

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols *eev*

FROM : M. A. Jones *1*

SUBJECT: DR. T. R. M. HOWARD

DATE: January 9, 1956

Tolson _____

Boardman _____

Nichols _____

Belmont _____

Harbo _____

Mohr _____

Parsons _____

Rosen _____

Tamm _____

Sizoo _____

Winterrowd _____

Tele. Room _____

Holloman _____

Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY Sp4 bja tnf

SYNOPSIS:

T. R. M.Summary

ILL. Md.

Dr. Howard runs clinic and insurance plan in all-Negro town of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. Howard in 1950 organized Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership and has been its president since inception. Howard has been critical of the FBI in speeches. Baltimore Morning Sun newspaper September 26, 1955, carried story headlined, "Probe of South's FBI Agents Asked." Dr. Howard quoted as stating, "It's getting to be a strange thing that the FBI can never seem to work out who's responsible for killings of Negroes in the South." Suggested President, the Attorney General and "J. Edgar Hoover himself" be called into a conference by national Negro leaders. Howard was talking before the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). As a result of this, we wrote to Thurgood Marshall of the NAACP, and advised him Howard's statements showed total disregard of the facts. Indications are some of leadership of NAACP do not trust Howard. News release 12-10-55 reflects Regional Council of Negro Leadership planning to confer with Attorney General sometime in January, 1956. We advised the Attorney General to this effect and also furnished him background of Howard. Howard on December 28, 1955, in speaking before Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity convention in Chicago again criticized FBI stating, "Confidential information usually leaks from the local FBI offices and witnesses in Negro slaying are subjected to pressures as a result." It is believed we should take strong exception to Dr. Howard's statements, particularly that alleging a leak from FBI offices. It is felt we should write him a strong letter with the thought in mind that this letter can be published and will clarify the Bureau's position on civil rights matters, particularly in Mississippi as far as the public is concerned.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) That we consider the advisability of writing a strong letter to Dr. Howard taking exception to his various remarks concerning the Bureau. If you agree, a proposed letter is attached.

Enclosure

DGH:nma

EX-125

RECORDED - 3

62-102602-10
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memo to Mr. Tolson from LBN, 1/16/56
let to Dr. Howard, Thurgood Marshall, SAC, Memphis, & AM, 1/16/56

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(2) That if we forward this letter to Dr. Howard we also consider the advisability of releasing it to Southern newspapers.

ADDENDUM, LBN:gjm:l-12-56

(1) I recommend that the letter to Dr. Howard be cleared with Mullen and that Mullen be advised that we contemplate releasing it to the press in the South.

(2) I recommend that we send copies of this letter to our Memphis Office and permit the Memphis Office to release the letter to the Memphis Commercial Appeal, other Memphis papers, and the wire services in Memphis one day after the letter would normally be received by Dr. Howard. If this is approved, we would have to check the mail schedules and fix the time of release.

(3) I think we should send a copy of this letter to Thurgood Marshall, of the NAACP in New York, at the time we send it to Dr. Howard.

*I think this is
worth while.
If approved,
the letter should
be redated
and cleared
with Mullen*

1-14

*with
Clear, Mullen &
then let me know.
H.*