

JN 157-9586

5

ELMER ALSTON
College Street
Halls, Tennessee

Mr. and Mrs. WILLIAM PHILLIPS
Crump, Tennessee
Tennessee license IP8559

ROBERT FARRIS
Dyer, Tennessee
1968 Mustang

LAWRENCE SUMMERS ✓
Denton, Texas

4/7/69

Airtel

To: SACs, Birmingham (44-1740)
Jackson (157-9586)
Memphis (44-1987)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

William Bradford Huie has written a third article for "Look" magazine. The article appears in the issue dated April 15, 1969, but this issue was circulated on April 1, 1969. A review of the article reveals that James Earl Ray allegedly registered at the Travelodge Motel, Five Points, Birmingham, Alabama, on March 29, 1968; at a motel near Florence, Alabama, on April 1, 1968; and at a motel near Corinth, Mississippi, on April 2, 1968. It is to be noted that Ray, using the name Harvey Lowmyer, negotiated the purchase of a rifle at the Aeromarine Supply Company, Birmingham, Alabama, on March 29 and 30, 1968. On April 3, 1968, he was registered at the Rebel Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.

In an effort to establish whether or not Ray was in contact with any individuals immediately prior to the assassination, appropriate investigation should be conducted by the Birmingham and Jackson Offices. It should be understood that there is to be no indication made whatsoever that the following investigation has any connection whatsoever with the case involving James Earl Ray.

Birmingham and Jackson Offices should make inquiries of the motels in or near the cities indicated above to determine the identities of individuals registered during the period March 29 to April 3, 1968. Efforts should be made to identify all individuals listed, as well as

44-2649-684

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 10 1969	
FBI - DALLAS	

Hallman

Airtel SACs, Birmingham, Jackson, Memphis
RE: MURKIN

obtaining descriptions and registrations for the automobiles of such persons. A review of such records might indicate whether any one individual might have accompanied Ray or been in contact with him during this period. Pertinent or questionable registration records should be obtained if possible for examination by the FBI Laboratory.

Memphis should insure that the Bureau is kept currently advised of pertinent developments in this case, particularly all aspects of court action since the death of Judge Battle on March 31, 1969.

FBI

Date: 5/7/69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL _____
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel, dated 4/7/69; Birmingham airtel to Bureau, dated 4/15/69, and Jackson airtel to Bureau, dated 4/18/69.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 - Memphis (Enc. 13) (RM) | 2 - Minneapolis (Enc. 6) (RM) |
| 2 - Albany (Enc. 2) (RM) | 2 - Mobile (Enc. 6) (RM) |
| 2 - Albuquerque (Enc. 2) (RM) | 2 - Newark (Enc. 2) (RM) |
| 2 - Atlanta (Enc. 8) (RM) | 2 - New Haven (Enc. 2) (RM) |
| 2 - Birmingham (Enc. 10) (RM) | 2 - New Orleans (Enc. 6) (RM) |
| 2 - Buffalo (Enc. 2) (RM) | 2 - New York (Enc. 4) (RM) |
| 2 - Charlotte (Enc. 3) (RM) | 2 - Oklahoma City (Enc. 5) (RM) |
| 2 - Chicago (Enc. 7) (RM) | 2 - Omaha (Enc. 7) (RM) |
| 2 - Cincinnati (Enc. 3) (RM) | 2 - Philadelphia (Enc. 3) (RM) |
| 2 - Cleveland (Enc. 5) (RM) | 2 - Richmond (Enc. 3) (RM) |
| 2 - Columbia (Enc. 5) (RM) | 2 - Sacramento (Enc. 3) (RM) |
| 2 - Dallas (Enc. 8) (RM) | 2 - St. Louis (Enc. 8) (RM) |
| 2 - Denver (Enc. 4) (RM) | 2 - Salt Lake City (Enc. 3) (RM) |
| 2 - Detroit (Enc. 8) (RM) | 2 - San Antonio (Enc. 2) (RM) |
| 2 - Houston (Enc. 3) (RM) | 2 - San Diego (Enc. 2) (RM) |
| 2 - Indianapolis (Enc. 9) (RM) | 2 - Savannah (Enc. 6) (RM) |
| 2 - Jacksonville (Enc. 4) (RM) | 2 - Seattle (Enc. 2) (RM) |
| 2 - Kansas City (Enc. 8) (RM) | 2 - Springfield (Enc. 10) (RM) |
| 2 - Knoxville (Enc. 6) (RM) | 2 - Tampa (Enc. 6) (RM) |
| 2 - Little Rock (Enc. 9) (RM) | 2 - Jackson |
| 2 - Los Angeles (Enc. 2) (RM) | JSC:bal |
| 2 - Louisville (Enc. 5) (RM) | (88) |
| 2 - Miami (Enc. 6) (RM) | |
| 2 - Milwaukee (Enc. 6) (RM) | |

44-2649-685

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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Holloman

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

cc c/s/b
sent 5/16

JN 157-9586

Enclosed for each office, except for Memphis and Birmingham, is one copy of referenced Bureau airtel, dated 4/7/69.

As directed by Bureau, a review of all motel records for the period March 29, to April 3, 1968, of motels in Corinth, Miss., made and the names of those individuals registered at the motels during this period have been obtained, and their names are revealed on appropriate FD-302s. One copy each of the FD-302s, where appropriate, are being submitted to the appropriate offices, as set out below:

FD-302

Mrs. LOUISE BREWER, Mgr.
Round-Town Motel

Division

Birmingham
Chicago
Dallas
Detroit
Indianapolis
Jacksonville
Kansas City
Little Rock
Louisville
Memphis
Miami
Milwaukee
New York
Omaha
St. Louis
Springfield
Tampa

JN 157-9586

FD-302

Mr. DON M. STRICKLAND, Mgr.,
Holiday Inn Motel

Division

Atlanta	Miami
Birmingham	Minneapolis
Charlotte	Mobile
Chicago	Newark
Cincinnati	New Haven
Columbia	New Orleans
Dallas	New York
Denver	Oklahoma City
Detroit	Omaha
Houston	Philadelphia
Indianapolis	Richmond
Jacksonville	Salt Lake City
Kansas City	Savannah
Knoxville	Seattle
Little Rock	Springfield
Louisville	Tampa
Memphis	

WALTER COUTURE, Mgr.
Cannoneer Motel

Albany	Minneapolis
Atlanta	Mobile
Birmingham	New Orleans
Cincinnati	New York
Denver	Oklahoma City
Detroit	Omaha
Indianapolis	Philadelphia
Kansas City	Sacramento
Knoxville	St. Louis
Memphis	Savannah
Miami	Springfield
Milwaukee	Tampa

