

Director, FBI (44-38861)

6/10/70

Legat, London (88-72) (RUC)

MURKIN

Enclosed are two copies each of the following documents:

1. Letter from the Law Offices of FENSTERWALD and OHLHAUSEN to New Scotland Yard dated 5/19/70.
2. Letter from Bow Street Magistrate's Court dated 5/14/70 to FENSTERWALD and OHLHAUSEN.

It should be noted that item #1 reflects these individuals claim to be attorneys for JAMES EARL RAY, and they ask to borrow certain exhibits used in the extradition proceedings. Item #2 refers the attorneys to New Scotland Yard.

New Scotland Yard furnished copies of the enclosed items and advised that they do not intend to reply to the law firm.

Above furnished for information.

3 - Bureau (Encls. 4)  
1 - Liaison  
1 - London  
JTM:cm  
(5)

*Assass folder*

May 26, 1970

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
CIVIL RIGHTS

XX(G)EJM/rif

NOTE: Enclosed is a copy of amended petition of James Earl Ray and a copy of an affidavit prepared by SA Frank Hitt relative to obtaining evidence at rooming house in Atlanta. Copy of this affidavit is being filed in Criminal Court, Shelby County, Tennessee.

5/22/70

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-3386)(F)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel, 5/18/70.

Enclosed for Bureau are three (3) copies of affidavit prepared by SAC, Atlanta in response to instructions in reairtel. In addition, enclosure to Atlanta in reairtel is attached.

Original and two copies of above-described affidavit are enclosed for Memphis. Original should be furnished to Criminal Court, Shelby County, Tenn. by Memphis Office.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)  
2 - Memphis (44-1387)(Enc. 3)  
2 - Atlanta  
FVH:mal/lcc  
(6)

*Assassination  
Folder*

May 1, 1970

**CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION**

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

**XXX(G)EJM/rif**

**NOTE:** <sup>*copy of*</sup> Enclosed is an affidavit being filed in the Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tenn.



4/28/70

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re your airtel 4/21/70.

Enclosed are 2 copies of an affidavit prepared and signed by the SAC, Memphis, refuting the allegations set forth in JERRY RAY's affidavit. The original will be furnished to the Clerk of the Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tennessee, on 5/8/70, UACB.

② - Bureau (Enc. 1)  
1 - Memphis  
JCH:jap  
(3)

Memphis, Tennessee

April 28, 1970

I, ROBERT G. JENSEN, Special Agent in Charge of the Memphis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, being duly sworn, do hereby make the following free and voluntary statement to CLIFTON O. HALTER, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Memphis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, regarding allegations made by JERRY RAY in an affidavit filed April 13, 1970, in the Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tennessee, which affidavit is part of a Petition For Post Conviction Relief filed April 13, 1970, styled, "JAMES EARL RAY, Petitioner, vs. State of Tennessee and LEWIS TOLLETT, Warden of State Penitentiary at Petros, Tennessee, Defendants."

JERRY RAY has alleged in his affidavit that during the period that PERCY FOREMAN was the attorney representing the Petitioner JAMES EARL RAY that "the Prosecution and/or the F.B.I. was bribing witnesses, specifically a man by the name of STEVENS who the prosecution was bribing by offering him a large sum of money as a reward."

As the Special Agent in Charge of the Memphis Office during the period of the investigation of the murder

of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and as the person directly responsible for the overall supervision of this investigation, I am fully qualified to and do state that at no time did the Federal Bureau of Investigation or any of its Special Agents or other employees offer a bribe or a reward to any witness in this investigation.

It is presumed that the witness STEVENS mentioned in JERRY RAY's affidavit is CHARLES QUITMAN STEPHENS, who was a tenant in the rooming house at 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, on the date that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was murdered. As stated above, no person representing the Federal Bureau of Investigation has ever offered any bribe or reward to obtain testimony from CHARLES QUITMAN STEPHENS.

151 *Robert G. Jensen*  
ROBERT G. JENSEN  
Special Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Memphis, Tennessee

Sworn to and subscribed before me on April 28, 1970,  
at Memphis, Tennessee.

1st *Clifton O. Halter*  
CLIFTON O. HALTER  
Assistant Special Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Memphis, Tennessee

WITNESS:  
*Crville V. Johnson*  
CRVILLE V. JOHNSON  
Special Agent, FBI

3/26

February 12, 1970

**CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION**

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

my

1/26/70

----- memorandum  
Memphis

-----  
2/6/70

*EJM*  
XX(G)~~ESP~~/rif

2-6-70

AIRTEL

AM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN

ReBuAirtel 2/3/70.

Submitted herewith is LHM suitable for dissemination.

In addition to previous information received and furnished the Bureau we are incorporating recent information received from Clerk PARKER.

② BUREAU (Enc. 4)(AM)  
1 CINCINNATI (Enc. 1)(AM)  
1 MEMPHIS

RGJ:BN  
(4)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee  
February 6, 1970

RE: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

By letter dated January 28, 1970, John A. Parker, Clerk of the Supreme Court, State of Tennessee, furnished a copy of a letter which had been forwarded by him to Mr. Robert C. Cole, Veterans Administration Hospital, Chillicothe, Ohio. This letter is set forth as follows:

"January 28, 1970

"Mr. Robert C. Cole  
Veterans Hospital  
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

Re: STATE OF TENNESSEE  
vs.  
JAMES EARL RAY  
Shelby County - Murder

"Dear Sir:

"I have received your letter addressed to the Supreme Court of Tennessee dated January 27, 1970, but postmarked January 26, 1970, at Chillicothe, Ohio.

"Inasmuch as you claim to have been with James Earl Ray before he was supposed to have shot Martin Luther King, I am relaying copies of your letter of January 27th to appropriate investigative and prosecutive agencies who have a possible interest in this matter.

"Yours truly,

/s/ John A. Parker  
Clerk of the Court

cc: Hon. David M. Pack  
Attorney General of Tennessee  
Supreme Court Bldg.  
Nashville, Tenn. 37219 (Encl.)



Re: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

-2-

"cc: Hon. Phil M. Canale, Jr.  
District Attorney General  
Shelby County Court House  
Memphis, Tenn. 38101 (Encl.)

