

4

TP 157-3231

Sister:

Age:  
Residence:  
Telephone No.:

JANET UPSHAW,  
maiden name WEHUNT  
25  
Stone Mountain, Georgia  
404-294-7071.

5\*

August 9, 1978

MEMORANDUM TO MR. MOORE

*MURKIN*

RE: KING ASSASSINATION

*See*

The Washington Post (August 9, 1978, page A1) reports statements attributed to Oliver Patterson of Blackjack, Missouri, who contends that he was in the employ of the FBI. Please let me know the exact status of Patterson, the general nature of information supplied, and whether he would be considered an informant under our present guidelines.

William H. Webster  
Director

WHW:aga  
(3)

*(Handwritten mark)*

ST-137  
REC-70

44-38861-6266

SENT FROM D.S.  
TIME 4:15  
DATE 8/9/78  
BY aga

11 AUG 21 1978

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

*20*

AUG 25 1978

FBI/DOJ

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

# Memorandum

Asso. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir.:

- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv.
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

TO : The Director

DATE: 8/10/78

FROM : Mr. Moore *DM/TEM*

SUBJECT: KING ASSASSINATION

*MURKIN*

PURPOSE:

*See*

To respond to the memorandum from the Director to Mr. Moore dated August 9, 1978, in which the Director requested information regarding former informant Oliver Patterson of Blackjack, Missouri.

DETAILS:

Oliver B. Patterson, Jr., was operated as an informant by the St. Louis Division from January 9, 1970, until September 23, 1971, when he was discontinued because he had divulged his informant relationship with the FBI to a third party. Patterson provided information regarding white hate groups including the Minutemen and the National States Rights Party of Missouri. Patterson's services included a trip to Savannah, Georgia, in May, 1971, where he attended a conference at National States Rights Party headquarters. Patterson was paid \$1,137.00 for services rendered and \$838.70 for expenses incurred while an informant.

Under present guidelines, an informant such as Patterson was, would be considered a domestic security informant and his activities would be subject to the Attorney General guidelines in domestic security investigations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None. For information.

REC-70

*44-38861-6267*

ST-131

11 AUG 21 1978

JJJ:cmf/emj  
(3)

*DM/TEM*

APPROVED: *WJH*  
 Director \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asso. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_

Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crim. Inv.   
 Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_

1 - Mr. Moore

*J. Edgar Hoover*



79 AUG 25 1978

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

FBI/DOJ

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AUG 15 9 52 AM '78

211

ORGANIZED CRIME  
SECTION -

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR  
F. B. I.

AUG 11 8 43 AM '78

AUG 16 4 13 PM 1978

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR  
F B I

RECEIVED

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

AUG 10 4 55 PM '78

AUG 16 9 44 AM '78

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
F B I

RECEIVED  
CRIMINAL  
INVESTIGATIVE  
FRONT OFFICE

AUG 16 10 40 AM 1978

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

TP0005 2152217

RR HQ AT ME

DE TP

R 032101Z AUG 78

FM TAMPA (157-3231) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ROUTINE

ATLANTA (44-2386) ROUTINE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS  
MURKIN.

RE TAMPA TELETYPE, JULY 26, 1978.

ON AUGUST 2, 1978, SGT. ROBERT T. WEHUNT, JR., RECONTACTED THE TAMPA OFFICE AND ADVISED HE HAD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING ABOVE-CAPTIONED CASE. HE ADVISED HIS FATHER WAS GIVEN A DRUG BY A MILITARY DOCTOR APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS BEFORE HIS DEATH THAT WAS A "MIND ALTERING DRUG." HE SAID HIS MOTHER WOULD KNOW THE DOCTOR'S NAME AND ALSO HAVE INFORMATION REGARDING THE DRUG WHICH WAS GIVEN TO HIS FATHER. HE ALSO STATED HE BELIEVED HIS FATHER HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE, AND THE AUTOPSY SHOWED "BRAIN DAMAGE," WHICH HE BELIEVED WAS

3 AUG 78 22 18z  
RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir.	
Dep. AD Adm.	
Dep. AD Inv.	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Intell.	
Laboratory	
Legal Coun.	
Plan. & Insp.	
Rec. Mgnt.	
Tech. Servs.	
Training	
Public Affs. Off.	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

*Handwritten signatures and initials:*  
J. J. [unclear]  
B. B. [unclear]  
F. O. [unclear]  
P. [unclear]  
C. W. [unclear]

*Handwritten initials in a circle:* JK

EX-110 REC-33 44-38861-6268

22 AUG 9 1978

070-C  
8-7-78  
JTA/PPM  
see file copy

*Handwritten:* 4 - [unclear]

*Handwritten:* 291  
57 SEP 8 1978

*7/28/78*

AUG 14 1978

RECEIVED  
CRIMINAL  
INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS  
F B I

AUG 3 8 14 PM '78

AUG 4 7 19 AM 1978

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

[Faint, mostly illegible typed text, possibly a letter or report body]

ISSUED BY [illegible]

PAGE TWO TP 157-3231 UNCLAS

CAUSED FROM THE DRUG HIS FATHER WAS TAKING. SGT. WEHUNT WAS ADVISED THAT THIS INFORMATION WOULD BE FURNISHED TO THE BUREAU'S ATTENTION.

BT

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- E F T O
- CLEAR

Date 8/9/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) RUC

MURKIN

On 8/8/79 Warden IRL E. DAY, USP, Leavenworth, Kansas (USPL), forwarded a letter to the FBI at Leavenworth, Kansas, which he received 8/7/78. The letter is as follows:

"Aug. 1, 1978

"Warden,  
Federal Penitentiary  
Leavenworth, Ks.

"Sir:

"For what it may be worth - James Earl Raye escaped from Mo. State Pen at Jefferson City in 1967.

"Informant - J. T. Hull, Sheriff's Office (Morgan County, Mo.) Versailles, Mo., 1967.

"Witness - Policeman named Sonny.

"Signed  
/x/ Roy G. Kulp  
Gen. Del.  
Lewiston, Idaho 83501

2 Bureau  
2 Butte  
1 Kansas City  
WAW:jrt  
(5)

EX-136

REC-33

44-38861-6269

23 AUG 18 1978

Approved: SEP 8 1978

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Time)

Per \_\_\_\_\_ FBI/DOJ



KC 44-760

"J.T. Hull could have been involved in Stringbean -  
Hee Haw (1974) - Re Nashville, Tenn. Police Dept."

LEAD:

BUTTE

AT LEWISTON, IDAHO

UACB, contact ROY J. KULP, General Delivery, re  
this letter.

MEO004-2301945Z

OO HI JN SA

DE ME

O 181945Z AUG 78

FM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

SAN ANTONIO IMMEDIATE

BT *[Handwritten initials]*

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH BUILDING.

