

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 23 1975
TELETYPE

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

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

NR011 AT PLAIN

6:53 PM NITEL JUNE 23, 1975 WCG

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (RUC)

MURKIN

RE ATLANTA TELCALL TO BUREAU JUNE 20, 1975, EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS AND BUTELCALL TO ATLANTA JUNE 23, 1975.

BUREAU REFER TO ATLANTA AIRTELS AND LHMS TO BUREAU
MARCH 16, 1971 AND APRIL 7, 1971.

FOR INFO BUREAU, INFORMATION DISCLOSED TO PRESS RE
MURKIN BY A. REGINALD EAVES, COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY,
ATLANTA, GEORGIA, AND FURNISHED TO FBI ATLANTA, JUNE 20, 1975,
IS SAME INFO FURNISHED BY [REDACTED] WHO WAS
INTERVIEWED BY ATLANTA ON APRIL 7, 1971, AND ADMITTED STORY
WAS COMPLETE FABRICATION. IN VIEW OF THIS ATLANTA
CONDUCTING NO INVESTIGATION. LHM FOLLOWS.

END

AIRTEL

6/20/75

To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

1 - Mr. Lawn

MURKIN

Contact Frank Reid, Clerk, Memphis District Court, to determine date appeal filed by attorneys for James Earl Ray.

SuLHM within 5 days of receipt.

MURKIN

JCL:bap (4)

NOTE: Supervisor Tom Wiseman, FOIA, advised that Washington, D. C., attorney for Ray has requested laboratory reports in reference to this investigation. Attorney indicated that appeal has been filed with Clerk, Memphis District Court.

ME instructed to conduct appropriate inquiry and suLHM.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
ATTENTION: MR. ALLEN

6/11/75

~~7/11~~

MURKIN

by

4/8/75

6/6/75

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
CINCINNATI

an LHM

x F. JCH/jet

1

6/6/75

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI (157-1893) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel dated 6/3/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of an LHM concerning contact with the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals regarding the appeal of JAMES EARL RAY.

(2-Bureau (Enc. 6)
1-Cincinnati

DHV:mw
(3)



*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Cincinnati, Ohio

June 6, 1975

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

On June 6, 1975, GRACE KELLER, Chief, Deputy Clerk, Sixth Circuit, United States Court of Appeals, Cincinnati, Ohio, advised that a review of court dockets and records of the Sixth Circuit failed to disclose any notice of appeal by James Earl Ray's attorney. Miss Keller further advised that she will contact the Cincinnati Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), upon receipt of notice of appeal regarding Ray.

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

AIRTEL

6/3/75

To: SAC, Cincinnati (157-1893)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

1 - Mr. Lawn

MURKIN

ReCiairtel 4/2/75.

Recontact Chief Deputy Clerk Keller to determine whether notice of appeal has been filed.

SuLHM within 5 days of receipt of this communication.

JCL:bap (4)

NOTE: Ray's Attorney, Lesar, has indicated that appeal was filed with 6th Circuit.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

4/8/75

MURKIN

~~4/8~~
6/8

ny

4/7/75

x F. dCL/jet

1

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's Attorneys Appeal Ruling

Attorneys for James Earl Ray, convicted slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., have mailed notice to the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati that they are appealing U.S. Dist. Judge Robert M. McRae's decision denying Ray a new trial.

After a nine-day evidentiary hearing in November, Judge McRae filed a written opinion last month denying a new trial for Ray, who is serving a 99-year sentence in the Washington penitentiary for the April 4, 1968, slaying. Ray had contended that he was coerced by his attorneys to pleading guilty on March 10, 1969 to the crime.

James Lesar of Washington, D.C., one of Ray's three attorneys, said the notice of the appeal was mailed yesterday. He said it would be about another month before he would have the actual appeal brief written up. Lesar said, however, that he thinks the appeals court will reverse Judge McRae's decision and order a new trial.

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

PAGE 2

MEMPHIS PRESS
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: March 25, 1975

Edition:

Author: CHARLES H.

Editor: SCHNEIDER

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

4/7/75

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

MURKIN

my

7/2/74

4/2/75

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
CINCINNATI

an LHM

x G. JCL/jet

1

4/2/75

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI (157-1893) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN;

Re Bureau airtel dated, 3/28/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of an LHM concerning contact with the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals regarding the appeal of JAMES EARL RAY.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6)
1 - Cincinnati

DHV:rbh
(3)



*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Cincinnati, Ohio

April 2, 1975

Re: JAMES EARL RAY

On April 2, 1975, Grace Keller, Chief Deputy Clerk, Sixth Circuit, United States Court of Appeals, Cincinnati, Ohio, advised that a review of Court Dockets and Records of the Sixth Circuit failed to disclose any notice of appeal forwarded by Robert Livingston, James Earl Ray's Attorney, or any of the attorneys for Ray. Miss Keller advised that she has received several inquiries regarding the status of the appeal, but to date no notice of appeal has been filed. Miss Keller further advised that she will contact the Cincinnati Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, (FBI), immediately upon receipt of notice of appeal regarding Ray.

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.

- 1* -

Mr. Gebhardt

April 7, 1975

J. S. Peelman

1 - Mr. Gebhardt
1 - Mr. Peelman
① - Mr. Lawn
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Deegan

MURKIN

Attached for approval is a teletype to SAC, Chicago, instructing that Division to interview Jesse L. Jackson to ascertain whether Jackson is in possession of any information to support allegations of a conspiracy in the killing of Martin Luther King.

BACKGROUND: This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee, in April, 1968. James Earl Ray had pleaded guilty in State Court, Tennessee, and is presently serving a 99-year sentence.

Ray had appealed his conviction on grounds that he was not properly represented or counseled by his attorney at the time he entered his guilty plea in 1969.

In February, 1975, a Writ of Habeas Corpus was denied Ray in U. S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee.

At a memorial service for King in Memphis on April 4, 1975, Jesse L. Jackson, National President of PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) was quoted by United Press International (UPI) as saying: "I believe that the CIA was involved" and ... "that the FBI was involved without a doubt." To support his claim, Jackson stated that Mr. Hoover issued instructions that the Bureau should, "disrupt, discredit, or otherwise neutralize the Civil Rights movement."

An extensive investigation by this Bureau indicated that Ray acted alone and no evidence was then, or has since been developed to support any conspiracy theory. However, in view of Jackson's comment concerning a conspiracy, he should be interviewed to determine whether he is in possession of any corroborative information to support his allegations or to prove there was a conspiracy in the shooting death of Martin Luther King.

Enclosure

44-38861 JCL:bap (6)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Gebhardt
RE: MURKIN

ACTION: Attached for approval is a nitel instructing
the Chicago Division to interview Jesse L.
Jackson.

