

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)

PAGE TWO NO 157-10673 CLEAR

DURING THIS PERIOD OF TIME SIMPONIS WROTE APPROXIMATELY SIX TO EIGHT LETTERS ADDRESSED TO RAY AT THEN RAY'S ADDRESS 492 CLARICE, MEMPHIS, TENN.

DURING THE FIRST PART OF 1968 THE EXACT DATE NOT RECALLED BUT BELIEVED PROBABLY FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 1968 SIMPONIS WROTE ABOUT TWO LETTERS TO RAY FROM SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, WHERE SIMPONIS WAS IN JAIL. IN THESE LETTERS SIMPONIS TALKED ABOUT GETTING RELEASED FROM JAIL AND PROPOSED THAT HE AND RAY GO INTO THE MOTEL BUSINESS IN ELKO, NEVADA, WHERE SIMPONIS RELATED HE HAD A GIRLFRIEND.

IN ONE OF THESE LETTERS SIMPONIS MENTIONED THE NAME OF A FELLOW INMATE IN SALT LAKE CITY BY THE LAST NAME OF MARTINEZ, FIRST NAME NOT RECALLED. SIMPONIS TOLD RAY THAT MARTINEZ WOULD BE GETTING OUT OF JAIL AND HEADING EAST AND HE HAD FURNISHED MARTINEZ WITH RAY'S NAME AND ADDRESS IN MEMPHIS.

RAY RELATED HE BELIEVED THE TWO LETTERS HE RECEIVED FROM SIMPONIS DURING SIMPONIS' INCARCERATION IN SALT LAKE CITY WERE WRITTEN BY SIMPONIS AS TO THE BEST OF

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

GPO : 1975 O - 590-992

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)

PAGE THREE NO 157-10673 CLEAR

RAY'S RECOLLECTION THESE LETTERS WERE HAND-PRINTED AND
ALL CORRESPONDENCE RAY RECEIVED FROM SIMPONIS WAS HAND-
PRINTED.

RAY RELATED THAT THE OTHER LETTERS WHICH HE RECEIVED
FROM SIMPONIS WERE GENERAL IN NATURE IN THEIR CONTENT
AND RELATED TO LIFE IN PRISON IN REGARDS TO SIMPONIS AND
WHAT HE ANTICIPATED ON DOING WHEN HE WAS RELEASED.

JIMMIE WAYNE RAY RELATED THAT HE IS NOT RELATED IN
ANY MANNER TO JAMES EARL RAY AND HAS NEVER HAD ANY TYPE
OF ASSOCIATION WITH JAMES EARL RAY.. LHM FOLLOWS.

BT

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

GPO : 1975 O - 590-992



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana
January 19, 1977

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CIVIL RIGHTS

Jimmie Wayne Ray, Apartment #1, Delta Apartments, Luling, Louisiana, was located and interviewed at his residence on January 11, 1977. At the outset of the interview the identity of the interviewing Agent, Special Agent Stephen M. Callender, was made known to Ray as well as the purpose of the interview..

Ray related that to the best of his recollection he was incarcerated at the Medical Center for Federal Prisoners (MCFP), Springfield, Missouri, for observation and evaluation from approximately January, 1967 to March or May, 1967. He was sent to this facility after having been convicted in U. S. District Court for Theft From Interstate Shipment and after it became known that he previously had received a medical discharge from the U. S. Army after having suffered a nervous breakdown which resulted in an attempt to commit suicide.

During the time Ray was incarcerated at the MCFP he became acquainted with another inmate by the name of William B. Simponis. From the time that Ray was released from MCFP until approximately June, 1968, he corresponded with Simponis. During this period Simponis wrote approximately six to eight letters addressed to Ray at then Ray's address, 492 Clarice, Memphis, Tennessee.

During the first part of 1968, the exact date not recalled, but believed probably from January to March, 1968, Simponis wrote approximately two letters to Ray from Salt Lake City, Utah, where Simponis was in jail. In these letters

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.

8 - Bureau
2 - Memphis
① - New Orleans
SMC:ebc
(11)
WBC

Callender

157-10673-1334

Filed _____

ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CIVIL RIGHTS

Simponis talked about his mother and girlfriend and also about getting released from jail and proposed that he and Ray go into the motel business in Elko, Nevada, where Simponis related he had a girlfriend.

In one of the letters Simponis mentioned the name of a fellow inmate at Salt Lake City by the last name of Martinez, first name not recalled. Simponis told Ray that Martinez would be getting out of jail and "heading east" and that he had furnished Martinez with Ray's name and address in Memphis. Ray related that he was never contacted by Martinez.

Ray related that he believed the two letters he received from Simponis during Simponis' incarceration in Salt Lake City were written by Simponis as to the best of Ray's recollection these letters were hand printed and all correspondence Ray received from Simponis was handwritten.

Ray related that all of the other letters received from Simponis were general in nature in their content and related to life in prison and what Simponis anticipated on doing when he was released.

Ray related that to the best of his recollection he answered Simponis correspondence on two occasions. The content of Ray's letters were also general in nature with always wish that Simponis would be released soon from jail.

Ray related that after he did not get a letter from Simponis over an extended period of time he wrote the MCFP and was subsequently informed of Simponis' death. Ray related he has not retained any of Simponis' letters.

Jimmie Wayne Ray advised that he is not related in any manner to James Earl Ray and has never had any type of association with James Earl Ray.

1/19/77

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673)(RUC)

MURKIN
OO: Memphis

Re New Orleans teletype to Memphis, 1/14/77.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies and for Memphis two copies of an LHM setting forth the results of an interview with JIMMIE WAYNE RAY on 1/11/77 at Luling, Louisiana.

Inasmuch as there is no outstanding investigation to be conducted or reported by New Orleans, this case is being considered RUC.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 8)
- 2 - Memphis (Enc. 2)
- ① - New Orleans

SMC:ebc
(5)

ebc

RUC
/era

Callender

157-10673-1335

2

2

CCJ,Jr:rh

January 20, 1977

Mr. William P. Tyson
Deputy Director
Executive Office for
United States Attorneys
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Bill:

As you recall, during a recent telephone conversation, you were advised that Ben D. Gibbens, Investigator, Criminal Division, Louisiana Department of Justice, informed the United States Attorney that a previously reliable informant of his claims to have been present during a meeting at which several men discussed the murder of Martin Luther King. The informant advised Gibbens that he can identify two of the men who were present at the meeting and that one of those "put up a considerable amount of money" to have King murdered. The informants said he saw the money change hands. He can identify the man who gave the money but not the man to whom the money was given. The meeting in question, according to the informant, occurred in Memphis, Tennessee, prior to King's death. The informant was himself in jail in Memphis, Tennessee, when King was murdered.

The informant also advised Gibbens that while in Chicago he worked for a "gangster" who offered him money to kill a Chicago man named "Giacanno". That individual was in fact later killed by persons unknown to the informant. The informant surmised that the "gangster" hired others to complete the assassination plot when the informant refused.

The informant also advised Gibbens that he knows who was responsible for the death of a man named "Murphy" whose body was found in the trunk of an automobile on Cicero Avenue in the Chicago area. The informant told Gibbens that Murphy's head looked like it had been mashed in a vise.

The informant also claims to have knowledge of those responsible for the theft of varying amounts of plutonium and mercury in the Oklahoma area.

157-106718-1336

Mr. William P. Tyson

Page 2

January 20, 1977

Following the United States Attorney's telephone conversation with you, Gibbens met with the informant who advised that he would not be interviewed locally but would only discuss these matters with Justice Department investigators from Washington. Gibbens did not seek to obtain more detailed information from the informant, but advises that the informant asserts that he can supply more detailed information to Justice Department investigators.

