

he was betrayed, he would not surrender. WILSON declined to furnish BARKSDALE the place from which he was calling but BARKSDALE believed it was a long distance telephone call.

At approximately 11:45 P.M. on August 17, 1978, 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 meet him at the Holiday Inn in Gulfport, Mississippi, at 9:30 A.M., August 18, 1978, rather than August 20, 1978. He instructed BARKSDALE to meet him in the dining room at the Holiday Inn without his coat on and alone. Sheriff BARKSDALE pointed out to WILSON that he (BARKSDALE) would have difficulty meeting him at Gulfport at the appointed time and requested 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 declined to meet with BARKSDALE in Jackson, Mississippi. During this conversation WILSON informed BARKSDALE that he was then in New Orleans, Louisiana, and that he could reach Gulfport, Mississippi, in about one and a half hours.

At approximately 9:45 A.M. on 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 him 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 WILSON had shot Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., in Memphis, Tennessee, in April, 1968. He

informed Reverend FANNON he was to meet Sheriff BARKSDALE at the Holiday Inn, Gulfport, Mississippi, and requested Reverend FANNON to follow him to the Holiday Inn. Reverend FANNON did follow WILSON to the Holiday Inn at Gulfport, Mississippi, and after arriving there they determined that Sheriff BARKSDALE was not on the premises.

At this point BURGESS WILSON took over the telephone and questioned Sheriff BARKSDALE regarding the failure of BARKSDALE to meet with him at 9:30 A.M. on August 18, 1978, as he had previously requested. Sheriff BARKSDALE informed WILSON 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 WILSON. BARKSDALE informed WILSON he would attempt to arrange a meeting with him later that day. WILSON told BARKSDALE 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 contact him regarding the meeting. WILSON furnished BARKSDALE telephone number 601-864-4310 as the telephone number of the Holiday Inn where he could periodically be contacted.

BARKSDALE reported that WILSON appeared to be coherent and Reverend FANNON had also reported to him that WILSON appeared to be coherent and acting normally.

Sheriff BARKSDALE also furnished information obtained from the Bureau of Identification, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, regarding BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. According to records of the Shelby County Sheriff's Office, WILSON, FBI No. 879 421 E, was arrested by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office on May 14, 1964, by the Memphis Police Department on May 26, 1964, and by the Shelby County Sheriff's Office on May 27, 1964, and March 24, 1965. WILSON was also arrested by the Bexar County, Texas, authorities on June 12, 1972, for contempt of court arising out of a child support matter in Bexar County. At the time of the arrest by the Shelby County Sheriff's Office,

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WILSON resided at 3612 Covington Pike, Memphis, Tennessee. At the time he was arrested by Bexar County, Texas, authorities, he resided at 1505 West Canyon Lake Drive, Canyon Lake, Texas. His employment was shown as a jeweler.

Records maintained by the Shelby County Sheriff's Office reveal that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON is a white male, born [redacted] at Fulton, Mississippi, 5'10" tall, 150 pounds, brown eyes, and brown hair.

During the conversation with Sheriff BARKSDALE, WILSON indicated he had a father-in-law VERNON HOOFEN, who resides at 3095 Ruskin, Memphis.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/30/781

GENE BARKSDALE, Sheriff, Shelby County, Tennessee, was interviewed at his office in Memphis, Tennessee. He furnished the following information:

At 3:15 P.M. on August 18, 1978, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON telephonically contacted Sheriff BARKSDALE at the Shelby County Sheriff's Office, Memphis, and informed BARKSDALE he would appear at the Holiday Inn dining room, Gulfport, Mississippi, at 6:30 P.M. on August 18, 1978. WILSON told BARKSDALE he would be accompanied by Reverend NOEL FANNON, Pastor, St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

Investigation on 8/18/78 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987 Sub M
by SA BURL F. JOHNSON:mrp 7 Date dictated 8/24/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/30/78

1

OPAL HOOTEN was interviewed at her residence, 3095 Ruskin Road, Bartlett, Tennessee. She furnished the following information:

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON is her former son-in-law. WILSON and her daughter BETTY LOU, age 47, who now resides with her present husband KEITH WADE at 233 Smith Street, Burleson, Texas, were married in the 1940's and their marriage was terminated by divorce in about 1972 or 1973. The WILSONS had three children, DEBORAH ANN, age 28, who now resides with her husband CHARLIE JONES in Belleview, Illinois, specific address not known; STEVEN, age 26, and MARK ANTHONY, age 21, both of whom reside in Burleson, Texas, specific addresses unknown. WILSON had one brother AL WILSON, who resides in Reform, Alabama, and two sisters LYDA MC GAHA, who resides in Reform, Alabama, and CHRISTINE WILSON, married name not known, who resides in Fulton, Mississippi. WILSON's parents are deceased.

BURGESS and BETTY LOU WILSON resided in Memphis, Tennessee, at various times, specific periods of time not recalled, at Kansas City, Missouri, and Canyon Lake, Texas. In about 1963, they moved from Memphis to Kansas City, Missouri, where they operated a jewelry store. BETTY LOU WILSON left BURGESS at Kansas City after they had resided three two or three years and returned to Memphis. After BETTY LOU and the children left Kansas City and returned to Memphis, BURGESS followed, and the family resided in Memphis as a family unit for a year or two before moving to Canyon Lake, Texas. The marriage between BURGESS and BETTY LOU WILSON, which was troubled during its entire existence, terminated in Canyon Lake, Texas, by divorce in about 1972 or 1973.

While BURGESS and BETTY LOU WILSON and their family resided in Kansas City, BURGESS purchased a white Mustang automobile for his daughter DEBORAH. Mrs. HOOTEN is of the opinion this white Mustang automobile was never transported to Memphis, Tennessee.

Investigation on 8/18/78 at Bartlett, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987 Sub M

by SA THOMAS J. WINEBARGER and SA BURL F. JOHNSON BFJ/mrp 8 Date dictated 8/24/78

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According to Mrs. HOOTEN, BURGESS WILSON was seldom gainfully employed but did from time to time attempt to operate jewelry stores and watch repair shops.