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

NITEL

APRIL 7, 1975

TO SAC CHICAGO (44-1114)

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

1 - Mr. Peelman
1 - Mr. Lawn

AT A MEMORIAL SERVICE IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, ON
APRIL 4, 1975, CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER JESSE L. JACKSON WAS
QUOTED BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL AS SAYING THAT THE FBI
AND CIA WERE INVOLVED IN A CONSPIRACY WITH JAMES EARL RAY
IN THE DEATH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

CHICAGO SHOULD INTERVIEW JACKSON TO DETERMINE WHETHER
JACKSON IS IN POSSESSION OF ANY INFORMATION TO SUPPORT HIS
ALLEGATIONS OR TO PROVE THAT THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY IN THE
SHOOTING DEATH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

FURNISH RESULTS OF INTERVIEW IN FORM SUITABLE FOR
DISSEMINATION.

JCL:bap (4)

NOTE: See Peelman to Gebhardt memo dated 4/7/75.

AIRTEL

3/28/75

To: SAC, Cincinnati
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

1 - Mr. LAWR

MURKIN

On 2/27/75, U. S. District Judge, WDT, Memphis, denied petition of James Earl Ray for a Writ of Habeas Corpus.

Ray's Attorney, Robert Livingston, indicated that this ruling would be appealed to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals.

CI should determine whether attorneys for Ray have appealed this matter to the 6th Circuit Court.
SULHM.

1 - SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

JCL:bap (5)

2/27/75

~~4/27~~

AIRTEL

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

On 2/27/75, U. S. District Judge ROBERT M. McRAE, JR., WDT, Memphis, Tenn., denied subject JAMES EARL RAY's petition for a writ of habeas corpus. RAY had previously appealed to the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals in an effort to obtain a new trial in state court. His appeal was based on the grounds that his attorneys, particularly PERCY FOREMAN, had failed to properly represent him at the time of his guilty plea to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING. The 6th Circuit had ordered the District Court to grant RAY an evidentiary hearing to determine whether or not RAY had been properly represented. Judge McRAE in denying RAY's writ of habeas corpus did in effect deny RAY the right to a trial on the charge of having murdered KING.

RAY's attorney, ROBERT LIVINGSTON, was overheard telling television newsmen that Judge McRAE's ruling would be appealed to the 6th Circuit. This is being furnished for the Bureau's information.

The Bureau is again reminded of the fact that there remains outstanding in the U. S. District Court at Birmingham, Alabama, a federal warrant charging RAY with a conspiracy to violate KING's civil rights. The Bureau may desire to discuss with the Department once again the desirability of dismissing the complaint and warrant.

On 3/3/75 Mr. FRANK ALLEN CRD, advised that CRD would take no action on federal warrant until all avenues of appeal have been denied.

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

Mr. Gebhardt

2/27/75

C. L. McGowan

T
1 - Mr. Gebhardt
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Lawn
1 - Mr. Moore

3/27

HURKIN

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee, in April, 1968. James Earl Ray had pleaded guilty in State Court, Tennessee, and is presently serving a 99-year sentence.

In October, 1974, an evidentiary hearing was conducted to determine whether James Earl Ray was properly represented by an attorney at the time he entered his guilty plea in 1968.

On 2/27/75, U. S. District Court Judge Robert M. McRae, Jr., Western District of Tennessee, declined Ray's Writ of Habeas Corpus and stated he found no basis to indicate that the guilty plea entered by Ray in 1968 was the result of his not being properly represented by counsel.

ACTION: None. For information.

JCL:bap (5)

44-38861

Mr. Gebhardt

11/7/74

C. L. McGowan

- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- (1) - Mr. Lawn
- 1 - Mr. McDermott

MURKIN

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee, in April, 1968. James Earl Ray had pleaded guilty in State Court, Tennessee, and is presently serving a 99-year sentence.

During the conduct of an extensive investigation by this Bureau, Federal process was obtained charging Ray with violation of T18, Section 241, conspiracy to interfere with a constitutional right of Martin Luther King, namely, the right to travel freely from state to state. This Federal process remains outstanding to date, although investigation by this Bureau indicated that Ray acted alone and no evidence of a conspiracy was then, or has since been developed.

On November 6, 1974, Mr. Frank Allen, Deputy Chief, Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division, advised that the Department intends to make no effort to have this Federal process dismissed until after the U. S. District Judge, Memphis, makes his decision, based upon a recent special hearing, whether to grant Ray a new trial.

Mr. Allen indicated that the Department would not at this time make any efforts to dismiss this Federal process which charges Ray with conspiracy, even though it is within their province to do so, since this action would engender publicity concerning this Federal process and might, therefore, precipitate new speculation that Ray did not act alone. The Department would prefer to await the decision of the State of Tennessee concerning whether Ray should be granted a new trial, which decision should be forthcoming by the end of this calendar year.

Mr. Allen indicated that no Federal detainer has been placed against Ray but that there is already a detainer against Ray from the State of Missouri charging Ray with escape.

ACTION: None. For information.
JCL:bap (5)

On 2/18/75 Spur JOE HESTER, ME, advised 44-38861 that Judge M'CRAE has reached no decision on this matter yet

Mr. Jenkins

10-31-74

J. J. McDermott

MURKIN (44-3386)

Mr. Callahan
Lamm
11/3/74

Morris Cunningham, Washington representative of the Memphis Commercial Appeal, called Inspector Bowers during the afternoon of 10-30-74 from Memphis, where he is covering the James Earl Ray hearing in Federal District Court. Cunningham said Ray had testified to having sent a letter to Senator James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) shortly after he had been sentenced to prison for the King slaying. Ray allegedly said that he told Senator Eastland in the letter that he personally did not shoot King, but was partially responsible for his death. (News reports, 10-30-74, on the hearing corroborate this and indicated that Ray's letter to Senator Eastland was read into the record.)

Cunningham said he called Senator Eastland at his residence in Mississippi and asked him about this matter. Eastland recalled the letter and said he advised Cunningham about it when it was received, however, Cunningham does not recall this. He said Eastland had told him he had forwarded the letter to the FBI as he does many similar letters he receives from prisoners. Cunningham said Eastland suggested he call Bowers to determine if the FBI could locate the letter and to tell Bowers that he, Eastland, approves furnishing contents of the letter to Cunningham.

Bowers pointed out to Cunningham that we were precluded from doing so under Department regulations. It was pointed out to him, however, that should Senator Eastland desire, a copy of the letter, if located, could be made available to the Senator's office and the Senator could release the letter if he wishes. Cunningham said that should be satisfactory with him. He was told he would be advised as soon as this matter could be checked out. He can be reached through the news room of the Memphis Commercial Appeal, area code 901 528-3311 in Memphis.

