

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 INTERNAL ROUTING/ACTION SLIP

TO	BLDG.	ROOM	NAME/TITLE/ORGANIZATION	TO	BLDG.	ROOM	NAME/TITLE/ORGANIZATION
JEH	5012		MR. GALLAGHER	JEH	5012		MISS EGGLESTON
JEH	5012		MR. O'CONNELL	JEH	5012		MRS. LEEPER
JEH	5030		MR. COOKE	JEH	5012		MISS WARREN
JEH	5425		MR. HETHERINGTON	JEH	5121		MISS CHEDI
JEH	5121		MR. PEELMAN	JEH	5121		MR. LEEPER
JEH	5155		MR. RHYNE	JEH	5081		MRS. WOOD
JEH	5121		MR. J. G. KELLY	JEH	7825		CORRES. & TOURS
JEH	5131		MR. E. J. MC DONOUGH	JEH	4644		FOREIGN LIAISON
JEH	5131		MR. BOYD	L.B.	6221		DATA PROCESSING
JEH	5131		MR. GIAQUINTO	JEH	11255		IDEN. DIVISION
JEH	5131		MR. HELTERHOFF	JEH	1B 973		MECHANICAL SECTION
JEH	5131		MR. LAW	JEH	6437		INFORMATION DESK
JEH	5131		MR. MC GILL	JEH	4654		SERVICE UNIT
JEH	5131		MR. MC GILL	JEH	5835		RECORDS SECTION
							SEARCH, REVIEW & RETURN
JEH	5136		MR. J. W. HINES				
JEH	5136		MR. COX				
JEH	5136		MR. GEHRING				
JEH	5136		MR. GUSTAFSON				
JEH	5030		EXTRA-DUTY DESK				
JEH	1B 327		MAIL ROOM				
JEH	6247		TELETYPE UNIT				
			<i>re Murkin - COST DATA</i>				
			<i>The following personnel man hours</i>				
			<i>have been expended during the period</i>				
			<i>12/15-19/75</i>				
			<i>40 hrs</i>			<i>GS-14</i>	
			<i>6 hrs</i>			<i>GS-6</i>	

- |   |                                  |   |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION/COMMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> LOG     | <input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SEE REMARKS ON REVERSE | <input type="checkbox"/> FILE    | <input type="checkbox"/> COORDINATE       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MAKE COPIES (NO. )     | <input type="checkbox"/> SEEME   | <input type="checkbox"/> PER INQUIRY      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RETURN (BY )           | <input type="checkbox"/> CALL ME | <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION      |

FROM	J. C. Law RM 5131	BLDG.	JEH	ROOM	
		PHONE		DATE	

Civil Rights Section, General Investigative Division

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

417

1976

Director	Mr. Anderson	Miss D. Adams
Mr. Callahan	Mr. Arms	Miss Ayres
Mr. Jenkins	Mr. Arnett	Mrs. Bear
Mr. Adams	Mr. Baird	Miss Boorech
Mr. Ash	Mr. Baker	Mr. Buckmaster
Mr. Bassett	Mr. Baugh	Mrs. Carter
Mr. Cleveland	Mr. Brixey	Mrs. Collins
Mr. Cochran	Mr. Cahill	Mrs. Crookston
Mr. Decker	Mr. Clarke	Miss Dean
<del>Mr. Gallagher</del>	Mr. Clynick	Mrs. Dove
Mr. Hoxie	Mr. Cristian	Mrs. Foley
Mr. McDermott	Mr. Davis	Miss Highfield
Mr. Mintz	Mr. Dawson	Miss Jacobson
Mr. Mooney	Mr. DeLaRosa	Mr. Lawless
Mr. Moore	Mr. Deamon	Mr. Marsden
Mr. Walsh	Mr. Doran	Miss Peterson
Mr. Wannall	Mr. Grees	Miss Rochat
Mr. Feeney	Mr. Haddock	Miss M. Smith
Mr. Mack	Mr. Hogan	Mrs. S. Smith
Mrs. Metcalf	Mr. Hoverson	Miss Soden
Miss Tietgen	Mr. Hughes	Mrs. Stewart
Mr. Hunsinger	Mr. Kardash	Mrs. Stoll
Mr. Burns	Mr. Knowler	Miss Tibbetts
Mr. Dunphy	Mr. Lawrence	Mrs. Watson
Mr. Flynn	Mr. Loll	Mr. Wyne
Mr. Groover	Mr. Midkiff	
Mr. McMichael	Mr. McKenzie	
Mrs. Kush	Mr. Morrissey	
Miss Hatgiannis	Mr. Mow	
Miss Zamperini	Mr. O'Connor	
Miss G. Adams	Mr. Olsen	
Miss Cassens	Mr. Orndorff	
Mr. Brownfield	Mr. Quick	
Mr. Malmfeldt	Mr. Rolander	
Mr. Neudorfer	Mr. Sarhatt	
	Mr. Schreiber	
	Mr. Stoetzel	
	Mr. Toobey	
	Mr. VanEalen	
	Mr. Williamson	
	Mr. Willis	
	Mr. Witzgall	
	Mr. Woodby	
	Mr. Woodworth	

*me*  
*Hutchinson*

- Personnel Records
- Corres. Review Unit, 6658
- Mail Room, 1B327
- Stock Room, 1B353
- Teletype Unit, 6247
- See Me Call Me
- For Your Information
- For Approp. Action
- Note and Return
- Please Initial
- Record and Return

✓ *Mr. Pe...*

Discontinue cost data re Martin Luther King, Jr. See attached Airtel dtd. 2/17/76.

*Jay A. Brixey, jlb*  
 E. W. WALSH

511 (2-6) 5471

Use all items correctly and  
do not mutilate and use copies

TO: MECHANICAL SECTION  
Processing Unit - 5411

Date: 2/19 airtel

Room: 4107

Classified:  Original  Photostat

2/17/76

To: SAC, Albany

From: Director, FBI

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW  
COST DATA**

Book fashion  
One side only

ReBunitel 12/12/75. Reports concerning cost data  
on captioned matter may be discontinued.

To: 2 - Each Field Office

- 1 - Mr. Callahan - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Jenkins - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Adams - Enclosure
- 1 - Each Assistant Director - Enclosure
- ① - Mr. Erixey - Enclosure

**NOTE: This matter has been coordinated with Mr. S. F. Phillips,  
Intelligence Division, who advised no further work will be  
required of field divisions on this matter in the near future.**

JAB:kaw  
(20)

FOR USE OF FORMS DESK

- XEROX *dmf. 6/23/77*
- REVIEWED *6/29/77 jmr*
- EXCISED & XEROXED *Hjw 6/29/77*
- OTHER \_\_\_\_\_
- COMPLETED



Date 6/22/77

The following material has been reproduced  
for excising and review at FBIHQ by representatives of  
the House Select Committee on Assassinations:

File No. Murkin Memos

Section 1

Serials \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_

(except following serials not in  
file on this date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosure Behind File or Bulky Enclosure:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

No. Copies 2 By [Signature] / dmf

RETAIN THIS FORM AS TOP SERIAL

4-4-68  
4-26-68

4-26

Mr. DeLoach

A. Rosen

MURKIN

April 26, 1968

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. McDonough  
1 - Mr. Bishop

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

With respect to the Associated Press article appearing in the "Washington Star," 4/22/68, it is noted that this is the same Associated Press news article on which Frank C. Holloman, Director of Fire and Police, Memphis, wrote to the Director on 4/22/68.

Mr. Holloman advised that the statements attributed by implication to a ranking Memphis Police Officer have been categorically denied by Assistant Chief Bill Price. Our relationship with the Memphis Police and with Mr. Holloman have been excellent particularly in connection with the King murder case.

The Director wrote to Mr. Holloman under date of 4/25/68 expressing appreciation for this excellent cooperation.

ACTION:

This is for your information.

EJM:wjs:lgs  
(7)

Mr. Rosen

April 26, 1968

C. L. McGowan

MURKIN

1 - Mr. Rosen	1 - Mr. Egnor
1 - Mr. Malley	1 - Mr. Gehring
1 - Mr. McGowan	1 - Mr. Helgeson
1 - Mr. McDonough	1 - Mr. Hines
1 - Mr. Long	1 - Mr. Rowe

There is set out hereunder the extra-duty schedule for the captioned case:

Saturday, 4/27/68

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., SA E. J. McDonough (Regular Extra-Duty Shift)  
4:00 p.m. - 12:00 Midnight, SA J. W. Hines (Stand-By Shift)

Sunday, 4/28/68

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., SA J. N. Egnor (Regular Extra-Duty Shift)  
4:00 p.m. - 12:00 Midnight, SA E. P. Gehring (Stand-By Shift)

SA Henry G. Rowe will cover the Murkin special on the midnight to eight shift, 4/30 - 5/4/68. SA Hunter E. Helgeson will cover the Murkin special on the four to midnight shift, 4/29 - 5/3/68.

