TELETYPE

PRIORITY

(100-106670)

PRIORITY

CLEAR

1 - Mr. Gallagher

1 - Mr. Ingram

12/14/76

1 - Mr. Deegan

1 - Mr. Lawn

1 - Mr. Thornton

l - Mr. Leavitt

BT

CLEAR

FM DIRECTOR

TO BALTIMORE

ATTN: C-6

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

MURKIN

REBUTEL TO ALL OFFICES DATED JULY 28, 1976, WHICH SET FORTH BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONCERNING REVIEW OF OUR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. INVESTIGATIONS BY A TASK FORCE OF THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR), DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ).

PURPOSE OF THIS TELETYPE IS TO ALERT BALTIMORE
REGARDING PLANS OF OPR TASK FORCE PERSONNEL TO VISIT THAT
OFFICE TO CONTINUE REVIEW OF OUR KING INVESTIGATIONS.

ON DECEMBER 15, 1976, TASK FORCE PERSONNEL MR. JEFF COVERT AND MS. HOPE BYRNE WILL ARRIVE AT THE BALTIMORE OFFICE. THEY DESIRE TO REVIEW KING ASSASSINATION FILES (MURKIN), THE INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING, AND ALL

1/- 44-38861

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SEE NOTE PAGE 3 . . 46 DEC 17 1976

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KING RELATED SECURITY FILES, INCLUDING "COMMUNIST

INFILTRATION OF SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL,"

COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN RACIAL MATTERS," AND CPUSA - NEGRO

QUESTION."

IT IS NOTED THAT ALL PERSONNEL ON THE TASK FORCE ARE AUTHORIZED TOTAL ACCESS TO PERTINENT FILES AND SUBFILES AT FBIHQ AND IN THE FIELD REGARDING INVESTIGATION OF KING, HIS FAMILY MEMBERS, AND ASSOCIATES. THIS WILL INCLUDE COVER PAGES OF COMMUNICATIONS CONTAINING IDENTITIES OF SOME FBI SOURCES AND INFORMANTS WHO WERE NOT AFFORDED SYMBOL NUMBERS AT THAT TIME AND INDIVIDUALS WHO EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED CONFIDENTIALITY. INFORMANT FILES ARE NOT TO BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHOUT PRIOR FBIHQ AUTHORITY.

BALTIMORE ASSIGN COORDINATOR TO HANDLE LIAISON WITH TASK FORCE PERSONNEL AND PROVIDE OFFICE SPACE IN WHICH TO CONDUCT REVIEW. CONFIRM THEIR ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE BY TELETYPE AND KEEP FBIHQ ADVISED OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

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PAGE THREE 100-106670 CLEAR

NOTE: The Attorney General has ordered a review of our $\overline{\text{King}}$ investigations. It is to be conducted by a task force of OPR and is a continuation of a previous review by the Civil Rights Division of the DOJ.

Baltimore has been telephonically furnished contents of teletype. Task Force personnel have been advised concerning address of Baltimore Office and appropriate FBI personnel to contact. Baltimore has been instructed to refer any questions concerning the review to Deputy Assistant Director J. O. Ingram or SA V. R. Thornton.

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FM WASHINGTON/FIELD (108-40164) (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

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ATTENTION BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING SECTION, FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

DIVISION

MURKIN

FIELD REGARDING CAPTIONED PROJECT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW; COST DATA
RE BUREAU TELETYPE DATED AUGUST 6, 1976.

MANPOWER; AND UNUSUAL COST EXPENDITURES BY WASHINGTON

1976, ARE SET FURTH AS FULLOWS:

(1) MANPOWER: MONE.

(2) UNUBUAL CUSTS: NUNZ.

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P. A. A.

Director's Sec'y_

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	~	(Type in plaintext or code)
	AIRTTL	(Priority)
	TO: P	ATTENTION: BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING SECTION OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL DIVISION OF
	FROM:	SAC, CHARLOTTE (100-10075) (P)
	SUBJECT:	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW COST DATA
		Re Bureau teletype to All SACs, 8/6/76.
		1. MAN POWER
		None
		2. UNUSUAL COSTS
		None 541mla 6026
		44-3884
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12/15/76

to

FM DIRECTOR (44-38861)

1 - Mr. Helterhoff

TO MEMPHIS (44-1987) URGENT

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MURKIN

REBUTEL DECEMBER 10, 1976, AND YOUR TELETYPE DECEMBER 14, 1976.

OBTAIN ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MRS. BETTY RAY BRASHEAR MAY HAVE AS TO THE SPECIFIC LOCATION OF JIMMY WAYNE RAY IN NEW ORLEANS AND SET OUT APPROPRIATE LEAD TO HAVE JIMMY WAYNE RAY INTERVIEWED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN REBUTEL.

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EX-109 SEE NOTE PAGE TWO.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC. 15 19/6

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RECEIVED TELETYPE UNIT

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 $\overline{\text{OTE}}$: This is the Civil Rights assassination investigation of Martin Luther King, who was killed on 4/4/68 in Memphis, Tennessee. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement.

Alfred William Martinez has made allegations that while incarcerated with Simponis in 1966-1967, he wrote letters to James Earl Ray in Memphis, Tennessee, for Simponis and Simponis told Martinez to go to Memphis when he got out and contact Ray to pull off a big job. Martinez states he never went. From investigation conducted to date, it appears the only time Simponis and Martinez were incarcerated together at Salt Lake County Jail was from either 1/29/68 to 3/2/68 or from 2/13/68 to 3/2/68. Prison records reflect one Jimmie W. Ray of Memphis, Tennessee, was on correspondence list of Simponis in 1968.

