

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

FROM : SA JOHN L. PUDDISTER

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5-1-68

On April 11, 1968, Inspector JOSEPH A. SULLIVAN telephonically advised that he did not desire that any negative type investigation, which eliminates local Jackson suspects, be sent to Memphis. He advised that negative type information should be indexed and filed at Jackson rather than be furnished to Memphis.

see Jn airtel to Memphis 5/1/68.

attached marked for indexing.

1 - Jackson
JLP/brh
(1)



5010-103-01

CCO
marked for indexing

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 1 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	

157-9586-442

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/30/68

1

WOODROW W. PRINGLE, JR., 202 Pinewood Circle, Gulfport, Mississippi, was contacted at his place of employment, Fernwood Shell Service Station. PRINGLE was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and of the purpose of the interview. He furnished the following information:

PRINGLE stated that prior to September, 1967 he and WAYNE ROGERS were partners in the Fernwood Texaco Service Station. During that time he stated that Sergeant ROBERT ELDRIDGE, stationed at Keesler, was a regular customer and became quite friendly with THOMAS MOODY, who was also employed at the service station at that time.

PRINGLE stated that he has been acquainted with MOODY for several years and considers MOODY to be an honest and trustworthy individual. In the years that he has known MOODY he stated he has never heard MOODY make any statement which might indicate that he was violently opposed to the Civil Rights movement in this country. Specifically PRINGLE stated he has never heard MOODY make any type of comment which could be construed to indicate that he, MOODY, knew of any individual who would pay a large sum of money to have Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. killed. He stated to the best of his knowledge MOODY has never been a member of any Klan or hate type organization and has never shown a propensity for violence in regard to the Civil Rights movement.

PRINGLE stated that he could furnish no further information of value in this matter.

On 4/27/68 at Biloxi, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586
by SA PAUL A. MEISSNER, JR.:jrs Date dictated 4/30/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/30/681

JOSEPH (NO MIDDLE NAME) SWANIER, Route 2, Box 808, Gulfport, Mississippi, was interviewed at the Fernwood Shell Service Station where he is employed. SWANIER was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the purpose of the interview. He furnished the following information:

SWANIER advised that prior to September, 1967, he was employed by L. C. ROGERS and WOODY PRINGLE at the Fernwood Texaco Service Station. During this period of time he worked with an individual named THOMAS MOODY and he indicated that he thought he was fairly well acquainted with MOODY. SWANIER advised that during the period of time he has known and worked with MOODY, MOODY has never made any type of comment which might indicate that he, MOODY, was aware of an individual who would pay a large sum of money to see MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. killed.

SWANIER advised that he had no reason to believe that MOODY is now or ever has been a member of any Klan or hate-type organization. SWANIER advised he could furnish no further information of value in this matter.

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Race:	Negro
Sex:	Male
Date of Birth:	
Place of Birth:	Gulfport, Mississippi
Hair:	Black
Eyes:	Brown
Height:	6'
Weight:	165
Build:	Slender

On 4/27/68 at Biloxi, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586

by SA PAUL A. MEISSNER, JR.:jrs Date dictated 4/30/68

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3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/30/681

LOWELL WAYNE ROGERS, 1619 Third Street, Gulfport, Mississippi, was interviewed at Fernwood Texaco Service Station, of which he is the owner. ROGERS was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and of the purpose of the interview. He furnished the following information:

Prior to September, 1967, he and WOODY PRINGLE were partners in ownership of the Fernwood Texaco Service Station. During that period of time in addition to him and PRINGLE, an individual identified as THOMAS MOODY, white male, age approximately 44, and JOE SWANIER, Negro male, approximate age 28, were employed at the service station. ROGERS advised that he has never heard either PRINGLE or MOODY make any comment which could be construed as indicating that either of them was aware of an individual who would pay a great sum of money to kill Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ROGERS advised also that he had never made such a comment.

ROGERS continued that at the present time PRINGLE, MOODY and SWANIER were working at the Fernwood Shell Service Station, Biloxi, Mississippi, owned and operated by PRINGLE. ROGERS was unable to furnish any further information of value in this matter, but stated to the best of his knowledge, neither MOODY nor PRINGLE were particularly opposed to the Civil Rights movement and to the best of his knowledge neither of them had ever participated or been a member of an organization violently opposed to the Civil Rights movement.

ROGERS stated that should he obtain any information of value in this matter he would immediately contact the FBI.

On 4/26/68 at Biloxi, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586

by SA PAUL A. MEISSNER, JR.:jrs Date dictated 4/30/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/30/68

1

~~THOMAS BLOUNT MOODY~~ was interviewed at his place of employment, Fernwood Shell Service Station. MOODY was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the purpose of the interview. He furnished the following information:

MOODY stated that he had never, to the best of his recollection, made a comment to anyone which could be construed as indicating that he knew anyone who would be willing to pay a large sum of money to see that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was killed. MOODY indicated that although he was not an open advocate of Civil Rights and although he did not feel that the methods employed by certain Civil Rights leaders, including Dr. KING, were in the best interest of the country, he was not by any stretch of the imagination disposed to any type of violence in this regard. He indicated that he regretted that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. had been murdered and felt that it was a tragedy for the nation. MOODY once again vehemently denied that he ever made such a statement, however, he stated that on occasion when he drinks he might make a statement of this type just "blowing smoke." He indicated that if such a statement was made, it was certainly no basis for it in fact.

MOODY advised that he was acquainted with a Sergeant ROBERT ELDRIDGE, who was a customer of his when he was employed at the Fernwood Texaco Service Station prior to September, 1967. He stated he and ELDRIDGE became fairly good friends and that they engaged in numerous bull sessions, during which time he as well as ELDRIDGE were prone to boasting and exaggeration. He thus stated that it was not impossible that he might have said something which might be construed as indicating he knew of someone who might have been willing to pay a great deal of money for the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING

On 4/26/68 at Biloxi, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586

by SA PAUL A. MEISSNER, JR.:jrs Date dictated 4/30/68

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5

JN 157-9586

2

however again he stated that he did not remember making such a statement and further indicated that if he did it certainly had no basis in fact.

