

PAGE TWO

THEIR OPINION, THERE WAS ANY CHANCE OF REACHING A VERDICT, ALL JURORS ANSWERED IN THEIR OPINION WOULD BE UNABLE TO REACH VERDICT.

AT ELEVEN THIRTY THREE AM JUDGE DECLARED A MISTRIAL AND REMANDED BECKWITH TO THE CUSTODY OF THE HINDS COUNTY SHERIFF/S OFFICE.

[REDACTED]

~~E CORR ON LINE SIX OXXXWORD FOUR SHLD BE WALLER~~

END AND ACK PLS

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FBI WASH DC

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Tolson _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 DeLoach _____
 Evans _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

S. J. [Signature]

UPI-84

(BECKWITH)

JACKSON, MISS.--AN ALL-WHITE JURY WAS UNABLE TO AGREE ON A VERDICT
IN THE BYRON DE LA BECKWIRTH MURDER TRIAL TODAY AND A MISTRIAL WAS
DECLARED.

2/7--MJ1239PES

*Do we know how
 vote stood?*

K

*Memo. Rosen +
 Belmont 2/7/64
 FPS:tal*

108

REC-24

ENCLOSURE

157-901-44

10 FEB 13 1964

157-901-44
 [Redacted]

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Beckwith Trial To Begin Today

JACKSON, Miss (UPI) —Byron De La Beckwith, a dapper member of a long - prominent Mississippi Delta family, goes to trial Monday in the sniper slaying of a Negro civil rights leader.

Beckwith, 42, is charged with murder in the ambush slaying of Medgar Evers who was shot the back June 12.

Stringent security measures will be in effect throughout the trial, which is attracting high interest among both the white and Negro communities.

The prosecution is seeking the death penalty. Presiding over the court will be Circuit Judge Leon F. Hendrick, 69, who in 10 years on the bench has garnered a reputation for his impartiality.

Everyone admitted to the second floor courtroom in the Hinds County Courthouse will be searched for weapons. The crowd size will be limited to the seating capacity, which is about 400. Law enforcement officers will be posted throughout the courthouse area.

"We don't want another Dallas," said one officer, referring to the slaying of President Kennedy's accused assassin.

Evers, 37, was killed as he stepped from his automobile in the driveway of his Jackson home. The shot was fired from a vacant lot where police later found a high-powered rifle believed to have been the murder weapon. A fingerprint lifted from the rifle has been identified by a police expert as Beckwith's.

Beckwith, a descendant of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, was a fertilizer salesman at Greenwood and was well-known for his anti-integration views.

Following his arrest June 22 some leading citizens of Greenwood established a "White Citizens Legal Fund" to pay for defending him. At last report, they had received about \$8,000 in donations.

The trial is expected to run for about two weeks.

of a jury is likely to consume most of the first week. Jurors are to be picked from a 200-man venire which includes a few Negroes.

Charles Evers, who succeeded his slain brother as state field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), predicted that failure to obtain a conviction in the case would result in "open warfare" between Negro and white extremists here.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 6 1964

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

M. J. [unclear]

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

633PMCST URGENT 4-6-64 TM

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/ 1P

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM. CRJ RM.

BECKWITH TRIAL COMMENCED TODAY IN HINDS COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT,
JACKSON, MISS. AS OF FIVE P.M. TODAY NO JURORS HAD BEEN ACCEPTED,
VERY FEW SPECTATORS IN ATTENDANCE.

BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

END

WA RL

FBI WASH DC

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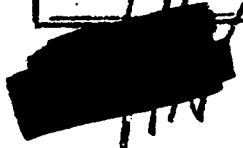
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157-901-447

8 APR 7 1964

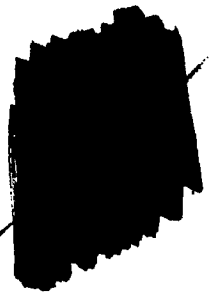
EX 104

112
58 APR 14 1964



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

APR 7 1964

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Belmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mohr	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Casper	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Callahan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Conrad	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. DeLoach	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Evans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Gale	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Sullivan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tavel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Trotter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miss Holmes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

634PMCST URGENT 4-7-64 TM

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/ LP
also known as

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM. CR; RM.
AS OF FIVE P.M. TODAY FIVE JURORS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY STATE
AND DEFENSE.

BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

END

WA RL

FBI WASH DC

P

CC-MR. ROSEN

EX-102

REC 30

157-901-448

10 APR 8 1964

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

58 APR 14 1964



Civil Rights
Racial Matters

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

APR 8 1964

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

M. J. [unclear]

FBI NEW ORLS

8 33 PM CST URGENT 4/8/64 WFM

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS 157-1163

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH AKA; MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM. CR, RM.
RE BECKWITH TRIAL.

AS OF FIVE THIRTY PM TODAY A TOTAL OF TEN JURORS HAVE BEEN
ACCEPTED BY THE STATE AND DEFENSE.

END

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FBI WASH DC

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REC-19

APR 9 1964

12 APR 9 1964

157-901449

67 APR 16 1964

[Redacted area]

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 9 1964

TELETYPE

Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI NEW ORLS

8-10 PM URGENT 4-9-64 OLP

TO DIRECTOR (157-901)

FROM NEW ORLEANS (157-1163)

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, MEDGAR EVERS - VICTIM CR-RM.

SELECTION OF ALTERNATE JUROR COMPLETED THIS AFTERNOON AND TESTIMONY COMMENCED.

CAPT. BENNIE D. HARRELL, JACKSON PD, TESTIFIED TO RECEIVING PHONE CALL RE SHOOTING TWELVE FORTY FIVE AM, JUNE TWELVE SIXTYTHREE.

MRS. MEDGAR EVERS TESTIFIED AS TO HEARING SHOT WHEN HUSBAND ARRIVED HOME AND OF FINDING HIM LYING NEAR DOOR.

HOUSTON WELLS, EVERS NEIGHBOR, TESTIFIED AS TO HEARING GUNSHOT, FINDING EVERS AND TRANSPORTING HIM TO HOSPITAL. JOE ALFORD, PATROLMAN, JACKSON PD, TESTIFIED AS TO BEING FIRST OFFICER ON SCENE AND ESCOURTING EVERS TO HOSPITAL.

DR. FORREST G. BRATLEY, M. D., PATHOLOGIST, TESTIFIED AS TO POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION OF EVERS AND THAT EVERS DEATH CAUSED BY HEMORRHAGING DUE TO BULLET WOUND.

DETECTIVE SGT. JOHN CHAMBLEE, JACKSON, PD, TESTIFIED TO CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION AND INTRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHS OF SCENE.

COURT RECESSED UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING WITH CHAMBLEE STILL ON STAND ON DIRECT EXAMINATION.

END

WA RL

REC-3 157-901-450

APR 10 1964

FBI WASH DC
APR 14 1964
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 10 1964

TELETYPE

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Belmont _____
- Mr. Mohr _____
- Mr. Casper _____
- Mr. Callahan _____
- Mr. Conrad _____
- Mr. DeLoach _____
- Mr. Evans _____
- Mr. Gale _____
- Mr. Rosen *RS*
- Mr. Sullivan _____
- Mr. Tavel _____
- Mr. Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Miss Holmes _____
- Miss Gandy _____

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

251 PM CST URGENT 4-10-64 JLT

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/ 2P

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA., MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM,
CR, RM.

RE MORNING SESSION BECKWITH TRIAL TODAY.

DET. SGT. JOHN CHAMBLEE CONCLUDED HIS TESTIMONY RE CRIME
SCENE INVESTIGATION.

JOE PARKER, CIVIL ENGINEER, INTRODUCED PLAT SHOWING
ELEVATIONS AND PERTINENT DISTANCES IN AREA OF EVERS HOME.

DET. SGT. FRED SANDERS, JR., JACKSON POLICE DEPARTMENT,
TESTIFIED AS TO CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION AND LOCATING MURDER
BULLET.

R

MISS BETTY COLEY WHO RESIDED IN AREA EVERS HOME TESTIFIED
SHE AND KENNETH ADCOCK WERE WALKING TOGETHER IN VICINITY EVERS
HOME ABOUT TWELVE THIRTY A.M., JUNE TWELVE, ESIXTYTHREE, WHEN
HEAR LOUD SHOT CLOSE BY AND HEARD PERSON RUNNING AWAY FROM
SCENE. KENNETH ADCOCK TESTIFIED WAS WITH MISS COLEY AND
END PAGE ONE

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157-901-451

10 APR 18 1964

6

64 APR 17 1964

PAGE TWO

HEARD SHOT AND HEARD SOMEONE RUNNING FROM SCENE.

DET. SGT. O.M. LUKE, JACKSON POLICE DEPARTMENT, TESTIFIED AS TO LOCATING RIFLE IN BUSHES CLOSE TO PARKING LOT OF JOE/S DRIVE IN NEAR EVERS HOME.

EN

~~CORRECTION PAGE ONE LINE SIX LAST WORD SHOULD BE "SHOWING"~~

END

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FBI WASH DC

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cc: 

APR 11 1964

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

4-03 PM CST

URGENT

4-11-64

KLD

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/ 1P

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH; MEDGAR EVARS DASH VICTIM, CR; RM.
 RE BECKWITH TRIAM TODAY. CAPT. RALPH HARGROVE, IDENTIFICATION
 OFFICER, JACKSON PD, TESTIFIED AS TO LOCATING LATENT FINGERPRINT
 ON SCOPE OF INSTANT RIFLE AND SUBSEQUENTLY DETERMINING THAT IT
 WAS THAT OF THE RIGHT INDEX FINGER OF BECKWITH. TESTIFIED THAT
 IN HIS OPINION LATENT WAS NOT OVER TWELVE HOURS OLD.

FINGERPRINT EXAMINER GEORGE GOODREAU, IDENTIFICATION
 DIVISION, TESTIFIED AS TO HIS LATENT FINGERPRINT EXAMINATION.
 WAS NOT ASKED BY EITHER STATE OR DEFENSE AS TO AGE OF LATENT.

COURT ADJOURNED TWO THIRTY PM UNTIL NINE AM APR. THIRTEEN
NEXT.

END.

~~CORR LINE 2 WORD 3 SHOULD BE TRIE AND LINE 9 WORD SHOULD BE XXXX
 WORD 7 SHOULD BE OR~~

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FBI WASH DC

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64 APR 17 1964

M. J. [Signature]



Mc [Signature]

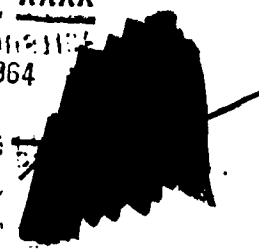
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APR 14 1964



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

APR 15 1964

TELETYPE

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Evans
- Mr. Gale
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

820 PM CST URGENT

4-15-64 TJB

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA; ^{also known as} MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM, CR; RM
 FOLLOWING DEFENSE WITNESSES TESTIFIED THIS AFTERNOON:
 WENDELL SOWELL, DIRECTOR CRIME LAB, FORT WORTH, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND LOUIS C. BAYNARD. PRIVATE DOCUMENT EXAMINER AND FORMERLY IDENTIFICATION OFFICER FOR LOUISIANA STATE POLICE TESTIFIED IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE AGE OF LATENT FINGERPRINT.

Civil Rights
 Racial Matters

E. H. HAWKINS, GREENWOOD, MISS., TESTIFIED SAW SCAR OVER BECKWITH/S EYE SUNDAY PRIOR TO MURDER.

JAMES MC COY, SR., AND JAMES MC COY, JR., GREENVILLE, MISS., TESTIFIED SAW SCAR OVER BECKWITH/S EYE MONDAY PRIOR TO MURDER.

DEWITT WALCOTT, JR., BECKWITH/S EMPLOYER TESTIFIED THAT BECKWITH HAD SHOWN HIM TELESCOPE SIGHT AND WAS NOT SECRETIVE ABOUT HAVING SIGHT.