By Butel 12/10/76, Memphis instructed to locate and interview Jimmie W. Ray. By teletype 12/14/76, Memphis advised Mrs. Betty Ray Brashear advised her brother, Jimmy Wayne Ray, previously resided at address listed on correspondence list. Memphis discontinued investigation and this instructs Memphis to have Jimmy Wayne Ray interviewed.

5-113a (Rev. 3-21-73)

Adams Mintz Gallagher Leavitt Ingram

1 - Mr. Deegan
1 - Mr. Aldhizer

Intelligence Division

Date _____ 6/21/76

Attached advises that the Department Task Force of the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR), now in Memphis reviewing Martin Luther King assassination files of that office, desires to interview Supervisor Joe C. Hester of Memphis who was case agent during the assassination. Request of Task Force is in accord with Attorney General's instructions pertaining to the King review which is to include personnel interviews as well as access to files. FBIHQ interposes no objection to interview and accordingly Hester will be interviewed 6/23/76.

If you approve Memphis will be telephonically advised to instruct Hester to record his account of the interview in summary form and submit to FBIHQ by letterhead memorandum and cover airtel.

This matter has been coordinated with SA R. F. Olmert of Legal Counsel Division and SA E. J. McDonough of the General Investigative Division.

Investigative Division. JTA:lek APPROVED: Ext. Affairs... Laboratory. Assoc. Dir. Fin. & Pers.... Legal Coun. Dep. AD Adm. Gen. Inv. Plan. & Eval..... Dep. AD Inv Rec. Mgmt..... Asst. Dir.: Inspectio Spec. Inv... Adm. Serv. Intell. / L Training.

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SACRAMENTO PRIORITY

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MURKIN

RE BURTAU TELTIYPE TO SACRAMENTO, MEMPHIS, AND KAMSAS CITY, DEC. ?, 1976.

A REVIEW OF INDICES AND FILTS OF THE MEMPHIS OFFICE PTVEALED NO INFO IDENTIFIABLE WITH ALFRED WILLIAM MARTINEZ, EILL SIMPONIS, OF WILLIAM SIMPONIS BASED ON INFORMATION SET FORTH IN RETEL. IN VIEW OF THIS MEMPHIS WILL NOT SUBMIT LEM, UACE.

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COMMENTATION OF INVESTIGATION

FM: KANSAS CITY (44-760)

TO: BUPEAU (44-38861) (PR IOR ITY)

MEMPHIS (PRIORITY)

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RE BUTEL TO SACRAMENTO, DEC. 2. 1976.

ON DEC. 3, 1976, BILL WALINOW, FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER, KANSAS CITY, MO., MADE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW FILE PERTAIMING TO W ILLIAM B. SIMPONIS, MEDICAL CENTER FOR FEDERAL PRISONERS (MCFP) #P-827-H.

SIMPONIS WAS SENTENCED AUG. 12, 1966, DISTRICT OF UTAH,

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, FOR VIOLATION OF NATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE

TPAN SPORTATION ACT. HE WAS CONVICTED UNDER SECTION 4246,

T. 19, USC, MAVING BEEN FOUND INCOMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL.

HE WAS COMMITTED MCFP AUG. 21, 1966 AND RELEASED JAN. 27, 1968 TO

PETURN TO COURT AND AGAIN COMMITTED TO MCFP MAR. 2, 1968.

SIMPON IS DIED AT 12:10 AM, JULY 14, 1968. CAUSE OF DEATH.

ST-108

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Dep. AD A

Asst. Dir.: Adm. Serv.

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KC 44-760 PAGE TWO CLIER ACUTE RESPIRATORY ILLMESS.

FILE DISCLOSED SIMPONIS INCARCERATED SALT LAKE CITY
COUNTY JAIL, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH FROM JULY 26, 1966 THROUGH
AUG. 19, 1966 AND AGAIN ON JAM. 29, 1968.

FILE DISCLOSED ON MAR. 2, 1968, SIMPONIS REQUESTED TO CORRESPOND WITH ONE FREDDIE MARTINEZ, RT. 1, BOX 403, ORCHAPD PARK, CAMON CITY, COLO., AND ALSO ON MAR. 25, 1968 PEOUESTED TO CORRESPOND WITH ONE JIMMIE W. RAY, 492 CLAPICE DR., MEMPHIS, ITAM. BOTH WERE APPROVED. HOWEVER, FILE CONTAINS NO CORRESPONDENCE.

ON APRIL 1, 1969, ONE JIMMIE W. PAY, P.O. BOX 6, OLIVE PPANCH, MISSISSIPPI, MADE INQUIRY THROUGH MCFP RE WILLIAM B. SIMPONIS. PAY WAS ADVISED APRIL 3. 1969 OF SIMPONIS' DEATH.

MEMPHIS, AT MEMPHIS, TENN., ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE IF JIMMIE
W. RAY. AS SET FORTH ABOVE. COULD BE IDENTICAL TO JAMES EARL PAY.

AIR MAIL COPIES FOR INFO FURNISHED SACRAMENTO AND SALT LAKE CITY.

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TO DIRECTOR (44-38961) PRIOF IT Y

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KANSAS CITY ROUTINE

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LOS AMGELES PRIORITY

MEMPHIS PRIORITY

SALT LAKE CITY (44-253) POUTINE

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PE BITEL, DEC. 2, 1976.

