense.

"I want to know if there were

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*Why wasn't a fingerprint test made?*

The Washington Post and Times Herald  
The Washington Daily News  
The Evening Star  
New York Herald Tribune  
New York Journal-American  
New York Daily News  
New York Post  
The New York Times  
The Baltimore Sun  
The Worker  
The New Leader  
The Wall Street Journal  
The National Observer  
People's World  
Date

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44-28601-392

JUN 18 1965

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any fingerprints on the shell cases—and whether there were any fingerprints on the gun," jurymen Clifford McMurphee, a farmer, told the trial judge.

Prosecution testimony earlier omitted any reference to fingerprints on the weapon, a .38 revolver, or spent shells found near the murder scene on U.S. highway 80 near here.

State Attorneys rested their case without producing testimony about fingerprints on the pistol which FBI informer Gary Thomas Rowe Jr., chief prosecution witness, said was wielded by Wilkins in shooting Mrs. Liuzzo.

McMurphee also said he wanted to know about "the condition of Rowe when the FBI agent talked to him in Birmingham after he (Rowe) had returned from Lowndes County that night."

Rowe had testified that he, Wilkins and two other Klansmen pursued Mrs. Liuzzo's auto the night of March 25 and sped past her in a hail of gunfire. Rowe, who said he had a loaded pistol but did not fire it, had told of the four drinking beer that night.

The juror's questions followed a recess after solicitor Gamble Jr., rested the state's case.

#### Agrees On Delay

Although Defense Attorney Matt H. Murphy Jr., already had called his first witness, a state investigator, he agreed to let the prosecution clear up the points raised by the juror.

Gamble had indicated earlier he would ask more questions of FBI ballistics expert Williams, who testified that the revolver identified by Rowe fired the death shot.

But when court reconvened today, Gamble said he was through.

Defense attorney Murphy, through his cross-examination of prosecution witnesses, had indicated already the course he might take.

He has shown a revolver which he said he took from FBI informer Rowe.



Matt H. Murphy, Jr., Klan attorney and counsel for Klansman Collie Wilkins, Jr., in the Liuzzo slaying trial at Hayneville, Ala., holds pistol he says he took from FBI informer Gary Rowe, Jr.—AP Wirephoto.

#### Took Pistol From Rowe

Murphy did not say how he would connect the pistol to the will connect the pistol to the case. His only comment was, "I took it away from Rowe before he killed someone and blamed it on us."

The Klan attorney had sought to portray Rowe, the state's star witness, as a troublemaker hoping to collect a rich reward from the federal government if he could "help break the back of the Klan."

Wilkins, 21, a self-employed automobile mechanic at Fairfield, Ala., near Birmingham, is the first of three KKK members brought to trial for the slaying of the Detroit housewife.

Mrs. Liuzzo, the wife of a Teamsters Union official, was shot to death near Lowndesboro the night of March 25 after taking part in the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery and ferrying some of the marchers back to Selma.

Indicted with Wilkins — and awaiting trial — were Eugene Thomas, 42, an employee of U.S. Steel at Bessemer, Ala., and William Orville Eaton, also of Bessemer, who at 41 is a retired steel worker with heart trouble.

Rowe, who said he joined the Klan at the FBI's request to get information, told the 12-man jury that he was in the car with Wilkins, Thomas and Eaton when Mrs. Liuzzo was killed.

#### Fired at Close Range

He said Wilkins used Thomas' revolver to fire two shots at almost point-blank range as their car pulled alongside her automobile in a high speed chase and emptied his gun at the car as they pulled away.

Williams, who works at the FBI laboratory in Washington, testified that a bullet found lodged at the base of Mrs. Liuzzo's brain was fired from Thomas' gun.

Another agent told the jury that the gun used in the laboratory test came from Thomas' home, and still another said a gun permit found on Thomas was issued for the same pistol.

Williams first testified that three bullets found in the car were determined by laboratory tests to have come from the gun which Rowe had said Thomas handed to young Wilkins just before the shooting.



# Jury Begins Deliberating Liuzzo Case

**All-White Panel  
Retires for Night  
After Four Hours**

By William Chapman  
Washington Post Staff Writer

**HAYNEVILLE, Ala.,**

May 6—An all-white Alabama jury began deliberations today to decide whether to convict Ku Klux Klansman Collie Leroy Wilkins of murdering a white civil rights worker.

After deliberating for four hours and fifteen minutes, the jury reported it was not near a decision and Judge T. Werth Thagard sent it to its night quarters in nearby Montgomery.

"We haven't reached a decision and we don't appear to be near a decision," jury foreman Clifford McMurphee said.

Earlier, the jury had returned to the courtroom to ask if it could select a charge less serious than first-degree murder. Thagard told them that both second-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter convictions could be returned.

The Lowndes County jury received the case at 3:40 p.m. after hearing two hours of emotional argument that included a blatant racist appeal by Klan lawyer Matt H. Murphy in Wilkins's behalf.

In his arguments, Murphy referred to the murder victim, Viola Liuzzo, as a "white nigger" who came down from Detroit to help the Selma civil rights movement. She was

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New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
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New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Baltimore Sun \_\_\_\_\_  
The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

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slain March 25 after the Montgomery protest march.

Gesturing wildly, he denounced "niggers," Jews, President Johnson, J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI.

But an Alabama Assistant Attorney General, Joseph B. Gantt, blasted back, telling the jury that crime could not go unpunished regardless of local racial beliefs.

"This is the murder of a defenseless woman . . . by a yellow-bellied coward," he charged, looking straight at Wilkins. "I'm saying that Wilkins did that murder." Gantt even reminded the jury that segregationist Gov. George C. Wallace had called Mrs. Liuzzo's killing "A cowardly act that should not go unpunished."

And Lowndes County Solicitor Carlton L. Perdue told the jury that local people had nothing to do with the shooting. "You have an opportunity today," he said, "to stand up and say, 'Murders must stop.'"

The state had built its case on the testimony of FBI informer Gary Thomas Rowe, who testified that he was in the car when Wilkins fired at Mrs. Liuzzo's car. The defense offered no alibi today, and Murphy banked all on his chance of swaying the jury in a bombastic summation.

The Klan lawyer ripped into Rowe as a paid informant who had violated the Klan's oath of secrecy and could not be believed.

"He is a liar and a perjurer, holding himself out to be a white man," Murphy declared. "That's worse than a white nigger."

Murphy's main legal basis for requesting acquittal was an assertion that Rowe's eyewitness testimony was not corroborated sufficiently. He said that under Alabama law the testimony of an accomplice is not sufficient to support a murder conviction.

In his 25-minute charge to the jury, Judge Thagard told the panel that if it determined Rowe was an accomplice, it could not convict Wilkins on the strength of Rowe's testimony alone.

The chief prosecutor, Circuit Solicitor Arthur T. Ginn-

ble, in a low-keyed but still strong summation, said that Lowndes County cannot "wink at a cold-blooded killing or we will be lowering our moral standards."

#### Defense Tactic

Murphy's first defense tactic was to get into evidence the dead woman's blood-stained purse. Over objections from the prosecution, he introduced some of its contents, including Mrs. Liuzzo's NAACP membership card. The judge ruled some items irrelevant.

During the 21 minutes of defense testimony, Murphy called no alibi witnesses who could have placed Wilkins anywhere else on the murder night.

He produced three witnesses, including Imperial Wizard Robert M. Shelton of the Klan, who testified that Rowe had told a story about being offered a farm and money by the FBI to testify against Wilkins and other Klansmen. Rowe testified yesterday that Murphy actually instructed him to put out such a story.

Murphy called six defense witnesses and tried to get in their answers to such questions as whether Rowe had once admitted carrying a Communist Party card. The questions were ruled irrelevant before the witnesses could answer them.

#### Jury's Question

At one point today, jury Foreman McMurphree said he wanted to know the condition of Rowe "in regards to his sobriety" after the murder ride and whether fingerprint tests had been made of empty shell casings and the alleged murder weapon.

FBI agent Neil Shanahan testified that Rowe was not under the influence of alcohol when he met him that night. Other FBI witnesses said no fingerprint tests were made of the gun or shells.