JAMES JONES, WONER NEON SIGN SHOP, GREENWOOD, MISS., TESTIFIED SAW BECKWITH WITH VALIANT AUTOMOBILE IN GREENWOOD, MISS., AT ELEVEN FORTY-FIVE P.M. ON JUNE ELEVEN, SIXTYTHREE.

END PAGE ONE

REC 10

157-901-460

18 APR 16 1964

68 APR 21 1964



PAGE TWO

HOLLIS CRESWELL AND JAMES HOLLEY, GREENWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS TESTIFIED THEY SAW BECKWITH AT GREENWOOD AT ONE ZERO FIVE A.M. JUNE TWELVE, SIXTYTHREE.

FRED BEARD, MANAGER WLBT-TV TESTIFIED MEDGAR EVERS SPOKE OVER THAT STATION MAY TWENTY, SIXTYTHREE, THAT DURING AND AFTER EVER/S APPEARANCE THE STATION RECEIVED NUMEROUS TELEPHONE CALLS. BEARD HEARD ABOUT FORTY OF THESE CALLS HIMSELF. SOME CALLS CONTAINED THREATS TO DO BODILY HARMS TO EVERS [REDACTED]

DEFENSE RESTED.

STATE WILL PUT ON SOME REBUTTAL WITNESSES TOMORROW MORNING AND CASE WILL GO TO THE JURY TOMORROW.

END

WA NHH

FBI WASH DC

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

APR 13 1964

TELETYPE

abs

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

3-55 PM CST URGENT 4-13-64 LH

TO DIRECTOR 157-901

FROM NEW ORLEANS 157-1163 4 P
ALSO KNOWN AS

CIVIL RIGHTS
CR, RM RACIAL MATTERS
BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA., MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM,

RE MORNING SESSION BECKWITH TRIAL TODAY.

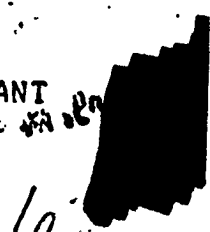
LEE F. SWILLEY, FORMER CAB DRIVER, TESTIFIED HE SAW BECKWITH JUNE EIGHT, LAST, AT TRAILWAYS BUS TERMINAL, JACKSON, MISS., BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR PM, AND THAT BECKWITH INQUIRED OF HIM AND ANOTHER CAB DRIVER WHERE NAACP LEADER EVERS LIVED. WHEN SWILLEY UNABLE TO FURNISH THIS INFO, BECKWITH CHECKED PHONE BOOK IN TRAILWAYS TERMINAL, AND ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS CAME OUT TO ASK WHETHER CERTAIN ADDRESSES MIGHT BE THAT OF EVERS, BUT ON ALL OCCASIONS ADDRESSES BECKWITH HAD WERE IN WHITE NEIGHBORHOOD, TESTIFIED HE IDENTIFIED BECKWITH IN LINEUP AT PD HEADQUARTERS AFTER BECKWITH-S ARREST.

ROBERT JOHN PITTMAN, AGE SEVENTEEN, WHOSE FATHER OPERATES PITTMAN/S GROCERY IN VICINITY EVERS HOME, TESTIFIED THAT, ON SATURDAY NIGHT BEFORE EVERS KILLING, HE SAW SIXTYTWO WHITE VALIANT AUTO PARKED ON NORTH SIDE OF PITTMAN/S GROCERY, AND VALIANT HAD

MR. DEWIGHT FOR THE DIRECTOR

68 APR 21 1964

REC 10 157 901 461



PAGE TWO

MASONIC EMBLEM HANGING FROM REAR VIEW MIRROR. STATED ON NIGHT OF KILLING, AT ABOUT TEN THIRTY PM, SAW A WHITE VALIANT CIRCLING STREET IN AREA. TESTIFIED WAS AWAKENED BY SHOT AND SUBSEQUENTLY WENT TO EVERS HOME BUT SAW NO ONE IN VICINITY WHO WOULD BE TIED IN WITH SHOOTING.

MRS. P. L. PITTMAN, WIFE OF OWNER PITTMAN/S GROCERY, TESTIFIED THAT ON THURSDAY BEFORE MURDER A MAN DRIVING LIGHT COLORED SMALL CAR PARKED IN PARKING LOT AND WALKED AROUND IN BACK OF THIS LOT. THIS MAN WAS WEARING SUN GLASSES AND WHITE SHOES. UNABLE TO IDENTIFY BECKWITH AS THIS INDIVIDUAL AND TESTIFIED UNABLE TO IDENTIFY BECKWITH AT PD LINEUP.

RONNIE MARK ACEY, AGE SIXTEEN, TESTIFIED WAS WITH ROBERT PITTMAN NIGHT OF JUNE EIGHT, LAST, AND SAW SIXTYTWO WHITE VALIANT WITH MASONIC EMBLEM PARKED ALONGSIDE PITTMAN/S GROCERY.

RONALD JONES, AGE SIXTEEN, TESTIFIED WAS WITH ROBERT PITTMAN NIGHT OF MURDER, TESTIFIED SAW WHITE VALIANT WITH LONG ANTENNA TRAVELING ON LETA DRIVE NEAR PITTMAN/S GROCERY.

NO 157-1163

PAGE THREE

TESTIFIED HE THOUGHT HE SAW SAME CAR GENERAL AREA THE
SATURDAY BEFORE.

HERBERT SPEIGHT, CAB DRIVER, TESTIFIED ON JUNE EIGHT,
LAST, WHILE PARKED IN FRONT OF TRAILWAYS BUS TERMINAL WAS
APPROACHED BY INDIVIDUAL ASKING IF HE KNEW WHERE EVANS PAREN
NOT EVERS PAREN, THE QUOTE NAACP NEGRO UNQUOTE, LIVED. WHEN
SPEIGHT COULD NOT FURNISH THIS INFO, THIS INDIVIDUAL WENT
INTO THE TRAILWAYS BUS TERMINAL, CHECKED PHONE BOOK, AND ON
THREE OCCASIONS CAME BACK TO CAB WITH DIFFERENT ADDRESSES
ASKING IF THAT MIGHT BE WHERE EVANS LIVED. ALL ADDRESSES
WERE IN WHITE NEIGHBORHOOD, WHEN ASKED BY DA WALLER IF THIS
MAN WAS IDENTICAL WITH BECKWITH, SPEIGHT REPLIED THE MAN
RESEMBLES BECKWITH, AND QUOTE IF IT WASN/T SBECKWITH, IT WAS
HIS TWIN BROTHER UNQUOTE AND QUOTE WOULDN/T SWEAR TO IT BUT
BELIEVE IT WAS HIM UNQUOTE. THIS WITNESS HAD PREVIOUSLY
TESTIFIED AT FIRST BECKWITH TRIAL THAT INDIVIDUAL WHO
APPROACHED HIM AT TRAILWAYS TERMINAL WAS POSITIVELY IDENTICAL
WITH BECKWITH. ON FURTHER QUESTIONING BY WALLER TODAY, SPEIGHT
SAID HE HAD BEEN THREATENED SINCE LAST TRIAL BUT GAVE NO OTHER

NO 157-1163

PAGE FOUR

DETAILS CONCERNING THREATS. ASSISTANT DA JOHN FOX, 111, SUBSEQUENTLY ADVISED THAT SPEIGHTS TOLD HIM HE HAD BEEN BEATEN UP AS A RESULT OF TESTIMONY HE PREVIOUSLY GAVE. UPON FURTHER QUESTIONING BY WALLER TODAY, SPEIGHT AGAIN REITERATED THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL AT TRAILWAYS TERMINAL WAS IDENTICAL WITH BECKWITH.

JOHN BOOK, GREENVILLE, MISS., WHO WORKED AS SALESMAN WITH BECKWITH AT DELTA LIQUID PLANT FOOD CO., GREENWOOD, MISS., FURNISHED DESCRIPTION OF SIXTYTWO VALIANT, A COMPANY CAR, OPERATED BY BECKWITH, AND IDENTIFIED PHOTO OF SAME. TESTIFIED HE WORKED WITH BECKWITH JUNE TEN, LAST, AND SAW SMALL SEMICIRCULAR SCAR OVER BECKWITH/S EYE THAT DAY. ASKED BECKWITH IN JOKING MANNER IF WIFE HAD HIT HIM AND BECKWITH QUOTE "BRUSHED IT OFF AND DID NOT SAY ANYTHING" UNQUOTE.

PAGE TWO LAST LINE WORD FIVE SHOULD BE DELTA

END

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FBI WASH DC

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CC-MR. ROSEN

FBI WASH DC

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

FBI NEW ORLS

APR 14 1964

922PM CST URGENT 4-14-64 TM

TELETYPE

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA; MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM. CR. RM.
RE AFTERNOON SESSION BECKWITH TRIAL TODAY.

MRS. A.W. BRANCH AND HER SON, CHARLES BRANCH, SIDON, MISS.,

TESTIFIED THAT ON NIGHT SUNDAY JUNE NINE LAST SAW INDIVIDUAL GETTING
IN OR OUT OF BECKWITH/S VALIENT AUTOMOBILE WHILE IT WAS PARKED ON
LOT AJACENT TO GREYHOUND BUS STATION, GREENWOOD, MISS. CHARLES
BRANCH TESTIFIED TOLD BECKWITH, WHO WAS IN BUS STATION, ABOUT
THIS AND BECKWITH CAME OUTSIDE AND TALKED TO THIS INDIVIDUAL.
SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS TESTIMONY NOT FULLY DEVELOPED, HOWEVER
DURING LAST TRIAL THESE WITNESSES TESTIFIED THEY THOUGHT INDIVIDUAL
MAY HAVE TAKEN SOMETHING FROM BECKWITH/S CAR /POSSIBLY BECKWITH/S
RIFLE/. THIS WAS NOT BROUGHT OUT IN TODAYS TESTIMONY.

FRED CONNER, GREENWOOD, MISS., BUS STATION EMPLOYEE, TESTIFIED
HE ATE SUPPER WITH BECKWITH AT GREENWOOD CAFE BETWEEN SIX AND SEVEN
P.M. JUNE ELEVEN LAST.

BECKWITH TOOK STAND DENIED SHOOTING EVERS. DENIED BEING IN
JACKSON SATURDAY PRECEEDING MURDER. DENIED CONVERSATION WITH TWO
CAB DRIVERS AT TRAILWAYS BUS STATION THAT DAY. DENIES WAS IN JACKSON
NIGHT JUNE ELEVEN, MORNING JUNE TWELVE. CLAIMS WAS IN GREENWOOD
DURING THAT TIME.

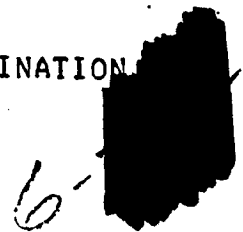
18 APR 16 1964

COURT ADJOURNED UNTIL NINE A.M. TOMORROW WHEN CROSS EXAMINATION
OF BECKWITH WILL CONTINUE.

END WA MTC

FBI WASH DC

52 APR 20 1964



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

APR 14 1964

TELETYPE

BI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

2 59 PM CST URGENT 4/14/64 WFM

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/ 3 P

CIVIL RIGHTS RACIAL MATTERS

ALSO KNOWN AS
BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM, CR, RM.

RE MORNING SESSION BECKWITH TRIAL TODAY.

DEFENSE WITNESSES AS FOLLOWS:

JOHN TURNER, OWNER, CLUB KATHRYN, LOCATED VICINITY EVERS RESIDENCE TESTIFIED THAT HE WAS ARRESTED BY POLICE FOR SELLING BEER AFTER HOURS TWELVE TEN AM, JUNE TWELVE, LAST. STATED AT TIME OF HIS ARREST BARBARA HOLDER WAS PRESENT AT CLUB. PAREN BARBARA HOLDER WAS STATE WITNESS WHO TESTIFIED SHE HAD BEEN AT JOE/S DRIVE IN, AKA LEE/S DRIVE IN, ELEVEN FORTY FIVE PM, JUNE ELEVEN, LAST, AND HAD SEEN VALIANT ON PARKING LOT, THAT DRIVE IN PAREN.

