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U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

DO NOT DESTROY

FEDERAL BUREAU

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED
 FOR HISTORICAL
 DECLASSIFICATIONDO NOT DESTROY -
 Pending Litigation

of

DO NOT STRIP
 INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 44-38861

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 8/22/02 BY SP1044/OLDO NOT DESTROY
 PRESERVE FOR SELECT
 COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATION

See also Nos. 1A Exhibits

Sub A Orig 302's

" B Newspaper Clippings

" C Informant Memos

Weaver

5/19/76

~~W.C.~~

5/7/76

Weaver

4/28/76

~~W.C.~~

4/13/76

Horne

4/5/68

Serials

1250 thru 1351

Volume Number

13

CLASSIFICATION NO.

44-760

44-760

VOL. 13

1250 Bu 11351

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

11/5/68

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

MURKIN

Re Kansas City letter to the Bureau, dated 8/14/68.

On 8/27/68, MELVIN LEMONS, Secretary to the Director, Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Missouri, advised inmate STEPHEN LUTHER EVANS was transferred to the U. S. Penitentiary, Lewisburg, Pa., 7/19/67. He has requested his file be returned here for review.

On 8/31/68, AXIE POWELL, Deputy U. S. Court Clerk, Springfield, Missouri, advised she recalled EVANS did have a hearing in U. S. District Court before the Honorable ELMO B. HUNTER, but this would be on file in Kansas City, Missouri.

On 9/20/68, the file pertaining to EVANS revealed the attorney to be E. C. CURTIS, 750 N. Jefferson, Springfield, Missouri and the officer involved as JAMES W. CALLAHAN, JR.

On 10/2/68, Attorney E. C. CURTIS advised he recalled the hearing involving discrimination at the Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Missouri, and that he represented EVANS. He did interview some of the witnesses for EVANS but at no time was there ever any conversation about MARTIN LUTHER KING. The entire proceeding was limited exclusively to alleged discriminatory practices at the prison. He never asked KENNETH LONE or any other witness if he had heard a guard say he was a member of a group which would pay to have MARTIN LUTHER KING killed. KING's name never came up during the entire proceedings.

EV
2 - Bureau (RM)
2 - Kansas City
JAN:ENV
(4)

44-760-1250
Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

KC 44-760

Several attempts were made to interview CALLAHAN with negative results. He has been working the Midnight to 8:00 AM shift at the prison.

On 10/28/68, CALLAHAN stated he has no information regarding any group that would pay to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. He denied he ever made the statement, "I know how to take care of colored people". He has never shown any racial basis in his treatment of inmates and in fact, he was an admirer of KING. He never heard of the Cooley organization. He did appear in U. S. District Court, Springfield, Missouri some time ago to answer charges made by EVANS that he was discriminating against Negro inmates. He denied all of the accusations made by EVANS. He never heard the name of MARTIN LUTHER KING mentioned by anyone at this hearing since the testimony was limited to the alleged discriminatory practices at the prison.

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

11/5/68

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

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2 - Bureau (RM)

② - Kansas City

JAM:ENV

(4)

44-760-125

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KC 44-760

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Lecture By FBI Agent Angers Ray's Attorney

By CHARLES EDMUNDSON

Arthur J. Hanes Sr., attorney for James Earl Ray, accused in the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., complained yesterday that a court order to limit pre-trial reporting in the case "protects the prosecution and only muzzles the defense."

"I am going to represent my client to the limit of my abilities, according to the law, and I am not going to be stopped," Mr. Hanes said.

He flew here from Birmingham yesterday to continue his examination of items of evidence the attorney general's office has been ordered to make available to him.

In an interview Mr. Hanes declared that prosecution witnesses have been making public statements "convicting my client and we have had no chance to counter them."

He cited a lecture by George Bonebrake, an FBI fingerprint specialist, in Wichita, Kan., Sept. 11 and quoted on Page One of the Wichita Beacon.

The Beacon identified Mr. Bonebrake as the man who "led the search through thousands of fingerprints on file with the FBI headquarters in Washington seeking identification of the killer." Mr. Bonebrake also testified at the extradition hearing for Ray in London in July.

"I was able to testify," Mr. Bonebrake was quoted as say-

ing in Wichita, "that the latent fingerprints we found in Memphis matched those taken of the man arrested in London, and that the same prints matched those taken of James Earl Ray while he was at the Missouri Penitentiary."

Using a chart to compare "latent fingerprints" with "ink fingerprints," Mr. Bonebrake added, "This is what I did in London. I was able to show that the latent prints obtained in Memphis, the ones taken in London and the ones taken of Ray at the Missouri prison were all the same."

Mr. Bonebrake was addressing a Wichita area police seminar on fingerprint identification. In Washington yesterday the FBI said Mr. Bonebrake was out of town and not available for comment.

Frank Garofolo, assistant city editor of the Wichita Beacon, said yesterday that newsmen were permitted to attend the lecture and nothing was put off the record at the police seminar. A major in the Wichita Police Department objected the next day, Mr. Garofolo said, that the speech had been quoted too much in detail.

Judge W. Preston Battle has acknowledged earlier that his power to limit publicity applied only in the boundaries of his judicial district (Shelby County).

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

— Page 1

— The Commercial Appeal

— Memphis, Tenn.

Date: 10-16-68

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor: Frank R. Ahlgren

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1987

Submitting Office: Memphis

☐ Being Investigated

44-1987-1051

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John

ENCLOSURE

The order has a differing effect, Mr. Hanes said.

"While the accused and his attorneys have been ordered not to give interviews, key witnesses for the prosecution, such as Mr. Bonebrake, have been free to make statements. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark stated on Television that Ray committed this crime with no conspiracy involved. When I say the contrary I am held in contempt."

