

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS
F B I

FEB 17 6 52 AM 1976

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION 5030 J.E.H.

FEB 14 4 01 PM '76

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

3- MEMPHIS (44-1987) (PUC: T)
3- MEMPHIS (44-1987) (PUC: T)
3- MEMPHIS (44-1987) (PUC: T)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/10/76

1

CLAUDE POWELL, JR., Room 211, Scottish Inn,
was interviewed in his motel room during the late
evening of February 5, 1976. *MIDLAND Texas*

Discrepancies in his version of an alleged meeting with an unknown white male at Pete's Bar Atlanta, Georgia, as compared with LEON POWELL's were discussed. CLAUDE stated that any discrepancies are a result of a long passage of time since the incident and his statement is accurate in his recollection. He clarified his relationship with RAY GODFREY stating that GODFREY was a friend whom he has known for many years but GODFREY was more closely associated and a better friend of LEON's. CLAUDE also commented that he later learned GODFREY made an initial contact with LEON approximately one week prior to the unknown white male's proposition to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING but he did not know anything about the meeting at Pete's Bar until the unknown white male seated himself and made the offer, nor did he have prior knowledge of what transpired between GODFREY and LEON.

Other than these changes, CLAUDE stands by his original statement, emphasizing that his statement may differ in some aspects with LEON's statement but the fact is, both he and LEON witnessed the offer of a substantial amount of money by an unknown white male to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING.

In addition, CLAUDE stated he and LEON talked about the alleged meeting with the unknown white male frequently after its occurrence but as time passed, they talked about it less and less. He said that he and LEON worked together on the same job at the time of the alleged meeting and continued to do so until approximately three months ago. He knows of no one who could verify that they were in Atlanta, Georgia, at the time of the alleged meeting but stated that both, he and LEON, were residing in Decatur, Georgia, during this time. CLAUDE described

Interviewed on 2/6/76 at Midland, Texas File # EP 44-920
ME 44-1987
by SA FRANZ W. NENZEL /pm Date dictated 2/9/76

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.

ENCLOSURE *44-38861-6072*

EP 44-920

2

the interior of Pete's Bar, including the booth where each participant of the alleged meeting was seated and a sketch was made by Special Agent FRANZ W. NENZEL. CLAUDE was questioned specifically concerning his polygraph examination in response to the question "Do you know who asked you and LEON to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING?", and he denied having any prior knowledge of the unidentified person who offered he and LEON \$25,000 to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING.

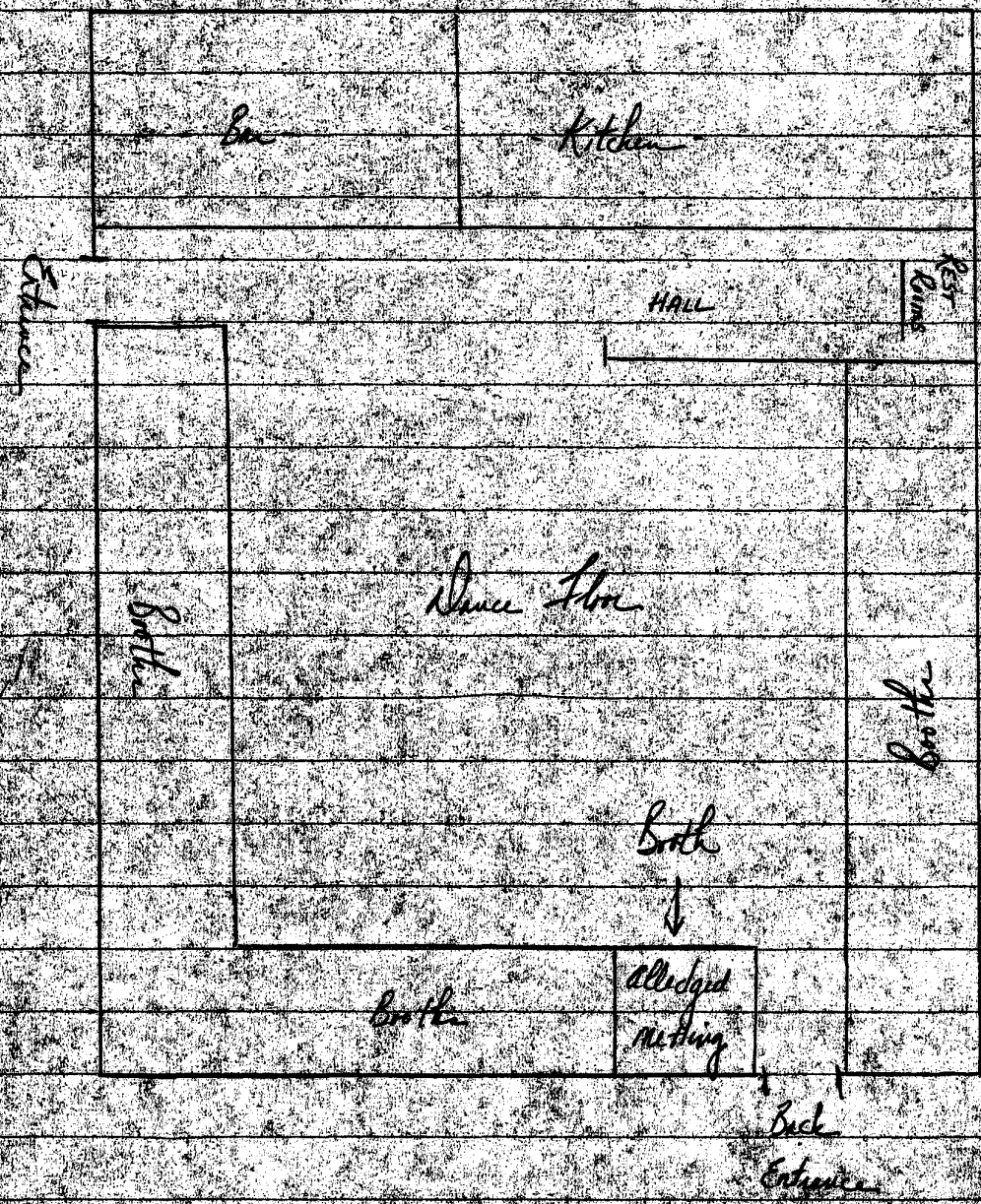
CLAUDE stated that he telephonically contacted his brother, LEON POWELL, at telephone number 404-289-1545, Decatur, Georgia (telephone number is for DAVID POWELL, CLAUDE's nephew) after initial interview by FBI Agents at Midland, Texas. CLAUDE stated that he and LEON discussed the interview.

In addition, CLAUDE stated he had discussed the alleged meeting with the unknown person at Pete's Bar with WILLIAM DEAN WOODCOCK, his partner in business and roommate at the Scottish Inn. WOODCOCK is the only fellow employee whom he told of the alleged meeting.

