

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

**SUBJECT: THEOPHILUS "BULL" EUGENE CONNOR**

**FILE # 157-HQ-1203**

**CORRELATION SUMMARY**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Main File No: 157-1203  
See also: 9-26769  
9-38718  
44-13501  
44-16495  
44-19726  
46-19981  
157-944

Date: December 5, 1963

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY SPL/GSK/Ghh 3481  
REASON FOR EXTENSION 2  
FOUO DATE FOR DECLASSIFICATION 12-5-83

Subject: Theo Eugene Connor  
One Connor\*

Date Searched: 5/2/63

All logical variations of subject's name and aliases were searched and identical references were found as:

~~Theo Eugene Connor  
Bull Connor  
Eugene Conner  
Eugene Bull Connor  
Bull Connor  
Eugene Connor  
Eugene Connor~~

~~Eugene Bull Connor  
Eugene Connor  
T. E. Connor  
Bull Connors  
Eugene Connors  
Bull O'Connor~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

This is a summary of information obtained from a review of all "see" references to the subject in Bureau files under the names and aliases listed above. All references under the above names containing data identical with the subject have been included except those listed at the end of this summary as not having been reviewed, or those determined to contain the same information as the main file.

This summary is designed to furnish a synopsis of the information set out in each reference. In many cases the original serial will contain the information in much more detail.

THIS SUMMARY HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR USE AT THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT AND IS NOT SUITABLE FOR DISSEMINATION.

Analyst

Coordinator

Approved

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] (7c)

CHK:mfr:brh

and MCT PVA

REC PVA

N 157-1203-1

\*Not completely searched. See search slip page 37.

ENCLOSURE  
ENCL BEHIND FILE  
SEARCH SLIPS ONLY  
5 DEC 16 1963

ENCLO. BEHIND FILE

DEC 5 1963

Handwritten signatures and initials

ABBREVIATIONS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

IRS.....Internal Revenue Service

KKK.....Ku Klux Klan

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

This reference sets out information concerning plans of Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor and Chief of Police T. A. Riley, of Birmingham, to form a Birmingham Police Department Crime Laboratory (80-606-54). Connor and Riley requested help of the Bureau in setting up such a laboratory.

This information was submitted by Birmingham letter dated 12/26/37.

80-606-54-5 p. 1,2,3  
(11/28)✓

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ X

This reference, in the file captioned "Law Enforcement Officers Contacts by SAC" (66-3579), set out information concerning Bureau contacts with the Birmingham, Alabama PD and with Eugene Connor, Commissioner of Public Safety, during April 1939. On 4/12/39 Connor addressed the Police School graduation banquet held by the Birmingham PD, and referred to Mr. Hoover and the FBI in the highest terms.

66-3579-1987 p. 1,2  
(11)✓

The following references contain information concerning an ordinance drafted in 1940 by Police Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor, Birmingham PD, to require the fingerprinting of all aliens in Birmingham. This ordinance had other clauses which were aimed directly at prosecution of any person engaged in any un-American activity whatsoever. Connor submitted a copy of this ordinance to the Bureau and requested any comment, approval, or disapproval of such ordinance. Connor was advised that the Bureau had no jurisdiction to make any comment on this matter.

REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

62-22932-244 p. 1

(4)✓

66-5424-1-268 p. 1, Encl. p. 3,5  
-270 p. 1, Encl. p. 1,2  
-293 p. 1  
-343 p. 1,2

(11)✓  
(11/28)✓  
(11)✓  
(35)✓

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ X

An unidentified newspaper clipping in the files of the Birmingham Office revealed that Laurent Frantz was subpoenaed before the Dies Committee in Washington, D.C. in April 1940 for questioning concerning his activities in the CP. Frantz denied that he was a CP member and said that his arrest by the Birmingham PD was a violation of his civil rights. Eugene Connor of Birmingham upheld the arrest of Frantz and branded him as a communist.

116-199479-16 p. 8  
(15)✓

This reference is an undated six-page document captioned "Press Digest On Sabotage, Espionage, and Related Matters" (65-18237), time-stamped in the Bureau on 7/8/40. Under the heading "Civil Liberties" it was stated that Commissioner Eugene Connor of Birmingham, Alabama had granted Jehovah's Witnesses their right under the law to circulate a petition but refused to guarantee immunity from arrest in case a householder should want to charge "trespass."  
(No source)

65-18237-6X p. 6  
(11)✓

On 8/16/40, Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor was conducted on a special tour (94-2) of the FBI in Washington, D.C. He had high praise for the laboratory and expressed high respect for the Birmingham Office.

94-2-19716X4 p. 1  
(11/29)✓

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The 1/17/41 issue of the "Birmingham News" in an article entitled "Connor and Three Other City Officials Sentenced to Jail" reported that Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor and other officials were sentenced to serve forty-eight hours in the County Jail for contempt of court. The Judge ruled that it was contempt when on 10/26/40, police seized a print of a controversial motion picture film "French Girl's Club", several hours after an injunction had been issued to prevent interference with exhibition of the film.

62-44462-A "Birmingham News",  
(7,26,37)✓ 1/17/41

37c)

[redacted] (70-6401) was interviewed concerning a shot-gun attack made on his residence [redacted] when pressed for expressions of suspicions concerning this attack [redacted] named several individuals, one of whom was Bull Connor, Police Commissioner of Birmingham. [redacted] stated, however, that he had no reason to believe that any of these individuals were a party to the attack. [redacted] stated that he had criticized Connor repeatedly and had antagonized him to a considerable degree.

70-6401-5 p. 12  
(28)✓

The following references in the file captioned "Auxiliary Police, Birmingham, Alabama" (94-1-27514), contain information pertaining to a speech given by a Bureau official on 3/15/42, in the Municipal Auditorium, Birmingham, before a group of more than 4,000 auxiliary police who had graduated from a training course. The request to have an FBI official speak before this group was made by Eugene "Bull" Conner, Public Safety Commissioner, Birmingham.

SERIAL	SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER
1 p. 1	(40)✓
2 p. 1,2	(39,40)✓
3 p. 1, Encl. p. 2	(not indexed)
4 Encl. p. 1,3,4,5,6	(not indexed)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(b7c) On 8/31/42, Eugene "Bull" Connor advised that he had learned that the FBI was making an investigation of the case of [REDACTED] (44-637). Connor stated that although the shooting in this case did not take place within the city of Birmingham and was outside of his jurisdiction he was communicating with the President pointing out that investigations by federal authorities at this time in this type of case were most dangerous to national defense in view of the acute racial situation existing in the South, and that such investigations would tend to precipitate violence and resultant damage to national defense as same would cause Negroes to revolt in vital industries.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

44-637-5 p. 1  
(3/23)✓

On 7/14/43, the Birmingham Office advised that recently there had appeared in the Birmingham newspapers certain statements made by Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor to the effect that detectives of the Birmingham PD would check all prospective customers of state liquor stores in Birmingham to determine whether or not they were complying with the Selective Training and Service Act and if they were not they would be reported to the FBI.