Mrs. HOOTEN described WILSON as a very heavy drinker; however, she pointed out when drinking he talks coherently and his movements do not give any evidence that he is intoxicated. He is a boastful talker and often makes exaggerated statements in an effort to impress people who are listening to him. During the time he was married to BETTY LOU he physically abused not only his wife but his children and on one occasion held BETTY LOU's head under water in the bathtub for a considerable period of time. On one occasion he checked into the Veterans Administration Hospital at Memphis, date not recalled, complaining of a heart attack; however, medical examination revealed no such problem. On another occasion he checked in at the Veterans Administration Hospital and complained of a crippled leg, and again the medical examination revealed no problem with his leg. Mrs. HOOTEN is of the opinion WILSON is a compulsive liar and believes he had nothing whatsoever to do with the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. She could not recall where he resided in 1968 but was of the opinion he was not residing in Memphis at the time. She does not know whether he ever owned or possessed a gun or other weapon but is of the opinion he did not.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/30/78

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VERNON HOOTEN was interviewed at his residence, 3095 Ruskin Road, Bartlett, Tennessee. He furnished the following information:

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, who is also known as BILL WILSON, is his former son-in-law. WILSON was formerly married to HOOTEN's daughter BETTY LOU, age 47, who now resides with her present husband KEITH WADE at 233 Smith Street, Burleson, Texas. Mr. HOOTEN has been suffering from heart problems for a number of years and has difficulty remembering names, dates, and places and referred the interviewing Agents to his wife OPAL HOOTEN for additional background information regarding BURGESS WILSON and his daughter BETTY LOU. Mr. HOOTEN furnished the following additional information:

On the night of August 17, 1978, VERNON HOOTEN received a telephone call from BURGESS AUDIE WILSON at approximately 8:00 P.M. WILSON asked general questions about the health and welfare of the HOOTENS and remarked he resided in New Orleans, Louisiana. WILSON furnished no other personal data regarding himself and the telephone call was terminated after the lapse of a few minutes.

On August 18, 1978, VERNON HOOTEN talked with his son JAMES HOOTEN, who resides at 2081 St. Elmo, Memphis, Tennessee. His son informed him BURGESS WILSON had called him on the evening of August 17, 1978. While WILSON was talking with either JAMES HOOTEN or his wife MARIE, he remarked that he had killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., in 1968. JAMES and MARIE HOOTEN informed him that they believed WILSON was exaggerating and that he did not, in fact, participate in the assassination of Dr. KING.

Mr. HOOTEN described WILSON as a very heavy drinker; however, he pointed out that when he drinks, he talks coherently and his movements do not give any indication that he is intoxicated. He has in the past made verbal threats to kill VERNON HOOTEN and his former wife BETTY LOU WILSON. Mr. HOOTEN was unable to give specific

Investigation on 8/18/78 at Bartlett, Tennessee File Memphis 44-1987 Sub M

by SA THOMAS J. WINEBARGER and SA BURL F. JOHNSON BEJ/mrp 10 Date dictated 8/24/78

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dates or details regarding these threats. Mr. HOOTEN is of the opinion that WILSON is a compulsive liar and that he had nothing whatsoever to do with the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. He did not know whether WILSON ever owned or possessed a gun or other weapon but is of the opinion he did not.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/30/78

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JAMES HOOTEN was interviewed at his residence, 2081 St. Elmo, Memphis, Tennessee. He furnished the following information:

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, who is commonly known as BILL WILSON, is his former brother-in-law. About 9:30 P.M. on August 17, 1978, BURGESS WILSON telephonically contacted JAMES HOOTEN informing him he was calling from Canyon Lake, Texas. WILSON made general inquiries regarding the health and welfare of JAMES HOOTEN and his wife MARIE and then requested HOOTEN call the Shelby County, Tennessee, Sheriff GENE BARKSDALE for him. HOOTEN questioned WILSON regarding the nature of his request, and WILSON told him he had telephoned BARKSDALE on the evening of August 17, 1978, and had an appointment with him on August 20, 1978, place not stated. WILSON told HOOTEN he had called BARKSDALE and was meeting with him to surrender himself because he shot and killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING in 1968. He wanted HOOTEN to call Sheriff BARKSDALE for the purpose of confirming WILSON's identity and the appointment. HOOTEN refused to honor WILSON's request and questioned his sincerity regarding his claim for both the killing of Dr. KING and the appointment with Sheriff BARKSDALE. WILSON insisted he had killed Dr. KING and stated he had met with Sheriff BARKSDALE personally about two weeks previously. He terminated the call when he realized HOOTEN would not call the Sheriff as he requested.

HOOTEN reported that WILSON is an extremely heavy drinker. He believes that WILSON was under the influence of alcohol when he called and that his heavy consumption of alcohol over a long period of time has had an adverse effect on his mind. WILSON was at one time placed in an unknown hospital in Texas by his son STEVEN to be treated for alcoholism. HOOTEN is of the opinion that WILSON had nothing to do with the assassination of Dr. KING but due to the mental deterioration of his mind may believe he did. HOOTEN is not certain but believes WILSON was not in the Memphis area at the time Dr. KING was killed. HOOTEN did not know but believes WILSON never possessed a gun or other

Investigation on 8/18/78 at Memphis, Tennessee File Memphis 44-1987 Sub M

by SA BURL F. JOHNSON:mrp 12 Date dictated 8/24/78

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weapon. He stated that WILSON had never mentioned Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING to him prior to August 17, 1978.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

8/21/78

Date of transcription

Mrs. AVIS LEA HUNTER, nee PRUETT, Apartment C-103, Ravenwood Apartments, 1005 Hickory Hill Lane, Nashville, phone 889-4495 (unlisted), employed as a hairdresser at the Castner-Knott Department Store, Donelson Shopping Center, Nashville, advised as follows:

She married BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, also known as Bill, on December 31, 1974, at Mountain Home, Arkansas, and divorced him in June of 1975 at Huntsville, Alabama, after leaving him in May of 1975. At the time they were married, WILSON told her that he was 42 years of age, although she suspects he is older. She only knew him five weeks before they were married. WILSON worked as a jeweler and had jewelry stores at both Mountain Home, Arkansas, and Huntsville, Alabama.

During their marriage, WILSON would drink alcoholic beverages frequently and after drinking, would become "crazy", rambling, and silly. However, he never became violent nor vicious and never harmed her. During their marriage, he told her numerous wild and untrue stories about himself, including that he was mixed up in the Mafia. He told her these stories to gain attention and it was impossible for her to give him as much attention as he required. To her knowledge, he has never been institutionalized for any mental problems. WILSON frequently "rambled from drinking". She and WILSON moved from Mountain Home, Arkansas, to Huntsville, Alabama, on about April 1, 1975.

