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PART 5 OF 8

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BULKY-231

ALLEGATION OF L. O. POWELL

7

Date 7-5-77

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File No. Allegation of Leon Owen Powell
Claude Powell, Jr. (Tuckers)

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~~REVIEWED~~ *6/27* *Sen Owen Powell*
7/5/77 jmn *Claude Powell, Jr.*
 EXCISED & XEROXED *no refiling necessary*
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 COMPLETED

Civil Rights Division

April 27, 1976
ATTN: MR. STEPHEN A. HORN

**ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

my

4/13/76

C. x HNH:mlr

NOTE: Enclosed is a 17-page copy of a summary of the investigation conducted re the allegation of Leon Owen Powell and Claude Powell, Jr. compiled from teletypes, copies of which were previously furnished to the Civil Rights Division.

Copies of the first five pages of this summary listing the "differences in the accounts of meeting at bar of Leon Owen Powell and Claude Powell, Jr.,"

ALLEGATION OF
LEON OWEN POWELL
CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

**Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division**

were provided to Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger of the Civil Rights Division during the conference re the Powell allegation on 4/2/76.

On 4/19/76, a copy of this complete summary (17 pages) was furnished Departmental Attorney Stephen A. Horn of the Civil Rights Division.

DIFFERENCES IN THE ACCOUNTS OF MEETING AT BAR OF LEON OWEN POWELL AND CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

Leon Owen Powell

(Source - AT Teletype 1/5/76)

Claude Powell, Jr.

(Source - EP Teletype 1/9/76)

1. Meeting occurred late October-early November, 1967, in late afternoon.
 2. Approached by mutual friend, Ray Godfrey.
 3. Godfrey asked if they would be interested in making \$50,000. Godfrey would put them in contact with an individual who would pay them to murder King. Powell brothers expressed interest in the contract to murder King and conversation terminated with Godfrey.
 4. Approximately one week later, Powell brothers approached in bar by Ralph (LNU), WM, heavy set, 6'1"-2", no accent, well-groomed, late 40's, well-spoken, "lawyer type".
 5. Ralph said, "I guess you know why I am here." Powell brothers nodded in assent, Ralph opened briefcase displaying what he said was \$25,000 and then said, "If you decide to take the job, there's \$50,000 more when it's completed."
 6. Claude replied to Ralph they need time to think it over at which time Ralph stated if mind not made up, he could not do business. Ralph never actually said money being offered to them was to kill King.
 7. Leon furnished artist's conception of the unsub.
 8. Sketch of interior of Pete's bar differs from Claude's (AT facsimile 2/25/76)
1. Meeting occurred three or four weeks prior to actual assassination of King on 4/4/68.
 2. Approached by a friend of Leon's, Ray Godfrey.
 3. Claude paid no particular attention to what Leon and Godfrey were talking about.
 4. Godfrey left booth in bar and in approximately 10 to 15 minutes (same date), unsub (does not remember a name) came to their booth described as WM, 5'8", medium build, 150 pounds, early 30's, well-dressed, calm and cold in manner and very clean cut, professional type such as a lawyer.
 5. Unsub told them he wanted them to kill King and would pay \$25,000 now and \$25,000 when job done. Unsub opened briefcase which was full of wrapped currency, some of which were in 100 denominations.
 6. He thought it was some sort of joke, and after offer, he ignored unsub and unsub closed briefcase and departed.
 7. Claude unable to provide artist's conception, as could not sufficiently recall unsub.
 8. Sketch of interior of Pete's Bar differs from Leon's. (EP Par 12/31/76)

DIFFERENCES IN THE ACCOUNTS OF MEETING AT BAR OF LEON OWEN
AND CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

Leon Owen Powell
(Source - AT Teletype 1/30/76)
(Polygraph)

1. Meeting occurred in fall of 1967.
3. Godfrey never mentioned amount of money to be paid but indicated he stated he was looking for someone who was interested in making "big money." Godfrey indicated "big money" would be paid for killing King. Someone in bar stated King should be killed, and Claude made statement he would kill him for right amount of money.
4. A couple of days later, Ralph approached them while in Pete's Bar.
5. Ralph indicated exact amount only he had "25". Ralph also made statement there would be "50" more when King was buried.

DIFFERENCES IN THE ACCOUNTS OF MEETING AT BAR OF LEON OWEN POWELL AND CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

Leon Owen Powell

(Source - AT Teletype 2/11/76)

1. Meeting definitely occurred in November of 1967. Name of bar not Pete's (as originally stated.) Bar was Bill Bailey's. Cannot recall who was in the bar at time of the incident. (Originally said Pete Davis, the bar owner, actually observed Ralph enter and exit.)
2. Ray Godfrey is a friend of both Claude and Leon, but probably more Claude's friend.
3. Leon did not have any contact with Godfrey re assassination when Claude not present.
4. Meeting with Ralph occurred a few days after meeting with Godfrey - maybe not a full week.

Claude Powell, Jr.

(Source - EP Teletype 2/6/76)

2. Ray Godfrey a friend he had known for years, but a better friend of Leon.
3. He later learned Godfrey made an initial contact with Leon approximately one week prior to Unsub's proposition to murder King, but he did not know anything about the meeting at Pete's Bar until Unsub made offer, nor did he have any prior knowledge of what transpired between Godfrey and Leon.

**DIFFERENCES IN THE ACCOUNTS OF MEETING AT BAR OF LEON OWEN
POWELL AND CLAUDE POWELL, JR.**

Leon Owen Powell

4. When he first met Ralph (LNU), Ralph, Leon, and Claude went to back of room of bar and sat in booths. (AT Teletype 2/26/76)

8. While sketching diagram of bar, Leon advised he, Claude, and Ralph went to one of tables in back part of bar. (AT Teletype 2/26/76)

Claude Powell, Jr.

4. The Unsub joined them in their booth. (EP Teletype 1/9/76)

3. Claude's sketch shows booth (not table) where Unsub joined them in a different area of bar. (EP Airtel 2/10/76)

DIFFERENCES IN THE ACCOUNTS OF MEETING AT BAR OF LEON OWEN POWELL
AND CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

Leon Owen Powell

4. Pete Davis observed
Ralph (LNU) enter and exit
bar.
(AT Teletype 1/5/76)

(Our investigation showed Pete Davis did not own bar at time of
incident.)

Claude Powell, Jr.

3. Leon told him about initial
contact between Leon and
Ray Godfrey in reference to
actual contact about
assassination of King. He
learned of this initial
contact from Leon shortly
after time Ralph came and
approached both Claude
and Leon.
4. Claude thinks Davis was
present and owned bar at
time of meeting.
(AT Teletype 3/8/76)

ALLEGATION OF LEON OWEN POWELL AND CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

INITIAL INTERVIEW AND POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION OF

LEON OWEN POWELL: On 1/4/76, Leon Owen Powell advised he recently observed a documentary on television which disturbed his conscience, and felt he had to furnish the following information to the FBI:

Leon Owen Powell claims he and his brother, Claude Powell, Jr., while in Pete's Bar in Atlanta, in late October - early November, 1967, were approached by a mutual friend, Ray Godfrey, who asked the Powells if they were interested in making \$50,000. Godfrey stated he would put them in contact with an individual who would pay them to murder King. The Powell brothers expressed interest in the contract to murder King and the conversation was terminated with Godfrey.

