

Date May 13, 1968

1

Mr. JERRY RAYNES, Rural Free Delivery, Center, Missouri, on May 9, 1968, advised that he had heard nothing whatever from subject.

Mr. RAYNES volunteered that his sons JOHN and JERRY had visited him he believed the night of Monday, May 6, 1968, and had departed early on the following morning. He described them as "a couple of idiots" and stated that most of their visit was spent in arguing. Both were drinking heavily. He said JOHN appeared angry with JERRY and indicated his resentment as well as that of their sister, CAROL PEPPER, of JERRY's action in having sold Life Magazine a story about the family which they both agreed had been half lies.

It was Mr. RAYNES' understanding that JERRY had received money for giving the Life interview and that such money was being used by him during his visit to St. Louis. He indicated his own personal resentment against JERRY for having given the magazine the story.

Mr. RAYNES stated it was his understanding that JERRY planned to return to the Chicago area soon and that he would not spend any further time with him at the farm during this trip. He stated that "JERRY is nuts, and there is no telling what he will actually do".

Mr. RAYNES indicated personal resentment of the article which had appeared in Life Magazine saying that the house in which the family had lived in Ewing, Missouri, had not had a dirt floor when the family lived in it as alleged by the magazine. He stated the house had not been in good shape but that he had worked hard to improve it.

Mr. RAYNES stated that he had lived some time with the children's mother, LUCILLE MAHER, in a common-law relationship before their marriage. He was unable to recall the date of their marriage but did remember that they were married by a Justice of the Peace in the State of Florida. He recalled that they had lived for awhile in Tallahassee, Florida, and indicated that the marriage might have occurred there.

117

On 5/9/68 at RFD Center, Missouri File # SL: 44-775
 by SA WILLIAM R. DUNCAN
SA JAMES A. DUFFEY : pdp Date dictated 5/10/68

2

SL: 44-775

Mr. RAYNES stated he had little formal education and experiences considerable difficulty in recalling dates, but he was sure that either in the late 1920's or early 1930's he was married to the children's mother in Florida under the name of JERRY RAYNES or JERRY RAYNS. He stated that lack of education was responsible for the two spellings he had used of his surname.

Mr. RAYNES further advised that approximately four days prior to the interview some reporter and his companion had attempted to force their way into his house but that he had refused to talk with them and had ordered them from the premises.

Mr. RAYNES reiterated previous statements that he had no contact with and no knowledge or information concerning the subject or his whereabouts following the subject's escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary in 1967. He was unable to recall any statements or indications from any of his children that they had any further information concerning the subject in this regard.

Mr. RAYNES was again advised of the provisions of the Federal Harboring Statute. He promised he would contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation immediately in the event he receives any information concerning the subject or his whereabouts.

118

Date May 20, 1968

1

Mr. JERRY RAYNES advised on May 16, 1968, that except for his daughter, CAROL PEPPER, who visits him nearly every weekend, he has not been in contact with any member of his family since the recent visit from his two sons, JOHN and JERRY RAY. He recalled that his son, JERRY, had indicated his plans to return to the Chicago area and he presumes he has done so. He has not seen or heard from his son, JOHN, since the visit. He added that his daughter, CAROL, visits him almost every weekend when possible and brings him such groceries and other necessities as are needed by him for the week. For this reason, he seldom if ever leaves his residence.

Mr. RAYNES stated that during the late summer or early fall of 1967 he had decided to leave St. Louis and had for some time been looking for a small acreage in a rural area. He had seen a real estate listing for a farm in Ralls County priced at \$8000. As he did not have that much money he had contacted the banker at the Center State Bank, Center, Missouri, concerning the possibility of obtaining a loan to buy the property. During this discussion the banker had indicated the bank planned to sell 46 acres south of Center, Missouri, at a foreclosure sale at the Court House in New London, Missouri, and that the bank hoped to realize \$3000 for the property. Mr. RAYNES attended the sale and since only one other person bid on the property he was able to buy it for \$2600. He used money obtained from the sale of his property in St. Louis to buy this small farm on which he now resides, which consists of 46 acres. In paying for the place he used a \$1900 check from CAROL PEPPER and \$700 of his own money, the surplus being used to pay back taxes.

Mr. RAYNES stated that he has had no contact with the subject directly or indirectly since subject went to prison in 1960. Subject never wrote him and since his escape has not contacted him.

Mr. RAYNES stated that as a matter of pure conjecture, since he had no actual knowledge of his own concerning the matter, it seemed to him that someone else had used subject in the KING case and that if this was so such individual would probably have killed subject following the murder. He was of the opinion that subject as an experienced criminal would know better than

119

On 5/16/68 at RFD Center, Missouri File # SL: 44-775

by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY : pdp Date dictated 5/16/68

2

SL: 44-775

to leave his fingerprints anywhere. He was of the opinion that someone had "gotten to" subject following his escape.