Mr. Hanes said Judge Battle's order restricting pre-trial interviews is inconsistent with a statement by the judge that he has seen criminal cases "drenched in publicity" but ending with a "just result."

Judge Battle made the statement in denying a defense contention that widespread publicity before issuance of his order had made a fair trial impossible.

Mr. Hanes will be in Memphis today and tomorrow interviewing witnesses and examining items of evidence in possession of Atty. Gen. Phil Canale. He took time off yesterday afternoon to buy Ray a new supply of shirts, size 15½, sleeve-length 32, and a pair of shoes, size 9½-C.

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

November 8, 1968

Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General,
Criminal Division

Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Exhibits attached to the Petition for Contempt in the Criminal Court of Shelby County against Mr. George Bonebrake of the Federal Bureau of Investigation include copies of three articles from Memphis newspapers containing quotations attributed to Mr. Bonebrake. These quotations appear to derive from an article in the Wichita, Kansas, Beacon reporting on Mr. Bonebrake's participation in the latent fingerprint school in Wichita.

Exhibit A of the Petition, which is a copy of an article in the Memphis Commercial Appeal of October 16, 1968, contains the following paragraph:

"Frank Garofolo, assistant city editor of the Wichita Beacon, said yesterday that newsmen were permitted to attend the lecture and nothing was put off the record at the police seminar. A major in the Wichita Police Department objected the next day, Mr. Garofolo said, that the speech had been quoted too much in detail. "

Your memorandum of October 29, 1968, summarizes Mr. Bonebrake's explanation of the extent of his comments at the latent fingerprint school in Wichita during the period September 9 through 13, 1968, discusses the closed nature of the school, and points out that one member of the class seemed friendly and communicative with a reporter during a recess public relations period. Obviously Mr. Garofolo is quoted as stating a contrary understanding as to the closed nature of the seminars, and the news reports indicate that someone is responsible for the extensive comments attributed to Mr. Bonebrake. We consider

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Fletcher

44-760-1252

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it essential to decisively refute Mr. Garofolo's quoted version and anticipated testimony, as well as the anticipated testimony of reporters and policemen. I would appreciate your taking appropriate measures to assist our full preparation to oppose the contempt charge, should that need arise.

F B I

Date: 11/12/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via Airtel _____
(Priority)To: SAC's Kansas City - Enc. (2)
Memphis (44-1987) - Enc. (2)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Attached is a copy of self-explanatory memorandum from Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, requesting that appropriate measures be taken to assist in preparation to oppose possible contempt charge against Latent Fingerprint Section Examiner George J. Bonebrake.

For your information, on 10/24/68 Judge W. Preston Battle, Criminal Court of Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, signed a petition requiring that Examiner Bonebrake appear before that court on 12/6/68 to show cause why he should not be held in contempt of court. This action was taken in connection with an article appearing in the Wichita, Kansas, "Beacon" newspaper, concerning advanced latent fingerprint police school conducted by Mr. Bonebrake during five-day period, 9/9-13/68, at Wichita, Kansas. This school was sponsored by Wichita Police Department and seventeen officers from Wichita Police Department and surrounding departments attended. Bonebrake is alleged to have unnecessarily aired fingerprint testimony of this case in presence of representative of the press supposedly in attendance at the school. Bonebrake is the examiner who presented expert fingerprint testimony on 6/27/68 in London, England, in connection with the extradition of Ray. His testimony received widespread publicity throughout the world.

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Wichita lead to Fletcher

Till 24

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

Airtel to Kansas City
MURKIN
44-38861

Examiner Bonebrake emphatically denied allegations and advised that the above police school was a closed school for law enforcement officers only. No members of the press or the public were permitted to attend lectures. Only ^{time} members of the press admitted to classroom was when invited by sponsoring police department during a recess period to take photos and collect data for local press story. One member of the class, who seemed friendly with a reporter present, mentioned that Bonebrake was the fingerprint examiner that had given testimony in London. The reporter commented to Bonebrake that he thought he recalled his (Bonebrake) name. No further questions asked and no other information volunteered by Bonebrake. At no time did Mr. Bonebrake discuss fingerprint testimony with representatives of the press or unnecessarily air fingerprint testimony in this case. On one occasion during school, members of the class attempted to query him as to the details of fingerprint testimony. Bonebrake stated that he gave no facts other than what had already been quoted by the press concerning his London, England, testimony. No member of the press was present at this time.

Bonebrake at extradition hearing for Ray testified that three latent prints developed this case and the fingerprints of Ray taken by Los Angeles Police Department, at Missouri State Penitentiary and taken during extradition charge by Scotland Yard were fingerprints of one and the same individual. This fingerprint testimony was quoted extensively in news media throughout the world.

In an effort to comply with Assistant Attorney General Vinson's request, you are instructed to have mature, experienced agents contact representatives in attendance at the above school, as well as the Major in the Wichita Police Department quoted by the local newspapers concerning this matter and discreetly interview them in an effort to obtain information to refute allegations that Examiner Bonebrake unnecessarily aired fingerprint testimony in class with members of the press present. No members of the press should be contacted in connection with your inquiry. Please handle promptly and advise Bureau attention Identification Division.

Memphis advise what effect postponement of trial until March, 1969, will have on the court's consideration of the Bonebrake matter scheduled for 12/6/68.

11/12/68

Airtel

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**Airtel to Kansas City
MURKIN
44-38861**

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LFPs

4-13-68

airtel

air mail special delivery

TO: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760)

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

RE: MURKIN

Re KC airtel 4-11-68 submitting major case prints of LYNN RAY CLEVELAND.

Remaining unidentified latent prints in this case are not identical with the finger or palm prints of CLEVELAND.

Prints of CLEVELAND are being retained temporarily in Identification Division.

APC/lvc

(10)

1-SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

airtels AMSD from Ident, 4-13-68 lvc

44-760-1254

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Howe RPH

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC(44-760)

DATE: 11/21/68

FROM : SA ANDREW N. WILSON P.

