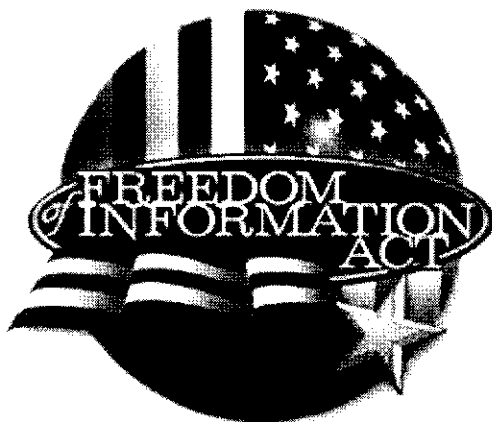


**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS**

**SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE**

**PART:3 OF 4**

**FILE NUMBER:HQ 157-2466**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

## NOTICE

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT:**

**DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE**

**PART 3 OF 4**

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

JUL 7 1966

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Wick	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

FBI NEW ORLS

8-10 PM CST URGENT 7-7-66 WSW

TO DIRECTOR AND BOSTON

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-3290/

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE. RM.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CHARLES

PRESIDENT DDJ, LEFT BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA, ON JULY FOUR, LAST,  
EN ROUTE BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS. SIMS ACCOMPANIED BY FNU

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PURPOSE OF TRIP IS TO ASSIST LOCAL  
BOSTON CHAPTER OF DEACONS IN RE-ENFORCING THE ORGANIZATION.

SIMS' SPECIFIC PLANS UNKNOWN [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

APPROPRIATE MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS NEW ORLEANS

DIVISION BEING ADVISED. LHM FOLLOWS.

END AND ACK PLS

WA JXM

FBI WASH DC

BS WMG

FBI BOSTON

TU DISCL P 1050

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-24-8 BY SP12/af

cc - Knickerbocker

*Burgess*  
*Shirley*

b7C  
b7D

157-2466-146

2 JUL 13 1966

REC-32

ST-105

*S-NT*



FBI

Date: 7/6/66

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

*Shickel*

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)  
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-3465) (P)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.  
RM

Re Baltimore teletype to Director, dated 7/2/66 and  
Jackson teletype to Director, 7/2/66.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are eleven (11)  
copies of an LHM to the Bureau and one copy each to Baltimore  
and New Orleans, dated and captioned as above.

Copies of LHM being sent to INTC, Secret Service, and  
USA, all of Jackson, Mississippi.

No further action is being taken regarding the infor-  
mation contained in the LHM.

AGENCY: ACS; ONI; OSI; SEC. SER.;  
DEPT. OF JUSTICE; CRD.

REC-28 157-2466-148

DATE FORW. 7/13/66  
HOW FORW. RLS  
BY: RLS

JUL 11 1966

100 AT - LHM 70-440

ENCLOSURE

- 3 - Bureau (Enc.11)
- 1 - Baltimore (Enc.1) (Info) (157-1008)
- 1 - New Orleans (Enc.1) (Info) (157-3290)
- 2 - Jackson (157-3465)

MEH/bjk  
(7)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

INT/SEC

53 JUL 18 1966

DATE 7-24-80 BY SPI/gal/jk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

Reply, Please Refer to

File No.

Director  
United States Secret Service  
Department of the Treasury  
Washington, D. C. 20220

Dear Sir:

The information furnished herewith concerns an individual who is believed to be covered by the agreement between the FBI and Secret Service concerning Presidential protection, and to fall within the category or categories checked.

1.  Has attempted or threatened bodily harm to any government official or employee, including foreign government officials residing in or planning an imminent visit to the U. S., because of his official status.
2.  Has attempted or threatened to redress a grievance against any public official by other than legal means.
3.  Because of background is potentially dangerous; or has been identified as member or participant in communist movement; or has been under active investigation as member of other group or organization inimical to U. S.
4.  U. S. citizens or residents who defect from the U. S. to countries in the Soviet or Chinese Communist blocs and return.
5.  Subversives, ultrarightists, racists and fascists who meet one or more of the following criteria:
  - (a)  Evidence of emotional instability (including unstable residence and employment record) or irrational or suicidal behavior;
  - (b)  Expressions of strong or violent anti-U. S. sentiment;
  - (c)  Prior acts (including arrests or convictions) or conduct or statements indicating a propensity for violence and antipathy toward good order and government.
6.  Individuals involved in illegal bombing or illegal bomb-making.

Photograph  has been furnished  enclosed  is not available  
 may be available through \_\_\_\_\_

Very truly yours,

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

1 - Special Agent in Charge (Enclosure(s))  
U. S. Secret Service , Jackson

Enclosure(s)

(Upon removal of classified enclosures, if any, this transmittal form becomes UNCLASSIFIED.)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Jackson, Mississippi  
July 6, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED - RACIAL MATTERS

[REDACTED] advised a representative of the FBI on July 2, 1966, that Ernest Thomas and Charles Simms, President of the Bogalusa, Louisiana chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, were staying at the Mt. Royal Hotel, that city. Simms was reportedly driving a tan Oldsmobile 98 bearing Mississippi license number [REDACTED].

b7c  
b7D

[REDACTED]

Prior investigation has disclosed that

[REDACTED]

and family, have been extremely active in Civil Rights work.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your Agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-24-80 BY SP1 [signature]

157-2461-118

ENCLOSURE



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Mr. DeLoach	
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Mr. Wick	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

7/7/66

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, WFO

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,  
INCORPORATED  
RACIAL MATTER (ORGANIZATION)  
(WFO file 157-794) (RUC)  
(OO:NO)

**[REDACTED]** b7C  
RACIAL MATTERS  
(WFO file 157-801) (RUC)  
(OO:NO)

ReCGairtel and LHM, both dated 6/8/66.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 12 copies of an LHM, with six for Chicago and four for New Orleans.

17 ENCLOSURE

- 5- Bureau (Enc. 12)
- 6- Chicago (Enc. 6) (RM)
  - (1- 157-350) (POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)
  - (1- 157-413) (RACIAL MATTERS)
- 4- New Orleans (Enc. 4) (RM)
- 5- WFO
  - (1- 157-237) (LIAISON SOURCES)
  - (1- 157-433) (POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)
  - (1- 157-528) **[REDACTED]** b7C

REC-61 157-2466-147

4 JUL 13 1966

HHK:pk  
(20)

[P.C.] Wick

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-24-80 BY SP1 gpl/pv

AIRTEL

AGENCY: ACSE, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.;  
DEPT: ISD, CRD, RSO, Com Rel Service  
DATE FORW: 7/6/66  
HOW FORW: By  
BY: R. S. [REDACTED]

315  
69 JUL 18 1966

157-2466-147 9029411

B. [Signature]  
Shore [Signature]  
[Signature]

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WFO 157-794

Copies of the LHM being disseminated locally to the Secret Service, Assistant U.S. Attorney and local military intelligence agencies.

The source in the LHM is [redacted] furnished his information to SA [redacted]

b7C  
b7D

D.C.

No further investigation being conducted by WFO.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D.C. 20535  
July 7, 1966

9. In Reply, Please Refer to  
10. No.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

[REDACTED]

b7C

N.Y.  
D.C.  
Organization

On June 2, 1966, a source, who furnished reliable information in the past, advised that the "White House Conference on Civil Rights" was picketed on June 1, 1966, by the New York Committee to Coordinate the Black March Against the White House Conference on Civil Rights (CCBM).

The source advised further as follows:

Ernest Thomas, of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, did not attend the CCBM picketing on June 1, 1966, in Washington, D.C. There were no "Deacons" at the CCBM on June 1, 1966, and there was no CCBM picketing on June 2, 1966.

The Deacons of Defense and Justice organization is described in the appendix.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-24-80 BY SPI/gul/ff

157, 2466-149

ENCLOSURE

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APPENDIX

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,  
INCORPORATED, aka  
DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,  
INCORPORATED

---

The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) as on file with the Secretary of State, for the State of Louisiana, reflects that the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated is a Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro, Louisiana. The location and business office address of its registered office shall be Amos Service Station (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer B, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

"This corporation is organized for the following purposes and to carry on the following purposes:

To instruct, train, "teach and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minority groups in the fundamental principals of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Louisiana, as well as the constitution and laws of any other State wherein this corporation may operate; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the use, value and purpose of the ballot and the right to vote; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons as to the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship relative to the obligation and duties of the community to the citizen: To further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that justice may be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law."

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APPENDIX

- - 2\* - -

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FBI

Date: 7/8/66

*encl.*

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL AIRMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

*3/176*

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE INC.  
RM  
*Re no tel to Boston and Director 7/7/66.*  
Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies  
of letterhead memorandum concerning captioned  
matter.

Copy of letterhead memorandum being made  
available to NISO, ICG and SECRET SERVICE, New  
Orleans, as well as OSI, Barksdale Air Force Base,  
Louisiana, and USA, New Orleans.