This matter was checked with Courtney Pace, Administrative Assistant to Senator Eastland, who indicated he was aware of Cunningham's request.

Enclosure

1 - Mr. Callahan

1 - Mr. Mintz

① - Mr. Gebhardt

CBF:ckg (3)

1 - Mr. McDermott

1 - Mr. McCowan

1 - Mr. Bowers

CONTINUED - OVER

McDermott to Jenkins Memo
Re: MURKIN

He said that should we find the letter in question and furnish a copy to him, he would be glad to handle the matter with Cunningham for the Senator.

Bufiles reflect that Senator Eastland made a copy of Ray's letter available to Inspector Bowers on 3-17-69. Accordingly, a copy of Ray's letter, see attached, has been made available to Courtney Pace on 10-31-74 so that he can handle the matter with Cunningham.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

3-14-69

Dear Senator Eastland;

I read in the local newspaper where your committee is considering investigating the Dr. King case. I would like to inform you and the committee that I would cooperate in any such hearing. However, at the time I am going to attempt to get the guilty plea set aside, I know that the odds against having this done are greatly against me. But I think due to the unusual circumstances in the guilty plea it might be possible. I personally did not shoot Dr. King but I believe I am partly responsible for his death. I will briefly attempt to explain why I entered the guilty plea. At the time Mr. Percy Foreman agreed to take over the defense from Mr. Arthur Hanes we had a verbal agreement that there would be no guilty plea, as I wanted to try the case in court. I had every reason to believe during the first two months Mr. Foreman was on the case there would be a trial, during that period Mr. Foreman had me sign a new contract with him and Mr. Huie giving Mr. Foreman all the money from any of Mr. Huie's money making ventures. (I had signed another contract with Mr. Huie and Mr. Hanes) Shortly after this Mr. Foreman came to visit me and he had a picture for me to look at. This picture was about 8 x 10 in. Mr. Foreman said Mr. Huie had given him the picture and that Mr. Huie had got the picture from someone in the federal government. The picture contained 2 or 3 men followed by two or 3 policemen. Mr. Foreman described one of the men in the picture as an 'anti communist' Cuban refugee who was arrested at the time President Kennedy was shot. "The arrest took place in Dallas I was told" I was asked if I would identify the man if he was brought to Memphis. I said no, although he did look similar to the person I was involved with. After I couldn't identify this man, about all I was told was that I would go to the electric chair if I went to trial. I was even told my family wanted me to plead guilty, but I found out this was not so. But I did not plead guilty for the above reasons. I did so because I did not want to go to trial with a lawyer who thought he was going to lose. I believe if you think you will lose you probably will. On the day before I plead guilty I signed another contract with Mr. Foreman. In this one I agreed to give him \$165,000, he agreed to give my brother \$500.00 in the event I wanted to hire another lawyer to reopen the case. Mr. Foreman wrote into the contract that if I embarrass him (disagreed) in the court room he could withdraw, the old contract would go into effect and I would be without funds to hire another

attorney. Getting back to Mr. Hule for a minute, while Mr. Hanes was my attorney Mr. Hule asked me through him about public figures and various organizations. I got the impression that he thought their was a conspiracy but he wanted to name the conspirators. And I sometimes felt that my attorneys were working for him instead of for me. In closing I would like to say if I can't get the case reopened, their should be an investigation, as I have signed over \$200,000 to attorneys and not 1/20 of the witnesses have been interviewed. No one went to Los Angeles or New Orleans where I think much of the evidence lies. Mr. Foreman said in open court that he didn't trust investigators, and the one Mr. Hanes hired never left Memphis. I would also like to say that despite what the papers and book writer's quote me as saying, I have no intention of discussing this case with anyone 'verbally' until it is closed. If I have anything to say I will say it in court or to lawyers, or in letter form like this letter.

Sincerely, James E. Ray.

COPY:mls

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

OCT 26 1974

TELETYPE

NR004 ME PLAIN

5:25 PM NITEL OCTOBER 26, 1974 CNF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
FROM: MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P) 2PG

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. A.D. Adm.	_____
Dep. A.D. Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Files & Com.	_____
Gen. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Insp.	_____
Intell.	_____
Lab.	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Off. of Cong. & Public Affairs	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

MURKIN. OO: ME.

TESTIMONY BEING HEARD BEFORE JUDGE ROBERT M. MC RAE, JR., USDC, WDT, MEMPHIS, TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY WAS PROPERLY REPRESENTED AT THE TIME HE ENTERED GUILTY PLEA IN 1968. TWO OF SUBJECT'S BROTHERS HAVE TESTIFIED AS WELL AS FORMER DISTRICT AG AND FORMER PUBLIC DEFENDER. SUBJECT RAY TESTIFIED OCTOBER 25, 1974, RE CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO BETWEEN WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE, AND ATTORNEY ARTHUR HAVES. RAY WILL CONTINUE TESTIMONY TUESDAY NEXT AND WILL THEN BE CROSS-EXAMINED. NOTHING PARTICULARLY INTERESTING OR SURPRISING HAS COME FROM HEARING THUS FAR. AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED, SUBJECT'S ATTORNEY ATTEMPTING TO SHOW ATTORNEY PERCY FOREMAN DID NOT PROPERLY REPRESENT SUBJECT. FORMER DA AND FORMER PUBLIC DEFENDER HAVE BOTH TESTIFIED THEY THOUGHT RAY WAS WISE TO HAVE PLEADED GUILTY TO AVOID GOING TO ELECTRIC CHAIR. RAY EXPECTED TO TESTIFY MOST OF TUESDAY NEXT AND STATE AG WILL THEN HAVE TWO DAYS IN WHICH TO CALL HIS WITNESSES.
END PAGE ONE

ME 44-1987

PAGE TWO

BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF ANY PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

END.

HOLD PLS

AIRTEL

10/10/74

To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

1 - Mr. Lawn

ReMEteletype dated 10/7/74.

Enclosed are two copies each of two newspaper articles concerning Harold Weisberg. Also enclosed are two copies of a list of materials furnished to Harold Weisberg by the Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice, on 6/24/70, as a result of a civil action filed against the Department of Justice and the Department of State in which Weisberg demanded copies of all the legal papers which were employed in the extradition of James Earl Ray.

Bufiles reveal that Weisberg has written numerous letters requesting unsuccessfully that the Bureau make available to Weisberg certain records concerning captioned matter, as well as records concerning another unrelated investigation conducted by this Bureau.