MURKIN.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, GENE BARKSDALE, SHERIFF, SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, FURNISHED FOLLOWING:

AT APPROXIMATELY 9:15 PM ON AUGUST 17, 1978, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS BURGESS AUDIE WILSON TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED SHERIFF BARKSDALE AT THE SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SUB-STATION, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. WILSON FURNISHED SHERIFF BARKSDALE BACKGROUND INFORMATION REGARDING BARKSDALE AND INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONS KNOWN TO BARKSDALE AS MEMBERS OR FORMER MEMBERS OF THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS, IN WHICH BARKSDALE HAS BEEN ACTIVE FOR 26 YEARS. WILSON RELATED

*[Handwritten initials]*

18 AUG 78 20 09z

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Insp.	_____
Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

*[Handwritten signature]*

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FBI

REC-130

44-38861-270

2 AUG 24 1978

AUG 24 5 25 PM '78

RECEIVED  
AND READING SECTION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
DOCUMENT

*[Handwritten initials]*  
70 SEP 13 1978

DOC. CLASS. REV.

DOCUMENT  
CLASSIFICATION  
AND REVIEW SECTION  
RECEIVED

AUG 24 2 32 PM '78

RECEIVED  
RECORDS MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION

FBI  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

AUG 18 4 42 PM '78

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

AUG 25 1978

RECEIVED  
RECORDS MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION  
AUG 23 9 27 AM '78  
F. B. I.  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

8000 11 21 11  
1000 11 21 11

PAGE TWO ME 44-1987 SUB M UNCLAS E F T O

INFORMATION REGARDING PLACES AND TRIPS HE HAD MADE WITH BARKSDALE WHICH INDICATED THAT WILSON WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS.

WILSON INFORMED BARKSDALE HE HAD COMMITTED A FAMOUS CRIME- THAT HE WAS THE MAN WHO KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HE RELATED THAT HE WAS THE TRIGGER MAN AND WAS STANDING ABOUT 65 FEET FROM DR. KING IN A POSITION BELOW THE BALCONY WHERE DR. KING WAS STANDING. ABOUT THREE DAYS PRIOR TO THE DEATH OF DR. KING WILSON'S DAUGHTER, WHOSE IDENTITY HE DECLINED TO FURNISH, DROVE A WHITE MUSTANG FROM KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. HE WOULD FURNISH NO INFORMATION REGARDING THE STORAGE OR USE OF THIS WHITE MUSTANG AFTER THE MUSTANG REACHED MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. HE DECLINED TO FURNISH ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE KILLING OF DR. KING OTHER THAN NOTED ABOVE, BUT STATED THAT INFORMATION FURNISHED BY JAMES EARL RAY IS ACCURATE.

WILSON REQUESTED THAT SHERIFF BARKSDALE MEET HIM AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AT 9:30 AM, AUGUST 20, 1978. BARKSDALE WAS INSTRUCTED TO ENTER THE DINING ROOM AT THE HOLIDAY INN WITHOUT A COAT AND THAT WILSON WOULD SURRENDER TO

PAGE THREE ME 44-1987-SUB M E F T O

HIM THERE. HE INSISTED THAT BARKSDALE BE ALONE, THAT HE NOT BE MISTREATED AFTER HE SURRENDERED AND THAT BARKSDALE NOT INFORM THE FBI, AND IF BETRAYED, HE WOULD NOT SURRENDER. WILSON DECLINED TO FURNISH BARKSDALE HIS LOCATION, BUT BARKSDALE BELIEVED THAT IT WAS A LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALL.

AT APPROXIMATELY 11:45 PM, WILSON AGAIN TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED BARKSDALE AND FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

HE HAD A CLEAR CONSCIENCE, HAD TALKED WITH HIS FAMILY, AND WAS READY TO CONFESS TO SHERIFF BARKSDALE ALONE. HE AGAIN REQUESTED SHERIFF BARKSDALE TO MEET HIM AT THE HOLIDAY INN IN GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AT 9:30 AM, AUGUST 18, 1978 IN THE DINING ROOM WITHOUT HIS COAT ON AND ALONE. SHERIFF BARKSDALE POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT HE, BARKSDALE, WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY MEETING HIM AT GULFPORT AT THE APPOINTED TIME AND REQUESTED THAT THEY ARRANGE A MEETING AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI. WILSON COUNTERED BY INFORMING BARKSDALE THAT BARKSDALE WAS A PILOT AND HAD ACCESS TO AIRCRAFT AND THAT HE COULD OBTAIN A PLANE AND REACH GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI IN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. WILSON ABSOLUTELY DECLINED TO MEET WITH BARKSDALE IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI. DURING THIS CONVERSATION, WILSON INFORMED BARKSDALE THAT HE WAS THEN IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, AND THAT

PAGE FOUR ME 44-1987 B M E F T O

HE COULD REACH GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI IN ABOUT ONE AND ONE HALF HOURS.

AT APPROXIMATELY 9:45 AM, AUGUST 18, 1978, REVEREND NOEL FANNON, PASTOR, ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, TELEPHONE NUMBER 875-0654, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED SHERIFF BARKSDALE AND FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

REVEREND FANNON WAS IN A CAFE IN OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 18, 1978, HAVING BREAKFAST. BURGESS WILSON APPROACHED HIM AND RELATED INFORMATION INDICATING HE, WILSON, HAD SHOT DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE IN APRIL OF 1968. HE INFORMED REVEREND FANNON THAT HE WAS TO MEET SHERIFF BARKSDALE AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AND REQUESTED REVEREND FANNON TO FOLLOW HIM TO THE HOLIDAY INN.

PAGE FIVE ME 44-1987 B M E F T O

WILSON ALSO TALKED WITH SHERIFF BARKSDALE ON THIS OCCASION AND ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE FAILURE OF SHERIFF BARKSDALE TO MEET WITH HIM AT 9:30 AM ON AUGUST 18, 1978, AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED. SHERIFF BARKSDALE INFORMED WILSON THAT HE HAD BEEN ON DUTY ALL NIGHT IN CONNECTION WITH THE STRIKE INVOLVING THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO ARRANGE MATTERS SO THAT HE COULD MEET WITH HIM. BARKSDALE INFORMED WILSON THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH HIM. WILSON INFORMED BARKSDALE THAT HE WOULD STAY IN THE VICINITY OF THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, AND WOULD CONTACT THE DESK CLERK AT THE HOLIDAY INN PERIODICALLY IN ORDER FOR BARKSDALE TO ARRANGE TO MEET WITH HIM. WILSON FURNISHED BARKSDALE TELEPHONE NUMBER 601-864-4310 AS THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF A HOLIDAY INN HE WOULD PERIODICALLY CONTACT.

