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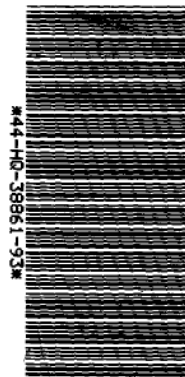
INVESTIGATION

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE JACKSON	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 9/12/78	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/18/78 - 8/23/78
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA WILLIAM E. BOOTH, JR.	TYPED BY lrm
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY (B)	

REFERENCE:

Jackson airtel to Bureau, dated 8/21/78.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

In the interest of brevity, numerous teletypes generated by this investigation are not included in above references.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						☒ NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
								PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☒ NO
								PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☒ NO
APPROVED <i>K/740</i>						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE:						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
④ - Bureau (44-38861)						44-38861-6291 REG-130		
3 - Memphis (44-1987 Sub M)						5 SEP 22 1978		
(1 - USA, Memphis, Tenn.)								
1 - Jackson (62-544)								
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency	2 - Civilian Div 1-200					<i>W. H. L. Smith</i> <i>June 4</i>		
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.	9/18/78							
How Fwd.	G-101							
By	ADAM BROWN							

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COVER PAGE

645-16-83489-1 GPO

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
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CRIMINAL
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DIVISION

SEP 18 10 30 AM 1978

RECORDS & COMM. DIV.

SEP 25 1978

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Report of: SA WILLIAM E. BOOTH, JR.
Date: September 12, 1978

Office: JACKSON

Field Office File #: Jackson 62-544

Bureau File #: 44-38861

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

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis: BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., claims that he is "man that murdered MARTIN LUTHER KING" and conveyed this admission in recent past to at least eight non-law enforcement personnel (confirmed by enclosed interviews). WILSON arrested 8/18/78, by Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Police Department on probation violation from New Braunfels, Texas, PD and remanded to custody of Texas authorities on 8/23/78. WILSON variously described by relatives and associates as a quiet man, intelligent and coherent, while also at the same time, a "problem drinker" who, while under the influence of alcohol, loses contact with truth and reality.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/21/78

Mr. WILLIAM DON GLADDEN, age 46, white male, Route 3, Box 205-H-3 (Meadowlark Drive), Gulf Park Estates, Ocean Springs, Mississippi (telephone number 875-3518), was contacted at the Seasons and Reasons Gift Shop located at 2446 Highway 90 East, Ocean Springs, Mississippi (telephone number 875-2531). Mr. GLADDEN furnished the following information:

He is employed as the manager of the Social Security Administration Office in Gulfport, Mississippi (telephone number 896-3221), but also is owner of the above noted gift shop along with his wife, ALICE A. GLADDEN. GLADDEN advised that he and his wife opened the gift shop in Ocean Springs on July 3, 1978.

On or about July 26, 1978, a man came to the gift shop and identified himself as "Bill" WILSON. He talked with GLADDEN's wife stating that he was getting ready to open a watch repair business in the Edgewater Shopping Mall in Biloxi, Mississippi, and wanted to use the GLADDEN's gift shop as a pickup point for watches to be repaired. Mrs. GLADDEN discussed the matter with her husband and he and WILSON agreed approximately four or five days later to permit WILSON to rent repair shop space in the rear of GLADDEN's gift shop.

According to GLADDEN, neither he nor his wife had ever met WILSON before but he was a friendly outgoing individual whom they came to trust. He was a very good worker and always was the first one to open the store in the morning. WILSON paid his own money for a lot of radio ads for his watch repair business. WILSON had some of his own jewelry and watch repair equipment but after moving into GLADDEN's gift shop, spent several thousand dollars of his own money for additional equipment. GLADDEN advised that the only investment he (GLADDEN) had in the watch repair effort was that he agreed to go in half with WILSON on an \$800 sign for the store.

GLADDEN again described WILSON as being a very fast, good worker, who was tactful with customers and was

Interviewed on 8/18/78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544

by SA ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT and
SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR./KWS/njb Date dictated 8/21/78

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always trying to "drum up new business". According to GLADDEN, all signs were that BILL WILSON was going to stay with the gift shop as a watch repairman on a permanent basis. After a few days, WILSON advised Mr. and Mrs. GLADDEN that he had changed his mind about opening up a watch and jewelry repair business in the Edgewater Mall, Biloxi, Mississippi.

GLADDEN advised that neither he nor his wife ever visited the WILSON residence in Ocean Springs but it was their understanding that WILSON resided in Apartment No. 9 at the Twin Pines Motel on Highway 90 in Ocean Springs for several days after first arriving in town. Later WILSON advised the GLADDENS that he had moved to a residence located at Route 6, Box 387, Ocean Springs (telephone number 875-9542). GLADDEN advised that this residence apparently is located on the Vancleave Road north of the Ocean Springs Hospital. WILSON told the GLADDENS that the house is owned by an unidentified friend who was letting him live there in exchange for keeping the house in good repair.

GLADDEN advised that WILSON is an excellent pilot. GLADDEN and his son flew with WILSON in a rented plane and according to GLADDEN, WILSON appeared to know everything about flying the plane and could handle it well in rough weather. GLADDEN did not know the extent of WILSON's education but described him as being an "extremely intelligent man". WILSON would come and go in the shop every day and had numerous advertising fliers printed up which he apparently hand delivered in various businesses around the Ocean Springs area.

GLADDEN advised that sometime after WILSON began working at his watch repair business in Ocean Springs, he became aware that WILSON had a drinking problem. The drinking problem, however, did not affect WILSON's work because he would come into the shop early every morning and do all of the watch repairs that were waiting for him and then he would leave for the day. GLADDEN advised that one salesman (identity unrecalled) who apparently had some contact with WILSON stated that WILSON told him that he had a drinking problem but was trying to work hard at the watch repair business in order to defeat this problem.

On August 17, 1978, at around 11:45 p.m. WILSON telephoned ALICE GLADDEN at the GLADDEN residence in Ocean Springs. He asked to speak to WILLIAM D. GLADDEN who at that time was asleep. GLADDEN answered the phone and WILSON told him that he had to see him and his wife immediately about a matter which would not wait until the morning. WILSON refused to come to the GLADDEN residence and stated that they should meet at the gift shop to discuss a matter of "national urgency". GLADDEN stated that he became worried at WILSON's insistence so besides his wife, he took his 18 year old son along and met WILSON at the gift shop at 12:15 a.m. on August 18, 1978.

WILSON arrived at the gift shop at the appointed time driving his old model blue Chevrolet with a white top and unrecalled Louisiana license tags. He had been drinking because his breath smelled of alcohol and his eyes were extremely red; however, he did not talk like an intoxicated person. He appeared very depressed according to GLADDEN.

WILSON opened the conversation by saying, "I am the mystery man." When questioned by GLADDEN as to what he meant by this remark WILSON said, "I am the man that murdered Martin Luther King." GLADDEN advised that WILSON then talked with him for the next hour and 15 minutes about how he had grown up in Grenada, Mississippi, where his father was a Baptist preacher. WILSON described how his father's church was open for local blacks to worship in and they were treated like neighbors. When the racial unrest was running rampant in the State of Mississippi in 1967 some "northern" blacks came to the church escorted by FBI Agents. WILSON's father welcomed them to the church only if they were not there "for trouble". However, according to WILSON, they did come for trouble and his father subsequently died of a heart attack as a result of the racial unrest.

WILSON then stated again that, "I am the one that pulled the trigger." He stated that the KING killing was a conspiracy and that he was the logical one to pull the trigger. WILSON told the GLADDENS that he had been with the Government (not further described) and had been involved in undeclared wars (not further described). WILSON also said that he knew MARTIN LUTHER KING's father and brother and grew up right next door to KING's cousin and knew the entire family.