"cc: Hon. Ross W. Dyer, Chief Justice  
Supreme Court of Tennessee  
Halls, Tenn. 38040 (Encl.)(Info)

"cc: Mr. Harry J. Morgan, SAC  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
415 U. S. Post Office & Court House Bldg.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 (Encl.)

"cc: Mr. Robert G. Jensen, SAC  
F. B. I.  
841 Federal Office Bldg.  
Memphis, Tenn. 38103 (Encl.)

"cc: Gov. Buford Ellington  
State Capitol  
Nashville, Tenn. 37219 (Encl.)"

As an enclosure to the above-quoted letter, Mr. PARKER furnished a Xerox of a letter which he had received from Robert C. Cole dated January 27, 1970. This letter is set forth hereafter:

"January 27, 1970

"Dear Sir:

"I was very sad and disappointed, when you denied James Earl Ray a new trial. I can see now, very clearly that you and the people of the State of Tennessee and the Federal Government are afraid of the truth. You are afraid of trouble from negroes, if the truth is told. I was with James Earl Ray, before

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Re: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

-3-

"He was suppose to have shot Martin Luther King. Under circumstances, that will prove a giant conspiracy, by many people to kill Martin King. I told the Cincinnati, Ohio FBI Office about Ray the first part of May 1968. Governor Kilington of Tennessee also knows my story. I told Judge William Preston Battle my story about 2 weeks before Ray's trial and everything went wrong for him. Because you people are afraid of the truth to be told. I believe that Ray deserves a new trial with me as a witness. I hope to hear from you soon, if you are not too cowardly to answer.

"Yours truly,

/s/ Robert C. Cole"

On December 4, 1968, PHIL M. CANALE, JR., District Attorney, Shelby County, Tennessee, advised the Memphis Office of the FBI that Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE (who was Presiding Judge in this matter) reported the following information to him:

At approximately 1 a.m. on December 4, 1968, Judge BATTLE received a telephone call at his residence from a person who identified himself as ROBERT CLAYTON COLE of 1037 North Second Street, Hamilton, Ohio, Telephone 1-513-895-9878. COLE reportedly told Judge BATTLE that on January 5, 1968, he was with RAY in Winchester, Virginia, traveling in a truck. A red Volkswagen with red license plates was following the truck. According to COLE, RAY had killed a Negro who was a known communist and whom Mr. J. EDGAR HOOVER had called a liar. COLE stated he was interested in seeing that RAY gets a fair trial.

Mr. CANALE further advised that Judge BATTLE stated in his opinion COLE at the time he talked to Judge BATTLE on the telephone was under the influence of alcohol or something else, or could possibly have been a mental case.

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Re: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

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On June 24, 1968, ROBERT CLAYTON COLE was interviewed by representatives of the Cincinnati Office of the FBI. COLE at that time was located at an address of 137 North Second Street, Hamilton, Ohio. During the course of the interview, ROBERT CLAYTON COLE advised he was a chronic alcoholic who received a \$79.00 per month pension check from the U. S. Government from a non-service-connected injury. He also stated he has received this money since about 1956, after having been discharged from the service due to extreme nervousness. He claimed no employment on a regular basis since about 1956 and also claimed he had received 100% disability payment from the Social Security Administration since he is unable to work due to nervousness. He stated he had been in the Veterans Hospital at Cincinnati, Ohio, on two occasions for nervousness and his alcoholic problem. He also said that he had been committed on one occasion to the Longview Mental Hospital at Cincinnati, Ohio. In addition, COLE advised he had been confined at the Veterans Hospital at Chillicothe, Ohio, approximately thirty times for the same reason.

After furnishing this background information he furnished this story:

Around 12/25/67, he began to drink heavily, and around 1/2/68, after being drunk for approximately 6 days, he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, and obtained a room at the Fort Washington Hotel. He had received his \$79 check from the Government on 1/2/68, and after arriving at Cincinnati, he continued to drink heavily at the Bayhouse Tavern. On approximately 1/3/68, he was still drunk and had spent all of his money and spent that night in the Newport, Kentucky Jail in protective custody. He was released on 1/4/68, and again returned to the Bayhorse Tavern where he "bummed" more drinks. He met an FNU MURPHY, whom he had known at the VA Hospital at Chillicothe, and MURPHY invited him to go to Richmond, Virginia, where he knew a woman that would reportedly take care of them.

They left Cincinnati, Ohio, on 1/4/68, in an old white Ford which belonged to MURPHY. It was cold and snowing heavily, and the car's heater was inoperative. When they reached the vicinity of Winchester, Virginia, COLE got out of the vehicle because he was cold. MURPHY continued on towards Richmond in the automobile.

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Re: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

-5-

COLE attempted to "bum" whiskey at Winchester, Virginia, but was unsuccessful, and began to hitchhike at the outskirts of town. He was picked up by a white male driving a semi tractor and trailer, which was freshly painted a dark green. This truck had lettering on the cab doors, but he could recall no further details about the vehicle.

On 1/5/68, he was riding in this vehicle toward Richmond, Virginia, and was asleep. He felt the driver shaking him, and when he was fully awake, he realized that the driver was very upset and was saying "hand me the gun" as he pointed toward a small green overnight bag on the seat of the cab. COLE handed him a nickel plated .45 automatic with black handles and the driver, who was very upset, stated he had just seen a car load of Negroes pass the truck and he was going to "get him some nigger bait." The driver calmed down shortly thereafter, and they stopped at a truck stop where COLE attempted to call, on a collect basis, his sister at Hamilton, Ohio, to obtain funds. His sister would not accept the call. The driver of the vehicle stated he was from California and was going to Jacksonville, Florida.

COLE got out of the truck at the outskirts of Richmond, Virginia, and took a bus to his brother's residence at Highland Springs, Virginia, and there obtained his Social Security check, which was being mailed to him in care of his brother. The following night he was jailed on drunk charges at Richmond, Virginia, and on approximately 1/7/68, returned to the Cincinnati, Ohio, area by train.