Other Agents assigned to the Murkin special will, of course, work during the normal working hours as well as any additional period required by the developments in the case.

EJH:ca  
(11)

Mr. Conrad

April 26, 1968

W. D. Griffith

**MURKIN**

The Laboratory has received from Secret Service, through Liaison, an anonymous handwritten letter which was addressed "To The President of The United States Mr. L. B. Johnson, Washington, D.C." This letter was postmarked April 4, 1968, at Savannah, Tennessee. In addition to generally castigating Reverend Martin Luther King, the anonymous writer states "someone will kill this man soon when everyone gets enough and I say the sooner the better!"

The writings in this letter were compared with the writings submitted in the "MURKIN" case and found to be not identical. The letter and envelope were also searched in the Anonymous Letter File but could not be identified with any prior submissions to this file.

The above mentioned anonymous letter has been forwarded to the Latent Fingerprint Section for appropriate examination.

Recommendation: None. For information.

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Rosen (Mr. Long 2280)  
1 - Mr. Conrad  
1 - Mr. Griffith  
1 - Mr. Mortimer  
1 - Lab File

JHM:AW (9)

*Long*

APR 26 1968

SEARCHED



Memo

Mr. DeLoach

April 26, 1968

A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan

MURKIN

① - Mr. McDonough

1 - Mr. Bishop

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

With respect to the Associated Press article appearing in the "Washington Star," 4/22/68, it is noted that this is the same Associated Press news article on which Frank C. Holloman, Director of Fire and Police, Memphis, wrote to the Director on 4/22/68.

Mr. Holloman advised that the statements attributed by implication to a ranking Memphis Police Officer have been categorically denied by Assistant Chief Bill Price. Our relationship with the Memphis Police and with Mr. Holloman have been excellent particularly in connection with the King murder case.

The Director wrote to Mr. Holloman under date of 4/25/68 expressing appreciation for this excellent cooperation.

ACTION:

This is for your information. It is not believed that any useful purpose would be served in taking issue with the Associated Press.

EJM:wjc  
(7)



MEMO

Mr. DeLoach

April 26, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Long
- 1 - Mr. McDonough
- 1 - Mr. Martindale
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Trotter

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Marie Martin, also known as Marie Dennis, who traded television sets with Ray in Los Angeles, has been reinterviewed. She is employed as a cocktail waitress at the Sultan Room in the St. Francis Hotel and also resides at the St. Francis. Ray had a room at the St. Francis from 1/21/68 to 3/17/68 when he checked out giving a forwarding address of General Delivery, Atlanta. Ray checked into the Atlanta rooming house, 3/24/68.

Martin now recalls Ray last came to her room at the St. Francis shortly after he graduated from bartending school. (He graduated 3/2/68.) At that time Ray said he was going to New Orleans and Marie gave him a box of phonograph records and clothing for her daughter in New Orleans. The last time she saw Ray he told her that when he was in New Orleans in December, 1967, he stayed with friends who lived near Chef Menteur Highway.

Marie Martin also advised she was contacted on the evening of 4/23/68 by Louis Lomax who was brought to her room by Charles Stein. Most of her conversation with Lomax dealt with her exchange of television sets with Ray and Lomax also questioned her regarding Ray's girl friends. She states she told Lomax she did not know of any girls Ray dated. Martin advised that Ray once went dancing with a girl named Helen who claimed to be a stunt rider for the television program "Gunsmoke." He also made unsuccessful attempts to date another girl named Helene, a former exotic dancer. Marie Martin claims she has not been intimate with Ray.

At the Vegas Club, near the St. Francis Hotel, it has been determined that one Helene, a "belly dancer" at a bar on Sunset Boulevard, occasionally comes to the Vegas Club. Efforts are being continued to locate Helene and any other girl friends of Ray.

WLR:vea  
(14)

CONTINUED - OVER



Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach  
RE: MURKIN

Marian De Grasse, 16-year-old daughter of Marie Martin, New Orleans, advised she received a telephone call from her mother on 3/16/68 stating that a friend named Eric would deliver a box of clothing in a few days. She received the box from her grandmother, Lorraine Calloway, on 3/24/68 and noted it in her diary.

Lorraine Calloway, New Orleans, recalled that her daughter-in-law, Dale Rodriguez, brought her a box of clothing for Marian De Grasse sometime in February or March.

Dale Rodriguez stated that an unknown man called at her home about 10:30 p. m. in February or March, 1968, and gave her a box of clothing for Marian De Grasse. She saw this man only for a few seconds at her door and cannot describe him. She took the box to Lorraine Calloway within a few days.

While at Leavenworth, Ray worked as a baker as well as in the fire department and the paint shop. When he was conditionally released, 4/5/68, he indicated an intention to contact bakery unions for employment and to eventually get a job as a baker on a ship sailing to South America.

Walter Nolan, who requested his identity be protected, advised he was Ray's closest associate at Missouri State Penitentiary. He described Ray as a loner who considered all convicts as potential stool pigeons and furnished little, if any, information about himself. Nolan claims Ray actually escaped from prison thirty days before the escape was reported and that he walked out the front door instead of hiding in a bread truck as officially claimed.

It has previously been reported that Raymond Louis Curtis alleged while Ray was in Missouri State Penitentiary, Ray spoke of a \$1,000,000 bounty on King. Curtis also talked to the press and has been widely quoted in this regard. Larry Sero has now voluntarily contacted the Memphis Office, requested his identity be protected, and furnished the following information.

Sero was in Missouri State Penitentiary from February until June, 1964. He was acquainted with both Ray and Raymond Louis Curtis. Sero mentioned to Ray and Curtis he had heard speculation that if King



**Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach**  
**RE: MURKIN**

**Joe Peters, bartender in the Sultan Room, St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, advised that Lomax had been using the Sultan Room as an office for a week or ten days but had been told to leave by the owner. Peters added that Lomax had inquired about a blonde named Jerri with nearly every patron of the Sultan Room and had received no information.**

**Charles Stein has previously said that when traveling to New Orleans with Ray, 12/15-17/67, Ray made calls from various telephones in Texas on 12/18/67 but except for one occasion he returned to the car so quickly Stein believed the calls had not been completed. Stein described an area near Houston as the place from which Ray used a telephone long enough to complete a call. A detailed search by FBI Agents has located nine telephone booths similar to Stein's description but telephone company records show no calls recorded at these locations on 12/18/67.**

**Gary Delaun, news director, Radio Station KNUZ, Houston, confidentially advised the Special Agent in Charge that Hugh Ainsworth of "Newsweek" was contacted by Louis Lomax and Charles Stein and told that they would arrive in Houston sometime on 4/25/68 to retrace the route taken by Stein and Ray for the purpose of locating the telephone booth from which Ray made a call. Delaun has been asked to accompany Lomax and Stein and he will confidentially advise the Houston Office of their activities and the results of their inquiry. Arrangements have been made with the telephone company at Houston for the field office to be advised of any requests for information concerning long distance calls made on 12/18/67.**

**ACTION:**

**Vigorous investigation is continuing.**



Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach  
RE: MURKIN

ever attempted a boycott in Memphis it would be worth a lot of money to local businessmen to have King killed. Sero says this was sheer speculation and no particular group of businessmen was mentioned and the statement itself had absolutely no basis in fact; if Curtis and Ray interpreted it otherwise they were reading more into it than Sero intended. He does not recall who first mentioned this idea to him.

Sero described Ray as a born loser who does not know how to make friends but who hates Negroes and has a strong desire to perform some notorious act that will make him feel important. Sero questioned Ray's ability to plan and execute even the simplest "caper."

Jerry William Ray, brother of subject, Wheeling, Illinois, has received a telegram from "Life" magazine and has advised us that he consequently furnished "Life" information concerning his family for which he was paid \$150. He believes "Life" will publish a story on Ray either this week or next week.