Mr. RAYNES then stated that he now recalls that during the recent visit of his sons JOHN and JERRY, some statement by his son, JERRY, to the effect that subject was in Chicago, Illinois, during the summer of 1967 following his escape. Mr. RAYNES was unable to recall anything more specific about the statement and admitted that he might have misunderstood. He noted that both his sons had been drinking heavily at the time.

Mr. RAYNES stated that subject had lived with his mother while he was in St. Louis and that he knew very little about subject. He was of the opinion that subject would not kill anyone unless he was under the influence of narcotics. He does not consider the subject smart enough to plan the KING murder alone.

Mr. RAYNES stated that he was very fearful of publicity and was afraid that Negroes might attack him if his relationship to subject becomes publicly known. He stated further that during a recent visit from his daughter, CAROL PEPPER, she had indicated she had been interviewed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and that they had indicated to her the possibility that subject might have been in St. Louis following his escape. She has not exhibited to him any knowledge or information as to any knowledge on her part as to subject's whereabouts.

Mr. RAYNES again stated he would immediately contact the FBI on receipt of any knowledge or information concerning subject or his whereabouts.

The provisions of the Federal Harboring Statute were again brought to his attention.

120

Date May 20, 19681.

Mr. JERRY RAYNES, RFD Center, Missouri, was contacted and asked concerning the location of his property in St. Louis, Missouri, which was sold during the summer of 1967. He stated this property was located at 1819 Park, and he sold it to a man named ROBINSON whose first name he believes is ARCHIE who resides on Hickory Street in St. Louis. He claimed it was an involved transaction, that he first had traded his property to ROBINSON for a farm and \$2,500, but they had changed the arrangement and he accepted \$3,200 for this property. He stated he turned the money over to his daughter CAROL for safe keeping. He stated he did not loan his son JACK \$1,000, but recalls that he did loan him \$700 through his daughter CAROL.

Mr. RAYNES was vague about dates and about specifics in general. He was questioned twice concerning this and still stated he did not lend JACK \$1,000, nor any money directly, but all transactions were handled through CAROL.

121

On 5/20/68 at Center, Missouri File # SL 44-775
by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY;bam Date dictated 5/20/68

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.

1Date June 3, 1968

Mr. JERRY RAYNES, Rural Free Delivery, Center, Missouri, stated he has heard nothing from the subject, either directly or indirectly, and that he is completely unaware of subject's whereabouts. He stated he has no reason to believe that any other members of the family have any knowledge or information as to subject's whereabouts.

He expressed the opinion that subject is probably dead because in his estimation subject would have been unable to evade the intensive manhunt which has been underway for him.

Mr. RAYNES stated that because news men have called him at all hours of the day and night and due to the further fact he has received one crank call, he had caused his telephone number to be changed to the unlisted number - 267-3681.

The provisions of the Federal Harboring Statute were explained to Mr. RAYNES and he stated he would immediately contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the event he received any information as to subject's whereabouts, from any source.

Mr. RAYNES stated that he is extremely fearful that Negroes might take retaliatory measures against him should his location and his relationship to subject become publicly known.

/22

On 5/26/68 at Center, Missouri File # SL: 44-775
by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY :jfb Date dictated 5/27/68

Date June 4, 1968

1

Mr. JERRY RAYNES, Rural Free Delivery, Center, Missouri, advised on May 29, 1968, that he had no word from or about the subject and that he had no idea as to subject's whereabouts.

He stated that after his family moved from Ewing, Missouri, they went to Quincy, Illinois, for a short time but that the subject was there only a short while as he went to live with his grandmother MAHER in Alton, Illinois. Subject obtained employment with a shoe company tannery in or near Alton and worked there until he entered the Army. Subject was very frugal, saved his money, and reportedly had saved up \$1400 at the time of his entry into military service. He recalled that subject was very shy, had no close friends or associates, and depended on his grandmother to take care of his money as he apparently had no use for banks.

Mr. RAYNES stated that subject had not lived with him except for a period of approximately two weeks in Quincy, Illinois, he believed in about 1943. He thereafter had little contact with the subject except for two or three meetings with him in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1958 or 1959 when subject lived with his mother and grandmother on Hickory Street in St. Louis, Missouri.

Mr. RAYNES stated that as he knew subject he did not believe he would hurt anyone. He expressed the belief that subject lacked the intelligence to plan and carry out the murder of KING and conjectured that someone had probably coached him, payed him, and then after the murder killed him. He reiterated that in his estimation subject was a shy "countryfied" individual.