(WILSON did not furnish the name of KING's cousin to the GLADDENS.)

GLADDEN advised that WILSON told him that he had purchased a white Mustang for his daughter and that it was similar to a vehicle which GLADDEN had purchased for his daughter in Ocean Springs. WILSON told GLADDEN that his daughter had driven the white Mustang to Memphis, Tennessee, just prior to the KING assassination. WILSON was supposed to be in Kansas City, Missouri, at the time of the assassination and had alibis to prove it when actually he too was in Memphis.

WILSON told GLADDEN that JAMES EARL RAY was the "fall guy". He said that RAY only saw him twice but WILSON knew who RAY was. RAY was supposed to have gotten away clean. WILSON said that he was surprised that RAY has brought it all back up again inasmuch as he (RAY) is probably due for parole in about two years.

WILSON told GLADDEN, "You won't see me anymore after tonight." He wanted the GLADDENS to have his watch repair equipment. WILSON again insisted to the GLADDENS that the KING assassination was a "group conspiracy". WILSON stated that he would only deal with the "Sheriff of Memphis, Tennessee, whom WILSON used to fly with". WILSON also said that he felt the Government (not further described) wanted the KING killing to happen and he (WILSON) knew it needed to be done and did not expect to get much time for it.

WILSON told GLADDEN that he was not sorry he did the KING killing since the "niggers are better off". Later in their conversation WILSON did say he was sorry that he had pulled the trigger.

WILSON told the GLADDENS that the Sheriff of Memphis had talked to him on the telephone and had agreed to meet WILSON in the Gulfport, Mississippi, Holiday Inn the morning of August 18, 1978. WILSON speculated that he would probably be allowed to have a television set in his cell and would probably be allowed to repair watches or give instruction in watch repair while in prison.

WILSON also told the GLADDENS that he fired the shot that killed MARTIN LUTHER KING not from 50 yards but from about 50 feet away and he saw the bullet hit. WILSON said that, "I shot the shit out of him and saw it fly." WILSON never mentioned the type of gun he used nor did he tell the GLADDENS the location from which he allegedly fired the shot.

At one point during their conversation, WILSON looked at GLADDEN's son who apparently appeared disturbed by WILSON's revelations. WILSON told GLADDEN's son that he could tell he did not approve of what he had done but that he had better keep his nose out of it.

WILSON, who apparently had served in the U. S. Air Force, indicated that he had worked in some type of investigative work while in the military service.

WILSON kept bringing up the fact that he was going to meet with the Sheriff of Memphis, Tennessee, the morning of August 18, 1978, and even offered to furnish GLADDEN this individual's name and telephone number if he wanted it for verification. GLADDEN declined.

WILSON said that he had gone through 10 years of hell because he killed KING. He said that it had ruined 26 years of a good marriage and now his conscience was bothering him more than ever in the last few years.

WILSON referred to a sketch of the KING murder suspect which apparently had been recently shown on television and told GLADDEN that the sketch was almost an exact likeness of him (WILSON).

WILSON said that he has a sister in Fulton, Mississippi, who telephoned him in Ocean Springs after the sketch was shown on television saying that the sketch looked exactly like him. According to WILSON he called his sister and other members of his family to let them know he was turning himself in.

GLADDEN advised that at the end of their conversation, WILSON left the gift shop and drove east on Highway 90. GLADDEN feels sure that WILSON probably drove to the Angular's Inn Tavern which is located a short distance from the gift shop and was apparently frequented by WILSON.

GLADDEN advised that shortly before noon on August 18, 1978, he was telephonically contacted by WILSON who said that he was now at home and that he had been to the Holiday Inn in Gulfport, Mississippi, accompanied by "the father" (not further identified). The sheriff of Memphis, Tennessee, had not shown up; however, there were individuals there believed by WILSON to be FBI Agents. He believed he had been betrayed and was now ready to "blow anyone's head off who comes to my house except the father". About three hours after this conversation WILSON walked into GLADDEN's gift shop. He was clean and neat and told GLADDEN that he apparently had been in touch with the FBI and that the FBI was not going to do anything to him. According to GLADDEN, WILSON indicated that he had worked out some "bargain" with the FBI and now WILSON wanted to live a normal routine life. He asked GLADDEN if he could continue working in the watch repair business. GLADDEN advised WILSON that he and his wife were seriously contemplating selling the business and they would make no decision about retaining him.

Outside the possibility that WILSON had a drinking problem, GLADDEN observed nothing unusual about the person and did not consider him to be "the typical psychopath". GLADDEN stated that in his job as manager of the Social Security Office he deals with a lot of people who have mental problems. He does not fit WILSON into any of the categories of mental imparities that he has observed. He recalled that he has heard a lot about WILSON's past life but nothing about his activities within the past 10 years. He recalled WILSON saying he had been married five times, twice to the same woman. WILSON said that he had been on the Mississippi Coast only for about three months even though he grew up in the State of Mississippi.

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GLADDEN described WILSON as a white male, five feet eight, medium build, 155 to 170 pounds, graying hair, age 46, with a red ruddy complexion. WILSON is apparently partial to vodka and Coca-Cola.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8-21-78

LUKE JOSEPH BRODERICK, 1204 Hammer Smith Lane, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, telephone number 875-1404, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. BRODERICK stated that he is the manager of the Angle Inn Restaurant and Lounge, Highway 90, Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

BRODERICK, a white male, stated that he was born [redacted] and has completed three years of college.

BRODERICK stated that he is acquainted with BILL WILSON, who has been coming to the Angle Inn for approximately two months as a customer. BRODERICK stated that late on the night of August 16, 1978, he, BRODERICK, came to the Angle Inn and WILSON was sitting at the bar and had been drinking Draft Beer and was half drunk. BRODERICK stated he started talking to WILSON and WILSON said that he, WILSON, knew more about the MARTIN LUTHER KING assassination than people thought. WILSON started telling BRODERICK about how someone else had shot KING other than EARL RAY. WILSON was describing the other assassin in the third person. BRODERICK stated that after WILSON talked for a few minutes, he, BRODERICK, realized that WILSON was actually talking about himself shooting KING. When he questioned WILSON on this, WILSON stated "I definitely shot him. I was 50 feet away. I blew that nigger shit away". WILSON stated that he had flown to Memphis, Tennessee, in a private plane and he stated that he had shot KING from approximately 50 feet away while standing on the ground. WILSON told BRODERICK there were more people involved than himself and that firecrackers and other shots were going off at the time he shot KING. He stated that RAY was a scapegoat in this conspiracy.

WILSON stated that he was turning himself in to an old friend of his, GENE (last name unknown), who is the Sheriff of Shelby County. WILSON told

Interviewed on 8-19-78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544

by SA HARRY H. CARPENTER/kbn

Date dictated 8-21-78

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BRODERICK that he was scheduled to turn himself in at 9:30 a.m., on August 18, 1978, at the Holiday Inn in Biloxi, Mississippi. At the time WILSON was telling BRODERICK the above information, WILSON had tears in his eyes and said he had been living with this on his conscience for ten years and could not stand it anymore. Also listening in to a portion of the above conversation was part-time bartender, DOROTHY WOODSIDE.

BRODERICK stated that he asked WILSON during the conversation on the night of August 16, 1978, if he was RAOUL and WILSON did not either deny or confirm this statement.

BRODERICK stated that WILSON had dated a female, RITA HERRINGTON, and that RITA HERRINGTON's son, HOWARD HERRINGTON, went to New Orleans with WILSON at one time.