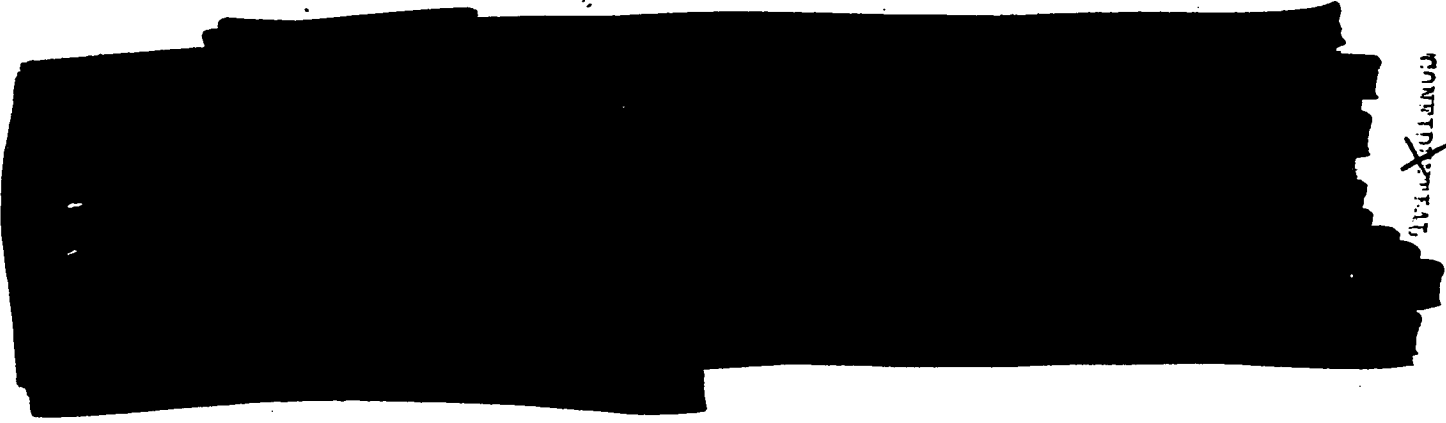
66-8054-4-46 p. 1  
(11/28)✓

[REDACTED]

(b7c)  
b3

62-302-4-11 p. 5,6  
(4/24)✓

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



37D  
-1

100-10355-147 p. 10  
(14)✓

The Birmingham Office furnished an article from the 4/16/45 issue of the "Birmingham News" entitled "Mullins Says Policemen Should Be Taught Scientific Methods." This article commented upon a speech given over the radio by former Police Captain Chester L. Mullins (1-2067), FBI NA graduate, in connection with his effort to displace Eugene "Bull" Connor, Commissioner of Fire and Police at Birmingham.

1-2067-25 p. 1 Encl. p. 1  
(2✓22)✓

In September 1945, Eugene Conner advised that he, as Commissioner of Public Safty in Birmingham, in conjunction with the Parents'-Teachers' Association, had sponsored youth dances following high school football games in an effort to eliminate vandalism and rowdiness following night games.

62-26225-5-77 p. 1  
(39)✓

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The following references in the file captioned "Police Training-Birmingham" (1-1152-4) contain information concerning an in-service training school held by the Bureau at Birmingham, Alabama, during April and May 1947. While this school was in session Eugene "Bull" Connor, Birmingham Public Safety Commissioner, wrote to the Director thanking him for making the training available and expressing his appreciation. Connor invited Mr. Hoover to come to Birmingham to speak at a joint meeting of high school boys of the county and to law enforcement officers.

SERIAL

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

16 p. 1  
21X p. 1  
25 p. 1

(2,22) ✓  
(2,22) ✓  
(2) ✓

b7c

This reference captioned "Bessemer, Alabama Police Department" (62-50677) sets out information concerning the unauthorized use by the City Commissioner of Bessemer, Alabama, for political reasons, of criminal identification records issued by the Bureau on [REDACTED]. It was the opinion of informants that these records had been obtained from Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor of the Birmingham PD.

This information was reported by Birmingham letter dated 12/17/47.

62-50677-14 p. 1  
(7,26) ✓

On 1/31/48, a press release was issued in Birmingham by Samuel Joseph Hall (100-1548) in his capacity as chairman of the Alabama CP, Birmingham. In this press release Hall particularly attacked Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor, whom he blamed for promoting segregation and for advocating legislation which outlawed the CP.

The 2/15/48 issue of "The Worker" carried an article based upon Hall's press release.

(continued on next page)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(continued)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Hall's statement drew an immediate reply from Commissioner Connor and Gessner T. McCorvey of the Alabama State Democratic Committee. Hall replied to them in a public statement printed in the Birmingham newspapers charging them with being afraid to discuss the real issues.

100-1548-38 p. 3  
(14/30)✓  
SI 100-3-32-262 p. 15  
(12/29)✓

The Justice Department advised that the Southern Negro Youth Congress (SNYC) (44-2029) held a meeting in Birmingham on 4/30/48. Shortly thereafter Louis E. Burnham, executive secretary of the SNYC was taken by detectives of the Birmingham Police Department on different occasions to City Commissioner Eugene Connor who warned Burnham that their "mixed meetings" were illegal in Birmingham.

The Justice Department further advised that in connection with events which took place in Birmingham before and after the meeting in question, it appeared that wilful violations of the civil rights statutes may have been committed by Commissioner Connor and the detectives involved, and it was requested by the Justice Department that Connor be interviewed to determine his version of all events in question, his understanding of the legal basis for the arrests, and if advisable, his motives and intentions in the matter.

44-2029-8 p. 1,2  
(3)✓  
SI 44-2029-6 p. 1  
(3)✓



88-3736-18 p. 4  
(28)✓

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The following references in the file captioned "Southern Negro Youth Congress" (SNYC) (100-6548) contain information pertaining to the activities of Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor in attempting to prevent the SNYC from holding a convention in Birmingham on April 30, May 1 and 2, 1948.