BARKSDALE REPORTED THAT WILSON APPEARED TO BE COHERENT AND THIS INFORMATION WAS ALSO FURNISHED TO BARKSDALE BY REVEREND FANNON.

BARKSDALE FURNISHED INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION, SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, INDICATING THAT BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, FBI NUMBER [REDACTED], WAS ARRESTED AT THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ON MAY 14, 1964, BY THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT ON MAY 26, 1964, AND BY THE

PAGE SIX ME 1987-SUB W E F T O

SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ON MAY 27, 1964 AND MARCH 24, 1965, WITH RESIDENCE AT 3612 COVINGTON PIKE, MEMPHIS. WILSON WAS ARRESTED BY THE BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS AUTHORITIES ON JUNE 12, 1972 FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT DRAWING OUT OF THE CHILD SUPPORT QUESTIONED IN BEXAR COUNTY. AT THE TIME WILSON RESIDED AT 1505 WEST CANYON LAKE DRIVE, CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. HIS EMPLOYMENT WAS SHOWN AS A JEWELER.

THE FBI FINGERPRINT RECORD INDICATES THAT WILSON IS KNOWN AS BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. HE IS A WHITE MALE BORN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, 5'10" TALL, 155 POUNDS, BROWN EYES AND BROWN HAIR. WHEN ARRESTED IN MAY OF 1964, HE RESIDED AT 3095 RUSKIN ROAD, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

DURING CONVERSATION WITH SHERIFF BARKSDALE, WILSON INDICATED HE HAS A FATHER-IN-LAW, VERNON HOOTEN, WHO RESIDES AT 3095



PAGE SEVEN ME 44-1987 SUB M E F T O

R USKIN ROAD, MEMPHIS, TELEPHONE NUMBER 386-4628, AND THAT HIS FATHER WAS FORMERLY PASTOR AT THE HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, CHELSEA AND HOLLYWOOD AVENUES, MEMPHIS, AND AT THE CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI.

ADMINISTRATIVE: RE MEMPHIS TELEPHONE CALLS TO BUREAU SUPERVISOR DREW CLARK, AUGUST 18, 1978. SUCOP

MEMPHIS INDICES AND FILES REVEAL BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., WAS ELIMINATED AS A SUSPECT IN AN 87 MATTER INVOLVING THE TRANSPORTATION OF JEWELRY IN 1973. AT THE TIME, IT WAS DETERMINED HE HAD BEEN IN BUSINESS AS THE NORTH STAR DIAMOND CIRCLE, VALLEY HILL MALL, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, FROM EARLY 1971 TO MIDDLE 1971.

JACKSON AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, WILL CAUSE A REVIEW OF RECORDS AT LOGICAL POLICE AGENCIES REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., FBI NUMBER 879-421 E.

SAN ANTONIO AT BEXAR, TEXAS, WILL REVIEW APPROPRIATE RECORDS RE IDENTITY OF CHILDREN OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., NOTING HE WAS BOOKED AT BEXAR COUNTY JAIL JUNE 19, 1972, FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT GROWING OUT OF CHILD SUPPORT QUESTION IN BEXAR COUNTY.

BT

CC - Crim Inv Div

083

OCC 57  
A  
P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

PAGE 1 OF 4

DATE 8/22/78 CLASSIFICATION UNCLAS PRECEDENCE PRIORITY

FM DIRECTOR FBI [44-38861] TO FBI BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

YUUPART 222206Z AUG 78

- 14 FBI CHICAGO PRIORITY
- 14 FBI DALLAS PRIORITY
- 14 FBI HOUSTON PRIORITY
- 12 FBI JACKSON PRIORITY
- 10 FBI KANSAS CITY PRIORITY
- 10 FBI MEMPHIS PRIORITY
- 10 FBI OKLAHOMA CITY PRIORITY
- 8 FBI SAN ANTONIO PRIORITY
- 8 FBI ST. LOUIS PRIORITY

DO NOT TYPE PAST THIS LINE

BT

UNCLAS

MURKIN

EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION HAS ALREADY BEEN CONDUCTED TO  
RESOLVE THE ALLEGATION BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON THAT HE  
ASSASSINATED MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND TO DETERMINE  
DO NOT TYPE MESSAGE BELOW THIS LINE

APPROVED BY	DRAFTED BY	DATE	ROOM	TELE EXT.
<i>[Signature]</i>	HNH:BAM [7]	8/22/78	5121/6	4270

SI-126

REC 32 44-38861-6291

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

- 1 - MR. ADAMS
- 1 - MR. MOORE
- 1 - MR. INGRAM
- 1 - MR. PEELMAN
- 1 - MR. HELTERHOFF
- 1 - MR. BASSETT

AUG 25 1978  
0229Z PM  
TELETYPE

2 AUG 24 1978

57 SEP 13 1978

DO NOT FILE WITHOUT COMMUNICATIONS STAMP

FBI/DOJ

22 AUG 78 20 06

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

PAGE 2

CONTINUATION SHEET

~~PAGE TWO~~ DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

WILSON'S WHEREABOUTS ON APRIL 4, 1968, THE DAY KING WAS  
 20 ASSASSINATED. IN ADDITION, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, THE  
 18 FOLLOWING OFFICES SHOULD CONDUCT THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL  
 INVESTIGATION:

16 SAN ANTONIO:

WILSON ALLEGED ON AN UNSPECIFIED DATE MITCH {LNU}  
 14 FURNISHED HIM A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY  
 USED TO SHOOT KING. DEBRA JONES, DAUGHTER, ADVISED HE WAS  
 12 ARRESTED ABOUT FOUR AND ONE HALF YEARS AGO AT BROWNSVILLE,  
 TEXAS, WHILE INTOXICATED AFTER HAVING MADE THREATS TO KILL  
 10 HIS WIFE, AND THE POLICE FOUND A RIFLE IN HIS CAR.

SAN ANTONIO AT BROWNSVILLE, OBTAIN DETAILS OF THIS ARREST,  
 8 AND OBTAIN ANY DESCRIPTION OF RIFLE REPORTEDLY LOCATED BY  
 POLICE.

6 JACKSON:

APPARENTLY REFERRING TO A SKETCH OF KING'S KILLER,  
 4 WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS {WORKING ASSOCIATES IN OCEAN SPRINGS,  
 MISSISSIPPI} THAT IT WAS ALMOST AN EXACT LIKENESS OF HIM AND  
 2 BECAUSE IT WAS RECENTLY SHOWN ON TV, HE DECIDED TO TURN HIM-  
 SELF IN. WILSON SAID HE HAS A SISTER IN FULTON, MISSISSIPPI,

DO NOT TYPE MESSAGE BELOW THIS LINE

DO NOT TYPE PAST THIS LINE

FBI/DOJ

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

PAGE 3

CONTINUATION SHEET

PAGE THREE DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS  
 START HERE

WHO TELEPHONED HIM IN OCEAN SPRINGS TO SAY THAT THE SKETCH  
 20 LOOKED JUST LIKE HIM.

