

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

TO SEE IF RAY GODFREY HAD EVER PLAYED AT THE BAR DURING THE DAY WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS. THE DAY BARTENDER ADVISED THAT GODFREY HAD NEVER PLAYED THERE WITH ANYONE DURING DAY AT "THE OFFICE. BRADY SHOWN SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS, UNABLE TO PICK OUT THE PHOTOGRAPH OF RALPH (LNU). WHEN SPECIFICALLY SHOWN THIS PHOTOGRAPH, SHE ADVISED SHE HAS NEVER SEEN THIS INDIVIDUAL. SHE IS POSITIVE THAT THE PERSON WHOSE LIKENESS IS REPRESENTED BY THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION IS NOT THE PERSON WHOM SHE KNOWS AS "DUKE". BRADY ALSO ADVISED THAT AFTER PETE DAVIS SOLD HIS ESTABLISHMENT, SHE WENT TO WORK FOR THE DRIFTWOOD LOUNGE WHICH IS LOCATED IN THE NEXT BLOCK FROM PETE'S BAR. SHE NEVER WORKED AT BILL BAILEY'S AND SHE NEVER WAS EMPLOYED BY LEWIS CLARK. SHE FURTHER ADVISED AFTER PETE DAVIS SOLD HIS BAR, HE WENT TO WORK IN SAUDI ARABIA FOR ONE YEAR. BRADY WAS UNABLE TO SUPPLY NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ANY OF THE OLD-TIME CUSTOMERS OF PETE'S BAR. EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE SOME OF THEM DROP IN AT HER BAR, BUT THIS IS NOT DONE ON A REGULAR BASIS. BRADY AGAIN STATED THAT SHE KNOWS OF NO FRIENDS OF RAY GODFREY EITHER MUSICIANS OR CO-WORKERS NAMED RALPH AND THAT WOULD INCLUDE RALPH SMITH OR RALPH SETZER (PHONETIC). SHE ALSO DOES NOT KNOW LEE GODFREY. DIANE BRADY FURTHER STATED THAT SHE WOULD

END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT RAY GODFREY WAS IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE AND THAT THE POWELL BROTHERS, WHOM SHE KNOWS TO BE ALCOHOLICS AND FRIENDLY INDIVIDUALS COULD BE ACCUSED OF DOING ANYTHING WRONG.

ATLANTA AT GILMER COUNTY. WILL EXHIBIT PHOTOGRAPH OF RALPH (LNU) TO LEE CARROLL GODFREY AND ASCERTAIN IF RALPH (LNU) IS IDENTICAL WITH RALPH (SMITH OR SETZER) (PHONETIC).

END.

PLS HOLD

Civil Rights Division

2/18/76

ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

my

2/17/76

xx

(B/HNH/69)

1

NOTE: Attached is a copy of an Atlanta teletype dated 2/17/76.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 17 1976
TELETYPE

M. J. Powell
0-7

NR012 AT PLAIN

6:22 PM URGENT 2-17-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-922)

MEMPHIS (44-1987X)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL FEBRUARY 13, 1976.

WILLIAM SANFORD VENABLE CONTACTED THIS DATE AND ADVISED THAT HE AND ROBERT MC GARITY, PREVIOUSLY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1455 MORELAND AVENUE. AT THIS RESIDENCE WAS A LOUNGE KNOWN BY VARIOUS NAMES, INCLUDING PETE'S PLACE AND BILL BAILEY'S. IN 1966 BUCK BAILEY TOOK OVER THIS LOUNGE AND NAMED IT BILL BAILEY'S. AT APPROXIMATELY JANUARY, 1968, LEWIS W. CLARK HAD THE LIQUOR LICENSE CHANGED TO HIS NAME. PRIOR TO THIS TIME LEWIS CLARK HAD MANAGED AND RUN THE LOUNGE KNOWN AS BILL BAILEY'S FOR BUCK BAILEY. BUCK BAILEY NEVER PARTICIPATED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE LOUNGE. VENABLE DOES NOT KNOW ANYBODY BY THE NAME OF POWELL, DOES NOT KNOW ANY "DUKE". HE KNOWS RAY GODFREY BY NAME, HOWEVER, HAS NEVER PERSONALLY MET THE INDIVIDUAL. HE DOES NOT KNOW ANY OF GODFREY'S PERSONAL ASSOCIATES.

END PAGE ONE.

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

LEWIS W. CLARK CONTACTED AND ADVISED HE MANAGED BILL BAILEY'S LOUNGE, LOCATED AT 1455 MORELAND AVENUE FROM SEPTEMBER, 1966 THROUGH 1973. HE PERSONALLY ACTED AS BARTENDER AT THE LOUNGE NUMEROUS TIMES. AFTER BEING SHOWN A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS, HE PICKED OUT RAY GODFREY AND CLAUDE POWELL AS BEING PERSONS WHO FREQUENTED THE BAR. HE DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE PICTURE OF LEON POWELL. HE STATED CLAUDE POWELL IS A VERY QUIET INDIVIDUAL AND NEVER KNEW HIM TO BE IN ANY TROUBLE. RAY GODFREY WAS AN EXTREMELY EXTROVERED INDIVIDUAL, ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY THE GUITAR IN THE BAR. HE WAS SHOWN A SPREAD, INCLUDING THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH AND WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANYONE. HE HAD NEVER SEEN ANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS IN THE BAR. CLARK ADVISED THAT JUNE HALL WAS THE DAY BARTENDER AT BAILEY'S AND SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SUPPLY FURTHER INFORMATION. HE COULD NOT RECALL ANY OTHER EMPLOYEES WHO WORKED AT BILL BAILEY'S. DIANE BRADY NEVER EMPLOYED AT BILL BAILEY'S.

JUNE HALL CONTACTED AND SHOWN SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS. SHE PICKED OUT CLAUDE POWELL, RAY GODFREY AS PERSONS WHO FREQUENTED THE BAR. SHE STATED CLAUDE POWELL VERY QUIET INDIVIDUAL WHEN
END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

SOBER, HOWEVER, COULD BE VERY UNRULY WHEN DRINKING. GODFREY VERY LIKEABLE INDIVIDUAL AND SHE DID NOT THINK HE COULD BE IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE.

HALL WAS SHOWN A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS, INCLUDING ARTIST'S CONCEPTION AND ADVISED SHE HAS NEVER SEEN ANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS. WHEN SPECIFICALLY SHOWN THE COMPOSITE OF RALPH, SHE WAS SURE SHE HAD NEVER SEEN THIS INDIVIDUAL AND FELT BECAUSE OF HIS GOOD LOOKS, WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED HIM IF HE CAME IN THE BAR.

JACKIE POWELL, WIFE OF CLAUDE POWELL, JR. INTERVIEWED AT HER RESIDENCE AND ADVISED THAT ONLY TIME SHE HEARD ABOUT INCIDENT INVOLVING OFFER OF MONEY TO ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WAS WHEN HER HUSBAND MENTIONED IT TO HER AFTER KING HAD BEEN ASSASSINATED. HER HUSBAND TOLD HER HE HAD BEEN OFFERED A SUM OF MONEY TO ASSASSINATE KING, BUT REFUSED CONTRACT. SHE STATED SHE HAS BEEN MARRIED TO CLAUDE FOR TWENTY YEARS AND THAT THE WHOLE STORY, IN HER MIND, IS A FABRICATION BY HER HUSBAND AND HIS ALCOHOLIC BROTHER, LEON. SHE WOULD NOT BELIEVE ANY OF THIS STORY; HOWEVER HAD NO FACTS TO BACK UP HER OPINION. SHE STATED AGAIN THAT SHE FELT GOVERNMENT WAS WASTING THEIR TIME AND SHE
END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR (44-2386)

WAS SURE THAT WHOLE STORE IS A FABRICATION.