BRODERICK stated that WILSON came into the Angle Inn on the morning of August 18, 1978, and stated that he was turning himself in to the Sheriff of Shelby County at 6:30 p.m., on that day at the Holiday Inn in Gulfport, Mississippi. WILSON used the pay telephone in the Angle Inn to call the Sheriff of Shelby County and he wrote the number of the sheriff on a Yellow Cab Company card on the wall by the pay telephone. BRODERICK made available this Yellow Cab Company sign to the interviewing Agent. Written on this sign was the telephone number 901: 528-3600. WILSON stated that he could not turn himself in on the morning of August 18, 1978, because the sheriff could not be at the motel because of the police strike now going on in Memphis, Tennessee.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription August 21, 1978

DOROTHY RUTH WOODSIDE, 203 Morris Noble Road, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, telephone number 875-4721, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. WOODSIDE stated that she is a part-time bartender at the Angle Inn Restaurant and Lounge located on Highway 90 in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. She stated she works full time as an accountant at Ingalls Shipbuilding Division of Litton Industries, Pascagoula, Mississippi. WOODSIDE is a white female, born [redacted] and has a high school education plus graduating from business college.

WOODSIDE stated that she does know BILL WILSON, and she has talked to him numerous times at the Angle Inn. She stated that she dated WILSON one time and has seen him once or twice at his apartment.

WOODSIDE stated that at approximately 1:00 AM on August 18, 1978, WILSON came to the Angle Inn. WILSON talked to LUKE BRODERICK, the owner of the Angle Inn. While WILSON was conversing with BRODERICK, WOODSIDE joined the conversation. She stated that at the time WILSON was talking, he had had several beers but was not drunk, but the longer he talked and drank, the more inebriated he became. WOODSIDE stated that she heard WILSON say, "I'm the man that shot MARTIN LUTHER KING. I have had this on my conscience for ten years. I wanted to get it off my mind." She stated that WILSON stated that he had a green airplane he had flown in to Memphis, Tennessee, at the time he killed KING. She stated that the reason he was going to surrender himself to authorities was that he had just renewed his pilot's license and that he knew he would be caught as a result of his pilot's license. WILSON showed this pilot's license to BRODERICK. WOODSIDE stated that she remembers WILSON saying that he was looking through a window or over a windowsill at the time he shot KING. He stated that after he shot KING, there was a series of bangs or shots but WILSON stated that he was the one that actually shot KING. She stated that WILSON said he was going to turn himself in to the Sheriff of Shelby County, Tennessee, and that WILSON started crying at the end of the conversation. WOODSIDE stated that BRODERICK said that he believed WILSON was telling the truth, but WOODSIDE did not believe him.

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by SA HARRY H. CARPENTER/kbn/mae

Date dictated 8/21/78

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Sometime during the conversation, WILSON had stated that he had at one time been a pilot for Governor CLIFF FINCH, the Governor of Mississippi. He stated he had flown FINCH during FINCH's gubernatorial campaign. WILSON also stated that he had flown at one time with the original Flying Tigers.

WOODSIDE stated that WILSON has been dating a friend of hers, RITA HERRINGTON, who resides on Fountaine Lane in Biloxi, Mississippi, telephone number 374-5311. HERRINGTON is employed as a waitress at the Ramada Inn in Biloxi. HERRINGTON's son, HOWARD HERRINGTON, supposedly accompanied WILSON to New Orleans at one time.

WILSON also stated that he had been assigned to Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi, at one time, and she, WOODSIDE, had the impression that he was in the military at this time.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 8/24/78

Approximately 6:45 p.m., SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES observed a green Plymouth, bearing a Jackson County, Mississippi, license tag, stop in front of the Holiday Inn located on U. S. Highway 90, Gulfport, Mississippi. A white male was driving the vehicle and a white male was sitting on the passenger side of the vehicle. The individual on the passenger side got out of the vehicle and it was observed that he was wearing a blue shirt and checked trousers and he was approximately 45 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches in height, and weighed about 150 pounds. This individual entered the lobby of the motel. The driver of the vehicle parked the vehicle on the west end of the motel and walked to the front door of the motel.

SA GRAVES asked the driver of the vehicle if he were Father (NOEL) FANNON and he acknowledged that he was. SA GRAVES identified himself to Father FANNON and advised him that GENE BARKSDALE, Sheriff of Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, was not going to meet BURGESS WILSON. He was advised that Agents of the FBI were in the motel and he was requested to tell WILSON that the Sheriff was not going to meet him; however, the FBI Agents were at the motel and desired to talk with him if he (WILSON) would agree to talk with the Agents. Father FANNON stated he would first like to talk with WILSON because Sheriff BARKSDALE had lied about his appearance in Gulfport.

Father FANNON thereafter entered the motel and talked with WILSON in the lobby.

Interviewed on 8/18/78 at Gulfport, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544

by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES /blc Date dictated 8/24/78

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 8/25/78

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., who was accompanied by Father NOEL FANNON, Pastor, St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, was contacted at the entrance of the Holiday Inn, U. S. Highway 90, Gulfport, Mississippi, approximately 6:50 p.m. WILSON was advised of the identity of SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES and he was asked if he were BURGESS AUDIE WILSON and he acknowledged that he was WILSON and further stated that he was a junior.

WILSON was advised that Sheriff GENE BARKSDALE of Memphis, Tennessee, was not at the motel to meet him; however, FBI Agents were there and desired to talk with him, particularly about his daughter's supposedly having driven a white Mustang from Kansas City, Missouri, to Memphis, Tennessee. He stated he had no information to furnish the FBI.

WILSON inquired as to whether or not he was under arrest and he was advised that he was not under arrest. WILSON commented he was not going to give anyone any trouble. He was asked if he had any weapons on him and he stated he did not and that SA GRAVES could search him if he so desired. WILSON was then "patted down" and no weapons were felt on his body.

WILSON commented that he and Father FANNON had been to the motel at 9:30 a.m. on August 18, 1978, and again at 6:30 p.m. on August 18, 1978, to see Sheriff BARKSDALE and the Sheriff had lied to them.

WILSON then asked Father FANNON if he would drive him back to the place he had been picked up and Father FANNON agreed to do so.

WILSON was again advised that FBI Agents were at the motel and were still willing to talk with him and he reiterated that he had nothing to say to the FBI and, as he departed, commented that the FBI, in the past, had harassed his father without any explanation.

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by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES /blc Date dictated 8/24/78

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WILSON and Father FANNON thereafter left the area of the Holiday Inn in Father FANNON's 1976 Plymouth bearing Jackson County, Mississippi, license JAH 637, and proceeded east on U. S. Highway 90.

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Date of transcription 8/23/78

Detective KEVIN ALVES, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Police Department, accompanied by Ocean Springs Patrolman MICHAEL W. PITALO and Officer-Intern JOHN CHARLES THOMPSON arrested BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as "BILL", at 7:35 p.m., on August 18, 1978, while WILSON was a passenger in an automobile driven by Reverend NOEL FANNON, Rector of St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Ocean Springs, Mississippi. The arrest took place on U.S. Highway 90 at the east end of the Biloxi Bay Bridge. The arrest was effected without incident and was based on information obtained from a National Crime Information Center (NCIC) "hit" indicating that WILSON was wanted on a probation violation by the New Braunfels, Texas, Police Department.

Immediately after the arrest, WILSON was transported by the Ocean Springs Police to the Ocean Springs Police Department where he was processed for confinement in the Ocean Springs City Jail.

Detective ALVES advised that after WILSON was brought to the Ocean Springs Police Department, he voluntarily stated on three different occasions without being questioned that he was the man that shot MARTIN LUTHER KING. According to Detective ALVES, WILSON referred to the Shelby County, Tennessee, Sheriff saying that it had been arranged prior to this date that WILSON would give himself up to the sheriff. ALVES further advised that WILSON claimed he had been a colonel in the U.S. Air Force and had flown with the Shelby County Sheriff while in the service.