MOODY advised that he is not now nor has he ever been a member of or sympathized with any type of organization which was prone to violence in its opposition to the Civil Rights movement. Specifically he stated he was not now nor had he ever been a member of any Klan type organization. MOODY was unable to provide any further information of value in this matter.

The following description was obtained from observation and interview:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Date of Birth:	
Place of Birth:	Graceville, Florida
Height:	5'7½"
Weight:	145
Hair:	Grey, receding
Build:	Medium
Eyes:	Brown
Military Service:	United States Navy 1943-45
Service #:	
Arrests:	Admits drunk arrest 14 years ago Norfolk, Virginia
Residence:	488 Weaver, Mississippi City, Mississippi

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-2835)

DATE: 4/30/68

FROM : SA HAROLD LEO FARRIS

SUBJECT: **ARON E. HUBER**
Linked with groups sponsoring integration

Source contacted 4/30/68 at Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Source advised that he has not had any further contact with **H.O. SIMMONS**, who last contacted him telephonically April 13, 1968. He also advised that he has not had any contact with **VERNON L. ALLISON GARR** and there has been no evidence that GARR was attempting to intimidate HUBER in any manner. He advised that SIMMONS's call on April 13, 1968, may have been SIMMONS's way of warning HUBER to be careful in view of the recent murder of **MURKIN LAMAR SIMS**. He did not consider it a threat by SIMMONS but a reminder to continue.

Source stated that he does not intend to participate as a marcher in the Poor People's March; however, he plans to go to Washington, D.C. during the demonstration there for several days. He stated that the NAACP is not actively recruiting participants in the march on Washington, D.C. since there are other local and state projects which demand most of his time. He stated that the NAACP is not opposed to the march and is endorsing it, even though not actively organizing for it.

157-2835
157-2835
1-Washington Spring Project
157-2835 (MURKIN)
HUBER
(4)



5010-108-01

157-9586-443

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 1 1968	
FBI-JACKSON	

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

F B I

Date: 5/1/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)
MURKIN

Re Columbia teletype to Jackson, 4/26/68, with
airmail copy furnished to Memphis.

Referenced teletype sets forth information from
Sergeant ROBERT R. ELDRIDGE, AFS, Charleston, South Carolina,
(CONCEAL IDENTITY) wherein ELDRIDGE states he was stationed
at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, prior to September,
1967, and did business at Fernwood Texaco Station in Biloxi,
Mississippi.

He advised that the owner of the station was WAYNE
RODGERS and that one of RODGERS's employees, a white male,
40 to 50 years old, was heard to state many times that he
knew of a man that would pay a large sum of money for someone
to kill KING.

Investigation at Biloxi, Mississippi, disclosed the
following:

LOWELL WAYNE ROGERS, Owner, Fernwood Texaco Service
Station, located and interviewed and states that prior to
September 1967, he and WOODY PRINGLE were partners in the

2 - Memphis RM
1 - Columbia (44-289) (Info) RM
② - Jackson

JLP:ccs

(5)ccs

157-9586-444
Searched _____
Serialized jm
Indexed _____
Filed jm

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

JN 157-9586

Fernwood Texas Station and that during that period of time, in addition to himself and PRINGLE, an individual identified as THOMAS MOODY, a white male, age approximately 44, and JOE SWANIER, a Negro male, approximately 28, were employed at the station.

ROGERS advised that he has never heard either PRINGLE or MOODY make any comment which could be construed to indicate that either of them was aware of an individual who would pay a great sum of money to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ROGERS advised that he has never made such a comment himself.

ROGERS advised that at the present time PRINGLE, MOODY, and SWAINER were working at the Fernwood Service Station, Biloxi, Mississippi. He said that to the best of his knowledge neither MOODY nor PRINGLE were particularly opposed to the civil rights movement and are not known to have ever been members of any organization opposed to the civil rights movement.

THOMAS BLOUNT MOODY was interviewed at Biloxi, Mississippi, on 4/26/68. He advised that to the best of his recollection he never made the comment to anyone indicating that he knew anyone who would be willing to pay a large sum of money to see that Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was killed. MOODY indicated that he is not opposed to the civil rights movement although he did not feel that the methods employed by certain civil rights leaders, including Doctor KING, were in the best interest of the country. He indicated that he regretted that Doctor KING had been murdered and felt that it was a tragedy for the nation. MOODY vehemently denied that he has made such a statement concerning the murder of KING. He stated that on occasion when he drinks he might make a statement of this type just to show off. He indicated that if such a statement was made, it was certainly no basis for it in fact.

JN 157-9586

WOODROW W. PRINGLE, JR., was interviewed at Biloxi, Mississippi, on April 27, 1968.

PRINGLE stated that he has been acquainted with MOODY for several years and considers MOODY to be an honest, trustworthy individual. In the years that he has known MOODY, he stated he has never heard MOODY make any statement which might indicate that he was violently opposed to the civil rights movement in this country. Specifically, PRINGLE stated he has never heard MOODY make any type of comment which could be construed to indicate that MOODY knew of an individual who would pay a large sum of money to have Doctor KING killed. He stated to the best of his knowledge MOODY has never been a member of any Klan or hate-type organization and has never shown a propensity for violence in regard to the civil rights movement.

JOSEPH (NMN) SWAINER was interviewed at Biloxi, Mississippi, on April 27, 1968.

SWAINER, a male Negro, advised that prior to September, 1967, he was employed by ROGERS and PRINGLE at the Fernwood Texaco Service Station. During this period of time he worked with an individual named THOMAS MOODY, and he indicated he thought he was very well acquainted with MOODY. He said he never heard MOODY make any type of comment which might indicate MOODY was aware of an individual who would pay a large sum of money to see MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., killed.

SWAINER said he has no reason to believe that MOODY is now or ever has been a member of any Klan or hate-type organization.

All of the above investigation was conducted by SA PAUL A. MEISSNER, JR.

JN 157-9586

Inasmuch as the above investigation is purely negative, FD 302s containing description and background information are being retained at Jackson.

