

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO TP 157-3231

ON DECEMBER 12, 1975, AND REQUESTED THAT WEHUNT TELEPHONE COLLECT TO JOHN CREWDSON, A REPORTER FOR THE "NEW YORK TIMES" AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 202-293-3100. WEHUNT ADVISED THAT HE SUBSEQUENTLY CONTACTED CREWDSON WHO INDICATED THAT HE DESIRED TO COME TO TAMPA, FLORIDA, TO INTERVIEW WEHUNT CONCERNING INFORMATION THAT WEHUNT HAD PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED TO THE FBI. WEHUNT STATED THAT FROM HIS CONVERSATION WITH CREWDSON IT WAS OBVIOUS TO HIM THAT CREWDSON HAD THE RESULTS OF THE INTERVIEW OF WEHUNT BY A TAMPA FBI AGENT ON JULY 1, 1974. WEHUNT ADVISED THAT HE DID NOT GIVE A DEFINITE ANSWER TO CREWDSON BUT INDICATED THAT HE WOULD CONTACT CREWDSON AND FURNISH A DEFINITE ANSWER TO HIM AS TO WHETHER HE DESIRED TO BE INTERVIEWED.

WEHUNT DESIRED TO KNOW HOW A REPORTER FROM THE "NEW YORK TIMES" OBTAINED THE RESULTS OF HIS INTERVIEW ON JULY 1, 1974. WEHUNT WAS ADVISED THAT THE TAMPA OFFICE WAS NOT AWARE AS TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH CREWDSON COULD OBTAIN THE RESULTS OF THE INTERVIEW CONDUCTED OF WEHUNT BY TAMPA AGENTS. WEHUNT ADVISED THAT HE PLANS TO CONTACT CASTILLO AND HAVE CASTILLO

END PAGE TWO

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

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE THREE TP 157-3231

ADVISE CREWDSON THAT HE DOES NOT DESIRE TO BE INTERVIEWED BY CREWDSON INASMUCH AS CREWDSON APPARENTLY HAS ALL OF THE INFORMATION THAT HE PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED TO THE FBI. IN ADDITION WEHUNT ADVISED THAT HE WILL ADVISE CASTILLO HE IS FEARFUL OF HIS LIFE IF IT BECOMES PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT HE FURNISHED INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FACT THAT VERY INFLUENTIAL BUSINESSMEN ~~KNOW~~ PLOTTED TO KILL DR. KING.

~~■~~. BUREAU REQUESTED TO ADVISE TAMPA CONCERNING CREWDSON OBTAINING RESULTS OF TAMPA INTERVIEW OF WEHUNT.

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

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Did Ray act alone?

It's not just the conspiracy buffs who have wondered for years whether James Earl Ray acted alone in killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and, if so, what his motives were.

The assassination, the resulting worldwide manhunt, the eventual arrest, and finally Ray's guilty plea left all kinds of reasonable questions unanswered.

IN EFFECT, Americans had to take it on faith from the FBI, which conducted the investigation, that justice had been done when Ray was convicted and sentenced to life.

Now it is obvious that nothing the

FBI said or did in relation to King's life or his death deserved to be taken on faith. J. Edgar Hoover hated King. And the agency has confirmed that under his guidance it harassed King for six years, tapping his phones, bugging his quarters, circulating poisoned rumors about him, and at one point even prodding him to commit suicide.

And as a final worrisome note, bureau documents show that the FBI may have played a part in inducing King's selection of the Memphis motel at which he was killed.

UNDER THE circumstances, we think most Americans, black and white, will welcome the decision by Atty. Gen. Edward Levi, with support of President Ford, to review the FBI investigation of King's assassination. Levi hasn't actually reopened the inquiry; he says the current review will guide his decision on that.

Significantly, Ray is in the courts now attempting to withdraw his guilty plea and seek a new trial. While there doesn't seem to be any doubt he pulled the trigger on King, we would like to see Ray's story told, including whatever defense he can offer. Levi could contribute to that by ordering the whole investigation reopened.

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

ST. PETERSBURG RG TIM
St. Pete., Fl.
Page 14-a

Date: 11/29/75
Edition:
Author:
Editor: EUGENE PATTERSON
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: TAMPA
☐ Being Investigated

SENT TO BU.

DEC 11 1975

157-3231-55

SEARCHED ☒	INDEXED ☒
SERIALIZED ☒	FILED ☒
DEC 11 1975	
FBI - TAMPA	

AIRTEL

12/15/75

To: SAC, Tampa (157-3231)
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)
MURKIN

ReTPtel 12/12/75.

For your information, a copy of Tampa LHM dated 7/2/74 was forwarded to the Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice, when received. No additional dissemination was made by FBIHQ.