MRS. FAYE BULLOCK TESTIFIED SHE WAS WAITRESS AT CLUB KATHRYN AND SAW BARBARA HOLDER AT CLUB BETWEEN APPROXIMATE PERIOD NINE PM JUNE ELEVEN AND ONE AM, JUNE TWELVE

GWEN ADKINSON TESTIFIED SHE WAS EMPLOYEE AT CLUB 18 APR 16 1964

END PAGE ONE

157-90146

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

8 APR 21 1964

PAGE TWO

KATHRYN AND SAW BARBARA HOLDER COME IN CLUB BETWEEN NINE FIFTEEN AND TEN PM, JUNE ELEVEN AND SAW HOLDER AT CLUB WHEN TURNER ARRESTED AFTER MIDNIGHT.

MISS ANCIE LEE HAVEN TESTIFIED SHE WORKED AT LEE/S DRIVE IN JUNE ELEVEN, LAST AND LEFT AT ELEVEN PM. TESTIFIED SHE SAW WHITE CAR PARKED IN CORNER OF LOT AT DRIVE IN AND OF OPINION CAR WAS A DODGE. TESTIFIED THIS CAR DEFINITELY WAS NOT VALIANT.

MRS. GLEN MC COY WHO RESIDES VICINITY LEE/S DRIVE IN TESTIFIED SHE HEARD GUNSHOT AND SUBSEQUENTLY LOOKED IN DIRECTION OF LEE/S DRIVE IN AND DID NOT SEE ANY CARS LEAVING LOT AT DRIVE IN.

LEE H. COCKRELL TESTIFIED HE OPERATED LEE/S DRIVE IN AND ON JUNE ELEVEN ARREVED DRIVE IN ELEVEN THIRTY PM AND WAS PRESENT WHILE SHOOTING OCCURRED. TESTIFIED DID NOT SEE ANY MEN ON PARKING LOT AND DID NOT SEE ANY AUTOMOBILES LEAVING LOT AFTER SHOOTING.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

MRS. DORIS SUMRALL TESTIFIED WAS WORKING LEE/S DRIVE IN NIGHT OF SHOOTING. TESTIFIED SAW NO VEHICLES WAVING DRIVE IN LOT AFTER SHOOTING OCCURRED.

JAMES L. HOBBY, NOW RESIDES MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, A TRUCK DRIVER, TESTIFIED RESIDED IN JACKSON IN JUNE, SIXTY THREE. TESTIFIED OWNED SIXTY WHITE VALIANT AND CUSTOMARILY DROVE DELTA DRIVE TO AND FROM WORK. TESTIFIED THAT BETWEEN TWELVE TEN AND TWELVE THIRTY AM, JUNE TWELVE, SIXTY THREE, HE DROVE TO JOE/S DRIVE IN IN HIS VALIANT AND ATTEMPTED TO GET CUP OF COFFEE. FOUND DRIVE IN CLOSED AND UNABLE TO PURCHASE COFFEE. AS WALKING AWAY FROM DRIVE IN, DID NOT HEAR A SHOT. SAW NO ONE LEAVING AREA OF JOE/S DRIVE IN. TESTIFIED THAT SATURDAY NIGHT PRIOR TO MURDER HE HAD BEEN ON DELTA DRIVE IN HIS VALIANT PAREN PREVIOUS STATE WITNESSES HAVE TESTIFIED AS TO OBSERVING WHITE VALIANT ON DELTA DRIVE SATURDAY NIGHT BEFORE MURDER PAREN.

END

WA SML

FBI WASH DC

TU DISC

CC-MR. ROSEN

FBI WASH DC

RECEIVED
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 13 1964

TELETYPE

FBI NEW ORLS

7-16 PM URGENT 4-13-64 TM

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/

Civil Rights Racial Matters

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, ^{also known as} AKA MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM. CR. RM.

RE AFTERNOON SESSION OF BECKWITH TRIAL TODAY.

BARBARA ANN HOLDER TESTIFIED SHE WAS AT JOE/S DRIVE-IN, VICINITY EVERS HOME, NIGHT OF JUNE ELEVEN SIXTYTHREE. SOMETIME IN EARLY PART OF NIGHT SHE SAW AUTOMOBILE PULL UP ON LOT OF DRIVE-IN AND PARK WITH DRIVER STAYING IN CAR. SHE LEFT AND RETURNED APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN THIRTY P.M., SAW SAME CAR ON LOT AT THIS TIME. IDENTIFIED PHOTOGRAPH OF BECKWITH/S NINETEEN SIXTYTWO VALIENT AS IDENTICAL WITH CAR SHE SAW ON LOT. FURNISHED SKETCHY DESCRIPTION OF MAN IN THIS CAR, SAID SHE ~~WOULD~~ NOT POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THIS MAN BUT HAD OPINION AS TO IDENTITY OF THIS PERSON. WAS NOT ALLOWED TO TESTIFY AS TO HER OPINION.

SA SAM H. ALLEN, JR., MEMPHIS DIVISION, TESTIFIER AS TO INITIAL CONTACT WITH BECKWITH AT GREENWOOD, JUNE TWENTYONE LAST AND THAT BECKWITH ANSWERED ONLY ~~QUOTE~~ NO COMMENT ~~UNQUOTE~~ TO AGENTS QUESTIONS RE TELESCOPE SIGHT PURCHASED FROM DUCK/S TACKLE SHOP.

SA THOMAS F. HOPKINS, MEMPHIS DIVISION, TESTIFIED AS TO ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE BECKWITH JUNE TWENTYTWO LAST AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF BECKWITH/S ARREST THAT NIGHT IN HIS ATTORNEYS OFFICE.

SA JOSEPH PEGGS, NEW ORLEANS DIVISION, TESTIFIED AS TO INTERVIEW WITH BECKWITH AT JACKSON ~~ON~~ JUNE TWENTYTHREE AND OBSERVATION

END PAGE ONE

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

APR 21 1964

REC-40

157-901-46

APR 16 1964

EX 101

PAGE TWO

SEMICIRCULAR SCAR OVER BECKWITH/S RIGHT EYE. TESTIFIED BECKWITH DECLINED COMMENT WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT EVERS KILLING.

DETECTIVE SARGEANT FRED SANDERS, JACKSON ^{Police Department} PD, TESTIFIED DRIVING TIME FROM JOE/S DRIVE-IN TO GREENWOOD, MISS., A DISTANCE OF NINETYFOUR MILES, WAS ONE HOUR AND FORTYFIVE MINUTES OBSERVING SPEED LAWS.

DR. FOREST G. BRADLEY, MD, PATHOLOGIST, TESTIFIED EXAMINED SCAR OVER BECKWITH/S RIGHT EYE JUNE TWENTYTHREE AND SAID IN HIS OPINION SCAR HAD BEEN THERE NO LONGER THAN THIRTY DAYS AND AT LEAST TEN DAYS.

DET. SGT. O.M. LUKE, JACKSON ^{Police Department} PD, TESTIFIED HE PACKED GUN, CARTRIDGE CASES AND LATENT LIFT AND TURNED THEM OVER TO SA SAMUEL E. VIRDEN II FOR TRANSPORTATION TO FBI LAB.

STATE RESTED AT THIS POINT. DEFENSE MOVED FOR DIRECTED VERDICT OF ACQUITTAL. COURT OVERRULED MOTION.

DEFENSE WITNESSES AS FOLLOWS; SAM WARREN, FORMER EMPLOYEE MISS. STATE HOSPITAL, WHITFIELD, MISS., TESTIFIED THAT LEE F. SWILLEY, CAB DRIVER, TOLD HIM AFTER FIRST BECKWITH TRIAL THAT SWILLEY WAS NOT COMING BACK TO COURT AGAIN AS HE DID NOT GET ANYTHING, NOT EVEN WITNESS FEES. CLAIMS SWILLEY SAID NOT GOING TO TELL ANYMORE LIES, REFERRING TO SWILLEYS TESTIMONY THIS CASE.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

WENDELL STRINGER AND ROY E. ADKINS, EMPLOYEES AT WRIGHT AND
FERGUSON FUNERAL HOME, JACKSON, TESTIFIED THEY WERE CALLED BY ^{Police Department} PD
TO APPEAR IN LINEUP WITH BECKWITH DAY FOLLOWING HIS ARREST. BOTH
TESTIFIED BECKWITH WAS ONLY MAN IN LINEUP WITHOUT A BELT OR JEWELRY
SUCH AS TIE CLASP AND CUFF LINKS. ALSO TESTIFIED BECKWITH
WEARING SHIRT IN LINEUP WITH HIS INITIALS ON POCKET.

COURT RECESSED UNTIL NINE A.M. APRIL FOURTEEN.

END

WA MTC

FBI WASH DC

TU CLEARP

CC-MR. ROSEN

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

APR 16 1964

FBI WASH DC

TELETYPE *les*

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	<i>28</i>
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

m. [unclear]

[REDACTED]

FBI NEW ORLS

1052 PM CST URGENT 4-16-64 TJB

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/ 1-PAGE

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA; MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM, CR, RM.

JURY DELIBERATED UNTIL NINE FORTYFIVE P.M. TODAY WITHOUT REACHING VERDICT. JUDGE THEN DIRECTED JURY TO RETIRE, TO RESUME DELIBERATION NINE AM TOMORROW.

END

WA JGE

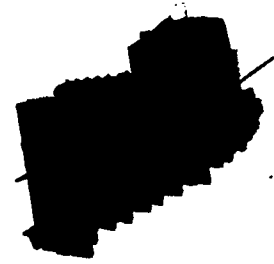
TU CLR

REC 10

157-901-460

3 APR 17 1964

EX-103



1-2-4

6



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

APR 16 1964

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
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

2-41 PM CST 4-15-64 URGENT DAO

TO DIRECTOR 157-901

FROM NEW ORLEANS 157-1163

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA; MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM, CR, RM.

RE MORNING SESSION BECKWITH TRIAL TODAY.

STATE CALLED FOLLOWING REBUTTAL WITNESSES:

DETECTIVE SGT. FRED SANDERS, JACKSON PD, TESTIFIED HE TALKED TO GREENWOOD PD OFFICERS CRESSWELL AND HOLLEY PAREN (DEFENSE ALIBI WITNESSES) PAREN IMMEDIATELY AFTER BECKWITH/S ARREST AND ALSO IN JAN., SIXTYFOUR, AND THEY DID NOT MENTION TO HIM SEEING BECKWITH IN GREENWOOD, ONE ZERO FIVE AM, JUNE TWELVE, SIXTYTHREE.

K

DETECTIVE SGT. O. M. LUKE, JACKSON PD, TESTIFIED ANCIIE LEE HAVEN TOLD HIM IMMEDIATELY AFTER SHOOTING THAT SHE HAD SEEN WHITE VALIANT AUTO ON SE CORNER JOE/S DRIVE INN PARKING LOT PAREN HAVEN WAS DEFENSE WITNESS WHO TESTIFIED CAR WAS NOT A VALIANT PAREN.

EX-105

REC-24

467

ATTORNEYS COMPLETED CLOSING ARGUMENTS TWELVE FIFTYFIVE PM. APR 17 1964

JURY AT THAT TIME WENT TO LUNCH AND WILL BEGIN DELIBERATION AFTER RETURNING FROM LUNCH.

END AND ACK PLS

RL

FBI WASH DC APR 23 1964

X

6 [REDACTED]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 15 1964

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

3-20PM CST URGENT 4-15-64 BMN

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA; MEDGAR EVERS-VICTIM, CR-RM.

BECKWITH WAS ON STAND ENTIRE MORNING TODAY ON CROSS EXAMINATION.

CONTINUED TO DENY ANY IMPLICATION IN EVER-S MURDER. CROSS EXAMINATION

ENDED AT NOON RECESS.

END

WA YW

FBI WASH DC

REC-123

EX-117

157-901-468

18 APR 16 1964

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

CC-MR. ROSEN

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

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

APR 17 1964

TELETYPE

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

1-12PM CST URGENT 4-17-64 CL 2 P

TO DIRECTOR, FBI /157-901/ AND MEMPHIS

FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-1163/

ALSO KNOWN AS

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA., MEDGAR EVERS/ VICTIM, CR, RM.