JN 157-9586

FD-302

BROOKS PHILLIPS, Owner,
Southern Motel

HOWARD STARNES, Mgr.,
Illinois Motel

WILLIAM PHILLIPS, Owner,
Phillips Motel

H. C. FREEMAN, Owner and
Operator, Carona Plaza Motel

Division

Atlanta
Birmingham
Charlotte
Chicago
Columbia
Dallas
Kansas City

Little Rock
Louisville
Memphis
Mobile
New Orleans
St. Louis

Atlanta
Birmingham
Chicago
Cleveland
Dallas
Detroit
Indianapolis
Jacksonville
Kansas City

Knoxville
Little Rock
Memphis
Milwaukee
Mobile
St. Louis
Savannah
Springfield
Tampa

Atlanta
Birmingham
Cleveland
Columbia
Dallas
Detroit
Kansas City
Knoxville

Little Rock
Los Angeles
Memphis
Omaha
Sacramento
St. Louis
San Diego

Birmingham
Chicago
Cleveland
Dallas
Denver
Houston
Indianapolis
Kansas City
Louisville
Memphis

Miami
Minneapolis
Mobile
Oklahoma City
Omaha
Salt Lake City
San Antonio
Savannah
Springfield

JN 157-9586

FD-302

Division

Mrs. FREDDIE GLOVER, Owner,
Merry Acres Motel

Birmingham
Little Rock
Memphis

Milwaukee
Minneapolis
Springfield

Mrs. BERRY (SHIRLEY) SMITH,
Owner and Manager,
El-Ray Motel

Birmingham
Chicago
Cleveland
Columbia
Dallas
Detroit

Indianapolis
Memphis
Miami
New Orleans
St. Louis
Springfield

Mr. PAUL HAYES, Mgr.,
Dixie Court

Memphis
Milwaukee

J. H. WICKER, Mgr.,
No-El Motel

Albuquerque
Atlanta
Birmingham
Buffalo
Detroit
Indianapolis
Knoxville

Little Rock
Memphis
New Orleans
Oklahoma City
Savannah
Springfield
Tampa

Mrs. G. N. PRUETTE, Owner,
Teetotum Motel

Memphis

Mrs. BERRY (SHIRLEY) SMITH,
Nite-Fall Motel

Atlanta
Indianapolis
Little Rock
Memphis
Minneapolis

Omaha
Richmond
St. Louis
Springfield

JN 157-9586

A Xerox copy of each motel registration has been made by the Jackson Division, and copies of these registrations are being maintained in the bulky exhibit file of Jackson File 157-9586.

It is noted on the registrations that there is registration from Saskatchewan, Canada, at the Round-Town Motel, and a registration from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, at the Holiday Inn, during the pertinent period. It is being left to the discretion of Memphis, the Office of Origin, as to whether appropriate LHM should be submitted to the Bureau to have these individuals identified in Canada.

The names of those individuals appearing on the motel registrations who reside within the Jackson Division are being identified through indicés, check in the Jackson Office and appropriate credit and criminal being conducted within the cities in which they indicate they reside.

LEADS:

ALL RECEIVING OFFICES

All offices receiving copies of this communication will review the FD-302s which they have received for names of those individuals who reside within their respective divisions and will review the names through the appropriate office indices and will identify the individual through appropriate credit and criminal check, and if deemed advisable, will interview the individual if there is a possibility of any association with JAMES EARL RAY.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SA C, DA LLAS

DATE: 5/15/69

FROM : SA WILLIAM B. HOLLOMAN (44-2649)(P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Jackson airtel 5/7/69.

WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE has writted a third article for "Look" magazine. The article appears in the issue dated 4/15/69 but his issue was circulated on 4/1/69. A review of the article reveals that JAMES EARL RAY allegedly registered at the Travelodge Motel, Five Points, Birmingham, Ala., on 3/29/68; at a motel near Florence, A la. on 4/1/68; and at a motel near Corinth, Miss. on 4/2/68.

In an effort to establish whether or not RAY was in contact with any individuals immediately prior to the assassination, the Bureau has instructed that appropriate investigation be conducted, however, they instructed that there is to be no indication whatsoever that the investigation has any connection whatsoever with the case involving JAMES EARL RAY.

Birmingham and Jackson were instructed to make inquiries of the motels in or near the cities indicated to determine the identities of individuals registered during the period 3/29-4/3/68. Efforts should be made to identify the individuals listed.

FD 302s showing registrations at appropriate motels were forwarded with reairtel and are attached to copies of this memo. The lead as set forth states " All offices receiving copies of this communication will review the FD 302s which they have received for names of those individuals who reside within their respective territories and will review the names through the appropriate office indices and will identify the individual through appropriate credit and criminal check, and if deemed advisable, will interview the individual if there is a possibility of any association with JAMES EARL RAY."

As the Bureau has instructed this case leads should receive expedite handling.

- 5
1- Sherman RA (Denton)
1- Amarillo RA (Pampa)
1- Paris RA (Wulphur Springs)
1- Ft. Worth RA (Mineral Wells)
1- 44-2649
WBH

44-2649-686

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 15 1969	
FBI-DALLAS	

Lead Butler

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan *Serial 683*

F B I

Date: 5/14/69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

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

By airtel dated 4/7/69, the Bureau advised that in a third "Look" magazine article, WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE stated that JAMES EARL RAY had spent the night of 4/2/68 in a motel near Corinth, Miss. The Bureau instructed Jackson to review motel records in and around Corinth to determine the identities of individuals registered there during the period 3/29/68 to 4/3/68. By airtel dated 4/18/69, the Jackson Office advised the Bureau that motel records at Corinth, Miss., had been reviewed under the subject's true name and aliases and had been reviewed for subject's Alabama license number. Nothing identifiable with the subject was located.

2 - Bureau
 2 - Albany
 2 - Albuquerque
 2 - Atlanta
 2 - Birmingham
 2 - Buffalo
 2 - Charlotte
 2 - Chicago
 2 - Cincinnati
 2 - Cleveland
 2 - Columbia
 ② - Dallas
 2 - Denver
 2 - Detroit
 2 - Houston
 2 - Indianapolis
 2 - Jackson
 2 - Jacksonville
 2 - Kansas City
 2 - Knoxville
 2 - Little Rock
 2 - Los Angeles
 2 - Louisville

2 - Miami
 2 - Milwaukee
 2 - Minneapolis
 2 - Mobile
 2 - Newark
 2 - New Haven
 2 - New Orleans
 2 - New York
 2 - Oklahoma City
 2 - Omaha
 2 - Philadelphia
 2 - Richmond
 2 - Sacramento
 2 - St. Louis
 2 - Salt Lake City
 2 - San Antonio
 2 - San Diego
 2 - Savannah
 2 - Seattle
 2 - Springfield
 2 - Tampa
 2 - Memphis
 JCH:jap
 (90)

RUC
17 sent
Butler
O'Malley
Warrick
+ Madland
to Discont.
5/16/69
44-2649-687
 SEARCHED ☒ INDEXED ☒
 SERIALIZED ☒ FILED ☒
 MAY 16 1969
 FBI-DALLAS

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

ME 44-1987

By airtel dated 5/7/69, copies of which were not furnished the Bureau, the Jackson Office set out leads for those offices to whom copies of this communication are designated. These offices have been requested to interview several hundred persons who spent the night in motels at Corinth, Miss., on or about 4/2/68.