Unless TP files indicate that further dissemination was made by your Division, advise Wehunt along these lines if he makes any further inquiries on this aspect.

SuLHM setting out information contained in referenced communication.

157-3231-552

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 17 1975	
FBI - TAMPA	

[Signature]

FBI

Transmit in _____ Via AIRTEL _____
 (Type in plaintext or code) (Precedence)

12/15/75
 (Date)

To: SAC, Tampa (157-3231)
 From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

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157-3231-552
 DEC 18 1975
 HOGARTY
 J O
 A
 SO ME
 281



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Tampa, Florida
December 19, 1975

JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Reference is made to Tampa memorandum dated
July 2, 1974.

On December 12, 1975, Robert Thomas Wehunt, Jr., 3109 Hartnett Avenue, Tampa, Florida, telephonically contacted the Tampa Office of the FBI and advised that on December 12, 1975, Angel Castillo, a reporter for the "St. Petersburg Times," a daily newspaper published in St. Petersburg, Florida, had contacted Wehunt and had requested that Wehunt telephone collect to John Crewdson, a reporter for the "New York Times," a daily newspaper published in New York, New York. Mr. Wehunt advised that Castillo indicated that Crewdson should be contacted by telephone number 202-293-3100.

Wehunt advised that he subsequently contacted John Crewdson at the above-listed telephone number at which time Crewdson indicated that he desired to come to Tampa, Florida, to interview Wehunt concerning information that Wehunt had previously furnished to the FBI concerning three signed statements that Wehunt's father had obtained from convicts in the Fulton County Jail, Atlanta, Georgia, indicating that these convicts had been approached by very influential businessmen to kill Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for \$100,000. Wehunt stated that from his conversation with John Crewdson it was obvious to him that Crewdson had obtained the results of the interview of Wehunt by an FBI Agent of the Tampa Office which interview took place on July 1, 1974. Wehunt advised that he did not give a definite answer to Crewdson but indicated that he would recontact Crewdson at which time he would furnish a definite answer.

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.

4 - Bureau
1 - Tampa (157-3231)
JEH:bg
(5)

157-3231-553
SEARCHED
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED

JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Wehunt advised that he desired to bring this to the attention of the FBI and he indicated that he planned to contact Angel Castillo and have Castillo contact Crewdson to notify Crewdson that Wehunt did not desire to be interviewed inasmuch as Crewdson apparently had all of the information that Wehunt had previously furnished to the FBI. In addition, Wehunt advised that he was going to notify Castillo that he is fearful of his life if it becomes public knowledge that he furnished information to the FBI to the effect that very influential businessmen had plotted to kill Dr. King.

On December 17, 1975, Wehunt telephonically contacted the Tampa Office and advised that upon instructions from his attorney he had contacted John Crewdson telephonically and had advised Crewdson that he did not desire to be interviewed by Crewdson.

2*

12/19/75

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) (C)

MURKIN

ReTPtel 12/12/75 and Buairtel 12/15/75.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are four copies of an LHM setting forth information that was contained in reTPtel.

ROBERT THOMAS WEHUNT upon contacting the Tampa Office on 12/17/75 was advised that a copy of the results of his interview by Tampa FBI Agent was forwarded to the Civil Rights Division of the U. S. Department of Justice in 1974 and no additional dissemination was made by the FBI. Mr. WEHUNT advised that any additional information that he receives concerning this matter will be brought to the attention of the Tampa Office.

A review of Tampa files fails to indicate that any further dissemination was made by the Tampa Division of Tampa airtel and LHM 7/2/74.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)

1 - Tampa

JEH:bg

(3)

157-3231-554
SEARCHED _____
INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED JEH
FILED JEH

DESTROY FILE 12/80

WRITTEN BY

Carl Delmar Esq.

TO

Judge Herbert Ryder

POST OFFICE

CHATTAHOOCHEE, FLORIDA

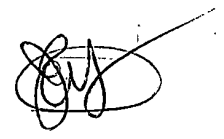
DEAR Judge Ryder

I would like to request that you
dismiss the case against me in exchange
for information concerning illegal F.B.I.
activities, For example, they have agents
planted inside the state hospital,
the prisons and the local jails.
It was one of these agents who
approached James Earl Ray in
Missouri and helped him to escape
and set up the assassination of
Dr. King.

Carl Delmar
Esq.

157-3231-555

D, D



CHAMBERS OF
CIRCUIT JUDGE
13th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
COURTHOUSE ANNEX
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

HERBOTH S. RYDER

May 7, 1976

Carl Delvic
Mr. Carl Frank Delvic
Florida State Hospital
Chattahoochee, Florida 32324

Dear Mr. Delvic:

I received your undated letter indicating you have information regarding James Earl Ray and the assassination of a D.T. King, who I assume to be Martin Luther King.

I am turning a copy of your letter over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their consideration.