- 3 - BUREAU
  - 2 - BOSTON
  - 2 - NEW ORLEANS
- JEO/dbh  
(7)
- ENCLOSURE*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

AGENCY: ACS, OSI, SEC. SER.; 7-24-80 *SP18218*

DATE FORW: 7/15/66  
HOW FORW: R/S  
BY: R/S/ci

EX-103

REC-63

157-2466-150

*ICCATY LHM 902941*  
*C. C. Wick*

4 JUL 14 1966

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_

54 JUL 22 1966

*SEARCHED*  
*SERIALIZED*  
*INDEXED*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
July 8, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND  
JUSTICE (DDJ)

[REDACTED]

Charles Sims, President, Deacons of Defense and Justice, left Bogalusa, Louisiana, on July 4, 1966, en route to Boston, Massachusetts. Sims accompanied by (First Name Unknown) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] purpose of trip is to assist local Boston Chapter of Deacons in re-enforcing the organization.

Sims' specific plans are unknown [REDACTED]

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1\*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-24-80 BY SP1/SLJ

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

DATE: 7/21/66

FROM: SAC, BOSTON (157-387) (RUC)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE  
RACIAL MATTERS  
(OO: New Orleans)

Re New Orleans teletype to Director and Boston, 7/7/66, advising that CHARLES SIMS, President of the Deacons for Defense and Justice left Bogalusa, Louisiana on 7/4/66 en route to Boston, Massachusetts. (U)

[REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] b1 (c)

In the event further information is developed concerning SIMS' visit the Bureau and New Orleans will be advised. (U)

② - Bureau (157-2466) (RM) CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 pd/ft 7-24-80  
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4. 2  
1 - Boston (157-387) DATE OF REVIEW 7-21-86  
JFN:lc  
(5)

REC 29 157-2466-151

16 JUL 25 1966

54 JUL 28 1966

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INT. SEC.

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



5010-108

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW ORLEANS</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>7/21/66</b>	<b>3/23/66 - 6/28/66</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka. Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc.</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA [REDACTED]</b>	TYPED BY <b>imp</b>
SYNOPSIS:		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>RM</b>	APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY SLIP DATE <b>8/22/66</b>

### REFERENCE

Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 3/28/66 at New Orleans.

### LEADS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY **SP/SCB/27-24-80**  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW **7-21-86**

### NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

#### AT BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA

Will continue to maintain contact with informants and sources in order to follow pertinent activity of the DDJ.

#### AT JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with informants and sources and follow pertinent activities of the DDJ.

- APPROVED: [Signature]
- SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
- COPIES MADE:
- 9 - Bureau (157-2466) (RM)
  - 1 - Baltimore (Info.) (RM)
  - 1 - Chicago (Info.) (RM)
  - 1 - Cleveland (Info.) (RM)
  - 1 - Jackson (Info.) (RM)
  - 1 - ICG, New Orleans
  - 1 - Secret Service, New Orleans
  - 5 - New Orleans (157-3290)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

**157-2466-15**

**REC-55**

**4 JUL 25 1966**

**EX-108 REC-4**

AGENCY: ACSI ONE OSI; SEC. SER.;

DATE FORW: **7/21/66**

HOW FORW: **KS**

BY: **R. S. [REDACTED]**

**56 AUG 9 1966**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**SUBV CONTROL**

**(1/FSO)**



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6 EJC:jmp  
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10 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

11 INFORMANTS

12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
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30 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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32 ADMINISTRATIVE

33  
34 This report is classified confidential because  
35 information furnished by ATTU could possibly identify the  
36 ATTU source.

37  
38 An information copy of this report has been  
39 designated for the indicated offices because of investigative  
40 interest now or possibly in the future. Leads in this  
41 connection are being handled between auxiliary offices  
42 and the OO as required.

43  
44 Copies of this report have been designated for  
45 ICG and Secret Service, New Orleans.

46  
47 The transcript of an interview with ERNEST THOMAS  
48 on "Hot Line" of WVON radio in Chicago, Illinois, is being  
49 set forth in its entirety in the details of this report  
50 since the statements made during this interview by THOMAS  
51 clearly sets forth the strongly militant thinking of THOMAS,  
52 who appears to be emerging as a leader of the DDJ in the  
53 North. "Hot Line" was taped on 5/23/66 by IC [REDACTED] b7C  
54 Chicago Office.

55 B\*  
56 COVER PAGE

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60 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Copy to: 1 - ICG, New Orleans  
1 - Secret Service, New Orleans

Report of: SA [redacted] b7C Office: NEW ORLEANS  
Date: July 21, 1966

Field Office File No.: NO 157-3290 Bureau File No.: 157-2466

Title: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

Character: RACIAL MATTERS

Synopsis:

ERNEST THOMAS, alleged Regional Vice President and Northern Director, DDJ, headquarters at Chicago, Illinois, in radio interview on 5/23/66 claimed 10,000 - 15,000 Deacons would be brought into Chicago, summer of 1966. THOMAS appeared as featured speaker at forum sponsored by FNSF in Detroit, Michigan, on 4/1/66, at which time THOMAS averred there would be "groups of Deacons" in every community in both the North and South by summer, 1966. Activities of DDJ chapters in Louisiana set forth.

[redacted] of DDJ in Cleveland, Ohio, alleged Cleveland Deacons possess high-powered rifles.

[redacted] on 6/13/66, stated DDJ of Bogalusa, would send Deacons to Baltimore, Maryland, after conclusion of JAMES MEREDITH march in Mississippi.

[redacted] on 5/25/66 advised DDJ recently opened Chicago office and that ERNEST THOMAS is reportedly the person responsible for organizing the Chicago DDJ chapter.

[redacted] THOMAS does not have support of DDJ, Jonesboro, La. to set up DDJ chapters.

*Class & Ext. 8/10/80*

*TENN. MISS LA.*

*b7C b7D*

*b1*

*(C)*

- P -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY *SP/Seb/jh 7-24-80*  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW *7-21-86*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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DETAILS

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Characterizations of organizations mentioned herein are a part of the appendix section of this report.

ACTIVITIES AND STATEMENTS OF ERNEST THOMAS, ALLEGED REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT AND NORTHERN DIRECTOR OF THE DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. (DDJ)

ERNEST THOMAS appeared on the program "Hot Line" on WVON radio, Chicago, Illinois, on May 23, 1966. "Hot Line" is a radio program on which a controversial figure is usually interviewed. Telephone questions are solicited from listeners which are answered by the interviewee. A transcript of the program pertaining to THOMAS is as follows:

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ERNEST THOMAS, local organizer for the

Defense and Justice, appeared on "Hot Line," May 23, 1966,  
11:00 to 12:00 Midnight, on WVON Radio. WESLEY SOUTH was the  
Moderator.

THOMAS

Well, I've been in and out of Chicago for the  
last seven months. Presently it's around  
455 actual members of it now. But the number  
is going to grow quite large. Actually, we  
got to open an office on the north and south  
side now because we have such a great number  
that is coming in we won't be able with the  
space that is ...

Moderator

Listen, I want to ask you. I noticed you  
opened on the west side first. Why did you  
open over there and not on the south?

THOMAS

Well, you take the west side for instance.  
I think it is more or less of a place where  
something is really about to explode. It is  
just like being in with a load of dynamite with  
the fuse lit, and we felt if we could come into  
the west side and begin to relate to the man

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the problems there and if he really wants to solve them he could go about doing it. Hopefully that he will try to do something about the problem on the west side. Because, see, as long as you let the problem exist we can keep hollering about crime rates and all of this but if we really want to stop crime rates then we get some jobs for people because ain't nobody in the world. I wouldn't even recommend that a man stand out in front of the A&P or the Acme (phonetic) markets and look at a ham and starve to death there. So the best thing for him to do would be to break the glass to get him some ham. Now so the structure wants to deal with this then they have to begin to give some jobs, make some jobs.

Moderator

Will you also be a job seeking agency?

THOMAS

Certainly. We will be trying to seek out employment for, as the structure say, qualified personnel. We will be trying to find them some qualified personnel.

Moderator

What are the requirements to belong to the Deacons for Defense and Justice?

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THOMAS

Well, first thing you must be a Negro, you must be 21 years of age, as the board say you must have the character of becoming a Deacon, Now that is the crucial question.

Moderator

THOMAS

Well, the board figure that you must feel as though you have to make a decision whether you stand for freedom or you are out here just saying you represent freedom or you are fighting for freedom. And this means whatever necessary to gain freedom, this is what you are willing to do.

Moderator

In other words, if a person who say he is for freedom and is fighting for freedom unless he, well, joins your group then you don't believe that he really wants it. Where you would go all the way possibly in order to get the freedom that another person would take to the courts.

THOMAS

Well, what I mean. I hope it don't be misleading. We're glad to see the other groups here.

Moderator

Well, I mean if they don't join you they are not, from what you just said a moment ago, if I am interpreting you correctly, then they are just

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out here talking and they really don't mean what they say.

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THOMAS

Well, that's true. You see, because how can you tell a man that you are going to be out here after this freedom and are going to let him beat your head and when he whip your head you are coming back tomorrow and let him whip your head. To us this does not seem like being a man. Now we are after what is rightfully ours and upon action for what is rightfully ours then I expect to get it and we don't expect you to use brute force against us to deny us this.