In view of the fact that more than a year has passed since these persons stayed over night at Corinth, and since similar investigation of this type in this case has previously been unproductive, and since HUIE has admitted that RAY frequently is untruthful in statements to him, and further since it is not believed that it is of any particular importance to establish whether or not JAMES EARL RAY stayed over night at Corinth on 4/2/68, all offices will disregard the leads set out in Jackson airtel dated 5/7/69, unless specifically advised by the Bureau to cover same.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, DALLAS (44-2649) (P)

DATE: 7/7/69

FROM : SA THOMAS M. O'MALEY

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Memo to Sac, Dallas dated 5/15/69 (serial 686).

On 6/18/69, J. B. CONNER, Chief of Police, Pampa, Texas, advised their records contained no reference to GEORGE S. GRAY, 1040 Neel Road, Pampa, Texas.

On 6/18/69, R. H. JORDON, Sheriff Gray County, Pampa, Texas, advised his files contained no record re GEORGE S. GRAY. JORDON stated that he has known GEORGE S. GRAY, wife DOROTHY, for approximately 35 years. JORDON stated that GRAY is retired from Cabot Corporation, Pampa, Texas, is well known, well liked and never known to be involved in any racial matters or any criminal type action. JORDON advised that he would vouch for the character of GRAY.

On 6/18/69, WELDON ARTHUR, Manager, Credit Bureau of Tampa, advised GEORGE S. GRAY came to file 3/26/58, presently retired from Cabot Corporation, credit considered to be excellent. GRAY and wife reside 1040 Neel Road, Pampa, Texas.

In view of the above no further action being taken re GRAY, UAC.

② - Dallas
TMO:dg
(2)
dg



5010-108-02

44-2649-688

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL - 7 1969	
FBI - DALLAS	

Hallman

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (44-2649)

DATE: 4/6/70

FROM : SAC, J. GORDON SHANKLIN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4/2/70, Mr. GORDON MC LENDON, owner and President of KLIF Radio Station, telephonically advised that an individual who had identified himself as JIM COLLINS, telephone 741-3161, indicated he was an employee of Spot Productions in Dallas, Texas, had called and stated that he would like to give some very confidential information to MC LENDON which he felt would result in an excellent story. COLLINS stated that he knew of some men in Memphis, Tenn. who definitely had some new evidence in the JAMES EARL RAY case and they would be able to prove that RAY was not in the room from which the shot was fired at MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. at the time of the shooting, but was in a nearby garage having his car fixed, and that KING was killed by a Cuban communist. He furnished the following names:

1. HAROLD STREIBICH, Attorney, Memphis
2. ARTHUR HANES, private Detective
3. RENFRO HAYES, Attorney, Memphis

I advised Mr. MC LENDON that of course this was a private murder case and that RAY had been represented by a number of attorneys, as far as I knew, but that I would check with our Memphis office and see if we had any interest at this time.

I talked to SAC ROBERT JENSEN, Memphis, and he stated that ARTHUR HANES was not a private investigator, but was actually RAY's first attorney; that he, of course, is a former FBI Agent and a lawyer from Birmingham, Alabama and he and WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE have collaborated in writing some kind of a story concerning RAY's life.

RENFRO HAYES is a private investigator, originally hired by HANES. He and HANES have fallen out and HAYES has filed suit against HANES, claiming that he has never been paid for his service in the amount of approximately \$10,000.

STREIBICH is listed as an attorney in Memphis, but his connection with the case is not known. JENSEN also stated

1 - Dallas

JGS:mfr

(1)

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



5010-108-02

44-2649-689

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 10 1970	
FBI-DALLAS	

DL #44-2649

that the current attorney for RAY is J. B. STONER, notorious for his National States Rights Party activity. He suggested that I might tell MC LENDON if he wanted to try to verify the possibility of any of this information, that he might contact PHIL CANELLE, District Attorney, Memphis, Tenn. I so advised Mr. MC LENDON. MC LENDON's telephone number is RI 7-9311.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (44-2649) (~~2000~~)

FROM : SAC, J. GORDON SHANKLIN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 8/6/70

At 1:35 AM, 8/6/70, Det. SEWELL in the Crimes Against Persons Section of the Dallas PD telephoned me at home and advised that an individual by the name of ROY RICHARD ERWIN was at their department and had claimed that he was the person who drove the car in which JAMES EARL RAY disappeared from Memphis shortly after the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING. SEWELL advised that the information he was furnishing was primarily public source material that could be obtained from the newspapers and that he had been caught in some discrepancies. He stated he had called Capt. BOB COCHRAN of the Memphis PD and COCHRAN had suggested that he might contact the Memphis FBI or that SEWELL might contact the local FBI to see if we were interested in interviewing ERWIN. He stated that ERWIN was a white male, admitted previous terms in the Georgia State Penitentiary and claimed to be from Dalton, Georgia.

I shortly thereafter called the Memphis Office and talked to ASAC CLIFF HALTER. HALTER stated that they had definite proof that RAY had driven the car himself and that there was no necessity for any interview with ERWIN. I so advised Det. SEWELL.

ADDENDUM: At 12:30 PM this date, Capt. GEORGE LUMPKIN of JGS:mfr the Dallas PD stated that he and one of his officers had reinterviewed ERWIN and that ERWIN was insistent now that he had been paid \$1,000 to drive a stolen car with a police radio in it away from where MARTIN LUTHER KING had been killed and divert the police in their chase of trying to locate RAY. He stated he had recorded same and that he would make a copy available.

I again called the Memphis Office and talked to ASAC HALTER, who stated we should send them the summary of what ERWIN is claiming, but that this matter had been run out and there was nothing to it. He was asked, however, to search and see if they

1 - Dallas
JGS:mfr
(1)



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

44-2649-690

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
AUG 11 1970	
FBI-DALLAS	

[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

DL #44-2649

had actually checked out a story by ERWIN. HARTER called me back at approximately 1:30 PM and stated that ERWIN had in March, 1969, while incarcerated in a Georgia prison, written a letter to the Director, claiming he had some connection with the murder. He stated Agents had interviewed him and it had been determined that he was a chronic liar and was actually not in Memphis on the date of the murder, but was in Chattanooga, Tenn.

I called Capt. LUMPKIN back and he stated immediately that ERWIN had now admitted both of the stories were false. He was also told, however, that we had had previous contact with ERWIN and that there was no indication he was mixed up in the case.