Approximately 1 week later, while at the same bar, the Powells were approached by an individual named Ralph (last name unknown) who Leon described as a white male, heavy set, 6'1" to 2", no accent, well-groomed, late 40s, well-spoken, and described as a "lawyer type." Ralph approached the Powell brothers, put his briefcase on the table and said, "I guess you know why I'm here." The Powell brothers nodded in assent and Ralph opened his briefcase displaying what he said was \$25,000 and then said, "If you decide to take the job, there's \$50,000 more when it's completed." Claude replied to Ralph that they needed time to think it over at which time Ralph stated, "If your mind is not made up now, I can't do business with you." Leon stated that Ralph never actually said the money being offered to them was to kill King. Leon stated neither he nor his brother were involved in the murder of King.

Leon Owen Powell also stated that the only other individuals aware of this meeting with Ralph (LNU) were his former wife, Annie Lois Compos and Pete Davis, owner of the bar. He stated Compos had no first-hand knowledge, and she is aware of the facts as he described them to her. Davis observed Ralph (LNU) enter and exit the bar but had not entered into the conversation. The reason he believes he and his brother were contacted by Godfrey is because his brother, Claude, served 5 years for armed robbery and had a reputation for being an expert with a shotgun.

Leon Owen Powell furnished information for the preparation of an artist's conception of Ralph (LNU).

Leon Owen Powell was afforded a polygraph examination on 1/29/76. During pre-polygraph interview, Leon Owen Powell stated the meeting occurred in the fall of 1967. He said after the initial meet with Godfrey, Ralph (LNU) approached them in the bar a couple days later. Godfrey never mentioned the amount of money to be paid other than "big money." He advised while at the bar, someone stated King should be killed, and Claude made statement to the effect he would kill him for the right amount of money. When questioned during the polygraph about Ralph (LNU) saying he had \$25,000 in the briefcase, Powell stated Ralph had only said "25," and there would be "50" when King was buried.

During the polygraph Powell appeared to have difficulty in breathing, and stated he was very nervous concerning the whole matter. The polygraph examination was determined to be "inconclusive."

INITIAL INTERVIEW AND POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION OF

CLAUDE POWELL, JR.: Claude Powell, Jr., was interviewed on 1/8/76 and although he also claims a payment offer was made to kill King, his account differs somewhat from that of Léon Owen Powell. Claude Powell, Jr., stated that three or four weeks prior to the murder of King, he and his brother, Leon, were seated in a booth in Pete's Bar in Atlanta. Ray Godfrey, a friend of Leon's, joined them in their booth and engaged in conversation with Leon. Claude paid no particular attention to what they were talking about.

Godfrey then left the booth and approximately ten to fifteen minutes later, an unknown subject (unsub), a white male, joined them in their booth. Claude described the unsub (does not remember a name) as a white male, "5'8", medium build, 150 pounds, early 30s, well-dressed, calm and cold in manner and very clean cut, a professional type, such as a lawyer, having no accent. The unsub placed an expensive-looking briefcase on the table. The unsub told them he wanted them to kill King and would pay \$25,000 now and \$25,000 when the job was done. The unsub then opened his briefcase, which was full of wrapped currency, some of which were in \$100 denominations. Claude stated he was shocked, assumed it was some sort of a joke and he ignored the unsub. The unsub then closed his briefcase and departed. Claude Powell, Jr., stated he would not recognize the unsub and was unable to furnish information for an artist's conception.

On 1/19/76, Claude Powell, Jr., was afforded a Bureau polygraph examination at Midland, Texas. The polygraph examiner concluded that Claude Powell's response to certain questions indicated he is "truth-telling" in stating someone did, in fact, offer him and his brother \$50,000 to kill Dr. King. Claude Powell's response to another question and his reactions following the answer indicate he has possible knowledge regarding the unidentified person who made the payment offer.

REINTERVIEWS OF THE POWELLS RE DISCREPANCIES: On 2/5/76, Claude Powell, Jr., and on 2/10/76, Leon Owen Powell, were reinterviewed re discrepancies in their versions of this alleged incident. Leon now says meeting was definitely in November, 1967. (Claude initially stated meeting was three or four weeks prior to actual King assassination which would put this meeting about March of 1968.) Leon stated he did not have any contact with Godfrey re assassination when Claude not present. (Claude said he later learned Godfrey made an initial contact with Leon approximately one week prior to the unsubs' proposition to murder King, but he did not know anything about the meeting at Pete's Bar until the unsub made the offer, nor did he have any prior knowledge of what transpired between Godfrey and Leon.) Leon states that Godfrey is more Claude's friend than his. (Claude says Godfrey better friend of Leon's.)

Leon initially stated Pete Davis (since deceased), the bar owner, observed Ralph (LNU) enter and exit the bar. Our investigation showed Pete Davis did not own the bar at the time of the alleged meeting. Leon now states he recalls the name of bar was Bill Bailey's, although it is still called Pete's by the oldtimers. He now cannot recall who was in the bar at the time of alleged incident. Their sketches of the interior of Pete's Bar are also different.

On 3/8/76, Claude Powell, Jr. advised he thinks Pete Davis was present and also thinks that Davis owned the bar during the time of the alleged meeting. Claude further advised that his brother, Leon, told him about the initial contact between Leon and Ray Godfrey in reference to the actual contact about the assassination of King. He learned of this initial contact from Leon shortly after the time that Ralph came and approached both he and Leon.

INTERVIEWS OF RELATIVES OF LEON OWEN POWELL AND

CLAUDE POWELL, JR.: Annie Lois Compos, former wife of Leon Owen Powell, after some prompting, remembered an incident wherein Leon told her an individual had contacted his brother and him regarding the murder of King. Leon told her that the man had a suitcase full of money and wanted them to murder King. She stated Leon was very intoxicated when relating the story to her after the King assassination. She stated that numerous times while Leon was drunk, he would talk about various killings and killers.

Jackie Powell, wife of Claude, advised the only time she heard about an incident involving an offer of money to assassinate King was when her husband mentioned it to her after King had been assassinated. Claude told her he had been offered

a sum of money to assassinate King but refused the contract. She stated she has been married to Claude for 20 years, and the whole story, in her mind, is a fabrication by her husband, Claude, and his alcoholic brother, Leon. She stated she felt the Government was wasting its time, and she was sure the whole story is a fabrication.

Wendell Sutton Powell, a brother, stated he had not heard of anyone contacting his brothers re offering them money to assassinate King. He advised if Claude had seen \$25,000 in one lump sum, Claude would have told others about it. He advised that Claude used to drink a lot and talk glibly when in a drunken condition. He did not believe Claude and Leon had the capacity to assassinate King.

Hubert Powell, a brother, advised he was contacted by Leon after the FBI interview of Wendell Powell. Leon related to him at that time about the incident, and he was of the opinion Leon was drunk during this phone call. Hubert had no knowledge of this incident before the phone call.

Floyce Powell Bryson, a sister of the Powells, stated that although they are morally good men, both Leon and Claude have a drinking problem. They never mentioned to her the alleged offer to kill King, and she quite frankly does not believe the event ever occurred. She also stated that neither of the Powells possess the capacity to kill King.