Mr. RAYNES was asked if the name LAFAYETTE DILTS meant anything to him as being an individual who might have lived as a neighbor to the family during their residence in Quincy, Illinois, during the 1940's. He stated that the name seemed vaguely familiar but that he was unable to recall ever having known DILTS. He added that in the event he had known DILTS it had been a long time ago and that he did not remember him.

/23

On 5/29/68 at Center, Missouri File # SL: 44-775
 by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY : pdp Date dictated 5/29/68

Mr. RAYNES expressed fear that his daughter, CAROL PEPPER, might possibly be ill as she had complained of a toothache during a brief visit with him on the previous Saturday and he has not heard from her since. During the Saturday visit she told him she was nervous because of the publicity attending this case.

Mr. RAYNES stated that CAROL PEPPER had never at any time given him any indication that she had ever been in contact with the subject since his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary or that she has any knowledge or information as to his whereabouts.

Mr. RAYNES stated that he had read some publicity to the effect that subject had bad teeth which he did not believe was true. He recalled that subject had good teeth when the family lived in Ewing, Missouri, and Quincy, Illinois, but admitted, however, that due to his infrequent contacts with subject since that time the subject's teeth could have gone bad without his knowledge.

The provisions of the Federal Harboring Statute were explained to Mr. RAYNES and he indicated that he would never entertain even the slightest notion of harboring the subject because in his estimation if subject is alive he is probably extremely ill mentally and is urgently in need of medical help. He stated positively that in the event any information comes to his attention as to the subject's whereabouts he will immediately notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

1Date June 6, 1968

Mr. JERRY RAYNES, Rural Free Delivery, Center, Missouri, advised he had just returned from shopping. He stated he had driven to New London, Missouri, for this purpose as he also wanted to pay his electric bill. He explained that he has heard nothing about the subject. He stated his daughter, CAROL PEPPER, had not visited him since she was ill two weeks ago, and therefore, he had been forced to do some shopping for himself.

Mr. RAYNES was told that a recheck of Florida Marriage records under the names RAY, RAYNES, and RAYNS had failed to reflect his marriage there to LUCILLE MAHER. He stated he could not understand that and again indicated they were married near Jacksonville by a Justice of the Peace.

Mr. RAYNES stated that he has not been contacted by any member of his family except CAROL, since JACK and JERRY visited him a month ago.

He has not received any word directly from or indirectly about the subject. He again expressed the feeling that subject was "used" in the plot to kill Dr. KING and after the shooting subject had been killed by whoever master-minded the KING killing. He was of the opinion that subject is probably dead or he would have been apprehended by this time. He stated he did not consider subject to possess sufficient intelligence to so successfully evade capture for this length of time, were he alive.

125

On 6/3/68 at Center, Missouri File # SL 44-775
by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY/leh Date dictated 6/4/68

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.

Date 6-13-68

Mr. JERRY RAYNES, R. F. D., Center, Missouri, on June 6, 1968, was recontacted.

He stated he had been in contact with his daughter, CAROL PEPPER, St. Louis, by telephone on June 5, 1968, and she stated she had been unable to obtain any information as to the whereabouts of the subject. She stated she planned to visit him this weekend, and would bring any groceries he might need.

Mr. RAYNES stated that he has no idea where subject might be. He expressed the opinion that subject would not contact him in any event. He mentioned the assassination of Senator ROBERT KENNEDY, stating it "was a terrible thing" and SHIRAHAN SHIRAHAN should be executed for this act. He also stated that if subject is guilty, he should be executed also, as the KING murder was the same kind of crime. He also mentioned the heartache SHIRAHAN had brought on not only the KENNEDY family, but on the killer's own relatives. He stated that all recent killings appear to him to be part of a plan by some evil persons.

Mr. RAYNES stated he would immediately notify the FBI in the event any information concerning subject or his whereabouts comes to his attention.

126

On 6-6-68 at Center, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY /ral Date dictated 6-7-68

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.

1Date 6-20-68

MR. JERRY RAYNES advised he was aware subject had been arrested in England as he had gotten this news on television.

MR. RAYNES stated he had nothing to add to that which he had already told. He stated he has had no direct or indirect contact with subject for years. He added he and subject have never been close and subject has never discussed his problems or plans with him.

MR. RAYNES stated as far as he knows, JOHN is still in St. Louis. He further stated he has heard no talk, nor has he been contacted for money to send JOHN to England to assist Subject. He added such a gesture would be futile and a waste of time and money.

He stated CAROL PEPPER had called him on several occasions since subject's arrest, but never mentioned JOHN, or any collection. He said she was bitter because of the harassment she and her husband are getting from members of various news media who have photographed their home and talked with all their neighbors.