SUBJECT: MURKIN.

Re telephone call from SA FLETCHER, 11/19/68.

On 11/19/68 DONALD J. DOGGE, Identification Office, Police Department, Topeka, Kansas, advised he attended the fingerprint school at Wichita, Kansas from September 9 through 13, 1968 at which Special Agent GEORGE DONELBAK was an instructor.

He said he was ^{all} present at sessions of the school and that only authorized law enforcement personnel were present at any of these sessions. He related that Mr. DONELBAK did casually mention the RAY case but furnished no details and when pressed for details from some members of the class he told them this information would come out in the trial.

He said he is not acquainted with any newsmen from ^{the} Wichita area but on one occasion two newsmen, whose identity he does not know, were permitted in the class room to take photographs but he was not present when either of these men talked to Mr. DONELBAK. He said one of the students in the class, whose identity he does not know, knew one of the reporters who took the photographs and they talked but he never heard them mention the RAY case.



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E. R. Fletcher

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

He said at no time did he hear Mr. LONERAK talk to any of the students or newsmen, or anyone else, and furnish any details in regard to the RAY case.

SAC(44-760)

11/21/68

SA ARTHUR N. THOMPSON P.

MURKIN.

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44-760-1255

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Optional Form No. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM

TO : ALL SPECIAL AGENTS

DATE: 11/21/68

FROM : SAC (44-760)

NO. 68-165

SUBJECT: MURKIN
COST DATA

Each Agent is requested to submit to SA THOMAS J. CONNOLLY by COB 11/29/68 via routing slip number of hours spent on the MURKIN case in the month of November, 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

44-760-1256

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Km

KC 44-760

EWR:bjc

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The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent EUGENE W. RUIZ:

AT WICHITA, KANSAS:

Lieutenant JORDAN JONES, Laboratory Investigator, Wichita Police Department, advised November 19, 1968, he was in attendance at the school in which Mr. BONEBRAKE lectured. He stated there were no members of the press in the class. He stated that he assisted BONEBRAKE in every way he could and he was the person who introduced a member of the press, whose name he did not recall, to BONEBRAKE. He stated that at this time the class took a break and BONEBRAKE spoke to this member of the press for a very short period of time. JONES stated he could not remember what was discussed. JONES stated he did recall, however, that after he read the newspaper article concerning BONEBRAKE and the RAY case, he wondered how the press agent could have written such a complete article concerning his interview with BONEBRAKE when he had been with him such a short time. JONES stated he was with BONEBRAKE during the breaks in the event he could be of any assistance, and no further press inquiries were made. JONES stated the only other occasion when the news media came was when a local television station took photographs of BONEBRAKE. JONES stated that at no time did he hear BONEBRAKE discuss anything concerning the RAY case with any of the news media. JONES stated that during the class BONEBRAKE told them how the latent prints had been identified with those of RAY and how many elimination prints they had. He stated BONEBRAKE also stated he had testified to the identification of RAY'S prints, but furnished no details.

1257
44-760-1261
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[Signatures]

KC 44-760

EWR:bjc

1

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Special Agent EUGENE W. RUIZ:

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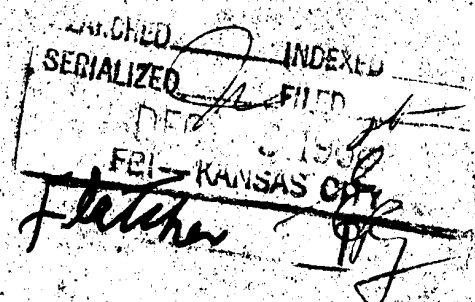
EWR:bjc

1

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Special Agent EUGENE W. RUIZ:

AT WICHITA, KANSAS:

Detective Sergeant, WARREN MALONE, Laboratory Investigator, Wichita Police Department, advised November 19, 1968, he had attended the school given by Mr. BONEBRAKE. He stated to the best of his knowledge, there were no members of the press in this class. He stated he recalled that a member of the press did come to the school and they took a break and so BONEBRAKE could talk with him. He stated he did not hear what they discussed and the interview was no more than ten minutes. MALONE stated he did not know of any further inquiries by the press. He stated that during the class, BONEBRAKE was questioned concerning the RAY case. BONEBRAKE told the class about receiving the weapon for examination and checking fingerprint cards and how they eliminated them and identified the prints as those of RAY. He also told them he had gone to England and testified, but MALONE said he could not remember what BONEBRAKE said he had testified to. MALONE stated that BONEBRAKE told the class that the RAY case was still pending and for them not to discuss it outside the class; the information he furnished them was solely for the classes benefit.



KC 44-760

EWR:bjc

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44-760-1258

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten mark]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE KANSAS CITY	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 12/13/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 10/18 - 12/6/68
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka IO #4182 WF #442-A, TOP TEN FUGITIVE; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., (DECEASED) - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY RAYMOND B. HOWE	TYPED BY jlh
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY UFAC - ROBBERY	

REFERENCE:

Bureau airtel to Kansas City and Memphis dated 11/12/68.

-P-

LEAD:

KANSAS CITY:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

Will continue to maintain contact with officials
at the Missouri State Penitentiary and submit monthly
cost data airtels.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED NONE						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:	
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR	☐ YES ☐ NO
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS	☐ YES ☐ NO
APPROVED <i>MD</i>						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE:						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
5-Bureau (44-38861)						44-760-1259		
5-Memphis (44-1987)						Searched _____		
2-Kansas City (44-760)						Serialized <i>JS</i>		
						Indexed _____		
						Filed <i>JS</i>		
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency								
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.								
How Fwd.								
By								

KC 44-760

ADMINISTRATIVE:

The information included in this report is not the complete results of investigation covered during this period by the Kansas City Office in connection with this matter. It only contains the Wichita Beacon Newspaper articles and investigation requested in referenced communication.