MRS. POWELL ADVISED HER HUSBAND, CLAUDE, HAD BEEN IN ATLANTA OVER THE PAST WEEKEND, HOWEVER, WAS RETURNING TO MIDLAND, TEXAS.

EL PASO AT MIDLAND. UPON RECEIPT OF CORRECTED COMPOSITE, WILL EXHIBIT TO CLAUDE POWELL. CORRECTED COMPOSIT BEING FORWARDED DIRECTLY TO MIDLAND RA VIA REGISTERED MAIL.

ATLANIA AT ATLANTA. ATTEMPT TO FURTHER IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW FORMER CUSTOMERS PETE'S PLACE.

END.

PLS HOLD

214 691 1/8/77

Civil Rights Division

2/17/76

ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

xx CB/HNH/1688

4

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

NOTE: Attached are copies of Atlanta teletypes dated 2/12/76 and 2/13/76. Also attached is a copy of an FD-302 containing interview of Claude Powell, Jr., and a copy of a sketch of Pete's Bar which was drawn by SA Franz W. Nenzel upon information given by Claude Powell, Jr.

Telephone records at the Scottish Inn, Midland, Texas, reflect several outgoing calls, none of which were made by Claude Powell, Jr.

William Dean Woodcock, Claude's roommate and business partner, advised that Claude told him of the alleged meeting at Pete's Bar in Atlanta, Georgia, after initial interview by FBI Agents. Woodcock said that to the best of his knowledge, he is the only co-worker of Claude's who knows of the alleged meeting. He said Claude told him because of their business relationship and his interest in the reason the FBI was contacting Claude. He believed Claude would have no reason to lie concerning the alleged meeting.

2/10/76

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, EL PASO (44-920) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies of an FD-302 reflecting the interview of CLAUDE POWELL, JR., at Midland, Texas. Enclosed for Atlanta and Memphis is one copy each of the above FD-302. Also enclosed for the Bureau is a copy of a sketch of Pate's Bar which was drawn by SA FRANZ W. MENZEL upon information given by CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

Telephone records at the Scottish Inn, Midland, Texas, reflect several outgoing calls, none of which were made by CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

WILLIAM DEAN WOODCOCK, CLAUDE's roommate and business partner, advised that CLAUDE told him of the alleged meeting at Pate's Bar in Atlanta, Georgia, after initial interview by FBI Agents. WOODCOCK said that to the best of his knowledge, he is the only co-worker of CLAUDE's who knows of the alleged meeting. He said CLAUDE told him because of their business relationship and his interest in the reason the FBI was contacting CLAUDE. He believed CLAUDE would have no reason to lie concerning the alleged meeting.

② Bureau (Enc. 3)
2- Atlanta (44-2386) (Enc. 1)
2- Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 1)
2- El Paso
PFW:pm
(8)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/10/76

11-920

1

the subject **CLAUDE POWELL, JR.**, Room 211, Scottish Inn, was interviewed in his motel room during the late evening of February 5, 1976. by Special Agent

Discrepancies in his version of an alleged meeting with an unknown white male at Pete's Bar Atlanta, Georgia, as compared with LEON POWELL's were discussed. CLAUDE stated that any discrepancies are a result of a long passage of time since the incident and his statement is accurate in his recollection. He clarified his relationship with RAY GODFREY stating that GODFREY was a friend whom he has known for many years but GODFREY was more closely associated and a better friend of LEON's. CLAUDE also commented that he later learned GODFREY made an initial contact with LEON approximately one week prior to the unknown white male's proposition to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING but he did not know anything about the meeting at Pete's Bar until the unknown white male seated himself and made the offer, nor did he have prior knowledge of what transpired between GODFREY and LEON.

Other than these changes, CLAUDE stands by his original statement, emphasizing that his statement may differ in some aspects with LEON's statement but the fact is, both he and LEON witnessed the offer of a substantial amount of money by an unknown white male to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING.

In addition, CLAUDE stated he and LEON talked about the alleged meeting with the unknown white male frequently after its occurrence but as time passed, they talked about it less and less. He said that he and LEON worked together on the same job at the time of the alleged meeting and continued to do so until approximately three months ago. He knows of no one who could verify that they were in Atlanta, Georgia, at the time of the alleged meeting but stated that both, he and LEON, were residing in Decatur, Georgia, during this time. CLAUDE described

Interviewed on 2/6/76 at Midland, Texas File # EP 44-920
ME 44-1987
 by SA FRANZ W. NENZEL /pm Date dictated 2/9/76

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/10/76

EP 44-920

2

CLAUDE POWELL, JR., Room 211, Scottish Inn, the interior of Pete's Bar, including the booth where each participant of the alleged meeting was seated and a sketch was made by Special Agent FRANZ W. NENZEL. CLAUDE was questioned specifically concerning his polygraph examination in response to the question "Do you know who asked you and LEON to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING?", and he denied having any prior knowledge of the unidentified person who offered he and LEON \$25,000 to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING.

CLAUDE stated that he telephonically contacted his brother, LEON POWELL, at telephone number 404-289-1545, Decatur, Georgia (telephone number is for DAVID POWELL, CLAUDE's nephew) after initial interview by FBI Agents at Midland, Texas. CLAUDE stated that he and LEON discussed the interview.

In addition, CLAUDE stated he had discussed the alleged meeting with the unknown person at Pete's Bar with WILLIAM DEAN WOODCOCK, his partner in business and roommate at the Scottish Inn. WOODCOCK is the only fellow employee whom he told of the alleged meeting.

CLAUDE stated that the unknown person who offered them the money to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING did not have any type of an accent. He repeated that all aspects of his statement including description, time reference and conversation between the unknown person who made the offer to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING were true and accurate to the best of his recollection.