He stated someone attempted to contact him on Monday. This person took pictures of his house and wanted to interview him, but he refused and ordered the men off his land.

MR. RAYNES was asked if he knew subject had visited in Canada in 1967. He said he did not. He was asked if subject had any friends or associates in Canada, and he stated it was possible but he does not know of any connection subject would have there.

6-14-68

Center, Missouri

SL: 44-775

On _____ at _____
SA JAMES A. DUFFEY :wmaFile # _____
6-17-68

by _____ Date dictated _____

127

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.
SL 44-775
PWB:pjh

RAY FATHER - JERRY RAYNES

The following investigation was conducted by SA's
ROBERT A. HESS and PATRICK W. BRADLEY:

Mrs. DELIA ROBINSON, 1826 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri, advised that she is the wife of ARCHIE L. ROBINSON, who purchased the property at 1819 Park Avenue approximately one year ago.

She made available a General Warranty Deed which reflects that JERRY RAYNS, a single man of the City of St. Louis, sold to ARCHIE L. ROBINSON and his wife, DELIA ROBINSON, property in City Block #484, known as 1819 Park Avenue, for \$100 and other valuable goods and consideration. This General Warranty Deed was dated March 28, 1967, and recorded on that date in Book #8747, page 479, Recorder of Deeds Office, City of St. Louis.

Mrs. ROBINSON stated that she is not sure of the exact transaction that took place inasmuch as her husband handled the business matters. She noted that she was acquainted with JERRY RAYNES prior to the purchase of that property, however, was not acquainted with any of his family although she understood he had some children. She observed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and indicated he was completely unfamiliar to her.

On May 21, 1968, ARCHIE L. ROBINSON was interviewed in the vicinity of 1819 Park Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri. He stated that with regard to the purchase of the property at 1819 Park Avenue from JERRY RAYNES, that immediately prior to transfer of the title he gave JERRY RAYNES \$2,000 in cash and they were to transfer a piece of property he owns at Naylor, Missouri, to JERRY RAYNES. However, prior to the consummation of the transfer of the property at Naylor, RAYNES wanted to know how much cash ROBINSON would give to make it a straight cash deal instead of transferring the property. Mr. ROBINSON offered him \$500 and they then considered the deal closed with no transfer of the Naylor property being made. He noted this made a total cash payment of \$2,500, and this was completed on

2.
SL 44-775

two separate days immediately prior to March 28, 1967. Mr. ROBINSON stated he knew JERRY RAYNES approximately one year prior to the above-mentioned transaction while JERRY RAYNES resided at 1819 Park Avenue upstairs. Mr. ROBINSON noted that JERRY RAYNES had a daughter and son-in-law who had two children, who visited regularly and sort of looked after the old man. He spoke of a son that was killed and by implication, indicated that this son had sort of been outside of the law and the bad one of the family. He mentioned another son, believed to be named JACK, who occasionally came to visit the old man and on occasion stayed for short periods of time, however, he cannot recall any time that he stayed any great length of time.

Mr. ROBINSON observed the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that it is completely unfamiliar to him and he does not recall JERRY RAYNES ever mentioning a son named JAMES or JIM.

On May 21, 1968, CHARLES E. JOINES, 1817 Park Avenue, advised that he recalls about three years ago JERRY RAYNES purchased property at 1819 Park Avenue and lived there by himself upstairs. He remained there about two years and sold this property about one year ago.

Mr. JOINES stated that a daughter and son-in-law frequently visited and sort of took care of the old man and on occasion a son named JACK visited and stayed for short periods of time.

Mr. JOINES observed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that it was completely unfamiliar to him.

SHUN WONG and HUI WONG, 1825 Park Avenue, advised that they have operated a laundry at this address since 1952. They indicated that they did not know any residents at 1819 Park Avenue, nor do they know any of the other current neighbors in this area.

The WONGs viewed the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and stated it was completely unfamiliar to them.

HOWARD KEYS, 1821 Park Avenue, stated that he has operated a barber shop at this location for less than one

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC ATLANTA (44-2386)

DATE: 6/21/68

FROM : SA JACK T. BEVERSTEIN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

