

F B I

Date: 8/23/68

# 8 371

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

FBI #1244/25  
137 - 2244  
12/31/14 Liberal Kansas  
88-6181

TO: SAC, KANSAS CITY  
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed for Kansas City is one copy each of Bureau airtel dated 8/21/68 captioned "DONALD JAMES NISSEN; PAROLE VIOLATOR" and "MURKIN," Bureau airtel to Jackson dated 5/27/68 and an investigative insert reflecting an interview of DONALD JAMES NISSEN by Agents of the St. Louis Office on 8/5/68.

You will note that Bureau airtel dated 5/27/68 directs Kansas City to interview LEROY MC MANAMAN; however, the Bureau neglected to send a copy of this airtel to Kansas City.

Kansas City is now requested to interview MC MANAMAN regarding the alleged \$100,000 offer to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., to determine if MC MANAMAN has had anyone attempt to contact NISSEN and whether MC MANAMAN has ever related to NISSEN information regarding this offer. Results of this interview with MC MANAMAN should be furnished the Bureau in a letterhead memorandum suitable for dissemination to the U. S. Board of Parole.

76-4626

44-760-1030

2 - Kansas City (Encs. 3)  
2 - Memphis  
JCH:LF  
(4)

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
AUG 25 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	
<i>Howe</i>	

Approved: *R. Jensen* Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Kansas City, Missouri

September 5, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

DONALD JAMES NISSEN

On September 3, 1968, Leroy Mc Manaman, FBI #1244125, was interviewed at the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, where he is currently incarcerated.

Mc Manaman advised that he was born on [redacted], in Liberal, Kansas. He advised that he has been in the penitentiary since 1963, for violation of the Harboring Statute. His prison number is 81371 and he expects to be released sometime during the year 1970.

Mc Manaman stated he was well aware of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the subsequent apprehension of James Earl Ray. He advised he did not know Ray and knows of no one willing to pay a bounty to have King assassinated. He advised that he himself was not in sympathy with King's beliefs, but knows of no one connected with the Ku Klux Klan, had never heard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi, did not know of \$100,000. price willing to be paid for his assassination, and certainly never made any remarks concerning this. Mc Manaman stated he knows of no one interested enough in Martin Luther King's travels to pay money for information concerning his itinerary and travel routes. He never heard of any organization, either inside or outside the prison by the name of "Cooley Organization."

Mc Manaman went on to state that he did not know a Donald James Nissen. He was informed that Nissen came to Leavenworth Penitentiary during July 1965, for violation of the ITSMV statute and was subsequently paroled. Mc Manaman said there are thousands of prisoners here, many of who know him whom he does not know. He again stated he had never heard of Donald James Nissen. He observed a photograph of Nissen and again stated he did not remember ever seeing this individual. Mc Manaman advised he knows of none of his

4 - Bureau  
2 - Atlanta  
2 - Memphis  
2 - Kansas City  
RBH:ikc  
(10)

44-760-1231

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It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents  
are not to be distributed outside your agency.

DONALD JAMES NISSEN

associates meeting the description of white male, 30-35 years old, 5'10", 165-170 pounds, blond hair cut medium short and slightly wavy who wears expensive clothes, and certainly knows of no one meeting this description who would have been in Atlanta in December of 1967, or who was willing to pay money for information regarding Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mc Manaman again stated that he knows of no one connected with the Ku Klux Klan and knows of no group willing to pay a bounty for King's assassination.

2\*

9-6-68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) (P)

MURKIN

Re Memphis airtel to Kansas City, 8-23-68.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 4 copies of letterhead memorandum reflecting results of interview with LEROY MC MANAMAN. Enclosed for Atlanta and Memphis are 2 copies each of above letterhead memorandum.

The letterhead memorandum is being captioned "DONALD JAMES NISSEN" inasmuch as Kansas City was instructed to furnish results of this interview in a form suitable for dissemination to the U. S. Board of Parole.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 4)  
1 - Atlanta (Enc. 2)(Info)  
1 - Memphis (Enc. 2)(Info)  
② - Kansas City  
RBH:ikc,mlb  
(7)

*M*

140-5160-1232  
~~1233~~  
Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

9-6-68

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3 - Bureau (Enc. 4)  
1 - Atlanta (Enc. 2)(Info)  
1 - Memphis (Enc. 2)(Info)  
② - Kansas City  
RBH:ikc,mlb  
(7)

*mlb*

*Post*  
*157*

44-760-1232  
~~1233~~

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Kansas City, Missouri

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2 - Atlanta  
2 - Memphis  
2 - Kansas City  
RBH:ikc  
(10)

44-760-1231  
Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

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DONALD JAMES NISSEN

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2\*

9/16/68

TELETYPE

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN.

