

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

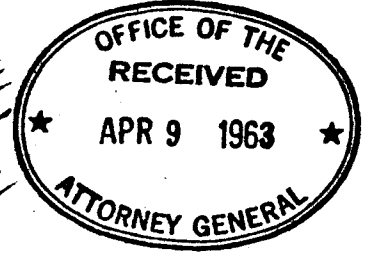
TO : Attorney General

DATE: April 9, 1963

FROM: *WAG* Wm. A. Geoghegan

SUBJECT: Greenwood, Mississippi
The Baldwin Piano Company

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file*



At the suggestion of Burke Marshall, I flew to Cincinnati last Thursday to confer with executives of the Baldwin Piano Company which has its home office there. Baldwin opened a plant in Greenwood, Mississippi within the past few years which now employs 600 persons, including 75 to 100 Negroes. This is the largest payroll in Greenwood.

While in Cincinnati, I conferred with Lucien Wulsin, Jr. and John Jordan, the Baldwin President and Vice President in charge of manufacturing. I have known Lucien Wulsin quite well for many years. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia Law School where he taught briefly after World War II. He was in private practice in Cincinnati for more than 10 years until he assumed his executive position with Baldwin. He is a liberal Republican. He demonstrated he can lean into the wind by becoming very active on behalf of Eisenhower prior to the 1952 Republican convention. To do this in Cincinnati, at a time when Senator Taft was straining for the nomination, took some courage. He and I were both aligned politically at the local level as members of the Charter party.

The Baldwin Piano Company has demonstrated a progressive point of view in hiring practices as indicated by the fact that responsible positions are held by Negroes. For example, one Negro engineer has eight or nine white engineers working under him.

Wulsin, Jordan and I discussed at length the current racial problems in Greenwood and what Baldwin could do to improve the situation. I have reported our discussion at some length to Burke Marshall and I shall only briefly summarize it here.

We agreed that the Baldwin people could be most effective by quietly encouraging the city officials, businessmen and civic leaders of Greenwood to confine their racial problems as much as possible within the framework of the judicial process. They are also going to urge these same community leaders to make known publicly that law and order will be maintained in Greenwood and LeFlore County at all times regardless of the outcome of any legal proceedings and to refrain from making statements which indicate anything to the contrary. The Baldwin people also said they would publicly compliment the city and county officials for reaching the settlement with the Government which was announced in Court last Thursday. Finally, they said they would encourage the community leaders to maintain open lines of communication with the Department of Justice officials at all times so that by discussion of the various problems which arise, solutions similar to that reached in Court Thursday can be achieved.

We agreed that my meeting with Wulsin and Jordan and any future contacts between Baldwin and the Department of Justice should be kept confidential. Wulsin and Jordan said they will keep in touch with the Department and provide us with any intelligence on racial problems which may be of interest.

I think it would be helpful if both you and Burke Marshall, or at least Burke, call Lucien Wulsin to thank him for meeting with me and for the willingness of his company to do what it can to minimize racial problems at Greenwood. Hereafter I think any contacts he has with the Department should be with either you or Burke, as you direct. His number in Cincinnati is Area Code 513, 721-7800.

cc: Burke Marshall
Mr. Katzenbach

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mississippi

TO : Burke Marshall
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DATE: May 4, 1963

FROM : *JD* John Doar
First Assistant

JD:lw

SUBJECT: Conversation with Provost Noyes, University of
Mississippi, re summer housing for James H. Meredith

Provost Noyes told me that Meredith is on the list of applicants for summer assignment to the student family housing. The assignments have not yet been made. There are more people on the list than there are rooms.

He described the situation as very touchy; a very difficult problem. He said there was tremendous feeling about it. He further said we are deeply concerned. He said we are trying to be extraordinarily careful to be sure that the Board complies with the court order and yet we don't want to be lynched, (I am not sure if I caught this word or not) in Mississippi. I asked him if the Chancellor was aware of the situation and the problem and he said he was, very much so.

The Chancellor is at a meeting in New York and can be reached at the University Club.

Noyes also told me that Meredith wrote a letter to the Editor of the Student Paper which he said that in view of all the letters to the Editor about him he had decided to add his own explanation of the controversy which was:

1. He chose to attend the University because he was interested in securing greater educational opportunities for himself and his people. He stated, I am concerned about the lack of adequate opportunities for Negroes.

2. I have little concern for the phenomena of integration or segregation.

3. What I want to know is what is everybody mad about.

4. I would like to ask whether you feel that Negroes have just as much right to hold jobs as doctors, lawyers, bankers, etc.

It is obviously a tempered letter.

3 January 1964

Professor Russell H. Barrett
Department of Political Science
The University of Mississippi
University, Mississippi

Dear Professor Barretts

Thank you for sending me the copies of your speech, and your letter to Congressman Bolling. I had seen reports of the speech in the press, but not the text.

The point about protection is the most difficult and frustrating we have to live with under the federal system. I say over and over again -- hundreds of times a year -- that we do not have a national police force, and cannot provide protection in a physical sense for everyone who is disliked because of the exercise of his constitutional rights. The marshals we have used are taken from duty in the service of papers, and the like, in many states. At most, I can round up maybe 100, for short-term duty. They are not police officers. They are not hired for that and we have no budget for it. Congress would never grant one.

In any event, if we learned anything in 1963, it is that no one can be fully protected.

There is no substitute under the federal system for the failure of local law enforcement responsibility. There is simply a vacuum, which can be filled only rarely.

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with extraordinary difficulty, at monumental expense,
and in a totally unsatisfactory fashion.

With high regard,

Burke Marshall
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Air Mail

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

*Miss.
file*

TO : Mr. Marshall

DATE: Dec. 12, 1962

FROM : *JJB* St. John Barrett

SJB:arg

SUBJECT: Oxford Riot

Congressman Williams is undoubtedly up to no good in asking for the names and addresses of the federal marshals. He may wish to give to his fellow Southern congressmen the names and addresses of those coming from their districts. He may wish to furnish the information to Citizens Council groups, or he may wish to make the information available (by way of congressional discovery) for use in the various pending lawsuits. My own view is that we should gracefully furnish the information he asks in the first instance. If there is a determined effort to obtaining it, either through Congressional Committee action or discovery in one of the pending lawsuits, it seems to me that the identities of the marshals will be eventually disclosed. Any effort to avoid their disclosure might be misconstrued as an effort to suppress the true facts, or to protect the marshals from the results of their "misconduct." I would hope that if disclosure would result in any reprisals the federal government would be able to deal with them.

I discussed this matter briefly with Mr. Guthman when I telephoned him regarding the list. His reaction was that the list of names should not be furnished.

Nick Katzenbach

*Miss.
file*

December 31, 1962

John Seigenthaler, Editor
The Nashville Tennessean
Nashville 1, Tennessee

Dear John:

I should acknowledge your note on Hazel Smith. One of my lawyers went to see her this week. She says she is in the hole around \$60,000. I do not believe we are talking about a short-term need; the problem must be faced in other terms.

We will see what we can do.

Whom have you appointed recently?

Best,

Burke Marshall