

further describe the car that pulled away, but he heard one of the Negro male customers tell the Police that this car that pulled away was a Mustang. He definitely knows the car was white and was sure that the car was a smaller car, possibly a compact car, rather than a full-size average American car such as a standard model Ford or Chevrolet. He stated that it would be his judgment that the car was at least a 1965 or later model. He did not observe the license plates at all.

Based upon the period of time which elapsed from the time he heard the "thud" near his front door until the time he walked out of his front door and saw the white small car pulling away, coupled with the fact that he did not see a man proceeding south on the sidewalk as he looked south, Mr. CANIPE feels that the man who had dropped or thrown the bundle in front of his store was the man driving the white small car away from the curb, as outlined above. He only knows that this man in the small white car drove north on Main past his front door. He does not know whether the car turned off Main Street at the next block or whether it continued to proceed north on Main Street. He does not think that the car was traveling unusually fast and he did not hear the tires "screech" as the car left.

As to a description of the man who dropped the bundle and walked south on Main past his store, Mr. CANIPE stated that he only had the opportunity to view this man momentarily, seeing the back of this man. He stated he saw the man's back and the man's left side only. He stated he did not see the man's face unless possibly he got a fleeting glance at the left side of the man's face. Mr. CANIPE furnished the following description of this man:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	25 - 30, possibly older
Height:	5'10" - 6' (at first placed height at 6 feet but on reflection stated man might be shorter and in no event could he be certain as to approximate height)

Weight:	175 - 200 pounds (at first estimated weight at 170 - 185, stating if man is as tall as 6 feet then he might weigh as much as 200, as he gained impression man was "chunky")
Build:	"Chunky"
Hair:	Dark, cut normally (definitely bareheaded)
Dress:	Gained impression man wearing dark colored suit
Over-all Impression:	Very clean, neat in appearance, clean cut.

Mr. CANIPE advised that no one was in his store at the time of the above related incident other than the two Negro males, one of whom has been purchasing records from him in the past, the other not being recalled as a former customer. He stated that he cannot recall any other persons in the immediate vicinity at the time, and the next person he saw after seeing the unknown man who dropped or threw down the bundle was the above mentioned Deputy Sheriff who was walking rapidly on the east side of Main Street toward CANIPE's store, having his gun drawn, when Mr. CANIPE looked out the door as outlined above. He described this Deputy as a white male, age twenty to thirty, bareheaded, 5'10", 165 pounds, wearing a Sheriff's Office uniform and definitely having the Shelby County Sheriff's Office insignia on his arm.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 10, 1968

Mr. BERNELL FINLEY, 1468 Kyle, Memphis, Tennessee, home telephone number 275-6524, who stated that he is an offset pressman at the Church of God in Christ Publishing House, 930 Mason Street, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone number 526-1169, was interviewed at his home by Lt. J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and Special Agent FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON. He furnished the following information:

He got off work at approximately 5:20 P.M., April 4, 1968, and he and a fellow employee, JULIUS GRAHAM, drove in Mr. FINLEY's car, a 1964 white, four-door Rambler, directly to Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, where they wanted to look over some old phonograph records. As they proceeded north on South Main Street to the vicinity of this store, they observed that all of the parking spaces in the block in front of CANIPE's store on the east side of Main were filled with automobiles. They continued north on South Main to Huling Street, turning right and parking Mr. FINLEY's car near a driveway under construction in the first block east of Main Street. They walked directly to Canipe Amusement Company. He estimated they arrived there about 5:30 P.M. There were no customers in Canipe Amusement Company other than Mr. FINLEY and Mr. GRAHAM. The two of them proceeded to look at old records in shelves on the south side of the store near the front of the store. The owner, Mr. CANIPE, was playing the "jukebox."

Sometime around 6:00 P.M., Mr. FINLEY heard a noise that sounded like a shot. He does not know whether Mr. GRAHAM or Mr. CANIPE heard this noise, as they said nothing and he said nothing. He attached no particular significance to hearing this noise at the time, but continued to look at records. Shortly thereafter and certainly within a matter of just a minute or so, he heard a second noise near the front door of CANIPE's store. He, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. CANIPE all immediately looked to the front door where they saw a box or package or bundle lying immediately in front of the door of this store. As his attention was attracted

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:jap Date dictated 4/9/68

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to this box or package, he also saw a man walking rapidly south on the sidewalk on the east side of Main, it being obvious that this was the person who had dropped or thrown the package in front of CANIPE's store, there being no one else around in that area and the box or package not having been there earlier.

Mr. FINLEY recalls that Mr. CANIPE walked up to the door and Mr. FINLEY followed him. Mr. CANIPE opened the door and started outside but immediately backed up and said, "Get back, there's some kind of trouble out here and I don't want no part of it." Immediately thereafter, Mr. FINLEY saw a Deputy Sheriff walking rapidly on the sidewalk south on Main, with his gun drawn, this Deputy not stopping but continuing south on Main in the same direction in which the above mentioned unknown man had walked. A few minutes thereafter he saw this same Deputy in front of CANIPE's store with his gun still drawn looking up as though he were trying to observe the upper stories of the buildings in the vicinity. A number of other officers arrived immediately thereafter, all of them being on foot.

Just about the time that Mr. CANIPE started out of the front door of the store, Mr. FINLEY heard the "screech" of tires and looked up to see a white Mustang speeding north on Main past CANIPE's store.

Mr. FINLEY explained that there was a car parked in front of CANIPE's store and therefore he did not get a full view of the car which had sped away, but he did see the rear portion of the roofline, as well as the trunk of the speeding car, and there is no question in his mind that this was a white car and there has been no question in his mind but what the car was a Mustang.

At the time this car sped away, Mr. FINLEY stated that he did not associate the speeding white Mustang with the man who had dropped the box or package, but after he learned what had occurred and after reflecting on the matter, he is now of the opinion that the man who dropped the package and walked south on the sidewalk past CANIPE's store was probably the man who got into the white Mustang and sped away from the area, going north on Main. As nearly as he can recall the sequence of the events, this white Mustang sped away from the curb moments before the Deputy Sheriff walked south past CANIPE's store.

As to the cars in the parking spaces in front of and to the south of CANIPE's store on the east side of Main, Mr. FINLEY advised that the car in the first position (that is, the car in front of CANIPE's store) was there when he first arrived at CANIPE's store and was there when he eventually left the area. He stated that after he had been questioned by Police and left CANIPE's store, there were no other vehicles immediately behind the car in front of CANIPE's store. He stated he was not in position to tell whether the speeding white Mustang pulled away from a parking space immediately behind the car which remained parked in front of CANIPE's store, or whether possibly it pulled away from a parking space farther south of this point.

Mr. FINLEY stated that he simply did not observe whether there was one or more occupants in the speeding Mustang, and he did not observe the license plates on this Mustang. He stated that the Mustang was one of the standard varieties and not the "Fastback" variety of Mustang.

Mr. FINLEY stated that the first person he saw in the area after his attention was first attracted by the dropping of the box was the above mentioned Deputy Sheriff with a revolver in his hand, and he knows of no one other than himself, Mr. CANIPE, and Mr. GRAHAM who saw the man in question and who saw the white Mustang speed away from the area, going north on Main.

As to the box or package dropped or thrown down by the unknown man, Mr. FINLEY stated that he observed a pasteboard box about 4 feet x 6 or 8 inches x 3 or 4 inches, having a tag of some kind on it, the top to this box being partially off to the point where he could see from one foot to 18 inches of the barrel of a gun. Eventually he observed that this gun was a rifle with a scope on it. There was some type of luggage, approximately 2 feet x 1½ feet x 6 or 8 inches, larger than an attache case, and some type of cloth folded over both of these items.

Mr. FINLEY stated that after the above mentioned armed Deputy Sheriff walked past CANIPE's store and after some other officers had arrived and were in front of CANIPE's store, Mr. CANIPE motioned to the officers from inside CANIPE's store, attracting the attention of one of them and pointing out the items left in front of the store and explaining to them what had occurred.