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(COVER PAGE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: RAYMOND B. HOWE
Date: 12/13/68

Office: Kansas City

Field Office File No.: 44-760

Bureau File No.: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
(DECEASED) - VICTIMCharacter: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis: FBI Fingerprint Examiner GEORGE BONEBRAKE conducted a week-long seminar to law enforcement officers from the south Central Kansas area at Wichita, Kansas during November, 1968. An article concerning this seminar and BONEBRAKE's activities in the JAMES EARL RAY case appeared in the Wichita Beacon Newspaper September 12, 1968. Also in this newspaper on October 16, 1968, it revealed that JAMES EARL RAY's attorney complained that prosecution witnesses have made public statements concerning his client. Both articles set forth. On October 24, 1968, Judge BATTLE, Criminal Court, Memphis, Tennessee, signed a petition requiring Examiner BONEBRAKE appear on December 6, 1968, to show cause why he should not be heard in contempt of court. Interviews with law enforcement officials attending seminar held by BONEBRAKE in Wichita set forth.

-P-

DETAILS:

The following article under the heading "Identifying King Assassin Suspect Explained" appeared in the Wichita Beacon Newspaper, Wichita, Kansas, on September 12, 1968. The article was written by BERNIE WARD, Beacon Staff Writer, and states as follows:

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"One man sitting in a Memphis, Tenn., jail cell knows only too well what kind of an expert George Bonebrake is.

"James Earl Ray, awaiting trial as the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King last spring, is in that cell largely through the efforts of Bonebrake.

"Bonebrake, one of the FBI's most respected fingerprint experts, is in Wichita conducting a seminar on fingerprint identification for area law enforcement agencies.

"Following the assassination of Dr. King, Bonebrake led the search through thousands of fingerprints on file at the Washington, D.C., FBI headquarters for the identification of the killer.

"After Ray was arrested earlier this summer in London, England, Bonebrake was the government's star witness in the extradition proceedings that followed. And it was his expert testimony that identified the man being held by Scotland Yard as the fugitive - James Earl Ray.

"During the pause in the seminar here Wednesday, Bonebrake, a quiet, unassuming man, discussed the Ray case and others he has been involved in during his 27 years with the FBI.

"My testimony in the extradition hearing was two-fold," Bonebrake said, "since Ray was refusing to admit his true identity.

"I was able to testify that the latent prints we found in Memphis matched those taken of the man arrested in London, and that the same prints matched those taken of James Earl Ray while he was at the Missouri Penitentiary.

"Therefore," Bonebrake continued, "My testimony tended to implicate him in the murder of Dr. King as well as identify him as the fugitive wanted for escaping from the Missouri prison."

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"Bonebrake picked up a large chart showing side-by-side blow-ups of two fingerprints. 'This one,' he pointed to a blurred photo of a fingerprint, 'is a latent print, or one which was found at a crime scene. The other is an ink print, one taken from a suspect when he was arrested.'

"'When I am called to testify in court, I point out to the jury how the two are identical.'

"'This is what I did in London. I was able to show that the latent prints obtained in Memphis, the ones taken in London and the ones taken of Ray at the Missouri prison were all the same.'

"Bonebrake said FBI agents obtained 'good' latent prints from a rifle believed used to kill Dr. King, from a telescopic sight on the rifle and from a pair of binoculars found at the scene.

"'This was a real break for us,' he said. 'We had several names to go on but we didn't know which one was correct.'

"'Ray had purchased a car under the name of Gault, bought the rifle under another name and registered at the flophouse in Memphis using the name John Willard.'

"Once the latent prints were obtained, he said, an exhaustive comparison search was launched of thousands of prints of known offenders and known fugitives.

"'This way,' Bonebrake added, 'We were able to come up with Ray's name and eventually to identify him in London.'

"Bonebrake said he anticipated going to Memphis to testify on the fingerprint identification during Ray's upcoming trial.

"'There's no doubt in my mind that he (Ray) at least handled the murder weapon,' Bonebrake commented.

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"During the week-long seminar here, Bonebrake is instructing lawmen from several South Central Kansas police and sheriff's departments on the proper identification of latent prints.

"The class is designed to teach officers to go to a crime scene and develop the crime scene or latent prints using various processes.

"Wednesday, the law officers compared latent prints found at a prepared crime scene with those of known offenders and established identifications. Today, they were instructed on the means of preparing that evidence for trial. Friday they will present the evidence during a mock trial!"

On October 16, 1968, the following story under the heading "Beacon Story Ignites Ray Trial Controversy" appeared in the Wichita Beacon Newspaper. This article was also written by BERNIE WARD and states as follows:

"A front-page story in the Wichita Beacon on Sept. 12 has become the center of a controversy in Memphis, Tenn., over public statements made by the defense and prosecution in the case of James Earl Ray, accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King.

"The Beacon story quoted FBI fingerprint expert George Bonebrake, the agent who identified Ray at an extradition hearing in London last summer, as saying: 'There is no doubt in my mind that he(Ray) at least handled the murder weapon.'

"In a story today in the Memphis Tenn., Commercial Appeal, Ray's attorney, Arthur J. Hanes, charged that a court order restricting pre-trial publicity in the case, 'protects the prosecution and only muzzles the defense.'

"Hanes cited specifically The Beacon interview story here with Bonebrake as an example of prosecution witnesses who have made public statements 'convicting my client and we have had no chance to counter them.'

" On Sept. 30, Hanes, private detective Renfro Hays, hired by the defense, and two Memphis reporters, Roy Hamilton of the Memphis Press - Scimitar and Charles Edmundson of the Commercial Appeal were cited for contempt of court for trial-related statements made outside of court.

"W. Preston Battle, criminal court judge in Tennessee's Shelby County, issued the contempt citations.

