

REPORT MADE AT New York City	DATE WHEN MADE 1/18/2	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/13 to 18 incl. Morning
TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE In re: U. S. vs Black Star Line, Inc. Vio. Sec. 215, USCC, Using the Mails to Defraud Negro Activities.		
FACTS DEVELOPED <p>Following the arrest of Marcus Garvey on 12th inst., several persons were asked to appear, the following day at Room 214, Post Office Building. On that date Garcia, Thompson, Jones, Tote, and Tobias put in appearances and signified their willingness both to Post Office Inspector Williamson and the writer, to make voluntary statements. The first three named were then questioned, and copies of their statements are attached to this report.</p> <p>On the 14th inst. James D. Brooks presented himself voluntarily and gave a statement, copy of which is also attached.</p> <p>On January 16th Tote and Tobias returned to the Post Office Building and were questioned. Brooks again appeared in company with Hubert Harrison, stating that the latter desired to make a statement. Copies of the statements obtained from these persons are attached. On this date Inspector Williamson returned to Pittsburgh, stating that he would return early next week when the case would be presented to the Grand Jury. During his absence, and upon suggestion of Asst. U.S. Attorney Joyce, the writer has made an investigation of the purchase of the Black Star Line's various ships. The information regarding this feature is being incorporated into a separate report.</p>		
REFERENCE	COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO Washington (3) New York (2)	

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION  
JAN 21 1922  
D. VIBURN

67-50-3  
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MJD:MJD

JAN 26 1922

- A. I had accepted the offer of a ship called the "Hongkong".
- Q. About when was that?
- A. I think that was also during March.
- Q. Where was that ship during that time?
- A. In Hongkong.
- Q. It was owned by the Shipping Board?
- A. No sir, it was owned by Parquette Bros., Marseilles, France.
- Q. Who were their brokers here?
- A. I do not know.
- Q. With whom did you negotiate?
- A. The New York Ship Exchange.
- Q. Were you successful in that deal?
- A. They could not deliver. We were not successful.
- Q. When did you first learn you would not be successful?
- A. Early in April.
- Q. And then what step did you take?
- A. They substituted then the "Orion", owned by the Emergency Fleet Corporation.
- Q. Where was the Orion?
- A. James River, Norfolk, Va.
- Q. Did you go down and inspect the ship?
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. In the James River?
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. And you continued negotiations?
- A. Yes, we closed on that.
- Q. You did not succeed in getting the ship?
- A. Yes. It was finally sold to the Black Star Line.
- Q. You mean to say delivery was effected?
- A. Delivery was not effected, pending certain papers from the Govt.
- Q. You never got possession of the ship?
- A. No sir.
- Q. When did you learn first that you could not get possession of the ship?
- A. We have not learned that yet. The ship is still there.
- Q. You put up a certain sum of money?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How much?
- A. We gave our broker \$25,000.
- Q. When?
- A. I think that was in April, to my best memory.
- Q. They still have your money?
- A. The Shipping Board has it - \$22,500.
- Q. Now, as a matter of fact, your bank balance at the present time would not justify the purchase of that ship for \$225,000, would it?
- A. The board has all of the money they asked for and we did not have to make another payment until thirty days after.
- Q. And what is the payment then?
- A. Ten percent - another \$22,500. <sup>had</sup>
- Q. And as a matter of fact you haven't a balance of \$20,000 this year?
- A. I do not know.

- Q. And isn't the difficulty with the whole proposition that you haven't got sufficient money to swing the deal?
- A. The difficulty is this, as I see it. The people are disappointed at the purchase of the Yarmouth, Kanawha and Shadyside, and money was no object in purchasing shares to procure a proper ship, as they were interested in going to Africa.
- Q. Do you mean by that that the people were disappointed in the ships already in control of the Black Star Line and were willing to advance money for another experiment?
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. Do you know of anybody connected with the Black Star Line who ever had any experience in handling of ships, or navigation of ships.
- A. I have had some experience.
- Q. Are you the only man who has had any?
- A. No, there is Captain Mulsae (?)
- Q. Is he a member of the Black Star Line - an officer or director?
- A. No sir, he is a Captain.
- Q. Is there anybody, any officer or director in the Black Star Line with experience in the handling of ships?
- A. None beside me.
- Q. What experience have you had?
- A. I have worked with a shipping company before in British Guiana.
- Q. What did you do there?
- A. Worked in the office.
- Q. As an employe in the office of a shipping company?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What were your duties?
- A. To note the going and handling of freight.
- Q. A clerk?
- A. Yes sir. Perhaps I might state here that when I found myself in this position with the Black Star Line I said it would not do to try to handle ships in this way. So I came down and appointed a regular ship broker, a loading agent, a man who handles ships. He has a contract to handle our ships.
- Q. You did not have any ships at that time on the sea?
- A. No, I was negotiating for this ship and did not want it to pass through the same career, so I appointed D. F. Leary & Co., 45 Pearl Street.
- Q. As loading agents?
- A. Well, managing the ship.

Statement by Thompson:

The point in the whole issue as to the Orion is that the Shipping Board until recently was not able to get the exact terms under which we could get the Orion. That is to say, unable to agree until recently on the form of contract under which we could get possession of the ship. The Shipping Board did, on the 21st of December last, agree on this form, and the thing now to be determined is our ability to meet the Government's terms. Mr. Julius Wolf of 2 Rector Street, of Wolf & Stephanie, were to buy this ship for us according to our tentative plans, and we are to deal directly with them hereafter and not with the shipping Board or any other agent of the Board. Joseph P. Nolan of 25 Broad Street is the attorney for the Black Star Line in these negotiations.

- Q. This is the ship that was to be named the "Phyllis Wheatley?"  
A. Yes sir.
- Q. Do you know that a ship was photographed and that the name "Phyllis Wheatley" was photographed on the ship and reproduction made of it in a circular used by the Black Star Line in selling stock?  
A. Yes but it was withdrawn because the brokers did not deliver the ship on the 25th of May.
- Q. You mean the circular was withdrawn?  
A. Yes.
- Q. Who caused that to be withdrawn?  
A. Mr. Garcia and myself.
- Q. You and Mr. Garcia went to Garvey?  
A. He was out of the country. We did it ourselves.
- Q. Who was responsible for that circular having been printed?  
A. I was connected with it. Mr. Garcia and I got it out.
- Q. Who prepared the cut of the ship?  
A. Mr. Garcia drew it up.
- Q. How did you arrange to have that name "Phyllis Wheatley" photographed on the ship?  
A. After I went down and saw the ship and the broker said the deal was closed, he gave me a photograph of the ship. I gave it to Garcia.
- Q. How did you get that name Phyllis Wheatley on the ship?  
A. Where it had "Orion", that was marked in by the photographer.
- Q. What photographer?  
A. No, by the engravers that made the cut.
- Q. What engravers?  
A. The Standard Engraving Company.
- Q. Where are they located?  
A. 38th Street near 7th Avenue.
- Q. So that is really a picture of the "Orion"?  
A. Yes.
- Q. Where did you get the picture of the "Orion"?  
A. From the broker.
- Q. Did Mr. Garvey have knowledge that this circular was being used?  
A. He was out of the United States.
- Q. Only you and Mr. Garcia?  
A. Yes sir.
- Q. Was he out of the country during the entire time that circular was used?  
A. Yes sir.
- Q. Was he out of the country May 21st, 1921?  
A. Yes sir.
- Q. Over what period of time did you use the circular?  
A. It only went out in one sending out and then after we found out that the new board did not pass on the contract, we withdrew it. So about two weeks. We had a mailing list and then it was called in.
- Q. As a matter of fact that same cut was used on more than one circular?

- A. I do not know of any other.
- Q. I show you a circular headed 'BLACK STAR LINE' carrying a picture of what purports to be the "Phyllis Wheatley". That went out through the mails?
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. I now show you a circular headed "HOW IN AMERICA S/S PHYLIS WHEATLEY" apparently printed before May 25, 1921. Isn't that the same cut?
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. Are you responsible for the printing of that circular?
- A. I do not recall it but I know I gave the information regarding the accommodation of the boat. I do not remember this circular at all.
- Q. As a matter of fact you have the name "Phyllis Wheatley" here, you have the picture of the "Orion" here with the name "Phyllis Wheatley" written on it, and you have below a description of the "Hongkong", have you not?
- A. This is the "Phyllis Wheatley".
- A. The information as to capacity, accommodations, etc., are of the "Orion" and not the "Hongkong".
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. As a matter of fact, that cut has been used for more than one mailing before?
- A. This was not mailed (indicating second circular). It was used in Liberty Hall.
- Q. Did you begin negotiating for a ship before or after the failure of the Yarmouth, the Kanaha and the Shadyside?
- A. It was after.
- Q. You regard these three ships as failures?
- A. Yes, I do.
- Q. And the investment in them has virtually been a total loss?
- A. From a material viewpoint I should say -- of course at the time I started negotiations for the African ship I did not think the Kanaha a total loss.
- Q. You understand that these brokers sold them to you at enormously appreciated prices?
- A. Yes.
- Q. For example, the Shadyside, purchased at some three or four thousand dollars, was sold to your company for \$34,000?
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. And the Kanaha, worth possibly ten thousand dollars, was sold to your company at \$69,000?
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. And the Yarmouth, sold to your company for \$168,000, had been purchased by the brokers for how much?
- A. They paid a good price for her but they knew her condition. They made their money with one trip.
- Q. She was in bad condition? One boiler out of commission?
- A. Yes, that is what I heard.
- Q. With those ships as a total loss you have as assets to show for the \$750,000 taken in, first, an equity in the property at 52-54-56 West 135 St. valued possibly at \$9,000 or \$10,000?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Then you have in addition the good will of the Black Star Line and a very small bank account.
- A. Yes.

- Q. Can you think of anything else that you have as an asset?
- A. Furniture, fixtures, a truck, and small items of that sort.
- Q. I notice that this company advertised that it was being run by experienced business men. Do you regard that as a correct statement?
- A. I do.
- Q. That is to say, they were experienced men in the ship business?
- A. I can hardly put it that way when the statement was made, for this reason, that the men ~~were~~ who were conducting the business, if they did not have the experience on the premises, paid for the experience outside; that is, they had enough business training to go out and get ship managers.
- Q. They were to hire the experienced men?
- A. Yes. For instance, I have had some business training, so have Garcia and Smith, and we decided that the proper thing to do was to get some ship managers to look after the company's ships.
- Q. There being no one in the company who had had enough experience?
- A. Yes, that is the way we looked at it.
- Q. What is your telephone number, Mr. Thompson?
- A. Earlem 6914.
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STATEMENT OF ELIE GARCIA

Present: O. B. Williamson, Post Office Inspector,  
T. P. Merrilies, Expert Bank Accountant,  
J. W. Gardener, " " "  
M. J. Davis, Special Agent, Bureau of Invest.

Stenographic minutes by M. J. Davis, " " "

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By Mr. Williamson:

- Q. What is your full name?  
A. Elie Garcia  
Q. And you live at?  
A. 2423 Seventh Avenue, New York City.  
Q. What is your connection with the Black Star Line, Inc.?  
A. Secretary.  
Q. How long have you been Secretary?  
A. Since September, 1920. I was elected in August, but I was in England at that time and I was not notified until I returned.  
Q. Did you have any official connection with the Line prior to your election as Secretary?  
A. No official connection. I was working as salesman.  
Q. Selling the stock?  
A. Yes, in Philadelphia.  
Q. How long had you been selling the stock before your appointment as Secretary?  
A. About a month after the date of the corporation - from August, 1919.  
Q. So that you have had some connection with this Company since August, either as salesman or official of the company?  
A. Yes sir.  
Q. Under whose direction were you working as salesman?  
A. Under Direction of the President.  
Q. Who was he?  
A. Marcus Garvey.  
Q. Now, have you any connection with the Universal Negro Improvement Association?  
A. Yes sir.  
Q. What is it?  
A. Auditor of the U.N.I.A.  
Q. When were you appointed Auditor?  
A. I was elected in August, 1920. ~~Prior to that time~~  
Q. Prior to that time what connection did you have with that Association?  
A. I was Secretary of the local branch of the U.N.I.A. in Philadelphia.  
Q. For how long a time approximately?  
A. From June, 1919, to April, 1920. I was Secretary of the Philadelphia division.

- Q. Were you working under the direction of Garvey in that position?
- A. Yes. It is only a branch of the same association here in New York.
- Q. Are you a citizen of the United States?
- A. No sir.
- Q. Of what country are you a citizen?
- A. Hayti.
- Q. Let us talk about the Black Star Line first. Who has a contract for selling the stock?
- A. The company disposes of its own stock.
- Q. Does the company receive any reimbursement for the sale of the stock, any percentage?
- A. No.
- Q. Does any percentage go to anyone?
- A. We use a large number of salesmen from the office and send them out. We pay them a salary, in that we do not have agents only selling stock, we have them also doing office work and we pay a weekly salary and sometimes three percent. We have never paid any more than three percent, and merely as an incentive.
- Q. What is the salary average of the stock salesmen?
- A. From seventeen to twenty-two dollars a week. But they never get a salary just for selling stock. Most of the salesmen are clerks in the office. The company has been disposing of its stock in a special way, that is, by campaigns, - drives. Whenever a drive is on for the sale of a certain number of shares, we have branches in various cities; we inform these branches that salesmen from the office will be at their meetings to sell stock and we make a campaign for one or two months in the branches.
- Q. Who finances these meetings?
- A. The U. N. I. A.
- Q. About how many shares have you disposed of?
- A. I would say about 160,000, of course more or less. About \$750,000 or \$850,000 worth.
- Q. You have received that much?
- A. Yes, about that much.
- Q. All told?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What salary does Mr. Garvey receive?
- A. From the Black Star Line?
- Q. Yes?
- A. He does not receive any.
- Q. From the Line-----?
- A. That is, from the date of his election as President of the U. N. I. A. he had a salary of \$100 a week before 1920; That was \$400 a month, but at the time he was elected as President of the U.N.I.A. the condition was that all of us who would have offices in both organizations should receive salaries from one or the other, not from both.
- Q. Then what is Mr. Garvey's salary from the U. N. I. A.?
- A. I believe it is \$10,000 a year.