F B I

Date: 5/1/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

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at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, prior to September,
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He advised that the owner of the station was WAYNE
RODGERS and that one of RODGERS's employees, a white male,
40 to 50 years old, was heard to state many times that he
knew of a man that would pay a large sum of money for someone
to kill KING.

Investigation at Biloxi, Mississippi, disclosed the
following:

LOWELL WAYNE ROGERS, Owner, Fernwood Texaco Service
Station, located and interviewed and states that prior to
September 1967, he and WOODY PRINGLE were partners in the

2 - Memphis
1 - Columbia (44-289) (Info)
② - Jackson

JLP:ccs

(5)ccs

157-9586-444
Searched _____
Serialized jk
Indexed jk
Filed jk

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

JN 157-9586

Fernwood Texas Station and that during that period of time, in addition to himself and PRINGLE, an individual identified as THOMAS MOODY, a white male, age approximately 44, and JOE SWANIER, a Negro male, approximately 28, were employed at the station.

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JN 157-9586

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SWAINER said he has no reason to believe that MOODY is now or ever has been a member of any Klan or hate-type organization.

All of the above investigation was conducted by SA PAUL A. MEISSNER, JR.

JN 157-9586

Inasmuch as the above investigation is purely negative, FD 302s containing description and background information are being retained at Jackson.

4/1/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, DALLAS (44-38861) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel dated 4/28/68 re threats against
MURKIN.

157-7990
Reference is made to letter captioned "ALLEGED
MURKIN OF 6/24/67 BY MURKIN MURKIN OF 25 ELIZ BLAN, JACKSON,
MISSISSIPPI, TO MURKIN THE KILL MURKIN LIVING KILL, JR. -
VICTIM, MURKIN MURKIN". Initial information in that case
was received from MURKIN MURKIN MURKIN, who at the time he
reported the information, was incarcerated in the Grayson
County Jail, Shawnee, Texas. MURKIN was released on
\$1,000 bond on 4/15/67 and was believed to have returned to
Atlanta, Georgia.

On 4/28/68, investigation at Shawnee, Texas, revealed
that the last known address of MURKIN, as of 4/15/67, was to
be care of HAROLD R. FRIEDBERG, SENIOR INTERNATIONAL PRESS,
1000 Peachtree Road, NE, Atlanta, Georgia, WALK LOW CROCKETT,
Sounding to the County Attorney, Sheriff GEORGE W. BLANTON,
and Court Appointed Attorney JOHN HILL, all of Grayson County,
Shawnee, Texas, advised they have heard nothing from MURKIN
since his release on bond. The charges against him are still
pending but the county has no intention of proceeding with
prosecution.

① - Bureau
① - Dallas (44-38861)
① - Atlanta (44-38861)
① - Memphis (44-38861)
① - Dallas (44-38861)
JTB
4/1/68

*Lead to Benton to
interview Sybil Gore*

157-9586-445

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 2 - 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	

DL 44-3648

Jackson was designated office of origin in this matter and Dallas has had no investigative interest since submitting RUC letter to Bureau and interested offices dated 7/14/67.

Jackson should refer to their file captioned as set forth in paragraph one and conduct logical investigation to determine if NISSEN and persons referred to by him are implicated in KING's death.

Atlanta see urfile 100-5888. Locate NISSEN through above address and interview for any information he may have obtained re alleged offer to kill KING since NISSEN's release from jail on 8/19/67.

5/1/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, DALLAS (44-2449) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel dated 4/24/68 re threats against KING.

ReBureau airtel referred to matter captioned "ALLEGED OFFER OF \$100,000 BY WHITE KNIGHTS OF KU KLUX KLAN, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, TO ANYONE WHO KILLS MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM, RACIAL MATTER". Initial information in that case was received from RONALD JAMES HISEN, who at the time he reported the information, was incarcerated in the Grayson County Jail, Sherman, Texas. HISEN was released on \$1,000 bond on 6/19/67 and was believed to have returned to Atlanta, Georgia.

On 4/26/68, investigation at Sherman, Texas, revealed that the last known address of HISEN, as of 6/19/67, was to be care of HAROLD B. FIDELL, SPENCER INTERNATIONAL PRESS, 3520 Peachtree Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia, MARY LOU CROCKETT, Secretary to the County Attorney, Sheriff GEORGE V. BLANTON, and Court Appointed Attorney JOHN HILL, all of Grayson County, Sherman, Texas, advised they have heard nothing from HISEN since his release on bond. The charge against him is still pending but the county has no intention of proceeding with prosecution.

3 - Bureau
1 - Jackson (157-2685)
2 - Atlanta (44-2386)
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
2 - Dallas
WDE/sgl
(11)

157-7990

cc'd [Signature]

157-9586-445

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY - 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	

Butler

ME 44-3649

Jackson was designated office of origin in this matter and Dallas has had no investigative interest since submitting RUC letter to Bureau and interested offices dated 7/14/67.

Jackson should refer to their file captioned as set forth in paragraph one and conduct logical investigation to determine if NISSEN and persons referred to by him are implicated in KING's death.

Atlanta re airtel 100-5588. Locate NISSEN through above address and interview for any information he may have obtained re alleged offer to kill KING since NISSEN's release from jail on 6/15/67.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MEMPHIS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 4/30/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 4/4-30/68
TITLE OF CASE CHANGED JAMES EARL RAY, aka Eric Starvo Galt, W. C. Herron, Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride, James O'Conner, James Walton, James Valyon, John Willard, Jim - FUGITIVE IO # 4182, WF # 442-A; Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA JOE C. HESTER	TYPED BY WP
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY	

Title marked changed to reflect the subject's true name of JAMES EARL RAY and to reflect additional aliases of the subject.

REFERENCE

Report of SA JOE C. HESTER dated 4/17/68 at Memphis.

-P-

ENCLOSURES

TO CHICAGO AND KANSAS CITY:

One copy of referenced report.