The informant is an inmate in a Louisiana jail who is presently facing a sentence of life imprisonment. He claims to have been convicted at a trial where perjury was suborned by state law enforcement officials. Gibbens advises that the informant, in exchange for his cooperation, only requests that the matter be looked into by Justice officials. The informant specifically requests that two witnesses, whose testimony he claims was perjured, be interviewed.

Whether this information is valuable or accurate is something that neither Gibbens nor the United States Attorney can assess. Gibbens does not feel that he is in a position to evaluate the accuracy or reliability of the information. He simply requests that the United States Attorney relate these sketchy details to you in the event that someone in the Justice Department might be interested in interviewing his informant. Gibbens would be willing to be present during an interview between Justice investigators and his informant. The informant has indicated that he will discuss the matter with Justice investigators only in Gibbens' presence.

Should anyone decide to pursue this matter further, they can contact Gibbens or the United States Attorney. As indicated on the telephone, the United States Attorney has no idea who the informant is or where he is presently located. The United States Attorney's and Mr. Gibbens' interest in this matter is in seeing that this report is conveyed to the U. S. Department of Justice.

If we can provide further information, please advise.

Very truly yours,

CHENEY C. JOSEPH, JR.
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

BEN D. GIBBENS, Investigator
Criminal Division
Louisiana Department of Justice

Copy to: Elmer Litchfield
Resident Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation

1/28/77

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) (RUC)
MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS

Enclosed for the Bureau and Memphis, are one copy each of a letter to WILLIAM P. TYSON, from U. S. Attorney CHENEY C. JOSEPH, JR., dated 1/20/77, a copy of which was received by New Orleans FBI on 1/28/77.

Note that CHENEY's letter speaks of information from an informant of BEN D. GIBBENS regarding KING's assassination, and other matters, and also indicates that the informant would not be interviewed locally, desiring to speak to Department of Justice investigators from Washington in the presence of GIBBENS.

This is being furnished to FBI Headquarters for information. No further action being taken by New Orleans.

2-Bureau (Enc. 1)
1-Memphis (Enc. 1) (44-1987) (Info.)
①-New Orleans

CHA:prb *ph*
(4)

157-10673-1327

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Conspiracy rejected in King death probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — After a 10-month review, a team of Justice Department lawyers has concluded that James Earl Ray acted alone in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, informed department sources said today.

The lawyers rejected theories that Ray was only a cog in a conspiracy to assassinate the Nobel Prize-winning civil rights leader, the sources said.

The team of lawyers from the department's Office of Professional Responsibility delivered its report to former Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi shortly before he left office Jan. 20.

The department plans to make public a "sanitized version" of the report, deleting names of informers and other sensitive material, the sources said.

BUT THE PUBLIC release has been delayed because department officials want to avoid the appearance of trying to influence the House of Representatives in its debate about launching a lengthy and costly new investigation of the murders of King and President John F. Kennedy.

When the House completes its action, the department will release its own report.

Last April, Levi ordered Michael Shaheen, head of the Office of Professional Responsibility to take charge of a review of all department records concerning the investigation of King's death.

He took the action after the department's civil rights division finished a five-month preliminary review of FBI files and said a more complete study was necessary.

THE SERIES OF department reviews was prompted by detailed disclosures by a Senate committee of the FBI's campaign of harassment against King in an effort to discredit him and the civil rights movement. That campaign was carried out under the direction of J. Edgar Hoover.

King was shot to death on a motel balcony in Memphis in April, 1968.

Ray pleaded guilty to King's murder. But he told the court he did not agree with statements by the prosecution and his own attorney that there was no conspiracy in the case.

Ray now is serving a 99-year prison sentence in Tennessee. He has unsuccessfully sought a new trial.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

SECTION A
PAGE TEN

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 2-2-77

Edition: FINAL

Author: WALTER COWAN

Editor: CONSPIRACY
REJECTED IN KING
DEATH PROBE

Character:

or

Classification: 157-10673

Submitting Office: N.O.

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673-1338

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 4 1977	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : See Distribution

DATE: FEB 3 1977

FROM : *MES* Michael E. Shaheen, Jr., Counsel
Office of Professional Responsibility

SUBJECT:

Attached is a letter from the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana and an investigator for the Louisiana Department of Justice to the Deputy Director of the Executive Office for United States Attorneys. The letter says that a previously reliable informant in jail in Louisiana alleges to have information about the following matters: the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the murder of Sam Giancana, the murder of a man named Murphy in Chicago, and the theft of plutonium and mercury in Oklahoma.

We think the Civil Rights Division, Criminal Division and Federal Bureau of Investigation should take whatever action is appropriate in light of this information.

DISTRIBUTION

Civil Rights Division, AAG
Criminal Division, AAG
Director, FBI

cc: William B. Gray, Director, EOUSA



5010-110

Searched _____
Serialized *DE*
Indexed _____
Filed *DE*

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

157-10673-1339

United States Department of Justice

ADDRESS REPLY TO
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
AND REFER TO INITIALS

CCJ,Jr:rh

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70801

January 20, 1977

JAN 23 1977
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. William P. Tyson
Deputy Director
Executive Office for
United States Attorneys
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Bill:

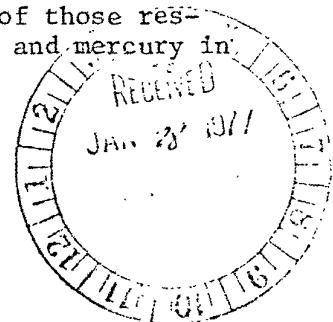
As you recall, during a recent telephone conversation, you were advised that Ben D. Gibbens, Investigator, Criminal Division, Louisiana Department of Justice, informed the United States Attorney that a previously reliable informant of his claims to have been present during a meeting at which several men discussed the murder of Martin Luther King. The informant advised Gibbens that he can identify two of the men who were present at the meeting and that one of those "put up a considerable amount of money" to have King murdered. The informant said he saw the money change hands. He can identify the man who gave the money but not the man to whom the money was given. The meeting in question, according to the informant, occurred in Memphis, Tennessee, prior to King's death. The informant was himself in jail in Memphis, Tennessee, when King was murdered.

The informant also advised Gibbens that while in Chicago he worked for a "gangster" who offered him money to kill a Chicago man named "Giacanno". That individual was in fact later killed by persons unknown to the informant. The informant surmised that the "gangster" hired others to complete the assassination plot when the informant refused.

The informant also advised Gibbens that he knows who was responsible for the death of a man named "Murphy" whose body was found in the trunk of an automobile on Cicero Avenue in the Chicago area. The informant told Gibbens that Murphy's head looked like it had been mashed in a vise.

The informant also claims to have knowledge of those responsible for the theft of varying amounts of plutonium and mercury in the Oklahoma area.

JAN 23 1977



Mr. William P. Tyson

Page 2

January 20, 1977

Following the United States Attorney's telephone conversation with you, Gibbens met with the informant who advised that he would not be interviewed locally but would only discuss these matters with Justice Department investigators from Washington. Gibbens did not seek to obtain more detailed information from the informant, but advises that the informant asserts that he can supply more detailed information to Justice Department investigators.

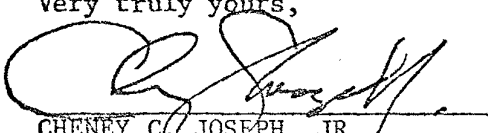
The informant is an inmate in a Louisiana jail who is presently facing a sentence of life imprisonment. He claims to have been convicted at a trial where perjury was suborned by state law enforcement officials. Gibbens advises that the informant, in exchange for his cooperation, only requests that the matter be looked into by Justice officials. The informant specifically requests that two witnesses, whose testimony he claims was perjured, be interviewed.