As to a description of the unknown man who dropped or threw down the package, Mr. FINLEY pointed out that he saw this man only momentarily, the man not taking over one or two steps while still in Mr. FINLEY's view. He stated that he "only got a glimpse of the man," not seeing his face except enough of the left side of the man's face to tell that he was a white man. He furnished the following description of this man:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	Simply not in a position to judge other than to state that man was not an old man (based upon the manner in which he walked).
Height:	5'8" to 5'10" (Mr. FINLEY at first placed the height at 5'6" to 5'8", stating that his final estimate was a little better than a guess).
Weight:	Around 160 pounds (stating that his estimate as to weight would vary depending on the man's height, that the man was not skinny and not fat but had an average build).
Build:	Average
Hair:	Simply cannot recall observing area of man's head; does not recall whether wearing hat; does not recall observing hair.
Dress:	Wearing dark suit

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 10, 1968

Mr. JULIUS L. GRAHAM, Apartment 5, 804 North Fifth Street, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone number 527-3817, employed as general assistant at the Church of God in Christ Publishing House, 930 Mason Street, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone number 526-1169, furnished the following information to Lt. J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and Special Agent FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:

He accompanied Mr. BERNELL FINLEY from their place of employment to Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, Memphis, where they arrived about 5:30 P.M. on April 4, 1968. He recalls that as they approached the store, proceeding north on Main Street, there were no parking spaces on the east side of Main in the block in front of this store. He also recalls that as they were looking for a parking space there definitely were two white cars in the parking spaces in front of and to the south of Canipe Amusement Company. The second of these two white cars, or the one slightly south of the CANIPE store was definitely a white Mustang. He believes the other white car, the one in front of CANIPE's store, was probably a white Rambler. He cannot remember a third car being parked behind the Mustang. The Mustang he saw as they approached the store looking for a parking place was the ordinary variety of Mustang rather than the late model "Fastback" variety. He did not notice the license plates on this Mustang.

Mr. GRAHAM eventually parked Mr. GRAHAM's car on Huling Street, east of Main Street. Mr. GRAHAM and Mr. FINLEY thereafter walked to CANIPE's store and started looking at phonograph records in shelves on the south wall of this store near the front of the store. Mr. GRAHAM did not hear a shot or any other unusual noise while looking at records until he heard the noise caused by a man dropping a package on the sidewalk immediately in front of the front door of CANIPE's store. He stated, however, that he saw the man who dropped this package before he heard the noise. He happened to be looking toward the front door, his attention

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:jap Date dictated 4/9/68

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having possibly been attracted by the footsteps of a running man. He is not sure but he believes he heard the footsteps of a man running and therefore looked toward the front door. Almost simultaneously as he looked up and saw a man carrying a large package of some kind, this man, who was walking south on the sidewalk immediately in front of CANIPE's store, stepped to the left and dropped the bundle in the recess in front of CANIPE's store and continued south on Main Street. Mr. GRAHAM stated that in his opinion this man was running rather than walking fast.

Mr. GRAHAM advised that the attention of both Mr. CANIPE and Mr. FINLEY was attracted by what had occurred when the man dropped the package, and all three of them started looking toward the front of the store and at the items which had been dropped. Mr. CANIPE started out of the front door, and as he recalls, "leaned" out of the front door looking in either direction, following which Mr. CANIPE came back in the store and made some remark about some trouble outside. Immediately after this a Deputy Sheriff walked south on the east side of Main, immediately in front of CANIPE's store, this Deputy passing the store and not stopping. He saw no other persons in the vicinity until some additional officers arrived on foot. Mr. GRAHAM later saw the same Deputy Sheriff who had walked past the store in the area in front of the store, still with his gun drawn. Eventually Mr. CANIPE was able to get the attention of one of the officers outside and pointed out the items in front of the store and the circumstances surrounding the presence of these items. Mr. GRAHAM observed a part of a gun barrel inside a large pasteboard box and also observed what appeared to him to be some type of green matting or cloth which appeared to be wrapped around the box containing the gun.

Prior to the time the armed Deputy first ran south past CANIPE's doorway, Mr. GRAHAM heard tires "screech" and observed a white Mustang to speed north on Main. The other white car, which Mr. GRAHAM believed to be a white Rambler, which had originally been parked in front of CANIPE's store, was still parked there at this time, and therefore his view of the car speeding away was partially obscured; however, Mr. GRAHAM is positive that the car which sped away was a white Mustang and there is no question in his mind but what it was the same Mustang he had seen earlier when he and Mr. FINLEY arrived in the vicinity of CANIPE's store, as outlined above. He stated he did not observe whether there was one or more people in this speeding Mustang.

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As to a description of the man seen by Mr. GRAHAM carrying a package and later dropping this package, running south on Main, Mr. GRAHAM pointed out that he saw this person primarily from this person's left side and saw him only momentarily, but he believes he might recognize him if he sees him again. He furnished the following description of that person:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	25 - 30
Height:	5'7" - 5'8"
Weight:	About 165 pounds
Build:	Average (Mr. GRAHAM heard Mr. CANIPE tell the Police that he thought the man had a "chunky" build, but Mr. GRAHAM got the definite impression of a man who was neither thin nor fat but who was average in build).
Hair:	Dark (either black or dark brown, normally cut).
Dress:	Dark clothing (either a dark suit or a dark dress-type jacket and slacks; no hat; did not notice shirt or tie).
General Appearance:	Neat and clean in appearance, created impression of a salesman or businessman.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/12/68

Mr. EDWIN BODENHEIMER, 180 Clark Place, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone number 275-9844, who stated that he operates Shelby Amusement Company, 975 James, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street by Lieutenant J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON. He furnished the following information:

On April 4, 1968, he spent a good part of the day with Mr. G. W. CANIPE, a competitor and personal friend, and he (Mr. BODENHEIMER) was not at the Canipe Amusement Company at any time on the afternoon or evening of April 4, 1968.

He stated that as an aid in helping Mr. CANIPE to estimate what time Mr. CANIPE returned to Canipe Amusement Company on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, he recalled that it was 5:20 p.m. when Mr. CANIPE telephoned Mr. BODENHEIMER, and he would estimate that Mr. CANIPE could have only been at CANIPE's place of business a few minutes at this time. Mr. BODENHEIMER stated he could furnish no information which would be of assistance in the investigation of the shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:wp Date dictated 4/11/68

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NO. 2 ENGINE HOUSE,
MEMPHIS FIRE DEPARTMENT,
474 SOUTH MAIN STREET,
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

(This section pertains to interviews with firemen stationed at this house and with police officers and sheriff's deputies who were on duty at or near this fire house as a result of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., being at the Lorraine Motel located in the immediate vicinity of this engine house.)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/16/68

1

Lt. JUDSON EUGENE GHORMLEY, Deputy Sheriff, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, a white male, age 40, residing at 4124 Ronnie Avenue, telephone 386-6034, furnished the following information:

On April 4, 1968, he was assigned to Tactical Unit 10, which consisted of three vehicles and twelve officers, both Deputy Sheriffs and Memphis Police Officers. The Deputy Sheriffs, in addition to GHORMLEY assigned to Tactical Unit 10 were W. J. BERRY, R. N. BAKER, W. A. DU FOUR, V. V. DOLLAHITE, and R. W. MALEY. Memphis Police Officers assigned to Tactical Unit 10 were Officers DOUGLASS, GROSS, DUNN, LANDERS, WRIGHT and MORRIS.

At about 6:00 PM on April 4, 1968, Tactical Unit 10 had stopped at the Memphis Fire Department Engine House located at Main and Butler, about $\frac{1}{2}$ block southwest of the Lorraine Motel, and the unit was in that location when a Negro male detective ran into the fire station and stated that Doctor KING had been shot. Upon hearing this, the members of Tactical Unit 10, including GHORMLEY ran east on Butler to Mulberry and north on Mulberry toward the Lorraine Motel. While en route, GHORMLEY observed a number of Negro males and females standing on the balcony of the motel pointing towards a building west of the motel, the front of which was located on S. Main Street.

