

Files

November 20, 1964

Lt. E. E. Saunders

Re: Recent Letters and Telegrams from Claude M. (Red) Franks

Due to the threatening tone of Mr. Frank's letter of November 14, 1964, to Governor Bryant, I contacted Lt. S. C. Roberts of the Florida Highway Patrol and Lucius Hindrey, Administrative Assistant to Sheriff Joe M. Crevasse, Sr. in Gainesville, and inquired of them the present state of mind of Mr. Franks and any statements or actions he has made recently relative to his removal from office.

Lt. Roberts stated that he had been seeing Mr. Franks several times a week in the Gainesville area and he has always appeared busy in his work each time. The last observation was on Thursday, November 12, at his office in Gainesville at which time he spoke to him and Mr. Franks was very cordial and in no way did he detect anything out of the ordinary in his disposition. From Lt. Roberts, Mr. Franks enjoys a very successful real estate business in Gainesville and cited several lucrative transactions by his firm in recent weeks.

Lt. Roberts stated that having been acquainted with Mr. Franks for a number of years, he was of the opinion there was no real danger in him and the letters and telegrams received by the Governor is a result of Mr. Franks being a very poor loser and of not receiving the sympathy of the people in Gainesville to which he thinks he is entitled.

Mr. Hindrey concurred with Lt. Roberts on the demeanor of Mr. Franks, stating that he saw him almost daily in the Alachua County Courthouse attending to what he thought was normal business for a real estate man. At the time of Mr. Franks suspension from office he was present at a heated meeting of Mr. Franks with the County Commissioners of Alachua County, wherein Mr. Franks threatened to kill all of them and that they should be prepared from then on as he would be armed with a gun and on first meeting with anyone of them he would kill them. Mr. Hindrey stated that for quite a period after this incident he kept Mr. Franks under constant surveillance and attended all meetings of the Commissioners, but Mr. Franks made no attempt whatsoever to carry out this threat. From his acquaintance with Mr. Franks, he is of the opinion although he becomes very emotional at times he does not believe there is any danger from him.

At this writing Mr. Franks ~~owns~~ owns an old blue Chrysler Imperial, 1964 Florida Tag 11W-485, and a green 1959 Buick Sedan, 1964 Florida Tag 11W-6017.