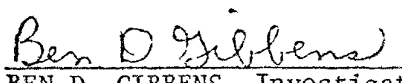
Whether this information is valuable or accurate is something that neither Gibbens nor the United States Attorney can assess. Gibbens does not feel that he is in a position to evaluate the accuracy or reliability of the information. He simply requests that the United States Attorney relate these sketchy details to you in the event that someone in the Justice Department might be interested in interviewing his informant. Gibbens would be willing to be present during an interview between Justice investigators and his informant. The informant has indicated that he will discuss the matter with Justice investigators only in Gibbens' presence.

Should anyone decide to pursue this matter further, they can contact Gibbens or the United States Attorney. As indicated on the telephone, the United States Attorney has no idea who the informant is or where he is presently located. The United States Attorney's and Mr. Gibbens' interest in this matter is in seeing that this report is conveyed to the U. S. Department of Justice.

If we can provide further information, please advise.

Very truly yours,


CHENEY C. JOSEPH, JR.
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY


BEN D. GIBBENS, Investigator
Criminal Division
Louisiana Department of Justice

Copy to: Elmer Litchfield
Resident Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

February 17, 1977

Director, FBI

ALLEGED INFORMATION REGARDING ASSASSINATION
OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; THE MURDER OF SAM GIANCANA;
THE MURDER OF A MAN NAMED MURPHY IN CHICAGO; AND THE
THEFT OF PLUTONIUM AND MERCURY IN OKLAHOMA AREA

Reference is made to my memorandum dated February 3, 1977, to the Civil Rights Division (and the Office of Professional Responsibility) which furnished a copy of a letter dated January 20, 1977, from United States Attorney Cheney C. Joseph, Jr., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Ben D. Gibbens, Investigator, Criminal Division, Louisiana Department of Justice, addressed to Mr. William P. Tyson, Deputy Director, Executive Office for United States Attorneys, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. This memorandum advised that the FBI was furnishing a copy of this letter for information and no further investigation was being conducted concerning this matter unless specifically requested by the Department.

Reference is also made to the memorandum dated February 3, 1977, from Mr. Michael E. Shaheen, Jr., Counsel, Office of Professional Responsibility, to the Civil Rights Division, Criminal Division, and the FBI which furnished a copy of this same letter dated January 20, 1977.

It is noted in this letter that the informant advised that he would not be interviewed locally but would only discuss these matters with Justice Department investigators from Washington." In addition, the informant, in exchange for his cooperation, requests certain action concerning his local conviction.

Accordingly, no investigation is being conducted by the FBI concerning this matter unless specifically requested by the Department.

157-10673-1336
+1337

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 22 1977	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

If not already done, you may desire to bring this matter to the attention of the appropriate local authorities in Illinois and Oklahoma.

1 - Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

① - New Orleans (Enclosures 2) (Enclosed are copies of incoming from Office of Professional Responsibility) (For information, noting no investigation should be instituted unless specifically requested by the Department).

1 - Memphis (Enclosures 2) (Enclosed are copies of incoming from Office of Professional Responsibility) (For information, noting no investigation should be instituted unless specifically requested by the Department).

1 - Chicago (Enclosures 2) (Enclosed are copies of incoming from Office of Professional Responsibility) (For information, noting no investigation should be instituted unless specifically requested by the Department).

1 - Oklahoma City (Enclosures 2) (Enclosed are copies of incoming from Office of Professional Responsibility) (For information, noting no investigation should be instituted unless specifically requested by the Department).

FBI not tied to King death, U.S. task force concludes

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Justice Department task force found no evidence that the FBI was implicated in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and concluded that the FBI investigation of the assassination was thorough and honest.

The task force today released a 149-page report of its findings after reviewing more than 200,000 FBI documents and interviewing about 40 witnesses.

Former Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi launched the probe to clear up questions about the FBI harassment of the civil rights leader and the investigation of his death.

The task force said the evidence virtually rules out the possibility of a conspiracy to kill King, who was shot on a motel balcony in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

The evidence indicates that James Earl Ray, who was arrested and pleaded guilty to the crime, acted alone, the task force said.

"The sum of all of the evidence of Ray's guilt points to him so exclusively that it most effectively makes the point that no one else was involved," the report said.

"Of course, someone could conceivably have provided him with logistics or even paid him to commit the crime. However, we have found no competent evidence upon which to base such a theory."

The task force said the FBI conscientiously checked out leads suggesting a conspiracy but "the results were negative."

The task force "has concluded that the investigation by the FBI to ascertain and capture the murderer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was thoroughly, honestly and successfully conducted," the report said. "We found no new evidence which calls for action by state or federal authorities."

The task force members also said they found no evidence of any complicity in the assassination by the FBI or the Memphis Police Department.

HOWEVER, the FBI failed to check some leads which might have erased some still lingering mysteries about the case, the report said.

This included indications that one or both of Ray's brothers helped him escape in 1967 from the Missouri State Prison.

The FBI learned about that possibility after Ray was captured in England on June 8, 1968, but failed to check it out because it was apparently considered unimportant then, the task force said.

The report said it was understandable that the FBI concentrated on learning the killer's identity and catching him and bypassed some leads about his activities prior to the assassination. As for the FBI's efforts to harass King and discredit him as a civil rights leader, the task force called the cam-

paign clearly improper but recommended against prosecution of anyone involved.

The late FBI director J. Edgar Hoover instigated the harassment of King and he and some of his top lieutenants are dead and other top aides involved are retired from the bureau, the report noted.

"They are beyond the reach of disciplinary action," the task force said. "The few bureau personnel who had anything to do with the King security investigation and who are still in active service did not make command decisions and merely followed orders. We do not think they are the proper subjects of any disciplinary action."

The task force said "it was understandable" that the FBI launched an investigation of King to determine whether he was influenced by the Communist party but said the probe should have been ended in 1963 because there was no evidence of Communist influence.

Instead, the investigation continued for nearly six years until King's death.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

SECTION A
PAGE TWO

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 2-18 77

Edition: FINAL

Author:

Editor: WALTER COWAN

Title: FBI NOT TIED
TO KING DEATH, U.S.
TASK FORCE CONCLUDES

Character:

or

Classification: 157-10673

Submitting Office: N.O.

☐ Being Investigated	INDEXED
SEARCHED	FILED
SERIALIZED	
FEB 24 1977	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

157-10673-1341



3/3/77

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (RUC)

MURKIN
CR
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Birmingham airtel to Director, 12/15/76;
Memphis airtel, 12/20/76.

The following is for information:

The former Birmingham PCI who furnished the information in referenced Birmingham communication of 12/15/76, contacted the Birmingham Office telephonically from time to time regarding captioned matter.

On 3/3/77, he telephonically contacted Birmingham wondering if, "LIBERTO" had been investigated in New Orleans in the past. He was told that investigation regarding a family of LIBERTOS had been conducted back in 1968. Source mentioned that the LIBERTO in New Orleans has a brother in the produce business in Memphis, Tennessee, and also expressed the thought that "No one can convince me that it (the KING assassination) was not a conspiracy."

Source advised he received two recent telephone calls, the last on 2/28/77, from a Mr. EVANS, a deputy chief of the House of Representatives Committee on Assassinations. EVANS told him that if they get their appropriation, EVANS will want to talk to the source about this matter, and the source told EVANS that he would, but would not discuss it on the telephone.

- 2 - Bureau
 - 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info.)
 - ① - New Orleans (157-10673) (Info.)
 - 1 - Birmingham
- PJM:bsg
(5)

157-10673-1342

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 7 1977	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

BH 44-1740

Source advised that he had Birmingham Secret Service check on ~~EVANS~~ after the first telephone call and established that EVANS was, in fact, with the committee.