She left WILSON because of all of his crazy and wild stories and also because he was getting diamonds at his jewelry store that he did not appear to be paying for. These diamonds were brought there by SIMON CLINE of Cline Brothers Jewelers, Atlanta, Georgia, phone 404-521-1075. After she left WILSON he told her once that he had been jailed in New Brownsville, Texas, later in 1975 and this charge supposedly had something to do with diamonds. She does not know, however, whether or not WILSON was actually in jail there. She has had very little personal contact with WILSON since their divorce. She does not know if he has ever been actually in prison. She also left WILSON because he was always acting crazy and was not stable.

Investigation on 8/19/78 at Nashville, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA ALLEN H. QUIMBY:sle Date dictated 8/21/78

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Since their divorce, WILSON has called her frequently, approximately once a week. On this past Thursday night, August 17, 1978, WILSON phoned at about 10:00 to 10:30 pm Nashville time, and her fourteen year old son [REDACTED] answered the phone. She told [REDACTED] that if the caller was WILSON to tell WILSON that she was not there because she did not want to talk to him. However, she listened in on an extension as WILSON was talking to [REDACTED]. WILSON was very drunk and told [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] would soon see him on television as he had killed MARTIN LUTHER KING. WILSON referred to KING over the phone as a "black bastard". WILSON further told [REDACTED] that the FBI would be coming soon to pick him up and then he hung up. This was the first time that WILSON ever mentioned MARTIN LUTHER KING during the time she has known him. He also has never mentioned JAMES EARL RAY to her. She does not know any associate of WILSON's by the name of MITCH, and does not know any of his associates. She has no idea where WILSON was in April of 1968, as she did not know him until very late 1974. WILSON has a son named MARK, age about 20, who lives somewhere in Texas. In addition he has some member of his family, possibly a sister, who in the past has lived at Memphis, Tennessee.

Mrs. HUNTER advised that WILSON's stories about killing MARTIN LUTHER KING is not true and is just another one of his wild stories that he is telling to get attention.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/30/781

Mrs. OPAL HOOTEN was interviewed at her residence, 3095 Ruskin Road, Bartlett, Tennessee. She furnished the following information:

She could not recall a visit of her daughter, BETTY LOU WADE, and granddaughter, DEBRA WILSON JONES, on occasions following heart attacks suffered by her husband, VERNON HOOTEN. BETTY LOU WADE has in the past visited both Mrs. HOOTEN and her husband when they were ill, but she could not recall the specific dates. She planned to check family medical records and attempt to establish specific dates when Mr. HOOTEN was ill.

Investigation on 8/20/78 at Bartlett, Tennessee File Memphis 44-1987 Sub M

by SA BURL F. JOHNSON:mrp 10 Date dictated 8/25/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/30/781

Mrs. OPAL HOOTEN, 3095 Ruskin Road, Bartlett, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

She conducted an extensive search of family papers and effects and was unable to locate family medical records, check stubs, canceled checks, insurance records, or telephone bills for periods prior to 1975 which record periods of illness of her husband or visits of their daughter, BETTY LOU WADE, and granddaughter, DEBRA WILSON JONES. Mrs. HOOTEN and her husband, VERNON HOOTEN, are unable to recall specific dates of their illnesses during the period prior to 1975 or the visits of their relatives on occasions when they were ill.

Investigation on 8/20/78 at Bartlett, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987 Sub M

by SA BURL F. JOHNSON:mrp 17 Date dictated 8/25/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/30/781

SANDRA HAYNES, Secretary to Security Director,
South Central Bell Telephone Company, Memphis, Tennessee,
furnished the following information:

Toll records are maintained by the South Central
Bell Telephone Company for approximately six months following
dates the calls were made.

Investigation on 8/25/78 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987 Sub M

by SA BURL F. JOHNSON:mrp 18 Date dictated 8/25/78

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ME 44-1987 Sub M

On August 19, 1978, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON was interviewed by SA's K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR., and ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT at Ocean Springs, Mississippi. The following is a portion of the information furnished by WILSON:

WILSON flew to Memphis, Tennessee, in a Bonanza airplane and landed at an airport north of Raleigh, Tennessee. His daughter, DEBRA, picked him up at the airport in her 1965 Mustang which WILSON previously purchased for her. DEBRA WILSON and her mother, BETTY LOU, were at the residence of WILSON's father-in-law at 3095 Ruskin Road, Memphis, due to a heart attack suffered by WILSON's father-in-law.

WILSON went to the Wonder Bar, Summer and White Station Streets, where he was approached by two white men, one having an accent similar to a Puerto Rican. The two men furnished him with FBI credentials which had a black and white photograph of WILSON on it, showed him where KING was to hold a rally, and then took him to a third floor room in a hotel on South Main Street near Beale Street, Memphis. He was instructed to be in the crowd at the rally, that a decoy shot was to be fired, and then he was to shoot. WILSON was informed that KING had the habit of raising his arms over his head when making a speech and the second time he did so, the shots were to be fired.

On the day Dr. KING was killed WILSON was in the crowd standing near a wooden fence about 60 feet from Dr. KING. When Dr. KING raised his arms the second time, WILSON shot him. WILSON had the rifle attached to his belt on a swivel under a suit coat. The barrel protruded below his coat but no one questioned him concerning it. After the shooting he was stopped by the Memphis police but upon showing the credentials they let him go.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/30/781

GLENN MITCHELL, Maintenance Supervisor, Hagler Aero Service, C. W. Baker Airport, Millington, Tennessee, made available fuel receipts maintained by the Hagler Aero Service for the period January through April, 1968. A review of these receipts revealed no information regarding BURGESS AUDIE WILSON or an aircraft bearing number N34L or number 4434L. According to Mr. MITCHELL, receipts are not maintained for credit and cash purchases of fuel, supplies, and equipment. Mr. MITCHELL does not know BURGESS WILSON personally and could furnish no information concerning him.

Investigation on 8/25/78 at Memphis, Tennessee File Memphis 44-1987 Sub M

by SA JAMES A. DAVIS and SA BURL F. JOHNSON:mrp/BEJ 20 Date dictated 8/29/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/30/781

By physical observation it was determined the Chisca Plaza Hotel, 262 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, now utilized as an office building, and the Annex Hotel, 267 South Main Street, Memphis, currently a vacant building, are the closest buildings on Main Street formerly used as hotels in the vicinity of South Main and Beale Streets, Memphis. In recent years portions of Main Street just south of Beale Street have been razed and are either vacant or new buildings were constructed there. The intersection of Main and Beale Streets is approximately half a mile north of the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry Street, Memphis. The Chisca Plaza Hotel and the Annex Hotel buildings are approximately three tenths of a mile north of the Lorraine Motel.