F B I

Date: 8/6/70

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via teletype _____
(Priority)

To Memphis (44-1987)

From SAC, Dallas (44-2649) (RUC)

MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS

At 1:35 am instant date Det ~~SEWELL~~ SEWELL, Dallas PD advised SAC SHANKLIN that ROY RICHARD ERWIN arrested earlier by this department ~~for~~ in response to phone call from ERWIN advising he was armed and an accomplice of JAMES EARL RAY and wanted to give himself up.

ERWIN interviewed and claimed he drove the car in which RAY disappeared from Memphis after murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

Foregoing information furnished telephonically to ASAC CLIFF HALTER Memphis office.

At approximately 12:30 pm Capt GEORGE LUMPKIN, Dallas PD advised ERWIN reinterviewed and was now insistent he had been paid \$1000.00 to drive a stolen car with a police radio in away from where KING had been killed to divert the police. ~~ERWIN~~ Capt LUMPKIN subsequently advised 1:30 pm that ERWIN admitted his entire story was a hoax. ERWIN unable to furnish any motive for fabricating story. LUMPKIN advised local ~~xx~~ check warrant outstanding for ERWIN in Dalton Georgia, however, local authorities refuse to come after him. Facts of false report furnished to Dallas County DA who advised against ~~xxxx~~ prosecution because of publicity. (RUC)

Serialize _____

Index _____

File Approved: _____Sent 4 25 _____Per Ret _____

Search _____

Special Agent in Charge

* U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1969 O - 346-090 (11)

44-2649-691

F B I

Date: 11/9/71

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: SAC, DALLAS
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P*)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

A private investigator at Memphis, Tenn., has filed suit in the U. S. District Court against the District Attorney General at Memphis, Tenn., seeking to obtain possession of the rifle used by JAMES EARL RAY in the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. This case has recently been heard in the U. S. District Court with the judge ruling in favor of the District Attorney General; however, it is anticipated that an appeal will be filed in the Sixth Circuit at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The District Attorney General's Office believes there was a similar suit and appeal concerning the rifle used by LEE HARVEY OSWALD in the murder of President JOHN F. KENNEDY and they desire to know the citation of such appeal.

LEADS:

THE DALLAS DIVISION

AT DALLAS, TEXAS

1) Will promptly advise Memphis whether or not a suit was filed against the Government to obtain the rifle used by LEE HARVEY OSWALD and the outcome of this case.

2) Will furnish the citation of any appellate ruling in connection with the OSWALD murder weapon.

② - Dallas
1 - Memphis

JCH:cjs
(3)

44-2649-692

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 11 1971	
FBI - DALLAS	

Robt. J. Hemminger

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

11/16/71

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, DALLAS (44-2649) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Memphis airtel to Dallas, 11/9/71.

On 10/30/67 JOHN J. KING, a wealthy Denver oil man, and MARINA OSWALD PORTER, wife of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, instituted actions against the United States under public law 89-318 which vested title to the Warren Commission exhibits in the United States and permitted claims for just compensation to be filed against the United States. The specific civil actions are identified as follows:

"JOHN J. KING v. NICHOLAS deB. KATZENBACH
(U.S.D.C. Colo., Civil Action No. 9168)
JOHN J. KING v. United States of America
(U.S.D.C. Colo., Civil Action No. 67-C-518)
MARINA N. OSWALD PORTER, et al. v. United
States (U.S.D.C. N.D. Tex., Civil Action No.
CA-3-2282, Dallas Div.)"

The two above cited cases involving KING relate to the assassination rifle used by LEE HARVEY OSWALD and the murder revolver used by him in the killing of the Dallas police officer. The MARINA OSWALD PORTER civil action involves personal property of LEE HARVEY OSWALD which was seized. The two civil actions involving KING were handled by Departmental Attorney WILLIAM A. GERSHUNY and the MARINA OSWALD PORTER civil action was handled by Departmental Attorney ERWIN GOLDBLOOM of the General Litigation

2 - Memphis

2 - Dallas

SPG:jls

(3)

Serialize

Index

File

Search

44-2649-693

DL 44-2649

Section of the U. S. Department of Justice.

The final outcome of these cases is unknown to the Dallas Office and it is not known if there has been any appellate ruling in connection with any of these cases. It would appear that Memphis could obtain such information through the Bureau who has had close liaison with the above named Departmental Attorneys or have the District Attorney General's Office at Memphis, Tennessee, communicate directly with such Departmental Attorneys.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

James Earl Ray Files \$500,000 Damage Suit

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI) —James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., filed a \$500,000 damage suit against Tennessee officials, claiming he was being confined in "oppressive" conditions for a crime he did not commit.

The suit, one of many legal actions taken by Ray since his guilty plea in the 1968 assassination, drew special attention when a local television station quoted sources Wednesday night as saying Ray's suit would contend others were involved in the King slaying.

But the only hint of conspiracy mentioned in the suit concerned two telephone numbers of persons in Louisiana. Ray claimed his former attorney, Percy Foreman, had mishandled information about the phone numbers.

And in an interview with the Nashville Banner Thursday, Ray said, "I never saw anybody shoot King. But that's as far as I want to go."

"As far as the crime, I contend I'm not guilty," Ray told the Banner. "But there is no use for me to make

statements to the newspaper that I'm not guilty. I've got to get in a courtroom for that."

Ray, who drafted the suit in his solitary-confinement cell in the state prison, said he gave the two phone numbers to Foreman, who in turn gave them to the late Z. T. Osborn, another of Ray's attorneys, who was later disbarred.

The suit says one of the numbers belonged to a Baton Rouge Parish (County) official "under the influence" of a Teamsters Union official.

His file

44-2649

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

"The Dallas Morning News"
—Dallas, Texas

Page 4D

Date: 12-28-73

Edition:

Author:

Editor: JACK B. KRUGER

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DALLAS

☐ Being Investigated

44-2649-694

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 28 1973	
FBI — DALLAS	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Judge rejects appeal to reopen Ray case

© 1975 The Washington Post

MEMPHIS — James Earl Ray Thursday lost a bid to stand trial in the 1968 assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. when a federal judge rejected claims that Ray was browbeaten by his lawyers and prison officials into pleading guilty to the murder.

In the long-awaited 38-page ruling U.S. District Court Judge Robert M. McRae Jr. said:

"Although the circumstances include conduct on the part of Ray's retained attorneys that should have been performed

differently, the total circumstances do not reflect a violation of the constitutional rights applicable to one who voluntarily pleaded guilty on the advice of competent counsel of his own choosings." But the judge did not specify what the lawyers should have done differently.

Ray has contended his original attorneys, former Birmingham Mayor Arthur Hanes Sr. and noted Texas criminal lawyer Percy Foreman, schemed with Southern author William Bradford Huie to keep Ray publicly silent about the King assassination.