INTERVIEWS AND POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY:

Ray Godfrey has been fully identified as Arnold Ray Godfrey and was interviewed on 1/13/76. He advised that he did not talk with either of the Powells re the assassination of King nor did he introduce anyone to them re the assassination of King. He denied all knowledge of any assassination plot re King.

When Godfrey was interviewed on 1/13/76, he agreed to submit a polygraph. When he was contacted re the polygraph on 1/16/76, however, Godfrey stated "I am innocent" and then advised he did not wish to take any polygraph examination and did not wish to talk to the FBI any further. He stated if the FBI needs any further information, they should contact his attorney.

ARREST RECORDS: Leon Owen Powell is a white male, DOB 4/27/35. He has an arrest record for a military violation in 1955, for wife beating in 1962, and for child abandonment in 1962 and 1975.

Claude Powell, Jr., is a white male, DOB 3/26/26. He has a local arrest record for armed robbery in 1949, robbery in 1949, allowing intoxicants to person to drive in 1965, indecent exposure and drunk in 1973, and driving under the influence in 1975.

Arnold Ray Godfrey is a white male, DOB 6/11/30. He has an arrest for drunk, cursing, driving on the wrong side of the road, and suspicion of possible dangerous drugs in 1964.

EMPLOYMENT AND WHEREABOUTS OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY: Godfrey is employed as a Sewer Service foreman in Atlanta. His employment records reflect for the pay-period 4/3 - 4/17/68, Godfrey was charged with 3 vacation days. (King was assassinated on 4/4/68). The records do not show the exact days he was on vacation. All of these type records are purged every 3 years. The CRD requested, if possible, an attempt be made to determine Godfrey's whereabouts during these 3 vacation days in 1968.

During the initial interview of Godfrey, he stated he thought he was in Nashville, Tennessee "shacked up" on the day King was killed. Godfrey thought he could verify this through some personal records; however, since that time, Godfrey has not talked any further with the FBI.

A review of the 1968 Nashville directory revealed there were 40 motels in the downtown area and 22 in the suburban area. A sampling of logical motels reflects registration records for 1968 have either been destroyed or are in storage. No logical method was developed, at this point, to review any of these records in storage noting that even if Godfrey did go to Nashville, he did not definitely state he stayed in a motel nor is there any assurance he used his right name. His mode of transportation to Nashville is also unknown; however, a logical airline servicing Atlanta to Nashville flights, disclosed records for 1968 no longer available.

A review of Department of Motor Vehicle records, Atlanta reflected in 1968 Godfrey had licensed a 1960 Chevrolet (not a white mustang as utilized by James Earl Ray.)

PETE'S BAR; Leon stated the meeting occurred at Pete's Bar in late October - early November of 1967, then stated the meeting occurred in the Fall of 1967 and finally stated the meeting definitely occurred at Pete's Bar in November of 1967.

Claude stated the meeting occurred at Pete's Bar 3 or 4 weeks prior to the actual assassination of King on 4/4/68, which would put the meeting about March of 1968.

Leon stated that Pete Davis, owner of the bar, observed Ralph (LNU) enter and exit the bar but had not entered into the conversation.

Our investigation determined that Pete Davis died of cancer in May of 1975 and was not associated with Pete's Bar at any of the times the alleged meeting occurred.

Lewis W. Clark advised he managed Bill Bailey's Lounge (formerly Pete's Bar) from September, 1966, through 1973. He recalled Ray Godfrey and Claude Powell being persons who frequented the bar. He stated Claude is a very quiet individual and never knew him to be in any trouble. Godfrey was an extremely extroverted individual who always wanted to play the guitar in the bar. June Hall, another bartender, recalled Claude Powell and Godfrey as persons who frequented the bar. He stated Claude was a very quiet individual when sober; however, could be very unruly when drinking. She stated Godfrey was a very likeable individual and she did not think he could be in any sort of trouble. Neither Clark nor Hall could identify the artist's conception of Ralph (LNU).

As previously set forth, Leon, during reinterview, now recalls the name of the bar as Bill Bailey's and now cannot recall who was in the bar at the time of the alleged incident.

BACKGROUND OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY

Numerous individuals who knew Godfrey in 1968-1969 were interviewed and all acknowledged Godfrey as a "good old country boy" with no violent tendencies. One individual stated Godfrey had no use for Negroes but would not harm anyone. Diane Brady advised Godfrey still frequents the "Office" Bar, is well known to her, and is a very amiable person with no violent tendencies. Relatives of Godfrey's interviewed and none could believe Godfrey would be in any sort of trouble.

MILITARY RECORD OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY

Personnel records of the Georgia National Guard reflects Godfrey enlisted in the Guard on 1/9/51. He enlisted into the medical company with the 122 infantry and this unit was located in Atlanta. He was discharged in 1954 as a Corporal with an honorable discharge. His occupation during service was a light truck driver. This record contains no further information.

POSSIBLE ASSOCIATE OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY

Lee Carroll Godfrey, a brother, stated that he, Arnold Ray and another individual had played in a band at the Office Bar in Atlanta. The other individuals first name was Ralph and he thinks his last name was Smith. He described this Ralph as a white male, 45 years of age, 5'11", 165 pounds, a carpenter by trade.

Tommy Godfrey, a brother, stated Arnold Ray, and Lee Carroll played in a band with an individual named Ralph Setzer (phonetic), at the Office Bar.

The present employees of the Office Bar could not identify anyone named Ralph, who had played in a band at that bar.

Tommy Godfrey was recontacted and shown a artist's conception of Ralph (LNU) as furnished by Leon Powell. Tommy Godfrey could not identify this artist's conception and then announced he actually did not know anyone named Ralph Smith or Ralph Setzer. He stated he mentioned the name Ralph Setzer during a prior interview only because Lee Godfrey had told him this.

Lee Carroll Godfrey was also recontacted and shown an artist's conception of Ralph (LNU) as provided by Leon Godfrey, and he stated the artist's conception was quite dissimilar to the man he remembered as Ralph Smith. He last saw Ralph three and a half years ago, and Ralph had a duck tail haircut, full on the sides and flat on top. He was approximately 45 years old, much older than the artist's conception. He stated the only other person he could remember who knew Ralph was a divorcee, Lavene Cook (phonetic) who resided in Marietta, Georgia. Subsequent investigation disclosed no current listing for a Lavene Cook in Marietta.

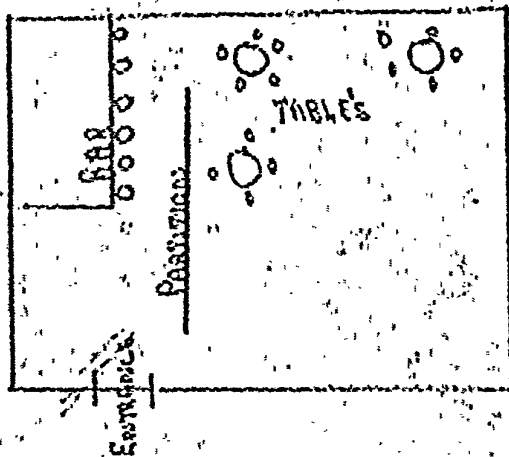
Lee Carroll Godfrey was again recontacted and advised he did not know a Ralph Setzer or a Ralph Seltzer and did not mention either name to his brother, Tom Godfrey. Lee Godfrey stated he traveled to Atlanta on the weekend of 2/28/76 and talked to his brother, Arnold Ray Godfrey. Arnold Ray Godfrey related that he did not know a Ralph Smith, and when Lee described the individual he knew as Ralph Smith, Arnold said he thought the man's name was Jim Smith.