A copy of enclosed material may be furnished to Henry Haile, State Attorney General's Office, Nashville, as requested in referenced communication.

Bufiles and indices Albany Division contain no information pertaining to Herbert I. McDonald, based upon available information.

Enclosures (6)

JCL:bap (4)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

Airtel to SAC, ME
RE: MURKIN

NOTE: The Memphis Division advised in referenced communication that a hearing for James Earl Ray is scheduled on 10/22/74 to determine whether Ray was coerced into entering a guilty plea on 3/10/69 to the murder of Martin Luther King.

Attorney Henry Haile, State Attorney General's Office, Nashville, had requested that the Bureau furnish him, on a confidential basis, any information available which would assist him in determining the veracity, competency, and bias of 2 witnesses who will testify for Ray, Harold Weisberg, an author, and Herbert I. McDonald, a ballistics expert from Ithaca, New York. Memphis Division recommended that any pertinent information be made available to Haile.

A review of Bufiles reveals that Weisberg has written several books critical of the Warren Commission, the FBI, Secret Service, and various police agencies. Gleaned from these files are copies of two newspaper articles pertaining to Weisberg which might be of assistance to Attorney Haile in analyzing the credibility of Weisberg as a witness. The first is an article which appeared in the Montgomery County Sentinal, Thursday, December 15, 1966, entitled "'Whitewash' Author is Man on the Go," which makes reference to Weisberg's theory of an FBI, Secret Service coverup before the Warren Commission. The second article, which appeared in "The Evening Star," October 25, 1973, reveals that Weisberg had lost his bid before the U. S. Court of Appeals to gain access to FBI files pertaining to the John F. Kennedy assassination.

Bufiles also reveal that Weisberg was furnished all of the legal papers utilized in the extradition of Ray from Great Britain, including material submitted by the States of Tennessee and Missouri, affidavits from witnesses, as well as affidavits from Special Agents of the FBI linking Ray to the assassination. That Weisberg is in possession of this material might be of assistance to Attorney Haile in further assessing the credibility of Weisberg.

On 10/8/74, ASAC George Steel, Albany Division, advised that indices contain no reference to Herbert I. McDonald.

On 10/9/74, Mr. Jack E. Herington, Office of Legal Counsel, reviewed enclosed material and advised that this material could be furnished to Mr. Haile, State Attorney General's Office, Nashville, Tennessee.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

OCT 10 1974

TELETYPE

NR 003 ME PLAIN

5:29 PM NITEL OCTOBER 7, 1974 JLC

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

MURKIN

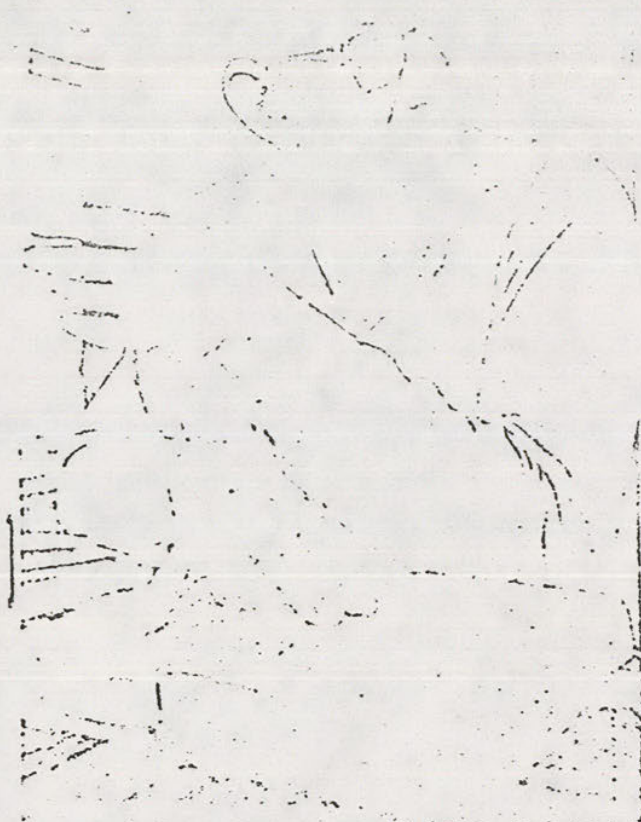
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY HAILE, STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, NASHVILLE, TENN., HAS ADVISED THAT SUBJECT RAY TO BE GIVEN HEARING BEFORE JUDGE ROBERT M. MCRAE, JR., USDC, WDI, MEMPHIS, OCTOBER 22, 1974. EXPECTED TO TESTIFY FOR RAY ARE HERBERT I. MCDONALD, A BALLISTICS EXPERT FROM ITHACA, N. Y., AND HAROLD WEISBERG, AN AUTHOR WHO HAILE STATES HAS PREVIOUSLY FILED SUIT AGAINST FBI REGARDING ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JFK.

MR. HAILE HAS REQUESTED THE BUREAU GIVE HIM ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE WHICH WOULD ASSIST HIM IN CROSS EXAMINATION OF MCDONALD AND WEISBERG. HE WILL KEEP SOURCE OF SUCH INFORMATION STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BUT NEEDS ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT HAVE A BEARING ON THEIR VERACITY, COMPETENCY, AND BIAS.

IF SUCH INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO THE BUREAU, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SAME BE FURNISHED CONFIDENTIALLY TO MR. HAILE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

E N D

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



Cross Country

Since the first book was published in a general edition in May 1965, Weisberg has traveled across the country and appeared on national television programs as well as audience participation radio shows in California, Ohio, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

He is confident his follow-up to the first volume will help sharpen the criticism of the Warren Commission and the aftermath of the Kennedy assassination.

"My second book brings this to a new point," he said last week at Coq d'Or, the Hyattstown farm where he once raised geese. "It may sound immodest but this dates everyone's work except my own."

"The turning point in this whole thing was my appearance on a television show in New York in July," declared Weisberg, puffing on a cigarillo and squinting behind silver rimmed glasses.

"Four lawyers were lying in wait to tear me up. It was rough. It took me an hour and a half to teach them silence is golden," he laughed. "The sparks really flew."

Credibility Basis

"But that show laid the basis for credibility. It opened the eyes of the most influential minds in New York. People realized that those who say something is wrong are really seeking the sanctity of our

See WEISBERG on A7

Warren Commission Critic Weisberg

In the Limelight

'Whitewash' Author Is Man on the Go

Harold Weisberg, Montgomery County's critic of the Warren Commission report, is a man on the go these days.

His pace has picked up steam since he published his second book, "Whitewash II: The FBI-Secret Service Cover-Up," early this month.