THIS DATE, CONFERENCE HELD WITH DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL PHIL M. CANALE, MEMPHIS, AND HIS REPRESENTATIVES. MATTER OF LINING UP WITNESSES AND EVIDENCE DISCUSSED. CANALE PROPOSED FOLLOWING PROCEDURES BE ESTABLISHED SO THAT HE CAN COMPLETE REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF PERTINENT EVIDENCE:

FIRST, HE WOULD LIKE REPRESENTATIVES OF HIS OFFICE TO MEET WITH LABORATORY EXAMINERS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY ON DATE NEXT WEEK. CANALE PROPOSES THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF HIS OFFICE HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS FINDINGS WITH INTERESTED EXAMINERS AND HIS REPRESENTATIVES TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW EVIDENCE STILL MAINTAINED AT LABORATORY.

CANALE FEELS THAT IF HIS REPRESENTATIVES GIVEN THIS OPPORTUNITY, THEY CAN MAKE DECISION, BASED ON EVIDENCE AVAILABLE, AS TO NUMBER OF EXAMINERS THEY MIGHT NEED IN CONNECTION WITH TRIAL, TYPE OF EVIDENCE THAT MIGHT BE SUITABLE FOR USE, AND THIS WOULD ALSO GIVE THEM AN IDEA AS TO VARIOUS FIELD DIVISIONS AND WITNESSES IN THOSE DIVISIONS.

RGJ:ME  
(9)

CC: ATLANTA (AM)  
BIRMINGHAM (AM)  
CHICAGO (AM)  
KANSAS CITY (AM)

CC: LOS ANGELES (AM)  
NEWARK (AM)  
NEW ORLEANS (AM)  
ST. LOUIS (AM)

44-760-1233

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input type="checkbox"/>
SEP 18 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Info (2) [Signature]  
1 Home [Signature] RSM



PAGE TWO

CANALE STATES THAT AFTER REVIEW OF DATA WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT LABORATORY, HE PROPOSES THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF HIS OFFICE THEREAFTER CONTACT PERTINENT FIELD DIVISIONS AND DISCUSS WITH AGENTS WHO SECURED EVIDENCE THE INFORMATION THEY CAN TESTIFY TO, AND HE WOULD AT THIS TIME ALSO TALK TO WITNESSES IN THE RESPECTIVE DIVISIONS WHOM HE MIGHT HAVE TO SUBPOENA.

CANALE ALSO MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY THAT IN CONNECTION WITH LINING UP WITNESSES, A REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS OFFICE MIGHT HAVE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN FOREIGN TRAVEL. SPECIFICALLY, HE MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF GOING TO LONDON, TO MEXICO CITY, AND TO MONTREAL AND TORONTO.

BUREAU REQUESTED TO ADVISE SUITABLE DATE ON WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE CAN MEET WITH LABORATORY REPRESENTATIVES TO REVIEW PERTINENT EVIDENCE AND DISCUSS FINDINGS SO THAT APPROPRIATE WITNESSES CAN BE LINED UP.

IT WAS OPINION OF CANALE THAT IF THIS PRELIMINARY WORK CAN BE COMPLETED, HE CAN BETTER EVALUATE WHAT HE NEEDS FOR THE TRIAL AND FEELS THAT ON THIS BASIS HE WILL NEED A MINIMUM OF FBI PERSONNEL TO TESTIFY AS TO THE VARIOUS ITEMS THAT MAY BE OF PERTINENCE IN THIS CASE.

PAGE THREE

AIR MAIL COPIES TO ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, CHICAGO, KANSAS  
CITY, LOS ANGELES, NEWARK, NEW ORLEANS, AND ST. LOUIS. P.

END

9-23-68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) (P)  
MURKIN

Re Memphis tel to Bureau, 9-16-68, re conference with District Attorney General PHIL M. CANALE, Memphis.

It is requested the Memphis Office advise Kansas City if and when witnesses are needed from this area as arrangements can be made to have them all interviewed at the same time. Also, representatives can be taken to the Missouri State Penitentiary in order that CANALE's representatives can view the prison and interview the Warden, plus any witnesses they may desire from that area.