GHORMLEY saw Officer DU FOUR running up the stairs of the Lorraine Motel toward the balcony where Doctor KING's body was lying. DU FOUR was followed closely by Officer BAKER. DU FOUR and BAKER, in that order, would have been the first officers to reach KING.

GHORMLEY also saw Officer LANDERS scale a wall on the west side of Mulberry Street and enter a back yard, which he later determined to have been behind the buildings known as 418, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 424 S. Main Street.

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On 4/16/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987
by SA THOMAS L. BUCKLEY /bbs Date dictated 4/16/68

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Seeing the people on the balcony pointing toward the building on Main Street, Officer GHORMLEY stopped and retraced his steps around the fire station and ran north on Main Street. As he approached the building at 424 S. Main, he noticed a suitcase, blue in color, a rifle box, which was partly open and what appeared to be a blanket lying in the doorway at 424 S. Main. He could see the barrel of a rifle in the rifle box. At this time, a white male whose name he later determined was Mr. CANIPE, came to the door of 424 S. Main and advised him that a white male, who CANIPE described as tall, a little on the heavy side, wearing a dark colored possibly black suit, a shirt and tie, having dark colored hair possibly black, moments before had deposited these articles in the doorway and had then run south on Main Street.

Using his walkie-talkie radio, GHORMLEY advised his dispatcher of the information provided by Mr. CANIPE. He also guarded the articles lying in the doorway so no one would disturb them. Upon talking further to Mr. CANIPE, he learned from CANIPE that shortly after the white male who left the above described articles in CANIPE's doorway, had run south on Main Street, that CANIPE had noticed a white Mustang automobile drive past that location at a high rate of speed headed north on Main. At this time, Officer GHORMLEY again used his radio to advise his dispatcher of this information.

The next officer to arrive at GHORMLEY's location was Officer DOUGLASS, who drove the station wagon assigned to Tactical Unit 10 from its location at the fire station to a location directly in front of 424 S. Main where Officer DOUGLASS double parked the station wagon and aided in guarding the evidence left by the above described white male.

The next officer at this location was Deputy Sheriff V. V. DOLLAHITE, who approached the location from the north on Main Street after having apparently circled the block. About this time, Officers from the Memphis Homicide Squad arrived at the scene and took charge. GHORMLEY estimated the total time lapsed from the time he heard that

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KING had been shot until he discovered the suitcase, gun and blanket, was no more than 2 or 3 minutes. GHORMLEY does not recall seeing a white Mustang parked along the area of S. Main, which he covered during the time immediately following the shooting, neither does he recall seeing anyone running south on Main Street in this same area.

During the incident described above, GHORMLEY was dressed in a khaki colored long sleeve shirt bearing the insignia of the Shelby County Sheriff's Department, and dark green uniform trousers. He was not wearing a hat or helmet. GHORMLEY recalls that Officer LANDERS, whom he saw scaling the wall across from the Lorraine Motel, was dressed in the usual Memphis Police Department uniform consisting of a blue shirt and trousers. Officer LANDERS was not wearing a hat or helmet. GHORMLEY recalls that there were 2 Negro males in Canipe's Amusement Center at the time he was talking to CANIPE. He thinks these person may also have seen the above described white male deposit the gun, suitcase, and blanket in CANIPE's doorway and may also have seen the white Mustang speeding north on S. Main Street in front of CANIPE's store. He does not know the names of these Negroes.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/13/68

Patrolman VERNON VERNARD DOLLAHITE, Patrol Division, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, residence 3330 Dawn Drive, Apartment 12, home telephone 358-8067, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed by Lieutenant W. S. SCHULTZ, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON, at which time he re-enacted his movements on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, after he learned that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot at the Lorraine Motel. He furnished the following information:

On Thursday, April 4, 1968, he was assigned to Tactical Unit No. 10, consisting of 12 men, half of whom were Deputy Sheriffs and half of whom were police officers, which unit was located at the fire station at Main and Butler around 6:00 p.m., when he learned that Dr. KING had been shot.

Around 6:00 p.m., he and other officers were inside the fire station when he heard someone yell that Dr. KING had been shot. He immediately ran out of the door on the north side of the fire station, then ran east toward the Lorraine Motel, jumping over a fence, and then dropping down about a 10-foot concrete retaining wall which runs along the west side of Mulberry Street. He then ran to the driveway on Mulberry Street, which leads into the Lorraine Motel, to a point beneath the balcony where Dr. KING's body was lying. He stated that he heard an unknown Negro male at the scene say, "The dirty m----- f----- police shot him."

As he ran into the driveway, he dropped his firearm and had to stop momentarily and pick up the firearm, checking it briefly, and then continuing. After going to the scene near where the body was lying and determining that other officers were converging on the area, he immediately ran out of the driveway, running north on Mulberry Street to Huling and west on Huling Street to Main Street, then south on Main Street. As he

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On 4/11/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:wp Date dictated 4/12/68

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ran out of the driveway at the Lorraine Motel, he was joined by an officer named MALEY, who ran along with him to a driveway on the south side of Huling Street between Mulberry and South Main Street. Officer MALEY stopped at that point to observe, and DOLLAHITE kept running toward Main.

Upon reaching Main Street and turning south on Main Street, he saw no pedestrian traffic whatever. He continued running south on Main Street until he came to Jim's Grill, a restaurant at 418 South Main Street. The door was standing open. He stepped inside, looked around briefly, seeing customers sitting around eating and drinking, and he announced to all present that no one should leave that restaurant until the police had arrived and approved their leaving the premises. He then pulled the door to the restaurant shut and continued running south on Main Street.

As he came out of Jim's Grill and started running south again, he observed some items lying in the doorway to Canipe Amusement Company at 424 South Main. At the time, he had no idea as to the significance of these items lying in that doorway. He did not stop but kept running south on Main past Canipe's, going a distance of some 20 to 30 feet before stopping. His purpose in running past Canipe's was in order to look east around the corner of the building in which Canipe's is located to see if he could observe anyone running or any other suspicious activity, DOLLAHITE stating that at this time he, of course, did not know the point from which the gun had been fired resulting in the killing of Dr. KING.

Upon running 20 or 30 feet south of Canipe's, he observed that there was no area at that location where anyone could run or conceal himself, there being some large outdoor signs and a fence located just south of Canipe's. In addition, he observed other officers running north on Main on the east side of the sidewalk, coming from the direction of the fire station, so that these officers would have been in a position to see anyone running or any other suspicious activity in the general area in which DOLLAHITE was proceeding. He then turned around and walked north on the east side of Main to the

vicinity of the doorway to Canipe Amusement Company. About this time other officers arrived on the scene and took up a position around the items lying in front of the doorway to Canipe Amusement Company. Patrolman DOLLAHITE then walked west across Main Street in front of Canipe Amusement Company and stationed himself near a blue Camaro parked on the west side of Main opposite Canipe Amusement Company.

Patrolman DOLLAHITE advised that he is positive that after he arrived on Main Street, and until the officers had given their approval, no person left the area on foot. He is equally positive that no vehicle sped away from the area around Canipe Amusement Company after he arrived on Main Street. He stated that the only time he was not in a position to observe the activity in the 400 block of South Main after he first arrived there was during the time that he stepped into Jim's Grill. He stated, however, that he was in this grill only momentarily and he is certain in his own mind that he was not in Jim's Grill long enough for anyone to have run from either of the exits to a rooming house at 422½ South Main and thereafter run to an automobile and leave the scene without his having seen such activity.

With regard to the owner of Canipe Amusement Company, a white man, and two customers inside Canipe Amusement Company, two Negro males, he stated that he saw all three of these persons and was with a group of officers who were talking to these individuals. He stated, however, that as he ran south on Main before leaving Canipe Amusement Company, he did not see the white male, Mr. CANIPE, step out onto the sidewalk. He stated that since he was alone and one of the first officers to arrive in this area, his essential purpose was first to attempt to observe and locate any suspicious person who might be attempting to leave the area, and secondly, wherever he saw any people in business houses or otherwise, he instructed them to remain where they were so that officers later checking the area would have an opportunity to interview everyone who was in the area as soon as possible.