"The contempt findings came after complaints Hanes and Hays had voiced about the unusually strict guard placed on Ray. The two newsman reported the complaints in their Memphis papers.

"Hanes had complained the strict security surrounding his client had threatened Ray's sanity and called the security measures 'cruel and unusual punishment.'

"Last week, Time Magazine in reporting the conflict between Judge Battle and the four defendants in the contempt action, reported Hanes also had talked to the press about the possibility of Communist conspiracy in the King murder.

"The Time report said that Judge Battle had found no violation of Ray's rights and had described the security precautions as 'reasonable'.

"The judge further stated that out-of-court suggestions that Ray's sanity may be in danger were 'extremely prejudicial and constitute a clear and present danger' to picking an impartial jury and holding a fair trial.

"In issuing the contempt citation Battle found statements by Hanes and Hays and the subsequent news stories by the two reporters were violation of his order prohibiting any prejudicial out-of-court discussions of this case.

"In today's story in the Memphis Commercial Appeal, Hanes referred extensively to the interview here with Bonebrake. The FBI expert was here to conduct a seminar on fingerprint identification for local law enforcement agencies.

"At that time, Bonebrake told a Beacon reporter he had testified at the Ray extradition hearing that 'the latent fingerprints we found in Memphis matched those taken of the man arrested in London and that the same prints matched those taken of James Earl Ray while he was at the Missouri penitentiary.'

"Therefore, my testimony tended to implicate him in the murder of Dr. King as well as identify him as the fugitive wanted for escaping from the Missouri prison.'

"Bonebrake also stated that FBI agents had obtained 'good' latent prints from a rifle believed used to kill Dr. King, from a telescopic sight on the rifle and from a pair of binoculars all found abandoned near the Memphis crime scene.

"In the Commercial Appeal Store, Hanes referred to Bonebrake's statements as an example of how Judge Battle's or limiting pre-trial publicity has different effects on the defense and prosecution.

"He added that any effort at successfully limiting the press would have to be at a nation-wide level.

"A reporter for the Commercial Appeal told The Beacon an attempt had been made to contact Bonebrake but the Washington, D.C., FBI office said the fingerprint expert was out of town and could not be reached.

"The reporter also said Hanes told him he received a copy of The Beacon story in the mail from an unidentified sender, apparently from Wichita.

"Hanes, a Birmingham, Ala., attorney, is in Memphis continuing his investigation of items of evidence the state is expected to introduce when Ray goes to trial Nov. 12.

"The beacon today attempted to contact Hanes at his Memphis motel for comment on his charges against the court but the attorney could not be reached."

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On October 24, 1968, Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE, Criminal Court of Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, signed a petition requiring that Examiner BONEBRAKE appear before that court on December 6, 1968, to show cause why he should not be held in contempt of court. This action was taken in connection with an article appearing in the Wichita, Kansas, Beacon Newspaper concerning a police school conducted by Mr. BONEBRAKE September 9 - 13, 1968, at Wichita, Kansas.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 11/28/68

Major CLYDE BEVIS, Records Division, Wichita, Kansas Police Department, said he had requested the FBI conduct an advanced fingerprint school for the Wichita Police Department with the understanding officers from surrounding law enforcement agencies would be invited. Major BEVIS recalled this school was held at the police academy of the Wichita Police Department during middle of September, 1968.

Major BEVIS said that in the regular course of business he notified members of the news media he encountered at police headquarters of the school being in session and suggested they might like to cover it. He specifically recalled talking to OLLIE THOMPSON, News Director of TV Station KTVH and BERNIE WARD, a reporter for the Wichita Beacon. THOMPSON made no commitment when he would try to cover the school. WARD declared he would appear at the school at 2:00 PM, Tuesday, September 10, 1968. Major BEVIS commented he arranged to be at the classroom at the time specified by WARD, however, WARD did not appear. On Wednesday, September 11, 1968, BEVIS said he was notified by some member of the training staff of the Wichita Police Department that WARD had appeared at the classroom. BEVIS instructed that Lieutenant JORDON JONES, introduce WARD to Instructor BONEBRAKE and help WARD with any coverage he desired.

BEVIS declared it was his understanding the instruction being provided by Mr. BONEBRAKE was for the benefit of law enforcement officers alone and not available for members of the press or others. He gave specific instructions that members of the press not be invited to attend any of the classroom sessions and he feels confident that had any member of the news media tried to enter the classroom while the instructions were being given he would have been immediately notified.

BEVIS said he had no further contact with the class or members of the press. When the article appeared in the Wichita Beacon on September 12, 1968, he was shocked

11/18/68 Wichita, Kansas

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On _____ at _____ File # _____

SA ELMER R. FLETCHER:bjc

11/21/68

by _____ Date dictated _____

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at its contents and without checking the accuracy of the facts expressed his displeasure to WARD on the day after publication. BEVIS observed that WARD was invited to do an article on the school, not on the background of the instructor or the RAY case. WARD'S only comment was, "Well that's news."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 11/26/68

Lieutenant RALPH E. GREEN, 1017 West 3rd Street, El Dorado, Kansas, advised he is employed by the El Dorado Department of Public Safety and attended an advanced fingerprint school sponsored by the Wichita, Kansas Police Department during the second week of September, 1968. Lieutenant GREEN said the class was taught by Mr. GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the FBI, and lasted for one week.

Lieutenant GREEN said the class was for law enforcement officers only and he never observed any reporters or people from the news media in the class room during the class sessions. Lieutenant GREEN said the only time he saw anyone from the news media was a KTVH-TV cameraman, who took some pictures of Mr. BONEBRAKE, but this was during one of their recesses and nothing was said on this occasion regarding the RAY case.

