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photograph of BUNHENT locked like the unknown individual he had seen in the Farmers Market in the late fall or early winter but stated he may be "too short."

MC FERREN did not desire to furnish a signed statement regarding this individual stating he "did not want to get him in trouble" if this should be the wrong person.

MC FERREN noted certain similarities in this photograph, namely, the hair style was the same, he had the same "jungle rot" on his neck, and the profile was similar to that of the sketch by the Commercial Appeal artist in the newspaper. The individual picked out by MC FERREN was born September 28, 1943, is 5'5"tall, weighs 152 pounds, medium build, brown hair, brown eyes, and was last known to be residing in New Orleans, Louisiana.

MC FERREN was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERTC STARVO GALT, who was identified to MC FERREN as being the individual wanted by the FBI for the murder of Dr. KING. At this point, MC FERREN took the photograph of RAY and intimated this individual, too, recembled the man he saw at the Farmers Market in late fall or early winter, 1967. He stated, "Now let's be honest, the hair is combed the same way and there was some similarity in the individual he was attempting to describe. MC FERREN was reminded that he had positively eliminated RAY, on three occasions and he thereafter stated he just "was not sure."

During the interview with MC FERREN, an individual who was known to be a Times Magazine reporter was taking photographs of agents interviewing MC FERREN and during the interview it was foly that the distraction caused by this Times Magazine reporter necessitated moving MC FERREN to a more secluded spot so that an effective and penetrating interview with him could be accomplished.

The following description of JOHN MC FERREN was obtained through observation and interview:

Race:

Sex:

DOB:

POB:

Somerville, Tennessee

ME 44-1987

Reight:
Weight:
Nair:
Eyes:
Complexion:

Social Socurity #:

Occupation:

5'9" 178 Black Gray Light brown

Proprietor of Mc Ferren's Grecery Store, Somerville, Tennessee.

As a result of the information furnished by McFerren, the following interviews were conducted by FBI Agents of the Memphis and New Orleans Divisions:

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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JAMES WILLIAM LATCH, home address 3137 Overbrock, Memphis, Tennessee, Vice-president, LL & L Produce Company, 814 Scott Street, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at his place of business at which time he furnished the following information:

On April 4, 1968, he arrived at work at approximately 5:30 a.m. and stayed on the job, with the exception of lunch and possibly going to see one of his business associates, until 6:00 p.m.

LATCH advised that in his capacity as vice president he is continually dealing with the public and business associates over the telephone and, therefore, does not have an exact recollection of just what transpired on that day. To the best of his knowledge, he does not remember discussing with anyone the possibility of shooting KING and emphatically denied having any knowledge of the activity of the person responsible for MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s death.

LATCH was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT, and failed to identify these photographs as being identical with any individual he knew.

LATCH advised it is not uncommon talk among co-workers in and around the produce company and other individuals in the Memphis area to discuss the comments of KING while he was in the Memphis, Tennessee, area. LATCH advised he may have made some general remarks regarding MING, especially since he felt the curfew in the Memphis area during KING's stay at Memphis, cost him approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000 in lost sales.

LATCH advised that he receives and makes numerous telephone calls and specifically denied any telephone call made mentioning the shooting of Dr. KING or of any reference to KING. He stated that he had no knowledge of the shooting of Dr. KING while at work at the produce company.

On 4/19/68 at Mamphis, Tennessee	File # <u>Momphis 44-1987</u>	
SA ROBLET FIGEPATRICK & by SA CHURRY SLOAN:RF:cjs:bb	Date dictated4/22/68	

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Lattch advised that he had been in New Orleans, Louisiana, just before Christmas, 1867. We advised it is not unusual for him to travel in his capacity as vice president of a produce company to obtain various produce in certain sections of the South. He left work at approximately 6:00 p.m., April 4, 1868, and feels certain he heard about the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jh., on his car radio although it is possible that if he stayed at work that day past 6:00 p.m. his sister or his wife may have telephonically contacted him as it is common for him to call these individuals just prior to leaving work. LATCH advised that he cannot be specific about his actions on april 4, 1968, inasmuch as he is continually on the go and is in constant contact with various individuals, many of whem are business people who are coming to him for the first time.

He reiterated he may have made disparaging remarks about KING, both prior to the shooting and after the shooting of KING, and stated he does not consider this to be uncommon.

The following description of LATCH was obtained through observation and interview:

Mane:

Race:

Sex:

DOE:

POB:

Height:

Weight:

Tyre:

Scars and marks:

Wehicle:

Military Service:

Weapons:

Arrest record:

Rest to The Control of the State of the Control of

JAMES WILLIAM LAYOH

Mitte

Male

Alcorn, Mississippi

6

200

Sandy brown

Bluish gray

Scar on right side of neck

Drives a 1963 Cadillac, Tennessee plates: 1966 Chevrolet Pickup Truck

Tonnessee plates

U. S. Army, US 53036918

Cons Browning Shotgun, Italian Mauser,

and .22 automatic pistol

Arrested Memphis, Tennesses, on

false pretenses, originating in

Memphis.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

* pr-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS

		Date	4/23/68
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FRANK CAMILLA LIBERTO, home address 3271 Powers Street, Raleigh, Momphis, Tennessee, employed as president of the LL & L Produce Company, S14 Scott, Momphis, was interviewed at his place of business and he furnished the following information:

To the best of his knowledge, he was at his place of business on April 4, 1968, and stated he did not recall exactly what time he arrived but remembered leaving at any time between 4:15 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. He called his wife at home just prior to leaving and she could probably verify the fact he arrived home semetime after 5:00 p.m.

the identity of the person responsible for Dr. MANTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s death on April 4, 1968. We also emphatically denied ever discussing with anyone the possibility of shooting KING although he admitted he had made the usual deregatory remarks about KING's action in Memphis, Tennessee, and also about the fact KING was partly responsible for the curfew imposed on the city of Memphis resulting in loss of revenue by his business establishment in the Memphis area. He advised he may have made statements to the effect that KING should be killed although he does not recall any specific statements made by him to this effect. He stated that because of the curfew, he suffered approximately \$40,000 in lost sales at the produce company.

