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II. INVESTIGATION RE SUSPECT TILLMAN H. BELVIN

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON at Orlando, Florida, on February 6, 8 and 13, 1952.

BASIS: Reinterview of suspect TILLMAN H. BELVIN.

Suspect TILLMAN H. BELVIN was again interviewed at his residence on Lake Drawdy outside Orlando on February 6, 1952, at which time he reiterated he was in no way involved in instant case, had never seen the diagram or floor plans of HARRY T. MOORE's home, never heard of them or of any plot against MOORE's life and was at home with his close relatives all of Christmas day, 1951, except for possibly driving into Orlando Christmas night in order to view the Christmas decorations.

As has been stated before, BELVIN claims he has been very ill in recent years and that his illness and physical condition have affected his memory. It was obvious to the Agents by reason of BELVIN's general appearance, color and the swollen condition of his legs and hands that he is an ill man. He has stated his memory is so bad that Dr. B. P. HARTER, his physician at Orlando, did not even trust him to remember the dosages and times of administering medicine to himself for fear he might take the wrong medicine at the wrong time and cause his death.

Again TILLMAN H. BELVIN insisted that if he knew that any of his former associates in the Klan or any person were involved in any way in instant case he would cooperate with the Bureau and furnish the information. However, he insisted he has no such information in his possession.

BELVIN was questioned as to the identity and possible address of A. C. YATES who had accompanied him to Groveland at the time of the Groveland incidents in August, 1949 and who has not been located by the Agents due to lack of sufficient identifying information. He stated old A. C. YATES had died in 1935; had formerly sold oil out of the Seaboard Railroad and that his son who is also known as A. C. YATES was also an oil salesman. He believed old A. C. YATES and FRED BASS,

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formerly of Kissimmee and formerly Great Titan, who is now deceased, were opponents in the same Klan in Orlando. He described young A. C. YATES whom he has not seen very much since his father's funeral as white, male, brown hair, about 6'1", age 35, 200 pounds. The old YATES family home was located near the meat and produce business of E. R. GERTNER who is a deacon of the First Baptist Church.

During the general interview on February 6, 1952, BELVIN furnished considerable disjointed information which is being reported below.

Years ago while in the Orlando Klan he had split with FRED BASS who was the Exalted Cyclops of the Orlando Klan and appointed the head of the state organization. Due to this split BELVIN claims he ceased to have any association, connection or interest in the Klan until he was persuaded to return sometime in 1948 or 1949 in order to attempt to control the rowdy element of the Klan. He further related that despite the fact that JAMES COLESCOTT who was then the Imperial Wizard of the Klan had promised him he would consult him before making any changes in the top leadership in the Klan, COLESCOTT appointed FRED BASS as the Grand Dragon of the Klan in the state over Captain HAGAN who had been the Grand Dragon.

There was a Georgia Klan in Groveland while BELVIN was the Exalted Cyclops at Orlando. FRED BASS had issued the charter and had carried the other Groveland group personally. BELVIN had visited the Groveland Klavern only twice. Once was the occasion when the entire membership of the Orlando Klavern numbering 150 to 200 were invited by the members of the Groveland Klavern to attend a chicken-fry. On arriving it seemed that only four members of the Groveland Klavern were handling the chicken-fry and it was cancelled and those four members went over to attend a chicken-fry at the Orlando Klavern instead. The Groveland Klavern was never able to hold its membership and eventually had to disband.

BELVIN further related that as he had previously advised, a certain clique in the Orlando Klavern wanted to operate the Klan as they pleased in a terroristic fashion and he was determined they would not do so as long as he was head of the Klan. Certain persons in that clique conducted what BELVIN termed a "whispering campaign" in planning radical and terrorist incidents which were in no way condoned by the Orlando Klavern. In order to get to the bottom of the undercurrent of this

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conspiracy BELVIN brought those he thought to be involved before him as the Exalted Cyclops and "grilled them" vehemently without regard to their feelings but he knew they always lied to him.

When he was unable to cope with this clique of conspirators in their "whispering campaign" BELVIN made a trip to Wildwood to speak with the Grand Dragon, WALTON H. BROUGH, about his troubles. He believes Mr. BROUGH to be an excellent man who has the same high ideals as he in the conduct of the Klan who has never been known to be engaged in any radical activities and who has never spoken in an anti-negro vein to BELVIN's knowledge. When BELVIN told BROUGH his difficulties with the radical element in the Orlando Klavern of the Association of Georgia, BROUGH instructed him he was to keep this radical element under control or someone else would have to do it. Mr. BROUGH suggested BELVIN furnish him with the names of any radical members of the Klan with whom he had any trouble and he would take corrective action. It was the opinion of BELVIN that inasmuch as Mr. BROUGH has operated without salary and has to pay his own expenses he would not be in a very good position to investigate any members of the Klan himself.

After his visit BROUGH called a number of the radicals (exact identity of the ones called not remembered at present) to Wildwood. Meantime, four of the radical members had requested him to resign, those four being RAYMOND G. HOWELL, a carpenter of Coosa who was the secretary while BELVIN was Exalted Cyclops; MORGAN G. HOWARD, the ex-magistrate of Winter Garden; F. E. LCOMIS, the undertaker of Winter Garden and a grocer who operated a store on Route 50 on the near cut which leads to Winter Garden. (Investigation conducted through observation of all grocery stores along Route 50 near Winter Garden and subsequent re-contact with BELVIN revealed the individual was named JERNIGAN, possibly ADIS JERNIGAN, who formerly operated the grocery now known as Reece's at 9th Street and the corner of Route 50, at the near cut.)