SERIAL	SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER
323 p. 1	(30)✓
329 p. 1	(35)✓
330 p. 1	(14)✓
331 p. 1	(14)✓
342 p. 3	(14,30)✓

On 5/11/48, the Birmingham Office called in regard to a Bureau request to interview Chief of Police Eugene Connors in regard to [REDACTED]

b7c

The Birmingham Office further advised that recently Connors had [REDACTED] and it was the opinion of the Birmingham Office that if they contacted Connors concerning [REDACTED] he would jump to the conclusion that this was a roundabout way of approaching him concerning [REDACTED]

The Bureau concurred in the opinion of the Birmingham Office that Connor should not be contacted at that time.

121-4328-1X11 p. 1  
(38)✓

The 9/8/48 issue of the "DW" carried an article entitled "Frustration of a Jimcrow Cop in Alabama," which reported that on the previous Wednesday Henry Wallace, Presidential candidate, spoke in Birmingham and that Eugene "Bull" Connor had attempted to enforce segregation at the meeting. This article stated that Connor was a little man who "had risen in the ranks of US Steel puppetdom from a furniture salesman to a regional fuehrer."

100-3-75-A "DW" 9/8/48, p. 7  
(12/29)✓

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

This reference captioned "Dynamiting of Negro Houses in North Smithfield Division, Birmingham, Alabama, March 25, 1949" (44-2004) stated that on 8/4/49, a delegation of five colored people who described themselves as representatives of the Birmingham Property Owners' Protective Association, and residents of the above-area came to the FBI Office, Birmingham. One member of this delegation, [redacted] stated that he moved into his residence on [redacted] and on the same day Commissioner Eugene (Bull) Connor visited him and advised him that he felt that if he did not move away his presence might lead to violence and that if he were in [redacted] place he would move immediately.

(7C)

44-2004-52 p. 1,2  
(3/23)✓  
SI 44-2004-29 p. 1,2  
(3)✓

The Birmingham Office forwarded excerpts from a speech given by Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor at a convention of the Alabama Sheriffs' and Peace Officers' Convention held in Birmingham on 6/23/49. In this speech Connor was very commendatory of the Director.

94-1-651-228 p. 1, Encl.  
(11/28)✓

By letter dated 8/23/49, the Birmingham Office, in advising of another matter, stated that if it were necessary for members of the Birmingham PD to arrest Negroes for violation of a zoning law in Birmingham that the arrests would be based on instructions of Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor, a States Righter who claimed that he would arrest anyone violating this new ordinance.

94-3-1-12357 p. 1  
(35)✓

(37C)  
DND

[Large redacted block]

100-3-57-107 p. 5  
(39/41)✓

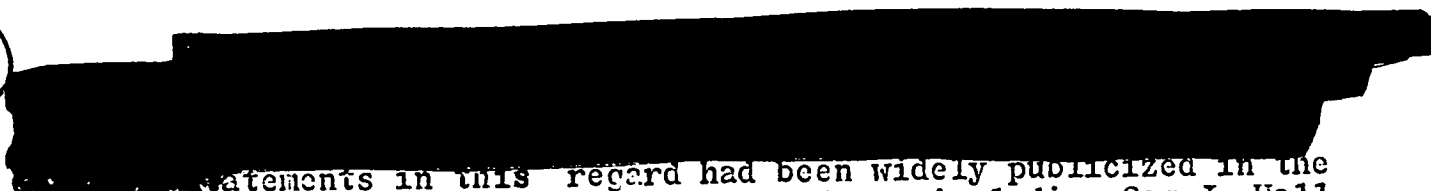
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(B1)



Letter and Fact Sheet enclosed  
100-3-70-901, Encl. p. 1,4  
(29)✓

(B7C  
B7D)



Statements in this regard had been widely publicized in the  
press as a result several local CP leaders, including Sam J. Hall  
and his wife Sylvia Bernard Hall (100-347609) had left the city.

The 8/21/50 issue of the "DW" carried an article entitled  
"Everything Decent is Called Communism by Alabama Cops." The article  
quoted Mrs. Hall as relating several instances when Connor labeled  
different matters as "communism" which the article inferred were not.

100-347609-17 p. 3,4  
(14)✓

The 6/30/51 issue of the "Birmingham News" carried an article  
captioned "Negro Group to Seek FBI Probe of Policy, Action of City  
Police," which stated that Walter White, NAACP (61-3176) executive  
secretary, announced in Atlanta, Georgia that he would confer with the  
US AG to seek a federal probe of the Birmingham PD. White made this  
announcement after the NAACP, at a convention held in Atlanta, adopted  
a resolution attacking the Birmingham PD. This resolution stated that the  
Birmingham PD, under the ruthless direction of Commissioner Eugene  
Connor, had established a shameless record for daily disregard of the  
elementary civil rights of Negroes.

61-3176-A "Birmingham News,"  
(4)✓ 6/30/51

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

31

[REDACTED]

100-3-32-368 p. 8  
(12/29)✓

On 1/18/52, the Justice Department furnished a Photostat of an article appearing in the 1/8/52 issue of the "Birmingham World" which article had been received from [REDACTED]

32

[REDACTED] This article was in regard to the recent trial of Police Commissioner Eugene Connor on charges arising out of alleged immoral activities on the part of Connor in a hotel room. This article, captioned "'Bull' Connor Fined, Given 180 Day Suspended Jail Sentence", reported that Detective Henry L. Darnell, member of the Birmingham Police Department, in whose car dynamite had been placed, accused Connor of wanting him killed.

The Justice Department requested that Darnell be interviewed in view of the possibility that the Birmingham bombings might be found to involve Birmingham City officials as implied by Darnell.

44-3553-6 p. 1, Encl. p. 1,2  
(3/23)✓

31

[REDACTED]

100-247401-68 p. 1  
(14/30)✓

37C  
b7D

[REDACTED]

This conference concerned information developed by the Alabama authorities with respect to the bombing of Negro homes. [REDACTED] advised that information obtained [REDACTED] from the Alabama investigators was generally to the effect that Bull Connor or Bull O'Connor, Police Commissioner at Birmingham: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had arranged for the bombing of Negro homes in Birmingham.

44-4036-510 p. 601  
(23441)✓

b7D

[REDACTED]

100-7801-1633 p. 11  
(30)✓

37C  
32D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that Police Commissioner Eugene Connor was [REDACTED] and that Connor did not intend to attempt to solve this bombing.

The 12/7/57 issue of the "Birmingham News" indicated that the above explosion occurred that day.