LIBERTO stated he frequently makes trips to New Orleans, Louisiana, to get strawberries and other produce and also because members of his family reside in the New Orleans area. He stated most of the co-workers, employees, and customers at his produce company know of his travels to New Orleans inasmuch as he frequently mentions his trips to New Orleans.

LIBERTO stated that regarding telephone calls allegedly made by him or telephone calls to him on April 4, 1968, he specifically denied receiving any call where mention was made of Dr. KING or of Dr. KING's shooting. LIBERTO stated most of his produce is purchased through telephone conversations and this

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by _	21 . 137.21	SLOAN: RF:cj	5;bb	_Date dictated	4/22/38

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inevitably involves talking about large sums of money over the telephone. He advised he did not receive any telephone call on April 4, 1968, regarding KING and stated he would have remembered any conversation over the telephone or in person which allegedly took place on April 4, 1968, involving the death of KING. He further stated he would have no reason for being involved in any action of this sort.

LIBERTO advised he frequently trunts various individuals regarding racial matters and may have made disparaging remarks to seme of his customers involving KING but reiterated he does not consider this uncommon among various co-workers at his place of employment.

LIBERFO advised he has had no individual employed recently in late fall or early winter at his produce company fitting the description of the unknown individual described as having long straight, coarse, black hair, "jungle ret" on his neck, slender build, drop shoulders, tan complexion, 5'10"-5'11", 160 pounds, and "not a day over 25" years of age. He always employs Megro males for help in the produce department and any unidentified white male seen in or around his produce company would most likely be a truck driver or an individual who had come to his establishment to purchase produce.

LIEERTO stated he left work between 4:15 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. and was not ware of HTNG's death until after his arrival at his home. He advised the first he heard of KING's death was from his wife or from the news media which reported it on television.

LIBERTO was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT and he stated he had never seen this individual before. He was furnished other aliases used by RAY and stated he had never heard any of these names used in his presence. He then made a search of his records but could locate no record on any individual by the name of JAMES EARL RAY, ERIC STARVO GALT, MARVEY LOWMEYER, or JOHN WILLARD as ever being employed at his establishment.

LIDERTO reiterated that he did not receive any telephone call on April 4, 1968, where mention was made of shooting KING or

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any reference made to KING and stated he felt sure he would remember such a telephone conversation if it had, in fact, taken place.

LIBERTO advised he has family members residing in New Orleans, Louisiana, and identified these individuals as follows:

Mother

EMILY LIBERTO,

2219 Altomastor Street Now Orleans, Louisiana

Brothers

The second secon

TONT LIBERTO,

resides two houses away from his

modher;

VINCENT LIBERTO,

who works for Viking Truck Company as a dock foreman in

Now Orleans;

SALVADORE LÍBERTO, who works for West Brothers as a truck

driver in New Orleans, Louisiana.

LIBERTO advised an individual who frequently is in and around his establishment is AMELIO GUASCO, 38 years of age, who was formerly a Shelby County Sheriff's Office deputy.

The following description of LIBERTO was obtained through observation and interview:

> Name Tace Sex POB Height: Weight

Eyes Mair

Vehicle

Arrest record

FRANK CAMILLA White Male

Mouphis, Tonnessee 5'10" - 5'11"

285

Grayish blue

Drown

Drives a 1967 Chevrolet Station

Momphis, Tennessee, for embezzling

peaches.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

		Date <u>4/22/68</u>
	morry of the original Park Cooks	Chrock Company Droduge
	TONY SANSONE, 514 SCOTT	t Street, Sansone Produce
ompany,	Memphis, Tennessee, Turn	ished the following information:
	misa indiniduala angunda	ing LL & L Produce Company were
Jambiei n	THE THURST OPERATE.	WK LIBERTO. SANSONE described
		MIN HIDELIO. DANDONE GESCITOCG
arch as	follows:	
	Race:	White
	Sox:	Mole .
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Approximately 35
		Fair
	Complexion:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Characteristics:	Pug nose, casual dresser
	Eyes:	Bleo
	Height:	6'I"
	-Weight:	200
	He described LIBERTO as	s follows:
		To be delegated
	Race:	nade
	Sex:	Male
	Complexion:	Dark
	Fac:	Approximately 40
	Build:	Moavy .
	Weight:	325-350
	Height:	5'10"
	Scars and marks:	Scar on neck
	Remarks:	Neat dresser.
	SANSONE advised that I.	IBERTO Had closed his business
orlv and		interview and that LIBERTO was
•		isiana, buying strawberries for
t that t	-	is tally buying by awboir ion for
	icc midifico.	
he produ		noments of TAMES WART, RAY also
he produ	SAMSONE was shown photo	ographs of JAMES EARL RAY, also
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Mr. ANTHONYALIBERTO located and interviewed at his residence, 2211 Almonaster, New Orleans, Louisiana, and advised as follows:

He is currently retired and living alone at this address. He formerly worked for a 17 year period with Viking Truck Lines, but for medical reasons was forced to retire. He stated that he is a diabetic with a heart condition. For that reason he cannot do strenuous labor. He stated that he has not been in telephonic contact with his brother, FRANK in Memphis in several years and the only member of his immediate family residing in New Orleans who may have possibly been in touch with FRANK would have been is mother, Mrs. EMMA LIBERTO, who resides at 2219 Almonaster.

He viewed a photograh, of JAMES EARL RAY stating this individual looked familiar but he could not identify it.