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE COPIES MADE: 5-Bureau (44-38861) 3-Atlanta (44-2386) 3-Birmingham (44-1740) 3-Chicago (Enc. 1) (44-1114) ①-Jackson 3-Kansas City (44-760) (Enc. 1) 3-Los Angeles (44-1574) 3-Mobile (157-2627) 3-New Orleans 3-St. Louis (44-775) 3-Springfield 5-Memphis (44-1987)	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW 157-9580-446 SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED MAY 2 - 1968 FBI-JACKSON <i>[Signature]</i>
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PROPERTY OF FBI.—This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

ME 44-1987

ADMINISTRATIVE

On April 19, 1968, the Washington Field Office initiated a check of files of the Passport Office, United States Department of State, concerning JAMES EARL RAY, and nothing identifiable with RAY was located. A further check is underway at the Washington National Record Center at Suitland, Maryland, in retired passport files.

In order to cover the possibility that subject RAY may have recently been issued a passport and the record thereof had not been received in Washington, Mr. EDWARD STOKEN, Passport Office, sent a teletype message to all passport agencies. The Passport Office in Honolulu was checked telephonically with negative results. On April 19, 1968, Mr. ROBERT D. JOHNSON, Acting Director, Passport Office, telephonically advised SA KENNETH HASER that all passport agencies had teletyped Washington that their records are negative concerning RAY.

Mr. JOHNSON further advised that he had issued instructions whereby the Duty Officer of the Passport Office was alerted concerning RAY and instructions were made to all passport agencies to refer immediately to the nearest FBI office any information concerning RAY and his intended travel.

B
COVER PAGE

ME 44-1987

The period of this report precedes the last period date of the last report, as this report contains investigation which for reasons of brevity were not included in the last report.

Leads for other offices continue to be set out by more expeditious means than by report, and it would serve no purpose to list such leads in this report.

It should be noted that in the interviews with persons who were at Jim's Grill, 418 South Main Street, on the night of 4/4/68 at about the time of the murder, they report seeing a white Mustang parked almost in front of Jim's Grill. The owner of this Mustang has not been located and has not voluntarily come forth. It is not believed that this Mustang is pertinent to this investigation and should not be confused with the Mustang that was parked just south of Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, in which car it is believed the subject fled from the scene. The crime scene diagram on page 4 of referenced Memphis report indicates the positions, or what is believed to be the approximate positions, of the two white Mustangs as mentioned above.

INFORMANTS

All offices have been requested to maintain contact in this matter with criminal, security, and racial informants.

The Memphis Office has maintained contact with informants, none of whom have been able to furnish any positive information regarding the subject or his whereabouts.

LEAD

MEMPHIS

AT MEMPHIS, TENN.

Will continue efforts to locate the subject.

C*
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA JOE C. HESTER
Date: April 30, 1968

Office: Memphis

Field Office File No.: ME 44-1987

Bureau File No.: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIMCharacter: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis: Photographs of subject RAY exhibited to persons at rooming house, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis; to persons at Rebel Motel, Memphis, and to clerk at Oliver Rexall Drug Store, Whitehaven, Tennessee, without effecting a positive identification. Salesman at York Arms, Memphis, who sold binoculars indicated he could not positively identify 1968 photograph of JAMES EARL RAY as binocular purchaser but believes that photograph is identical with purchaser. Additional interviews with occupants of Lorraine Motel set out, including interviews with Mrs. GEORGIA M. DAVIS and Mrs. LUCRETIA B. WARD, who describe activities immediately prior to murder. Persons who were at Jim's Grill, 418 South Main Street, Memphis, on 4/4/68 interviewed. Information regarding emergency room treatment of victim KING set forth. Information regarding Alabama driver's license and automobile registration in the name of ERIC STARVO GALT set forth. Former manager, Continental Dance Studio, New Orleans, Louisiana, located and unable to recall that subject attended this school in New Orleans. Laboratory findings set forth regarding evidence located at Memphis. Latent fingerprints found on the Remington Model 760 rifle, on the telescopic sight, on the binoculars, on the newspaper, on the after-shave lotion bottle, and on the Schlitz beer can have all been identified with the fingerprints of the subject. HARRY SERO, former jailmate at Missouri State Penitentiary, interviewed. Additional persons who resided Economy Rooming House, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, located and interviewed, with negative results. Memphis City Engineer measured distance from where shot fired to where victim struck as 207 feet. IN VIEW OF THE CRIME FOR WHICH SUBJECT BEING SOUGHT, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

-P-

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. EXHIBITION OF SUBJECT'S PHOTOGRAPHS	4
A. Rooming House, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis	4
B. Rebel Motel, Memphis	12
C. Oliver Rexall Drug Store, Whitehaven, Tennessee	15
D. York Arms Company, 162 South Main Street, Memphis	17
II. INTERVIEWS WITH PERSONS AT OR NEAR LORRAINE MOTEL, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE	19
A. Mrs. GEORGIA M. DAVIS	20
B. Mrs. LUCRETIA B. WARD	26
III. INVESTIGATION AT JIM'S GRILL, 418 SOUTH MAIN STREET, MEMPHIS	47
IV. MEDICAL INFORMATION RE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING	70
A. Emergency Room Summary	71
B. Description of Photographs Taken of the Victim	74
V. ALABAMA DRIVER'S LICENSE AND AUTOMOBILE REGISTRATION FOR ERIC STARVO GALT	75
A. Registration for 1966 Ford Mustang	76
B. Driver's License Issued to ERIC STARVO GALT	77
VI. INFORMATION CONCERNING CONTINENTAL DANCE STUDIO, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA	78

TABLE OF CONTENTS, continued

	<u>Page</u>
VII. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE AND LATENT FINGERPRINTS . .	83
VIII. MISCELLANEOUS	111
A. HARRY SERO, Former Jailmate at Missouri State Penitentiary	112
B. Persons Who Resided Economy Rooming House, Birmingham, Alabama	114
1. LAWRENCE C. HOWELL	114
2. Mrs. O. L. BLACK	116
3. Mrs. JAMES E. WELDON	118
4. THOMAS D. FRANKLIN	118
C. MEASUREMENT OF DISTANCE FROM ROOMING HOUSE TO LORRAINE MOTEL BALCONY	119

ME 44-1987

DETAILS:

**PERSONS AT ROOMING HOUSE,
422½ SOUTH MAIN STREET,
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis on April 4, 1968, were shown to Mr. CHARLIE QUITMAN STEPHENS, Apartment 6B, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. STEPHENS said the 1955 and 1960 photographs of RAY were not familiar to him, but he advised the 1966 profile photograph of RAY appearing in Wanted Flyer 442-A, April 19, 1968, and Identification Order 4182 dated April 20, 1968, looked like the man he saw in Apartment 5B on April 4, 1968, talking to Mrs. BESSIE BREWER. STEPHENS said he only saw the man's profile in the boarding house and as a result could only say the profile photograph of RAY in 1966 looked very much like the above mentioned man in Room 5B.