105-61538-14 Encl. p. 2  
(15)✓

CONFIDENTIAL

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The 10/21/58 issue of the "NY Post" (94-8) carried an article by Stan Opatowsky, a correspondent of that newspaper, concerning bombings in the South. This article stated that the mayors and police chiefs of fifty southern cities met in Jacksonville, Florida in early 1958 in an effort to halt the wave of dynamitings, and that this group invited the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to furnish a list of known anti-Semites who would be suspected of this type of activity. One of the names furnished the group by the ADL was that of Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor of Birmingham, who was in attendance at the meeting, ostensibly to seek an end to these crimes.

94-8-173-A "NY Post," 10/21/58,  
(11,29) p. M-2

This reference captioned "Efforts of Mayor Haydon Burns, Jacksonville, Florida, and Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor to Involve Bureau in Investigation of Recent Bombings" sets out detailed information concerning the attempt of Commissioner Connor of the Birmingham Police Department (62-33051) and Mayor Haydon to saddle the Bureau with the investigative responsibility for bombings which occurred during 1958 in Jacksonville and Birmingham.

374  
The Birmingham Office noted that Conner's request for the Bureau's entrance into the investigation was an attempt to unload the matter on the FBI. It was further noted that having been unsuccessful in several months of investigation, and confronted with the fact that the Birmingham Police Department had gone too far in its contacts with [REDACTED] to the point where it had [REDACTED] and responsible for the dynamiting of [REDACTED] Conner sought a convenient way out.

[REDACTED] was identified as the individual who was responsible for the attempted bombing of [REDACTED]

62-33051-188 p. 1,3,4,5  
(6,26)

X

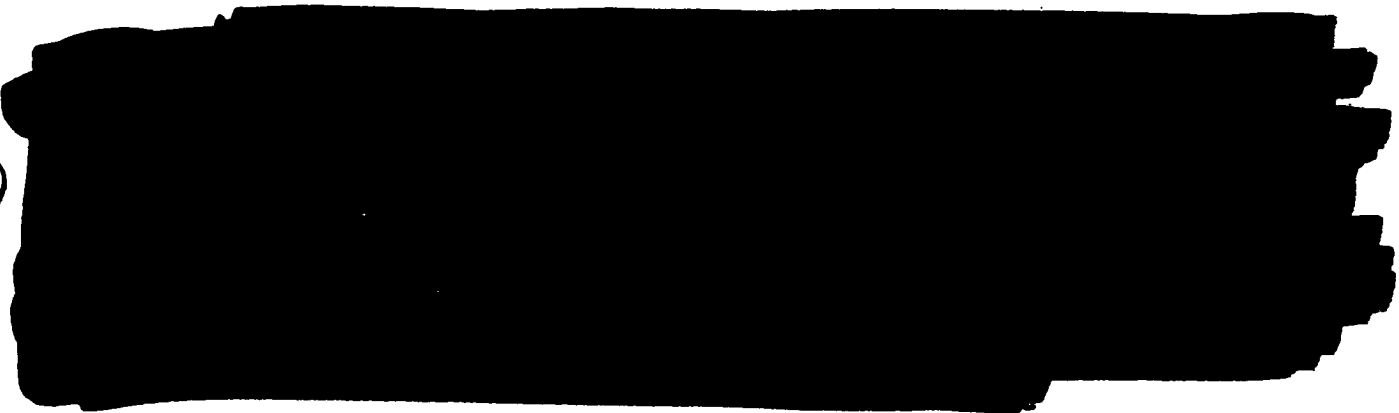


~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The 5/1/58 issue of the "Florida Times-Union" Jacksonville, Florida carried an article captioned "No Solution To Bombing Blasts Near" which reported on a conference to be held the following Saturday in Jacksonville by mayors and police chiefs of Miami, Florida, Nashville, Tennessee and Birmingham in an attempt to solve recent bombings in those areas. Police Commissioner T. E. Connor of Birmingham was to bring some very valuable information on 52 sticks of dynamite which had been placed in a synagogue in Birmingham but had failed to explode.

100-135-63-A "Florida Times - Union"  
(37)✓ Jacksonville, Florida  
5/1/58

SI 100-135-63-A "Jacksonville Journal"  
(39)✓ 5/4/58



(BX)  
BD

7-9023-1 encl. p. 1  
(22)✓



(57C)  
57D

63-4296-4-84 p. 1  
(10,28)✓

*[Handwritten mark]*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The 9/12/58 issue of the "Birmingham News" carried an article entitled "Connor Slams Door in Face of Rights Probers." This article stated that Commissioner Eugene Connor on that date closed the doors of the Birmingham city jail and refused police cooperation with any federal civil rights investigators or U.S. marshals involved in integration incidents.

62-105210-A "Birmingham News,"  
(10) 9/12/58

The 9/13/58 issue of the "Mobile Press," Mobile, Alabama, carried an article entitled "Paterson Says Alabama's Schools Will Not Be Mixed" which quoted Birmingham Police Commissioner Eugene Connor as stating that the Supreme Court's school integration order could trigger a season of violence in the South. He stated further that "It means that blood of both races will run in the streets."

100-135-61-507 Encl. p. 3  
(14)

On 10/28/58, Wilson White\* advised that the Chief of Police at Birmingham, "Bull" Connor, had been involved in a flagrant situation which he, White, had just discussed with the US Attorney in Birmingham. White stated that the Reverend Shuttlesworth had gotten on a bus in Birmingham the previous week and had failed to observe the Jim Crow regulations and was thereupon arrested by the police. The Reverend Martin Luther King sent a committee of three to visit Shuttlesworth. While these individuals were at Shuttlesworth's home on 10/27/58 they were arrested at about 11:00 a.m. by the police and held without charges until later in the day when they were released.

White believed that a preliminary inquiry into a violation of Civil Rights should be made.