2 - Memphis  
2 - Kansas City  
RBH:mlb  
(4)

*mlb*  
*[Signature]*

44-760-~~1233~~<sup>1234</sup>

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]*

9-23-68

AIRTEL

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2 - Memphis  
② - Kansas City  
RBH:mlb  
(4)

44-760-<sup>1234</sup>~~1233~~  
Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized             
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed

Optional Form No. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
MEMORANDUM

TO : ALL SPECIAL AGENTS

DATE: 9/24/68

*RAD*  
~~FROM~~ : SAC (44-760)

NO. 68-133

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
COST DATA

Each Agent is requested to submit to SA THOMAS J. CONNOLLY by COB 9/30/68, via routing slip, number of hours spent on the MURKIN case in the month of September, broken down as to regular and overtime hours, total mileage estimated or actually driven in Bucars on the case and any unusual or out of the ordinary costs in connection with this case.

cc - 66-232  
TJC:B

44-760-1835  
SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIAL \_\_\_\_\_  
SEP 24 1968  
HOWE RBA

9/24/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) -P-  
RE: MURKIN

Enclosed herewith are nine (9) copies of FD-302 of BILL GORDON STEINHOFF, FBI #426 064 B who is presently incarcerated in the Sedgwick County Jail, Wichita, Kansas on local charges. Also enclosed herewith is photograph of STEINHOFF and copy of his arrest record.

No leads are being set forth pertaining to any of the information furnished by STEINHOFF since the Kansas City Division is not aware if any of the information has previously come to the attention of Memphis. It is also unknown if any of the persons mentioned by STEINHOFF has previously been interviewed. All logical leads are being left to the discretion of the office of origin.

Because of the length of the interview and the conditions under which this interview was conducted, and because of the nature of the information, no effort was made to have a second person witness the signature of STEINHOFF. Also, no effort was made to correct some of the spelling errors in the typed statement prepared by STEINHOFF.

2 - Memphis (Encs. 11)  
② - Kansas City  
JFM:ENV  
(4)

*ENV*

*RAK*

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

44-760-1836

9/24/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) -P-  
RE: MURKIN

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2 - Memphis (Encs. 11)  
2 - Kansas City  
JFM:ENV  
(4)

44-760-1836

Searched	_____
Serialized	_____
Indexed	_____
Filed	_____

9/30/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) -P-

MURKIN  
COST DATA

Re Memphis airtel to Albany, 4/19/68.

Following is a break-down of the number of man hours and other expenses allocated by the Kansas City Division to Murkin for the Month of September, 1968:

1. A) Special Agent - <sup>13</sup> 8 regular hours  
0 overtime hours  
Total <sup>13</sup> 8 hours

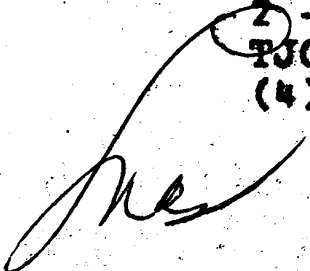
B) Clerical employees - <sup>4</sup> 8 regular hours  
0 overtime hours  
Total <sup>4</sup> 8 hours

2. Total mileage traveled in Bureau cars - <sup>10</sup> 55 miles

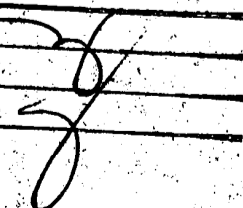
3. Out-of-ordinary costs - None.

4. Peak number of special Agents working on case during month - 1 Agent.

2 - Memphis  
2 - Kansas City  
TJC:nks  
(4)



44-760-1237  
Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_





9/30/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) -P-

MURKIN  
COST DATA

Re Memphis airtel to Albany, 4/19/68.

Following is a break-down of the number of man hours and other expenses allocated by the Kansas City Division to Murkin for the Month of September, 1968:

1. A) Special Agent - 9 regular hours  
0 overtime hours  
Total 9 hours

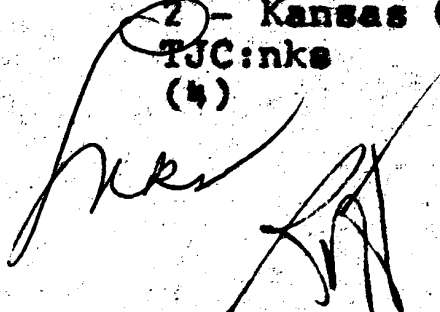
B) Clerical employees - 8 regular hours  
0 overtime hours  
Total 8

2. Total mileage traveled in Bureau cars - 55 miles

3. Out-of-ordinary costs - None.


4. Peak number of special Agents working on case during month - 1 Agent.

2 - Memphis  
2 - Kansas City  
TJC:nks  
(4)



44-760-1237

Searched	_____
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Indexed	_____
Filed	_____





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No. 44-1854

Miami, Florida  
October 2, 1968

Re: MURKIN  
CIVIL RIGHTS

On September 30, 1968, DONALD LEE MITCHELL was interviewed at his request at the Collier County Jail, Naples, Florida.

44-760-1238

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 7 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

*dyers*

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date October 2, 1968

DONALD LEE MITCHELL was interviewed at the Collier County Jail at his request. Prior to the interview, he was advised of his rights as reflected on an executed waiver of rights form.

