

PAGE THREE BH 44-L740 UNCLAS E F T O

TO COMMIT A CRIME OF VIOLENCE INASMUCH AS HE ONLY WANTED TO
GET SOMETHING TO DRINK AND GET DRUNK.

BT

19 AUG 78 23 05z

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir.	
Dep. AD Adm.	
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Public Affs. Off.	
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Director's Sec'y	

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I 19 2242Z AUG 78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE ALL OFFICES VIA FBIHQ

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT

MURKIN; DO: MEMPHIS.

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., INMATE, OCEAN SPRINGS CITY JAIL,
OCEAN SPRINGE, MISSISSIPPI, WAS INTERVIEWED BY FBI AGENTS, AUGUST

19, 1978, REGARDING HIS ALLEGED KNOWLEDGE AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE
ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING AFTER HAVING WAIVED HIS RIGHTS 25 1978
RIGHTS, AND HE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

WILSON ADVISED THAT THE TIME PRIOR TO THE MURDER OF MARTIN
LUTHER KING, HE WAS LIVING IN GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, IN A HOUSE ON

TELETYPED TO:

~~66 OCT 25 1978~~
J.S.

Inglen advised
10:00 PM 8/19/78
JLB

P. Leffman (2)
Foster

EX-120 REC-20 44-38861-6318X2

OCT 5 1978

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U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE

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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 (LNU), 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

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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 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

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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

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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

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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

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THAT HE USED WAS ON THE KANSAS SIDE ON THE HIGHWAY TO OLATHE, KANSAS. HE STATED THE AIRPORT WAS RUN BY (FNU) 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.

WILSON ADVISED THAT HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF JAMES EARL RAY HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN THE CONSPIRACY.

THE ABOVE INFORMATION REFLECTS COMPLETE DETAILS OF INTERVIEW WITH WILSON.

WILSON HAS SIGNED EXTRADITION PAPERS, AND EXTRADITION IN PROGRESS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

APPROPRIATE RECIPIENTS REQUESTED TO REINTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE INCONSISTENCIES CONCERNING HIS APPEARANCE IN MEMPHIS ON APRIL 4, 1968.

CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ALLOWING TWO AGENTS FROM MEMPHIS DIVISION WHO ARE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE MURKIN MATTER TO REINTERVIEW WILSON CONCERNING HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING AND ALSO INTERVIEW

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BY POLYGRAPH OPERATOR FROM MEMPHIS DIVISION.

BT

FOR ANY CORRECTIONS PLESASE CONTACT JACKSON

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FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FM SAN ANTONIO (44-1240)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Serv.	_____
Crim. Inv.	<u>Mark</u>
Ident.	_____
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Training	_____
Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

Reedman

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH BUILDING.

MURKIN.

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RECORDS, IDENTIFICATION BUREAU, BEXAR COUNTY JAIL,
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, ON AUGUST 18, 1978, INDICATE BURGESS
AUDIE WILSON, JR., WHITE MALE, [REDACTED] PII

5 FT, 11 INCHES, BLACK HAIR, BROWN EYES, BOOKED INTO BEXAR
COUNTY JAIL JUNE 19, 1972 ON CONTEMPT OF COURT OUT OF STATE
DISTRICT COURT 57 (CASE NUMBER F 248-084). WILSON SERVED
TWELVE DAYS AND WAS RELEASED JUNE 23, 1972

EX-20 REC-2044-38861-6318X1

CENTRAL RECORDS, BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT COURT, WILL
NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW UNTIL AUGUST 21, 1978.

ADMINISTRATIVE: RE MEMPHIS TEL, AUGUST 18, 1978. 5 SEP 25 1978
SAN ANTONIO INDICES AND FILES REVEAL BURGESS AUDIE WILSON,
JR., WHITE MALE, BORN 8/28/31, TEXAS DRIVERS LICENSE (TDL)

66 OCT 25 1978

[Handwritten signature]

*JWB
A*

OCT 5 1978

REC'D CIV RIGHTS
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 21 1 07 PM '78
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U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



PAGE TWO SA 44-1242 EFTO

NUMBER 7911315 EXPIRING 8/20/80, PREVIOUS ADDRESS,
113 MILLS STREET, SAN MARCOS, TEXAS IS SUBJECT OF SAN ANTONIO
FILE 29-2620 CAPTIONED "BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.: BF&E";
OO: SAN ANTONIO. WILSON ALLEGEDLY DEFAULTED ON A \$1,000
NOTE AT 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 NOTE WAS OBTAINED TO PURCHASE CATTLE.