INDEX

①

On night 6/21/68 woman telephoned office but refused to identify self over phone. She stated she is originally from Birmingham Alabama and her husband had been an attorney in Birmingham. She stated her husband is now employed by the Federal Government. She stated she was concerned that there may have been a conspiracy in the assassination of REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING. She said she feels this murder may have been planned by the backers of GEORGE WALLACE although she does not believe WALLACE would be involved. She stated SCHUYLER BAKER an attorney from Birmingham is a backer of WALLACE and is extremely wealthy. She stated he is an extreme racist and despised MARTIN LUTHER KING. She stated BAKER was a member of the Ku Klux Klan at the time WALLACE first ran for Governor of Alabama. He made a great deal of money through the Alabama Highway Department because of his connections with WALLACE. She stated JAMES TINGLE another Birmingham attorney was also a member of the KKK. She advised ARTHUR HANES Birmingham attorney, was also a member of the KKK at the time he was Mayor of Birmingham. She stated she knew these men socially and they had mentioned in her presence they were members of the KKK. All three had been very critical of the Unitarian Church, Negro groups that demonstrated in Birmingham and anyone that were not staunch segregationists claiming that everyone that did not believe as they did were part of a Communist plot to overthrow the Government. She stated she knew she had no evidence that would show SCHUYLER BAKER or JAMES TINGLE had aided JAMES EARL RAY, but feels RAY would have needed financial help as well as protection inasmuch as he was a Fugitive and couldn't help but believe BAKER and TINGLE would help such a person feeling they were doing something for their country.

She stated in the event she learned anything of a positive nature she would personally contact the Atlanta Office, reveal her identity and furnish this information. She was furnishing the above inasmuch as it might fit into information developed by the FBI.

44-2386-2114

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUN 21 1968	
FBI-ATLANTA	

Clay



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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386)

FROM : SA WILLIAM D. COCHRAN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 6/24/68

RE: SAFE DEPOSIT CHECK

On 5/22/68, the following persons were contacted:

Mrs. M. C. LIVINGSTON, Safe Deposit Box Teller,
Trust Co. of Ga., 3393 Peachtree Road, N.E., Atlanta, Ga.
(Lenox Square)

Mrs. ELOISE WILSON, Safe Deposit Box Teller,
Trust Co. of Ga., 2160 Monroe Dr., N.E., Atlanta, Ga.

PAULA BRIGGS, Safe Deposit Box Teller, C & S
National Bank, 2581 Piedmont Drive, N.E. (Broadview
Plaza), Atlanta, Ga.

None of the above was able to identify a
photo of RAY as having ever had a safe deposit box in their
bank.

A review of their records failed to locate a box
under any of the listed names.

All persons entering boxes between 4/5 - 12/68
were eliminated as being RAY.

All persons renting boxes from 3/18 - 4/12/68 were
eliminated as being RAY.

All owners of boxes closed between 4/5 - 12/68
were eliminated as being RAY.

44-2386
WDC:lee
(2)



44-2386-211

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

[Signature]

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-2386)

DATE: 7/2/68

FROM : SA CARL E. CLAIBORNE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Supv. Edward McDonough at the Bureau called at 7:10 PM 7/2/68 and referred to an interview conducted by SA Thomas R. Henry at the Whitfield County Jail with RAYMOND CURTIS. This interview is included in Atlanta report dated 5/17/68. McDonough said CURTIS has recently written two letters to EBONY MAGAZINE who referred them to the Bureau. McDonough dictated the two letters which are attached to this memo.

He instructed that CURTIS be reinterviewed regarding the information in the two letters and that he be "pinned down" on the allegations in the letters. He said the Bureau is convinced CURTIS is seeking publicity but feel that he should be reinterviewed in an effort to get an admission that he is lying or to disprove his allegations by specific questioning.

McDonough instructed that CURTIS be reinterviewed on the morning of 7/3/68 and a teletype with the results submitted to the Bureau by the afternoon of 7/3/68.

Henry & Millard handling

CEC/cc
(2)

44-2386-2116

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 2 1968	
FBI-ATLANTA	
<i>W</i>	



5010-108-01

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

Box 21, Tunnel Hill
Georgia
June 22, 1968

Mr. Charles L. Sanders

Dear Mr. Sanders:

I thank you for your answer to my letter. I think that details I give you in this letter will be of help to you.

Well, Sir, I have written a story. No one but myself has read it but me. At this time I know that it will have to be re-wrote for I am not a writing it as bad as it is.

It all about the crime I did and about a crime I did in 1954 with James Earl Ray and about the 13 years of prison pal and everything we talk about. About thing and about James Earl Ray wanted the job of killing Martin Luther King, Jr. We talk of killing King for three years. And we talked to the man from Mississippi that knew all about the KK businessman association that was to put up the money to kill King. I also know the men from Mississippi.

In that three year we made maps just had to find the right place to kill King. Well I have made the maps over myself. They are with the story also.

And just where we would go after we killed King so yes when we talk about it I was to be in on it. But I was not. The story has it all in it. All the big thing and the little one also. And what Ray like and what he did not like. This story could get me killed. I know that. That is why. I won't send the story by mail. I know that this is getting to be a long letter. But when you read this if you want the story O.K. If not just let me know, O.K. That way I won't talk to men about it.