Lieutenant GREEN said he at no time heard Mr. BONEBRAKE discuss the RAY case with reporters or members of the class during a recess. According to Lieutenant GREEN the only time he did hear Mr. BONEBRAKE discuss the RAY case was during class and he did recall Mr. BONEBRAKE say that he had testified in England at the extradition proceedings and his testimony was that he had compared the latent fingerprints obtained from evidence in Memphis, Tennessee, with known fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY and found they were identical.

Lieutenant GREEN said Mr. BONEBRAKE cautioned the members of the class not to discuss anything regarding the RAY case or information he had furnished during the class.

On 11/19/68 at El Dorado, Kansas File # KC 44-760
by SA RICHARD L. ECKBERG:bjc Date dictated 11/19/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 11/27/68

Officer LEE M. PADDOCK, JR., 325 West Towanda, El Dorado, Kansas, advised he is employed by the El Dorado Department of Public Safety and attended a one week advanced fingerprint school in Wichita, Kansas during the second week of September, 1968, which was sponsored by the Wichita Police Department and taught by Mr. GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the FBI.

PADDOCK said he is quite certain no members of the press, television or radio were permitted to attend the class and the only time he saw anyone connected with the news media in the classroom was during a recess when a television cameraman took some film footage.

PADDOCK said he never was present or never observed Mr. BONEBRAKE talking to newsmen other than the above mentioned television cameraman and never heard Mr. BONEBRAKE discuss the RAY case with newsmen or members of the class during a recess.

PADDOCK said Mr. BONEBRAKE did speak briefly about the RAY case during the class. He told the class he had testified at the extradition proceedings in England and his testimony concerned the finding of latent fingerprints on a gun in Memphis and the comparison of these latent fingerprints with the known fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY, which established that RAY was the person who had been arrested in England and also the person whose fingerprints were found on the gun.

PADDOCK said Mr. BONEBRAKE cautioned the members of the class not to discuss the case outside the classroom and PADDOCK said he did not hear either Mr. BONEBRAKE or any member of the class discuss the case.

On 11/19/68 at El Dorado, Kansas File # KC 44-760
by SA RICHARD L. ECKBERG:bjc Date dictated 11/20/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 11/28/68

MORRIS HERRON, Valley Center Police Officer, recalled attending a school on the subject of fingerprints conducted by a Mr. BONEBRAKE, of the FBI, at the Police Academy, Wichita, Kansas, during early part of September, 1968.

HERRON said he was present at every session and did not hear Mr. BONEBRAKE or any member of the class conduct a press conference or have any contact with the press on any subject other than the school itself. Mr. HERRON recalled representatives of the news media being at the school. He thought it was the last day, Friday, September 13, 1968, on the occasion of the graduation of the class members. At this time he observed strangers around the halls of the academy with movie cameras, therefore, concluded they were television cameramen. He did not recognize any of these persons. He could not remember if Mr. BONEBRAKE was present at the school at this time.

HERRON was most emphatic in recalling no members of the press were in the closed meetings of the school wherein Mr. BONEBRAKE instructed on the subject of fingerprints.

At an early date of the school, exact date not recalled, HERRON mentioned some member of the class asked a direct question of BONEBRAKE concerning the use of latent fingerprints in the JAMES EARL RAY case. In response to this question, BONEBRAKE observed he had testified in the hearing of RAY at London, England, earlier in the year that fingerprints were introduced to establish the identity of RAY. BONEBRAKE elaborated on this point to the extent he mentioned he had testified that known prints of RAY from Missouri State Penitentiary were identical with the questioned prints of the suspect in custody of the English authorities.

HERRON recalled BONEBRAKE declined to discuss this case further mentioning something to the effect this was still a pending case and FBI policy did not permit the public disclosure of such information.

On 11/19/68 at Valley Center, Kansas File # KC 44-760

by SA ELMER R. FLETCHER:bjc Date dictated 11/21/68

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HERRON volunteered he had read the article appearing in the Wichita Beacon of about September 12, 1968, and he did not hear BONEBRAKE or a member of the fingerprint class mention such facts to the press.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

11/26/68

Date _____

Officer CHARLES F. STEWART, Department of Public Safety, El Dorado, Kansas, home address, 113 East 5th Street, El Dorado, Kansas, advised he attended an advanced fingerprint school sponsored by the Wichita, Kansas Police Department during the second week of September, 1968. STEWART said the class was taught by Mr. GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the FBI and lasted for one week.

STEWART said the class was restricted to members of law enforcement agencies only and he never observed any member of the press, radio or television in the classroom during the time the class was in session. Mr. STEWART said about the next to last day of the class he recalled a television cameraman taking some pictures, but did not hear or observe Mr. BONEBRAKE make any statements on this occasion about the RAY case.

STEWART said he at no time heard Mr. BONEBRAKE discuss the RAY case with members of the news media or members of the class during recesses. STEWART said the only time he heard Mr. BONEBRAKE discuss the RAY case was during class and this was only to illustrate a point in how latent fingerprints could be used to identify an individual with a crime. STEWART said Mr. BONEBRAKE did mention that he had testified in the extradition proceedings in England to identify RAY as the person who was identical with the individual who had been in the penitentiary as JAMES EARL RAY in Missouri and also identical with the person whose fingerprints were found on a weapon found near the crime scene in Memphis, Tennessee.

STEWART said Mr. BONEBRAKE told the class he did not want them to discuss anything he had told them about the RAY case outside the classroom.

