

U. S. Department of Justice

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LOS ANGELES DIVISION
CLOSED FILES CONTROL NUMBER
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FEDERAL BUREAU

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/10/01 BY SP-1 CLK/HJ

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

NOT DESTROY
SERVE FOR SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Ratio Nos.

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PENDING LITIGATION

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PENDING LITIGATION

John O'Connell

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The FBI and Local Police

The still-unsuccessful manhunt for the killer of Dr. Martin Luther King provides disturbing new evidence of the lack of adequate cooperation between the FBI and local police.

Nearly five weeks after the murder, a curious attitude of aloofness and secrecy persists in the bureau's investigation. FBI officials apparently want to do the job themselves despite the great significance of the case and the enormous difficulties involved.

At least eight major metropolitan areas, including Los Angeles are important in the King slaying, plus many smaller towns. James Earl Ray, the chief suspect, left a tangled and confusing trail.

It was obvious, therefore, that there should have been the closest cooperation between federal and local authorities. Yet police were virtually ignored in the four cities where the search has been the most intense—Memphis, Birmingham, Atlanta and Los Angeles.

As of Monday, 25 days after Dr. King's murder, the FBI still hadn't contacted Police Chief Thomas Reddin to ask for the help of the Los Angeles Police Department. Such assistance would have been of great value, particularly in the early stages of the manhunt.

No single law enforcement agency, even one as large and generally efficient as the FBI, could hope to follow every lead in every city involved in the King case. Local

police personnel must be used to supplement FBI agents in investigations of such scope.

The mobilizing of all available law enforcement manpower by the bureau becomes the more urgent in view of the increasing number of federal cases and the great inter-state mobility now available to criminals. Congress, for instance, recently made new federal crimes of riot incitement and endangering civil rights workers.

Such cooperation among federal, state and local authorities has occurred in the past, but not often enough. It must be the rule in the future.

Although the FBI may once have hesitated in working with many city police departments, the quality of local law enforcement has improved markedly. Much of the credit for this better training is due the FBI.

Why then does the bureau continue to resist?

Both precedent and procedure exist for the joining of forces. What is needed to mobilize all of the nation's resources against crime is a new attitude of cooperation on the part of the FBI.

The protection of the public and the preservation of law and order are challenges so important that maximum use of available police manpower must always be made. And such cooperation offers the surest means of avoiding a national police force alien to the American tradition.

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

II-4 Los Angeles Times

Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/30/68
Edition: Home
Author:
Editor: Nick B. Williams
Title:

Character:

or

Classification: LA 94-
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

44-1574F-1

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 30 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

, Los Angeles

4/30/68

AIR TEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI ATT'N: CRIME RECORDS
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574) ✓
RE: MURKIN

Re Los Angeles call to Bureau this date.

Enclosed is a self-explanatory editorial appearing in the Los Angeles Times newspaper this date pertaining to the above-captioned case and the FBI's investigation. It mentions among other things that at least eight major metropolitan areas are important in the slaying, plus many smaller towns. It states the police were virtually ignored in the four cities where the search has been most intense: Memphis, Birmingham, Atlanta and Los Angeles. It states as of Monday (4/29/68) the FBI still had not contacted Police Chief Thomas Reddin to ask for the help of the Los Angeles Police Department.

It appears this editorial is a rehash of old newspaper articles with datelines of Memphis, Atlanta, and Birmingham. These articles previously set forth in substance the same statements concerning the FBI's alleged "lone role."