Approximately 50 to 75 members of the Orlando Association of Georgia Klans obtained the new charter to form the Winter Garden Klavern. ALEX SCHMITT of Winter Garden, and LEE DAVIS who was the Exalted Cyclops before BELVIN, were among those who with the above mentioned individuals left the Orlando Klavern to form the Winter Garden Klavern.

EDDIE JACKSON, a building contractor who is one of the finest men BELVIN has ever known, probably took over the leadership of the Orlando

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Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans after the above described group formed the Winter Garden Klavern. He also believes that ~~PETE TUCKER~~, the Justice of the Peace at Winter Garden, and ~~CARL SANDERS~~, the Constable, quit the Orlando Klavern about the same time BELVIN stopped attending. He does not believe they ever attended again and knows nothing of their present status in the Klan. He stated he gave his robe to another member of the Orlando Klavern (name unrecalled) when he resigned or ceased attending the Klavern meetings.

BELVIN has heard that ~~EMORY BRANTLEY~~, the barber at Winter Garden, formerly an Apopka Klan member, might be involved in terrorist activities of some sort and that he knows LEE DAVIS would definitely be that type. He knows nothing of ALFONSO F. SCHMITT except that he is a "close mouthed individual".

ROBERT L. JUDAH, aka ~~Judy~~, is a well built, nice young man who is probably used by LEE DAVIS on some of his "jobs". He recalls that when he was Exalted Cyclops at the Orlando Klavern he spoke with JUDAH in order to obtain some information about the "whispering campaign" but JUDAH complained to him he could not tell him anything or he would get into trouble and his friends would be banished. F. E. LCOMIS is the type of individual who would plan a terrorist operation but would have someone else perform the "dirty work".

BELVIN stated he believed if he were interested in getting information about Klan activities in the Winter Garden area he would approach RAYMOND G. HOWELL and MORGAN G. HOWARD who are Masons. He claims he has never even visited the Winter Garden Klan meetings and most of his information is strictly hearsay.

He has not been at the Apopka Klavern meetings since BILL BOGAR took over. He believes ~~JOE WADE~~ is now the Exalted Cyclops of the Apopka Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans and that WADE, with others (names unrecalled) was in the habit of visiting the members of the Orlando Klavern from time to time. He has heard that some members of the Apopka Georgia Klan and Southern Knights Klan would switch with each other in rendering "treatments" unknown to the leadership of the various Klaverns.

The number of the Orlando Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans as mentioned by BELVIN is 341.

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TINY THOMAS affiliated himself with both the Southern Knights and the Georgia Klans, was caught attending both Klan meetings at Winter Garden and Orlando and was probably banished from the Georgia Klan and possibly from the Southern Knights.

The Cherokee Club was the name chosen by the Orlando Klan years ago to use in order to avoid the mention of a Klan name. In a way it was used for the benefit of wives of various Klansmen who did not approve of the husbands' Klan activities and attending meetings. The Cherokee Club was a part of BELVIN's Klan, met in the same hall, was the front organization for certain socials planned by the Klan and could be abolished at any time by the Orlando Klavern itself. As far as he knows the Cherokee Club was still operating in 1942 when the national organization of the Klan was dissolved.

BELVIN has not seen EARL BROOKLYN or talked to him since BELVIN went to the Bay Pines Veterans Hospital last fall. He recalls it was in October, 1951 while BROOKLYN was on some sort of business trip to either Clearwater or Tampa, Florida, that he visited BELVIN at the Bay Pines Hospital. Previously BELVIN had visited BROCKLYN when BROCKLYN was in the Orlando Sanitarium for an operation. He insisted he has been with EARL BROOKLYN very little in past years. He further insisted he has never been out on any "rides" with EARL BROCKLYN. In fact, the only times BELVIN has been on any "ride" was many years ago involving two or three "treatments" to white men. He remarked that after these "treatments" or "rides" were over he often wondered what had been accomplished by them and whether the risks he took were equal to the results inasmuch as he had a wife and young children during that time.

He has heard on occasions, such as during the Groveland incidents, that EARL BROOKLYN is violently anti-negro and was a very hot-tempered person.

When questioned about "leaders" on "rides" BELVIN stated it was the practice years ago to appoint a "leader" or "leaders" after a "ride party" had arrived at the scene.

BELVIN admitted that about twenty years ago his wife was in the women's auxiliary of the Klan for a period of only about six months and that her activity in that organization ceased when she started having children.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT ORIGINATED AT

FILE NO.

MIAMI

REPORT MADE AT SAVANNAH	DATE WHEN MADE FEB 4 1952	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/2, 3, 23/52	REPORT MADE BY E. FLEMING HASON/cs
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS: HARRY T. MOOTE - VICTIM MARRIOTT MOORE - VICTIM		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

JAY EDWARD BELVIN, Sumter, South Carolina, son of suspect TILLMAN HOLLY BELVIN, advised that entire family including father stayed at residence entire day of 12/25/51. Father sickly and spent most of afternoon in bed. Mr. and Mrs. _____ SOTREY, Mr. and Mrs. JOEY BARRINGER and several other individuals, names not remembered visited in suspects home Christmas afternoon. JAY BELVIN further advised that he went to KKK meetings with father many years ago and acquired a distaste for the KKK, further that when he learned of the bombing the thought went through his mind that the KKK could be involved. Upon inquiring of his mother as to father's affiliation, was advised by mother that father to her knowledge had not attended a meeting of KKK for over a year. JAY BELVIN stated that he and father did not get along well and he left Orlando 3 years ago and lived in Sumter, S. C. since, therefore not familiar with father's friends or KKK activity. WILL TANNER, former game warden, Orlando, known to be close and intimate friend of father. Contact with informants negative.

