

PROBE OF SOUTH'S FBI AGENTS ASKED

2,500 Hear Negro Leader
Who Figured In Till Case

Dr. T. R. M. Howard, Mississippi Negro leader who played a prominent role in the recent Emmett Till murder trial, yesterday called for an investigation into the conduct of Southern agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"It's getting to be a strange thing," said Dr. Howard, "that the FBI can never seem to work out who is responsible for killings of Negroes in the South."

Urges Conference

He made reference to the unsolved killings of the Rev. Walter W. Lee and Lamar Smith, both active in the movement to get more Mississippi Negroes to vote.

He urged that the President, the Attorney General "and J. Edgar Hoover, himself" be called into a conference by national Negro leaders.

"We must find out," he said, "why Southern investigators of the FBI can't seem to solve a crime where a Negro is involved."

Dr. Howard, who acted in a liaison capacity between some witnesses and the State's attorney of Sunflower county, Mississippi, during the Till trial, said, "The wave of terror has hit the South; it is in Mississippi."

He cited several examples of race difficulties which he claimed

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PROBE OF FBI AGENTS ASKED

Negro Leader Refers To
Southern Ones In Talk

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represented daily happenings in Mississippi.

Dr. Howard told the audience of 2,500 attending the membership meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at the Sharp Street Methodist Church, that he is "a marked man."

"I keep two bodyguards on duty at my home 24-hours a day," he shouted in a heated speech given from the church's altar. He spoke for almost two hours.

Dr. Howard spoke bitterly of the difficulties Negro groups in Mississippi have in "just getting simple justice from State officials."

"A Roman Holiday"

He branded the charge that 14-year-old Emmett Till insulted the wife of a white store owner in Money, Miss., "a lie . . . that stinks."

"Everytime they get ready to lynch a Negro in the South, he told the group in what seemed to be a departure from a prepared script, "it's got to be about a white woman."

He described the Till trial, in which the two white defendants accused of killing the Chicago youth were acquitted, as "a Roman holiday."

Interrupted Frequently

Dr. Howard, frequently interrupted by comments from the audience, branded the newly formed Mississippi Citizen's Council as "the start of an organized campaign of violence."

In closing, Dr. Howard cited four points necessary to successful integration and desegregation. They were: Equality in education; unrestricted balloting; maintenance of racial identity, and religion.

He also asked for a \$5,000 donation to the N.A.A.C.P. to finance school-desegregation court cases in Mississippi.

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

Wash. Post and _____
Times Herald _____
Wash. News _____
Wash. Star _____
N. Y. Herald _____
Tribune _____
N. Y. Mirror _____
Daily Worker _____
The Worker _____
New Leader _____

Baltimore Morning Sun 28

Date **SEP 26 1955**

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DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4 bja/tf

Index to Nichols
9-26-55
DGN

62-102602-2 ENCLOSURE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen *Rosen*

DATE: 9/26/55

FROM : F. L. Price *FLP*ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-5-96 BY SP4 bja/tf

SUBJECT:

ALLEGATION AGAINST BUREAU
PERSONNEL BY DR. T. R. M. HOWARD,
SEPTEMBER 25, 1955.

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

The "Evening Star" of 9/26/55, reflects that Dr. Howard, Negro leader from Mississippi, in speaking before a meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Baltimore on 9/25/55, urged that President Eisenhower, the Attorney General and the Director be called into a conference by national Negro leaders because "We must find out why Southern investigators of the FBI can't seem to solve a crime where a Negro is involved." Dr. Howard further commented that it was strange "The FBI can never seem to work out who is responsible for killings of Negroes in the South." He made reference to the murder of Emmett Louis Till and the unsolved killings of "Reverend Walter W. Lee" (undoubtedly Reverend George Wesley Lee) and Lamar Smith, allegedly active in movement to get more Negroes in Mississippi to vote.

Murder of Emmett Louis Till

Till, a Negro youth from Chicago, abducted from the home of his uncle near Money, Mississippi, on the early morning of 8/28/55, because of "ugly remarks" he had allegedly made to the wife of Roy Bryant, white. Body believed to be that of Till found in Tallahatchie River in Mississippi 8/31/55. Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, were indicted and tried for the murder of Till in State Court and were acquitted of the murder charge on 9/23/55. They are being held for arraignment on kidnaping charges in Leflore County, Mississippi. Upon receipt of information that Till's body had been recovered, the facts were immediately presented to the Civil Rights Section of the Department on 8/31/55, and the Bureau was advised no investigation was desired as the facts did not indicate a violation of any Federal statute. The Bureau has not conducted any investigation in this case.

Unknown Subjects;

Reverend George Wesley Lee - Victim
Civil Rights

On 5/7/55, Lee, a colored minister of Belzoni, Mississippi, was murdered. Allegations received that Lee killed because he refused to remove his name from list of registered voters. On 5/24/55,

cc: Mr. Nichols
CLM:ush

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50 OCT 18 1955

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