11/19/68

El Dorado, Kansas

KC 44-760

On _____ at _____ File # _____

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11/19/68

by _____ Date dictated _____

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KC 44-760

EWR:bjc

1

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent EUGENE W. RUIZ:

AT WICHITA, KANSAS:

Lieutenant JORDAN JONES, Laboratory Investigator, Wichita Police Department, advised November 19, 1968, he was in attendance at the school in which Mr. BONEBRAKE lectured. He stated there were no members of the press in the class. He stated that he assisted BONEBRAKE in every way he could and he was the person who introduced a member of the press, whose name he did not recall, to BONEBRAKE. He stated that at this time the class took a break and BONEBRAKE spoke to this member of the press for a very short period of time. JONES stated he could not remember what was discussed. JONES stated he did recall, however, that after he read the newspaper article concerning BONEBRAKE and the RAY case, he wondered how the press agent could have written such a complete article concerning his interview with BONEBRAKE when he had been with him such a short time. JONES stated he was with BONEBRAKE during the breaks in the event he could be of any assistance, and no further press inquiries were made. JONES stated the only other occasion when the news media came was when a local television station took photographs of BONEBRAKE. JONES stated that at no time did he hear BONEBRAKE discuss anything concerning the RAY case with any of the news media. JONES stated that during the class BONEBRAKE told them how the latent prints had been identified with those of RAY and how many elimination prints they had. He stated BONEBRAKE also stated he had testified to the identification of RAY'S prints, but furnished no details.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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11/26/68

Date

ART STONE, Chief of Security, Wichita State University, advised that while he was a member of the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, Wichita, he attended a fingerprint school held in Wichita, which was operated by GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the Identification Division of the FBI. He said the school was held in about September, 1968, and only duly accredited law enforcement officers were in attendance at this school.

STONE said that during one break period in this school he saw a local newspaper reporter being introduced to Mr. BONEBRAKE by an unrecalled member of the Wichita, Kansas Police Department. STONE said he was not certain, but thought this reporter might be BERNIE WARD. He said although he did not hear the entire conversation between this person and BONEBRAKE, he thought he heard this person obtaining background information regarding BONEBRAKE. He said he did not hear any conversation between these two regarding the JAMES EARL RAY case.

STONE did advise that BONEBRAKE did mention the RAY case after receiving an inquiry from someone in the fingerprint class. In this connection he explained to the class how latents and partial latents received from various sources and seemingly unrelated at the time they were obtained later turn out to be related matters and excellent evidence material. BONEBRAKE did mention that he had travelled to London, England in connection with the RAY case to testify that the fingerprints of the man in custody there were identical with the known fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY who had escaped from the Missouri State Prison, Jefferson City, Missouri. He said he is certain BONEBRAKE only mentioned the RAY case to show some of the conditions a fingerprint man would work under and the necessity of obtaining and maintaining prints.

STONE said the RAY case was only one of many illustrations used by BONEBRAKE for demonstrations in the class, to make a point about a certain phase or item in the training. He said BONEBRAKE did not discuss the RAY case at any length and always cautioned the persons in the class about any further discussion of this matter.

On 11/19/68 at Wichita, Kansas File # KC 44-760
by SA JAMES F. MILLER:bjc Date dictated 11/19/68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 11/26/68

Detective Sergeant DEAN BERG, Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, furnished the following information:

He recently attended a fingerprint school in Wichita, Kansas at which time GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the FBI was the instructor. He said no newspaper reporters were in attendance at this school since it was for law enforcement officials only.

He said that on about the third or fourth day of the school he saw an unknown man talking to BONEBRAKE and he was of the opinion this person was a newspaper reporter, however, since he did not know the man he is not certain of this information. He said this conversation took place during a break in the classes and was probably about 10 to 15 minutes in length. BERG said he did not know the text of their conversation.

BERG said BONEBRAKE mentioned the JAMES EARL RAY case in one of the classes and apparently did this to show how important partial and latent prints can be in a case. He said in this conversation BONEBRAKE mentioned that a partial latent print had been obtained in the RAY case and went on to show that what appeared to be unrelated items at the time they are obtained later turn out to be related in some manner. He further advised that BONEBRAKE said he compared the fingerprints of the man in custody in England with the known fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY who had escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary and found they were identical.

BERG advised that BONEBRAKE talked about a number of cases, without mentioning a lot of names, and in each case pointed out how certain items of evidence can become very important to a case. BONEBRAKE would show how latents obtained from various and sometimes unlikely places would be important. BERG said as far as he is concerned BONEBRAKE was a excellent instructor.

On 11/19/68 at Wichita, Kansas File # KC 44-760

by SA JAMES F. MILLER:bjc Date dictated 11/19/68

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KC 44-760

EWR:bjc

1

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent EUGENE W. RUIZ:

AT WICHITA, KANSAS:

Detective Sergeant, WARREN MALONE, Laboratory Investigator, Wichita Police Department, advised November 19, 1968, he had attended the school given by Mr. BONEBRAKE. He stated to the best of his knowledge, there were no members of the press in this class. He stated he recalled that a member of the press did come to the school and they took a break and so BONEBRAKE could talk with him. He stated he did not hear what they discussed and the interview was no more than ten minutes. MALONE stated he did not know of any further inquiries by the press. He stated that during the class, BONEBRAKE was questioned concerning the RAY case. BONEBRAKE told the class about receiving the weapon for examination and checking fingerprint cards and how they eliminated them and identified the prints as those of RAY. He also told them he had gone to England and testified, but MALONE said he could not remember what BONEBRAKE said he had testified to. MALONE stated that BONEBRAKE told the class that the RAY case was still pending and for them not to discuss it outside the class; the information he furnished them was solely for the classes benefit.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 11/27/68

JAMES D. LAZELLE, Undersheriff, Cowley County Sheriff's Department, was contacted at the Winfield Police Station. He furnished the following information:

He attended each session of an advanced fingerprint school conducted from September 9, 1968 through September 13, 1968, at the Wichita Police Academy, Wichita, Kansas. The school was conducted by GEORGE BONEBRAKE. This school was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for full-time law enforcement officers of Police and Sheriff's Departments.

The JAMES EARL RAY case was mentioned while discussing latent fingerprints, their location and lifting, and their use in testimony to identify an individual. BONEBRAKE stated that he had been able to give testimony as to RAY's identity, based on fingerprints. There were no newsmen present when the RAY case was mentioned.