18 JACKSON, IN YOUR ATTEMPT TO LOCATE CHRISTINE WILSON,  
 SISTER, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, ALSO  
 16 INTERVIEW HER RE ALLEGED CALL RE SKETCH DESCRIBED ABOVE.

MEMPHIS:

14 WILSON ADVISED THE TWO WHITE MALES IN MEMPHIS TOOK HIM TO  
 A HOTEL ON SOUTH MAIN STREET NEAR BEALE STREET AND TOOK HIM  
 12 TO A ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR. MEMPHIS ADVISE PROXIMITY OF  
 THIS ADDRESS TO ACTUAL KING ASSASSINATION LOCATION.

10 OPAL HOOTEN, MOTHER OF BETTY LOU WADE, WAS UNABLE TO  
 FURNISH SPECIFIC DATES OF VISITS OF BETTY AND DEBRA, HOWEVER,  
 8 WOULD CHECK FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS. DEBRA ALSO STATED WHILE  
 HER MOTHER BETTY AND HER WERE IN MEMPHIS VISITING HOOTENS  
 6 AT TIME KING WAS ASSASSINATED, BETTY CALLED WILSON IN KANSAS  
 CITY AT LEAST TWO TIMES.

4 MEMPHIS FOLLOW STATUS OF HOOTEN LOCATING FAMILY MEDICAL  
 RECORDS, AND DETERMINE WHETHER SHE HAS ANY TELEPHONE RECORDS,  
 2 OR IF SAME ARE AVAILABLE AT TELEPHONE COMPANY, SHOWING ANY  
 CALLS TO KANSAS CITY, OR GRANDVIEW AREA, DURING PERIOD OF

DO NOT TYPE MESSAGE BELOW THIS LINE

DO NOT TYPE PAST THIS LINE

FBI/DOJ

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

PAGE 4

CONTINUATION SHEET

PAGE FOUR DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

APRIL 1968.

20 ALL RECIPIENT OFFICES:  
 18 SUTEL SUMMARY RESULTS OF ANY INVESTIGATION STILL  
 16 OUTSTANDING, AND PROMPTLY SUBMIT REPORTS REPORTING ALL  
 14 INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED RE WILSON'S ALLEGATION, DESIGNATING  
 4 COPIES TO BUREAU, AND 3 TO MEMPHIS, WITH COPY DESIGNATED  
 12 FOR USA MEMPHIS.

BT

DO NOT TYPE PAST THIS LINE

DO NOT TYPE MESSAGE BELOW THIS LINE

TELETYPE TO SAC, BH, ET AL.  
RE: MURKIN

NOTE: ON 8/18/78 AND 8/19/78 WILSON, PRESENTLY INCARCERATED AT THE OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, JAIL, MADE AN ALLEGATION THAT HE SHOT MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., WHILE KING WAS ATTENDING A RALLY GIVING A SPEECH. (IT IS NOTED THAT KING WAS SHOT AS HE EXITED HIS MOTEL ROOM AND STOOD ON A BALCONY, NOT WHILE HE WAS ATTENDING RALLY GIVING A SPEECH). EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED TO RESOLVE THIS ALLEGATION. WILSON'S EX-WIFE, DAUGHTER, TWO SONS AND A BROTHER STATED WILSON WAS IN GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, AT THE TIME OF THE KING ASSASSINATION. RELATIVES ALSO STATE WILSON HAS DRINKING AND MENTAL PROBLEMS.

SEVERAL LEADS REMAIN OUTSTANDING, MAINLY FOCUSING ON WILSON'S WHEREABOUTS ON THE DAY OF THE KING ASSASSINATION, AND HIS CLAIM THAT HE FLEW AN AIRPLANE FROM MISSOURI TO MEMPHIS.

THIS TELETYPE SETS OUT SEVERAL LEADS AS COORDINATED FROM INCOMING TELETYPES, AND SETS FORTH REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ADVISED.

44-38861-23

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>ST. LOUIS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MEMPHIS</b>	DATE <b>8/24/78</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>8/17-22/78</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS</b>	TYPED BY <b>JSH</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CR - CONSPIRACY</b>	

- RUC -

### ADMINISTRATIVE:

St. Louis indices reflect no reference to **LYNDA B. COBBLE, JERRY COBBLE, JAMES ALLEN BENNEY, JIM BENNEY, or JAMES L. BIRCHETT.**

**COBBLE**  
37

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVICTIONS	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED: *PKM* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

- Bureau (44-38861)
- Memphis (2 - 44-1987) JTB
- (1 - USA, Memphis)
- St. Louis (44-775)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

**44-38861-6272**

**15 AUG 28 1978**

**REC-104**

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				Notations
Agency	Request Recd.	Date Fwd.	How Fwd.	
				<i>[Handwritten mark]</i>
By: <i>[Signature]</i>				

**66 SEP 18 1978**

COVER PAGE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - United States Attorney, Memphis

Report of: SA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS      Office: ST. LOUIS  
Date: August 24, 1978

Field Office File #: SL 44-775      Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

## Synopsis:

*IV*

~~LYNDA D. COBBLE~~ (white female, DOB ), residing ~~Arnold, Missouri~~, advised she has been the recipient of numerous anonymous threatening telephone calls since the death of victim KING. COBBLE states caller warns her not to talk on threat of physical harm. First call received shortly after KING's death and have continued until present time. COBBLE states she married JAMES ALLEN BENNEY in 3/68. Four or five months following marriage, BENNEY brought JAMES EARL RAY to their residence in Maplewood, Missouri, when COBBLE was pregnant. COBBLE's daughter was born  at St. Louis, and RAY visited COBBLE during maternity confinement and advised hospital officials that he, RAY, was the child's father. According to COBBLE, the birth of her daughter and RAY's hospital visits occurred prior to the death of victim KING. In early 1969 COBBLE moved to her mother's residence, and her husband, JAMES ALLEN BENNEY, relocated in Memphis, Tennessee, after purchasing a house. The downpayment on BENNEY's residence in Memphis was paid by RAY. COBBLE advised the night before victim KING was killed she was at BENNEY's residence in Memphis, Tennessee. COBBLE and JAMES EARL RAY were watching television when reference was made on the television concerning KING. RAY made a statement referring to KING, "Somebody ought to waste him." COBBLE never saw RAY after that evening. COBBLE advised her former husband, JAMES BENNEY, was shot and killed in Portland, Oregon, on 11/28/71.