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

"The Dallas Times Herald"
Dallas, Texas

Page 7ADate: 2-28-75

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Kenneth P. Johnson

Title:

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 12 1975	
FBI - DALLAS	

186

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



—Associated Press Wirephoto.

James Earl Ray ... Refused new trial by judge.

Ray Loses Bid for New Trial

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI)—James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., lost a bid for a new trial Thursday when a federal judge ruled Ray's initial guilty plea in the case was voluntary and "on the advice of competent counsel of his own choosing."

Ray claimed his famed defense attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston, had compromised his rights and pressured him into admitting the 1968 murder in order to preserve the commercial value of books written about the murder of the civil rights leader.

But U.S. District Judge Robert McRae Jr. rejected Ray's arguments and accepted instead the state's contention that Ray made a "reasoned and reasonable decision to accept a 99-year sentence rather than risk the death penalty" by going to trial.

"Although the circumstances (surrounding the guilty plea) include conduct on the part of Ray's retained attorneys that should have been performed differently," McRae said in a 38-page decision, "The total circumstances do not reflect a violation of the Constitutional rights applicable to one who voluntarily pleaded guilty on the advice of competent counsel of his own choosing."

Ray is serving his sentence at the main Tennessee prison in Nashville and was not present for McRae's ruling. However, one of his three defense lawyers, Robert Livingston of Memphis, was in the court.

"We have no complaint at all about the fairness of this court," Livingston said as he prepared to telephone his fellow attorneys—Bernard Fensterwald and James Lesar of Washington—with the news.

"He ruled against us, but we have two courts upstairs (the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati and the U.S. Supreme Court) that could rule on him (McRae)."

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

"The Dallas Morning News"
Dallas, Texas

Page 7A

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MAR 1 1975	
FBI - DALLAS	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



William Safire

The coverup by Sen. Church

WASHINGTON—On Oct. 10, 1963, the then-attorney general of the United States put his personal signature on a document that launched and legitimized one of the most horrendous abuses of federal police power in this century.

In Sen. Frank Church's subcommittee hearing room, the authorized wiretapping and subsequent unauthorized bugging and attempted blackmailing of Martin Luther King Jr. is being gingerly examined, with the "investigation" conducted in such a way as not to unduly embarrass officials of the Kennedy or Johnson administrations.

No zest

With great care, the committee has focused on the FBI. When the committee counsel first set forth the result of shuffling through press clips, it seemed as if no Justice Department had existed in 1962; Wednesday, an FBI witness pointed out that it was Robert Kennedy who authorized the wiretap of Dr. King, and that "the President of the United States and the attorney general specifically discussed their concern of Communist influence with Dr. King."

But the Church committee showed no zest for getting further to the Kennedy root of this precedent to Watergate eavesdropping. If Church were willing to let the chips fall where they may, he would call some knowledgeable witnesses into the glare of the camera lights and ask them some questions that have gone unasked for 13 years.

For example, he could call Nicholas Katzenbach, Attorney General Kennedy's deputy and successor, and ask what he knows of the Kennedy decision

to wiretap Dr. King. Who at Justice concurred in the recommendation? How does the FBI know the President was consulted or informed?

After Katzenbach assumed office, and the wiretapping continued, he was told by angry newsmen that the FBI was leaking scurrilous information about Dr. King. Why did he wait for four months, and for a thousand telephonic interceptions, to discontinue the officially-approved tap?

Of course, this sort of testimony would erode Church's political base. That is why we do not see former Asst. FBI Director Cartha (Deke) Deloach, Lyndon Johnson's personal contact with the FBI, in the witness chair. What did President Johnson know about the character-assassination plot and when did he know it? What conversations took place between Deloach and President Johnson of the tapping of Dr. King, or about the use of the FBI in any other intrusions into the lives of political figures?

THE COMMITTEE is not asking embarrassing questions even when answers are readily available. A couple of weeks ago, at an open hearing, an FBI man inadvertently started to blurt out an episode about newsmen who were wiretapped in 1962 with the apparent knowledge of Attorney General Kennedy. The too-willing witness was promptly shooshed into silence, and told that such information would be developed only in executive session. Nobody even raised an eyebrow.

That pattern of containment by the Church committee is vividly shown by the handling of the buggings at the 1964 Republican and Democratic conventions which were ordered by Lyndon

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

"The Dallas Morning News"
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Page 3-D

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FBI-DALLAS

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2 - Bureau
1 - Dallas

Johnson. Such invasions of political headquarters were worse than the crime committed at Watergate, since they involved the use of the FBI, but the Church investigators seem to be determined not to probe too deeply.

Double standard

If FBI documents say that reports were made to specific Johnson aides, why are those men not given the same opportunity to publicly tell their story so avidly given the next president's men? If Lyndon Johnson committed this impeachable high crime of using the FBI to spy on political opponents, who can be brought forward to tell us all about it?

But that would cause embarrassment to Democrats, and Church wants to embarrass professional employees of investigatory agencies only. A new sense of congressional decorum exists, far from the sense of outrage expressed in the Senate Watergate committee's hearing room. When it is revealed that the management of NBC

News gave press credentials to LBJ's spies at the 1964 convention, everybody blushes demurely—and nobody demands to know which network executive made what decision under what pressure.

I have been harranguing patient readers for years about the double standard applied to Democratic and Republican political crimes, and had hoped the day would come when the hardball precedents set by the Kennedy and Johnson men would be laid before the public in damning detail.

Obviously, Democrat Frank Church is not the man to do it. His jowl-shaking indignation is all too selective; the trail of high-level responsibility for the crimes committed against Dr. King and others is evidently going to be allowed to cool.

Pity. You'd think that after all the nation has been through in the past few years, our political leaders would have learned that the one thing that brings you down is the act of covering up.

—New York Times News Service, 1975

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Full employment urged by Mrs. King in talk

By DOUG DOMEIER

Mrs. Coretta Scott King said here Wednesday night "our nation must move toward a full employment economy."

At a brief press conference before a dinner in her honor, the widow of civil rights leader Martin Luther King said she is most concerned with jobs and income — problems of the working people.

"Each person must have a decent job and income and decent working conditions," she said at King Community Center.

Mrs. King appeared at a dinner sponsored by Local 218 of the Laundry, Dry Cleaning and Dye House Workers Union.

"The civil rights movement has become a human rights movement," she told media.

She said she is in favor of working with organized labor to improve these rights

and that the movement has been linked with economics from the original bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala., in 1955.

It was the first visit Mrs. King has made to the South Dallas center named for her husband. She is president of the Martin Luther King Center for Social Change in Atlanta, Ga.

In a lengthy speech, Mrs. King said adequate jobs should be the No. 1 priority during the Bicentennial. She said, "It's as much a basic right to have a job and an income as it is a right to vote."

She also called for Americans to learn "the unwritten history" of the contributions blacks have made to the nation.