It appears the Lorraine Motel cannot be observed from the Annex Hotel and probably cannot be seen from the third floor of the Chisca Plaza Hotel.

Investigation on 8/28/78 at Memphis, Tennessee File Memphis 44-1987 Sub M

by SA BURL F. JOHNSON:mrp 21* Date dictated 8/28/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE SAN ANTONIO	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 8/30/78	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/18-23/78
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV	TYPED BY mmk
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY	

REFERENCES: Memphis teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/18/78;
 San Antonio teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/18/78;
 Dallas teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/19/78;
 Jackson teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/19/78;
 San Antonio teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/19/78;
 San Antonio teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/21/78;
 Bureau teletype, dated 8/22/78;
 San Antonio teletype, dated 8/23/78;
 Jackson teletype, dated 8/23/78; and
 Jackson teletype, dated 8/24/78.

PS.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE

A review of San Antonio indices revealed that BURGESS
 AUDIE WILSON, JR. is a subject of San Antonio file 29-2620

EXP. PROC.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED <input type="checkbox"/> NONE					ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CON VIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS		

APPROVED *m/x* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:
 4-Bureau (44-38861)
 3-Memphis (44-1987 Sub M)
 (1-USA, Memphis, Tennessee)
 1-Jackson (62-544)
 1-San Antonio (44-1242)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-38861-6308 **REC-60**

15 SEP 1978

EX-124

Dissemination Record of Attached Report			
Agency	2 Crim Div : 1 CRA		
Request Recd.			
Date Fwd.	9/7/78		
How Fwd.	070(B)		
By	HMH:cc		

Notations

W.K. RAY

JWP

61 OCT 19 1978

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COVER PAGE

REC'D CIV RIGHTS
SEP 6 4 16 PM 1978

SEP 26 1976

RECEIVED
SEP 6 2 54 PM '78

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED

SA 44-1242

captioned "BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., BF&E, OO: San Antonio." WILSON allegedly defaulted on a \$1,000.00 note at the Kyle State Bank, Kyle, Texas, and in a security agreement and financing statement filed with the Hayes County District Clerk's Office, WILSON indicated that the \$1,000.00 note was obtained to purchase cattle.

By teletype, dated August 24, 1978, Jackson Division requested San Antonio to re-interview WILSON regarding a discrepancy in the registration number of the Bonanza Aircraft he claimed he owned at the time of KING's death. This interview was not conducted based on telephonic instructions received from ASAC, Memphis Division, on August 24, 1978.

B*
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1-U. S. Attorney, Memphis, Tennessee

Report of: THOMAS E. MOODY, IV Office: San Antonio, Texas
Date: 8/30/78

Field Office File #: 44-1242 Bureau File #: 44-38861

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

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis: NCIC inquiry revealed BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., born 8/28/31, in Mississippi, Social Security Account Number (SSAN) [redacted] wanted by New Braunfels, Texas, Police Department as Probation Violator as of 8/18/78. WILSON presently on probation out of Comal County District Court, Texas, for theft over \$200.00 and under \$10,000.00. WILSON previously treated at McKenna Memorial Hospital, New Braunfels, Texas, and Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital, San Antonio, Texas. No record located for treatment of mental disorders. Results of record reviews of both hospitals, Comal County District Court Clerk's Office, Comal County Probation Office, Comal County Sheriff's Office, and interview of ex-wife set forth.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

On August 18, 1978, inquiry of the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) revealed that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., born [redacted] in Mississippi, Social Security Account Number (SSAN) [redacted] Texas Drivers License Number 77911315, was wanted by the New Braunfels, Texas, Police Department as a Probation Violator, date of warrant April 18, 1978.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Clerk DAVID A. WALL:

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

SA 44-1242

A review of the records, Identification Bureau, Bexar County Jail, San Antonio, Texas, on August 18, 1978, indicated that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., white male, born [redacted] height 5'11", hair black, eyes brown, was booked into the Bexar County Jail on June 19, 1972 on Contempt of Court charges out of State District Court 57 (case number F248-084). WILSON served twelve days and was released on June 30, 1972.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Clerk CARMEN J. HINES:

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

On August 21, 1978, a review of court records, Bexar County 57th District Court, San Antonio, Texas, revealed WILSON was incarcerated for Contempt of Court growing out of a civil suit entitled "Allison-Kaufmann Company, a California corporation, v. North Star Diamond Corporation (case number F248-084) of which WILSON was listed as the owner. This civil suit involved a fraud case and WILSON was incarcerated following his refusal to furnish the court with an inventory of merchandise in his possession belonging to Allison-Kaufmann Company. This incarceration did not involve any action growing out of child support.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent WAYNE SMITH:

AT SAN MARCOS, TEXAS

On August 19, 1978, JO ANN CHILDRESS, 113 Mill, San Marcos, Texas, advised that she met BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as Bill Wilson, at Sadler, Texas, in September, 1977, and they were married in November of 1977. They separated February 15, 1978 and the divorce was finalized on April 26, 1978. On August 12, 1978, she received a telephonic message from WILSON indicating that he was in the state of Tennessee and was involved in an automobile accident. WILSON stated that as a result of this accident both of his legs were amputated. CHILDRESS advised that WILSON is a "very convincing liar and a con-man". He has never mentioned the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING and has never displayed any hatred or dislike for members of the black race.

SA 44-1242

According to CHILDRESS, she believes that WILSON was in the United States Army during 1968, and WILSON has stated that he was a Prisoner Of War (POW) during the Vietnam conflict. She is aware that WILSON visited the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital in San Antonio, Texas on several occasions, but she possesses no knowledge of him suffering from any psychiatric problems. By previous marriage, WILSON has three children, two sons and one daughter, locations not known by CHILDRESS.

CHILDRESS advised that it is her personal opinion that WILSON is sick and she is not in a position to provide any information regarding his whereabouts in 1968 other than the fact that he did mention that he once resided in Memphis, Tennessee.