*202 Crosswinds Apts. AR*

- RUC -

Details: AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

SL 44-775

This investigation was predicated upon ~~LYNDA BENNEY~~ residing ~~202 Crosswind Drive, Arnold, Missouri,~~ advising the St. Louis Office on August 17, 1978, that she had received several threatening anonymous telephone calls in which the caller states that she would be "wasted" if she contacted any official regarding JERRY RAY or his brother, JAMES EARL RAY. She did not know the origin of the telephone calls as to whether they were local or long distance. She stated that her former husband, JAMES ALLEN BENNEY, who is now deceased, once robbed a bank with JERRY RAY in which part of the loot was never recovered.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 8/22/78

LYNDA D. COBBLE was contacted at her residence 202 Crosswinds Apartments, Arnold, Missouri. Also present during the course of the interview was Arnold, Missouri Police Sergeant MICHAEL COLLIER.

COBBLE was advised of the identity of interviewing Agent by display of credentials. COBBLE was previously aware of identity of Sergeant COLLIER.

COBBLE stated that she had been the recipient of numerous threatening telephone calls subsequent to the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. She furnished the following information concerning those calls.

COBBLE received the first call at the residences of her mother in Cahokia, Illinois, telephone number 337-7267, shortly after the arrest of JAMES EARL RAY for the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. She advised that this call was made by a male caller, no further description, who stated "If you keep your mouth shut you won't get hurt". She stated that shortly later while she and her mother were at the K-Mart Store in Belleville, Illinois, she was approached by a white male approximately 6'6" tall with a scar on the side of his face approximate age 35 or 36, and a tattoo on his right bicep. She stated that the individual stated that she had a very pretty baby and that she had better keep her mouth shut. COBBLE stated that she received four or five additional calls while she was staying at her mother's house in Cahokia, Illinois, during the period of time shortly after the arrest of JAMES EARL RAY. She advised that all of the calls contained threats advising her not to make any statement.

COBBLE stated that shortly after marrying her second husband, JAMES L. BIRCHETT, and while they resided at 40 Agnes Drive, Cahokia, Illinois, she received four or five additional calls advising her not to say anything about JAMES EARL RAY. She advised that these calls started approximately three to four months after she and BIRCHETT were married. Their wedding date was August 26, 1972. BIRCHETT and COBBLE were subsequently divorced.

Interviewed on 8/22/78 at Arnold, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA MICHAEL N. MURPHY:mt Date dictated 8/22/78

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.

2

SL 44-775

COBBLE married JERRY COBBLE, her present husband, and moved to 621 5th Avenue, Conway, Arkansas, approximately one year ago. Approximately six months ago, she received several telephone calls of the same nature and shortly later received several more calls. She advised that some of the calls mentioned JAMES EARL RAY by name and during the calls she was told to keep her mouth shut and she or her kids would not get hurt.

LYNDA COBBLE and her husband, JERRY COBBLE, moved from Conway, Arkansas to their present address in Arnold, Missouri, approximately two weeks ago. She has received four or five calls, and in each case the caller sounds to COBBLE to be the same individual. During one specific call she was told to keep her mouth shut if she wanted to see daylight the next day. She recalls that the first call that she received at her new residence in Arnold, Missouri, occurred approximately 9:30 PM on an unrecalled date and then the next call occurred approximately 3:00 AM the next morning. She claims to have also received several subsequent calls at approximately 7:00 AM on various mornings. COBBLE states that the last call was received the morning that MIKE COLLIER of the police department, Arnold, Missouri, came out and interviewed her in response to her telephone call to the Arnold Police Department. She stated with regards to all of the aforementioned calls she is positive that none of the calls were collect calls and that there was never an operator on the line.

Upon questioning, COBBLE furnished the following information concerning the history of her association with JAMES EARL RAY:

COBBLE married JAMES ALLEN BENNEY, white male, date of birth [redacted] on March 11, 1968. When they first got married, they were living at Maplewood, Missouri, at an unrecalled address. At approximately the fourth or fifth month of their marriage, her husband JAMES BENNEY brought JAMES EARL RAY home with him on one occasion and introduced RAY to COBBLE. COBBLE was pregnant at that time with her daughter, STEPHONIE JANE BENNEY, and RAY appeared to be very crazy about kids. On fact on numerous occasions,

RAY brought baby things during his visits to their residence for the expected arrival of the baby. COBBLE cannot recall any specific incidents involving criminal activity between her husband and RAY that occurred while they resided at Maplewood. Approximately two months after COBBLE met RAY, she and JAMES BENNEY moved to a new residence located at Florissant, Missouri. This was approximately four months before [REDACTED] was born. The baby's birth date was [REDACTED]. COBBLE and her husband resided at an apartment complex located behind the Ramada Inn or possibly a Holiday Inn near a Target Store and a Central Hardware Store in Florissant, Missouri. They lived at that apartment for approximately one year. During that year, JAMES EARL RAY visited their residence frequently.

COBBLE stated that she and her husband were still residing at the residence in Florissant, Missouri on [REDACTED] when her daughter STEPHONIE JANE BENNEY was born at Missouri Baptist Hospital. In fact, JAMES EARL RAY visited the baby, JANE BENNEY, at the Missouri Baptist Hospital at the approximate time of her birth and advised hospital officials that he was the baby's father. COBBLE stated that this all occurred prior to the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

Approximately three months after [REDACTED] birth, LYNDA COBBLE moved out with the baby and they moved in with her mother at Cahokia, Illinois. She was living in Cahokia, Illinois when Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING was killed.

At the same time that COBBLE moved out of the apartment in Florissant and in with her mother, JAMES BENNEY moved out of the apartment also and relocated at a house in Memphis, Tennessee. The money for the down payment for the house was given to JAMES BENNEY by JAMES EARL RAY. Sometime before Dr. KING's death, BENNEY contacted COBBLE and asked her to come down with the baby to visit. She went down to Memphis and visited BENNEY for two or three days.

During the period of time that COBBLE was visiting with BENNEY at the aforementioned house in Memphis, Tennessee approximately five different men came and visited BENNEY at the house. She described the individuals as all being large white males wearing business suits and carrying attache cases and ranging in age from 25 to 30. JAMES EARL RAY and his



brother, JERRY RAY, were also at the house in Memphis during her visit on numerous occasions. COBBLE recalls specifically overhearing a particular meeting between the aforementioned individuals at the house in Memphis, Tennessee. She recalls they were discussing a bank robbery to occur in Florissant, Missouri. JERRY RAY appeared to be the leader of the group and all of the individuals referred to a floor diagram of the bank to be robbed. The bank was to be robbed by JERRY RAY, JIM BENNEY, and two other individuals who were not at the meeting and who she never had occasion to meet. COBBLE believes that the business men had floor plans for several different banks and that the intent of the people in the group was to rob several different banks.