Bill Lowrey of Lowrey Music, Inc., Atlanta, was unable to identify a Ralph (LNU).

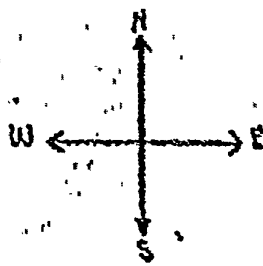
The Atlanta city directory and the Atlanta suburban directory lists approximately 104 either Ralph or initial R. Smiths. The current Atlanta telephone directory lists an excess of 104 either Ralph or initial R. Smiths. Neither directory has any listing for a Ralph Setzer.

PROXIMITY OF PETE'S BAR TO WHERE JAMES EARL RAY STAYED IN ATLANTA

The distance from where Pete's Bar is located to where James Earl Ray stayed is approximately five and a half miles. (This is a direct line distance, not taking into account the streets). There is a three and a half mile distance from Pete's Bar to where the car was located.



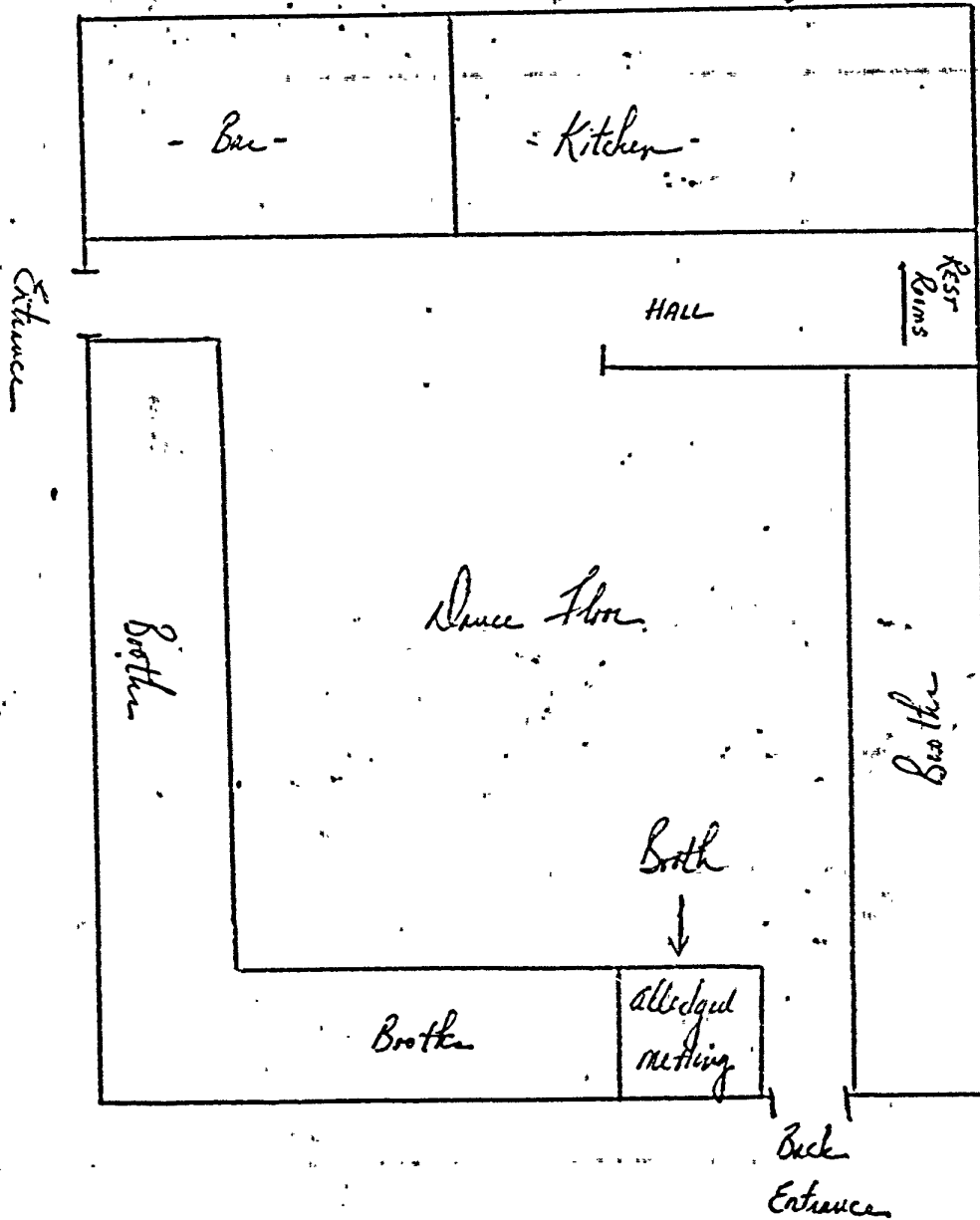
SKETCH of PAPA'S PLACE as described by
LEON POWELL



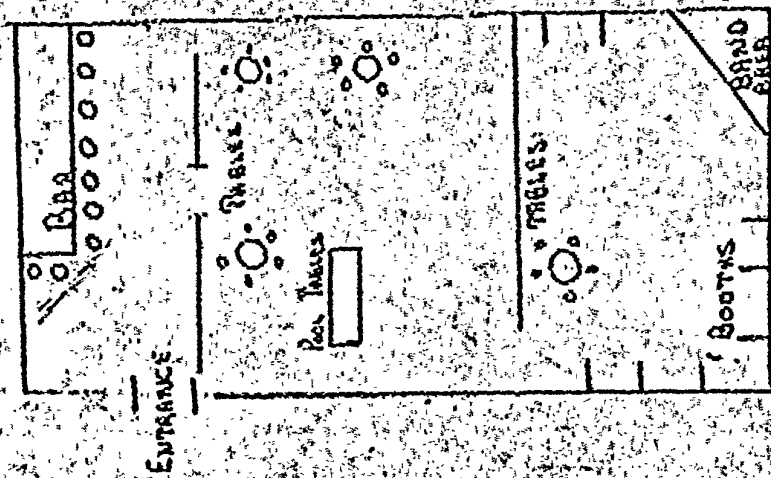
WILSON AVE

Sketch of Peter Bar - Atlanta, Georgia

Frank W. Fungai
Special Agent
FBI - Memphis, Tenn

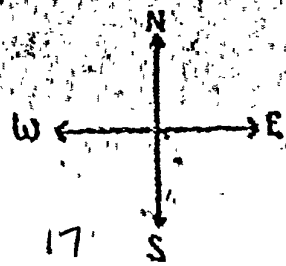


BY CLAUDE POWELL



SKETCH OF BILL BAILEY'S LOUNGE AS DESCRIBED BY
 L. W. CLARK. (NOTE - THIRD AREA OF BAR CONSTRUCTED BY L. W. CLARK
 IN 1969 - AREA WITH BAND STAND)

MORELAND AVE



Civil Rights Division

April 13, 1976
ATTN: MR. STEPHEN A. HORN

ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

April 8, 1976

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Atlanta

LHM

C. x HNH:mlr

1

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

**Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division**

NOTE: Reference is made to a conference between Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger and Departmental Attorney Stephen A. Horn of the Civil Rights Division and Section Chief James S. Peelman and SA Hal N. Helterhoff of the FBI on 4/2/76, concerning the allegation made by Leon Owen Powell and Claude Powell, Jr. The Civil Rights Division requested no additional investigation concerning the Powell allegation and advised it would advise if a determination is made to present this matter to a Federal grand jury. A copy of the final artist's conception of Ralph (Last Name Unknown) is enclosed for the completion of your file.