- Q. And when was that first authorized?
- A. It was authorized at the convention held in August, 1920, through the various delegates forming the association.
- Q. In addition to the salary, who pays Mr. Garvey's expenses when he conducts these drives?
- A. His personal expenses?
- Q. Yes?
- A. He pays them. But expenses such as travelling, railroad fare and his board when he goes in the interests of the association, the association pays; that is, the governing body of the association, which is called the Executive Council, has voted that the expenses of any officers, including Mr. Garvey, should not go above \$5 a day for board and lodging. So the officers are entitled to at least an allowance of \$5 a day but it is understood that they are not to charge the entire \$5 because they submit their vouchers; but that is the maximum allowance.
- Q. Are you paid by the Line or the Association?
- A. By the Association.
- Q. How much?
- A. Five Thousand dollars (\$5,000) a year.
- Q. How long have you been receiving that salary?
- A. Since August, 1920;
- Q. And you are paid your expenses also?
- A. Yes, but I never travel. My duties call for me to stay in the office all the time. The only time I go out is when something happens in the branches and they send me to make an audit. They they pay my expenses.
- Q. Who is the next highest paid officer?
- A. There are many. There are sixteen officers forming the Council, which they call the officials of the organization.
- Q. And each receive how much?
- A. Each receives a salary from \$3,000 to \$6,000. Not above that.
- Q. Who receives \$6,000 per year?
- A. The Secretary General.
- Q. Who is he?
- A. Mr. Toote.
- Q. Who else receives \$5,000 a year?
- A. The Counsel General.
- Q. Who is he?
- A. Mr. Wilford H. Smith, an attorney.
- Q. Who else receives \$6,000?
- A. I believe the chancellor.
- Q. That is Mr. Stewart?
- A. Yes, Mr. Stewart. And that is all.
- Q. So that you have three men receiving \$6,000 a year, you yourself receive \$5,000, and Mr. Garvey receives \$10,000?
- A. Yes. I want to make this explanation. These are the salaries voted at the convention at the time of our election but as you will find we have not been drawing these salaries all the time because after the salaries were voted - they voted a salary which was to be in

keeping with the dignity of the office - but it was to be understood that if the organization was not financially strong to pay this salary we were to get whatever we could.

Q. But still the Company would then owe you the difference, payable at some future time if you desired to collect?

A. No, because you will find after the convention of 1920 it was said we were to take office sixty days after that. Sixty days after, when we met for the first time, and report of the financial conditions was read, we voted the two first months' salary to the Association and after that in the future we decided ourselves to make other gifts to the Association because things were not so that we could get our salaries. You will find that since the month of September we have not been paid our salaries.

Q. Little short of cash?

A. Yes, on account of that boat that we have -----

Q. Your first ship was the "Yarmouth"?

A. Yes.

Q. When did you get possession of the "Yarmouth" - I mean your company?

A. As far as I can remember, the Black Star Line presented - as far as I know because I was not officially connected - on the 31st of October, 1920.

Q. What kind of a title did you get?

A. I could not say. I was not in the office.

Q. What did you pay down on the ship?

A. I do not know, but I have found that from the books afterwards that on the 31st of October there was about seventy or eighty thousand dollars (\$70,000 or \$80,000) paid.

Q. On the ship?

A. Yes, there was \$50,000 in one payment and \$10,000 checks in another payment, and maybe some other money.

Q. Paid to whom?

A. From whom we bought the ship - I think Harriss, McGill & Co.

Q. You were to pay a balance?

A. We were to pay the balance in notes of \$7,000 or something like that, in so many notes of equal value, to be paid monthly or every three months.

Q. So that the ship was to cost in all --?

A. \$168,000.

Q. How much was paid in all?

A. Up to this time, as far as I know, there is a balance of about \$26,000 which is still due.

Q. Who has the title for that ship now?

A. The titles, I believe, are in Canada.

Q. In the name of what company or individual?

A. In the name of the Black Star Line, I suppose.

Q. But you have not control of the ship?

A. Yes.

Q. Where is the ship?

A. The last information was in Staten Island - Morse Dry Docks.

Q. You told me in Mr. Carvey's presence the other day that you had lost title to the ship by default in payments?

A. Did I say that?

A. That is my understanding?

A. No, maybe you asked for the title.

Q. You said the titles were in the name of some person in Canada?

A. I could not say that because I never saw the titles. I asked for them several times, and three weeks ago I received a letter from the Department of Commerce in Canada asking me to send the titles for the Yarmouth to be registered. I asked Mr. Thompson about the title. He said he believed Mr. Nolan, our attorney, has them. I asked Carvey, but he said he did not know; Mr. Thompson should have them, so I went down personally to see Mr. Nolan in his office. He told me that at the time we bought the "Yarmouth" it was a British ship and there was a mortgage to be recorded in Canada and the title was to go along with the mortgage but on account of some formalities not being complied with this has never been done. The mortgage has never been recorded and the title is in the hands of some attorneys.

Q. What is the amount of that mortgage?

A. The mortgage was - I do not know, but I believe for the amount due on the boat.

Q. After that difficulty you had with Capt. Cockburn, libels were filed against your company to the amount of some \$200,000? You also told me that the other day?

A. As far as I can remember there was a libel for \$52,000 by the Green River Company for short delivery of cargo for 400 cases of whiskey.

Q. But that is not the only libel?

A. There was a libel from Cockburn; there was another from the Government for collision, and other things. These were previous to my taking of office and these matters have never been brought to me because they were disposed of before in the hands of the attorneys.

Q. (Mr. Williamson reading from ledger) What do you mean by that entry on page 72 of your ledger, dated July 1, 1920?

A. You may find details of it in the journal. After we bought the "Yarmouth" for \$168,000 we made some improvements on the ship that amounted to \$32,000 or \$33,000, and the man who made it was ----- it was a firm Simonoff, Peyser & Citrin, #1 Madison Avenue. This firm also made out our income tax report.

Q. Do you understand that you have an asset in the "Yarmouth" of \$200,000?

A. Yes, I understand so.

Q. How do you make that out?

A. Well, I understand that this is the book value of the ship - the purchase price of the ship and what we spent on it. But there are some charges against that. It also appears in the ledger.

Q. Charges amounting to how much?

A. (reading from tax statement) Mortgage payable \$116,000. 31

- A. (continued) There is a large sum there charged against the "Yarmouth".
- Q. Now, Mr. Garcia, let us clear up the "Yarmouth" matter. The price was to be --
- A. \$168,000.
- Q. Your initial payment was --
- A. \$70,000 up to October 31, 1919, but this sum was not all paid down the same day. The records show that. First payment Sept. 18, 1919 - \$16,500. Second payment Oct. 20, 1919 - \$3,500. Third payment Oct. 31, 1919 - \$50,000. This item (pointing to book) represents the cost of repairs and additions to the "Yarmouth" - \$48,419.09 - ledger page 300. All of this sum was not charged, as some of the items forming this sum are for taxes, port charges, etc.
- Ledger page 164, shows that on July 1, 1920, there were noted to the amount of \$49,500 still due on the purchase price of the "Yarmouth."
- Between October, 1919, and July 1, 1920, there were other payments on account of the "Yarmouth" which will be found in the cash disbursement book. The last trip of the "Yarmouth" was made in August, 1920, as I remember it.
- Q. Is there any mortgage on the "Yarmouth" now? If so, how much?
- A. I understand that there is a mortgage. I could not give you all the information. I could not give you all the information. I didn't take any part in this contract so I don't know what the terms were. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Nolan --
- Q. Do you know about the amount of the mortgage?
- A. I only know that we owe \$28,500 on the "Yarmouth" still. The Yarmouth is not seaworthy at the present time and it would possibly take \$90,000 to render her so. This, of course is my own estimate., subject to correction. She has been in that condition since she was sent to the Horse Dry Dock. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Nolan know the mortgage history of this ship.
- Q. Now, you entered the S/S "Kanawha" deal about when?
- A. I believe the "Kanawha" was bought sometime in May or June, 1920. I was out of the country. I was in England and I just heard the news.
- Q. That is the H. H. Rogers yacht?
- A. I believe so.
- Q. The price was to be --
- A. \$60,000.
- Q. What was the initial payment on the "Kanawha" and when was it met?
- A. First payment was April 24, 1920 - \$5,000 - page 18 Cash book. Second payment May 25, 1920, page 23 Cash book, \$10,000. Page 165, ledger, shows that on July 1, 1920 six notes of \$7,500 each were due. That makes the total cost of the "Kanawha" - \$60,000.
- Q. Is the "Kanawha" seaworthy now?
- A. I could not say. I do not have the information.
- Q. She is in charge of the Counsel at Antilla, Cuba?
- A. I don't know.

- Q. That is what you told me the other day?
- A. Yes, but I do not know it officially.
- Q. You know Mr. Garvey told me that?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Isn't that official enough?
- A. I mean to say - to say something about the company I must say something in which I had taken a part. The "Kanawha" was repaired by Morse and sent to the West Indies to meet Mr. Garvey and supposed to be in good order, I understand, but Mr. Garvey never told me, where the "Kanawha" was.
- Q. Mr. Garvey stated to me in your presence the other day that she was in Antilla, Cuba?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How did she get there?
- A. I could not say.
- Q. As per Mr. Garvey's explanation to you, how did she get there?
- A. He never explained the matter to me.
- Q. What information have you as to how she got there?
- A. I have known we sent the ship to Mr. Garvey to meet him in Cuba. He met the ship and I believe had some misunderstanding with the crew and he made changes and left the boat. When he came back he told me that he left the "Kanawha" in Kingston, Jamaica, and that the boat would be here in a few days. And this is the last statement Mr. Garvey ever made to me concerning the "Kanawha".
- Q. You do know that the boat is not in this country?
- A. I know it is not in this country. I have heard that and ~~for~~ it is generally understood about the office that she is at Antilla, Cuba.
- Q. What we have said covers the history of two ships. Have you ever had another ship?
- A. We have - the "Shadyside."
- Q. That is the river boat - an excursion steamer?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You used it during one Summer in New York - a Hudson River boat?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Is she the boat now at Fort Lee?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You told me the other day she was damaged by ice?
- A. She was damaged by storm.
- Q. She is not an oceangoing boat?
- A. No.
- Q. Whose money paid for this boat, the "Shadyside"?
- A. The Black Star Line.
- Q. What justification have you for that - for taking Black Star Line money with which to buy an excursion boat to run on the Hudson?
- A. I understand that at the time the company wanted to buy the "Shadyside" they called a meeting of the Directors and the boat was offered and they thought it would be a money making proposition to have the boat run during the summer, as in Harlem there is a large colored

population and they thought if we advertised we could make a great deal of money out of that boat and as it was in line with the purposes of the company to run all kinds of ships it was bought for that purpose.

Q. How much did you lose on the "Shadyside"?

A. I could not tell you that.

Q. Could you approximate it?

A. I do not think we lost anything on the "Shadyside".

Q. What did you pay for the boat?

A. \$35,000.

Q. About when?

A. I believe it was about the same time they bought the "Kanawha".

Q. As per the books, when did you buy the "Shadyside"?

A. About April or May. About the same time we bought the "Kanawha". (Reading from book) First payment was made March 24, 1920 - \$2,000. Second payment was made April 10, 1920 - \$8,000.

Q. And you ran the boat during the Summer of 1920?

A. I understand they did.

Q. It was damaged in the ice that winter, or by storm?

A. I believe so. A year after.

Q. Did you run it through the summer of 1921?

A. No.

Q. It was not in condition to run?

A. It was not in condition and besides we could not move it because we had an action against it.

Q. It was available only during the summer of 1920 then?

A. Yes.

Q. How did you make the profit, or how did you avoid incurring loss?

A. I don't mean to say we made out of the ship, but the operating expenses were not so high that the returns from the boat could not meet them. Because besides the passengers we had excursions, we had a restaurant, soft drinks, etc., and the profits of these things were turned into the Corporation.

Q. It was used as an advertising proposition for the sale of stock?

A. I believe so.

Q. Is there any boat on the seas now named the "Phyllis Wheatley"?

A. No.

Q. And so far as you know there has never been?

A. No.

Q. Is it true that you contemplated purchasing a boat to be named or renamed the "Phyllis Wheatley"?

A. It is.

Q. When did you first enter negotiations for a boat to named the "Phyllis Wheatley"?

A. In January, 1921.

Q. In January, 1921, you started negotiations with whom?

A. With some brokers to buy the steamer "Byron" or "Tennyson" owned by Lamport and Holt.

- Q. You did not succeed in consummating that deal - that is, you did not get a ship?
- A. No, but we were waiting about two months until about March.
- Q. You did not succeed in getting a ship?
- A. No.
- Q. When did you break off negotiations?
- A. I believe it was early in March, 1921. There is a letter from these brokers notifying us that they had declined our offer.
- Q. I believe you and Mr. Garvey stated to me the other day that in June, 1921, you took up the question with the shipping board with a view to getting the "Orion"?
- A. Yes, but Mr. Garvey did not explain to you that immediately, or early in March, ~~we~~ when we dropped the transactions with Lamport & Holt, we started negotiations almost the same day with the New York Ship Exchange.
- Q. And that was unsuccessful as the first deal was; that is, you did not get a ship?
- A. I have to explain that.
- Q. Did you get a ship?
- A. We have not gotten it yet.
- Q. You then took up the question with the shipping board?
- A. No. When we started negotiations early in March with the New York Ship Exchange, we have contracts signed by the New York Ship Exchange to say that on the 12th day of May they were to deliver us the Steamer "Hongkheng" that they were buying from some other firm.
- Q. How much was that to cost?
- A. \$350,000.
- Q. About what was your bank balance at that time?
- A. I do not remember.
- Q. As of May 1st, 1921, what was your bank balance?
- A. \$638.91.
- Q. And since this boat was to be delivered about the middle of May, what was your bank balance about the middle of May?
- A. About \$20,000. You must remember that prior to this time I think in April, the Black Star Line paid the New York Ship Exchange \$20,000 as a first payment on some ship. It was first to be the Hongkheng, then the Orion, and the payment made on the earlier ship was to apply on the Orion if we should get that.
- Q. When did your negotiations begin with the "Orion" approximately?
- A. Early in June.
- Q. What was the "Orion" to cost?
- A. The same price - \$350,000.
- Q. What was your bank balance June 1st, 1921?
- A. \$1,648.10.
- Q. Have you succeeded in getting the "Orion" since June 1, 1921?
- A. We have not as yet.
- Q. Negotiations are still pending?