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DETAILS: AT SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

JAY EDWARD BELVIN, 19 Kendrick Avenue, advised that on December 22, 1951, he departed from Sumter, South Carolina, and went to visit parents Mr. and Mrs. TILMAN BELVIN at R# 4, Box 400, Orlando, Florida. While at residence he was joined by brother THOMAS, sister, ELAINE BAGNAL, and brother-in-law, BOB BAGNAL. On December 24, 1951, the entire family of six went to Orlando in father's Hudson and rode around. On December 25, 1951, the entire family stayed at home entire day, dinner of fried chicken served about noon. No visitors present for meal. Shortly after noon THOMAS, BOB and JAY went into the pasture for a short while, practiced some shooting with rifles. Father TILMAN BELVIN sickly and spent afternoon in bed. Many people visited BELVIN home during the afternoon and night. Two couples remembered, a Mr. and Mrs. STOREY and Mr. and Mrs. JOHNY BARRINGER of Orlando, several other people including a man who recently purchased the Belvin farm.

JAY further advised that when he was about 10 years of age he attended KKK meetings with his father and acquired a dislike for the KKK due to the rough and ignorant type of individuals present. He further advised that he had not resided in Orlando, Florida, for several years and did not know of father's affiliation with KKK. He advised that after hearing about the bombing on the radio, inquired of his mother as to his father's KKK affiliation. She advised that father to her knowledge had not attended a KKK meeting for over a year. JAY advised further that he and father did not get along together well and therefore he did not know who were his friends, however, knew that WILL TANNER a former game warden at Orlando was a very close friend.

According to JAY, father owns a home at 419 South Hughey Street, Orlando, Florida, and formerly owned an apartment house in 1500 East Central Avenue, now owned by Mrs. OSTEEN.

JAY stated that when he learned of bombing he promptly gave thought to KKK activity, which prompted his inquiry

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IV. INVESTIGATION RE SUSPECT TILLMAN HOLLEY BELVIN

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MESCH and JAMES P. SHANNON on March 24 and April 1, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

BASIS: TILLMAN HOLLEY BELVIN, suspect, reinterviewed for additional information regarding instant case in view of the fact he was allegedly visiting the Apopka Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans at the time the floor plans of MOORE's home were exhibited by suspect EARL J. BROOKLYN.

TILLMAN HOLLEY BELVIN was reinterviewed at his new home on Lake Barton on the outskirts of Orlando. He insisted that he knew nothing about the bombing of MOORE's home and has no information that might have any bearing on the murder of MOORE and his wife. He claimed he would never harm a negro except for cause and that if any negro did something which he believed warranted his attention he would take care of him directly without being secretive about it and after taking care of him would report it to the sheriff.

When questioned about any visits he might have made to the Apopka Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans BELVIN admitted he visited the regular meetings of that Klavern about a dozen times. The last time was when he himself was Exalted Cyclops of the Association of Georgia Klans in Orlando and BILL BOGAR was Exalted Cyclops in Apopka. It should be noted that BELVIN claimed he was Exalted Cyclops of this Klavern only about four months after which he resigned. Sometime prior to his resignation the visiting at the Apopka Klavern ceased by reason of the objection to those visits by the Exalted Cyclops, BILL BOGAR. He described BILL BOGAR whom he had known a long time as a veteran of the first World War whose mind was possibly affected by his war experiences. BOGAR was made Klingle, or organizer, of the Association of Georgia Klans in the Orlando area a short time after he was elected Exalted Cyclops of his Klavern. He objected to the visits made by Klansmen from other Klaverns for a reason which is not known to BELVIN.

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Generally, BELVIN claimed he does not like the way BOGAR talked but refused to expound on this statement. He did not know what was wrong with BOGAR but believed it was just his peculiar personality.

He believed it was possible that some of the disagreement between BOGAR and Klansmen from other Klaverns might have developed out of the internal dissension which existed in the Apopka Klavern itself when BOGAR preferred charges against R. G. STEVENS (deceased), JOE WADE and T. J. McMENNAMY who were themselves conspiring to have BILL BOGAR removed as Exalted Cyclops.

BELVIN claimed he used to attend the Apopka meeting solely in order to build that Klavern, increase its membership and to make a good showing. He insisted that after the meeting ended he was in the habit of leaving the meeting place and going home while others used to hang around and talk in groups. After BILL BOGAR had restricted the Apopka meetings to members of that Klavern he, BELVIN, instructed the members of his own Klavern to stay away from Apopka as long as BOGAR was in charge there and let him have enough rope to hang himself. He believed BILL BOGAR had not been the Exalted Cyclops of the Apopka Klavern more than two months when the visiting was stopped.

He admitted he had visited the Apopka Klavern at times when EARL J. BROOKLYN, ALFONSO F. SCHMITT, ROBERT L. JUDAH also visited that Klavern. However, he did not recall whether or not these other individuals visited the Apopka Klavern as a group. He himself always drove his own car to the meeting whenever he visited there and never went there in the company of EARL BROOKLYN, ALEX SCHMITT or ROBERT JUDAH. He might at times pick up some one to furnish him a ride to the meeting but never as a regular procedure and he could not furnish the name of any particular individual whom he would drive to the Apopka meeting.

He claimed that EARL BROOKLYN had his own group who travelled with him and that he, BELVIN, was not one of that group. As he had insisted on previous interviews, EARL BROOKLYN was definitely not the type of individual with whom he cared to associate.

TILLMAN BELVIN further insisted that at no time did BROOKLYN or anyone else show him the floor plans of the MOORE home nor was he ever shown any paper which purported to be the floor plan of any house while at a meeting or after a meeting of the Apopka Klavern or elsewhere. He has

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never heard of the existence of the floor plans of HARRY T. MOORE's house. EARL BROOKLYN never spoke to him about MOORE, MOORE's horse cr. instant case. He was of the belief that EARL BROCKLYN did attend the Apopka Association of Georgia Klans meetings early in 1950. It was BROCKLYN's practice to make a speech on the floor of the Apopka Klavern indicating from his discussion of a certain individual that he should be taken care of with a treatment but BROCKLYN never said whether or not such a person should be given a treatment but rather insinuated such should be done.