CLAUDE stated that the unknown person who offered them the money to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING did not have any type of an accent. He repeated that all aspects of his statement including description, time reference and conversation between the unknown person who made the offer to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING were true and accurate to the best of his recollection.

2/5/70
changed finger
Specie Agent
FBI - Middleboro

Sketch of Peter De - Atlanta, Georgia



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DATE: 3/17/76

FROM : Director, FBI

ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference is made to _____ memorandum dated _____
(your file _____).

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent _____
dated _____ at _____.

A. This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H. This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

Enc.

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SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

FILE
COPY

NOTE: Attached are copies of Atlanta teletypes dated 2/12/76 and 2/13/76. Also attached is a copy of an FD-302 containing interview of Claude Powell, Jr., and a copy of a sketch of Pete's Bar which was drawn by SA Franz W. Nenzel upon information given by Claude Powell, Jr.

Telephone records at the Scottish Inn, Midland, Texas, reflect several outgoing calls, none of which were made by Claude Powell, Jr.

William Dean Woodcock, Claude's roommate and business partner, advised that Claude told him of the alleged meeting at Pete's Bar in Atlanta, Georgia, after initial interview by FBI Agents. Woodcock said that to the best of his knowledge, he is the only co-worker of Claude's who knows of the alleged meeting. He said Claude told him because of their business relationship and his interest in the reason the FBI was contacting Claude. He believed Claude would have no reason to lie concerning the alleged meeting.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 11 1976

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TELETYPE

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Adm.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Files & Com.	_____
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Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

NR016 AT PLAIN

7:53 PM URGENT 2-11-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

LEON POWELL INTERVIEWED AND ADVISED EVERY NOW AND THEN HE REMEMBERS ADDITIONAL OR CORRECTING DETAILS REGARDING THE INCIDENT. DISCREPANCIES IN VERSION OF INCIDENT PETE'S BAR, ATLANTA, AS RELATED BY CLAUDE AND HE (LEON) DISCUSSED. ORIGINAL CONTACT WITH GODFREY WAS APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK BEFORE MEETING WITH RALPH (LNU). MEETING DEFINITELY OCCURRED IN NOVEMBER OF 1967. MEETING WITH RALPH OCCURRED A FEW DAYS AFTER MEETING WITH GODFREY, HOWEVER, MAYBE NOT A FULL WEEK. DOES NOT REMEMBER SEEING GODFREY IN PETE'S BAR DAY RALPH (LNU) CAME INTO BAR. COULD NOT RECALL ANY SPECIFIC DENOMINATIONS OF THE MONEY IN THE BRIEFCASE, HOWEVER THE BRIEFCASE NOR FULL OF MONEY AND RALPH STATED SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT, "HERE'S 25". RALPH OFFERED THEM "25 NOW AND 50 WHEN HE'S IN THE GRAVE" OR SOMETHING TO THAT EFFECT. TO THE BEST OF LEON POWELL'S MEMORY, RALPH NEVER MENTIONED MARTIN LUTHER KING, BY NAME. LEON STILL DESCRIBED RALPH AS A WHITE MALE, SIX

END PAGE ONE.

P. Johnson
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HNH:ml
2/11/76

FEB 26 1976

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DIVISION 5030 J.E.H.
J.E.H.

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END PAGE ONE

KING * BY NAME * GEORGE SLIGG DESCRIBED BY NAME * SIX
 BEST OF GEORGE BOWEN * US DEPT OF JUSTICE * WHEN HE IS IN THE GRAVE * OF SOMETHING TO THAT EFFECT * TO THE
 THE EFFECT * "HEBE'S SA..." * BUGH OFFERED THEM "32 MOM AND 20
 THE BIRTHCASE NOW FULL OF MONEY AND BUGH STATED SOMETHING TO
 VIA SPECIFIC DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE MONEY IN THE BIRTHCASE * HOWEVER
 IN BETH'S BAB DVA BUGH (GIRL) CAME INTO BAB * COULD NOT BECAUSE
 EVER * MAYBE NOT A FULL WEEK * DOES NOT REMEMBER SEEING CODEBEX
 WITH BUGH OCCURRED A FEW DAYS AFTER MEETING WITH CODEBEX * HOW-
 (GIRL) * MEETING DEFINITELY OCCURRED IN NOVEMBER OF 1963 * MEETING
 CODEBEX WAS APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK BEFORE MEETING WITH BUGH
 BELIEVED BY CLAUDE AND HE (GEORGE) DISCUSSED * ORIGINAL CONTACT WITH
 DISCREPANCIES IN VERSION OF INCIDENT BETH'S BAB * VIRGINIA * AS
 REMEMBERS ADDITIONAL OR CORRECTING DETAILS REGARDING THE INCIDENT *

GEORGE BOWEN INTERVIEWED AND ADVISED EVERY MOM AND THEN HE
 MURKIN *

FROM: VIRGINIA (44-3886) (P)
 MEMPHIS (44-1981)
 EL PASO (44-236)

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

3:23 PM URGENT 2-11-76 HGE
 W316 AT 5141

TELETYPE

FEB 11 1976

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

FOOT ONE INCH, NO ACCENT, LATE FORTIES, WELL-SPOKEN, VERY-WELL DRESSED. LEON NOW RECALLS GODFREY NEVER MADE MENTION OF EXACT AMOUNT OF MONEY DURING ORIGINAL CONTACTM GODFREY STATED "BIG MONEY". LEON CLAIMS RAY GODFREY IS A FRIEND OF BOTH CLAUDE AND HIM, HOWEVER, HE IS PROBABLY MORE CLAUDE'S FRIEND THAN HIS. LEON DID NOT HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH GODFREY IN REFERENCE TO ASSASSINATION WHEN CLAUDE WAS NOT PRESENT. HE HAS NO EXPLANATION WHY HIS STORY DIFFERS FROM CLAUDE'S STORY.

WHEN ASKED IF HE COULD REMEMBER IF PETE DAVIS IN BAR WHEN RALPH WAS THERE, CLAUDE VOLUNTARILY STATED, UPON RECOLLECTION, THE NAME OF THE BAR WAS NOT PETE'S BAR AT THIS TIME. AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, THE NAME OF THE BAR WAS BILL BAILEY'S. DAVIS SOLD THE BAR TO A WOMAN WHO DID NOT HOLD IT VERY LONG AND THEN SHE SOLD IT TO A FELLOW NAMED BAILEY. HOWEVER, MOST OF THE OLD TIMERS STILL CALLED THE BAR PETE'S BAR. CANNOT RECALL WHO WAS IN THE BAR AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT.

LEON ADVISED TO THE BEST OF HIS MEMORY BOTH HE AND HIS BROTHER WERE WORKING FOR RAY COOLEY, AN INDEPENDENT DRY WALL CONTRACTOR, AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. COOLEY IS NOW EMPLOYED BY FISHER DRY WALL, ATLANTA.