- A. Yes.
- Q. If you pay the money you could get the ship?
- A. It is not a matter of the money because we could get that any time.
- Q. By borrowing it?
- A. Yes, or any other means.
- Q. The ship is there already, ready for sale?
- A. The ship has been awarded to us but the Shipping Board has assumed responsibility for the delay in a letter addressed to us since the boat was awarded to us.
- Q. Providing you pay for it?
- A. No, not that. Before we could pay for it we had to have the terms of the Shipping Board. They took five months before telling us the terms on the ground that it was a new board and the Legal Department of that board was not satisfied with the previous forms of contract that existed and that they had to revise same.
- Q. Mr. Garcia, I show you a file of literature and call your particular attention to a circular headed "BLACK STAR LINE" carrying a picture of what purports to be the "Phyllis Wheatley" and ask you how that name "Phyllis Wheatley" got on the picture of that ship?
- A. It was an understanding between the company and the stockholders, and those who bought shares to enable us to buy that boat, that the ship was to be called after the name of "Phyllis Wheatley". They understood well that we were not buying a ship called "Phyllis Wheatley," but to them that ship would be the "Phyllis Wheatley", just like the "Yarmouth" to them was to be the "Frederick Douglass".
- Q. Point out to me where that explanation is made in that circular?
- A. It is not made.
- Q. How did you get the picture with the name "Phyllis Wheatley"?
- A. I believe this is the picture of the "Orion". Mr. Thompson purchased the picture.
- Q. You understand that?
- A. Yes.
- Q. But there had to be some sort of arrangement made whereby the name "Phyllis Wheatley" appeared. How was that done?
- A. I do not know. Mr. Thompson handled all that.
- Q. Mr. Garcia, look over the other literature and state whether that material is the literature of the Black Star Line, Inc., used by that Company in the sale of its stock?
- A. Yes, except that you have some pieces relating to the U. S. I. A.
- Q. I show you a circular headed "NOW IN AMERICA - 875 PHYLIS WHEATLEY", apparently printed before May 25, 1921, and ask you if that circular was not used before you began your negotiations for the "Orion."
- A. Yes, I suppose so.
- Q. What ship are you talking about when you say "this ship will carry 4,500 tons cargo"?
- A. The "Hongkheng". It is stated in our contract with the New York Ship Exchange that the "Hongkheng" was to be delivered on the 20th and it would take about eight or



- A. (continued) ten days to inspect.
- Q. So that you have a circular here with the name "Phyllis Wheatley" on it and a picture of the "Orion"?
- A. I would not say it is the "Orion."
- Q. It is if the other is the "Orion," because this is the same ship? So that you have here a circular stating that the "Phyllis Wheatley" is now in America, which bears the picture of the "Orion" and below the picture is a description of the "Hongkong"?
- A. I don't know that the picture here is the "Orion". I know it is the picture of the ship we were to get.
- Q. Among this literature is a circular without date, but which relates to the passage on the "Phyllis Wheatley"?
- Q. How much did you collect as passage on the "Phyllis Wheatley"?
- A. The books will show that.
- Q. Can you point out from the books? Without consulting the books ----
- A. Without consulting the books I would say that some \$8,000 was collected for passage on the "Phyllis Wheatley" and that of it something like \$4,000 was returned.
- Q. What happened to the \$4,000?
- A. The people are willing to wait until we have the boat.
- Q. Have you \$4,000 in the bank?
- A. No.
- Q. So that you must have dispersed that money collected for a specific purpose?
- A. Yes. I know that part of that money went into the \$20,000 or so paid to the shipping board.
- Q. Now, we are going to speak about the Association, and I am going to ask you to look at your statement of September, 1, 1920, and ask if you did not collect \$19,562.80 as death tax?
- A. We did.
- Q. I ask you further if you did not disperse \$1,275.00 to the next of kin of people who died?
- A. Yes.
- Q. That would leave the difference in that fund, would it not?
- A. It would.
- Q. As of that date?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Your bank balance of that date, which I understand covers the whole business of the U.W.I.A., is only \$2,383.33.
- A. It was.
- Q. Does not this show a shortage in the death fund of at least \$17,000?
- A. It does.
- Q. Do you not consider this a trust fund?
- A. We did not.
- Q. What do you consider it?
- A. There is no provision made in the by-laws of the organization that we have to keep that money.
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any other funds.

Q. You not only have not kept it separate but you have not kept it at all.

A. There is no provision that we must not use it.

Q. So you have used it?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you not also used the money of the association to the extent of \$34,440 in the purchase of stock in the Black Star Line?

A. Yes, we did.

Q. About when was that purchased?

A. In July, I believe.

Q. 1921?

A. Yes.

Q. That was to keep the Black Star Line from insolvency?

A. It was not so. The organization decided to take stock in the Line. This money was paid out of the Construction Loan. This loan was raised to carry some special works in ~~xxxxx~~ Africa - Liberia - which we could not carry on without having transportation, so the organization decided instead of using an outside steamship line to subsidize or to finance the Black Star Line to the extent where they could have use of the Line for the carrying out of their program. As it was understood if we raised sufficient money we were to send building materials, etc. to Liberia. It was understood that the Black Star Line was to give service of course against payment to the Association and that the Association had interest to have holding in the Black Star Line.

Q. Did you have any materials at that time to transport?

A. No, we did not have, but we were preparing the Black ~~Star~~ Star Line for future service.

Q. Did you have any seaworthy ships in July, 1921? ~~xx~~

A. No, but we were expecting to have the "Phyllis Wheatley".

Q. Now, regarding the Negro World. Who was the first owner of the Negro World?

A. The Negro World is owned by the African Communities League.

Q. Was it ~~xxxxx~~ founded by them?

A. Yes. Let me explain. The African Communities League is a stock corporation under whose charter the Negro World operates. But all the stock of the A.C.L. was bought by the New York branch of the U.N.I.A. Then they were the sole owners of the stock and then the New York local financed the Negro World and brought it to a circulation of 60,000 or 65,000. Then, of late, the parent body decided that the branch should not have the Negro World, it being the organ of the entire association, and should be under and owned by the parent body. But up to that time the Negro World was considered a source of income to the New York local which has its accounts separate from all the others, and the New York local would not depart of the income of the Negro World except for a reasonable amount.

At that time the good will of the Negro World was estimated worth \$60,000, in that it had an income of maybe \$2,000 or \$3,000 a month net. So the New York local sold its rights to the Negro World to the parent body for \$60,000. Then at this time the income of the Negro World belonged to the parent body. So that the next balance sheet of the parent body, the assets and cash paid of the Negro World will appear, instead of in the New York local.

Q. How much of the \$60,000 has the parent body paid to the New York local for the good will of the Negro World?

A. \$46,555.

Q. Were you ever present at a meeting when the sum of \$15,000 or any other sum, was voted by the board of Directors of the Black Star Line to Mr. Garvey to do as he pleased with?

A. No. I may say I remember being present at a meeting not of ~~the~~ the Black Star Line, but of the Executive Council of the Association. The matter was being discussed should the parent body make ~~loans~~ <sup>loans</sup> to the other corporations when they are in need of such loans and should such loans be made on Mr. Garvey's own initiative without consulting the Council. This was the matter presented for discussion.

Q. When?

A. At a meeting held sometime last year. At that meeting I remember that Bishop McGuire, who was then Chaplain General of the Association, made a motion that the President General, owing to the inconvenience of calling Executive Council meetings often, should be allowed to make loans not exceeding \$10,000 to the other corporations against notes properly signed by the officers of the other corporations and that after making such loans he was to report to the Council at the first meeting about the same. And that furthermore if that loan of \$10,000 should be made, he could not make any other loan without having the consent of the Council first. This was the motion as I remember it.

Q. Was it carried?

A. It was carried.

Q. And under it, how many loans have been made as you recall?

A. I do not think that the sums have exceeded \$10,000.

Q. Sum total of all the loans?

A. There were previous loans to the Black Star Line, but since that rule was made I do not believe a greater amount was loaned.

Q. Was the sum total of all the loans since that time made by the Association to the Black Star Line not over \$10,000?

A. No, I do not mean to say that. I mean to say that since Mr. Garvey could have made loans to the extent of \$10,000, I do not believe that at one time he ever made loans of more than that amount without further consent.

- Q. But what did these loans amount to in all since that time?
- A. You will find it in the ledger. Up to Sept. 30, 1921, the Black Star Line owes to the parent body about \$4,280.
- Q. What security do you hold for the \$4,000?
- A. We have the notes of the Black Star Line.
- Q. How much stock have you got, Mr. Garcia?
- A. I have about 26 or 28 shares.
- Q. Does Mr. Carvey own any stock?
- A. Yes, he owns 200 shares.
- Q. Did he pay for them?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Has any stock been issued in payment of salaries?
- A. No.
- Q. As I understand it, the capitalization of the Black Star Line originally was \$500,000. When was it increased to \$10,000,000?
- A. I do not remember but it was sometime in 1920.
- Q. What consideration was given the corporation when the capitalization was increased? What assets were added to justify that?
- A. I was not with the company at the time this was done.
- A. Do you know of any assets which were added to those which the company already had when you increased the capitalization to \$10,000,000?
- A. I do not remember if the two other boats were bought after the increase or before. I came to the company when they already had three boats and had already increased their capital stock but I may suppose that after buying the "Yarmouth" and "Kanawha" I believe that was the consideration. They found out that the excess of authorized capital would not be enough to enable the company to purchase other ships. So they wanted ~~xx~~ surplus capital to buy new ships.
- Q. How did you take care of the outstanding capital stock when the capitalization was increased? Did you re-issue share for share?
- A. No.
- Q. Twenty to one?
- A. No, I believe there was a stockholders meeting to consider it and the stockholders reached an agreement which must be shown in the minute book, to increase the capital stock.
- Q. Suppose I had a stock of share under the old. What would I get under the new?
- A. The same rate of dividend under the new.
- Q. Which was nothing? But how many shares of the new stock ~~xx~~ would I get?
- A. None.
- Q. I have a share of stock under the old capitalization for which I paid \$5. Now you make my company a ten million dollar corporation. Do I then continue to hold my one share?

-15- Statement of Elie Garcia.

A. Yes.

By Mr. Merrilies:

Q. This payment of \$32,820 (reading from cash book page 105) to New York Local, July 26, 1921. What does it represent?

A. This represents the amount of loans that were made by the New York local to the Black Star Line previous to that time. We refunded to the New York local.

Q. Was that a cash transaction?

A. No, it was simply a check transaction. A check was issued to the New York local for that amount. The New York local endorsed the check and bought shares in the Black Star Line.

Q. Ultimately, that represents the purchase of stock of the Black Star Line?

A. Yes.

Q. Then they have over 6,000 shares?

A. Yes.

STATEMENT OF JAMES D. BROOKS

Present:

O. E. Williamson, Post Office Inspector,  
M. J. Davis, Special Agent, Bureau of Investigation

Stenographic minutes by M. J. Davis " " "

By Mr. Williamson:

- Q. What is your full name?  
A. James David Brooks.
- Q. Where do you live?  
A. 359 West 148 Street, New York City.
- Q. What is your business?  
A. Lecturer and author.
- Q. When did you first enter the employ of Marcus Garvey?  
A. May of 1920.
- Q. What was your first position?  
A. I was a speaker.
- Q. Engaged in lecturing on what?  
A. On the Universal Negro Improvement Association and possibilities of Africa.
- Q. How long did you continue?  
A. Under his personal employ until August. Then I was elected by convention.
- Q. August, 1920?  
A. Yes, 1920.
- Q. Then you were elected by the convention to the same position?  
A. No, as Secretary General of the Association.
- Q. How long did you continue as Secretary General?  
A. Until August, 1921.
- Q. Did you have any connection with the Black Star Line?  
A. I sold stock.
- Q. You acted then as stock salesman?  
A. No, I sold stock but they had regular stock salesman. They did not call us stock salesman. A stock salesman was with me. I did the propaganla work and he took the orders.
- Q. Where did you sell or carry on your propaganla?  
A. In Virginia, Ohio, Mass., Conn., No. Carolina, So. Carolina, Georgia, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Missouri, Pennsylvania.
- Q. From whom did you get your orders as to the Black Star Line?  
A. Marcus Garvey
- Q. What representations did you make in the course of your propaganla? As to the Black Star Line?  
A. That the stock would pay at the end of each year dividends to the stockholders; that the line owned and controlled at that time three ships, the Yarmouth, Kanawha, and Shadyside.
- Q. Those representations were made during the Summer of 1919 to 1920?  
A. That covers a year. It began in May, 1920 and went up to August 1921.
- Q. Who told you to say that the Black Star Line owned the Yarmouth?  
A. Marcus Garvey.
- Q. Now he was not in the country during part of 1921. Do you recall

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- A. He/was here in January, as I recall it.
- Q. And he returned?
- A. About August, 1921.
- Q. Did he instruct you to make these representations before he went away or after he returned?
- A. Before he went away.
- Q. Before January, 1921?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you began making them immediately thereafter in the course of your lectures.
- A. Yes, in May. They were supposed to own the Kanawha at Shadyside before I went with them.
- Q. Did you ever, in the course of your conversations with Garvey, hear him say anything about buying these vessels so that they could use them to boost the sale of stock?
- A. Yes, the Yarmouth was called the "propaganda ship".
- Q. You mean she was not intended to pay but intended to boost sales?
- A. That is it, exactly.
- Q. What was the Shadyside for?
- A. I don't know much about the Shadyside.
- Q. Did you make any representations as to the Phyllis Wheatley in the course of your work?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Who gave you the instructions you followed?
- A. Marcus Garvey.
- Q. What were the representations which you made under his instructions?
- A. First, that the next ship of the line would be the Phyllis Wheatley. We were to get this ship in honor of a noted colored woman. That was the first representation. That this ship would be the largest ship of the line.
- Q. Did you ever, during the course of your lectures, make any representations to the effect that the Line owned the Phyllis Wheatley.
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. When did you begin making those representations?
- A. In April or May, 1921, I think.
- Q. Who gave you these instructions did you say?
- A. Marcus Garvey.
- Q. Now Marcus Garvey was out of the country from January, 1921?
- A. Yes, but we had talked about this ship since he had left.
- Q. I am referring to the representation that they owned the ship?
- A. That came from Elie Garcia.
- Q. When did you begin making these representations?
- A. That we owned it?
- Q. Yes?
- A. In May, 1921. We began collecting money in January to purchase the Phyllis Wheatley, and that is where Garvey enters, before we began collecting, before Garvey left the country. In April Thompson, Vice President of the Black Star Line, and Garcia, Exec. Secretary, were supposed to be negotiating for a ship called the

-3- Statement of James D. Brooks.

Hongkong, in China, and Thompson told us that he lost that ship and then they had another one the same name in Chinese waters.

- Q. So that when you went out and made representations to the effect that the line owned this ship, the Phyllis Wheatley, you were following the instructions of Garcia?
- A. I began in May. From January to May we were raising funds to buy this Phyllis Wheatley. Then in May I received a telegram from Garcia that the Phyllis Wheatley is here under inspection by our own men and the telegraphic records should show that.
- Q. So that from the date of that telegram on you believed that they owned the Phyllis Wheatley?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you continued to make representations to that effect for how long?
- A. Until about sometime early in July.
- Q. Have you seen these circulars showing the Phyllis Wheatley?
- A. They sent them to me. I distributed them.
- Q. And you and your agents told the people you owned that ship and on that representation I presume many people bought stock?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you sell passage on the ship as well?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you know whether passage was sold?
- A. Passage was sold.
- Q. Do you know of any other lecturers or agents who travelled about making representations similar to those made by yourself?
- A. Yes: Sarah Branch, address care of myself.  
Rev. J. D. Gordon, 585 Harkimer St., Brooklyn,  
A. L. Lewis, Buffalo, New York, or address care of myself.  
Dr. J. A. McGuire, can be reached through Cyril Briggs.  
Bishop Selkridge, address care of myself.
- These persons will tell you the truth about it.
- Q. Do you know where your expense money came from?
- A. When I was on the road it came out of whatever funds I collected.
- Q. What was the cost of this propaganda work.
- A. My salary as Secretary General of the Association was \$6,000 a year with a daily allowance of \$5.00 for board and lodging when out speaking. My secretary received \$20 a week and \$3.00 per day for board and lodging, and in addition to this there were travelling expenses, newspaper advertising, telegrams, telephones, carfares, etc., etc.
- Q. You handled both the funds of the Black Star Line stock collections?
- A. I did not handle them directly but was responsible for them. The Secretary handled the funds.
- Q. And in incurring expenses you used either fund, depending on which was available?
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. Do you know whether the Black Star funds were ever used for the upkeep or purchase of Liberty Hall?
- A. I do not know.
- Q. Do you know in whose name Liberty Hall stands?
- A. I do not. It belongs either to the African Communities or the New York branch and we have no knowledge of it.