Last week he spent four dawn to post-midnight days in New York, followed by a stopover in Philadelphia for a four-hour radio broadcast.

This week he's off and

running again on a week-long trip through the mid-west and on to the West Coast. Stops include Chicago, Ill., Madison, Wisc., San Francisco, Calif. and Los Angeles, Calif.

Weisberg's original book, "Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report," was one of the first in the current rash of attacks on the commission and placed him in the international spotlight.

Weisberg

Continued from Page One

society. Total unknowns are saying we must have the truth."

Weisberg attributes his success as a critic to "a rugged refusal to do anything but face reality and deal with nothing but fact. I'm the only one who's dealt extensively with the commission's findings," he added.

Convinced his first book "couldn't wait" until a publisher could be found to put it out, Weisberg financed the operation himself.

To date 22,500 books have been printed in four editions and Dell Publishing Co. has just come out with a paperback edition guaranteeing a minimum of one-quarter million on the first printing.

"Whitewash II" had 10,000 printed in the first edition, copies of which are being distributed to stores and individuals.

"A lot of people wrote ages ago and asked us to send the next book as soon as it was out," Weisberg explained. He estimated he has received over 3000 letters.

Many fans already are in line for the third book, "Whitewash III: The Archive," which is in the works, Weisberg added.

His current trip across the country is in the usual whirlwind fashion. The agenda is crowded with television and radio appearances, press conferences, speeches, seminars, bull sessions, autographing sessions and meetings with wholesalers.

"One morning I'm supposed to do a 5:30 TV appearance after a 3 a.m. radio show," Weisberg declared. "Can you imagine such a schedule? But I'll do it, too."

Interest Abroad

Weisberg is concentrating on the international as well as the national interest in the Kennedy assassination.

His first book is being distributed throughout the English-speaking world in the Dell edition.

It has been serialized in "Arriba," a newspaper in Madrid, Spain, and "Panorama," a large German magazine. An Italian publishing company has contracted for the book and is coming out with an Italian edition next month, Weisberg said.

Weisberg is satisfied that his doubts about the Warren Commission finally are reaching people. In addition he is delighted with the many new friends he has made through his books.

"Lil (his wife) and I have so many new friends now," he smiled, rubbing his close-cropped hair. "So many people have written us."

"People are wonderful," Weisberg declared. "At every point along the way there's been someone there waiting with a hand outstretched to help. People want to be helpful and that's what counts."

Montgomery County Star

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1966

424-700

JFK Files Stay Closed, Court Rules

Author Harold Weisberg has lost his bid before the U.S. Court of Appeals here to gain access to FBI files on the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy.

In an 8-1 decision announced yesterday, the court upheld a lower court ruling that the FBI analysis of bullet fragments and scrapings from the assassination scene did not qualify for release to the public under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

A dissenting opinion was filed by Chief U.S. Appeals Court Judge David Bazelon. He said that without some mechanism for the public to look at the FBI analysis, "the public will have to rely entirely upon the Justice Department's opinion that the results of the . . . tests are adequately shown in the report of the Warren Commission."

Weisberg, who has written four books on the assassination, has maintained that the Warren Commission report was a "white-wash" and did not tell the full story behind the president's death.

The Washington Post
Times Herald _____
The Evening Star (Washington)
The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
Daily News (New York) _____
Sunday News (New York) _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____

Date OCT 25 1973

I. Material Submitted by the States
of Tennessee and Missouri

" A. Application for Requisition for International Extradition for James Earl Ray executed by the Governor of the State of Tennessee and directed to the Secretary of State of the United States.

B. Petition for Application for Requisition in International Extradition of James Earl Ray addressed to the Governor of the State of Tennessee by Phil M. Canale, Jr., District Attorney General, 15th Judicial District, State of Tennessee (attaching various other documents described below).

C. Affidavit of Dr. J. T. Francisco, pathologist, attesting to the cause of death of Martin Luther King and attaching autopsy report.

D. Affidavit of Robert V. Wenzler, with exhibits, stating results of survey of area where Martin Luther King was killed.

ENCLOSURE

E. Affidavit of Guy Warren Canipe, Sr., Memphis storekeeper, with exhibits, concerning his finding of a package with the murder weapon in it.

F. Affidavit of Inspector N. E. Zachary, Memphis Police Officer, with exhibits, regarding his on-the-scene investigation immediately following the murder and his discovery of various physical evidence.

G. Affidavit of Captain R. L. Williams, Memphis Police Officer, regarding inspection of Ray's room in boarding house and discovery of physical evidence there.

H. Affidavit of Cordra York, Sr., Memphis sporting goods dealer, regarding identity of binoculars.

I. Affidavit of James D. Hamby, Memphis Police Officer, regarding recovery of bullet from Martin Luther King's body during autopsy.

J. Copy of Tennessee indictment of James Earl Ray for merder of Martin Luther King.

K. Certified copy of death certificate of Martin Luther King.

L. Certified copy of autopsy report on Martin Luther King.

M. Certified copy of sections of Tennessee laws.

N. Certificate of Fred T. Wilkinson, Director of the Missouri Department of Corrections, of Missouri criminal record of Ray.

O. Certificate of James H. McAteer, Missouri Clerk of Court, describing record of conviction and sentence of Ray.

P. Certificate of James C. Kirkpatrick, Missouri Secretary of State, setting forth Missouri statutes.

Q. Affidavit of Fred T. Wilkinson, Director of Missouri Department of Corrections, regarding criminal record of Ray and certifying that fingerprints and photographs attached to his prior certification were those of Ray.

II. Material From Private Persons
Accumulated by the Department
of Justice

A. Affidavit of Donald F. Wood, gun salesman, Birmingham, Alabama, stating he sold weapon to man in attached photograph (Ray).

B. Affidavit of Charles Quitman Stephens, resident of boarding house from which shot was fired, describing Ray's activities in boarding house.

C. Affidavit of James H. Laue, friend of King, who was also an employee of the Community Relations Service of the Justice Department, who was in the next room from King, describing shot and discovery of King's body.

D. Affidavit of Henrietta Hagemaster, hotel clerk, regarding hotel registration of Ray in Memphis.

E. Affidavit of John Webster DeShazo, customer in Birmingham gun store, identifying attached photograph of Ray as man he saw purchase gun.

F. Affidavit of Tomas Reyes Lau, bartending school operator, identifying attached photograph of Ray as pupil he had under alias of Eric Stavro Galt.

G. Affidavit of Anna Christine Kelly, Memphis hotel clerk, regarding Ray's registration at hotel.

III. Material Prepared by the Department
of Justice for the Signature of FBI
Personnel

A. Affidavit of Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt, FBI Agent and Photographic Expert, comparing photographs of James Earl Ray under various aliases and identifying him as the same person.