Russell Lee Martin informed the Little Rock Office he received a pardon about three months ago after helping authorities break up a narcotics ring in Missouri State Prison. Prior to Ray's escape, Martin alleges Ray sold narcotics to other inmates.

Additional witnesses at Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico, state that when Ray was there last fall he drank beer during the daytime and almost any kind of mixed drink at night. When offered a cigarette he invariably replied, "I don't smoke anything but marijuana;" however, no one has been located who saw him use marijuana. While in Puerto Vallarta he appeared to be on a meticulous budget allotting so much a day for drinking and an equal amount for feminine companionship.

Louis Lomax and Charles Stein reportedly left Los Angeles, 4/25/68, for Houston, Texas. A confidential source in the telephone company at Los Angeles advised that Lomax inquired for toll call information on Sam J. Beville, 510 O'Keefe, New Orleans, telephone number 821-1411. This number was determined to be listed to the "Times Picayune States Item" and the telephone company is not obtaining any toll information for Lomax.



Mr. Conrad

April 26, 1968

W. D. Griffith

*Rosen*

*Gen. Conrad*

MURKIN  
CR

The Laboratory has received a copy of an anonymous typewritten communication which was forwarded to the Bureau by Inez Robb, United Feature Syndicate, Inc., New York City. This anonymous letter is dated April 3, 1968, postmarked at Ft. Pierce, Florida, and the writer suggests that "someone should pop him (Martin Luther King) off."

The typewritten impressions appearing on this anonymous letter were compared with those appearing on specimens submitted in the "MURKIN" case and found to be not identical. This letter was also searched in the Anonymous Letter File, but could not be identified with any items which have been included in this file.

RECOMMENDATION: None. For information.

44-38861

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- ① - Mr. Rosen (Mr. Long - 2260)
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Griffith
- 1 - Mr. Mortimer
- 1 - Lab File

JHM/eks (8)

Mr. Bishop

4-24-68

D. C. Morrell

INEZ ROBB  
UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE, INC.  
220 EAST 42ND STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

By letter dated April 21st, Robb enclosed an anonymous communication she had received dated April 3rd postmarked at Fort Pierce, Florida, wherein the writer suggested, "someone should pop him (Martin Luther King) off."

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

Bufiles show no prior correspondence with Robb. Memo from M. A. Jones to Mr. DeLoach 5-19-65, pointed out that an article by Robb concerning the murder of Mrs. Viola G. Liuzzo, white civil rights worker from Detroit, Michigan, stated that the FBI owes the Nation an explanation of its action in this case. Regarding Inez Robb, the Director commented that "Back in the 30s or 40s she vilified the FBI and me personally when I was in Miami Beach & even picketed my cottage there." The Director disapproved the recommendation in this same memo that Robb be contacted to set her straight regarding our responsibilities in the Liuzzo murder case.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the foregoing it is recommended that her letter not be acknowledged.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop - Enclosures (2)
- ① - Mr. Rosen - Enclosures (2)

WMG:jed  
(5)

APR 25 1968

REC'D - 5/1/68

UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE  
INCORPORATED  
220 EAST 42<sup>ND</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

INEZ ROBB

April 21, 1968

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

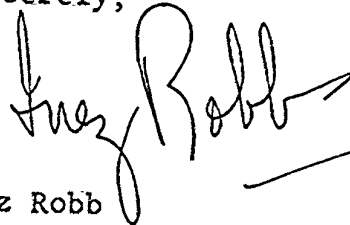
My dear Mr. Hoover:

I am enclosing a letter which, as you see, carries the suggestion that "someone should pop him off" in reference to Dr. Martin Luther King.

The person who wrote this probably has no more to do with the assassination than you or I.

Nonetheless, I am sending this to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for that agency to make of this communication what it can.

Sincerely,



Inez Robb

IR:fs  
Encl.

XP. PROC.  
APR 22 1968

April 11, 1964

Dear Mrs Robb.

It was refreshing to read your coloumn about jackie kenneday  
we are sick and tired of reading about this woman all she does is go from place  
to place having a damm good time .she loves the limelight and will do mast anything  
to get into the papers and news . god forbid that bob kenneday gets to be the  
president then the country will be run by the whole family we are tired of the  
whole lot of them . her brother is all<sup>ways</sup> talking about the poor but he does nothing  
about them they have millions ?why dont they build a home for orhans or do ~~some~~  
something worth while . and why does he make a freak out of himself with his hair  
he looks like a woman with the way he lets it grow. I think nixon will make a g  
ood president . he would put these colored people in there place .the white folk  
are tired of being pushed around by ~~that~~ martin king. someone should pop him off .  
he.s a coward he runs when theres shooting .the men and woman in this country  
oday have enough prolemms with a war going on and the high price of living .  
ithout these black demons causing all the trouble in our citys and towns .and ~~ge~~  
etting away with it .if they let them get away with stuff like that in washington  
we may as well give up .

Sinperely a regurlar readers of your  
colouan.

4-25



*Went*

Mr. Bishop

4-25-68

M. A. Jones

**PROPOSED SPOT ANNOUNCEMENT  
REGARDING JAMES EARL RAY  
ABC-TV SERIES  
SUNDAY, 4-28-68**

*Long*

As you are aware, with the Director's approval, a 25-second spot announcement regarding James Earl Ray was made by Philip Abbott at the conclusion of "The FBI" television series last Sunday evening.

Tom dePaolo, J. Walter Thompson Advertising Agency representative for the Ford Motor Company assigned to our television series, has contacted SA Richard G. Douce to determine the Bureau's reaction to the possibility of repeating this announcement following the presentation of the television series next Sunday, 4-28-68.

dePaolo has indicated that if the Bureau approves this proposal, he is certain that the Ford Motor Company would be delighted to provide the time for it as a public service.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Director may wish to approve the announcement on James Earl Ray made by Philip Abbott at the conclusion of our television series on Sunday, 4-21-68, be repeated next Sunday, 4-28-68.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Rosen

GTQ:smg  
(8)

*"No"*  
*H*

APR 29 11 13 AM '68  
REC'D - [unclear]

*Trans folder*  
*Rewrite*

The Attorney General

April 25, 1968

Director, FBI

- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Long
- 1 - Mr. Martindale
- 1 - Mr. McDonough

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference is made to my memorandum dated April 20, 1968, setting forth pertinent details relative to information furnished by Mr. John McFerren regarding his suspicions that circumstances which occurred at the L.L. and L. Produce Company in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, might be related to the killing of Martin Luther King, Jr.

As you were previously advised, the owners of the L.L. and L. Produce Company denied having any connection with the killing and Mr. Frank Camillo Liberto, one of the owners, advised that he had relatives in New Orleans and discussed large sums of money when making produce purchases over the telephone.

Other members of the Liberto family in New Orleans have been interviewed and they have advised that they have no knowledge of the killing beyond accounts appearing in local news media.

On the basis of the information reported by Mr. McFerren and the information developed through our inquiries, it is not felt further inquiries along these lines are warranted.

Returned herewith is the copy of the "Time" report previously furnished.

Enclosure

- 1 - The Deputy Attorney General
- 1 - Mr. Stephen J. Pollak  
Assistant Attorney General

EJM:vea (9)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

**NOTE:**

The Attorney General's office furnished a copy of a "Time" report of information from John McFerren, Negro from Somerville, Tennessee. The Attorney General was previously furnished substantial information developed indicating there is no basis for McFerren's information. The "Time" report is being returned to the Attorney General with additional information developed in connection with McFerren's story.



Mr. DeLoach

April 22, 1968

A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Halley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Long  
1 - Mr. Martindale  
1 - Mr. McDonough  
1 - Mr. Bishop

MURKIN

This is the case concerning the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Attorney General's Office has furnished a copy of a "Time" report setting forth information received from John McFerren, a Negro of Somerville, Tennessee. We previously received information concerning this "Time" report and furnished pertinent information concerning it to the Attorney General in a memorandum dated 4/20/68. Although there does not appear to be any substance to the information furnished by McFerren as set out in the "Time" report and the information furnished Bureau Agents by McFerren on interview which is substantially the same as that set forth in the "Time" report, we are completely running the information out. McFerren has participated in civil rights activities in and around Somerville, Tennessee, for a number of years. He has previously reported incidents to our Memphis Office, many of which were found to be without any substance in fact.