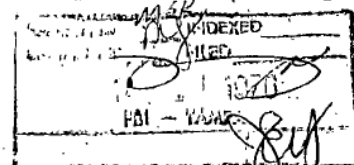
Sincerely,

HERBOTH S. RYDER
Judge

HSR/gl

bcc: FBI

Gentlemen: Mr. Delvic was charged with the crime of Robbery (Armed along with a co-defendant, Eddie Ray Rabon). This robbery allegedly occurred on December 25, 1975. Mr. Delvic and Mr. Rabon were examined by Dr. Arturo Gonzalez and Daniel Sprehe, psychiatrists of this city, and on March 19, 1976 Mr. Rabon was adjudicated competent. His trial is set for June 3, 1976. Mr.



Post Office Box 3301
Tampa, Florida 33601
May 18, 1976

Honorable Herboth S. Ryder, Circuit Judge
13th Judicial Circuit of Florida
Courthouse Annex
Tampa, Florida 33602

Dear Judge Ryder:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter
May 7, 1976 with the enclosed undated letter from Carl
Frank Delvic, Florida State Hospital, Chattahoochee,
Florida.

Inasmuch as Chattahoochee, Florida, is covered
by the Jacksonville Division of the Federal Bureau of
Investigation, a copy of your letter with its enclosure
is being forwarded to the Jacksonville Office of the FBI
for whatever action they may deem appropriate.

Your cooperation in matters of this nature is
greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,


FRANCIS M. MULLEN, JR.
Special Agent in Charge

1 - Addressee
1 - Jacksonville
① - Tampa (157-3231)
JEH:bg
(3)


157-3231-557

SEARCHED _____
INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED 
FILED 

SAC, JACKSONVILLE

5/18/76

M
JEH
SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)(C)

MURKIN

Enclosed herewith for Jacksonville are the following:

One copy of letter from Circuit Judge HERBOTH S. RYDER, Tampa, Florida, dated 5/7/76, with an enclosed undated letter from CARL FRANK DELVIC, Florida State Hospital, Chattahoochee, Florida;

One copy of letter furnished by the Tampa Office to Judge RYDER.

A review of the files of the Tampa Office indicates that CARL DELVIC in 1964 while a student at Jefferson High School, Tampa, Florida, submitted a theme to his instructor and in the theme he wrote "Next I'll take a trip to Washington, D.C. and assassinate the President." DELVIC received

[REDACTED]

In view of the rambling nature of the letter from DELVIC to Judge RYDER and the fact that DELVIC is presently [REDACTED] at Chattahoochee, Florida, contact by the Jacksonville Office with DELVIC is being left to the discretion of the Jacksonville Office.

2 - Jacksonville (Enc.3)

1 - Tampa

JEH:bg

(3)

157-3231-558

SEARCHED

INDEXED

SERIALIZED

FILED

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

166-22*

100-716*

9-137*

157-5095*

157-376*

157-4426*

157-1280*

157-3749*

157-2665

Let's get the facts

In the eight years since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot to death nobody has explained satisfactorily how his assassin could have been at once as stupid and as wily as the record would have us believe.

THE FACT IS, the circumstances of King's assassination remain clouded because James Earl Ray was allowed to plead guilty, and so the case wasn't tried.

Ray, according to the official account, was a fumbling hoodlum who, after staking out King at a Memphis motel, picked him off with a rifle from a rooming house window nearby.

After the shooting he ran, dropping the gun, his binoculars, and two cans of beer in plain view on the street, all bearing his fingerprints. That was unbelievably witless, even for Ray.

Thereafter he successfully eluded for more than two months an FBI search that involved 3,000 agents and cost \$1.4-million. That was unbelievably clever, especially for Ray.

FOR THESE AND other reasons we were disappointed that the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Monday rejected Ray's request to withdraw his guilty plea and stand trial. Ray said he had been talked into the plea by his lawyers.

But the court said it found no evidence he hadn't volunteered his confession (which he retracted almost at once) and that therefore he couldn't be allowed now to repudiate it.

Legally, that probably makes sense. Practically, it leaves the case under clouds of suspicion which have darkened for eight years and which in the absence of a full hearing and trial aren't about to disperse.

Most people assume that Ray did fire the shot that killed King. And nobody,

not even Ray, has claimed he didn't figure in the killing at least in some way, although he insists now he did not pull the trigger.

BUT CONSIDER SOME of the worrisome and unanswered questions, in addition to those raised above.

One is the FBI's role in harassing King in the years leading up to his killing, and the suspicion that J. Edgar Hoover, who hated King, may not have had his heart in the murder inquiry.

Then there is the fact — or at least it appears to be a fact — that for two weeks after the shooting the FBI never thought to run the Ray fingerprints — so handily left at the scene — through its criminal file, to get him identified.