B. Affidavit of George J. Bonebrake, FBI Agent and Fingerprint Expert, comparing fingerprints on murder weapon and binoculars with Ray's fingerprints and identifying them as the same (attaching fingerprint cards as exhibits).

C. Affidavit of Robert A. Frazier, FBI Agent and Ballistics Expert, comparing murder bullet with weapon and establishing that bullet came from that or a similar weapon.

D. Affidavit of Robert G. Jensen, FBI Agent in Memphis, describing weapons and physical evidence turned over to him by Memphis Police.

E. Affidavit of Robert G. Jensen, FBI Agent in Memphis, with exhibits, describing registration card of Eric S. Galt (Ray) at hotel.

F. Affidavit of James H. Mortimer, FBI Agent and Handwriting Specialist, with handwriting exhibits, identifying signature on hotel registration card as same as documents at bartending school.

G. Affidavit of Theodore J. A'Hearn, FBI Agent in Los Angeles, regarding Lau's identification of photographs of Galt (Ray).

Mr. J. B. Adams

10/8/74

Legal Counsel

**JAMES EARL RAY
REQUEST FOR LABORATORY DATA**

*Mc Gowan
Mc Donogh
FDR*

On referral from the Director's Office, Inspector Herington spoke to James H. Lesar (1231 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D. C. 20024, telephone number 484-6023). Lesar alleged he was Ray's attorney and was seeking copies of photographs of a bullet fragment removed from the body of Martin Luther King. He stated that his reason for calling the FBI was because he needed this data quickly and believed he could get it from us faster than from other sources. He noted that Ray had pled guilty but that the bullet evidence had been introduced into court and was presently being held by the court.

Lesar was advised that it would be impossible to furnish him copies immediately if at all since we would have to first check our records and he was further advised that if the evidence was not collected by the FBI we probably would not be in a position to furnish him a copy in any event without an appropriate release from the prosecutor or local investigating agency.

Contact with the Laboratory determined that the bullet evidence was submitted to the FBI Laboratory by the Memphis Police Department and our examination was accordingly made for that department.

Accordingly, attached is a letter to Mr. Lesar advising him that we are unable to be of assistance without specific authorization from the Memphis Police Department or the prosecutor. Bufiles indicate that James Lesar, the present counsel for James Earl Ray, participated in a conference during November, 1973, at Georgetown University sponsored by the Committee to Investigate Assassinations.

- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt
- 1 - Mr. White
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. Farrington
- 1 - Mr. Herington

JH:deh

(8) 62-112697
Enc.

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum Legal Counsel to Mr. J. B. Adams
RE: JAMES EARL RAY
REQUEST FOR LABORATORY DATA

RECOMMENDATION:

That attached letter be sent to Mr. Lesar.

October 9, 1974

Mr. James H. Lesar
1231 4th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20024

1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Gebhardt
1 - Mr. White
1 - Mr. Mintz
1 - Mr. Farrington
1 - Mr. Herington

Dear Mr. Lesar:

This is to acknowledge your request on October 8, 1974, for photographs of a bullet fragment removed from the body of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Although I would like to be of assistance, the evidence in question was submitted to the FBI Laboratory by the Memphis Police Department. Accordingly, we are unable to furnish the photographs you requested in the absence of specific authorization from that department or the prosecutor who handled the case.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

NOTE: Based on memorandum Legal Counsel to Mr. J. B. Adams dated 10/8/74, captioned "James Earl Ray, Request for Laboratory Data" JH:deh.

JH:deh
(8)

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

10/8/74

SAC, ALEXANDRIA (44-149) (RUC)

MURKIN
(OO: MEMPHIS)

10/25

Re WFO airtel to the Bureau, 6/18/74; and
Alexandria airtel to the Bureau, 9/19/74.

On 9/27/74, DAVID GAINES, 6171 Leesburg Pike,
Apartment 532, Falls Church, Virginia, provided SA DONALD
J. BARTNIK with a copy of a transcript that he had made
of a June, 1972 conversation between his wife SHIRLEY
GAINES and one BILL HARRIS. GAINES advised that he makes
such transcripts for a profession and wished to provide
the FBI with a transcript.

HARRIS advised that on 9/26/74, he had also pro-
vided a copy of the transcript to JAMES LESAR, an attorney
with the office of Bernard Fenserwald, 910 16th Street,
N. W., Washington, D. C. He advised that the Fenserwald
firm was supposed to be involved in representing JAMES
EARL RAY.

On 9/30/74, a review of the transcript provided
by GAINES showed only minor differences when compared to
the transcript provided with referenced WFO airtel. The
transcript provided by HARRIS will be retained by Alexandria.

② - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - Alexandria
DJB:klg
(5)

9/19/74

AIRTEL

10/10

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, ALEXANDRIA (44-149) (RUC)

MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Baltimore airtel to Bureau 8/28/74.

On 9/9/74 DAVID and SHIRLEY GAINES, 6171 Leesburg Pike, Apt. 532, Falls Church, Virginia, advised that they do not have any information concerning the whereabouts of BILL HARRIS. They advised that their meeting with HARRIS was strictly accidental and they have had no contact with HARRIS since.

They advised that they will contact the Alexandria Office if additional information becomes available concerning BILL HARRIS.

② - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - Alexandria
DJB:smb
(5)

9/10/74

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703) (RUC)

~~SHIRLEY~~
~~(OO:ME)~~

10/10

NewFOairtel, 6/1/74, and BAairtel, 8/28/74.

Mr. JOHN G. PARSONS, Chief, Department of Urban Project Coordination, U. S. National Park Service, on 9/6/74, advised he conducted a hearing at Brunswick, Maryland on 6/7/72, of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Advisory Commission. Mr. PARSONS advised the hearings were recorded by a court reporter whose identity he does not recall but which can be determined through Hoover Reporting Company. He recalls the reporter, a male, was driven back to his motel after the meeting by PARSONS. The motel was located next to the Hawaiian Restaurant in Brunswick. This reporter, who performs considerable work for the National Park Service, relies heavily upon tape recorders in his work.

Mrs. DORIS HOOVER, Hoover Reporting Company, 320 Massachusetts Avenue, Northeast, on 9/9/74, acknowledged the reporting of the hearing of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Advisory Commission held 6/7/72, was performed by DAVID GAINES, an employee of her company. She stated SHIRLEY GAINES, wife to DAVID GAINES, is not an employee of the company and, to her knowledge, does not perform court reporting work for any other company.

