

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: Sept. 26, 1955

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4 bja/tmf

Tolson	
Boardman	
Nichols	
Belmont	
Harbo	
Mohr	
Parsons	
Rosen	
Tamm	
Sizoo	
Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Holloman	
Gandy	

The attached clipping from the Baltimore Morning Sun of September 26, 1955, reports the address of Dr. T. R. M. Howard, a Mississippi Negro leader who lambasted the Bureau and questioned the conduct of Southern Agents of the FBI and asserted that it is strange the FBI can never seem to work out who is responsible for killings of Negroes in the South. He referred to the Reverend Walter W. Lee and Lamar Smith cases which we investigated. Our reports were submitted to the Department and the Department ruled there was no Federal violation. He also referred to the Till case in which the Department ruled at the very outset that it was not a violation of Federal law.

I received a call from INS late Sunday night and stated that we would not comment. However, since INS had previously carried stories, I saw no reason why INS should not revive the stories on the Lee case and the Till case and point out that we did investigate the Lee case and the Department ruled there was no Federal violation and that we did not make an investigation of the Till case since the Department ruled there was no Federal violation.

This morning Jack Carley called me from Memphis. He was exercised and stated that he thought serious trouble was in the offing. I personally think we should make an issue out of Howard's statements. We can do this by one of two ways, either write a strong letter to the Executive Secretary of the NAACP and point out the exact facts and release this letter to the press or I could call Thurgood Marshall, who is familiar with the facts, and point out to Marshall that while we wish to avoid a public controversy with the NAACP, we must insist that the record be kept straight and see what Marshall's attitude is before clarifying the statement of Howard. If Marshall is not inclined to do anything, then we could issue a short statement to the press as to the two alternatives. I favor a strong letter to the Executive Secretary of the NAACP which could promptly be made public.

cc - Mr. Boardman
cc - Mr. Rosen
cc - Mr. Jones

Enclosure

LBN:ptm
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OCT 7 1955

suggest letter
to Marshall.files are being
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Howard1 copy auto
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ENCL.

clipping

9/30/55
Mama Jones to Marshall
with letter to Marshall
PS
PERS. FILE