Where on the West Bank of the Mississippi River, exact address unknown; however, his telephone number is 367-3020. He stated that both his brother, SALVATORE and VINCENT are employed with trucking firms and have been so employed for many years. He stated no one in his immediate family is employed in the produce business in New Orleans. He knows that his brother FRANK occasionally makes trips to the Hammond, Louisiana, area to purchase particularly strawberries but has no knowledge of any other business contacts of his brother in New Orleans. He stated he would have no knowledge of any disparaging remarks made by his brother or any of his employees concerning KING or the Negro element.

The following is a description gained through observation and interview:

Name ANTHONY LIBERTO
Race White
Sex Male
Height 5'8"
Weight 300
Hair Brown, bald on top

On	4/22/68 at	New Orleans,	Louisiana	File # NO	157-10673	-
	SAS THOMAS L.	COLARELLI				
by .	PATRICK J.	COLLINS, JR.	TLC: maca	Date dictated	4/23/68	

NO 157-10673

Eyes Birth data Occupation

Retired, formerly with Viking Truck Lines

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		•	L	Date		
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the home o	Mrs. EMMANII Ther son, A	BERTO, 2219 NTHONY LIBER	Almonaste	er, was i	nterview er and a	ed in
as follows			,		, and a	4 7 2500
	- / · · /					
name was and is 71 about 39 y	She is the ward in the wars of age tears ago and	was born and . She and h she has sev	raised i er husbar en living	in Memphi nd came t childre	s, Tenne o New Or	sse e , leans
three sons	and one dau	gnter resize	in New Or	· Leans .		,
	She stated s	he saw her s	on FRANK	last Fri	day when	he
	to see her	after a trip	to the E	lammond,	Louisian	а,
area for tobusiness.	he purpose o	f purchasing	strawber	ries for	his pro	duce
	She occasion	ally pontent	e him ha	talanhan	a and in	foo+
called him	a couple of	_		-		
		family and				
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situation.		photograph	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		<u></u>	
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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

SAS THOMAS L. COLARELLI

PATRICK J. COLLINS,

TLC: mah

_Date dictated

4/23/68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGA?

	4/23/68	
Date		

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Mr. VINCENT LIBERTO located in the vicinity of his employment, Viking Truck Lines, 6750 Gentilly Road, New Orleans, and interviewed. He voluntarily furnished the following information:

There is only one member of his immediate family that is in the produce business and that is his brother FRANK, in Memphis, Tennessee. He has not talked to FRANK by telephone in at least four years. He stated FRANK is the oldest of the brothers and there are two other brothers residing here in New Orleans, at present. One is ANTHONY who resides at 22Tl Almonaster, who is a retired diabetic with a heart condition, having previously been employed by Viking for many years. The other brother is SALVATORE, who works for West Brothers Trucking Lines, and has for many years. SALVATORE lives in Terry Town, just across the Mississippi River Bridge, and he believes the address is on Matador Drive.

He stated he was born and raised in Memphis and his father was in the produce business for many years, but none of the brothers in New Orleans are in the produce business. He knows that FRANK occasionally travels to Hammond, Louisiana, to purchase strawberries but he knows of no other business contacts of FRANK in the produce line in New Orleans.

He examined a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, and advised he has seen this individual in the newspapers and television and has no knowledge of the KING assassination other than that gained from the news media.

He stated he resides at 705 North Upton and is mother, Mrs. EMMA LIBERTO, resides alone at 2219 Almonaster. He stated he would have no knowledge of any disparaging remarks made by his brother FRANK concerning KING or the Negro element.

The following is a description gained from observation and interview:

Name VINCENT LIBERTO
Sex Male
Race White

On .	4/22/68	New Orleans,	Louisiana	NO 157-10673	
by _	SAS THOMAS L.	COLARELLI . COLLINS, JR.	MT Crawo h	te dictated 4/23/68	٠

NO 157-10673

Height Weight Birth data

Hair Eyes Occupation

Residence

5'8" 185

Memphis,

Tennessee
Black, graying
Blue
Truck driver-Viking Truck
Lines, 6750 Gentilly Road,
New Orleans
705 North Upton

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGAT N

Date	4/23/68	

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SALVADOR ALBERT LIBERTO, 856 Matador, Gretna louisiana, telephone number 367-3020, advised that he was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. On January 22, 1954, at New Orleans, he married PATRICIA KRELLER and has one son and three daughters. For the past thirteen (13) years, LIBERTO has been employed as a checker at the West Trucking Company, New Orleans.

LIBERTO stated that sometime just before the MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., assassination, exact date unrecalled, he telephonically spoke to his brother, FRANK LIBERTO, in Memphis, Tennessee. LIBERTO made this telephone call from his mother's residence. The purpose of this call was to borrow \$200 from his brother. LIBERTO did not make this call from his own residence, as he did not want his spouse to know about the loan. His brother, FRANK LIBERTO, wired him \$200 in care of his mother's residence in New Orleans.

While on the telephone with his brother FRANK, FRANK invited him to visit him in Memphis, or to meet him at Hot Springs, Arkansas. LIBERTO advised that his brother, FRANK, follows the race horses and likes to go to a race track at Hot Springs, Arkansas, and bet horses. FRANK LIBERTO discussed his winnings and loses on the telephone with SALVADOR LIBERTO. SALVADOR LIBERTO does not recall the exact amounts of money he discussed.

LIBERTO viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and WALTER TERRY RIFE and advised that he did not know either of these individuals and he did not believe that he had ever seen either of these individuals.

On	4/23/68 at _	New Orleans, Louisiana	_ File #NO 157-10673	-
bу	SA PATRICK J.	COLLINS, JR.:sja	4/23/68 Date dictated	

Investigation by both Memphis and New Orleans has failed to associate any of the LIBERTOS with the Mafia - La Cosa Nostra, or to Carlos Marcellos.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, Sartor states that Joe Cacameci(PH) and Larry Mann, Aka. Larry Manning and Larry Max, two professional killers, are also involved in this matter. Sartor claims that Joe Cacameci allegedly met James Earl Ray at a Lion Service Station in Memphis the day of or the night before the shooting and Larry Mann has been saying he works for Frank Leberto and is responsible for "getting" James Earl Ray. According to one of Sartor's New Orleans informants, James Earl Ray was seen at or stayed at the Pontotoc Hotel in Memphis approximately three days before the shooting.