4/8/76

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) *pcw*

MURKIN.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and three copies of an LHM, prepared at Atlanta, dated and captioned as above.

Enclosed for Memphis are two copies of the above LHM

LHM contains photograph of corrected artist's conception of RALPH (LNU) as described by LEON POWELL

② - Bureau (Enc. 4)
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
2 - Atlanta
TJW:cw
(6)

*070-
4/13/76*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

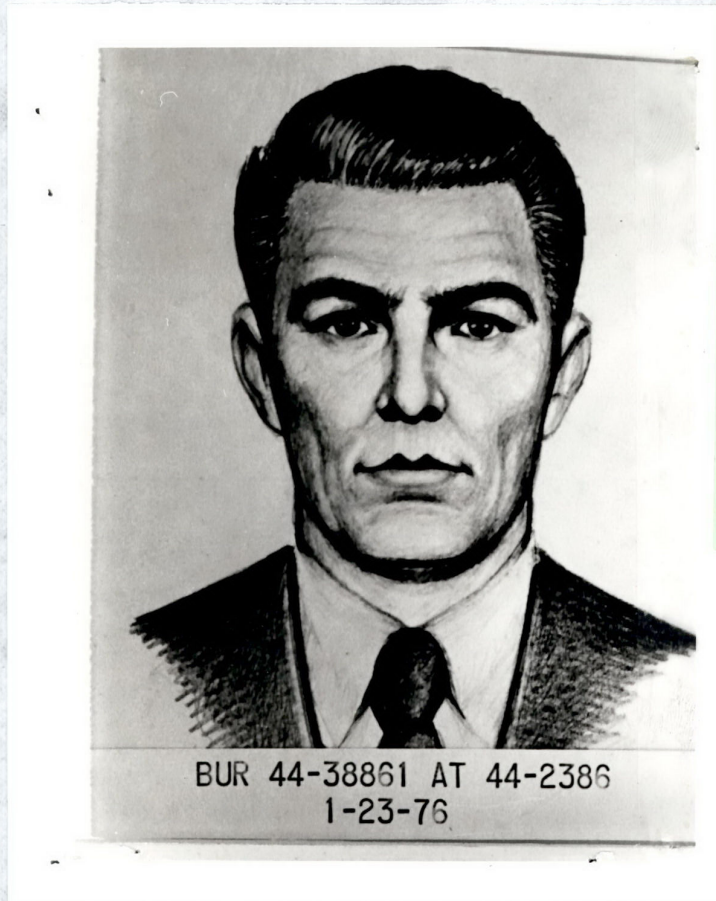
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Atlanta, Georgia

April 8, 1976

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

MURKIN



Artist's Conception of Ralph (Last Name Unknown) as described by Leon Powell.

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.



Airtel

4/6/76

To: SAC, Atlanta (44-2386)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

1 - Mr. Helterhoff

MURKIN

A conference was held with the Civil Rights Division, (CRD) United States Department of Justice on 4/2/76, relative to the allegation made by Leon Owen Powell and Claude Powell, Jr. The CRD requested no additional investigation concerning the Powell allegation and stated it would advise if a determination is made to present the Powell allegation to a Federal Grand Jury.

1 - SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

HNH:nlc
(5)

NOTE: As recorded in a J. S. Peelman to Gallagher memorandum dated 4/2/76, the above is a result of a conference with Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger and Departmental Attorney Stephen Horn, Civil Rights Division on 4/2/76.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Gallagher

FROM : J. S. Peelman

SUBJECT: MURKIN

- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- DATE: 4/2/76
- 1 - Mr. O'Connell
- 1 - Mr. Peelman
- 1 - Mr. Helterhoff
- 1 - Mr. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Leavitt

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

PURPOSE: To advise of results of a conference with Assistant Attorney General (AAG) J. Stanley Pottinger, Civil Rights Division (CRD), and representatives of the General Investigative Division (GID), concerning results of our investigation pertaining to the allegation by Leon Owen Powell and his brother Claude Powell, Jr. that prior to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., they were offered payment to murder King.

SYNOPSIS: This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement. In January of 1976, Leon Owen Powell and his brother Claude Powell, Jr., made an allegation that they were offered payment to murder King prior to his actual death. Their accounts of this alleged payment offer differ in many respects. We conducted an extensive investigation and did not develop any information to substantiate this allegation and there is no indication it is anyway connected with James Earl Ray. The results of our investigation were closely coordinated with the CRD. Per the request of AAG Pottinger, a conference was held on 4/2/76 wherein Mr. Pottinger was briefed by representatives of the GID concerning results of our investigation re the Powell allegation. After briefing, Pottinger instructed another Departmental Attorney to prepare a Departmental memorandum summarizing the results of the Powell investigation and pointing out there is no indication of any conspiracy or any indication the Powell allegation connected with James Earl Ray. Pottinger still undecided as to whether the Powell allegation merits presentation to a Federal Grand Jury (FGJ). Mr. Pottinger stated the CRD would advise if a determination is made to present this matter to a FGJ. No additional investigation was requested of the FBI.

RECOMMENDATION: For information. You will be advised if the Department decides to present the Powell allegation to a FGJ.

- APPROVED: _____
- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Assoc. Dir. _____ | Comp. Syst. _____ | Laboratory _____ |
| Dep. AD Adm. _____ | Ext. Affairs _____ | Legal Coun. _____ |
| Dep. AD Inv. _____ | Gen. Inv. _____ | Plan. & Eval. _____ |
| Asst. Dir.: | Ident. _____ | Rec. Mgmt. _____ |
| Adm. _____ | Inspection _____ | Spec. Inv. _____ |
| | Intell. _____ | Training _____ |

DETAILS - CONTINUED - OVER

44-38861
HNH/pwl:9(



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

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN
44-38861

DETAILS

This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. King on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement. You were advised in previous memoranda that we were conducting an investigation at the request of the CRD to resolve the Powell allegation.

Leon Owen Powell claims he and his brother, Claude, while in Pete's Bar in Atlanta in November of 1967, were approached by a mutual friend, Ray Godfrey, who asked the Powells if they were interested in making \$50,000. Godfrey stated he could put them in contact with an individual who would pay them to murder King. Approximately one week later, while at the same bar, the Powells were approached by a Ralph Last Name Unknown (LNU) who stated "I guess you know why I'm here." Ralph displayed what he said was \$25,000 and then said "If you decide to take the job, there's \$50,000 more when its completed." Leon stated that Claude then replied they needed time to think it over and Ralph stated "If your mind is not made up now, I can't do business with you." Leon stated neither he nor his brother were involved in King's murder. Leon also advised that Ralph never actually said money being offered was to kill King. Subsequently, however, Leon stated Ralph had only said "25" and there would be "50" when King was buried, and changed other aspects of this alleged meeting.