NCIC INQUIRY REVEALED BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.,
BORN 8/28/31 IN MISSISSIPPI, SSAN [REDACTED] IDL
77911315 WANTED BY NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT AS
PROBATION VIOLATOR, DATE OF WARRANT 4/18/78.

SAN ANTONIO AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, WILL REVIEW BEXAR
COUNTY DISTRICT COURT RECORDS RE IDENTITY OF CHILDREN OF BURGESS
AUDIE WILSON, JR. IN EFFORT TO LOCATE FORMER WIFE FOR INTERVIEW.

AT NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, WILL CAUSE A REVIEW OF RECORDS OF
LOGICAL POLICE AGENCIES REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.,

[REDACTED] PII

AT SAN MARCOS, TEXAS, WILL CONDUCT DISCREET INQUIRY TO
DETERMINE IF RESIDENCE OF FORMER WIFE AND FAMILY FOR INTERVIEW.

BT

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PP HQ BH DL JN

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FM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) (P)
TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY
BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY
DALLAS PRIORITY
JACKSON PRIORITY

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FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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Adm. Serv.	_____
Crim. Inv.	14/10
Ident.	_____
Intell.	_____
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Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

BT
UNCLAS E F T O

PEERMAN

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH.

MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPES TO BUREAU AUGUST 18, 1978, NO COPIES TO BIRMINGHAM OR DALLAS.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF BIRMINGHAM AND DALLAS, ON AUGUST 18, 1978, GENE BARSDALE, SHERIFF, SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., ADVISED THAT ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 17, 1978, HE RECEIVED 2 TELEPHONE CALLS FROM BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. WILSON, WHO WAS FORMERLY IN THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS, TENN., WITH BARKSDALE, INFORMED THE SHERIFF THAT HE HAD KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968 AT MEMPHIS ; THAT HIS DAUGHTER DROVE A WHITE MUSTANG FROM KANSAS CITY MISSOURI, TO MEMPHIS 3 DAYS PRIOR TO KING'S DEATH AND WISHED TO SURRENDER TO

2

REC-20 44-38861-6318X

5 SEP 25 1978

JWB
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REC'D CIV RIGHTS

OCT 2 1978

INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS AUG 19 6 21 AM '78
FBI

AUG 21 1 07 PM 1978 U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE

TO DIRECTOR, FBI AND MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
FROM SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; CIVIL RIGHTS
MURDER; MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE; 4/4/68; S; C
RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND MEMPHIS, AUGUST
18, 1978.
FOR INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU AND MEMPHIS, THE
FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION
CONDUCTED AT MEMPHIS FROM AUGUST 14 TO 18, 1978.
ON AUGUST 14, 1978, AN INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED
WITH [REDACTED] AT HIS RESIDENCE IN
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT
HE HAD BEEN ADVISED BY [REDACTED] THAT
[REDACTED] HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH
[REDACTED] IN THE WEEK END PREVIOUS TO
AUGUST 14, 1978. [REDACTED] STATED THAT
[REDACTED] HAD BEEN ADVISED THAT [REDACTED]
HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH [REDACTED] IN
THE WEEK END PREVIOUS TO AUGUST 14, 1978.
[REDACTED] STATED THAT [REDACTED] HAD
BEEN ADVISED THAT [REDACTED] HAD BEEN
IN CONTACT WITH [REDACTED] IN THE WEEK
END PREVIOUS TO AUGUST 14, 1978.