Moderator

Ladies and gentlemen. I just got a note from the control room that we had a little difficulty before we went on the air and probably you didn't hear who our guest is tonight. He is Mr. ERNEST THOMAS, who is the Regional President and Northern Director of the Deacons for Defense and Justice. They opened an office on the west side three weeks ago. As I said, I want to welcome him back. You know he was our guest, I think it was back in October, wasn't it?

THOMAS

Yes, it was.

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Moderator

So in case you were listening and wondering who that was on the "Hot Line" his name is ERNEST THOMAS and he's the top Deacon here. Is that right?

THOMAS

That's true.

Moderator

Why do you say Deacon? Why not pastor?

THOMAS

It was a name that was kicked around and it was beginning to look... All this was church orientated and so the Deacons more or less taking care of the business of the church and so we said this is a good name because we're out here protecting the civil rights workers so that is the name we settled on, Deacons for Defense and Justice.

Moderator

Is there any way of just recognizing a Deacon on the street?

THOMAS

No, there is really no way because as you know Deacons are black so, you see a lot of black people.

Moderator

You want to see a million Deacons. What about women? Can they join?

THOMAS

Yes, women can join too. We have a Deaconess started. This is only in the Northern chapters, though, that we have Deaconess.

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Moderator

Will they be in the gun clubs too, rifle clubs?

THOMAS

Well, certainly.

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Moderator

Talking about the requirements in order to be a member of Deacons, and that's when I was handed this note, and you were telling us the different requirements. Did you finish? I cut you off there.

THOMAS

Well, I pretty well covered it.

Moderator

What about a fellow who has been in prison?

THOMAS

Well, a man being in prison doesn't...

Moderator

He can still be a Deacon.

THOMAS

He still can be a Deacon because man you have to face this fact, and this is one thing I blame society for. If a man has a criminal record and if we're trying to reform the man certainly he needs employment. And we find as a whole your criminals are mostly unemployed and with no hopes of getting a job because as soon as a man looks at his record then he refuse him so therefore you are telling him go back out and stick somebody up or go back out and do the same crime over again and let the state take care of you. This is bad.

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Moderator

Do the Deacons intend to protect civil rights workers here?

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THOMAS

Well, we intend to protect civil rights workers to a point in the city of Chicago. If we're called upon to help out then we will do this. Now what do you mean by that. That's rather ambiguous. If we're called - say that they are marching as they did down near Mayor DALEY's home as they did last summer and they ask you for protection. Now maybe, oh maybe 200 or 300 policemen there. Would they feel they needed some protection from you? I mean just say that someone said well here's a good chance for us to have a confrontation. Let's call the Deacons. What would you do in a case like this?

THOMAS

Well, we would come in more or less as witnesses to the fact. We wouldn't participate openly in the march but we would be there as spectators and we would be looking out for police brutality and John Bigot coming around and agitating them whereas they have committed them to non-violence. So that if the police would not handle John Bigot we would take care of John Bigot for them.

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Moderator

In other words, you put John Bigot in his place.

THOMAS

That's right.

Moderator

Would you be armed?

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THOMAS

Well, I wouldn't feel that we would need to be.

Moderator

You wouldn't feel a need to be but would you be?

THOMAS

Well, no. If we didn't feel that we need to be armed...

Moderator

If you felt that you need to be you would be armed.

THOMAS

Oh, certainly.

Moderator

Even though the police are there.

THOMAS

Certainly. Because, you know, like one has to protect himself and if you lack the confidence in the police to protect you then you have to protect yourself.

Moderator

And then what about if the Governor would send in the National Guard and they declare martial law?

THOMAS

Well, if they declared martial law then like I say we would kind of go along with it like to a point as long as the police is capable of carrying out equal justice.

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Moderator

Now you say to a point. You indicate that there might be a point that you would not go

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THOMAS

As I plainly stated we are fighting for our freedom and this means at all cost. Now if the man don't want to give any ground then that is what it is. It's a fight. But I am hoping and I think that somewhere along the line that the man will give some ground. But we intend to have our freedom one way or the other. It's no if/and about that.

Moderator

Now what do the Deacons, what do you think about the Chicago Police Department?

THOMAS

Well, here on the off and on periods that I have been in the city here could stand a lot, could be changed in Chicago here with the police department to make it function a little better. For an instance, on the west side here you see sometimes two white police. Well, a lot of times you see two white policemen in the car together, two blacks together, then you see, at night I see detectives riding four whites in the car. When you see things like this you know

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that some black person is going to get abused because when they riding like that that is what they're out there big. Ninety per cent of the time. And this is bad. And if the man really wanted to make a change in Chicago then there should be integration here. Black and white police together. And this way the black one couldn't abuse the white one and the white one couldn't abuse the black one because after all he belongs to the black race and he belongs to the white race. This would seem to be a way of balancing it out. But I've been told they have done it last year, you know, during the riots for a while but then they put them back together. So I don't know what the situation is going to be here. That would be one of my suggestions to, as a matter of fact I have a meeting with Superintendent WILSON on Thursday evening. I am going to strongly suggest this would be one of the best things really if they intended to try to keep it cool some, is to put a little integration in the Chicago Police Department.

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Moderator

Did you say you will be meeting with  
Superintendent WILSON? When?  
Thursday evening.

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THOMAS

Moderator

Thursday evening. Now you were talking about  
riots. Do the Deacons believe there is a  
possibility of a riot in Chicago, this summer?  
Yes. We are hoping strongly it doesn't be a  
riot in the city of Chicago and if we can get  
the cooperation from the people in the city of  
Chicago we might be able to stop a riot.

THOMAS

Moderator

What do you call cooperation?

THOMAS

Well, from the various groups and from the  
various agencies, from the police department,  
from the city officials, you know. We have  
gotten a pretty cold shoulder since we've been  
in town from the power structure, and this in  
itself says that it's something that is wrong  
somewhere.

Moderator

Would you expect them to give you a welcoming  
in open arms?

THOMAS

No, I am not looking for any welcome in open  
arms but just a lot of things that have happened

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since I've been in the city in and out here they have indicated that at this particular point they were more or less ignoring us and wondering what's going on.

Moderator

Just ignoring you. How did you happen to get an interview or conference with Superintendent WILSON? Did you request it?

THOMAS

The only thing I know that his secretary called my secretary and...

Moderator

You had put in a request for it.

THOMAS

No.

Moderator

He is requesting you to come to see him.

THOMAS

Right. It's some more groups that's going to be there - supposed to be. So, I'll find out really. Well, I said what's going to be the topic and she said she didn't know, so I'll find out when I get there.

Moderator

Now, getting back to this riot. This is a very sensitive issue here. What do you think will be the major cause of a riot, if there is one?

THOMAS

Well, that would go into quite a few parts. The frustration that the black people live in the ghetto from day to day creates a certain

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Threat of a riot. Threat of unemployment, with not being able to be a man of his house or head of the household and then on top of all of that police brutality. I think if a riot occurred it will occur from police brutality.

Moderator

You think that will be the incident that will trigger it off, as it did in Watts?

THOMAS

That is true.

Moderator

Do you think the same disastrous results would...

THOMAS

Well, I think if a full scale riot would get rolling in the city of Chicago it would be much more difficult than the one in Watts. I would say it would be three times as worse as the LA riot for the location of the city, the way Chicago is located. You have blacks on the north side and the west side and the south side. Now this would create, I think, a more worser riot than the LA riot.

Moderator

Now there was a cross burning here over the weekend out in, oh I think it was, Kenilworth. Did the Deacons have any idea of that? (Inaudible)

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Yes, well, we haven't been out there yet but we have contacted some people that live out there and we have been gathering some information. Of course, it never fooled us for any minute that Chicago was any different from Mississippi because you have more bigots in Chicago than they have in Mississippi and Louisiana put together. So this is a known fact so we're not assuming that these are all the good guys but we are not assuming that all of them are bad guys either, but we know that there are more Birchites and Klansmen, Minutemen in the city of Chicago than they could muster in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana put together.

63 Moderator

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What do you think of the white teenagers who attacked at a Negro last night? If you remember this was in the news today.

101 THOMAS

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Yes, I did. Well, you take a situation like this. You know these things like this is good to really point out to the people here in the city that although they live as though they are in the North and they expect to live in the different

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surroundings... feel that they are going to get attacked on the streets and some of them are just misled, and this shows you that whether you are involved in anything as long as you are black you are in it. And he could have been the mayor or the judge or the prosecutor of Chicago, if he'd have been black and he'd have been there at that particular time he would have got his head whipped. And this is the whole thing. You are black and whether you are a bad black guy or a good black guy, if you are at the wrong place at the wrong time you get messed around. Do you think that slum conditions are as bad in Chicago as the, well, Southern Christian Leadership Conference has said? You know Dr. KING has come up here as you have and established a headquarters on the west side also. Yes, well, after looking over the community I would say that it is worse than what SCLC says that it is because in some way or another I think it's time to let the man know the real, the facts, and not sugar coating the words and

Moderator

THOMAS

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not telling him things are so good in the ghetto and stuff like this because things are important words. You ride down through some of those streets there and see the rats how large they are and you look at this and you say now here is a city of this size, not a poor city and I'm quite sure they could get rid of the rats.

I'd like to ask, when did you see your last rat?