The article is inaccurate in many respects. The Bureau's national press release and statements attributed to the Bureau called upon all citizens to give any and all information and assistance they could in identifying and apprehending the slayer. This, of course, includes law enforcement. In addition to that, the Wanted Flyers and the I.O.'s were provided to local law enforcement and gave them the basic facts. In addition, the Ten Most Wanted program plus the exposure on the FBI Series again appealed for public assistance which, of course, included law enforcement. In addition, the FBI has gone to the Los Angeles Police Department and asked for help in the form of obtaining records, photographs, results of their previous investigations concerning people involved in this matter, etc. The case has previously been discussed very briefly with COP REDDIN as well as the head of the Detective Bureau, Deputy Chief ROBERT HOUGHTON.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 1)

3 - Los Angeles

(1 cc - 80-54)

WCC:gmw (1 cc - 80-420)

(5)

ASAC @

NO/AN
44-1574-F-2

The next time I am in personal contact with the ranking officials of the Los Angeles Times newspaper I intend to point out to them in the appropriate manner their blatant disregard for the truth in this matter as well as their exceedingly poor taste in publishing such an editorial. In addition, I intend to chide COP REDDIN for his apparent involvement in this matter.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : File (44-1574)

DATE: 5/1/68

FROM : SAC WESLEY G. GRAPP

SUBJECT: MURKIN

This will record that on the morning of 5/1/68 at approximately 11:10 A.M. COP THOMAS REDDIN called me and stated he had just gotten back to the city as he had been absent since the previous Thursday, 4/25/68. He stated he was just getting caught up on his reading and he was distressed to see the editorial in the "Los Angeles Times" of 4/30/68. He said it was an obvious attempt by someone to paint the false picture that there was a lack of cooperation or things were not well between the LAPD and the FBI. He stated he was very upset about it and had inquiry made of his Department and he can locate no one who gave such information to the "Los Angeles Times" and does not think such transpired.

REDDIN stated he intended to go to the Times and would attempt to get to the bottom of this matter. He said he was toying with the idea of writing a letter of protest to them. I suggested he may want to prepare a blind copy for me if such is done.

I pointed out to him that I had discussed this case with him briefly on 4/18/68 at the One Hundred Club meeting. I also mentioned that I had been in contact with Deputy Chief ROBERT HOUGHTON and he was familiar with this. I also mentioned to him that we had come to his Police Department and had asked and had received pictures, records, the results of previous investigations by them on some of the persons of interest to us, etc.

He wanted to know if Galt-Ray had been in the Los Angeles area at the time of our investigation. I told him no. He said he was going to attempt to find out who wrote the editorial and how it became authorized at the "Los Angeles Times." I called his attention to the specific statement in the editorial that said he had not been contacted and the LAPD had not been asked for help. He readily stated this was not correct. I also discussed with him the statement, "Such assistance would have been of great value, particularly in the early stages of the manhunt..." He agreed this statement

WGG:gmw

(3)
(1 cc - 80-54)
(1 cc - 80-420)

*11:30 am 5/1/68
Above info.
Called to Jim Beard,
207 Mrs. B. +
Section Chief A. Jones.
WJ*

44-1574F-3

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

LA 44-1574

was not based upon fact as the LAPD has nothing of value to this case that we do not already have.

He stated he would see what he could do to rectify the situation and prevent any future incidents.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (44-1574)

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 6/13/68

This will record that commencing at 11:45 A.M. on 6/12/68 Deputy Chief of Police ROBERT HOUGHTON, LAPD, in charge of the Detective Bureau, was in contact telephonically with me in connection with another matter. During the conversation he mentioned that earlier that date he had received a long distance call from HARRY NEGHER, "Connecticut Sun Herald," Fairfield, Connecticut. He said NEGHER is editor of the paper and had called in regard to an apparently syndicated column sold to east coast newspapers by LOUIS LOMAX, a Los Angeles Negro reporter. LOMAX reportedly was highly critical of the FBI. He also allegedly stated to the effect there was no working relationship between the LAPD and the FBI concerning this case.

HOUGHTON alleges he told NEGHER that I, the SAC in Los Angeles, had discussed this case with Los Angeles Chief of Police TOM REDDIN at the very beginning of the case. He further states that the LAPD and the FBI did exchange information and both did work on the case.

The question was raised of HOUGHTON as to whether he felt there was any connection between the murder of KING and the murder of ROBERT F. KENNEDY. He says he indicated there was none. The above is being submitted for record purposes.

1 - 80-54 (LAPD)

WGG/jae
(2)

44-1574-F 4

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FBI - LOS ANGELES
Nolan