ON AUGUST 15, 1978, AN INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED
WITH [REDACTED] AT HIS RESIDENCE IN
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT
HE HAD BEEN ADVISED BY [REDACTED] THAT
[REDACTED] HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH
[REDACTED] IN THE WEEK END PREVIOUS TO
AUGUST 15, 1978. [REDACTED] STATED THAT
[REDACTED] HAD BEEN ADVISED THAT [REDACTED]
HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH [REDACTED] IN
THE WEEK END PREVIOUS TO AUGUST 15, 1978.
[REDACTED] STATED THAT [REDACTED] HAD
BEEN ADVISED THAT [REDACTED] HAD BEEN
IN CONTACT WITH [REDACTED] IN THE WEEK
END PREVIOUS TO AUGUST 15, 1978.

ON AUGUST 16, 1978, AN INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED
WITH [REDACTED] AT HIS RESIDENCE IN
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT
HE HAD BEEN ADVISED BY [REDACTED] THAT
[REDACTED] HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH
[REDACTED] IN THE WEEK END PREVIOUS TO
AUGUST 16, 1978. [REDACTED] STATED THAT
[REDACTED] HAD BEEN ADVISED THAT [REDACTED]
HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH [REDACTED] IN
THE WEEK END PREVIOUS TO AUGUST 16, 1978.
[REDACTED] STATED THAT [REDACTED] HAD
BEEN ADVISED THAT [REDACTED] HAD BEEN
IN CONTACT WITH [REDACTED] IN THE WEEK
END PREVIOUS TO AUGUST 16, 1978.

ON AUGUST 17, 1978, AN INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED
WITH [REDACTED] AT HIS RESIDENCE IN
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT
HE HAD BEEN ADVISED BY [REDACTED] THAT
[REDACTED] HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH
[REDACTED] IN THE WEEK END PREVIOUS TO
AUGUST 17, 1978. [REDACTED] STATED THAT
[REDACTED] HAD BEEN ADVISED THAT [REDACTED]
HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH [REDACTED] IN
THE WEEK END PREVIOUS TO AUGUST 17, 1978.
[REDACTED] STATED THAT [REDACTED] HAD
BEEN ADVISED THAT [REDACTED] HAD BEEN
IN CONTACT WITH [REDACTED] IN THE WEEK
END PREVIOUS TO AUGUST 17, 1978.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, AN INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED
WITH [REDACTED] AT HIS RESIDENCE IN
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT
HE HAD BEEN ADVISED BY [REDACTED] THAT
[REDACTED] HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH
[REDACTED] IN THE WEEK END PREVIOUS TO
AUGUST 18, 1978. [REDACTED] STATED THAT
[REDACTED] HAD BEEN ADVISED THAT [REDACTED]
HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH [REDACTED] IN
THE WEEK END PREVIOUS TO AUGUST 18, 1978.
[REDACTED] STATED THAT [REDACTED] HAD
BEEN ADVISED THAT [REDACTED] HAD BEEN
IN CONTACT WITH [REDACTED] IN THE WEEK
END PREVIOUS TO AUGUST 18, 1978.

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

BARKSDALE AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISS. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR WILSON AND COMPANION REV. NOEL FANNON, PASTOR, ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISS., TO APPEAR AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISS., AT 6:30 PM ON AUGUST 18, 1978, AT WHICH TIME THEY WERE TO BE CONTACTED BY SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE JACKSON OFFICE. WILSON WAS CONTACTED BY SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE JACKSON OFFICE; HOWEVER, HE DECLINED TO DISCUSS INFORMATION REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING WITH THEM.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, VERNON AND OPAL HOOTEN, 3095 RUSKIN RD., BARTLETT, TENN., THE FORMER FATHER-IN-LAW AND MOTHER-IN-LAW OF WILSON, FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

WILSON AND THEIR DAUGHTER BETTY LOU, AGE 47, WHO NOW RESIDES WITH HER PRESENT HUSBAND KEITH WADE AT 233 SMITH ST., BURLESON, TEXAS, WERE MARRIED IN THE 1940'S AND THE MARRIAGE WAS TERMINATED BY DIVORCE IN ABOUT 1972 OR 1973. THE WILSONS HAD 3 CHILDREN, DEBORAH ANN, AGE 28, WHO NOW RESIDES WITH HER HUSBAND CHARLIE JONES IN BELLEVIEW, ILL., SPECIFIC ADDRESS NOT KNOWN; STEVEN, AGE 26, AND MARK ANTHONY, AGE 21, BOTH OF

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

WHOM RESIDE IN BURLESON, TEXAS, SPECIFIC ADDRESSES UNKNOWN.