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conducting our  
investigations.*

May 21, 1965.

The President  
Washington, D.C.

RE: HAYNEVILLE ALABAMA TRIAL OF WILKINS  
(GARY THOMAS ROWE)

Dear Mr. President:

All America should be grateful for men like Mr. Rowe and for the splendid way that J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI handled this tragic matter.

Surely our two New York Senators will cooperate in any nationwide recognition for Mr. Rowe.

The liberty is being taken of sending a copy of this letter to The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover as a personal expression of gratefulness for the way this case was handled - which redounds to the great credit of our courts and the FBI in particular.

Cannot our President do something in a public way, with the aid and advice of the House and Senate, so that proper recognition may be made for their action.

No person in uniform ever did more for his country with great personal risk, than did Gary Thomas Rowe.

Rather than diminish - it would seem to exalt that great honor that goes with a Congressional Medal of Honor.

What can our President do to let the world know how we feel about a brave man like Gary Thomas Rowe?

The significant pages of the May 5th, 1965 issue of New York's picture newspaper - the Daily News - are enclosed.

Respectfully,

JCT/b

C.C. Tor: Honorable J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C.

60 JUN 2 1965 The New York Times, 220 East 42nd Street, Manhattan, N.Y. City

Dr. C.B. Powell, Publisher, Amsterdam News, 2340 Eighth Avenue, Manhattan, N.Y. City

FBI

Date: 6/4/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, MIAMI (44-1549) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;  
ET AL;  
Mrs. VIOLA LUIZZO,  
ET AL - VICTIMS;  
CR - EL

Re Miami letter to Birmingham 5/25/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and six copies of letterhead memorandum concerning info furnished by [REDACTED] re money collected in Ft. Pierce, Fla., for defense fund of subjects.

One copy each of letterhead memorandum being furnished to Birmingham and Mobile. No further investigation of captioned matter is contemplated by the Miami Division.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 7) (RM)  
1 - Birmingham (44-1236) (Enc. 1) (Info) (RM)  
1 - Mobile (Enc. 1) (Info) (RM)  
2 - Miami (1-44-1549)

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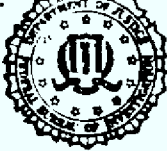
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16 JUN 8 1965

Approved: *[Signature]*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Miami, Florida  
June 4, 1965

Re: EUGENE THOMAS;  
ET AL;  
Mrs. VIOLA LUIZZO,  
ET AL - VICTIMS

On May 24 and June 3, 1965, a source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that he has learned that during the trial of Collie LeRoy Wilkins, Jr., Ray Owens, owner, South Dixie Restaurant, 1010 South 4th Street, Ft. Pierce, Florida, had reportedly collected \$600 in free will donations to be sent to Alabama for the defense fund. The collection was reportedly arranged under the leadership of Wallace Owens, who was head of St. Lucie County Rebels, Ft. Pierce, Florida.

Informant stated that from his past knowledge of Wallace Owens he doubted if all or any of the money actually reached Alabama.

Informant described the St. Lucie County Rebels as a hastily organized group which met prior to the Fourth of July weekend, 1964, in Ft. Pierce, Florida, to protest proposed racial integration of the beaches and restaurants in Ft. Pierce. The organization never met after June 4, 1964, and disbanded.

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.

- 1\* -

ENCLOSURE

44-288-395

# FBI Man Stings Klan Defense Chief

By ANTHONY BURTON  
Star Correspondent of THE NEWS

Hayneville, Ala., May 5—FBI undercover man Gary Thomas Rowe accused bullnecked klan lawyer Matt H. Murphy Jr. today of conspiring to smear the FBI by producing false evidence.

As the accusation came from the witness stand in Lowndes County Court House, Murphy's pale blue eyes widened in fury. He grabbed his hat from the defense table and flung it away, shouting: "You, you..."

Judge T. Worth Thagard ordered a recess so the defense lawyer could cool down. Five minutes later, Murphy apologized and the murder case against klansman Collie Leroy Wilkins, 21, in the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a white civil rights worker, continued.

Rowe, who told a macabre story yesterday of watching night riders pump bullets into the car of Mrs. Liuzzo, killing her, was the state's most damaging witness against Wilkins.

Murphy, the imperial klansal (counsel) of the klan, was trying to destroy Rowe's credibility when the courtroom explosion came.

## '500 Acres of Farmland'

Murphy charged that the FBI had offered Rowe 500 acres of farmland in Minnesota if he would cooperate in breaking the back of the United Klan of America.

But Rowe denied it and, switching the attack, accused Murphy of instructing him at a meeting in Murphy's office to put that information out.

"Are you saying I told you that?" Murphy demanded.

"Yes," Rowe calmly replied.

Murphy: "You didn't tell me that?" His voice was pitched high with fury.

Rowe: "No, sir."

Then Murphy flung his hat and the judge ordered the recess.

## Day After the Murder

Back in court, Rowe told his side of the meeting in Murphy's office, the day following the murder. He said that the FBI had told him in an offhand fashion



Gary Thomas Rowe  
He sticks to his guns

that he could say whatever he liked to Murphy.

This was after the accused man had been questioned by the FBI following the March 25 murder but before Rowe had been revealed as an FBI undercover agent.

Rowe testified that an FBI agent had told him "we couldn't care less what you say. Tell him [Murphy] we offered you 500 acres of farmland."

But, according to Rowe, when he mentioned this to Murphy, the lawyer immediately seized on it and said "we will make it 550 acres and \$450,000."

Earlier, Rowe came under heavy attack from Murphy when the lawyer asked him if he had

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The Baltimore Sun \_\_\_\_\_  
The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
People's World \_\_\_\_\_

*what about this?*

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CRIME RESEARCH

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taken the klan oath. Rowe replied: "Yes, such as it was."

Murphy then read out the oath of allegiance which includes the words, "I will die rather than divulge the (klan) secrets. So help me God." Murphy demanded: "You swore before God?"

Rowe replied quietly, "Yes, to the best of my knowledge."

Rowe told of joining forces with the FBI five years ago after he had been approached by an agent named Barry Kemp. Five weeks later he said he received his first payment "for expenses" of \$40. He said he signed a receipt for the cash and State Prosecutor Arthur Gamble later flourished a bunch of receipts covering the period up to March.

From \$20 to \$200

They were for various sums ranging from \$20 to more than \$200.

Rowe said he used his first payment for klan dues and to buy a klan robe.

Murphy pressed Rowe on why he had not tried to prevent the shooting of Mrs. Liuzzo. Rowe said he did not fire any shots himself.

"I did not know anything was going to be done until they started shooting," he said. "I thought they were just going to stop the car. There are various ways of stopping another car without shooting at it."

Murphy twice tried to connect Rowe with the Communist Party, asking if he was a member or had ever received money from it. The judge sustained a prosecution objection to the questions.





(UPI Telephoto)  
Defense attorney Matt Murphy Jr. holds mysterious revolver as he arrives at court house yesterday.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

DATE: 7/1/65

TO: FDI, Birmingham (44-1236)

Re: EUGENE THOMAS; et al;  
VICLA LIUZZO, aka  
Mrs. Anthony J. Luizzo,  
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS;  
CR - EL

Invoice of Contents

Re Bureau airtel dated 6/29/65

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RAILWAY EXPRESS

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Special Instructions:

Mail Room: Show shipment date and registry number.  
Shipping Room: Show shipment date; bill of lading number;  
initial invoice; return to Section checked in block; after  
initialing in block, invoice to be placed in administrative file.

FBI File No.

44-28801

3/29/65

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DO JUL 7 1965

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

DATE: 6/25/65

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (44-1245)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL  
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;  
ET AL - VICTIMS  
CR - EL

Re Mobile airtel to Bureau, 5/6/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau and Birmingham are two copies each of two photographs.