HOW DID RAY after the shooting raise the thousands of dollars required to finance his flight through five countries? How did he acquire a Canadian passport issued in the name of a Canadian whom he resembled?

How did Ray know, in advance, where King would be staying? And besides all that, what was his motive in leaving his girl friend and a job offer in Los Angeles to drive across the country and assassinate Dr. King?

No doubt there are reasonable answers to all these questions. At a trial the questions at least might have been asked.

Ray's current attorneys say they will appeal the appeal court's ruling. We hope they do, and that the Supreme Court will be able to find legal grounds to support Ray's demand for a trial.

ASIDE FROM RAY'S interests — and they are considerable since he is serving 99 years in a Tennessee prison — the public interest will be served by getting all the available facts on the record.

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

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES
St. Petersburg, Fl
Page 18-A

Date: 5/12/76

Edition:

Author:

Editor: EUGENE PATTERSON

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: TAMPA

☐ Being Investigated

157-3231-559
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

MAY 21 1976

FBI - TAMPA

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

DATE: 6/1/76

FROM : SAC, JACKSONVILLE (44-769) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

ReTPlet to JK, 5/18/76.

On 5/26/76, CARL FRANK DELVIC

[REDACTED] Tallahassee,
Fla., was interviewed and provided the following
information:

[REDACTED]

DELVIC was furnished a Standard Authority To
Release Information Form (FD-406) which was read to him,
DELVIC advised that he understood the form and signed a
release statement.

[REDACTED]



5010-110

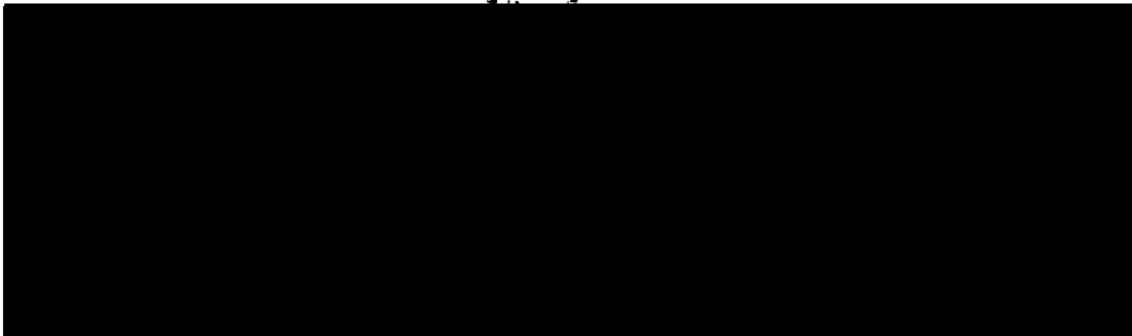
2 - Tampa
1 - Jacksonville
CCJ/swc
(3)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 4 1976	
FBI-TAMPA	

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

157-3231-560

JK 44-769



no further action is being taken by Jacksonville Division
in this matter.

Page 1

Do not take any action on this report until you have received a copy of
the report from the FBI.

NOTE: This report is being furnished to you for information only.
It is not to be used as evidence in any court of law.
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11
11

SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

6/1/76

SAC, JACKSONVILLE (44-769) (RUC)

MURKIN

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[REDACTED]
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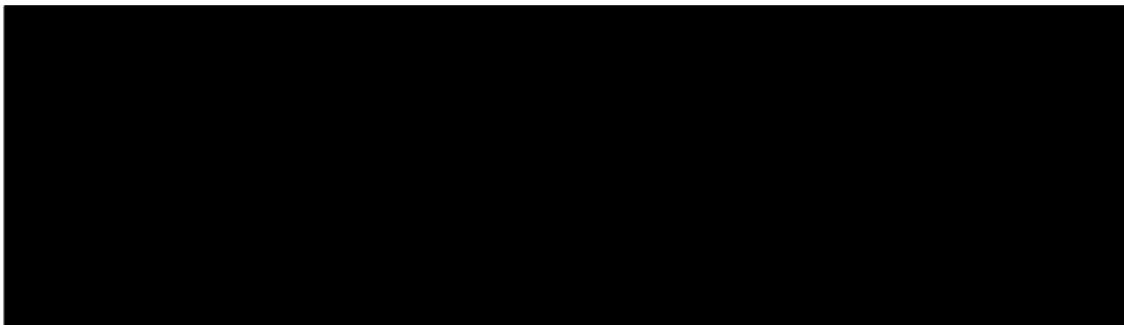
[REDACTED]

2 - Tampa
1 - Jacksonville
CCJ/swc
(3)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 4 1976	
FBI - TAMPA	

[Handwritten signature]

JK 44-769



no further action is being taken by Jacksonville Division
in this matter.