ALVES further advised that WILSON stated he wants to "deal with the FBI". WILSON told ALVES that he would talk to the FBI only if "we take him to Memphis to see the sheriff of Shelby County where he will talk in front of any FBI Agent". WILSON also voluntarily told Detective ALVES that the reason he shot MARTIN LUTHER KING was that KING was directly or indirectly the cause of the death of some member of WILSON's family.

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by SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR./bjw Date dictated 8/21/78

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Detective ALVES advised that he had warned the subject of his rights and WILSON had signed a Waiver of Rights for Detective ALVES.

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Date of transcription 8/22/78

Following the arrest by Ocean Springs, Mississippi, police of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as BILL, he was taken to the Ocean Springs City Jail for processing. The contents of WILSON's wallet were examined in the presence of WILSON and the following items were contained therein:

Current Texas driver's license #7911315 under the name of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., 113 Mill Street, San Marcos, Texas. License expires 1980 and indicates the date of birth of P11

A slip of paper bearing the name MADLYN, 304 Beresford, no city listed, telephone 455-3765.

A slip of paper with the name WILL CAMPBELL, 875-4380.

A business card for DANIEL D. GUICE, JR., Field Supervisor, Mississippi Probation and Parole Office, Biloxi, Mississippi, telephone 432-2271.

On the reverse side of the business card was an inked notation 1005 Hickory Hill Lane, C-103, Hermitage, Tennessee 37076.

Business card for MAX D. MURRAY, Advertising Representative, Austin, Texas, American Statesman.

Business card for DAN LEARNER, telephone 388-9601, Craftsman Workshop, Edgewater Mall, Biloxi, Mississippi.

Business card for DENNIS SULLIVER, Chief Engineer, Red Fox Industries, Incorporation, New Iberia, Louisiana, telephone number 365-8131.

Business card for LOUIS P. HELM, Realtor, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, 875-2098 and 875-0016.

Interviewed on 8/18/78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544

by K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR./bjw Date dictated 8/21/78

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An inked note bearing the name BARTON and CHASE, 740 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19107.

Business card for TRAVIS GARNER, Building Officials, City of Ocean Springs, 875-4236.

An inked note "State Farm Claims Office, Gulfport, Mississippi, 896-6353".

An inked note bearing the name of KARL FASOID, 863-4761.

A payroll check voucher for WILSON from Gulf South Construction Company, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, for the pay period ending July 5, 1978, and a second pay voucher for the pay period ending July 12, 1978.

Business card for Louisiana Off-shore Caterers, JIM FONTENOT, Personnel Director, Houma, Louisiana, 876-3642.

A note bearing the name BOB CAZOET, 214-521-4195.

A bill of sale bearing the name of VERA M. NEVILL, Canyon Lake, Texas, Route 4, Box 620G.

A payroll voucher for WILSON from Gulf Coast Catering Company, New Iberia, Louisiana, for the period ending June 16, 1978.

A note bearing the name TAD MURRAY, Monroe, Louisiana, 323-7382, or 728-4060.

A credit bill for Beall's Department Store, Jacksonville, Texas, under the name of BURGESS A. WILSON, 067001572.

A Veteran's Administration patient data card under the name of BURGESS A. WILSON, Canyon Lake, Texas, card #422341275.

A business card for Eserman Off-shore Services, Incorporation, Golden Meadow, Louisiana, 693-8287.

Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW) membership card # [REDACTED] for 1977 for VFW Post #8573 at Canyon Lake, Texas.

A Federal Communications Commission radio license # [REDACTED], issued to WILSON on September 26, 1960.

A business card for Ler-Son International Incorporated, Houma, Louisiana.

An inked note bearing the names of STAN BULLARD and Jones Builders of Long Beach, Mississippi.

A business card for BILL WILSON Builders, Solar Screens and Doors, Custom Homes, Canyon Lake, Texas, and 817 East Nuclid, San Antonio, Texas.

A card bearing WILSON's Social Security Number [REDACTED]

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A credit type card from the Security State Bank, Starkville, Mississippi, under the name of Colonel BURGESS A. WILSON, USAF, retired, #3038940.

Private pilot certificate number 1106770 issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, showing BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., of 13125 Herrick Avenue, Grandview, Missouri, 64030, is authorized to fly single and multi-engine land airplanes.

A Department of Transportation form for a bi-annual flight review dated July 18, 1978, giving instructor's name CARL FOWLER, and aircraft piper C-152, certificate #542727734, dated September 30, 1978, to expire July 31, 1980, showing that subject is authorized to fly private aircraft.

A Department of Transportation medical certificate first class form signed by Dr. JAMES B. MARTIN, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, on August 9, 1978, giving the examining physician serial as 12021-1.

A receipt from Dr. JAMES B. MARTIN, #14168, dated August 9, 1978, in the amount of \$25 for a flight physical.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/21/78

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On August 19, 1978, Desk Sergeant LAURA MIZE, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Police Department, advised that one of the Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Police, Patrolman BOBBY RACHUBA had taken breakfast to inmate "BILL" WILSON at approximately 8:30 a.m., that date at which time Officer RACHUBA asked WILSON if he was ready to sign papers waiving extradition to the State of Texas on a probation violation. According to Desk Sergeant MIZE, WILSON replied that he was, but prior to signing any waiver of extradition he wanted to talk to the FBI.

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi # Jackson 62-544

by SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR./gah Date dictated 8/21/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7Date of transcription 8/21/78

Officer BOBBY RACHUBA, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Police Department, advised that at about 8:30 a.m., on August 19, 1978, he was delivering breakfast to inmates of the Ocean Springs City Jail. At the direction of Police Desk Sergeant LAURA MIZE, he personally asked inmate "BILL" WILSON whether he was ready to sign a waiver of extradition to the State of Texas. According to Officer RACHUBA, WILSON replied, "Yes, on one condition, provided I can talk to the FBI first."

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544

by SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR./gah Date dictated 8/21/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription August 19, 1978

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as Bill,
date of birth [redacted] Social Security Account Number
[redacted] furnished the following information to SA ROYCE
DAVID HIGNIGHT:

Mr. WILSON advised that he was born [redacted]
at Fulton, Mississippi, and that he resided with his family at
Golden, Mississippi, until 1936, at which time the family moved
to Eldridge, Alabama, where he attended school until the eighth
grade and then went to high school at Carbon Hill, Alabama,
until 1947.

He advised on May 2, 1947, he entered the U. S. Air
Force and was discharged in 1950. He stated that after being
out of the Air Force for approximately eight months he was
recalled for the Korean War and stayed in until February, 1960,
at which time he was given an honorable discharge.

He and his wife, BETTY LOU WILSON, moved to Memphis,
Tennessee, following his discharge, where he worked for
Prudential Insurance Company for approximately one year.
After leaving Prudential Insurance Company, he operated a
laundry and cleaning business in Memphis. During this time,
he was also in the Tennessee Air National Guard.

He left Memphis, Tennessee, went to Grandview,
Missouri, where he became a civil service employee in the Air
Force Reserve. He stayed employed in the Air Force Reserve
until 1970. From 1966 until 1970, he also operated a jewelry
store business.

In 1970, he and wife, BETTY WILSON, moved to Memphis,
Tennessee, and opened a jewelry business in Bartlett,
Tennessee. In addition to the jewelry business, he also built
aluminum storage buildings. He stated that in June, 1970, a
tornado hit his business and destroyed it.

He then went to San Antonio, Texas, and became
employed by the Air Force Reserve as a flight engineer. He
also operated a jewelry store in San Antonio until 1974, when
he and his wife BETTY divorced.

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by SA ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT/mae

Date dictated 8/19/78

He then went to Mountain Home, Arkansas, and opened a jewelry store and married AVIS LEA HUNTER. He was married to HUNTER for approximately six months, and they divorced. HUNTER now resides at 1010 Hickory Hill Lane, Hermitage, Tennessee.