MITCHELL furnished the following statement in his own handwriting:

"September 30, 1968

"I, DONALD LEE MITCHELL, make the following statement to Special Agent ERNEST HARRISON, JR., whom I know to be a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"In 1961, I had the opportunity to meet one JAMES EARL RAY. I was introduced by a friend of mine by the name of HAWKS, who was doing twenty four (24) years. He was from New Madrid, Missouri, not far from my home town of Kennett.

"He informed RAY that I was about the last of the good convicts. RAY said he was pleased to meet me, because the big city boys from St. Louis, and K.C., Mo. were turning out to be a bunch of 'punks'. This was the Mo. State Pen, Jefferson City, Mo.

"RAY was the quiet type of guy. He had very little to say to convicts or guards for that matter. I seen him every now and then, but didn't ask many question. We had used a little dope together, but that was all.

"RAY showed great contempt for the colored convicts, as he very seldom talked to them except on business deals for dope or money. He was always telling me how the boys from St. Louis

- 2 -

On 9/30/68 at Naples, Florida File # Miami 44-1854

by SA ERNEST HARRISON, JR./mgc Date dictated 10/2/68

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"and K.C. always kissed their (Obscene #1) \_\_\_\_\_.  
He said he never would, because if it hadn't  
been for LINCOLN they would still be shining  
his shoes.

"I was released from prison on August 21,  
1962. And never heard from RAY until, 1966.

"In June 4, 1965, I received two (2)  
years from Butler County, Mo. After thirty  
(30) days in quarantine I was sent to Church  
Farm, (one of the prison farm which is honor).

"Later in January, 1966, I was trans-  
ferred back to the walls to complete the rest  
of my time.

"I was placed in Food Service and there  
I remained until by release of June 1, 1966,  
from the Missouri State Penitentiary, at  
Jefferson City, Mo.

"On, or around the middle of February,  
1966, I came in contact with JAMES EARL RAY  
again. He explained that it was nice to see  
me and that he had a good deal for me.

"He wanted to know if I would do him  
and myself a big favor; so I said yes; any-  
thing to help a friend.

"When he first mentioned escape I thought  
he wanted me to leave with him, but I quickly  
explained that I got out on June 1, 1966, that  
year. He said no, I want you to help me.

"Than after I make it I'll wait on you in  
St. Louis. He asked me how I would like to  
make a lot of money so I said doesn't everyone.  
But I explained I had this girl friend in  
Tennessee, who was waiting on me, but he let  
me know that it really didn't make any  
difference at all.

"So I wanted to know what his plans were. This is how RAY, explained it to me. Some people (friends in St. Louis) fixed it with some one in Philadelphia, for him to kill Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

"I told RAY I didn't want to get mixed up in it. So he let me know real politely that I was already in it only didn't realise it yet. An I couldn't get out unless I wanted it. Than I agreed to go along, after I heard this. Also he told me I was coming up there to the pen, for chicken feed, was I afraid to get ahead? I told him no, but killing KING, we couldn't get away with.

"RAY told me not to worry about a thing. Also how did a grand some of Fifty Thousand (50,000) dollars sound to me? I said great, but what if we get caught? He explained we wouldn't and if we did we would get out of it with a fixer lawyer, besides who in the South like "Niggers"??

"RAY also said after we get KING, we'll beable to get more for one of the KENNEDY's. I said that the Kennedy Family had done more for the United States, than anyone ever had. He said they were like KING, a bunch of Cominists all of them and that in the way they wanted people to believe, an I did.

"RAY said: Take that punk J.F.K. (meaning JOHN F. KENNEDY, Late President) for instants, he made you eat with a nigger on the streets didn't he? He made you live by them, go to school with them. So how is he so great? I said, that a change had to come and we had better be ready for one. RAY got mad at me and said not as long as I can kill one of the (Obscene #2) . I seen he was angry, so I told him, I guess he was right about it. He said, he knew he was and would get KING to prove it.

"At this time I wanted to know how, JAMES EARL RAY, planned to escape from the walls, of the Mo. State Pen.

"This is how it was to be done. RAY would leave his cell in the month of April, or approx. for the show. He would than have his bed fixed so as a gaurd would not discover him missing. Than I came into the picture:

"RAY was to place himself on top of the main kitchen, where I worked. Than at 2:30 AM I was to send him food and cigarettes, with a jar of water. He was to remain there for about three days, after that I was to get some kind of pills he gave me into the coffee that was to be sent to the Gauard Towers.

"After that he would wait until they were asleep and he would go over the wall. He had someone, by the name of VINCE or VINCESON waiting on him from St. Louis, Mo.

"RAY continued to pass me notes, on the matter up until the night he plan to leave.