CIVIL RIGHTS

RACIAL MATTERS

RE NEW ORLEANS TEL CALLS TO BUREAU TODAY.

AT ELEVEN FORTY AM TODAY BECKWITH JURY ADVISED HINDS COUNTY
CIRCUIT JUDGE LEON HENDRICK THEY WERE HOPELESSLY DEADLOCKED AND
UNABLE TO REACH A VERDICT. JUDGE HENDRICK DECLARED A MIS/TRIAL
AND DISCHARGED THE JURY. CASE CONTINUED UNTIL MAY NEXT TERM OF
HINDS COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT.

[REDACTED]

12 3
13 1

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END PAGE ONE

10 APR 20 1964

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

Tolson _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 DeLoach _____
 Evans _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

UPI-86

(BECKWITH)

JACKSON--A SECOND MISTRIAL WAS DECLARED TODAY IN THE CASE OF BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, A WHITE SEGREGATIONIST CHARGED WITH THE SNIPER SLAYING OF NEGRO LEADER MEDGAR EVERS.

THE 12-MAN ALL-WHITE JURY REPORTED AFTER 10 HOURS DELIBERATION IT WAS DEADLOCKED AND CIRCUIT JUDGE LEON HENDRICK DECLARED A MISTRIAL AT 11:35 A.M. CST (12:35 P.M. EST).

IT WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN WHETHER BECKWITH WOULD BE SET FREE OR ORDERED TO STAND TRIAL FOR THE THIRD TIME.

THERE IS NOTHING IN MISSISSIPPI LAW TO PREVENT BECKWITH FROM BEING TRIED AGAIN, BUT THERE WAS SPECULATION PRIOR TO THE VERDICT THAT IF ANOTHER MISTRIAL WAS DECLARED IN THE CASE, THE ENTIRE MATTER WOULD BE PUT IN AN INACTIVE FILE.

4/17--TD1246PES

ENCLOSURE

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

157-901-470

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

UPI-91

(BECKWITH)

JACKSON, MISS.--CIRCUIT JUDGE LEON HENDRICK SAID TODAY BYRON DE LA BECKWITH'S CASE WAS BEING CONTINUED UNTIL THE MAY TERM OF COURT AND A DECISION ON A THIRD MURDER TRIAL FOR BECKWITH WOULD BE DETERMINED LATER.

4/17--TD1254 PES

ENCLOSURE

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

157-901-470

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

APR 10 1964

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Belmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Casper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Callahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Conrad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. DeLoach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Evans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Gale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tavel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Trotter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miss Holmes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

950 PM CST URGENT 4-10-64 TJB

TO DIRECTOR /157-901/

FROM NEW ORLEANS 157-1163/ 2-PAGES

BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, ^{also known as} AKA., MEDGAR EVERS DASH VICTIM, OR, ^{Civil Rights Race Matters} RM

RE AFTERNOON SESSION BECKWITH TRIAL TODAY.

FORMER SHERIFF J.R. GILFOY, HINDS COUNTY, MISS., TESTIFIED WAS PRESENT AT POLICE DEPARTMENT WHEN BREACH OF INSTANT RIFLE OPENED AND BASED ON ODOR HE DETERMINED IT HAD BEEN FIRED VERY RECENTLY.

INNES T. MC INTYRE, FARMER NEAR GREENWOOD, MISS., TESTIFIED HE PURCHASED THIRTY OUGHT SIX RIFLE IN FEBRUARY FIFTYNINE FROM UNIVERSAL FIRE ARMS AND TRADED BARREL AND ACTION OF THIS RIFLE TO BECKWITH IN JANUARY, SIXTY. TESTIFIED TURNED OVER TO FBI AGENT FIFTY EMPTY CARTRIDGE CASES WHICH HAD BEEN FIRED IN THIS RIFLE.

SA FRANCIS FINELY AND DONALD STORAKER TESTIFIED AS TO CHAIN OF EVIDENCE OF CARTRIDGES FROM MC INTYRE TO SA RICHARD J. POPPLETON FIRE ARMS SECTION.

SA POPPLETON TESTIFIED AS TO EXAMINATION SPENT BULLET, MC INTYRE CARTRIDGE CASES, SIXTY LIVE ROUNDS AND ONE EMPTY ROUND FOUND IN RIFLE.

END PAGE ONE

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

34
68 APR 27 1964

11 APR 22 1964

EX-103

REC-6 157-901-473

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APR 10 1964

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6

PAGE TWO

SA SMAUEL E. VIRDEN 11 TESTIFIED RE DELIVERY RIFLE, AMMO, CARTRIDGE CASES AND SPENT BULLET TO FBI LAB.

JOHN W. GOSA, OWNER DUCKS TACKLE SHOP, GRENODA, MISS., TESTIFIED THAT IN MAY, SIXTYTHREE, TRADED SIX POWER GOLDEN HAWK UNITED BINOCULAR TELESCOPE SIGHT TO BECKWITH FOR A FORTYFIVE AUTOMATIC PISTOL.

O.P. BROWN, DISTRICT MANAGER, SOUTHERN BELL TEL AND TEL CO., GREENWOOD MISS., INTRODUCED PHONE RECORDS SHOWING PHONE CALLS FROM BECKWITH RESIDENCE TO GOZA AT GREENWOOD ON MAY FIVE AND MAY TWELVE, SIXTYTHREE.

COURT ADJOURNED UNTIL NINE AM APRIL ELEVEN, SIXTYFOUR.

END CORRECT PAGE ONE, PARA ONE, LINE TWO, WORD NINE SHOULD BE RIFLE

END

WA RL

FBI WASH DC

TUX

cc Rosen

RECEIVED

MAY 11 1 03 PM '64

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Beckwith Appears Nervous But Denies Murdering Evers

JACKSON, Miss., April 14. — A subdued Byron De-La Beckwith, more nervous than when he first testified in February, Tuesday took the witness stand and swore he did not murder Jackson Negro leader Medgar Evers on June 12.

The 43-year-old Greenwood salesman took the stand at 3:13 p.m. and answered questions from chief defense counsel Hardy Lott exactly an hour. In contrast to his appearance at the earlier trial, Beckwith limited his remarks to exact and short answers.

But during the 48 minutes he answered questions from Dist. Atty. William Waller, Beckwith's testimony was soon punctuated by comments from the 37-year-old prosecutor such as, "Can I go on now?" and "May I finish my question?"

"Did you shoot Medgar Evers?" asked Mr. Lott.

"No, sir," answered Beckwith, with emphasis on the "sir."

"Where were you when Medgar Evers was shot?" queried the attorney.

"I was in Greenwood," Beckwith said.

Beginning with a listing of the schools which he attended as a youth, the Deltan outlined his life until his arrest on June 22 for the ambush murder of the NAACP field secretary.

He told the jury he was wounded in the first invasion wave of Tarawa and had previously fought at Guadalcanal.

"When were you arrested?" asked Mr. Lott.

"I'd have to look at the calendar," responded the pale but emphatic Beckwith. "I've been here for so long it's hard for me to remember."

He denied talking to two Jackson taxi drivers who testified Beckwith or "a twin brother" asked them for Evers' address June 8 at a Jackson bus station.

Beckwith took the stand apparently to lay the groundwork for defense contentions that his 30.06 Enfield rifle disappeared either from his car or 64-year-old unlocked home a few days prior to the murder.

He said his car, in which he carried several guns, also sat unlocked most of June 10 at his firm's Greenville office.

"Can you tell me," said Mr. Lott as he handed Beckwith the Enfield rifle with a 6-power telescopic sight the state claims was used as the murder weapon, "whether that is your rifle and scope?"

"This rifle is similar to several rifles I have owned, but I couldn't positively identify the rifle or the scope," Beckwith said.

Before Beckwith took the stand, a Memphis truck driver, a former Jacksonian, told the court he had driven his 1950 Valiant into the parking

lot, which the state described as the get-away location, a few minutes before the murder. But James L. Hobby of 579 East Frank, employe of Gordon Transports Inc., said he parked in front of the drive-in.

A prosecution witness earlier said she saw a 1962 white Valiant parked in the corner and identified it as Beckwith's company car.

Miss Barbara Holder said she saw the driver enter the rest room but she was unable to positively identify him.

"Do you recall whether you went into the rest room?" asked Mr. Lott.

"Yes, sir, I did," answered Mr. Hobby.

Mr. Waller confirmed that the Hobby car had no aerial similar to the one Miss Holder said she saw in the corner and asked why Mr. Hobby waited until two or three weeks ago to contact Hugh Cunningham, a defense attorney.

"I just thought I should say something about it," answered the 37-year-old truck driver.

"Did you tell the Jackson Police Department about this?"

"They didn't ask me," Mr. Hobby answered.

Mr. Hobby, who has been employed by the trucking firm for about 15 years, was transferred from Jackson to Memphis last July. His wife and three children joined him last November.

Judge Leon Hendrick recessed court at 5:03 p.m. with Beckwith still on the stand for cross-examination. The trial will resume at 9 Wednesday morning.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page-1

The Commerical Appeal

Memphis, Tenn.

Date: 4/15/64

Edition: Mississippi

Author:

Editor: Frank Ahlgren

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Memphi

157-901
ENCLOSURE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Glum Beckwith Faces New Trial After Deadlock

20 Ballots Fail

7-5 Impasse Is Reported With Most Jurors For Acquittal

By EDWARD P. MOORE JR.
Special to The Commercial Appeal

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 7. — Judge Leon F. Hendrick solemnly declared the spectacular Beckwith murder trial a mistrial at 11:30 Friday morning after 12 white jurors individually advised the judge they were "hopelessly deadlocked" in reaching a verdict after 11 hours of deliberation.

United Press International quoted a "reliable source" as saying the jury was split 7-5 for acquittal.

They reportedly had taken 20 ballots during discussions since 1:05 Thursday afternoon in the small jury room before a table littered with photographs, documents, statements and a 30-06 Enfield rifle equipped with a six-power telescopic sight.

The state argued Byron De La Beckwith used that weapon to kill Medgar Evers, Mississippi field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, from ambush on June 12, 1963. Beckwith has consistently maintained his innocence.



—AP Wirephoto
Weary Juror Heads Home

"Gentlemen, I assume you still have not reached a verdict," the judge said to 12 obviously weary jurors who walked into the courtroom putting on coats and adjusting ties. They nodded in agreement. The judge then polled each man to learn whether he believed additional deliberations could produce a verdict. "Your honor," replied Fred Plummer, "I do not. We have tried diligently. We could stay here a week and never reach a verdict." The remaining 11 answered similarly as Judge Hendrick repeated the question.

"If there were any chance for you to get together in a reasonable time," he told the jury, "I know you would tell me so. I declare a mistrial in this case; that is all I can do. The defendant will be remanded to the custody of the sheriff."

He dismissed the 12 men who hurriedly packed their suitcases and left the Hinds County Courthouse where they had been secluded since Jan. 30. They were forbidden by the judge to discuss their vote impasse.

Beckwith appeared drained by the trial. He sat glum and motionless.

Mrs. Beckwith, leaving the courthouse, also was disappointed. "I planned to take him home tonight," she said. Asked if she would again be a daily spectator at the re-trial, she said emphatically:

"Yes, sir. I'm just like he is; I'm an arch-segregationist."

Mrs. Evers, widow of the slain integration leader, said she had prepared a statement in the event a decisive verdict was reached, but the mistrial caught her off guard. "I don't think I should have anything to say unless the person is found guilty or not guilty."

There was no visible reaction from the still courtroom where more than 200 had waited to hear the verdict. Within minutes, both defense and prosecution attorneys began the task of preparing for a re-trial.

Defense Attorney Hardy Lott said following a conference with the judge that the case will be set for call on March 23. Date of the re-trial will be scheduled at that time, Judge Hendrick.

Mr. Lott said the matter bond for Beckwith, who has been in jail without bond since June 23, was not discussed at the conference in the judge's office. He added he expects to file a motion for a bond hearing "very promptly."