1
SA 44-1242
TEM:eya

The following investigation was conducted at San Antonio, Texas, by SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV:

On August 22, 1978, MARGI MARTIN, Records, Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital, after having been furnished an Authority to Release Medical Information executed by BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., furnished the following background and descriptive data:

Name	BURGESS A. WILSON
VA Claim Number	14592430
Social Security Account Number	[REDACTED]
Date of Birth	[REDACTED] PII
Place of Birth	Fulton, Mississippi
U. S. Air Force Service Number	142 25 795
Dates of Service	May 2, 1947 - February, 1960
Type of Discharge	Honorable
Address	2601 Westward Drive Apartment 104 San Antonio, Texas (June, 1976) Route 4, Box 620-D Canyon Lake, Texas 78130 (August 4, 1976)
Occupation	Jeweler
Relatives	STEPHEN WILSON (Son) 5627 Culebra San Antonio, Texas Telephone 433-0588

Further review of the record indicated that no compensation was being received from the VA by WILSON and that he had received no treatment at that facility for mental disorders. In June, 1976, his claim folder was located in the Wichita VA Center.

2
SA 44-1242

On June 27, 1976, WILSON was admitted as an in-patient to the VA hospital in San Antonio for insect bites. Initial diagnosis indicated Cellulitis of the right knee, Lymphangitis and Lymphadenitis; inflammation of lymph glands and multiple pus nodules on all extremities and neck. Additional diagnosis included chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; mild cardio infarction and a questionable cerebral vascular attack at age 30.

On June 29, 1976, WILSON went on pass from the hospital to visit his son who had been involved in a motorcycle accident in Dallas, Texas. WILSON did not return to the hospital.

On August 4, 1976, WILSON was treated as an out-patient for lime burn on his left foot. He was seen and released. On August 6, 1976, he telephonically contacted the hospital to report that his foot was healing properly.

On December 11, 1976, he was again treated as an out-patient for a swollen left elbow. He returned on December 14, 1976, for additional treatment. On December 21, 1976, WILSON failed to keep an appointment at the VA hospital for additional treatment and has not been treated subsequent to that time.

1
SA 44-1242
TEM:eya

The following investigation was conducted at
New Braunfels, Texas, by SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV:

On August 22, 1978, WALTER FELLERS, Sheriff, Comal
County, advised that BURGESS WILSON, also known as BILL WILSON,
Texas Department of Public Safety Number 1808984, had been
incarcerated in the Comal County Jail on the following occasions:

Arrest Number	A 8491
Date	March 1, 1976
Charge	Theft Over \$200 and under \$10,000
Address	401 5th Street South Columbus, Mississippi
Disposition	Pled guilty and sentenced to 8 years in the Texas Department of Corrections - probated to 8 years

Arrest Number	8942
Date	June 8, 1976
Charge	Violation of Probation
Address	401 5th Street South Columbus, Mississippi

Arrest Number	9636
Date	November 21, 1976
Charge	Violation of Probation (Capias Number 7721)
Address	Route 4, Box 6206 Canyon Lake, Texas

Arrest Number	A 10576
Date	July 13, 1977
Charge	Violation of Probation
Address	Route 4, Box 6206 Canyon Lake, Texas
Disposition	On bond to District Court

2
SA 44-1242

Sheriff FELLERS advised that a Deputy from his office departed on August 22, 1978, en route to Ocean Springs, Mississippi to return WILSON to New Braunfels, Texas. He indicated that he expects WILSON to be returned prior to the end of the week.

1
SA 44-1242
TEM:eya

The following investigation was conducted by
SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV at New Braunfels, Texas:

On August 22, 1978, HAZEL KUHN, Clerk, District Clerk's Office, Comal County District Court, New Braunfels, Texas, made available for review the records of the Comal County District Court. She noted that on the day BURGESS WILSON was scheduled to appear in Comal County District Court in connection with his divorce proceedings set forth hereinafter, he was admitted to the McKenna Memorial Hospital for an "alleged" rattlesnake bite. His attorney, IRVIN BOARNET of New Braunfels, withdrew from the case following this incident.

A review of the Comal County District Court records revealed that on September 3, 1974, WILSON was indicted by a Comal County Grand Jury for Theft Over \$200, a color television set being the property of DOROTHY E. WIMBERLY, under Cause Number 7520, in the 22nd Judicial District Court. An arrest warrant was served on WILSON on September 20, 1974, in Baxter County, Arkansas (Mountain Home). WILSON waived extradition and restitution was made. The charge was formally dismissed on March 30, 1976.

On February 7, 1975, an information was filed in Comal County District Court charging WILSON with Theft By Check. A capias was issued on February 7, 1975. WILSON, also known as WILLIAM WILSON, Highway 5, Mountain Home, Arkansas, was doing business as Ozark Jewelry and Watch Repair, (501) 425-8636. The charge was subsequently dismissed on December 22, 1977.

On August 7, 1974, WILSON was indicted by the Grand Jury in Comal County for Theft of Over \$200 and Under \$10,000 from ALBERT J. CRAUSE, Apartment 18, 1786 Austin Highway, San Antonio, Texas, under Cause Number 7712. WILSON pled guilty to this charge on March 11, 1976, at which time the following other charges were pending against him:

2
SA 44-1242

Cause Number 7520	Theft Over \$200 - To be dismissed upon Restitution
Cause Number 7686	Theft Under \$200 - To be dismissed upon Restitution
Cause Number 21,797	Pending in the 18th Judicial District Court, Johnson County, Texas - Criminal non-support case
	Case Pending in Oktibbeh, Mississippi - Fraud by False Pretenses

WILSON's spouse at that time was listed as
PATRICIA WILSON, 103 Catherine Drive, Starkville, Mississippi.

As a result of WILSON's guilty plea, he was placed
on 8 years probation by the 22nd Judicial District Court,
Comal County, beginning March 25, 1976. He was to report
weekly to the Probation Officer and pay \$2500 restitution
and \$62.50 for court costs.

On June 8, 1976, the 22nd Judicial District Court
issued a warrant for WILSON's arrest for violation probation.
On June 9, 1976, a hearing to revoke his probation was held
based on his appearance in the Comal County Courthouse under
the influence of intoxicating liquors; his admission to
frequently consuming alcoholic beverages and his failure
and refusal to pay restitution.

On June 25, 1976, an order for continuing probation
was issued after his serving 20 days in jail.