OM DEC. 7, 1976, ALFRED WILLIAM MARTINEZ, 807 GREENWOOD ST., M FST SACRAMENTO, CALIF., PHONE 372-0780, MAS INTERVIEWED IN DEPTH AT 1471 1 TH AVE. , SACRAMENTO, CALIF., WHERE HE WAS WORKING THAT DATE.

MARTINEZ ADVISED HE WAS IN SALT LAKE COUNTY JAIL FOR TWO AND

Dep. AD Adm. Dep. AD Inv. Asst. Dir.: Adm. Serv. Intell. Legal Coun. Plan. & Insp. Rec. Mgt. S. & T. Serv.

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ONE-MALE TO THREE MONTHS IN WHAT HE BELIEVES WAS LAST PART OF
1986 OR FARLY 1967.

MARTINEZ ADVISED DURING THIS INCARCERATION HE BECAME

FEIENDLY WITH WILLIAM SIMPONIS. HE ADVISED SIMPONIS WAS ILL WITH

EMPLYSEMA, AND AT SIMPONIS' REQUEST MARTINEZ WROTE SEVERAL LETTERS

FOR WIM. HE ADVISED HE MROTE APPROXIMATELY THREE LETTERS A WEEK

DUPING THE ENTIRE PEPIOD HE WAS INCARCEPATED, TO AN INDIVIDUAL

IDENTIFIED AS JAMES RAY AND EARL RAY BY SIMPONIS. HE ADVISED HE

MAILED THESE LETTERS TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, BUT HE COULD NOT

FEMEMBER THE ADDRESS. MARTINEZ ADVISED HE HAD KEPT A SHOE BOX

BULL OF LETTERS HE RECEIVED FROM RAY AND SOME ITEMS WHICH PELONGED

TO SIMPONIS. MARTINEZ ADVISED TWO OF THESE LETTERS WERE

ADDRESSED TO HIM AND THE REST TO SIMPONIS. HE ADVISED HE LOST

THESE ITEMS FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AGO AND HAS MOT BEEN ABLE TO

LOCATE THEM.

MARTIMEZ ADVISED THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTERS USUALLY

CONSISTED OF IMPO ABOUT WHEN SIMPONIS WAS COING TO GET OUT OF

JAIL AND HOW THEY WOULD GET TOGETHER. MARTIMEZ CANNOT THINK OF

ANY OTHER TORICS ABOUT WHICH HE WROTE.

MARTIMEZ WAS TOLD BY SIMPOMIS THAT HE SHOULD CONTACT RAY

WHEN HE GOT OUT OF JAIL AND "THAT THEY HAD A JOE GOING ON; THEY WOULD NEED SOME HELP ON IT; THAT I COULD MAKE QUITE A BIT OF MONEY ON IT AND I WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORPY ABOUT WORK ANY MORE."

SIMPONIS MEVER IDENTIFIED ANY VICTIMS OF SUCH A PLAN. HE ADVISED SIMPON IS HATED BLACK PEOPLE VERY MUCH BUT HE NEVER MENTIONED MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., OR ANY OTHER BLACKS SPECIFICALLY THAT HE COULD FEMEMBER.

MAPTIMEZ ADVISED WHEN HE GOT OUT OF JAIL SIMPONIS GAVE HIM
T WHER LETTERS WRITTEN BY SIMPONIS TO BE MAILED TO RAY. MAPTIMEZ
ADVISED HE DID NOT READ CONTENTS OF THESE LETTERS BUT HE DID STWD
THEM. MAPTIMEZ ADVISED HE WAS TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH SIMPONIS,
MHO WOULD ADVISE HIM TO GO TO MEMPHIS AT A SPECIFIED TIME, AND
THAT SIMPONIS HOULD HAVE MAILED A PICTURE OF MARTIMEZ TO RAY FOR
PURPOSE OF IDENTIFICATION. WHEN THIS OCCURRED, PAY WAS TO MEET
MARTIMEZ AT MEMPHIS AIRPORT ON A DESIGNATED DATE. MAPTIMEZ
ADVISED HE MEVER CONTACTED SIMPONIS AFTER HE GOT OUT OF JAIL IN
SALT LAKE CITY AND WAS ARRESTED FOR BURGLAPY IN CANYON CITY,
COLOPADO, AND SENT TO COLORADO STATE PRISON FROM MAY 2 S, 1967,
UNTIL THE LAST OF 1967.

MARTINEZ FURTHER ADVISED HE WROTE LETTERS FOR SIMPONIS TO

PAGE FOUR SC 176-41 CLEAR

OTHER INDIVIDUALS. HE IDENT IFIED THESE INDIVIDUALS AS JEANNETTE. SCOTT, GIRL FRIEND OF SIMPONIS, PIONEER HOTEL, 342 FIFTH STREET, ELKO, NEVADA (MARTINEZ SEEMED TO RECOLLECT SCOTT WAS PART OWNER OF THIS HOTEL AND WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE LARGE COLLECTION OF GUNS);

LILLIAN SCHURTEP, 1274 HEST STREET, POSSIBLY ELKO, NEVADA, PHONE TE3-7226; KALIOPE SOLIATES, 1226 WEST 20TH, POSSIBLY ELKO, NEVADA, PHONE TE3-3617; AND NICK SIMPONIS, GAPDENA, CALIF., PHONE 434-8747 (BEOTHER OF WILLIAM SIMPONIS, STREET ADDRESS NOT KNOWN).

