

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (100-138754)

DATE: 8-1-68

FROM : SAC, Cleveland (157-1471)

SUBJECT: *CDC*  
*Jaw*  
MOTION PICTURE ENTITLED "UP TIGHT"  
COMINFIL-MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY  
RACIAL MATTERS

Reference Bureau airtel dated 7-24-68.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies, and for Los Angeles 2 copies, of an LHM which is self-explanatory.

Sources used in the LHM are as follows:

First Source:

[Redacted]

(By request)

Second Source:

[Redacted]

(By request)

Third Source:

[Redacted]

Fourth Source:

[Redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7D

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/16/87 BY  
5/28/93

ENC. BEHIND FILE

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 12) (RM)
- 2 - Los Angeles (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 2 - Cleveland

REK:bn

(6) AGENCY: CRD, ISD, IIV, ~~RAO~~, CD,

ACSI, OSI, JS

HOW FORW: *R/S*

DATE FORW: *AUG 8 1968*

BY: *SET. G/15* *Stent*

Room 836

9 & D

REC- 51

10 AUG 5 1968

RACIAL INT. SECT.

SEE FOR USE SIDE FOR  
DISSEMINATION.

EXP. PROC.

*2 A.M. 8/1/68*

*6/15/68*



51 AUG 22 1968

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan


Re: MOTION PICTURE ENTITLED  
"UP TIGHT"



and current member of the Negro Industrial Economic Union (NIEU). Brown wanted it made in Cleveland so as to provide part-time employment for as many Black Nationalist youth as possible. Since one of the purposes of making this movie in Cleveland was to provide employment for as many Black Nationalists as possible, Dassin saw to it that as many Black Nationalist youth as possible were hired. These Black Nationalist youth actually worked as required, for their pay, and this did not appear to be a case of paying them so as to keep peace, or paying for protection. Source further stated that he has no information indicating that this money received from Paramount was used to purchase guns.


This third source continued, saying that he subsequently learned that when the trouble occurred on the night of June 4, 1968, it was caused by a rival Black Nationalist group which intended to boycott the making of this film and threatened trouble because they too wanted some of this part-time work. This angered Dassin, since he was doing what he could for the Negroes; also, the cameramen threatened to walk off the job because they did not want their cameras damaged. Dassin countered this attempted boycott by simply pointing out that there was no need for him to take any more pictures in this area, for he could finish the film in California. Source stated that actually Dassin did quit shooting film in this area, but took a few additional shots in other areas of Cleveland, still using the original Black Nationalist group as part of the cast. Dassin then left Cleveland to finish the film elsewhere.

This third source stated that he would estimate that about 90 percent of those involved in the production of this movie were opposed to it, for they felt that it would incite the Negroes to riot. However, Jim Brown, and Dassin too, reportedly saw this movie as a means for the Negroes to "get back at the white people." Source noted that one of the Negroes hired as an extra was Fred Ahmed Evans, a Black Nationalist who was arrested on July 24, 1968, in connection with rioting in Cleveland on July 23-24, 1968, in which ten persons were killed. Evans was charged with possession of marijuana, possession of firearms, and with the murder of three Cleveland policemen killed that day.



Re: MOTION PICTURE ENTITLED  
"UP TIGHT"



under the budget item of "location rentals." Source estimated as much as \$50,000 may have been paid, and expressed the opinion that some of this money was being used to buy guns. Source did not detail the basis for his opinion. This second source identified  as being a Black Nationalist.

b6  
b7C


An article in the June 5, 1968, issue of "The Cleveland Press," a daily newspaper circulated in the Cleveland, Ohio, area, carried the heading, "Producer Sees Mayor After Film Interruption," and stated in part, "Motion picture producer Jules Dassin today met with Mayor Stokes to discuss an interruption in the filming of a motion picture by a group of Negro Militants..." A spokesman for Paramount said the militants were "kids" who got in the way of the camera and halted production. He described the incident as minor. "The Black Nationalists have been working with us," the spokesman said, "and there had been no trouble from any organization."

A third source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on June 5, 1968, that he learned that Paramount Pictures had been shooting scenes during the night and early morning hours of a movie entitled, "Up Tight." This was in the East 86 Street and Wade Park area, a Negro section of Cleveland, and at 9:00 PM on the evening of June 4, 1968, a group of 18 Black Nationalists marched down Wade Park Avenue carrying a Black Nationalist flag. They approached the film crew, demanded that production be stopped, and also demanded that a Cleveland policeman who had a "moonlight" job with this film crew, be fired. Film Director Jules Dassin stopped production, took down the sets, and quit for the night. The next day Dassin went to City Hall and demanded additional protection from Cleveland Mayor Carl Stokes. This third source stated that he did not know why the Black Nationalists were protesting since Paramount Pictures had hired a large number of them as extras in the group scenes.

This third source advised additionally as follows on July 30, 1968:

This movie was made in Cleveland largely through the influence of Jim Brown, former Cleveland Browns football player,

MEMBER OF NEGRO INDUSTRIAL BROTHERHOOD  
Union





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Cleveland, Ohio  
August 1, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

MOTION PICTURE ENTITLED "UP TIGHT"

A source, who holds a responsible position in the motion picture industry and who is in an excellent position to have first hand information on the following facts, advised on May 22, 1968, that Paramount Pictures, Inc., is now owned by Gulf and Western Industries. Mr. Charles Bluhdorn, head of Gulf and Western Industries, recently arranged for Jules Dassin to produce a picture based upon the book, "The Informer," the picture to be entitled, "Betrayal." (The title of the picture was subsequently changed to "Up Tight"). Dassin was to be the Director of this picture and to have complete control of it. (See characterization of Jules Dassin on page 27 of this letter).

b6  
b7C

Source stated that the picture involves the Negro neighborhood and Negro activities in Cleveland, Ohio, and portrays two distinct groups of Negroes, being the militant and violent type as compared to the peaceful group, both groups attempting to obtain civil rights for Negroes through their respective means. The picture starts with the militant violent group stealing guns and ammunition from gun shops, and the implication is that this stealing is condoned. The picture ends with the principal character, Tank, who is connected with the militant group, walking across a bridge at a steel company, jumping off, and committing suicide. Source said that the obvious conclusion one draws from the ending is that the racial

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/4/87 BY

5/28/97

DECLASSIFIED BY 2240

ON 8/5/77

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) 8/5/77

DATE 11/2/77

ENCLOSURE

100-138754-1772