When asked whether EARL BROCKLYN and BILL BOGAR were friendly, BELVIN related that at one time when BROCKLYN was employed driving a citrus truck BROCKLYN used to visit BOGAR at his gas station during his working hours. BELVIN claimed he talked to BOGAR and attempted to find out why BROCKLYN was visiting him. From external appearances BOGAR and BROCKLYN got along very well and seemed to discuss Klan business with each other.

BELVIN was unable to say whether ROBERT JUDAH and EARL BROCKLYN were ever at an Apopka Klan meeting at the same time.

During the discussion about EARL BROCKLYN, BELVIN stated that although BROCKLYN was technically a member of the Orlando Association of Georgia Klans Klavern while BELVIN was Exalted Cyclops, BROCKLYN did not attend any of the meetings. Rather, he became angry about something and ceased affiliation with the Orlando Klavern. Thereafter, when the Winter Garden Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans obtained its charter EARL BROCKLYN joined that Klavern.

He related a few incidents which revealed that BROCKLYN was the type of person who would never appreciate charity or good works done toward him, did not have any principles, frequently failed to pay his just debts and would become angry at a person for doing what would normally be a kind act toward him. In fact, EARL BROCKLYN has been angry at BELVIN for some time for some reason unknown to BELVIN.

When the question of terrorist activities, rides and treatments on the part of the Klan and its members was discussed with BELVIN he claimed it had been many years since he had engaged in a ride and he could not remember the circumstances or any of the particulars of any of those rides. He insisted he had never been engaged in any ride with EARL BROCKLYN, ROBERT JUDAH or ALEX SCHMITT or, in fact, any of the current Klan members.

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BELVIN claimed that one of the reasons he rejoined the Klan was that some of the more respectable Klan members requested him to use his influence to curb the radical tendencies of some of the Klansmen. He explained that if it were not for the possibility that LEE DAVIS, MORGAN HOWARD and RAYMOND G. HOWELL were in the position of being elected Exalted Cyclops of the Association of Georgia Klans Klavern in Orlando he would not have agreed to take that position.

He related an incident in which he had heard that a ride had been planned in Apopka and that some of the members of the Orlando Klavern of which he was then Exalted Cyclops were to be invited to go on the ride. BELVIN claimed that one of the Apopka Klansmen invited him to the ride by mistake. After the Apopka meeting a party of about fifteen started out in a number of cars, allegedly on this ride. BELVIN claimed the cars had proceeded only a short distance when he blew his police whistle which threw the Klansmen into a panic and "his boys", the visiting Klansmen from Orlando, jumped out of the cars, ran into the woods and the Apopka Klansmen drove off, abandoning the ride. He claimed he did not know the purpose of the ride, the identity of the victim, or the identity of any of the Klansmen who were to participate in the ride.

Regarding the rides which might have taken place while he was in the Orlando Klavern, BELVIN admitted some of the Klansmen undoubtedly engaged in these terrorist activities but he did not know the facts but only guessed they were being engaged in by reason of the "whispering campaign" that prevailed.

Despite the above incident, BELVIN claimed that to his knowledge the Apopka, Winter Garden and Orlando Klans did not reciprocate on rides. He further claimed the first indication he had that he had not been doing a good job as Exalted Cyclops in restraining the radicals was when F. E. LOOMIS, ALEX SCHMITT and their associates had a meeting at LOOMIS' establishment to ask him to resign as Exalted Cyclops. He claimed he made some enemies because of his opposition to violence on the part of the Klan.

BELVIN further stated that most of the rough element such as LEE DAVIS, EARL BROOKLYN, ALEX SCHMITT and their associates transferred to the Winter Garden Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans after BELVIN resigned as Exalted Cyclops. He further insisted he has had no contact with the Klan organization in the past two years, mainly by reason of his ill health and inability to attend Klan meetings.

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When questioned about the strap which is supposed to be used by the Klan and kept in a cabinet near the Exalted Cyclops' platform in the meeting place, as stated by WILLARD SMITH, BELVIN stated there was never any leather strap kept at the meeting place while he was in the Klan. He did mention there was a room in which he had never gone located under the meeting hall of the Orlando Klavern.

In regard to the possibility there might have been influential and important men behind the scenes in Winter Garden and West Orange County, BELVIN stated JOE FAIRCHILD, WILLIAM HARTZOG, EDWARD FISHER and ROBERT DAVIS of the Winter Garden drug store were in a position to put the finger on persons for rides and were members of the Klan.

BELVIN made observations about the following individuals.

MOSE BRYANT used to go in for the rough stuff years ago but is now sixty years of age and has settled down. He was an important member of the Klavern Committee for years and frequently made reports for that committee.

ALEX SCHMITT might have been on rides, which is hearsay to BELVIN, was the Klud, or preacher, when BELVIN was Exalted Cyclops.

KEMP MASK was the Klabbie, or treasurer, while BELVIN was Exalted Cyclops. He was a man who never involved himself in any radical or rough activity and was the type BELVIN would like to have as a neighbor.

LEE DAVIS was commonly known around town as the "ball cow" because he could not keep his mouth shut. He was an excellent Kligruff, or secretary, while BELVIN was Exalted Cyclops.

RAYMOND G. HOWELL many years ago, according to rumor, went out on rides but now prefers to take it easy and stay home.

ROY RAMSEY was in the Orlando Association of Georgia Klans Klavern when BELVIN was Exalted Cyclops. BELVIN has never known him to be engaged in any rides or terrorist activities.