Number 1 shows from left to right MATT H. MURPHY, JR., Klan Attorney, and ROBERT CREEL, Klan official, Bessemer, Ala. Photo Number 2 shows MATT H. MURPHY, JR.; WILLIAM EATON; LEROY WILKINS; EUGENE THOMAS; ROBERT CREEL.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 4) (RM)
- 2 - Birmingham (Enc. 4) (RM) (44-1236)
- 3 - Mobile (44-1245)  
(1 - 157-190 SF 7)

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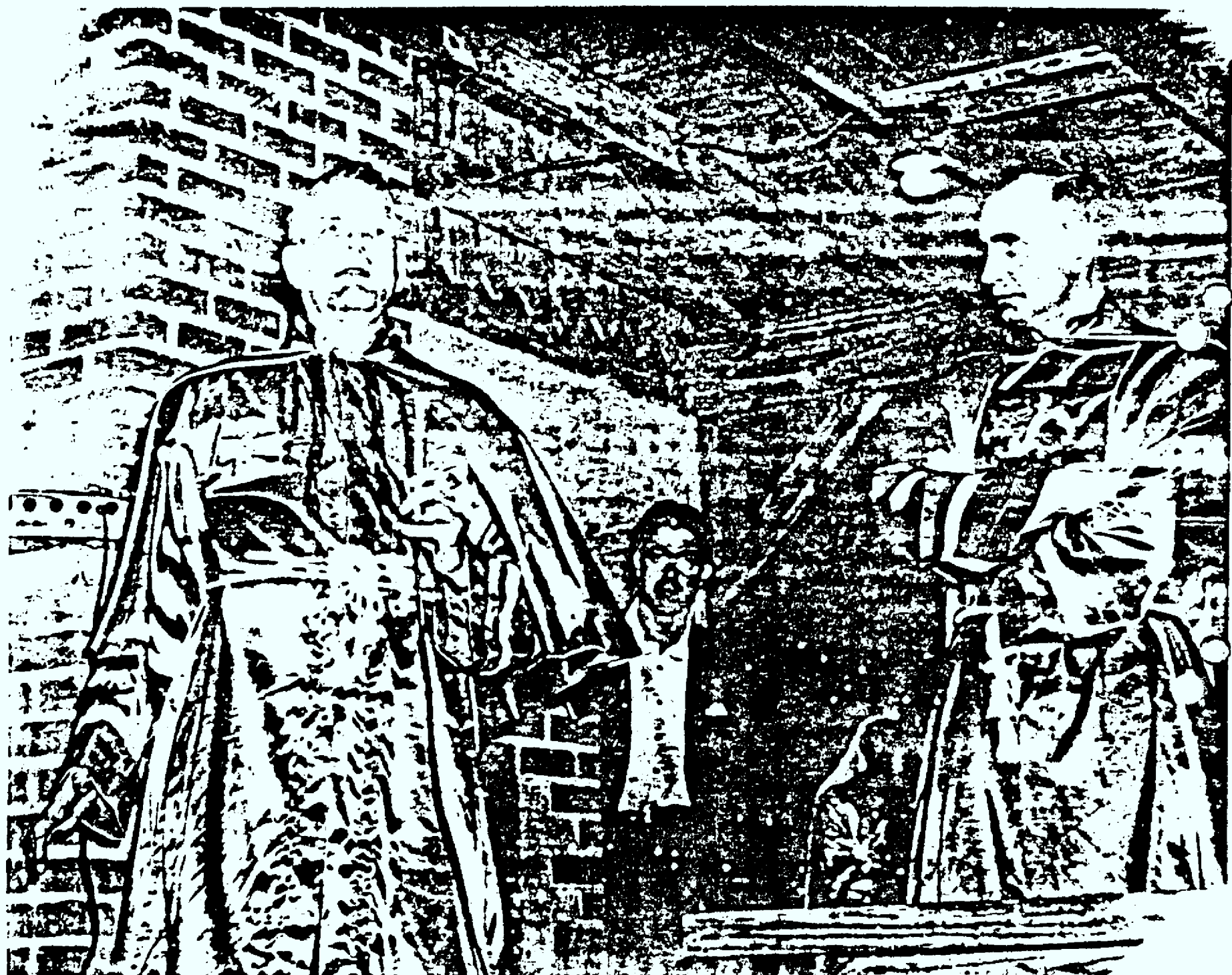
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44-28601-408

JUN 28 1965

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

JUL 12 1965







OPR

6/25/65

1 - Mr. Hines

Airtel

To: SAC, Birmingham (44-1236)

From: Director, FBI (44-28601) - 406

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Reurairtel 6/22/65 entitled "Collie Leroy Wilkins;  
Racial Matters."

With regard to proceeding against subject  
Collie Leroy Wilkins on the probation violators warrant  
currently outstanding against him, the Bureau considers  
this a matter entirely within the province of the U. S.  
Attorney's Office and the Department of Justice and therefore  
cannot render any opinion whatever regarding initiation of  
proceedings to revoke his probation.

MAILED 20  
JUN 25 1965  
COMM-FBI

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SEE NOTE ON PAGE TWO.

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MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT ☐

14 JUN 25 1965

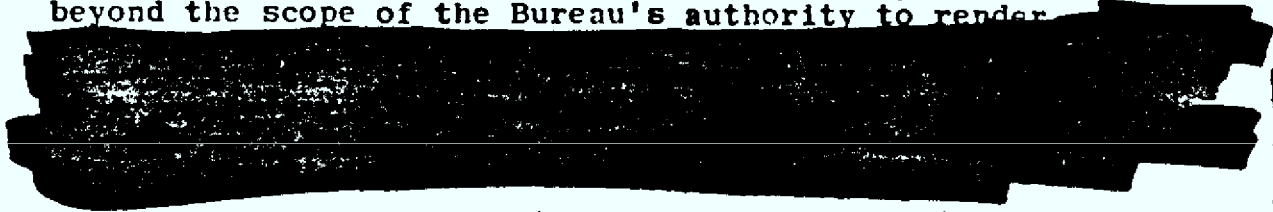
*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*



OPR.

NOTE:

Collie Leroy Wilkins is one of the three subjects presently under state indictment for the murder of Mrs. Viola Luzzo. His initial trial on the indictment resulted in a hung jury and he is expected to be retried in September, 1965. At the time of his arrest on 3/26/65 he was on probation for violation of the National Firearms Act which charge was brought by the Alcohol Tobacco Tax Division of the Treasury Department and a probation violators warrant was issued. He is currently under \$500 bond on that warrant. Birmingham has advised that AUSA Taylor has requested the Bureau's opinion and that we obtain the Department's opinion as to whether or not now would be the proper time to proceed against Wilkins to revoke the probation. The parole violators warrant issued from a matter entirely outside of the Bureau's jurisdiction and the opinion requested of the Bureau by Taylor is entirely prosecutive and beyond the scope of the Bureau's authority to render



b7f

FBI

Date: 6/22/65

OPR

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

Via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (157-1159)

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS  
RMMcDonough  
2/2/65 Justice

Captioned subject was one of three persons indicted in connection with the murder of VIOLA LIUZZO. At the time of his arrest in Birmingham on 3/26/65 a Probation Violator's warrant was also issued. He was not released at the same time as the other two subjects in this case because of the Probation Violator's warrant. He was subsequently released on an additional \$500 bond because of the Probation Violator's warrant.

Action seeking to revoke his probation was withheld by the U. S. Attorney's office until the State trial in Hayneville, Ala. had been completed. As the Bureau knows, the initial State trial at Hayneville ended in a hung jury.

3 Bureau  
2 Mobile  
3 Birmingham  
(2 157-1159)  
(1 44-1236)

RGJ:fc  
(8)

REC 14

JUN 24 1965

C C. Wick

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

2106

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

BH 157-1159

taken by the Federal Government might well interfere with future action planned by the State.

Therefore, it is requested that the Bureau furnish its opinion and the opinion of the Department as to whether or not this is an appropriate time to proceed against COLLIE LEROY WILKINS.

The Mobile Office should ascertain from the appropriate authorities their views as to whether or not Federal action insofar as revoking the probation of WILKINS would have any appreciable bearing on the future retrial of WILKINS in local Court.