But Dist. Atty. William W. Lott, the trial's 37-year-old prosecutor, said he would call for Beckwith's release

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Memphis, Tenn.

Date: 2/8/64

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor: Frank R. Ahler

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Memphis

ENCLOSURE 157-711

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Beckwith Tells Jury He Didn't Kill Evers —Claims Rifle Stolen

Arguments Due

Policemen Say Defendant Seen In Greenwood At Time Of Slaying

By EDWARD P. MOORE JR.
Special to The Commercial Appeal

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 5.—The defense rested its case in the Byron De La Beckwith murder trial at 5:47 p.m. Wednesday.

The action came after Beckwith took the witness stand in a surprise maneuver and swore he did not ambush Medgar Evers, Negro integrationist leader shortly after midnight last June 12.

He claimed that a gun similar to the weapon the state charges was used to kill Evers was stolen from him the night before the slaying.

Arguments will open Thursday morning.

The packed courtroom gasped in astonishment when the name "Byron De La Beckwith" was called and the former fertilizer salesman walked swiftly to the stand, took his oath and was seated. He was questioned by his counsel, Hardy Lott, for 55 minutes, answering deftly and with assurance.

"Mr. Beckwith," asked Mr. Lott "Did you shoot Medgar Evers?"

"No sir," he answered firmly.

The former Marine Corps Purple Heart winner said he received a cut over his right eye during a target shooting session "before this Evers' business came up" when the 30-06 Enfield's telescopic sight recoiled into him. Three of his fellow employes at a Greenville fertilizer company testified earlier Wednesday they saw the cut before June 12.

The state had suggested the cut resulted when Evers was shot.

Beckwith denied being in Jackson at any time near the date of the shooting and added that if his white Valiant, identified by several witnesses as being near the murder scene, was in the capital city "I have no knowledge of it."

The 43-year-old Beckwith told the jury that he customarily traveled with weapons, "as many as 30 to 40" in his car. He admitted receiving an Enfield rifle from Itta Bena planter Thorne McIntyre and trading for a telescopic sight at Grenada.

But Beckwith said he could not with certainty identify a rifle hidden in honeysuckle vines near the murder scene as his.

Mr. Waller began his cross-examination with questions about letters in his possession, some to newspaper editors, which he said bore Beckwith's signature. He asked the Deltan if his expressions of segregation ideas were not made publicly.

"I have been very pronounced about my views concerning segregation, constitutional government, and states rights," he answered calmly. But the scion of an aristocratic Mississippi family began to squirm slightly as Mr. Waller began reading.

From a letter bearing what the district attorney said was a 1957 date, he read "and furthermore, when I die, I'll be buried in a segregated cemetery. When you get to Heaven you will find me in the part that has a sign saying 'For White Only.' And if I go to Hades, I'm going to raise hell all over Hades till I get in the white section."

Beckwith said the signature looked like his.

In earlier testimony three Greenwood residents, two of them police officers, swore they saw the dapper fertilizer salesman 50 minutes before Evers' murder and 30 minutes after in Greenwood. They said they were positive in their identifications.

Roy Jones, 33-year-old sign manufacturer, testified Beckwith was in an alley near the junction of Highways 82 and 49 preparing to pull out on the highway at 11:45 p.m. He said the area was lighted with floodlights and there was no doubt the man was Beckwith.

Officers Hollis Cresswell and James Holley said they spotted Beckwith at 1:05 a.m. June 12 filling his car with gasoline near the same spot. Officer Cresswell said they remembered the time because one of the two had just looked at a watch.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

THE COMMERCIAL
APPEAL

Memphis, Tenn.

Date: 1/6/64

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor: Frank R. Ahlgr

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Memphis

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Court Clears Way For Beckwith Trial

Ruled Capable Of Defense In Evers Murder Hearing

From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Miss., Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., Nov. 12. — The State Supreme Court Tuesday ruled Byron De La Beckwith is "entirely capable of standing trial" for the murder of Negro civil rights leader Medgar Evers and nullified a prosecution order for a mental examination of the 42-year-old Greenwood salesman.

The 6-to-3 decision set aside Hinds County Circuit Judge Leon Hendrick's order granting a state request for the examination. The prosecution said it was seeking to determine whether Beckwith was mentally capable of making a rational defense and also his condition at the time Evers was slain June 12.

The issue was based on a counter-order of Rankin County Circuit Judge O. H. Barnett, in whose jurisdiction the state hospital lies, barring state psychiatrists from giving Beckwith a mental examination.

Beckwith's attorneys protested the examination, contending he was capable of making a rational defense and that the order for a general examination was unconstitutional. The defense said Judge Hendrick's order placed Beckwith in the position of affording Dist. Atty. William Waller with testimony to be used against the defendant at the trial.

When Judge Hendrick ordered the examination July 19, defense attorneys said Beckwith was ready for an immediate trial and demanded that it be set at that time.

The Supreme Court also ordered Beckwith returned to the custody of the Hinds County sheriff in Jackson. Judge Barnett had ordered him held in the Rankin County jail at Brandon to retain jurisdiction pending setting of a trial by Judge Hendrick.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

— Page 1
— The Commercial Appeal
— Memphis, Tenn.

Date: 11/13/63
Edition: Mississippi
Author:
Editor: Frank R. Ahlgren
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Memphis

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Beckwith Tests 'Ordered Halted'

Defense Attorneys Petition For Speedy Trial On Slaying Charge

JACKSON, Miss., Aug. 1.—(UPI)—A state judge has ordered psychiatrists to stop their mental examination of Byron De La Beckwith, who is charged with murdering Negro civil rights leader Medgar Evers.

Circuit Judge O. H. Barnett of Carthage ordered the halt pending a hearing on charges that Beckwith is illegally and unconstitutionally held in the nearby state mental hospital.

The charges were made by defense attorneys in a petition to Judge Barnett for a writ of habeas corpus freeing Beckwith from the hospital in order that he might be tried quickly for the June 12 sniper slaying of Evers.

Judge Barnett agreed to conduct a hearing on the petition at Carthage Aug. 9.

He signed an order Wednesday directing Dr. W. L. Jaquith, the hospital director, to have Beckwith in court for the hearing and to refrain from examining him in the meantime.

Jaquith said he would comply with Judge Barnett's order on advice of the state attorney general's office.

Beckwith, 42, a segregationist from the Mississippi Delta, had been undergoing examination at the institution for one week.

The examination was ordered by Circuit Judge Leon Hendrick of Jackson on request of Dist. Atty. William Waller. Waller said there was reason to believe Beckwith was "mentally incompetent" when Evers was slain.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page /

MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Memphis, Tenn.

Date: 8-1-63

Edition: Mississippi

Author:

Editor: Frank A. Ahlgren

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

ENCLOSURE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Beckwith Held To Grand Jury In Evers Case

Possibility Of Witnesses Raised At Hearing In Jackson

By KENNETH TOLER

From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Miss., Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., June 25.—Byron De La Beckwith Tuesday was ordered held without bail in a preliminary hearing at which it was hinted that two white witnesses may later testify they saw the person or persons who killed Negro Medgar Evers.

Jackson City Judge James Spencer ordered Beckwith, 42-year-old Greenwood salesman, held without bond until the Hinds County Grand Jury can consider the murder charge against him next week. Beckwith pleaded not guilty just after the two-hour hearing began.

Tuesday's scant reference to possible witnesses came when Jackson Police Det. Sgt. John Chamblee testified under cross examination that he "talked with people who said they heard footsteps running from the scene" of the ambush slaying in a Jackson Negro residential area.

It was later developed that a white man and woman had told investigators that they were walking along the street at the time of the shooting. A young white girl identified as Wilmer Bishop was disclosed as the person who had told police of the couple's presence.

Sergeant Chamblee, first officer to reach the shooting scene, testified that he found no witnesses at the scene who could identify the defendant.

Judge Spencer rejected Beckwith's defense counsels' pleas for release on grounds that the state had failed to connect Beckwith with the Evers murder other than by circumstantial evidence. The judge said a fingerprint identified as Beckwith's found on a rifle near the scene of the slaying was sufficient to bind him over to the grand jury, which convenes Monday.

Capt. Ralph Hargrove, Jackson Police Department identification officer, testified he found the fingerprint on the rifle's telescopic sight and turned it over to the FBI. The print and the Japanese-made sight mounted on the Enfield 30.06 rifle were traced by the FBI to Beckwith.

Captain Hargrove also said he did not believe the fingerprint found on the sight was more than 12 hours old. The gun was found shortly after Evers, 37-year-old NAACP Mississippi field secretary, was shot in the back early June 12 just after he stepped from his car in the driveway of his home.

FBI ballistics expert Richard Poppleton testified that riflings on the bullet which killed Evers were similar to those fired from an Enfield rifle and "similar to no other weapon in our laboratory." He said the mutilated condition of the bullet prevented him saying positively it was fired from the Enfield rifle found.

Hugh Cunningham of Jackson, member of Gov. Ross Barnett's law firm, Monday joined in Beckwith's defense along with Hardy Lott, Greenwood city attorney, and Stanny Sanders, a former district attorney of Greenwood.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page: 1

Commercial Appeal

Memphis, Tenn.

Date: 6/26/53

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

SECURE
157-11

Mount Clipping in Space Below

Greenwood Resident Is Arrested By FBI In Evers Killing Case

Gunsight Traced

Byron De La Bockwith To
Be Arraigned Today
In Jackson

From Our Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 23. (Sunday) — The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced early Sunday the arrest in Greenwood, Miss., of a white man in connection with the slaying of Negro migration leader Medgar Evers in Jackson, Miss., June 12.

FBI officials said Edger Hoover identified the white man as Byron De La Bockwith, 41, of 45 George Street in Greenwood.

Mr. De La Bockwith was arrested about 11 p.m. (Memphis time) Saturday in Greenwood, and would be arraigned as soon as possible. He was arrested at his attorney's office.

The FBI said he would be arraigned on charges of violations of the 1957 Civil Rights Act.

Sources in Jackson indicated the arraignment would be sometime Sunday morning in Jackson.

Agents were en route to Jackson with Bockwith at midnight.

Bockwith and others unknown were charged with conspiring to cause oppress and intimidate Evers in the free exercise and enjoyment of rights and privileges provided by the Constitution.

Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state

PAGE 1
SECTION 7

THE COMMERCE
APPEAL

MEMPHIS, T

6/23/63

FILED

BYRON DE LA
BECKWITH; MEDGAR
EVERS - VICTIM

CR; RM

MEMPHIS

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

OSUPE

157-

The Federal statute under which Beckwith is charged carries relatively minor penalties. The charge permitted FBI agents to make an arrest and gives them a legal hold over the prisoner pending filing of charges under state law.

Hoover said Beckwith would be turned over to Jackson authorities as soon as possible for questioning and filing of state murder charges.

Beckwith was born and reared in Greenwood and is a member of an old and prominent Delta family. He was formerly a salesman for the New Deal Tobacco Co. in Greenwood.

Greenwood citizens described De La Beckwith—who was known as 'Delay'—as "eccentric" and outspoken in his opposition to any form of desegregation.

He had written many letters to Jackson newspapers and to The Commercial Appeal naming Chief Justice Earl Warren and the Supreme Court, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Kennedy Administration.

The FBI said he was a member of the Mississippi Citizens' Council, a segregationist group.

Evers, 37, was the Mississippi field secretary for the NAACP.

He was shot in the back by a sniper as he stepped from his car in the driveway of his home in Jackson shortly after midnight.

A rifle was found in a honeysuckle thicket in a vacant lot across the street from Evers' home.

Hoover said Beckwith was found by connecting him with the "Golden Hawk" telescopic sight on the rifle recovered at the murder scene. He said FBI fingerprint experts subsequently identified a print on the rifle as Beckwith's.

The FBI complaint against Beckwith was filed Saturday afternoon, Hoover said.

He said 74 information developed by the FBI investigation would be turned over to Jackson authorities and the full facilities of the FBI laboratory and identification division, including testimony of lab and fingerprint experts and FBI agents, would be made available to them.