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CLAUDE WAITS was never a regular attendant at the Orlando Klavern while BELVIN was Exalted Cyclops or in the Klavern mainly because he was a commercial fisherman who lived in the Sanford area and was too far from the meeting place. BELVIN saw him hardly more than six times at an Orlando meeting. He claimed CLAUDE WAITS was never involved in any rough stuff although he and EARL BROOKLYN were very close friends. WAITS and BROOKLYN no longer speak to each other, according to BELVIN.

LLOYD HATCH is known to BELVIN as a member of the Klan in Orlando for a number of years.

WILLIAM JAMES joined the Klan only recently after being elected City Commissioner. BELVIN thought JAMES was to be commended for not using his membership in the Klan to his political advantage.

JAMES B. JOHNSON is the biggest liar BELVIN has known. He is a "lot of wind" and has talked as though he was furnishing information to the FBI. Although BELVIN has never known JOHNSON to go on a ride, he believed that he has been and is still a member of the wrecking crew operating in the Klan.

WALTER BALLARD has not been seen more than twice since 1942 by BELVIN, prior to which time they used to bird hunt together. He claimed he knew nothing about any rides on which BALLARD might have gone but admitted he might have been engaged in such activities while in the Winter Garden Klan.

EMORY BRANTLEY was supposed to have been on the wrecking crew in Winter Garden, according to rumor.

ADIS JERNIGAN used to be in the Orlando Klan but transferred to the Winter Garden Klan of the Association of Georgia Klans with R. G. HOWELL, LEE DAVIS, ALEX SCHMITT and F. E. LOOMIS.

F. E. LOOMIS was an individual who never had the nerve to engage in terrorist activities but would plan something for others to do.

When the murder of a negro in Tampa by Klansmen years ago was mentioned BELVIN furnished the following information. ARLIE GILLIAM was tried and acquitted. JIM DEAN who was now a cripple in a wheel chair was tried and convicted. FORREST KILGORE who was characterized in that instance

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by BELVIN as "just a sightseer" was not brought to trial because of insufficient evidence. He said the mayor of Tampa, the Chief of Police and Chief of Detectives and four or five City Commissioners from the city government of Tampa had made the trip to Orlando in order to solicit members of the Klan to kill the negro. BELVIN had decided to go on this ride but was prevented from going by the Chief of Police of Orlando who apparently knew what was going on and the plans for the ride. The Chief told him that if he did not stay in Orlando he would arrest him, put him in jail and make sure he did not leave town. BELVIN claimed that as a result of that incident he almost had a severe fight with FRED BASS (deceased) who was then the leader of the Orlando Klan.

During the interview questions were put to BELVIN to obtain information concerning specific Klansmen and specific incidents which were known to the interviewing Agents. At no time did BELVIN furnish any information concerning any of the incidents mentioned, claiming he either did not know anything about them or knew only what he had read in the papers. When questioned as to the identity of other individuals not mentioned by the Agents who might have been engaged in terrorist activities BELVIN stated most of the rough element had been mentioned but he could not remember the names of any other persons who might be added to that group. He claimed EARL BROOKLYN probably would not have been able to participate in any activities in the past few years because of illness. He suspected BROOKLYN had engaged in rides a number of years ago but did not know of any specific ride or incident. He claimed EARL BROOKLYN never admitted to him that he had been on a ride.

When questioned regarding the effects of instant investigation on the Klan, BELVIN advised he had recently talked to EDDIE JACKSON, the Exalted Cyclops of the Association of Georgia Klans Klavern in Orlando. JACKSON told him he did not think the FBI was going to have any success in certain parts of the county (Winter Garden and West Orange County). BELVIN also stated he was told it was the custom now at Klan meetings for each Klansman to repeat the Klan oath before each meeting in order to keep it fresh in the minds of the membership so that no information will be divulged to the FBI. The Klan was worried about that portion of the oath which obligated it to furnish information to duly constituted law enforcement officers. It was decided that an exception be made, that information be withheld from the FBI because the FBI through its investigation was telling the people in Winter Garden "how to run their niggers".

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"I have read the above statement of three and one quarter pages and it is true.

"/s/ ELSIE BELVIN

"Witnessed:

"/s/ JAMES P. SHANNON, Special Agent FBI Miami 4/1/52
"/s/ FRANK F. MEECH Special Agent F.B.I. 4/1/52"

The following is a signed statement of TILLMAN HOLLEY BELVIN taken April 1, 1952, at his home on Lake Barton, Orlando, after a complete discussion of his activities and the activities of his family on Christmas Day, 1951. The original of this statement is maintained in the files of the Miami Office.

"Orlando Fla
April 1, 1952

"I, TILLMAN HOLLY BELVIN, do make the following voluntary statement to FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P SHANNON, who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I realize that I do not have to make this statement and that it can be used in a court of law.

"On Tuesday December 25, 1951, Christmas Day while we were living on Drawdy Lake outside Orlando Fla our sons TOM and JAY were visiting my wife ELSIE BELVIN and I. I probably arose at about 10 AM that morning. However I cannot be positive of that time or any other time or occurrence related in this statement due to my faulty memory caused by sickness.

"It was about 1 PM that we had dinner. My sons, JAY and TOM, and son in law BOB BAGNALL, usually target practice or shoot turtles near the lake almost every day while they visited that Christmas holiday week.

"I believe the only visitor we had Christmas 1951 in addition to my family above was JUNIOR STORV who probably rode his horse over to visit with the boys for about a half an hour near dark. We all ate Christmas supper about 7 PM.

JPS:egh
MM 44-270

"At about 8 PM we drove in my Hudson auto and BOB's Oldsmobile to ELLAINE's apartment in Orlando when she changed her clothes. After about 15 minutes she came out and we all drove in my Hudson to look at the Christmas decorations in College Park district of Orlando. We also drove over to look at the Christmas decorations at Fairchild's Funeral Home on Lake Ivanhoe. It was about 10 PM that we stopped at the Gold Medal ice cream bar and had sodas.