In essence, McFerren has reported that on the afternoon of 4/4/68, the date of the shooting of Martin Luther King, Jr., he overheard one end of a telephone conversation at the LL and L Produce Company in Memphis, Tennessee. The substance of the telephone conversation and the descriptions of the individuals involved as well as McFerren's belief that an individual who was previously employed at the produce market resembled Eric Starvo Galt, now identified as being James Earl Ray, led McFerren to believe that these individuals might be involved in the King murder.

Enclosure

EJM:wje  
(9)

CONTINUED - OVER



Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach  
Re: MURKIN

In running out McFerren's information, Bureau Agents showed him six random photographs, one of which included the 1968 photograph of Eric Galt and he definitely eliminated Galt as the individual he saw at the LL and L Produce Company, and who he thought was identical with the sketch of the subject he saw in the newspaper. McFerren picked three photographs of individuals who are all over <sup>UNDER</sup> twentyfive years of age and do not resemble Galt at all. One individual in the photograph<sup>s</sup> is known to be in prison at this time, and the other two are not known to have been in the Memphis area at any time.

Investigation disclosed that the individuals referred to in connection with the telephone call received at the LL and L Produce Company are Frank Camilla Liberto and James William Latch, President and Vice-President respectively of this company. They have denied ever discussing the possibility of shooting King or having knowledge of the person responsible. They stated they may have made derogatory remarks about King because of the loss of revenues caused by his activities. Mr. Liberto advised that he makes frequent trips to New Orleans for produce, has relatives in New Orleans and discusses large sums of money when making produce purchases over the telephone. Mr. Liberto stated he always employs Negro males as helpers in the produce department and has not had in his employment any individual fitting the description of the unknown individual previously described by McFerren.

ACTION:

1. Although the basic facts of McFerren's allegations have been run out and there appears to be no substance to them, we are continuing to completely resolve these allegations.

2. Inasmuch as the Attorney General has already been furnished substantial details of this matter, it is suggested that Mr. DeLoach may desire to return the attached "Time" report to the Attorney General pointing out the information previously furnished him in our memorandum of 4/20/68. A copy of the "Time" report is being retained in the Bufiles.



Mr. DeLoach

April 20, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Long  
1 - Mr. Martindale  
1 - Mr. McDonough  
1 - Mr. Bishop

This the case concerning the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Information was received that John McFerren, a Negro of Somerville, Tennessee, had reported to "Time" magazine information concerning an individual possibly involved in the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. McFerren allegedly overheard one end of a telephone conversation while at a produce market in Memphis on 4/4/68. According to the report McFerren overheard the individual state "Shoot the S. O. B. on the balcony. Don't worry about the money. Your brother will get it in New Orleans."

McFerren has participated in civil rights activities in and around Somerville, Tennessee, for a number of years. He has previously reported many incidents to our Memphis Office, many of which were found to be without any substance in fact. McFerren was interviewed by Bureau Agents on 4/8/68 and 4/18/68 and he furnished information essentially along the lines of the above. Although there does not appear to be any substance to McFerren's information, we are completely running this out.

ACTION:

Attached for the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, and the Civil Rights Division is a memorandum setting forth details of the information received from McFerren.

Enclosure

EJM:vea

(9)

The Attorney General

REC 27

April 20, 1968

EX-105

Director, FBI

MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Information was received that John McFerren, a Negro of Somerville, Tennessee, had reported to "Time" magazine information concerning an individual possibly involved in the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. McFerren allegedly overheard one end of a telephone conversation while at a produce market in Memphis on April 4, 1968. According to the report, Mr. McFerren overheard the individual state, "Shoot the S.O.B. on the balcony. Don't worry about the money. Your brother will get it in New Orleans." Mr. McFerren allegedly was contacted on April 18, 1968, by a white man formerly of Somerville who now resides in Louisiana. It was indicated that as a result of this visit Mr. McFerren feared for his own safety.

On April 8, 1968, Mr. McFerren advised Agents of this Bureau that he had picked up supplies for his grocery store at the LL and L Produce Company, Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968. At that time he overheard a heavysset white male talking on the telephone say, "Kill the S.O.B. on the balcony and get the job done. You will get your \$5,000." Mr. McFerren stated another white male with a scar on his right cheek came by at this time and told him to go on to the back of the produce company and help himself.

After completing his business Mr. McFerren heard the telephone ring again as he was passing the office and the man with the scar answered the telephone. He then handed the telephone to the heavysset man. Mr. McFerren heard this man say, "Don't come out here. Go to New Orleans and get your money. You know my brother."

Mr. McFerren attached no significance to these remarks at the time. When he arrived home at Somerville, Tennessee, at approximately 6:15 p.m., April 4, 1968, he

Note: See memo Rosen to DeLoach captioned MURKIN, 4/20/68,

CLM:wjc EJM:vea.

(10)

The Attorney General

was advised by a neighbor that Martin Luther King, Jr., had been shot. Mr. McFerren advised that the following day he observed a sketch of the assassin in a newspaper. The artist's conception together with a description as read to him by his wife immediately made him think of an individual who had been employed at the LL and L Produce Company sometime in the late fall or early winter last year. He believed this man to be identical with the sketch of the unknown individual who shot Martin Luther King, Jr. He described this individual as five feet nine inches tall, weighing 140 pounds, white male, slender build and approximately twenty-five years of age.

Mr. McFerren was reinterviewed by Memphis Agents on April 18, 1968. Mr. McFerren stated he was suspicious because an individual he knows from Somerville, Tennessee, presently residing in Louisiana, visited his residence on the morning of April 18, 1968, and asked questions regarding his travel. Mr. McFerren identified this individual as Robert Powers who came to McFerren's residence with his wife driving a 1966-1967 late model beige Cadillac. Mr. McFerren advised he was not threatened by this individual and the only reason he suspects Powers of being strange is that McFerren states it is not common for a white man to shake a Negro's hand in that particular environment.

Mr. McFerren was shown six random photographs, one of which included the 1968 photograph of Eric Galt, and he definitely eliminated Galt as the individual he saw at the LL and L Produce Company and who he felt was identical with the sketch he saw in the newspaper. Mr. McFerren picked three photographs of individuals who are all under twenty-five years of age and do not resemble Galt at all. One individual in the photograph is known to be in prison at this time and the other two are not known to have been in the Memphis area at any time.

Investigation disclosed that individuals referred to by Mr. McFerren were Frank Camilla Liberto and James William Latch, President and Vice-President respectively of LL and L Produce Company. These individuals have been interviewed and emphatically deny ever discussing with

Memphis, Tenn.

**The Attorney General**

anyone the possibility of shooting Reverend Dr. King or having any knowledge of the subject responsible for his death. They stated that they may have made derogatory remarks about the actions of Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis and that the fact that he had been responsible for a loss of revenue by business establishments in the Memphis area. They advised that such disparaging statements had been part of general conversation among workers in and around the produce company and other individuals residing in the Memphis area.

Each of the individuals denied receiving any telephone call wherein mention was made of Martin Luther King or the shooting of Martin Luther King. They stated they did not have any knowledge concerning the shooting of Martin Luther King, Jr., while at work at the produce company on April 4, 1968. Mr. Liberto advised he frequently makes trips to New Orleans, Louisiana, for produce. He stated it is common knowledge among employees and customers of his produce company that members of his family reside in New Orleans and he frequently mentions trips to New Orleans. He stated that most of the produce is purchased through telephone conversations and this involves talking about large sums of money over the telephone. Mr. Liberto stated he always employs Negro males as helpers in the produce department and had not had in his employment at the produce company any individual fitting the description of the unknown individual previously described by Mr. McFerren. In this connection, Mr. McFerren was not identified at any time to Mr. Liberto as being the source of the information.

Mr. Liberto's brother in New Orleans is being interviewed for any information he may have concerning this matter.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General

1 - Mr. Stephen J. Pollak  
Assistant Attorney General

FROM A SOURCE WHO WANTS US TO BEND EVERY EFFORT TO PROTECT HIS IDENTITY WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING LEADS IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING:

*Date:*  
*This is a*  
*Time report*  
*from Memphis*  
*CS*

1. ERIC STARVE GALT (OR WHATEVER HIS REAL NAME IS) IS SALLOW-SKINNED, HAS "JUNGLE ROT" OR SOME KIND OF SCARS OR POCK MARKS ON HIS NECK AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WAS IN MEMPHIS LAST FALL; HE WORKED AT A PRODUCE COMPANY THERE.