STEPHENS said he had never seen the bedspread or any similar bedspread either at the rooming house or anywhere else.

5

On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON:jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis, Tennessee, April 4, 1968, were shown to Mr. WILLIAM CHARLES ANSCHUTZ, Apartment 4B, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. He advised none of the men in the photographs were familiar to him and that he would not be able to identify the man he saw running down the hall on April 4, 1968, in the late afternoon after hearing the noise which he thought was a shot, as the man was covering his face with his arm as he ran down the hall.

6

On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987
by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON:jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis, April 4, 1968, were shown to Mrs. BESSIE RUTH BREWER, Room No. 2, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. She said she had looked at the bedspread on April 4, 1968, when it was displayed to her after being recovered by the Memphis Police. She said the bedspread did not come from her rooming house and in fact she had never seen one like it before in her life. Mrs. BREWER said none of the men in the photographs shown her were familiar to her. She further advised that she did not believe she would recognize the man using the name JOHN WILLARD if he were to "walk up and say hello to me right now." She said she did not look at the man called WILLARD "squarely in the face" and as a result, does not think she will be able to identify him.

7

On April 24, 1968 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON:jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis, Tennessee, April 4, 1968, were shown to Mr. BERTIE L. REEVES, Apartment 3, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. He advised none of the men in the photographs were familiar to him and that he had never seen the bedspread or any bedspread similar to it.

8

On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON:jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Mr. FRANK BREWER, Room No. 2, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised he never saw the man registered as JOHN WILLARD at the boarding house.

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis on April 4, 1968, were shown to Mr. BREWER, and he advised none of the men in the photographs were familiar to him. He also stated he had never seen the bedspread or any bedspread similar to it.

9

On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON:jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Mrs. CHARLIE STEPHENS, Apartment 6B, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised she never saw the man registered into Room 5B on April 4, 1968, as she was sick in bed that entire week.

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis on April 4, 1968, were shown to Mrs. STEPHENS, and she advised none of the men in the photographs were familiar to her. She also stated she had never seen the bedspread or any bedspread similar to it before.

10

On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON:jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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ME 44-1987

JWB:ngm

1

Various photographs of ERIC S. GALT were shown to the following individuals on April 18, 1968, by SA's JOHN W. BAUER and HARLEY E. GYLFE at Memphis, Tennessee:

BESSIE BREWER, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street;
FRANK BREWER, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street;
CHARLES STEPHENS, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street;
ANNA CHRISTINE KELLY, Manager, Rebel Motel,
3466 Lamar Avenue;
HENRIETTA HAGEMASTER, Desk Clerk, Rebel Motel,
3466 Lamar Avenue;
VICTOR DUPRET, owner, Rebel Motel, 3466 Lamar
Avenue;
SARA LOVING, maid, Rebel Motel, 3466 Lamar Avenue;
SADIE MC KAY, maid, Rebel Motel, 3466 Lamar Avenue.

The above individuals stated that the photographs shown to them of ERIC S. GALT do not in any way look familiar to them.

ME 44-1987

**PERSONS AT REBEL MOTEL
3466 LAMAR AVENUE
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 23, 1968

Mrs. HENRIETTA HAGEMASTER, Desk Clerk, Rebel Motor Hotel, 3466 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, was shown various photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and advised that none of these photographs looked familiar to her. She added that she still felt that she would be unable to recognize the individual who registered at the motel as ERIC S. GALT even if she had a face-to-face confrontation with him.

13

On 4/22/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987by SA JOHN W. BAUER:tjm Date dictated 4/22/68

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ME 44-1987

JWB:cjs

1

Various photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were shown to the following individuals on April 19, 1968, by SA JOHN W. BAUER at the Rebel Restaurant, 3464 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee:

GEORGE D. BUNNELL, owner, Rebel Restaurant;

METHEL STACKS, waitress, Rebel Restaurant;

JOYCE B. FOLLIS, waitress, Rebel Restaurant;

JUANITA WILSON, cook, Rebel Restaurant;

L. V. CAMPBELL, cook, Rebel Restaurant.

The above individuals stated the photographs shown to them of JAMES EARL RAY are not in any way familiar to them.

ME 44-1987

OLIVER REXALL DRUG STORE
WHITEHAVEN, TENNESSEE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/19/68

Mrs. PEGGY BROWN, 4810 Richland, was interviewed at her place of employment, Oliver Rexall Drugstore, Highway 51 South, White Haven, Tennessee, at which time she viewed the photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT wherein GALT is depicted with his eyes closed and she furnished the following information:

She stated that this photograph generally depicts the individual who was in the drugstore on April 3, 1968. She advised that the individual in the store was generally of the same age as GALT, had the same color hair, and similar type complexion. Photograph of GALT appeared to resemble the individual in the manner of build in a general way. She advised that she is unable to say if this is the same person who was in the store. She could not say whether the facial characteristics depicted in the photograph are similar to the man who made the purchase. She advised she does not have a good recollection of the person and may be able to identify this individual if she were to see him in person. She could not comment regarding the eyes, nose, and other facial characteristics depicted in the photograph as she does not know if they are similar to the customer who purchased the Gillette razor kit.