"Then we drove slowly downtown along Orange Avenue and over to ELLAINE's apartment. We talked in the car about 15 minutes when BOB and ELLAINE went into their apartment. My wife ELSIE, and my sons, TOM and JAY and I drove back home from ELLAINE's arriving at about 11 PM.

"I believe my wife made some coffee before we went to bed. I probably went to bed about 11:30 PM.

"/s/ T.H. BELVIN

"Witnessed

/s/ FRANK F. MEECH Special Agent - F.B.I. 4-1-52

/s/ JAMES P. SHANNON Special Agent FBI Miami 4/1/52"

It should be noted that BELVIN claimed that his illness has affected his memory and that he honestly is unable to recall obvious incidents in his life. This faulty memory has been prevalent in all the interviews which have been conducted with him.

Miss M. JOHNSON, Records Clerk, Florida Sanitarium and Hospital, Orlando, advised that TILLMAN H. BELVIN has been a patient at that hospital on three occasions: January 29 to 31, 1933; April 14 to 19, 1946 and October 27 to November 4, 1951. On the occasion of the last hospitalization he was treated by Dr. L. M. SUTTER who diagnosed his case as a virus infection with toxemia caused by gastral instestinal poisons and possible swelling of the left upper quadrant.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 25 1952

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

FBI MIAMI

3-25-52

10-50 AM EST

ECE

DIRECTOR.....ATTN..ASSIST. DIRECTOR A. ROSEN.....U R G E N T

G.I.R.-6

UNSUBS, HARRY T. MOORE, HARRIETT MOORE, VICTIMS, DECEASED, CR.
TILLMAN H. BELVIN, A PRINCIPAL SUSPECT, REINTERVIEWED TODAY STEAD-
FASTLY DENIES PARTICIPATION IN MOORE KILLING OR HAVING ANY KNOW-
LEDGE THEREOF. EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO GET BELVIN-S CONFIDENCE
AND HAVE HIM COOPERATE IN INSTANT INVESTIGATION. OSTENSIBLY BELVIN
 IS COOPERATING AS HE IS CONTINUING TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS AND SOME
 PLANNED ACTIVITIES, ALTHOUGH THE AGENTS BELIEVE HE IS POSSIBLY
FURNISHING ONLY THAT INFORMATION WHICH WHILL NOT INCRIMINATE HIMSELF
OR ANY FRIEND OF HIS. BELVIN IS DYING OF CANCER AND HE KNOWS THAT
 HE MAY DIE AT ANY TIME ALTHOUGH HE PERSONALLY DOES NOT KNOW THAT HE
 HAS CANCER. STATED THAT HE QUOTE WANTED TO GET RIGHT WITH HIS MAKER
 IF HE IS INVOLVED IN ANYTHING, UNQUOTE. STATED HE OFTEN ATTENDED
KLAN MEETINGS IN APOPKA WHILE BOGAR WAS E. C. ALSO THAT HE WAS E. C.
 IN ORLANDO AT THE TIME, WHICH WAS IN NINETEEN FIFTY. HE HAS NEVER
VISITED APOPKA WITH BROOKLYN AS A PARTY GOING FROM ORLANDO, BUT ON

END PAGE ONE.

RECORDED - 120

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MAR 28 1952

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..PAGE TWO..

NUMEROUS OCCASIONS BROOKLYN HAS BEEN AT THE APOPKA KLAVERN WHILE BELVIN WAS VISITING. ALSO HE HAS BEEN IN KLAVERN WHEN ROBERT JUDAH WAS THERE BUT DOES NOT REMEMBER ANY ONE TIME THAT BOTH BROOKLYN AND JUDAH WERE IN KLAVERN WHILE HE WAS VISITING. THIS IN PART SUBSTANTIATES INFORMATION FURNISHED BY CI TO THE EFFECT THAT WHEN FLOOR PLANS SHOWN BY BROOKLYN BOTH JUDAH AND BELVIN WERE VISITING IN THE KLAVERN. DENIES SEEING PLANS OR HEARING ANY DISCUSSION OF HARRY MOORE. BELVIN STATES THAT HE HAS HAD SEVERAL VISITORS AT HIS HOME RECENTLY AND ONE OF THEM EDDIE JACKSON, E. C. OF ORLANDO A.G.K. TOLD HIM THAT FBI WAS NOT GOING TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING IN ITS INVESTIGATION AT WINTER GARDEN BECAUSE THAT KLAVERN WAS NOT GOING TO COOPERATE IN ANY WAY DUE TO THE FBI COMING IN AND THROUGH ITS INVESTIGATION WERE TELLING THOSE PEOPLE HOW TO QUOTE RUN THEIR NEGROES UNQUOTE. BELVIN ALSO LEARNED THAT IN PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS THE WINTER GARDEN KLAN STARTED READING THEIR OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AT EVERY MEETING

..END PAGE TWO..

..PAGE THREE..

AS A REMINDER TO ALL KLANSMEN NOT TO VIOLATE THEIR OATH. DURING TIME BELVIN WAS E. C. IN NINETEEN FIFTY BROOKLYN DID NOT ATTEND ORLANDO MEETINGS BUT RATHER ATTENDED THE WINTER GARDEN KLAVERN, RECALLS THAT HE HAS HEARD BROOKLYN BEFORE A CLOSED MEETING DISCUSS SOME INDIVIDUAL WHOSE CONDUCT HE DID NOT LIKE WITH THE CONCLUSION HE, BROOKLYN WANTED THE PERSON TAKEN OUT AND WHIPPED. BELIEVES BROOKLYN USED TO FREQUENTLY VISIT BILL BOGAR TO DISCUSS KLAN BUSINESS WHILE HE, BROOKLYN WAS DRIVING A FRUIT TRUCK. BELIEVES J. B. JOHNSON IS AND HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE QUOTE WRECKING CREW UNQUOTE ALTHOUGH UNABLE TO FURNISH ANY INFORMATION TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS BELIEF. INTERVIEW WITH BELVIN TERMINATED DUE TO HIS TIRING CONDITION. CONTEMPLATED THAT INTERVIEW WITH BELVIN WILL CONTINUE TOMORROW OR DAY FOLLOWING.