2. THE PRODUCE COMPANY SEEMS TO BE A BASE FROM WHICH THE CONSPIRACY PLOT WAS HATCHED OR CARRIED OUT OR BOTH.

3. KING WAS KILLED FOR DLR\$5,000 BY A PROFESSIONAL HOODLUM.

4. THE PAYOFF -- OR AT LEAST THE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR IT -- WAS ARRANGED IN MEMPHIS.

5. KING'S DEATH WAS PART OF A CONSPIRACY INVOLVING AT LEAST THREE MEN (THE KILLER, HIS MEMPHIS CONTACT AND A "BROTHER" WHO MADE THE PAYOFF IN NEW ORLEANS) AND POSSIBLY SEVERAL OTHERS.

6. TACTICAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE PLOT SEEMS TO BE MEMPHIS, THE ORIGINAL PLANNING MAY HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT SEWHERE.

7. THERE IS AN UNINVOLVED WITNESS TO PART OF THE CONSPIRACY, WHO OVERHEARD THE ORDER TO KILL AND OVERHEARD FINAL PAYOFF ARRANGEMENTS.

8. THIS IS CONJECTURE, BUT IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT SEGREGATIONISTS INITIATED THE PLOT AND ASSIGNED THE ASSASSINATION TO PROFESSIONAL HOODLUMS TO CARRY OUT.

9. THERE IS STRONG INDICATION THAT LAW OFFICERS (EITHER LOCAL, STATE OR COUNTY) OR EX-LAW OFFICERS ARE INVOLVED.

(NOTE FROM ROGER WILLIAMS -- WE ARE GIVING YOU THEM

NYK19/WASH -- PARKER -- PAGE 2

REAL NAMES, AS FULLY AS WE KNOW THEM, OF THE CHARACTERS AND LOCATIONS, BUT WE ARE ASSUMING THAT -- FOR OBVIOUS REASONS -- YOU WILL NOT USE ANY OF THEM. REAL NAMES OR NOT, ALMOST ANY DESCRIPTION OF THE PRODUCE COMPANY AND ITS OCCUPANTS THAT DAY WILL PIN THIS STORY ON OUR SOURCE, SO BY ALL MEANS LET US DISCUSS THESE DETAILS AFTER YOU HAVE WRITTEN THE PIECE.)

HEREWITH THE STORY:

ON APRIL 4, AS HE HAD DONE EVERY THURSDAY FOR SIX YEARS, JOHN MCFERRIN DROVE INTO MEMPHIS TO BUY PRODUCE FOR HIS SMALL COUNTRY GROCERY STORE. THE STORE IS LOCATED IN THE HILLS EAST OF MEMPHIS, JUST OUTSIDE THE TOWN OF SOMMERVILLE, LESS THAN 100 MILES FROM MEMPHIS. MCFERRIN MADE SEVERAL UNEVENTFUL STOPS IN MEMPHIS. AT ABOUT 4:30 P.M. HE DROVE INTO THE PARKING LOT AT 11 AND 1 PRODUCE COMPANY, STOPPED IN ITS OPEN-AIR PRODUCE SHED, THEN WENT INTO THE WAREHOUSE BUILDING TO MAKE HIS PURCHASES.

AS HE WALKED THROUGH THE DOORWAY HE HEARD A MAN'S VOICE FROM AN OFFICE JUST OFF THE HALL. "THE MAN WAS SCREAMING AND I COULD HEAR HIS VOICE BEFORE I GOT INSIDE," SAYS MCFERRIN. "I STOPPED JUST INSIDE THE DOORWAY AND LISTENED FOR A MOMENT. I WAS STANDING IN THE HALL, JUST OUTSIDE THE OFFICE WHERE THIS MAN WAS SCREAMING."

THE MAN (WE'LL CALL HIM RED AND TRY TO FIND OUT HIS REAL NAME) WAS SITTING BEHIND A DESK IN A TINY 6' BY 6' OFFICE.

"HE KEPT SCREAMING OVER THE PHONE: 'KILL HIM. KILL HIM. I DON'T CARE HOW YOU DO IT. KILL THE SON OF A BITCH ON THE BALCONY.'" "

MCFERRIN LISTENED ONLY FOR A MOMENT. "THEN A MAN CAME DOWN THE HALL -- I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE CAME FROM, 'CAUSE I WAS SO BUSY LISTENING TO THIS MAN IN THE OFFICE -- AND TOLD ME TO GO ON INSIDE THE FOOD LOCKER AND HELP MYSELF."

MCFERRIN, WHO IS A NEGRO, PLAYED THE ACQUIESCENT DARKY -- A ROLE HE ADOPTED YEARS AGO FOR SELF-PROTECTION BUT SHEDS EASILY AMONG PEOPLE HE TRUSTS -- AND OBEDIENTLY SHUFFLED OFF. AS HE WAS LEAVING THE LOCKER FOUR OR FIVE MINUTES LATER THE PHONE IN THE LITTLE OFFICE RANG AGAIN AND A SLENDER MAN WITH A SCAR ON HIS NECK PICKED UP THE  
RHHHXXWUXSERKHXXXXXX

NYK19/WASH -- PARKER -- PAGE 3

PHONE, MUTTERED "YEAH, HE'S HERE" -- OR SOMETHING TO THAT EFFECT -- AND PASSED THE PHONE TO RED.

RED WAS IN NO MOOD FOR FURTHER TALK. HE SAT WITH BOTH ~~ARMS~~ ~~ON~~ THE DESK AND GROWLED: "DON'T CALL ME NO MORE, AND DON'T COME NEAR MY PLACE. YOU KNOW MY BROTHER IN NEW ORLEANS -- HE'LL GIVE YOU THE DLRS5,000. DON'T BRING YOUR ASS NEAR MY PLACE AGAIN." RED SLAMMED THE PHONE DOWN WITHOUT WAITING FOR A REPLY.

"I MADE OUT LIKE I DIDN'T HEAR WHAT HE SAID -- THEY THINK I'M DEAF ANYWAY, 'CAUSE EVERYTIME I GO IN THERE I PLAY LIKE I'M HARD OF HEARING," SAYS MCFERRIN. "I WENT UP AND PAID MY BILL AND LEFT."

JOHN MCFERRIN HAS NOT BEEN BACK TO THE PRODUCE COMPANY SINCE.

BUT FOR SEVERAL YEARS -- ABOUT SIX, SAYS MCFERRIN -- HE HAD GONE THERE EVERY THURSDAY. MCFERRIN SAYS THE PRODUCE COMPANY IS A HANGOUT FOR POLICE, COUNTY OFFICERS AND SOME STATE LIQUOR OFFICERS. USUALLY THEY SIT AROUND IN RED'S OFFICE, WATCH TV AND GOSSIP; THEY OGLE RED'S PICTURES OF BATHING BEAUTIES WHICH HANG IN FRAMES ON THE WALL. THEY ARE SNAPSHOTS, USUALLY SHOWING RED AND SEVERAL GIRLS IN BATHING SUITS AT A BEACH OR SWIMMING POOL. "EVERY TIME I GO IN THERE, HE'S GOT A NEW SET OF PICTURES ON THE WALL," SAYS MCFERRIN.

RED TRAVELS A LOT, MCFERRIN SAYS, IS OFTEN GONE FOR TWO OR THREE WEEKS AT A TIME AND IN THE SIX YEARS THAT MCFERRIN HAS BEEN TRADING THERE, HE HAS NEVER HEARD RED TALK ABOUT HIS TRIPS. RED IS A BIG MAN -- WEIGHS ABOUT 200 POUNDS, OVER SIX FEET TALL, WITH A SALLOW COMPLEXION AND WIDE-SPACED TEETH. MCFERRIN SAYS THERE ARE GAPS IN HIS TEETH, BUT I DON'T THINK HE MEANS THE MAN IS SNAGGLE-TOOTHED.

ONCE, ONLY A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION, RED HAD COME OUT TO THE PARKING LOT WHERE MCFERRIN WAS LOADING HIS PICKUP TRUCK AND SAID, "WELL, WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT YOUR BUDDY?"

"WHAT BUDDY?" ASKED MCFERRIN.

"YOU KNOW YOUR BUDDY -- MARTIN LUTHER KING. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT TROUBLEMAKER?"

NYK19/WASH -- PARKER -- PAGE 4

"I TOLD HIM, 'I JUST TEND TO MY OWN BUSINESS,' " SAYS MCFERRIN. "I DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO START NOTHING WITH ME.