Source expressed his belief that the FBI in Washington must have furnished his information to the House Committee.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Investigator hints at King conspiracy, new JFK data

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chief Counsel Richard A. Sprague told the House Committee on Assassinations today he has uncorroborated evidence "indicating that others may have had knowledge of or participated in the assassination" of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Sprague also told the committee in a brief opening statement that his staff has evidence on the murder of President John F. Kennedy indicating "there was prior knowledge on the part of some individuals of that assassination before it occurred."

But in both investigations, Sprague told the committee, the staff has been unable to thoroughly check witnesses' stories or determine whether they are corroborated or untrue.

The chief counsel gave only the hints of what his evidence is before the press and public were dismissed from the committee room so Sprague and his staff could give a detailed briefing to committee members.

SPRAGUE'S INDICATION of evidence of a conspiracy in the King assassination was in contrast to a Justice Department investigation that concluded no evidence had been found that King was killed by anyone other than James Earl Ray, acting alone.

Ray, currently serving a 99-year sentence on conviction of that assassination, has offered through an attorney to testify if the committee will listen to his story that there was a conspiracy to kill King and he was set up to take the blame.

Ray's new lawyer, Jack Kershaw of Nashville, said in a telephone interview last night, that a committee investigator had contacted him and they discussed jointly interviewing Ray as early as next week.

Sprague told the committee his staff has some new information, additional information on facts already known in the two assassinations and "some information previously available but not presented."

Sprague suggested the staff has not been able to do more because of the lack of access to FBI files and lack of long-distance telephone service, both cut off by former Chairman Henry B. Gonzalez, D-Tex., when he tried to fire Sprague.

The chief counsel said that has been corrected and he now is in a position to draw up new subpoenas and dispatch investigators to check out witnesses' stories.

THE COMMITTEE'S new chairman,

Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, refused before today's meeting to characterize the evidence, but he noted, "we've already said we're pursuing leads in both investigations."

House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill appointed Stokes to take over the chairmanship immediately after the House voted 296 to 100 yesterday to accept the resignation of former chairman Henry B. Gonzalez, D-Tex.

Delegate Walter Fauntroy, D-D.C., head of the subcommittee in charge of the investigation into the King assassination, wants to hold public hearings within two weeks to take testimony from witnesses including James Earl Ray.

Fauntroy says the hearings would "corroborate or repudiate" new information received by the committee.

But other committee members and chief counsel Sprague say it would be a mistake to rush into such hearings.

Ray's new lawyer said in a telephone interview Tuesday night that a committee investigator has contacted him about the possibility of jointly interviewing Ray in a Tennessee prison as early as next week.

BUT THE INVESTIGATOR did not discuss Ray's testifying at public hearings in the next few weeks, said the lawyer, Jack Kershaw of Nashville.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

SECTION A
PAGE ELEVEN

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 3-9-77

Edition: FINAL

Author:

Editor: WALTER COWAN

Title: INVESTIGATOR
HINTS AT KING CON-
SPIRACY, NEW JFK

Character: DATA

or

Classification: 157-10673 or 89-69

Submitting Office: N.O.

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673-1343

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 10 1977	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

"Whereas you might not want to rush into sensational hearings, that doesn't mean you drag your feet on getting information," Kershaw said.

Ray, who is serving a 99-year sentence for killing King in 1968, has made a conditional offer to testify.

Kershaw said he was satisfied Ray would be allowed to spell out his story that he did not kill King but became involved in a conspiracy that set him up to take the blame.

Gonzalez said several weeks ago that the committee had new information on the Kennedy assassination.

The House accepted Gonzalez' resignation yesterday over an objection by Rep. Robert E. Bauman, R-Md., that it should not do so without first considering the charges he made against Sprague.

Gonzalez said last week he had to resign because House leaders would not support his effort to fire Sprague for refusing to cut the committee staff.

But Rep. John B. Anderson, R-Ill., said the House will take up Gonzalez' charges against Sprague when it votes at the end of the month on whether to extend the committee's life.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Alleged King Assassination Plots Told

By BILL HENDRICK

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The House Select Committee on Assassinations is investigating allegations from a man who claims several members of a police department and FBI agents plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., said Saturday.

Snyder said he met the man "face to face" and that he appeared to be rational, a logical kind of man.

Snyder said he got a letter from the man and listened to a tape the man said he made of the alleged assassination plot. Snyder refused to say whether the man or the police department involved were in Kentucky.

Asked why the man contacted him and let him listen to a copy of the tape recording, Snyder said, "He may have just been looking for someone with nerve, a fighter."

Snyder read part of the letter and used the word "blank" where the man had used names.

"I retired from (blank) police department in (blank) after serving (blank) years," Snyder quoted the letter as saying. "While I was in the police department I was innocently involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King."

Involved in this conspiracy were agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, agents (blank), (blank) and (blank) and others that I did not know," Snyder said, continuing to read the letter. "Members of the (blank) police department, chief of detectives, captain (blank), lieutenant (blank), officer (blank), lieutenant (blank) of the homicide bureau and president of the FOP sergeant (blank)."

FOP stands for Fraternal Order of Police, an organization for police officers.

Snyder said he could not divulge the names listed in the letter or the identity of the man who contacted him.

"What I'm saying," Snyder said, "is those blanks need to be protected if there's nothing to this. And if it is an accurate allegation that he's made, then the author of the letter needs to be protected. The committee is investigating it."

In Washington, an FBI spokesman said, "Anything on assassinations we have to say 'no comment' because it is before a congressional committee."

Snyder said the man "indicates further in the letter that after he retired he contacted who he says is James Earl Ray's attorney. ..."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

SECTION ONE
PAGE NINE

—TIMES-PICAYUNE

—NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 3-20-77
Edition: MORNING
Author: BILL HENDRICK
Editor: ED TUNSTALL
Title: ALLEGED KING ASSASSINATION PLOTS TOLD
Character:

or 157-10673
Classification:
Submitting Office: N.O.

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673-1344	
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 1 1977	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Ray is serving 99 years in prison for the assassination of the civil rights leader slain in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

Snyder said the former policeman claimed he was offered \$500,000 on two occasions to kill King.

Richard A. Sprague, the Philadelphia attorney who is chief counsel for the assassinations committee, confirmed Snyder had turned over material containing the allegation.

"The matter you refer to has been referred to the committee and is under investigation," Sprague said.

The former policeman, Snyder said, tried to turn over a tape recording of the alleged \$500,000 offer to Ray's attorneys but finally was asked by one of the attorneys' investigators "where he planned to hide if he tried to do anything with the tape."

Snyder said he has discussed the allegation with Rep. Samuel L. Devine of Ohio, the ranking minority member of the committee. Devine, a former FBI agent, checked into the man's background and found him to be a "solid citizen," Snyder said.

Snyder said the man told him the offers for him to kill King were made in his automobile, where he had a tape recorder. Snyder quoted the man as saying he had two tapes, one of which was either stolen or lost. The other tape was turned over to the committee, Snyder said.

Snyder said he listened to a copy of that tape.

3/21/77

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN 157-10673
CR
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Birmingham airtel dated 3/3/77.

The following is for information:

The former Birmingham PCI of referenced communication was in telephonic contact with Birmingham on 3/21/77 and furnished the following information:

He continues to conduct his own inquiries regarding captioned matter and the FRANK LIBERTO previously mentioned by him, currently resides in Memphis, Tennessee, at an unknown address. At the time of the King murder, FRANK LIBERTO had an office in Memphis and is believed to still have the office at 327 South Main Street, Memphis, in the back of a whiskey store which he owns. He has additional businesses in Memphis, identity unknown to source.