Claude Powell, Jr., was interviewed and although he also said a meeting did occur, his account differs from Leon's. He states meeting occurred in about March of 1968 and furnished other information which differed from Leon's.

Leon stated Pete Davis, the bar owner, observed the meeting. Claude also stated he thinks Davis was present at bar at time of alleged meeting. Our investigation showed that Pete Davis did not own the bar at time of alleged meeting.

Bureau polygraph examinations were afforded to Leon and Claude Powell. Leon's examination was determined to be "inconclusive" and Claude's was determined to be "truth-telling."

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN
44-38861

Godfrey was interviewed and denied any involvement. Godfrey was recontacted as to whether he would take a polygraph examination and he referred Agents to his attorney. CRD contacted his attorney and his attorney subsequently advised CRD that Godfrey is innocent; however, he will not consent to any further interview.

Other extensive investigation did not develop any information to substantiate this allegation and there is no indication it is in anyway connected with James Earl Ray.

The results of our investigation were closely coordinated with the CRD and the CRD has been reviewing the results of our investigation to determine if it should be presented to a FGJ.

Per the request of AAG Pottinger, a conference was held on 4/2/76 in Mr. Pottinger's office wherein Mr. Pottinger was briefed concerning the results of the investigation of the Powell allegation by Section Chief James S. Peelman and SA Hal N. Helterhoff, Civil Rights Section of the GID. Also in attendance was Departmental Attorney Stephen A. Horn of the CRD. After the briefing, Mr. Pottinger instructed Departmental Attorney Horn to prepare a Departmental memorandum summarizing the results of the Powell investigation and pointing out there is no indication of any conspiracy or any indication the Powell allegation was connected with James Earl Ray. Mr. Pottinger stated he still was undecided as to whether the Powell allegation merits presentation to a FGJ. Mr. Pottinger stated the CRD would advise if a determination is made to present this matter to a FGJ. No additional investigation was requested of the FBI.

Mr. Gallagher

J. S. Peelman

MURKIN

1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Gallagher

4/2/76

1 - Mr. O'Connell
1 - Mr. Peelman
① - Mr. Helterhoff
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Leavitt

PURPOSE: To advise of results of a conference with Assistant Attorney General (AAG) J. Stanley Pottinger, Civil Rights Division (CRD), and representatives of the General Investigative Division (GID), concerning results of our investigation pertaining to the allegation by Leon Owen Powell and his brother Claude Powell, Jr. that prior to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., they were offered payment to murder King.

SYNOPSIS: This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement. In January of 1976, Leon Owen Powell and his brother Claude Powell, Jr., made an allegation that they were offered payment to murder King prior to his actual death. Their accounts of this alleged payment offer differ in many respects. We conducted an extensive investigation and did not develop any information to substantiate this allegation and there is no indication it is anyway connected with James Earl Ray. The results of our investigation were closely coordinated with the CRD. Per the request of AAG Pottinger, a conference was held on 4/2/76 wherein Mr. Pottinger was briefed by representatives of the GID concerning results of our investigation re the Powell allegation. After briefing, Pottinger instructed another Departmental Attorney to prepare a Departmental memorandum summarizing the results of the Powell investigation and pointing out there is no indication of any conspiracy or any indication the Powell allegation connected with James Earl Ray. Pottinger still undecided as to whether the Powell allegation merits presentation to a Federal Grand Jury (FGJ). Mr. Pottinger stated the CRD would advise if a determination is made to present this matter to a FGJ. No additional investigation was requested of the FBI.

RECOMMENDATION: For information. You will be advised if the Department decides to present the Powell allegation to a FGJ.

44-38861
HNH/pwl)9(

DETAILS - CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN
44-38861

DETAILS

This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. King on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement. You were advised in previous memoranda that we were conducting an investigation at the request of the CRD to resolve the Powell allegation.

Leon Owen Powell claims he and his brother, Claude, while in Pete's Bar in Atlanta in November of 1967, were approached by a mutual friend, Ray Godfrey, who asked the Powells if they were interested in making \$50,000. Godfrey stated he could put them in contact with an individual who would pay them to murder King. Approximately one week later, while at the same bar, the Powells were approached by a Ralph Last Name Unknown (LNU) who stated "I guess you know why I'm here." Ralph displayed what he said was \$25,000 and then said "If you decide to take the job, there's \$50,000 more when its completed." Leon stated that Claude then replied they needed time to think it over and Ralph stated "If your mind is not made up now, I can't do business with you." Leon stated neither he nor his brother were involved in King's murder. Leon also advised that Ralph never actually said money being offered was to kill King. Subsequently, however, Leon stated Ralph had only said "25" and there would be "50" when King was buried, and changed other aspects of this alleged meeting.

Claude Powell, Jr., was interviewed and although he also said a meeting did occur, his account differs from Leon's. He states meeting occurred in about March of 1968 and furnished other information which differed from Leon's.

Leon stated Pete Davis, the bar owner, observed the meeting. Claude also stated he thinks Davis was present at bar at time of alleged meeting. Our investigation showed that Pete Davis did not own the bar at time of alleged meeting.

Bureau polygraph examinations were afforded to Leon and Claude Powell. Leon's examination was determined to be "inconclusive" and Claude's was determined to be "truth-telling."

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN
44-38861

Godfrey was interviewed and denied any involvement. Godfrey was recontacted as to whether he would take a polygraph examination and he referred Agents to his attorney. CRD contacted his attorney and his attorney subsequently advised CRD that Godfrey is innocent; however, he will not consent to any further interview.

Other extensive investigation did not develop any information to substantiate this allegation and there is no indication it is in anyway connected with James Earl Ray.

The results of our investigation were closely coordinated with the CRD and the CRD has been reviewing the results of our investigation to determine if it should be presented to a FGJ.

Per the request of AAG Pottinger, a conference was held on 4/2/76 in Mr. Pottinger's office wherein Mr. Pottinger was briefed concerning the results of the investigation of the Powell allegation by Section Chief James S. Peelman and SA Hal N. Helterhoff, Civil Rights Section of the GID. Also in attendance was Departmental Attorney Stephen A. Horn of the CRD. After the briefing, Mr. Pottinger instructed Departmental Attorney Horn to prepare a Departmental memorandum summarizing the results of the Powell investigation and pointing out there is no indication of any conspiracy or any indication the Powell allegation was connected with James Earl Ray. Mr. Pottinger stated he still was undecided as to whether the Powell allegation merits presentation to a FGJ. Mr. Pottinger stated the CRD would advise if a determination is made to present this matter to a FGJ. No additional investigation was requested of the FBI.

Civil Rights Division

March 29, 1976
Attn: Mr. Robert A. Murphy

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

3/23/76

Atlanta

Thomas J. Wilson

X (E) HNH/pwl

1

SEE NOTE ON PAGE 2 . . .