A FEW OCCASIONS, MCFERRIN HAS OVERHEARD RED AND HIS FRIENDS, USUALLY COPS, SITTING IN THE OFFICE AND TALKING POLITICS. OFTEN HE HAS HEARD THEM SAY THE USUAL SOUTHERN SEGREGATIONIST THINGS ABOUT LBJ, THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, ETC. ONCE HE OVERHEARD RED SAYS ABOUT MARTIN LUTHER KING:

"SOMEBODY OUGHT TO KILL THAT SON OF A BITHC."

MCFERRIN SAYS ERIC STARVO GALT -- OR A MAN CLOSELY RESEMBLING GALT'S DESCRIPTION -- WORKED AT THE PRODUCE COMPANY LAST FALL FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS. "HE WASN'T THE KIND OF MAN WHO USUALLY WORKED THERE," SAYS MCFERRIN. "AND HE DIDN'T TALK LIKE THE OTHER MEN WHO WORKED THERE." GALT -- IF THAT'S WHO IT WAS -- WAS A SLENDER, DARK-HAIRED YOUNG MAN IN HIS LATE TWENTIES. HE HAD A JAUNDICED COMPLEXION, A RASH OR POCK MARKS ON HIS NECK (MCFERRIN CALLS IT "JUNGOE ROT") AND HE WAS USUALLY DRESSED "CLEAN AND NEAT." HIS HARI WAS BLACK AND STRAIGHT. HE SEEMED TO BE FRIENDLY WITH RED.

WHEN THE FBI SHOWED MCFERRIN MUG PICTURES YESTERDAY, ONE OF THE FIVE MEN IN THE PICTURES HAD "JUNGLE ROT" ON HIS NECK; ASIDE FROM THAT, HE LOOKED VERY MUCH LIKE THE MAN MCFERRIN HAD SEEN WORKING AT THE PRODUCE COMPANY LAST FALL. "THEY DIDN'T HAVE A SIDE VIEW OF HIM", SAYS MCFERRIN (HE MEANS THREE QUARTERS VIEW) "OR I COULD HAVE TOLD FOR SURE. BUT HIS FACE LOOKED ABOUT RIGHT, HE HAD SLENDER SLOPING SHOULDERS AND JUNGLE ROT HIS NECK. I PICKED HIM OUT AS MY FIRST CHOICE."

MCFERRIN HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING IF THE MAN WHO WORKED AT THE PRODUCE COMPANY IS GAULT. HE HAS ONLY A GUT FEELING THAT THIS MAN WAS AN ITINERANT HOOD, PROBABLY LAYING LOW FOR AWHILE AND USING THE JOB AT THE PRODUCE COMPANY AS COVER, PLUS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE MAN RESEMBLES NEWSPAPERS DESCRIPTIONS OF GAULT. THE FBI HAS NOT DENIED THAT THE MAN MAY HAVE BEEN GAULT.

WHEN MCFERRIN LEFT THE PRODUCE COMPANY HE PUZZLED ABOUT THE STRANGE PHONE CONVERSATIONS HE HAD OVERHEARD. "I DIDN'T KNOW THEN WHAT THEY MEANT AND I DIDN'T WANT TO STAY AROUND THERE



 NYK19/WASH -- PARKER -- PAGE 5

TO FIND OUT BECAUSE IT SOUNDED FISHY TO ME. WHEN I GOT HOME AND HEARD THAT DR. KING HAS BEEN SHOT, I KNOW RIGHT THEN ~~WHAT THEY~~ WERE TALKING ABOUT. MY WIFE TOLD ME THE RADIO HAD SAID DR. KING HAD BEEN SHOT THAT AFTERNOON. I TOLD HER HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN SHOT THEN - THAT IT HAD TO HAVE HAPPENED AROUND 5:30 OR 6 BECAUSE I HAD HEARD THESE MEN ON THE PHONE AT ABOUT FIVE O'CLOCK."

FOR FOUR DAYS, MCFERRIN PONDERED WHAT TO DO WITH THE INFORMATION. HE WAS SCARED; SCARED HE WOULD ENDANGER HIS LIFE BY NOT TELLING; SCARED THAT HE WOULD ENDANGER A BUSINESS HE HAD WORKED MIGHTY HARD TO DEVELOP IF HE DID TELL ANYONE. FINALLY ON SUNDAY EVENING HE MADE UP HIS MIND.

BAXTON (PLEASE PROTECT NAME AND USE FICTIOUS NAME); BRYANT OF THE STATE COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS MADE A CHANCE TOUR OF SOMMERVILLE (PLEASE USE FICTIOUS NAME) AND MCFERRIN DREW HIM ASIDE TO TELL HIM THE STORY. HE HAS KNOWN BAXTON FOR YEARS AND BAXTON IS ONE OF THE FEW WHITE MEN MCFERRIN COMPLETELY TRUSTS. (MCFERRIN IS A NEGRO). BAXTON WENT BACK TO MEMPHIS, CONTACTED AN ACLU LAWYER NAMED DAVID CAYWOOD (PROTECT HIS NAME TOO) AND THE TWO MEN WENT BACK TO SOMERVILLE, TALKED WITH MCFERRIN AGAIN AND ARRANGED A MEETING IN MEMPHIS - IN BAXTON'S HOTEL ROOM AT SHERATON PEABODY

FINALLY, THERE'S THE MYSTERIOUS ESPISODE OF THURSDAY MORNING:  
THE MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL NEWSPAPER IN ITS FIRST  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT HEADLINED:- "FBI CHARGES ERIC STARVO GALT IN  
ASSASSINATION AND CONSPIRACY, LINKS SUSPECT AND "BROTHER".  
THAT INFORMATION HIT MEMPHIS STREETS AT ABOUT 11 PM WEDNESDAY  
AND PRESUMABLY WAS BROADCASTED OVER THE RADIO EVEN EARLIER  
THAN THAT.

SHORTLY AFTER SEVEN AYEM THURSDAY, A MAN NAMED ROBERT POWERS  
(PLEASE USE FICTICIOUS NAME AGAIN) BEGAN MAKING  
INQUERIES ABOUT MCFERRIN IN SOMMERVILLE. HE STOPPED FIRST AT  
MCFERRIN'S STORE - A COMBINATION GROCERY, FILLING STATION  
AND LAUNDROMAT - AND THEN WENT DIRECTLY TO MCFERRIN'S HOUSE.  
HE DROVE UP IN A WHITE CADILLAC AND MET MCFERRIN IN HIS FRONT

YARD.

"I'VE GOT SOME URGENT BUSINESS HERE IN SOMMERVILLE BUT I ~~WANT~~ GET IT CLEARED UP TONIGHT OR TOMORROW NIGHT," POWERS TOLD MCFERRIN. HE NEVER REALLY EXPLAINED HIS PURPOSE FOR VISITING MCFERRIN. HE SAID ONLY; "I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU. YOU HAVE CHANGED SOME IN THE LAST EIGHT OR 10 YEARS. YOU ARE NOT AS TALL AS I REMEMBERED YOU AND YOU ARE NOT AS SLIM AS YOU USED TO BE." THEN HE ASKED MCFERRIN ABOUT A LITTLE-USED COUNTRY ROAD THAT RUNS IN BACK OF MCFERRIN'S HOUSE. "I TOLD HIM WHAT HE WANTED TO KNOW BECAUSE I FIGURED HE WOULD GET IT FROM HIS KIN FOLKS IF HE WOULDNT GET IT FROM ME. (POWERS' RELATIVES LIVE IN SOMMERVILLE) I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO THINK THAT I WAS SUSPICIOUS." MCFERRIN SAID.

POWERS WAS WEARING NEAT SPORTS CLOTHES; HE WAS NOT DRESSED FOR A HUNTING OR FISHING TRIP OR FOR A PICNIC AND, SAYS MCFERRIN, THERE IS NO ONE POWERS WOULD BE LIKELY TO WANT TO VISIT WHO LIVES ON THE DIRT ROAD BEHIND MCFERRIN'S HOUSE.

MRS. MCFERRIN WATCHED THE STRANGE MEETING FROM HER WINDOW. "ONE THING THAT STRIKES ME AS STRANGE IS THAT HE (POWERS) SHOOK HANDS WITH JOHN. AIN'T NO WHITE MAN IN THIS COUNTY EVER PUT OUT HIS HAND TO A NEGRO," SAID MRS. MCFERRIN. "AS FAR AS I KNOW HE HAD NO REASON TO BE VISITING JOHN OR TO BE ACTING LIKE THAT CAUSE HE AND JOHN HAVEN'T EVER BEEN FRIENDLY." (THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ENEMIES - THEY JUST HAVEN'T BEEN FRIENDLY.)