WILSON HAS ONE BROTHER AL WILSON, WHO RESIDES IN REFORM, ALA., AND 2 SISTERS, LYDA MC GAHA, WHO RESIDES IN REFORM, ALA., AND CHRISTINE WILSON, MARRIED NAME NOT KNOWN, WHO RESIDES IN FULTON, MISS. HIS PARENTS ARE DECEASED.

(BURGESS AND BETTY LOU WILSON RESIDED IN MEMPHIS, TENN., AT VARIOUS TIMES, SPECIFIC PERIODS OF TIME NOT RECALLED, AT KANSAS CITY, MO., AND CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. THEY MOVED TO KANSAS CITY, MO., IN 1963 FROM MEMPHIS WHERE THEY OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE. BETTY LOU WILSON LEFT BURGESS AT KANSAS CITY AFTER THEY HAD RESIDED THERE 2 OR 3 YEARS AND RETURNED TO MEMPHIS. WHILE RESIDING IN KANSAS CITY, MO., BURGESS PURCHASED A WHITE MUSTANG AUTOMOBILE FOR HIS DAUGHTER DEBORAH. THE HOOTENS ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THIS WHITE MUSTANG AUTOMOBILE WAS NEVER TRANSPORTED TO MEMPHIS, TENN. 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 2 BEFORE MOVING TO CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. THE MARRIAGE WAS TERMINATED IN CANYON LAKE, TEXAS, BY DIVORCE IN ABOUT 1972 OR

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

1973. BURGESS WILSON WAS SELDOM GAINFULLY EMPLOYED BUT DID FROM TIME TO TIME ATTEMPT TO OPERATE JEWELRY STORES AND WATCH REPAIR SHOPS.)

ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 17, 1978, VERNON HOOTEN RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM BURGESS AUDIE WILSON AT APPROXIMATELY 8:00 PM. WILSON ASKED GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE HOOTENS AND REMARKED THAT HE RESIDED IN NEW ORLEANS, LA. WILSON FURNISHED NO OTHER PERSONAL DATA REGARDING HIMSELF AND THE PHONE 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, AND HIS SON INFORMED HIM THAT BURGESS WILSON HAD ALSO 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 IN 1968. JAMES AND MARIE HOOTEN ARE OF THE OPINION THAT WILSON WAS EXAGGERATING AND DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HE IN FACT PARTICIPATED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING. /

THE HOOTENS DESCRIBED WILSON AS A VERY HEAVY DRINKER; HOWEVER, THEY POINTED OUT THAT WHEN DRINKING HE TALKS COHERENTLY /

PAGE FIVE (ME 44-1987 9 M) UNCLAS E F T O

AND HIS MOVEMENTS DO NOT GIVE 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. HE HAS IN THE PAST BEEN PHYSICALLY ABUSIVE TOWARD HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AND ON ONE OCCASION HELD HIS FORMER WIFE'S HEAD UNDER WATER IN THE BATHTUB FOR A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME. HE HAS MADE THREATS TO KILL VERNON HOOTEN AND HIS FORMER WIFE BETTY LOU WILSON. ON ONE OCCASION HE CHECKED IN THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) HOSPITAL AT MEMPHIS, TENN., DATE NOT RECALLED, AND COMPLAINED OF A HEART ATTACK; HOWEVER, MEDICAL EXAMINATION REVEALED NO HEART PROBLEM. ON ANOTHER OCCASION HE CHECKED IN AT THE VA HOSPITAL AND COMPLAINED OF A CRIPPLED LEG AND AGAIN MEDICAL EXAMINATION REVEALED NOTHING WAS WRONG WITH HIM. VERNON HOOTEN BELIEVES THAT WILSON WOULD FALSELY CONFESS TO A CRIME IN ORDER TO HAVE A PLACE TO SLEEP AND EAT IF HE WAS IN NEED OF FOOD AND SHELTER. IN THE OPINION OF THE HOOTENS, WILSON IS A COMPULSIVE LIAR AND BOTH ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE HAD NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. THEY CANNOT RECALL SPECIFICALLY WHERE HE