A Greenwood acquaintance said Beckwith, an ex-Marine, had served as a sniper. He also said Beckwith was a gun collector.

The FBI said Marine records showed Beckwith was in combat in the Guadalcanal and Tarawa battles of World War II.

Beckwith and his wife, also a Marine Corps veteran, are separated. They have a teenage son.

He owns property in Greenwood, including a downtown city block mentioned as a probable site for a new post office building.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Seek Others In Slaying Of Evers

Greenwood Man Is Accused

By Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss.—State and federal officers pressed their search today for companions of Byron de La Beckwith, who was behind bars in the Jackson jail charged by the state of Mississippi with the murder of Medgar Evers.

Still missing in the hunt for those accused as killers of the 37-year-old Mississippi integration leader were "others unknown." They are charged along with Beckwith in a separate federal complaint made public after the FBI arrested Beckwith Saturday night.

Beckwith, a 42-year-old tobacco salesman from Greenwood, Miss., talked with his attorneys, law partners Hardy Lott and Stanny Sanders of Greenwood, yesterday and was returned to his cell after about 30 minutes.

He is being held without bond. He will appear at 2 p.m. tomorrow before U. S. Commissioner John R. Countiss III. The arraignment will be held to determine if there is reason to believe he and others conspired to deprive Evers of his civil rights.

The Justice Department plans to let the State of Mississippi have priority in dealing with Beckwith. A spokesman said the federal government will recommend that he be released without bond on federal charges of conspiracy to injure a person seeking his civil rights.

With this maneuver, the way will be cleared for Beckwith to be prosecuted on a murder charge by Mississippi authorities, the spokesman explained.

Police found a 30.06 Enfield rifle of World War I vintage near the murder scene.

Fingerprint Found

A six-power Golden Hawk telescopic sight mounted on the weapon yielded one good fingerprint and led the FBI to Beckwith.

Agents located the American importer of the Japanese-made sight. He had imported 15,000 of them.

They found five of the sights went to Mississippi, all to a Grenada gun dealer. One was traced to Beckwith, a gun collector, whom the FBI questioned Friday night without getting any answers.

Saturday night at a meeting arranged by Greenwood attorney Yerger Moorhead, a relative of Beckwith, FBI agents arrested Beckwith under provisions of the 1957 Civil Rights Act.

"Beckwith and others unknown conspired to injure, oppress and intimidate Medgar Evers in the free exercise and enjoyment of rights and privileges secured to him by the constitution," the FBI said.

Evers was state field secretary for the NAACP.

Capt. Ralph Hargrove, chief of the Jackson Police Identification Bureau, fingerprinted Beckwith yesterday and found again his prints matched the one on the scope attached to a .30 caliber rifle that fired the fatal shot.

It was Hargrove who first

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE /

MEMPHIS PRESS-
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 6/24/63

Edition: FINAL

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

invisible to the eye but
ought out by chemicals
leaving perspiration left in
place.

Jackson detectives discovered the gun in mid-morning of June 12, about 10 hours after Evers was shot down in his driveway, in a honeysuckle thicket near where officers believe the shot was fired. The scope was attached.

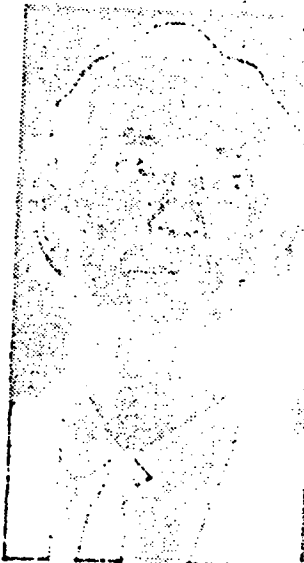
The Penalty

Beckwith, a member of the segregationist Citizens Council, faces death in the state's gas chamber if convicted on the murder charge.

His attorneys are also members of the Citizens Council, as are the mayor, commissioners and most prominent persons in Greenwood, located in a county with a 2-1 negro majority and 30 miles from Indianola, where the Citizens Council was born in 1945. Lott is city attorney and attorney for the voter registrar of LeFlore County.

Beckwith, a 5-foot-7, 160-pound man, was driven to the Jackson police station Saturday night by five FBI men. He appeared calm yesterday after state officials lodged the murder charge against him.

Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy said there was more evidence to link Beckwith, who was wounded by Japanese fire as he hit the beach on Tarawa,



—United Press International Telephoto

MURDER CHARGE—Byron de La Beckwith, 42, of Greenwood, Miss., is accused of the sniper slaying of "Medgar" Evers, NAACP leader.

could not reveal

A Calm Marine

GREENWOOD, Miss.—With one exception Byron de La Beckwith, a 42-year-old Marine combat veteran, is as likely to be as calm and controlled as anyone.

That one exception is the racial question.

"Mention negroes," said Vincent Cascio, his former employer, "and he would fly into a rage."

Beckwith is a gun buff. Friends in his home town of Greenwood said he fired guns as well as collected them. He is from a pioneer Mississippi family. He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and is an Episcopalian.

Beckwith, who worked as a tobacco salesman for 10 years, took a job four months ago as sales agent with a fertilizer firm.

"He was a top salesman," Cascio said. "His territory was south of Greenwood and he was liked by all the tobacco merchants. He had a gift of gab."

He was born in Colusa, Cal., his father's home state. His father died when he was a youngster, and his mother, Susie Yerger Beckwith, a native of Greenwood, returned to her hometown to raise him. When he was 11, his mother died, and he moved to the rambling Greenwood home of his uncle, the late William G. Yerger.

He attended Mississippi State University for part of a year.

Beckwith has one son, a teen-ager. His marital life has been stormy. He married the former Mary Louise Williams, daughter of Mrs. Jesse R. Williams and the late Mr. Williams of Knoxville, Tenn. She, too, is from a pioneer Southern family. She is a descendant of Roger Williams, the founder of Rhode Island. She attended Hunter College in New York City and is a former Wave.

They have been divorced, reconciled and remarried. Now they are separated.

News of Beckwith's arrest brought surprise and dismay.

Mayor C. E. Sampson said: "We have had our troubles here. I don't know what this will do. I don't think it should penalize us—just back of the fact that..."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Beckwith Gets 2-Month Delay

(UPI) — A circuit court judge Monday granted a two-month delay before ruling on whether Byron De La Beckwith must go on trial a third time in the ambush slaying of Negro leader Medgar Evers.

Judge Leon Hendrick approved a request by Dist. Atty. William Waller to postpone further action until the July term of Hinds County Circuit Court.

Beckwith remained free on \$10,000 bond set after his second trial ended in a hung jury April 17. His first trial earlier this year also was declared a mistrial with the jury unable to agree on a verdict.

Under state law, the 43-year-old Greenwood salesman could be tried indefinitely for the killing of Evers, who was state field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Evers was killed in the driveway of his Jackson home June 12, 1963.

The state could request a third trial, or recommend that the case simply be placed in an inactive file to be brought out if and when new evidence is found or if and when the prosecution decided to press it again.

Under those circumstances, Beckwith would be under the cloud of the murder indictment until some future action were taken.

Beckwith, who was not present in the courtroom Monday, returned to Greenwood soon after the all-white second jury split 8-4 for acquittal. It was his first day of freedom since his arrest last June 23. The jury deadlocked 6-6 in the first trial.

Beckwith testified in his own defense during both trials, vigorously proclaiming he was innocent. The defense produced several witnesses who swore they saw Beckwith at Greenwood on the night Evers was killed.

Expert testimony was presented by the state in an effort to prove Beckwith's fingerprint was lifted from the alleged murder weapon, a high-powered rifle found in a honeysuckle thicket near the Evers home.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page- 19

The Commercial Appeal

Memphis, Tenn.

Date 5/5/64

Edition:

Author: Mississippi

Editor:

Title: Frank Ahlron

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

1964

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Jury Deadlocks; Beckwith Freed On \$10,000 Bond

—Byron De La Beckwith Friday was released from jail for the first time in 10 months on a \$10,000 bond following his second mistrial for the murder of Negro leader Medgar Evers.

Within two hours of the mistrial, the 43-year-old salesman was led through a basement corridor of the Hinds County Courthouse, placed prone in the back seat of a car and whisked away by Sheriff Fred Pickett and a deputy. At 3:15 p.m., the two officers and Beckwith arrived at the Leflore County sheriff's office in Greenwood.

Standing behind the courthouse after completing bond arrangements, the jubilant former Marine said, "I'm anxious to go back to work just as soon as possible and start calling on the trade again." He said he would return to his job as a fertilizer salesman.

Judge Leon F. Hendrick declared the second murder trial a mistrial at 11:40 Friday morning after the jury deadlocked 8-to-4 for acquittal during 10 hours of deliberations.

The jurors quickly left the courthouse where they had been housed during the 11-day trial. The first trial ended Feb. 7 with a 6-6 tie vote.

One of the jurors said the 12-man, all-white panel balloted "over and over" but failed to break the deadlock which developed during Thursday night's session.

Beckwith showed no emotion when the mistrial was declared.

Fifteen minutes later, the judge set Beckwith's bond at \$10,000 returnable to the May term of court, and set machinery in motion to have Beckwith released promptly. Dist. Atty. William Waller did not oppose bond as he did after the arrest. No bond hearing was requested after the first mistrial.

The district attorney said a third trial, unusual in Mississippi, was "not definite at this time" and added that "future events" including defense motions and docket setting would have to be taken into consideration.

He noted the May term of court, to which the case was automatically continued, was for civil matters.

"I have no reason to think it won't," commented chief defense counsel Hardy Lott when asked if the case would be tried again. "But I never heard of its being done (a third time)."

"I don't think we could present what evidence we have any better than we did this time," Mr. Waller said. "The defense's case was much better this time since they had more witnesses, more time to prepare to meet our case."

Should the case be remanded to the files without a third trial, a legal authority said Beckwith will be allowed to remain free at a reduced bond but with the possibility of a future trial hanging over his head. The source said only voiding the indictment by the judge would remove that threat.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page-1

The Commerical Appeal

Memphis, Tenn.

Date: 4/18/64

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor: Frank Ahlgren

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: memphis

157-111

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

SUBJECT: MEDGAR EDGARS

FILE NUMBER: FILE #100-428915

(b)(7)(C) Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : F. J. Baumgardner 79 (b)(7)(C)

DATE: June 30, 1958

FROM : J. J. O'Connor [Signature]

SUBJECT: MEDGAR W. EVERS
SM-C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11 23 1992 BY 9803 [Redacted]
359,566

4-1
3 (b)(7)(C)

Attached is a memorandum prepared by the New York Office concerning captioned individual, which does not include any information obtained as the result of a file review at Seat of Government. The attached was transmitted by New York letter dated June 4, 1958, captioned "Communist Infiltration of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Internal Security - C," the original of which is filed in Bufile 61-3176-2554.

EXTREME CAUTION SHOULD BE TAKEN IN UTILIZING THE INFORMATION IN THE ATTACHED AS INCLUDED THEREIN MAY BE INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY THAT FROM THE INDICES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES (HCUA), WHICH HAS NOT BEEN DEFINITELY IDENTIFIED AS BEING IDENTICAL WITH CAPTIONED INDIVIDUAL. THE ATTACHED MEMORANDUM, OR ANY REPRODUCTION THEREOF, SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED IN ITS ENTIRETY.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that instant memorandum and its attachment be routed to the Records Branch:

- To be filed in case file of captioned individual.
- To have a new 100 main inactive file opened on captioned individual and for filing therein.

MCT-48
REC-52 N 100 - 128915 - 1

EX-117

JUL 27 1958

Enclosure
Bufile
59 JUL 14 1958

3 ENCLOSURE EX-117
REC-52

(b)(7)(C)

JUN 4 1958

NY 100-7629 C

MEDGAR E. EVERS
Field Secretary,
National Association
for the Advancement
of Colored People

(b)(7)(C)
(b)(7)(D)

Background information concerning EVERS was obtained by SA
on 5/15/58.