Mr. EDDIE EVANS of the House of Representatives Committee (referenced airtel) first met personally with source on March 10 or 11, 1977, in Birmingham and is in touch with source on a daily basis. EVANS went to the Birmingham Police Department after he talked to source and obtained some records at that institution where he was

- ② - Bureau
 - 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)
 - ① - New Orleans
- PJM:jab 1 - Birmingham
(5)

157-10673-1345

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 24 1977	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

[Handwritten signature]

BH 44-1740

apparently in touch with Captain LEGRAND. EVANS told source that he had been riding around with the Birmingham Police and source complained to EVANS in this regard and expressed concern to EVANS that source's identity would be compromised. In the week of March 14, 1977, source saw and heard Captain LEGRAND on a local television station making a press release regarding this matter.

Source was contacted in the week of March 14, 1977, by Birmingham newspaper reporters, believed to be FNU BRAY and FNU KILPATRICK, and he told them to "go to hell" and he denied any knowledge of this matter or being a source of information.

Source advised further that Dr. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH, JR. (BH airtel 12/15/76) and FRANK LIBERTO were very big in the drug traffic in the Southeast and he has been and continues to furnish such information to DEA, Birmingham.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

James Earl Ray Tells His Story

By JIM ADAMS

WASHINGTON (AP) — James Earl Ray contended in an interview broadcast nationally Tuesday night that he had been sent to have a tire fixed when Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated and that he was set up to take the blame.

Ray, convicted of killing King, said "investigations by people representing me" are producing evidence he thinks will clear him in a new court proceeding.

But Ray shed no new light on who killed King if he did not, or why. He said, as he has before, that his only contact with the murder was through a Latin named Raoul. He said he thought Raoul was conducting a gun-running operation.

Ray made the comments in his first television interview, on the CBS-TV program "Who's Who," since the assassination April 4, 1968, in Memphis.

Newsman Dan Rather told him many viewers obviously would think he was just making up a story to get himself out of prison and Ray replied he had always thought people would not believe anything he said in a news interview.

Giving new details about his story about Raoul and a conspiracy, Ray said he delivered a rifle to Raoul shortly before the assassination in what he thought was part of the gun-running operation. He said Raoul then sent him to have a tire fixed.

He said the attendants at a service station told him they were too busy to fix the tire because of the hour. King was assassinated shortly before 6 p.m., the traffic rush hour period.

Ray said in the interview he was certain he was not in the rooming house from which the rifle was fired at King after 5:30 p.m.

Ray said Raoul had been directing him in gun-running activities for a year. He said there was nothing to distinguish Raoul except that he had auburn hair, not black hair like most Latin people he knew.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

SECTION ONE
PAGE TWELVE

—TIMES PICAYUNE

—NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 3-16-77
Edition: MORNING
Author: JIM ADAMS
Editor: ED TUNSTALL
Title: JAMES EARL RAY
TELLS HIS STORY

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

N.O.

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>12</i>	FILED <i>12</i>
MAR 31 1977	
FBI—NEW ORLEANS	

157-10673-1346

3/30/77

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL - REGISTERED

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)
SUBJECT: MURKIN ✓ 157-10673
CR
OO: MEMPHIS

ReBHAirtel, 3/21/77.

On 3/30/77, Major EMMETT DIXON, Alabama Highway Patrol (AHP), Montgomery, Alabama, advised that an AHP trooper had an informant who had been in contact with a MORRIS DAVIS, Birmingham, Alabama. DAVIS related information to the informant concerning a conspiracy to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING which involved FRANK LIBERTO and DR. GUS PROSCH. DAVIS indicated to the trooper's informant that the information had been related to the FBI, but apparently no action was taken.

Major DIXON was advised that the Birmingham Office had been in contact with MORRIS DAVIS on several occasions, had taken all information in the possession of DAVIS, and had furnished this information to FBIHQ and interested offices. DIXON was advised that Birmingham is positive that the FBIHQ had furnished DAVIS' information to interested congressional committees, as DAVIS had stated that a representative of the House of Representatives Committee had been in contact with him.

The above is set forth for information of FBIHQ and Mobile. As Birmingham has had numerous contacts with DAVIS, he will not be contacted at this time; however, Birmingham will continue to disseminate any pertinent information volunteered by DAVIS.

2 - Bureau
1 - Mobile (Info)
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)
① - New Orleans (Info)
1 - Birmingham
ALB:hss
(6)

157-10673-1347

SEARCHED <i>DE</i>	INDEXED <i>DE</i>
SERIALIZED <i>DE</i>	FILED <i>DE</i>
APR 6 1977	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

[Signature]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Vows JFK-King 'Open File'

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Assassinations Committee investigators said Monday the FBI has promised to coordinate its investigation of any leads on the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King with House probers.

But the staff officials told committee members that the Senate Intelligence Committee has not yet honored requests even for some of its public material, much less confidential information.

Deputy Staff Director Stephen J. Fallis told the committee a system has been worked out "whereby the FBI will notify us immediately of any areas they are investigating in connection with these assassinations."

Chairman Louis B. Stokes, D-Ohio, asked if that means the FBI is still investigating both assassinations.

"They are interested in pursuing any new leads or evidence" and have promised to coordinate any such effort with the committee, Fallis replied.

Former Chief Counsel Richard A. Sprague once told the FBI it has no business investigating leads in either assassination without coordinating with the House committee first.

Sprague took that position in a letter to the agency when he learned the FBI was investigating a report that a third bullet believed fired at President Kennedy might have been found.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

SECTION ONE
PAGE TWO

TIMES-PICAYUNE

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-19-77
Edition: MORNING
Author:
Editor: ED TUNSTALL
Title: FBI VOWS JFK-KING 'OPEN FILE'

Character: 157-10673
or 89-69

Classification:
Submitting Office: N.O.

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673-1348

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 21 1977	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

NOI408 153053Z SE0017 153053Z

RR HQ DL VK ME HQ

DE SE

R 502433Z JUNE 77

FM SEATTLE (44-371)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

DALLAS PRIORITY

KNOXVILLE PRIORITY

MEMPHIS PRIORITY

NEW ORLEANS PRIORITY

BT

CLERK

157-10673
MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

RE SEATTLE TEL CALL TO BUREAU, JUNE 1, 1977.

AT APPROXIMATELY 6:40 P.M., FIRST, JUNE 1, 1977, SAC SEATTLE
RECEIVED CALL FROM INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS (X) KEITH
ERNEST LAMONICA (X). LAMONICA ADVISED HE IS NEWS DIRECTOR WITH
KYYX RADIO, 1305 - 3RD AVENUE, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, TEL.

622-2722. (LAMONICA IDENTICAL WITH BUFILE 46-54327, CAPTIONED
KEITH ERNEST LAMONICA; DALE CURTIS TORMO, SAC, OO: SEATTLE.)

LAMONICA DESCRIBED PREVIOUS ASSOCIATION WITH BUREAU PERSONNEL

T/C/15/77

OO: MEMPHIS

157-10673 -1349

SEARCHED <i>h</i>	INDEXED <i>h</i>
SERIALIZED <i>h</i>	FILED <i>h</i>
JUN 2 1977	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

Callahan

1
2
3

PAGE TWO SE 44-371 CLEAR

WHILE ASSIGNED AS INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER WITH WMPS RADIO, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND ALSO WHILE WORKING ON THE VABLONSKI MURDER CASES IN KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE. LAMONICA PRESENTLY RESIDES 31222 - 48TH AVENUE SW, FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON.