He then went to Columbus, Mississippi, where he worked in the gubernatorial campaign for Governor CLIFF FINCH. While in Columbus, he married PATRICIA SHINDALA of Starkville, Mississippi. He also advised that while in Columbus he sold fire extinguishers. He stated that during the gubernatorial campaign it was suggested that he tell people that he was a retired colonel and an ex-prisoner of war to campaign for FINCH. He stated that after the campaign was over, he was dropped by the FINCH people.

He left Columbus, Mississippi, in January, 1976, and went to Tyler, Texas, where he stayed with LARRY HUGHEY, a friend who had a farm. He went to Texas for the purpose of clearing up some "charges" against him at New Braunfels, Texas.

He advised that he went to Dallas, Texas, to see a friend, and while there, he called his son and asked him to come see him, and shortly thereafter the police arrived and arrested him on a charge of non-child support on a warrant issued for him at Cleveland, Texas. He was released to authorities from New Braunfels, where he pled guilty to a charge of theft by check and received a sentence of eight years probation.

He advised that he then stayed in the vicinity of New Braunfels where he did construction work. He had an altercation with another employee, and he was arrested for violation of his probation but was released a couple of weeks later. He continued working around New Braunfels and was again arrested for possession of stolen merchandise which actually was a dispute between himself and an associate over some property that he had stored for the associate, and the charges were subsequently dropped. He continued in the construction business and married JO ANN CHILDRESS, and they were divorced after three months.

In January of 1978, he went to Houma, Louisiana, and went to work for Louisiana Off-Shore Caterers and worked there until April, at which time he went to work for Gulf Coast

Caterers of New Iberia, Louisiana, and worked there until the end of June of 1978, at which time he came to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, and opened a jewelry shop. He lived at the Twin Pines Apartments the first three weeks he was in Ocean Springs and then moved to Route 6, Box 387.

He furnished the following description of himself:

Name	BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.	
Also known as	Bill	
Date of birth	[REDACTED]	P11
Place of birth	Fulton, Mississippi	
Height	5 feet 11 inches	
Weight	170 pounds	
Eyes	Brown	
Hair	Gray	
Social Security Number	[REDACTED]	
Education	High school graduate	
Military service	U. S. Air Force 1947-1960	
Father	BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, SR. (deceased)	
Mother	Grenada, Mississippi MITTIE DALE (deceased)	
Stepmother	LILLIE MAE WILSON (deceased) Grenada, Mississippi	
Brother	ALLISON TOWERS WILSON Reform, Alabama	
Sister	LYDA MC GAHEY 2002 East Eighth Avenue North Columbus, Mississippi	
Sister	CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE Fulton, Mississippi	
Ex-wife	BETTY LOU WILSON WADE Burleson, Texas	
Ex-wife	AVIS LEA HUNTER 1010 Hickory Hill Lane Hermitage, Tennessee	
Ex-wife	PATRICIA SHINDALA Starkville, Mississippi (believed killed in car accident)	
Ex-wife	JO ANN CHILDRESS 113 Mill Street San Marcos, Texas	

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Daughter

DEBORAH ANN JONES,
husband CHARLES,
Belvedere, Illinois

Son

STEVEN WAYNE WILSON
Burleson, Texas

Son

MARK ANTHONY WILSON
Burleson, Texas

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., an inmate of the Ocean Springs City Jail, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, furnished the following information to ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT and K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR., who he knows to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, after having been advised the purpose of the interview being his knowledge and involvement in the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING and after having been advised of his Constitutional rights which he waived as indicated by an Advice of Rights and Waiver of Rights Form which he signed:

Mr. WILSON advised that at the time prior to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, he was living in Grandview, Missouri, in a house on Byers Road with his wife, BETTY LOU, and his three children, DEBORAH, STEVE, and MARK. He was in the Air Force Reserve and also operated a jewelry store.

In the course of his jewelry business, he met a white male Italian who was in his late sixties and was approximately 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighed approximately 230 pounds, and who operated a jewelry trade shop on Walnut Street. He stated that this white male introduced him to another white male Italian by the name of MITCH (Last Name Unknown), who was in his mid fifties and was approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall, and weighed approximately 190 pounds, who had black, wavy hair and had some connection with a bonding company, and also MITCH's brother, name not recalled, who fit the same physical description as MITCH, but who had numerous cut scars on his face.

He stated that MITCH started delivering jewelry to him for the purpose of having the stones removed from the fittings. He stated MITCH usually met him at a bar on Walnut Street which was run by a white female and it also appeared that MITCH might have been a part owner or had an interest in this bar. He stated that due to the volume of jewelry that MITCH was bringing to him, he asked MITCH about it, and MITCH advised him that it was stolen jewelry. MITCH told him, however, that he, WILSON, was in as deep as he, MITCH, was and that he would have to continue working with MITCH. He stated this relationship with MITCH continued until 1970.

He stated that MITCH brought up the idea of killing KING and said that there was a \$50,000 contract on him. However, he

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by SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR.
SA ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT/RDH/mae

Date dictated 8/19/78

never said who put out the contract but said that he could get the money for WILSON if he killed KING.

WILSON stated that MITCH was well aware of his, WILSON's, thoughts concerning KING and the black civil rights movement, in that his father, who was a pastor of the Central Baptist Church at Grenada, Mississippi, died of a heart attack which he, WILSON, thought was caused as a result of racial tensions at Grenada brought on by the forceful integration of his father's church.

WILSON stated that approximately five or six months before KING's murder, he started gathering information on the movements, habits, and whereabouts of KING.

WILSON advised that he had a red and white Bonanza airplane, Register Number 34L, and a Cessna 310 twin-engine aircraft, which was blue and white, which planes he used to fly to different places where KING was supposed to be. He stated that he recalls going to Huntsville, Alabama; Tupelo, Mississippi; Jackson, Tennessee; Atlanta, Georgia; and Greenville, South Carolina. He stated that while at Tupelo, Mississippi, he stayed in the Ramada Inn and believes that in the other places he visited he stayed in Holiday Inns.

He stated that MITCH furnished him a Japanese sniper rifle. He stated that he kept the rifle and that just before Christmas of 1975, he had it reworked at a gunshop in Columbus, Mississippi, on Fourth Street across from a bank. He stated that the last knowledge he had of the rifle, his older son, STEVEN WAYNE WILSON, had the rifle and a shotgun but had told him that he had sold it.

Mr. WILSON advised that there was a garbage strike in progress at Memphis, Tennessee, and that MITCH called him at his store in Grandview, Missouri, and told him that KING was coming to Memphis for a rally and instructed WILSON to come to Memphis where he was to meet two men at the Wonder Bar located at the corner of Summer Avenue and White Station Road.

Mr. WILSON advised that he flew to Memphis, Tennessee, in the Bonanza aircraft and landed at an airport just north of Raleigh, Tennessee. He stated that the airport was operated by a long-time acquaintance of his who had attended a church which was pastored by WILSON's father in the past. WILSON stated that his daughter, DEBORAH, picked him up at the airport in her 1965 white Mustang, which WILSON had previously bought for her and which was registered in his name in Missouri.

He advised that DEBORAH and her mother, BETTY LOU, were staying at the residence of WILSON's father-in-law, VERNON HOOTEN, 3095 Ruskin Road, Memphis, Tennessee. He stated that HOOTEN had had a heart attack and that his wife and daughter were temporarily staying at the HOOTEN residence.

WILSON advised that he went to the Wonder Bar and while having a drink two white men approached him, one having an accent similar to a Puerto Rican.