"The first note read: DON L. don't let me down if you do you know the score. But you won't!

"The second was. Tear these notes up and flush them! Say can't you just see all that money for one lousey Nigger? We will live in style and travle the world. You can bring your girl along. Your Pal JIM.

"#No. Three: 'Pal, the time has grown near, so all is left is the wait. I think April 12, is a good day, or do you believe Lucky 13. Smile friend, JIM.'

"The last note was:

"Tonight is it my friend and I know I can count on you for your part. Don't lose those pills I gave you!! Remember everything, because my ride will be then. See you on June 1, my friend. Your Friend Always JAMES.

"RAY's escape would have been good if not a guy by the name of SEEBRING (or something of the sort) hadn't tried it as well on the same night, but they found him hiding in the show after everyone had left for the cell-house.

"RAY was latter captured on top of the main kitchen, where a gaurd had seen him, when he tried to change places.

"JAMES EARL RAY never stated which one of the Kennedy family: All he said was one day it will be: K.K.K. as he put it KENNEDY, KING and KENNEDY. Than our worries will be over.

"He never stated who the other people were in St. Louis or Phillie (just that they may have others lined up for us.)

"When SEEBRING was placed in the kitchen I asked why he was trying to leave: He stated he had life and was playing a hunch, but did not know RAY had planned to leave.

"The above is a true statement made by me on this 30th day of September, 1968.

"There has been know threats or promises made to me in this matter what-so-ever. It is of my own free will.

"/s/ DONALD LEE MITCHELL

"I, DONALD LEE MITCHELL, do hereby swear that the above is true to the best of my knowledge so help me God.

"Signed: DONALD LEE MITCHELL "

"Wittnessed: ERNEST HARRISON, JR., FBI-Miami.

MM 44-1854

6

In addition to the above, MITCHELL further advised that RAY said if he, MITCHELL, would help him kill MARTIN LUTHER KING it would be worth \$50,000 to each of them and later on they could get more than that for taking care of those "stinking KENNEDYS". RAY said it was people like KING and the KENNEDYS who try to run the world and they are all Communists and want nothing but power and domination of the whole world. RAY would never tell MITCHELL who had arranged for the money if he killed KING only that it was arranged through someone in St. Louis with someone in Philadelphia.

MITCHELL said he was to be near the building from which RAY would shoot KING and after the shots were fired and attention was focused on the building he, MITCHELL, was to run and create attention to get the police to chase him. He was to have the police chase him for some distance before being caught and this would give RAY ample time to walk away from the building. MITCHELL was then to tell the police that he heard shots and since he was an ex-convict he got scared and did not want to get in any trouble so he ran. The police would be unable to prove anything against MITCHELL, since there would be no gun or powder marks or fingerprints or any evidence linking MITCHELL to the shooting. RAY was then going to go "up north" and after awhile purposely get himself picked up on his jail break from the Missouri State Penitentiary, because he said that he would have enough money at that time to hire a lawyer to get him a parole.



MM 44-1854

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No. 44-1854

Miami, Florida  
October 2, 1968

Re: MURKIN  
CIVIL RIGHTS

On September 30, 1968, DONALD LEE MITCHELL was interviewed at his request at the Collier County Jail, Naples, Florida.

44-760-1238

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 7 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

*Howe* *RBH*

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date October 2, 1968

DONALD LEE MITCHELL was interviewed at the Collier County Jail at his request. Prior to the interview, he was advised of his rights as reflected on an executed waiver of rights form.

MITCHELL furnished the following statement in his own handwriting:

"September 30, 1968

"I, DONALD LEE MITCHELL, make the following statement to Special Agent ERNEST HARRISON, JR., whom I know to be a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"In 1961, I had the opportunity to meet one JAMES EARL RAY. I was introduced by a friend of mine by the name of HAWKS, who was doing twenty four (24) years. He was from New Madrid, Missouri, not far from my home town of Kennett.

"He informed RAY that I was about the last of the good convicts. RAY said he was pleased to meet me, because the big city boys from St. Louis, and K.C., Mo. were turning out to be a bunch of 'punks'. This was the Mo. State Pen, Jefferson City, Mo.

"RAY was the quiet type of guy. He had very little to say to convicts or guards for that matter. I seen him every now and then, but didn't ask many question. We had used a little dope together, but that was all.

"RAY showed great contempt for the colored convicts, as he very seldom talked to them except on business deals for dope or money. He was always telling me how the boys from St. Louis

- 2 -

On 9/30/68 at Naples, Florida File # Miami 44-1854

by SA ERNEST HARRISON, JR./mgc Date dictated 10/2/68

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"and K.C. always kissed their (Obscene #1) \_\_\_\_\_.  
He said he never would, because if it hadn't  
been for LINCOLN they would still be shining  
his shoes.