LAMONICA INDICATED HE HAS BEEN WORKING ON CAPTIONED CASE AND ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT PREVIOUS BELIEVE OF THE EXISTENCE OF "RAOUL" THEORY AS POSED BY JAMES EARL RAY, HE NOW HAS DEVELOPED INFORMATION INDICATING THAT "RAOUL" IS ACTUALLY (X) RAOUL SANTIAGO ESTEJO MARTINEZ (X), AND THAT WITH THE COOPERATION OF RAY'S ATTORNEY, JACK KERSHAW, HE, LAMONICA, IS TO MEET WITH MARTINEZ THROUGH AN INTERMEDIARY (X) CLIFF ANDREWS (X), WHO SUPPOSEDLY SERVED PRISON TIME WITH RAY.

LAMONICA FURTHER INDICATED THAT WHEN THIS INFORMATION BREAKS IT WILL CAUSE CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY AND HE HAS ALREADY BEEN CONTACTED BY THREE MAJOR NETWORKS AND LEAVES THURSDAY MORNING TO BE INTERVIEWED BY THE NATIONAL ENQUIRER AT LAFTANA, FLORIDA, FROM WHERE HE WILL RETURN TO SEATTLE POSSIBLY ON FRIDAY. HE SAID APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKENDS AGO HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY TWO INVESTIGATORS NAMES MORTARTY (PH), AND GILBERT FROM THE HOUSE SELECT

PAGE THREE

SE 44-371 CLEAR

COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS WHO INDICATED THEY WOULD BE SUBSEQUENTLY
LAMONICA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AT THE TIME OF THIS INTERVIEW
LAMONICA DID NOT HAVE THE AFOREMENTIONED INFORMATION ON RAOUL
MARTINEZ. MARTINEZ REPORTEDLY INDICATED HE WILL TESTIFY ABOUT
CAPTIONED CASE IF HE CAN BE GRANTED IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION.

LAMONICA'S PURPOSE IN CONTACTING SEATTLE FBI WAS TO
EXPRESS CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS TWO DAUGHTERS, DEBORAH
ANGELA AGE 7, AND DANA EDVA AGE 6, WHO RESIDE WITH HIS PARENTS
AT 4217 W. RICHARDSON, PASCO, WASHINGTON, TEL. 547-7935.

REASON FOR HIS CONCERN IS THAT HE HAD HEARD INDIRECTLY THAT A NEW
ORLEANS "HITMAN" RAFAEL MARTINEZ (NO RELATION TO RAOUL MARTINEZ)
WOULD CAUSE HIM OR HIS FAMILY A LOT OF TROUBLE IF THE STORY BREAKS.
HE SAID HIS NEW SOURCE TOLD HIM OF A CONFIDENTIAL MEMO
BELIEVED FROM DALLAS, TEXAS, PD OR SO TO NEW ORLEANS IN WHICH
MARTINEZ WAS DESCRIBED AS A VERY EXPERIENCED HITMAN.

LAMONICA ADVISED BY SAC OF THE WITNESS PROTECTION PRO-
GRAM AND THAT HE SHOULD PROBABLY NOTIFY INVESTIGATORS FOR SELECT
COMMITTEE OF HIS FEARS BUT TO CHECK WITH THIS OFFICE UPON
HIS RETURN THIS COMING FRIDAY.

PAGE FOUR

ST 44-371 . CLEAR

ABOVE FURNISHED FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU FOR REFERRAL
TO DEPARTMENT. ALL OFFICES HOLD SPECIFIC LEADS IN ADVANCE
PENDING INSTRUCTIONS FROM BUREAU

BT

5/31/77

FM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (RUC)
TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY
BT
CLEAR

MURKIN ✓ 157-10673

REBUCAL TO BIRMINGHAM MAY 18, 1977, REQUESTING CONTACT WITH FORMER BH 1079-PCI, TO DETERMINE IF HE CAN BE IDENTIFIED TO THE HOUSE ASSASSINATION COMMITTEE (HAC) AS THE SOURCE OF INFORMATION REGARDING LIBERTO, ET AL.

SOURCE WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR CONTACT MAY 18-30, 1977. ON MAY 31, 1977, HE ADVISED SA PATRICK J. MOYNIHAN THAT HE CAN BE IDENTIFIED TO THE HAC AS THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION HE FURNISHED. HE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION GRATUITOUSLY:

HE IS DISENCHANTED WITH THE HAC AND BELIEVES IT IS TOO POLITICAL. HE HAS NOT TALKED TO THEM (MR. EDDIE EVANS) IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS. EVANS DESIRES SOURCE TO BE IN TOUCH TELEPHONICALLY AT LEAST TWICE A WEEK BUT IS NEVER AVAILABLE WHEN SOURCE PUTS HIMSELF OUT TO MAKE THESE CONTACTS.

1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
① - New Orleans
1 - Birmingham
PJM:dsc
(3)

SEARCHED <i>llh</i>	INDEXED <i>llh</i>
SERIALIZED <i>llh</i>	FILED <i>llh</i>
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157-10672-1350

PAGE TWO BH 44-1740

SOURCE DISAPPROVES OF ALL THE TV PUBLICITY THE HAC RECEIVED IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, AND MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, A FEW WEEKS AGO, AND AGAIN BELIEVES THEY ARE "TOO POLITICAL."

THROUGH THE HAC, HE HAS MET MARK LANE. SOURCE HAS NO USE FOR LANE AND ARGUED WITH HIM ON THE OCCASION WHEN THEY MET.

SOURCE HAS CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION HIMSELF IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, RECENTLY. JAMES EARL RAY LEFT BIRMINGHAM MARCH 30, 1968, AND WENT DIRECTLY TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, ON MARCH 30, 1968. HE STAYED AT MRS. DEATON'S ROOMING HOUSE ON PEABODY STREET IN MEMPHIS, AND SOURCE INTERVIEWED HER APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS AGO.

SOURCE DEVELOPED A "LIBERTO MAN" WHO SHOWED SOURCE THE ABOVE ROOMING HOUSE. SOURCE HAS NOT FURNISHED THIS INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEATON ROOMING HOUSE TO HAC SINCE THEY HAVE NOT BEEN IN RECENT CONTACT WITH HIM.

INFORMATION FURNISHED BY THIS SOURCE IN THE FUTURE WILL BE RECORDED AT BIRMINGHAM AND FORWARDED IF APPROPRIATE.

AIRMAIL COPIES BEING FURNISHED MEMPHIS AND NEW ORLEANS.
BT.

WQJ 366 1543355 WFO 379 1543355

RR 92 DI XX MF WJ

DE HQ

R 330210Z JUN 77

FM DIRECTOR (44-18861)

TO SEATTLE (44-371) (PRIORITY)

DALLAS (PRIORITY)

KNOXVILLE (PRIORITY)

MEMPHIS (PRIORITY)

NEW ORLEANS (PRIORITY)

BT

CLAR

MURKIN

157-10673

RECEIVED JUNE 6, 1977.

SEATTLE INSURE THAT KEITH ERNEST LAYONICA IS COGNIZANT
OF THE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ORDER
ORD 2118.2 REGARDING WITNESS PROTECTION. THIS ORDER STATES
UNDER "CONDITIONS FOR PROTECTION" THAT THE PROTECTION OF A
WITNESS AND MEMBERS OF A WITNESS FAMILY IN A FEDERAL
CRIMINAL PROCEEDING IS A LOCAL OR STATE POLICE MATTER TO
BE HANDLED BY THOSE AUTHORITIES. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY
WILL BE ALLOWED ONLY UPON THE FINDING OF THE ASSISTANT
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE CONCERNED DIVISION THAT THE

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 3 1977	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Collins

157-10673-1351

PAGE TWO SF (44-371) CLEAR.