100-135-61-521 p. 1  
(30)

\* Apparently of the Justice Department

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

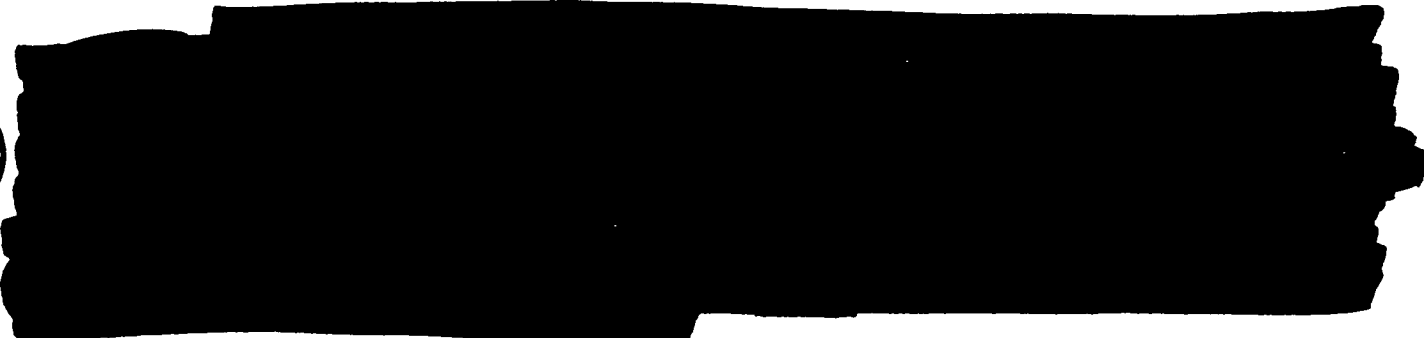
The 10/30/58 issue of the "Mobile Register," Mobile, Alabama, reported that on 10/26/58, three Negro ministers were arrested in Birmingham on vagrancy charges and were held for several hours before they were released and the charges dropped. According to this article the Justice Department, Washington, D.C. disclosed that it was investigating the arrest of these individuals to determine whether their civil rights had been violated.

According to this article Police Commissioner Eugene Connor stated that Birmingham "does not need any outside agitators coming into our city and dabbling into our affairs."

100-135-61-523 encl. p. 4  
(14)

The 1/16/59 issue of the "Birmingham News" carried an article entitled "In Connor, FBI Tiff--Judge Lynne Rebuffs US in Jury Call." This article stated that on 11/13/58, Attorney General Rogers asked for an immediate Grand Jury probe after Commissioner Eugene Connor ordered the police officers of the Birmingham Police Department not to give information to the FBI about the arrest of three Negro ministers on 10/27/58. Hanibal Hillmon Hubbard (44-13806) was one of these ministers. Judge Seybourn Lynne refused to recall the Grand Jury before 2/10/59.

44-13806-A "Birmingham News" 1/16/59  
(3)



63-4296-4-119 p. 3  
(10,28)

X

On 11/20/58, the Atlanta Office advised concerning the bombing of The Temple, 1589 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, Georgia. According to the Atlanta Office, [redacted] had returned that day from Birmingham where he [redacted] conferred with the four Birmingham detectives who participated in the investigation of the Birmingham bombings. This conference was held in the office of Commissioner Eugene Connor.

b7c

62-105023-735 p. 1  
(10)

On 11/21/58, the AG advised the Director that the Justice Department was bringing in USA William L. Longshore from Birmingham to discuss the attitudes concerning the matter involving Commissioner "Bull" Connor of Birmingham.

44-13806-30 p. 1  
(3,23)

Correlator's note: From a review of serial 33 in this file it appeared that the above mentioned matter probably referred to the refusal of Connor to furnish certain information to representatives of the FBI.

On 2/9/59, the Birmingham Office discussed with Police Commissioner Eugene Connor the matter of notification to interested law enforcement agencies of any threats. Connor said that this was clear to him and that he had no objection to notification to such agencies since he realized that it was the duty of local law enforcement to afford protection to its citizens.

62-105023-1332 p. 1  
(10)

By letter dated 4/30/59, the Birmingham Office reported the following:

"Bull Connor, Commissioner of Police, Birmingham Police Department, is silent at the moment and we are apparently getting along well with him. I feel, in all sincerity, he was disappointed at not having been indicted by a recent Grand Jury which heard a Civil Rights case in which he was involved.

(continued on next page)

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" The Birmingham PD recently solved a hit and run case, in which case our Laboratory made an examination of evidence which was most helpful in the case. Connor was very complimentary to the Laboratory, and it is felt that he is, although rather slowly, yet surely, becoming more of a friend of the Bureau each day. Evidence of this was his statement made before several people, 'Anybody who won't cooperate with the FBI ain't honest'."

62-105051-387 p. 2  
(28)

The 10/24/59 issue of the "Birmingham Post-Herald", in an article captioned "Connor Says He'll Run for Committee," reported that on 10/23/59 Eugene Connor stated that he intended to run for Democratic National Committeeman from Alabama. Connor was a delegate to the national convention in 1948 and was among the "walk-out" delegates who protested the strong civil rights platform of the Democratic Party.

44-0-A "Birmingham Post-Herald"  
(3) 10/24/59

The following references are newspaper clippings which appear in the file captioned "Segregation" and contain information concerning the efforts of Commissioner Eugene Connor to maintain segregation. Connor asked Pastor F. L. Shuttlesworth to take a lie test concerning the bombing of his church and home in Birmingham on 12/25/56. Shuttlesworth stated that he would submit to such a test if Connor would submit to a lie test concerning his KKK sympathies, graft and corruption in the Birmingham PD, Connor's participation in bombings, and whether Connor encouraged police brutality. Connor did not submit to such a test.

Connor, in campaigning for the position of delegate to the Democratic National Convention, wrote to President Kennedy to determine Kennedy's position on civil rights.

TITLE OF ARTICLE	REFERENCE	SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER
"Connor Seeks Stand On Segregation"	62-101087-A "Birmingham News" 6/16/59	(9)
"Connor Asks Negro Pastor to Take Lie Test in Bombing"	62-101087-5-A "Birmingham News" 6/3/58, p. 1	(10)

(continued on next page)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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(continued)

TITLE OF ARTICLE	REFERENCE	SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER
"Shuttlesworth Returns Challenge of Connor"	62-101087-5-A "Birmingham Post-Herald" 6/4/58 p. 1	(10)✓
"Connor Rejects Lie Test Challenge"	62-101087-5-A "Birmingham Post-Herald" 6/5/58	(10)✓
"Alabamians Denounce Court Edict"	62-101087-5-A "Birmingham Post-Herald" 9/13/58	(10)✓
"Connor Asks Negro Leaders To Halt Park Mixing Efforts"	62-101087-5-A "Birmingham News" 10/25/59	(10)✓
"Connor Called Irksome, Ex-Jerseyite Praised"	62-101087-5-A "Birmingham News" 11/2/59	(37)✓

The 12/21/59 issue of the "Birmingham News" carried an article entitled "Connor Says Bus Circulars Are Dangerous." According to this article, Police Commissioner Connor branded as dangerous circulars which had been distributed in Birmingham urging Negro citizens to "ride desegregated" on city buses.