W A L L

END

ACK AND HOLD PLSE

11-01 AM OK FBI WA SMSM

cc: Mr Rosen

RE: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

IV. INVESTIGATION OF SUSAN ELLIOTT HOLLY DAWSON

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT E. SIKKEL and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on April 18 and 19, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

BASED: ROBERT HARRISON BAGWELL and his wife, ELLAINE EUGENIA BAGWELL, nee Belvin, son-in-law and daughter of suspect TILLMAN H. BELVIN, interviewed and signed statements obtained concerning their activities on December 25, 1951.

The following signed statements were obtained from ELLAINE and ROBERT BAGWELL concerning their activities on Christmas Day, 1951.

Orlando, Fla.
April 18, 1952

"I, ELLAINE EUGENIA BAGWELL, make the following voluntary statement to ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and ROBERT E. SIKKEL: We have identified ourselves to me as Special Agents of the F. B. I. No threats or promises have been made to me to make this statement. I realize this statement may be used in a court of law.

"I was born August 18, 1930 at Orlando, Fla. I reside at 118 McKee St with my husband ROBERT HARRISON BAGWELL.

"As nearly as I can recall my husband and I went out to my parents' house on Christmas Day, December 25, 1951, arriving there around noontime. My mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. BELVIN and my two brothers TOM and JIM were there. We all ate dinner around one o'clock.

"My recollection of the afternoon's events is very hazy because my husband and I were at my parents' house every day while my brothers were there and we participated in a lot of activities. As nearly as I can recall the day went hereback

JPB:JMS
MM 44-270

Mrs. BAGNALL states she has seen EARL BROOKLYN only once and that was about 8 years ago and she has heard her father and mother mention him but knows nothing as to his activities. She insists that her father, TILLMAN BELVIN, is not in any way connected with the Mims explosion and that she is not worried about the results of this investigation.

It should be noted that the accounts of the activities of TILLMAN H. BELVIN, on Christmas day, 1951 as furnished by TILLMAN BELVIN himself, his wife ELSIE BELVIN and his daughter ELLAINE BELVIN BAGNALL, are at variance with each other.

It should also be noted that TILLMAN BELVIN plead that he had a faulty memory and under no circumstance could he recall accurately his exact whereabouts on Christmas day nor the persons who were at his home during that day. However, he did insist that he was not away from the Orlando area during that day.

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IV. INVESTIGATION OF SUSPECT TILMAN H. BELVIN

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT H. BIRNELL and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on April 18 and 19, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

BAGNALL: ROBERT HARRISON BAGNALL and his wife, ELLAINE EUGENIA BAGNALL, nee Belvin, son-in-law and daughter of suspect TILMAN H. BELVIN, interviewed and signed statements obtained concerning their activities on December 25, 1951.

The following signed statements were obtained from ELLAINE and ROBERT BAGNALL concerning their activities on Christmas Day, 1951.

Orlando, Fla.
April 18, 1952

VI. ELLAINE EUGENIA BAGNALL, make the following voluntary statement to ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and ROBERT H. BIRNELL: We have identified ourselves to me as Special Agents of the F. B. I. No threats or promises have been made to me to make this statement. I realize this statement may be used in a court of law.

"I was born August 18, 1930 at Orlando, Fla. I reside at 118 McKee St with my husband ROBERT HARRISON BAGNALL.

"As nearly as I can recall my husband and I went out to my parents' house on Christmas Day, December 25, 1951, arriving there around noontime. My mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. BELVIN and my two brothers TOM and JIM were there. We all ate dinner around one o'clock.

"My recollection of the afternoon's events is very hazy because my husband and I were at my parents' house every day while my brothers were there and we participated in a lot of activities. As nearly as I can recall the day went horseback

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riding while my mother and I were around the house. In any event I am sure none of us left the house or the area immediately surrounding the house at any time during the afternoon hours.

"We ate a small lunch around dark. After that it is my belief that JUNIOR STORY dropped by for a few minutes. As nearly as I can remember JUNIOR STORY is the only person who visited that day.

"Shortly after JUNIOR left my husband and I in our car returned to our home followed by my parents and brothers in the family car. This must have been between 7:30 PM and 8:00 PM. We took our presents upstairs and then got into my folks car and we rode around Orlando and vicinity looking at the Christmas lights and decorations. I believed that we stopped at an ice cream parlor on North Orange Ave but I am not sure whether it was this night or Christmas Eve.

"I do remember that on the night of Christmas Day we finished this ride and my parents and brothers brought us back to our apartment and dropped us off there between 10:30 PM and 11:00 PM. As far as I know my folks went straight home after that.

"During the entire day from the time we arrived at their home until they dropped us off at our apartment that night we were in the presence of my father constantly.

"I state that I have read the above two and a fraction pages in the handwriting of S. A. SUNKEL who has written this statement at my direction and with my permission. I have initialed the bottom of pages 1 and 2. It is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ FELICIA BUENDA SAGHALL

Witnessed:

/s/ ROBERT E. SUNKEL, SA, FBI, April 19, 1952, Orlando, Fla.

/s/ ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ, S.A. FBI, April 19, 1952, Orlando, Fla.

