

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

March 13, 1969

JAMES LEONARD FARMER

The information in this summary memorandum supplements that in a summary memorandum dated March 3, 1969.

[redacted] of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), New York, New York, advised he first became associated with CORE in [redacted] as a "regular recruit," and stated he assumed his present position with CORE in [redacted]. He said he and Mr. Farmer were "political enemies from the very first week," inasmuch as he did not agree with Mr. Farmer's policies. He explained that Mr. Farmer strongly favored and hoped for integration in the United States, while [redacted] was against integration. He described himself as a "black nationalist" and stated he is opposed to any integration and feels the black man and the white man should live apart in separate "colonies." [redacted] advised that when he first became associated with CORE, there were "too many white men" advising Mr. Farmer. He said these white men eventually left CORE and the positions they held were filled by black men. He stated there are presently no white executives in CORE, although there are some "white friends" who sympathize with CORE ideals.

[redacted] stated in his opinion, Mr. Farmer is "politically naive" and "does not live in a real world." He advised that for twenty years or more, Mr. Farmer has lived with and believed in the unreal hope that the black man and the white man can successfully integrate and unite in a well-ordered society. [redacted] said this is a "dream" and stated he feels Mr. Farmer should become aware of this. He advised that although he and Mr. Farmer are on "different political sides of the fence" and although he does not agree with Mr. Farmer's ideas on integration, he considers Mr. Farmer a "top-notch"

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DATE 5-19-80 BY SP5 RJS/ma

James Leonard Farmer

individual of the highest caliber and a man whose character, reputation, honesty, loyalty, and integrity are above question. He said he is of the opinion Mr. Farmer will perform his duties in any assigned position in a very thorough, capable, and conscientious manner. He mentioned that Mr. Farmer, who resigned as National Director of CORE in March, 1966, has continued to serve as a member of the National Advisory Board of CORE.

Floyd B. McKissick, President of McKissick Enterprises, New York, New York, and former National Director of CORE, advised he first met Mr. Farmer when CORE was organized in Chicago, Illinois. He described Mr. Farmer as the "founding father" of CORE. He stated he considers Mr. Farmer to be "tops" in all respects, especially with regard to his honesty, loyalty, integrity, and qualifications. Mr. McKissick advised that he would highly recommend Mr. Farmer for any important position of trust and confidence.

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] advised in Washington, D. C., she is authorized to state that [redacted] has known Mr. Farmer since the [redacted] primarily by reputation, as a result of his activities in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, CORE, and other "civil rights" organizations. She said [redacted] has had only a limited amount of personal contact with Mr. Farmer. [redacted] noted that Mr. Farmer was defeated by [redacted] during the November, 1968, election, and she said [redacted] is of the opinion Mr. Farmer was fair in the conduct of his election campaign. She advised that [redacted] considers Mr. Farmer a good administrator and she possesses no information of an unfavorable nature regarding his reputation, morals, associates or loyalty. According to [redacted] [redacted] recommends Mr. Farmer for a position of trust and confidence, and considers him a good selection for the position in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to which he has been named.

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Copy to HEC
by FBI Liaison
3/27/69
#4.

[Redacted]

1 cc to [Redacted]
[Redacted]

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March 13, 1969

JAMES LEONARD FARMER

The information in this summary memorandum supplements that in a summary memorandum dated March 3, 1969.

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

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE DETROIT	OFFICE OF ORIGIN BUREAU	DATE 3/24/69	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 2/27 - 3/19/69
TITLE OF CASE JAMES LEONARD FARMER		REPORT MADE BY SA 	TYPED BY ps
		CHARACTER OF CASE SPI	

REFERENCES: Bureau airtel to Detroit, dated 3/14/69.
Detroit teletypes to the Bureau, dated 3/18/69 and 3/19/69.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/13/00 BY 60267/NLS-CLL

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						☐ NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:	
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	PENDING OVER ONE YEAR		☐ YES ☐ NO	
								PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS	☐ YES ☐ NO

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:		161-6044-75 NOT RECORDED 5 MAY 20 1969	
1 - Bureau (161-6044) 1 - Detroit (161-847)			

Dissemination Record of Attached Report					Notations
Agency					
Request Recd.					
Date Fwd.					
How Fwd.					
By	56 APR 23 1969				

- A* -
COVER PAGE

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Copy to:

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Report of: SA [REDACTED] Office: Detroit, Michigan
 Date: March 24, 1969
 Field Office File #: 161-847 Bureau File #: 161-6044
 Title: JAMES LEONARD FARMER

Character: SPECIAL INQUIRY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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 DATE 4/13/00 BY 60367/NLS/AC/dc

Synopsis: Detroit unable to verify employment with
 UAW. [REDACTED] interviewed and
 favorable. Credit and arrest negative.

