

**DAVID M. ZIELINSKI COLLECTION**

Mss. # 4223

Inventory

Compiled by  
Heather Clemons

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections  
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library  
Louisiana State University Libraries  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2012

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Proper acknowledgement of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

**SUMMARY**

<b>Size.</b>	1.5 linear ft.
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Jackson, MI; Washington D.C.
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1970-1972
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1970
<b>Language.</b>	English.
<b>Summary.</b>	FBI files concerning the investigation of shooting deaths in May 1970 at Jackson State College, Jackson, Mississippi. The papers consist of copies of memorandums, correspondence, interviews, photos, news clippings, and reports made and collected by the FBI during the investigation. Also included is a letter from the FBI to David Zielinski.
<b>Arrangement</b>	This collection is arranged chronologically.
<b>Restrictions on access.</b>	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
<b>Related collections.</b>	None.
<b>Copyright.</b>	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
<b>Citation.</b>	David M. Zielinski Collection, Mss. #4223, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack locations.</b>	12:

### **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

David M. Zielinski requested the FBI documents included in this collection under the Freedom of Information Act in 1988 to be used in research for a publication. These FBI documents relate the FBI's investigation into the shooting that occurred on May 15, 1970 at Jackson State College in Jackson, Mississippi.

In the days leading up to the shooting on May 15, 1970 there was unrest on the Jackson State College campus. Students were demonstrating in protest against poor living conditions, racial tension, and the Vietnam War. Reports were filed stating that students and non-students on Lynch Street were throwing objects at passing vehicles. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1970 a construction vehicle was moved onto Lynch Street and set on fire. It was shortly after this that gunshots were reported on campus and the Jackson Police Department, along with the Mississippi High Safety Patrol and the Mississippi National Guard, moved in. Witness accounts and reports vary on what followed. The Highway Patrolmen claimed there was sniper fire coming from the girl's dormitory at Alexander Hall, which caused them to open fire. The shooting lasted 30 seconds, injured eleven people and left two dead, Phillip Lafayette Gibbs and James Earl Green.

Following the events on May 15, 1970 an investigation was launched by the FBI and is documented in this collection. A biracial committee was also established to review the events. It was eventually decided to close off Lynch Street to traffic, since it had been a source of tension for many years leading up to the shooting. There were no arrests made against police officers or highway patrolmen in regards to this case. A memorial plaza was established for Gibbs and Green on the Jackson State campus.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The documents included in this collection relate to the FBI investigation of the Jackson State College shootings that took place in May 1970. The documents are copies and include memorandums, teletypes, and correspondence within the FBI. Also included are five reports during the various stages of the investigation. These reports contain interviews with police, national guardsmen, students, faculty, locals, and witnesses. The reports also contain photographs and evidence lists, along with charts and laboratory results. However, many of the pages including names and photos have been removed or marked out and replaced with a deletion sheet explaining the reason for each exemption and removal. There is also correspondence to the FBI from the public, and newspaper clippings that relate to the incident that were collected by the FBI as they monitored the situation during and after their investigation.

**INDEX TERMS**

Civil rights.

Freedom of information United States.

Gibbs, Phillip Lafayette, 1948-1970.

Governmental Investigations.

Hoover, J. Edgar (John Edgar), 1895-1972.

Jackson State College.

United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mississippi Highway Patrol.

Mississippi. National Guard.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975 African Americans.

Zielinski, David.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
12:	1	1	Cross References, 1970.
		2	Correspondence and Memorandum, May 18, 1970.
		3	Report 1 Part 1, May 19, 1970.
		4	Report 1 Part 2, May 19, 1970.
		5	Report 1 Part 3, May 19, 1970.
		6	Report 1 Part 4, May 19, 1970.
	2	1	Correspondence and Memorandum, May 20, 1970.
		2	Report 2 Part 1, May 24, 1970.
		3	Report 2 Part 2, May 24, 1970.
		4	Report 2 Part 3, May 24, 1970.
	3	1	Correspondence and Memorandum, June 1, 1970.
		2	Report 3 Part 1, June 1, 1970.
		3	Report 3 Part 2, June 1, 1970.
		4	Correspondence and Memorandum, June 2, 1970.
		5	Report 4 Part1, June 9, 1970.
		6	Report 4 Part 2, June 9, 1970.
	4	1	Correspondence and Memorandum, June 9, 1970.
		2	Report 5 Part 1, June 24, 1970.
		3	Report 5 Part 2, June 24, 1970.
		4	Correspondence and Memorandum, June 29, 1970.
		5	Deleted sheet, n.d.
		6	Report 6 July 24, 1970.
		7	Correspondence and Memorandum, November, 1970-July, 1971.
		8	Correspondence and Memorandum, 1972.
		9	F.B.I. Letter to Zielinski, 1988.