Sartor also refers to an individual by the name Pat Lyons who was interviewed by both Flannery and Sartor and allegedly made a statement to the effect that according to one "Ernie," Ray met Joe Cacameci at a Lion Service Station on the night before or the day of the shooting.

In connection with the information contained in the foregoing paragraph, Robert Patrick Lyons, Aka. Pat, was interviewed on November 19, 1968. His comments are set forth as follows:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date				~		,

Robert Patrick Lyons, 3529 Marion Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, unlisted Telephone 324-1803, was interviewed at his place of employment, Cruzen Equipment Co., Inc., 160 West Mallory Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, Telephone 947-3146, and was apprised of the identities of interviewing Special Agents of the FBI. Lyons furnished the following information:

Lyons advised that he is familiar with an individual by the name Bill Sartor, whom he met through Marie Geisendorf, Aka. Marie Lyons, shortly after the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. Lyons stated he was introduced in August, 1968, to an individual known as Nick Flannery, who stated he was from the Justice Department, Washington, D. C. Lyons advised that originally Bill Sartor had asked Geisendorf to ascertain information from Negroes in the Memphis community concerning the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., but then asked Pat Lyons to obtain any information concerning the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., with the possibility that the "Mafia" was connected with King's death. Lyons advised that he made no attempt to ascertain any information concerning the Mafia and the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

He stated that when he met Flannery, he repeated to Flannery exactly what Sartor had previously told him, namely that Joe Cacameci met with James Earl Ray at a Lion Service Station on the day before the death of Martin Luther King. stated that this information came from Sartor and was in no way information he developed on his own. He stated that Cacameci is known to him as a cosmetics salesman in the Memphis area and is known to drink frequently in Caesar's Lounge, which according to Lyons is owned by Ernie Barrasso. Lyons states Barrasso is a former schoolmate of his and a legitimate businessman in the Memphis community. Lyons states Barrasso is a nepnew of Frank Liberto, whom Lyons described as a local Memphis businessman. He identified Larry Max, Aka. Larry Mann, as a worker on a tug boat on the Mississippi River. He stated neither Max nor Cacameci is known to him as a professional killer. Lyons states both Max and Cacameci are employed in the Memphis area and his only association with them has been

On 11/19/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK
by SA TERRENCE P. NEIST RF:BN Date dictated 11/20/68

44-1987

through the Club Caesar, which is owned by Ernie Barrasso.

Lyons advised that Sartor inquired about Claude Cockrell, who is known to Lyons as a possible segregationist in the Memphis area. Lyons stated Sartor is of the opinion that if a car was used to go to Millington, as described by the news media, then Cockrell was the logical person, although no reason was given by Sartor for this. Lyons said Sartor was of the opinion that if another white Mustang was used to assist the killer of King in escaping the Memphis area, as referred to by the news media concerning the CB radio broadcast, then he considered Cockrell to be the logical person to have a private airplane waiting at Millington.

Lyons further stated that Sartor is of the opinion that officers who were suspended for alleged police brutality within the past year are involved in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King. According to Lyons, Sartor does not give any basis for this.

Sartor told Lyons that he has contact with the Mafia in New Orleans, New York, and Philadelphia, although he named only one individual, one Solo or Sola, as his contact with the Mafia in New Orleans.

Lyons stated he has had numerous casual meetings with Sartor and during this period Lyons has volunteered certain information of his personal life to Sartor, including facts regarding the tragic death of Lyons' wife. While volunteering information to Sartor regarding his wife's illness, Lyons mentioned that his wife had become addicted to the use of narcotics during her illness and in this regard had cooperated with Federal Drug Administration Supervisor Don Voight. Sartor had asked Lyons to ascertain information regarding narcotics from Voight.

Lyons described Sartor as being unreliable and as attributing false information to Lyons, which information was actually rumored by Sartor. According to Lyons, Sartor, by originating these rumors in different areas in Memphis, is able to get a "play back" from various sources, which he uses as a means of lending credence to his stories.

Lyons advised he could furnish no information concerning any conspiracy in the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. He said he knows of no individuals involved with James Earl Ray in the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

With regard to the allegation that Ray resided at the Pontotoc Hotel in Memphis approximately three days prior to the killing of Martin Luther King, Jr., a complete review of the records of the Pontotoc Hotel, 69 West Pontotoc Street, Memphis, on 11/18/68 for the period March 23 through April 8, 1968, failed to reveal any information concerning Ray under his true name or known aliases. Mr. George Antipas, Manager, Pontotoc Hotel, advised he has 27 sleeping rooms at the Pontotoc Hotel, and that approximately 21 or 22 of these rooms are occupied by more or less permanent residents. He claims he himself resides at thehotel and he is positive that Ray never resided at this hotel during the past eleven years.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, Sartor claims that a Reverend Carl Basinger, 1617 E. Moreland, Memphis, was advised by a ranking officer in the Memphis Police Department (Captain or above) not to go near Dr. King because something was going to happen to him.

Reverend Carl Basinger, 1617 Eastmoreland, Memphis, was interviewed by Agents of the FBI on 11/18/68. Reverend Basinger claims that he has known Bill Sartor, a contract reporter for "Time" magazine, since approximately April, 1968, and has had frequent contact with him since that date. He claims that, in fact, Sartor at the present time maintains a room at Basinger's residence.

With regard to the information Sartor attributes to Basinger, Reverend Basinger stated that those are not the exact words he has used in discussions with Sartor, and the statement attributed to him by Sartor has been taken completely out of context and is inaccurate.