- Q. Have you any knowledge as to the Black Star Line Corporation or the Association ever having voted any lump sum to Garvey?
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. What are the facts regarding it?
- A. Garvey claimed to have been hampered at times by lack of funds, etc., so we voted him a fund of, I think, between eight and fifteen thousand dollars to be used at his discretion. That was in either October or November, 1920.
- Q. That was a lump sum allowance?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Was it renewed?
- A. No.
- Q. Have you any knowledge as to what disposition was made of the death fund of the association?
- A. That was handled in my office.
- Q. Was that kept intact?
- A. No.
- Q. What was done with it?
- A. It was put in with the other funds.
- Q. And went in the payment of salaries, and every day expenses, etc?
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. What was done with that construction loan account?
- A. That was used just as the other moneys, for general purposes.
- Q. What effort, or was there any effort made to keep separate the business of the Black Star Line and the Association, that is, insofar as finances were concerned?
- A. I should think so, because there were two separate treasurers.
- Q. When a Black Star Line expenditure was made were they always careful to see that Black Star funds were used, and vice versa?
- A. The Black Star Line did not have any money. The line was insolvent sometime in October or November, 1920. Their checks were not honored by the bank.
- Q. Briefly, what did Garvey have you arrested for?
- A. Grand larceny.
- Q. What are the facts?
- A. He claims that I collected, first it was \$1,400. The specific charge, however, is \$400, and that this was not reported to the association.
- Q. What was your object in withdrawing the funds?
- A. I did not withdraw them. I withdrew funds just as I had always done and the funds so withdrawn, as I understood, were to apply against my salary and expenses and were in every instance accounted for. There was no withholding or wilful withholding or unauthorized withholding of funds belonging either to the association or the Line.
- Q. When were you arrested?
- A. November 26, 1921.

In re: the Black Star Line, Inc. Building,  
Room 214, Post Office Building,  
New York City, Jan'y. 13, 1921.

STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN J. W. JONES

Present: C. B. Williamson, Post Office Inspector,  
J. W. Gardener, Expert Bank Accountant,  
M. J. Davis, Special Agent, Bureau of Invest.

Stenographic minutes by M. J. Davis " " "

By Mr. Williamson:

- Q. Where do you live?  
A. 2303 Seventh Avenue, New York City.  
Q. When did you first enter Garvey's employ?  
A. This coming March two years ago.  
Q. March 1920?  
A. Yes sir.  
Q. What were your duties?  
A. I started first - my first job with Garvey was to check up on the finances of the restaurant that he was at that time running.  
Q. Was that restaurant run under the name of the Negro Factories Corporation?  
A. No, under the auspices of the African Communities League.  
Q. Were you in Garvey's employ during the summer when the Black Star Line ran the Shadyside?  
A. Yes sir.  
Q. Did you ever make any trips on the Shadyside?  
A. No, I was down to the wharf but I never went up the river on the boat.  
Q. Do you know whose money bought the Shadyside?  
A. I understood that the money was the result of the sale of stocks in the Black Star Line.  
Q. The upkeep of the boat - who paid for that?  
A. That was done in a like manner.  
Q. And as I understand it they charged for these trips?  
A. Yes, \$1.05.  
Q. And then the funds obtained from the sale of tickets, etc., go to the Black Star Line treasury?  
A. Yes, but the boat never paid for the coal.  
Q. It had a good sized band?  
A. Yes, 22 pieces. The excursions ran at night and half of the band was taken from Liberty Hall and put on this boat.  
Q. On what information do you base the statement that the operation of the boat hardly paid for the coal?  
A. From statements that I had heard in the offices of the corporation.  
Q. Statements made by whom?  
A. Statements in general.  
Q. It was common knowledge?  
A. Yes. In effect, I heard Garvey say on one occasion to one of the stewards on the boat who was there about his salary, Garvey's remark was "\_\_\_\_\_ when the boat does not pay for the coal it consumes."

- Q. He was slow about paying salaries?
- A. He has always been slow about paying all salaries.
- Q. Do you know how long this boat ran?
- A. All in all during the summer about three months, but the machinery in the boat was so worn out that after running the boat a week or ten days she would lay up and then he was also disappointed in the amount of passengers carried and there was no regular schedule for the boat. But I do not think any trip it made paid for itself. It was a very old hull. I understand they paid \$35,000.
- Q. What in your judgment was the real purpose of operating that boat?
- A. It was more for prop aganda. The boat was bought to say "that we have another ship". Of course he expected to make profit.
- Q. Do you recall any conversation with Garvey or Garcia you might have had that had reference to that?
- A. No, I don't. But that was general knowledge in and around the offices.
- Q. Did Garvey, when you went with him, own Liberty Hall?
- A. No sir. He does not at the present time.
- Q. But he did have access to it?
- A. Yes. There is still a mortgage against it.
- Q. What is the history of obtaining access to Liberty Hall?
- A. Just what the history is I do not know because of the fact that he had access to the hall when I came with him, but since I have been with Garvey he has increased the hall about fifty percent in size.
- Q. He had an option to purchase it?
- A. He had an option on the original building. Then he made the increase to the hall by making what was called a Building Loan from the members here in New York. They loaned from five to one hundred dollars, for which they were to receive six percent.
- Q. Do you know whether any of the proceeds of the stock of the Black Star Line was ever applied to the purchase price of the hall?
- A. Whether the purchase - whether the proceeds were applied to the purchase price I do not know but I do know that many times the money taken in for stock of the Black Star Line has been used for all purposes, such as paying bills of the Negro World. The stub checks will show that the printer was paid with money derived from the sale of stocks. The check stubs should show that the band that is known as the Black Star Line Band - these checks are drawn in the name of Ailes, he is the leader of the band - all the checks are drawn in his name, he cashes them and pays the musicians.
- Q. Do you mean to say that the proceeds of the sale of the stock went to pay for the band?
- A. At the time when the U. N. I. A. did not have funds to pay for the band. There is kind of combination of corporations. There is the U.N.I.A. and A.C.L. That is a double corporation. It has been the policy that when the funds of the U.N.I.A. - the band goes under the name of the Black Star Line Band, yet that band plays every night in Liberty Hall. If there are not

enough funds in the U.N.L.A. to pay that band then the funds of the line are drawn on, or the funds of the African Communities League, or the Negro Factories Corp. In other words, the funds have been manipulated so that any bill that was due, the fund that was available or had the most money in it, was drawn on to settle that account.

Q. Would the stubs show that?

A. They should. There is no doubt that you will find in those stub checks - this I know you will find, that the bills of the Negro World have been paid by the Black Star Line checks. When I first went to the Negro World their printing bill ran between \$2100 and \$2300 a week. At that time the paper was turning in from \$500 to \$700 a week. There was a deficit of about \$1500 a week because of the fact that the agents were given to understand by Garvey, well, if you pay all right, and if you do not, all right too. His idea was to get the sheet before the public and some weeks that deficit would be made up from funds of the U.N.L.A. or from any other fund available. But at that time the Black Star Line was selling stock from \$5000 to \$10,000 a week and of course the Black Star Line fund was most available. Sometimes the check would not be drawn on the Black Star Line, it would be drawn on the U.N.L.A., but funds would be transferred from the Black Star Line to cover this check drawn on the U.N.L.A.

Q. Would the necessary entries be made in the books to show this transfer?

A. Yes. For instance, here is one entry that you will find. There were \$34,000 worth of stock sold to the U. N. L. A. There was an effort there to always try to cover up funds. For instance when the delegates from the different organization divisions came to the last convention, there was a fund known as a death fund. That is, each member in a division outside of and including New York pays 35¢ a month dues. Five cents of that comes to the parent body, supposed to be operating expenses. Ten cents of that 35 cents goes in a death fund to pay death benefits. Twenty cents of it stays in the local division for their operating expenses. In other words, 15¢ of the 35¢ is supposed to go to the parent body. When these delegates were here in New York Garvey knew they would ask about the death fund. In order to cover up \$46,000 of this death fund, the U. N. L. A. is supposed to have bought the Negro World for \$46,000 and the fact is not a cent was transferred. In July, 1921 possibly the ownership of the Negro World, of which I am Circulation Manager and have been since March, 1921, passed from the U.N.L.A. to the general association, known as the parent body, from the U.N.L.A. local (or N.L.L. of which it owns the entire capitalization). The sale price was, I think, \$46,000.

Q. What happened as to payment?

A. There was no payment because of the fact that the A. C. L. treasury that should have received this fund, has had not at any time had that much in it.

Statement of Capt. J. W. Jones.

- Q. What is the basis of your information as to that?  
A. From my actual knowledge.
- Q. Did you take care of any payments?  
A. No, I did not, but, for instance, I have deposited money for the A. C. L. from time to time and I have seen the books of the A. C. L. and I know at no time has the A. C. L. had \$46,000 in its treasury.
- Q. So that the parent body bought the "World" without paying for it?  
A. Yes. That statement was made so as to be able to tell the delegates what has become of the death fund that has been sent to the parent body, to say it has been used to purchase the Negro World. At the present time the funds taken in for the sale of the paper are still banked in the funds of the A. C. L., its original owners. It is understood now that the parent body owns the Negro World and I have personal knowledge that when bills are to be paid, no distinction is made between the funds of the A. C. L., the Black Star Line, Inc., or the parent body. At first it was a deficit in the Negro World fund, and the other corporations made that up. Later on the Negro World had a surplus and all of the other corporations helped to consume that. I am trying to make it plain that there is no distinction made between one fund or another. It is all used for whatever purpose is required.
- Q. Specifically, what concrete instances of this have you of your own knowledge?  
A. Roganski, the printer, 444 Pearl Street, has from time to time been paid by funds from the A. C. L., the U. N. I. A., Black Star Line, by checks drawn on those corporations.
- Q. When Garvey took a trip to the West Indies, who financed this trip?  
A. I could not say what funds he drew his original fare from.  
Q. Did he get any money advanced to him?  
A. He did. How much, I do not know.
- Q. Up to recently, say July 1921, the principal source of income has been through the sale of stock in the Black Star Line?  
A. Yes, also sale of the Liberian Construction bonds since last August, and as the Black Star Line began to dwindle, Garvey took up what he called the Liberian Construction Loan and issued bonds for construction purposes in Liberia.
- Q. How many of these bonds did he sell?  
A. About \$144,000 worth.
- Q. How much of that was expended in Liberia?  
A. As to actual expenditures in Liberia I would say about \$5,000.
- Q. And so this fund was drawn on and used interchangeably with the others?  
A. Yes. This was also used to pay all bills presented - electric light, coal, fuel, help hire, anything at all. There was a saw mill bought in this country for Liberia. I think they paid \$7,000. That is the only tangible asset purchased with this money.
- Garcia went to Liberia in 1920, June. He remained about a month and returned in the latter part of August, 1920. He brought Garvey two reports, one to be made public, and which was never done, and another confidential report, both of which I have seen with my own eyes. The confidential report, which of course was in Garvey's hands before he launched the construction loan

proposition, pointed out to him clearly the impossibility of the whole project, the difficulties being, general economic conditions of the country, climatic conditions, opposition from the Liberian Government.

Q. What do you know about the S/S Phyllis Wheatley?

A. In March last year Garvey sent telegrams to, I think, 14 Presidents of the largest divisions of his association. The Presidents were sent for to come to New York and 13 came. They held a conference. At this conference Garvey told these Presidents that if he could raise \$25,000 he could purchase a boat to be named the Phyllis Wheatley. The amounts were allotted to the divisions according to their number of members, for example, a division with five thousand members of course would be allotted more than a division of three thousand. The Presidents returned to their divisions after promising to raise their allotted amounts. This \$25,000 was raised. Some of this fund was raised by selling stock and those that did not sell the allotted amount took funds from local treasuries. That money was turned over to Thompson, and at the present time \$22,500 of that money is now in the hands of the U. S. Shipping Board in the form of escrow or security for good faith to procure a ship. Thompson told me this morning that it was impossible to raise the balance of the bond that was required because the Shipping Board had doubled the amount and unless this was done the \$25,000 now on deposit would be forfeited. In the issues of March and May of the Negro World the Black Star Line advertised the sailing of the Phyllis Wheatley in next or about a certain date, I think April 25th. Through these advertisements and others they sold fares, I have heard, to the extent of \$22,000 to Liberia. From the best information I can get the greater part of this money has been returned, for example I know one man who had \$690.00 up as fare deposit last April. He got that fare back in October, after having been on deposit for about seven months. As late as the 6th of December, 1921, \$230 was accepted from one Adolphus Graham, 712 Herkimer St., Brooklyn, for fare, and also \$100 left as deposit for safe keeping. Through these advertisements prospective passengers came from Washington state, California, etc., and about two weeks previous to the Tulsa riots eleven refugees came from there and told me personally that Dr. Brocks had told them that if they came to New York the Black Star Line would furnish them free passage to Africa. These people came here because destitute, and were finally taken care of by some charitable organizations in New York, and I think returned to their homes.

Re: U.S. Steam Black Star Line, Inc.

Post Office Bldg.,  
New York, January 16, 1922.

STATEMENT OF FREDERICK A. TOOTE.

Present: O. B. Williamsen, Post Office Inspector,  
M. J. Davis, Special Agent, Bur. of Inv.

Stenographic minutes by M. J. Davis, " " "

By Mr. Williamsen:

- Q. What is your full name?  
A. Frederick Augustus Toote.  
Q. And your home address?  
A. #2374 Seventh Avenue, New York.  
Q. What is your connection with the U.N.I.A.?  
A. Secretary General of the U.N.I.A.  
Q. You are not connected with the Black Star Line?  
A. I am a Director of the Line.  
Q. What is your Association salary?  
A. Five thousand dollars a year.  
Q. What is your Black Star Line salary?  
A. None.  
Q. How long have you been a director of the Black Star Line?  
A. Two years.  
Q. How long have you been Secretary General of the Association?  
A. Last August I was speaker in convention, that is chairman of the convention.  
Q. As a director you usually attend the directors meetings?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Was the "Yarmouth" called the "propaganda ship?"  
A. I was not a director when they bought the "Yarmouth."  
Q. Did you -- but you were present and knew about what they were doing?  
A. Yes, after.  
Q. Was the "Yarmouth" called the "propaganda ship?"  
A. I have never heard it called the "propaganda ship" in the Board of Directors.  
Q. I am not talking about the Directors meetings?  
A. I have heard the President General say at one meeting during the conference that the "Yarmouth" was bought principally to carry out his obligation with the people because he promised them a ship at a certain time and he bought that ship in order to carry out his promises to the people and that it was principally for propaganda work.  
Q. What do you mean "for propaganda work"?  
A. You see, he advertised that the ship would go out and if they did not get the ship, why the whole thing would have crumbled.  
Q. You mean that they were going to buy the ship, and he bought it regardless of whether they could make a profit or not - it was for advertising purposes?