Today.

You saw a rat today?

Today.

Was he a live rat?

A live rat. And as big as the squirrels we kill down South.

Four legged one.

That's right.

Do you think that the Chicago Welfare Agency is doing a good job?

Well, that would have to be determined, you would have to determine that whether they are doing a good job, that would be a pretty difficult question. Now I think the welfare is doing the job that the men, the structure, want them to do.

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But it is not doing the job that needs to be done to help the people, you see. There's a difference. A lot of people get confused even with the poverty program. It's serving the purpose that the man wants it to serve but it is not serving the purpose that we want it to serve and that is to help black people.

Moderator

Getting back to a question just a previous one, you were talking about the slums and you were saying that it is not as good as people see it. Who is saying it is good? Everybody I've heard here in Chicago, in the last few years I think everybody is saying it's bad.

THOMAS

Everyone's saying it is bad but yet we don't see any changes.

Moderator

But then nobody is saying it, then you will retract that saying that we are saying it is good living in the slums.

THOMAS

Why, sure. If I made that mistake I certainly retract that.

Moderator

What do you think about the unemployment situation here? What are you going to do about that?

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3 THOMAS

Well, it is pretty hard and somehow or another we're going to have to meet, I am quite sure, with the city officials here and the state employment agency and the poverty program people and see about getting some of these people some jobs.

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15 Moderator

How are you going to be able to help get jobs and help people in their housing problems and this very intricate education problem?

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21 THOMAS

It's going to be quite a problem. That is why I say we are going to need some help from various groups to help put this together, put a program together to where it will be effective, and unless we get some help like I say it's going to be very difficult to help people. Now when we are not able to help people then we are not going to have any further say if the man don't listen to our plea and when we relate to the ghetto to him what the ghetto is saying and he don't act, then if something erupt then don't come to us, because we are not going out there to try to stop them people from throwing no bricks.

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Defendant

Do you think they would go to you in the first place?

THOMAS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Well, I think they would try to come to anybody that perhaps could have a little influence on the ghetto.

Defendant

From indications they might think that you are trying to start it.

THOMAS

No. They may do that but that is up to their own opinion, but we are not out to riot or create a riot but we're here to let him know that the situation exists and if he don't do something about it then it is going to be a riot. It's if/and about that and they don't need to tell the man there ain't going to be no riot it's going to be a cool summer because then you get a lot of innocent people hurt when you tell them that things are pretty good, we'll make it over this summer without any incident. And you have 50 or 20 white people coming through the ghetto and getting trapped in something like that and they might be some pretty decent white people and they get messed around. And the same

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thing if some misdeeds coming through that don't even know anything they could get messed around. So these are things I look at as the innocent person. Now if he was John Bigot coming into the community abusing someone in the community I wouldn't have any sympathy for him. You see what I mean. But you have to have sympathy for people.

Moderator

Listen, you know you were talking about what you intend to do and I understand you are in charge of all the branches that you will be setting up in the North.

THOMAS

That is true.

Moderator

What do you think of the civil rights conference which is to be held in Washington next week on June first and second which hopes to alleviate many of the problems of both North and South.

THOMAS

Well, I find it pretty hard to believe. I went to one of the pre-conferences in Philadelphia and after listening at the discussion there and participating in the discussion I could see plainly that you could have 11 civil rights

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5 conferences a day and you are not going to  
6 accomplish too much. Now, the Federal Government  
7 knows the problem. You got FBI Agents and all  
8 other kind of agents and then the city police  
9 have intelligence agents and the man really  
10 ought to know the problem better than I do.  
11 But now the point is does he intend to do some-  
12 thing about it. Now, I don't need to sit  
13 around and talk to him 40 or 45 minutes, two  
14 hours, three hours and get up and leave and  
15 nothing is done. That's just a waste of my  
16 time and a waste of his time and I think it's  
17 very bad. I don't think too much is going to  
18 come out of it. As a matter of fact I am  
19 supposed to go to Washington on the first and  
20 second and picket it. We are supposed to bring  
21 up about 2,000 Deacons.

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39 Moderator

In other words, you don't think too much about  
40 the conference.

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43 TECHAS

44 No. I don't think too much good for the black  
45 people will come out of the conference.  
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Linton. I've been talking to you now for 29 minutes and I want to ask you one question. Do the Deacons intend to demonstrate in Chicago this summer?

THOMAS

Well, we really don't intend to demonstrate. I think demonstrations are played out just about and I think this is one approach we have used to the fullest. I find when you go out in the street demonstrating the man says he has a Constitutional right to picket, you have a lawful right to demonstrate and then he comes around and locks you up, and you pay thousands of dollars in court fees and then after paying all that you cut it loose, you know. We don't have any intention of spending no great fortune on no demonstration, the man arrests you and all that, so I don't see that we would be in the streets too much demonstrating because this does not get us too far. We get the short end of the stick every time.

Moderator

If you should have any trouble next summer or while you are here will the Deacons ask for help from other chapters across the United States, if you need it here?

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7 THOMAS  
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Yes; well we feel as though we need a little help in the city of Chicago now and we have called in and in the next two months, two to three months, there will be approximately ten to fifteen thousand outside Deacons coming in to the city of Chicago to try and help...

19 Moderator

How many?

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21 THOMAS

Ten to fifteen thousand.

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23 Moderator

Ten to fifteen thousand Deacons. They going to live here?

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27 THOMAS

They'll live in the city.

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29 Moderator

They will live in the city.

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31 THOMAS

That's right.

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33 Moderator

So we can expect an influx of ten to fifteen thousand Deacons.

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37 THOMAS

Over the next three months.

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39 Moderator

Over the next three months.

40 Ladies and gentlemen, our guest tonight is  
41 ERNEST THOMAS, Regional Vice-President and  
42 Northern Director of the Deacons for Defense  
43 and Justice, which opened an office on the west  
44 side here three weeks ago. If you have a  
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question or comment we invite you to give us a call here on the Hot Line. Our telephone number is 847-2602.

(Commercial)

Well, we are back with you ladies and gentlemen. Our guest tonight ERNEST THOMAS, Regional ~~Vice~~ President and Northern Director of the Deacons for Defense and Justice. Our telephone number 847-2602, and from all indications a lot of people are going to have something they want to talk with you, Mr. THOMAS. I'd like to ask you two or three other questions before we go to the telephone and that is - you know that we have a lot of young people here in Chicago. They have associated themselves in what we call gangs, west side gangs, east side, south side, north side. You name it and they've got gangs. Will there be a youth program with the Deacons? Yes, we are hoping strongly that we can get a pretty decent youth program.

THOMAS

Moderator

THOMAS

You going to draw them from this group here?  
Pardon?

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6 Moderator

Do you intend to draw the youth from the gangs?

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8 THOMAS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Any, whether he is a gang youth or a youth we want to try to work with them some type of way to keep them primarily in something, in an active way, and we hope to try and form softball leagues all over the city and maybe a little participation in that baseball league and what happens, you know.

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22 Moderator

Well, one other question. What do you think about the peace demonstrations? We've been having some peace demonstrations against our involvement in Viet Nam for a few months now.

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30 THOMAS

Well, I've been more or less pushed into several of them. I didn't understand them until I was in them. I ended up the police said go this way, go this way and I ended up there. But what's puzzling me it is so many whites out there talking about end the war in Viet Nam and they are the ones that mostly prospers from whatever the U.S....

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46 Moderator

But you didn't say these individual whites who are asking; I am thinking about the young man who is

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going to be on TV tomorrow night,

EARL SILBAR. Now he is very much against the profit that's in the...

THOMAS

Well, that's true. But what I am say is

I don't see Negroes on a mass scale out there talking about the war in Viet Nam. I think this is really what need to be that blacks say well why should I go to Viet Nam.

Moderator

Oh, you think they should be out on the peace move, or are you?

THOMAS

I'm saying that Afro-Americans should be out there. I'm not so much concerned with whether they are integrated out there but I'm saying that because there is a different cut of the pie when although some the ones that are protesting now the war in Viet Nam whites may eventually end up working on the space ship that goes to the moon or somewhere. But I'm speaking of black people that are dying and that have died in every war in this country and now when we come back home we cannot get our rightful slice of the pie. And every group,

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5 every other minority group has gotten a slice  
6 of the pie. This is why I am saying black  
7 people are going to have to say well why don't  
8 you go fight your battle until you give me  
9 my rightful share of the pie. See, because  
10 I believe in this law in the sea. You know,  
11 the ship is sunken and damaged and you tow it  
12 in you get so much of the cargo. So I think if  
13 we help you exploit the people then we should  
14 have a rightful cut of the pie.

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25 Moderator

One other question. What do you think of the  
political structure here in Chicago?

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29 THOMAS

Well, from all indications it is a pretty  
bad thing.

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33 Moderator

In what respect?

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35 THOMAS

Well, in all respects.

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37 Moderator

Such as.

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39 THOMAS

Well, all these problems exist, unemployment;  
like I say the fuse is lit to blow up and this  
is because X number of things. Welfare is not  
giving the welfare recipient enough money, they  
are taking the man and tearing him away from his

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family and support his wife and kids and run  
him out of the house so it is just a whole lot  
of things that cause this and I think the  
political structure mostly everything in the  
city of Chicago is political tied anyway.