In April, 1968, he was confined to the VA Hospital at Chillicothe, Ohio, and while there observed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, which appeared in the Newsweek Magazine. He immediately recognized RAY as the driver of the green truck, with whom he had ridden on approximately 1/5/68.

He obtained his release from the hospital without mentioning this to any officials.

On 6/21/68 or 6/22/68, exact date not recalled by COLE,

-5-



Re: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

-6-

he placed a telephone call to CBS in New York, New York, and told them that he had seen RAY at Winchester, Virginia. He received a telephone call later in the day from CBS, but can recall no further details concerning either of these telephone calls.

Other information available discloses that in June, 1964, COLE appeared at the Cincinnati Office of the FBI in a drunken condition, seeking employment. He again appeared on July 25, 1966, at the Cincinnati FBI Office in a drunken condition, requesting that unless he was locked up for a 30-day period he would commit suicide. He was taken into custody at this time by the Cincinnati Police Department. On May 13, 1968, COLE again appeared at the Cincinnati Office and gave every indication of having been drinking prior to his arrival there. He requested a soundproof room for interview purposes, furnished non-specific information, became belligerent, and thereafter left the Cincinnati Office.

ROBERT CLAYTON COLE is described as follows:

Race	Caucasian
Sex	Male
DOB	3/20/32, at Hamilton, Ohio
Height	5'9½"
Weight	154
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Tattoos	Left forearm, "Bob" and "Joy" inscribed over a heart and cross; right leg, outline of a naked woman
Mother	MOLLY ETHEL COLE, 137 North Second, Hamilton, Ohio
Father	LEE COLE, deceased
Brother	LEE BAKER COLE, #7 North Fern Avenue Highland Springs, Virginia
Sister	Mrs. NANCY LOPPIORE, 114 South "G" Street, Hamilton, Ohio
FBI #	830 115 B

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Re: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

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By letter dated February 5, 1970, JOHN A. PARKER, Clerk of the Supreme Court, State of Tennessee, furnished a copy of a letter which he had forwarded to the Agent in Charge, FBI Office, Cincinnati, Ohio. This letter is set forth hereafter:

"Dear Sir:

"Under date of January 28, 1970, I disseminated copies of a letter from Robert C. Cole, Veterans Hospital, Chillicothe, Ohio, wherein Cole claimed to have information concerning James Earl Ray, the convicted slayer of Martin Luther King.

"On February 4, 1970, I received another letter from Robert C. Cole dated January 30, 1970, copies of which I am enclosing for your information.

"Very truly yours,

/s/ John A. Parker  
John A. Parker  
Clerk of the Court

"JAP;br  
Enclosure

"cc: Honorable David M. Pack  
Attorney General of Tennessee  
Supreme Court Bldg.  
Nashville, Tenn. 37219 (Encl.)

"cc: Hon. Phil M. Canale, Jr.  
District Attorney General  
Shelby County Court House  
Memphis, Tenn. 38101 (Encl.)

"cc: Hon. Ross W. Dyer, C. J.  
Supreme Court of Tennessee  
Halls, Tenn. 38040 (Enc.1)(Info)

-7-



Re: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

-8-

"cc: Mr. Robert G. Jensen, SAC  
F.B.I.  
841 Federal Office Bldg.  
Memphis, Tenn. 38103 (Enc.1)

"cc: Gov. Buford Ellington  
State Capitol  
Nashville, Tenn. 37219 (Encl.)

As an enclosure to the letter from Mr. PARKER, there was a letter dated January 30, 1970, which had been prepared by ROBERT C. COLE, Veterans Hospital, Chillicothe, Ohio. This letter is set out hereafter:

"Jan. 30, 1970

"Dear Mr. Parker:

" I was very glad to receive your letter you wrote to me January 28. I got it today. I see that you are a very dedicated person. At least you were concerned enough to take notice of my letter and information. Only Attorney J. B. Stoner has written to me in this case. I talked to Robert W. Hill, Jr. over the phone, who is Mr. Ray's other lawyer. We agreed with each other. He said his mail was being tampered with, since he took this case. My mail also has been tampered with. Since, I told the FBI in Cincinnati, Ohio the first part of May 1968. Now, I also wrote to the Shelby County Legal Aid Society and the Prosecutor's Office in Memphis. And Governor Buford Ellington of the State of Tennessee. I was very furious from their reactions. Exceptionally the FBI's reaction and the rest of them except Mr. Ray's lawyers. The FBI told me to go to Church and pray. And the rest of them hid themselves and wouldn't write or answer me. If I can be of anymore assistance to you let me know right away. I only want Mr. Ray to have a honest to goodness fair chance and the truth to come out. - If Mr. Ray deserves a new trial then I want to know for sure that he gets one. And not a bunch of wishy washy run around. You are free to write to me at anytime. I will close for now. Lots of good luck to you.

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Re: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

-9-

"Yours truly,

/s/ Robert C. Cole  
Veterans Hospital  
Chillicothe, Ohio"

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.

- 9\* -

2-9-70

3/24

**AIRTEL**

**AM**

**TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)**  
**FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P**  
**MURKIN**

**ReBuAirtel 2-5-70.**

**Submitted for assistance of Bureau is copy of  
Memphis Airtel 1-5-70. It is not felt that the data submitted  
requires dissemination.**

**2 BUREAU (ENC. 1)(AM)**  
**1 MEMPHIS**

**RGJ:BN**  
**(3)**

DIRECTOR, FBI (ATTN: FBI LABORATORY) (44-38861) 1/5/70

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

MURKIN

The following items are enclosed herewith to the Bureau:

- (1) Envelope postmarked Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dec. 30, 1969, addressed, "U. S. District Court Judge, Robert M. Mc Rae, Jr. Memphis, Tenn."
- (2) Xerox copy of Item No. 1.
- (3) Original 2-page letter dated December 29, 1969, addressed to U. S. District Court Judge, ROBERT M. McRAE, JR., and ending "Learn to pray to 'God'," which was received in Item No. 1.
- (4) Newspaper article captioned, "James Earl Ray Loses Court Suit," which was contained in envelope described as Item No. 1.
- (5) Pamphlet entitled, "It Can Happen Here," which also was contained in envelope described as Item #1.
- (6) Xerox copies of Items 3, 4, and 5.
- (7) Envelope postmarked Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dec. 17, 1969, addressed, "U. S. District Court Judge, Robert M. McRae, Jr., Memphis, Tenn."
- (8) Christmas card which was received in Item No. 7. This card contains a handwritten message beginning, "Judge McRae, Jr. You are wrong..." and ending, "U. S. Security Training 1942 - 1969."
- (9) Xerox copies of Items 7 and 8.