44-11124-A "Birmingham News" 12/21/59 (3)✓

(B7C)  
B2D

On 3/31/60, [REDACTED]

The 4/15/60 issue of the "Birmingham News" reported on a speech given at Selma, Alabama on 4/14/60 by Connor. This speech was in regard to segregation.

(continued on next page)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(continued)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The above issue of the "Birmingham News" indicated that Connor had called two articles written by Harrison Salisbury which appeared in the "NY Times" and reprinted in the 4/14/60 and 4/15/60 issues of the "Birmingham Post-Herald", as a cheap attempt to smear Birmingham.

157-4-4-1 encl. p. 5,7  
(16)

Joseph O'Meara, dean of Notre Dame Law School, Indiana (94-1-658) forwarded a copy of his introductory remarks made at the Law Honor Banquet of Notre Dame Law School on 4/29/60. These introductory remarks contained strong criticism of Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor, Birmingham, Alabama. O'Meara described Birmingham as a "police state" and specifically alleged that Connor's gestapo terrorized the Negro population and all who sought to befriend them.




94-1-658-489 encl. p. 2,3  
(11,29)

(37C)  
(B7C)  
(B2D)



105-66233-436 p. 1  
(15)

(37C)

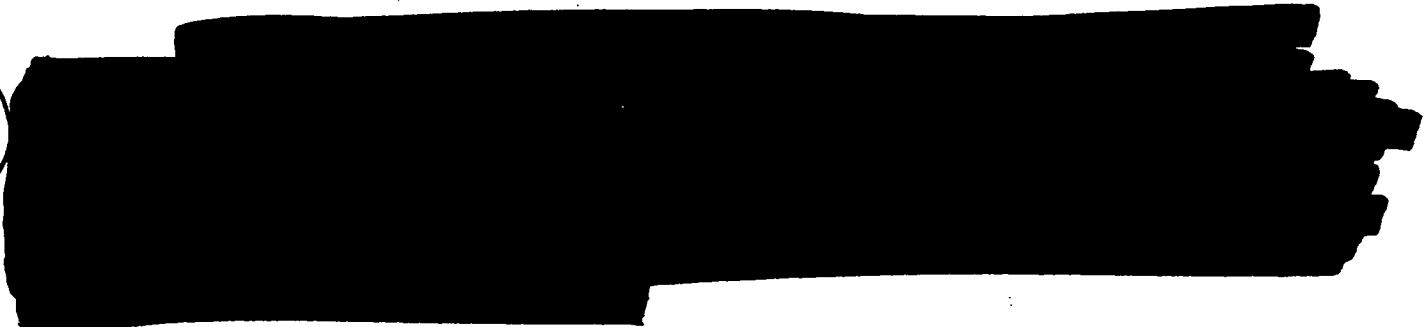
This reference is a letter dated 8/1/60 from Eugene "Bull" Connor, Commissioner of Public Safety, Birmingham, advising that  (1-9248) had accepted Mr. Hoover's invitation to attend the  Session of the FBI National Academy beginning 

1-9248-12 p. 1  
(2,22)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The 9/17/60 issue of the "Pittsburgh Courier" carried an article captioned "B'ham Cop Chiefs Hit With Suit". According to this article a suit had been filed against Police Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor by the Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth and the Reverend Charles Billips who sought to have the Birmingham police heads desist from sending officers to meetings held by the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (105-48948). The suit asked that officers be halted from intimidating the people. This organization was headed by the Reverend Shuttlesworth.

105-48948-A "Pittsburgh Courier"  
(38) ✓ 9/17/60



B7C  
B7D

Photostat enclosed  
100-7801-41-2 Encl. p. 10  
(30) ✓

The 11/15/60 issue of the "Birmingham News" carried an article captioned "Connor Flays Court, N.O. Integration" which was in regard to School Integration Matters, New Orleans (157-4-33). Connor was critical of the federal government and the Supreme Court decision concerning integration.

157-4-33-A "Birmingham News"  
(16,32) ✓ 11/15/60

The 12/6/60 issue of the "Montgomery Advertiser," Montgomery, Alabama, in an article captioned "Integration Ruling Gets Tight-Lipped Reception," stated that Birmingham City Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor who was also Alabama's Democratic National Committeeman, had stated that "as long as we've got segregation laws on the books in Birmingham, we're going to continue to enforce them. This is just another case of the Supreme Court meddling in our local affairs."

Clipping enclosed  
157-6-61-42 p. 1  
(18,33) ✓

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



On 2/17/61, Eugene Bull Connor, who was running for re-election as Police Commissioner, Birmingham, spoke at a meeting of the Jefferson County, Alabama, Citizens Council, in the interests of his candidacy.

62-33051-190K1 p. 1  
(15,31)

This reference, captioned "Freedom Ride-1961" (100-225892) set forth information concerning toll calls obtained pursuant to subpoena duces tecum served on Charles D. Price, General Commercial Manager of the Southern Bell Telephone Company, Birmingham, on 5/26/61, for defendants in injunction complaint in Birmingham. This information revealed

100-225892-385 p. 2,16,17,18  
(36)

5/3/61. This information was furnished by Birmingham report dated

52-76399-1 p. 1,9  
(4,23)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(B7D)

(B3)

(B7C)  
(B7D)

CONFIDENTIAL

An informant of the Birmingham Office (not identified) advised that

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

If was noted

B2C  
B2D

[REDACTED]

The above information was set out in Bureau memo dated 5/5/61.

62-33051-190X p. 1,2  
(7,26)✓

The Birmingham Office forwarded a copy of a letter addressed to Eugene (Bull) Connor, Police Commissioner, Birmingham, Alabama, which had been received by the "Birmingham News." This letter, signed "An organization dedicated to freedom" was postmarked at Washington, D.C. on 5/16/61 and accused Connor of failure to enforce the law with equality toward all races. This letter was critical of Connor concerning a racial incident which happened on 5/14/61.

The Birmingham Office recommended that no investigation be conducted.

Copy of letter enclosed  
9-0-4300 Encl. p. 1  
(2,23)✓  
SI 9-0-4305 p. 1  
(2,23)✓

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The following references contain information concerning the arrival of members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) at the Birmingham Bus Station on 5/14/61. Information was set out concerning the activities of Police Commissioner Eugene Connor in handling matters pertaining to this group, also known as Freedom Riders.

Connor was alleged to have encouraged members of the KKK to use violence against the Negroes when they arrived at the bus station, and he was reported to have stated that if a Klansman were arrested for so doing he would receive a light sentence.