"I was released from prison on August 21,  
1962. And never heard from RAY until, 1966.

"In June 4, 1965, I received two (2)  
years from Butler County, Mo. After thirty  
(30) days in quarantine I was sent to Church  
Farm, (one of the prison farm (which is honor)).

"Later in January, 1966, I was trans-  
ferred back to the walls to complete the rest  
of my time.

"I was placed in Food Service and there  
I remained until by release of June 1, 1966,  
from the Missouri State Penitentiary, at  
Jefferson City, Mo.

"On, or around the middle of February,  
1966, I came in contact with JAMES EARL RAY  
again. He explained that it was nice to see  
me and that he had a good deal for me.

"He wanted to know if I would do him  
and myself a big favor; so I said yes; any-  
thing to help a friend.

"When he first mentioned escape I thought  
he wanted me to leave with him, but I quickly  
explained that I got out on June 1, 1966, that  
year. He said no, I want you to help me.

"Than after I make it I'll wait on you in  
St. Louis. He asked me how I would like to  
make a lot of money so I said doesn't everyone.  
But I explained I had this girl friend in  
Tennessee, who was waiting on me, but he let  
me know that it really didn't make any  
difference at all.

"So I wanted to know what his plans were. This is how RAY, explained it to me. Some people (friends in St. Louis) fixed it with some one in Philadelphia, for him to kill Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

"I told RAY I didn't want to get mixed up in it. So he let me know real politely that I was already in it only didn't realise it yet. An I couldn't get out unless I wanted it. Than I agreed to go along, after I heard this. Also he told me I was coming up there to the pen, for chicken feed, was I afraid to get ahead? I told him no, but killing KING, we couldn't get away with.

"RAY told me not to worry about a thing. Also how did a grand some of Fifty Thousand (50,000) dollars sound to me? I said great, but what if we get caught? He explained we wouldn't and if we did we would get out of it with a fixer lawyer, besides who in the South like "Niggers"??

"RAY also said after we get KING, we'll be able to get more for one of the KENNEDY's. I said that the Kennedy Family had done more for the United States, than anyone ever had. He said they were like KING, a bunch of Cominists all of them and that in the way they wanted people to believe, an I did.

"RAY said: Take that punk J.F.K. (meaning JOHN F. KENNEDY, Late President) for instants, he made you eat with a nigger on the streets didn't he? He made you live by them, go to school with them. So how is he so great? I said, that a change had to come and we had better be ready for one. RAY got mad at me and said not as long as I can kill one of the (Obscene #2) . I seen he was angry, so I told him, I guess he was right about it. He said, he knew he was and would get KING to prove it.

"At this time I wanted to know how, JAMES EARL RAY, planned to escape from the walls, of the Mo. State Pen.

"This is how it was to be done. RAY would leave his cell in the month of April, or approx. for the show. He would than have his bed fixed so as a gaurd would not discover him missing. Than I came into the picture:

"RAY was to place himself on top of the main kitchen, where I worked. Than at 2:30 AM I was to send him food and cigarettes, with a jar of water. He was to remain there for about three days, after that I was to get some kind of pills he gave me into the coffee that was to be sent to the Gauard Towers.

"After that he would wait until they were asleep and he would go over the wall. He had someone, by the name of VINCE or VINCESON waiting on him from St. Louis, Mo.

"RAY continued to pass me notes, on the matter up until the night he plan to leave.

"The first note read: DON L. don't let me down if you do you know the score. But you won't!

"The second was. Tear these notes up and flush them! Say can't you just see all that money for one lousey Nigger? We will live in style and travle the world. You can bring your girl along. Your Pal JIM.

"#No. Three: 'Pal, the time has grown near, so all is left is the wait. I think April 12, is a good day, or do you believe Lucky 13. Smile friend, JIM.'

"The last note was:

"Tonight is it my friend and I know I can count on you for your part. Don't lose those pills I gave you!! Remember everything, because my ride will be then. See you on June 1, my friend. Your Friend Always JAMES.

"RAY's escape would have been good if not a guy by the name of SEEBRING (or something of the sort) hadn't tried it as well on the same night, but they found him hiding in the show after everyone had left for the cell-house.

"RAY was latter captured on top of the main kitchen, where a gaurd had seen him, when he tried to change places.

"JAMES EARL RAY never stated which one of the Kennedy family: All he said was one day it will be: K.K.K. as he put it KENNEDY, KING and KENNEDY. Than our worries will be over.

"He never stated who the other people were in St. Louis or Phillie (just that they may have others lined up for us.)

"When SEEBRING was placed in the kitchen I asked why he was trying to leave: He stated he had life and was playing a hunch, but did not know RAY had planned to leave.