Xerox copies of Items 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 are also being forwarded with copies of this communication to the Philadelphia Office.

3 - Bureau (Enc.-12) (REGISTERED MAIL)

2 - Philadelphia (Enc.-6) (Info.)

(2) - Memphis

COH:ME

(7)

*me*

*44-1987-Sub-11-70*  
SEARCHED

SERIALIZED *lll*

INDEXED

FILED *lll*



ME# 44-1987

United States District Judge ROBERT M. McRAE, JR., Memphis, Tenn., made the original items described above available to the Memphis Office, January 2, 1970. Judge McRAE stated that obviously these communications were directed to him as a result of newspaper publicity about his having ruled against JAMES EARL RAY in RAY's suit seeking to void a series of contracts between JAMES EARL RAY and his former attorneys and to forbid publication of certain information in connection with the slaying of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. Judge McRAE gave this ruling in U. S. District Court, Memphis, Tenn., 12/1/69.

Judge McRAE stated he realizes that the contents of the two communications in question do not constitute a violation of any Federal Law and that these communications do not contain threats to do bodily harm. He stated that these communications have been handled by numerous friends and that he wanted to make these communications available to the FBI in view of the fact that perhaps the same anonymous person may have written similar communications to other people connected in some way with this case. Judge McRAE was also of the opinion that the FBI perhaps maintained a file on such anonymous communications. Judge McRAE stated he would abide by any decision the FBI makes in connection with action to be taken on these letters. In summary, he stated his reason for referring the letters to the FBI is merely informative and that he does not desire to know the results of any possible action taken.

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU:

The Laboratory is requested to search the handwriting on the original communications through the Anonymous Letter File.

- LEADS -

THE PHILADELPHIA DIVISION (INFORMATION)

Copies of this communication and copies of the enclosures described above are being made available to Philadelphia inasmuch as the envelopes bear the Philadelphia postmark and it is possible the same anonymous person may have written other letters to the Philadelphia Office.

January 26, 1970

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN  
LUTHER KING, JR.

3/26

-----  
----- a petition filed by James

----- Earl Ray.

XX(G)EJM/rif

1/23/70

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are two xeroxed copies of a petition filed with the Shelby County Criminal Court Clerk's Office, Memphis, Tennessee, on behalf of JAMES EARL RAY, wherein RAY is requesting that the Shelby County Court compel PERCY FOREMAN, RAY's former attorney, to turn over certain personal letters and other documents, in possession of FOREMAN, either to the court or to Mr. RICHARD RYAN, one of RAY's current attorneys, Memphis, Tennessee.

On 1/23/70, Mr. JOHN CARLISLE, Investigator, State's Attorney General's Office, Memphis, advised that a hearing in connection with the enclosed petition has been set for February 20, 1970, in Division II, Shelby County Court, Memphis, Tennessee.

The Memphis Division will follow this matter and will advise the Bureau of the final action taken in connection with the following of the enclosed petition.

② - Bureau (Enc.2)  
1 - Memphis  
RFB:ln  
(3)

To, Hon. Arthur Hooper, Judge  
Criminal Courts  
Memphis, Tenn.

FILED 1-20-70

J. A. BLACKWELL, CLERK

BY Kerry Nance p. c.

Dear Sir, P-622

While I was incarcerated in the Shelby County Jail awaiting trial, various items of mail was sent to me of both a personal and legal-business nature, some of the latter at the request of petitioner to use for his defense.

This material was first turned over to attorney Arthur Hones Sr. then later to attorney Percy Foreman of the Tefas Bar, petitioner's counsel - by the Sheriff's office.

The petitioner has since attempted to get this mail from the above attorney via their respective bar associations. And petitioner's present counsel Mr. Richard J. Reyon has personally wrote Mr. Foreman requesting the material.

Mr. Hones answered through the Birmingham Bar - see letter attached - saying he had given all such material to Mr. Percy Foreman. The Tefas Bar didn't answer; however Mr. Foreman wrote Mr. Reyon refusing him

The material indicating the material I would some how be used against him.

petitioner cannot see how petitioner mail could be used against Mr. Foreman, altho it could hinder petitioner in his past conviction proceeding.

Therefore petitioner respectfully requests - assuming Court has jurisdiction over the matter - that the Honorable Court issue necessary order compelling pay Foreman to return this material either to the Court directly, or, Attorney Richard J. Ryan of the Memphis Bar.

petitioner would emphasize he wants "no" material Mr. Foreman or his agents might acquire independently; and that petitioner needs this material in order to prepare for his past conviction hearing.

RESPECTFULLY  
JAMES E RAY  
JAMES E. RAY

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME,

THIS THE 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY - 1970

James J. Ryan  
NOTARY - PUBLIC

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 4-26-1972

11.

HANES AND HANES

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
617 FRANK NELSON BLDG.  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35203

ARTHUR J. HANES  
ARTHUR J. HANES, JR.

September 8, 1969

TELEPHONE  
324-9536

AIR MAIL

Mr. James Earl Ray  
65477 Station "A" West MSB Hon 3  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Dear Jim:

I have received your recent letter and request for delivery to you of items of business and personal mail relating to the matter in which we recently represented you. Those items of mail, along with all other material, research, and investigative reports were turned over to your former attorney, Mr. Percy Foreman of Dallas, Texas, shortly after he entered the case. None of these items have been returned to us, and none are in our possession. I assure you again, however, that we willingly delivered these for your benefit and would be happy to do so again if we retained any of the items you requested.