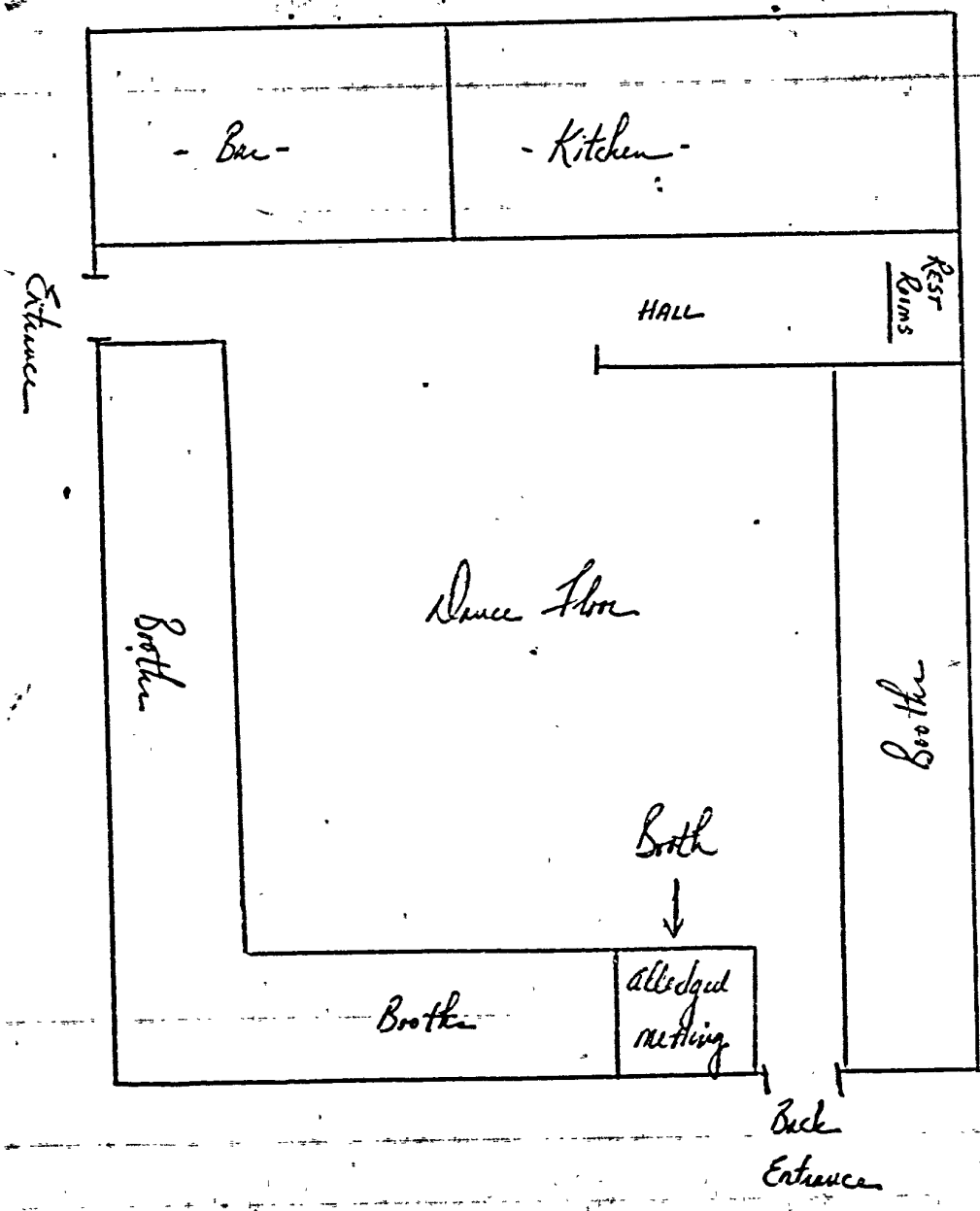
CLAUDE stated that he talked about it to his brother, LEON, and his partner in business, WILLIAM DEAN WOODCOCK, at the time of the meeting and continued to do so until approximately three months ago. He knows of no one who could verify that they were in Atlanta, Georgia, at the time of the alleged meeting but stated that both, he and LEON, were residing in Decatur, Georgia, during this time. CLAUDE described

Interviewed on 2/6/76 at Midland, Texas EP 44-920
 File # ME 44-1987

by SA FRANZ W. NENZEL /pm Date dictated 2/9/76

4/21/47
Kangas, George
Special Agent
FBI - Midland, Texas

Sketch of Peter Bar - Atlanta, Georgia



BY CLAUDE POWELL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NR014 AAI PLAIN

FEB 13 1976

TELETYPE

Handwritten notes:
m...
Reel...
07

5:20 PM URGENT VEEBRUARRY 13, 1976 JKB

TO: DIRECTOR (44-28861)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL TO THE DIRECTOR, FEBRUARY 12, 1976.

ON FEBRUARY 13, 1976, MARJORIE COOLEY, WIFE OF ROY COOLEY, ADVISED SHE KEPT THE RECORDS FOR HER HUSBAND WHEN HE WAS IN BUSINESS FOR HIMSELF. SHE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ANY RECORDS GOING BACK TO 1967 AND 1968, REGARDING ANY INDIVIDUALS EMPLOYED BY HER HUSBAND. SHE SPECIFICALLY REMEMBERS THAT IN NOVEMBER, 1967 SHE HAD HER OWN HOUSE BUILT. DURING THE TIME THE HOUSE WAS BUILT, CLAUDE AND LEON POWELL PUT IN THE DRY WALL. SHE IS QUITE SURE CLAUDE AND LEON POWELL WORKED FOR HER HUSBAND FROM 1966 THROUGH 1969.

MARY GODFREY, MOTHER OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, BELLEMEADE APARTMENTS, KENNESAW, GEORGIA, CONTACTED AND ADVISED SHE DOES NOT KNOW ANY OF RAY'S FRIENDS. AS FAR AS SHE KNOWS, RAY HAS NEVER BEEN IN ANY TROUBLE.

SHIRLEY BULLOCK, SISTER OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, BELLEMEADE
END PAGE ONE.

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

APARTEMENTS, KENNESAW, GEORGIA, CONTACTED AND ADVISED SHE DOES NOT KNOW ANY OF RAY'S FRIENDS. RAY DOES NOT CONTACT HIS MOTHER VERY OFTEN AND THUS NEITHER SHE NOR HER MOTHER KNOWS ANY OF RAY'S FRIENDS.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. LOCATE AND INTERVIEW "YANK VENABLE"

END.

NR011 AT PLAIN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

5:18 PM URGENT 2-12-76 HLF

FEB 12 1976

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

TELETYPE

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL TO BUREAU DATED FEBRUARY 11, 1976.

CLARENCE FISHER, OWNER OF FISHER WALL, 326 PATTERSON ROAD, SCOTTSDALE, ADVISED HE DOES HAVE AN EMPLOYEE NAMED RAY COOLEY, BUT IS NOT IN AT THIS TIME. HE WILL HAVE COOLEY CONTACT THE FBI.

CAPTAIN LONG, COBB COUNTY POLICE, ADVISED SHIRLEY BULLOCK IS EMPLOYED BY COBB COUNTY AS A SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD IN COBB COUNTY. BULLOCK HAS MOVED RECENTLY AND HE DOES NOT HAVE HER ADDRESS. BULLOCK CAN BE LOCATED AT WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL, MARIETTA, GEORGIA BETWEEN 8:00 AND 9:00 AM, ANY MORNING.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. LOCATE AND INTERVIEW RAY COOLEY AND SHIRLEY BULLOCK.

END.