Patrolman DOLLAHITE advised that after other officers had arrived in front of Canipe Amusement Company, and after he had learned during the conversation that

one or more of the three persons inside Canipe Amusement Company reported hearing the "squealing" of tires as a white Mustang sped away from the area, he observed what he regarded to be skid marks at a point approximately one car length south of the doorway to Canipe Amusement Company. In pointing out the general area where he observed these skid marks, Patrolman DOLLAHITE observed that there is space for three automobiles to park between the first driveway south of Canipe Amusement Company (on the east side of Main) and a no parking zone around a fire plug just to the north of this driveway. He stated that he would estimate that the skid marks which he observed were made by an automobile parked in the center parking area, assuming all three parking spaces were filled at the time.

As to automobiles parked on the east side of Main in the area in front of Canipe Amusement Company at the time he arrived on the scene, he stated he cannot now recall a description of the vehicles which he did see. However, he does recall observing about a 1962 red Chevrolet station wagon which he believes was parked in the first space south of the above-mentioned driveway. He advised that he was also under the impression he had seen this station wagon at another point just north of this driveway and possibly the owner had moved the car later on during the evening. He stated that there was an automobile parked directly in front of Canipe Amusement Company, but no automobile parked in the space immediately behind the car in front of Canipe Amusement Company. It was in this blank space, or the number two position south of Canipe Amusement Company, that he saw what he thought to be skid marks and which appeared to have been made as a car pulled away from that position going north on Main Street.

Patrolman DOLLAHITE advised that he had his firearm in his hand at all times when he was in the 400 block of Main Street, and if the witnesses in Canipe Amusement Company reported seeing a Deputy running south on Main carrying a firearm, then undoubtedly these witnesses were referring to him, Patrolman DOLLAHITE.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/15/68

TORRENCE N. LANDERS, Patrolman, Memphis Police Department, furnished the following information:

On the afternoon of April 4, 1968, he was a member of Mobile Tactical Unit Ten which consisted of 3 vehicles. Shortly prior to 6:00 PM, the unit stopped at the fire station located in the 400 block of S. Main Street at E. Butler Avenue. Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was staying at the Lorraine Motel at the time, and the motel was located approximately one block from the fire station. At approximately 5:50 PM on April 4, he heard a sharp sound which resembled a firearm being discharged, however, no one else paid any attention to the noise and he paid no further attention to it, however, a few moments later someone in the fire station announced that Doctor KING had been shot. He immediately left the fire station by the door on the northwest corner, ran along side the station to a retaining wall in back of the station which is also Mulberry Avenue. He and another officer jumped down onto Mulberry Street and ran to the Lorraine Motel where a group of Negroes were gathered on the walk beneath the balcony. There was a great deal of turmoil, and he asked one of the men present, from what direction the shot was fired. This individual pointed to the second floor windows of a rooming house on S. Main Street and said, "from over there."

Officer FLANDERS immediately left the motel on foot, ran across Mulberry Street, and leaping on an empty 55 gallon drum which was on the sidewalk, he boosted himself up onto the top of a retaining wall. He then searched the ground in back of the rooming house for footprints, however, he found none with the exception of 2 footprints near a cellar door. It had rained the previous day and the ground was soft and any footprints would have been easily noted. Just a few minutes later, he was joined in the search by a deputy sheriff, who was wearing a light colored helmet. LANDERS stated that he, himself, had no hat and he was wearing a light blue shirt, no tie, and dark blue trousers.

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On 4/13/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987
 by SA MELVIN E. DE GRAW
SA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS KAW/bbs Date dictated 4/13/68

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The ground level premises in the area were immediately searched, however, nothing was revealed or noted connected to this investigation. He also advised that in a matter of a few minutes the area was swarming with officers who sealed off the area in a effort to apprehend the individual responsible for shooting Doctor KING. He reiterated that he is positive if anyone had been across the street from the Lorraine Motel in the area behind the rooming house in the 400 block of S. Main Street, he would have been able to observe the individual's footprints, however, none were noted,

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 16, 1968

CHARLES ELVIN STONE, 584 Orchard Drive, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at the Number Two Engine House, Memphis Fire Department, 474 South Main Street. STONE advised that he is a member of the Memphis Fire Department, and has been in this employment for the past three years. He stated that he was on duty at the Firehouse on April 4, 1968, and was a witness to the shooting of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. He stated that at approximately 6:00 p.m. on that date, he was in the rear locker room of the Fire Department, and was looking out the back window across the street to the motel where DR. KING was staying. He advised that DR. KING was standing on the balcony outside of his hotel room, and was talking to another individual below the balcony. STONE stated that there was another man standing to the right of DR. KING, and a number of other individuals located in the courtyard directly below the hotel room of DR. KING.

STONE stated that as KING was talking to the individual below him, a shot rang out, and DR. KING fell over backwards. STONE stated that he was stunned for a few seconds, and after realizing what had happened, ran inside to the center of the firehouse, and told both the other firemen and the police officers that were in the firehouse at that time that DR. KING had been shot. At first the officers thought that STONE was joking, but one of the other firemen came rushing in saying the same thing. At that instance, all of the police officers rushed out of the firehouse in an attempt to cut off the area in which the shooting occurred. STONE stated that at approximately ten seconds later, he went out the side door of the Fire Department, and proceeded towards Mulberry Street, the street on which DR. KING's motel was located. STONE stated there was mass confusion at the hotel as people were running to see what had happened, and the only ones he saw on the street at that time were the police officers who were converging on the area. STONE stated that he did not notice any white man in the area immediately after the shooting nor did he notice any individual wearing a white hood. STONE stated that after a few minutes, he walked to the front of the Firehouse, but stated that he did not observe any white Mustang on Front Street or in that vicinity.

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On 4/16/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987
by SAs EDWARD M. QUINN
SHIELDS W. SMITH / EMQ:jms Date dictated 4/16/68

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STONE also advised that he did not notice a Mustang of that type near the Firehouse at any time during that day.

STONE stated that with him in the locker room at the time of the shooting were Lieutenant LOENNEKE and Fireman KING, both members of the Fire Department, and a Negro police officer, Officer RICHMOND. STONE stated that all of these individuals were watching the hotel room at the time DR. KING was shot, and all saw the actual shooting. STONE stated that from the sound of the shot, he thought it came from the parking lot located north of the Fire Department, but that it could have been slightly further north.

STONE advised that he was unable to furnish any positive information concerning the individual who fired the shot killing DR. KING.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 15, 1968

Mr. GEORGE W. LOENNEKE, 1390 Smythe, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at the Memphis Police Department, and furnished the following information:

LOENNEKE stated that he is a Lieutenant at the Memphis Fire Department, and is regularly assigned to Fire Station Number 2, located at 474 South Main Street. He advised that he was on duty at this location on April 4, 1968. LOENNEKE stated that at approximately 6:00 p.m. on that date he was standing, looking through a peephole in a newspaper, which had been placed over the window on the rear door of the fire station. He stated that he was in the locker room at the rear of the station, and with him was a Negro police officer, Officer RICHMOND, and another fireman named WILLIAM KING.

LOENNEKE went on to state that as he approached his locker, which was to the right of the window, Officer RICHMOND called him and said, "DR. KING is fixing to leave his hotel room." LOENNEKE stated that he then asked Officer RICHMOND to let him look at KING, as LOENNEKE had not seen DR. KING for approximately two years. While LOENNEKE was looking through the peephole of the window, he saw DR. KING standing and leaning against the rail, looking down to the parking lot, saying something to another Negro male. Individuals by the name of BABY JESUS and Reverend BEVEL were standing to the extreme right of DR. KING. LOENNEKE stated that as DR. KING turned slowly to his left to say something to the individual below was when the shot was fired. LOENNEKE advised that it appeared to him as though DR. KING was looking at something or someone that fired the shot. LOENNEKE immediately turned to Police Officer RICHMOND, and stated, "DR. KING has been shot." He stated that Officer RICHMOND went in a state of shock at the sound of this news, and did not take any immediate action.