With best wishes, I am

Yours very truly



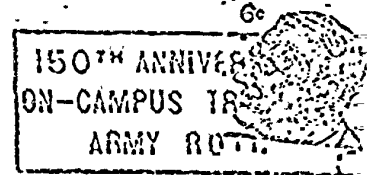
Arthur J. Hanes

AJH/sr

cc: Mr. Richard J. Ryan  
Attorney at Law  
Falls Building  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Executive Secretary  
Birmingham Bar Association  
900 Jefferson County Courthouse  
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

JAMES E. RAY - 65477  
STATION - H - WEST  
MSB 304  
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203



To, Hon. Arthur J. Aquin  
Judge of the Criminal Court  
Shelby County - 157 - Poplar  
Memphis, Tennessee

38103

January 19, 1970

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN  
LUTHERN KING, JR.

xxxxx memorandum  
Memphis

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
1/12/70

XXIG) EJM/rif

NOTE: Enclosed is a copy of a "memorandum Denying Petition  
for Certiorari" filed in the Supreme Court of ~~Texas~~ on 1/9/70  
TGM



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

AT JACKSON

STATE OF TENNESSEE

vs.

SHELBY CRIMINAL

JAMES EARL RAY

MEMORANDUM DENYING PETITION FOR CERTIORARI

The petitioner, James Earl Ray, who will hereafter be referred to as defendant, was indicted in the Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tennessee, for the murder from ambush of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Murder in the first degree in Tennessee is described as follows:

Murder in the first degree - Every murder perpetrated by means of poison, lying in wait, or by any other kind of willful, deliberate, malicious, and premeditated killing, or committed in the perpetration of, or attempt to perpetrate, any murder in the first degree, arson, rape, robbery, burglary, or larceny, is murder in the first degree. T.C.A. 39-2402.

The punishment for murder in the first degree in Tennessee is set out as follows:

Punishment for murder in the first degree - Every person convicted of murder in the first degree, or as accessory before the fact to such crime, shall suffer death by electrocution, or be imprisoned for life or over twenty (20) years, as the jury may determine. T.C.A. 39-2405.

The defendant was represented by privately retained able counsel, and entered a plea of guilty to murder in the first degree, which plea was accepted by the trial judge, the late Honorable Preston W. Battle, and the defendant was sentenced to ninety-nine years to be served in the State Penitentiary.

After this, the defendant, by letter, sought to have the sentence set aside and wrote the trial judge that he had fired his attorney and desired to re-open the case.

The trial court refused to grant the defendant any relief, and a petition for certiorari was filed in the Court of Criminal Appeals, which court heard the matter and refused to grant the petition.

The defendant has filed a petition for writ of certiorari to this Court and has, in effect, two assignments of error, (1) that certain letters written by him to the late Judge Preston W. Battle constituted a motion for a new trial, and (2) that the trial court erred in ruling that the defendant knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily entered a plea of guilty, thus waiving any right he might have had to an appeal.

The defendant upon the advice of his well-qualified and nationally known counsel pleaded guilty to murder in the first degree, the offense with which he was charged, a cold

Consequently, his right to appeal was waived, because it is well settled in Tennessee that when a defendant pleads guilty and fully understands what he is doing, as we believe this defendant did, there can be no legal ground to justify the granting of a new trial. Otherwise, the doors of our state prisons would remain ever ajar to those who are incarcerated therein on pleas of guilty, and who becoming dissatisfied, seek relief on motions for new trial. The dockets of our courts would become congested with such procedure, and these cases would never be closed. There must be a conclusion to litigation sometime, even in a criminal case, in spite of the liberal interpretations of the law by some of our courts. To allow such procedure would be permitting those defendants to toy with the courts.

In *State ex rel. Richmond vs. Henderson*, 439 S.W.2d 262, it was said by this Court:

"This rule has been applied to any number of situations arising in a criminal case, including that situation involving the advice or urging of defense counsel for the defendant to enter a plea of guilty. In cases in which this exercise of judgment by counsel (that of urging a defendant to enter a plea of guilty) has been attacked, it has uniformly been held that this is not a ground for invalidating the judgment. *Davis v. Bomar*, 344 F.2d 84 (6th Cir.), cert. denied, 382 U.S. 883, 86 S.Ct. 177, 15 L.Ed.2d 124 (1965); *Application of Hodge*, 262 F.2d 778 (9th Cir. 1958); *Shepherd v. Hunter*, 163 F.2d 872 (10th Cir. 1947); *Crum v. Hunter*, 151 F.2d 359 (10th Cir. 1945), cert. denied, 328 U.S. 850, 66 S.Ct. 1117, 90 L.Ed. 1623; *Diggs v. Welch*, 80 U.S.App.D.C. 5, 148 F.2d 667, cert. denied, 325 U.S. 889, 65 S.Ct. 1576, 89 L.Ed. 2002."

The Supreme Court, speaking further in *McInturff v. State*, 207 Tenn. 102, 106, said:

"Now, we think it is axiomatic that the defendant, having confessed judgment for the fine and costs, had no right of appeal, nor did the court have the power to grant such an appeal, because no one can appeal either in a criminal or a civil case from a verdict on a plea of guilty or a judgment based upon confession of liability."

The defendant, in his motion for a new trial, if considered in its most favorable light could be construed as such, alleges that he was misled into entering a guilty plea, and in his petition for certiorari he alleged that he did not knowingly and voluntarily waive his right to appeal. The substance of the above allegations is that the defendant was deprived of his constitutional right (Sixth Amendment) to have the assistance of counsel. However, there is not one fact in petitioner's brief to support the above allegations.

In *Hudspeth v. McDonald* (1941), 120 F.2d 962, 968, the court said:

"There is a vast difference between lacking the effective assistance of competent counsel and being denied the right to have the effective assistance of competent counsel. It is the denial of the right to have such assistance that gives the right to challenge a judgment of conviction by habeas corpus. It is held without exception that the right to have counsel may be waived and that it is only when it is not waived that the validity of the proceedings may be challenged..."

In the trial court the petitioner was represented by competent counsel. He entered a plea of guilty on the advice of his counsel, and there is no doubt that his counsel

explained to him that the penalty for murder in the first degree in Tennessee carried the death penalty, and that such plea was made with an eager ear, a willing mind and willing heart.