PLS HLD

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

Civil Rights Division

February 12, 1976
ATTN: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY
Room 1038 Todd Building

ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

my

February 11, 1976

B. x HNH:mlr

2
NOTE: Attached is a copy of an Atlanta teletype dated 2/11/76 and a copy of
an FBI Identification Record for Lee Carrol Godfrey.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

2-10-76. 18 EB

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

The following FBI record, NUMBER 48 536 D, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Atlanta Ga	Lee Carrol Godfrey #174514	6-13-56	O.A.I & speeding	\$150 & 12 mos on chg of speeding
PD Jacksonville Fla	Lee Dudley Godfrey #118-219 B	12-13-58	vag/ & inv.	12-16-58 dism on chg of vag
PD Atlanta Ga	Lee Carroll Godfrey #174514	3-10-59	DC worthless chks	12 mos prob on chg of Frd Chks 6-24-59
PD Atlanta Ga	Lee Carool Godfrey #174514	6-23-59	L of A	3-4 yrs conc w/sent now serving 7-9-59
St Bd of Corr Atlanta Ga	Lee Godfrey #A43582/36816 CONFIDENTIAL	7-20-59	rape (3) armed rob (3) obt money on fictitious name fraud chk uttering fraudulent chks (5) malicious mischief	Total 10-20 yrs Recaptured 10-18-60 on chg of Rape (3) Armed Rob (3) Obt Goods by Pict Name Fraud Ck Misd (6) L of Auto Misd (2)
Army	Lee Carol Godfrey #RA 14 396 947	4-17-51 Atlanta Ga	9-26-66 conditional release	see supplement
PD Asheville NC	Lee Carol Godfrey #52137	2-5-63	inv escapee from St of Ga	

Notations indicated by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data formerly furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE 2-10-76 18 EB
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

2

The following FBI record, NUMBER 48 536 D is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Atlanta Ga	Lee Cody Godfrey #174514	1-4-67	und sen (armed robbery larc of auto) In transit.	
Diagnostic & Class Ctr Jackson Ga	Lee Godfrey #A-43582	1-11-71	Rape (3) Obt Gds Fict N Fraud Cks Arm Rob Arm Rob (2) Utt Forg chks (5) Mal Misch Opr A Intox speeding	10-20-yrs (3CC) 2-7 yrs CC, 2-7 yrs CC, 4-20 yrs CC, 2-20-yrs CC, 12 mos CC, 12 mos CC, 12 mos CC 8 mos CC

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

2-10-76 18 EB

3

48 536 D

The following FBI record, NUMBER **48 536 D**, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.
Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors.
WHERE DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE OR DISPOSITION IS
DESIRED, COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	A43582/36816	7-20-59	discharged	12-18-72

SUPPLEMENT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 11 1976

TELETYPE

NR016 AT PLAIN

7:53 PM URGENT 2-11-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

LEON POWELL INTERVIEWED AND ADVISED EVERY NOW AND THEN HE REMEMBERS ADDITIONAL OR CORRECTING DETAILS REGARDING THE INCIDENT. DISCREPANCIES IN VERSION OF INCIDENT PETE'S BAR, ATLANTA, AS RELATED BY CLAUDE AND HE (LEON) DISCUSSED. [ORIGINAL CONTACT WITH GODFREY WAS APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK BEFORE MEETING WITH RALPH (LNU).] MEETING DEFINITELY OCCURRED IN NOVEMBER OF 1967. MEETING WITH RALPH OCCURRED A FEW DAYS AFTER MEETING WITH GODFREY, HOWEVER, MAYBE NOT A FULL WEEK. DOES NOT REMEMBER SEEING GODFREY IN PETE'S BAR DAY RALPH (LNU) CAME INTO BAR. COULD NOT RECALL ANY SPECIFIC DENOMINATIONS OF THE MONEY IN THE BRIEFCASE, HOWEVER THE BRIEFCASE NOR FULL OF MONEY AND RALPH STATED SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT, "HERE'S 25". RALPH OFFERED THEM "25 NOW AND 50 WHEN HE'S IN THE GRAVE" OR SOMETHING TO THAT EFFECT. TO THE BEST OF LEON POWELL'S MEMORY, RALPH NEVER MENTIONED MARTIN LUTHER KING, BY NAME. LEON STILL DESCRIBED RALPH AS A WHITE MALE, SIX

END PAGE ONE.

*M. J. DeLoach
on Beckman*

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

FOOT ONE INCH, NO ACCENT, LATE FORTIES, WELL-SPOKEN, VERY-WELL DRESSED. LEON NOW RECALLS GODFREY NEVER MADE MENTION OF EXACT AMOUNT OF MONEY DURING ORIGINAL CONTACT. GODFREY STATED "BIG MONEY". LEON CLAIMS RAY GODFREY IS A FRIEND OF BOTH CLAUDE AND HIM, HOWEVER, HE IS PROBABLY MORE CLAUDE'S FRIEND THAN HIS.

[LEON DID NOT HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH GODFREY IN REFERENCE TO ASSASSINATION WHEN CLAUDE WAS NOT PRESENT.] HE HAS NO EXPLANATION WHY HIS STORY DIFFERS FROM CLAUDE'S STORY.

WHEN ASKED IF HE COULD REMEMBER IF PETE DAVIS IN BAR WHEN RALPH WAS THERE, CLAUDE VOLUNTARILY STATED, UPON RECOLLECTION, THE NAME OF THE BAR WAS NOT PETE'S BAR AT THIS TIME. AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, THE NAME OF THE BAR WAS BILL BAILEY'S. DAVIS SOLD THE BAR TO A WOMAN WHO DID NOT HOLD IT VERY LONG AND THEN SHE SOLD IT TO A FELLOW NAMED BAILEY. HOWEVER, MOST OF THE OLD TIMERS STILL CALLED THE BAR PETE'S BAR. CANNOT RECALL WHO WAS IN THE BAR AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT.

LEON ADVISED TO THE BEST OF HIS MEMORY BOTH HE AND HIS BROTHER WERE WORKING FOR RAY COOLEY, AN INDEPENDENT DRY WALL CONTRACTOR, AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. COOLEY IS NOW EMPLOYED BY FISHER DRY WALL, ATLANTA.

END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

LEON SHOWN CORRECTED ARTIST'S CONCEPTION AND STATED TO BEST OF HIS RECOLLECTION IS A GOOD LIKENESS. A DIAGRAM OF THE INTERIOR OF PETE'S BAR PROVIDED BY LEON.

LEON AND CLAUDE TALKED ABOUT THE INCIDENT AT VARIOUS TIMES AFTER IT HAPPENED. THEY TALKED ABOUT THE OFFER SHORTLY AFTER LEON'S WIFE LEFT HIM IN EARLY 1968. THOUGHT THE MONEY WOULD BE NICE BUT DID NOT WANT TO MURDER ANYONE. TALKED ABOUT INCIDENT WHENEVER THEY WERE HARD-UP FOR MONEY. LEON TALKED WITH HIS BROTHER, CLAUDE TWICE WHILE CLAUDE WAS IN TEXAS AFTER HE CONTACTED THE FBI.

POWELL FAMILIAR WITH W. VENABLE, AKA YANK, AND BILL MC GARITY. THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS OWNED THE PROPERTY AND THE BUILDING IN WHICH PETE'S BAR WAS LOCATED. NEITHER VENABLE NOR MC GARITY ARE RALPH.

POWELL QUESTIONED ABOUT FRIENDS OF GODFREY. ONLY REAL CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF GODFREY'S THAT POWELL COULD THINK OF WAS A RELATIVE NAMED LEE GODFREY. LEON WILLING TO TESTIFY TO EVERYTHING HE HAS TOLD THE FBI.

SHERIFF PAUL HIGDON, FANNIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, ADVISED LEE CARROLL GODFREY IS A WHITE MALE, DOB FEBRUARY 19, 1933.
END PAGE THREE.