MARTINEZ IS MEXICAN MALE, 5'9", 157 LBS., PLACK HAIR, BROWN EYES, BORN JUNE 26, 1946, CANYON CITY, COLORADO, FRI NO. 2397LG, SCAN ADDRESS E #7 GREENWOOD STREET, WEST SACRAMENTO, PREVIOUS ADDRESSES 3427 4 FT H STREET, SACRAMENTO; 1651 ILL INDIS AVENUE, CANYON CITY, COLORADO; CURRENTLY ON PROBATION FOR DRUNK DRIVING CHARGES.

MARTINEZ ADVISED HE DOES NOT KNOW IF INDIVIDUAL REFERRED TO AS JAMES OR WARL RAY IS IDENTICAL TO JAMES EARL RAY CONVICTED IN MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. JR.

DENVER AT CANYON CITY PEVIEW COLORADO STATE PRISON RECORDS
FOR MARTINEZ FOR POSSIBLE LEAD PURPOSES RELATING TO SIMPONIS OF RAY.

LAS VEGAS AT ELKO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE SCOTT, SCHURTER AND

PAGE FIVE SC 186-7 7 CLEAR

SOLIATES TO INTERVIEW FOR ANY INFO PERTINENT TO THEIR CONNECTION,

OR CONNECTION OF WILLIAM SIMPONIS, WITH JAMES EARL FAY OF .

CAPTIONED MATTER.

LOS ANGELES AT GARDENA ATTEMPT TO CONTACT AND INTERVIEW MICK SIMPONIS RE THE ABOVE CONNECTIONS AND CAPTIONED MATTER.

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RE SACRAMENTO TELETYPE, DECEMBER 9, 1976.

ALL OFFICES DISCONTINUE INVESTIGATION REPUTSIED IN

BUREAU SHOULD NOTE THAT ALFRED WILLIAM MARTINEZ INDICATED HT WAS IN SALT LAKE COUNTY JAIL FOR 60 TO 90 DAYS DURING LATE

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PAGE TWO (ME 44-1987)

1966 OR EARLY 1967. SALT LAKE JAIL RECORDS DO NOT CORRORDRATE
THIS; HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED JAMES TARL RAY WAS IN THE
MISSOURI STATE PRISON FROM MARCH 17, 1964, UNTIL HIS ESCAPE
APRIL 23, 1967. ANY MAIL ADDRESSED TO JAMES EARL RAY BURING
THIS PERIOD WOULD HAVE SOME TO THE MISSOURI STATE PRISON.

SALT LAKE COUNTY JAIL RECORDS INDICATE THAT MARTINEZ

AND WILLIAM SIMPONIS WERE INCAPCEPATED TOGETHER AT THE MOST

FROM JAMUARY 29, 1966, TO MARCH 2, 1969. PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION

HAS ALREADY DISCLOSED THAT JAMES EARL RAY ON JAMUARY 29, 1966,

WAS RESIDING IN LOS AMBELES AND APPEARS TO MAYE REMAINED

THERE UNTIL AT LEAST MARCH 17, 1966, 60 IT IS OBVIOUS ANY MAIL

ADDRESSED TO JAMES EARL DAY DURING THIS PERIOD WOULD NOT HAVE

REED SENT TO MEMPHIS. TENN.

MEMPHIS CONCLUDES THAT JAMES SAFL DAY AND JIMMIE W. RAY,
AN ACQUAINTAMED OF WILLIAM SIMPONIS, HAVE MO CONNECTION AND
THAT FURTHER INDUIRY RASED ON IMPO FURNISHED BY MARTINEZ WOULD
BE OF NO VALUE.

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TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ROUTINE

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Director's Sec'y

Assoc. Dir. ____ Dep. AD Adm., Dep. AD Inv.__ Asst. Dir.:

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO MEMPHIS, DECEMBER 10, 1976.

MRS. BETTY RAY BRASHEAR LOCATED, DECEMBER 14, 1976, AT 491 CLARICE, MEMPHIS. SHE VERIFIED THAT HER BROTHER, JIMMY WAYNE RAY, HAD PREVIOUSLY RESIDED AT 492 CLARICE, MEMPHIS.

FROM INFORMATION FURNISHED BY MRS. BRASHEAR, RAY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS JIMMY WAYNE RAY, FBI NO. 904 936 F. RAY WAS ARRESTED, JANUARY 19, 1967, AT MEMPHIS AND CHARGED WITH VIOLATION OF T18, SECTION 659. ON FEBRUARY 7, 1967, HE WAS COMMITTED TO U.S. MEDICAL CENTER, SPRINGFIELD, MO., FOR OBSERVATION. HE WAS AT U.S. MEDICAL CENTER APPROXIMATELY FEBRUARY TO MAY, 1967, WHICH PERIOD IS CONCURRENT WITH THE TIME THAT WILLIAM SIMPONIS WAS AT THE MEDICAL CENTER.

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ON MAY 29, 1967, RAY ENTERED PLEA OF GUILTY IN USDC, MEMPHIS, AND WAS SENTENCED ON JUNE 1, 1967, TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS PROBATION.

MRS. BRASHEAR STATES RAY NOW RESIDING AT UNKNOWN ADDRESS IN NEW ORLEANS, LA., WITH HIS WIFE AND FAMILY.

MEMPHIS SEES NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY PURSUING THIS MATTER FURTHER AND NO LEADS BEING SET OUT FOR NEW ORLEANS.