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DETAILS:EMPLOYMENT

On March 18, 1969, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] International Union.

UAW, 8000 East Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan, advised SA [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] that their payroll records contain no record of
 the appointee. She stated that possibly the appointee was paid
 out of a commercial account, of which the payroll department does
 not make a record.

CREDIT AND ARREST

On February 27, 1969, the following agencies advised
 SA [REDACTED] that their files contain no record of FARMER:

[REDACTED]
Clerk

Bureau of Criminal Identification
 Detroit Police Department
 Detroit, Michigan

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[REDACTED]
Clerk

Wayne County Sheriff's Office
 Detroit, Michigan

DE 161-847

[REDACTED]
Clerk
Detroit Traffic Court
Detroit, Michigan

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[REDACTED]
Supervisor
Merchants Credit Bureau
Detroit, Michigan.

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DE 161-847
VLC/lal-1

Former Wife

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED]

On March 19, 1969, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Michigan, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] advised that she first met JAMES LEONARD
FARMER in Chicago, Illinois, in [REDACTED] FARMER was engaged,
at that time, in helping to organize the Congress of Racial
Equality. His family were residents of Washington, D.C.,
at the time, and FARMER considered that city to be his home.

FARMER moved from Chicago to New York, New York,
but he maintained his association with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] resided with FARMER's family
which consisted of his mother, sister, and brother. FARMER
was employed as a lecturer at that time. He subsequently
worked for a labor union, name not recalled, and the National
Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in New
York.

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[] have remained very good friends. FARMER frequently contacts her family when he visits Chicago. Through contacts with relatives or mutual friends, [] has had occasion to be in personal association with FARMER. [] On one occasion, [] had dinner in New York with FARMER and the present Mrs. FARMER.

[] described FARMER as a lovely person from a lovely family. His father was a minister. His father and mother are both deceased. FARMER, his brother, and sister are extremely high type persons of excellent morals and character. [] stated that FARMER is a religious man and she never knew him to drink to excess or to have any undesirable character traits. His associates are intellectuals and she never knew him to associate with anyone with ill repute. She considers FARMER to be a loyal American and has never known him to be a member of or in sympathy with any "subversive-type" organizations. He is motivated with desire to assist members of his race, and his life time has been spent in that effort.

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[] stated that FARMER is definitely ^{not} violent and advocates the use of non-violence in obtaining goals. [] stated she has never known FARMER to have been arrested other than for having engaged in civil rights demonstrations. [] recommended JAMES LEONARD FARMER for a position of trust with the Federal Government.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

March 27, 1969

JAMES LEONARD FARMER

The information in this summary memorandum supplements that in summary memoranda dated March 3, 1969, and March 13, 1969.

Interviews

[redacted] of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, Washington, D. C. advised he has known Mr. Farmer since about [redacted]. He described Mr. Farmer as a loyal American of excellent character and reputation, and said he considers him a personal friend. [redacted] stated Mr. Farmer is highly competent and very industrious, and advised he would recommend him for a position of trust and confidence.

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[redacted]
MacFarland Associates, Incorporated, Utica, New York, advised he first met Mr. Farmer in the mid or late [redacted] when he, [redacted] was employed by Program Associates, Incorporated, Utica, New York. He said he arranged for lectures which were given by Mr. Farmer throughout the United States for approximately three years. [redacted] described Mr. Farmer as an excellent speaker and a man of good character and morals. He said he has no reason to question Mr. Farmer's loyalty or choice of associates, and advised he would recommend him for a position of trust and responsibility with the Government.