The defendant, after due and thoughtful consideration and after being properly advised, entered a plea of guilty to murder in the first degree, and thus took the known offered sentence of ninety-nine years, rather than taking the calculated risk of receiving a more severe penalty at the hands of a jury. He now seeks to back out of this trade with the State and ask for a new trial. There is nothing from which it can be inferred that the defendant was misled, or that his guilty plea was made involuntarily without knowing the consequences thereof, thus the defendant is precluded from any appellate relief.

We are not deciding on the defendant's guilt or innocence. He and his retained counsel made that decision themselves, with the approval of a jury and the trial judge. We are simply deciding whether or not, after he entered a plea of guilty and received a sentence of ninety-nine years, he can thereafter have a change of heart and make a motion for a new trial. We think not.

Experience teaches us that submissions in criminal case are brought about by reason of the fact that the defendant and his lawyer realize that in pleading guilty and receiving a lesser sentence, the defendant thereby avoids the chance of a jury imposing a greater sentence.

punishment and retribution under our law. The defendant, by his own voluntary and uncoerced action received such, or what he thought was then just punishment, and will now not be heard to complain.

This well planned and well executed killing would indicate the defendant to be of at least or over-average intelligence, and certainly of such intelligence as to understand what he was doing when he went to the "bargaining table," to decide his fate, - whether to plead as he did or take his chances at the hands of a jury. He made the bargain. There is no claim that the State or the court below coerced or influenced him in any manner to make this decision. It was his and his alone, with the aid of the advice of his chosen private counsel. Whether or not they made a mistake in judgment is not for us to say.

In Tennessee, as in all other liberty loving civilized countries, ambush killers are not looked upon with much favor, say the least. In a country where you do not shoot a sitting duck or a fowl unless in flight; where a rabbit or other game of the field is allowed its chance to run; and where one does not shoot down his fellowman unless that man has committed an overt act that would justify the defendant in so doing, jurors are inclined to deal harshly with such defendants. The defendant and his attorney, with his years of experience, knew this, and in the light of this knowledge of human nature to react violently against those who have committed unprovoked violence

they made the decision to plead guilty and such plea, in the opinion of the Court, should stand.

The next question for consideration is whether the proceedings, at the time the defendant entered his guilty plea were such a "farce" or "sham" that it can be said that the defendant was denied due process.

The concept of due process of law as contained in the Fourteenth Amendment is concerned solely with whether or not the State played any part in the wrong done the accused. U. S. v. Bahmiller (1962), 205 Fed. Supp. 123.

"And so where .... a defendant in a criminal case has retained counsel of his own choice to represent him it is settled by an overwhelming weight of authority that the commission by his counsel of what may retrospectively appear to be errors of judgment in the conduct of the defense (such as urging the defendant to plead guilty) does not constitute a denial of due process chargeable to the State." Davis v. Bomar (1965), 344 F.2d 84, 87.

"Intervention by this (federal) court requires that the denial of relator's rights be the doing of the State. There is no indication here that the State participated in any such denial ...." U. S. v. Bahmiller, supra, at 128.

In determining whether or not the writ should be granted, it should be kept in mind that it has become well-established law in this State that the writ of certiorari is granted as a matter of right but it is a matter that addresses itself to the discretion of the Court. State ex rel. Karr v. Taxing District of Shelby County, 84 Tenn. 240; Ashcroft v. Goodman, 139 Tenn. 625; Gaylor v. Miller, 166 Tenn. 45; Biggs

Memphis Loan and Thrift Co., Inc. 215 Tenn. 294; and Boyce v. Williams, 215 Tenn. 704.

The Court finds that the defendant willingly, knowingly and intelligently and with the advice of competent counsel entered a plea of guilty to murder in the first degree by lying in wait, and this Court cannot sit idly by while deepening disorder, disrespect for constituted authority, and mounting violence and murder stalk the land and let waiting justice sleep.

Therefore, the petition for certiorari is denied.

  
ERBY I. JENKINS, S. J.

Dyer, C. J.  
Creson, J.,  
Humphreys, J.

Concur

McCanless, J., not participating



1/12/70

AIRTEL

AM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau are two Xerox copies of "Memorandum Denying Petition for Certiorari" filed in the Supreme Court of Tennessee at Jackson on 1/9/70, in the case "State of Tennessee vs. JAMES EARL RAY."

② BUREAU (Enc. 2) (RM)  
1 MEMPHIS

RGJ:BN  
(3)

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

December 29, 1969

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

-- -- a memorandum  
Los Angeles

-----  
12/10/69

XX(G)EJM jat

NOTE: lcc Criminal Division.

CRIMINAL DIVISION

December 29, 1969

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

----- a memorandum  
Los Angeles

-----  
12/10/69

XXX()G EJM/jat

NOTE: lcc Civil Rights Division

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

DATE: 12/10/69

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574) (RUC)

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka;  
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM  
OO: Memphis

Re Kansas City airtel to the Director dated 8/13/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of a Letter-head Memorandum (LHM) and for Memphis two copies of an LHM recording interview of JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS regarding his allegation that JAMES EARLY RAY was paid to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

A review of Los Angeles files reveals MORRIS to be the subject of Bureau files 91-25689 and 91-12519.

2 - Bureau (Encls. 4)  
2 - Memphis (Encl. 2) (44-1987)  
1 - Los Angeles

TJA/jah  
(5)



5010-108

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

December 10, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

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

On December 1, 1969, John Hamilton Morris was interviewed at the Los Angeles County Jail, Los Angeles, California, regarding information contained in a letter written by him on July 22, 1969, to Peter Goldman, 444 Madison Avenue, New York, New York. This letter contained information that James Earl Ray was paid by "Big D".

Morris stated that he is a journalist, that as a journalist he has his sources, and that as a journalist he does not reveal the identity of his sources. Morris stated it was common knowledge that Ray was paid to kill Martin Luther King. Morris was asked to explain what he referred to as common knowledge. He said that everyone knew that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was behind the murder of Martin Luther King. He continued that the CIA backed the Minutemen and Robert De Pugh of the Minutemen. The CIA wanted King out of the way so it had De Pugh make the arrangements. Ray being a small time criminal, was selected to do the actual killing and CIA the brains behind the whole scheme. When De Pugh was no longer needed by the CIA, he was arrested. Morris said that this scheme is common knowledge.