END PAGE TWO.

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END PAGE TWO
 EMPLOYED BY FISHER BAY WATT VILVAVIA
 CONTACTOR AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. COOGEA IS NOW EW-
 BROTHER WERE WORKING FOR BVA COOGEA, AN INDEPENDENT BVA WATT
 GEON ADVISED TO THE BEST OF HIS MEMORY BOTH HE AND HIS
 BECVTT WHO WAS IN THE BVA AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT.
 OF THE OLD TIMES STIFF CALLED THE BVA BETA, S BVA. CANNOT
 AND THEN SHE TOLD II TO A BETTOM NAMED BVAIYEA. HOWEVER, MOST
 DAVIS TOLD THE BVA TO A WOMAN WHO DID NOT HOLD IL LEVA FOMC
 TIME OF THE INCIDENT. THE NAME OF THE BVA WAS BIFF BVAIYEA, S.
 THE NAME OF THE BVA WAS NOT BETA, S BVA AT THIS TIME. AT THE
 BVAIYEA WAS THERE. CVANDE LOGNIVAVIYEA STATED, USOM BECOGLECTIC,
 WHEN ASKED IF HE COULD REMEMBER IF BETA DAVIS IN BVA AT
 WHY HIS STORY DIFFERS FROM CVANDE'S STORY.
 ASSASSINATION WHEN CVANDE WAS NOT PRESENT. HE HAS NO EXPLANATION
 GEON DID NOT HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH COOGEA IN REFERENCE TO
 HIM. HOWEVER, HE IS PROBABLY MORE CVANDE'S FRIEND THAN HIS
 MONEY. GEON CLAIMS BVA COOGEA IS A FRIEND OF BOTH CVANDE AND
 MOUNT OF MONEY DURING ORIGINAL CONTACTS COOGEA STATED "BIG
 DRESSED. GEON NOW BECVTT'S COOGEA NEVER MADE MENTION OF EXACT
 FOOT ONE INCH. NO ACCENT. GAVE LOBBIES. METT-SPOKEN. LEVA-METT

END PAGE TWO (44-3286)

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

LEON SHOWN CORRECTED ARTIST'S CONCEPTION AND STATED TO BEST OF HIS RECOLLECTION IS A GOOD LIKENESS. A DIAGRAM OF THE INTERIOR OF PETE'S BAR PROVIDED BY LEON.

LEON AND CLAUDE TALKED ABOUT THE INCIDENT AT VARIOUS TIMES AFTER IT HAPPENED. THEY TALKED ABOUT THE OFFER SHORTLY AFTER LEON'S WIFE LEFT HIM IN EARLY 1968. THOUGHT THE MONEY WOULD BE NICE BUT DID NOT WANT TO MURDER ANYONE. TALKED ABOUT INCIDENT WHENEVER THEY WERE HARD-UP FOR MONEY. LEON TALKED WITH HIS BROTHER, CLAUDE TWICE WHILE CLAUDE WAS IN TEXAS AFTER HE CONTACTED THE FBI.

POWELL FAMILIAR WITH W. VENABLE, AKA YANK, AND BILL MC GARITY. THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS OWNED THE PROPERTY AND THE BUILDING IN WHICH PETE'S BAR WAS LOCATED. NEITHER VENABLE NOR MC GARITY ARE RALPH.

POWELL QUESTIONED ABOUT FRIENDS OF GODFREY. ONLY REAL CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF GODFREY'S THAT POWELL COULD THINK OF WAS A RELATIVE NAMED LEE GODFREY. LEON WILLING TO TESTIFY TO EVERYTHING HE HAS TOLD THE FBI.

SHERIFF PAUL HIGDON, FANNIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, ADVISED LEE CARROLL GODFREY IS A WHITE MALE, DOB
END PAGE THREE.

P11

GA FLA N.C.

PAGE FOUR (44-2386)

GODFREY SERVED TIME IN GEORGIA STATE PRISON FOR ARMED ROBBERY AND MURDER. LEE GODFREY WAS ARRESTED ON DECEMBER 23, 1974 BY FANNIN COUNTY FOR THEFT BY RECEIVING. LEE GODFREY MADE BOND, FAILED TO SHOW FOR TRIAL AND WHEREABOUTS NOW ARE UNKNOWN AND IS IN FUGITIVE STATUS. FBI IDENT RECORD OBTAINED FOR LEE CARROLL GODFREY, FBI NUMBER 485 360 D. HAS NOT SERVED TIME OUTSIDE STATE OF GEORGIA ALTHOUGH HAS NOT SERVED TIME OUTSIDE STATE OF GEORGIA ALTHOUGH HAS ARRESTS IN FLORIDA AND NORTH CAROLINA.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. RECONTACT CITY OF ATLANTA IN REGARD TO WORK RECORD FOR ARNOLD RAY GODFREY.

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FEB 11 8 15 PM '76

TO WORK RECORD FOR ARNOLD RAY GODFREY.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. RECONTACT CITY OF ATLANTA IN REGARD
CAROLINA.

STATE OF GEORGIA ALTHOUGH HAS ARRESTS IN FLORIDA AND NORTH
OUTSIDE STATE OF GEORGIA ALTHOUGH HAS NOT SERVED TIME OUTSIDE
CARROLLI. GODFREY. FBI NUMBER A82 369 D. HAS NOT SERVED TIME
IS IN FUGITIVE STATUS. FBI IDENT RECORD OBTAINED FOR LEE
FAILED TO SHOW FOR TRIAL AND WHEREABOUTS NOW ARE UNKNOWN AND
FANNIN COUNTY FOR THEFT BY RECEIVING. LEE GODFREY MADE BOND.
AND MURDER. LEE GODFREY WAS ARRESTED ON DECEMBER 23, 1974 BY
GODFREY SERVED TIME IN GEORGIA STATE PRISON FOR ARMED ROBBERY
PAGE FOUR (44-3386)

FILED
COPY

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

FROM : Director, FBI

DATE: **February 12, 1976**
ATTN: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY
Room 1038 Todd Building

SUBJECT: **ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

Reference is made to my memorandum dated February 11, 1976
(your file _____).

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent _____
dated _____ at _____.

A. This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H. This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

Enc. 2

NOTE: Attached is a copy of an Atlanta teletype dated 2/11/76 and a copy of an FBI Identification Record for Lee Carrol Godfrey.

FILE
COPY

6
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NRC11 AT PLAIN

5:18 PM URGENT 2-12-76 HL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
EL PASO (44-920)
MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

FEB 12 1976

TELETYPE

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep.-A D.-Adm.	_____
Dep.-A D.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Files & Com.	_____
Gen. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

Patton
W. Mitchell
H. [unclear]

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL TO BUREAU DATED FEBRUARY 11, 1976.