MCFERRIN CALLED ME IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING. HE WAS FLUTTERED, WORRIED AND SCARED. "THE ONLY THING I COULD FIGURE OUT THAT POWERS WANTED TO SEE ME, BECAUSE HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT LOOKED LIKE SO HE COULD POINT ME OUT TO SOME TRIGGER MAN."

POWERS IS A NATIVE OF SOMMERVILLE AND HAS A RECORD OF SCRAPES WITH THE LAW. HE HAS BEEN IN THE PENITENTIARY IN TENNESSEE (ABOUT 1935) AND HE LOST A BEER LICENSE BECAUSE OF ILLEGAL WHISKEY POSSESSION IN 1958 OR 1959. HE'S BEEN INVOLVED IN BOOTLEGGING AND IN OTHER SHADY DEALS AND IS BELIEVED TO HAVE MURDERED AT LEAST ONE MAN SEVERAL YEARS AGO. NOW POWERS LIVES IN NEW ORLEANS AND OPERATES A GULF STATION AND TRUCK STOP THERE AND IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT HE IS MEXED UP IN THE RACKETS. RUNS MOONSHINE AND DOPE INTO MEMPHIS AMONG OTHER

NYK19/WASH -- PARKER -- PAGE 8

THINGS. (WE ARE CHECKING POWERS OUT THRU OUR NEW ORLEANS STRINGER DAVID SNYDER).

IT SEEMS A VERY FAR FETCHED COINCIDENCE THAT A STRANGE MAN ~~FROM NEW~~ ORLEANS - OF ALL PLACES - SHOULD SHOW UP ON MCFERRIN'S DOOR STEP THE MORNING AFTER THE NEWS STORY CAME OUT.. MY BELIEF IS THAT THE MAN AT THE PRODUCE COMPANY APPARENTLY PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER - THEY SAW MCFERRIN OVERHEAR THEIR TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS. BUT AT THE TIME THEY THOUGHT THAT MCFERRIN WAS DEAF AND DIDN'T HEAR THEM TALK ABOUT A "BROTHER" IN NEW ORLEANS. THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL STORY - AND THE FACT THAT MCFERRIN DIDN'T BUY PRODUCE THERE LAST THURSDAY APPARENTLY HAS CONVINCED SOMEONE THAT MCFERRIN ISN'T DEAF AFTERALL.

MCFERRIN NOW IS A BADLY FRIGHTENED MAN, BUT HE REMAINS FIRM IN HIS STORY AND HE BELIEVES THAT HE MUST TELL IT. " IT'S NOT RIGHT TO LET A MAD DOG GO LOOSE."

THERE'S YET ANOTHER INDICATION THAT MCFERRIN SEEMS ON TO SOMETHING SOLID;

A PART TIME WORKER IN THE PRODUCE COMPANY IS A MAN WHO IS OR HAS BEEN A LAW OFFICER. MCFERRIN DOESN'T KNOW WHAT DEPARTMENT THE MAN HAS WORKED WITH (WE ARE WORKING TO FIND THAT OUT, AS WELL AS THE MAN'S NAME) BUT HE HAS SEEN THE MAN DRIVING OFFICIAL CARS, WITH RADIOS AND WITH ANTENNAS AND HAS KNOWN THE MAN TO MAKE LIQUOR ARRESTS FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF LIQUOR. HE ALSO KNOWS THE MAN - AND OTHER SOURCES VERIFY THIS - TO HAVE OPERATED A BOOTLEGGING BUSINESS ON THE SIDE. HE IS THE KIND OF A MAN WHO WILL SHAKE DOWN COMPETING MOONSHINERS AND WILL LET THEM OFF THE HOOK IF THEY AGREE TO CUT HIM IN ON A PERCENTAGE THEIR BUSINESS. HE IS NOT ABOVE TAKING BRIBE MONEY EITHER, OUR SOURCES SAY IN SHORT, HE IS A COP AND A CROOK, NOT NECESSARILY IN THAT ORDER.

THIS IS CONJECTURE, BUT THIS IS THE KIND OF MAN WHO WOULD KNOW HOW TO TAKE THE RADIO MESSAGES THAT SO CONFUSED MEMPHIS POLICE LAST WEEK. HE IS ALSO THE KIND OF MAN WHO WOULD HAVE THE EQUIPMENT AND, PRESUMABLY, THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO IT.

NOTE TO TK.

Mr. DeLoach

4/25/68

T. E. Bishop

MURKIN

*McClowan*

Mr. David Kraslow, Washington News Editor, "Los Angeles Times," telephonically called my office at 2:05 p.m., 4/25/68, and spoke to SA Bland. Mr. Kraslow stated that the "Los Angeles Times" in Los Angeles has an employee who is an ex-convict and has some fairly good sources and contacts in the criminal element in the Los Angeles area. This employee allegedly very recently received a call from one of his contacts in the Los Angeles criminal element to the effect that James Earl Ray is allegedly living under the name of Claude Coffey, 134 Mann Street, Apartment H, Greenup, Kentucky. Kraslow advised that he was furnishing this to the FBI for whatever value it might be and that he had no way of determining the accuracy of the information.

ACTION

This information was immediately called to the attention of the General Investigative Division, which division has telephonically instructed the Louisville Office to immediately check out the information.

*h only*

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
  - 1 - Mr. Rosen
  - 1 - Mr. Jones
- JRM*

JFB:mle  
(5)

APR 25 1968

Mr. DeLoach

A. Rosen

MURKIN (THE KING MURDER CASE)  
PERSONNEL MATTER

*retype*  
April 25, 1968

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. McDonough  
1 - Mr. Callahan  
1 - Mr. Mohr

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Peter Paul Kasper, resident of Fords, New Jersey, at 8:45 p.m., 4/19/68, telephonically contacted the Newark Office to complain relative to actions of SA Peter G. Loftus assigned to the New York Office. Kasper questioned whether SA Loftus was acting within FBI jurisdiction when Kasper was being checked out as suspect in the King murder case.

New York Office files show that Kasper filed application for Bureau employment on 1/11/68, but failed to appear for interview set for 1/22/68, and no further action was taken on his application. The New York file on Kasper indicates he had two previous arrests, owes approximately \$4,000 to various banks and credit associations and during last four years has been unable to keep a job for a period longer than nine months.

SAC, New York feels actions of SA Loftus in this instance appear to be proper and no administrative action is recommended.

DETAILS:

SA Peter G. Loftus, who resides in Fords, New Jersey, and who was at home on night of 4/19/68, was advised by detectives of the Woodbridge, New Jersey, Police Department that a complaint had been received that a man resembling James Earl Ray was seen driving a 1968 Chevrolet Impala with New York license plates in the area. The detectives stated they were in the process of checking the registration through their office and asked SA Loftus if he desired to join them, which he did. After about twenty minutes, the officers received a message that the license was registered to a Peter Kasper, Bellmore, New York, and the license had been issued for a 1967 yellow Pontiac.

A check of the mail boxes disclosed the apartment assigned to Kasper. SA Loftus and the officers discussed the situation and decided that a pretext interview would be conducted.

RJM:cm (8)

CONTINUED - OVER

**Memo Rosen to DeLoach**  
**RE: MURKIN**

One of the officers was to identify himself and advise Kasper he had received a complaint that the Impala had been seen speeding on a local street and upon checking the registration it was discovered the plates were not on the automobile to which originally issued. Since the officer was not certain of making an identification on Kasper, SA Loftus stated he would accompany him and be in a position where he could observe the person when he came to the door.

The officer knocked on the door and it was opened by a woman at which time the officer identified himself and asked to see Kasper. When Kasper appeared at the door, it was obvious that he was not the subject James Earl Ray. The officer used the pretext upon which Kasper became indignant stating he had recently purchased the car and it was officially registered. Kasper assumed a very belligerent attitude.

Upon entering the apartment with the officer SA Loftus identified himself showing Kasper his badge at which point Kasper became obnoxious and insulting stating he was not impressed with the "little tin badge." He went on to state that he did not mind the police coming around but didn't see how the FBI had any jurisdiction. SA Loftus attempted to explain the Bureau's "interstate transportation of stolen motor vehicle" responsibility but he was openly hostile and refused to listen stating he had several complaints of his own, including such items as his dog is on the loose, children knocking on the windows and loud hi-fi sets. He appeared irrational and unwilling to listen to further explanations.