Moderator.

Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, our guest ERNEST  
THOMAS, our telephone number 847-2602. We're  
going to stop here for a short message.

(Commercial)

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Moderator

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Well, we are back with you ladies and gentlemen.  
WESLEY SOUTH is your host. Our guest ERNEST  
THOMAS and our telephone number 847-2602.

Let's go and see what some of our listeners  
have to ask you.

This is the Hot Line.

First Speaker

Hello Mr. SOUTH.

Moderator

Yes.

First Speaker

This is EARL YOUNG. I haven't caught all of  
your program but I did catch a portion of it  
for your interview with the Deacons and I  
would like to say with all due respect to the  
Deacons and any constructive approach they  
may have to solving the situations and many  
problems that we are having in Chicago I do  
hope that if they have the chance to meet with  
city officials that they will make it clear  
that they do not represent the Negro population  
as a whole because judging from the appearance  
that they seem to be giving on the program I  
for one would not want to be represented by them  
Thank you.

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Moderator

Thank you for your call.

THOMAS

Thank you sir.

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Moderator

This is the Hot Line.

Second Speaker

Hello.

Moderator

Yes, may we have your question.

Second Speaker

Mr. THOMAS, did I hear you say that you are expecting from ten to fifteen thousand Deacons in the city of Chicago very shortly.

THOMAS

Yes, in the next three months.

Second Speaker

How are they going to live? Will they be working on jobs or will they bring money enough to support themselves?

THOMAS

Well, the organization will worry about that.

Second Speaker

You say that you are not going to participate in demonstrations and you are not going to offer any...

THOMAS

Now I said. Wait a minute. I think you misinterpreted me. I said we as an organization was not too concerned about demonstrating in the streets.

Second Speaker

Yes, and I inferred from your conversation that you are not going to offer any armed

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resistance to the police, so I would like to know what you would describe as the exact function of the Deacons in Chicago.

THOMAS.

Well, we would probably be pretty busy telling a man the problems, and I think by telling him the problem and pointing to the problem and the street groups can more or less demonstrate around them if they like.

Second Speaker

I would like to ask you one more question. Will the Deacons participate in any political campaigns while they are here?

THOMAS

Sure we will participate in political campaigns while we are here.

Second Speaker

Here is one more thing. This is the last question. What sort of success have you had in recruiting people from the city of Chicago?

THOMAS

Well, as I say we have somewhere around 455 now and I consider that from the time we have had to work with them I figure it's very successful.

Second Speaker

That is since you had your office open for three weeks.

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THOMAS

No. We have been in the city of Chicago for the last seven months but I've been off and on in the city.

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Second Speaker

Okay, well, thank you very much.

Moderator

Thanks for calling.

Where is your office located?

THOMAS

1230 South Pulaski.

Moderator

Let's get back to the telephone.

This is the Hot Line.

Third Speaker

Hello. Mr. THOMAS please.

Moderator

Go right ahead.

Third Speaker

Mr. THOMAS, I understand you to say that you are going to point up the problems to the man.

Aren't the problems already pointed up? I mean, aren't they aware of the problems now?

THOMAS

I think I made that statement that the man knows more about the problem than I and you put together.

Third Speaker

Why do you need fifteen thousand other people in here to crowd the situation that we now have to point up a problem that is already self-evident?

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THOMAS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Because I'll tell you Because as I say  
we're not one of the nonviolent groups and we  
don't think that we are not in the city to get  
hurt or beat.

Third Speaker

To incite a riot?

THOMAS

Pardon?

Third Speaker

You here to incite a riot?

THOMAS

If a riot occurs it will occur on its own.  
We are not here to incite a riot but then also  
we are not intending to be intimidated and  
beat by anyone and if you know the gentleman  
that's running out on the south side that  
HERBERT (phonetic), the man that came in his  
office and shot him up. Now we don't intend  
to have that either.

Third Speaker

But that was not the man. That was the  
colored man.

THOMAS

The colored man.

Third Speaker

Yes, he was shot by a Negro.

THOMAS

Well, you know you white people can put Negroes  
up to do things too. We have some black people  
with black skin that's white, you know. And  
when I see that happen that's a weak-minded  
black man.

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Third Speaker

Yes, well another thing, spoke of the slums and the rats. Who creates the slums?

THOMAS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Who creates the slums?

Third Speaker

Yes.

THOMAS

The people.

Third Speaker

The people, right. So if the Negroes create their own slums...

THOMAS

No. When they move into an area that's 35 to 40 years old, they never moved into a ghetto or a large community of 40 or 50 blocks of new housing like white developments goes up.

Moderator

You don't mean that to be true in Chicago.

You're talking about in some areas.

THOMAS

In some areas of Chicago, that is right.

In the ghettos is what I'm speaking of.

Third Speaker

Negroes have moved in Chicago into brand new houses and have created slums right in their present house. They move into old housing that has been kept clean in spite of the age and dirty it. They steal light bulbs out of their own community, they write on the walls. Do we blame the white man for this?

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THOMAS

Well, you see where the responsibility comes is if the man don't make enough money...

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Third Speaker

Shouldn't this be taken up with the Negro?

THOMAS

Pardon?

Third Speaker

If they are creating their own problems.

THOMAS

Well, do you want me to answer it or I'll listen to you?

Third Speaker

I want you to answer it.

THOMAS

Well, now you see when a man do not have a decent job, because the only reason he don't have a decent job is that he is black. And all of this perpetuate the whole situation to make it be like it is. Here a man. He is worried how he is going to make another buck and you worried about whether you going to paint your house this week or next week or what color you going to change it. And he don't even see where he can get any paint, you see. And these are the problems that exist to create a slum. Then you bring in all the slum buildings that are supposed to really be torn down and the city inspectors come by and they

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Check the building and tip him a buck  
and they go head on. The building go on and  
the next minute it is a fire trap and it kills  
fifteen or twenty kids in the buildings.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Third Speaker

Well, what about the housing that the  
Negroes buy and they in turn rent to the  
Negroes and the Negroes go about destroying  
the properties that they are renting from  
Negroes. Do they blame the white man for that?

THOMAS

Well, I observe by what you are saying I'm  
quite sure you are caucasian.

Third Speaker

Oh, I'm quite black.

THOMAS

Well, you are caucasian minded, so when I say  
that I don't mean the pigments of your skin.  
We have a lot of black people that more or less  
white/black and they don't understand the  
problems of their own race. And I am quite  
sure you fall into this category that you don't  
understand your own fellow (inaudible).

Third Speaker

I think we're using black as an excuse.

THOMAS

Well, if you show me any black man in America or  
black woman in America that is free then I'll  
give up.

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Third Speaker

Well, being free has nothing to do with being clean.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
THOMAS

Whether you got two million dollars or two hundred million dollars. A black man with two hundred million dollars is not free.

Pardon?

Third Speaker

Being free has nothing to do with being clean.

THOMAS

Sure it does. You think the troops in Viet Nam is clean?

Third Speaker

Well, we're not speaking of Viet Nam.

THOMAS

No, but I'm saying do you think they're clean. (inaudible).

Third Speaker

We're not speaking of Viet Nam because the Deacons did not go to Viet Nam they came to Chicago.

THOMAS

We have some in Viet Nam too. For your information.

Third Speaker

Well, yes, I heard that about Viet Nam. But what I'm saying the problem here is Chicago and what we want to do is make the living conditions in Chicago...

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Well, we are striving for the conditions of the whole U.S. We are not just concerned just with Chicago. I want to be able to go to New York, anywhere else. We are not just concerned with just Chicago because I have some sixty seventy chapters and I am concerned about what is going on in all these seventy different places. And this is my concern. Now your concern might be just right here in Chicago, but mine's not. Well, since you are here in Chicago don't you think part of the program could be geared toward helping the black man help himself?

Third Speaker

That's true.

THOMAS

Third Speaker

I mean like not only fighting for your rights... And one of those ways is to find himself and to be a man. And we cannot find ourselves and be a man by letting you whip me side the head. Now everybody isn't whipped side the head.

THOMAS

Third Speaker

Well, you whip one way or the other or you whip side the head or you whip mentally.

THOMAS

Either way you whipped.

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Third Speaker

So what do we do? Do we go through physical violence or do we try to alleviate the problems that create the situation?

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THOMAS

Well, when you go to try to deal with the problem that creates the situation then that brings on violence because the man never wants go give any ground. You understand? Why, you think you never seen the civil rights people get their heads whipped down South?

Third Speaker

Oh, yes...

THOMAS

You never seen them get arrested in Chicago?

Pardon?

Third Speaker

I've never been in the South but they have had heads whipped in other areas other than the South.

THOMAS

Right. Have you heard of police brutality in Chicago?

Third Speaker

Yes, there's police brutality in Chicago but what I'm speaking of is the fact that there are more areas to work than just the violence.

Moderator

So you would bypass the court and we'll take care of this, is this what the Deacons are saying?

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THOMAS

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O.D. We are not saying that, but I think the lady got mixed up for when we as an organization was not intending to spend a fortune going through the courts when the one Federal law says you have the right to picket to lawful assembly and all this and then the city official comes in and arrests you and you go through courts, city courts...