CLARENCE FISHER, OWNER OF FISHER WALL, 326 PATTERSON ROAD, SCOTTSDALE, ADVISED HE DOES HAVE AN EMPLOYEE NAMED RAY COOLEY, BUT IS NOT IN AT THIS TIME. HE WILL HAVE COOLEY CONTACT THE FBI.

CAPTAIN LONG, COBB COUNTY POLICE, ADVISED SHIRLEY BULLOCK IS EMPLOYED BY COBB COUNTY AS A SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD IN COBB COUNTY. BULLOCK HAS MOVED RECENTLY AND HE DOES NOT HAVE HER ADDRESS. BULLOCK CAN BE LOCATED AT WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL, MARIETTA, GEORGIA BETWEEN 8:00 AND 9:00 AM, ANY MORNING.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. LOCATE AND INTERVIEW RAY COOLEY AND SHIRLEY BULLOCK.

END.

PLS HLD

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44-38861-6074

FEB 26 1976

84 MAR 1 1976

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DIVISION 5030 J.E.H.

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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FEB 13 6 53 AM 1976

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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Dep.-A.D.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
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Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

NR014 AAT PLAIN

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TELETYPE

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cc in [unclear]

5:20 PM URGENT VEEBRUARRY 13, 1976 JKB

TO: DIRECTOR (44-28861)
MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL TO THE DIRECTOR, FEBRUARY 12, 1976.

ON FEBRUARY 13, 1976, MARJORIE COOLEY, WIFE OF ROY COOLEY, ADVISED SHE KEPT THE RECORDS FOR HER HUSBAND WHEN HE WAS IN BUSINESS FOR HIMSELF. SHE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ANY RECORDS GOING BACK TO 1967 AND 1968, REGARDING ANY INDIVIDUALS EMPLOYED BY HER HUSBAND. SHE SPECIFICALLY REMEMBERS THAT IN NOVEMBER, 1967 SHE HAD HER OWN HOUSE BUILT. DURING THE TIME THE HOUSE WAS BUILT, CLAUDE AND LEON POWELL PUT IN THE DRY WALL. SHE IS QUITE SURE CLAUDE AND LEON POWELL WORKED FOR HER HUSBAND FROM 1966 THROUGH 1969.

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REC-100

Handwritten: 44-38861-6075

MARY GODFREY, MOTHER OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, BELLEMEADE APARTMENTS, KENNESAW, GEORGIA, CONTACTED AND ADVISED SHE DOES NOT KNOW ANY OF RAY'S FRIENDS. AS FAR AS SHE KNOWS, RAY HAS NEVER BEEN IN ANY TROUBLE.

FEB 26 1976

SHIRLEY BULLOCK, SISTER OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, BELLEMEADE
END PAGE ONE.

84 MAR 1 1976

Handwritten: [Signature]

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION 5030-J.E.H.

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS
FBI

FEB 13 5 56 PM '76

FEB 17 6 59 AM 1976

END PAGE ONE

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RE: [Illegible]

[Illegible text]

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[Illegible]

FROM: VIRGINIA (44-2280) (6)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

TO: DIRECTOR (44-2280)

RE: [Illegible]

[Illegible]

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

APARTEMENTS, KENNESAW, GEORGIA, CONTACTED AND ADVISED SHE DOES NOT KNOW ANY OF RAY'S FRIENDS. RAY DOES NOT CONTACT HIS MOTHER VERY OFTEN AND THUS NEITHER SHE NOR HER MOTHER KNOWS ANY OF RAY'S FRIENDS.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. LOCATE AND INTERVIEW "YANK VENABLE"

END.

TELETYPE UNIT

FEB 13 5 32 PM '76

END .

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. LOCATE AND INTERVIEW "YANK VENABLE"
RAY'S FRIENDS.

VERY URGENT AND THIS MEANS SHE NOW HER MOTHER KNOWS ANY OF
NOT KNOW ANY OF RAY'S FRIENDS. RAY DOES NOT CONTACT HIS MOTHER
APARTMENTS, KENNEDY, GEORGIA, CONTACTED AND ADVISED SHE DOES

PAGE TWO (44-2380)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Adm.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
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Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

FEB 17 1976
GTT
TELETYPE

NR012 AT PLAIN

6:22 PM URGENT 2-17-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
EL PASO (44-920)
MEMPHIS (44-1987W)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL FEBRUARY 13, 1976.

WILLIAM SANFORD VENABLE CONTACTED THIS DATE AND ADVISED THAT HE AND ROBERT MC GARITY, PREVIOUSLY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1455 MORELAND AVENUE. AT THIS RESIDENCE WAS A LOUNGE KNOWN BY VARIOUS NAMES, INCLUDING PETE'S PLACE AND BILL BAILEY'S. IN 1966 BUCK BAILEY TOOK OVER THIS LOUNGE AND NAMED IT BILL BAILEY'S. AT APPROXIMATELY JANUARY, 1968, LEWIS W. CLARK HAD THE LIQUOR LICENSE CHANGED TO HIS NAME. PRIOR TO THIS TIME LEWIS CLARK HAD MANAGED AND RUN THE LOUNGE KNOWN AS BILL BAILEY'S FOR BUCK BAILEY. BUCK BAILEY NEVER PARTICIPATED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE LOUNGE. VENABLE DOES NOT KNOW ANYBODY BY THE NAME OF POWELL, DOES NOT KNOW ANY "DUKE". HE KNOWS RAY GODFREY BY NAME, HOWEVER, HAS NEVER PERSONALLY MET THE INDIVIDUAL. HE DOES NOT KNOW ANY OF GODFREY'S PERSONAL ASSOCIATES.

END PAGE ONE.

Peckham
10/17/76
1/11/76

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6076

FEB 23 1976

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2/18/76
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RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION 5030 J.E.H.

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS
F B I

FEB 17 8 19 PM '76

FEB 18 6 41 AM 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RE: [Illegible]

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RELEASE

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

LEWIS W. CLARK CONTACTED AND ADVISED HE MANAGED BILL BAILEY'S LOUNGE, LOCATED AT 1455 MORELAND AVENUE FROM SEPTEMBER, 1966 THROUGH 1973. HE PERSONALLY ACTED AS BARTENDER AT THE LOUNGE NUMEROUS TIMES. AFTER BEING SHOWN A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS, HE PICKED OUT RAY GODFREY AND CLAUDE POWELL AS BEING PERSONS WHO FREQUENTED THE BAR. HE DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE PICTURE OF LEON POWELL. HE STATED CLAUDE POWELL IS A VERY QUIET INDIVIDUAL AND NEVER KNEW HIM TO BE IN ANY TROUBLE. RAY GODFREY WAS AN EXTREMELY EXTROVERED INDIVIDUAL, ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY THE GUITAR IN THE BAR. HE WAS SHOWN A SPREAD, INCLUDING THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH AND WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANYONE. HE HAD NEVER SEEN ANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS IN THE BAR. CLARK ADVISED THAT JUNE HALL WAS THE DAY BARTENDER AT BAILEY'S AND SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SUPPLY FURTHER INFORMATION. HE COULD NOT RECALL ANY OTHER EMPLOYEES WHO WORKED AT BILL BAILEY'S. DIANE BRADY NEVER EMPLOYED AT BILL BAILEY'S.