PROPOSED WITNESS MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

(1) THE PERSON IS A QUALIFYING WITNESS IN A SPECIFIC CASE IN PROGRESS OR BEING OR AFTER A GRAND JURY PROCEEDING;

(2) EVIDENCE IN POSSESSION INDICATES THAT THE LIFE OF THE WITNESS AND/OR THAT OF A MEMBER OF THE WITNESS FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD IS IN IMMEDIATE JEOPARDY AND (3) EVIDENCE

IN POSSESSION INDICATES IT WILL BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE FEDERAL INTEREST FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO PROTECT THE WITNESS AND/OR A FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBER. THIS ORDER STATES

THAT REQUESTS FOR PROTECTION OF A WITNESS SHALL BE MADE THROUGH THE U. S. ATTORNEY OR BY A DIVISION ATTORNEY

OF THE DEPARTMENT. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT LAYONICA IS ADVISED THAT IF HE DESIRES TO PURSUE THIS MATTER UNDER THE WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM, HE SHOULD CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE U. S. ATTORNEY AND/OR THE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR

CONSIDERATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE IS A QUALIFYING WITNESS AS SET FORTH ABOVE. YOU SHOULD ALSO ADVISE LAYONICA TO NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE FACTS HE WAS FOR HIS PERSONAL SAFETY AND THAT OF HIS FAMILY.

PAGE THREE OF (44-471) CUMMIS

ALL OFFICE CONDUCT NO INVESTIGATION CONCERNING
THIS LAMONICA ALLEGATION SINCE THIS MATTER HAS BEEN
REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND NO INVESTIGATION IS BEING
CONDUCTED UNLESS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

BT

NOI 101 1542306 MM0125 1542305

RR HQ DL KX ME NO SE

DE MM

R 032300Z JUN 77

FM MIAMI (44-1854) RUC

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ROUTINE

DALLAS ROUTINE

KNOXVILLE ROUTINE

MEMPHIS ROUTINE

NEW ORLEANS ROUTINE

SEATTLE (44-371) ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

MURKIN. ✓ 157-10673

REBUTEL TO SEATTLE, JUNE 3, 1977.

ON JUNE 3, 1977, KEITH ERNEST LAMONICA LOCATED PALM BEACH HAWAIIAN MOTEL, PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, AND AT THIS TIME MADE AWARE OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REGULATIONS CONCERNING WITNESS PROTECTION. THIS INFO INCLUDED WHOM HE SHOULD CONTACT IN EVENT HE DESIRES OR IS ELIGIBLE FOR PROTECTION AND THE THREE CONDITIONS NECESSARY

Callender

157-10673-1853

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 3 1977	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Callender

PAGE TWO MM 44-1854 CLEAR
TO QUALIFY.

LAMONICA ADVISED THAT WHILE HE HAS SOME CONCERN FOR PROTECTION, HIS MAIN INTEREST IS TO DETERMINE IF RAFAEL MARTINEZ, AN ALLEGED "HIT MAN" IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, DOES ACTUALLY POSE A THREAT TO HIM. LAMONICA WAS ADVISED THAT NO SUCH DETERMINATION COULD BE MADE AND HE STATED HE IS PROBABLY GOING TO NEW ORLEANS IN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS AND WILL PURSUE THIS LOCALLY; HOWEVER, CLAIMED HE WOULD PROBABLY CONTACT FBI AT NEW ORLEANS WHILE THERE. LAMONICA CONTENTED HIS INVESTIGATION INTO CAPTIONED MATTER HAS PRODUCED NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND THAT HE INTENDS TO PURSUE HIS INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATION.

BT

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date JUNE 6, 1977

TO: Director, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, New Orleans (157-10673)

MURKIN

Re Miami teletype to Bureau 6/3/77 and Bureau and New Orleans telcalls 6/6/77 relating to one RAFAEL MARTINEZ.

A review of the files of the New Orleans Office was conducted and there was no reference to anyone by the name of RAFAEL MARTINEZ in regard to MURKIN.

New Orleans indices do contain information regarding one RAFAEL MARTINEZ, who was a subject of a San Antonio investigation, 92-419, in which San Antonio was office of origin.

This individual is described as a white male, born [redacted] Laredo, Texas. As of February, 1968, he was further described as 5'11", 220 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, residing at 2216 Monterrey Street, Laredo, wife - CANDELARIA MARTINEZ. New Orleans files give no indication that this individual has ever been to New Orleans and in February, 1968, he was employed as a used-car salesman for Homer Auto Sales, Laredo, and reportedly was engaged in the smuggling of narcotics and the handling of stolen automobiles. He had been assigned FBI Number 659 601A.

2 - Bureau
1 - San Antonio (Info)
① - New Orleans
SMC:mwb
(4)

LAW/MRR II 3, file should be:
Destroyed in 6 mos. 10 yrs.
Retained as security matter

8
RUC
OK

WNT
WNT

157-10673-1354

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) (Time) Per _____



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1977

AG
202-739-2028

The FBI conducted a thorough investigation of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a Department of Justice task force concluded in a report released today by Attorney General Griffin B. Bell.

The 149-page report was submitted by the task force of the Office of Professional Responsibility following an eight-month intensive review of FBI files and interview of witnesses. The purpose of the study was to examine FBI activities involving Dr. King and to evaluate the effectiveness of the assassination investigation.

The report concluded that the FBI had conducted a painstaking and successful investigation of the 1968 assassination in Memphis, Tennessee.

The task force also found no evidence of FBI complicity in the murder.

The only new evidence that was developed related to details that did not affect the ultimate conclusion that James Earl Ray was the properly convicted murderer.

157-10673-13 ✓✓

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SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 4 1977	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

K89

The task force of five attorneys and two research analysts reviewed more than 200,000 documents from FBI Headquarters and Field Office files and interviewed some 40 witnesses in its study of the King case.

On April 26, 1976, then Attorney General Edward H. Levi directed the Office of Professional Responsibility, headed by Michael E. Shaheen, Jr., to review Department files to determine:

(1) Whether the FBI investigation of Dr. King's murder on April 4, 1968, at Memphis, Tennessee, was thorough and honest;

(2) Whether there was any evidence of FBI involvement in Dr. King's death;

(3) Whether any new evidence had come to the attention of the Department bearing on the assassination which should be dealt with by the proper authorities; and

(4) Whether the relationship between the FBI and Dr. King called for criminal prosecution, disciplinary proceedings, or other appropriate action.

After reviewing the murder investigation, the task force turned to the pre-assassination security investigation of Dr. King. The task force found that there may have been an arguable basis for the FBI to initiate a security investigation on Dr. King, but continued that the security investigation should have been ended in 1963 and not continued until his death five years later.

The FBI's COINTELPRO-type harassment of Dr. King and efforts to drive him out of the civil rights movement were found to have been clearly improper.

Mr. Shaheen's report concluded that any criminal action against FBI participants in the harassment campaign was barred by the statute of limitations. The task force recommended no disciplinary action because the chief FBI officials responsible for the harassment are dead or retired.

The task force submitted recommendations for tighter supervision of the FBI's domestic intelligence activities and endorsed the Department's new guidelines in this area. The task force also proposed outright prohibition of COINTELPRO-type activities against domestic intelligence subjects.

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date August 29, 1977

TO: Director, FBI
 Attention - CHARLES MATHEWS, III,
 Legal Counsel Division, Room 3648

FROM: SAC, New Orleans (197-1) - C -

HAROLD WEISBERG

v.
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 (U.S.D.C., D.C.)
 Civil Action Number 75-1996

Re Bureau airtel 8/12/77.

Enclosed are original and three copies of an affidavit
 in response to referenced Bureau airtel.