16

On 4/19/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987

by SA ANDREW SLOAN/raj Date dictated 4/19/68

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ME 44-1987

**YORK ARMS COMPANY
162 SOUTH MAIN STREET
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Mr. RALPH MEREDITH CARPENTER, 4844 Durbin Street, Memphis, Tennessee, a salesman at the York Arms Company, 162 South Main Street, Memphis, was shown a group of pictures taken on different dates of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI No. 405 942 G. Mr. CARPENTER said of the picture of RAY taken March 28, 1955, that he could not eliminate this as being a picture of the individual to whom he had sold a pair of Bushnell binoculars on April 4, 1968. He said that the purchaser of the binoculars did not have any beard or mustache but his facial features resembled those in the March 28, 1955, photograph of RAY. CARPENTER said the 1968 picture of JAMES EARL RAY, as shown on the current Wanted Flyer, Number 442-A, looks more like the binocular purchaser than any picture he has seen to date. CARPENTER mentioned that he does not recall a protruding left ear of the customer and did not note any scar on his face. He said he could not positively identify this 1968 picture of JAMES EARL RAY as being a picture of the binocular purchaser above mentioned, but he believes that it is.

18

On 4/22/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA RALPH J. LIEWER:jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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ME 44-1987

INVESTIGATION AT OR NEAR
THE LORRAINE MOTEL,
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 16, 1968

1

Mrs. NORMAN (GEORGIA M.) DAVIS, 733 Cecil Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky, was interviewed at her residence. She furnished the following information:

She is a Kentucky State Senator from the 33rd District of Louisville, Kentucky. She is also a Board member and Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Kentucky Christian Leadership Conference (KCLC) which is affiliated with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

Mrs. DAVIS in the company of Mrs. LUKIE WARD and Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING of Louisville, Kentucky, were in Memphis, Tennessee at the Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968. Their purpose was to participate in a march scheduled in Memphis, Tennessee for April 5, 1968, to be led by the late Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Mrs. DAVIS volunteered the following as background data concerning the activities of herself, Mrs. WARD and Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING immediately prior to their visit to Memphis, Tennessee.

On March 23, 1968, Mrs. DAVIS and Mrs. WARD left Louisville, Kentucky, traveling in Mrs. WARD's Cadillac automobile, to go to Florida for a vacation. On the night of March 23, 1968, they stayed at a Holiday Inn Motel near Birmingham, Alabama, possibly located on Highway 31. The next day they drove to Florida where they stayed at a Howard Johnson Motel in the vicinity of Fort Walton Beach. On March 25, 1968, they drove to Panama City, Florida, where they rented kitchenette #4 of the Treasures Island Motel which was operated by BUD HASTINGS and his wife FRANCES. These individuals also owned the nearby Sunglow Motel. When Mrs. DAVIS and Mrs. WARD occupied kitchenette #4 at the Treasures Island Motel, no other individuals were occupying the motel.

On April 1, 1968, Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING of Louisville flew to Panama City and was met at the airport by Mrs. WARD and Mrs. DAVIS, and on that date, he occupied the kitchenette

On 4-15-68 at Louisville, Kentucky File # LS 44-947

by SA WARREN L. WALSH WLW/ds Date dictated 4-16-68

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next to #4 at the Treasures Island Motel believed to be #5.

About 9:30 a.m., April 3, 1968, Mrs. WARD, Mrs. DAVIS and Rev. KING left Treasures Island Motel in Mrs. WARD's automobile for the purpose of going to Memphis, Tennessee, to participate in the scheduled April 5, 1968, march. Mrs. WARD left some of her clothing in kitchenette #4 at the Treasures Island Motel as she planned to return to the motel after the march for further vacationing. Mrs. DAVIS does not believe that the owners of the motel, the HASTINGS, knew at the time Mrs. DAVIS and her companions left the motel that they were going to Memphis, but the HASTINGS did know that Mrs. WARD planned to return in a few days to the motel.

Mrs. DAVIS later learned that when Mrs. WARD, because of the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, decided not to further vacation in Florida and had flown to Panama City on April 6, 1968, to obtain the remainder of her clothing, that Mr. and Mrs. HASTINGS had expressed some displeasure to Mrs. WARD about having as guests Mrs. WARD, Mrs. DAVIS and Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING. Mrs. DAVIS believed the HASTINGS originally came from Birmingham and recalled that Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING used to pastor a church there.

Mrs. DAVIS and Mrs. WARD and Rev. KING arrived in Memphis, Tennessee from Panama City, Florida, and registered at the Lorraine Motel at about 1 a.m., April 4, 1968. Rev. KING and Mrs. DAVIS did the registering and Mrs. DAVIS occupied Room 201 and Mrs. WARD Room 207.

Immediately upon their arrival at the Lorraine Motel, Mrs. WARD, Mrs. DAVIS and Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING started making inquiry of other guests at the motel as to the whereabouts of Rev. KING's brother, Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. He could not be located at the motel and HOSEA WILLIAMS remarked that Dr. KING was at a strategy meeting at a church, the name of which Mrs. DAVIS recalls as the Church of the Minimal Salary (Phonetic). Mrs. WARD, Mrs. DAVIS and Rev. KING then went to the church but Dr. KING was not there. Rev. ANDREW YOUNG and some other people, identities not known to Mrs. DAVIS but appearing to be possibly local pastors and ministers, were holding a meeting at the church. A man called "CABBAGE" was speaking at the meeting when Mrs. DAVIS and her companions arrived,

but Mrs. DAVIS and her companions did not stay at the meeting upon learning Dr. KING was not there. Mrs. DAVIS and her companions went to a smaller room in the church where they met Rev. JESSE JACKSON from Chicago, Illinois and conversed with Rev. JACKSON for a few minutes.