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RESIDED IN 1968 BUT ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE DID NOT MAINTAIN A RESIDENCE IN MEMPHIS AT THAT TIME. THEY DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE EVER OWNED OR POSSESSED A GUN OR OTHER WEAPON BUT ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE DID NOT.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, JAMES HOOTEN, 2081 ST. ELMO, MEMPHIS, TENN., FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

ABOUT 9:30 PM ON AUGUST 17, 1978, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, COMMONLY KNOWN AS BILL WILSON, CALLED JAMES HOOTEN STATING HE WAS CALLING FROM CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. HE MADE GENERAL INQUIRIES REGARDING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF JAMES HOOTEN AND HIS WIFE MARIE, AND THEN HE REQUESTED HOOTEN TO CALL SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., SHERIFF GENE BARKSDALE FOR HIM. HOOTEN QUESTIONED HIM 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. HE INFORMED 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 HIS, WILSON'S, IDENTITY

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

AND THE APPOINTMENT. HOOTEN REFUSED TO HONOR WILSON'S REQUEST AND QUESTIONED HIS SINCERITY REGARDING HIS CLAIM FOR BOTH THE KILLING AND THE APPOINTMENT WITH THE SHERIFF. WILSON INSISTED HE HAD KILLED KING AND STATED HE HAD MET WITH SHERIFF BARKSDALE PERSONALLY ABOUT 2 WEEKS PREVIOUSLY. HE TERMINATED THE CALL WHEN HE REALIZED HOOTEN WOULD NOT CALL THE SHERIFF AS HE REQUESTED.

ACCORDING TO HOOTEN, WILSON IS AN EXTREMELY HEAVY DRINKER.) HE FEELS THAT WILSON WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL WHEN CALLED AND THAT HIS HEAVY CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL 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 HAVE HIM 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.

DALLAS WILL CONTACT BETTY LOU WADE AT 233 SMITH ST., BURLESON, TEXAS, AND OBTAIN ALL PERTINENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PAGE EIGHT (ME 44- 37 SUB M) UNCLAS E F T O

REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON AS WELL AS THE ADDRESSES OF WILSON'S CHILDREN DEBORAH ANN, STEVEN, AND MARK ANTHONY. STEVEN AND MARK ANTHONY WILSON SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED FOR INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THEM REGARDING BURGESS WILSON AND APPROPRIATE LEADS SHOULD BE SET FORTH REQUESTING INTERVIEW OF DEBORAH ANN WILSON JONES, BELLEVIEW, ILL.

THE BIRMINGHAM OFFICE WILL INTERVIEW LYDA MC GAHA AND AL WILSON AT REFORM, ALA., AND OBTAIN ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION RE BURGESS WILSON FROM HIS BROTHER AND SISTER.

JACKSON WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW CHRISTINE WILSON, MARRIED NAME NOT KNOWN, AT FULTON, MISS., AND DEVELOP ALL PERTINENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION RE BURGESS WILSON.

ALL OFFICES INTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON RE VERACITY OF HIS ALLEGATIONS AND PRESENCE IN MEMPHIS DURING THE CRITICAL PERIOD (APRIL 4, 1968) AND IF WILSON HAS HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS.

ALL OFFICES NOTE THESE LEADS SHOULD BE GIVEN EXPEDITE ATTENTION.

BT

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TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987) PRIORITY

JACKSON (INFO)

SAN ANTONIO (INFO)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH. MURKIN.

*Pederman
Foster*

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPES TO BUREAU 8/18/78 AND SAN ANTONIO
TELETYPE TO BUREAU 8/18/78.