LOENNEKE stated that he then ran through the apparatus floor, telling other police officers that DR. KING had been shot. He then went through the lunchroom of the engine house telling

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On 4/13/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987

SAs EDWARD M. QUINN
by SHIELDS W. SMITH / EMQ:jms Date dictated 4/13/68

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the officers in that location that DR. KING had been shot. All police officers, upon hearing the news that DR. KING had been shot, immediately rushed out the door and proceeded in all directions in order to surround the motel in which DR. KING was staying.

LOENNEKE further advised that after he informed the police officers that DR. KING had been shot, he went out the front door of the station onto Main Street, but did not observe anyone running on Main Street or any pedestrian traffic whatsoever. In addition, he stated that he did not see a white Mustang on Main Street after the shooting nor did he hear the sound of an automobile leaving in a hurried manner.

LOENNEKE stated that while he was looking through the peephole, both before and immediately after DR. KING had been shot, he did not see any person on Mulberry Street wearing a light jacket or pull-over shirt with a hood on it. He stated that just prior to the time DR. KING was shot, two Negro females were standing on the second floor balcony, a short distance from DR. KING. LOENNEKE advised that at the time DR. KING was shot, these women started hollering in excitement, and appeared to be in a state of shock. He stated that both women, after realizing what had happened, then began to attempt to administer help to DR. KING. He also advised that there was a white man, without a suitcoat and wearing black horn-rimmed glasses, who approached the body of DR. KING, and then left to obtain more towels, which were being used to stop the blood coming from DR. KING's body. LOENNEKE stated that he had seen this white man previously that date with DR. KING, and assumed that he was in DR. KING's party. Approximately thirty seconds after the shot had been fired, a Negro male appeared on the balcony, and started taking photographs of DR. KING's body. LOENNEKE thought this odd at the time because the individual made no attempt to assist DR. KING, but was more concerned with the taking of the pictures.

LOENNEKE further stated that at the time the shot was fired, he saw only one man in the courtyard or parking lot beneath DR. KING's balcony, and this man he assumed was DR. KING's personal chauffeur.

LOENNEKE advised that to the best of his knowledge, the shot that was fired came from the left of the firehouse and from a position which could not be seen from the window from which

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he was observing DR. KING. He stated that at no time did he see a white male running from the area, and could furnish no positive information concerning a possible suspect in this murder.

LOENNEKE advised that he was unable to furnish any additional information at this time.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/15/68

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Patrolman BARNEY G. WRIGHT, Memphis Police Department, home address 4264 Dunn Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised as follows:

On April 4, 1968, he was assigned to a Tact Unit which is an emergency unit. That unit consists of 3 automobiles with four police officers in each automobile. The automobiles consisted of both Memphis Police Officers and Shelby County Sheriff's Office Deputies. During the day of April 4, 1968, the members of that emergency squad did change cars from time to time so that at different times during the day he, himself, was riding with different police officers. They were doing this so that the members of the Shelby County Sheriff's Office did not feel that the Memphis Police Department did not want to work with them. Shortly before 6:00 PM, April 4, 1968, the 3 cars making up the emergency squad or Tact Unit parked in the driveway of the fire station at Main and E. Butler Streets. That fire station is located south of the rooming house from which the shot which killed Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was believed to be fired. A fenced in parking lot is located between the fire station and that building. The 3 vehicles making up the emergency squad were parked facing Main Street. Two of the vehicles were side by side, and the third vehicle was directly behind one of the 2 cars which faced onto Main Street.

He was sitting in the lounge of the fire station at Main and E. Butler Streets shortly before 6:00 PM reading a newspaper when he heard rattling of the plate glass window behind him. The lounge area of that fire station is on the south side of the building. He does not recall hearing any shot but only the rattling of the plate glass window, and immediately thereafter the other members in his emergency squad began running out of the north side of the fire station building. He ran out after them and on the outside of the building he was surprised to find that the other members of his emergency squad were running toward Mulberry Street and the Lorraine Motel instead of

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On 4/13/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987
 by SA VINCENT H. LAMMERS
SA JOE W. PHILLIPS JWP/bbs Date dictated 4/13/68

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toward their emergency vehicles. He ran to Mulberry Street, but did not cross Mulberry Street as there is a high retaining wall at Mulberry Street. As he arrived at Mulberry Street, other members of his emergency squad had gone beyond the retaining wall, had crossed Mulberry Street, and were at the Lorraine Motel. They were calling out that Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot and the shot was believed to have come from an apartment or rooming house north of the fire station. He then ran back to the emergency vehicle which he had previously been assigned to parked in the fire station driveway facing Main Street, and as he got into that vehicle, Patrolman E. E. DOUGLAS also got into the unit with him, and Patrolman DOUGLAS immediately began putting out a radio broadcast that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot.

He does not recall seeing any officer near Canipe's Amusement Center, 424 Main Street, at the time he and Patrolman DOUGLAS got into their emergency unit. After Patrolman DOUGLAS radioed the message that KING had been shot, they then drove their emergency unit out onto Main Street, but instead of turning north toward the building where the shot which hit Doctor KING was believed to have been fired, they turned south on Main Street, circled around the fire station there, and drove onto Mulberry Street and in front of the Lorraine Motel. They stopped momentarily in front of the Lorraine Motel on Mulberry Street and then proceeded on down Mulberry Street to the next street which is Huling Avenue, and they went west on Huling Avenue and around to Main Street where they parked their emergency unit in front of the building in which the shot which hit KING was believed to have been fired. He and Patrolman DOUGLAS got out of that emergency unit and took a position across the street from that building on Main Street to watch for any suspects who might come out of the building. He estimated that it took he and Patrolman DOUGLAS from 2 to 3 minutes from the time Doctor KING was shot until they made that circle around the block and came back to their position in front of the building on Main Street.

He was dressed in dark blue trousers, a royal blue shirt, a dark blue tie, and a blue steel helmet. He does

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not recall anyone in the area who might be described as wearing a light colored upper garment, or wearing anything which might resemble a hood. He does not recall any officers in any of the positions along Main Street in front of that building north of the fire station where he held a position after the shooting. He does not recall Patrolman DOLLARHITE or any other officer running past U. S. Fixtures moments after the shooting. He does not recall seeing any officer near Canipe's Amusement Center, 424 Main Street, immediately after the shooting. Since he and the other Memphis Police Officers were interchanging cars and were switching off to ride with members of the Shelby County Sheriff's Office Deputies in their 3 emergency vehicles, the only persons he can recall as being in the emergency vehicle which he was assigned to at the time of the shooting were Patrolman E. E. DOUGLAS and Lieutenant J. E. GHORMLEY.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 15, 1968

WILLIAM BISHOP KING, 1776 West Lloyd Circle, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at the Central Police Headquarters, and furnished the following information:

KING advised he was regularly assigned to Number 2 Fire Station, Main and Butler, Memphis, and that on April 4, 1968, he had reported to work at 7:00 a.m., and was to work until 7:00 a.m., April 5, 1968. He advised that during this work shift, two officers of the Memphis police force had been on location in the fire station conducting a surveillance of the KING party from a door to the rear of the fire station.

KING stated that he occasionally looked through holes torn in a newspaper which was being used to cover the rear door and to cover the surveilling officers during this period.

KING stated that he had been at the window observing for approximately ten minutes at the time DR. KING was shot. He advised that during this five or ten minute period that he observed, DR. KING came out of his motel room, and stood on the balcony for approximately three minutes prior to the time he was shot. He stated that an individual was standing on the balcony with DR. KING, and that DR. KING appeared to be talking to someone in the courtyard. At this time, KING heard what sounded to be a shot, and he noted DR. KING fall on the balcony. KING advised that he thought that it was a rifle shot because the sound had a zinging tone to it. Immediately DR. KING fell, confusion broke out in the motel. KING advised that he kept his eyes on the balcony, and did not actually look around the area, and that he, himself, was in a stunned state. At this time, someone else in the firehouse made the statement, "Let me see," and he, KING, moved away from the door, and this person moved to the door. KING could not identify this person, and advised that he moved back into the firehouse proper.