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FFMR (41 CFN) 101-11.6
UNITED STATES GC. ERNMENT

Memorandum

TO :Mr. Gallagher

FROM :J. S. Peelman

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Asst. Dir.: Adm. Serv. Ext. Affairs DATE: 12/14/76 Gen. Inv. 1 - Mr. Held ldent. 1 - Mr. Adams Inspection Intell. 1 - Mr. Gallagher 1 - Mr. Ingram Legal Coun 1 - Mr. Peelman 1 - Mr. Helterhoff Rec. Mant. _ Spec. Inv. 1 - Mr. Moore 1 - Mr. Mintz Telephone Rm. ...

Assoc. Dir. ____ Dep. AD Adm. __

Dep. AD Inv. ___

Director Sec'y

PURPOSE: To advise of an article appearing in the "Washington Star" 12/12/76, reporting that a recent book by George McMillan entitled "The Making of an Assassin - The Life of James Earl Ray" concludes that Ray acted alone in committing the assassination of Dr. King, and of an article appearing in the "Washington Post" 12/14/76, reporting that the United States Supreme Court refused without comment to disturb the guilty plea and conviction of Ray.

RECOMMENDATION:	For	information.
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APPROVED:	Adm. Serv	Plan. & Insp
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DETAILS: This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68, in Memphis, Tennessee. On 3/10/69, in State Court, Memphis, James Earl Ray entered a plea of guilty to charges of the murder of Dr. King and received a 99-year sentence. Ray is presently in local confinement.

The Office of Professional Responsibility, United States
Department of Justice, presently has the FBI investigation of
Dr. King under review. The United States House of Representatives
has recently created a Select Committee to investigate the
assassinations of Dr. King and President John F. Kennedy:

An article appearing in the "Washington Star" dated 12/12/76, (copy attached) reports that a recent book by George McMillan entitled "The Making of an Assassin - The Life of James Earl Ray" concludes that Ray acted alone in committing the assassination of Dr. King.

An article appearing in the "Washington Post" dated 12/14/76, (copy attached) reports that the United States Supreme Court refused without comment to disturb the guilty plea and conviction of Ray.

Enclosures - 2

HNH: sas (9)

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A Six-Year Trail on James Earl Ray

By Jeremiah O'Leary

THE MAKING OF AN ASSASSIN. The Life of James Earl Ray, by George McMillan. Little, Brown & Co. \$8.95. 318 pages.

Reflecting on the tidal wave of assassination books that erupted after the murders of President John F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, it is a professional pleasure to encounter a volume that reflects a solid six years of original research instead of ivory tower thumbsucking.

It is especially timely that George McW illan is now in the book stores since a House Select Committee on Assassinations is about to embark on a full-scale investigation of the murders that shook the world in the 1960s. McM illan, unlike most of the assassination authors, did not rely almost wholly on the investigative work of such entities as the Warren Commission, the FBI and various police

departments.

McMillan immersed himself in the lives of the family and friends of James Earl Ray, certainly no pleasurable enterprise considering the skid-row/ Tobacco Road milieu of the suspicious and amoral background of the man who killed America's foremost black leader

Instead of analyzing the official reports and the newspaper clippings and then coming up with startling theories, spread wholesale as if they were facts, McM illan plunged into the world of James Earl Ray and stayed there with little surcease for years. The result is a sensitive and immensely revealing story of the Midwestern background that spawned Ray and how he came to his fateful meeting with King in Memphis, Tenn. in April, 1968.

THE BOTTOM LINE, McMillan concludes, is that Ray acted alone in committing the assassination of Dr. King, that there was no conspiracy except in the mind of the smalltime criminal who pulled the trigger. McMillan has found more than enough witnesses to the fact that Ray was consumed with racial hatred and determined long before the final act that he committed in the conviction that it was his mission in life to kill the "Big

Nigger," as Ray called King.

An important part of McMillan's exhaustive reporting was to discover persuasive reasons for

believing that Ray's year of wandering and his getaway from Memphis were financed by funds he had available to him from his activities as a "merchant" of contraband in the last prison he was in before the murder. McMillan has managed to demonstrate persuasively that Ray had enough money to finance his pre-assassination odyssey and his escape to Canada and Europe without being bankrolled by anyone.

But it is the psychological protrait of Ray and his antecedents that is so chilling. McMillan found Ray to be a product of the poor-white culture of the Mississippi river towns in which he grew up and an almost predestined fate to be outside the law from his earliest youth. McMillan found Ray to be a moderately intelligent man but one whose perceptions of society were warped by the Jukes-Kallikak family to which he belonged.

HIS FATHER, "SPEEDY," and his mother, Ceal, were hopelessly in the grip of their urban hillbilly environment. His siblings and other relatives were and are almost completely alienated from the mainstream of life. Given a windfall of money, the Ray family members preferred the sleazy slums or rural shacks in which they lived. Freed from prison, a Ray family member more often than not could barely stay at large any longer than it took to think of the next crime.

Ray knew prisons all his life and he knew how to survive in them. He seems to have enjoyed the outside life of whores, cheap bars and slums in which he moved yet he always managed to get caught again as if the only real security for him was inside prison walls. Yet, Ray was not a stupid man. He was a sucker for the pipe dreams that came to him the fraction with the North him: his fascination with the Nazis, even when he saw them humbled in post-war Germany, and his attempts to improve his knowledge of law, bartending and even ballroom dancing are cases in

In retracing Ray's movements in the year he was at large before the slaying of King, McMillan proves that Ray was a cunning and resourceful man. Ray, it seems, could have actually made it in the straight world if he had really tried but he appears to have become overcome with the obsession

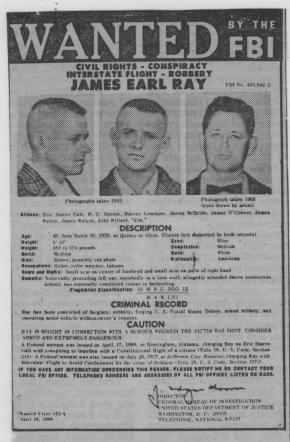
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New York)	
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Date 12-12-76

Peelman to Gallopher memo HNH sas

ENCLOSURE 4438861-6162



to kill King while he was in that most racist of prisons, Jefferson City, Mo. state pen.