- ② - Bureau
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 1 - Alexandria
- 1 - WFO (44-703)

WBS:ctw
(6)

8/28/74

9/18

A I R T E L

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (44-669) -RUC-
SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS

Re WFO airtel to the Bureau dated 6/18/74, Memphis airtel to the Bureau dated 6/27/74.

Enclosed for Alexandria is one copy of above refereced Memphis airtel dated 6/27/74.

For the information of the Alexandria Division, re WFO airtel and Memphis airtel contains necessary details pertaining to current investigation being conducted in this matter.

On 8/1/74, Mrs. BARBARA BITTNER, Manager, Hawaiian Motel, U.S. Route 340 and Maryland Route 17, near Brunswick, Maryland, made available to SA JOHN R. THURSTON all motel registration records for the Hawaiian Motel for the years 1972 and 1973 and a review of these records failed to reveal any registration record pertaining to BILL HARRIS and also failed to reveal any registration record pertaining to DAVID J. GAINES, or SHIRLEY GAINES. Mrs. BITTNER did advise that sometime during 1972, the motel changed hands and felt that because of this,

- ② - Director
 - 2 - Alexandria (Encl.1)
 - 2 - WFO (44-703)
 - 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
 - 1 - Baltimore (44-669)
- JRT:dew
(9)

the records pertaining to 1972 may not be complete. (It should also be noted that a high percentage of registration cards for 1972 were not dated and because of this, all 1972 and 1973 registration cards were reviewed). Mrs. BITTNER further advised that the cards that were reviewed would comprise all the registration cards for those years.

On 8/1/74, Mrs. BETTY FITEZ, Brunswick Police Department, Brunswick, Maryland, advised SA THURSTON that neither BILL HARRIS, DAVID J. GAINES, nor SHIRLEY GAINES are known to her and that none of them have any criminal arrest record with the Brunswick, Maryland, Police Department.

On 8/8/74, TERESA MAIN, Records Clerk, Maryland State Police, Frederick, Maryland, advised SA THURSTON that there is no criminal arrest record under the name of BILL or WILLIAM HARRIS with the State Police Barracks in Frederick, Maryland.

On 8/19/74, Mr. DONALD DARR, Town Clerk, Brunswick, Maryland, advised that he recalls that a Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Citizen Advisory Commission hearing was held at Brunswick during either June or July, 1972, but stated he could provide no information as to whether a SHIRLEY GAINES was employed as a private court and conference reporter at the Brunswick hearing.

On 8/26/74, Mr. JAMES SEWELL, Land Acquisition Officer, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historic Park, National Park Service, Fort Detrick, Frederick, Maryland, advised SA THURSTON that he recalls that during 1972, a series of meetings dealing with the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Advisory Commission were held between Washington, D.C., and Cumberland, Maryland, and recalls that one of these meetings was held in Brunswick during either June or July, 1972, although he stated he did not attend the Brunswick meeting. He also stated that a JOHN PARSONS, Chesapeake and Ohio Park Planner, 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C., (telephone number 202-426-7705), would have attended all of the meetings and could possibly provide information as to whether SHIRLEY GAINES was employed as a private court and conference reporter at the Brunswick hearing. He stated that SHIRLEY GAINES is not known to him.

Baltimore indices were negative pertaining to BILL HARRIS, DAVID J. GAINES, SHIRLEY GAINES, and JERRY WORTH.

BA 44-669

LEADS:

ALEXANDRIA DIVISION

AT 6171 LEESBURG PIKE, FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA

Will locate and interview DAVID J. GAINES and SHIRLEY GAINES for any further information they may have concerning BILL HARRIS and will attempt to develop further information concerning him and where he could possibly be located.

WFO

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

Will contact JOHN PARSONS, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Park Planner, 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C., telephone number 202-426-7705, for any information he may have concerning SHIRLEY GAINES' attendance at a Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Advisory Commission hearing held at Brunswick, Maryland, in June, 1972.

LAW OFFICES
ZWERDLING, MAURER, DIGGS AND PAPP
1211 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
(202) 223-6374

A. L. ZWERDLING
GEORGE M. MAURER, JR.
ANNA J. DIGGS
JOSEPH R. PAPP
RICHARD L. SCHMIDT, JR.
LARRY F. WEINBERG
JANET KOHN
ARTHUR A. HOROWITZ
WENDY L. KAHN

DETROIT OFFICE
FIRST NATIONAL BUILDING
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226
(313) 965-7090

July 26, 1974

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Murkin's
Murkin

MURKIN

~~28~~

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I am writing you as General Counsel of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

The President of that organization, Jerry Wurf, has just transmitted to me your July 18, 1974 letter, which follows your telephone conversation with me a few weeks ago as a result of a call Bernard Fensterwald made to Mr. Wurf on June 27th.

These telephone calls and your letter relate to the subject of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man whose person and cause were and are held in deep affection by Mr. Wurf and by the organization of which he is President.

Your telephone calls and letter concern themselves with information you believe you have with reference to the circumstances of the late Dr. King's assassination. Certainly if you or anyone else has any information it should be in the hands of the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

You indicate that the FBI has a tape recording which provides it with such information. If you have any additional information which might be helpful we urge you to transmit it to the proper authorities as well.

Very truly yours,

A. L. Zwerdling

CORRESPONDENCE

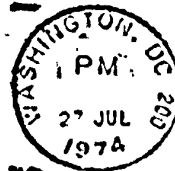
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Pennsylvania Avenue and 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20004

Jerry Wurf

my - no other
for record of post
ALZ:r
animosity
See 91-34552-21
cc: Federal Bureau of Investigation
by Weisberg
new cover
in vs -k-3

Kohn

LAW OFFICES
ZWERDLING, MAURER, DIGGS AND PAPP
1211 1400 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036



Federal Bureau of Investigation
Pennsylvania Avenue and 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20004

6-11-70

1 - Mr. Beale

Director, FBI - 91-311553-21

REC-23

UNSUBS (2);
FARMERS BANK OF LIBERTY
LIBERTY, ILLINOIS
10/17/69

ER
Springfield File (91-4653)
Bufile (91-34552)

UNSUBS (2);
FARMERS AND TRADERS STATE
BANK OF MEREDOSIA,
ILLINOIS, 1/28/70

ER
Springfield File (91-4774)
Bufile (91-35511)

Re Baltimore letter to Bureau 5-25-70.