PAGE FOUR (44-2386)

GODFREY SERVED TIME IN GEORGIA STATE PRISON FOR ARMED ROBBERY AND MURDER. LEE GODFREY WAS ARRESTED ON DECEMBER 23, 1974 BY FANNIN COUNTY FOR THEFT BY RECEIVING. LEE GODFREY MADE BOND, FAILED TO SHOW FOR TRIAL AND WHEREABOUTS NOW ARE UNKNOWN AND IS IN FUGITIVE STATUS. FBI IDENT RECORD OBTAINED FOR LEE CARROLL GODFREY, FBI NUMBER 485 360 D. HAS NOT SERVED TIME OUTSIDE STATE OF GEORGIA ALTHOUGH HAS NOT SERVED TIME OUTSIDE STATE OF GEORGIA ALTHOUGH HAS ARRESTS IN FLORIDA AND NORTH CAROLINA.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. RECONTACT CITY OF ATLANTA IN REGARD TO WORK RECORD FOR ARNOLD RAY GODFREY.

END.

PLS HOLD

Civil Rights Division

February 11, 1976
ATTN: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

my

February 9, 1976

February 3, 1976

AT

Thomas J. Wilson

B. x HNH:mlr

3
NOTE: Also attached are copies of Atlanta teletypes dated 2/9/76 and 2/10/76. Arnold Ray Godfrey, 1105 Lakeshore Drive, Jonesboro, Georgia, telephone 477-5036, was telephonically contacted on 1/16/76, and requested to submit to a polygraph examination at which time he stated, "I'm innocent, I don't want to talk to the FBI any further". Godfrey stated if the FBI is interested in pursuing this matter any further, he will not talk unless the FBI contacts his attorney, Jack V. Dorsey, 934-8921, or 633-9607.

On 1/19/76, LEON OWEN POWELL, 2786 Aiston Drive, Apartment 9, Decatur, Georgia, telephonically contacted the Atlanta Office of the FBI, advising he was sick and desired to postpone his polygraph examination until the week of 1/26 - 30/76.

On 1/29/76, LEON OWEN POWELL voluntarily appeared at the Atlanta Office of the FBI to submit to a polygraph examination. POWELL was advised of his rights by SA JOHN B. REYNOLDS as shown on a warning and waiver of rights form, which he signed after reading. POWELL also executed a consent or waiver to take a polygraph examination form.

On 1/29/76, at 7:45 PM, LEON OWEN POWELL, after executing FD-328 (Polygraph Consent Form), was afforded a polygraph examination in the Atlanta Office of the FBI. Assisting in the collateral interview was SA AUGUST W. BULFER. POWELL, during pre-polygraph interview, substantially furnished the same information as in previous interviews with the exception to information concerning money offered by GODFREY. POWELL, according to his recollection, stated GODFREY never mentioned the amount of money to be paid, but indicated he stated he was looking for someone who was interested in making "big money". Also, GODFREY indicated "big money" would be paid for killing MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. POWELL previously stated GODFREY made the statement \$50,000 was to be paid. However, when going over the polygraph questions to be asked him, he requested that the amount be deleted from the question and the words "big money" be substituted for \$50,000. According to POWELL, the conversation with GODFREY came about while they were sitting in Pete's Bar during the fall of 1967, and the conversation was concerning MARTIN LUTHER KING's activities at which time someone stated KING should be killed and POWELL's brother, CLAUDE POWELL, made a statement to the effect that he would kill him for the right amount of money. POWELL advised a couple of days after the initial conversation with GODFREY while they were in Pete's Bar, a white male entered the bar inquiring about the POWELLS. After locating them, he stated he came to talk to them concerning a matter that had previously been discussed, after they acknowledged in the affirmative that they knew why he was there. The white male, whom POWELL identified as RALPH, then asked if they were ready to go through with it.

POWELL stated this white male never mentioned the killing of KING or discussed how the killing would take place, but only displayed a small briefcase which contained a large amount of money. One question of the polygraph examination was "Did RALPH say he had \$25,000 in the briefcase?". However, POWELL stated RALPH never indicated the exact amount, only stating he had "twenty-five". POWELL, when questioned as to whether he meant \$2,500 or \$25,000, stated RALPH never did state the amount but he realized that that much money in that size briefcase would have to be at least \$25,000. RALPH also made the statement that there would be "fifty more" when MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was buried. However, when he questioned them as to whether or not they would go through with it, CLAUDE POWELL stated they would have to think about it, at which time RALPH departed the bar stating if they had not made up their minds by that time, he could not do business with them.

POWELL was afforded four separate examinations, the first being a card test where POWELL viewed three different cards of different colors but was advised to deliberately lie to the color of two of these cards. It was noted the results of this examination indicated no significant reaction to these questions and this test was inconclusive.

Examinations two, three, and four, all containing relevant, irrelevant and control questions, the relevant questions concerning statements made by GODFREY and contact by RALPH, were also inconclusive, in that POWELL did not react significantly to any one of these questions. POWELL did react to two questions concerning GODFREY, particularly the questions, "Did GODFREY ever ask you if you were interested in making big money?", and "Did GODFREY tell you the big money was to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.?" The reaction indicated on the chart was not significantly strong enough to draw a conclusion as to deception and it is possible this reaction could be attributable to POWELL's changing his story from the original interview of GODFREY making the statement concerning \$50,000 to now stating "big money".

During the polygraph examination, POWELL appeared to have difficulty breathing and the upper pneumograph had to be continually adjusted by the examiner. POWELL did not appear overly nervous, did not display any outward sign of emotion, but did state all during the polygraph that he was very nervous concerning this whole matter and that he had a hard time breathing

properly, particularly as the polygraph examination progressed. When questioned concerning responses indicated on the chart, POWELL would only state that he was telling the truth, and that he told all he knew and could recall concerning this incident. POWELL indicated he had a high school equivalency degree, however, he appeared to be of limited intelligence and appeared to be much older than forty years of age. During questioning, he admitted to doing a lot of beer drinking, however, denied drinking anything during the day of the examination.

A review of these charts reflects that POWELL responded generally in the same manner to all questions asked with no significant response to any individual question whereby a conclusion could be drawn as to his being truthful or untruthful. Therefore, these polygraph examinations were determined to be inconclusive.

On 1/19/76, at 8:15 PM, CLAUDE POWELL, JR., was afforded a polygraph examination by SA LOREN K. LEE, of the San Antonio Division of the FBI, who was unassisted in the collateral interview.

POWELL's "yes" responses to questions, "Did someone offer you and LEON \$50,000 to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.?", and "Did someone ask you to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.?", were less than responses to control question, indicating POWELL is truthtelling in stating someone did, in fact, offer him and his brother \$50,000 to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. POWELL's "no" response to question, "Do you know who asked you and LEON to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.?" and his reactions following the answer indicate a possible knowledge regarding the unidentified person mentioned in the above questions.