THIS IS NO STUDY of the manhunt and world-wide investigation that led to Ray's capture in London airport. This book is really a John Guntherine attempt to get inside Ray and learn what made him tick from the moment he was born. McMillan succeeds admirably. He incontrovertibly places Ray in a fringe of society that most of us do not even see and terrifies the reader with the knowledge that there are so many people in the U.S. to whom jails, violation of the law and squalor are a way of life.

The appalling thing is that Ray contained within himself enough assets of intelligence and ambition to have crossed over into the straight world. I am no psychologist and therefore cannot entirely subscribe to McMillan's idea that, in killing King, Ray was really committing parricide against his own Jeter Lester-like father. I feel, on the basis of the McMillan dissection of James Earl Ray, that he was a lawless bigot to whom it was a natural thing to plan and execute the murder of the civil rights leader.

The House Select Committee, among others, should take the reporting of George McMillan into account when it begins probing the murder of King. McMillan has done a good deal of the committee's work already when it comes to deciding whether the world knows all there is to know about Ray and why he set out to kill Dr. King and did so with nearly as much skill as the fictional "Jackal"

of screen and novel.

This is a most important book, and incredibly timely, since the King assassination will soon be probed by a committee which does not have six years in which to reach a conclusion.

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Washington Star-News _	-
Daily News (New York)	
The New York Times	
The Wall Street Journal	
The National Observer _	
The Los Angeles Times	

Denial of Benefits to **Divorcees Upheld**

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By John P. MacKenzie Washington Post Staff Writer.

0-19 (Rev. 5-5-75),

Social Security laws that bestow some benefits on married women while denying them to divorced women were upheld yesterday by a unanimous Supreme Court.

The court held that the laws, far from being irrational as a lower court had ruled, made a reasonable distinction between the economic circumstances of divorced and married

"Divorce by its nature works a drastic change in the economic and personal relationship between a husband and wife," Justice Potter Stewart wrote for the court. "Ordinarily it means that they will go their separate

Lawyers for Helen de Castro of Chicago, who divorced her husband after more than 20 years of marriage, argued that the breakup increased her need for Social Security benefits, which were based on her former husband's eligibility for old-age assistance, for the care of their mentally disabled child who was in her custody.

Mrs. de Castro, who was 56 when she applied for the aid, would have received the benefits if she had remained married, but the law withholds the payments from single women in her situation until they are 62 years old.

Stewart rejected her arguments, saying Congress could reasonably take into account such facts of life as that "a divorced wife need not forgo work in order to stay home to care for her disabled husband. She may not feel the pinch of the extra expenses accompanying her former husband's old age or disability. In short, divorced couples typically live separate

The justice acknowledged that many divorced women suffer when their ex-husbands can't work and fall behind in alimony or child support payments. But, he said, "Congress was not constitutionally obligated to use the Social Security Act to subsidize support payments."

He said the old age and disability program is designed to replace lost wage-earner income, not provide general public assistance to the needy.

The case did not produce any outward split among the justices. Justice Thurgood Marshall noted that he concurred only in the court's judgment and not necessarily the language of the opinion, but there was no dissent. Women's groups, some of which have expressed special concern for the hardships faced by divorced women, did not file legal briefs in the case.

In other action:

AID TO RELIGION

With only Justice William J. Bren-

	Washington Post 4 - 4 hington Star-News
Dai	ly News (New York)
The	New York Times
The	Wall Street Journal
Γhe	National Observer
The	Los Angeles Times

"washington Post"

Date_

ENCLOSURE 44-38861-616

0-19 (Rev. 5-5-75)

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nan objecting, the court refused to hear a complaint by Americans United, an organization opposed to government aid to religion, that Missouri's program of reimbursement to needy college students is unconstitutional as applied to students in schools with religious affiliations.

JAMES EARL RAY

The court refused without comment to disturb the guilty plea and conviction of James Earl Ray, who is serving a 99-year prison sentence for the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

It was the latest of several unsuccessful attempts by Ray to withdraw his plea and contest the murder charge. Among his claims, rejected by lower federal courts, is that the plea was tainted by conflicts of interest among defense lawyers who stood to gain from publication rights to his story.

SEX DISCRIMINATION

The court agreed to decide whether the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission can wait indefinitely to file suits charging employees with specific acts of sex or race bias or whether it is bound by any statute of limitations. Lower courts are split on the issue.

The court refused to hear the complaint of a Kentucky woman challenging the state's right to require her to use her married name on her driver's license. A divided Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said it was bound to reject her suit because of a brief,

unexplained 1972 high court ruling in a similar case from Alabama.

THREATS

The court let stand the conviction of Russell Kelner, an officer of the Jewish Defense League, for threatening to assassinate Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The threat came during a New York press conference in November, 1974. Lawyers for Kelner said he could not be convicted of the federal crime of causing his threat to cross state lines since the transmission was accomplished via television over which he had no control. Lower courts said Kelner violated federal law by taking action that had foreseeable interstate consequences.