Thereafter Kasper called the Woodbridge Police Department and our Newark Office to complain of the situation. Kasper then calmed down considerably and produced his registration after which he shook hands with SA Loftus and the contact was terminated.

After SA Loftus had left, Kasper again called the Newark Office inquiring of what action would be taken on the complaint and when informed the matter would be given proper attention he appeared agreeable and hung up. At 1:00 a.m., 4/26/68, Kasper again contacted Newark Office and stated he wished to withdraw any charges against SA Loftus.

**Memo Rosen to DeLoach**  
**RE: MURKIN**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

In view of the above circumstances requiring immediate action and since there was a discrepancy in the registration records which might reflect that the car was stolen in New York and transported to New Jersey, it is felt that the actions of SA Loftus were proper and no administrative action is recommended.



Mr. DeLoach

April 28, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach 1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Bishop  
1 - Mr. Malley 1 - Mr. Conrad  
1 - Mr. McGowan 1 - Mr. Gale  
1 - Mr. Long 1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. McDonough 1 - Mr. Trotter  
1 - Mr. Martindale

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

United Press International announced today the arrest at Caborca, Mexico, on 4/24/68 of a bearded hitchhiker who reportedly resembled James Earl Ray. The individual registered at a hotel there as Daniel David Kennedy, Age forty-two, 648 East 38th Street, Baltimore, Maryland, United States Passport #8527475. No formal charges have been brought against Kennedy by Mexican authorities as yet the United Press International stated.

Mrs. Pearl Kennedy, Baltimore, mother of Daniel David Kennedy, advised the United Press International that Kennedy left Baltimore, 3/24/68, for Mexico and called her Tuesday night, 4/23/68, from Caborca. Mrs. Kennedy described her son as a wounded World War II veteran who receives a monthly compensation check from the Government. She added he is a mixed-up kid who has never been able to hold a steady job because of his war wounds. She stated he does not resemble Ray.

Legat, Mexico City, is checking on the arrest of Kennedy at Caborca to determine his true identity. The Baltimore Office advises that Kennedy is listed in the 1968 Baltimore Telephone Directory and that on two occasions in January, 1968, Kennedy made personal complaints to the Baltimore Office regarding American Nazi Party stickers which were displayed in a Baltimore tavern.

Lewie Raymond Dowda, confined in County Jail, Marietta, Georgia, after being convicted for armed robbery, advised that he knew Ray in prison from 1963 to 1968. He described Ray as a drug addict who used amphetamine that may have been obtained for him by a guard on the gate of the prison. Dowda claimed that Ray had some outside source of income which supported a \$35 to \$40 a week dope habit as well as providing

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**Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach**  
**RE: MURKIN**

him \$15 to \$20 a week on other expenditures. According to Dowda, Ray felt all Negroes in the prison should be killed and made several statements to the effect that if the price was right he would kill Martin Luther King, Jr. Dowda claims that three Negro prisoners were killed after they protested a denial of their right to worship as Black Muslims and he alleges that either Ray killed the Negroes or knows who did. This is being checked.

Louis Lomax, controversial Negro TV personality in Los Angeles, has published a newspaper article alleging that the hunt for King's killer now centers on a "mysterious Hollywood blonde and a New Orleans industrialist." Lomax states the identity of the industrialist is unknown but that Ray met him in downtown New Orleans on 12/17/67 and a search is now on to locate records to reveal the industrialist's name and telephone number. Lomax names the blonde as Jerri and claims to have located her on 4/23/68. He states in his article that on the day Ray left Los Angeles he purchased Jerri an airplane ticket to a mid-Western city where she is now visiting her parents.

It has previously been determined that Ray, accompanied by Charles Stein, left Los Angeles, 12/16/67, arriving in New Orleans, 12/17/67. Ray was registered at the Provincial Motel, New Orleans, 12/17-19/67, leaving New Orleans, 12/19/67 and arrived back in Los Angeles, 12/21/67. Ray claimed to Stein that he contacted two men in New Orleans connected with an engineering or contracting company. Extensive investigation has failed to identify any contacts. Records of local telephone calls from the motel had been destroyed. No long distance calls were made from Ray's New Orleans motel room and long distance calls from nearby pay telephones were checked with negative results. Stein stated Ray made several telephone calls while driving toward New Orleans through Texas but could not state locations from which the calls were made.

Stein has been reinterviewed concerning the calls made by Ray in Texas. He states Ray used about six telephones but except for one time he returned so quickly Stein believes the other calls were not completed. On the one occasion Ray was gone long enough to complete a



**Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach**  
**RE: MURKIN**

call they were just west of Houston at a service station just off Interstate 10. The freeway at this point is eight lanes wide and separated from a parallel access road by a fence. The telephone booth is on the access road and a liquor store is nearby. Stein says this call was made at approximately 9 p. m., 12/16/67. Houston is checking this out.

Lomax has been talking to Stein, his sister, Rita Stein, and Stein's cousin, Marie Martin, all of whom knew Ray in Los Angeles. Stein says Lomax has offered to split the reward with him and Stein apparently is trying to play detective. He has been cautioned about withholding information from the FBI.

Lomax's story says Jerri was a habitue of the Sultan Room and the Rabbit's Foot Bar in Los Angeles. Personnel at the Rabbit's Foot advise Jerri is unknown to them but that Lomax has been at the bar asking about her. Bar personnel state Lomax was apparently unsuccessful in developing any information.

Personnel at the Sultan Room state Lomax has been making it his headquarters for his investigation and has become a nuisance. He has made inquiry there concerning Jerri but personnel state she is unknown to them.

Investigation has not identified any Jerri as an associate of Ray. He did take dancing instruction from one Sharon (Sherri?) Rhoades who has previously been interviewed. While in Los Angeles, Ray also reportedly dated a blonde girl named Darell (phonetic) whom we are attempting to locate.

Lomax has contacted the Los Angeles Office suggesting Agents accompany him and Stein to locate the Texas telephone booth whereupon Agents could obtain pertinent telephone records for Lomax. His offer was declined. Stein advises that he is negotiating a deal with Lomax but Stein is asking \$4,000 to go with Lomax to Texas.

A telephone company contact in Los Angeles advised in confidence that James B. Fetter, Jr., member of the City Council, has requested the company to identify the subscribers for numbers Lomax



Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach  
RE: MURKIN

may obtain in attempting to trace a long distance call made from some point near Houston in December, 1967. Fetter's political position places the telephone company in a difficult position and any request for specific information may be granted; however, the telephone company will make any such information available to us before it is released to Lomax.

ACTION:

All aspects of this investigation continue to receive top priority attention.



Mr. DeLoach

April 25, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach 1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. Fosen 1 - Mr. Bishop  
1 - Mr. Malley 1 - Mr. Conrad  
1 - Mr. McCowan 1 - Mr. Gale  
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**Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach**  
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**Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach**  
**RE: MURKIN**

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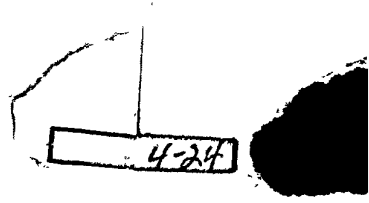


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**ACTION:**

**All aspects of this investigation continue to receive top priority attention.**



MR. TOLSON

4/24/68

C. D. DeLoach

cc Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. McGowan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Trotter

MURKIN

Reference is made to the Director's notations, asking why the evidence in captioned case has not been returned to the Memphis Police.

This is my responsibility. I knew of the necessity to return this evidence as soon as logically possible; however, I also realized that the Director would not want the evidence returned only to have the Memphis Office obtain it once again and send it back for further comparison purposes with new evidence.

In compliance with the Director's instructions, the evidence was to be returned as soon as Laboratory examinations were completed. There has been a constant accumulation of evidence, making it imperative that the original items be retained briefly for comparison purposes. The true name of the subject was not known until Friday, 4/19/68.

There has been no request from the Memphis Police relative to the return of this evidence. To the contrary, the police feel that this is strictly an FBI case and have indicated this fact accordingly.

The evidence will be returned to the Memphis Police immediately. There will be no consultation with the Department.

ACTION:

To answer the Director's inquiry.

CDD:CSH (6)