2

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 6-28-65

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL -  
VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS1- Mr. Mohr  
1- Mr. DeLoach  
1- Mr. Callahan  
1- Mr. Belmont  
1- Mr. Rosen  
1- Mr. Malley  
1- Mr. McGowan  
1- Mr. HinesTolson  
Belmont  
Mohr  
DeLoach  
Callahan  
Conrad  
Felt  
Gale  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

St. John Barrett, Attorney in Civil Rights Division, advised on 6-28-65 that the Department is in receipt of a letter which Mr. Liuzzo, husband of the victim, wrote to the White House. According to Mr. Barrett, Mr. Liuzzo requests that certain personal items belonging to the victim such as her wedding ring be returned to him; and that he also be compensated for loss of the use of the Liuzzo automobile which victim was driving at the time of her murder; and also compensate for any damage that might have occurred to the car from processing by authorities. The instant car is being held by Alabama State Authorities for evidence in connection with the state prosecution of this matter. Liuzzo states that he has no basis for a claim against the insurance company covering the car and he still is required to make payments on the purchase of the car.

Mr. Barrett advised that the Department is replying to Mr. Liuzzo informing him that the Department is writing to the Alabama State Authorities requesting that all items belonging to Mrs. Liuzzo not of evidentiary value be returned to Mr. Liuzzo and is suggesting to him that he also write Alabama authorities along the same lines. The Department is furnishing Mr. Liuzzo an inventory of personal items belonging to Mrs. Liuzzo, as reflected in its files, which items are in possession of the Alabama State Authorities.

Mr. Barrett stated Mr. Liuzzo is also being furnished appropriate forms in the event he feels he has a claim against the Federal Government in connection with the processing of the car. Any such claim would be handled by the Civil Division of the Department.

JJB:mmb

(9)

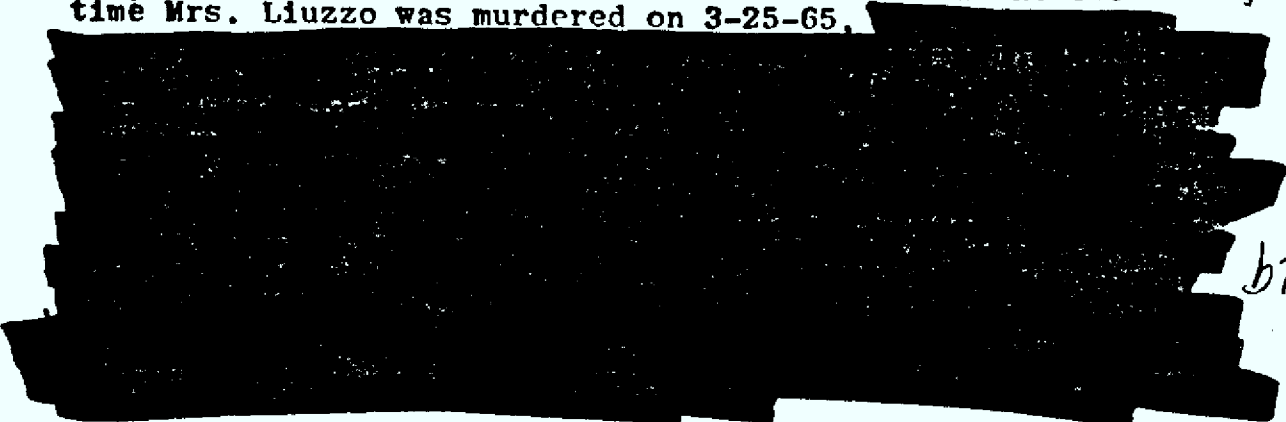
ST-100


REC-10 44-2869 401  
CONTINUED - OVER 10 JUL 21 1965

89 JUL 8 1965

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

It was pointed out to Mr. Barrett that at the  
time Mrs. Liuzzo was murdered on 3-25-65,



Mr. Barrett advised that he was aware of the fact  
  
however, he still intended to furnish the above  
forms to Mr. Liuzzo and to contact the state authorities as  
the Department desired to lend a sympathetic ear to his  
problems.

*Liuzzo seems more interested in cash  
rather than in grief over his  
wife's death.*

ACTION:

None. Submitted for information.

*✓*

*TC* *Jim* *JD* *AJS*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: July 8, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.  
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL. - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines  
1 - Mr. Martindale

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

It is noted that Matt Murphy, the Klan attorney who represents the defendants in this case, has filed a civil action against our informant seeking \$6,000 for legal services allegedly rendered at the time of the U. S. Commissioner's hearing when Murphy represented the informant to the extent of arranging his bond. He has not represented the informant since that time.

ASAC Jensen, Birmingham, advised that the local Sheriff's Office holds a subpoena calling for the informant to appear in this matter on 7/8/65. The Sheriff's Office attempted to serve the subpoena at the FBI Office in Birmingham and service was refused. It is noted that informant is not in Alabama.

A local press inquiry was received by the Birmingham Office this morning, apparently instigated by Matt Murphy. The press inquired as to whether the informant will appear today and the reporter was given "no comment."

## ACTION

This is for information and the Department is being advised.

WLM/cac  
(9)

51 JUL 21 1965

REC-73

44-28601-416

18 JUL 18 1965



BH 44-1236

The Birmingham Division is not in possession of a transcript of the WILKINS trial, wherein subject informant was a key witness. It is therefore requested that the Mobile Division obtain and forward [REDACTED] b74

[REDACTED] UACB, a copy of the transcript of this trial dealing with that portion which concerns informant's testimony in order that he may refresh his recollection and be in a position to be an effective witness in the forthcoming trial scheduled 9/27/65.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General

DATE: 7/16/65

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS,  
ET AL  
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA;  
ET AL - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

*File  
copy*

Reference is made to \_\_\_\_\_ memorandum dated \_\_\_\_\_  
(your file \_\_\_\_\_).

There is enclosed one copy of ~~THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD~~  
~~XXXXX~~ a letterhead memorandum dated 7/12/65  
at Birmingham.

A. ☐ This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. ☐ The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. ☐ The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. ☐ Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. ☐ Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. ☒ This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. ☐ This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H. ☐ This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

NOTE: Copies of letterhead memorandum have been furnished to the  
Enc. Department of the Army, the Department of the Air Force, the  
Department of the Navy, and to the United States Secret Service.  
Appropriate state and local authorities as well as FBI personnel  
also alerted to contents.

*6/9B*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: July 19, 1965

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS  
GARY ROWE - INFORMANT

9  
Tolson  
Belmont  
Mohr  
DeLoach  
Casper  
Callahan  
Conrad  
Felt  
Gale  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

For record purposes, Mike Dorman, a reporter formerly employed by "Newsday," a daily newspaper in Long Island but now a free-lance writer, on 7-13-65 came in to see Wick. He said he is associated with William Bradford Huie who has written considerably on civil rights matters in the South particularly the murder of the three civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Mississippi, last year. Dorman said he and Huie, through the attorneys of Gary Rowe, will soon make an offer to Rowe of a three-way money split intended to convince him he should cooperate with them in telling his story concerning the Liuzzo murder.

Dorman said that he will write the book after talking to Rowe and that Huie will write the screen version for movie use. Already said Dorman he has a \$75,000 guarantee for the book and a \$75,000 promise for the movie. The resulting \$150,000 would be split three ways, \$10,000 would be given to Rowe immediately after the trial and the remaining \$40,000 of his share within a few months thereafter. Also Rowe would share, according to Dorman, in any upward negotiation adjustments in the movie and book rights, sales, etc.

## ACTION TAKEN:

Wick told Dorman this was all well and good but that the FBI would have absolutely nothing to do with any of this, could not and would not help Dorman and Huie and would have no part of this. Dorman said he understood. He stated, however, he believed Huie and he will be successful in giving the highest money offer to Rowe eventually. Dorman said further that he himself intended to travel around the country digging into the background of the case. Wick reiterated we could not help him.

For record purposes.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Jones

50 JUL 28 1965  
REW:bpk (6)

REC 18 44-28601-46

6 JUL 26 1965

And scavenger  
H

FBI

Date: 7/2/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via

AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (170-9)  
 BH 248-R

*Violante Luzzo*

Attached hereto is a Xerox copy of a Notice of Taking Deposition addressed to PAUL JOHNSTON, Attorney at Law, the Attorney of Record for GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.