Mr. Sanders there are men in five states that is behind the King killing and they don't know what I know. But James Earl Ray did not. Now that they have Ray Tenn. will trial him if they get him back.

Well, they want me to testify. Well, I just don't know yet what I will do.

You see, me and Ray were pal. I could tell what I have to the news. That not much. Or I could not say everything. And I did not tell the FBI. Well, this is not a book. I am just trying to tell you what you ask of me in your letter.

If you have a man or have someone down this way, if you will have them stop by the jail I will let them

read the story and you can go from there. O.K.

I thank you again.

I will be looking to hear from you soon.

Raymond Curtis

I am still in the Dalton County Jail.

-3*-

Box 21, Tunnel Hill
Georgia
May 30, 1968

Mr. John H. Johnson
(evidentially connected with Ebony Magazine)

Sir:

I am Raymond Curtis, a man that said we talk about killing King. Will, Sir, there is things that have never been told. Thing he did and better. Things that would make a story so if you are interested and want the story then I will look to hear from you or someone you send if you are not interested and you know someone that is I would appreciate it if you would tell them about me and give my address. O.K. I am still at the Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia. My home address is at the top. Sir, I would appreciate it if you would let me hear from you.

Thank you for your time.

Raymond Curtis

URGENT 7/3/68 ELS
TO DIRECTOR AND JACKSON
FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL TO ATLANTA JULY TWO LAST.
RAYMOND CURTIS WAS INTERVIEWED AT WHITFIELD CO. JAIL,
DALTON, GA., JULY THREE INSTANT BY SAS THOMAS R. HENRY,
JR., AND ALBERT D. MILLARD. CURTIS IS CURRENTLY CONFINED
WHITFIELD CO. JAIL AWAITING APPEAL ON LIFE SENTENCE FOR
MURDER. CURTIS WAS ADVISED OF THE IDENTITY OF THE INTER-
VIEWING AGENTS THROUGH DISPLAY OF CREDENTIALS. HE WAS
FURNISHED A RIGHTS AND WAIVER OF RIGHTS FORM WHICH HE READ,
INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD, AND REFUSED TO SIGN. HE ADVISED
HE KNEW HE WAS BEING INTERVIEWED CONCERNING STATEMENTS HE
MADE IN A LETTER HE HAD MAILED TO MR. SANDERS OF EBONY
MAGAZINE. CURTIS STATED HE WAS MERELY TRYING TO SELL A
STORY TO EBONY FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS TO
HELP HIS MOTHER PAY OFF A MORTGAGE ON HER HOME, WHICH SHE
MORTGAGED TO OBTAIN ATTORNEY FEES FOR HIS DEFENSE. **TREAT AS ORIGINAL**
FIRST HE STATED, WITH REFERENCE TO THESE STATEMENTS, THAT
HE AND JAMES EARL RAY PULLED A CRIME IN FIFTYFOUR, WHICH
WAS A BURGLARY IN JOLIET, ILL., IN OCT, OR NOV., FIFTYFOUR ^{9²²}
AT THIS POINT IT WAS POINTED OUT TO CURTIS THAT CERTAIN
END PAGE ONE

Approved: *JWH*
Special Agent in Charge
9²²
20-2386-211

PAGE TWO

STATEMENTS MADE BY HIM IN HIS LETTER TO EBONY COULD POSSIBLY INVOLVE HIM IN A CONSPIRACY WITH RAY CONCERNING THE KILLING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CURTIS CATAGORICALLY DENIED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WHICH WERE IN HIS LETTER TO EBONY MAGAZINE:

1. THAT HE AND JAMES EARL RAY PULLED A CRIME IN FIFTYFOUR.
 2. THAT RAY WANTED THE JOB OF KILLING KING.
 3. THAT HE AND RAY TALKED ABOUT KILLING KING FOR THREE YEARS.
 4. THAT THEY TALKED TO THE MAN FROM MISSISSIPPI THAT KNEW ALL ABOUT THE KK BUSINESSMANS ASSOCIATION THAT WAS TO PUT UP THE MONEY TO KILL KING.
 5. THAT HE KNEW THE MEN FROM MISSISSIPPI.
 6. FOR THREE YEARS, THAT HE AND RAY MADE MAPS JUST TO FIND THE RIGHT PLACE TO KILL KING AND THAT HE HAD MADE THE MAPS OVER HIMSELF.
 7. HE AND RAY KNEW JUST WHERE THEY WOULD GO AFTER THE KILLING OF KING.
 8. THAT HE WAS TO BE IN ON THE KILLING OF KING.
- END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