ON 8/19/78 BETTY LOU WADE, 233 SMITH RD. BURLESON, TEXAS WHO
IS FORMER WIFE OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, STATES SHE WAS MARRIED TO
WILSON ON 4/4/68 AND CAN POSITIVELY STATE WILSON WAS AT GRANDVIEW,
MISSOURI, THAT DATE AND COULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN MEMPHIS, TENN.,
AS HE IS CLAIMING. SHE SAID THEY RESIDED AT AN UNRECALLED
ADDRESS ON HERRICK ST. AND WILSON HAD A JEWELRY BUSINESS AT
THE KATZ DRUG STORE IN GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI. WADE SAID MR. KATZ
SUBSEQUENTLY SOLD THE DRUG STORE AND THE BUSINESS WAS MOVED TO
HELTON, MISSOURI, WHERE IS WAS ESTABLISHED IN A SMALL SHOPPING
CENTER UNDER THE NAME OF WILBUR'S JEWELRY.

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REC-74 44-38861-6318

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U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE

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PAGE TWO DALLAS UNCLAS E F T O

WADE SAID WILSON NEVER OWNED OR HAD ACCESS TO A WHITE MUSTANG VEHICLE AND HER DAUGHTER DEBRA ANN JONES NEE WILSON NEVER DROVE ANY VEHICLE FROM KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, TO MEMPHIS, TENN., ON OR ABOUT 4/4/68.

WADE ADVISED SHE HAS BEEN DIVORCED FROM WILSON FOR OVER 5 YEARS. SHE SAID WILSON HAS EXPERIENCED MENTAL PROBLEMS FOR YEARS AND SHE DESCRIBED HIM AS A "LIAR AND CON ARTIST WHO CAN'T DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN TRUTH AND FANTASY". SHE SAID HE DEFINITELY NEEDS MEDICAL HELP.

WADE SAID SHE HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS THREATENING AND HARASSING TELEPHONE CALLS FROM WILSON OVER THE PREVIOUS 5 YEARS AND HAD HIM ARRESTED AT CELBURN, TEXAS IN 1976 FOR NON-CHILD SUPPORT AND HARASSMENT. SHE SAID WILSON WAS COMMITTED TO A HOSPITAL AT NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS IN 1974-1975 FOR HIS UNSTABLE MENTAL CONDITION. WADE STATES WILSON ALWAYS CARRIES A 38 CAL. PISTOL AND SHE WOULD CONSIDER HIM DANGEROUS.

SHE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING LIST OF WILSON'S RELATIVES WHO CAN SUBSTANTIATE HIS MENTAL CONDITION: SISTERS, LYDA MCGAHEY, 2002 EAST 8TH AVE. NORTH, COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, TELEPHONE NUMBER 327-

PAGE THREE DALLAS UNCLAS E F T O

1141, CHRISTINE GUNTHORP, ROUTE 1 BOX 36, FULTON, MISSISSIPPI;
BROTHER, ALLISON WILSON, REFORM, ALABAMA; CHILDREN, STEPHEN
WAYNE WILSON, 3117 LIVINGSOON, FORT WORTH, TEXAS, TELEPHONE
NUMBER 923-9414, MARK ANTHONY WILSON, 514 SOUTHEAST GARDENS, APT.
132, BURLESON, TEXAS, TELEPHONE NUMBER 295-2854, DEBRA ANN JONES,
2628 NEWBURG RD. LOT NUMBER 106 AT BELVDERE, ILLINOIS, TELEPHONE
NUMBER 543-9734.

✓ DALLAS INDICES SEARCH NEGATIVE RE WILSON.

FURTHER LEADS BEING LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF MEMPHIS.

BT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE OKLAHOMA CITY	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 9/26/78	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/22 - 9/1/78
TITLE OF CASE MURKIN		REPORT MADE BY GEORGE R. ZEIGLER	TYPED BY RS
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

REFERENCE:

Kansas City teletype to Bureau 8/21/78;
 Oklahoma City teletype to Bureau 8/23/78;
 Dallas teletype to Bureau 8/23/78;
 Kansas City teletype to Bureau 9/1/78;
 Oklahoma City teletype to Bureau 9/1/78;
 Oklahoma City teletype to Kansas City 9/6/78.