JUNE HALL CONTACTED AND SHOWN SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS. SHE PICKED OUT CLAUDE POWELL, RAY GODFREY AS PERSONS WHO FREQUENTED THE BAR. SHE STATED CLAUDE POWELL VERY QUIET INDIVIDUAL WHEN
END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

SOBER, HOWEVER, COULD BE VERY UNRULY WHEN DRINKING. GODFREY VERY LIKEABLE INDIVIDUAL AND SHE DID NOT THINK HE COULD BE IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE.

HALL WAS SHOWN A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS, INCLUDING ARTIST'S CONCEPTION AND ADVISED SHE HAS NEVER SEEN ANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS. WHEN SPECIFICALLY SHOWN THE COMPOSITE OF RALPH, SHE WAS SURE SHE HAD NEVER SEEN THIS INDIVIDUAL AND FELT BECAUSE OF HIS GOOD LOOKS, WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED HIM IF HE CAME IN THE BAR.

JACKIE POWELL, WIFE OF CLAUDE POWELL, JR. INTERVIEWED AT HER RESIDENCE AND ADVISED THAT ONLY TIME SHE HEARD ABOUT INCIDENT INVOLVING OFFER OF MONEY TO ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WAS WHEN HER HUSBAND MENTIONED IT TO HER AFTER KING HAD BEEN ASSASSINATED. HER HUSBAND TOLD HER HE HAD BEEN OFFERED A SUM OF MONEY TO ASSASSINATE KING, BUT REFUSED CONTRACT. SHE STATED SHE HAS BEEN MARRIED TO CLAUDE FOR TWENTY YEARS AND THAT THE WHOLE STORY, IN HER MIND, IS A FABRICATION BY HER HUSBAND AND HIS ALCOHOLIC BROTHER, LEON. SHE WOULD NOT BELIEVE ANY OF THIS STORY; HOWEVER HAD NO FACTS TO BACK UP HER OPINION. SHE STATED AGAIN THAT SHE FELT GOVERNMENT WAS WASTING THEIR TIME AND SHE
END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR (44-2386)

WAS SURE THAT WHOLE STORE IS A FABRICATION.

MRS. POWELL ADVISED HER HUSBAND, CLAUDE, HAD BEEN IN ATLANTA OVER THE PAST WEEKEND, HOWEVER, WAS RETURNING TO MIDLAND, TEXAS.

EL PASO AT MIDLAND. UPON RECEIPT OF CORRECTED COMPOSITE, WILL EXHIBIT TO CLAUDE POWELL. CORRECTED COMPOSIT BEING FORWARDED DIRECTLY TO MIDLAND RA VIA REGISTERED MAIL.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. ATTEMPT TO FURTHER IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW FORMER CUSTOMERS PETE'S PLACE.

END.

PLS HOLD

TELETYPE UNIT

FEB 17 6 35 PM '76

NYC WOOD

END

ALLEN HOMER CONSIGNERS LITE, R. SPACE

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MAYED DIRIGTA TO WIFVIA BY AIR RECEIVED WIFV

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

FROM : Director, FBI

DATE: 2/18/76

~~ATTENTION~~ MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference is made to my memorandum dated 2/17/76
(your file _____).

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent _____
dated _____ at _____.

A. This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H. This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

Enc. 1

NOTE: Attached is a copy of an Atlanta teletype dated 2/17/76.

FILE
COPY

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SACS ATLANTA (44-2386)

2/27/76

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Helterhoff

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

ON FEBRUARY 27, 1976, DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY ROBERT A. MURPHY, CHIEF OF CRIMINAL SECTION, CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION (CRD), U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED JACK V. DORSEY, ATTORNEY FOR ARNOLD RAY GODFREY IN ATLANTA, RELATIVE TO WHETHER GODFREY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW. DORSEY TOLD MURPHY HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH HIS CLIENT, GODFREY, AND, THEREAFTER, WOULD CONTACT MURPHY DIRECT RE DECISION AS TO WHETHER GODFREY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR ANY FURTHER INTERVIEW. ATLANTA WILL BE ADVISED OF RESULTS.

EL PASO REINTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL, JR., AND ASK HIM WHETHER PETE DAVIS WAS PRESENT DURING THE INITIAL MEETING AT THE BAR. ALSO DETERMINE WHEN AND HOW HE LATER LEARNED GODFREY MADE AN INITIAL CONTACT WITH LEON OWEN POWELL

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

HNH:bap (4)

SEE NOTE PAGE THREE...

MAR 2 1976

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 27 1976
707P STJ
TELETYPE

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

84 MAR 9 1976

GPO : 1975 O - 569-920

PAGE TWO (44-3886])

APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS
PROPOSITION TO MURDER KING AS SET FORTH IN YOUR
TELETYPE FEBRUARY 6, 1976. EL PASO SUTEL SUMMARY
RESULTS.

END

TELETYPE TO SACS, AT, EP, ME
RE: MURKIN

NOTE: This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement.

As set forth in previous memoranda, we are conducting an investigation at the request of the CRD to resolve a recent allegation (made in January, 1976) by Leon Owen Powell and his brother, Claude Powell, Jr., that prior to the assassination of King, they were offered payment to murder King. Their accounts of this alleged incident differ in many respects.

Leon states he and Claude were in a bar in Atlanta in November of 1967, and a Ray Godfrey asked them if they would be interested in making "big money" to kill King. A couple of days later, a Ralph (LNU) approached them in the bar and indicated he had "25" in his briefcase and had "50" more when King was buried. Leon had initially stated during interview that Ralph only said "I guess you know why I'm here" and never actually said money being offered to them was to kill King. Claude states meeting occurred in about March of 1968. His account differs substantially from Leon's, however, does say they were approached in a bar by an unknown subject who offered them \$50,000 to kill King.

Leon was given a Bureau polygraph examination which was "inconclusive." Claude was given a Bureau polygraph, which determined that Claude was "truth-telling."

Our investigation fully identified Ray Godfrey as Arnold Ray Godfrey. During initial interview, Godfrey denied any involvement, and agreed to submit to a polygraph. When he was subsequently contacted re taking the polygraph, Godfrey stated "I am innocent"; stated he did wish to take the polygraph and did not wish to talk to the FBI any further. He stated if the FBI needs any further information they should contact his attorney.