"Many white people have prejudices because they are misinformed about black contributions," Mrs. King told approximately 500 people attending the dinner.

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

"The Dallas Morning News"

Dallas, Texas

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☐ Being Investigated

2 - Bureau
1 - Dallas



Dallas News Staff Photo by Larry Reese.

Mrs. King and Frank Breedlove, King Center head.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Dr. King letter held unjustified

From Wire Reports

WASHINGTON — A top FBI official testified Wednesday there was no legal justification for the 25 separate attempts by the bureau in the 1960s to discredit the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a civil rights leader.

James B. Adams, associate deputy FBI director, told the Senate Intelligence Committee there is "no statutory basis or justification" for the attempts which included sending King and his wife an anonymous letter which King took as a suggestion he commit suicide.

ADAMS SAID, however, he believes the FBI was justified in investigating King because of the possibility that Communist influences were being brought to bear on him and on the civil rights movement.

He said he can find no basis for King's conclusion that the FBI-prepared letter and the tape recording that accompanied it suggested King kill himself. But he acknowledged under questioning that interpretation is "a possibility."

In another development related to disclosures of FBI harassment of dissidents, director Clarence Kelley urged Congress to exercise more control over his bureau and help "restore any breach of credibility" it had suffered.

ON THE NBC-TV Today program, he said Congress should pick an FBI director "in whom they have trust,

then set up regulations and guidelines and then have good oversight.

"I would not object at all to come to congress and report to the committee with oversight authority and tell them exactly what we are doing and how we are doing it."

Witnesses said the bureau similarly harassed a wide range of Americans and compiled 500,000 dossiers between 1959 and 1971 on Communists, student radicals, blacks, feminists, the Ku Klux Klan, anti-war groups and others.

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

"The Dallas Morning News"
— Dallas, Texas

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Associated Press Wirephoto.

James Adams . . . official believes FBI justified in investigating civil rights leader, Communist links.

NR0002 WA CODE SENT 3:55AM 7/30/76 MJW

PM NITEL 07/29/76 MDP

TO ALL SACS.

FROM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BUDED AUGUST 9, 1976

FOR INFORMATION OF RECIPIENTS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (AG) HAS ORDERED A REVIEW OF THE FBI'S INVESTIGATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. ASSIGNED TO CONDUCT THIS REVIEW IS A TASK FORCE WORKING UNDER DIRECTION OF THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS INDICATED THE REVIEW IS TO RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING FOUR QUESTIONS: (1) WAS THE FBI INVESTIGATION OF KING'S ASSASSINATION THOROUGH AND HONEST? (2) IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THE FBI WAS INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION? (3) IS THERE ANY NEW EVIDENCE WHICH HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION? (4) DOES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BUREAU AND KING CALL FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION?

THIS REVIEW IS A CONTINUATION OF A "PARTIAL REVIEW" RECENTLY

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FBI - DALLAS	

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PAGE TWO

CONDUCTED BY THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER DIRECTION OF ASSISTANT AG J. STANLEY POTTINGER. ALL PERSONNEL ON THE TASK FORCE ARE AUTHORIZED TOTAL ACCESS TO OUR FILES PERTAINING TO KING'S ASSASSINATION, OUR INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND ANY FILES RELATING TO BASIS FOR THESE INVESTIGATIONS. THIS WILL INCLUDE COVER PAGES OF COMMUNICATIONS CONTAINING IDENTITIES OF SOME FBI SOURCES AND INFORMANTS WHO WERE NOT AFFORDED SYMBOL NUMBERS AT THAT TIME AND INDIVIDUALS WHO EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED CONFIDENTIALITY.

TO DATE THE TASK FORCE HAS REVIEWED FBIHQ AND WFO FILES CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION OF KING CAPTIONED "MURKIN, BUREAU FILE 44-33861. TASK FORCE MEMBERS HAVE TRAVELED TO MEMPHIS, MILWAUKEE, KANSAS CITY, OMAHA, SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES AND REVIEWED MURKIN AND INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION FILES OF THOSE OFFICES. FUTURE TRAVEL BY THE TASK FORCE IS PLANNED FOR ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, CHARLOTTE, CHICAGO, NEW ORLEANS, NEW YORK, SPRINGFIELD AND ST. LOUIS.

AFTER ABOVE TRAVEL IS COMPLETED AND KING RELATED SECURITY FILES AT FBIHQ ARE REVIEWED, THE TASK FORCE WILL HAVE SEEN THE MAJORITY OF SERIALS IN OUR FILES RELATING TO THE KING INVESTIGATIONS. HOWEVER, SINCE IT IS THE GOAL OF THE TASK FORCE TO REVIEW KING RELATED FILES IN EVERY FIELD OFFICE, IT WILL BE

PAGE THREE

NECESSARY TO FORWARD XEROX COPIES OF FILES FROM THE REMAINING OFFICES TO FBIHQ FOR REVIEW.

THEREFORE, ALL RECIPIENTS WITH EXCEPTION OF THOSE OFFICES NAMED ABOVE, FURNISH FBIHQ ONE XEROX COPY OF EACH SERIAL CONTAINED IN YOUR KING ASSASSINATION FILE CAPTIONED "MURKIN." IT IS REQUESTED THIS MATERIAL BE PROCESSED AND MAILED TO REACH FBIHQ PRIOR TO AUGUST 9, 1976. THIS MATERIAL SHOULD BE SENT BY REGISTERED MAIL, ATTENTION DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR INGRAM, INTELLIGENCE DIVISION.

IF MURKIN FILES CONTAIN ANY PHOTOGRAPHS, EXHIBITS OR OTHER ITEMS WHICH CANNOT BE XEROXED A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH ITEM AND ITS LOCATION SHOULD BE SET FORTH IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTING THE DOCUMENTS TO FBIHQ.

SUBSEQUENT INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE ISSUED CONCERNING SUBMISSION OF COPIES OF OUR INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND RELATED SECURITY FILES. OFFICES TO BE VISITED IN THE FUTURE BY TASK FORCE PERSONNEL WILL ALSO BE FURNISHED APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS BY SEPARATE COMMUNICATION.

END

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NR0002 WA CODE SENT 3:55AM 7/30/76 MJW

PM NITEL 07/29/76 MDP

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 30 1976	
FBI - DALLAS	

PAGE TWO

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IF MURKIN FILES CONTAIN ANY PHOTOGRAPHS, EXHIBITS OR OTHER ITEMS WHICH CANNOT BE XEROXED A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH ITEM AND ITS LOCATION SHOULD BE SET FORTH IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTING THE DOCUMENTS TO FBIHQ.

SUBSEQUENT INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE ISSUED CONCERNING SUBMISSION OF COPIES OF OUR INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND RELATED SECURITY FILES. OFFICES TO BE VISITED IN THE FUTURE BY TASK FORCE PERSONNEL WILL ALSO BE FURNISHED APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS BY SEPARATE COMMUNICATION.