44-38861
HNH/pwl

**Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division**

NOTE: Reference is made to a conversation between Departmental Attorney Robert A. Murphy and Special Agent Hal N. Helterhoff on March 11, 1976, wherein Mr. Murphy advised that Godfrey's attorney informed him that Godfrey will not be made available for any further interview. Mr. Murphy advised he would review this matter to determine if there is any other logical investigation to be conducted and would advise if a decision is made to present this matter to a federal grand jury.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE ATLANTA	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 3/23/76	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 2/6/76 - 3/8/76
TITLE OF CASE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.		REPORT MADE BY SA THOMAS J. WILSON	TYPED BY wy
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

REFERENCE: Bureau nitel to Atlanta, 2/3/76.

RUC

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:	
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	PENDING OVER ONE YEAR		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS

<p>APPROVED _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</p> <p>COPIES MADE:</p> <p>2 - Bureau (44-38861)</p> <p>2 - Memphis (44-1987)</p> <p>2 - Atlanta (44-2386)</p>	<p>DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW</p>
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Dissemination Record of Attached Report					Notations
Agency	Request Recd.	Date Fwd.	How Fwd.	By	

Copies not disseminated to USA's per Sup Richard Barry 3/30/76

A* COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: ~~████████████████████~~ Georgia

Report of: SA THOMAS J. WILSON
Date: FEBRUARY 23, 1976

Office: ATLANTA

Field Office File #: 44-2386

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: ~~████████████████████~~ ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis:

CLAUDE POWELL, JR., reinterviewed 2/6/76 and advised that any discrepancies between his statement of the facts and his brother, LEON's, statement of the facts was a result of a long period of time since the incident. CLAUDE POWELL advised he would stand by his original statement. CLAUDE POWELL was unable to identify the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown) dated 1/23/76. LEON POWELL JR., reinterviewed 2/11/76 and advised his original statement was essentially correct, however, does not recall seeing RAY GODFREY in Pete's Bar the day he was approached by RALPH (last name unknown). LEON POWELL also advised the name of the bar where the incident occurred was probably not Pete's Place since PETE had sold it and another owner taken over. He and his brother have talked about the incident at various times since 1968. LEON advised the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown) dated 1/23/76 is a good likeness of an individual who approached he and his brother to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Wife of CLAUDE POWELL, advised she has been married to CLAUDE for 20 years and in her opinion the whole story is a fabrication made up by her husband and his brother, LEON. Relatives of ARNOLD RAY GODFREY advised they did not know any relationship or interest between RAY GODFREY, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., or JAMES EARL RAY. Relatives were unable to name an individual named RALPH who associated with RAY GODFREY. Employees

AIRTEL

To: SAC, Atlanta (44-2386)
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)
MURKIN

3/16/76

1 - Mr. Helterhoff

ReButelcal 3/12/76.

For your information, as you were advised in reButelcal, Departmental Attorney Robert A. Murphy, Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice, advised that on 3/11/76, Arnold Ray Godfrey's Attorney, Jack V. Dorsey, informed Murphy that Godfrey feels he told the FBI everything, is innocent, and will not consent to any further interview and will not consent to a polygraph examination. Mr. Murphy told Godfrey's attorney that he would review this matter to determine whether it should be presented to a Federal Grand Jury (FGJ) and whether Godfrey will be called before the FGJ.

Mr. Murphy stated he would further review this matter to determine if there is any other logical investigation to be conducted and would advise if a decision is made to present this matter to an FGJ.

You will be advised of any pertinent developments including any decision by the CRD relative to an FGJ.

HNH:bap (4)

NOTE: This matter pertains to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68. Above refers to an allegation by Leon and Claude Powell that they were introduced by Godfrey to an unknown subject who offered them payment to kill Dr. King.

Mr. Gallagher

3/16/76

J. S. Poolman

MURKIN

1 Mr Callahan
1 Mr. Adams
1 Mr. Gallagher
1 Mr. O'Connell
1 Mr. Poolman
1 Mr. Halterhoff
1 Mr. Moore
1 Mr. Leavitt

PURPOSE: To advise of the status of the investigation recently instituted to resolve an allegation by Leon Owen Powell and his brother, Claude Powell, Jr., that prior to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., they were offered payment to murder King.

SYNOPSIS: This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. King on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement. You were advised in previous memoranda that we are conducting an investigation at the request of the Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice, to resolve the Powell allegation.

Leon Owen Powell claims he and his brother, Claude, while in Pete's Bar in Atlanta in November of 1967, were approached by a mutual friend, Ray Godfrey, who asked the Powells if they were interested in making \$50,000. Godfrey stated he would put them in contact with an individual who would pay them to murder King. Approximately 1 week later, while at the same bar, the Powells were approached by a Ralph Last Name Unknown (LNU) who stated "I guess you know why I'm here." Ralph displayed what he said was \$25,000 and then said "If you decide to take the job, there's \$50,000 more when its completed." Leon stated that Claude then replied they needed time to think it over and Ralph stated "If your mind is not made up now, I can't do business with you." Leon stated neither he nor his brother were involved in King's murder. Leon also advised that Ralph never actually said money being offered was to kill King. Subsequently, however, Leon stated Ralph had only said "25" and there would be "50" when King was buried.

44-38861

RHR:bap (9)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

Claude Powell, Jr., was interviewed and although he also said a meeting did occur, his account differs from Leon's. He states meeting occurred in about March of 1968 and furnished other information which differed from Leon's.

Leon stated Pete Davis, the bar owner, observed the meeting. Claude also stated he thinks Davis was present at bar at time of alleged meeting. Our investigation showed that Pete Davis did not own the bar at time of alleged meeting.

Bureau polygraph examinations afforded to Leon and Claude Powell. Leon's examination was determined to be "inconclusive" and Claude's was determined to be "truth-telling."

Godfrey interviewed and denied any involvement. Godfrey recontacted as to whether he would take a polygraph examination and he referred Agents to his attorney. CRD contacted his attorney and his attorney subsequently advised CRD that Godfrey is innocent; however, will not consent to any further interview.

Other extensive investigation did not develop any information to substantiate this allegation and there is no indication it is in anyway connected with James Earl Ray.

CRD reviewing this matter to determine if it should be presented to a Federal Grand Jury (FGJ).

RECOMMENDATION: For information. We will continue to conduct any additional logical investigation requested by the CRD. You will be advised of any pertinent developments. You will be advised if the Department decides to present this matter to a FGJ.

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

DETAILS: This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement.

You were advised in previous memoranda that we are conducting an investigation at the request of the Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice, to resolve a recent allegation by Leon Owen Powell and his brother, Claude Powell, Jr., that prior to the assassination of Dr. King, they were offered payment to murder King.

INITIAL INTERVIEW AND POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION OF LEON OWEN POWELL: On 1/4/76, Leon Owen Powell advised he recently observed a documentary on television which disturbed his conscience, and felt he had to furnish the following information to the FBI:

Leon Owen Powell claims he and his brother, Claude Powell, Jr., while in Pete's Bar in Atlanta, in late October - early November, 1967, were approached by a mutual friend, Ray Godfrey, who asked the Powells if they were interested in making \$50,000. Godfrey stated he would put them in contact with an individual who would pay them to murder King. The Powell brothers expressed interest in the contract to murder King and the conversation was terminated with Godfrey.