Basinger refused to state whether he had any discussion with any Memphis police officer concerning Martin Luther King, Jr.; however, he admitted that he has had many conversations with ranking police officers of the Memphis Police Department in the past six years. Basinger admitted

that he currently does hold a grudge against the Memphis Police Department due to the fact that he is not satisfied with the manner in which certain officers of the Police Department have handled complaints he has made to the Department in the past.

Reverend Basinger describes Bill Sartor as being an alcoholic who is currently experiencing marital difficulties. By "alcoholic", Reverend Basinger stated he means that he has observed Bill Sartor commence drinking alcoholic beverages, namely wine and hard liquor, as early as 8 o'clock in the morning and to continue to consume these alcoholic beverages throughout the day and into the night

According to the memorandum of Mr. Flannery, Sartor claims that shortly after the killing a bartender overheard some Memphis policemen say there had been a "slip up" and that the assassination was originally scheduled to take place after the march for which Dr. King had returned to Memphis.

Since Sartor was either unwilling or unable to identify the bartender, the Memphis Office of the FBI has been unable to conduct any investigation to determine the veracity of this allegation; however, a review of the records of the Memphis Police Department and the Memphis FBI Office has failed to reveal any information to indicate that such an incident was ever reported to these respective law enforcement agencies.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, Sartor refers to a civilian having been observed lying in the back of a police car immediately after the shooting and near Mulberry and Huling. He got out of the police car, into another car, and was driven away.

In this regard, the records of the Memphis Police Department reveal the following:

At 6:55 p.m. on 4/4/68, Manuel Marcus Levine, a white male, and Alex Joy Hurder, a white male, were both arrested at a Second Street and Vance, aby lofficers assigned to Police Tactical Units#14, anasmuch as they crefused to give the due to the fact that these individuals refused to give the

officers any reason for being in the area of the Lorraine Motel at the time of the shooting of Reverend King. According to the arresting officers, these two individuals were placed in a marked patrol car, questioned, and then transferred to an unmarked police car for transportation to Central Police Headquarters. According to Inspector Don H. Smith, Memphis Police Department, the handling of these prisoners was standard operating procedure and most persons arrested by tactical units during disturbances during this period were transported to Headquarters in unmarked cars, one arrestee to a car.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, Sartor claims that an unidentified Negro policeman was removed from his assignment at the Fire Station at about 5 p.m. on the day of the assassination. Sartor identifies this policeman as E. E. REDDITT.

Sartor also states that two Negro firemen were moved from the station a day or two before the shooting. One of them had reportedly told friends that two or three days before Dr. King was shot a telescope or binoculars had been set up on a tripod in the Fire Station and focused on the Lorraine Motel balcony. According to this memorandum, Sartor in August advised Flannery that one fireman left the Department or was suspended, stortly after the shooting, and that he had been unable to locate either of them.

In this regard, Inspector G. P. Tines, Intelligence Unit, Memphis Police Department, advised on 11/18/68, that on 4/3/68 he assigned Detective E. E. Redditt and Patrolman W. B. Richmond, Negro officers, both of whom are assigned to the Inspection Division of the Memphis Police Department, to a security detail at the Memphis Fire Station, Engine House #2, located at Butler and Main Streets. This location is approximately one block from the Lorraine Motel. The purpose of this assignment was to observe the activities of the "Invaders," local Black Power group at Memphis. A number of the "Invaders" were rooming at the Lorraine Motel at this time. These two officers were equipped with binoculars and were stationed in a room at the rear of the fire station, with a view that included

the room later occupied by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

In connection with this assignment, and prior to the time Officers Redditt and Richmond physically proceeded to this assigned location, it was determined by the Intelligence Unit of the Memphis Police Department that a Negro fireman stationed at the Fire Station and named Floyd E. Newsum had taken an active part in demonstrations by the striking sanitaton workers in February and March, 1968, and had been closely associated with black militants connected with the strike. In order to insure security for Officers Redditt and Richmond, and to insure that no information regarding the Memphis Police Department Intelligence Unit's efforts to keep abreast of the activities of the "Invaders" was leaked to the black militants in Memphis, the Chief of the Memphis Fire Department was requested to temporarily transfer Fireman Newsum to another fire station. This was done on 4/3/68.

In addition, on 4/4/68, Negro Fireman Norvell E. Wallace was routinely assigned from Fire Station #2 to Fire Station #31, due to a manpower shortage at Fire Station #31.

On 11/18/68, Fire Chief Hamilton advised that by letter dated 5/18/68, Fireman Newsum resigned from the Memphis Fire Department after thirteen years of service, giving as his reason for leaving "Personal Reasons." Chief Hamilton advised it is his understanding that Newsum has become an active worker with the NAACP at Memphis subsequent to his resignation from the Memphis Fire Department.

At approximately 4:15 p.m. on 4/4/68, Lt. E. H. Arkin of the Intelligence Unit of the Memphis Police Department, on instructions from Inspector Tines, proceeded to Fire Engine House #2 and removed Detective Redditt from this station, leaving Officer Richmond at this post. The reason for the removal of Officer Redditt was due to the receipt of a telephone call on the morning of 4/4/68 by Philip Manuel, Chief Investigator for Senator McClellan's Senate Investigating Committee, Washington, D. C., to the effect that information had been

received by the Committee that a Negro detective on the Memphis Police Department was to be killed.

Due to Detective E. E. Redditt's activities in attending meetings of the striking sanitation workers in February and March 1968, Redditt had been threatened on several occasions. Inspector Tines therefore believed the telephone call received by the McClellan Committee was another threat directed against Redditt. He therefore ordered Redditt removed from his lookout post at Engine House #2 for Redditt's own protection. A police guard of two officers was assigned to Redditt and his family as a result of this threat.

A review of the tapes of the Memphis Police Department radio transmissions for April 4, 1968, failed to reflect any transmissions from Police Dispatcher ordering Redditt to move from his observation post and, in fact, it has been ascertained that no radio equipment was maintained by the Police officers at this observation post with which to receive radio transmissions.