3
SA 44-1242

On November 18, 1976, an order for arrest was issued by 207th Judicial District Court, Comal County, for WILSON's arrest for violation of probation. The capias was served on November 20, 1976. On November 25, 1976, an order continuing probation was issued after WILSON spent four days in jail.

On July 8, 1977, an order for WILSON's arrest was issued by the 207th Judicial District Court. Capias was served on July 9, 1977. Also on that date, an order for his arrest was issued by the 207th Judicial District Court for violation of probation involving the Theft of Over \$200. The capias was served on July 13, 1977.

On April 18, 1978, an order was issued for WILSON's arrest by the 22nd Judicial District Court for violation of probation. The capias was issued on April 18, 1978.

On April 22, 1974, BETTY LOU WILSON filed a petition for divorce in Comal County District Court seeking to dissolve her marriage to BURGESS A. WILSON. The petition listed a son, MARK ANTHONY WILSON, born [redacted] at Memphis, Tennessee. In the petition BETTY LOU WILSON listed her address as 1505 West Canyon Lake Drive, Startzville, Texas, and BURGESS WILSON's address as 101-B Wonderland Shopping Center, Timex Center, San Antonio, Texas. The petition indicated that they were married on February 25, 1967, and separated on March 28, 1974.

In a cross petition filed by BURGESS WILSON on May 21, 1974, he indicated that they were originally married on December 13, 1948, and divorced on August 28, 1966, in Memphis, Tennessee. They were remarried on February 28, 1967, and separated on March 28, 1974.

The cross petition indicated that the son, MARK ANTHONY WILSON, was residing with WILSON's daughter, DEBORAH ANN JONES. A degree of divorce was entered on June 27, 1974, granting custody of MARK ANTHONY WILSON to BETTY LOU WILSON and requiring BURGESS A. WILSON to pay child support. A motion for Contempt was filed on August 19, 1974, as WILSON was in arrears in child support payments. The court has been unable, until this time, to locate WILSON for the purpose of serving the necessary papers.

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SA 44-1242
TEM:eya

The following investigation was conducted by
SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV at New Braunfels, Texas:

On August 22, 1978, FRANK ALLEN, Probation Officer, Comal County, New Braunfels, Texas, advised that BURGESS WILSON was referred to his office for pre-sentence investigation on March 11, 1976. As a result of his pre-sentence investigation, he reported that the chances of successful probation by WILSON would be poor.

ALLEN stated that he did not believe WILSON to be capable of violence and noted that WILSON experiences illusions of grandeur and is capable of telling "wild stories" when drinking.

A review of the records of the Comal County Probation Office regarding WILSON revealed the following information:

Name	BURGESS WILSON	
Date of Birth	<input type="text"/>	PII
Race	White	
Sex	Male	
Height	5'11"	
Weight	165 pounds	
Eyes	Brown	
FBI Number	879 421 E	
Texas Department of Public Safety Number	1,80-898-4	
Social Security Account Number	<input type="text"/>	
Mississippi Driver's License Number	<input type="text"/>	
Address	5627 Culebra, Number 1401 San Antonio, Texas 78228	
Spouse	PATRICIA ELSIA	
Length of Marriage	7 months	
Number of Marriages	3	
Number of Dependents	4	

2
SA 44-1242

References

KENNETH L. KING
Pastor, First Baptist
Church of Canyon Lake,
Star Route #2
Box 94,
New Braunfels, Texas 78130
(512)964-3457

LAWRENCE F. HUGHEY
Route 1
Box 1955
Winona, Texas
(In letter of recommendation,
HUGHEY indicated that he
had never known WILSON to
be hostile, although he
did drink too much)

Relatives

Sister: Mrs. LYDIA MCGAHEY
202 East 8th Avenue
North Columbus,
Mississippi

(WILSON indicated that this
sister is the relative who
understands him best)

Sister: Mrs. CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE
Route 1
Fulton, Mississippi

**One Brother (not further
identified)**

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SA 44-1242

Previous Employments

Crittenden Drywall
8310-A Speedway
San Antonio, Texas
Telephone 341-2407 (5/76)

Austin Power, Incorporated
Buda, Texas
Telephone 295-7351 (12/77)

U. S. Air Force (May, 1947 -
February, 1960)

Knights Life Insurance
Memphis, Tennessee
(July, 1963 - December, 1965)

Prudential Insurance Company
Memphis, Tennessee
(February, 1960 - July, 1963)

U. S. Air Force Reserve
Richards - Gebaur Air
Force Base, Missouri -
Panel Engineer (January, 1966 -
January, 1967)

Self-employed Jewelry and
Watch Repairs,
Starkville, Mississippi
(January, 1967 - January,
1976)

Prior Marriages

BETTY LOU (HOOTEN) WILSON,
December 13, 1948 - 1966;
1966-1973

AVIS LEA (PRUETT) WILSON,
December 31, 1974 - June 7, 1975

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SA 44-1242

Prior Arrests

1963 - Los Angeles, California -
Bad Check - Restitution Made -
Dismissed

1973 - San Antonio, Texas -
Contempt of Court - Dismissed

1972 - San Antonio, Texas -
Post-dated check - Made Good

1966 - Memphis, Tennessee -
forgery - Dismissed

February, 1975, Mountain Home,
Arkansas - Public Drunk -
Fined

January, 1976, Hurst, Texas -
Child support - pending

1974 - Fulton, Mississippi
DWI - Fined

On March 25, 1976, under Cause Number 7712, WILSON was placed on 8 years probation by the 22nd Judicial District Court, Comal County, for Theft Over \$200 and Under \$10,000. The charge resulted from WILSON's taking a check for \$2500 from a supposed business partner to Dallas, Texas, for the purpose of purchasing stock for their jewelry store. WILSON did not return. A condition of the probation was the restitution of \$2500 and payment of court costs in the amount of \$62.50.

On June 8, 1976, WILSON reported to the Probation Office while under the influence of alcohol. WILSON advised that he had been working for the U. S. Secret Service in Seguin, Texas, on a counterfeiting ring and that members of this ring were attempting to kill him. He admitted to being under the influence of alcohol and asked that his probation be revoked. WILSON was incarcerated in the Comal County Jail.

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SA 44-1242

Subsequent inquiry by ALLEN with the U.S. Secret Service determined that WILSON had furnished information of no value to that agency and that there was no counterfeiting ring. After approximately three days of incarceration WILSON advised ALLEN that the reason he had requested his probation be revoked was because he was seeking protection. He indicated that he wanted his probation continued. By report dated February 6, 1978, to the Probation Office, WILSON indicated that he was residing at 113 Mill Street, San Marcos, Texas, 78666, telephone number 392-2776. He listed his employment as self-employed - construction. The report indicated that he was living with his wife, JO ANN WILSON.