Mrs. DAVIS and her companions thereafter returned to the Lorraine Motel arriving about 3 a.m., and the three of them went to Room 207. Here they conversed among themselves with the door to the motel room open for about an hour or an hour and a half at which point Mrs. DAVIS happened to observe a taxi cab, identity not recalled, arriving at the motel and to depart from the cab Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, Rev. RALPH ABERNATHY, and Rev. BERNARD LEE. Mrs. WARD immediately went out and invited the three individuals into Room 207. Doctor KING and his companions joined Mrs. DAVIS and her companions in Room 207. After approximately five minutes Revs. ABERNATHY and LEE left the room, presumably to go to their own rooms. Mrs. DAVIS, Mrs. WARD, Dr. KING and Rev. KING remained in Room 207 until about 5 a.m. when Dr. KING left, advising he was going to Room 306.

During the conversation by the above individuals in Room 207 no one made any mention of indication that they were fearful of any attempt being made that day on Dr. KING's life.

After Dr. KING left Room 207, Mrs. DAVIS also left the room and went to Room 201. About one-half hour later, Dr. KING came to Room 201 and visited with Mrs. DAVIS for about an hour, the talk consisting of general matters, Mrs. DAVIS remembering specifically that during this time she mentioned to Dr. KING that Miss KATHERINE PEDIN of Kentucky was running for U.S. Senator from Kentucky, and Dr. KING indicated he had met Miss PEDIN as she had interviewed him as a member of the President's Commission on Civil Disorders. Also during this visit Mrs. DAVIS told Dr. KING that in view of the march in Memphis, Tennessee having been rescheduled from April 5 to April 8, 1968, Mrs. DAVIS would probably not remain in Memphis over the weekend, but would return to Louisville. However, Dr. KING asked that before Mrs. DAVIS made a final decision he would like to talk to her further about this but that he had to leave as he had a strategy meeting planned in Room 306 at 8 a.m., April 4, 1968, and he anticipated he would re-contact

her about her decision about noon, April 4, 1968.

Shortly after Dr. KING left Room 201, Mrs. WARD joined Mrs. DAVIS in Room 201 where they had coffee and conversed until about noon when Mrs. WARD left. About 1 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. Dr. KING returned to Room 201 and advised Mrs. DAVIS that he needed to relax for a short while and left Room 306 so as not to be bothered unless important matters occurred. From Room 201 Dr. KING phoned Room 306 and spoke with Rev. LEE advising Rev. LEE as to his whereabouts and informed Rev. LEE he did not want to be disturbed unless it was an important matter. While in Room 201 on this occasion Dr. KING made several phone calls using a credit card. Mrs. DAVIS recalls that Dr. KING phoned his secretary, DORA McDONALD, in Atlanta, Georgia, and also made a call to New York, identity of person called not specifically remembered by Mrs. DAVIS, but possibly being a STAN LEVINSON (phonetic) or a (First Name Unknown) WACHTEL (phonetic) as Mrs. DAVIS had heard Dr. KING speak of these individuals.

Thereafter as Dr. KING was just dialing his mother in Atlanta, Georgia, Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING came into Room 201 and Dr. KING and Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING conversed with their mother telephonically for a few minutes. About 45 minutes later Revs. ABERNATHY and LEE came to Room 201 and Mrs. DAVIS then phoned Mrs. WARD and invited her to Room 201. Mrs. WARD did come to Room 201.

Shortly after Mrs. WARD's arrival in Room 201, Mrs. WARD left to pick up some cleaning for Mrs. DAVIS at a laundry and dry cleaning store, name not recalled, located at Beale and Third Streets in Memphis. Mrs. WARD had taken the cleaning to this location earlier on April 4, 1968, for Mrs. DAVIS, probably about 10 a.m. and as Mrs. DAVIS recalls, she had been accompanied on that occasion by Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING.

During the absence of Mrs. WARD from Room 201, CHAUNCEY ESKRIDGE, the attorney from Chicago, and Rev. ANDREW YOUNG, came to Room 201. Mrs. WARD returned from her visit to the laundry very shortly thereafter, making a total of eight individuals in the room. The above eight individuals conversed generally until about 5:45 p.m., when Dr. KING announced that he was going to dinner at the home of Rev. BILLY KYLES in Memphis and he invited Mrs. DAVIS to join him for dinner at the Reverend's home. She advised him that she would need

about 15 minutes or so to freshen up and he stated he would go to his room and freshen up and wait for her. Mrs. DAVIS had just completed her preparation for leaving for dinner because she recalled that she was standing in front of a mirror with her raincoat on taking a last look as to her appearance when she heard a shot. She was stunned for just an instant but then immediately went outside the room and heard someone yell Dr. KING had just been shot. She looked up towards Room 306 and saw what she is convinced were Dr. KING's feet on the balcony protruding slightly over the edge. There was considerable confusion and panic and police arrived almost immediately. Mrs. DAVIS cannot be entirely certain of immediate events following, but as she recalls Rev. JACKSON was in the motel courtyard at the time she went out of Room 201 as was Mrs. WARD. Mrs. DAVIS immediately proceeded up to where Dr. KING was lying and remained in that vicinity until Dr. KING was taken away in an ambulance which Mrs. DAVIS estimates was approximately 10 minutes after she had heard the shot.

Mrs. DAVIS can recall no incident which she observed after coming out of Room 201 after the shot had been fired which she feels has any bearing on ascertaining the identity of the individual responsible for the shot.

After Dr. KING had been taken from the motel in an ambulance, Mrs. DAVIS recalls that Rev. JACKSON was in the courtyard and gave a press statement. Thereafter Mrs. DAVIS went to the motel office where she found Mrs. WARD who was ordering coffee. Then Mrs. DAVIS and a man Mrs. DAVIS recalls as a HAROLD MILLER, possibly a local minister from Memphis or Atlanta, went to Room 207 to advise Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING of the shooting of his brother. Rev. KING was asleep and they did not succeed in awakening him. Thereafter Mrs. WARD came to Room 207 and Mrs. DAVIS and the man she believes was named MILLER left the room.

