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Division of

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

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See also Nos.

FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER

144-19-73

CLOSURE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Attorney General T. Vincent Quinn DATE: March 16, 1948
Criminal Division

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: JAMES NED BEATY;
REV. SAMUEL L. SAWYER, VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

RECEIVED

APR 21 1948

CRIMINAL DIVISION

The Atlanta Office of this Bureau has informed that on the morning of March 4, 1948, Mrs. A. A. Stephens, Route 1, Alto, Georgia telephoned the Georgia State Patrol Station at Gainesville, Georgia, and advised that a negro was acting very strangely around her house. She explained that the unknown negro was pacing up and down the highway in front of her house and would enter her yard and observe her house with field glasses. She advised that she was alone at the house and feared that he would attempt to enter her house, accordingly, she requested the State Patrol to investigate.

Troopers Beaty and Willis D. Greer of the Gainesville Station of the Georgia State Patrol were dispatched to investigate this matter. At the northern city limits of Lula, Georgia near Alto, Georgia they observed a negro walking along U. S. Highway #23 holding two magnifying glasses in his hands. The negro appeared to be examining the ground with the glasses. It is reported that Trooper Greer approached the negro to talk to him, however the negro would neither stop nor listen to the Trooper. Greer thereupon took the negro by the arm and informed him that he desired to talk to him. As he did this, the negro turned and struck Trooper Greer in the head with both magnifying glasses. Trooper Beaty then came to the assistance of Greer in placing the negro under arrest and they forced him into the patrol car. The negro was placed in the back seat of the car along with another negro, Nelson Wade whom the Troopers had previously arrested on another charge. The Troopers then settled themselves in the front seat of the patrol car and as they started to drive off, the unknown negro climbed over into the front seat of the patrol car and grabbed Trooper Greer's blackjack. He then fought the two Troopers with the blackjack succeeding in getting Trooper Greer down in the seat beating him about the head and arms with the blackjack. While Trooper Beaty and prisoner Wade were attempting to pull the unknown negro off Trooper Greer, the negro grabbed Trooper Greer's gun whereupon Trooper Beaty shot the negro twice, killing him instantly.

The negro has been identified as Reverend Samuel L. Sawyer, colored, approximately 40 years of age, address 210 Lenox Road, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia.

The Atlanta Office had advised that no charges have been made against Trooper Beaty by the State authorities as a result of this shooting.

These data are being furnished for your information and no action is contemplated in the absence of a request from you.

NEW

144-19-73

APR 20 1948

CRIM. - CIVIL RIGHTS SEC

RECORD

Fall
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Assistant Attorney General T. Vincent Quinn
Criminal Division

March 16, 1948

Director, FBI

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