Mr. Coyne

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

September 6, 1955

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY COURIER SERVICE

Till, Emmett

Honorable Dillon Anderson
Special Assistant to the President
Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Anderson:

A confidential informant of the Chicago, Illinois, Office of this Bureau, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that Communist Party functionaries in Chicago have been conferring with Claude Lightfoot, Chairman of the Illinois-Indiana District, Communist Party, USA, and will launch a huge campaign protesting the killing of the 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy, Emmett Louis Till, whose body was found near Money, Mississippi, on August 28, 1955.

This campaign will take the form of statements and leaflets issued by the Communist Party, the Civil Rights Congress, and other Communist front groups. The Communist Party will also use its influence in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which has already been aroused over this slaying. The campaign will also involve letters, telegrams and statements to President Eisenhower demanding the firing of Attorney General Herbert Brownell for failure to enforce provisions of the United States Constitution in the State of Mississippi. The campaign will involve a scathing condemnation of police officials in the State of Mississippi and will be designed to show that full equality for all races does not exist in the United States.

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The informant also advised that this campaign is designed by the Communist Party for the purpose of rabble rousing. Indications are that the Negro people on the south side of Chicago are already aroused to a fever pitch over this incident.

This confidential informant advised that all leading members of the Communist Party in the Illinois-Indiana area are actively engaged in a campaign regarding this slaying and that 10,000 copies of a leaflet were to have been published and circulated on September 2, 1955, with 6,000 copies to have been distributed on the south side of Chicago.

Claude Lightfoot, according to this informant, was to have issued a statement to the press on September 2, 1955, condemning President Eisenhower, Attorney General Herbert Brownell and Federal and local police officials. The Communist Party will start propagandizing the Till slaying under slogans "Brownellism Must Go" and "Brownellism is Only McCarthyism in Disguise or with Legal Trimming."

The Communist Party is working and mobilizing for a huge mass meeting on the Till case and has planned to hold this meeting on the south side of Chicago, probably under the auspices of the Washington Park Forum. The informant advised that the Communist Party and its sympathizers were also in the process of contacting many Chicago ministers to ask them to make the Till slaying and the Mississippi civil rights situation the main topic of their sermons on September 4, 1955.

This informant also advised that the Civil Rights Congress issued a pamphlet on September 2, 1955, in which information was set forth that John T. Bernard, Chairman of the Civil Rights Congress of Illinois, had written President Eisenhower and Senator Thomas C. Hennings, Jr., Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, relative to this matter.

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In addition, Chicago newspapers of September 2, 1955, reflected that Mayor of Chicago Richard J. Daley had telegraphed President Eisenhower concerning this case. According to the confidential informant who furnished the information set forth above, pressure of the Negro communities on the south side of Chicago had influenced Daley to send this telegram to President Eisenhower.

The Civil Rights Congress has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The above is being furnished you for your information. Any additional pertinent information received relative to this matter will be furnished you promptly.

The Attorney General is being furnished the foregoing information.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

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