POWELL was left with the impression that results of the polygraph examination were unclear and that the strong possibility existed wherein the FBI would request an additional test in the immediate future. Results of the test were not discussed in any way with POWELL nor was interrogation effected.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA THOMAS J. WILSON Office: ATLANTA
Date: FEBRUARY 3, 1976
Field Office File #: 44-2386 Bureau File #: 44-38861
Title: MURKIN
Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis:

On 1/4/76, LEON OWEN POWELL interviewed and advised in late October or early November, 1967, he and his brother, CLAUDE POWELL, JR., were approached by a mutual friend, RAY GODFREY, regarding the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. A week after this initial meeting, an individual named RALPH (LNU), contacted he and his brother and advised them he would pay \$75,000 to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. The POWELLS turned the offer down and have not seen RALPH (LNU) since then. CLAUDE POWELL, JR., interviewed at Midland, Texas, and furnished same information. RAY GODFREY located and interviewed and stated he never talked to POWELL brothers about murdering MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and furthermore, has no knowledge of any individual named RALPH. Other relatives of POWELLS contacted and advised both LEON and CLAUDE POWELL are hard drinkers and question veracity of statements.

- P -

DETAILS:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE ATLANTA	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 2/3/76	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 1/4/76 - 1/29/76
TITLE OF CASE MURKIN		REPORT MADE BY SA THOMAS J. WILSON	TYPED BY :CW
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

REFERENCES: Atlanta teletype to the Bureau, 1/5/76, and Bureau teletype to Atlanta, 1/6/76.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, 1105 Lakeshore Drive, Jonesboro, Georgia, telephone 477-5036, was telephonically contacted on 1/16/76, and requested to submit to a polygraph examination at which time he stated "I'm innocent, I don't want to talk to the FBI any further".

GODFREY stated if the FBI is interested in pursuing this matter any further, he will not talk unless the FBI contacts his attorney JACK V. DORSEY, 934-8921, or 633-9607.

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 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
COPIES MADE: (2) - Bureau (44-38861) 2 - El Paso (44-920) 2 - Memphis (44-1987) 2 - Atlanta (44-2386)				

Dissemination Record of Attached Report					Notations
Agency					
Request Recd.					
Date Fwd.					
How Fwd.					
By					

COVER PAGE

AT 44-2386

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- B -
COVER PAGE

AT 44-2386

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- C -
COVER PAGE

AT 44-2386

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LEADS:

ATLANTA DIVISION

- D -
COVER PAGE

AT 44-2386

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

Will recontact LEON OWEN POWELL and display to him revised artist's conception and ascertain if identical with RALPH (Last Name Unknown).

- E* -
COVER PAGE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 10 1976

TELETYPE

Handwritten signature/initials
Mykelan

NR011 AT PLAIN

9:03 PM URGENT 2-10-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL FEBRUARY 9, 1976.

RE ON THIS DATE, CAPTAIN WORTHY, PERMIT SECTION, ATLANTA PD, REVIEWED THE APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR AND BEER AND WINE LICENSES FOR THE BUSINESS LOCATED AT 1455 MORELAND AVENUE, ATLANTA, GEORGIA. IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT 1455 MORELAND AVENUE WAS THE STREET ADDRESS FOR PETE'S BAR. WORTHY ADVISED THAT STARTING IN DECEMBER, 1962, UNTIL SEPTEMBER, 1964, HOWARD MALCOLM CABE, SR., 363 ELMIRA PLACE, HELD THE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR THE BUSINESS LOCATED AT 1455 MORELAND AVENUE. CAPTAIN WORTHY PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING NAMES AS THE PROGRESSIVE OWNERS OF THE LICENSE LOCATED AT 1455 MORELAND AVENUE: WILLIAM POPE DAVIS, OCTOBER, 1964 THROUGH NOVEMBER, 1965; C. H. HARRISON, NOVEMBER, 1965 THROUGH SEPTEMBER, 1966; ROY T. BAILEY, SEPTEMBER, 1966 THROUGH JANUARY, 1968; LEWIS W. CLARK, JANUARY, 1968 THROUGH DECEMBER 1974; BARBARA AND DEWEY GILBERT, DECEMBER, 1974 THROUGH SEPTEMBER,
END PAGE ONE.

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

1975; WILLIAM JORDAN MESIMER, SEPTEMBER, 1975 THROUGH THE PRESENT TIME. PERMIT RECORDS FURTHER SHOWS THAT IN FEBRUARY AND OCTOBER, 1967, BAR LOCATED AT 1455 MORELAND AVENUE WAS NAMED "BILL BAILEY'S". THE REASON WORTHY KNEW THIS WAS THE PERMIT SECTION SENT NOTICES OF VIOLATIONS AT THIS TIME TO THAT LOCATION.

CAPTAIN WORTHY STATED THAT PETE DAVIS, AKA W. P. DAVIS, COULD HAVE RUN OR MANAGED THE BAR IN 1967 AND 1968, HOWEVER, THE ACTUAL PAPERWORK FOR THE LIQUOR LICENSE SHOWS THAT IT WAS OWNED BY ROY T. BAILEY AND LEWIS W. CLAK.

ARRANGEMENTS MADE WITH LEON POWELL TO CONDUCT INTERVIEW EITHER DURING LATE HOURS OF FEBRUARY 10, 1976 OR EARLY MORNING HOURS OF FEBRUARY 11, 1976.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. RECONTACT CITY HALL, ASCERTAIN IF POSSIBLE, TO SHOW THAT GODFREY WAS IN TOWN DURING OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, 1967.

END.

PLS HOLD

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 09 1976

TELETYPE

NR012 AT PLAIN

9:50 PM URGENT 2-9-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
MEMPHIS (44-1987)
EL PASO (44-920)
FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)
MURKIN.

*M. J. ...
Jy ...*

RE ATLANTA TEL TO THE BUREAU, FEBRUARY 6, 1976.

ON FEBRUARY 9, 1976, DOROTHY DAVIS, LOCUST GROVE, GEORGIA ADVISED ALL PERSONAL RECORDS DESTROYED REGARDING PETE'S BAR. SHE WAS NOT PRIVY TO ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE OPERATION OF THE BAR. HER HUSBAND DID NOT TELL HER OF ANY INCIDENTS AT THE BAR. SHE WAS NOT SURE OF THE EXACT DATES HER HUSBAND OWNED THE BAR BUT THOUGHT POSSIBLE HER HUSBAND DIVESTED HIMSELF OF OWNERSHIP IN 1966 HOWEVER COULD HAVE BEEN 1967. SHE CANNOT REMEMBER EXACT DATES. SHE DOES NOT KNOW NAMES OF ANY EMPLOYEES.

CONTINUED EFFORTS TO LOCATE POWELL NEGATIVE.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. (1) LOCATE AND INTERVIEW POWELL.
(2) WILL THROUGH CITY RECORDS ATTEMPT TO TRACE OWNERSHIP OF PETE'S BAR.

END.