The Washington Post
Washington Star-News
Daily News (New York)
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
The Los Angeles Times
Date 12-14-26

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MEMPHIS/ (44-1987)

DIREQ TOR TO (44-38861) (ROUTINE) NEW ORLEANS (PRIORITY)

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CLEAR MIRKIN

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO MEMPHIS, DECEMBER 15, 1976.

ONE ALFRED WILLIAM MARTINEZ HAS ADVISED SACRAMENTO OFFICE THAT WHILE IN SALT LAKE COUNTY JAIL ABOUT JANUARY TO MARCH, 1968, HE MET WILLIAM B. SIMPONIS. MARTINEZ CLAIMS TO HAVE WRITTEN LETTERS FOR SIMPONIS, ADDRESSED TO JAMES EARL RAY IN MEMPHIS. TENN. SIMPONIS ALLEGEDLY TOLD MARTINEZ TO GO TO MEMPHIS WHEN HE GOT OUT AND TO CONTACT RAY TO PULL OFF A BIG MARTINEZ COULD NOT GET CLOTHES AND MONEY FOR TRAVEL SO HE NEVER WENT TO SEE RAY.

15

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PAGE TWO ME 44-1987 CLEAR

NEW ORLEANS NOTE THAT JAMES EARL RAY IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN RESIDING AS A FUGITIVE IN LOS ANGELES DURING THE PERIOD MARTINEZ AND SIMPONIS WERE INCARCERATED TOGETHER AT SALT LAKE COUNTY JAIL.

SIMPONIS WAS SENTENCED AUGUST 12, 1966, AT SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, FOR ITSMV VIOLATION. HE WAS CONVICTED UNDER TITLE 18, SECTION 4246, HAVING BEEN FOUND INCOMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL. HE WAS COMMITTED TO MEDICAL CENTER FOR FEDERAL PRISONERS (MCFP), SPRINGFIELD, MO., AUGUST 21, 1966, AND RELEASED JANUARY 27, 1968. HE RETURNED TO COURT AND WAS AGAIN COMMITTED TO MCFP MARCH 2, 1968, AND DIED THERE ON JULY 14, 1968. WHILE AT MCFP SIMPONIS REQUESTED TO CORRESPOND WITH ONE JIMMIE W. RAY, 492 CLARICE DRIVE, MEMPHIS. HIS REQUEST WAS APPROVED. ON APRIL 1, 1969, ONE JIMMIE W. RAY, P. O. BOX 6, OLIVE BRANCH, MISS., INCUIRED OF SIMPONIS THROUGH MCFP AND WAS ADVISED OF SIMPONIS.

PAGE THREE ME 44-1987 CLERR

MEMPHIS OFFICE HAS LOCATED MRS. BETTY RAY BRASHEAR, 491
CLARICE, MEMPHIS, THE SISTER OF JIMMIE WAYNE RAY WHO PREVIOUSLY
RESIDED 492 CLARICE, MEMPHIS. JIMMIE WAYNE RAY, FBI NO.
904936F, WAS ARRESTED AT MEMPHIS JANUARY 19, 1967, FOR TFIS AND
ON FEBRUARY 7, 1967, WAS COMMITTED TO MCFP, SPRINGFIELD, FOR
OBSERVATION. HE REMAINED MCFP UNTIL MAY, 1967, AND APPARENTLY
KNEW SIMPONIS DURING THAT TIME.

THE BUREAU HAS INSTRUCTED THAT RAY BE LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED "TO DETERMINE IF SIMPONIS CORRESPONDED WITH HIM WHILE
IN JAIL IN SALT LAKE CITY, NATURE OF ANY SUCH CORRESPONDENCE,
AND WHETHER HE HAS ANY ASSOCIATION WITH JAMES EARL RAY OF
CAPTIONED MATTER." MRS. BRASHEAR DOES NOT KNOW RAY'S ADDRESS
BUT STATES HE RESIDES IN NEW ORLEANS, LA., AND IS EMPLOYED BY
A BOAT COMPANY. RAY DOES NOT WORK ON A BOAT BUT WORKS FOR A
COMPANY WHICH OPERATES BOATS. RAY IS A WHITE MALE, BORN
AT LEWISBURG, MISS. IN 1967 HE WAS DESCRIBED AS 6'L" TALL. PIL

PAGE FOUR ME 33-1987 CLEAR

176 POUNDS, ELACK HAIR, EROWN EYES. HE WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE ARMY IN 1963 FOR "REASONS OF NERVOUS BREAKDOWN AND ATTEMPT TO COMMIT SUICIDE." SINCE SIMPONIS WAS INCOMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL AND SINCE RAY HAD SUFFERED A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN AND HAD ATTEMPTED SUICIDE, IT WOULD APPEAR THEY HAD MUCH IN COMMON AT MCFP AND WERE VERY LIKELY ACQUAINTED. MEMPHIS IS CONVINCED THAT JIMMIE WAYNE RAY IS THE INDIVIDUAL TO WHOM MARTINEZ ADDRESSED LETTERS FOR SIMPONIS, AND THAT MARTINEZ IS OBVIOUSLY MISTAKEN IN BELIEVING HE WROTE LETTERS TO JAMES EARL RAY AT MEMPHIS.

NEW ORLEANS AT NEW ORLEANS, ATTEMPT TO LOCATE JIMMIE WAYNE RAY AND INTERVIEW. BUREAU HAS REGUESTED TO SUTEL RESULTS TO EUREAU.