3 - Bureau (Encs. 4)
 3 - New Orleans
 (1, NO 66-2855)
 (1, NO 157-10673)
 (1, NO 197-1)

CHA:mwb
 (6)

157-10673 - 1356

SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED AK
 INDEXED _____
 FILED AK

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HAROLD WEISBERG

Plaintiff

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Defendant

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Civil Action Number 75-1996

AFFIDAVIT

I, CLIFFORD H. ANDERSON, being duly sworn, depose and say as follows:

(1) I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), assigned to the New Orleans Field Office of the FBI at New Orleans, Louisiana. My responsibilities as a Special Agent include the handling of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) matters within the New Orleans Field Office.

(2) Pursuant to the request of FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ), received on August 10, 1977, I caused a search to be made of the General Indices of the New Orleans Field Office, on August 10, 1977, for all records and exhibits pertaining to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and filed under the FBI designated title for that investigation "MURKIN." The method of search conducted was the same as that utilized to retrieve records necessary to fulfill the FBI's investigative responsibilities.

(3) Thereafter I supervised the review of those records and exhibits located pursuant to the search described in Paragraph (2) above and, on August 29, 1977, forwarded one copy each of said records and exhibits containing documents to FBIHQ, with the exception of those records previously directed or received from FBIHQ or the Memphis Field Office of the FBI which did not

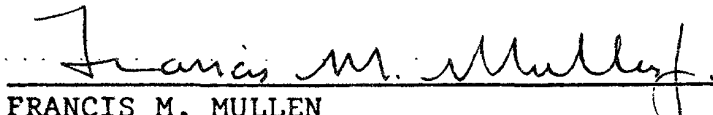
contain a substantive notation thereon. Those exhibits which contained items other than documents were not copied or forwarded to FBIHQ, however are listed below:

- a. Two cloth strips with laundry tags bearing codes 02B-6 and D2B-6;
- b. Photographs of artist's conception of unknown subject purchasing rifle in Birmingham;
- c. Photographs of DARREL DEXTER GATIN;
- d. Negatives of artist's conception of unknown subject by witnesses in Memphis and Birmingham;
- e. Photographs of bedspread in which gun was wrapped;
- f. Negatives of ERIC S. GALT;
- g. Photograph of subject with eyes closed;
- h. Color photographs of RONALD BARDIN SIMPSON;
- i. Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, March 17, 1960;
- j. Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, September 8, 1966;
- k. Photographs of WALTER TERRY RIFE;
- l. Standup photographs of RAY, March 28, 1955;
- m. Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, 1960;
- n. Photographs of Continental Dance Studio Party;
- o. Negatives of JAMES EARL RAY and WALTER TERRY RIFE (no dates);
- p. Photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, January 4, 1966;
- q. Color photograph of CHARLES STEIN;
- r. Photographs of MYRAL TOMASCO;
- s. Photograph of CHARLES STEIN;
- t. Photograph of CHARLES JOSEPH STEIN, July 21, 1961;
- u. Photograph of JAMES L. OWENS;
- v. Photographs of JULES RICO KIMBLE.


CLIFFORD H. ANDERSON
Special Agent - FBI
New Orleans, Louisiana

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of August, 1977.

Witness:


FRANCIS M. MULLEN
Special Agent in Charge - FBI
New Orleans, Louisiana

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date August 29, 1977

TO: Director, FBI
FROM: SAC, New Orleans (197-1) - C -
HAROLD WEISBERG
v.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
(U.S.D.C., D.C.)
Civil Action Number 75-1996

Re Bureau teletype 8/10/77 and Bureau airtel 8/12/77.

Enclosed under separate cover are one Xerox copy each of 713 documents, all from the New Orleans MURKIN file, NO 157-10673.

The enclosed documents represent the results of a serial-by-serial review of the entire New Orleans MURKIN main file and its 1-As. The serials enclosed are only those which (1) were not directed to, or received from, FBIHQ or Memphis, (2) those involving FBIHQ and Memphis with substantive permanent notations, and (3) 1-As which can be Xeroxed.

Those 1-A Exhibits which cannot be Xeroxed are listed as follows:

- 4 - Bureau (1, Package)
③ - New Orleans
(1, NO 66-2855)
(1, NO 157-10673)
(1, NO 197-1)

CHA:mwb

(7)


157-10673 -1357

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED WR
INDEXED _____
FILED WR

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____

(Number)

(Time)

Per _____

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

NO 197-1
CHA:mwb

1A-1: Two cloth strips with laundry tags bearing codes 02B-6 and D2B-6.

1A-3: Photographs of artist's conception of unknown subject purchasing rifle in Birmingham.

1A-6: Photographs of DARREL DEXTER GATIN.

1A-12: Negatives of artist's conception of unknown subject by witnesses in Memphis and Birmingham.

1A-15: Photographs of bedspread in which gun was wrapped.

1A-22: ~~No~~ Negatives of ERIC S. GALT.

1A-23: Photograph of subject with eyes closed.

1A-27: Color photographs of RONALD BARDIN SIMPSON.

1A-30: Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, 3/17/60.

1A-31: Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, 9/8/66.

1A-32: Photographs of WALTER TERRY RIFE.

1A-33: Standup photographs of RAY, 3/28/55.

1A-34: Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, 1960.

1A-35: Photographs of Continental Dance Studio Party.

1A-36: Negatives of JAMES EARL RAY and WALTER TERRY RIFE (no dates).

1A-42: Photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, 1/4/66.

1A-43: Color photograph of CHARLES STEIN.

1A-45: Photographs of MYRAL TOMASO.

1A-46: Photograph of CHARLES STEIN.

1A-57: Photograph of CHARLES JOSEPH STEIN, 7/21/61.

NO 197-1
CHA:mwb

1A-62: Photograph of JAMES L. OWENS.

1A-67: Photographs of JULES RICO KIMBLE.

Sub File 1, consisting of original FD-302s and inserts, was not copied since such documents were repeated in Sub File 2 where all documents were indexed. Only the first pages of Sub File 2 serials were copied since those were repeated in reports submitted.

The affidavit required in the Bureau airtel of 8/12/77 is being sent by separate airtel, attention CHARLES MATHEWS, III, Legal Counsel Division.

To assist the Bureau in accounting for all serials the following additional information is set forth relevant to the idiosyncrasies of the New Orleans main files' serialization:

- (1) Volume 2 actually began with Serial 151, repeating Serials 151, 152, and 153;
- (2) Serial 364 is skipped;
- (3) Serials 1302 and 1303 were transferred to a different file;
- (4) Sub File A Serial 23 was skipped and there are two serials each numbered 17 and 18.

XXX

August 31, 1977

TO: Director, FBI
Attention - SA J. T. ALDHIZER, Congressional Inquiry
Unit, Special Investigative Division

FROM: SAC, New Orleans (66-2878)

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
BUREAU DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 23, 1977

Re Bureau teletype August 18, 1977.

Enclosed under separate cover for the Bureau are two
Xerox copies each of 2,238 documents.

These documents represent a chronological accounting
of every serial in the New Orleans MURKIN File, NO 157-10673.
Those communications to ~~or~~ from FBIHQ and Memphis have only the
first page reproduced, unless substantive notations existed
elsewhere.

The original FD-302s in that case which consisted of
Sub File 1, all of which are repeated by the indexed FD-302s
in Sub File 2 and in the New Orleans reports in this case, are
not being copied or enclosed.

The 1-A Exhibits which cannot be Xeroxed are set out
as follows:

4 - Bureau (1, Package)
3 - New Orleans
(1, NO 66-2855)
(1, NO 66-2878)
(1, NO 157-10673)

CHA:mwb

(7)

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED *mr*
INDEXED _____
FILED *mf*

157-10673-1358