

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/12/681

Miss ANNA CHRISTINE KELLY, Manager, Rebel Motor Hotel, 3466 Lamar Avenue, advised that her records reflect the following:

At 7:15 on April 3, 1968, ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, registered in room 34 and departed on April 4. He stated on his registration card that he was driving a Mustang bearing Alabama license 1288993.

Miss KELLY stated that the individual would have had to have left the hotel by checkout time, which was 1:00 PM, or his registration card would have reflected he was charged for two days lodging instead of one day.

She further advised that her records reflect the following:

On April 3, 1968, ANDY GAST, Route 6, Fremont, Ohio, registered in Room 35 and departed on April 4. WILLIAM HESTER, 109 Forest Avenue, Troy, Alabama, registered in Room 35 on April 4. Leonard E. Day, 5607 Highway 61 South, Memphis, registered in Room 33 on April 3. L. N. PAGE, 1282 Abbe Road, Sheffield, Ohio, registered in Room 34 at 8:30 PM on April 4.

Miss KELLY further advised that room numbers 33 and 35 are adjacent to Room 34, and that the only occupant of room 34 since ERIC S. GALT checked out was L. N. PAGE.

Miss KELLY stated that she could not remember ERIC S. GALT, and in fact the only occupants of the hotel which she ever became familiar with were the people who were steady customers of the hotel. She stated that SARA LOVINGS would have cleaned the room immediately after GALT checked out of the hotel.

On 4/11/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987
 by SAC ROBERT G. JENSEN, SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON, and
SA JOHN W. BAUER /bbs Date dictated 4/11/68
 JWB:bbs

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Miss KELLY made available ERIC S. GALT's registration card to Special Agent in Charge ROBERT G. JENSEN for submission to the FBI Laboratory.

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Doctor JERRY T. FRANCISCO, Medical Examiner, University of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that an autopsy was performed on Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., on the night of April 4, 1968, however, the official autopsy report will not be available until April 16, 1968. Doctor FRANCISCO furnished the following information concerning his autopsy findings:

The missile entered the right jaw of Dr. KING, sixty-one inches superior to the right heel. This is a point fifty-nine inches superior to the right heel with the head positioned to correspond with the path of the missile. The missile severed the spinal cord and came to rest beneath the skin fifty-five and one-half inches superior to the left heel and three inches to the left of the mid-line of the back. The thickness from the point of entry, to the final resting point of the missile was eight and one-half inches.

Dr. FRANCISCO summarized the above statement by commenting that the bullet entered the right jaw of Dr. KING and traveled eight and one-half inches through the flesh coming to rest at a point just beneath the skin three inches to the left of Dr. KING's backbone. Dr. FRANCISCO stated that he signed the death certificate indicating the official cause of death to be gunshot wound to thoracic cord. The death certificate will be available from Department of Health on April 16, 1968.

CANIPE'S AMUSEMENT CO. -- 3 interviews

CANIS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date April 10, 1968

Mr. GUY WARREN CANIPE, JR., 1078 Brower Road, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone number 324-0344, owner of Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone number 525-0439, furnished the following information to Lt. J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and Special Agent FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:

He has been in business in the South Main Street area for the past twenty years. His store had been closed and unattended most of the day, April 4, 1968, he having been with Mr. EDWIN BODENHEIMER, 180 Clark Place, Memphis, one of his competitors and a close friend, during the day. He had left his store around 9:00 or 9:30 A.M. and did not return until after 5:00 P.M.

Soon after he returned, two Negro males came into his store and started looking at phonograph records on some shelves on the south side of the store near the front door. He had been playing records on a "jukebox" located toward the front of the store. He did not hear a shot or noise which he thought might be a shot anytime around 6:00 P.M. One of the Negro men was overheard by him subsequently to say that he, the customer, did hear a shot.

Sometime around 6:00 P.M. (although he has no way of fixing the time), he heard a "thud" in the vicinity of the front door of his store. He looked up to observe a bundle lying in front of the door to his store. He pointed out that the front door of his store is offset or located in a recess off the sidewalk. Almost simultaneously as he looked up after hearing this "thud," he saw a white man walking south on the sidewalk in front of his store.

After hesitating momentarily, Mr. CANIPE walked out onto the sidewalk, looking in both directions to see what happened to the man who obviously had dropped this bundle. As he did this, a white small car, possibly a compact, pulled away from the curb on the east side of Main Street at a point just south of his store. There was only one man in the car, namely the driver.

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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When Mr. CANIPE looked north on Main Street he saw a Deputy Sheriff walking rapidly on the sidewalk on the east side of Main, approaching Mr. CANIPE, this Deputy having his revolver drawn. Mr. CANIPE, concluding that something unusual had just occurred, immediately stepped back into his store. This Deputy proceeded south on the sidewalk past his store, not stopping. A short time later after other officers had arrived, he saw this same Deputy and talked to him. He does not know his name.

After additional officers arrived, their attention was called to the bundle lying to the front of CANIPE's store.

As to the contents of the bundle or package which he observed, he pointed out that it appeared to be a rather large pasteboard box about the size he would expect a shotgun or rifle to be shipped in. The top of this box was ajar and he observed a portion of a gun barrel. There was some type cloth over the top of this bundle, which cloth was green in color and which impressed him as possibly being a curtain of some kind. In observing this bundle he noticed that the pasteboard box had the word "Browning" on it. He also saw some type of suitcase or brief case underneath the cloth.

As to the parking situation in front of his store, Mr. CANIPE furnished the following information:

In front of his store on the east side of Main there are three parking spaces between a fire plug and a driveway south of his store. He usually is able to park in one of these spaces. However, when he arrived at his store after 5:00 P.M., April 4, 1968, all three of these spaces were filled and he had to park his 1962 red station wagon at a point south of the above mentioned driveway. He does not recall noticing the make and model of the three cars parked in these spaces, but he is certain that there was a white smaller car, possibly a Valiant or Comet, parked in the parking space nearest his door (which will be referred to as parking space number one). He does not recall the cars parked in spaces two and three wouth of this white car.

He is certain in his own mind that the white small car he saw pull away from the curb as he looked out of his door, as outlined above, was parked in either number two parking space or number three parking space, but he does not know which of these spaces this car was parked in. He cannot

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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)

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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

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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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Canipe

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.

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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 on 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.

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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

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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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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.