Upon questioning, COBBLE advised that she could not recall any mention during these meetings concerning the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING or any mention of MARTIN LUTHER KING or any mention of anybody named RAOUL.

COBBLE recalls that there were several conversations that occurred behind closed doors but she assumed they made reference to bank robberies.

COBBLE stated that the night before Dr. KING was killed, she and JAMES EARL RAY were watching television and RAY was playing with her baby, [REDACTED] on the floor in front of the television set when mention was made over the television concerning Dr. KING's visit in Memphis. COBBLE recalls that RAY made a statement to the effect "that black sonofabitch all he does is raise hell somebody ought to waste him". COBBLE advised that it was obvious from her numerous conversations with RAY that he absolutely hated black people and he made that hatred very clear. She recalls that on several occasions prior to that evening that she heard JAMES EARL RAY make statements to the effect that he would like to waste him. (Referring to Dr. KING). COBBLE stated that she got into an argument with JAMES EARL RAY that evening concerning the fact that she wanted to go back to Cahokia with the baby. RAY became enraged because he wanted COBBLE to stay there with the baby for a while.

5

SL 44-775

COBBLE stated that same evening which was the evening before Dr. KING's murder, she left Memphis and went back to her mother's residence in Cahokia, Illinois and never saw JAMES EARL RAY in person again.

COBBLE stated that two or three weeks after she returned from Memphis, the bank robbery occurred at Florissant, Missouri, and it was her understanding as related to her by JIM BENNEY that the money was obtained to raise lawyer fees for JAMES EARL RAY.

On the night of the aforementioned bank robbery, JAMES BENNEY came to visit COBBLE at her mother's residence in Cahokia, Illinois. COBBLE went out to the car in which BENNEY was riding and observed approximately four bags of money with currency scattered in the back seat. COBBLE described that car as fairly new at that time, green over green Charger. She recalls that BENNEY had several sets of registration certificates and several different sets of license plates for that car. She advised that BENNEY told her that he was supposed to meet the others involved in the bank robbery at Memphis, Tennessee to split up the money, however, he wanted her to leave with him and move out to Portland, Oregon and just keep all the money for themselves. COBBLE refused to go with BENNEY.

COBBLE recalls that JERRY RAY was apprehended on the very day of the bank robbery several hours after the bank robbery. She advised she observed JERRY RAY on television at the time of his arrest and that she has seen him on numerous occasions on television subsequent to that date. She stated that the individual that she has seen has identified as JERRY RAY on television is the same JERRY RAY that she saw at the aforementioned residence in Memphis, Tennessee.

COBBLE stated that after she refused to go to Portland, Oregon with JIM BENNEY, he went out there on his own and started working in a bar. She advised that he was shot and killed in a bar on November 28, 1971. She stated that at the time of his death he had only been out to Oregon several months.

6  
SL 44-775

COBBLE further advised that on the day of her husband's death, she went to the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) located in St. Louis, Missouri and conferred with an Agent known to her as PETE concerning her husband's death.

Upon questioning COBBLE advised that she and her husband, JAMES BENNEY, previously owned the Grape Vine Bar located on Arsenal Street in St. Louis. She stated that they had purchased the bar from JERRY RAY.

COBBLE originally stated that the bar was sold to them by JERRY RAY after the death of Dr. KING and she was 17 years old at that particular time. She stated that they operated the bar for approximately six to eight months before they sold it. When confronted with the conflict in time concerning the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING COBBLE stated that actually she and JAMES BENNEY purchased the bar before Dr. KING was killed, but while they were separated and not living together. She stated that JAMES BENNEY subsequently sold the bar after Dr. KING's death at the request of JERRY RAY in order to raise money for JAMES EARL RAY's lawyers.

COBBLE was confronted with the fact that Dr. KING had been killed on April 4, 1968 and that it would be impossible for JAMES EARL RAY to have seen the baby prior to that date inasmuch as the baby was not born until [redacted] and COBBLE stated that there must be a mistake in dates. She further stated that she is absolutely sure that JAMES EARL RAY was very fond of her daughter, [redacted], who was born in [redacted] and that on the night before Dr. KING was killed, RAY was playing with the baby in front of the television set at the residence in Memphis, Tennessee.

COBBLE stated that she believes that JAMES BENNEY and JERRY RAY had been involved in several bank robberies and service station holdups; however she was not cognizant of the details.



7  
SL 44-775

The following information was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	LYNDA D. COBBLE, nee Leach, formerly LYNDA D. BENNEY and LYNDA D. BIRCHETT
Race	White
Sex	Female
Age	24
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Height	5'2"
Weight	160 pounds
Hair	Bleach blond
Occupation	Housewife
Residence	202 Crosswinds Arnold, Missouri
Residential Telephone	296-2193
Former Residence	621 5th Avenue Conway, Arkansas
Relatives	Mother: IRENE BIRCHETT 102 Lazercheff Drive Cahokia, Illinois, telephone number 337-7267

SIC013 2310400

PP HQ

DE SI

P 180400Z AUG 78

FM SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

19 AUG 78 04 09z

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY (ATTN: DIVISION 6, EXTRA DUTY DESK)

BT

CLEAR

MURKIN.

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Serv.	_____
Crim. Inv.	<i>MJCA</i>
Ident.	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Insp.	_____
Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

*REC-33*  
*Boyer*  
*Foster*

FOR INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, DETECTIVE RICHARD EVANS, DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION ILLINOIS STATE, DETECTIVE RONALD H. LEE, WILLIAMSON COUNTY DETECTIVE UNIT, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTY STATES ATTORNEY ROBERT HOWERTON, INTERVIEWED EUGENE AND SHIRLEY COX. MR. AND MRS. COX ARE REPUTABLE AND RELIABLE CITIZENS OWNING A PROMINENT BUSINESS IN MARION, ILLINOIS. THE FOLLOWING VERBATIM STATEMENT WAS GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. COX:

ABOUT NOON ON THE DAY AFTER MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS ASSASSINATED, WE (EUGENE COX AND SHIRLEY COX, 402 SOUTH MARKET STREET, MARION, ILLINOIS) LEFT THE MEMPHIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON A MULTIPLE LANE HIGHWAY. AT THE INTERSECTION OF ROUTES 78 AND 51, EUGENE COX SLOWED DOWN TO STOP AT A RED LIGHT, THE RADIO WAS ON AND WE HAD EARLIER HEARD THE POLICE WERE LOOKING FOR A WHITE MUSTANG. WE HEARD A CAR HORN HONKING BEHIND US. WE BOTH SAW A

ST-126 REC-33 44-38861-6173

AUG 29 1978

*(MURKIN REF. ONLY)*  
*BUFILES ANEG RE*  
*Eugene + Shirley Cox*  
*8/21/78 JTR*  
*247*  
57 SEP 13 1978