Moderator

You say you are not going to demonstrate,

THOMAS

No, we are not going to get out there doing that.

Moderator

We have to cut you off here mam. We have a couple commercials coming up. Thank you for calling. Good night.

Our telephone number 847-2602.

(Commercial)

Moderator

This is the Hot Line.

Fourth Speaker

Yes, Mr. SOUTH. What is your guest, Mr. THOMAS?

Moderator

Yes, ERNEST THOMAS.

Fourth Speaker

Is he on? Well, Mr. THOMAS.

THOMAS

Yes sir.

Fourth Speaker

You said that you were asked to come here. Would you mind explaining who asked you to come here?

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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5 THOMAS

No, I don't think it is necessary to answer  
6  
7 you.

8 CONFIDENTIAL

9 Fourth Speaker

It is none of my business.

10 THOMAS

Pardon?

11 Fourth Speaker

You say you don't think it is none of my  
12  
13 business?

14 THOMAS

I say I don't think it is necessary for me  
15  
16 to answer that.

17 Fourth Speaker

I don't see why.

18 Moderator

This man lives here. He is a Negro you come  
19  
20 here to help him.

21 Fourth Speaker

Come here to help you do what.

22 Moderator

Sir, he has come here to help you. I would  
23  
24 say too I would say it's your business to know.

25 Fourth Speaker

I am a Negro.

26 Moderator

That's what I say.

27 Fourth Speaker

Yes, and that's why I ask you.

28 Moderator

I know the NAACP say they didn't ask you.

The Urban League say they didn't ask you.

29 THOMAS

I don't mean established groups such like that.  
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31 These are various people and from small groups.  
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Moderator

I know churches have said they didn't ask you to come in.

THOMAS

Yes, like I say we are not going to disclose who invited us in.

Moderator

Is there any reason? I mean is this a secret organization?

THOMAS

Not an organization. We got our signs up. We're here. But I'm speaking of who invited us. And this have a tendency to get the people that invited us into a bind because they do work for the power structure.

Moderator

You would say that someone invited you in.

THOMAS

A lot of people, yes.

Fourth Speaker

Would you explain who the lot of people are. Can't you give me some...

THOMAS

I thought I explained this to you. Say if you worked for the mayor and your name was on there would you want me to give that name out?

Fourth Speaker

Listen, we have a lot of groups here. In other words we have got too many groups here.

THOMAS

No, we never have too many because we haven't solved the problem. Meantime whether we've got too many...

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Fourth Speaker

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Will you listen to me. You know you say it again that you was going to bring in about fifteen thousand Deacons. Now you know you ain't got no fifteen thousand Deacons. There ain't an organization among the Negroes today got fifteen thousand Negroes in it.

THOMAS

Wait three months and call me back and say that.

Fourth Speaker

Wait three months. Look. I've been here in Chicago long before you were born.

THOMAS

Well, we're not arguing that point.

Fourth Speaker

And you say you've been here six months.

THOMAS

Yes, six to seven months off and on.

Fourth Speaker

Now you don't know what's going on in Chicago no more than what somebody tell you.

THOMAS

Well, I don't see... In other words you saying I can't see the problem.

Fourth Speaker

Wait a minute. You going to hear me now. We do not want no pistol packing Deacons here because we get along without a riot and you know you can't accomplish nothing in no boisterous way and I don't like your attitude. You spoke about the man looking in the store at the ham. Don't you know that's a match for a riot? Don't you know that?

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THOMAS

Pardon?

Fourth Speaker

Huh?

Moderator ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

He said don't you know that your statement of the hungry man looking at a ham in the store is a match for a riot.

THOMAS

Well then I can't help that.

Fourth Speaker

Yes you can help that by not speaking and things. And here's another thing I want to tell you. Any time the groups get together like that you've been...you see we are American citizens.

THOMAS

That's right.

Fourth Speaker

Don't deal just on black, black and white, black and white. Don't you know what you're doing? You just building up more hatred between the two races.

THOMAS

I'm not striving for love. We're striving for respect for one another.

Fourth Speaker

We don't want no pistol packing Deacons here.

THOMAS

Well, we didn't say we was pistol packing.

Fourth Speaker

I'm a Negro myself, and I'm going to tell you so far as I'm concerned you should never have come here.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



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5 THOMAS

Well, you are entitled to our opinion.

6  
7 Fourth Speaker

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Then you was talking about the police department  
and all such as that. We don't need you to  
come here. You don't know nothing about no  
ghettos or no slums or nothing like that. You  
ain't been here long enough to know.

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16 THOMAS

Oh, that's no difference.

17  
18  
19 Fourth Speaker

I've been here forty some odd years and don't  
know all about it.

20  
21  
22 THOMAS

It's no different here than New York, Chicago,  
Los Angeles, no where.

23  
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26 Fourth Speaker

Speak a little louder please.

27  
28 Moderator

He said no difference here than New York or  
Chicago. At New York, Philadelphia, other places.

29  
30  
31 THOMAS

That's right. It's no different.

32  
33 Moderator

Okay. Thank you for calling sir.

34  
35  
36 Fourth Speaker

Okay.

37  
38 Moderator

Good night.

39  
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42 Fifth Speaker

This is the Hot Line.

43  
44 Moderator

Yes. WESLEY SOUTH told me to call.

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47 Fifth Speaker

Speaking.  
I would like to talk with a Mr. THOMAS.

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5 Moderator

Who is this - did you say I told you to call?

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8 CONFIDENTIAL

Go right ahead.

9  
10 Fifth Speaker

Yes, my name is Mr. OVERTON.

11  
12 Moderator

Well, he said I told him to call; go right ahead.

13  
14 Fifth Speaker

Yes, am I talking with Mr. THOMAS?

15  
16 THOMAS

Yes you are.

17  
18 Fifth Speaker

19 Well, here's what I would like to bring out.  
20 I've been listening to your program very long  
21 here and I want to... You know, I'm not  
22 condemning you for being here and I'm not  
23 condoning you, but I want to say some of the  
24 things that's going on that you're speaking of  
25 really, actually happening here. I am living  
26 in a slum which you called and I see a lot of  
27 things and one way or the other it looks like  
28 its something going to be happening that's not  
29 going to be right.

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39 THOMAS

That's true.

40  
41 Fifth Speaker

42 Far as the explosion. Because I'll tell you  
43 what goes on here, see. A lot of times these guys  
44 from suburbs and what have you they come around.  
45 They'll be looking for prostitutes and first one  
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5 thing and another. And it has been called to the  
6 police department's attention and everything,  
7 and nothing's really been done about it you see.  
8 And so what else can you do about it? I would  
9 really like for some of the listeners to give  
10 their opinion.

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17 Moderator

17 Would you and I know each other, sir? I'm  
18 trying to rack my brain for someone by the  
19 name of OVERTON.

20  
21  
22  
23 Fifth Speaker

23 Yes, you do.

24  
25 Moderator

24 Okay. Thanks for calling.  
25 Our telephone number 847-2602.

26  
27  
28 (Commercial)

29 This is the Hot Line.

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33 Sixth Speaker

33 I would like to address a remark or two to  
34 Mr. THOMAS. Mr. THOMAS, I'm white and I've  
35 been struggling for integration and against  
36 segregation and for civil rights for probably  
37 more than you have years. In other words before  
38 you were born, and I just wonder why it is you  
39 want to exclude white people from your organization

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47 THOMAS

47 You say why?

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49 Moderator

49 Yes, why.

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THOMAS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Sixth Speaker

Well, for the simple reason...

That I've earned it. You know I've gone through a lot in the last 30 years or so.

Ever since the days of the Scottsberg (phonetic) case. You'll defend white civil rights workers, won't you?

THOMAS

Sure, certainly.

Sixth Speaker

Well, why don't you let them participate in your organization too?

THOMAS

Wait a minute. It's just like the Jews having a Jewish organization that they only let Jews in and just like the White Citizens Council only let white people in; the John Birchers only let white people in. I could name you so many groups that don't have anything but whites...

Sixth Speaker

You are mistaken about many of those organizations because most organizations have dropped their bars.

THOMAS

I don't know of any blacks in the Ku Klux Klan or the Minutemen or the Birchers.

Moderator

Are you comparing yourself to the Ku Klux Klan?

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THOMAS

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Sixth Speaker

Moderator

THOMAS

Moderator

THOMAS



No. It's just being a black organization, and nothing wrong with being a black organization. No, but you say that the purpose of your organization is to defend the rights of the Negro, to work for his dignity. I approve of these aims, generally speaking, although I don't know about the pistol packing part. But suppose a white person was just as much interested as you in defending the dignity and the rights of the Negro people. Why should he be barred from a group like that?

And before you answer I would like to ask you this question. A moment ago you said to a woman that the pigmentation of her skin may have been... That she was white on the inside but her skin was dark. What about a person being...

White and dark inside?

Yes.

Well, that's true. I accept this fact. But also...

- 57 -

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5 Sixth Speaker

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7 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

8 THOMAS

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10 Sixth Speaker

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15 THOMAS

16 Sixth Speaker

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21 THOMAS

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37 Sixth Speaker

You know how many white civil rights workers  
have been killed in the South?