9. THAT THERE ARE MEN IN FIVE STATES THAT ARE BEHIND THE KING KILLING AND THAT DO NOT KNOW WHAT HE KNOWS.

DURING THE INTERVIEW, CURTIS DREW CRUDE MAPS SETTING OUT HOW HE THOUGHT RAY WOULD STALK KING. THIS MAP SHOWED THE FOLLOWING TOWNS WHERE HE SAID KING MADE MOST OF HIS SPEECHES: ATLANTA, LITTLE ROCK, BIRMINGHAM, MOBILE, SELMA, JACKSON, VICKSBURGS, MISS., AND MARKS, MISS. HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THERE WAS A MAN LIVING ON A HOUSEBOAT IN VICKSBURG ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER (WHOSE FIRST NAME HE KNEW BUT WOULD NOT DIVULGE). THIS MAN WAS TO TAKE RAY DOWN THE RIVER ON HIS BOAT TO NEW ORLEANS AFTER THE KILLING. HE STATED IN THE PAST HE (CURTIS) HAD PULLED SEVERAL BURGLARY AND ARMED ROBBERIES (HE WOULD NOT COMMENT ON PARTICULARS) IN TOWNS ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND WHILE POLICE WERE LOOKING FOR HIM ON THE HIGHWAY HE WOULD BE ON A BOAT DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI. HE FURTHER STATED HE HAD WRITTEN A STORY CONCERNING THE KING KILLING WHICH WAS CURRENTLY OUT BEING TYPED AND IT WAS THE STORY HE MENTIONED IN THE LETTER TO EBONY AND INTENDED TO SELL TO EBONY.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

SHERIFF G. T. MAULDIN, NA, WHO IS SHERIFF OF WHITFIELD CO., GA., AND OPERATES THE COUNTY JAIL, ADVISED CURTIS HAD SENT NO LETTERS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JAIL WHICH WENT OVER THE JAILERS DESK. HE SAID CURTIS WOULD PROBABLY SEND ALL MAIL OUT WITH VISITORS AND JAIL TRUSTEES AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE BEEN OBSERVED BY MEN OF HIS DEPT. IT IS FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT CURTIS' ATTORNEY, ERWIN MITCHELL, FORMER U.S. CONGRESSMAN FOR THE SEVENTH DISTRICT OF GA., IS OF THE OPINION THAT MOST OF CURTIS' COMMENTS CONCERNING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF RAY'S ASSASSINATION OF KING ARE PURE FABRICATIONS ON THE PART OF CURTIS OR AS A RESULT OF SOMETHING CURTIS HAS READ IN LOCAL PAPERS.

APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS, HE SENT A NOTE TO SHERIFF G. T. MAULDIN REQUESTING TO AGAIN SEE AN FBI AGENT, THAT HE NOW WANTED TO TELL THE ENTIRE TRUTH. CURTIS WAS AGAIN INTERVIEWED BY SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR., AND AGAIN FURNISHED A RIGHTS FORM WHICH HE REFUSED TO SIGN. HE THEN STATED THAT APPARENTLY IN HIS LETTER TO EBONY HE USED THE WORK "WE" INDICATING THAT HE AND JAMES EARL RAY HAD PLANNED THE KING MURDER WHICH WOULD INVOLVE HIM IN A CONSYRACY AND FOR

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

THAT REASON HE DENIED THE STATEMENTS IN LETTER TO EBONY. HE THEN ADVISED HE HAD WRITTEN A STORY WHICH HE INTENDED TO SELL TO SOME MAGAZINE FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING MONEY FOR HIS MOTHER WHICH STORY WAS STILL IN HIS POSSESSION AND WHICH HE HAD NOT YET SENT OUT TO BE TYPED. HE ALLOWED SA HENRY TO READ THIS APPROXIMATELY TWENTY PAGE STORY, HANDWRITTEN, ONE PAGE AT A TIME. HE DE HE DECLARED THIS STORY WAS TRUE. THE FIRST FIVE OR SIX PAGES OF THIS STORY MERELY SET OUT HIS EARLY LIFE IN CRIME AND THE PRISON SENTENCES HE HAD SERVED AS A RESULT OF THESE CRIMES FROM THE AGE OF FIFTEEN. THE REMAINDER OF THE STORY IS THE SAME AS WAS SET FORTH IN THE ORIGINAL INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS IN APRIL, SIXTYEIGHT CONCERNING HIS KNOWLEDGE AND ASSOCIATION WITH RAY. THIS STORY DOES REFLECT THAT HE FIRST BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH RAY IN FIFTYFOUR WHEN THEY PULLED A PAYROLL HEIST IN QUINCY, ILL., WITH A THIRD INDIVIDUAL. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HE LOST CONTACT WITH RAY WHEN HE AND THIS THIRD INDIVIDUAL WERE CAUGHT IN A FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND DOLLAR BANK ROBBERY AT SOUTHWEST CITY, MO. AFTER THAT HE AGAIN BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH RAY IN PRISON AND WHILE IN PRISON THEY BOTH LEARNED OF THE DEATH OF

END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY. RAY THEN STATED IT SOUNDED LIKE A BIG JOB AND HE WAS ALWAYS ON THE INSIDE OR A PRISON WHEN BIG JOBS AND BIG MONEY WERE TO BE HAD.