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NR0071 WA CODE

10:50PM NITEL 7-30-76 CMB

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR (100-105570)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; BUDED AUGUST 9, 1976.

REBUTEL TO ALL SACS JULY 23, 1976.

FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE HAS RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING CHANGE REGARDING REPRODUCTION OF FIELD OFFICE SERIALS IN THE MURKIN INVESTIGATION, AS OUTLINED IN REFERENCED TELETYPE.

IT WILL BE NECESSARY ONLY TO XEROX THE FIRST PAGE OF ANY DOCUMENT IN YOUR MURKIN FILE IF A COPY OF THAT DOCUMENT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ. THIS WILL INCLUDE BOTH DOCUMENTS ORIGINATING IN YOUR OFFICE AND THOSE RECEIVED FROM OTHER FIELD DIVISIONS. ANY DOCUMENTS IN YOUR MURKIN FILE, COPIES OF WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ MUST BE REPRODUCED IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND FORWARDED TO FBIHQ.

IT IS NOTED THAT THIS FIRST PAGE SHOULD CONTAIN THE FIELD OFFICE SERIAL NUMBER IN ORDER THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN MAKE A COMPLETE CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNTING OF EACH FIELD OFFICE SERIAL.

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Xerox 1cc to 44-2649

44-2649-701
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8/5/76

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)
ATTENTION: DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR INGRAM
INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

FROM: SAC, DALLAS (44-2649) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

OO: MEMPHIS
BUDED: 8/9/76

Re Bureau teletypes to all offices dated 7/29/76
and 7/30/76.

Enclosed for the Bureau is one Xerox copy of
Dallas file 44-2649, captioned MURKIN, as requested in
referenced communications.

2 - Bureau (ENC. 1) (RM)

1 - Dallas

GFL:daf

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Serialize
Index
File
Search

44-2649-702

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sprague: Ray says he had help in King killing

Compiled from wire reports

James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, has told House investigators that he was aided by other persons both before and after the slaying of the civil rights leader, former House Assassination Committee chief counsel Richard A. Sprague said Monday.

Sprague, who interviewed Ray at the Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee last month, said Ray talked about several accomplices but did not identify them.

"All of this suggests that this (Ray) was a person who did not act alone," Sprague said.

Meanwhile, in Nashville, Tenn., Jack Kershaw, Ray's attorney, said Monday he will ask the House Assassinations Committee for further ballistics tests on the rifle which police said Ray used to kill the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Sprague resigned as the assassination committee's chief of staff March 30.

Sprague conceded that he was unable, prior to his resignation, to develop information which might either prove or disprove Ray's claim of receiving assistance. But he said the words of Ray, who pleaded guilty to the 1968 slaying and is serving a 99-year prison sentence, provided leads that should be explored.

Ray has been trying for years to withdraw his guilty plea and win a full trial. In a number of recent statements, he has maintained that King was killed by a mysterious Latin whom Ray knew only as "Raoul."

A Justice Department task force recently concluded there was no evidence

that Ray was part of a conspiracy, though the report said the source of Ray's funds "remains a mystery." Ray spent more than \$10,000 during the year, while his total earnings were just a little more than \$600.

Meanwhile in Columbus, Ohio, federal authorities plan to investigate an Ohio Penitentiary inmate's claim that FBI and CIA agents offered a New York underworld figure a \$1 million contract in 1968 to kill Martin Luther King Jr., it was reported today.

Scripps-Howard Newspapers, in a copyrighted article by William Pillar, said Ed Evans, chief investigator for the House assassinations committee, will question Myron Billett, 52, in connection with his allegations.

Billett, alias Paul Buccilli, told Scripps-Howard Newspapers he set up a secret meeting in January 1968 at a hideaway motel in Appalachin, N.Y., between the agents and the late Carlos Gambino, who reportedly headed one of five New York crime families.

Billett, who also claims to be a former undercover agent for the FBI, said he was told the offer to kill King came from Washington and was approved by the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Billett said Gambino, however, rejected the contract and later passed the word from New York City that none of the crime families, with which he was associated, would accept the offer to kill King.

Billett, in a letter to Scripps-Howard newspapers, said he wanted tell his story to congressional probers now that others are alleging conspiracies existed in the assassination of King in 1968 and

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

"The Dallas Times Herald"
Dallas, Texas

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President John J. Kennedy in 1963.

"I think we better lay it on the line before someone blows the lid on the whole deal," Billett wrote. "Carlo Gambino was the top man who said no to the CIA and FBI. I do know that the order came right down from Washington and it was approved by Hoover

"I can give you the meeting place we had in New York, the name of the motel, the woman who called ahead and made the arrangements for us and those who were at the meeting," he said.

Billett said he didn't come forward with the information before "because I didn't think anyone would believe me."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Pair blame FBI i

Star-Telegram Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Two nationally known government critics claimed Tuesday that the FBI "should be considered the prime suspect" in the 1968 killing of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Mark Lane, an assassinations researcher, and Dick Gregory, a comedian turned civil rights activist, made the allegations at a news conference to publicize their new book, "Code Name 'Zorro'—the Murder of Martin Luther King Jr."

They based their claim on a pattern of evidence either already on the public record or found through additional research which they say indicates the late FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, wanted King dead.

An FBI spokesman said the bureau would have "no comment" on the allegation that it conspired to have King killed.

* * *

THE BOOK alleges that:

- Dr. King's police protection was removed on the day of the assassination in a plot that involved city and federal authorities.

- An FBI unit in the Atlanta office which was referred to as the "destroy King squad" investigated and covered up the death of King, a Nobel Prize winner.

- King's convicted assassin, James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to the murder before publicly recanting the confession, was set up as a patsy by unnamed individuals.

While the book covers considerable material included in the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence's report last year, it apparently includes some new "findings."

The book depicts a "cozy" relationship between the Memphis police department and the FBI, including the fact that a top police official was a good friend and former colleague of Hoover.

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

Fort Worth
4A Star Telegram
Fort Worth, Texas

Date: 5/4/77
Edition: Morning
Author:
Editor: Jack Butler
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Submitting Office: Dallas

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MAY 1 1977

FBI-DALLAS

It also says that a 21-year FBI veteran, Arthur Murtagh, recalls that when King was shot in Memphis, agents in the anti-King Atlanta unit expressed delight.

"They got 'Zorro' the —," Lane said of how one top FBI official reacted. "They finally got the —."

ZORRO, LANE said, was the FBI's code name for King.

At the news conference, Lane and Gregory also showed parts of a taped interview with Ray, who maintained his innocence.

Interviewed in his prison cell in Tennessee by Lane, Ray said he was coerced into pleading guilty by state and federal authorities who threatened to harm his brothers if he did otherwise.

