

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

## ROUTING SLIP

	DIVISION	BUILDING	ROOM
Mr. Marshall			
2.			
3.			
4.			

- ☐ SIGNATURE      ☐ COMMENT      ☐ PER CONVERSATION  
☐ APPROVAL      ☐ NECESSARY ACTION      ☐ AS REQUESTED  
☐ SEE ME      ☐ NOTE AND RETURN      ☐ NOTE AND FILE  
☐ RECOMMENDATION      ☐ CALL ME      ☐ YOUR INFORMATION  
☐ ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF \_\_\_\_\_

## REMARKS

August 17, 1964

1. I don't see why Bureau can't do No. 1.

2. As to tapping and mail tampering, we don't have any facts.

3. As to jamming, refer to FCC.

John

*Lead -  
You can file this.*

FROM:	NAME	BUILDING, ROOM, EXT.	DATE
			<i>[Signature]</i>

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Encl.

*John Doe:  
For advice,  
please -  
[Signature]*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 4, 1964


MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Department of Justice


There are some suggestions that Mr. Schwerner makes regarding the FBI that you may wish to consider before relaying to the Bureau. I am also sending a copy of the Schwerner letter to the Post Office Department and the FCC in order that they can look into aspects of his charges which involve their operations.

I have already acknowledged Mr. Schwerner's letter and do not believe it is necessary for anyone else to do so at this stage.

I would appreciate your reactions and suggestions as to what, if anything, should be done along the suggested lines.

  
Lee C. White  
Associate Special Counsel  
to the President

Encl.

*John Dan:*  
*For advice,*  
*please,*  


MR. AND MRS. NATHAN H. SCHWERNER  
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PELHAM, NEW YORK 10803  
(914) PE 8-3781

August 3, 1964

Lee C. White, Esq.  
Associate Special Counsel to  
the President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. White:

I should like to express my thanks for the time taken from your obviously pressing calendar last Thursday, the 30th. I am aware that the time consumed in our telephone conversation was far beyond your anticipation.

As you suggested, I am writing to confirm the gist of the points that the other parents of civil rights workers and I recommend for the serious consideration of the executive branch of our government.

These points are briefly:

One: That after a responsible report has been made to an FBI officer regarding the apparent arrest of a civil rights worker or that one such is unaccountably missing, and after the field agents have located such person and have so advised the field officer, that the FBI agent-in-charge, or a member of his staff, be specifically directed to convey such information back to the civil rights office initiating the investigation for the missing worker.

With regard to this matter, the concern of the parents is obvious. There have been instances when workers have been missing for many hours, their whereabouts apparently ascertained by a federal official, but no word sent to the civil rights agency or to the parents, for some period of time, at least. This creates tensions and fears which, if the facts were to be divulged promptly, would appear to be imposed needlessly. Furthermore, the result is to immobilize an indefinite number of the civil rights workers involved in searching, telephoning, etc. - a result which can be desirable only to the opponents of the government's avowed desire to foster voter registration, the expansion of education, and the other manifold facets of implementation of President Johnson's Civil Rights Program.

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Two: That there is every indication that telephone lines emanating from COFO headquarters everywhere in Mississippi are being tapped constantly. I am certain, as you agreed, that this is in direct violation of federal law and should be a subject for federal prosecution.

Three: That much of the mail sent to functionaries of COFO, especially mail sent special delivery and/or registered and/or certified, has been opened before delivery to the addressee. This is clearly, if provable, a violation of federal law which should be prosecuted.

Four: That although the installation of two-way radios in the cars of civil rights workers is a recent innovation, there have already been reports of "jamming" which, I am informed, is also a violation of federal law which should be prosecuted.

You suggested that I briefly document the foregoing so far as possible. Unfortunately, time has not permitted this in any detail for two reasons: I hesitate even to telephone people in Mississippi because this would entail divulging to the segregationists (through wire tapping) some of these subjects; further, Mrs. Schwerner and I are leaving New York for a much needed rest of a week or so, starting tomorrow.