[REDACTED]

Indices of the Memphis, New Orleans, and New York Offices
contained no pertinent subversive information regarding EVERS.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/23/1998 BY 980 [REDACTED]
359,566

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

100 - 428015 -

ENCLOSURE

NY 100-7629 Sub C

JUN 4 1958

MEDGAR W. EVERS
Field Secretary
National Association
for the Advancement
of Colored People

MEDGAR W. EVERS, a Negro male, approximately thirty years of age as of February 10, 1958, resides 1129 Maple Street, Jackson, Miss., and is employed as a Field Secretary by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11 23 1992 BY 9803 [REDACTED]
359,566

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

100-7629-1

2 1

ENCLOSURE

MEDGAR W. EVERS
BRANCH FIELD SECRETARY

A name check of the indices and/or printed hearings
of the HCUA, on the name MEDGAR W. EVERS, on 4/28/58, by
SE [REDACTED] reflected no record.

1. Budget W. Evers
2. No main file.
3. No.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE JUL 23 1992 BY 9803 [REDACTED] (b)(7)(K)

100-428915-1

ENCLOSURE

file
5 [REDACTED]

(b)(7)(C)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Beckwith surprises own lawyer

Evers slay suspect seeks appeal right

By The Associated Press

Byron De La Beckwith, apparently worried that his stay of extradition might be dissolved, has filed his own appeal with the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Beckwith filed an application for permission to appeal on Monday without the knowledge of his court-appointed attorney, Russell Bean of Chattanooga. "I was just flabbergasted and floored at first," Debbie Mays, a spokeswoman for Bean's office, said Tuesday.

Beckwith, 70, of Signal Mountain is charged with murder in the 1963 slaying of civil rights leader

Medgar Evers, and Mississippi has been trying to extradite him since late last year.

The Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals ruled June 3 that Beckwith should be returned to Mississippi to stand trial.

Two days later, the Mississippi attorney general's office asked the appeals court to lift a stay that allowed Beckwith to remain in Tennessee while he appealed extradition. Bean filed a reply to that request on June 6, noting his intention to appeal the appeals court ruling with the Supreme Court by the July 3 deadline.

Beckwith, who has vowed to fight his extradition "tooth, nail and claw," apparently didn't want to wait for Bean to file the appeal, Mays said. "They were worried that the Court of Appeals was go-

ing to rule on that motion to dissolve the stay and they would grant it and he would be gone to Mississippi."

Evers, a field secretary for the NAACP, was shot to death on June 12, 1963, in front of his Jackson, Miss., home. Beckwith was tried twice by all-white juries in 1963, but neither could reach a verdict, and the murder charge was dropped in 1969.

However, a second indictment was returned late last year in Jackson after authorities said new evidence had surfaced, and Beckwith was arrested Dec. 17.

In his 26-page appeal brief, Beckwith crossed out Bean's name three times and wrote, "Byron De La Beckwith Pro Se." Pro se means a client is his own lawyer.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL
KNOXVILLE, TN

Date: Wednesday, 6/12/91
Edition:
PAGE: A5

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

Indexing:

SAC I
ASAC
#4



190-36891-7

HOSKINS REPORT

solute. Find someone who lends \$10 for \$11, and you will be in the presence of a hired hand of the ruler of the world, a small time imitator who will soon be caught up and crucified for himself. "By their acts...."

"Dear Mr. Hoskins: I had a math teacher who complained that she was forced to teach math. A math teacher in the same school was forced to teach history. The question is, why is it so crazy? E. D. - Tennessee

ED: It's hard to believe that it's not done on purpose. It's a creation of the public school system. I don't know who Captain John Smith was, but a Phineas was, a Shiite, or a Zionist. He was a junior in a religious college and didn't know what a Phineas Priest was either.

"Dear Mr. Hoskins: The word "Phinehas" in Strong's Concordance means "mouth of the serpent. Why?" H. R. - Oklahoma

ED: Abraham came from the Chaldees, the Chaldees came from the ancient Sumerians, along with the Babyonians, Hittites, Phoenicians, Indians, Greeks, and Egyptians. The ancient Sumerian translation of "serpent" means "worm".

the desert implied the serpent was there, that's good. The serpent in the garden is bad. A serpent is either good or bad depending on usage. God created a world of good for Phineas and blessed it for all benefit and that's good.

"Dear Mr. Hoskins: I was reading the book of Jubilees and ran across the following which merely re-enforces other like scriptures:

"If there is any man in Israel who desires to give his daughter or his sister to ... the Gentiles, he shall surely die ... for Israel is holy to the Lord ... And to this law there is no limit of days and no ceasing and no forgiveness ... And thou, Moses, command the children of Israel ... that they shall not give any of their daughters to the Gentiles and that they shall not take any of the daughters of the Gentiles; for ... it is disgraced to Israel ... for it is unclean and accursed to Israel ... for there will be plagues upon plagues, curse upon curse, and all punishment and plagues and curses will come ... and if they blind their eyes to those that commit uncleanness ... then shalt the whole people together be punished." Jubilees 30:6-13

ED: Strangers bring plague. Plagues have almost destroyed entire nations. Non-venereal syphilis plague came from the Indians of Mexico, bubonic plague from the Orient, black plague from the Mideast, etc. Man, transgressing with "humans", brings God's curse. It's the law.

UNFILTERED NEWS

FBI INFORMERS: Another potential witness who was not called in the original trial (of Byron de la Beckwith) is Delmar Dennis ... Dennis said in a book published 18 years ago that Beckwith told him he had shot Evers. ... Dennis was a Baptist minister. *The New American*, p. 29, April 9, 1991

ED: The parade of FBI witnesses at the Fort Smith Section Trial with so many contradictory things that we can't believe anything they said. At that trial another preacher-informer was said to have prepared a grand jury indictment against those he had just condemned. Sixteen years after de la Beckwith's first trial, they took off the tired old statements by another preacher-informer for a last ditch THIRD trial. The talk should be about double-jeopardy! Or better - about informers. Is it true that almost every FBI informer is an informer to keep from prison himself? Are informer's crimes reviewed by juries? If not - they certainly should be.

PATRIOT MISSILE: (From) the Pentagon comes word that the Defense Administration is planning to sell the technology for the Patriot missile to the Soviet Union. This is the same Patriot

missile that has in the past decade been restricted to friendly countries. *THE NEW AMERICAN*, p. 4, Apr 9, 1991.

ED: The red bear menace must be made believable to justify the trillion dollar defense expenditures. A dissident Patriot missile result in a new improved Scud which will require an updated multi-billion dollar Patriot which will require an updated ... etc. etc. etc. Smile! It's "the good life."

TOE SUCKER: "Authorities are preparing warrants for the arrest of a convicted toe sucker ... charged with three counts ..."

A woman who reported that a man who came to her house to buy firewood Saturday ... offered her \$20 to suck her toes. The woman refused.

A Cabot woman ... said she was working Wednesday ... when a man ... reached for her foot.

"The 3rd incident occurred Monday when a man asked a woman in Cabot ... at the Sonic Drive-in ... to let him suck her toes.

"(The man) pleaded guilty last fall to ... assault and harassment charges ... that stemmed from similar incidents last year. He was fined and put on probation." *The Gazette*, Feb 17, 1991

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May 1, 1991

P. O. Box 997, Lynchburg Virginia 24505

Collected and retained by KX PLA [redacted] 5/29/91, for 44A-JN-18683,

May '91

Dear Mr. Hoskins: If banks refuse to lend money - business will stop. If they lend \$10 for \$11 without decreasing the debt out of existence in depressions now and then - debt will grow so large that people will pay everything they earn to the banks for principal and interest and there will be nothing left for anything else. It would seem that taxes are concessions - that being debt-free is not enough. You must still borrow \$10 for \$11 to pay the taxes - if you don't, they foreclose. They own us from top to bottom - like it or not. W. A. D.

ED: Thanks. As a side note, most of the founding fathers knew Latin and Greek and had more of a smattering of Hebrew. They knew precisely what they were talking about when they said that all "men" are created equal.

Dear Mr. Hoskins: I've read 'Vigilantes of Christendom.' Excellent! I pray that God will watch over you and yours. Please send me 5 more copies. W. A. D.

Dear Mr. Hoskins: Have this book sent to a printer. Local and Mississippi legal proceedings are available of solution. Don't forget granddaddy. Ed. de la Beckwith - Tennessee

ED: Mr. de la Beckwith, son of the prominent family in America and before that in England, says he was treated and released to be after being completely innocent. He was part of the Black radical civil rights leader. Ever. The media recently announced that after the trial two decades he has

Dear Dick: Why is savings and investment...?

ED: God has been made bankrupt... while... had been made just another commodity.

... were traded over to Japan. The Chinese bought... and exchanged them for gold...

Vigilantes Of Christendom P.O. Box 997 Lynchburg, VA 24503
WC PC Val. Pub. Co. P.O. Box 997, Lynchburg, Virginia 24503

P. O. Box 997

once more been arrested and will be tried a third time. It is claimed that two witnesses have stepped forward after having been quiet for 20 years. His book, which will soon be in print, would be an interesting reading.

to forsake our religious
Kinston, NC 28531, on
22, 1990.

Dear Mr. Hoskins: The New Times...

ROLL ON AIDS...

... De la Beckwith... magistrates. Tit 3:1 The subject us have the right to order citizens to do whatever they see and others are required by God to obey their orders.

... 81%, Welfare fraud - 9% Traffic & crime - 30% illegal aliens promote 5) Which should sign military troops to considering giving yet a of illegal aliens - Do you have an illegal alien pro From Border Watch, J 24465.

ED: God does not war against... interpreted so that some scripture will war with other scripture. God does not fight himself. It is true that citizens must obey authorities placed over them, but this assumes that the authorities are just and are obeying God's commands. If there is a conflict - God's law prevails. The overriding laws Fear God, and keep his commandments for this is the will's duty of men. Eccles. 3:1.

NOTE: If congress represent them: If they represent 'The borrower is slave to

"Dear Mr. Hoskins: The LA Times says that 90 languages are spoken here in the LA school district. O. E. - California

CINCINNATI AIDS: "LC number of diagnosed A end of next year." The C

"Dear Mr. Hoskins: How do I get a copy of my file that the FB keeps in their data banks on American citizens?" D. R. Wisconsin

EDUCATION: "The State to consider new historic strenuous ... protests for Indians and fundamental tell its version of ... historic dispute ... The board of ethnic histories ... work American society. CIM. OLD 4816. Australia

ED: Write a note such as the following. "Dear Sir, Please send me a copy of my FBI file, under the Freedom Of Information Act. Thanking you, I am Sincerely, [signature]. Have your signature notarized so that the FBI will know that they are not releasing your file to a third party, and send it to FBI, Washington, D.C." If you have a file, you will receive only parts of it will be well-censured.

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Collected & retained on KEX P.A. 5/29/91, for 44A-JN - 10603,

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ex-Klansman won't testify against Beckwith

The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — A former Klansman now living in Sevierville says he fears for himself and his family if he testifies against a white supremacist accused of killing NAACP leader Medgar Evers in Jackson 28 years ago.

In a May 2 letter to Hinds County prosecutors, Delmar Dennis said he won't testify against Byron De La Beckwith.

He also wrote that he is weary of dealing with constant publicity about the case.

"We all feel that we have suffered enough for my stand and nobody gave a damn, so there is no point in taking further risks," Dennis, 51, wrote.

He said he would become a potential target of white supremacists known as "Phinehas priests," who consider themselves God's executioners.

"You don't know when they're going to strike. They're not going to warn you," Dennis said in an interview this week. "Nothing is quite so dangerous as a religious fanatic who

thinks he's doing the Lord's will."

Dennis operates a small publishing house in Sevierville.

Hinds County Assistant District Attorney Bobby DeLaughter wouldn't comment Thursday on Dennis' letter.

Last May, Dennis provided prosecutors with a break in reopening the Evers slaying investigation. He told how he had heard Beckwith brag at an Aug. 8, 1965, Klan rally near Jackson about the killing.