The records of Program Associates, Incorporated, Utica, New York, indicate that from November, 1948, to September, 1951, this firm acted as a booking agent for Mr. Farmer who was engaged in giving lectures.

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James Leonard Farmer

[redacted] of Harry Walker, Incorporated, New York, New York, advised he has been associated with Mr. Farmer for approximately [redacted] years, primarily on a professional basis. He stated that during this time Harry Walker, Incorporated, has arranged for Mr. Farmer's lecture tours throughout the United States. He said these lecture tours have dealt primarily with the problems of civil rights. [redacted] described Mr. Farmer as a man of integrity, and said he is honest, reliable, and punctual. He commented favorably as to Mr. Farmer's character, loyalty, and reputation, and stated he possesses no information of an unfavorable nature concerning him. He recommended Mr. Farmer for a position of trust and confidence.

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[redacted] of Leo Kramer, Incorporated, a research and consulting firm, Washington, D. C., advised that Mr. Farmer has been associated with this firm as an unpaid adviser for approximately two years. He said he has known Mr. Farmer for at least [redacted] years and stated he considers him to be completely dedicated to the United States. He described Mr. Farmer as a man of integrity and recommended him for a position of trust, stating he considers the Government to be very fortunate in obtaining Mr. Farmer's services.

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[redacted] of the International Affairs Department, United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW), Washington, D. C., advised that [redacted] engaged Mr. Farmer to conduct radio and television newscasts and interviews with Negroes of prominence on programs sponsored by the UAW in Detroit, Michigan. He said this was done in an effort to promote better understanding between the races and to relieve racial tension. [redacted] advised that Mr. Farmer conducted these programs in a very competent manner. He stated he has had very little contact with Mr. Farmer. [redacted] said he possesses no information of an unfavorable nature concerning Mr. Farmer. He advised that, based on his observation of Mr. Farmer in [redacted] and information he has heard and read about him since then, he would recommend him for employment by the Government in a position of trust and responsibility.

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James Leonard Farmer

[redacted] Michigan advised that

[redacted]

have continued to be very good friends. She described Mr. Farmer as a loyal American of excellent character, morals, and associates, and said to her knowledge he has never been a member of or in sympathy with any "subversive-type" organizations. [redacted] stated that Mr. Farmer is motivated by a desire to assist members of his race and that his life has been spent in that effort. She said he advocates nonviolence in obtaining his goals. [redacted] recommended Mr. Farmer for a position of trust with the Government.

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Miscellaneous

Court records in New York, New York, disclosed that on May 25, 1965, Thomas R. Gilligan filed a suit in the amount of three million dollars plus costs against Mr. Farmer and the Congress of Racial Equality for alleged slander. In this suit the following statement was attributed to Mr. Farmer: "James Powell was shot in cold blood. Lieutenant Gilligan must be arrested and charged with murder." A motion to dismiss this suit was denied on November 1, 1965, by Justice Joseph A. Burst of the Supreme Court of New York State. Following an appeal by the defendants on April 29, 1968, the Appellate Division of the First Judicial Department, New York, New York, affirmed the order of Justice Burst. This matter is presently pending.

Lieutenant Thomas R. Gilligan, New York City Police Department, fatally shot James Powell, a Negro, aged 15, in July, 1964. According to articles in the press, this shooting was said to have been a

James Leonard Farmer

contributing factor in the eruption of the Harlem riots during the Summer of 1964. Lieutenant Gilligan reportedly testified that he shot in self-defense after Powell threatened him, and he was cleared of wrongdoing.

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March 27, 1969

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DATE 4/13/00 BY 60267/KLS-UC-HC

JAMES LEONARD FARMER

The information in this summary memorandum supplements that in summary memoranda dated March 3, 1969, and March 13, 1969.

Interviews

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Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
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Callahan _____
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Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

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MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Return to [redacted]

Room 1260.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MILWAUKEE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN BUREAU	DATE 3/24/69	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 3/21/69 - 3/24/69
TITLE OF CASE JAMES LEONARD FARMER		REPORT MADE BY SA [REDACTED]	TYPED BY rab
		CHARACTER OF CASE SPI	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/1/00 BY 60267/MS/CLC/A

REFERENCES

Butel to Milwaukee, 3/19/69.
Bureau telecall to Milwaukee, 3/20/69.
Milwaukee teletype to Director and New York, 3/21/69.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE

b6 Efforts to contact [REDACTED]
b7C of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees,
b7D at his residence at [REDACTED] Wisconsin, and
[REDACTED] New York City, were unsuccessful on 3/21/69.