However, there are a number of things that may well be pointed out:

In conversation with Mickey and Rita, during their brief visit North over one weekend in the Spring, they enjoined us from sending any but ordinary airmail. They indicated that registered and special delivery mail previously sent had invariably been opened. They also told us of wiretapping on telephones being so blatant that when they called Jackson from the Meridian community center, the overtones were so great that they would yell out requesting the tapper at either Meridian or Jackson to cut off, so that the other tapper might hear what they had to say. Another indication of interference with telephone communications is:

" WATS REPORT: WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1964

Monday night a policeman told Prince Shannon, Negro, Helena, that whites don't allow Negroes in their neighborhoods, and he didn't see why Negroes should allow



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whites in theirs (meaning Siegel). He said that they could run the SNCC people out of town and the police wouldn't do anything about it, and said that if the SNCCs tried to phone for help that he would see that their calls didn't get through."

With regard to jamming of radios, an example as recent as last Friday, the 31st, is in the following report:

"WATS REPORT: FRIDAY, JULY 31, 1964

Greenwood: Richardson and Mitchell

At 11:30 am three workers were arrested in Greenwood. Two new cars with temporary Tennessee tags were stopped by police two blocks from the office on their way to Memphis. The drivers, Silas McGee, Greenwood, and John Paul, 21, Ossining, New York, were arrested for violation of the Mississippi Code 9352-24 (relating to cars with temporary licenses). Bond for the two is \$50 each. Monroe Sharp, who was operating the citizen's band radio in McGee's car, reporting the arrests to the office, was arrested for resisting arrest, bond \$100. (Sharp is from Chicago). Greenwood called the Memphis FBI since Tenn. licenses are involved and because they believe that someone may be jamming their radios. The people in the cars weren't able to hear the office calling them, but the office could hear them. The jamming might be coming from the fire station. If we can prove it we'll contact the FCC."

We parents respectfully urge upon your office the following:

Regarding Point One: That a directive be issued requesting the FBI agent-in-charge to advise the initiators of call as soon as the whereabouts of a reportedly missing civil rights worker are ascertained.

Regarding Point Two: That the Post Office Department arrange an investigation to lay the groundwork for prosecution. Such an investigation might well be implemented by the preparation, in New York, of registered and/or special delivery mail (for example, on my stationery directed to Rita at Meridian or

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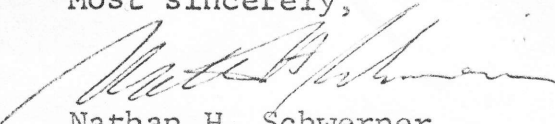
Jackson - or that of some other known person directed to a functionary of COFO) and that such mail be turned over to a designated postal inspector to be followed to its destination. It is our opinion that such a technique, leading to a prosecution with a strong probability of conviction of federal crime, would act as a greater deterrent than a general directive to the Post Office Department.

Regarding Points Three and Four: We urge that the FBI, or other federal agency (perhaps the FCC) be directed to investigate these matters by providing technicians who could man the instruments involved and determine beyond a doubt, not only the facts of wiretapping and radio-jamming, but the sources as well, with an eye to federal prosecution.

Finally, I add a further word regarding documentation. We are certain that federal agents, on the scene in Jackson and near other COFO headquarters, can readily be given testimony by responsible staff workers, of instances of all the violations indicated. From here we hesitate to write or telephone due to possible leakage of the purposes for the inquiries.

Again, I wish to thank you for your time and for your assurances, as a result of which I have absolutely no doubt that every effort is being made to resolve the mystery of the disappearance of the three young men. And, if it is not presumptuous, may I ask you to convey to President Johnson my deep conviction that he is doing everything possible in this matter and my utmost appreciation for those efforts.

Most sincerely,



Nathan H. Schwerner