Approximately 1 week later, while at the same bar, the Powells were approached by an individual named Ralph (last name unknown) who Leon described as a white male, heavy set, 6'1" to 2", no accent, well-groomed, late 40s, well-spoken, and described as a "lawyer type." Ralph approached the Powell brothers, put his briefcase on the table and said, "I guess you know why I'm here." The Powell brothers nodded in assent and Ralph opened his briefcase displaying what he said was \$25,000 and then said, "If you decide to take the job, there's \$50,000 more when it's completed." Claude replied to Ralph that they needed time to think it over at which time Ralph stated, "If your mind is not made up now, I can't do business with you." Leon stated that Ralph never actually said the money being offered to them was to kill King. Leon stated neither he nor his brother were involved in the murder of King.

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

Leon Owen Powell also stated that the only other individuals aware of this meeting with Ralph (LNU) were his former wife, Annie Lois Compos and Pete Davis, owner of the bar. He stated Compos had no first-hand knowledge and she is aware of the facts as he described them to her. Davis observed Ralph (LNU) enter and exit the bar but had not entered into the conversation. The reason he believes he and his brother were contacted by Godfrey is because his brother, Claude, served 5 years for armed robbery and had a reputation for being an expert with a shotgun.

Leon Owen Powell furnished information for the preparation of an artist's conception of Ralph (LNU).

Leon Owen Powell was afforded a polygraph examination on 1/29/76. During pre-polygraph interview, Leon Owen Powell stated the meeting occurred in the fall of 1967. He said after the initial meet with Godfrey, Ralph (LNU) approached them in the bar a couple days later. Godfrey never mentioned the amount of money to be paid other than "big money." He advised while at the bar, someone stated King should be killed, and Claude made statement to the effect he would kill him for the right amount of money. When questioned during the polygraph about Ralph (LNU) saying he had \$25,000 in the briefcase, Powell stated Ralph had only said "25," and there would be "50" when King was buried.

During the polygraph Powell appeared to have difficulty in breathing, and stated he was very nervous concerning the whole matter. The polygraph examination was determined to be "inconclusive."

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

INITIAL INTERVIEW AND POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION OF

CLAUDE POWELL, JR.: Claude Powell, Jr., was interviewed on 1/8/76 and although he also claims a payment offer was made to kill King, his account differs somewhat from that of Leon Owen Powell. Claude Powell, Jr., stated that three or four weeks prior to the murder of King, he and his brother, Leon, were seated in a booth in Pete's Bar in Atlanta. Ray Godfrey, a friend of Leon's, joined them in their booth and engaged in conversation with Leon. Claude paid no particular attention to what they were talking about.

Godfrey then left the booth and approximately ten to fifteen minutes later, an unknown subject (unsub), a white male, joined them in their booth. Claude described the unsub (does not remember a name) as a white male, 5'8", medium build, 150 pounds, early 30s, well-dressed, calm and cold in manner and very clean cut, a professional type, such as a lawyer, having no accent. The unsub placed an expensive-looking briefcase on the table. The unsub told them he wanted them to kill King and would pay \$25,000 now and \$25,000 when the job was done. The unsub then opened his briefcase, which was full of wrapped currency, some of which were in \$100 denominations. Claude stated he was shocked, assumed it was some sort of a joke and he ignored the unsub. The unsub then closed his briefcase and departed. Claude Powell, Jr., stated he would not recognize the unsub and was unable to furnish information for an artist's conception.

On 1/19/76, Claude Powell, Jr., was afforded a Bureau polygraph examination at Midland, Texas. The polygraph examiner concluded that Claude Powell's response to certain questions indicated he is "truthtelling" in stating someone did, in fact, offer him and his brother \$50,000 to kill Dr. King. Claude Powell's response to another question and his reactions following the answer indicate he has possible knowledge regarding the unidentified person who made the payment offer.

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

REINTERVIEWS OF THE POWELLS RE DISCREPANCIES: On 2/5/76,
Claude Powell, Jr.,

and on 2/16/76, Leon Owen Powell, were reinterviewed re discrepancies in their versions of this alleged incident. Leon now says meeting was definitely in November, 1967. (Claude initially stated meeting was 3 or 4 weeks prior to actual King assassination which would put this meeting about March of 1968.) Leon stated he did not have any contact with Godfrey re assassination when Claude not present. (Claude said he later learned Godfrey made an initial contact with Leon approximately 1 week prior to the unsubs' proposition to murder King, but he did not know anything about the meeting at Pete's Bar until the unsub made the offer, nor did he have any prior knowledge of what transpired between Godfrey and Leon.) Leon states that Godfrey is more Claude's friend than his. (Claude says Godfrey better friend of Leon's.) Leon initially stated Pete Davis (since deceased), the bar owner, observed Ralph (LNU) enter and exit the bar. Claude also stated that he thinks Davis was present during the alleged meeting and also thinks that Davis owned the bar. Our investigation showed Pete Davis did not own the bar at the time of the alleged meeting. Leon now states he recalls the name of the bar was Bill Bailey's, although it is still called Pete's by the oldtimers. He now cannot recall who was in the bar at the time of alleged incident. Their sketches of the interior of Pete's Bar are also different.

INTERVIEWS OF RELATIVES OF LEON OWEN POWELL AND
CLAUDE POWELL, JR.:

Annie Lois Compos, former wife of Leon Owen Powell, after some prompting, remembered an incident wherein Leon told her an individual had contacted his brother and him regarding the murder of King. Leon told her that the man had a suitcase full of money and wanted them to murder King. She stated Leon was very intoxicated when relating the story to her after the King assassination. She stated that numerous times while Leon was drunk, he would talk about various killings and killers.

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

Jackie Powell, wife of Claude, advised the only time she heard about an incident involving an offer of money to assassinate King was when her husband mentioned it to her after King had been assassinated. Claude told her he had been offered a sum of money to assassinate King but refused the contract. She stated she has been married to Claude for 20 years and the whole story, in her mind, is a fabrication by her husband, Claude, and his alcoholic brother, Leon. She stated she felt the Government was wasting its time and she was sure the whole story is a fabrication.

Other relatives advised Leon and Claude have a drinking problem.

PETE'S BAR: Leon stated the meeting occurred at Pete's Bar in Atlanta in late October - early November of 1967, then stated the meeting occurred in the Fall of 1967 and finally stated the meeting definitely occurred at Pete's Bar in November of 1967.

Claude stated the meeting occurred at Pete's Bar 3 or 4 weeks prior to the actual assassination of King on 4/4/68, which would put the meeting about March of 1968.

Leon stated that Pete Davis, owner of the bar, observed Ralph (LNU) enter and exit the bar but had not entered into the conversation. Claude also stated that he thinks Davis was present during the alleged meeting and also thinks that Davis owned the bar.

Our investigation determined that Pete Davis died of cancer in May of 1975 and was not associated with Pete's Bar at any of the times the alleged meeting occurred.

Investigation determined Pete's Bar was actually Bill Bailey's Bar at the time of the alleged meeting. Interviews of former employees of Bill Bailey's Bar reflected no information to substantiate that the meeting ever occurred, and no information developed to identify Ralph (LNU).