It is noted that Notice of Taking Deposition requests the issuance of a subpoena to ROWE, deposition to be taken on 7/8/65 at Birmingham, Alabama.

PAUL JOHNSTON has not been in contact with this office concerning the taking of such a deposition. It is assumed, however, that as the Attorney of Record for ROWE, necessary action in response to this notice will be taken by JOHNSTON.

UACB, this office does not contemplate contact with JOHNSTON in response to this deposition.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 1)  
 2 - Birmingham

JLM:mjh  
 (5)

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

REC-113

REC-113 (113)

7-7-65

6-7-65

7/1/65

44-28601-424

17 JUL 6 1965

XEROX  
 JUL 28 1965

89 AUG 3 1965

Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per

THREE COPY AND COPY OF ENCL FILED IN 137-2-32



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General

DATE: 7/7/65

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL  
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA  
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

8-11-65

Reference is made to \_\_\_\_\_ memorandum dated \_\_\_\_\_  
(your file \_\_\_\_\_).

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special  
Agent \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_  
at \_\_\_\_\_.

A. ☐ This covers the preliminary investigation and  
no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken  
by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. ☐ The investigation is continuing and you will  
be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. ☐ The investigation requested by you has now  
been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further in-  
quiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. ☐ Pursuant to instructions issued by the Depart-  
ment, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless  
specifically directed by the Department.

E. ☐ Please advise whether you desire any further in-  
vestigation.

F. ☐ This is submitted for your information and you  
will be advised of further developments.

G. ☒ This is submitted for your information and no  
further investigation will be conducted unless specifically re-  
quested by the Department.

H. ☐ This covers the receipt of a complaint and no  
further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department  
so directs.

Enc. NOTE: Enclosed is Notice of Taking Deposition dated 6/29/65.  
Copy of attached notice enclosed pursuant to discussion of SA H  
with Mr. Parsons 7/7/65. Mr. Johnson has not contacted our  
Birmingham office regarding this notice and no action is being  
taken in the absence of a specific request.

100-27601

6/11/65

JUN 80 1235

**JULIAN STREET**

CHIEF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE

**THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ALA.**

VB.

CONFIDENTIAL

No. \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE OF TAKING DEPOSITION

1000 H. MIXER, Co., Ltd.,

AS ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff will take the testimony by deposition upon oral examination for the purpose of discovery in this cause in accordance with the laws of Alabama and particularly in accordance with the provisions of, to-wit, Act No. 375, of the 1955 Legislature of Alabama of the following named persons, to-wit: Bartholomew Davis, Jr., the defendant, c/o Edward Davis, Jr., 30401 Highway 92, Birmingham, Ala 35215.

TIME: Said deposition shall be taken on July 15th,  
1945, commencing at 10:00 A.M., and from time to time  
thereafter as said deposition may be continued for comple-  
tion.

**PLACE:** Said deposition shall be taken in the Hearing Room of Birmingham Court Reporting Co., 503 Frank Nelson Building, Birmingham, Alabama (or) \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON BEFORE WHOM TAKEN: Said deposition taken before Ramon A. Crockett, who is authorized to administer oaths by the laws of the State of Alabama.

The Clerk will please issue a subpoena to \_\_\_\_\_  
for the taking of \_\_\_\_\_ deposition at the above stated time  
and place.

This is the day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1965.

By James H. [Signature]  
Attorney at Law  
Ft. Worth, Texas

**CERTIFICATE AS TO SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing notice has this day been mailed postage prepaid to \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ as Attorney's Record for \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

...orney for state liability...



Date           ☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile <b>44-28601</b>	Status of Case <b>P</b>	Submitting Office <b>Birmingham</b>	File # <b>44-1236</b>
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Title and Character of Case

**Mobile**

**EUGENE THOMAS;  
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;  
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.;  
GEARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.**

**VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM;  
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM.  
CR - FL**

Date Property Acquired <b>3-26-65</b>	Source From Which Property Acquired <b>Authorized search Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr.</b>	<b>Apt. 35A 205 16th. Place S.W. Bham, Ala.</b>
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit <b>Gun Vault</b>	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same <b>Evidence</b>	
Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same		

1. One German made Bayonet and Sheath.
2. One Newport Model CN double barrel sawed off shotgun, SN T 70594.
3. One box twelve gauge Peters extra long range shells.
4. One Revelation twelve gauge shotgun shell.
5. One box twelve gauge shotgun shells (21) located in closet of front bedroom Eugene Thomas's house.
6. One box Peters 38 caliber ammunition, containing ten rounds.

NOT RECORDED

8 AUG 4 1965

SUBMITTED BY: 

**44-1236-1B13**

SEARCHED <u>          </u>	INDEXED <u>          </u>
SERIALIZED <u>          </u>	FILED <u>          </u>
MAR 29 1965	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

<b>8/1/65</b>			
<b>501</b>			
<b>119</b>			

Date

3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile <b>44-28601</b>	Status of Case <b>P</b>	Submitting Office <b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	File # <b>44-1236</b>
		Office of Origin <b>MOBILE</b>	File #

Title and Character of Case

**EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL**  
**VIOLA LIUZZO, aka, ETAL - Victims**  
**CR, EL**

Date Property Acquired <b>3-26-65</b>	Source From Which Property Acquired <b>Search of residence of W. O. EATON, Route 6, Box 866, Dossomer, Ala</b>
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit <b>Gun Vault</b>	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same <b>Evidence</b>
Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same	

1. 3 boxes Federal .22 long rifle Hi-Power rimfire ctgs.
2. 1 box Hi-Power rimfire ctgs.
3. 1 box Canuck .22 long rifle standard velocity ctgs.

44-28601-

AUG 4 1965

**44-1236-189**

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MAR 26 1965	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

SUBMITTED BY: SA [REDACTED]

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

8/1/65 **dy**  
**50 AUG 6-1965**

Date

3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile <b>44-28601</b>	Status of Case <b>P</b>	Submitting Office <b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	File # <b>44-1236</b>
		Office of Origin <b>MOBILE</b>	File #

Title and Character of Case

**EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL**  
**VIOLA LIUZZO, aka, ETAL - Victims**  
**CR, EL**

Date Property Acquired

3-26-65

Source From Which Property Acquired

**Search of residence of EUGENE THOMAS,**  
**Bessemer, Ala**

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit

Gun Vault

Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same

Evidence

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. 3 boxes Winchester .38 special ammo
2. 6 rds. Remington special ammo, in box
3. 1 Remington clean bore box containing .38 cal. shells
4. 6 rds. Peters .38 cal. ammo

44-28601-

AUG 4 1965

44-1236-138

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 26 1965	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

SUBMITTED BY: SAS

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

8/1/65

50 AUG 6 1965

Date

3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile <b>44-28601</b>	Status of Case <b>P</b>	Submitting Office <b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	File # <b>44-1236</b>
		Office of Origin <b>MOBILE</b>	File #

Title and Character of Case

**EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL**  
**VIOLA LIUZZO, aka, ETAL - Victims**  
**CR, EL**

Date Property Acquired <b>3-26-65</b>	Source From Which Property Acquired <b>Search of Apt. of GARY THOMAS ROWE, 35A 205 16th Place, SW., Birmingham, Ala</b>
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit <b>Gun Vault</b>	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same <b>Evidence</b>
Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same	

1. Metal container, army brown, with markings "Do not use as food container", 900 cts. .30 carbine ball M-1 in 50 rd cartons, lot LC 13029, with following therein:
  - (a) 139 rds. various cal. live ammo and one spent .22 ctg.
  - (b) 1 30 rd. capacity magazine for .30 cal. revolver
  - (c) 1 cloth bag containing 126 rds. various cal. live ammo and one spent .38 ctg. casing. Bag marked "Cherry-Burrell Corp".
  - (d) 4 boxes "Western Brand Super-Match" midrange .30 cal. ammo containing a total of 80 rds. live and 80 spent cts.
2. One each .38 cal. Western Special bullet located on bedroom dresser.