Morris volunteered that he has been declared medically and criminally insane.

Records of Atascadero State Hospital, Atascadero, California, as of April 13, 1959, revealed that John Hamilton Morris, born September 8, 1920, at Martin, Michigan, was admitted to that hospital on September 22, 1958, as criminally insane. At that time, he had a criminal record dating back to September 26, 1940, and had over 20 arrests, including grand theft, car theft, mail fraud, postal loss, forgery, and money postal orders. These records reveal that Morris was not found criminally insane by this hospital and had been turned over to the court in San Mateo, California, for further action.

JAMES EARL RAY,  
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

John Hamilton Morris appeared at U. S. District Court, Southern District of California, Los Angeles, on February 23, 1967, for jury trial. At the conclusion of the trial on February 24, 1967, Morris was found guilty of violation of Title 18, Section 2113 (a), U. S. Code. On March 20, 1967, Morris was sentenced to 15 years custody of the U. S. Attorney General.

Morris filed an appeal of this conviction April 21, 1969, before the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He based his appeal on his not having been protected under Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 4244, in that under this statute, the U. S. Attorney failed in his responsibility to move for a determination of competency where he had reasonable cause to believe the accused might be incompetent. His appeal argues that under the same section and by Constitutional mandate, it was incumbent on the court to order a determination of competency, where reasonable cause appeared to indicate the accused might be incompetent; said failure violated Morris's guarantee of due process under the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution.

The appellant further argues that the court-appointed counsel failed to provide that assistance guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment of the Constitutional rights of due process in the fair trial.

The final point of the appellant's argument is that the Court's sentencing procedure was both a failure of its statutory responsibility and an abuse of its discretion under Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 4244; and under 4208 (b) which provides for commitment of the accused to the custody of the Attorney General for a period of time not to exceed six months, for the purpose of evaluation to assist the trial court in passing a meaningful rehabilitative sentence.

On July 28, 1969, Assistant U. S. Attorney Darrell Mac Intyre, Los Angeles, advised that on July 24, 1969, a decision was received from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that the conviction of John Hamilton Morris had been reversed.

JAMES EARL RAY,  
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Morris appeared at U. S. District Court, Los Angeles, and entered a plea of guilty to violation of Title 18, Section 2113 (a), U. S. Code. Trial was set for November 4, 1969. Morris was to be afforded psychiatric examination prior to trial date. As of December 9, 1969, the trial of Morris had not commenced.

The Los Angeles Herald Examiner, daily metropolitan Los Angeles newspaper, in its issue of July 5, 1968, carried an article on Page A-1 captioned, "Dynamite Hijack Try Just a Dud", datelined Las Vegas, Nevada (UPI). This article reported that a Federal prisoner identified as John Hamilton Morris, 48 of Martin, Michigan, tried to hijack a commercial airliner, July 4, 1968, by falsely reporting he had dynamite on his person. His high altitude plot failed completely.

The U. S. Attorney at Las Vegas was expected to take this incident before the Grand Jury and ask for an indictment charging Morris with attempted hijacking.

The following is an arrest record of John Hamilton Morris, FBI Number 4 222 144:

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.

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

12-14-66  
 (139-PLH)

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
 Director.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 4 222 144, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
War Dept Wash DC	John Hamilton Morris #6578257	enlisted 8-23-39		
PD Honolulu TH	John H. Morris #A-11460-D-1	2-26-40	vag	to Mil Auth
PD Sacramento Calif	John Hamilton Morris #28181	12-28-44	enrt to Martinez Calif BT and enrt to Los Angeles Calif PT	taken to Martinez, Calif 12-30-44 *clm. dion because resitution was made.
SO Martinez Calif #27961	John Hamilton Morris #--- SC Sacramento Calif	12-30-44	503 CVC	1-22-45 rel 1-22-45 on 2 y prob
PD Los Angeles Calif	John Morris #75882	2-18-45	GT fug from Seattle	3-15-45 rel to Seattle Wash Auth 5-28-46 sent to time served and rel to return to Calif
SO Los Angeles Calif	John H. Morris #A-57532	3-9-45	GL - Wash	3-20-45 rel to Seattle Wash
PD Seattle Wash	John Hamilton Morris #30531	3-21-45	GL-money from hotel	5-26-45 time spent in jail
SO Seattle Wash	John Hamilton Morris #22033	3-26-45	GL	5-28-45 sent to time served to return to Calif
PD Jersey City NJ	John H. Morris #10578	4-7-47	poss stolen auto and RS 2-109-6 Ms 1 burning auto	4-17-47 paper to GS 5-20-47 bill on both c
SO Jersey City NJ	John Hamilton Morris #31492	4-18-47	rec stolen motor vehicle mal burning of a motor vehicle.	5-20-47 no bill of indictment No. 250 April or term 1947 G
SO Jersey City NJ	John Hamilton Morris #31492	5-1-47	Vio Postal Laws	

Notations indicated by \* ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data 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  
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 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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*J. Edgar Hoover*  
 Director.

2 The following FBI record, NUMBER 4 222 144, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
USM, Newark, NJ	John Hamilton Morris, #11520	custody 5-1-47	vio. of Lyer Act	6-16-47, 3 yrs.
USM, Newark, NJ	John Hamilton Morris, #11520	not given	forging checks, etc.	sent. 3 yrs. 6-16-47
Federal Ref., Chillicothe, Ohio	John H. Morris #27423	7-9-47	NMFTA, using mails to defraud	3 yrs.
USP, Terre Haute, Ind	John H. Morris #5090	8-27-47 (in trans. from Chillicothe)	trans. stolen auto int. Using mails to defraud	3 yrs.
USP, Leavenworth Kans	John H. Morris #64506	11-5-47 (in trans. from USP Terre Haute, Ind)	mails to defraud and NMFTA	3 yrs.
Medical Center for Fed Prisoners Springfield Mo	John H. Morris #6954-H	1-11-49 trans from USP Leavenworth	NMFTA & using mails to defraud	3 yrs. (3-3 yrs conc 2-13-50 disch CR pend.
USM, Springfield, Mo.	John Hamilton Morris #1211	2-13-50	forged Securities in Interstate Commerce	2-15-50, removal to Kans.
PD, Topeka, Kans.	John Hamilton Morris #7945	3-21-50	interstate vio (checks)	USM prisoner

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 (139-PLH)

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
 Director.