Pardon?

You know how many whites have been killed in the  
South.

True.

People who have gone in there fighting against  
segregation and for civil rights.

And we've protected more white civil rights  
workers than we did black civil rights  
workers, but anyone that even was down South  
and ran across any of the Deacons or happen to  
know me personally know that I'm a pretty nice  
fellow to meet but when we hold our membership  
this is what it is. We have a lot of whites  
that we work with.

But when you treat white civil rights workers  
and people who are on your side whose skin happen  
to be white, when you treat them as if they are  
the enemy and they can't belong to your organiza  
tion then you're giving a lot of fuel to the  
fire then....

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[REDACTED]

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M.S.S.

M.S.

(c)

MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

(c)

ERNEST THOMAS has an office in Chicago, Illinois, and it is at 1236 Pulaski Street, Chicago, Illinois. (u)

[REDACTED]

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~DDJ ASSOCIATIONS WITH SUBVERSIVE GROUPS

[REDACTED] that ERNEST THOMAS (c)  
Vice President of the Deacons of Defense and Justice,  
Incorporated, from Jonesboro, Louisiana, will speak at  
Detroit, Michigan, on April 1, 1966, at a forum sponsored  
by the Friday Night Socialist Forum which will be held at  
3737 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

The source advised that some of the proceeds  
derived from this affair would be utilized to assist the  
Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated, in connection  
with their activities in the Louisiana area. b1

[REDACTED] that ERNEST THOMAS, (c)  
Vice President of the Deacons of Defense and Justice,  
Incorporated, from Jonesboro, Louisiana, spoke in Detroit,  
Michigan, on April 1, 1966, at a forum sponsored by the  
Friday Night Socialist Forum which was held at 3737 Woodward  
Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

[REDACTED] that THOMAS was the featured speaker (c)  
at this forum and spoke for approximately one hour.  
[REDACTED] approximately 60 to 70 individuals, the (c)  
majority of whom were Negro, were in attendance at this  
forum.

THOMAS, during his talk, indicated that by the  
summer of 1966, there will be "groups of Deacons" in every  
community in both the North and South. THOMAS indicated  
that the headquarters of the Deacons is located in Chicago  
and that the Deacons also receive their training in Chicago  
before being dispatched to various cities throughout  
the United States to form Deacon clubs.

THOMAS indicated, at the present time, that the  
Deacons are directly in need of funds and that the Deacons,  
in order to obtain these funds, plan on putting pressure on  
rich Negroes. THOMAS indicated, during his talk, if the  
white power structure in the United States does not maintain  
law and order, then the Deacons plan to take law and order  
into their own hands.

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8  
9 He stated that the Deacons would deal in a harsh manner with  
10 any informants of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)  
11 or Central Intelligence Agency within their organization and  
12 plan on utilizing all their resources in an effort to get  
13 Negro citizens to vote in the forthcoming elections throughout  
14 the United States.  
15

16 THOMAS indicated that his organization was  
17 protecting civil rights workers in the South and preventing  
18 anyone from harming these civil rights workers while engaged  
19 in their activities. THOMAS discussed the recent rioting in  
20 the Watts area of Los Angeles, California, and that which took  
21 place during the summer of 1965. He indicated it was significant  
22 that in the recent rioting which took place in the Watts  
23 area, that many of the individuals involved were armed with  
24 rifles and other weapons, whereas during the summer of 1965,  
25 very few of the Negroes were armed.  
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33 ACTIVITIES OF KNOWN OR ALLEGED CHAPTERS OF THE DDJ  
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35 New Orleans, Louisiana, chapter  
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43 the New Orleans Chapter  
44 holds monthly meetings and that an executive  
45 meeting is normally held on a weekly basis.  
46 while the chapter has a letter of approval from the parent  
47 chapter in Jonesboro, Louisiana, prefers to regard the  
48 Orleans Chapter as an independent entity.  
49

50 the New Orleans Chapter does not  
51 operate under the instructions and by-laws of the parent  
52 chapter in Jonesboro and was primarily formed in New Orleans  
53 for the purpose of furthering needs of the Negroes in  
54 connection with the voter registration and employment along  
55 legal lines.  
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[redacted] declined to furnish the identities of any members or the total membership of the chapter and said that this was a policy that had always been followed from the beginning. He said that if any member cares to disclose his identity as a Deacon, there is no objection to this.

b7C  
b7D

[redacted] said that the Deacons in New Orleans do not wear any uniforms or possess any equipment and that they are not encouraged to obtain firearms, but are only told what the legal requirements are in relation to firearms. He also said that his chapter has never been asked to assist other Deacons throughout Louisiana or out of the State of Louisiana. He said that he does not regard the Deacons as a "guard" outfit and that there are no plans for the New Orleans Deacons to participate in any racial activity in Louisiana.

[redacted]

[redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)

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[redacted] (c)

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NO 157-3290

EJC:jmp

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MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

[REDACTED]

all [unclear] [unclear]

(c)

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

(c)

Minden, Louisiana, Chapter

[REDACTED] meetings of the  
Minden chapter of the DDJ were held on March 8, 1966,  
March 15, 1966, and March 22, 1966, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

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11 [REDACTED]  
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14 [REDACTED] the DDJ chapter at Minden has  
15 not purchased any firearms and has no plans to purchase any  
16 firearms. b7C  
b7D  
17

18  
19 [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED] meetings were held on April 5, 1966;  
21 April 12, 1966; April 19, 1966; and April 26, 1966.  
22 [REDACTED]  
23

24 [REDACTED] He stated that this  
25 chapter does not own any guns or any other weapons.  
26 *Deacons, Deacons and Justice*

27 [REDACTED]  
28 [REDACTED] that the chapter had meetings  
29 on April 5, 1966; April 12, 1966; April 19, 1966; and April 26,  
30 1966.  
31 [REDACTED]

32 [REDACTED] that the racial situation in Minden is  
33 quiet and that he does not see any possibility of violence.  
34 He said that the Deacons do not possess any guns or other  
35 weapons.  
36

37  
38 Jonesboro, Louisiana, Chapter

39 [REDACTED] Jonesboro,  
40 Louisiana, advised on April 6, 1966, that the DDJ in  
41 Jonesboro is a passive group and takes action only as a  
42 result of action. [REDACTED] that the local Negroes  
43 in Jonesboro are presently involved in court action  
44 against local officials and have met no resistance in  
45 their drives towards desegregation. [REDACTED] there was  
46 no indication of increase in activity by the DDJ in  
47 Jonesboro in the foreseeable future.  
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9 Alleged DDJ at Cleveland, Ohio

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11 MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

12 [REDACTED] on April 1, 1966  
13 arranged to show a clip of a television interview conducted  
14 by station WJW of one HARLELL JONES, also known as ROBERT  
15 JONES to Special Agents [REDACTED]  
16 and [REDACTED]

17  
18 During this interview, JONES stated that he is part  
19 of the Bandung World, which he described as being the non-white  
20 world which actually comprises the majority of the world.  
21 JONES stated he considers himself as spokesman for the  
22 peasants and that he is a member of the DDJ which has 56  
23 chapters throughout the United States. JONES advised  
24 that he is vice president of the local Deacons group in  
25 Cleveland, Ohio. He said that this group has high-powered  
26 rifles and that the rifles had been purchased in downtown  
27 department stores and from Army and Navy stores.  
28

b7C  
b7D

29 [REDACTED]  
30 [REDACTED] on June 20, 1966,  
31 advised that [REDACTED] has no information indicating  
32 that the DDJ is either functioning or holding regular  
33 meetings in Cleveland, Ohio.

34 Bogalusa, Louisiana, Chapter

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
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8 [REDACTED] MISS. LI  
9 [REDACTED] N.Y.  
10 advised that the DDJ of Bogalusa is planning to go to  
11 Baltimore, Maryland, sometime after the completion of the  
12 present MEREDITH march in Mississippi.

13  
14 [REDACTED] that no specific date has been  
15 set for the trip to Baltimore but added that it is  
16 definitely planned. He further stated that the number of  
17 Deacons who will participate in this endeavor has not been  
18 decided upon at this time.

19 [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED] LI  
21 [REDACTED]  
22 [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED] b7C  
26 [REDACTED] declined to furnish a membership list and b7D  
27 indicated he would not do so at any time.

28  
29 Alleged DDJ Chapter in Washington, D.C.

30  
31 An article appeared on page B-1 of the March 30,  
32 1966, issue of "The Washington Post and Times Herald," a  
33 daily Washington, D.C., newspaper, captioned "Bogalusa Unit  
34 Plans Move to D.C.," authored by WILLIAM RASPBERRY. A  
35 copy of the article is attached.

36  
37 The article by RASPBERRY indicated that the DDJ  
38 planned to establish a chapter in Washington, D.C., and he  
39 questioned the plans for such a move. The article stated  
40 that according to JULIUS W. HOBSON, "militant leader of  
41 ACT and a prospective Deacon," the move to the area was due  
42 to increasing brutality on the part of police officers and  
43 the failure of officials to punish it. HOBSON, according  
44 to the article, said that the Deacons could probably recruit  
45 as many as 300 to 400 men in the Washington, D.C., area, and  
46 it was HOBSON's theory that Negroes must organize to strike  
47 back at brutal officers.