1
SA 44-1242
TEM:eya

The following investigation was conducted at New Braunfels, Texas, by SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV:

On August 22, 1978, BARBARA HARTIGAN, Records, McKenna Memorial Hospital, New Braunfels, Texas, after having been furnished an Authority to Release Medical Information, executed by BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR, furnished the following background and descriptive data:

Name	BURGESS WILSON
Date of Birth	
Address	Box 1444 Startzville, Texas
Relatives	STEPHEN WILSON (son) 5427 Little Creek San Antonio, Texas 78242 Telephone 623-4939, U. S. Air Force
Occupation	Retired
Telephone Number	899-2764

Medical records indicate that on May 22, 1974, at 10:35 p.m., WILSON arrived at the Emergency Room, McKenna Memorial Hospital by ambulance experiencing severe chest pains and numbness of his right arm. Examination indicated an abnormal electro-cardiogram. WILSON was admitted at 12:05 a.m., May 23, 1974. He was treated for coronary occlusion. The following day the pain disappeared and the electro-cardiogram was normal. His past medical history listed alcoholism and heart attack, the last "heart attack" being in 1963 in Memphis, Tennessee.

On May 24, 1974, WILSON left the hospital via taxi against medical advice at 3:20 p.m.

It was noted in the medical records that WILSON has upper dentures.

On May 28, 1974, WILSON again appeared at the McKenna Memorial Hospital Emergency Room at 8:45 a.m., indicating that he had received a rattlesnake bite at approximately 7:30 a.m.,

2
SA 44-1242

while pulling weeds at his residence near Canyon Lake. He was admitted to the hospital at 9:45 a.m., with the initial diagnosis being "rattlesnake bite, possible; toxic hepatic dysfunction probably secondary to ethanol intake."

Examination of the wound revealed a slightly raised, scratched area on the left wrist, however, no fang marks were located. WILSON was determined to be allergic to anti-venom. Suction was applied to the wound area, however, no venom was located.

His medical history indicated that he supposedly has carcinoma of the prostate which was diagnosed at the University of Tennessee about six months prior to May 30, 1974. Patient admitted to slightly heavy use of alcohol.

WILSON was discharged at 9:10 a.m., on May 30, 1974.

SA 44-1242

The following investigation was conducted by
SA MANUEL MARQUEZ, JR.:

AT BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

On August 23, 1978, a search with Brownsville, Texas, Police Department records, Cameron County Sheriff's Office records, and Cameron County Jail records, failed to reflect any record identifiable with BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

file Copy

TO : Assistant Attorney General

DATE: 9/7/78

CRIMINAL DIVISION

ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT L. KEUCH

FROM : Director, FBI

Re: Allegation by
BURGESS AUDIE WILSON

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference is made to my memorandum dated 9/5/78
(your file _____).

are two copies

There ~~is~~ enclosed ~~one~~ **copy** of the report of Special Agent **Thomas E. Moody, IV**
dated **8/30/78** at **San Antonio**.

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

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

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

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

E. Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

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

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

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

Enc. (2)

1 - Civil Rights Division

SEE NOTE NEXT PAGE...

JLB *GKS*
FBI/DOJ

NOTE:

A review of San Antonio indices and files revealed that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. is a subject of San Antonio file 29-2620 captioned "BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., BF&E, OO: San Antonio." WILSON allegedly defaulted on a \$1,000.00 note at the Kyle State Bank, Kyle, Texas, and in a security agreement and financing statement filed with the Hayes County District Clerk's Office, WILSON indicated that the \$1,000.00 note was obtained to purchase cattle.

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OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FM HOUSTON (44-1509) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (~~44-38861~~) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN: OO: MEMPHIS.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU, AUGUST 21, 1978.

ON AUGUST 22, 1978, BOB SORRELL, ROUTE ONE, BOX 260,
(BEAUMONT COLONY), KOUNTZE, TEXAS, TELEPHONE 246-2705,
(UNLISTED), WAS CONTACTED AT HIS RESIDENCE WHERE THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED. SORRELL BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH
BILL WILSON THROUGH HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST
CHURCH IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, WHICH WAS PASTORED BY BROTHER
WILSON. SORRELL HAD NO OTHER ASSOCIATION WITH BILL WILSON

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

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SI-130

REC-9

44-38861-6304

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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OF JUSTICE

FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT
DIVISION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000) (P)
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

REC'D - CIVIL RIGHTS
AUG 25 7 04 AM 1978

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PAGE TWO HO 44-1509 CLAS

EXCEPT THROUGH CONTACT AT CHURCH. SORRELL ATTENDED THAT CHURCH AS A YOUNGSTER AND CONTINUED UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 1958, WHEN HIS FAMILY MOVED FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND ATTENDANCE STOPPED.

HE, SORRELL, HAD NO OTHER CONTACT WITH BILL WILSON UNTIL AFTER 1967, WHEN SORRELL EMPLOYED AT HAGLER AERO SERVICE, CHARLES W. BAKER AIRPORT, MILLINGTON, TENNESSEE, TELEPHONE 872-2261. SORRELL WAS PART-TIME EMPLOYEE AT HAGLER UNTIL OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER OF 1967, WHEN HE BECAME FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE AS A LINEMAN.

SORRELL RECALLED THAT SOMETIME AFTER BECOMING A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE BILL FLEW INTO THE AIRPORT, EXACT DATE UNRECALLED, IN A TWIN BEACHCRAFT (D-18) BELIEVED RED AND WHITE IN COLOR WITH POSSIBLY A BLUE STRIPE. SORRELL RECALLED THAT HE REFUELED THIS AIRPLANE, BUT THE TIME OF DAY OF ARRIVAL WAS UNKNOWN. AS RECALLED WILSON WAS WEARING CIVILIAN CLOTHING AND PAID CASH FOR THE FUEL PURCHASE. SORRELL AND WILSON HAD LITTLE CONVERSATION OTHER THAN GREETING. AS BEST RECALLED BY SORRELL, WILSON STAYED OVERNIGHT AND LEFT THE FOLLOWING DAY, TIME UNKNOWN. SORRELL DOES NOT KNOW HOW WILSON WAS

PAGE THREE HO 44-1509 UNCLAS

TRANSPORTED FROM AND TO THE AIRPORT.