According to this memorandum, Sartor mentions something to the effect that Chief of Detectives W. P. Huston of the Memphis Police Department telephonically contacted the Lorraine Motel regarding stationing detectives at the motel.

In this regard, Chief Huston has advised that he does not recall talking to any maid at the Lorraine Motel on 4/4/68; however, he stated he had been in telephonic contact on a number of occasions with Mr. Walter Bailey, Manager of the Motel, regarding the identity of certain individuals registered at the Motel.

It has been determined from the Memphis Police Department that on the morning of 4/3/68, Memphis Chief of Police J. C. Macdonald ordered Chief W. P. Huston of the Department to send a detail of men to the Memphis Metropolitan Airport to offer security to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and his party. Police records reflect that Inspector Don H. Smith offered the services of the police detail to Mrs.

Thomas Mathews, who was acting as chauffeur for Dr. Martin Mrs. Mathews advised Lt. George Kelly Davis. Luther King. Memphis Police Department, who is an officer in this detail, that they had not asked for police to be assigned to protect Dr. King, and did not desire a police escort. In addition. members of King's party refused to tell the police detail where they planned to stay or their itinerary while in Inspector Smith, while offering the services of Memph is. the Memphis Police Department to Dr. King for security, escort, and protection purposes, was advised by the Reverend James Lawson, an associate of King, that no assistance was desired and that they had not fully made up their minds where they were going with Reverend KING after they left the Memphis Metropolitan Airport.

At approximately 1:30 a.m., on 4/5/68, Gerald Fanion, a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Strategy Committee, advised Sidney L. Cole of the Memphis Police Department that this SCLC Strategy Committee had considered asking for police protection for the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.; however, the Committee had decided against this.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, Sartor stated that a little Negro boy allegedly heard a shot and saw a man jump up from the bushes behind the rooming house (below the window area from which the shot is thought to have been fired) and run off. According to Sartor, the little boy has been identified and interviewed by Bureau Agents and the Memphis Police Department.

In this regard, a review of the records of the Memphis Police Department and the Memphis FBI Office has failed to reveal any information to indicate that any officers of these respective law enforcement agencies interviewed a young Negro boy who is allegedly the contributor of the above information by Sartor. In this regard, on 11/15/68, Source One and Source Two both advised that William Sartor, a 'Time' magazine

reporter, had gone throughout the Memphis area immediately following the King slaying, and was overheard asking leading questions of Negroes, namely, "You think it's possible that a police officer could have killed Martin Luther King, Jr.?" According to these sources, as a result of this, practically the entire Memphis Negro community has given vent to the rumor that a police officer had killed King. The sources claim this rumor has embittered a very large segment of the Negro community and has caused widespread distrust by Negroes against all law enforcement officers and has caused a serious community cleavage between the Police and the Negro community.

In view of the fact that numerous allegations have been made, either by Bill Sartor or his alleged sources, stating involvement of Memphis police officers in the assassination of Dr. King, Frank Holloman, Director of Fire & Police, was contacted. Holloman advised that shortly after the assassination of Dr. King he received information that a representative of "Time" magazine was circulating in thd Negro community and asking questions of the Negro residents. His sources informed him that the general tenor of the questions being asked was to the effect that it was conceivable that the Memphis Police Department was involved in the assassination of Dr. King. Director Holloman advised that later he learned the reported "Time" representative was an individual by the name of Sartor. He subsequently had an appointment with Sartor.

Director Holloman said at this time he informed Sartor that he had received certain information indicating that Sartor had, by his questions, created the inference in the Negro community that it was possible the Memphis Police Department was involved in the assassination of Dr, King. Director Holloman advised that he told Sartor that if Sartor wrote a story based on rumors and misstatements of facts such as he was collecting regarding the involvement of the Memphis Police Department, Director Holloman would institute a civil suit against him and do everything in his power to insure that Sartor wrote only the truth and did not print such falsifications regarding the Memphis Police Department.

Director Holloman stated that after his discussion with Sartor, Sartor has not again called at his office for any information, nor has any story appeared.

1

BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP),
Also known as Black Organizing Power,
Afro-American Brotherhood,
Black Student Association,
Invaders,
LeMoyne Intercollegiate Chapter of the
National Association for the Advancement
of Colored People (NAACP),
City Organizers

On April 18, 1968, a third source advised that a black power group in Memphis which has been in existence for several months has until recently been known as Black Organizing Power. It is now known as Black Organizing Project (BOP), also known as Black Organizing Power, with five cells or parts, known as (1) Afro-American Brotherhood (AAB), primarily consisting of Owen College students; (2) Black Student Association (BSA), primarily consisting of Memphis State University (MSU) Negro students; (3) LeMoyne Intercollegiate Chapter of the NAACP, consisting of LeMoyne College students; (4) the Invaders, consisting mostly of high school dropouts; and (5) the City Organizers, comprised of young adults.

AAB has about 12 members; BSA has about 20 members; the Invaders has about 15 members; the LeMoyne group has about 20 members; and the City Organizers has about 20 members.

Source three advised that the BOP attempts to create pride in black identity, attempts to teach and promote the teaching of Negro history, and to promote black culture and obtain more employment for young Negroes.

The Executive Secretary of BOP is Charles Laverne Cabbage.

On February 16, 1968, Charles Laverne Cabbage personally acknowledge being leader of BOP, claiming he is the impetus of black power in Memphis, Tennessee, and that BOP's purpose is to stimulate in the young Negroes a sense of black identity, black pride, and black consciousness. He said his group follows the teachings of Student Nonviolent

APPENDIX

Coordinating Committee (SNCC) leaders H. Rap Brown and Stokely Carmichael but that BOP did not necessarily exist as a formal SNCC unit. CABBAGE further admitted he had made statements such as "Memphis should be burned" and "Memphis should have a good race riot," but claimed he did not mean these statements literally, merely endeavoring to shock the community into doing something to help the black race.