3 The following FBI record, NUMBER 4 222 144, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
USM Topeka Kans.	John Hamilton Morris #CR-13666	2-21-50	Interstate Comm. Viol.	3-21-50, sent. 5 yrs. on ct. 1; 5 yrs. on ea. of cts. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, & 8 to run concurrent & to run concu- rent with peri- od of imprisonment imposed on ct. 1. and pay costs of this prosecution. serve at USP, Leavenworth, Kans.
US Penty Leavenworth Kans	John H. Morris #66575	4-20-50	transp I/S forged Secur	5 yrs 9-27-53 Cond. Rel
SO Riverside Calif	John Hamilton Morris #61246	3-1-56	Title 18 Sec 500 USC	Federal
PD Indio Calif	John Hamilton Morris #20787	3-1-56	raising & cashing US Postal Money Orders	held for USM
USM Los Angeles Calif	John H. Morris #24036	3-6-56	forg postal Money Order	11-12-57 case dismiss.
SO Los Angeles Calif	John Hamilton Morris #A-57532/ B-412495	3-6-56	forgery/Postal Money Orders	5-2-56 rel cu Springfield Mo
USM Los Angeles Calif	John H. Morris #24242	4-27-56	subversive use of US Mails	
Med Center for Fed Prs Springfield Mo	John Hamilton Morris #P-185-H - 6	5-5-56 MCFP Rec fr. USM S-Calif	altering P.O. money orders	T-18 Sec. 4244 return to cou 3-27-57

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*J. Edgar Hoover*  
 Director.

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
SO Springfield Mo	John Hamilton Morris #S-20937	8-27-57	H/F U SCM (subversive use of mails Postal MO viol)	to be TOT USM Calif
PD Los Angeles Calif	John Hamilton Morris #LA 75 882-M	11-12-57	forg of fict name forg 4 cts	nt glty by reason of insanity D45 1-29-58 CS 196783 on chg of warr 130792(4) for fict name for 4 cts
SO Los Angeles Calif	John Hamilton Morris #A-57532/B-516022	11-7-57	failure to appear for jury trial	11-12-57 rel case disp & cust Los Ange PD
PD San Mateo Calif	John Hamilton Morris #28219	6-6-58	forg (chex)	7-10-58 held ans Sup Crt see supplement
SO Redwood City Calif	John Hamilton Morris #24505	7-10-58	forg & ETE Fresno & San Jose PD	1-26-59, 1 Co J susp on 1-27-59 to Fresno S 1-5-59 disc
St Bu Sacramento Calif	John Hamilton Morris #ASH 6096	9-22-58	criminally Insane 1368 PC Atascadero St Hosp Atascadero Calif	
SO Fresno Calif	John Hamilton Morris #60409	2-12-59	PC 836 escape	2-12-59 no chgs filed
PD Fresno Calif	John Hamilton Morris #12972	2-18-59	forg-PT escape	see supplement
FBI Chgo Ill	John Hamilton Morris #--	8-24-59	bank robb	

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
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12-14-66  
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*J. Edgar Hoover*  
 Director.

5 The following FBI record, NUMBER 4-222 144, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Chgo Ill	John H. Morris #E-48842	8-24-59	GP	TOT USM Chgo 8-25-59
USM Chgo Ill	John H. Morris #60391	8-25-59	bank robbery	2 yrs & \$500. 12-23-59
Cook Co Jail Chgo Ill	John H. Morris #239175	8-25-59	safe keeping USM	1-10-60 del t USM
USP Leavenworth Kans	John Hamilton Morris #77308-L	1-11-60	bank rob	2 yrs
USP McNeil Isl Wash	John Hamilton Morris #28201-M	6-22-60	bank robb & armed bank robb	10 yrs & 5 mo & 11 das
USPen Leavenworth Kans	John Hamilton Morris #77308-L	5-31-61	Bank Robbery	5-31-61 Rec from USP McNeil Islan as transfer 8-10-66 MR
USM Los Angeles Calif	John Hamilton Morris #089-21749	12-7-66	Bank robbery	

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 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

12-14-66  
 (139-PLH)

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
 Director.

6 The following FBI record, NUMBER 4 222 144, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	As John Hamilton Morris wanted by Los Angeles Calif PD petty theft. John H. Morris 1 <sup>st</sup> appre prior to 9-21-54 notify Chief US Prob Off US Crt House Rm 826 Chgo Ill per inf rec therefrom 10-1-53. WANTED: John H. Morris for viol of cond rel - warr issued 12-23-53. Notify US Bd of Par Wash DC by telephone per inf rec therefrom 1-6-54. IN CUSTODY PER PRINT No 24242 USM Los Angeles Calif. NO LONGER WANTED: per inf rec US Bd of Paroles Wash DC 5-23-56 (Warr withdrawn 5-17-56 & Case closed) NYC NY 1947 fraud use of mails; 7 yrs (as on prt #24242). #129727, 2-4-59 & 2-19-59 2-4-59 forg disa interest of justice no chgs filed on PT 2-19-59 escape red to PC 650½, 3 yrs prob 180 das SS deft PG to PC 650½. #28219, 1-26-59 final disp subj sent to one year Co Jail susp. WANTED: John Hamilton Morris Location Desired Notify by phone USSS Intell Div Rm 825 1800 G St NW Wash DC inf re 4-20-66 (To remain in effect until 4-18-69) Federal Parole or Mandatory release extends to 12-4-69 inf rec Chgo Ill			

- 9\* -

SUPPLEMENT

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

*DeMunn Falden*

November 6, 1969

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

XXX (G) EJM:jmv

NOTE: Enclosed is a copy each of State Department telegrams dated 10-24-69 and 10-28-69. A copy of each is being furnished Criminal Division.