WITHIN TWO OR THREE MONTHS WILSON MADE A SECOND VISIT TO HAGLER IN THE SAME AIRCRAFT WHERE HE RECEIVED GAS, PAID CASH AND LAID OVER FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS. AGAIN, SORRELL HAS NO IDEA AS TO HIS TRANSPORTATION FROM AND BACK TO THE AIRPORT. SORRELL HAS NO INFORMATION AS TO WHERE HE CAME IN FROM OR HIS DESTINATION UPON DEPARTURE FROM THE AIRPORT. SORRELL COULD SUPPLY NO INFORMATION ABOUT A 1965, WHITE MUSTANG AND DID NOT KNOW THAT WILSON HAD A DAUGHTER NAMED DEBORAH.

SORRELL HAS NOT SEEN NOR HEARD FROM WILSON SINCE THE LAST VISIT TO HAGLER.

SORRELL TERMINATED HIS EMPLOYMENT AT HAGLER IN OCTOBER OF 1976. HE CANNOT RECALL THE EXACT TIME OF ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE BUT DOES BELIEVE BOTH VISITS OCCURRED IN EITHER 1968 OR 1969. SORRELL ADVISED FUEL RECEIPTS BROKEN DOWN BY SINGLE ENGINE OR MULTI-ENGINE AIRCRAFTS ARE MAINTAINED ON A MONTHLY BASIS. SORRELL ADVISED THAT MR. GLENN MITCHELL, MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR, HAGLER AERO SERVICES, COULD ASSIST WITH REVIEW OF GAS RECEIPTS TO DETERMINE EXACT DATE OF ARRIVAL.

PAGE FOUR HO 44-1509 UNCLAS

SORRELL HAD NO INFORMATION HOW WILSON CAME INTO POSSESSION OF AIRCRAFT AND DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WAS LEASED OR OWNED BY HIM. IN RECALLING THE TWO VISITS BY WILSON, SORRELL HAS A GUT FEELING THAT SOMEONE MAY HAVE BEEN WITH HIM ON EACH OCCASION, BUT THIS IS JUST A FEELING ON HIS PART AND HE CAN SUPPLY NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THIS FEELING. SORRELL HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT AN AIRPORT IN OLATHA, KANSAS, WHERE WILSON ALLEGEDLY LANDED AFTER DEPARTURE FROM MEMPHIS.

AS FURTHER BACKGROUND, SORRELL RECALLED THAT DURING ATTENDANCE AT THE HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH HE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT WILSON WAS IN AND OUT OF TROUBLE, ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT KNOW THE TYPE. HE MAY HAVE RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION FROM ONE OF WILSON'S SISTERS, NAMES UNRECALLED. THROUGH CONTACT WITH WILSON AT CHURCH, WILSON IMPRESSED SORRELL AS THE TYPE OF GUY WHO ALWAYS HAD A "BIG DEAL", "KIND OF A CONMAN PERSONALITY". AGAIN, AND IT MAY HAVE BEEN ONE OF WILSON'S SISTERS WHO MENTIONED IT, SORRELL GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT WILSON HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND RECEIVED TIME FOR AN UNKNOWN OFFENSE. SORRELL ADVISED THAT CONTACT WITH WILSON'S SISTERS WAS AT CHURCH. HE AGAIN STATED THAT HE HAS A GUT

PAGE FIVE HO 44-1509 UNCLAS

FEELING THAT ONE OF THEM MAY HAVE BEEN AT THE AIRPORT ON ONE OF THE ABOVE OCCASIONS.

SORRELL DID NOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT WILSON SERVED IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE, BUZ RECALLED THAT WILSON WORE A UNIFORM AT CHURCH ON OCCASION. SORRELL WAS NOT AWARE THAT WILSON WAS EMPLOYED AT PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY BUT DOES RECALL HIS MARRIAGE TO BETTY LOU, MAIDEN NAME UNKNOWN, BECAUSE BETTY LIVED IN THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD. SORRELL HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT WILSON'S CLEANING BUSINESS OR TIME SPENT IN THE TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD OR THAT WILSON HAD EVER LIVED IN THE MEMPHIS AREA.

SINCE NO INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED FROM SORRELL CONCERNING THE AIRPORT IN KANSAS AND DID NOT KNOW (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) FISHER, FROM WHOM WILSON ALLEGEDLY PURCHASED THE AIRCRAFT, ANY LEADS FOR KANSAS WILL BE LEFT UP TO THE DISCRETION OF MEMPHIS.

LEADS. MEMPHIS AT MILLINGTON, TENNESSEE. CONTACT GLENN MITCHELL AND ATTEMPT TO REVIEW LOGICAL GAS RECEIPTS TO DETERMINE EXACT DATE OF WILSON'S REFUELING AT HAGLER AERO SERVICE.

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HOUSTON AT HOUSTON. WILL SUBMIT REPORT.

BT

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FM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

BT UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH.

MURKIN

RE JACKSON TEL TO BUREAU 8-19-78.

ON 8-19-78, MRS. AVIS LHEA HUNTER, NEE PRUETT, C 103, RAVENWOOD APARTMENTS, 1005 HICKORY HILL LANE, NASHVILLE, TENN., ADVISED AS FOLLOWS:

SHE MARRIED BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, AKA, BILL ON 12-31-74 AT MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS, AFTER KNOWING HIM FOR ONLY 5 WEEKS. SHE DIVORCED HIM IN JUNE, 1975 AT HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA. WILSON TOLD HER HE WAS 42 YEARS OLD AND HE WORKED AS A JEWELER. DURING THEIR MARRIAGE WILSON DRANK FREQUENTLY AND WOULD BECOME CRAZY, RAMBLING, AND SILLY, ALTHOUGH NEVER VIOLENT. HE WOULD FREQUENTLY TELL HER "WILD" UNTRUE STORIES INCLUDING THAT HE WAS IN THE MAFIA. SHE LEFT HIM BECAUSE OF HIS INSTABILITY AND THE FACT HE WAS RECEIVING DIAMONDS THAT HE APPARENTLY WAS NOT PAYING FOR. SHE IS NOT AWARE OF WILSON

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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

Pruett

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REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
AUG 21 1 07 PM '78
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

... CIVIL RIGHTS ...
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