The two white males furnished him with FBI credentials, which he stated had a black and white photograph of himself on it, and they took him and showed him where KING was to hold the rally. They then took WILSON to a hotel on South Main Street near Beale Street and took him to a room on the third floor. They told him he was to be in the crowd at the rally and that a decoy shot was to be fired and that he was then to shoot. They said that KING had a habit of raising his arms over his head when he was making a speech and that the second time that he did so, the shots were to be fired.

WILSON stated that on the day of the murder he was in the crowd standing near a wood fence approximately 60 feet from where KING was standing and that when KING raised his arms the second time he shot him.

Mr. WILSON advised that he had the rifle which he used strapped to his belt under a suit coat and attached to his belt on a swivel. He stated that the barrel protruded from below his coat but no one questioned him concerning it. He said that he had practiced a great deal swiveling the rifle and firing it.

He advised that after the shooting, he was stopped by the Memphis police, but he showed them the credentials, and they let him go, and he walked on down the street approximately two blocks to where he had left the Mustang parked. He advised that he got in the Mustang and drove back to the HOOTEN residence, and his daughter, DEBORAH, then took him to the airport, and he got his plane and flew back to Kansas City. He stated that the airport that he used was on the Kansas side on the highway to Olathe, Kansas. He stated the airport was run by (First Name Unknown) FISHER. He also stated that he had purchased the Bonanza aircraft from FISHER.

WILSON advised that approximately one week before the murder, MITCH gave him \$25,000 in \$20 bills, and following the murder, MITCH gave him another \$25,000, at which time he gave the credentials back to MITCH.

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WILSON advised that he has no knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY having been involved in the conspiracy.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Photographs and major case fingerprints were taken of
BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as "BILL" at the Ocean
Springs, Mississippi, City Jail.

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by SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR./gah Date dictated 8/21/78

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KPH/drw
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The following investigation was conducted by
SA KENNETH P. HUGHES:

On August 19, 1978, a review of the 1978 Grenada City Directory shows a listing for the Central Baptist Church with Reverend JOE BELL as pastor at 333 Second Street, Grenada, Mississippi, telephone 226-2715.

The directory shows JOE BELL and wife, MYRA N. BELL, residing at 235 South Mound Street, Grenada, Mississippi, home telephone 226-4133, and that JOE BELL is the pastor of the Central Baptist Church.

On August 19, 1978, FRED TILGHMAN, Chief of Police, Grenada, Mississippi, Police Department, Grenada, Mississippi, advised he could locate no arrest record or outstanding warrants for BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as BILL WILSON, date of birth, [REDACTED], place of birth, Fulton, Mississippi.

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On August 19, 1978, JACK SIMMONS, Deputy Sheriff, Grenada County Sheriff's Office, Grenada, Mississippi, advised he could locate no arrest record or outstanding warrants on BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as BILL WILSON, white male, date of birth, August 28, 1931, at Fulton, Mississippi.

On August 19, 1978, HUBERT SPEARS, United States Post Office, Grenada, Mississippi, advised they did have a B. A. WILSON, who was formerly the preacher at the Central Baptist Church, Grenada, Mississippi, approximately four or five years ago.

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SPEARS stated that B. A. WILSON died, and his wife, possibly named GLADYS, after B. A. WILSON's death, resided at 375 Levee Street, Grenada, Mississippi, which house is now vacant or in the process of being torn down. SPEARS further stated that B. A. WILSON and his wife lived in the parsonage behind Central Baptist Church, and SPEARS stated that if WILSON had any children, none lived in Grenada, or they were all grown when WILSON was the preacher at Central Baptist Church.

A review of the Grenada City Directory for the year 1978 shows a listing for Mrs. LILLY M. WILSON at 375 South Levee Street, Grenada, Mississippi, telephone number 226-4737.

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Reverend JOE BELL, Pastor, Central Baptist Church, Grenada, Mississippi, furnished the following information:

BELL stated that he knew B. A. WILSON, stating that WILSON was the former pastor at the Central Baptist Church, Grenada, Mississippi. BELL stated that B. A. WILSON died of a heart attack on January 7, 1967. BELL stated that WILSON was the pastor of the Central Baptist Church for approximately 13 years, or from 1954 to 1967.

BELL stated that prior to coming to Grenada, B. A. WILSON was at Camp Creek at Fulton, Mississippi, and prior to that was at Lynn Station, which is located north of Jasper, Alabama, and also at Eldridge, Alabama.

Concerning the WILSON family, BELL stated that B. A. WILSON's wife was known as LILLY WILSON. BELL stated that LILLY and B. A. WILSON lived in the church parsonage behind the church, and their children were all grown and married at that time.

BELL identified the WILSON children as follows:

1. Mrs. CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE (phonetic)
Fulton, Mississippi
2. BILL WILSON
Kansas City, Kansas
3. LIDA (Last Name Unknown)
Columbus, Mississippi
4. One other son, name not known.

BELL stated that LILLY WILSON was B. A. WILSON's second wife as B. A. WILSON's first wife died when the children were young.

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by SA KENNETH P. HUGHES/drw Date dictated 8/20/78

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BELL stated that he, himself, came to Grenada, Mississippi, and was pastor at the Central Baptist Church beginning in March, 1967.

Concerning BILL WILSON, BELL stated that he was from Kansas City, Kansas, was a pilot, and flew freight or ferried planes from Kansas City, Kansas, to the Island of Guam.

BELL stated that BILL WILSON caused his father, B. A. WILSON, many problems with debts and money, and BELL stated he believed that BILL WILSON was arrested in California for embezzlement, city and state not known.

BELL stated that BILL WILSON flew into Memphis, Tennessee, on a Sunday after his father died on January 7, 1967, and BELL stated he believed that BILL WILSON was met by the family at the Memphis, Tennessee airport. BELL recalled that the funeral for B. A. WILSON was on the following Monday, and that he, BELL, left Grenada, Mississippi on the Tuesday after B. A. WILSON's funeral. BELL stated he did not know how long BILL WILSON stayed in Grenada, Mississippi after his father's funeral.

BELL described BILL WILSON as a white male, sandy hair, and stated that he did talk with BILL WILSON's second wife whom he described as a bleached blonde with heavy make-up. BELL stated he did not know if BILL WILSON had any children or not.

BELL stated that B. A. and LILLY WILSON did own a house on the corner of Levee and Fourth Streets in Grenada, Mississippi, and BELL stated that he knew of no other land that B. A. WILSON owned that BELL was aware of.

BELL stated that he had talked with LILLY WILSON after B. A. WILSON's death, and stated that LILLY WILSON was desperately afraid of BILL WILSON, and told BILL WILSON she never wanted to

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lay eyes on him again, or have him, BILL WILSON, set foot in her house. BELL further stated that LILLY WILSON did not want BILL WILSON to get any of his father's, B. A. WILSON's, inheritance, as he, BILL WILSON, had already received his share of the estate by his father, B. A. WILSON, paying off BILL WILSON's debts. BELL stated that he believed the amount of \$5,000 was the figure mentioned.

BELL stated that LILLY WILSON is now deceased, stating that she had left Grenada, Mississippi, and went to a nursing home at Fulton, Mississippi, where she died approximately one year ago.

BELL stated that he did hear that BILL WILSON did get his father's, B. A. WILSON, shotgun as part of the inheritance, stating that BILL WILSON and his brother, name not known, argued or disagreed over who would get this shotgun, which BELL stated was worth approximately \$150 or \$200 at that time. BELL stated that he heard that the other WILSON brother walked out in disgust, and apparently left the shotgun with BILL WILSON.

BELL stated that CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE (phonetic) was the administrator of the estate, and an attorney by the name of FREDERICKS read the will.