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

Civil Rights Division

February 9, 1976
ATTN: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

my

February 3, 1976

B. x HNH:mlr

4
NOTE: Attached are copies of teletypes from Atlanta dated 2/5/76, El Paso dated 2/6/76, Atlanta dated 2/6/76, and Knoxville dated 2/7/76.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 06 1976

TELETYPE

*Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Ponder*

NR021 AT PLAIN

6:07 PM URGENT 2-6-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

KNOXVILLE

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL TO THE DIRECTOR, FEBRUARY 5, 1976. FOR THE INFORMATION OF KNOXVILLE, LEON POWELL, A RESIDENT OF ATLANTA, CONTACTED THE ATLANTA OFFICE ON JANUARY 4, 1976 AND ADVISED HE AND HIS BROTHER, CLAUDE POWELL, JR. WERE APPROACHED BY AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED ARNOLD RAY GODFREY IN LATE NOVEMBER, 1967 WITH AN OFFER TO ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FOR A SUM OF MONEY. GODFREY ALLEGEDLY PUT THEM IN CONTACT WITH A RALPH (LNU) WHO OFFERED THE POWELL'S \$75,000 TO ASSASSINATE KING. THE POWELLS REFUSED THE OFFER. LEON AND CLAUDE POWELL HAVE BEEN POLYGRAPHED. LEON'S POLYGRAPH WAS INCONCLUSIVE, HOWEVER, EXAMINER FOR CLAUDE POWELL WAS OF OPINION POWELL TELLING TRUTH. ARNOLD RAY GODFREY DENIES INVOLVEMENT, HOWEVER, REFUSED POLYGRAPH AND HAS SINCE HIRED ATTORNEY AND REFUSED TO ANSWER FURTHER QUESTION. GODFREY IS A WHITE MALE, BORN JUNE 11, 1930 AT COPPER HILL, TENNESSEE.
END PAGE ONE.

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

EFFORTS TO LOCATE LEON POWELL ON THIS DATE STILL NEGATIVE. POWELL'S DAUGHTER-IN-LAW CONTACTED AND ADVISED SHE HAS NOT SEEN HER FATHER-IN-LAW SINCE HE LEFT HER RESIDENCE. SHE WOULD ATTEMPT TO LOCATE HIM AND ADVISE HIM TO CONTACT THE ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI.

MRS. L. N. PENNINGTON, DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, CITY OF ATLANTA, REVIEWED HER RECORDS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. THE RECORDS SHOW THAT GODFREY HAS A WIFE NAMED MILLIE. NO OTHER RELATIVES ARE LISTED ON THE EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION. EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION WAS FILED IN 1949 AND THE FOLLOWING REFERENCES WERE NOTED: FRANK WALDON, ROUTE 1, COPPER HILL, TENNESSEE; WALTER STYNUS, ROUTE 1, COPPER HILL; CLAUDE CRANFORD, ROUTE 1, COPPER HILL. RECORDS FURTHER REFLECT THAT GODFREY WENT THROUGH THE FIFTH GRADE AT COPPER HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

CLINTON STANFORD, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, ENVIRONMENT AND STREET SERVICES, CITY OF ATLANTA, WAS CONTACTED AND ADVISED ALL RECORDS CONCERNING THE EXACT DAYS WORKED BY ANY CITY EMPLOYEES ARE CURRENTLY STORED IN A VAULT AT CITY HALL. HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO LOCATE THESE RECORDS AND VERIFY THE WHEREABOUTS OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY DURING THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

1967, AND MARCH AND APRIL, 1968 HE STATED HE WOULD TELEPHONICALLY CONTACT THE FBI OFFICE WHEN HE LOCATED THESE RECORDS.

KNOXVILLE AT COPPER HILL. WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE REFERENCES FOR ARNOLD RAY GODFREY AND ALSO ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY RELATIVES OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, HAS REQUESTED THAT GODFREY'S RELATIVES, ASSOCIATES BE IDENTIFIED AND INTERVIEWED CONCERNING ANY ASSOCIATE OF GODFREY NAMED RALPH.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW LEON POWELL.

END.

PLS HOLD

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 07 1976

TELETYPE

NR003 KX PLAIN

415 PM URGENT FEB. 7, 1976 DCK

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM KNOXVILLE (44-696) (RUC)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR FEB. 6, 1976.

LOIS WALDEN GODFREY AND HUSBAND, ROBERT K. GODFREY,
ROUTE ONE, GRASSY CREEK ROAD, COPPER HILL, TENN., INTER-
VIEWED FEB. 7, 1976. GODFREY STATED ENTIRE FAMILY MOVED
TO ATLANTA, GA. AREA IN LATE 1940'S AND HE IS ONLY
MEMBER OF FAMILY CURRENT IN TENN.

HE ADVISED HIS MOTHER, MARY GODFREY, RESIDES WITH
HIS SISTER, SHIRLEY BULLOCK, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, BUT THAT
BULLOCK CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE MARIETTA, GA. SCHOOL
BOARD WHERE SHE IS EMPLOYED DIRECTING TRAFFIC AT SCHOOL
CROSSINGS. OTHER SISTERS, MRS. R. L. (EDNA) ENSLEY AND
MRS. IRA (EDNA) SMITH, RESIDE ON ROUTE ONE, BLUE RIDGE, GA.
BROTHER, JAMES T. GODFREY, ALSO RESIDES ROUTE ONE, BLUE

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

PAGE TWO

KX 44-696

RIDGE, GA. MRS. GODFREY ADVISED OTHER BROTHER, [LEE
[CARROLL GODFREY, HAS IN THE PAST BEEN INVOLVED IN
CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND HAS USED THE NAME ARNOLD RAY
GODFREY IN THE PAST. ACCORDING TO THE GODFREYS, LEE
CARROLL GODFREY'S WHEREABOUTS PRESENTLY UNKNOWN, HOWEVER,
WAS INCARCERATED AT BLUE RIDGE COUNTY JAIL DURING CHRISTMAS,
1974. THEY ALSO ADVISED THAT IN NOV. 1975, ANOTHER BROTHER,
RAY S. GODFREY, DIED AND EFFORTS TO LOCATE LEE GODFREY
AT THAT TIME NEGATIVE. LEE GODFREY IN THE BLUE RIDGE, GA.
AREA SINCE NOV. AND RELATIVES BELIEVE HE IS RESIDING IN
ELLIJAY, GA. NEITHER LOIS OR ROBERT GODFREY ACQUAINTED
WITH A RALPH (LNU) AND STATED THAT BROTHER ARNOLD HAS
NOT RESIDED IN THE COPPER HILL AREA IN 27 YEARS AND HAS NO
ASSOCIATES IN THE AREA. THEY ADVISED ARNOLD MARRIED TO
MILLIE CAMERON AFTER MOVING TO ATLANTA.

REFERENCES FRANK WALDEN, WALTER STYMUS AND CLAUDE
CRAWFORD LISTED AS REFERENCES BY ARNOLD IN 1949 WERE
NEIGHBORS OF THE GODFREY FAMILY IN COPPER HILL PRIOR TO

PAGE THREE

KX 44-696

MOVING TO ATLANTA. LOIS GODFREY ADVISED ARNOLD NOT IN CONTACT WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS SINCE MOVING TO ATLANTA.

LEAD. ATLANTA. AT MARIETTA AND BLUE RIDGE, GA. LOCATE AND INTERVIEW RELATIVES OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY CONCERNING ASSOCIATE BY THE NAME OF RALPH (LNU). ALSO ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS OF BROTHER, LEE CARROLL GODFREY, WHITE MALE, AGE 42, AND SET FORTH LEADS TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW HIM CONCERNING INSTANT MATTER.

END

SJP FBIHQ CLR AND TKS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 06 1976

^{low}
TELETYPE

NR001 EP PLAIN

11:35AM URGENT FEBRUARY 6, 1976 GJP

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM EL PASO (44-920) (P)

MURKIN

RE BUREAU NITEL DATED FEBRUARY 3, 1976.