2 Statement of F. A. Toote.

- A. No, it made two successful trips, so far as I know.
- Q. You mean ~~financially~~ financially successful?
- A. No, I do not mean financially successful. It shows that they had some expectation of running the ships and that it was not only bought for propaganda purposes when it went away twice.
- Q. You know that the "Phyllis Wheatley" never existed, don't you?
- A. Yes, it never existed.
- Q. Did you ever have a chance to buy a ship called the "Phyllis Wheatley"?
- A. Yes, Mr. Thompson, the Vice President, during the absence of the President General, was negotiating for a ship.
- Q. I know. The negotiation is one thing, but having the money to buy a ship is another.
- A. We collected a certain amount of money and they said if we paid so much the ship would be delivered.
- Q. You depended on stock sales for the remainder?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You sold something like \$750,000 worth of shares of stock all told?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Shares or stock?
- A. I thought shares and stock were about the same thing.
- Q. You have sold about \$750,000 worth of stock?
- A. I do not know how much stock was sold.
- Q. What is the connection between the association and the Black Star Line?
- A. The association was first formed and then the Black Star Line was born out of the association. The Association was sort of promoter for the Black Star Line.
- Q. What is the object of the Association?
- A. It is principally a humanitarian, charitable, and to build up schools and enterprises among our own people.
- Q. And to carry on work of ~~utilizing~~ colonizing Africa?
- A. No, that is not the object of the Association.
- Q. That is the object of the Black Star Line?
- A. No. That is the object of the Provisional President of Africa, but the Association's object is humanitarian, friendly, and to establish schools in Africa.
- Q. Where does the colonization idea come in?
- A. That comes through the Provisional President of Africa.
- Q. And what association?
- A. That is with him. I do not know how to bring that in - that is not connected with the U.N.I.A. to my knowledge.
- Q. Was not the Black Star Line to carry the men and provisions to Africa?
- A. Yes, carry men and provisions whether you were colonizing or not. Just as a matter or business.
- Q. When did you begin selling passage on the Phyllis Wheatley?
- A. I do not know of
- Q. Did you ever hear/that being done?
- A. I have heard, yes.



- Q. Was there any such thing done?  
 A. I do not know. I have heard. I have no evidence that it was.  
 Q. Where did you hear it?  
 A. I did not hear it in the office. I just heard people say they had paid prices to go to Africa on the new ship of the Black Star Line, the "Phyllis Wheatley" but I have never seen any money or receipts or tickets, etc.  
 Q. What are your duties?  
 A. My duties are to attend to the ~~work~~ correspondence work of the U.N.I.A. and all monies coming in pass through my office to the High Chancellor. I keep a record of all monies coming in.  
 Q. Does the Black Star Line ever get any of your money?  
 A. When the members voted for them to have.  
 Q. Association members?  
 A. Yes, I mean the members of the Executive Council of the U.N.I.A.  
 Q. Give me some examples of their having voted money?  
 A. I think during the drive for this boat that was to be called the Phyllis Wheatley they needed an amount of money. It was reported to us by the Vice President that the Shipping Board needed so much money and that they wanted to borrow this money from the U.N.I.A. to pay this money on the ship.  
 Q. Did they borrow it?  
 A. I believe they did.  
 Q. Did they give notes?  
 A. They did.  
 Q. What was the amount?  
 A. I cannot tell you now, but I know that some money was involved.  
 Q. About how much?  
 A. I could not tell you. The reports would come to my office ~~later~~ after they would pass through the Chancellor's office, not first. My office is not a dispersing office.  
 Q. The Association last June ~~x~~ loaned the Black Star Line some money?  
 A. Yes.  
 Q. Was it under \$20,000?  
 A. Yes.  
 Q. Was it under \$10,000?  
 A. I could not tell you the exact amount.  
 Q. And the Black Star Line gave notes?  
 A. Yes, so far as I know.  
 Q. Have the notes been paid?  
 A. I do not know.  
 Q. Did the Black Star Line ever loan the Association any money?  
 A. Not to my knowledge, not since I have been Secy. General.  
 Q. Did the Black Star Line ever loan the Association any money?  
 A. Not to my knowledge.  
 Q. Did the Association ever buy any Black Star Line stock?  
 A. Yes.  
 Q. Do you keep your financial records separate - Black Star Line from yours?  
 A. Yes, the High Chancellor is Treasurer of the U.N.I.A.

Tobias is Treasurer of the Black Star Line, and Mr.....

Q. I mean your finances?

A. Yes.

Q. Mr. Garvey was in the West Indies during the early part of 1921?

A. Yes.

Q. Between what dates?

A. About between Feb. and July, I think, 1921.

Q. Who handled the propaganda with reference to the "Yarmouth" during his absence?

A. There was no propaganda.

Q. There were some advertisements sent out?

A. Not to my knowledge. I was out of the city myself.

Q. You were not out from Feb. to July?

A. Yes. I was travelling from one Division to another, speaking in the interests of the Association. I was in Canada, I think in March.

Q. What were you doing?

A. Visiting the different divisions?

Q. You were also acting as an Agent of the Black Star Line?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. You were making representations as to the Black Star Line?

A. Yes.

Q. Who authorized you to make these representations?

A. As a director of the Black Star Line, I had authority of the President of the Line.

Q. As a Director you did some of the directing?

A. Yes.

Q. What representations did you make as to the "Yarmouth?"

A. I made none.

Q. You never used the word "Yarmouth"?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. What representations did you make as to the "Phyllis Wheatley?"

A. I made none to my knowledge. In Canada I told them I had certain papers of the Phyllis Wheatley stating that it would be delivered at a certain date. I have those letters at home that I received from Mr. Thompson.

Q. What did you say regarding the "Phyllis Wheatley"?

A. I said the Phyllis Wheatley was supposed to sail for Africa at the time they stated.

Q. What was the time?

A. I could not say. I received letters that the boat was to be procured at a certain time.

Q. Who was sending out this information from the office?

A. Mr. Thompson, as Vice President in the President's absence.

Q. Was Mr. Garcia acting with him?

A. Yes, Mr. Garcia was acting with him.

Q. They reported to you that the Phyllis Wheatley would sail on such and such a date, changing it from time to time?

A. Yes - no, they did not change the date.

(General conversation followed at this point)

- Q. So that, after you came back to the office and found out that you had inadvertantly misrepresented the facts to those people, you now say that you did not return the money to the people?
- A. No, I did not.
- Q. But it was turned over to the Corporation and used as ~~they~~ though it had been gotten in a direct and open deal?
- A. That is right.
- Q. You and Mr. Garvey worked pretty close together on these matters?
- A. Not at all.
- Q. Explain?
- A. Because Mr. Garvey did not want me as General Secretary and our feelings are not very keen since that/
- Q. You are satisfied that Mr. Garvey has not used any of this money?
- A. I am satisfied about that. I do not believe Mr. Garvey would use one cent of it for his own use.
- Q. You are in sympathy with his plan to colonize Africa and believe in the possibilities of the plan?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And in making these representations to the people that you are dealing openly with them?
- A. Making what representations?
- Q. That you are going to have a President of Africa; that you are going to run a line of ships to every negro country of the world; that if they spend their money here they will be in a company financed and managed by experienced business men. You believe all these things?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you are one of the experienced business men?
- A. I am not an experienced business man, of course not.
- Q. Is Mr. Thompson an experienced business man?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Having been a clerk in a shipping office in British Guiana?
- A. I do not know. But I know he has been experienced and is a graduate of some school of commerce.
- Q. ~~Is~~ Mr. Garvey has had some experience in handling ships before this venture?
- A. I do not know.
- Q. What men connected with your concern have had such experience in handling ships and dealing with shipping matters?
- A. The men who we employed.
- Q. I am talking about the company, not the help.
- A. I do not know.
- Q. Has there been anybody?
- A. Yes, the men whom we employed.
- Q. Who are they?
- A. There was Capt. Cockburn who was a member of the Board of Directors.
- Q. His experience was rather unfortunate?
- A. We have had Capt. Messac (?)
- Q. Who inside the directorate and among the officials of the

- A. Cockburn was a Director, and other men who were directors.
- Q. You have a death benefit fund in the Association?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you collect so much a month to keep that fund replenished?
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. Do you keep the funds separate in the bank?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you keep it separate on your books?
- A. Yes, on the Secretary's books.
- Q. Do you use the death fund for anything else but to pay death benefits?
- A. Yes, it is used in the general paying out of expenses of the Association.
- Q. Such as salaries, office expense, etc.?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You do not regard it as a trust fund for this specific purpose?
- A. It is regarded so to a certain extent.
- Q. But not to the extent that would prevent you from using it for anything else?
- A. No.
- Q. Take that Construction loan fund. You helped in its collection?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How much about was collected?
- A. I could not tell you
- Q. \$100?
- A. Oh, no. Thousands of dollars/
- Q. Thousands of Dollars?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you use it for anything else but construction purposes?
- A. I guess it was. You are mixing me up with things I know nothing of/
- Q. The construction loan was <sup>spent</sup> ~~spent~~ for several things?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Some for constructing, some for current expenses?
- A. Yes, and some for advertising purposes.
- Q. So that this is practically used up now?
- A. I do not think so.
- Q. You still have some balance?
- A. Yes, we have some balance because we are paying off them as they come in/
- Q. Don't you know, as a matter of fact, that you did not return all the money collected for passage to Africa?
- A. I do not know that.
- Q. Would these reports go to you from some other official? And you would pay no attention to that?
- A. The officials never said one word to me about that money.
- Q. And you never asked about it?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You had enough confidence never to ask about it?
- A. Yes, I had confidence in the men, that they were doing the right thing.
- Q. You have confidence in these men who spent this death fund for office expenses and used up the construction fund?

A. Yes.

Q. What country are you a citizen of?

A. The United States. I was born in Key West, Fla.

Q. Where can you be reached by telephone?

A. At the office, Harlem 5775.

In re: U. S. vs Black Star Line, Inc.

Post Office Building,  
New York, Jan. 16, 1922.

STATEMENT OF HUBERT HARRISON.

Present: O. B. Williamson, P. O. Inspector,  
M. J. Davis, Special Agent, Bur. of Investigation.

Stenographic minutes by M. J. Davis " " "

By Mr. Williamson:

- Q. What is your full name?  
A. Hubert H. Harrison.
- Q. Your home address?  
A. 570 Lenox Avenue, New York.
- Q. And your business now?  
A. Associate editor of the "Negro World" - one of the contributing editors.
- Q. How long have you been in that position?  
A. Since November, 1920, antecedant to which I was editor of the "Negro World".
- Q. Who were the first owners of the "Negro World"?  
A. The same people who are the owners of it now, that is, the U.N.I.A. and A.C.L.
- Q. The paper has always been owned by the U.N.I.A & A.C.L.?  
A. Yes - one name.
- Q. Where did Garvey get the money to buy the paper?  
A. What do you mean?  
Q. Didn't he pay the paper some money?  
A. I guess you are referring to that statement--  
Q. Yes?  
A. That is bunk. No such transaction ever occurred.
- Q. Did Garvey ever use any Black Star Line funds to make payments to that paper?  
A. Prior to my going there in January, 1920, I do not know. Between January, 1920 and November, 1921, when I gave up the editorship, I can but say I do not believe so. I saw no signs of it, and on the contrary, the papers' money was being used to pay for Black Star Line work and things of that sort. They owed the paper money. The paper did not owe them any.
- Q. Does Garvey and his agents, in selling Black Star Line stock, want hold out the hope of colonizing Africa or some part of it?  
A. Always.
- Q. Is that one of the main inducements?  
A. Yes.
- Q. And the Black Star Line is to run the ships?  
A. Oh, yes.
- 31

- Q. Now, have you ever seen a report made by Garcia to Garvey as to the feasibility of this plan?
- A. I have seen the report made by Garcia to Garvey when Garcia came back in 1920 from Africa in August or July. I do not know that the report could be fairly described as a report on the feasibility of his invasion of Africa, but in the course of the report he gave information which indicated that they had no base to work from or on.
- Q. Did it indicate that Garvey owned nothing in Liberia?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What were the objections raised as to colonizing that part of the world by the Liberians?
- A. The opposition of the Liberians themselves. And he advised if they wanted to exert any influence in Liberia they must soft-pedal and rather persuasively permeate the situation than buck it.
- Q. And eventually get control of the Government?
- A. I do not think Garcia's words in that report ran to any such an explicit conclusion, but the gabb is abundantly furnished at Liberty Hall. One more thing - There happens to be a certain issue of the Negro World in 1920 about March or April, and in that issue they opened up at Liberty Hall and told all that they intended to do in Africa and what they were going to say to the Chief's, and Garvey was chump enough to put it in the paper.
- Q. As you understand it, the Garcia report discouraged the colonization project?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You have heard some of Garvey's lectures in the course of which he was trying to sell stock in the Black Star Line?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What representations did he hold out and what promises did he make?
- A. He argued that the race needed ships and needed to be in commerce. He told them that they had to free themselves from the domination of the whites and if they could do that by owning ships; that at the same time Africa was to be redeemed and that part of the work of redeeming Africa would be done by the Black Star Line by building it into a great big thing, and he assured them that there was wealth in Africa, that the wealth was waiting for our people, and that all our people needed to do was to go over there and get it. As to the method of getting in there, he explained that all he had to do was to drive the British out.
- Q. The seat of Government was to be in Liberia?
- A. Yes, of the Garvey government.
- Q. You know that Garvey had nothing there?
- A. Yes, I know Garvey had nothing.
- Q. Did you ever hear him make his speech in furtherance of this construction loan?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you ever hear him make any representations as to the ownership or control or operation of any ships?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What did he say about actual ownership or possession of ships?

3- Statement of Hubert Harrison.

Q. He said - more than said - that they owned the S/S Yarrow, to which they called the "Frederick Douglas"; that they owned the "Kanawha" which they called the "Maceo"; that they owned the "Shady Side", and I have read the circular showing that they owned - had taken over the S/S Phyllis Wheatley.

- Q. You heard him make those statements in speeches?
- A. Oh yes.
- Q. Can you give me approximately the dates when he made such statements as to the Phyllis Wheatley?
- A. About February, 1921 I heard Gervey, in Liberty Hall, make these statements as to the Phyllis Wheatley; that he had been examining the ship; that the ship suited him and the company and that the sole reason why he did not take her over then was that it was a strong in six banks that they could have ~~paid~~ bought the statement that it in less than a month. Furthermore, that at the time of his looking her over, Phyllis Wheatley stood so strong in six banks that they could have ~~paid~~ bought the statement that it in less than a month. Furthermore, that at the time they could do it in less than a month. A million dollars any time they could were these representations made for the purpose of influencing stock sales?
- Q. I could only infer as to that.
- A. Yes.
- Q. They were selling stock at the time?
- A. Have you seen the printed representations as to the ownership and control of the Phyllis Wheatley?
- Q. Yes, insofar as they were a reproduction of this speech. Hear them then that, coming down to 1921 I think, read the statements made in Liberty Hall. Subsequent to this, I heard, in Feb. 1921, the effect that they had the Phyllis Wheatley.



Post Office Building,  
New York, Jan. 16, 1922.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE TOBIAS

Present: A. B. Williamson, P.O. Inspector,  
M. J. Davis, Special Agent, Bureau of Investigation.