BELL concluded by stating that the State Baptist Convention Headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi would have the full detail of B. A. WILSON's churches and their locations.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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LYDIA MC GAHEY, 2002 East 8th Avenue North, Columbus, Mississippi, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and of the nature of the inquiry. MC GAHEY thereafter provided the following information:

MC GAHEY stated that she is the sister of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., known to the family as "BILL" WILSON. She advised that WILSON has a very serious drinking problem that came to the surface shortly after the death of their father in 1967.

MC GAHEY advised that BILL WILSON had been very close to their father and became extremely upset and distressed after he passed away. MC GAHEY advised that WILSON may have had a drinking problem prior to the death of their father, but that she only noticed it after their father passed away in 1967.

MC GAHEY advised that on this past Thursday night at approximately 11:00 p.m. (August 17, 1978), she received a telephone call from her brother, BILL WILSON, and during that call he indicated to her that he had killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MC GAHEY stated that she did not take her brother seriously as he has a history of telling ~~untruths~~ and stated that she quickly asked him if he was "Rauel". MC GAHEY advised that her brother indicated to her he did not know what she was talking about.

MC GAHEY advised that approximately one week later she received a similar telephone call from BILL WILSON and on this occasion, he told her that their brother, ALLYSON WILSON, Reform, Alabama, had suffered a heart attack. MC GAHEY stated that she immediately called her brother in Reform, Alabama, and found that he was in perfect health.

MC GAHEY stated that on another occasion, BILL WILSON had called her and told her that he had been involved

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in an airplane crash but that he had survived this crash. She stated that she later found out this was not true at all.

MC GAHEY stated that BILL WILSON has been married several times and has had numerous girl friends. She stated that several of his ex-wives and several of his girl friends have contacted her and asked her if it was true that BILL WILSON had been a prisoner of war. She stated that she assured all of them that this was not the case.

MC GAHEY advised that in 1968, to the best of her recollection, BILL WILSON was living in Grandview, Missouri, and was working at the Wilbur Jewelry Store, Belton, Missouri. She stated that WILSON told her that he owned this jewelry store, but she later found out that he just was an employee there. She stated that BILL WILSON never went to Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968, to the best of her knowledge.

MC GAHEY stated that BILL WILSON moved to Columbus, Mississippi, around the first of June, 1975, but left Columbus, Mississippi, around the last of August, 1975. She stated that when he left Columbus, Mississippi, he moved to Starkville, Mississippi, and stayed there until around January, 1976. She advised that while he was living in Starkville, Mississippi, he married PAT SHINBOLA, 103 Catherine Drive, Starkville, Mississippi, telephone number 323-6717. MC GAHEY indicated that after her brother left Starkville, Mississippi, (and left PAT SHINBOLA) he went to the State of Texas. She indicated that shortly after his arrival in Texas, he was placed in jail in San Antonio. She stated that she received numerous letters from BILL WILSON while he was incarcerated in San Antonio, Texas, and recalled that the jail was on "Mill Street".

MC GAHEY advised that BILL WILSON was married to BETTY WADE, 233 Smith Street, Burleson, Texas, for several years. She stated that to the best of her recollection, her brother was married to BETTY WADE in 1968. She stated that he received a divorce from her on one occasion and that they later remarried. MC GAHEY

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advised that her brother and BETTY WADE had three children, one daughter and two sons.

MC GAHEY advised that their daughter is DEBBIE JONES, 2628 Newburg Road, Trailer #106, Belvidere, Illinois, telephone number 815-543-9734.

MC GAHEY advised that BILL WILSON's oldest son, STEVE WILSON, resides at 3117 Livingston, Fort Worth, Texas. She stated that WILSON's youngest son, MARK WILSON, has been recently married and she is not certain where he is presently living.

MC GAHEY advised that BILL WILSON's former mother and father-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. VERNON HOTTEN, reside at 3095 Ruskin Road, Bartlett, Tennessee, and subscribes to telephone number 901-386-4628.

MC GAHEY stated that BILL WILSON married an individual in San Marcos, Texas, whose first name was JOANN and whose last name she did not know. She stated that this individual resides at 113 Mill Street, San Marcos, Texas, and subscribes to telephone number 512-392-4025. MC GAHEY stated that JOANN indicated to her in a telephone conversation on one occasion that she planned to divorce BILL WILSON and during the same conversation she asked MC GAHEY whether or not WILSON had, in fact, been a prisoner of war. MC GAHEY stated that she told JOANN that he had never been a prisoner of war.

MC GAHEY stated that she, as the oldest child in the family, has always felt an obligation to look out for the interest of her brothers and sisters. She stated that she has been quite concerned for the past several years with the behavior pattern of her brother, BILL WILSON. She stated that on more than one occasion she has discussed the possibility of admitting him to an institution for alcoholics with her brother, ALLYSON WILSON, who lives in Reform, Alabama. She stated that both she and ALLYSON WILSON feel that their brother, BILL WILSON, desperately needs some type of help.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/23/78

Mrs. CHRISTINE (LEON) GUNTARP was telephonically contacted at Fulton, Mississippi, telephone number 862-9355. Mrs. GUNTARP advised that she is the sister of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., and resides at Route 1, Box 36, Fulton, Mississippi.

Mrs. GUNTARP advised that her brother BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., is commonly known as "Bill". Mrs. GUNTARP stated that she has another brother, ALLISON WILSON, age 50, who resides in Reform, Alabama. Her sister LYDIA MC GAHEY resides at 2008 East 8th Avenue North, Columbus, Mississippi, telephone number 327-1141.

Mrs. GUNTARP stated that she has had extremely limited contact with "Bill" during the last 11 years since her father's death. Mrs. GUNTARP related that her father B. A. WILSON, SR., was a Baptist minister in Grenada, Mississippi, and died in 1967. Mrs. GUNTARP stated that it was agreed prior to her father's death that she, CHRISTINE, would be named executrix of the will which would leave all of B. A. WILSON's personal property to his wife LILLY who was his second wife and stepmother to each of the children. Mrs. GUNTARP stated that her stepmother LILLY WILSON remained alive until 1976 and during her life span from 1967 until 1976 she was extremely dependant upon others for assistance. Mrs. GUNTARP stated that she and her sister LYDIA were the only children to show any concern for LILLY WILSON's needs. GUNTARP stated that she therefore handled the disbursement of the WILSON estate in accordance with the interest of each of the brothers and sisters. She stated that this created hard feelings with the brothers since they did not feel as though they were receiving an equitable share of the estate. She advised that "Bill" seemed to be extremely upset over this matter and, in fact, called the GUNTARP residence on one occasion several weeks ago stating that CHRISTINE had "killed" her brother referring to ALLISON who resides in Reform, Alabama. Mrs. GUNTARP stated that she understood her brother "Bill" to mean that her handling of the estate was responsible for her brother ALLISON's death. Mrs. GUNTARP stated that ALLISON is alive and healthy and this statement by "Bill" was totally incorrect. Mrs. GUNTARP advised that her deceased

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by SA DONALD H. GREENE/njb Date dictated 8/21/78

father tried to get help for "Bill" on a number of occasions concerning "Bill's" alcoholic and mental problem. Mrs. GUNTARP stated that her brother is a heavy drinker and tends to fabricate stories when under the influence of alcohol. Mrs. GUNTARP stated that "Bill" will fabricate various types of stories to gain attention. She recalled an incident whereupon she was contacted by "Bill" just prior to entering the hospital whereupon "Bill" told her that he was going to the penitentiary. Mrs. GUNTARP stated that this was totally untrue.

Mrs. GUNTARP explained that "Bill" entered the United States Air Force by forging his father's signature at age 14 or 15 and remained in the Air Force for almost 20 years. She advised that he served one tour in England for approximately three years and resigned prior to completing his 20-year tour. She described her brother as being a very intelligent individual who was capable of piloting planes and conducting a jewelry and watch repair business. She advised that he had been involved in insurance sales in the past.