An indictment Dec. 14 charges Beckwith, 70, with murder. Beckwith, of Signal Mountain, Tenn., remains jailed in Chattanooga. He is fighting extradition to Mississippi.

Evers' widow, Myrlie, said Dennis' decision was upsetting. "I would hope witnesses would ... have the strength to come forward with the truth in pursuit of justice in this case," she said.

Beckwith's wife, Thelma, said Thursday night Dennis "is dangerous ... He's guilty of lying."

Beckwith "is going to come out on top. Ev-

erybody loves him," she said.

Evers, field director for the state NAACP, was shot to death June 12, 1963, outside his Jackson home.

Beckwith was tried twice in 1964 for murder, but both trials ended when all-white juries deadlocked.

He would face a life sentence if convicted.

The Phinehas priesthood is glowingly described in a 1990 book *Vigilantes of Christendom* by Richard Kelly Hoskins of Lynchburg, Va.

Hoskins compares members to Japanese kamikaze pilots of World War II.

The book holds up as a hero the Biblical character of Phinehas, Moses' great-nephew, who killed a couple Hoskins maintains were guilty of "race mixing."

Hoskins, who publishes a monthly newsletter catering to white supremacists, could not be reached for comment Thursday.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Can't get fair trial, says man accused of killing Evers

By Stan DeLozier
News-Sentinel staff writer

Byron De La Beckwith, charged with the 1963 murder of civil rights leader Medgar Evers, fears he cannot get a fair trial if he is returned to Mississippi for prosecution, his court-appointed attorney said Tuesday.

"People have told him that times have changed in Mississippi," said Chattanooga lawyer Russell Bean, shortly after he argued against Beckwith's extradition before the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals. "He's afraid of the system there now."

Beckwith, 70, has lived in Signal Mountain, Tenn., near Chattanooga since 1983. He is charged with the sniper killing of Evers near Evers' home in Jackson, Miss., on June 12, 1963. Two trials in 1964 ended with hung juries when the all-white panels were unable to reach a decision.

During the 1960s a state-appointed Sovereignty Commission held sway in Mississippi. It screened jurors on the basis of their racial attitudes prior to Beckwith's trials.

Since the Sovereignty Commission was abolished in the mid-1970s and blacks are serving on juries,

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Beckwith is afraid he would be "railroaded," Bean said.

"He (Beckwith) has made some very inflammatory racial remarks," Bean said. "I think it would be hard for a black juror to disregard some of the things he's said."

Prosecutors brought charges against Beckwith for a third time in December saying they had new evidence. He was indicted by a Hinds County, Miss., grand jury and arrested on a fugitive warrant and later was held on a governor's warrant signed by Gov. Ned McWherter. Beckwith has been in Hamilton County Jail without bond since his arrest.

In his argument to the three-member appeals court, Bean said extradition was improper because Beckwith was illegally arrested on a fugitive warrant when he was taken into custody by Hamilton County authorities last December. Also, he maintained that the extradition process was faulty because McWherter failed to properly review documents before signing a governor's warrant, which is necessary if extradition is contested.

Bean argued that for Beckwith to have been arrested on a fugitive warrant he would have to have been fleeing to avoid prosecution.

"The crime was committed in 1963," Bean said. "Byron De La Beckwith went to trial twice and was not convicted. He ran for election as lieutenant governor of Mississippi in 1967. The charges against him were dropped in 1969. In no way has this man fled to avoid prosecution."

However, Kathy Principe, assistant state attorney general, countered that "within the meaning of the law" Beckwith is a fugitive. She said issuance of a fugitive warrant is proper anytime a suspect is arrested in a state other than the one in which the crime is committed.

Bean said he wants a hearing in Hamilton County so that he can present evidence that McWherter did not sufficiently review the case before signing the governor's warrant. He said the paperwork was sent from Mississippi on Dec. 21 and was signed by McWherter on Dec. 30, a Sunday when few state employees were at work.

"It takes 30 to 60 days for a proper review in such a situation," Bean said.

He claims McWherter was not at his office during the holidays and was preparing to travel to New Orleans where the University of Tennessee football team was to play in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 1.

"If we can get a hearing, I intend to subpoena the governor and two of his assistants to question them about these things," Bean said.

Bean charged that there was a "secret" agreement between officials in Tennessee and Mississippi to "rush" the proceedings because of pressure from civil rights organizations that want to see Beckwith prosecuted.

"I think he (McWherter) was getting a lot of pressure in this case," Bean said. He said he has evidence that members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference petitioned McWherter to cooperate in the extradition.

"It was a hot potato and there were some instructions to get this case and get this man out of here," Bean said.

Principe acknowledged that McWherter signed the warrant on Sunday, but noted that is not illegal. Also, she said if officials did speed up the proceedings, that too is not improper.

Beckwith, who has vowed to fight extradition "tooth, nail and claw," is prepared to take the issue all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary, Bean said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Work against Klan devastated his life, Delmar Dennis says

BY BETTY SEAN
of The Journal staff

SEVIERVILLE — When Delmar Dennis was a young man in Mississippi, he joined the Ku Klux Klan, became an informant for the FBI and helped put away the killers of three civil rights workers.

That good deed has come close to ruining him, he says.

"It has devastated my life. I was ordained a minister at the age of 18, and people I thought were my friends turned on me and never were my friends again," he said. "I have had a very hard time making a living, and just about when everybody forgets about it, something else comes up. The 25th anniversary of something, the movie 'Mississippi Burning,' and now this."

"This" is the arrest this week of Byron de la Beckwith for the 1963 murder of Medgar Evers. A

long-overlooked statement Dennis made in a book published in 1975 finally got noticed this year, and Dennis will be a major witness in Beckwith's trial this summer.

These days Dennis, who owns a printing company in Sevier County, has gone back into the ministry. He wears clerical garb and pastors a new Reform Church congregation that meets in a Pigeon Forge motel.

He is dreading going back to Jackson to testify.

"I'll be doing a lot of praying to get ready for that," he said.

He has been long been active in conservative politics, and in 1984 was a candidate for president on the ultra-right American Party ticket. But being a conservative Christian identified with the civil right

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struggle deprived him of natural allies, he says.

"I've stood alone. Whites rejected me as a traitor, blacks couldn't embrace me because I was so conservative. And I've never had a thank-you letter from anybody. Not from the families of the victims or anybody. Nothing. I've stood alone. And it's been very lonely."

The biggest reward he has reaped from his involvement was something he overheard his son tell a friend:

"He said 'My dad is my hero,'" Dennis said.

He says has not been able to benefit from helping make history.

"Sevier County people have never been anything but nice, but it's a natural tendency for people to shy away from someone who's identified with controversy."

"And my poor wife never thought 23 years after she married me she'd still be dealing with front-page stories and TV shows."

The latest TV show after Dennis is "60 Minutes." He has been approached about doing an interview.

"I don't know about television," he said. "They edit and splice and put things together until they get up saying what they had in mind all along."

He says he keeps thinking "someday this will be over, and I'll get a book published and go on the speaking circuit. I have never made a dime off my experiences."

He never knew Medgar Evers, but says almost everyone in Mississippi thought Beckwith killed him.

"He was a Klan hero because they believed he killed Medgar Evers," Dennis said. "He was known to brag about doing it, although I never heard him point-blank say he did it."

Dennis, 50, moved to Sevier County in 1976. He had gained national attention in 1967 for testify-

ing against the killers of three young civil rights workers whose bodies were found in an earthen dam near Philadelphia, Miss., the year after Evers was gunned down in the driveway of his Jackson home.

While Dennis was in his early 20s, he was a Klan Titan (administrative officer) who worked undercover for 3 years as an FBI informant. He came to know Beckwith, now 70, in the course of that work.

He describes Beckwith as a dangerous, dedicated cheerleader for violence.

"Beckwith scares me," Dennis said. "The kind of raw hatred he exhibited is a frightening thing to see, and there were few people in the Klan as vicious. Klan work is his whole life, and while I have never been impressed with his intelligence, he has spent his whole life concentrating on what he is most dedicated to — white supremacy."

When Dennis first met him, Beckwith was stumping the state in a run for the office of lieutenant governor. He often urged younger Klansmen to violence, Dennis says.

"He'd say 'you ought to get out there and do some killing yourself. Kill from the top down, starting with the President of the United States.'"

Twice tried for murder in the Evers killing, Beckwith walked free after two all-white juries failed to agree on a verdict. Not long after, he spent several years in a federal penitentiary for trying to smuggle dynamite across the Louisiana state line. Now a fertilizer salesman living in Signal Mountain, he was rearrested this week in the Evers killing, and will be tried late next summer in Jackson.

The case was reopened primarily because of the work of a Jackson newspaper reporter whose research unearthed evidence of misconduct in Beckwith's trials. The reporter also came across something Dennis said in a 1975 book about his experiences called "Klandestine."

"Killing that nigger gave me no more inner discomfort than our

wives endure when they give birth to our children," Dennis recalled Beckwith saying, without specifically mentioning Evers. "We ask them to do that for us. We should do just as much."

Why did it take so long for the quote to be noticed and the case reopened?

Dennis cites a number of factors.

It's a new day in Mississippi, he says. In 1964, blacks couldn't serve on juries because jury lists were drawn from voter's roles, and blacks weren't allowed to vote. In fact, it was Evers' work registering his people to vote that led to his death, Dennis said.

Given the violence of the people his testimony will offend, Dennis says he worries about his family's safety.

Local law enforcement authorities have offered to help, and agents from the Knoxville FBI bureau have gauged their response time to his home.

But his main line of defense, he says, is his faith.

There is a small bronze statue in his office inscribed with the words he says have been his shield through the years since he left Mississippi.

"No weapon formed against you shall prosper."

Frozen in bronze, sword poised to finish off the fallen Goliath, David stands triumphant over his enemy.

"I keep hoping David's going to win one," Dennis said.



Sevierville resident Delmar Dennis is expected to be a major witness in the new trial of white supremacist Byron de la Beckwith. CHRISTOPHER BERKEY/The Journal staff

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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Beckwith posts bond, vows to fight extradition

By Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA — White supremacist Byron De La Beckwith was released on \$15,000 bond Tuesday pending a February hearing on whether he should be returned to Mississippi to stand trial a third time for the 1963 slaying of civil rights leader Medgar Evers.

The 70-year-old Beckwith, who now lives on nearby Signal Mountain, was indicted on a murder charge again by a Hinds County, Miss., grand jury in the Evers case, District Attorney Ed Peters said Tuesday in Jackson, Miss.

Appearing with his wife, Thelma, Beckwith told General Sessions Court Judge Horace L. Smith that he intended to fight any effort to extradite him to Mississippi.

"I'm going to resist it tooth, nail and claw," Beckwith said. "Because I think that all this is nonsense, poppycock and just something to stir the people up ... and incite the lower forms of life to force and violence against the country clubs."

Beckwith was tried twice in 1964 in the slaying of Evers, who was field secretary for the NAACP when he was killed by a sniper's bullet in front of his Jackson, Miss., home on June 12, 1963.

Each trial ended in a deadlocked jury and the murder charge was dismissed in

1969, but the case was eventually reopened amid charges of jury and evidence tampering.

Assistant Hamilton County prosecutor Rodney Strong asked Smith to withhold bond or at least set it higher on grounds that Beckwith posed a threat to others associated with the case.

Strong, noting that Beckwith had a passport and had once made plans to visit a friend in Mexico, also expressed fears that the defendant might jump bond to avoid returning to Mississippi.

But the judge agreed with Beckwith's court-appointed attorney, Russell Bean, who argued that the Beckwiths, who have lived on Signal Mountain for seven years, did not appear to be a threat to flee.

"I have no evidence he's going to run or he's apt to run," said Smith.

The judge ordered Beckwith to return to court on Feb. 22 for a hearing to consider whether he should be returned to Mississippi on a warrant by Gov. Ray Mabus.

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Byron De La Beckwith, center, makes point at bond hearing. At left is his attorney, Russell Bean, and at right is his wife, Thelma. ^{AP}