

Room 151, U. S. Courthouse
September 29, 1964

Honorable David H. Marlin
Civil Rights Division
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

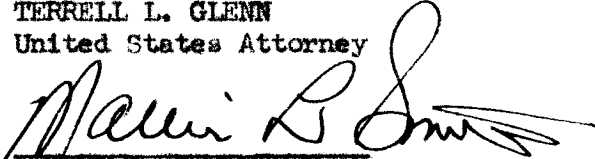
Re: U. S. v. Lloyd Maurice Bessinger, Sr.

Dear Mr. Marlin:

In accordance with your request of September 25, I enclose herewith a clipping which appeared in the Columbia Record on September 25, 1964, involving the investigation in the above entitled matter. The State Newspaper also carried similar items.

Very truly,

TERRELL L. GLENN
United States Attorney


By MARVIN L. SMITH
Assistant U. S. Attorney

MLS:abh

Enclosure

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Columbia Record, Aug 25, 1964

Bessinger Charge, FBI Harassed His Customers

Telegrams of protest have been sent to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S. C. by Maurice Bessinger, charging harassment by the FBI of customers of his Sumter restaurant.

Bessinger said men who identified themselves as FBI agents entered the restaurant, the Piggy Park drive-in, Thursday and asked his customers "obnoxious, uncalled for questions."

A segregationist, Bessinger said the FBI has been investigating his restaurants in Columbia following a complaint by a Negro that he was refused service in one of Bessinger's operations several weeks ago.

Bessinger said that customers at the Sumter restaurant were asked their names and what they were doing in the restaurant. Bessinger said if it is repeated, he will ask local police to bring trespass charges against the men.

The Department of Justice in Washington told an FBI agent here that he could say only that "appropriate FBI inquiries are being made." Results of the inquiry, the agent said, would be given directly to the Justice Department.

Bessinger was state chairman of the Wallace-for-President movement before the Alabama governor said he was not running for the presidency.

Bessinger said his places of

business have been under Justice Department observation for the past 30 days.

The "credentials" presented the Piggy Park manager seemed "perfectly in order," Bessinger said.

A customer reported to Bessinger the following questions were asked him:

- What's your name?
- Where are you from?
- Where do you work?
- What did you order to eat?
- Why did you come here?
- What did you say to the waitress?

How long have you been in Sumter?

Bessinger described the investigation as "arrogant and uncalled for."