-RUC-

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

APPROVED: *R/K* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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44-38861-631 REC-16

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Agency	2-Crim Div 1-ORD
Request Recd.	
Date Fwd.	10/11/78
How Fwd.	16-1000
By	W. H. Baum

Notations

26B 10/11/78

W. H. Baum

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62 OCT 24 1978

A* COVER PAGE

СОЛЕР БУДЕ

FD-302 (REV. 1-25-60)

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 NAME: [Handwritten Name]
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 ADDRESS: [Handwritten Address]
 OCCUPATION: [Handwritten Occupation]

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LIFE OF CASE

СНУВУСІВЕР ОВ СУЗЕ

PREVIOUS

VERSION

DATE OF BIRTH

DATE OF DEATH

AGE

PLACE OF BIRTH

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1-USA, Memphis

Report of: GEORGE R. ZEIGLER Office: Oklahoma City
Date: 9/26/78

Field Office File #: 44-686 Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: MURKIN

Character: Civil Rights

Synopsis:

Records of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Aeronautical Center, on September 1, 1978, identified registration number N4434L as being assigned to a 1956 Model G-35 Beechcraft aircraft, serial number D-4600. History of aircraft ownership set forth with a current owner identified as RONALD N. KARAS, 120 Paige Court, Weinton, West Virginia.

-RUC-

DETAILS:AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA.

On August 22, 1978, records of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Aeronautical Center, Will Rogers World Airport, identified FAA registration number 34L as a deregistered number as of 1962. The number was previously assigned to a Beech E-18-5 (twin engine), serial number BA-73. All records in storage at the Federal Record Center, Fort Worth, Texas, under accession number 63-H-496, location 200,340, box 1.

Records of the FAA, Aeronautical Center, Will Rogers World Airport, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, were again checked on September 1, 1978 with reference to FAA registration number N4434L. Those records identified the number as being assigned to a 1956 Model G-35 Beechcraft aircraft, serial number D-4600. That aircraft was initially sold by Beechcraft on April 20, 1956 to Gopher Aviation, Inc., Rochester, Minnesota who sold the aircraft on May 3, 1956 to Franklin Manufacturing Company, 65

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OC 44-686

22nd Avenue, N. E., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Franklin Manufacturing Company sold the aircraft on March 17, 1960 to Mid State Aviation Corp., Sky Harbor Airport, Northbrook, Illinois. That aviation corporation sold the aircraft on April 18, 1960 to CONNIE C. MILLER, 9618 Sagamore, Kansas City, Missouri.

MILLER sold the aircraft on May 27, 1968 to Fisher Sales and Service, Inc., Box 6516, Leawood, Kansas, and that sales and service company sold the aircraft on June 6, 1968 to BURGESS WILSON and LOU CREWS, 553 N. Scott, Belton, Missouri. On June 12, 1969, the aircraft was sold by WILSON and CREWS to GARY W. WILSON, 1302 N. Hocker, Independence, Missouri.

GARY WILSON sold the aircraft, date not known, but document received at FAA on February 16, 1970, to George T. Ward Builders, Inc., 1401 Plaza Center, Blue Springs, Missouri. The aircraft was sold on September 27, 1973 by Builders, Inc. to JERALD L. FISHER, 1204 S. 19th Street, Blue Springs, Missouri. FISHER sold the aircraft to GEORGE R. KEELING, Prairie Village, Kansas (date unknown), who sold the aircraft to RONALD J. MAGGARD, 2218 E. 110th Street, Kansas City, Missouri. The date of that sale is unknown, but the Bill of Sale received at FAA on August 16, 1974.

MAGGARD sold the aircraft on October 15, 1974 to CHARLES W. VAN HOFWEGEN, Highway 10, Orange City, Iowa. VAN HOFWEGEN sold the aircraft on December 10, 1975 to MICHAEL NEFF, 525 Hickory, Nevada, Iowa. NEFF sold the aircraft on October 19, 1977 to Gene Simpson Aircraft Sales, Inc., Onawa, Iowa. That sales company sold the aircraft on October 24, 1977 to RONALD N. KARAS, 120 Paige Court, Weinton, West Virginia. The aircraft is currently owned by KARAS and properly registered with the FAA as of October 28, 1977.