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NAVY DEPARTMENT

Division of Naval Intelligence

Domestic Intelligence Branch

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Op-16-B-10

FR
APR 3 1942
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DATE March 25, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR Capt. L. M. Atkins
Asst Secretary's Office Room 2026

SUBJECT: American Federation of Labor - re movement
among negroes in Phila.
CHISUM, Melvin J. - info furnished by
Reference: A8-5/QQ/ND4
Enclosure: (A) Copy of FBI ltr dated 3-20-42, to Brig. Gen.
Raymond E. Lee, Asst Chief of Staff- G-2, War Dept.
(B) C30144
1. Enclosure A and B forwarded for
appropriate action.

2. Ultimate return of this correspondence to ONI is
requested. Room 2A86

3. It is requested that the security of the information
contained in the enclosure, as well as its source, and names of
any informants mentioned therein, be carefully safeguarded.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

FINISHED FILE... APR 9 1942
K

R. H. Thayer,
Lieut., Comdr., USNR
BY HAND

[Handwritten initials]

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United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
SPECIAL MESSENGER

Brigadier General Raymond E. Lee
Assistant Chief of Staff
G-2, War Department
Washington, D. C.

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Dear General Lee:

I thought you would be interested in information received by this Bureau as furnished by Melvin J. Chisum, former secretary to Booker T. Washington and presently a news publisher in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,

Mr. Chisum advised that he had information concerning a movement among the negroes in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to divide their loyalty. He stated that the information concerned what he deemed unscrupulous activities on the part of the CIO in Philadelphia against the negro element.

Mr. Chisum stated that the National Teamsters Union of the American Federation of Labor in Philadelphia and the South Philadelphia CIO Executive Committee are literally alive with Communists who have in recent years become extremely interested in the colored population. He further stated that these organizations have been active in obtaining membership from the negro element.

Mr. Chisum stated that personnel departments of various national defense plants in the vicinity of Philadelphia are approached and literally instructed that colored persons not be employed. He also advised that the personnel departments are instructed that if any negroes attempt to obtain employment in these plants, they are to be insulted and asked to leave. Subsequently, Mr. Chisum stated, the negroes are told that there is employment available in these national defense plants and that arrangements have been made for them to make application for employment. The colored people are stated to then go to the manufacturing concerns where they are told that the concerns do not employ negroes. The obvious result, Mr. Chisum stated, is that the colored people are embittered but remain friendly toward the CIO. He stated further that the negroes in this instance are very unfriendly toward the manufacturing concerns and in certain instances even unfriendly toward the United States Government.

Mr. Chisum advised this Bureau he could not testify directly that the above mentioned operations are being carried out by the CIO

The Source of this information shall NOT be DISCLOSED to anyone outside the Naval Security Council.
G. N. A.

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Brigadier General Raymond E. Lee

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but he believed it to be a general plan of nationwide scope which is to be or may presently be in effect.

No investigation in this matter has been conducted by this Bureau; however, I thought you would be interested in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

J. E. Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - Rear Admiral T. S. Wilkinson ✓
Director
Naval Intelligence
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.