We have conducted extensive investigation in this matter. On 2/27/76, Departmental Attorney Murphy contacted Godfrey's attorney as set forth above, to attempt to arrange further interviews with Godfrey in order to resolve this allegation.

This advises AT of this contact by Murphy and also instructs El Paso to reinterview Claude to resolve further discrepancies. (Leon claimed Pete Davis, the bar owner, observed Ralph. Our investigation determined Pete Davis is deceased and was not connected with bar at time of this alleged incident.)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 2/11/76

SAC, MEMPHIS (62-0)

SUBJECT: MRS. J. N. GRACE
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Markin

Enclosed are two copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above.

Information contained in this LHM is being forwarded to FBIHQ in view of statement by Mrs. J. N. GRACE that she plans to correspond with U. S. Attorney General and the President of the U.S.

Memphis indices are negative re Mrs. J. N. GRACE.

Current Memphis telephone directory and city directories failed to reflect a listing for J. N. GRACE and the telephone number 683-8324 is not listed in the Memphis Cross Cross Directory.

Memphis file 44-1987 Sub M-595 dealing with the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. reflects that on 4/13/68, by confidential voucher item number 4, payments were made in the amount of \$60 to Mrs. BESSIE BREWER and that the three \$20 bills which were taken from her had been retained as evidence.

This file ~~later~~ reflects that a decision had been made that these original three \$20 bills were no longer needed as evidence and this \$60 was deposited in the Memphis confidential fund.

No further action is being conducted in this matter by the Memphis Office.

2-Bureau (Encls. 2)
1-Memphis
HSL/mah
(3)

ENCLOSURE

REC 67 44-38861-6078

3/5/76
FEB 20 1976

84 MAR 9 1976

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

TO: SAC, [illegible]
FROM: [illegible]

RE: [illegible]
[illegible text]

[illegible text]

[illegible text]

[illegible text]

(0-22) [illegible]

[illegible text]

[illegible text]

REC'D CIV RIGHTS
FBI



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Memphis, Tennessee
February 11, 1976

MRS. J. E. GRACE
INFORMATION CONCERNING

On January 22, 1976, Mrs. J. E. Grace telephonically contacted the Memphis Office of the FBI, stating that her address was 4890 Willow Road, Memphis, Tennessee, and her telephone number was 683-8324.

Mrs. Grace stated that in 1968 she was the owner of a rooming house located at 418 1/2 and 422 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, at which rooming house James Earl Ray stayed at the time of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

According to Mrs. Grace, Mrs. Bessie Brewer was employed by Mrs. Grace as the manager of this rooming house in 1968. Mrs. Grace stated that shortly after the assassination of Dr. King Agents of the FBI took three \$20 bills from Mrs. Bessie Brewer. These bills were taken because one of the \$20 bills was given to Mrs. Grace by James Earl Ray in payment for his rent.

Mrs. Grace stated that she had never received the \$60 which was taken from Mrs. Bessie Brewer by FBI Agents and she feels that the FBI owes her \$60.

It was explained to Mrs. Grace that the three \$20 bills, totaling \$60, were obtained from Mrs. Bessie Brewer shortly after the assassination of Dr. King, but that \$60 was returned to Mrs. BREWER by Agents of the FBI on April 13, 1968.

Mrs. Grace then demanded that the FBI institute an investigation directed towards locating Mrs. Bessie Brewer and obtaining from Mrs. Brewer the \$60. Mrs. Grace stated that inasmuch as Bessie Brewer did not turn in the \$60 to Mrs. Grace, it was the responsibility of the FBI to get her \$60.

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.

44-37761-6078
ENCLOSURE

MRS. J. N. GRACE

It was pointed out to Mrs. Grace that this was not a matter in which the FBI had investigative jurisdiction and that if she believed Mrs. Brewer had taken the \$60 which rightfully belonged to Mrs. Grace, she should then contact local authorities and charge Mrs. Brewer with theft or misappropriation of funds.

At this point Mrs. Grace became incensed and accused the FBI of completely disrupting her business and the business of her husband during the period 1968 at the time of the killing of Martin Luther King. She stated in her opinion the FBI had botched the investigation, that the FBI conducted a kindergarten-type investigation, that the person who killed Dr. King was not James Earl Ray and that in her opinion, the FBI owes her \$60.

In addition, she threatened to write the U. S. Attorney General and the President of the United States concerning this matter.

At this point Mrs. Grace discontinued the conversation.

- 2* -

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DATE: 3/1/76

FROM : Director, FBI

ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

SUBJECT: **ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

Reference is made to _____ memorandum dated _____
(your file _____).

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent _____
dated 2/11/76 at Memphis an LHM

A. This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H. This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

Enc.

1

NOTE: No further action is being taken concerning the enclosed LHM captioned: "Mrs. J. N. Grace, Information Concerning."

FILE
COPY

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Gallagher

DATE: 2/18/76

FROM : J. S. Peelman

- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. O'Connell
- 1 - Mr. Peelman
- 1 - Mr. Heltzerhoff
- 1 - Mr. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Wannell

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Assoc. Dir. _____
 Dir. _____
 Asst. Dir. _____
 Adm. Serv. _____
 Ident. _____
 Insp. _____
 Intell. _____
 Lab. _____
 Legal Coun. _____
 Plan. & Eval. _____
 Spec. Inv. _____
 Training _____
 Telephone Rm. _____
 Director Sec'y _____

This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement.

Attached is a copy of a UPI Wire Service article dated 2/14/76, which states as follows:

"Garden City, N.Y. (UPI) -- The top law enforcement official in Memphis, Tennessee, removed a detective assigned to protect Martin Luther King hours before the Civil Rights leader was assassinated in 1968, Newsday reported Saturday.

In a copyrighted story in its Sunday edition, the Long Island newspaper said Ed Redditt, the city detective guarding King, was pulled from his post and told there was a plot to kill him.

The Memphis Public Safety Director did not replace Redditt after taking him off the assignment, and allowed the detective to return to work three days after King was shot to death at the Lorraine Motel Newsday said.

It also said Redditt had prepared a contingency plan to enable the police department to apprehend an assassin should an attempt be made on King's life.

'After Redditt was removed from duty, he was told at a meeting in police headquarters that the U.S. Secret Service had learned of a 'contract' on his life, Newsday said.

'Redditt protested, saying he wanted to return to his post, but the city's then Public Safety Director, Frank Holloman, insisted on the officer's removal,' the newspaper said.

'Enroute home with his police guard, Redditt heard over the radio that King had been shot by an assassin,' the story said.

M

44-38861-6079

7 MAR 5 1976

ENCLOSURE



44-38861

84 APR 1976

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

8 7 1976

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
FRONT OFFICE

FEB 18 2 03 PM '76

RECEIVED
FEB 20 9 29 AM '76

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F. B. I.