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Orlando, Florida
April 18, 1952

"I, ROBERT HARRISON BAGWELL, make the following voluntary statement to ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and ROBERT E. SUNKEL who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to make this statement. I realize this statement may be used in a court of law.

"I was born May 9, 1928, at Detroit, Michigan. I am married to ELLAINE ELENDA BAGWELL, nee BELVIN. We reside at 118 McKee Street, Apartment 3.

"As nearly as I can recall my wife and I went out to my in-laws' house on Christmas Day, December 25, 1951, and arrived there somewhere around noon. I do recall that we got there after all the Christmas presents had been opened except ours which we opened there. Mr. and Mrs. BELVIN and their sons, TOM and JAY, were there. We ate dinner within an hour after my wife and I arrived.

"My recollection of the afternoon's events is very hazy, because my wife and I went out to my in-laws' house every day while her brothers were there and we participated in a lot of activities. As nearly as I can recall we went horseback riding on Christmas afternoon. I am not sure of this however. In any event I am sure none of the people present left the house during the afternoon hours.

"I am not sure but I think we ate a small dinner around dark. After supper it is my best recollection that a person by the name of JUNIOR STORY who lived near the BELVIN residence dropped by for a few minutes to look at the presents and talk. However, this particular incident may have occurred the following night. I do not recall exactly.

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"I seem to remember another couple with two small children dropped by either the night of Christmas Day or the following night. I do not remember their names. They lived in the vicinity of the BELVINs' former home.

"After all of the visitors left my wife and I in our car returned to our home briefly and put our presents away. We were followed by the BELVINs, Mr. and Mrs. BELVIN and TOM and JIM, their two sons. I think the BELVINs used the family Hudson car. I think this took place around 8:00 P.M.

"After coming back out my wife and I got into the BELVIN car and we drove around Orlando and Winter Park looking at the Christmas decorations. I recall we rode around in this manner for several separate evenings during the Christmas holidays just looking at the Christmas decorations. I remember that on one of these evenings, possibly on the night of Christmas Day, we stopped at an ice cream parlor on North Orange Avenue and had some ice cream sodas.

"I do remember that on the night of Christmas Day we finished this ride and the BELVINs brought us back to our apartment and dropped us off there around 11:00 P.M. or possibly as late as 12:00 midnight.

"After we were dropped off, as far as I can remember, Mrs. BACHMILL and I went into our apartment alone and went to bed.

"During the entire day from the time we arrived at the BELVIN home until they dropped us off at our apartment at 11:00 P.M. or 12:00 midnight we were in the presence of Mr. BELVIN constantly.

"I state that I have read the above one and a quarter type-written pages dictated jointly by myself and S. A. SUNKEL with my permission. I have initialed the bottom of page one. It is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ ROBERT H. NISCHWITZ
ROBERT H. NISCHWITZ

Witnessed:

/s/ ROBERT E. SUNKEL, SA, FBI, April 19, 1952, Orlando, Fla.

/s/ ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ, S.A., FBI, April 19, 1952, Orlando, Fla.

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During the course of the interview with ROBERT BAGWELL it was determined that he was stationed at the Orlando Air Force Base at the time he met his present wife approximately three years ago. His acquaintance with the BELVIN family was limited to a short two weeks prior to his marriage and he knew nothing about the personal life of suspect BELVIN. Immediately after their marriage the BAGWELLS moved north and remained in the north until November, 1951, at which time ROBERT BAGWELL came to Orlando and took up residence. Mrs. BAGWELL followed him, arriving December 13, 1951. During that time his contact with the BELVINS was very casual and infrequent. He stated he had no knowledge whatsoever of BELVIN's activities in the Klan and had never heard BELVIN make any mention of H. H. MOORE or recount any of his exploits as a Klan member.

BAGWELL promised his full cooperation in this investigation if he could be of any assistance at any time in the future.

RTN/RES:egh
MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and ROBERT E. SUNKEL on March 10, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

BASIS: JOE N. COX, allegedly old-time Klansman, interviewed concerning terrorist activities in Orlando and vicinity and for information he might have concerning suspects BROOKLYN and BELVIN and others.

JOE N. COX readily admitted he was a former Klansman connected with the Association of Georgia Klans in Orlando. He stated he has dropped active participation in the Klan for many years and is at the present time deeply involved in politics. He is running for the office of Supervisor of Registration for Orange County.

He disclaimed any knowledge of terrorist activities on the part of the Klan although he admitted that it was possible the Klan might have been involved in one or more beatings in the past, adding that he personally knew nothing about them. He stated he knows nothing about instant bombing and could not name anyone of his former associates in the Klan who would be capable of doing anything like that. COX stated that as far as the atrocities and terrorist activities of the Klan were concerned he knew only what he had seen in the newspapers.

Concerning suspects BROOKLYN and BELVIN, as well as SCHMITT, JOHNSON and JUDAH, he made the following statements:

TILLMAN H. BELVIN is recalled as quite a radical persons about fifteen years ago. However, at the present time BELVIN is a very sick man and has not been actively associated with the Klan in any way since the beginning of World War II.

COX is not well acquainted with EARL J. BROOKLYN and only knows him by sight.

EXHIBIT

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ALFONSO F. SCHMITT is known to COX only as a customer of his where he is employed in the Medlock Tractor Company, East Central Avenue, Orlando, Florida.

Concerning suspect JAMES B. JOHNSON he stated he last saw JOHNSON about one year ago. He claims to know very little about JOHNSON but mentioned he had heard JOHNSON had gotten into some kind of trouble about a year ago in Brevard County, at which time JOHNSON allegedly beat up a white boy for reasons unknown.

ROBERT L. JUDAH is unknown to COX.

JOE N. COX refused to elucidate on his activities in the Klan, falling back on the oath he took at the time he joined the Klan.