KING stated that at the time he was observing the motel, that a Negro officer, a CHARLES STONE, and Lieutenant LOENNEKE were also at the window. He stated that he could furnish no further

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On 4/13/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987
by SAs EDWARD M. QUINN
SHIELDS W. SMITH / SWS:jms Date dictated 4/13/68

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names of individuals who might possibly have been observing the motel at the time DR. KING was shot.

KING advised that he thought a shot came from his left, and that at the time he heard the shot, that KING fell approximately the same instant; however, KING stated he could not see any buildings to the left of where he was standing nor could he see the open lot to the left of the firehouse. KING advised that he did not see anyone outside the building, other than those persons in the KING group, prior to the shot. He also advised that following the shot, he did not see any policeman or any other individual in the street before he moved away from the window.

KING advised that he could not identify any other persons whom he had seen on the balcony either prior to or following the shooting of DR. KING as he was not familiar with these individuals by name. He does recall seeing a Negro woman in the doorway of the motel room two doors down from the room of DR. KING immediately after the shooting. He also recalled that the individual standing by DR. KING at the time of the shot was crawling around on the balcony attempting to aid DR. KING. He advised that his view was restricted to either side, and that because of the manner in which the holes were placed in the newspaper, he could only see straight ahead to the motel.

KING could furnish no further information concerning individuals who might have been in or around the motel at the time of the shooting, and could furnish no information concerning any automobiles outside the fire station as he had not gone out of the station immediately following the shooting.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/15/68

1

Patrolman WILLIAM E. GROSS, Memphis Police Department, home address 4728 Tutwiler, Memphis, advised as follows:

On April 4, 1968, he was assigned to one of 3 emergency units which make up what is called a Tact Unit for controlling any disturbances which might occur in Memphis. Those 3 emergency units are made up of 4 men, each of both Memphis Police Officers and Deputies of the Shelby County Sheriff's Office. During the day of April 4, 1968, the men assigned to those units changed from one car to the other. For that reason, he does not recall who was in the emergency vehicle with him during the late afternoon of April 4, 1968, except Patrolman BILL DU FOUR (phonetic).

Shortly before 6:00 PM, April 4, 1968, the 3 emergency units parked at the fire station at Main and E. Butler Streets, Memphis, so that they might take a rest break. Since his wife had just gotten out of the hospital, he went to the telephone in the fire station to call and see how she was feeling, as the other men were taking their rest break. That fire station is located south of a building on Main Street in which a shot which killed Doctor KING is believed to have been fired. Between the fire station and that building is a fenced in parking lot with a gate in front.

As he was talking with his wife, he saw the other men in his emergency unit began running out of the fire station. He does not recall hearing any shot, but he knew something was wrong and he immediately told his wife he had to leave and would call her later. He ran out of the fire station after the other men and turned east once outside the fire station, and he ran toward Mulberry Street and the Lorraine Motel. Since a high retaining wall is located at Mulberry Street, he never crossed that retaining wall or Mulberry Street, but when he arrived at that point some of the other police officers who had crossed Mulberry and who were at the Lorraine Motel called out that Doctor KING had been shot and they believed the shot had come from the building north of

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On 4/13/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987

by SA VINCENT H. LAMMERS
SA JOE W. PHILLIPS JWP/bbs Date dictated 4/13/68

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the fire station. He ran back through that passageway which is between the fire station and the fenced in lot just north of the fire station to Main Street. When he arrived at Main Street, he recalls there were 2 Memphis Police Officers and also a Deputy Sheriff already on Main Street in front of the building where the shot was believed to have been fired from, however, he cannot identify either of those 3 officers. He took up a position in front of Canipe Amusement Center at 424 S. Main Street, Memphis. He actually stood on Main Street in front of that doorway. After he took up his position, he recalls seeing a satchel and a rifle in the doorway in front of him. Those items were lying on what appeared to be a green piece of cloth material which appeared to be a blanket or bedspread. He did not touch any of that material, nor did he go near it, but he did watch it from his position.

Shortly after he took up his position, which was within 2 or 3 minutes after he received the report that Doctor KING had been shot, he remained at that spot until the investigation was completed. Immediately after he took his position, 2 other members of the emergency squad came to the parking lot, which was between the building in which he was then standing and the fire station. Those officers went into that parking lot and searched it thoroughly for anyone who might be hiding therein, including a clump of bushes located at the back of the parking lot at the retaining wall. After they found no one hiding in that area, they came out, locked the gate on the parking lot, and the 2 men stood there to guard that gate.

After he had stood at his position for a short time, an individual, who apparently was the operator of Canipe Amusement Center, came out and informed him that he had been ordered to the Memphis Police Station to make a report of what he had seen. He informed that individual that he could not leave the area until he (GROSS) had cleared it with his superior officer. After he cleared it with his superior officer, he told the individual to go ahead. That man then got into his pick-up truck which was parked on Main Street

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between the building he was standing in front of and the fire station and drove away, apparently to the police station.

GROSS advised that he observed Inspector N. E. ZACHARY, Memphis Police Department Homicide Squad, and another officer of the Homicide Squad, name unknown, come to the area and collected the satchel, rifle, and green cloth material which he had been standing in front of. He noted they did not touch any of those items, but used handkerchiefs to pick it up. They placed the rifle and the satchel in the green cloth material, then they picked up the green cloth containing the other items and took it all to police headquarters. GROSS observed this from a distance of approximately 10 to 15 feet.

On April 4, 1968, he was wearing dark blue trousers, a royal blue shirt, a dark blue tie, and a blue steel helmet. He does not recall anyone in the area who might have been wearing an upper garment which might be described as white or light colored, and who was wearing an item of clothing which might be described as a hood. He does not recall seeing Patrolman DOLLAHITE or any other police officer running on Main Street near the U. S. Fixtures office moments after the shooting.

He advised when the 3 emergency units parked by the fire station shortly before 6:00 PM, April 4, 1968, they parked in the fire station driveway facing the units toward south Main Street. Two emergency units were parked side by side and the third unit was parked directly behind one of the front two. He surmised that if the person who shot Doctor KING had fired the shot from the building north of the fire station on Main Street, and that individual had then run out of the building onto Main Street and had turned south on Main Street, the first thing that individual would have seen would have been 3 police cars in the driveway of the fire station. Although those 3 emergency police vehicles were unmanned, he feels that is possibly what happened in this instance and that is why the suspect dropped the rifle, satchel and green cloth blanket or bedspread, which was in front of the Canipe Amusement Center at 424 S. Main Street.

ME 44-1987

OTHERS IN VICINITY OF CRIME SCENE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/6/68

Mr. CHARLES HARDY HURLEY, Advertising Layout Department, National Food Company, 1797 South Florida Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

Mr. HURLEY said that he parked his car a little south of the Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, at 4:45 p.m., on April 4, 1968. He said that his car was facing in a northerly direction and was immediately behind a white Mustang vehicle of an unknown year, which was immediately in front of the Canipe Amusement Company. HURLEY said he saw one white male in the Mustang car but could furnish no physical description of the man as it was too dark in the man's car to enable him to get a good look at the man. Mr. HURLEY stated that he looked at the license plate of the Mustang and believed it to be an Arkansas license with the first two letters being "AL." Mr. HURLEY said he could not be positive of the two letters "AL" on the license, but he believed these letters did appear on the license.