**44-1236-1B10**

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 26 1965	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

SUBMITTED BY: SAS

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

3 AUG 4 1965

8/1/65

50 AUG 6 1965

Date

3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile <b>44-28601</b>	Status of Case <b>P</b>	Submitting Office <b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	File # <b>44-1236</b>
		Office of Origin <b>MOBILE</b>	File #

Title and Character of Case

**EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL**  
**VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka, ETAL - Victims**  
**CR, EL**

Date Property Acquired <b>3-26-65</b>	Source From Which Property Acquired. <b>Search of automobile of EUGENE THOMAS</b>
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit <b>Exhibit section</b>	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same <b>Evidence</b>
Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same	

1. One ski mask located in glove compartment
2. One screw driver located in trunk compartment
3. One yellow rug, 5' x 31" located in trunk compartment
4. One yellow rug, 3' x 2 1/2' located in trunk compartment
5. One roll Tuck electrical tape located in trunk compartment
6. One roll brown Arno tape located in trunk compartment
7. One pair pliers-cutters located in trunk compartment
8. One pair pliers located in trunk compartment
9. One pair work gloves located in trunk compartment
10. One pink blanket located in trunk compartment

SUBMITTED BY: SAS [REDACTED]

**44-1236-1B11**

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MAR 26 1965	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

**NOT RECORDED**  
**8 AUG 4 1965**

8/11/65 [Signature]

50 AUG 6 1965

[Signature]

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile <b>44-28601</b>	Status of Case <b>P</b>	Submitting Office <b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	File # <b>44-1236</b>
		Office of Origin <b>MOBILE</b>	File #

## Title and Character of Case

**EUGENE THOMAS, et al**  
**VIOLA BRIZZO, aka; LEROY JEROME MOTON - Victims**  
**CR, EL.**

Date Property Acquired <b>3-26-65</b>	Source From Which Property Acquired <b>WAYNE THOMAS, 1519 12th Avenue, North, Bessemer, Ala</b>
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit <b>GUN VAULT</b>	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same <b>Evidence</b>

## Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

- .38 cal. S & W Revolver, SN 418827**
- 6 rds. .38 cal. ammunition taken from above revolver.**

1. .38 cal. S & W Revolver, SN 418827  
 2. 6 rds. .38 cal. ammunition taken from above revolver.

1. .38 cal. S & W Revolver, SN 418827  
 2. 6 rds. .38 cal. ammunition taken from above revolver.

1. .38 cal. S & W Revolver, SN 418827  
 2. 6 rds. .38 cal. ammunition taken from above revolver.

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1. .38 cal. S & W Revolver, SN 418827  
 2. 6 rds. .38 cal. ammunition taken from above revolver.


1. .38 cal. S & W Revolver, SN 418827  
 2. 6 rds. .38 cal. ammunition taken from above revolver.

SUBMITTED BY: S 

**44-1236-1B2**

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>MAR 26 1965</b>	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

**8/1/65**   
**306**

**50 AUG 9 1965**



Date

3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile <b>44-28601</b>	Status of Case <b>P</b>	Submitting Office <b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	File # <b>44-1236</b>
		Office of Origin <b>MOBILE</b>	File #

Title and Character of Case

**EUGENE THOMAS, etal**  
**VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; LEROY JEROME MOTON - Victims**  
**CR, EL**

Date Property Acquired <b>3-26-65</b>	Source From Which Property Acquired <b>EUGENE THOMAS, 1519 12th Avenue, North, Bossemer, Ala</b>
--	---

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit <b>GUN VAULT</b>	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same <b>Evidence</b>
---	---

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

- 8 rds. .38 cal. ammunition, as follows:
  - 3 - R-P .38 special
  - 1 - Rem-Umc .38 special
  - 2 - Peters .38 special
  - 1 - R-P .38 special (brass casing, flat nose)
  - 1 - Federal .38 special (brass casing)

- 1 pocket knife, Tree Brand.

NOT RECORDED  
AUG 4 1965

SUBMITTED BY: SA [REDACTED]

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 26 1965	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

8/1/65 [Signature]  
3880

50 AUG 9 1965

Date

3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile <b>44-28601</b>	Status of Case <b>P</b>	Submitting Office <b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	File # <b>44-1236</b>
		Office of Origin <b>MOBILE</b>	File # File #

## Title and Character of Case

**EUGENE THOMAS, etal**  
**VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; LEROY JEROME NOTON - Victims**  
**CR, EL**

Date Property Acquired <b>3-26-65</b>	Source From Which Property Acquired <b>Recovered from window sill of right front door of EUGENE THOMAS' car.</b>
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit <b>GUN VAULT</b>	Reasons for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same <b>Evidence</b>

## Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. .22 cal. bullet, with letters "HP" on head of bullet.

44-28601-

AUG 4 1965

SUBMITTED BY: SA [REDACTED]

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 26 1965	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

BY CERT. NUMBER TO BE MAINTAINED IN BIRMINGHAM OFFICE

8/1/65 [REDACTED]

50 AUG 9 1965

3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile <b>44-28601</b>	Status of Case <b>P</b>	Submitting Office <b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	File # <b>44-1236</b>
		Office of Origin <b>MOBILE</b>	File # <b>1119</b>

## Title and Character of Case

**EUGENE THOMAS, etal**  
**VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; LEROY JEROME MOTON - Victims**  
**CR, EL**

Date Property Acquired <b>3-26-65</b>	Source From Which Property Acquired <b>FBI, Birmingham, Ala</b>
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit <b>GUN VAULT</b>	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same <b>Possible evidence</b>
Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same	

1. 1 gun patch which was run through barrel of weapon belonging to GARY THOMAS ROWE, weapon described as .38 cal. S & W Revolver, nickle plated, bone handle, SN V12864 (frame #57673)

AUG 4 1965

SUBMITTED BY: ASAC ROBERT C. JENSEN

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 26 1965	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

8/1/65 <i>RY</i>			
50 AUG 9 1965			

Date

3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile <b>44-28601</b>	Status of Case <b>P</b>	Submitting Office <b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	File # <b>44-1236</b>
		Office of Origin <b>MOBILE</b>	File #

## Title and Character of Case

**EUGENE THOMAS, etal**  
**VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; LEROY JEROME NOTON - Victims**  
**CR, EL**

Date Property Acquired <b>3-26-65</b>	Source From Which Property Acquired <b>W. O. EATON, Rt. 6, Box 866, Dossomer, Alabama</b>
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit <b>GUN VAULT</b>	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same <b>Evidence</b>

## Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. .22 cal. RWM pistol, RG 10, SN 623285
2. 6 rds. .22 cal. ammunition taken from above pistol.
3. One black holster, with strap, in which above pistol was found.

**44-28601-**

NOT RECORDED  
 8 AUG 4 1965

SUBMITTED BY: SA [REDACTED]

**44-1236-1B1**

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 26 1965	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

**8/1/65**

**50 AUG 3 1965**

Date

3-26-65

☐ Check, when submitting semiannual inventory, if no previous correspondence with Bureau.

Bufile <b>44-28601</b>	Status of Case <b>P</b>	Submitting Office <b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	File # <b>44-1236</b>
		Office of Origin <b>MOBILE</b>	File #

## Title and Character of Case

**EUCENE THOMAS, etal**  
**VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; LEROY JEROME MOTON - Victims**  
**CR, EL**

Date Property Acquired <b>3-26-65</b>	Source From Which Property Acquired <b>GARY THOMAS ROWE, Birmingham, Alabama</b>
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit <b>GUN VAULT</b>	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same <b>Evidence</b>
Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same	

- .38 cal. S & W Revolver, nickel plated, bone handle, SN V12864 (frame #57673).**
- 6 rds. .38 cal. ammunition taken from above revolver.**

SUBMITTED BY: SA [REDACTED]

AUG 4 1965

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 26 1965	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

8/11/65

363

50 AUG 9 1965



FBI

Date: 8/10/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

(Priority)

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

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1235) L P

EUGENE THOMAS;  
ETAL;  
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka;  
ETAL - VICTIMS  
CR-EL  
OO: MOBILE

Enclosed for the Bureau are 3 copies of LHM  
suitable for dissemination.

Enclosed for Mobile are 3 copies and for San  
Francisco 1 copy of above LHM.