That assertion was supported by Jerry Ray, the convicted killer's brother, who said a third brother, John Ray, is serving an 18-year sentence for a "bank robbery he didn't commit."

The Lane-Gregory book comes at a time at which the beleaguered House Committee on Assassinations appears to have overcome all congressional obstacles in its drive to determine who killed King and former President John Kennedy.

The assassinations panel, plagued by internal bickering and stiff congressional opposition, secured a \$2.5 million budget last week after trimming its initial request by \$4 million.

THE COMMITTEE lately has taken a low profile while it shops around for a new staff director to replace Richard Sprague, the controversial former head who quit on the eve of an important reconstitution vote in March.

One staffer said the current committee is like a "ship without a rudder sailing smoothly after a rough start."



—Associated Press Laserphoto

KING ASSASSINATION. . . Dick Gregory, left, Mark Lane, right, and Jerry Ray, brother of James Earl Ray, discuss a model of the Memphis, Tenn., motel where Martin Luther King was assassinated.

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FM SEATTLE (44-371)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

DALLAS PRIORITY

KNOXVILLE PRIORITY

MEMPHIS PRIORITY

NEW ORLEANS PRIORITY

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CLEAR

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

RE SEATTLE TEL CALL TO BUREAU, JUNE 1, 1977.

AT APPROXIMATELY 6:45 P.M., PD ST, JUNE 1, 1977, SAC SEATTLE RECEIVED CALL FROM INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS (X) KEITH ERNEST LAMONICA (X). LAMONICA ADVISED HE IS NEWS DIRECTOR WITH KYYX RADIO, 1305 - 3RD AVENUE, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, TEL. 532-2823. (LAMONICA IDENTICAL WITH BUFILE 46-53387, CAPTIONED KEITH ERNEST LAMONICA; DALE CURTIS TORNO, FAG, OO: SEATTLE.) LAMONICA DESCRIBED PREVIOUS ASSOCIATION WITH BUREAU PERSONNEL

See -
Search Martinez' name
in indices.
Indices negative
6/1/77 LAG

44-2649-705

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUN 1 1977	
FBI - DALLAS	

Suter

WHILE ASSIGNED AS INVESTIGATIVE REPORTED WITH WMPS RADIO, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND ALSO WHILE WORKING ON THE YABLONSKI MURDER CASES IN KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE. LAMONICA PRESENTLY RESIDES 31022 - 43TH AVENUE SW, FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON.

LAMONICA INDICATED HE HAS BEEN WORKING ON CAPTIONED CASE AND ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT PREVIOUS BELIEVE OF THE EXISTENCE OF "RAOUL" THEORY AS POSED BY JAMES EARL RAY, HE NOW HAS DEVELOPED INFORMATION INDICATING THAT "RAOUL" IS ACTUALLY (X) RAOUL SANTIAGO ESTEJO MARTINEZ (X), AND THAT WITH THE COOPERATION OF RAY'S ATTORNEY, JACK KERSHAW, HE, LAMONICA, IS TO MEET WITH MARTINEZ THROUGH AN INTERMEDIARY (X) CLIFF ANDREWS (X), WHO SUPPOSEDLY SERVED PRISON TIME WITH RAY.

LAMONICA FURTHER INDICATED THAT WHEN THIS INFORMATION BREAKS IT WILL CAUSE CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY AND HE HAS ALREADY BEEN CONTACTED BY THREE MAJOR NETWORKS AND LEAVES THURSDAY MORNING TO BE INTERVIEWED BY THE NATIONAL ENQUIRER AT LANTANA, FLORIDA, FROM WHERE HE WILL RETURN TO SEATTLE POSSIBLY ON FRIDAY. HE SAID APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKENDS AGO HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY TWO INVESTIGATORS NAMES MORIARTY (PH), AND GILBERT FROM THE HOUSE SELECT

PAGE THREE

SE 44-371

CLEAR

COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS WHO INDICATED THEY WOULD BE SUBPOENING LAMONICA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AT THE TIME OF THIS INTERVIEW LAMONICA DID NOT HAVE THE AFOREMENTIONED INFORMATION ON RAOUL MARTINEZ. MARTINEZ REPORTEDLY INDICATED HE WILL TESTIFY ABOUT CAPTIONED CASE IF HE CAN BE GRANTED IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION.

LAMONICA'S PURPOSE IN CONTACTING SEATTLE FBI WAS TO EXPRESS CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS TWO DAUGHTERS, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] WHO RESIDE WITH HIS PARENTS AT 4317 W. RICHARDSON, PASCO, WASHINGTON, TEL. 547-7935.

REASON FOR HIS CONCERN IS THAT HE HAD HEARD INDIRECTLY THAT A NEW ORLEANS "HITMAN" RAFAEL MARTINEZ (NO RELATION TO RAOUL MARTINEZ) WOULD CAUSE HIM OR HIS FAMILY A LOT OF TROUBLE IF THE STORY BREAKS. HE SAID HIS NEW SOURCE TOLD HIM OF A CONFIDENTIAL MEMO BELIEVED FROM DALLAS, TEXAS, PD OR SO TO NEW ORLEANS IN WHICH MARTINEZ WAS DESCRIBED AS A VERY EXPERIENCED HITMAN.

LAMONICA ADVISED BY SAC OF THE WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM AND THAT HE SHOULD PROBABLY NOTIFY INVESTIGATORS FOR SELECT COMMITTEE OF HIS FEARS BUT TO CHECK WITH THIS OFFICE UPON HIS RETURN THIS COMING FRIDAY.

PAGE FOUR

SE 44-371

CLEAR

ABOVE FURNISHED FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU FOR REFERRAL
TO DEPARTMENT. ALL OFFICES HOLD SPECIFIC LEADS IN ABEYANCE
PENDING INSTRUCTIONS FROM BUREAU

BT

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PP HQ DL KX ME NO

DE SE

P 020403Z JUNE 77

FM SEATTLE (44-371)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

DALLAS PRIORITY

KNOXVILLE PRIORITY

MEMPHIS PRIORITY

NEW ORLEANS PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

RE SEATTLE TEL CALL TO BUREAU, JUNE 1, 1977.

AT APPROXIMATELY 6:45 P.M., PDST, JUNE 1, 1977, SAC SEATTLE RECEIVED CALL FROM INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS (X) KEITH ERNEST LAMONICA (X). LAMONICA ADVISED HE IS NEWS DIRECTOR WITH KYYX RADIO, 1305 - 3RD AVENUE, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, TEL. 582-2828. (LAMONICA IDENTICAL WITH BUFILE 46-53387, CAPTIONED KEITH ERNEST LAMONICA; DALE CURTIS TORMO, FAG, OO: SEATTLE.) LAMONICA DESCRIBED PREVIOUS ASSOCIATION WITH BUREAU PERSONNEL

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