070-(2)  
1-CIV-(enc)  
1-AAG-Crim. Div (enc)  
1-Civil Rights Div  
JTA: PFM 8-21-78

4-*gallegos*

SP 00 01481

MAILED  
FBI  
AUG 21 1978

U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE

AUG 19 1 17 AM '78  
AUG 21 7 30 AM 1978

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS

RECEIVED  
RECORDS MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION  
F.B.I.  
AUG 21 9 02 AM '78  
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

SI 44-561 PAGE TWO CLEAR

WHITE MUSTANG WEAVING IN AND OUT OF TRAFFIC ABOUT A BLOCK BEHIND. THE WHITE MUSTANG VEARED TO OUR LEFT AND RAN THE RED LIGHT AS A NATIONAL GUARD TRUCK APPROACHED THIS INTERSECTION FROM OUR RIGHT. SHIRLEY COX TURNED AND WATCHED THE DRIVER OF THE WHITE MUSTANG COME UP BEHIND US AND PASS BY ON OUR LEFT. THE WHITE MUSTANG WAS DRIVING FAST PROBABLY ABOUT 60 MILES AN HOUR, WENT THREE OR FOUR BLOCKS AND MADE A RIGHT HAND TURN. THE WHITE MUSTANG WAS GOING SO FAST THAT HE DROVE UP THROUGH A FILLING STATION DRIVEWAY TO MAKE THE RIGHT HAND TURN. WE DO NOT RECALL WHAT THE NAME OF THE FILLING STATION WAS, ONLY THAT IT WAS NATIONAL BRAND GAS STATION. WE HAD TRIED TO GET THE ATTENTION OF THE NATIONAL GUARDSMEN IN THE ARMY VEHICLE, BUT TO NO AVAIL. BETWEEN FOUR AND SIX PM THAT SAME DAY, WE STOPPED FOR DINNER AT THE LEPETITE NEW ORLEANS CLUB IN CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI. EUGUENE COX TELEPHONED THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND TOLD THEM THAT WE HAD SEEN A WHITE MUSTANG BEING DRIVEN ERRATICALLY WHILE WE WERE IN MEMPHIS. THE POLICE OFFICER DID NOT SEEM TOO INTERESTED. WE RETURNED TO OUR HOME IN MARION, ILLINOIS THAT EVENING. THE FOLLOWING DAY WE SAW THE COMPOSITE DRAWING OF THE SUSPECT SLAYER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING IN THE SAINT LOUIS GLOBE DEMOCRAT. SHIRLEY COX STATED THAT THE COMPOSITE DRAW-

SI 44-451 PAGE THREE CLEAR

ING WAS THAT OF THE DRIVER OF THE WHITE MUSTANG IN MEMPHIS. EUGENE COX ONLY HAD A SIDE VIEW OF THE DRIVER OF THE WHITE MUSTANG AS HE PASSED BY US. WE WANT TO MAKE THIS STATEMENT BECAUSE WE HAVE WATCHED JAMES EARL RAY ON TELEVISION AND KNOW THAT HE HAS NOT TRUTHFULLY ACCOUNTED FOR HIS WHEREABOUTS ON THE DAY FOLLOWING MARTIN LUTHER KING'S ASSASSINATION.

STATEMENT WAS SIGNED E.L. COX AND S.M. COX DATED AUGUST 18, 1978.

HOWERTON ADVISED THAT MRS. COX STATED THAT THE MAN ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH KING'S MURDER WAS THE SAME MAN SHE HAD SEEN IN THE WHITE MUSTANG.

THIS INFORMATION IS BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO THE BUREAU IN VIEW OF RAY'S TESTIMONY.

SPRINGFIELD INDICES NEGATIVE RE MR. AND MRS. COX.

BT

File Copy

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General  
**Criminal Division**

FROM : Director, FBI  
**(62-117290)**

DATE: **August 21, 1978**

**ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT L. KEUCH**

SUBJECT: **ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,  
APRIL 4, 1968  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE**

Reference is made to \_\_\_\_\_ memorandum dated \_\_\_\_\_  
(your file \_\_\_\_\_).

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent <sup>a</sup> ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ **teletype**  
dated **8-18-78** at **Springfield, Illinois**.

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)**

**1 - Civil Rights Division**

00  
000384 2292340Z

RR HQ

DE OC

R 172340Z AUG 78

FM OKLAHOMA CITY (44-686)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

JAMES EARL RAY; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM. CR MATTER.

FOR INFO BUREAU, ROY K. MOORE, AN ATTORNEY OF GOOD REPUTATION FROM LAWTON, OKLA., TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THAT HE HAD BEEN WATCHING THE TELEVISED PROCEEDINGS TODAY REGARDING JAMES EARL RAY'S TESTIMONY. HE NOTED THAT RAY COULD NOT ACCOUNT FOR HIS TIME FOR SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF KING.

MOORE STATED HE IS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH A LAWTON REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER, CARL STEPHENS, WHO HAS TOLD HIM ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF KING, HE ENCOUNTERED A MAN CLOSELY RESEMBLING JAMES EARL RAY ON HIS PROPERTY NEAR A LAKE OUTSIDE OF LAWTON, OKLA.

HE DESCRIBED THIS INDIVIDUAL AS WELL DRESSED AND DRIVING A PLYMOUTH UNDERBIRD AUTOMOBILE. MOORE ADVISED THAT STEPHENS IS

On 8/18/78 AAG R.L. Keuch concurred in immediate oral notification to MSCA and also in furnishing an LHM directly to MSCA this date if it desires same. MSCA representative Gene Johnson advised 8/18/78 by SA Tron Brekke  
RZ  
HHC

18 AUG 78 00 02z

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

*Handwritten notes:*  
Peter - Peter  
net Clark -  
BREKKE  
LARK  
P...  
B...  
JCM

Assoc. Dir.	
Dep. AD Adm.	
Dep. AD Inv.	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Intell.	
Laboratory	
Legal Coun.	
Plan. & Insp.	
Rec. Mgnt.	
Tech. Servs.	
Training	
Public Affs. Off.	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

ST110

REC-89

44-38861-

6274

AUG 23  
B...  
JCM

REC'D CIV RIGHTS  
F B I

AUG 10 7 05 AM 1978

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

AUG 10 10 32 PM '78

RECEIVED  
ORIGINAL  
FBI

AUG 30 1978



PAGE TWO. OC 44-686 UNCLAS

CONVINCED THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL IS IDENTICAL TO RAY.

MOORE STATED THAT STEPHENS IS RESIDING FOR THE SUMMER  
IN DETROIT LAKES, MICHIGAN, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, TELEPHONE  
218/847-2332.