"The above is a true statement made by me on this 30th day of September, 1968.

"There has been know threats or promises made to me in this matter what-so-ever. It is of my own free will.

"/s/ DONALD LEE MITCHELL

"I, DONALD LEE MITCHELL, do hereby swear that the above is true to the best of my knowledge so help me God.

"Signed: DONALD LEE MITCHELL "

"Wittnessed: ERNEST HARRISON, JR., FBI-Miami.

In addition to the above, MITCHELL further advised that RAY said if he, MITCHELL, would help him kill MARTIN LUTHER KING it would be worth \$50,000 to each of them and later on they could get more than that for taking care of those "stinking KENNEDYS". RAY said it was people like KING and the KENNEDYS who try to run the world and they are all Communists and want nothing but power and domination of the whole world. RAY would never tell MITCHELL who had arranged for the money if he killed KING only that it was arranged through someone in St. Louis with someone in Philadelphia.

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MM 44-1854

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- 8\* -

10/2/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, MIAMI (44-1854) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of an LHM reflecting interview with DONALD LEE MITCHELL, an inmate of the Collier County Jail, Naples, Florida. Two copies of the LHM are being forwarded to Memphis and Kansas City for assistance in their investigation.

The Miami Division is not in a position to evaluate the information furnished by MITCHELL.

LEADS

MEMPHIS

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Will evaluate the information furnished by MITCHELL with known information concerning RAY's activities during the period of 1966 referred to by MITCHELL.

KANSAS CITY

3 - Bureau (Enc 9)  
2 - Kansas City (44-760) (Enc 2)  
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc 2)  
1 - Miami  
EH/mgc  
(8)

44-760 - ~~1238~~ 1239

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 4 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

*Clyers*  
*Wend*  
*Kay*

MM 44-1854

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

Will determine, through the Missouri State Penitentiary records, if DONALD LEE MITCHELL was incarcerated at the same time as JAMES EARL RAY and determine, if possible, if MITCHELL and RAY would have been housed in the same quarters and could have had contact as reported by MITCHELL.

10/2/68

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2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc 2)  
1 - Miami  
EH/mgc  
(8)

44-760-1239  
~~1238~~

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 4 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

KIN

MM 44-1854

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1

KC 44-760  
WSP:rd

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA WEEETER S. POND:

AT LIBERTY, MISSOURI

On October 2, 1968, R. H. WELLS, jailer, Clay County Jail, Liberty, Missouri, advised that FRED ALEXANDER MICHAELSON desired to talk to an FBI Agent. Several prisoners have commented that MICHAELSON has claimed to be psychic in making predictions of such things as aircraft disasters, but such predictions cannot be made without a ball-point pen. Such pens have not been recently available to MICHAELSON.

On October 2, 1968, FRED ALEXANDER MICHAELSON was interviewed at the Clay County Jail, Liberty, Missouri, and he related the following information:

He has vital information concerning the assassinations of JOHN F. KENNEDY on November 22, 1963, MARTIN LUTHER KING on April 3, 1968, and the subsequent shocking news of ROBERT KENNEDY. His information "goes to the scale of great national importance." He has realized the information has been held too long, but he refused to discuss it any further while confined to the jail. His health has been impaired while in the jail, and efforts have been made without success to get into a Veterans Hospital. MICHAELSON denied using the aforementioned information as an attempt to bargain for his release from the jail but added that he definitely will not discuss the matter while in jail. He will make a full disclosure if and when he is incarcerated in a Federal penitentiary or hospital where he can obtain treatment for his nervous stomach.

MICHAELSON has been confined in jail for more than fourteen months waiting trial, and his arraignment on local charges was about one year ago. He has been charged with the sales and attempted sales of rented automobiles. Delay of his trial on the local charges has been caused by his change of lawyers, two of whom withdrew because of his uncooperative attitude.

44-760-1240

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FBI - KANSAS CITY	

NO WE [Signature]

2

KC 44-760

A Federal Grand Jury in the District of Kansas, on December 13, 1967, returned a three count Indictment charging MICHAELSON with violations of Title 18, Section 2314, U. S. Code, in connection with interstate forged checks. A Federal detainer was filed on December 26, 1967. His photograph was selected and identified by numerous witnesses as the passer of forged checks, and his fingerprints were identified with latent impressions found on two of the checks described in the Indictment. At the time of his arrest by local authorities, he had possession of the identification used when the forged checks were cashed.

Efforts are being made to have the Office of the United States Attorney, District of Kansas, obtain a writ for MICHAELSON's appearance in Federal Court for a guilty plea.