Stenographic minutes by M. J. Davis " " "

--0--

By Mr. Williamson:

- Q. What is your full name?  
A. George Tobias.  
Q. And you are the - George Tobias who is Treasurer of the B. S. L.?  
A. Treasurer of the Black Star Line, yes sir.  
Q. And this is your picture on the circular headed "The Negro in the Realm of Commerce"?  
A. Yes, that is my picture.  
Q. What was that circular used for?  
A. For advertising the Black Star Line.  
Q. Sent out by mail, was it not?  
A. All over the country.  
Q. What are your duties as Treasurer?  
A. Receiving funds and depositing in savings bank, etc.  
Q. You are familiar with the way the funds were received and dispersed?  
A. For the Black Star Line, yes sir.  
Q. Only?  
A. That is, of the Black Star Line only.  
Q. How much stock did you sell?  
A. Up to now I think it is about over 17,000 shareholders, but the Secretary has the exact figures.  
Q. How much money have you taken in?  
A. About \$800,000 or thereabouts.  
Q. This money has been practically all spent now?  
A. Well, there is some money invested in the ships.  
Q. Aside from that?  
A. Yes, all in the ships.  
Q. And the rest of it has gone in other ways, to run the corporation in general? Now, you have a small equity in each of these ships?  
A. Yes, a large one I should say.  
Q. Would you have an idea of about what it would amount to?  
A. The figures I do not know. Mr. Garcia keeps all those figures.  
Q. Who did the circularizing?  
A. It was done, I think - I really do not know - some department of the office. I do not know whether - probably from the President.  
Q. What is your salary?  
A. Fifty dollars (\$50) a week.

- Q. You are not one of the high priced officers?  
A. No sir.
- Q. Did you authorize the use of Black Star Line funds in financing any of Garvey's trips?  
A. No sir.
- Q. Was any fund so used?  
A. Not from my department/  
Q. From any other department?  
A. I do not know what they did in the other departments.
- Q. What do you mean by "other departments?"  
A. I mean the U. N. I. A.
- Q. We are talking about the Black Star Line?  
A. All business for the Black Star Line - he gets his expenses for going on that business/  
Q. You required strict accounting from him?  
A. Yes.
- Q. So that we have all the vouchers covering that?  
A. Yes.
- Q. He never made any expenditure that you did not have covered properly by vouchers?  
A. Those papers go to the Secretary.
- Q. You are the Treasurer?  
A. Yes.
- Q. As Treasurer you must look out for disbursements?  
A. Any money I spent is recorded in the cash book.
- Q. You attended the Directors meetings?  
A. Of the Black Star Line?  
Q. Yes?  
A. Yes.
- Q. You recall they wanted to buy the "Yarmouth" so as to make a kind of propaganda ship?  
A. No sir.
- Q. Were they buying it for the purpose of making money out of it?  
A. Yes sir.
- Q. And they bought it with the idea of making a stock selling feature out of it?  
A. No sir.
- Q. And you were present at all the meetings?  
A. Yes.
- Q. And are now telling me the truth?  
A. So far as I can remember we got the boat for trading business.

OFFICE OF  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE  
EDWARD J. BRENNAN

TELEPHONE, BARCLAY 8160  
POST OFFICE BOX 241  
CITY HALL STATION

**Department of Justice**  
**Bureau of Investigation**  
15 PARK ROW, 14TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

January 4th, 1921.

Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

ATTENTION: WALTER LEWIS, ESC.  
Re: OBlack Star Line.

Dear Sir:

READY BY W. J. B.

Your attention is invited to the report of Agent Davis for December 21st giving account of an interview in this office with Post Office Inspector Williamson. This report explained the reasons for the postponement of this matter until January 3rd, on which date Inspector Williamson was to have again taken it up with the United States Attorney for presentation before the Grand Jury.

Agent Davis has made efforts during the past two days to get in touch with Inspector Williamson but has been advised that he is still out of town and inasmuch as he is not regularly assigned to the New York Division of the Post Office, no information is obtainable as to his present whereabouts or the approximate date of his return to this city.

Inasmuch as this is properly a case which falls within the scope of the Post Office Department and the further fact that Inspector Williamson has done much preliminary work on it, no action has been taken by this office pending his return to New York City.

Very truly yours,

*Edward J. Brennan*  
EDWARD J. BRENNAN  
Special Agent in Charge

LJD-WED

RECORDED

JAN 5 1921

IN PARTIAL

TRAVIS

REPORT MADE AT New York City	WHEN MADE: 12/21/21	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/21/21	REPORT MADE BY Mortimer J. Davis
TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE In re: Black Star Line, Alleged Violation Sec. 215, U.S.C.C. Using the Mails to Defraud.			Read by DEC 22 1921 Wm. J. Burns
FACTS DEVELOPED:  <p>Post Office Inspector Wilkinson came to the Bureau office today at 1.10 p.m. on this case and was interviewed by Agent In Charge Brennan and the writer. Mr. Wilkinson stated that he had gathered together evidence which indicates that there is a prima facie case against Marcus Garvey and other officials of the Black Star Line for using the mails in a scheme to defraud. His purpose in coming to this office today was to get the assistance of an Agent and an Accountant in addition to any information we may have in the premises. Mr. Brennan assigned the writer to work with Mr. Wilkinson, and stated that he would suggest to Mr. Storck, who is now in New York City, that he do the accounting work. While Mr. Wilkinson did not state in detail what his evidence is, he said he interviewed Garvey yesterday, and statements obtained at that time, added to data already in hand, make it appear without any doubt that a violation has been committed and that there would be no trouble securing a warrant for Garvey's arrest and a subpoena Duces Tecum for the Corporation's papers. When Mr. Wilkinson asked Mr. Brennan when, in the latter's opinion, these should be issued, Mr. Brennan replied that this office was ready today, and would continue on the case day and night if necessary. Mr. Wilkinson seemed to think it better to wait until after the Christmas and New Year holidays, although at the same time he stated there were rumors current that Garvey might</p>			
REFERENCE	COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO Washington (3) <i>DELETED COPY SENT Ben Watkins</i> New York (2) <i>BY LETTER 4-27-76</i> PER FOIA REQUEST <i>719</i>		

61-50-29  
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make his get away at any moment, for, according to advices, he suspects the real purpose of Mr. Wilkinson's interview with him. Mr. Brennan finally suggested that there seemed to be no reason to delay the matter and requested me to accompany Mr. Wilkinson to the U.S. Attorney's office to procure the necessary warrants and subpoenas, which Mr. Wilkinson stated he would serve tomorrow.

Mr. Wilkinson placed the matter before Asst. U.S. Attorney Joyce, who, after going over it in some detail suggested that it appeared better in the premises to secure a Grand Jury indictment in preference to a Commissioner's warrant for the reason that the latter might force the Government to a hearing, which Mr. Wilkinson stated, without examination of the books, he was not ready for. The subject of Garvey's probable escape was brought up and Mr. Joyce stated that placing him under bond, which would likely be not more than \$5,000, could hardly be expected to prevent this when the immensity of the alleged fraud was considered.

Thus as the matter now stands the case will not be presented to the Grand Jury until January 3rd as it will not convene until that date. Mr. Wilkinson, upon my offer, stated there is nothing this office can do in the meantime in the way of gathering additional evidence, witnesses, etc., stating that he preferred this not be done for fear of a "tip off."

The above facts were immediately reported to Mr. Brennan verbally.

REPORT MADE AT: New York City	DATE WHEN MADE: 12/8/21	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 12/3-4/21	REPORT MADE BY: Mortimer J. Davis.
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TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE:  
IN RE: BLACK STAR LINE - ALLEGED VIOLATION OF SECTION 215 - USING MAILS TO DEFRAUD.

FACTS DEVELOPED: At New York:

Continuing on this matter; by appointment, I called up Cyril Briggs to obtain from him any information in his possession with regard to the alleged misrepresentation by the Black Star Line in its sale of stock. My previous reports will show that Briggs promised to obtain the names of persons who could be used by this Department as witnesses in such action. Briggs informed me at this time that while he had located several such persons, none of them would care to make any statements against Garvey, principally through fear of consequences or embarrassment among their friends. However, Briggs promised to continue his efforts and keep me informed.

DELETED COPY SENT *Ben Watkins*  
BY LETTER 4-27-76  
PER FOIA REQUEST *742*

Read by  
DEC 10 1921  
Wm. J. Burns

61-50-28  
RECORDED  
DEC 10 1921 A.M.

*AL*

LEWIS

*MJD: FJK*

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ORIGINAL

Instructions: Charles J. Scully, Intelligence Division

REPORT MADE AT: New York City	DATE WHEN MADE: 1-13-22	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 1-3-4	REPORT MADE BY: Mortimer J. Davis 51727
TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE: O IN RE: BLACK STAR LINE-Alleged Violation Section 215, Cr.Code. Using the Mails to Defraud.			
FACTS DEVELOPED:  My last previous report will show that after a consultation with Assistant United States Attorney Joyce, action on this matter was delayed until January 3d, the day upon which the Grand Jury convened. On that date I endeavored to locate Mr. Williamson, but ascertained that he is not attached to the New York Office of the Postal Inspectors, and that they had no information as to his whereabouts. Upon interviewing Accountant Storck, however, I was advised that Mr. Williamson, who had gone out of town over the holidays, had not yet returned, and nothing was known as to when he would do so. I requested that should he arrive, this office be communicated with immediately.  The above facts were communicated to Washington, for the attention of Mr. Walter Lewis, by letter, on January 3d. <u>January 4th.</u> I was advised today that Mr. Williamson had not yet returned, and that he probably would not do so until next Monday, January 9th.			
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JAN 21 1922

READY BY W. J. B.

RECORDED

MJD JWD.


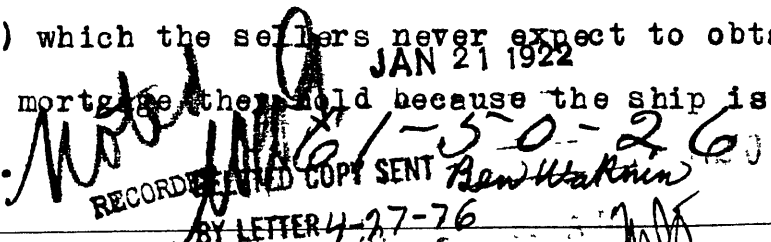
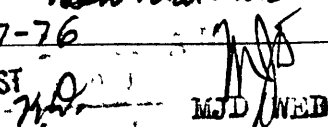
61-50-27

*file*  
*WJ*

*sent to Mr. Lewis*

ORIGINAL

*all* ✓

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK, N.Y.</b>	DATE MADE <b>1/14/22</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>1/9-10-11-12&amp;13</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>MORTIMER J. DAVIS</b>
TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE. <b>RE: U.S. VS. BLACK STAR LINE INC., Vio. Section 215, Using the Mails to Defraud. Negro Activities.</b>			
FACTS DEVELOPED:  <div data-bbox="637 493 991 746" data-label="Text"> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p> </div> <p>Continuing this case and referring to previous reports.</p> <p><u>January 9th:</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">EADBY W. J. E</p> <p>Agent joined Post Office Inspector Williamson this morning to take up the case with Asst. U.S. Attorney Joyce. Inspector Williamson drew up the complaint, prepared subpoenas, etc. while agent proceeded to collect various data regarding the purchase of the Black Star Line of the steamships "Yarmouth," "Kanawha" and "Shadyside." Practically the entire morning was spent by agent in the offices of HARRISS, IRBY &amp; VOSE, 15 William Str. in conference with Mr. Harriss, who negotiated originally with Marcus Garvey the sale of the "Yarmouth". The information thus obtained is voluminous and will be incorporated in a later report. In effect, Garvey agreed to purchase the ship for \$168,000, making an initial payment of \$50,000, the balance to be paid in installments. However, various legal and financial entanglements arose, and before the ship was actually delivered four separate agreements each superseding the other were drawn. At the present time the Black Star Line still owes some \$32,000 on the ship (exclusive of interest) which the sellers never expect to obtain. They will not foreclose the mortgage they hold because the ship is practically worthless today.</p> <div data-bbox="819 1721 1592 1963" data-label="Text"> <p style="text-align: right;">  </p> </div>			
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	<b>PER FOIA REQUEST</b> 		



NEW YORK, N.Y. 1/14/22 1/9 to 1/13

MORTIMER J. DAVIS

BLACK STAR LINE INC.

Upon rejoining Inspector Williamson this afternoon, I found him in conversation with CYRIL BRIGGS, editor of the "Crusader" and MURRAY BERNAYS, of the law firm of HALE, NELLES & SHORR. Bernays is the man who defended LINDGREN, AMTER and JAKIRA, and is known by this office to be active legally and personally in Communist circles. Bernays was present as Briggs' adviser, the latter being the most active complainant against Garvey. I later informed Inspector Williamson of Bernays standing. Bernays did not recognize me, and when I asked what his interest in the matter was, since he was not a stockholder in the Black Star Line, has no actions pending against them, nor has he, in fact, ever dealt with any of its officers in any way, he explained that he "hated crookedness in every form". It is easy to understand his interest however. Briggs is leader of the Negro Communist element; Garvey is his only stumbling block; and with him out of the way Briggs' field is materially widened. Bernays being at least a Communist sympathizer, has taken this occasion to "help the cause." Briggs appearance here today was merely an effort to learn when action would be taken against Garvey.

Upon presenting the complaint to Asst. U.S. Attorney Joyce this evening, he requested that we prepare for his guidance a complete report of the information upon which the subpoenas were to be issued, stating that he was not satisfied as yet that there was sufficient material on hand to proceed.

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NEW YORK, N.Y. 1/14/22 1/9 to 1/13 BLACK STAR LINE M.J. DAVIS

January 10th:

Inspector Williamson and Agent spent this morning preparing report for Mr. Joyce. The report follows:

MEMORANDUM FOR UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CONCERNING  
MARCUS GARVEY.

This is a case concerning Marcus Garvey, an alien West Indian negro who operates from 56 West 136th Street, New York, N.Y. He is charged with having violated the postal fraud statutes in the promotion of the following companies:

- (1) Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League, Inc.,
- (2) Black Star Line, Inc.,
- (3) The Negro Factories Corporation, Inc.
- (4) The "Negro World".
- (5) The Universal Steam Laundry.

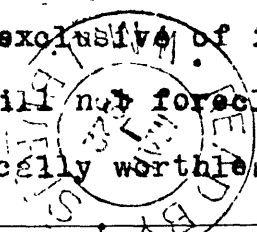
The advertised purpose of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League is stated as follows:

"An organization embracing the millions of men, women and children of Negro blood and of African descent of all countries of the World, striving for the freedom, manhood and nationalism of the Negro, and to hand down to posterity a Flag of Empire to restore to the world an Ethiopian Nation one and indivisible out of which shall come our princes and rulers, - to bequeath to our children and our Grand Old Race the heritage of an Ancestry worthy of their time and thoughtful of the future."

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REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK, N.Y.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>1/14/22</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>1/9-10-11-12&amp;13</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>MORTIMER J. DAVIS</b>
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			<i>[Handwritten initials]</i> <b>MJD/WED</b>



NEW YORK, N.Y.

1/14/22 1/9 to 1/13

MORTIMER J. DAVIS

BLACK STAR LINE INC.

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NEW YORK, N.Y. 1/14/22 1/9 to 1/13 BLACK STAR LINE M.J. DAVIS

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NEW YORK, N.Y. 1/14/22 1/9 to 1/13 BLACK STAR LINE M.J.DAVIS

The Black Star Line, Inc., is a Delaware corporation with an authorized capitalization of \$10,000,000, organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, and Garvey, since 1920 at least, has been selling shares of the common stock in this corporation. His principal medium of reaching the public is the "Negro World," a second class publication mailed from New York. It has a circulation list of some 45,000 names and circulates among negroes in nearly every country in the world but principally among American negroes and negroes in the British West Indies.