Later on the night of April 4, 1968, possibly around 8:30 p.m. someone, Mrs. DAVIS did not know who, felt that Mrs. WARD, Mrs. DAVIS and Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING should not spend the remainder of that night at the Lorraine Motel and Mrs. DAVIS recalls packing her clothes and the three of them going out to the home of Rev. KYLES. After arrival at this home, it was decided again by someone not known to Mrs. DAVIS that Rev. KING would remain at Rev. KYLES that evening but that

Mrs. WARD and Mrs. DAVIS should spend the evening at a Howard Johnson Motel in Memphis. Mrs. WARD and Mrs. DAVIS together with individuals not now recalled went to the Howard Johnson Motel where Mrs. WARD registered for the two of them, but the plans again changed as Mrs. DAVIS recalls HOSEA WILLIAMS indicated that Mrs. DAVIS and her companions should return to the Lorraine Motel for the evening. Mrs. WARD and Mrs. DAVIS were then driven in Mrs. WARD's car by an unknown individual back to the Lorraine Motel where they entered Room 201. A short time later Rev. KYLES brought Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING back to the motel at which point Mrs. WARD left Room 201. Mrs. DAVIS spent the remainder of the night by herself in Room 201.

On Friday morning, April 5, 1968, Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING left the Lorraine Motel to go to the airport to meet the wife of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING who was arriving in Memphis on that morning.

Mrs. WARD and Mrs. DAVIS left Memphis, Tennessee, about 9 a.m., April 5, 1968, and drove to Atlanta, Georgia.

Mrs. DAVIS advised that during her stay in Memphis, on April 4 - 5, 1968, she personally had received no threats against her life nor does she have any knowledge of anyone at the Lorraine Motel being specifically threatened on that occasion.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 16, 1968

1

Mrs. JASPER D. (LUCRETIA B.) WARD, also known as Lukie Ward, 2540 Ransdell, Louisville, Kentucky, was interviewed in the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Louisville, Kentucky, and furnished the following information:

For the past several years she has served as administrative assistant to Reverend A.D. WILLIAMS KING of Louisville, Kentucky, and as secretary of the Kentucky Christian Leadership Conference (KCLC) at Louisville, Kentucky, an affiliate of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

About midnight April 3, 1968, or shortly thereafter on April 4, 1968, Mrs. WARD in the company of Mrs. GEORGIA DAVIS of Louisville, Kentucky, a Board member of the KCLC and a Kentucky State Senator from Louisville, and the Reverend A.D. WILLIAMS KING of KCLC and pastor of the Zion Baptist Church in Louisville, arrived in Memphis, Tennessee, in Mrs. WARD's 1967 Cadillac, bearing 1968 Kentucky license X79-447. The purpose of their visit to Memphis, Tennessee was to participate in a scheduled march there on April 5, 1968 to be led by Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Mrs. WARD and her companions registered in the Lorraine Motel occupying Rooms 201 and 207.

Mrs. WARD did not leave the Lorraine Motel from the time of her arrival until after the shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING at the motel at about 6 p.m. on April 4, 1968, except for one occasion. This was in the afternoon of April 4, 1968, possibly around 3 p.m., when Mrs. WARD left the motel to go to a nearby laundry, exact location not recalled, but the name of the laundry believed to be One-Hour Martinizing. The purpose of her going to the laundry was to pick up some clothes that were there ready for delivery to Mrs. GEORGIA DAVIS. When Mrs. WARD returned from the laundry, she joined a group that was gathered in Room 201 of the Lorraine Motel. As she recalls the individuals in the room were Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., Rev. RALPH ABERNATHY, Rev. ANDREW YOUNG, Attorney CHAUNCEY ESKRIDGE, Rev. BERNARD LEE, Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING and Mrs. GEORGIA DAVIS.

On 4-15-68 at Louisville, Kentucky File # LS 44-947
by SA WARREN L. WALSH WLW/ds Date dictated 4-16-68

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The above group remained together engaging in just general conversation until approximately 5:40 p.m., April 4, 1968, at which time the group decided that they would go to dinner, and the individuals left to go to their various rooms to freshen up for dinner. Mrs. WARD left Room 201 in the company of Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING and the two of them went to Room 207. Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING had partaken of some alcoholic beverages during the afternoon and had decided to rest rather than join the group for dinner. Approximately 15 - 20 minutes after arriving in Room 207 at which time Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING was sleeping, Mrs. WARD heard a shot. She immediately opened the door to the room and looked out and heard someone yell that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING had just been shot. The news stunned Mrs. WARD and while she cannot be exactly certain of her exact movements immediately thereafter, as she recalls upon hearing the news she briefly re-entered Room 207 and then immediately went out into the courtyard of the motel. There was much confusion and police were immediately in the area. Mrs. WARD observed nothing which gave her any indication as to the possible identity of the individual responsible for the shooting. Mrs. WARD recalls that she did not advise Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING of the shooting of his brother until about 20 minutes after the incident occurred. Rev. KING's reaction was one of extreme grief and he gave no indication that he had any idea as to the identity of the person responsible.

As Mrs. WARD recalls, someone, specific identity not now recalled, thought it best that Mrs. WARD, Mrs. DAVIS and Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING not remain the remainder of the night of April 4 - 5, 1968, at the Lorraine Motel. Accordingly, at about 10 p.m. they left the motel and went to the home of a Rev. WILLIAM KYLES whom Mrs. WARD believes is a minister in Memphis. Rev. KYLES or someone suggested that Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING remain at his home that evening and that Mrs. WARD and Mrs. DAVIS obtain motel accommodations at a nearby Howard Johnson's Motel. Mrs. DAVIS and Mrs. WARD did go to such a motel and Mrs. WARD registered in the motel, but just as she did so HOSEA WILLIAMS who was present at the time decided that Mrs. WARD, Mrs. DAVIS and Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING should go back to the Lorraine Motel and spend the rest of the night. They did this.

LS 44-947

3

Mrs. WARD and Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING being in Room 207 and Mrs. DAVIS occupying Room 201. En route Mrs. WARD had stopped at a drug store and purchased some sleeping pills which she administered to the Rev. KING and Mrs. DAVIS because of their extremely excited condition.

Mrs. WARD commented that she possesses no information which she feels might assist in identifying the individual responsible for the shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.