1

KC 44-760  
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44-760-1240

15

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 7 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	
POND	



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SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

10/4/68

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760)

P

MURKIN

Enclosed are eight copies of an insert reflecting information regarding ~~FRED ALEXANDER MICHAELSON~~, also known as ~~MICHAEL MUNSON~~, FBI #2 914 E.

Kansas City case Agent handling the ITSP investigation will follow this matter and will furnish Memphis with any pertinent information which might be obtained through subsequent interviews with MICHAELSON. Kansas City is taking no immediate action because of MICHAELSON's attitude and inasmuch as he has made claims of being psychic. It will be noted MICHAELSON was incarcerated at Missouri State Penitentiary from about 6/25/65, to about 8/26/66.

2 - Memphis (Encs. 8)

3 - Kansas City

② - 44-760

(1 - 87-21205)

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(5)

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*(15)*

44-760-1241

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*[Signature]*

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

10/4/68

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760)

P

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2 - Memphis (Encs. 8)  
3 - Kansas City  
    (2) - 44-760  
    (1 - 87-21205)

WSP:rd  
(5)

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44-760-1241

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Indexed	_____
Filed	_____

*[Handwritten signature]*

10/18/68

AIR TEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) P  
MURKIN

Re telephone call from Memphis 10/16/68  
re article appearing in Wichita Beacon, Wichita, Ks.

Enclosed is one xerox copy of each  
of the following articles:

News article appearing in Wichita Beacon,  
Wichita, Ks., 9/12/68, by Bernie Ward.

News article appearing in Wichita  
Beacon, Wichita, Ks., 10/16/68, by  
Bernie Ward.

2 - Memphis (AM).  
Enc. 2  
2 - Kansas City  
hmg.  
(4)

*H*  
*AM*

44-760-1242

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

10/18/68

AIR TEL

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TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

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

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Bernie Ward.

2 - Memphis (AM)  
Enc. 2  
2 - Kansas City  
hmg  
(4)

44-760-1242

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

10-17-68

**AIRTEL**

**AM**

**TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)**

**FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P**

**MURKIN**

Submitted herewith for the information of the Bureau and Kansas City is a supplementary investigation report prepared by DeWitt County Sheriff's Department, Clinton, Illinois. It is noted that report sets forth information received from a prisoner by the name of CARL RAYMOND OSBORNE, alias WALTER ALEXANDER. During the course of interview, OSBORNE states he has been associated with a ROBERT DALE PORTER, alias BOB CLINE. OSBORNE during course of investigation states that ROBERT DALE PORTER, alias BOB CLINE, told him that JAMES EARL RAY and PORTER were permitted to escape from the Jefferson City Penitentiary at the same time so that they could kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. PORTER also reportedly told OSBORNE that he and RAY were both later arrested in Memphis, Tennessee, at the same time and subsequently released.

The Memphis Division has no information available indicating that OSBORNE and RAY were arrested at the same time in Memphis and subsequently released.

It is suggested that the Bureau review the identification record of ROBERT DALE PORTER to determine whether or not there is any information disclosing a common arrest or a common incarceration with subject JAMES EARL RAY.

The Kansas City Office, at Jefferson City Penitentiary, should review records to ascertain whether or not ROBERT DALE PORTER, alias BOB CLINE, has ever been incarcerated at Jefferson City Penitentiary and whether or not any information available to indicate he is an escapee, and whether time of escape corresponds with that of JAMES EARL RAY.

3 BUREAU (Enc. 3)(AM)  
2 KANSAS CITY (Enc. 3)(AM)  
1 MEMPHIS  
BOJ:BN  
(6)

44-760-1243

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 17 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

J.C. lead  
147  
Coyne  
Wrench

ME 44-1987

Kansas City should also determine whether or not there is any information available indicating that ROBERT DALE PORTER may have been incarcerated at the same time as JAMES EARL RAY or may possibly have been a cellmate of JAMES EARL RAY.

10-17-68

AIRTEL

AM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

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3 BUREAU (Enc. 3)(AM)  
2 KANSAS CITY (Enc. 3)(AM)  
1 MEMPHIS  
RGJ:BN  
(6)

44-760-1243 D

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - KANSAS CITY	



ME 44-1987

Kansas City should also determine whether or not there is any information available indicating that ROBERT DALE POSTER may have been incarcerated at the same time as JAMES EARL RAY or may possibly have been a cellmate of JAMES EARL RAY.

October 14, 1968

The Honorable Claude Barrett  
Sheriff of De Witt County  
Clinton, Illinois 61727

Dear Sheriff Barrett:

Thank you very much for the information  
contained in your letter of October 10.

We will do all we can to verify the ac-  
curacy of the information given you.

Sincerely,

PHIL M. CANALE, JR.  
District Attorney General

PMCJr:MEF

44-760-1243B ✓

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - KANSAS CITY	
<i>Ayers</i>	