On the morning of 5/14/61, a telegram was sent to Connor demanding protection for riders of the Greyhound Bus due to arrive in Birmingham at 11:00 A.M. that day. Later in the day the bus was burned at Anniston, Alabama before it reached Birmingham. Connor was reported to have remained at City Hall in Birmingham all day on 5/14/61.

REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

100-225892-232 encl. p. 1,2	<del>(14,30)</del>
-238 p. 1	<del>(30)</del>
157-227-43 p. 19,20	<del>(18,33)</del>
149-1684-32 p. 5	<del>(37)</del>
-84 p. 405,413,420,429,433,459	<del>(16,32)</del>

The following references contain information concerning ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ the arrival in Birmingham, on 5/17/61, of members of the National Non-Violent Freedom committee. Many of these individuals, also known as the "Freedom Riders," were arrested after their arrival at the Greyhound bus station and placed in the Birmingham jail. Information was set out concerning the activities of Eugene "Bull" Connor, as Police Commissioner, in handling this situation.

It was reported that at about midnight or early morning of 5/19/61, Connor released these individuals from jail and had them transported to the Alabama State line.

On 5/24/61, the Justice Department petitioned the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Alabama to include Connor and other Alabama public officials as defendants in a temporary injunction, previously obtained, which restrained certain organizations from interfering with the "Freedom Riders." Connor was charged with failing to provide police protection for persons traveling in interstate commerce through Birmingham, Alabama. At hearing held in the above court at Montgomery, Alabama, on 5/29/61-6/2/61, Connor was released from the injunction on termination of government testimony.

REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

157-373-5 p. 2	(19,33)
6 p. 1	(19,34)
7 p. 2	(19)
9 p. 2	(19,34)
71 p. 1	(34)
88 p. 1,2,3	(35)
175 p. 2	(34)
264 p. 1A,11,12	(19)
316 p. 1	(19,34)
341 p. 1,3	(19,36)
346 p. 4,6,7,13	(36)
-A "Birmingham Post-Herald," 5/30/61	(19)
100-225892-322 encl. p. 7,8	(14,30)

The Birmingham Office forwarded an article from the 6/27/61 issue of the "Birmingham Post-Herald" entitled "Connor Offers Southern 'Manifesto' Suggesting Old Laws Be Enforced." Also forwarded was an article from the 6/27/61 issue of the "Birmingham News" entitled "Connor Lashes RFK, Marshals". These articles were in regard to a speech made before the Alabama Sheriffs' and Peace Officers' Convention, at Birmingham on 6/26/61, by Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor.

(continued on next page)

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CONFIDENTIAL  
The "Post Herald" article reported that Connor said "that as long as Robert Kennedy is using the FBI to prosecute the peace officers of the city of Birmingham....they need not expect the PD of Birmingham to continue our policy of cooperation and assistance to them. If they have no confidence in us, it is just human nature that we have no confidence in them."

The Birmingham Office noted that the Birmingham PD had been cooperative with that office in the past, and that it was not known whether the statement made by Connor was a new policy. It was further noted that since the above mentioned speech, contact had been made with the Birmingham PD with respect to investigations in certain cases and that no indication was given that they would not cooperate with the Bureau.

Above articles enclosed  
94-1-651-319 p. 1, Encl. p. 1-4  
(11,28)

The 8/25/61 issue of the "Birmingham News" carried an article entitled "Connor Behind Bill Banning Rides" which stated that Birmingham's Commissioner Eugene Connor was the man back of the bill outlawing "freedom rides" in Alabama which was passed unanimously by the Alabama House and Senate, and signed into law on 8/25/61.

157-387-A "Birmingham News"  
(19) 8/25/61

The 9/9/61 issue of the "Birmingham News" carried an article entitled "Officials Fire Fast Denial at Charges" which stated that Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor denied charges that the Birmingham PD was guilty of brutality against Negroes. Connor stated he would welcome an investigation of these charges.


44-0-A "Birmingham News"  
(3,23) 9/9/61 p. 1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~


On 12/17/62, the SAC of the Birmingham Office met with Public Safety Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor and his top ranking officers concerning the progress in the case of the bombing of Bethel Baptist Church, Birmingham, on 12/14/62 (157-762). Connor stated that he wanted to do everything possible to solve this case and had ordered a sweeping inquiry to include both white and Negro suspects. He ordered his officers to fully explore the possibility that any individuals known to have been active in "KKK matters" might have had anything to do with the bombing.

157-762-89 Encl. p. 1,2,7  
(20,34)

The following references in the file captioned "Top Hoodlum Program" (62-9) contain detailed information concerning Eugene "Bull" Connor, Commissioner of Public Safety, Birmingham PD, during the period from 1958 to 1963.

The Birmingham Office advised that Connor had been cooperative with that office and had conducted extensive investigations concerning bombings in the Birmingham area. 

*3) per  
25*

 Information was furnished concerning accusations against Connor's character as well as accusations that he had stated to the operator of a club in Birmingham that he would be advised of the next raid on the club.

REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

62-9-4-63 p. 3,10,12,13  
-89 p. 14-17  
-91 p. 2  
-101 p. 1,2  
-173 p. 26-28

(4,23)  
(39,40)  
(4,23)  
(4,24)  
(4,24)

62-9-34-373 p. 215

(39,40)

(continued)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The above letter noted that there had been comments in the press that Connor would possibly run for Governor of Alabama in the next election.

62-33051-192 p. 1  
(7,26)

Page 5 of the 3/19/62 issue of the "South" published at Auburn, Alabama by the Alabama News Magazine, Incorporated, carried an article entitled "Gubernatorial Openers Mild But Promise Slugging Later". This article stated that during the previous week Eugene "Bull" Connor, candidate for governor of Alabama, spoke at a rally held in a down-town theater in Birmingham. In this speech, Connor promised to "sic the Highway Patrol on any and all federal marshalls sent into Alabama in connection with racial matters." Connor spoke favorably in regard to old-age pensions and the advancement of education.

Publications-Alphabetical Section,  
"South" 3/19/62, p. 5,6  
(2,22)

This reference is a press release by the Washington Capital News Service dated 1/17/62 which stated that Police Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor announced that day that he would run for Governor of Alabama in the 5/1/62 Democratic primary. He indicated that the race issue would be in the fore of his campaign. Connor, a strong segregationist, said in a statement that Alabama "needs a governor in the coming four years whom the people can trust completely on this (race) issue. One who they know will do everything that can be done to stop the slaughter of the rights of the states to make and enforce their own laws on local issues."