Newsmen from TV Channel 12, and from The Wichita Beacon, were present on one or two occasions, during recess breaks, for the purpose of obtaining information pertaining to the fingerprint school. He at no time heard the RAY case mentioned while newsmen were present.

On 11/20/68 at Winfield, Kansas File # KC 44-760
by SA JAMES B. KELLY:ENV Date dictated 11/21/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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11/27/68

Date _____

CECIL JAMES LOWER, 227 Random Road, Sergeant, Arkansas City Police Department, was contacted at the Arkansas City Police Station. He furnished the following information:

He attended an advanced fingerprint school at the Wichita Police Department, Wichita, Kansas, from September 9, 1968 through September 13, 1968. This school was sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was conducted by GEORGE BONEBRAKE. He understood that this school was open to law enforcement personnel only.

He recalls that the JAMES EARL RAY case was mentioned during the regular class period. It was clearly understood that information pertaining to the RAY case was not to be discussed with anyone outside the class. The RAY case had come up in connection with the locating, lifting, preserving, and presenting findings in testimony, concerning latent fingerprints. BONEBRAKE mentioned having given testimony as to RAY's identity.

Representatives of TV Channel 12, and a photographer that took still pictures were present at the school, during a recess, on one day during the session. He did not know who the still photographer represented, but assumes it was a news media. Moving pictures were taken of class members and a still picture was posed for by BONEBRAKE and a class member, during the break. He does not know of any interview that newsmen had with BONEBRAKE.

The only mention that he heard made of the RAY case during the time the newsmen were present, was when the representative of the Wichita Police Department introduced GEORGE BONEBRAKE to the newsmen. At that time, the man making the introductions stated that GEORGE BONEBRAKE was one of the men who had worked on the RAY case.

11/20/68

Arkansas City, Kansas

KC 44-760

On _____ at _____ File # _____

SA JAMES B. KELLY :ENV

11/21/68

by _____ Date dictated _____

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 11/27/68

KENNETH MOUSER, 223 E. 11th, Records and Identification Officer, Wellington Police Department, was contacted at his home. He furnished the following information:

He attended each session of an advanced fingerprint school conducted at the Wichita Police Department Academy, Wichita, Kansas, from September 9, 1968 through September 13, 1968. The school was conducted by GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was his understanding that the school was conducted for Police and Sheriff's Officers, and was a "closed" school, with no one other than full-time peace officers invited to attend.

On one day during the school, there were representatives from Channel 12 TV, and a photographer from the Wichita Beacon present at the Academy, during a recess, for the purpose of obtaining information pertaining to the fingerprint school. He did not know any of the representatives from the TV station, but he was personally acquainted with the Wichita Beacon reporter, JAMES WAMPLER. WAMPLER had asked him to pose with BONEBRAKE for a photograph as if BONEBRAKE was pointing out points of interest on two enlargements of fingerprints, and he had done so. This photograph was taken in a side office, off of the classroom. He heard no mention made of any specific case, either Bureau or otherwise, during the time that the photographs were being taken. Later that night he had seen his picture on television, over Channel 12.

He at no time observed and was not aware of any newsman having a personal interview with BONEBRAKE.

/The JAMES EARL RAY case was mentioned during the fingerprint school while there were no newsmen present. At that time BONEBRAKE pointed out that he had been able to give testimony concerning RAY's identity through the use of fingerprints.

MOUSER recalls having read an article in the Wichita Beacon, giving what were alleged to have been facts of the RAY case, and he had been greatly surprised that any

On 11/19/68 at Wellington, Kansas File # KC44-760

by SA JAMES B. KELLY:ENV Date dictated 11/21/68

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KC 44-760

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newsman would have been able to obtain as detailed facts
as appeared to be quoted in the article.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

11/28/68

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Date _____

Lieutenant G. W. REED, Police Department, Derby, Kansas, observed he attended a fingerprint school at the Wichita, Kansas Police Academy during early September, 1968. This school was instructed by a Mr. BONEBRAKE, introduced as the foremost latent and single fingerprint expert from FBI Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

In addition REED said he understood from a source unrecalled that BONEBRAKE had recently returned from England where he had offered fingerprint testimony in the JAMES EARL RAY case. REED felt he heard this from some other member of the class, but could not be sure on this point.

In any event he was certain he did not hear it from anyone in the presence of any representative of the news media. On this point Lieutenant REED said he thought a newspaper reporter and television cameraman appeared during the middle of the week at the class room, but, were at no time, present during the closed instruction periods of the school. At best they were in the hall way outside the class or in the classroom during the recess periods.

REED recalled that at the outset of the course a question by some class member was directed to BONEBRAKE concerning the fingerprint testimony in the JAMES EARL RAY case. BONEBRAKE cautioned the class he was not at liberty to discuss this case in detail, but could say he had testified to the identity of RAY based on fingerprint examination at the hearing in London. REED said he had no recollection of additional comments by anyone concerning the RAY case.

On 11/19/68 at Derby, Kansas File # KC 44-760
by SA ELMER R. FLETCHER:bjc Date dictated 11/21/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE KANSAS CITY	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 12/13/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 10/18 - 12/6/68
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka IO #4182 WF #442-A, TOP TEN FUGITIVE; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., (DECEASED) - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY RAYMOND B. HOWE	TYPED BY jlh
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY UFAC - ROBBERY	

REFERENCE:

Bureau airtel to Kansas City and Memphis dated 11/12/68.

-P-

LEAD:

KANSAS CITY:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

Will continue to maintain contact with officials
at the Missouri State Penitentiary and submit monthly
cost data airtels.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED NONE						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:	
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR	☐ YES ☐ NO
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS	☐ YES ☐ NO
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