

October 24, 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. NICHOLS  
MR. BOARDMAN  
MR. ROSEN

Today, while in conference with the Attorney General, I mentioned to him the developments in Mississippi wherein the Governor-elect proposes to have introduced in the State Legislature sometime in January a bill which will make it a crime for any Federal Agent to investigate any matter in the State of Mississippi which does not involve a Federal angle. I pointed out that the Governor-elect of Mississippi had stated he was aiming this legislation at Attorney General Brownell to make him more cautious in ordering investigations into state primaries wherein rights of Negroes, as provided for under the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments of the Constitution, had been denied.

The Attorney General discussed the necessity for such investigations.

I suggested to the Attorney General the desirability of having someone, such as the Scripps-Howard papers, carry a series of articles explaining to the public exactly what the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice is and the limitations upon the same. I advised the Attorney General of my recent conversation with Mr. Scripps and Mr. Walker Stone concerning the Till case and that I thought there was a large number of American people who did not understand why the FBI did not investigate the killing of Till, either under the Civil Rights Statute or as a Kidnaping violation. I suggested that the articles could start with an explanation of this particular situation and the pressure groups which have been endeavoring to inject the Department of Justice and the FBI into the Till case and then proceed with a presentation of the problems faced and of the accomplishments attained through the efforts of the FBI over the past years in this field of investigative activity.

The Attorney General looked with favor upon this suggestion and indicated he would contact Mr. Walker Stone of the Scripps-Howard

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Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Parsons

Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons

Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

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Mr. Tolson, Nichols, Boardman, Rosen

October 26, 1945

My dear Mr. Tolson: I told the Attorney General that if we could be of any assistance to a special feature writer in this matter, he should contact Mr. Nichols, of this Bureau, who would be glad to assist in every way possible.

Very truly yours,

15/ J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

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