FEB 18 11 41 AM 1976

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

FEB 19 3 42 PM 1976
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
FRONT OFFICE
FEB 20 11 27 PM 1976
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, [illegible]
SUBJECT: [illegible]

[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible due to heavy noise and low contrast. It appears to be a memorandum or report body.]

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
FRONT OFFICE
FEB 20 11 53 AM '76
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D-OIV RIGHTS
F. B. I.
FEB 20 6 17 PM 1976

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

'Three days later, the round-the-clock guard watching Redditt was removed and he was allowed to return to work. The police department never offered any further explanation of the 'contract' on his life,' Newsday said.

The story also said Holloman acknowledged the report of a threat on Redditt's life, but refused to say who had made the threat.

'Redditt's assassination contingency plan, according to sources, called for the entire four-block area around King's Hotel to be sealed off by patrol cars,' the article said."

Our files at FBIHQ and at our Memphis Office contain no information relative to the information contained in this UPI article. On 2/17/76, a copy of this article was hand-carried to the Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice, pointing out we had no prior information relative to this UPI article, and that we were conducting no investigation re the information in this UPI article unless specifically requested by the Department. To date, no request has been received from the CRD for any investigation re this article. As you are aware, the Department presently has our investigation of Dr. King under review. Frank Holloman is a retired Special Agent of the FBI.

*See J. S. Peelman
to Mr. Gallagher
memo 2/21/76.
44-38861-
6133*

ACTION: For information.

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KING 2-14

NIGHT LD

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. (UPI) -- THE TOP LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL IN MEMPHIS, TENN., REMOVED A DETECTIVE ASSIGNED TO PROTECT MARTIN LUTHER KING HOURS BEFORE THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER WAS ASSASSINATED IN 1968, NEWSDAY REPORTED SATURDAY.

IN A COPYRIGHTED STORY IN ITS SUNDAY EDITION, THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER SAID ED REDDITT, THE CITY DETECTIVE GUARDING KING, WAS PULLED FROM HIS POST AND TOLD THERE WAS A PLOT TO KILL HIM.

THE MEMPHIS PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR DID NOT REPLACE REDDITT AFTER TAKING HIM OFF THE ASSIGNMENT, AND ALLOWED THE DETECTIVE TO RETURN TO WORK THREE DAYS AFTER KING WAS SHOT TO DEATH AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL, NEWSDAY SAID.

IT ALSO SAID REDDITT "HAD PREPARED A CONTINGENCY PLAN TO ENABLE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO APPREHEND AN ASSASSIN SHOULD AN ATTEMPT BE MADE ON KING'S LIFE."

"AFTER REDDITT WAS REMOVED FROM DUTY, HE WAS TOLD AT A MEETING IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS THAT THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE HAD LEARNED OF A 'CONTRACT' ON HIS LIFE," NEWSDAY SAID.

"REDDITT PROTESTED, SAYING HE WANTED TO RETURN TO HIS POST, BUT THE CITY'S THEN PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR, FRANK HOLLOMAN, INSISTED ON THE OFFICER'S REMOVAL," THE NEWSPAPER SAID.

"EN ROUTE HOME WITH HIS POLICE GUARD, REDDITT HEARD OVER THE RADIO THAT KING HAD BEEN SHOT BY AN ASSASSIN," THE STORY SAID.

"THREE DAYS LATER, THE ROUND THE CLOCK GUARD WATCHING REDDITT WAS REMOVED AND HE WAS ALLOWED TO RETURN TO WORK. THE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEVER OFFERED ANY FURTHER EXPLANATION OF THE 'CONTRACT' ON HIS LIFE," NEWSDAY SAID.

THE STORY ALSO SAID HOLLOMAN ACKNOWLEDGED THE REPORT OF A THREAT ON REDDITT'S LIFE, BUT REFUSED TO SAY WHO HAD MADE THE THREAT.

"REDDITT'S ASSASSINATION CONTINGENCY PLAN, ACCORDING TO SOURCES, CALLED FOR THE ENTIRE FOUR BLOCK AREA AROUND KING'S HOTEL TO BE SEALED OFF BY PATROL CARS," THE ARTICLE SAID.

UPI 02-14 09:50 PES

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-6079

NR018 AT PLAIN

8:35 PM URGENT 2-19-76 HLF

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
EL PASO (44-920)
MEMPHIS (44-1987)

EFB 19 1976
TELETYPE

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep.-A.D.-Adm. _____
- Dep.-A.D.-Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL FEBRUARY 18, 1976.

CLINTON STANFORD, ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSIONER, ENVIRONMENT AND STREET SERVICES, CITY OF ATLANTA, ADVISED THAT HIS RECORDS SHOW THAT ARNOLD RAY GODFREY DID NOT TAKE ANY LEAVE DURING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1967. THIS WOULD TEND TO SHOW THAT GODFREY WAS ON DUTY EVERY DAY THOSE TWO MONTHS. HOWEVER, FOR THE PAY PERIOD APRIL 3, THROUGH APRIL 17, 1968, GODFREY WAS CHARGED WITH THREE VACATION DAYS. FOR THE PAY PERIOD APRIL 17 THROUGH MAY 1, 1968, GODFREY WAS CHARGED WITH TWO VACATION DAYS. ATLANTA CITY RECORDS DO NOT SHOW EXACT DAYS THAT GODFREY WAS ON VACATION.

EX-110

REC 67

44-38861-6080

TH

ALL OF THIS TYPE OF RECORDS ARE PURGED EVERY THREE YEARS. 7 MAR 5 1976

DIANE BRADY, OWNER/OPERATOR OF "THE OFFICE BAR" LOCATED AT MORELAND AND FLAT SHOALS ROAD, ADVISED SHE HAS NEVER EMPLOYED ANY BAND AT HER BUSINESS. RAY GODFREY DOES COME INTO THERE EVERY NOW AND THEN PLAYS HIS GUITAR. SHE CONTACTED HER DAY BARTENDER

END PAGE ONE.

REC-070-B
CRD
2/29/76
ESM/Pnd

Handwritten signature

84 MAR 9 1976

8 4 WVB 0 1010

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION 5030 J.E.H.