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10 MAY 1962 EDITION GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

$oldsymbol{M} emorandum$

: Mr. J. S. Peelman

J. McDono

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 12/22/76

1 - Mr. Lawn

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

Assoc. Dir. _

On December 21, 1976, Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) representative Jim Kieckhofer interviewed Unit Chief Edward J. McDonough, Civil Rights Section, relative to his knowledge of the supervision of the Murkin case in 1968. In line with Kieckhofer's questions, he was advised that Special Agent (SA) Richard E. Long was the case Supervisor, SA Edward J. McDonough was Unit Chief, SA Joseph G. Kelly was Number One Man and SA Clement L. McGowan was Section Chief and the mail relating to leads and developments in the investigation were handled in that chain of command. With respect to communications from legal attaches, Kieckhofer was advised that the originals came to the General Investigative Division (GID), were processed through the section chief to the case supervisor and copies of these communications also went to the liaison section at the Bureau. He was advised that pertinent developments were brought to the attention of the Number One Man, James R. Malley and Assistant Director Alex Rosen and from thence through the chain of command to the attention of the Director as evidenced by notes on teletypes and/or memos in the Murkin file.

With respect to supervision of the case, he was advised that the Special Agent In Charge in the field had primary responsibility for running the case in the field and the Bureau had supervisory responsibility to suggest leads, arrange support facilities, keep officials advised and in general maintain overall administrative supervision of the case. He inquired as to who originated the search of fingerprint records to identify the assailant and he was advised that it was SA McDonough's recollection that Mr. Rosen may have instituted the search although the potential had been the topic of general discussion previously.

1977

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

2025 RELEASE LINE-

Memorandum to Mr. Peelman Re: MURKIN

In response to Kieckhofer's questions, he was advised that although SA McDonough was aware that there had been a Bureau Domestic Intelligence Division (DID) investigation on Martin Luther King, Jr., this had no effect on our efforts to solve this murder and the Bureau went all out on it. In response to his inquiry as to whether the DID had been contacted or consulted, he was advised that the GID had received some input and suggested leads from DID some of which may have been pursued and others may not have been run out and it was believed that justification pro and con may have been reflected in memos in the file.

In response to shis inquiry, Kieckhofer was advised that the investigative aspects were primarily handled and pursued by the Bureau and we only discussed aspects of the case with the Department where some legal ramification might be involved such as the extradition and the like; however, the Department was kept advised of developments through informative memos and reports which were disseminated to the Department on a timely basis.

ACTION: For Information.

g m

AIRTEL

TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

ATTENTION: BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING SECTION

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL DIVISION

FROM:

SAC, DALLAS (100-11108) (RUC)

SUBJECT:

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

MURKIN DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW; COST DATA

Re Dallas airtel to the Bureau dated 10/26/76.

The following costs were incurred by the Dallas Office in connection with the above-captioned matter during October, 1976:

- 1. Manpower: HENRY E. LUX, JR., GS-3, Step 1, 10 hours regular time; SA JAMES W. ANDERTON, GS-13, Step 10, two hours regular time;
- Unusual Costs: Xerox paper, \$2.23

No costs were incurred by the Dallas Office in connection with this investigation during November, 1976.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNICLASSIFIED James

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10 JULY 1973 EDITION GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.5

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

то : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

DATE:

12/17/76

FROM

944-703) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Remylet, dated 12/7/76.

Docket of U.S. Supreme Court showed:

Case Number: 76-5508

Title of Case:

JAMES EARL RAY vs.

WARDEN J. H. ROSE

Petition denied on 12/13/76.

 $\,$ $\,$ The petition contained no serious allegations against the FBI.

DEC- 87

22 DEC 21 1976

DFH:bab
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DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, WFO (44-703) (RUC)

MURKIN

Remylet, dated 12/7/76.

Docket of U.S. Supreme Court showed:

Case Number: 76-5508

Title of Case: JAMES EARL RAY vs. WARDEN J. H. ROSE

Petition denied on 12/13/76.

The petition contained no serious allegations against the FBI.

2-Bureau 2-WFO (1-66-5413) DFH:bab (4) PP HQ ME

FEDERAL BUREAU UF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY
MEMPHIS (44-1987) PRIORITY

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Training

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Director's See'y

15 JAN 3 1977

FRANK WINSETT (PROTECT), WHITE MALE, AGE 26, WHOSE RELIABILITY IS UNKNOWN, VISITED BIRMINGHAM OFFICE DECEMBER 3, 1976,
AND EXPRESSED DESIRE TO FURNISH INFORMATION HELPFUL TO A RECENT
BIRMINGHAM DIVISION BANK ROBBERY. HIS INFORMATION WAS NON-SPECIFIC
AND THE BANK ROBBERY HAD BEEN SOLVED. HE ADVISED HE WAS A ONETIME UNSUCCESSFUL BUREAU APPLICANT-CLERK, AND DISCUSSED SOME LOCAL
CRIMINAL CHARACTERS AND GAMBLERS CONNERALLY, CLAIMING TO BE

HE THEN ADVISED HIS REAL REASON FOR COMING TO THE OFFICE WAS TO FURNISH THE FOLLOWING REGARDING THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ASSASSINATION.

A FRIEND, A WHITE MALE, WHOM HE WOULD NOT IDENTIFY,

KNOWLEDGEABLE REGARDING SOME CRIMINAL PERSONALITIES.

Fred Folsona, Dept. OPR advised 12/14/768

1-CRD PER 0-70(f)HNH:912 12/22/96