Mr. HURLEY said that he could furnish no further information regarding the white Mustang and its lone occupant as he, Mr. HURLEY, drove away at 4:48 p.m. on April 4, 1968, and the man was still in the car when he left.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

SAs STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON
by and JOHN W. BAUER SMD:gmh Date dictated 4/5/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/5/68

PEGGY JANE HURLEY, customer services, Seabrook Wallpaper Company, 421 South Main Street, Memphis, advised that at about 4:45 p.m., April 4, 1968, one of the girls in the front showroom called to her and told her that her husband was waiting on the street from her. Upon hearing this she went to the showroom and told the girl that was not her husband's white Falcon but it was a white Mustang. A few minutes later Mrs. HURLEY stated that her husband did pull up in their white Falcon and parked behind the white Mustang which was parked in front of Canipe's Amusements directly across the street. She left work, crossed the street and proceeded home with her husband. She said that when they arrived home they heard on the news that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot at the Lorraine Hotel, and that the suspect had gotten away in a white Mustang. She said that she and her husband began to talk about the white Mustang which was parked right in front of her husband's car when he picked her up on Main Street. She said her husband told her that he noticed that this Mustang had Arkansas license plates on it. He also said that he noticed a white man sitting in the Mustang. He said he was wearing what appeared to be a dark suit. Mrs. HURLEY stated she did remember a man sitting in the car when she left work, but she could not determine what kind of clothes he was wearing or what color hair he had.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987by SA JOHN W. BAUER
SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON JWB:raj Date dictated 4/5/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/7/68

ELIZABETH COPELAND, customer services, Seabrook Wallpaper Company, 421 South Main Street, Memphis, advised that at about 4:45 p.m., April 4, 1968, she saw a white car pull up and park across the street. She said that she called to PEGGY HURLEY to tell her that her husband had arrived as he usually did at this time daily. When PEGGY came to the front showroom she looked out the window and told her, ELIZABETH COPELAND, that the car across the street was not her husband's Falcon but was a Mustang. She stated she looked again at the car and saw there was a white man with dark hair sitting in the driver's seat. She added that she believed the man was wearing a dark colored coat. Mrs. COPELAND stated Mrs. HURLEY's husband pulled up in a few minutes and then proceeded to leave with his wife. At 5:20 Mrs. COPELAND stated that her husband who normally picked her up daily attempted to park across the street, but the curb was completely filled with vehicles and he had to double park next to the white car which she thought was a Mustang. She said when her husband arrived she left work, crossed the street and got in her husband's car and left for home. She advised when she went to get in her husband's car she noticed that there was no one sitting in the white Mustang.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987by SA JOHN W. BAUER
SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON JWB:raj Date dictated 4/5/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/7/681

Mrs. FRANCES B. THOMPSON, Bookkeeper, Seabrook Wall Paper Company, 421 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that she finished work on April 4, 1968, at approximately 4:30 p.m., and was in the company showroom at the front of the store waiting for her daughter. She said that at about 4:30 or 4:45 p.m., she saw a white automobile drive up and park across the street from her in front of Canipe's Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street. Mrs. THOMPSON said she thought the car belonged to PEGGY HURLEY's husband and that he had come to get PEGGY; however, PEGGY looked and said that this car was a Mustang and that Mr. HURLEY would be driving a Falcon.

Mrs. THOMPSON said that her daughter picked her up at approximately 4:45 p.m., and the two of them left the area. She said that when she left at 4:45 p.m., there was a white male sitting in the front seat of the white Mustang. Mrs. THOMPSON was unable to furnish any other information concerning this individual.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987

by SA JOHN W. BAUER
SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON JWB:raj Date dictated 4/5/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/7/68

DAVID HARRISON OWENS, Credit Manager, Seabrook Wallpaper Company, 421 South Main Street, Memphis, advised that on April 4, 1968, in the afternoon, he was working in the warehouse at the rear of the store. He stated that at 6:00 p.m., he went to leave the building in order to go home and he noticed that there were policemen everywhere and there was a great deal of noise in the street.

He said he saw a lot of policemen in front of the doorway at Canipe's Amusement Company and he assumed that there had been a robbery at Canipe's Amusement Company. He stated that he saw several policemen looking down at an object which was lying on the sidewalk in front of the doorway at Canipe's Amusement Company and it appeared to be a large canvas object about twelve inches high and five feet long. Mr. OWENS said that the object reminded him of a large mailbag. He said that when he went to leave the store with Mr. COOKSY and Mr. HOLT, they were questioned by policemen, and were given permission to leave the area, which they did.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987

SA JOHN W. BAUER

SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON

JWB:raj

4/5/68

by _____ Date dictated _____

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ME 44-1987

**PERSONS AT JIM'S GRILL,
418 SOUTH MAIN STREET**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/15/68

Mr. GEORGE ROWLAND HARDING, Room 3, 386½ South Main Street, advised that he is unemployed and that he is living at this rooming house at the present time. Mr. HARDING stated that on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, he went to Jim's Grill located at 418 South Main and ordered a bowl of chili and a quart of beer.

He further stated that he sat in the last booth with a person by the name of HAROLD PARKER who works for Yellow Cab.

Mr. HARDING stated he was in the grill when a police officer came to the door and instructed everyone to stay in the grill. He said he learned later that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot. He said he feels certain he heard a shot, but did not realize it was a gun that was fired at that time.

Mr. HARDING explained that he had been sleeping most of the day and when he awoke he was hungry. He said he had been drinking heavily before he went to sleep and, therefore, was not too alert when he walked down to Jim's Grill. He stated he does not recall seeing any cars on the street either being driven or parked and does not recall seeing any people on the street before he entered Jim's Grill. Mr. HARDING advised he cannot furnish any additional information concerning the activities that took place in the immediate vicinity of Jim's Grill at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING was shot.

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On 4/12/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987
by SA O. JAMES HOLBROOK
SA HARLEY E. GYLFE HEG:raj Date dictated 4/13/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/15/68

Mr. ROBERT D. WHEELER, 908 Emery Street, Memphis, advised that he is employed as a driver of a lift truck for M. E. Carter, 415 South Front Street, Memphis.

Mr. WHEELER advised that he got off work at 5:00 p.m., and walked to Jim's Grill located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis. He stated that prior to going to Jim's Grill he was waiting on the corner of South Front Street and Huling Street to get a ride home. He said that when he was unable to get a ride he started walking down the east side of South Main Street. Mr. WHEELER stated that when he was almost in front of Jim's Grill he was told by someone, probably a Memphis Policeman or a Deputy Sheriff, to go inside of Jim's Grill and stay there and then the door was locked.

He said he was walking alone and was not aware of any activity in the immediate area at that time. He said some time after entering Jim's Grill he learned that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot. Mr. WHEELER stated he did not hear the shot and he did not see anyone running, walking or carrying anything in the immediate area. He said he does not recall any cars parked in the immediate area and does not recall seeing any car drive away while he was walking down South Main Street from the intersection of Huling and South Main to Jim's Grill.

Mr. WHEELER advised he cannot furnish any additional information concerning any activity that took place in that immediate area at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING was shot.

Mr. WHEELER said the above activity took place on April 4, 1968.

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On 4/12/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987

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SA HARLEY E. GYLFE HEG:raj Date dictated 4/13/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/15/68

Mr. FRANKLIN WILSON RAY, JR., 3639 Allendale Road, Memphis, advised he is employed as a salesman by the Tayloe Paper Company, 420 South Front Street, Memphis.

Mr. RAY advised he left work approximately 5:30 p.m., on April 4, 1968, and walked alone directly to Jim's Grill located at 418 South Main, Memphis. He stated he walked east on Huling Street toward South Main and when he reached the corner of Huling and South Main he walked diagonally across the street to Jim's Grill. He stated he does not recall walking past any cars other than STEVE CUPPLES' 1959 white Chevrolet which was parked across the street from Jim's Grill. He said he recalls there was a line of white cars parked at the curb near the entrance to Jim's Grill.

He said he was not aware of any activity in the neighborhood and that he was playing pinball machine and shuffleboard machine when a deputy sheriff came to the door and advised that no one was to leave until further notice. He said shortly thereafter an individual who he believed to be with the police department came to the door, requested that each one put their name and address on a sheet of paper and it was at that time he learned that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot. He said he does not recall looking out the window while playing the pinball machine and shuffleboard machine, but as soon as the deputy sheriff entered he recalls looking out the window and saw STEVE CUPPLES' 1959 Chevrolet parked across the street and JIMMY WALKER's white Fairlane Ford parked just south of the entrance of Jim's Grill. He added he also saw JOWERS' Cadillac parked directly in front of the entrance of Jim's Grill.