62-33051-A Washington Capital  
(7,26) News Service 1/17/62

(B7C)  
(B7D)

157-632-29 Encl. p. 1  
(20)

A "Washington Capital News Service" release, issued on 12/9/61, stated that on 12/8/61, a suit was filed in Circuit Court, Birmingham by Eugene Connor against the Columbia Broadcasting System, for libel over a race relations telecast. This television program, broadcast on 5/18/61, dealt with race relations in Birmingham. Connor asked for \$500,000 for alleged defamation which he had suffered as a result of the program.

CONFIDENTIAL

157-387-A Washington Capital News  
(19) Service- 12/9/61

The following references in the file captioned "Testing of Bus Facilities Subsequent to 11/1/61" (157-452) contain information concerning the arrest of Ralph R. Sizemore, manager of the lunch room of the Greyhound Bus Station, Birmingham, on 11/3/61.

Sizemore was arrested on orders of Police Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor for allowing whites and Negroes to eat together in the lunch room in violation of a Birmingham segregation ordinance.

On 12/14/61, the U.S. Attorney filed a petition in US District Court naming the City of Birmingham together with Connor and other officials as defendants and enjoined them to cease from making further arrests in such cases.

On 12/20/61, Connor gave a release to the newspapers stating the text of a letter he had written to President Kennedy requesting an interview. According to the news release the President ignored Connor's letter.

SERIAL

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

40 p. 1,2 (Director's notation)  
60 Encl. p. 1  
72 p. 1  
107 p. 1  
Sub A "Birmingham News" 12/20/61

(19,34)  
(20,34)  
(34)  
(20,34)  
(20)

By letter dated 10/17/61, the Birmingham Office advised that Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor had commented casually that he was considering running for Governor of Alabama in the 1962 election.

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CONFIDENTIAL



In October 1961, the Bureau was in contact with [REDACTED] Birmingham Police Department in connection with Civil Rights cases. [REDACTED] explained his reluctance in furnishing information from his files regarding these matters by stating that Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor had directed that such information or the Police Department files not be furnished to Bureau Agents in Civil Rights matters on a general basis. [REDACTED] explained that this policy had been brought about due to the fact that an increasing number of this type of case had arisen, and that it was the opinion of Connor that in practically all of these cases the complaints had been determined through investigation by the PD to be without foundation. [REDACTED] stated that it was Connor's opinion that many of these complaints had been instigated by Negro organizations such as the NAACP or the group led by Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth.

[REDACTED] advised that it was the policy of the PD under Connor's instructions to discourage officers in furnishing signed statements to Bureau Agents in view of the fact that the officers are in the position of any other defendants against whom offenses were charged or alleged by the Justice Department when an investigation was requested.

On 10/14/61, Connor [REDACTED] visited the Birmingham Office to offer assistance in a bank robbery investigation being conducted by the Birmingham Office. It was well known, however, that Connor was most outspoken against integration of the races.

It was noted by Agents in recent interviews with [REDACTED] in connection with Civil Rights matters that he had made statements indicating that Commissioner Connor had become more pronounced in his criticism of the FBI and the Justice Department in conducting Civil Rights investigations. It appeared that Connor's attitude may have resulted from injunction proceedings brought by the Justice Department against the Birmingham PD in connection with the "Freedom Riders" incident in Alabama.

44-18193-7 Encl. p. 1,2,3,7  
(4,23)

The 11/17/61 issue of the "Birmingham News" carried an article captioned "Connor Proposes Dixie 'Manifesto'". This article stated that Connor had proposed a "manifesto for Southerners," which in effect called for equal application of certain laws for both white and Negro. This manifesto called for the Negro to assume the responsibilities attendant on the social and political equality which the Negro demanded.

44-0-A "Birmingham News"  
(3) 11/17/61

37D



CONFIDENTIAL

157-370-368 Encl. p. 1  
(33)

The following references contain information concerning speeches given or scheduled to be given by Eugene "Bull" Connor before the following organizations, which were subjects of Bureau investigations. In 1956 Connor was a candidate for Birmingham City Commissioner and in the same year was elected delegate from Jefferson County, Alabama, to the National Democratic Convention. In 1961 he was a candidate for Birmingham Police Commissioner. Many of these speeches pertained to matters of segregation and appeared to be of a political nature in regard to his candidacy.

ORGANIZATION	DATE	REFERENCE	SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER
Chilton County Citizens Council, Jemison, Alabama	early 1956	105-46593-1 p. 1	(15,31)
Lincoln Citizens Council, Lincoln Alabama	Late January 1956	105-47274-1	(15,31)
Roebuck White Citizens Council Birmingham, Alabama	2/28/56	105-45093-2 p. 1,2	(15,31)
Citizens Council of Sylacauga, Alabama	3/2/56	105-45092-2 p. 2	(15,31)
Anniston Citizens Council, Anniston, Alabama	3/3/56	105-45103-2 p. 5	(31)
Citizens Council of Ashville, Alabama	3/8/56	105-45995-2 p. 1	(31)

(continued on next page)

CONFIDENTIAL

(continued)

ORGANIZATION	DATE	REFERENCE	SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER
Citizens Council of Bayview, Alabama	3/10/56	105-48121-1 p. 1,2	(15,31)✓
Coosa County Citizens Council, Vincent, Alabama	4/4/56	105-51293-2 p. 2,3	(15,31)✓
South Alabama Citizens Council (meeting held in Mobile, Alabama)	4/12/56	105-50596-3 p. 5	(15,31)✓
Coosa Valley Citizens Council, Vincent, Alabama	4/21/56	105-46429-2 p. 4	(31)✓
Citizens Council of North Birmingham, Alabama	5/4/56	105-45069-7 p. 2,3	(14,30)✓
Citizens Council of Linscomb, Alabama	September, 1956	105-45070-6 p. 1	(15)✓
Citizens Council of Montevallo, Alabama	9/18/56	105-46266-6 p. 1	(31)✓

The following references in the file captioned "Racial Conditions-Birmingham" set out information concerning the activities of Eugene "Bull" Connor, Birmingham Police Commissioner, in connection with racial matters.

SYNOPSIS OF INFORMATION

The 8/22/57 issue of the "Birmingham News," p. 1 carried an article entitled "Negroes Ask Mixed Schools" which stated that Connor, as Public Safety Commissioner, was automatically an ex-officio member of the school board and that he had said that the schools would not be integrated.

REFERENCE

100-135-4-216 Encl.  
p. 3

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

(12)✓

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