NO LEADS ARE BEING SET FORTH IN THIS MATTER BY THE OKLA.  
CITY DIVISION SINCE THE PERTINENCE OF THE INFORMATION IS UNKNOWN  
TO THE OKLA. CITY DIVISION AND IS BEING FURNISHED TO THE  
BUREAU FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.

BT

#

8-11-78

OUTSIDE SOURCE

MURKIN

Dear Sir

I'm a resident of Atlanta Federal Penitentiary presently serving on (10) ten year sentence for Inter State Transp by Stolen Prop and a (5) five year sentence for Conspiracy to escape

My Name is Jerry W Stewart #02492-135 alias Bone Jrawl Jr.

My letter is regarding James Earl Ray please find enclosed what I know about him

If you will get me transferred to Memphis Tenn to the Federal Institution there I'll be more than glad to talk with you about Mr Ray

I'm already on referral to Memphis from Atlanta so you shouldn't have no problems getting me transferred

after I'm there I'll talk to you about Mr Ray but not before

In the event there is a ~~trial~~ trial you help should prove very helpful to the Gov.

hope you are interested

F457

66 SEP 20 1978

REC-103

44-38861-6215

AUG 30 1978

CORRESPONDENCE

AUG 17 3 17 PM '78

RECEIVED  
CORRES-UCR  
FBI

AUG 17 1978

in my information and don't waste  
time in getting me transferred to Memphis  
If you will the place some place else  
because even tho I'm on referral I  
my record will stop my transfer I'm from  
Nashville, Tenn.

Thank you for your  
time and consideration I am

Respectfully Yours  
Jerry Stewart  
Davis  
Dore wall Jr

(1) I was present during his two escape attempts one where after three days of hiding he fell off the roof and broke his arm. - Two weeks later and another inmate tried to escape simultaneously by hiding in the rec. shack after yard recall one night without either being aware of the other. And because of a dummy being found in the other guys cell they were caught.

(2) I was in maximum security with him in the same cell.

(A) we talked about obtaining forms of identification, forgery of the documents and legitimate copies of foreign & local I.D.<sup>s</sup> Pass-ports etc, etc,

(B) we discussed exits for the leaving the country Mexico, Porto Rico and Canada

(3) During the two years I knowed Ray this was the time of the racial disturbance in Mich. and on numerous occasions we both expressed our feelings on this subject while watching T.V. I was never involved in a little racial affair. T.V. Room Rec shack over

I was arrested 11-11-69 Kansas City  
Burgl-2nd Day  
Adopt  
LARC

I was received at Jefferson City 5-28-65

I was released 11-3-67

I was under the name  
(Dane Wall Jr.)

(4) I was present when he finally escaped from the food service dept

(5) From talking to Ray by his conversation and action I believed he had an important reason to escape. He often said if he ever got free he would have all the money he could use and he would live high on the hog.

If you are interested in my information and we come to terms I'll fill in the missing parts and give you every thing else I know

with regards  
Jerry Sheward

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

# Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir.:  
 Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crim. Inv.  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. Bassett *W*

DATE: 8-16-78

FROM : D. Ryan *DR*

- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. McDermott
- 1 - Mr. Bassett
- 1 - Mr. Bailey
- 1 - Mr. Ryan
- 1 - Mr. Boynton
- 1 - Mr. Foster

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,  
4-4-68, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

MURKIN

*MURKIN*

**PURPOSE:** To provide results of research, to date, concerning whether or not Reverend Jesse Jackson and Reverend James Lawson were interviewed by the FBI about the assassination of Dr. King.

**DETAILS:** On 8-15-78, a representative of the Public Affairs Office inquired whether Reverend Jesse Jackson and Reverend James Lawson had been interviewed about captioned matter. Attached Bufile document 44-38861-5557 (MURKIN) discloses Reverend Lawson was interviewed on 2-11-69. Bureau and Memphis Field Office indices are thus far negative regarding any interview of Jackson by the FBI.

REC-111

*44-38861-6000*

Document 44-38861-2322, pages 42-47, attached, sets forth the interview of assassination witness Marrell McCullough who states, on page 45, that Reverend Jackson was "...looking out a doorway of a motel room..." on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel near the body of Dr. King immediately after the fatal shot was fired. These documents have been available to the House Select Committee on Assassinations since March, 1977\*

2 FEB 26 1979

At the time of interview, McCullough was an undercover officer (patrolman) of the Memphis Police Department, a fact known to James Earl Ray and mentioned by him in his public testimony on 8-16-78.

2 ENCLOSURE

Additional research through logical areas of pertinent files has been conducted with negative results. Additional indices searches on Reverend Lawson and on variations of Reverend Jackson's name for information after 4-3-68, are being conducted. If additional, positive, information is retrieved, it will be reported.

**RECOMMENDATION:** None. For information.

APPROVED: *W*  
 Director \_\_\_\_\_  
 Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rec Mgnt. *out* \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_



Enclosures (2)

DJC:pjm 88 U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

\*note - and were delivered to HSCA by 1/25/78, JTC



FEB 27 1979

RECEIVED

AUG 16 5 01 PM '78

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
FBI

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>MEMPHIS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MEMPHIS</b>	DATE <b>4/17/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>April 4-16, 1968</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNSUB; aka Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmeyer, John Willard; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA JOE C. HESTER</b>	TYPED BY <b>bbs, jms, raj</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>	

SYNOPSIS:

- P -

**ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:**

In view of the large volume of correspondence in this case, no attempt has been made to reference any particular communication.

Because of the urgency of this matter, leads for other offices are being set out by telephone or teletype, and it would serve no purpose to set out leads for other offices in this report.

The information included in this report has been carefully reviewed, and negative interviews have been eliminated wherever it was believed possible to do so without giving the appearance that less than a complete and thorough investigation was conducted.

A copy of this report has not been designated for

APPROVED <i>R Jensen</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
COPIES MADE: 5 - Bureau 3 - Atlanta 3 - Birmingham 3 - Jackson 3 - Los Angeles 3 - Mobile 3 - New Orleans 1 - St. Louis 5 - Memphis (44-1987)	44-38861-2322 15 APR 29 1968 REC 22 EX 109

*see CR Unit, Rm. 2260*  
*1cc - CRD*  
*5-6-68*  
*via 694-B*  
*ESTM/bs*

1 COPIES DESTROYED  
 28 SEP 26 1974

- A -  
 COVER PAGE  
*1cc Rm 706 gmd*  
*cy*

*6/9/76*  
*1cc Page 1-148 to*  
*Dept Task force*  
*Opp*  
*Jansen*

PROPERTY OF FBI.—This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned

**70 MAY 24 1968**

*1-cc CR Unit*  
*44-38861-62757*

ENCLOSURE