CLAUDE POWELL, JR. RECONTACTED LATE PM FEBRUARY 5, 1976, SCOTTISH INN, ROOM 211, MIDLAND, TEXAS. DISCREPANCIES IN VERSION OF INCIDENT PETE'S BAR, ATLANTA, AS RELATED BY LEON AND HE (CLAUDE) DISCUSSED. CLAUDE STATED ANY DISCREPANCIES ARE RESULT OF PASSAGE OF TIME SINCE INCIDENT AND HIS STATEMENT IS ACCURATE IN HIS RECOLLECTION. HE CLARIFIED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GODFREY, STATING GODFREY WAS A FRIEND WHOM HE HAD KNOWN FOR MANY YEARS BUT GODFREY WAS MORE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH AND A BETTER FRIEND OF LEON. CLAUDE ALSO COMMENTED HE HAD LATER LEARNED GODFREY MADE AN INITIAL CONTACT WITH LEON APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE UNKNOWN WHITE MALE'S PROPOSITION TO MURDER KING, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE MEETING AT PETE'S BAR UNTIL THE UNKNOWN MALE SEATED HIMSELF AND MADE THE OFFER, NOR DID HE HAVE ANY PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT TRANSPIRED BETWEEN

END PAGE ONE

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PAGE TWO

GODFREY AND LEON.

OTHER THAN THESE CHANGES, CLAUDE STANDS BY HIS ORIGINAL STATEMENT, EMPHASIZING THAT HIS STATEMENT MAY DIFFER IN SOME ASPECTS WITH LEON'S STATEMENT, BUT THE FACT IS BOTH HE AND LEON WITNESSED AN OFFER OF A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF MONEY TO MURDER KING BY AN UNKNOWN WHITE MALE.

IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED:

HE AND LEON TALKED FREQUENTLY ABOUT THE ALLEGED MEETING AT PETE'S BAR AFTER THE MEETING OCCURRED, BUT AS TIME PASSED, THEY TALKED ABOUT THE MEETING WITH LESS FREQUENCY. CLAUDE STATED HE COULD NOT GIVE ANY NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO COULD VERIFY THAT HE AND LEON WERE IN ATLANTA AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING, BUT STATED HE AND LEON WORKED TOGETHER AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING AND HAVE DONE SO UNTIL APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS AGO. BOTH HE AND LEON WERE RESIDING AT DECATUR, GEORGIA AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING. A DIAGRAM OF THE INTERIOR OF PETE'S BAR WAS PROVIDED BY CLAUDE. CLAUDE STATED THAT THE UNKNOWN

END PAGE TWO

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PAGE THREE

WHITE MALE DID NOT HAVE ANY TYPE OF ACCENT. CLAUDE DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNIDENTIFIED PERSON WHO ALLEGEDLY MADE THE PROPOSITION TO MURDER KING.

CLAUDE ADMITTED TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH HIS BROTHER AFTER FIRST INTERVIEW BY FBI AT MIDLAND. CLAUDE STATED HE DISCUSSED THE INTERVIEW BY THE FBI AT MIDLAND.

RECORDS OF SCOTTISH INN FOR OUTGOING CALLS DO NOT REFLECT ANY TELEPHONE CALLS MADE BY CLAUDE POWELL, JR. IT IS NOTED THAT AS MANY AS FOUR INDIVIDUALS STAYED TOGETHER IN THE MOTEL ROOM OCCUPIED BY POWELL, BUT AT THE PRESENT TIME POWELL HAS ONLY ONE ROOMMATE. EL PASO OBTAINED LIST OF ALL LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALLS FOR ROOM 211.

EL PASO WILL SHOW ARTISTS CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) UPON RECEIPT.

FD-302 FOLLOWS.

END

EGB ACK FBIHQ

*On 2/11/75
R/S Ed Murphy
El Paso, told to
make sure
Cowan's are
being interviewed
LNU*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 05 1976

TELETYPE

*McDermott
O-Palmer*

NR018 AT PLAIN

8:25 PM NITEL 2-5-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
SAC, EL PASO (44-920)
SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN

RE AT TELETYPE TO BU, FEB. 4, 1976.

DOROTHY DAVIS CONTACTED AND ADVISED HAS NO RECORDS
RE PETE'S BAR. ALL RECORDS DESTROYED. ARRANGEMENTS MADE
TO FULLY INTERVIEW DAVIS ON MONDAY, FEB. 9, 1976.

ARRANGEMENTS MADE WITH PERSONNEL DEPT., CITY OF ATLANTA,
TO INTERVIEW DIRECTOR, MRS. PENNINGTON, ON FEB. 6, 1976.

ADDITIONAL ATTEMPTS MADE ON THIS DAY TO INTERVIEW LEON
POWELL WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND
INTERVIEW LEON POWELL. INTERVIEW MRS. PENNINGTON RE BACKGROUND
OF GODFREY.

END.

PLS ACK FOR SIX

CBL FBIHQ ACK FOR NR014, 018, 020, 021, 022, 028.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 04 1976

TELETYPE

*Mr. Smith
on Beckman*

NR014 AT PLAIN

7:24 PM URGENT 2-4-76 HLFW

TO: DIRECTOR (44-33861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE BUREAU NITEL TO ATLANTA, FEBRUARY 3, 1976.

EFFORTS TO LOCATE LEON POWELL THIS DATE NEGATIVE. MESSAGE LEFT AT PLACE OF RESIDENCE TO IMMEDIATELY CONTACT FBI, ATLANTA, UPON RETURN. EFFORTS ALSO NEGATIVE IN CONTACTING DOROTHY DAVIS REGARDING ANY RECORDS OF FORMER EMPLOYEES OF PETE'S BAR. MESSAGE ALSO LEFT AT DAVIS' RESIDENCE TO CONTACT FBI, ATLANTA, UPON RETURN.

OTHER LEADS BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL ARTIST'S CONCEPTION IS SHOWN TO POWELL.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW LEON POWELL REGARDING DIFFERENCES IN ORIGINAL INTERVIEWS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HIS BROTHER. DISPLAY ARTIST'S CONCEPTION TO POWELL AND ASCERTAIN IF IDENTICAL WITH RALPH (LNU).

END.

HOLD FOR ONE

TKR FBIHQ 3

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

Mr. Gallagher

2/3/76

J. S. Peelman

MURKIN

1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Gallagher
1 - Mr. O'Connell
1 - Mr. Peelman
① - Mr. Heltterhoff
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Wannall
1 - Mr. Cochran
(Attn: Mr. Balog)

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 Dr. King.

BACKGROUND: 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 (made in January, 1976) by Leon Owen Powell and his brother, Claude Powell, Jr., that prior to the assassination of Dr. King, they were offered payment to murder Dr. King.

Leon Owen Powell claims he and Claude Powell, Jr., while in an Atlanta bar in October - November, 1967, were approached by a mutual friend, Ray Godfrey, who asked the Powells if they were interested in making \$50,000. Godfrey told them he would put them in contact with an individual who would pay them to murder King. Approximately one week later at the same bar, the Powells were approached by an individual named Ralph (last name unknown), who said "I guess you know why I'm here" and subsequently 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." Powell said they told Ralph they needed time to think it over. Ralph replied "if your mind is not made up now, I can't do business with you." Powell said

44-38861

NNH:bap (10)

CONTINUED - OVER