

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Warren Olney III, Assistant Attorney General,
Criminal Division

DATE: October 23, 1956

FROM : Arthur B. Caldwell, Chief, Civil Rights Section

ABC:ARG

SUBJECT: Search for letter from Mrs. Mamie Bradley,
mother of Emmett Louis Till

144-40-116

FILED
OCT 26 1956
NOTED (u)

Pursuant to your request, I have had a thorough search made of all available papers and documents in the Records Division relating to the killing of Emmett Louis Till, in an effort to find a letter or telegram from the mother of the Till boy. A search of the indices of the Records Division failed to reveal any communication in the form of a letter or telegram from Mrs. Mamie Bradley. In addition, 36 sections of the correspondence file in the Records Division have been carefully examined, with the same result.

However, we have found a letter which may be the one in question. It is from NAACP attorney William Henry Huff, 6532 Cottage Grove, Chicago, Illinois, dated August 29, 1955, addressed to the Attorney General, in which he states that Mrs. Mamie Bradley was in his office at the time and that he was writing for her and asking for an investigation. Another letter from Mr. Huff was located, dated August 31, 1955, which was sent direct to the White House, but it does not mention Mrs. Bradley. It was referred to the Department of Justice and both letters were answered by this section in a letter addressed to Mr. William Henry Huff on September 15, 1955. (See Sec. 1, File 144-40-116)

Through the indices of the FBI, as a result of a telephone call to Mr. Leo Conroy, we have located a memorandum from the Bureau describing the difficulties and disputes growing out of Mrs. Bradley's lecture tour. The memorandum is addressed, not to the Criminal Division, but to Mr. Tompkins of the Internal Security Division, subject: Communist Infiltration of the NAACP, date, November 17, 1955, in Sec. 11 of classified file No. 146-1-80. See also memorandum to the Attorney General dated September 9, 1955, subject: Communist Party, USA Negro Question Internal Security, in classified file No. 144-40-116. Both files are attached.

As indicated to you earlier, I am still of the opinion that the White House answered most of its "Till" mail, because I was informed by Miss Natalie Stearns, of Mr. Raab's office, in a telephone conversation with her on September 26, 1955, that they intended to acknowledge the mail relating to the Till case. She obtained from us approval of a form reply which could be used in most instances. I am strengthened in that belief by the fact that out of the thousands of letters in our file in the Till matter, only a very few are referrals from the White House. If this Department received correspondence enough to fill 36 sections, I am sure the White House must have received thousands more, which were answered there.

Atts.

FILE: W.O.