SHORTLY AFTER THE DEATH OF JOHN F. KENNEDY, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BECAME PROMINENT AND RAY STATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT SOMEBODY WAS GOING TO KILL KING. THE STORY WENT ON TO REFLECT THAT DURING THIS PERIOD AN INDIVIDUAL CAME INTO THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY AT JEFFERSON CITY FROM VICKSBURG, MISS., AND WHO, UPON LEARNING OF JAMES EARL RAY'S FEELINGS TOWARD KILLING KING, ADVISED HIM OF THE KK BUSINESSMEN ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTH AND OF THE FACT THAT PEOPLE IN FIVE STATES WERE PUTTING UP MONEY FOR KING'S ASSASSINATION. THE STORY FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT RAY INFORMED HIM THAT HE INTENDED TO HAVE EVERYTHING SET WHEN HE KILLED KING AND THAT RAY, THROUGH MAPS, LEARNED OF KING'S MOVEMENTS SO HE COULD LATER STALK HIM TO THE POINT OF ASSASSINATION. THE STORY FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT RAY ADVISED HE WOULD LEAVE A FALSE GUN AND FALSE TRAIL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MURDER. RAY WAS SUPPOSED TO

END PAGE SIX

PAGE SEVEN

GO TO VICKSBURG FOLLOWING THE MURDER, CONTACT THE MAN FROM VICKSBURG, MISS., WHO HAD THE HOUSEBOAT, AND THIS MAN WAS TO TAKE HIM EITHER TO NEW ORLEANS OR CANADA VIA THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERVIEW, CURTIS STATED HE WOULDNOT TESTIFY TO ANY OF THE ABOVE. HE DID ADVISE IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT THE NAME OF THE INDIVIDUAL ON THE HOUSEBOAT IN VICKSBURG, MISS., WAS (FNU) WILLETT, ALSO KNOWN AS MISSISSIPPI WHO SERVED TIME IN THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY.

THE STORY ALSO MENTIONED A MAN FROM NEW ORLEANS WHO COULD OBTAIN ANY KIND OF IDENTIFICATION AND CURTIS LATER IDENTIFIED THIS MAN AS JOE COIN, WHICH INFORMATION HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN SET OUT IN AN INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS. THROUGHOUT THE INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS, AND WHILE READING CURTIS' STORY, HE CONTINUED TO EMPHASIZE THE FACT THAT HE WOULD NOT TESTIFY AGAINST RAY AS HE FEARED FOR HIS LIFE. HE INDICATED THAT ANY STATE PRISON HE WAS SENT TO WOULD PROBABLY HAVE INDIVIDUALS WHO WOULD KILL HIM AS A RESULT OF PREVIOUS INFORMATION HE FURNISHED THE PRESS AND TV MEDIA AND IT IS FELT HE WAS USING THIS AS AN EXCUSE AS TO WHY HE

END PAGE SEVEN

PAGE EIGHT

DID NOT WANT TO BE SENT TO A STATE PRISON ON HIS CURRENT LIFE SENTENCE. HE STATED HE WOULD NOT ALLOW HIS STORY TO BE XEROXED NOR WOULD HE WRITE IT OVER AGAIN OR ALLOW THE PAGES TO LEAVE HIS CELL. HE DID STATE HE WOULD TRANSCRIBE HIS STORY OVER A DICTATING MACHINE AND WOULD REDRAW CERTAIN MAPS HE PRODUCED FOR HIS STORY.

HE THEN PRESENTED CRUDE SKETCHES OF THE FED. PENITENTIARY AT LEVENWORTH, THE MISSOURI STATE PEN, IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED MAP ~~CONCERNING THE MAP~~ WHERE KING MADE NUMEROUS SPEECHES. *found*

UACB, CURTIS WILL BE ALLOWED TO DICTATE HIS STORY ON A DICTATING MACHINE IN THE PRESENCE OF SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR.

DUE TO THE UNRELIABILITY OF CURTIS, NO LEAD FOR AN EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION IS BEING SET FORTH FOR JACKSON IN CONNECTION WITH IDENTIFYING (FNU) WILLETT, AKA MISSISSIPPI UACB.
END