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS
F B I

FEB 19 10 01 PM '76

FEB 20 6 45 AM 1976

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC 81

RELEASE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
FEB 20 1976

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

TO SEE IF RAY GODFREY HAD EVERY PLAYED AT THE BAR DURING THE DAY WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS. THE DAY BARTENDER ADVISED THAT GODFREY HAD NEVER PLAYED THERE WITH ANYONE DURING DAY AT "THE OFFICE. BRADY SHOWN SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS, UNABLE TO PICK OUT THE PHOTOGRAPH OF RALPH (LNU). WHEN SPECIFICALLY SHOWN THIS PHOTOGRAPH, SHE ADVISED SHE HAS NEVER SEEN THIS INDIVIDUAL. SHE IS POSITIVE THAT THE PERSON WHOSE LIKENESS IS REPRESENTED BY THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION IS NOT THE PERSON WHOM SHE KNOWS AS "DUKE". BRADY ALSO ADVISED THAT AFTER PETE DAVIS SOLD HIS ESTABLISHMENT, SHE WENT TO WORK FOR THE DRIFTWOOD LOUNGE WHICH IS LOCATED IN THE NEXT BLOCK FROM PETE'S BAR. SHE NEVER WORKED AT BILL BAILEY'S AND SHE NEVER WAS EMPLOYED BY LEWIS CLARK. SHE FURTHER ADVISED AFTER PETE DAVIS SOLD HIS BAR, HE WENT TO WORK IN SAUDI ARABIA FOR ONE YEAR. BRADY WAS UNABLE TO SUPPLY NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ANY OF THE OLD-TIME CUSTOMERS OF PETE'S BAR. EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE SOME OF THEM DROP IN AT HER BAR, BUT THIS IS NOT DONE ON A REGULAR BASIS. BRADY AGAIN STATED THAT SHE KNOWS OF NO FRIENDS OF RAY GODFREY EITHER MUSICIANS OR CO-WORKERS NAMED RALPH AND THAT WOULD INCLUDE RALPH SMITH OR RALPH SETZER (PHONETIC). SHE ALSO DOES NOT KNOW LEE GODFREY. DIANE BRADY FURTHER STATED THAT SHE WOULD
END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT RAY GODFREY WAS IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE AND THAT THE POWELL BROTHERS, WHOM SHE KNOWS TO BE ALCOHOLICS AND FRIENDLY INDIVIDUALS COULD BE ACCUSED OF DOING ANYTHING WRONG.

ATLANTA AT GILMER COUNTY. WILL EXHIBIT PHOTOGRAPH OF RALPH (LNU) TO LEE CARROLL GODFREY AND ASCERTAIN IF RALPH (LNU) IS IDENTICAL WITH RALPH (SMITH OR SETZER) (PHONETIC).

END.

PLS HOLD

FEB 19 8 42 PM '76

RECEIVED
TELETYPE UNIT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FFA 20 1976
TELETYPE

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Adm.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Files & Com.	_____
Gen. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

NR017 AT PLAIN

5:40 PM URGENT 2-20-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL, FEBRUARY 19, 1976.

RAYMOND GODFREY INTERVIEWED THIS DATE AND ADVISED HE IS FAMILIAR WITH INDIVIDUAL NAMED ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, AKA RAY GODFREY. BOTH HE AND RAY GODFREY FREQUENTED A BAR ON MORELAND AVENUE KNOWN AS PETE'S PLACE. HE PICKED FROM A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS THE PICTURES OF CLAUDE POWELL AND RAY GODFREY AS FREQUENT PATRONS OF PETE'S BAR. RAYMOND GODFREY ADVISED HE IS NO RELATIVE OF RAY GODFREY, HOWEVER, ~~CAME TO~~ KNOW HIM FAIRLY WELL WHILE THEY WERE BOTH PATRONNS OF PETE'S BAR. HE KNEW THAT CLAUDE POWELL HAD A REPUTATION AROUND THE BAR AS HAVING QUITE A BOASTFUL MANNER WHILE HE WAS DRUNK. HE NEVER KNEW CLAUDE POWELL TO BE IN ANY TROUBLE OR TO BE VICIOUS IN ANY WAY. HE DESCRIBED RAY GODFREY AS BEING A "GOOD OLE BOY" WHO WOULD NOT BE IN ANY TROUBLE. HE WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY, FROM THE SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS, THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU). WHEN SPECIFICALLY SHOWN THIS PHOTO

END PAGE ONE.

Reidman
11 M [unclear]
HE [unclear]

[Handwritten mark]

EX-110

REC 67-44-38861-6081

MAR 5 1976

O-70(B)
AAG, CRD-ENC.
ANH/PWL

84 MAR 9 2 1976

[Handwritten mark]

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RECEIVED
INVESTIGATIVE
J.E.H.

FEB 20 7 03 PM '76

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS
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FEB 23 6 29 AM 1976

REC R.

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

HE ADVISED HE HAS NEVER SEEN THIS INDIVIDUAL. HE STATED THAT HE WAS IN PETE'S BAR AND BILL BAILEY'S LOUNGE ALMOST EVERY NIGHT DURING THE TIME PERIOD OF LATE 1966 THROUGH 1967.

A REVIEW OF THE FILE INDICATES THAT ALL LEADS, EXCEPT ONE, HAS BEEN COVERED BY THE ATLANTA OFFICE. THE LEAD TO SHOW PHOTO OF RALPH (LNU) TO LEE CARROLL GODFREY, TO ASCERTAIN IF IDENTICAL WITH RALPH (SMITH OR SETZER) (PHONETIC) IS ANTICIPATED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1976.

REPORT WILL FOLLOW.

END.

HOLD

FEB 20 5 45 PM '76

RECEIVED
TELETYPE UNIT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 23 1976

TELETYPE

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Adm.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Files & Com.	_____
Gen. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

NR012 AT PLAIN

6:30 PM NITEL 2-23-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIA (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE, FEBRUARY 20, 1976.

LIEUTENANT STRICKLAND, PERMIT SECTION, ATLANTA PD, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ADVISED DIANE BRAND, AKA BRADY, TOOK OVER MANAGEMENT OF BAR NAMED "THE OFFICE" ON AUGUST 28, 1974. PREVIOUS OWNER THOMAS M. HYATT, 2131 FLAT SHOALS ROAD, ATLANTA. HYATT OWNED BAR FROM FEBRUARY, 1972 TO AUGUST, 1974. OWNER PRIOR TO THAT WAS A JAMES MAYNARD LIVINGSTONE, 622 FARRAR COURT, DECATUR, GEORGIA. LIVINGSTONE OWNED BAR FROM 1969 THROUGH 1972.

MANAGER, APARTMENTS LOCATED AT 4131 FLAT SHOALS ROAD, ADVISED THOMAS M. HYATT HAS NOT LIVED AT THAT ADDRESS FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS. SHE HAS BEEN MANAGER AT THAT COMPLEX FOR THAT PERIOD OF TIME. SHE WAS UNABLE TO FIND ANY MATERIAL IN HER FILE REGARDING THOMAS M. HYATT. RECORDS OF THE US POST OFFICE, EAST ATLANTA BRANCH, METROPOLITAN AVENUE, ATLANTA, GA., REVIEWED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS REGARDING ANY FORWARDING ADDRESS FOR THOMAS M. HYATT.

END PAGE ONE.

0-70 (B)
AAG, CRD - ENC.
HMH/pwl
2-24-76

REC 67

MAR 5 1976

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