48 [REDACTED]  
49 [REDACTED]  
50 [REDACTED] advised the FBI as follows:  
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WILLIAM RASPBERRY, writer of the article in the March 30, 1966, issue of "The Washington Post," wrote an article entirely misleading to the readers, and appeared to present information obtained from HOBSON, which was not true. RASPBERRY had attempted to interview HOBSON on approximately February 26, 1966, at which time HOBSON referred him to someone else.

HOBSON [REDACTED] personally demanded a public retraction by "The Washington Post" of the article; however, he was granted the privilege of writing a Letter to the Editor with his comments, which he was assured would be published on March 31, 1966.

[REDACTED]

Alleged DDJ Chapters in Mississippi

[REDACTED], Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), 507 1/2 North Farish Street, Jackson, Mississippi, advised [REDACTED] that the MFDP, to his knowledge, has no one in their organization who is a member of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ). He said the MFDP has been the center of the civil rights movement within the state of Mississippi for the past year along with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and there have been no attempts made to recruit chapters of the DDJ. To the best of his knowledge, there have been no members of the DDJ from Bogalusa, Homer, or Jonesboro, Louisiana, in Jackson for the past several months attempting to recruit members for the DDJ.

[REDACTED] that no additional information (c) has been received concerning forming chapters in the state of Mississippi since last contacted. The source advised (c) that there are no chapters of the DDJ within the state of Mississippi. [REDACTED] that the NAACP within the (c) state of Mississippi has refused to have any association with the DDJ in Louisiana, and there is no one in the MFDP strong enough to form a chapter of the DDJ within the state of Mississippi. b1

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[redacted] that he has traveled throughout the state of Mississippi on behalf of the civil rights movement, and he has received no information that chapters have been organized within the state of Mississippi. (c) b1

[redacted] He advised that there has been no information obtained concerning the existence of any DDJ chapters or actual members. [redacted] that daily contact is had with negro and white civil rights workers. (c)

[redacted] advised on April 22, 1966, he could furnish no pertinent information concerning the DDJ. He said that since the DDJ held a meeting at the Masonic Temple, Lynch Street, Jackson, on August 29, 1965, there has been no other efforts, to his knowledge, to recruit members. [redacted] stated that he has attempted to determine if the NAACP and the MFDP have recruited members of the DDJ for protection in the Jackson area, and he has been unable to substantiate by investigation any activity on behalf of the DDJ. b7C b7D

[redacted] advised on April 22, 1966, he could furnish no pertinent information concerning the DDJ not previously furnished. He said there have been several racial situations occurring within the state of Mississippi the past several months, but investigation [redacted] has disclosed no activity on behalf of the DDJ.

Alleged DDJ Chapter in Chicago, Illinois

On May 25, 1966, [redacted]

[redacted] advised the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated (DDJ), recently opened an office at 1230 South Pulaski Road, Chicago, and the telephone number of the Chicago Office of the DDJ is 522-7706.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ERNEST THOMAS, an organizer for the DDJ, reportedly is the individual who is responsible for organizing the Chicago chapter of the DDJ. THOMAS is in and out of Chicago frequently but is not known to have any permanent address in Chicago.

[redacted] that the DDJ is incorporated in the state of Louisiana only and had not filed papers to do business in any other state.

[redacted] that ERNEST THOMAS has been traveling around the United States calling himself the Regional Vice President and Northern Director of the DDJ and has claimed to set up DDJ chapters in several cities in the United States on a militant basis. [redacted] that these efforts on the part of THOMAS are reportedly entirely of his own volition and are not supported or condoned by the DDJ at Jonesboro, Louisiana.

[redacted] the DDJ headquarters at Jonesboro, Louisiana, has never received any requests for charters from anywhere outside of the state of Louisiana and that such charters could not be issued outside the state if they were so requested.

MISCELLANEOUS

On April 19, 1966, a representative of Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, U.S. Treasury Department, Los Angeles, California, advised that his source has been unable to obtain any information concerning the shipment of machine guns from the Czechoslovakian Firearms Manufacturer to the Deacons of Defense and Justice. His source said that he now feels that he received false information from the beginning and does not feel that this matter has any merit. His source said that he would continue to be alert for information reflecting upon this matter.

*ATF referral*

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*ln. 152*

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APPENDIX

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FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIALIST FORUM,  
aka. Militant Labor Forum

On May 3, 1965, a source advised that the Forum is a paper organization set up by the Chicago Branch, Socialist Workers Party (CBSWP), Chicago, Illinois, for Socialist Workers Party (SWP) members and sympathizers. Open meetings held under the auspices of this Forum are geared to be the activities that the SWP is pursuing at a particular time, e.g., unemployment, election campaign, Cuba, segregation, etc.

SUZANNE BUCH, a CBSWP member, is in charge of the Forum and schedules meetings under the name of the Forum in order to conceal the SWP sponsorship of same. The meetings of the Forum generally are held at Chicago SWP headquarters although the Forum, in the past, has sponsored other affairs, such as meetings, socials, and picnics held at other locations.

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

APPENDIX

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CONFIDENTIAL



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4 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

5 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

6  
7  
8 New Orleans, Louisiana  
9 July 21, 1966

10 In Reply, Please Refer to  
11 File No.

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17 Title DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

18  
19  
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21  
22 Character RACIAL MATTERS

23  
24 Reference Report of SA [REDACTED] b7c  
25 at New Orleans, Louisiana, dated  
26 July 21, 1966.

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28  
29 All sources (except any listed below) whose identities  
30 are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable  
31 information in the past.

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FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Date: 7-19-66

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466) (157-4946)  
FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (157-572) (157-840)  
SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,  
(INCORPORATED  
RM (Organization)

OO: New Orleans

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

RM

CLASS. & EXT. BY SPI/gdl/jh 7-24-80  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 2, 3  
DATE OF REVIEW 7-19-86

OO: New Orleans

Enclosed for the Bureau are 12 copies of a  
letterhead memorandum regarding the reported overseas  
travel of ERNEST THOMAS.

Two copies of the letterhead memorandum are  
enclosed for Detroit for information; four copies for  
New York and three copies for WFO, and New Orleans.

ENCLOSURE

- 1 - Bureau (Enc. 12) (RM)
- 2 - Detroit (Enc. 2) (Info) (RM)
- 3 - New Orleans (Enc. 3) (RM)
  - (2 - 157-██████████)
  - (1 - 157-3290)
- 4 - New York (Enc. 4) (RM)
  - (2 - 157-██████████)
  - (1 - 157-DDJ)
  - (1 - 100-██████████)
- 3 - WFO (Enc. 3) (RM)
  - (2 - 157-801)
  - (1 - 157-794)
- 4 - Chicago
  - (1 - 66-4984 Sub-B)

REC-38 EX-104

JUL 27 1966

AGENCY: ACSI, ONE OSI; SEC. SER.;  
DEPT. OF CRD, 2 JUL 21 1966

DATE FORW: 7/22/66  
HOW FORW: RLS

WMP/drm  
(20)

50 AUG 3 1966

Special Agent in Charge

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

INT. SEC.

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

AGENCIES  
ADVISORIES  
BY

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CG 157-572  
CG 157-840

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED]

(c) b1

The original information is reported in [REDACTED] (c)

One copy of the letterhead memorandum is being furnished each of the following offices:

- United States Secret Service, Chicago, Illinois
- Region I, 113th INTC Group, Evanston, Illinois

LEADS

BUREAU

[REDACTED]

b1

DETROIT

Two copies of a letterhead memorandum have been enclosed for the Detroit Office for information.

NEW ORLEANS

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA. 1. Will contact informants regarding the reported departure of THOMAS from the United States including his purpose and intentions.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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8 CC 157-572  
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

12 2. Will furnish Chicago complete background information  
13 and descriptive data regarding THOMAS due to his efforts to organize  
14 the DDJ in the Chicago area.

15  
16 NEW YORK

17  
18 AT NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK. 1. Will contact racial  
19 and other informants regarding the presence of THOMAS in New York  
20 City during the approximate period of July 15 - 18, 1966.

21  
22 2. Endeavor to develop information regarding his proposed  
23 contacts and purpose of travel to Europe.

24  
25 3. Will characterize [REDACTED]

26  
27 WFO

28  
29 AT WASHINGTON, D.C. 1. Will check passport records,  
30 Department of State, confirming the reported departure of THOMAS  
31 from the United States.

32  
33 2. Will furnish THOMAS' proposed itinerary as well  
34 as descriptive data and background material.

35  
36 3. [REDACTED] b1

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40 NEW YORK AND WFO

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42 Will submit results of investigation to New Orleans  
43 and Chicago.

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58 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Chicago, Illinois  
July 19, 1966

157-572

157-840

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE;  
INCORPORATED  
RACIAL MATTER (ORGANIZATION)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) OF  
DATE

Class 4  
8/20/70

RACIAL MATTER

b7c

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gsk/Hv 7-24-80  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.20 2  
DATE OF REVIEW 7-19-86

JUL 27 1966

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ENCLOSURE