Confidential source used in LHM is [REDACTED]

No dissemination is being made to the military  
intelligence agencies in the Birmingham area insofar as  
the subject matter contained in enclosed LHM is restricted  
to a particular incident currently being handled by  
prosecution on the state level.

- ENCLOSURE
- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 3) (RM)
  - 1 - Mobile (44-1245) (Enc. 3) (RM)
  - 1 - San Francisco (44-609) (Enc. 1) (RM)
  - 1 - Birmingham
  - NPS/gah
  - (6)

1 cc LHM/CLD

8/17/65

6-91-1

Trotter

1 cc LHM/CLD

CC - W

REC-57

20 AUG 14 1965

Approved: *EAF/cab*

Special Agent in Charge

57 AUG 24 1965



FBI

Date: 8-17-65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL - VICTIMS  
CR - EL

ReBHAirtel to Bureau 8-5-65, BUAirtel to San Francisco, with copy for Birmingham and Mobile, 8-12-65, and BHAirtel to Director captioned "BH 248-R," dated 7-48-65, all of these communications dealing with the interest of WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE in preparing magazine articles and a book involving the activities of GARY THOMAS ROWE.

On 8-16-65 Mr. WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE appeared at the Birmingham Office and stated that he and MICHAEL DORMAN are presently in Birmingham staying at the Downtowner Motel and are developing background information regarding Klan activities during the past ten years. He stated that the purpose of developing this background information is to be prepared to write a story concerning the activities of GARY THOMAS ROWE at a later date. If provided, of course, he can obtain the approval of the Department and the Bureau. HUIE pointed out that developing background information is a time-consuming task and that he was willing to "gamble" on the possibility of writing this story by going ahead and developing the necessary background information regarding the Klan and some of its activities.

During the conversation HUIE pointed out that he is a close personal friend of Mr. PAUL JOHNSTON, Birmingham attorney.

3- Bureau  
1- San Francisco (44-809 (info))  
2- Birmingham  
EJL:rlg  
(6)

EX-100

REC-2

44-28601-432

AUG 19 1965

Special Agent in Charge

44-1236

who is representing ROWE in the suit against ROWE filed by MATT MURPHY, Klan attorney. He indicated that through JOHNSTON and other contacts of his (HUIE's) in the Department he expects to eventually obtain approval to write the story concerning ROWE.

HUIE stated that he had recently contacted GARY THOMAS ROWE, SR., in Birmingham, and had been known that he will eventually want to talk to him and his wife, as well as the wife of GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., for background information concerning ROWE. He stated such inquiries would not be made until such time as he has been given the "go ahead" to write the story on ROWE. He explained that he, of course, would pay all of these individuals for any information he obtained from them.

HUIE stated he realized that it will not be possible for him to obtain a decision concerning the writing of a story on ROWE prior to the completion of the pending trials in the LIUZZO murder case, and that he does not intend to take any action before that time other than obtaining background information concerning Klan activities. He stated he realized full well that he would not be able to write a story on ROWE without the approval of the FBI.

HUIE stated that his sole purpose in coming to the FBI Office was to let it be known that he is presently in Birmingham developing background information concerning the Klan. He asked for no information and, of course, none was furnished to him concerning the Klan or any other matter.

The above has been furnished for the Bureau's information. The Bureau will be advised promptly of any further information which is received concerning HUIE's activities in the Birmingham area.



45  
DECODED COPY
☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☐ RADIO ☒ TELETYPE

12:09 PM CST URGENT 8-19-65 WEP

TO DIRECTOR (44-28601) TAMPA, MOBILE AND SAVANNAH  
FROM BIRMINGHAM 181720

EUGENT THOMAS; ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO; ET AL. VICTIMS, CR-EL

RE TAMPA TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AUGUST 17 LAST.  
"BIRMINGHAM POST HERALD" ON AUGUST 17 QUOTED ATTORNEY  
MATT MURPHY AS MAKING SAME STATEMENT QUOTED IN REFERENCED  
TELETYPE. IT IS NOTED MURPHY HAS MADE SIMILAR PUBLIC STATEMENT  
IN PAST, INDICATING GARY THOMAS ROWE BEING HIDDEN BY FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT IN VARIOUS PLACES, INCLUDING MIAMI, NASSAU, BAHAMAS,  
"UP NORTH" AND WEST COAST. BASED ON PAST STATEMENTS AND  
LACK OF SUBSTANTIATING INFORMATION, BIRMINGHAM OFF OF OPINION  
MURPHY HAS NO INFORMATION REGARDING ROWE'S WHEREABOUTS.  
FOR INFO TAMPA, MOBILE AND SAVANNAH, MURPHY HAS  
FILED SUIT AGAINST ROWE FOR \$6,000 FOR LEGAL FEES. SUIT  
SCHEDULED FOR HEARING IN BIRMINGHAM SEPTEMBER 7 NEXT.

RECEIVED: 2:16 PM WMS

EX-100

REC-22

25 AUG 20 1965

54 AUG 27 1965

## GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This case concerns the murder of civil Rights worker Viola Liuzzo near Selma, Alabama, 3-25-65. Gary Rowe furnished information in this case leading to the arrest and indictment of 3 subjects charged with killing of Mrs. Liuzzo. [REDACTED]

b7A  
Matt Murphy, Klan attorney, represents defendants in this case and also filed civil suit against Rowe seeking \$6,000 for legal services allegedly rendered when he represented Rowe at US Commissioner's hearing to the extent of arranging bond. He has not represented Rowe since that time. Paul Johnston is attorney obtained by the Department to defend Rowe in the civil suit. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] will be instructed to make arrangements for Rowe to contact his attorney as requested. Department being advised of contents of attached.

RHA:plk (5)

# DECODED COPY

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

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☐ RADIO ☒ TELETYPE

7:08 PM CST URGENT 8-18-65 WEP  
TO DIRECTOR AND SAN FRANCISCO  
FROM BIRMINGHAM 182220

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL-VICTIMS,  
CR-EL.

6:22 PM - 8:10 PM

TODAY MR. PAUL JOHNSTON, BIRMINGHAM ATTORNEY, REPRESENTING GARY THOMAS ROWE IN SUIT BROUGHT AGAINST ROWE BY KLAN ATTORNEY MATT MURPHY, CONTACTED BIRMINGHAM OFFICE AND REQUESTED THAT ROWE CALL HIM AT BIRMINGHAM TELEPHONE NUMBER 322-3338 BETWEEN 2 PM AND 5 PM CST ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, NEXT. JOHNSTON STATED HE DESIRES TO DISCUSS WITH ROWE SEVERAL QUESTIONS THAT HAVE COME UP CONCERNING THE SUIT REFERRED TO ABOVE. JOHNSTON ALSO STATED HE HAS IN HIS POSSESSION A CONTRACT FROM AUTHOR WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE, IN WHICH HUIE AGREES TO PAY ROWE \$25,000 FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF WRITING A STORY COVERING ROWE'S ACTIVITIES AS A KLAN INFORMANT. JOHNSTON STATED HUIE HAS REQUESTED HIM TO HAVE ROWE SIGN THE CONTRACT AT A TIME THAT WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH PENDING TRIALS IN CAPTIONED MATTER. JOHNSTON STATED HE WILL ADVISE ROWE NOT TO SIGN THIS CONTRACT UNTIL THE TRIALS IN THIS MATTER ARE DISPOSED OF.

JOHNSTON ADVISED PRESENCE OF ROWE WILL BE NECESSARY IN BIRMINGHAM ON SEPTEMBER 7, NEXT, WHEN SUIT AGAINST ROWE WILL BE HEARD IN LOCAL COURT UNLESS CASE IS SETTLED OUT OF COURT PRIOR TO THAT TIME. REC-65 44-28601 434

ARRANGE FOR ROWE TO CALL JOHNSTON AT  
TIME AND DATE SPECIFIED ABOVE.

RECEIVED: 9:19 PM RJP

70 AUG 25 1965

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

Arney 1000 into M. Murphy



# DECODED COPY

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

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☐ RADIO ☒ TELETYPE

12:44 PM CST URGENT 8-20-65 WEP  
TO DIRECTOR AND SAN FRANCISCO  
FROM BIRMINGHAM 201804

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS,

CR - EL  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

REBUTEL TO BUREAU AND SAN FRANCISCO AUGUST 18, LAST,  
AND TELCALL BUREAU TO BIRMINGHAM TODAY.