Mr. RAY stated he was concentrating on playing the pinball machine and shuffleboard machine and was not aware of any activity in the immediate neighborhood. He said it was not until sometime later that he learned MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot. He stated he did not hear the shot and cannot furnish any information concerning the activity in the neighborhood such as people walking or running, cars parked or being driven or any other activity.

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On 4/12/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987

by SA O. JAMES HOLBROOK
SA HARLEY E. GYLFE HEG:raj Date dictated 4/13/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/7/681

ROSIE LEE DABNEY, waitress, Jim's Grill, 418 South Main Street, Memphis, advised that on April 4, 1968, she came on duty at about 3:00 p.m. She stated that everything seemed normal up until about 6:00 p.m. when she heard that a shooting had occurred. She added that she saw nothing out of the ordinary, and could provide no further information.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987
SAs JOHN W. BAUER
by STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON / JWB:jms Date dictated 4/5/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 15, 1968

Mr. HAROLD E. PARKER, 1054 Meada Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised he is employed as a driver for Yellow Cab Company, 581 South Second Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

Mr. PARKER advised he got off of work at approximately 4:00 p.m. on April 4, 1968. He stated he left the cab he was driving at the gas pump at approximately 4:00 p.m., checked in with his day's proceedings, and then left in his 1959 white four door Rambler, License Number, Shelby County AS 6131, which is his personally owned auto. He stated he drove this car to the area of Jim's Grill, which is located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. Mr. PARKER stated that it is his estimate that he arrived at approximately 4:15 to 4:20 p.m. at Jim's Grill. He commented that when he arrived, he drove past the Grill, and parked near the intersection of Huling Street and South Main Street. He said he does not recall what cars were on the street at that time, but does recall specifically that Mr. JOWERS' Cadillac was parked almost directly in front of Jim's Grill. He explained that Mr. JOWERS owns and operates Jim's Grill. Mr. PARKER stated he cannot recall what other cars were on the street or what other cars were between his 1959 Rambler and JOWERS' white Cadillac, but believes that there was at least one, if not two, cars between his and JOWERS' car. He stated he has no idea as to the color, make, or model of the cars between his and JOWERS' car.

Mr. PARKER stated he was in Jim's Grill having his evening meal of chili and beer. He said he was sitting in the last booth in the Grill with a person whose name he knows as GEORGE HARDING. He stated he does not know HARDING's occupation or his address, but commented that HARDING frequents Jim's Grill quite regularly. Mr. PARKER added there were a number of people in the Grill during the entire time that he was there, and that there were several young men playing the shuffleboard, ping-pong machine, and the jukebox. He said he was not aware of any activity outside of Jim's Grill until a Deputy Sheriff entered Jim's Grill sometime after 6:00 p.m., and told everyone in the Grill to remain there until they were advised they could leave.

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On 4/15/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987
by SAs HARLEY E. GYLFE
O. JAMES HOLBROOK / HEG:jms Date dictated 4/15/68

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Mr. PARKER stated he stayed in his booth the entire time, and did not look out the window at any time until he left. He said he was not aware of what occurred out in the street, and in the immediate area until Mr. JOWERS asked him if he had heard the shooting. He stated he told JOWERS he had not heard any shooting, and was shortly thereafter advised that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot. He stated he definitely did not hear any shot fired while he was in Jim's Grill.

Mr. PARKER stated he did not notice any new faces in Jim's Grill while he was there, but commented the only individual he actually knew was GEORGE HARDING, who shared the booth with him. He said he knew there were a number of regular customers in Jim's Grill, and these were young men who are employed by the Tayloe Paper Company, but he is completely unfamiliar with their names.

Mr. PARKER stated the only car he can remember on the street in front of or in the immediate area of Jim's Grill when he entered Jim's Grill was Mr. JOWERS' white Cadillac. He stated he cannot recall any individual or individuals either walking or running in the immediate area of Jim's Grill when he entered to have his meal. He stated he can furnish no information whatsoever concerning the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING on April 4, 1968.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 15, 1968

Mr. JIMMIE RICHARD SANDERS, 1687 Childers Street (Frayser), Memphis, Tennessee, advised he is employed at Wood Parts, Inc., 1590 Texas Street, Memphis, Tennessee. Mr. SANDERS stated that on the evening of April 4, 1968, he left his place of business at Wood Parts, Inc. at approximately 4:00 p.m., and took a bus to the Arcade Restaurant, located at the corner of Calhoun Street and South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, which is approximately one long block from Jim's Grill, located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. Mr. SANDERS stated he walked from the intersection of South Main Street and Calhoun Street to Jim's Grill, and arrived at Jim's Grill at approximately 5:00 p.m. He stated he was alone, and entered Jim's Grill for his evening meal. He stated his reason for eating at Jim's Grill was because he had rented a room at 390½ South Main Street for three or four days, which is in the immediate area of Jim's Grill.

Mr. SANDERS stated he sat in a booth for a while and at the counter for a while, ordered his evening meal, and had several beers.

Mr. SANDERS advised that while he was eating his meal, he recalls that at approximately 6:00 p.m. a Deputy Sheriff came to the door of Jim's Grill and advised everyone in the Grill to remain there until advised they could leave. He said that at the time he had no idea as to why everyone was told to stay. He said sometime later everyone in Jim's Grill learned that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot that evening from somewhere in the immediate area of Jim's Grill. Mr. SANDERS stated he did not hear the shot that was fired that killed MARTIN LUTHER KING, and added he was not aware that KING was staying in the immediate area of Jim's Grill. Mr. SANDERS commented he did not go to the window to look out after the Deputy Sheriff instructed everyone to stay in the Grill.

Mr. SANDERS advised he was not aware of any cars or people on the street when he walked from the intersection of Calhoun Street and South Main to Jim's Grill. He stated he is

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certain there were many cars both parked and being driven on South Main Street, and that there were likely many people walking in this area, but added he was not aware of any particular individual or any particular car in this area. Mr. SANDERS stated he cannot furnish any information whatsoever concerning the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

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OTHER PERSONS WHO HAD CONTACT WITH UNKNOWN SUBJECT

YORK ARMS COMPANY
162 S. MAIN STREET
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

(This section of the report pertains to the purchase of binoculars by the Unknown Subject on April 4, 1968, at York Arms Company, and a subsequent inquiry that was made in the immediate vicinity of York Arms Company.)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 5, 1968

Mr. RALPH MEREDITH CARPENTER, 4844 Durbin Street, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone 685-5618, advised that he is a salesman at the York Arms Company located at 162 South Main Street, Memphis.

Mr. CARPENTER recalls that yesterday, April 4, 1968, he was in the above mentioned store talking to one of the other salesmen in the store when an individual entered and subsequently bought from him a pair of Bushnell binoculars. This individual entered the store at about 4:00 in the afternoon. Mr. CARPENTER estimates this to be the correct time and, in part, bases his estimate on the fact that there were pickets parading in front of the store at that time. Mr. CARPENTER recalls that as this individual proceeded further into the store he turned to this individual and asked if he could be of assistance. The individual stated that he wished to purchase some binoculars, and Mr. CARPENTER told him that he was about out of binoculars and believed the only ones he had in stock were a pair selling for \$200 and another pair selling for ninety-some dollars. The individual stated that he believed these were too high priced for him, and then Mr. CARPENTER recalled that there might be a cheaper pair of binoculars in the window and advised the individual that he would find out. Mr. CARPENTER thereupon went to the display window in the front of the store and determined that there was on display a pair of Bushnell binoculars selling for \$39.95. He brought these binoculars back to the customer and explained that they were a Japanese import of better quality. The individual seemed to indicate that he either recognized the name or that he agreed that there were some good Japanese imports. The customer raised the binoculars to his eyes and in some manner, not now recalled by Mr. CARPENTER, indicated that these binoculars were acceptable.

Mr. CARPENTER recalls that the customer asked if instructions were in the box, and Mr. CARPENTER advised him that there were instructions in the box, but not much was needed to be known to operate the binoculars, other than to

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA ROBERT W. GOODWIN and
SA RALPH J. LIEWER RJL/acp Date dictated 4/5/68

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