On February 27, 1968, a fourth source advised that at a public meeting on February 26, 1968, the BOP Chairman John Burrell Smith told a Negro audience, "We've got to do some fighting," and "You'd better get some guns, You're going to need them before this is over. You can't pray your way out."

On June 6, 1968, the fourth source advised that BOP primarily consists of about 30 to 35 young college and high school students and school dropouts, unemployed and not looking for work, who continually preach hatred of the white race and capitalistic economic system and advocating and predicting violence by blacks. The over-all plan of BOP, according to source four, is to scare the Memphis community leaders, both black and white, into fearing black militancy. The BOP leaders then hope to convince the community to fund them as a form of subtle blackmail whereby BOP can prevent racial violence. Source four said that BOP is more interested in publicity and money than in direct action, but is nevertheless preaching violence in an effort to scare the community.

APPENDIX

November 16, 1968

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The attached is a request of the Department for investigation concerning certain aspects which appeared in the second article in "Look" magazine and authored by William Bradford Huie. This second in a series of articles appears in the November 26, 1968, issue of "Look" and circulated on November 12, 1968.

We were previously in receipt of most of this information as requested by the Department and have provided the results of our investigation to them. The items we were not in receipt of are presently under investigation and results thereof will be furnished to the Department.

Department being advised accordingly.

REL: mfd

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UNITED STATES GOV. NMENT

Memorandum

TO

: Director

Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM 45 Stephen J. Pollak

Assistant Attorney General

Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: James Earl ay Subject;

Martin Luther King, Jr., Victim;

Conspiracy Against Rights,

CIVIL RIGHTS

EPARTMENT OF

DATE: November

D.J. 144-72-661

SJP:eb

Mir Mohr-Mr. Bishop.

Mr. Casper.

Mr. Callahan Mr. Conrad

Mr. Felt_ Mr. Gale,

Ma Rose Mr. Sullive

Mr. Tavel

Mr. Trotter

Tele. Room

Miss Holmes Miss Gandy.

We have reviewed the article in the November 26, 1968, Look Magazine written by William Bradford Huie concerning the subject (pages 86-99).

It presents a number of objective facts as to Ray's travel and activities between April 23, 1967, and December 1967. To the extent possible, please determine the correctness of these facts if you have not already done so.

There are also a number of allegedly factual statements in the article which, as part of the continuing full investigation of this matter previously requested, require investigation in connection with the presence or absence of a conspiracy. While not inclusive, the ones appearing in this second article which seem to us to require investigation are:

In August of 1967, Ray crossed the Detroit-Windsor border, and made a \$4.50 import tax payment for a television he carried in his car. At this crossing, Ray had left Raoul at a Detroit bus station. Ray was instructed to wait at the Windsor railroad station for Raoul who was delivered there in a cab.

Ray allegedl Tribed in Birmingham on August 25, 1967, from Canada, by way of Gary, Indiana, and Chicago (where he sold the red Plymouth).

On or near August 28, 1967, Rey Now CES vis68 a letter from Raoul in Birmingham, and was told that night to meet Raoul at the Starlite Cafe on 5th Avenue

> FOR REVIEW AT ABENG AND FOR DELIVERY TO HSON HE HERBEST EATED __**\$~_W?8** (SEE BUFILE 62-117290)

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North, across from the Post Office. The article states that Ray and Raoul met at the cafe again the following night where Ray discussed with Raoul the Mustang he

- On or about August 30, 1968, Ray paid William D. Paisley \$2,000 in \$20- or larger bills for the Mustang. The article states Ray "was handed the \$2,000 in Birmingham, perhaps only a few minutes before he handed it to Mr. Paisley." The denominations stolen from the Illinois bank which we believe Ray and
- Sometime after October 5 or 6, 1967, Ray stayed in a motel in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, where he met Raoul. Upon Raoul's instructions, Ray drove back across the Mexican border followed by Raoul in a cab. On the United States side, Raoul took a tire from a car waiting by a frame house, and placed it in Ray's car. Raoul and Ray then together drove through Customs. Raoul got out from the car, and Ray paid the inspectors \$3.00 to be cleared. It was here that Ray obtained his tourist card. Together, he and Raoul drove to Ray's motel where Raoul's car, with Mexican license plates was waiting. The next day, Raoul returned to Ray's motel. The tire was again placed in Ray's car. Ray in his car, and Raoul in his car, were passed through the interior customs.
- 6. In the middle of December 1967, Ray met Raoul again in a bar in New Orleans, and was given \$2,500 in \$20 bills. Ray contacted Raoul at the New Orleans phone number given Ray in Canada.
- There is an account of Ray's contact with Rev. von Kos, head of the International Society of Hypnosis, in January 1968 and of his nose operation by Dr. Russell Hadley, plastic surgeon.
- 8. On March 15, 1968, "Ray received by mail . . . the directive he had been expecting. He was wanted in Selma and Birmingham, Ala." He registered in Selma on Friday, March 22, 1968, at the Flamingo Motel. The AP on March 21, 1968, reported that Dr. King was to be in Camden, Alabama, on March 21.

Please provide this Division (carbon copy to the Criminal Division) with a report of the results of your investigation and checking out of the facts as to Ray's travel and activities.

ALTER

TO: DIESCHOA, FRI (34-33861) ATTENTION: ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

FROM: 5AC, MEMPHIS (44-1937) (P)

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4. Peak Number of Special Agents on this Case: 3,075 Special Agents

It is to be noted, the above figures constitute only those costs known to the Memphis Division as reported through the Bureau's. Field Divisions.

Transmit the following in

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

(Priority)

T0: Director, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: Legat, Tokyo (173-1) (RUC) Attn: ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

MURKIN COST DATA

ReBuR/S 11/12/68 and TOKairtel 10/1/68.