The Black Star Line, Inc. pretends to run a line of steamers, both freight and passenger, and is to convey men and materials to the West coast of Africa where a great negro empire is to be founded. The following representations have been made with reference to the steamship line and for the purpose of selling stock in the corporation.

- (1) Whatever might have been the errors of the past, the present administration of the Black Star Line is composed of trained business men and specialty service help, unquestionably equal to their responsible tasks.
- (2) Commercially there are few negro concerns in this country, and none in the world, whose prospects are as bright.
- (3) Invest your money in the most colossal, most prosperous negro industry of all time.
- (4) The Black Star Line is up and doing. Doing what? Running Steamships. Help to keep them running by buying your share today!

NEW YORK, N.Y. 1/14/22 1/9 to 1/13 BLACK STAR LINE M.J. DAVIS

(5) Invest now and help us put more ships on the sea.

The advertising literature from which the above has been quoted, and which was used in May, 1921, contains the picture of four ships, known as ~~PHYLLIS WHEATLEY~~, ~~FREDERICK DOUGLASS~~, ~~ANTONIO MACEO~~ and the ~~SHADY SIDE~~. Confidential information from an agent of the Department of Justice is to the effect that the ~~PHYLLIS WHEATLEY~~ exists only on paper and that in order to procure the out used, a ship was photographed with the real name concealed. An old ship, called the YARMOUTH, was re-named the FREDERICK DOUGLASS, and, as this agent understands it, a third ship was renamed the ANTONIO MACEO. The SHADY SIDE, he reports, is an excursion steamer which was used on the Hudson River during one summer.

Garvey, on being interviewed, gave some interesting information on the ship question. In October, 1919, he got possession of the S/S YARMOUTH, a 1400 ton freight and passenger vessel. It was the property of the North American Steamship Co., and the Garvey deal was conducted through the firm of HARRIS, MCGILL AND CO., 35 South William Street. Garvey says he paid \$50,000 down and thereafter he paid \$10,000 to \$11,000 per month until \$135,000 had been paid. He now owes \$29,000 on this ship.

This vessel had an exciting experience in January and February, 1920. It was put in charge of Captain JOSHUA COCKBURN, a Negro skipper, and a crew of negroes. Below decks she carried some

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NEW YORK, N.Y. 1/14/22 1/9/ to 1/13 BLACK STAR LINE M.J.DAVIS

21,419 cases of whiskey, 500 cases of champagne and 350 barrels of wine. She was bound for Havana, Cuba, but developed engine trouble somewhere off the Virginia capes and was towed back to New York. Then trouble with the cargo began. The liquor, or a considerable part of it, was stolen and the Black Star Line is defendant in libel suits for damages amounting to over \$200,000. The title to the ship, Garvey said, passed to a law firm in Canada. So as to statement No. 1, the company, instead of being composed of "trained business men", was then and is still dominated by Garvey, who had no more sense than to sponsor this ill-starred venture.

The next ship, the Kanawha, Garvey says, was secured in May, 1920. She was a 700-ton passenger vessel. The deal was made with JAMES M. BRIGGS, whose address is care of FOLEY & MARTIN, Attorneys at Law. The price was \$60,000. She was once a yacht owned by H. H. ROGERS, but when Garvey got possession, she was in bad condition. He renamed the vessel ANTONIO MACEO and says he spent \$75,000 to make her seaworthy. She made one trip to Charleston and in August, 1921, set out for Cuba. She is now at or near the mouth of a river at Antilla, Cuba, in the charge of the American Consul. Garvey's company owes \$9,500 on the vessel which is virtually a ~~pretext~~. This debt, by some arrangement not yet explained, is due the Massachusetts Bonding Co.

This, in brief, is the story of the only two ships which ever made a pretext of putting out to sea. But in March, 1920,



NEW YORK, N.Y. 1/14/22 1/9 to 1/13 BLACK STAR LINE M.J. DAVIS

a river boat, the Shady Side, was optioned for from LEON R. SWIFT, a ship broker in New York. The price to be paid was \$35,000. Garvey ran this boat up and down the Hudson for a time as an excursion steamer, had on it his famous Negro band of some 75 pieces, but the boat, like the two ships, soon came to grief. Garvey paid but \$18,000 of the purchase price when the boat was damaged by ice. This occurred sometime last winter. She is now docked at Fort Lee and the Black Star Line is trying to collect the insurance. This, as well as what has been said of the Kanawha wreck, bears on statement No. 1, and with equal force on statements No. 2 and No. 3. Commercially, the prospects are anything but bright, and certainly this industry is neither prosperous nor colossal, as claimed.

Statements No. 4 and No. 5 were made to deceive. This is evident from the story of the PHYLLIS WHEATLEY, a ship existing only in Garvey's imagination. In the same circular in which you will find these statements, is a picture of the imaginary ship, the name plainly visible. This picture appeared as early as March, 1921. Garvey explained that this ship is really the ORION and is owned by the Shipping Board. He made a bid for her on June 12th, 1921, offering to pay \$225,000. Through the New York Ship Exchange at 115 Broadway, he put up \$25,000. The Shipping Board required a performance bond of \$200,000, and to date this has not been accepted.

What could be more fraudulent than this advertisement which appeared in Garvey's paper, the "Negro World" on March 26th, 1921?

NEW YORK, N.Y. 1/14/22 1/9 to 1/13 BLACK STAR LINE M.J. DAVIS

BLACK STAR LINE. Passengers and freight  
for \*\*\*Monrovia, Africa. By S/S PHYLLIS  
WHEATLEY. Sailing on or about April 25th  
\*\*\*Book your baggage now. ←

As bearing on the dishonest intent of Garvey, the investigation discloses -

- (1) That funds belonging to one corporation were transferred to another without compensation.

This has reference to the "Negro World", a newspaper which was first owned by the local branch of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League. It was sold by the local to the parent body. Then one of two things happened: Either (1) the parent body sold it to the African Communities League (a part of itself), using Universal Negro Improvement Association funds to buy the paper from itself, or (2) the Universal Negro Improvement Association sold the paper to itself and made a gift of it to the African Communities League. Which plan was adopted depends on the way Garvey juggled the books. But in either event, the money which the Universal Negro Improvement Association used in the transaction was the money of the so-called "Liberian Construction Loan", a subsidiary special fund of the Universal Negro Improvement Association. This use of this fund is shown in the annual report of "High Chancellor" for 1921.

And as a further bearing on dishonest intent, the investigation further discloses -

- (2) That the charter of the African Communities League was violated by the officers of that corporation in buying stock in the Black Star Line, Inc.
- 26

NEW YORK, N.Y. 1/14/22 1/9 to 1/13 BLACK STAR LINE M.J:BAVIS

This is inferred from the evidence of the report of the "High Chancellor," which is signed by him and to which is attached a report of the "Auditor General", ELIE GARCIA. This report shows that one of the items of expense of the so-called "Construction Loan" was \$34,000, this in fact being the largest item of it. It is the amount invested in Black Star Line stock and it can be assumed that the Universal Negro Improvement Association, which purports to be an eleemosynary organization, could only invest in safe securities. Garvey, who controlled the Board of Directors, made this investment with knowledge of the insolvency of the Black Star Line, Inc. It was, therefore, not an investment in good faith for the purposes of the eleemosynary organization, but simply a diversion of trust funds by Garvey to himself under a guise which concealed the real purpose.

JAMES D. BROOKS was formerly Secretary-General of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and as such learned that at one meeting of the Board of Directors Garvey was voted \$15,000 of the funds of this eleemosynary organization to be used as he saw fit. It is presumed that the \$15,000 so voted is a part of the \$34,440 mentioned by the "High Chancellor."

Further, the investigation discloses -

- (3) That the so-called "death fund" was used, at least in part, to meet running expenses. This being already a trust fund, it could only be legally used to satisfy death claims filed by the beneficiaries of the association members.

NEW YORK, N.Y. 1/14/22 1/9 to 1/13 BLACK STAR LINE M.J. DAVIS

The Constitution and By Laws of the Universal Negro Improvement Association provide that a death tax of ten cents per month shall be levied against each member and that this shall be a levy distinct and separate from the regular monthly dues. It provides also that this sum shall be forwarded to the Secretary General to be placed to the credit of the so-called death fund. Then, on the death of a member, it was provided that the sum of \$75. should be paid to the next of kin. Brooks, who for over a year held the office of Secretary-General, informed an agent of the Department of Justice that during his incumbency, that while records of this fund were kept separate from the principal records, that is to say the 10¢ per month collected, to mingle with the general funds of the Association and was applied generally to the payment of salaries and to such other incidental expenses as arose from time to time.

In the statement of the "High Chancellor," heretofore referred to, the death tax levy yielded \$19,526.80, from which there had been paid \$1,275.00, leaving \$18,287.80. The balance sheet as of July, 1921, which includes the business of the entire Universal Negro Improvement Association, shows that the bank balance as of that date amounted to only \$10,913.67, so that the fund as of the date of the statement must have been depleted to the extent of \$7,374.13.

The balance of the day was spent by Agent gathering additional data regarding purchase of ships by the Black Star line.

This evening Mr. Joyce informed us that he had not had

NEW YORK, N.Y. 1/14/22 1/9 to 1/13 BLACK STAR LINE M.J.DAVIS

time to read the report but would do so at his home tonight.

January 11th:

This morning, upon interviewing Mr. Joyce, he stated he had not yet read the report but would do so today. Agent then forced to discontinue temporarily on another matter, but at 4:30 P.M. upon telephoning Mr. Williamson, was informed that up to that time the report was still in Mr. Joyce's hands unread.

January 12th:

After going over all details with Mr. Joyce, he gave his sanction to the issuance of subpoenas duces tecum for all records of the Black Star Line and Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League. Mr. Joyce was of the opinion that Garvey might attempt to make a get away, and therefore warrant for his arrest was issued.

At 2:00 P.M. in company with Inspector Williamson, Accountant Merrilles, Agent Anderson, and Deputy Marshal, proceeded to the vicinity of 56 West 136th Street, offices of the Black Star Line. Upon being informed over the telephone that Garvey was not at his office, agent proceeded to his home, 133 W. 129th Str. Upon finding him there, I interviewed him under pretext, went to the street and returned to the house with the Deputy Marshal and placed Garvey under arrest. He insisted upon telephoning for his Secretary, MISS JACQUES and his attorney, MR. MC CLENNAN. When they arrived at

26.

NEW YORK, N.Y      1/14/22      1/9 to 1/13      BLACK STAR LINE M.J. DAVIS

his home, we all proceeded to the offices of the Black Star Line, Messrs. Williamson, Merrilies and Anderson were already there, and upon our arrival the Deputy Marshal served the subpoenas duces tecum upon ELIE GARCIA, Secretary. He willingly cooperated, and produced all books and records called for. In fact, upon request, brought two additional books to the Post Office Building himself the following day. The books obtained were:

BLACK STAR LINE

Stock ledger -    \$  
 Stock Ledger    L  
 Ledger from 1919 to date  
 Minute book  
 Journal  
 Cash books (3)  
 Vouchers from August, 1919  
 to September, 1921  
 Sundry letters and agreements  
 re purchase of ships.  
 Pass books (3)

UNIVERSAL NEGRO IMP. ASSN.

Minute books (2)  
 Cash books (3)  
 Cash books (2)  
 Vouchers from August, 1920  
 to December, 1921  
 (Inclusive)

A receipt signed by Mr. Williamson has been given Garcia for these books.

Garvey was taken to the Federal Building, where, before Commissioner Hitchcock, he was held in \$2,500 bail, which he secured immediately.

January 13th:

Upon subpoenas, the following came to the Post Office Building today:    ELIE GARCIA,    J. W. JONES, ORLANDO THOMPSON,

NEW YORK, N.Y. 1/14/22 1/9/ to 1/13 BLACK STAR LINE M.J. DAVIS

MR. TOBIAS, MR. TOOTE. As the Grand Jury did not convene, Mr. Williamson requested that they remain to be questioned. All agreed. It was possible to examine only Garcia, Jones and Thompson today, and the others promised to return upon telephone call. Copies of the statements given by these three will be forwarded to Washington as soon as available.

Mr. Williamson and Agent today started circularizing the Black Star Line stockholders, using Post Office form letters. There are over 40,000 stockholders in the Line and it will be impossible to circularize all.

In general, the facts developed today by the questioning of the three mentioned add materially to the report incorporated above, and appear to justify, in addition to Garvey, the indictment of Garcia and possibly one other.

CONTINUED.

26  
MJD/WED

OFFICE OF  
DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

TELEPHONE, BARCLAY 8160  
POST OFFICE BOX 241  
CITY HALL STATION

**Department of Justice**  
**Bureau of Investigation**  
15 PARK ROW, 14TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

READ BY W. W. G.

61-50

January 13, 1922.

Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE DIVISION.  
Re: U. S. Vs. Marcus Garvey -  
Alleged Violation Postal Laws.

Dear Sir:

This is to advise that Marcus Garvey, the negro radical leader, was placed under arrest yesterday on a charge of violating the Postal Laws.

I am attaching a clipping from the New York World of even date concerning the arrest of Garvey, which article is self explanatory.

Yours very truly,

*Edward J. Brennan*  
EDWARD J. BRENNAN,  
Special Agent in Charge.

CJS:FJK  
Encl.

1-14-22  
1-14-22 W

RECEIVED  
JAN 14 1922  
GENERAL INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

DELETED COPY SENT *Ben Waknin*  
BY LETTER 4-27-76  
PER FOIA REQUEST 7.9.

JAN 21 1922

61-50-25

RECORDED

FILE  
W.W.G.



REPORT MADE AT <b>New York City</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>1-4-22</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>12-29</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>P 134</b>	<b>61-50</b>
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TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE

IN RE: AFRICAN BLOOD BROTHERHOOD  
Negro Activities.

NO 517 6  
JAN 5 1922  
GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

FACTS DEVELOPED

While at Ray Baker's Office, 7 E. 15th Street, Room 401, he stated that he honors the African Blood Brotherhood because it is a true militant class conscious movement, which is not afraid to use guns, and that in the Tulsa riots last year the African Blood Brotherhood supplied the Negroes with the guns and lead in the fighting there, which might also be said of other race riots.

He was asked where he secured his information, and stated he has first hand information of this, but refused to divulge the name.

Baker is a close friend of Claude McKay, and it is believed this is his source of information.

READY BY W. E. B.

Some months ago while placing Cyril Briggs under surveillance in connection with the African Blood Brotherhood, mention was made of Briggs going to a house on West 133d Street, with a man, who was described at that time, and that Claude McKay was also present at that time, and it is now believed that that man is one A. J. Anderson, who is now a member of the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party of America.

DELETED COPY SENT *Ben Wakarish*  
BY LETTER 4-27-76  
PER FOIA REQUEST *W.D.*

JAN 7 1922  
P 134 JWD.  
61-50-24  
RECORDED  
*file*

REFERENCE	COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO <b>Washington -3- New York -2-</b>
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CJS-J.D.

# Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

15 PARK ROW, 14TH FLOOR

NEW YORK, N. Y.

October 20, 1921.

*H*  
D.VISION  
OCT 24 1921  
GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

General Intelligence Division.

Dear Sir:

In Re: Circular Entitled "Mr. Garvey  
and the A. B. B." -Negro Activities.

I am attaching herewith, two copies of circular  
entitled "Mr. Garvey and the A. B. B.", issued by the African Blood  
Brotherhood.

For your information, we have been advised that  
Cyril Briggs has been actively engaged in the distribution of this  
circular.

Yours very truly,



EDWARD J. BRENNAN

DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT.

*10/24/21 W*  
*Do Pass Div*

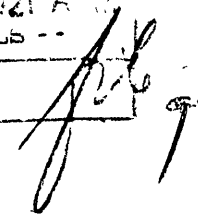
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OCT 31 1921

61-50-23

DELETED COPY SENT *Ben Watkins*  
BY LETTER 4-27-76  
PER FOIA REQUEST *M.G.*

OCT 31 1921 A  
BU. INVS --  
OVER



Department of Justice,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington.

61-50

ADDRESS REPLY TO DIRECTOR,  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,  
AND REFER TO INITIALS.

WL:MVT

January 3, 1922.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

Mr. J. R. Cox, Special Agent of the Special Intelligence Unit of the Internal Revenue Department, called at this office today and it was arranged that after investigation of the books and records of Marcus Garvey, he be notified at Room 238 $\frac{1}{2}$ , Treasury Building, telephone branch 290, in order that he may be given an opportunity to proceed to New York and confer with the accountant of the Department of Justice, with a view toward determining whether or not this accused has falsified as to his Income Tax Returns.

*Walter Lewis*

DELETED COPY SENT *Ben Watkins*  
BY LETTER 4-27-76  
PER F.J.A. REQUEST *H.A.*

JAN - 6 1922

61-50-22

BUREAU OF INVEL

JAN 5 1922 RECORDED

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INDEXED	FILE
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WVG-AS  
61-50-21

JAN 13 1922

January 9, 1922.

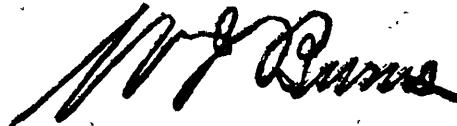
Mr. R. Foster,  
2136 Walnut Street,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 28th ultimo, addressed to the Attorney General, reporting certain facts in regard to MARCUS GARVEY and the so-called Black Star Line.

I desire you to know that your action in calling this matter to our attention is thoroughly appreciated, and the same is being given consideration.

Very truly yours,



Director.

DELETED COPY SENT *Ben Watkins*  
BY LETTER 4-27-76  
PER FOIA REQUEST *M.D.*

ORDER

22

3  
and I am for your self does have  
some moral talks with some  
of the Members and you will find I  
have not begun myself to state  
the danger in the Movement  
It is the second K.K.K. in  
America I myself being an  
Ancient Free and accepted Mason  
my obligation compells me to be  
a loyal citizen as you know  
I also love my race and do not  
want to see all the good that  
has been accomplished in the last  
51 yrs wrecked ask you to please  
give this matter your attention  
Yours R. Foster 2136 J1  
Walnut st  
Please do not use my name  
P. Labie

2  
This movement is not but I for one  
thinks you should and I have no  
no doubt but what you will when  
give you a few inside facts of this  
Movement First there is being taught  
among the colored race disloyalty to  
this country and flag also hatred  
and race prejudice of the worse type  
raising up a radical element among  
the illiterate class that in the  
future will cause trouble and we  
law abiding colored citizens will  
be compelled to suffer with this  
small minority of our race brought  
on by this movement. We of the law  
abiding citizens wish you would  
send some of your secret service  
men around to their meetings

It is taught that  
When you become a member  
of this movement you are no  
more an American citizen

My reason for wanting my  
name kept secret I am a  
Minister of the Gospel  
any other information I can  
give will be glad to do so

DELETED COPY SENT FROM WASHINGTON  
BY LETTER 4-27-76  
PREF. COPY REQUEST  
BIL

Dec. 28 1921

Chicago

Attorney Laugherty appears  
as At. General of the U.S.A

I deem it my duty as an American  
citizen of the colored race to call your  
attention to a serious matter that  
not only concerns every loyal American  
citizen but should concern you  
especially. And that is the U.S.A  
Movement or Black Star  
Movement headed by Marcus  
Garvey. This Foreigner and  
a menace to all well thinking  
colored people of the U.S. I don't  
know whether you have investigated  
61-50-21  
A.P.K. 194/22

read by  
DEC 31 1921  
RECORDED

WWG-AS

November 5, 1921.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER.

I am attaching hereto photostatic copies of the confidential undercover reports submitted to MARCUS GARVEY by CYREL A. CRICHLow, Garvey's resident secretary of the Commissariat of the Universal Negro Improvement Association in Monrovia, Liberia togetherwith photostatic copies of his credentials and other papers. These papers are extremely interesting at the present time in view of the condition of the Garvey ranks and the fact that he is being sued by several individuals and financially is facing bankruptcy. I understand that Crichlow will talk. He undoubtedly would be able to give a great mass of information as to the wonderful progress made by the Garvey organization in Liberia and the papers show that the movement there has made considerably more progress than we had suspected and that the Liberian officials at the very top are working tooth and nail with Garvey. Crichlow, according to his reports, attended at least one conference with the Acting President of Liberia with certain members of the latter's cabinet and from the reported statements of the Acting President as to their policy in foreign relations, I believe our Government should have a great many more facts. The Acting President indicates that their policy is to make statements which they believe will be most pleasing to the persons addressed, regardless of whether those statements are true. If this is a fact, I think there should be a following up and I believe that if Crichlow was properly examined with care, he would not only talk but would expand on the conditions in Africa. I await your instructions.

61-50-20



JEH-GPO

November 10, 1921.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. GRILES:

Replying to your memorandum of November 5, 1921, with which you attached photostatic copies of the confidential undercover reports submitted to Marcus Garvey by Cyril A. Crichlow, I would suggest that a thorough inquiry be conducted in this case, and that you communicate with our New York office, advising them fully of the contents of these documents, in order that they may make an intelligent examination of Mr. Crichlow.

Respectfully,

*J. E. Hoover*

DELETED COPY SENT *Ben Watkins*  
BY LETTER *4-27-76*  
PER FOIA REQUEST *712*



*20*



ADDRESS REPLY TO  
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WVG-AS

61-50

November 5, 1921.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER.

I am attaching hereto photostatic copies of the confidential undercover reports submitted to MARCUS GARVEY by CYRIL A. CRICHLAW, Garvey's resident secretary of the Commissariat of the Universal Negro Improvement Association in Monrovia, Liberia together with photostatic copies of his credentials and other papers. These papers are extremely interesting at the present time in view of the condition in the Garvey ranks and the fact that he is being sued by several individuals and financially is facing bankruptcy. I understand that Crichtlow will talk. He undoubtedly would be able to give a great mass of information as to the wonderful progress made by the Garvey organization in Liberia and the papers show that the movement there has made considerably more progress than we had suspected and that the Liberian officials at the very top are working tooth and nail with Garvey. Crichtlow, according to his reports, attended at least one conference with the Acting President of Liberia with certain members of the latter's cabinet and from the reported statements of the Acting President as to their policy in foreign relations, I believe our Government should have a great many more facts. The Acting President indicates that their policy is to make statements which they believe will be most pleasing to the persons addressed, regardless of whether those statements are true. If this is a fact, I think there should be a following up and I believe that if Crichtlow was properly examined with care, he would not only talk but would expand on the conditions in Africa. I await your instructions.

*Handwritten:* Deleted copy sent Ben Warkentin  
BY LETTER 4-27-76  
PER FOIA REQUEST  
N.Y. 11/8/21

61-50-20

RECORDED

FILE  
W.W.G.



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE

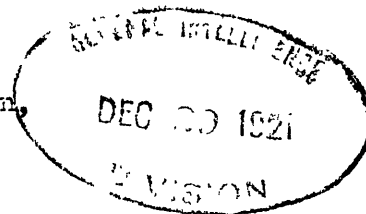
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE  
AND REFER TO

December 23, 1921.

61-50

Mr. W. J. Burns,  
Director, Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.



Dear Sir:

Referring to your communication "WJG/AS" dated December 12th, relative to an investigation now being made by you with respect to the activities of one Marcus Garvey, who, it is stated, is president of an organization known as the Universal Negro Improvement Association, I have to state that a Special Agent of this Bureau will call upon you in regard to alleged fraudulent income tax returns, which, it is believed, have been filed by Garvey and the various organizations which he represents.

Very truly yours,

*W. P. Blair*  
Commissioner.

Read by  
DEC 27 1921  
W. J. Burns

JAN 18 1922

*Noted  
WJG*

61-50-19  
RECEIVED BUREAU  
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D 27 1922  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
EX-105 FILE *RL*

WAC-AS

December 12, 1945.

Mr. David H. Blair  
Commissioner, Internal Revenue,  
Treasury Department,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Blair:

For approximately two years past, the Bureau of Investigation of this Department has followed closely the activities of one MARCUS GARVEY, a Negro who was born in Jamaica and is a British subject. This man is President-General of an organization known as the UNIVERSAL NEGRO IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, and head of the following organizations:

The Negroes' Factory Corporation.  
The Black Star Line.  
The African Communities League.  
The "Negro World" (a weekly publication.)

The headquarters for all of these organizations is New York.

The investigation so far indicates clearly that many of the federal statutes have been violated by this individual and that millions of dollars have been taken by him from Negroes throughout the world in fraudulent schemes. Our sources of information in this matter are exceptionally good and the investigation now has reached the point where the case is being put in proper form for prosecution. It will involve the violation of statutes, the administration of which falls under the jurisdiction of several departments of the Government, including the Income Tax Section of the Treasury Department, because, we are very reliably informed

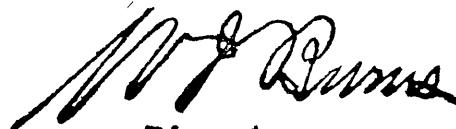
DELETED COPY SENT *Ben Watkins*  
BY LETTER 4-27-76  
PER FOIA REQUEST *MA.*

DEC 20 2 P.M.

that Corvey has made fraudulent returns on his income tax, both his personal tax and that for the various organizations. It is the desire of this Department that these violations be all joined and with that end in view, it is respectfully requested that you assign a competent representative who can cooperate with this Department in handling the Income Tax violations, he to report here, - as will representatives of other departments, for a review of the information already procured and then take such independent action as developments dictate; the evidence procured to be presented to the Department of Justice here before submission to the United States Attorney for action. This latter course is desired in order to avoid embarrassment on the presentation of those angles covered by the investigations of representatives of other services.

I would appreciate your advising me at the earliest practicable date what action you will take in the matter, because the balance of the case is under way.

Very truly yours,



Director.

WWG-AS

1-50-17

REPORT MADE AT: Washington, D.C.	DATE WHEN MADE: 12/15/21	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 12/6/21	REPORT MADE BY: Maurice A. Joyce.
TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE: MARCUS GARVEY- Alleged violation of Land Act and White Slave Traffic Act.			
FACTS DEVELOPED: <p>Pursuant to memorandum dated December 5, 1921, initialed WWG- signed by the Director, to attend a lecture on December 6th, given by Marcus Garvey at the Armory Hall, O Street, between 7th and 8th, N.W., The lecture was practically a repetition of one given by Garvey on Sunday, Nov. 26th, at the Pythian Hall on U Street, between 10th and 11th, N.W., Garvey gave as his opinion that the Negro race should be right now sitting at the Peace Conference having a say in the disarmament discussion; advised his hearers that if they would purchase bonds for the Black Star Line so the black men could go back to Africa where he rightfully belongs, in another generation the black man would come into his own.</p> <p>On this night agent gave attention to another phase of this case. Pursuant to memorandum dated December 6th, initialed WWG-As and signed WWG agent was authorized to employ an undercover informant which was done on December 6th. I arranged with a colored man living at 2054 8th St. N. W., to go to the Whitelaw Apartment, corner 13th and T Sts. and remain there through the night for the purpose of ascertaining just how subject and his secretary were situated while at the Whitelaw.</p> <p>Through informant I learned that subject had Apartment E-1 and his secretary had room E-3 across the hall.</p>			
REFERENCE:	COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: DELETED COPY SENT Ben Wahnin BY LETTER 4-27-76 PER FOIA REQUEST 1/29		

Read by  
 19 1921  
 Wm. J. Burns

FEDERAL INTELLIGENCE  
 DEC 19 1921

1-50-17  
 RECORDED  
 DEC 16

by the informant above mentioned, that subject did not visit in the room of his secretary between the hours of 8:15 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. on this night, neither did the secretary visit Garvey's apartment. Garvey left Washington and is booked for a lecture at Shiloh Hall Perkins Square and George Street, Baltimore, Thursday night, December 8th, 8:15 p.m.

CASE CLOSED.

17

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WWG-AS

December 9, 1921. *61-50*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES.

Noted  
T.D.W.

With regard to the case of <sup>0</sup>MARCUS GARVEY, arrangements have been made with the Chief Post Office Inspector for the assignment of Inspector C. H. Saffell, to work with me in the review of the evidence submitted on this case, in order that the Post Office angles may be incorporated when the case is framed for prosecution. Mr. Saffell can be reached by calling Main 7272, Branch 192.



NOTED  
J.E.H.

DELETED COPY SENT *Ben Watkins*  
BY LETTER *4-27-76*  
PER FOIA REQUEST *K.R.*

*61-50-16*

RECORDED  
INDEXED  
FILES

Instructions from Special Agent in Charge Edward J. Brennan.

*all*  
*gc*

REPORT MADE AT: New York City	DATE WHEN MADE: 12/8/21	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 11/21 to 12/8/21	REPORT MADE BY: Mortimer J. Davis.
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TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE:

IN RE: CYRIL CRICHLAW - POSSIBLE NEGRO INFORMANT.

Read by

DEC 13 1921

Wm. J. Burns

FACTS DEVELOPED: At New York:

Acknowledgment is made of the Director's letter of November 18th, initialed as below, to which were attached photostatic copies of correspondence between various officials of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, and the suggestion that the subject might be able to furnish some information regarding Marcus Garvey because of their recent disagreement.

I have been making efforts to locate Crichtlow through his former place of business at 2376 Seventh Avenue, also through a cousin living at 141st St. and Seventh Avenue, telephone Audubon 2120, <sup>by</sup> ~~of~~ the name of Crichtlow. These persons, however, after making efforts, informed me they did not know his address.

In the meantime I had an interview with Cyril Briggs on other matters of interest in connection with negro activities and he informed me in answer to my question, that he was now closely in touch with Crichtlow. In fact, he stated, the latter was in his office almost daily. While absent from the city on business recently, Briggs came to this office and left Crichtlow's address as 139 West 135th St., care of Attorney home and stated that the subject would be glad to interview the writer upon receipt of a written request. I have sent such request and upon interviewing him will make further report.

61-50-15

RECORDED

MJD:FJK

REFERENCE:

11/18/21

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Washington (3) New York (2)

ORIGINAL