MR. PAUL JOHNSTON, ATTORNEY REPRESENTING GARY THOMAS  
ROWE IN SUIT BROUGHT AGAINST ROWE BY KLAN ATTORNEY MATT  
MURPHY, HAS ADVISED WILL NOT BE NECESSARY FOR ROWE TO  
CONTACT HIM TODAY BY TELEPHONE AS PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED  
IN REFERENCED BIRMINGHAM TELETYPE IN VIEW OF DEATH OF  
MATT MURPHY IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT NEAR TUSCALOOSA,  
ALABAMA, EARLY TODAY.

JOHNSTON STATED MURPHY'S DEATH WILL CHANGE MANY PLANS  
AND HE WILL LET BIRMINGHAM OFFICE KNOW WHEN CONVERSATION  
WITH ROWE IS DESIRED AT LATER DATE. JOHNSTON EXPRESSED OPINION  
HEARING SCHEDULED IN SUIT AGAINST ROWE AT BIRMINGHAM  
SEPTEMBER 7, NEXT, WILL BE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. BUREAU  
AND SAN FRANCISCO WILL BE ADVISED FURTHER WHEN ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION RECEIVED.

IMMEDIATELY ADVISE ROWE OF ABOVE.

RECEIVED: 2:56 PM MCS

REC 30

44-29601-435

AUG 23 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

If the information contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably  
paraphrased to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

Attorney General J. Edgar Hoover



# Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: August 20, 1965

FROM : C. L. McGowan

- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.  
VIOL. LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

44-28601

Information was received that attorney Matt Murphy was killed in an automobile accident near Tuscaloosa, Alabama, early in the morning of August 20, 1965.

It is noted Murphy presently has pending a suit against Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., Bureau informant. The suit seeks to recover \$6,000 which Murphy contended was for professional services rendered. As this matter is scheduled for a hearing early in September, Paul Johnston, Birmingham attorney who is representing Rowe, had requested that Rowe contact him telephonically between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m., central standard time, on Friday afternoon 8/20/65. Arrangements had been set up for Rowe to be in contact with the attorney.

## ACTION:

SAC Ingram of the Birmingham Office was telephonically contacted and advised to immediately get in touch with attorney Paul Johnston. Ingram was to advise Johnston of the death of attorney Matt Murphy and ascertain whether or not it will now be necessary for our informant to make contact with attorney Johnston. Ingram will contact Johnston and advise [redacted] and the Bureau of Johnston's reply.

CLM:jds  
(5)

REC 37 44-28601-436

101 AUG 23 1965

57 AUG 27 1965

25 1965 XEROX

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 157-2771-137-6295

Aug 18, 1965

**GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION**

This case concerns the murder of civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo near Selma, Alabama, 3/25/65.

Gary Rowe furnished the information in this case leading to the arrest and subsequent indictment of the three subjects on charge of killing Mrs. Liuzzo.

Matt Murphy, attorney for the Ku Klux Klan, who represents the defendants in this case, has filed a civil action against Rowe seeking \$6,000 for legal services allegedly rendered at the time of the U. S. Commissioner's hearing when Murphy represented Rowe to the extent of arranging his bond. He has not represented Rowe since that time. Birmingham being instructed to expedite information re Murphy's remarks.

CDC/pak

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

AUG 17 1965

TELETYPE

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

9

FBI TAMPA

9:00 PM EST VED URGENT 8-17-65

TO DIRECTOR, MOBILE, BIRMINGHAM, SAN FRANCISCO AND SAVANNAH

PERSONAL ATTENTION SAC

FROM TAMPA 44-313 1-P

also known as

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL\ VIOLA LIZZUO, AKA ET AL, VICTIMS.

cc Rights

Allegation

CR DASH EL.

TV STATION WTVT TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED ME SEVEN FIFTY-FIVE P.M. TONIGHT STATING THAT ATTORNEY MURPHY IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA. IN CONNECTION WITH HIS SUIT TO COLLECT FEE FROM GARY ROVE STATED THAT GARY ROVE IS IN TAMPA, FLA., UNDER HEAVY GUARD BY SIX FBI AGENTS AROUND THE CLOCK, COSTING TAX PAYERS ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS A DAY. HE SAID IF GARY ROVE DOES NOT APPEAR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS SUIT HE WILL COLLECT A DECLARATORY JUDGEMENT OF FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS.

64-374

MCT-26 44-26601-437

TV STATION, TAMPA WANTED TO KNOW IF GARY ROVE IN TAMPA, I TOLD THEM I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT.

BIRMINGHAM ADVISE BUREAU AND TAMPA AND OFFICES RECEIVING

THIS TELETYPE DETAILS CONCERNING MURPHY'S STATEMENT.

END AUG 30 1965

MR. TOLSON  
MR. BELMONT  
MR. MOHR  
MR. DELOACH  
MR. CASPER  
MR. CALLAHAN  
MR. CONRAD  
MR. FELT  
MR. GALE  
MR. ROSEN  
MR. SULLIVAN  
MR. TAVEL  
MR. TROTTER  
TELE. ROOM  
MISS HOLMES  
MISS GANDY

Arney into H. Murphy

FBI WASH DC

MO...VFP

FBI MOBILE

BH...DLR

BIRMINGHAM

SF...WRF

FBI SAN FRAN

SV...SPT

SAVANNAH

TU CLR

MR. HODIN

**FBI**

**Date: 8/17/65**

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED  
(Priority)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)  
FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (44-609)  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.;  
VIOLA LIUZZO; ET AL. - VICTIMS  
CR - EL

An article in the "Oakland-Tribune," Oakland, California, daily newspaper, under caption, "Dixie Trio Faces Trial in Slaying," quotes Alabama Lowndes County Prosecutor ARTHUR GAMBLE, JR. as saying that COLLIE WILKINS would go on trial during the week of 9/27/65, for the slaying of Mrs. LIUZZO. EUGENE THOMAS and WILLIAM EATON are also accused in this crime. San Francisco is assuming that GARY T. ROWE, JR. will have to be available for conferences and testimony beginning 9/26/65.

3) - Bureau (AM-RM)  
1 - Birmingham (44-1236)(AM-RM)  
1 - Mobile (44-1245)(AM-RM)  
1 - Tampa (44-313)(AM-RM)  
2 - San Francisco (1 - 44-609)  
(1 - 170-14)

JGC/jr (#9)  
(8)

**E. C. Wick**

REC 45  
EX 105

14 AUG 25 1965

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Arney and wife, 11. 24. 1947. 5-17

SF 44-609  
JGC/jr

b7A.c

b7A.c

As requested earlier, Mobile is requested to immediately furnish a readable copy of the transcript of the first trial.

If Mobile desires, it may send a transcript of the trial [redacted] who will Xerox it and immediately return the transcript to Mobile.



8/24/65

1 - Mr. Hines

Airtel

To: SACs, San Francisco (44-609)  
Mobile (44-1245)  
EX 103 REC 45  
From: Director, FBI (44-28601) 440

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA, ET AL - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

ReSFairtel 8/17/65.

Recent public statements made by Attorney Matt Murphy prior to his death on 8/20/65 quoted him as stating that Rowe was being maintained by the FBI under guard in Tampa, Florida. Although the Bureau recognizes that these reports are completely false, it is logical to assume that persons looking for Rowe would do so in the Tampa area as a result of these reports. Also it can be expected that the death of Attorney Matt Murphy will result in a postponement of the retrial of Wilkins which was initially scheduled for 9/27/65.

Mobile will follow the appointment of a new attorney for Wilkins closely and keep the Bureau currently advised of developments. Also advise the Bureau promptly of any postponement of the scheduled retrial of Wilkins as initially set for 9/27/65.

1 - Birmingham (44-1236) (for info)

JWH/ral

(7)

NOTE: See memo Rosen to Belmont, 8/23/65, same caption, JWH/ral.

AUG 31 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