The Tokyo Office has no cumulative totals to reflect in instant case for the month of October, 1968.

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November 19, 1968

AIRTEL

To:

SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

From:

Director, FBI (44-38861) 5389 1 - Mr. Long

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ReBHairtel to the Bureau dated 11/15/68.

You should review the contents of the interview with Robert Lee Saunders and submit your recommendation as to any further investigation. Your files may contain additional information concerning Saunders which the Bureau does not have.

You should include the interview with Saunders in your next report.

REL: dvj & (4)

NOTE

Birmingham interviewed Robert Lee Saunders who is in the military service. He advised that he was in Memphis, Tennessee, when King was assassinated (April 4, 1968). He claimed that he overheard several Negro males stating "get King." Saunders does not know if this mean's Martin Luther King or another individual but states, due to the time he was there it could possibly mean Martin Luther King Vr.,

Memphis being instructed to review the records, and make appropriate recommendations.

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ROBERT LEE SAUNDERS, Private, United States Army, Serial No. US 67 164 827, advised he was in military custody while being transported to Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, following his apprehension at Cleveland, Mississippi, for being absent without leave. SAUNDERS provided the following information to Special Agent LARRY K. SYLVESTER, who identified himself as a Special Agent with the FBI. Also present during this interview of SAUNDERS was Lt. Col. DALE HAMILTON, Provost Marshal, Ft. McClellan, Alabama.

SAUNDERS advised that he went AWOL from Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, around March 29, 1968. He then traveled to Cleveland, Ohio, where he stayed for a period of approximately two days and then obtained a ride from Cleveland, Ohio, to Memphis, Tennessee, with an individual SAUNDERS knew only as "Shoop" who drove a pink Cadillac and was from Memphis, Tennessee. SAUNDERS stated that he was broke when he arrived in Memphis, Tennessee, and located a place to sleep in a condemned building at 1408 Beal Street in Memphis. SAUNDERS slept there one night and was walking down an alley to return to this building at approximately 3:30 A.M., the second night when he observed four Negro males standing near the alley just ahead of him. SAUNDERS stated that he stopped and stood in the shadows as he was afraid these individuals would try to harm him. As SAUNDERS stood there he overheard these individuals arguing. One individual said "Let me get him." The other individuals were arguing they should be the one to "get him." One of the individuals who SAUNDERS described as a large Negro male, approximately 6'6" to 6'7" tall, approximately 30 years of age, and wearing a thin beard which encompassed his entire face, stated something to the effect that he should be the one to "get KING." Also, this individual stated that he would get the gun.

SAUNDERS described the others with the big man as follows:

On	11/13/68 Anniston, Alabama	ME 44-1987 File#BH 44-1740
bу	SA LARRY K. SYLVESTER:gas	Date dictated_11/13/68

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No. Two Man was described as a Negro male, young, approximately 20 years old, 5'4", wearing khaki pants.

No. Three Man was described as a Negro male, 5'll", medium-heavy build, balding hair and worn natural with two parts. This individual also wore metal rim glasses with very small lens.

No. Four Man was described as a Negro male, approximately 5'10", approximately 25 years of age, and wore a black tam with blue decorations.

SAUNDERS stated that upon hearing these individuals talk, he became afraid and ran in the opposite direction so that he would not have to pass in front of them. SAUNDERS stated that he then went to the Greyhound Bus Station where he sat the rest of the night.

At approximately 10:30 A.M., the following day, SAUNDERS stated he returned to Beal Street where he went to a bar called the Bucket of Blood and purchased approximately two beers. SAUNDERS stated that he observed these four individuals in the tavern at that time. He then got up and left this tavern after having been inside approximately 15 minutes and upon coming out observed two of the four individuals he had seen the previous night standing on the curb on Beal Street near the tavern. SAUNDERS stated as he began to walk down Beal Street, he observed a 1954 blue Ford convertible with white top drive up and the individuals who were standing on the curb then got inside. SAUNDERS stated that he observed this vehicle was driven by the large Negro male with the beard who he had seen the previous night. SAUNDERS stated that he also observed that a rifle sight approximately 8" in length was laying in the rear deck of the automobile. SAUNDERS stated that he did not see any gun and that it was obvious the sight was not attached to a gun.

SAUNDERS stated that he returned to the bus station where he later learned of the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He stated that up until this time he was unaware that KING was in Memphis and had not BH 44-1740

associated any of the statements he had overheard with MARTIN LUTHER KING.

SAUNDERS advised he felt he could identify the large Negro male who wore the beard but would be unable to identify any of the other individuals. He reiterated that his entire basis for believing that these individuals may have been responsible for the murder of KING was the single mention of the word "KING" by one of the individuals in the alley the previous night.

The following descriptive data was obtained through observation and interview:

> ROBERT LEE SAUNDERS Robert Lee Richardson

the name that appears on his birth certificate; however, he has never used this name) Male

Negro

Cleveland, Mississippi 5'11" 162 lbs. Black Hair

Brown ANNIE BELLE SAUNDERS % VEESSIE NELSON

> Cleveland, Mississippi SALLIE MAE SAUNDERS

Route 1, Box 54 Cleveland, Mississippi

Private, United States Army

(SAUNDERS stated that this is

currently stationed at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky Claims once for auto theft

in Chicago, Illinois, approximate 1963, and was released after

being held 8 or 9 hours. also claims to have been arrested

twice for being AWOL.

Name Alias

Race DOB POB Height Weight

Sex

Eyes Wife

Mother

Occupation

Arrest record

DERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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ROBERT LEE SAUNDERS Robert Lee Richardson

(SAUNDERS stated that this is the name that appears on his birth certificate; however, he has never used this name)

Male Negro

Sex Race

DOB POB

Height

Weight Hair

Eyes Wife

Mother

Occupation

Arrest record

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162 lbs.

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