

7-30-1964

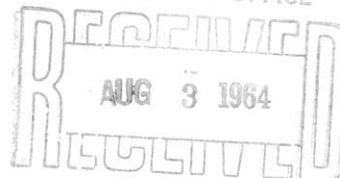
Correspondence, John C. Stennis, J. Edgar Hoover, July 30-August 17, 1964

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JOHN STENNIS

[REDACTED]
ATTORNEY AT LAW
[REDACTED]

MAGNOLIA, MISSISSIPPI

July 30, 1964 [REDACTED]

Senator John C. Stennis
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Stennis:

I have been hearing some rumors about the actions of the FBI in this facilty for the last few days, but I have not been able to verify this from reliable people until this morning.

These agents are fanning out in this County and also in Wal-
thall County, going on peoples' private property searching
for something presumably dynamite or other explosives with-
out the permission of the owner and without any sort of a
search warrant. They are also offering, so I am advised by
two reliable men, to pay people to furnish them information
presumably about church burnings, etc., or any other so-called
or alleged civil rights violation. In one instance in Walthall
County they offered the man \$300.00 per month to "pimp" for
them. There must be 30 to 50 agents working in this particu-
lar area so that their "Gestapo" methods mentioned above is be-
coming rather irritating and resented. Apparently, the money
being offered for the information is a part of the Thirteen
Million Dollars appropriated for the enforcement of the so-called
Civil Rights Act.

Our people resent very much the recent bombings, church burn-
ings, etc., and would be most happy to cooperate with the FBI
in the apprehension and prosecution of the persons responsi-
ble, if and when caught, but such conduct on the part of the
agents is causing more resentment than the other actions so
that they are going to get themselves in a place where they
will have absolutely no cooperation whatsoever not only in
this but in any other project. This is a very dangerous and
pitiful situation. They certainly should respect the rights
of our people under the Constitution, if, indeed, we have one
left.

Please reply promptly in this matter so that I will know for
sure that you have received this information.

Yours very truly,
[REDACTED]

~~B24~~
32 - Miss. Invasion

COPY

SENATOR JOHN STENNIS

WASHINGTON, D. C.
AUGUST 4, 1964

[REDACTED]
ATTORNEY AT LAW

[REDACTED]
MAGNOLIA, MISSISSIPPI

YOUR JULY 30 LETTER JUST RECEIVED AND
DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT MATTERS MENTIONED.
AM TAKING UP WITH AUTHORITIES AND PROTESTING
PRESENT POLICY. WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED.
REGARDS.

JOHN STENNIS
UNITED STATES SENATOR

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

JS:cb

RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

HARRY L. WINGATE, JR., CHIEF CLERK

August 6, 1964

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigations
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am enclosing herewith a self-explanatory letter which I have received from [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] an attorney at law at Magnolia, Mississippi.

It will be deeply appreciated if you will give me a full written report which I can use in making an appropriate reply to [REDACTED].

Please return the enclosed letter with your response.

With warm personal regards and best wishes always, I am

Sincerely,

John Stennis
United States Senator

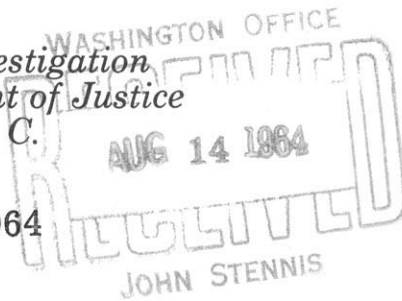
JS:cb
Enclosure

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

August 10, 1964



Honorable John Stennis
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Senator:

I received your letter of August 6th enclosing a communication from [REDACTED] of Magnolia, Mississippi, pertaining to the activities of the FBI in his area.

Based upon the data set forth by [REDACTED], it is not possible to identify the matter or matters to which he refers. You may assure him, however, that FBI Agents do not conduct themselves in the manner he mentioned. This Bureau has the responsibility for investigating violations of many Federal laws including those concerning the civil rights of citizens. In this regard, we are extremely scrupulous in protecting the property and rights of those citizens with whom we come in contact. In addition, the principle of paying money for needed information is well established in the field of law enforcement, and as long as it is expended judiciously and legally, the FBI will certainly use this investigative technique.

It is unfortunate that persons not familiar with the true situation relay data for which there is no basis in fact. The FBI is proud of its investigative record and will continue, as in the past, to discharge its responsibilities with the highest degree of dispatch, thoroughness and objectivity.

In response to your request, I am returning Mr. Phillips' letter to you.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

Enclosure

32 - Miss. Invasion

RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

HARRY L. WINGATE, JR., CHIEF CLERK

August 17, 1964

[REDACTED]
Attorney at Law
[REDACTED]

Magnolia, Mississippi

Dear [REDACTED]:

After receiving your earlier letter, I took the matter up with the F.B.I. I enclose herewith a copy of a response from Mr. J. Edgar Hoover.

Frankly, I think that the matter should be looked into further. I am certain that those to whom you referred in your letter are personally familiar with the situation. If you want me to follow up on it, I will be glad to do so, but in view of this reply, I think we will need to furnish Mr. Hoover with more detailed information, perhaps in the form of affidavits from persons familiar with the facts, who will make specific charges, with dates, places, and incidents.

Let me assure you that I am anxious to protect our people against the type of activities outlined in your letter. In spite of the haste of the Federal government to investigate anything remotely connected with so-called "civil rights," our citizens and property owners have constitutional rights of their own which should be zealously guarded and protected. This is a serious matter and I so consider it.

It is always a pleasure to hear from you and should you want to furnish additional facts and affidavits, I will be glad to take this matter up further with Mr. Hoover.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

John Stennis
United States Senator

JS:ch
Enc.