For your information the Harold Weisberg referred to in referenced Baltimore letter is apparently identical with Harold Weisberg, an individual who has been most critical of the Bureau in the past. He is the author of several books including one entitled, "Whitewash - The Report of the Warren Report," and has been critical of the FBI, Secret Service, police agencies and other branches of government. He was one of ten employees fired by the State Department in 1947, because of his loyalty being suspected. He was later allowed to resign. In a letter directed to the Bureau in April, 1969, he requested information on the Martin Luther King murder case for a forthcoming book, however, because of his past animosity toward the Bureau, the letter was not acknowledged. This Weisberg has a pending civil suit against U. S. Department of Justice and the U. S. Department of State demanding copies of certain documents utilized in the extradition of James Earl Ray, the murderer of Martin Luther King.

There are numerous references in the Bureau files regarding Weisberg, however, he is not the subject of any main criminal files nor are there any criminal references to Weisberg in the Bureau files.

MAILED 24
JUN 11 1970

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 11

60 JUN 22 1970
LB: dmv

Handwritten initials

(6)
MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

COVER PAGE

7-31-74

~~8/25~~

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) RUC

~~MURKIN~~
OO: Memphis

Re St. Louis teletype to Bureau and Memphis,
7-29-74.

On 7-31-74, Miss [REDACTED], Negro female, born [REDACTED], St. Louis, Mo., was personally interviewed for the purpose of enlarging upon the information she telephonically furnished the St. Louis Office on 7-29-74. [REDACTED] furnished the following information:

She was walking and enroute to a bus stop in downtown St. Louis at 3:30 P.M. on 7-29-74 when she was approached by a male individual with dark complexion whose complete description was previously obtained and furnished in retel. Individual stated he was from Jamaica (hereafter referred to in this communication as the Jamaican). The Jamaican asked her for directions to the Reece Boarding House for Colored People. [REDACTED] denied any knowledge of such a place. Individual then told her that he had paid \$75 to a colored girl for the purpose of a sexual date and he was to meet her at the Reece Boarding House for the date. For no apparent reason, the Jamaican then exhibited a large amount of money to [REDACTED], claiming it was \$5000 in cash. He asked her if she knew of any house of prostitution in the area and she denied any knowledge of such a house. At this time a second individual whom [REDACTED] described as a Negro male, 35-40 years, 5'9", medium build, who walked with a limp, came

② - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - St. Louis
KAW:ss
5

SL 44-775

up to her and the Jamaican and entered in a casual conversation stating that he was from St. Louis and asked if he could be of assistance. Jamaican told the Negro male he would give him \$100 if he would find him a girl. Jamaican then proceeded to show the Negro male his money. Jamaican walked several feet away and the Negro male told [REDACTED] that he had been following the Jamaican and knew that he had a large quantity of money and was a stranger in this country. Jamaican returned to [REDACTED] and asked her if she knew JAMES RAY. She replied in the negative, whereupon he reminded her that JAMES RAY was the white male who killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. and RAY was then in a Tennessee penitentiary. Jamaican told [REDACTED] that RAY's brother owned a big farm in Jamaica and he was the houseboy at the farm. He further stated that RAY's brother, name not mentioned, had given him \$5000 in cash to go to St. Louis to buy dynamite and then go to Tennessee to blow up the prison to effect JAMES RAY's escape. Jamaican then told [REDACTED] and the Negro male it would be a while before he could buy the dynamite and did not know what to do with the money in his possession in the meantime. Jamaican asked [REDACTED]'s opinion where she would keep the money. [REDACTED] told him that the safest place would be to deposit it in a bank. Jamaican told her that he heard that Negroes in the U. S. could not deposit money in a bank. She told him that he was wrong. Jamaican asked her if she had a bank account and she replied that she did. Jamaican refused to believe her and told her that if she could show him that she could withdraw her money from the bank, he would give her \$100 just to prove it to him. [REDACTED] advised that the Negro male was present during this conversation and told her it would be an easy way for her to make \$100.

[REDACTED] advised the three of them went to the Mercantile Trust Company where [REDACTED] has a savings account. Upon arrival at the bank, the Jamaican asked to see her bank deposit book which she had in her possession and she showed it to him. At the time [REDACTED] had a \$24 balance. She withdrew \$20 as proof to the Jamaican that Negroes can withdraw money from a bank. He did not give her the \$100 and immediately the Negro male told the Jamaican that he knew where he could get him a girl and both hurriedly departed from the scene. [REDACTED] still retains possession of her \$20 bill.

SL 44-775

In view of the fact that the above incident was probably a flim-flam scheme with [REDACTED] as the intended victim, St. Louis is conducting no further investigation. St. Louis Police Department advised of scheme.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 30 1974
JPS
TELETYPE

Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Serv.	_____
Ident. Div.	_____
Insp.	_____
Intell.	_____
Lab.	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Insp.	_____
Rec. Mgmt.	_____
Tech. Serv.	_____
Training	_____
Off. of Cong. & Public Affairs	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

*McDonough
orig. McLaughlin*

NR15 SL PLAIN

1135 PM NITEL 7/29/74 WRF

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN

ON EVENING 7/29/74 [REDACTED], RESIDENCE [REDACTED] LANE,
 LACLEDE TOWNSHIP, ST. LOUIS, PHONE NUMBER 531-[REDACTED], TELEPHONICALLY
 CONTACTED SL OFFICE AND FURNISHED FOLLOWING: THIS EVENING, 7/29/74,
 AT ABOUT 3:30 PM, SHE WAS LEAVING A DOWNTOWN SL STORE AND WAS APPROACHED
 BY INDIVIDUAL WHO SAID HE WAS FROM JAMAICA. SHE DESCRIBED HIM AS DARK
 SKINNED, AGE 25-30, DARK HAIR, MEDIUM BUILD, 5'6", PRONOUNCED
 ACCENT. THIS INDIVIDUAL, WHO NEVER GAVE [REDACTED] HIS NAME, CLAIMED
 HE WAS ENROUTE FROM CHICAGO TO TENNESSEE. HE ASKED [REDACTED], WHO IS
 NEGRO FEMALE, AGE 17, IF SHE KNEW ANY PROSTITUTION HOUSES IN AREA.
 HE DISPLAYED LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY TO HER, CLAIMING HE HAD \$5,000.
 DURING ENSUING CONVERSATION WITH [REDACTED] HE TOLD HER HE WAS GOING TO
 TENNESSEE TO FREE JAMES EARL RAY AND THE \$5,000 HAD BEEN FURNISHED
 BY RAY'S BROTHER TO PURCHASE DYNAMITE. [REDACTED] TALKED TO THE INDIVIDUAL
 ABOUT 2 HOURS WHILE WALKING AROUND SL STREETS. HE TOLD HER HE
 WAS LEAVING THIS EVENING FOR TENNESSEE, BUT DID NOT SAY WHERE HE WAS
 STAYING OR METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION. SHE THOUGHT HE TOLD HER HE WAS
 END PAGE 1