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COVER PAGE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						☐ NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
								PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☐ NO
								PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☐ NO

APPROVED **DNE/TWL** SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

1 - Bureau (161-5491) (AM)

1 - Milwaukee (161-489)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

161-5491-79
NOT RECORDED
5 MAR 26 1969

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA [REDACTED]

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Office: MILWAUKEE

Date: MARCH 24, 1969

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Field Office File #: MI 161-489

Bureau File #: 161-5491

Title: JAMES LEONARD FARMER

Character: SPECIAL INQUIRY

Synopsis:

[REDACTED] American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Green Bay, Wisconsin, on 3/24/69 advised he believes JAMES FARMER, whom he has been acquainted with since approximately [REDACTED] is a logical selection by President Nixon to be on the "Nixon team." He said FARMER is strongly acclimated and focused on civil rights and will do well to devote his interest to the Negro. He pointed out FARMER is not an extremist in regard to civil disobedience but strongly favors integration instead of black power. [REDACTED] said FARMER traveled [REDACTED] in central Africa, as one of the members of a 5-man delegation for the International Federation of Free Trade Unions. [REDACTED] recommends FARMER favorably.

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DETAILS:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/13/00 BY 60267/NLS-CLC-dk

MI 161-489

AT GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN

[redacted]
[redacted]
at the University of Wisconsin in Green Bay, and [redacted]
of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal
Employees of the AFL, on March 24, 1969 informed that he has
known JAMES FARMER from approximately [redacted] to date. He said
that although he has on occasion met [redacted] he does not
know the members of JAMES FARMER's family. He said that FARMER
was affiliated with the American Federation of State, County and
Municipal Employees of the AFL from approximately 1954 to 1962
or 1963, working at that organization's headquarters in the
New York City area.

[redacted] said that he traveled abroad to central
Africa with a five man delegation for the International
Federation of Free Trade Unions. [redacted] pointed out that
the delegation consisted of persons from abroad as follows:
[redacted] from England; [redacted] (Phonetic), from
Germany; [redacted] (Phonetic), from Germany; and JAMES
FARMER and [redacted] from the United States.

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[redacted] said that FARMER and [redacted]
left the United States in October of 1958 and returned to the
United States on December 10, 1958.

[redacted] said that in the various locales when
the community people would set up five chairs for the delegation
to make their appearance before the group, there would always be
one empty chair, inasmuch as "JIM", meaning JAMES FARMER, would
be with the crowd. [redacted] said that JAMES FARMER is strongly
acclimated and focused on civil rights.

[redacted] pointed out that in areas where the
delegation had occasion to travel and see the history and
cultural background, "JIM" would argue that there was a back-
ground and civilization among the African countries.

[redacted] said he believes that "President Nixon"
desired to appoint someone of consequence on his, NIXON's, team.
In this regard, [redacted] further explained that JAMES FARMER
is the logical selection. He said that FARMER will do well to
devote his interest to the Negro.

[redacted] explained that JAMES FARMER, after leaving
the affiliation with the American Federation of State, County
and Municipal Employees, became Director for the Congress of
Racial Equality. [redacted] during the interview volunteered

MI 161-489

that the appointee is not an extremist in regard to civil disobedience. He said that FARMER, instead, strongly favors total integration instead of black power.

[redacted] said that as an acquaintance of JAMES FARMER during his affiliation with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, he recommends FARMER as an intelligent person, a fine speaker, a well-mannered person, with whom he had a very pleasant working relationship. [redacted] said he favorably recommends the appointee, JAMES LEONARD FARMER.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

No Duplication Fees are charged for Deleted Page Information Sheet(s).

Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 4

Page 25 ~ Duplicate to LHM dated 3/13/96page 2

Page 96 ~ Duplicate LHM dated 3/27/69 page 2

Page 97 ~ Duplicate LHM dated 3/27/69 page 3

Page 98 ~ Duplicate LHM dated 3/27/69 page 4