Mrs. GUNTARP advised that her brother has been married five times and she has learned through family conversations that her brother "Bill" told one of his wives that he had been a prisoner of war in the past. Mrs. GUNTARP stated this is also untrue.

Mrs. GUNTARP advised that her brother had threatened her husband LEON in the past over the will settlement and she and her husband have very little to do with him in view of his erratic behavior.

Mrs. GUNTARP stated that she recalls her brother "Bill" living in or near Kansas City, Missouri, in the past where he was involved in some type of air freight service. She stated that her brother has lived in Memphis, Tennessee, in the past when he was married to BETTY LOU (Last Name Unknown). She stated that "Bill" has a high school education and completed a portion of college through the United States Air Force. She advised he has one daughter DEBORAH ANNE who resides in Bellview, Illinois, and two sons STEVE and MARK ANTHONY.

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Mrs. GUNTARP concluded by stating that she has very little confidence in any statements made by her brother in view of her past experience with him.

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HHC/kbn

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The following investigation was conducted at Ocean Springs, Mississippi by SA HARRY H. CARPENTER on August 19, 1978:

LOUIS P. HELMS, Helms Realty, U. S. Highway 90, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, home telephone number 875-2098, office telephone number 875-0016, advised that he does not know a BILL WILSON. HELMS was shown a photograph of WILSON and he still stated that he did not know WILSON and did not know how WILSON had his name.

MAUDIE ODOM, Bartender, Angle Inn Restaurant and Lounge, Highway 90, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, advised that BILL WILSON had been coming to the Angle Inn for approximately two months and appeared to be a normal customer, causing no trouble. She stated that one of WILSON's close friends, is CARL FORTNA, telephone number 875-0220.

On August 19, 1978, Mrs. MARGARET ALLEN, Assistant Manager, Twin Oaks Motel, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, telephone number 875-5881, stated that BILL WILSON stayed at the Twin Oaks Motel for approximately one month and was an ideal tenant. She stated he caused no problems and she knows of no close associates of WILSON.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription August 21, 1978

CARL D. FORTNA, Route 6, Box 387, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, telephone number 875-0220, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. FORTNA, a white male, born [redacted] in Great Bend, Kansas, advised that he completed the tenth grade of high school, and he could read and write.

FORTNA stated that he met BILL WILSON in Belton, Missouri, in 1966 or 1967. FORTNA was in the Air Force at this time stationed at Richards-Gebauer Air Force Base in Belton, Missouri. FORTNA stated that WILSON and WILSON's wife owned a jewelry store in Belton, Missouri, and that WILSON was a member of the 442nd Air Force Reserve Unit stationed at Richards-Gebauer Air Force Base. FORTNA stated he knew WILSON through their association in the VFW in Belton, Missouri. FORTNA stated that he, FORTNA, retired from the Air Force in 1969 and did not see WILSON again except for one brief moment in 1972 until approximately two months ago. WILSON came to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, from Lafayette, Louisiana, about two months ago and lived in the Twin Pines Motel on Highway 90, Ocean Springs, Mississippi. On July 23, 1978, WILSON moved into a house owned by FORTNA located next door to FORTNA's present residence.

At approximately 4:15 PM on August 18, 1978, WILSON asked FORTNA to come into WILSON's house, that he had something very important to tell him. WILSON told FORTNA, "I killed that black son-of-a-bitch." FORTNA asked WILSON who he was talking about, and WILSON replied MARTIN LUTHER KING. FORTNA stated that he told WILSON he did not believe him, and WILSON said, "I am telling you the truth. I actually killed him. I've been living with it for ten years, and I can't take it anymore." WILSON told FORTNA that MARTIN LUTHER KING was responsible for WILSON's father's death. WILSON did not elaborate further on this. WILSON told FORTNA that this killing was "engineered" by LOU CRUZ (phonetic). FORTNA stated that he knows LOU CRUZ and that LOU CRUZ owned or still owns Lou Cruz Jewelry, 1505 Main Street, Grandview, Missouri. WILSON told FORTNA that he drove to the State Line Airport in Kansas City, Missouri, driving a new Ford Thunderbird. WILSON told FORTNA that CRUZ

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also owned an identical Ford Thunderbird. WILSON left his Thunderbird at the airport and flew to Memphis, Tennessee. CRUZ came to the airport and picked up WILSON's Thunderbird and took it from the airport so it would not be noticed. When WILSON arrived in Memphis, he borrowed a white Ford Mustang that he had purchased for his daughter, DEBORAH. DEBORAH had driven from Kansas City to Memphis in the Mustang. WILSON told FORTNA that he went to the motel where MARTIN LUTHER KING was staying and that he used a Japanese sniper rifle and shot KING holding the rifle on his hip. He stated that this rifle is now in the possession of WILSON's son, STEVE. WILSON told FORTNA that he was driving away from the scene in the Mustang, and he was stopped by the Memphis police, but he talked himself out of a ticket, and the car was not searched. He stated that the rifle was in the trunk of the car at this time. WILSON told FORTNA that he then flew his airplane back to Kansas City, and CRUZ picked him up at the airport and took him home.

FORTNA stated that when WILSON told him the above information, he, FORTNA, believed that WILSON thought he was telling the truth and that he swore on his mother's grave in front of a priest that it was the truth. FORTNA stated that WILSON had never mentioned this subject prior to this instance. FORTNA stated that WILSON has been drinking heavily for the past two months and has lied to him several times in the past two months. WILSON, on occasion, would tell FORTNA that he had been married three or four times since divorcing his first wife and then come back at a later date and say that he had not been married after divorcing his first wife.

FORTNA stated that WILSON is an excellent pilot, that he, FORTNA, has flown with WILSON through bad weather, and WILSON had no problems flying the aircraft.

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA GWYNNE L. HUPFER at Columbus, Mississippi, on
August 19, 1978:

A physical observation of 401 5th Street South,
Columbus, Mississippi, revealed that this is the address
of the Candlewood Apartments.

JAMES LANCASTER, 810 Holland Avenue, advised
that he is the owner of the Candlewood Apartments.
LANCASTER stated that he does not recall anyone by the
name BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., or BILL WILSON, renting
an apartment from him. LANCASTER advised, however, that
he has had a great deal of turnovers in these apartments
over the past several years and he could not possibly
recall all his tenants by name. LANCASTER advised
that his daughter, RITA BROWNLEE, was the resident
manager of the Candlewood Apartments for him for several
years. He stated that she might recall this individual.

RITA BROWNLEE, 3504 Camilia Circle, advised that
she was the resident manager of Candlewood Apartments
during portions of 1974 and all of 1975 and 1976. BROWNLEE
advised that she does not recall anyone named BURGESS
AUDIE WILSON, JR., or BILL WILSON renting an apartment
from her. She stated, however, that she located a payment
from a BILL WILSON, dated July 16, 1975, for apartment #9
at the Candlewood Apartments. She advised that this is
the only record she could find of this individual and
stated that he must have paid his rent payments in cash.

DONALD BEARD, Columbus Police Department,
advised that their records indicate BURGESS A. WILSON
was the complainant and victim of a strong-arm robbery
on August 7, 1975. BEARD advised that is the only record
they have of a BURGESS A. WILSON in their files.

BEARD stated that they have a record of a BILL
WILSON, Apartment #9, Candlewood Apartments, as being
the subject of a disturbance call on August 7, 1975, and
again on August 13, 1975. BEARD advised that a review of
his records indicates that on both of these occasions another

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tenant at the Candlewood Apartments had called the police to complain of excessive noise at the apartment of BILL WILSON. Both of these incidents were handled by officers of their department with no arrests being made and no charges being filed.

BARBARA HENSON, Dispatcher, Lowndes County Sheriff's Office, advised that their records are negative concerning BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., or BILL WILSON.