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INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 44-38861

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44

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Sers.

1-2

VOL.

1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MEMPHIS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 4/17/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD April 4-16, 1968
TITLE OF CASE UNSUB; aka Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmeyer, John Willard; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA JOE C. HESTER	TYPED BY bbs, jms, raj
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

SYNOPSIS:

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:

In view of the large volume of correspondence in this case, no attempt has been made to reference any particular communication.

Because of the urgency of this matter, leads for other offices are being set out by telephone or teletype, and it would serve no purpose to set out leads for other offices in this report.

The information included in this report has been carefully reviewed, and negative interviews have been eliminated wherever it was believed possible to do so without giving the appearance that less than a complete and thorough investigation was conducted.

A copy of this report has not been designated for

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- A -
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ME 44-1987

the USA, Western District of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee, but extra copies are being maintained in the Memphis Office and will be made available to the USA when so directed by the Bureau.

LEAD:

THE MEMPHIS OFFICE:

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE:

Will continue efforts to identify the Unknown Subject.

- B* -
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA JOE C. HESTER
Date: 4/17/68

Office: MEMPHIS

File Number: ME 44-1987

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECT,
also known as
Eric Starvo Galt,
Harvey Lowmeyer,
John Willard;
~~XXXXX~~
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis:

At about 6:00 PM on 4/4/68, while standing on second floor balcony outside room 306 of the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry Street, Memphis, Tennessee, victim was struck in right side of face by a single bullet. Autopsy report indicated that "the severing of the spinal cord at this level and to this extent was a wound that was fatal very shortly after its occurrence." This investigation, predicated upon a specific request from the Attorney General of the U.S., disclosed fatal shot was fired from the bathroom of a rooming house located at 422½ S. Main Street, Memphis, which bathroom was located at the rear of the rooming house, and which had a window overlooking the Lorraine Motel. (Crime scene diagram included in details.) On afternoon of 4/4/68, Unknown Subject rented room 5-B at 422½ S. Main Street and paid one weeks rent. After hearing rifle shot at about 6:00 PM on 4/4/68, other tenants in rooming house observed Unknown Subject flee from rooming house carrying a large package which was subsequently abandoned by him on sidewalk in front of Canipe Amusement Company, 424 S. Main Street, from which place he was observed to flee in a white Mustang. Found abandoned in front of 424 S. Main Street was 30-06 Remington model 760 rifle, serial number 461476, a small plastic suitcase containing numerous articles, undershorts, a tee shirt, binoculars, and a brown and green bedspread in which all of these items were partially wrapped. Investigation at motels in the vicinity of Memphis, Tennessee, to locate an individual driving a white Mustang, disclosed

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that ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, had spent the night of 4/3/68, at the Rebel Motel, 3466 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, and was driving a Mustang with Alabama license 1-38993. Investigation disclosed binoculars abandoned by Unknown Subject were purchased afternoon of 4/4/68, from RALPH M. CARPENTER, salesman, York Arms Company, Memphis. Gillette shaving kit abandoned by Unknown Subject determined to have been purchased Oliver Rexall Drug Store, Whitehaven, Tennessee. Autopsy findings set out. IN VIEW OF THE CRIME FOR WHICH UNSUB BEING SOUGHT, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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DETAILS:

This investigation was predicated upon receipt of a specific request from the Attorney General of the United States on the night of April 4, 1968, that the Federal Bureau of Investigation conduct an investigation into the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., at Memphis, Tennessee, on that date.

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FLJ:wp

1

INVESTIGATION AT CRIME SCENE AND VICINITY

Set forth on the four pages which follow is illustrative material which relates to the general area of the crime scene and particularly to the rooming house at 422½ South Main Street (where the Unknown Subject occupied Room 5-B and from which rooming house the shot was fired) and Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street (in front of which numerous items were found and which were reportedly dropped or thrown down by the Unknown Subject as he ran south on the east side of Main Street). The illustrative material is as follows:

- 1) A plan view diagram of the crime scene area
- 2) A composite photographic front view of the east side of 410-424 South Main Street
- 3) A floor plan diagram of a rooming house located on the second floor of two separate buildings over 418-424 South Main Street, the address of this rooming house being 422½ South Main Street
- 4) A map of part of the city of Memphis, Tennessee, showing the relationship to the crime scene of York Arms Company, where Unknown Subject purchased binoculars which were later recovered; Oliver Rexall Drug Store, where the Unknown Subject had purchased a shaving kit which was later recovered; and the Rebel Motel, where the Unknown Subject was registered on the night of April 3, 1968, under the name ERIC S. GALT.

AVE.

CRIME SCENE

LORRAINE

MOTEL

E BUTLER AVE

MULBERRY

ST.

Shot

HULING

U.S. Fixture Co.

PARKING
AREA

Fire Station

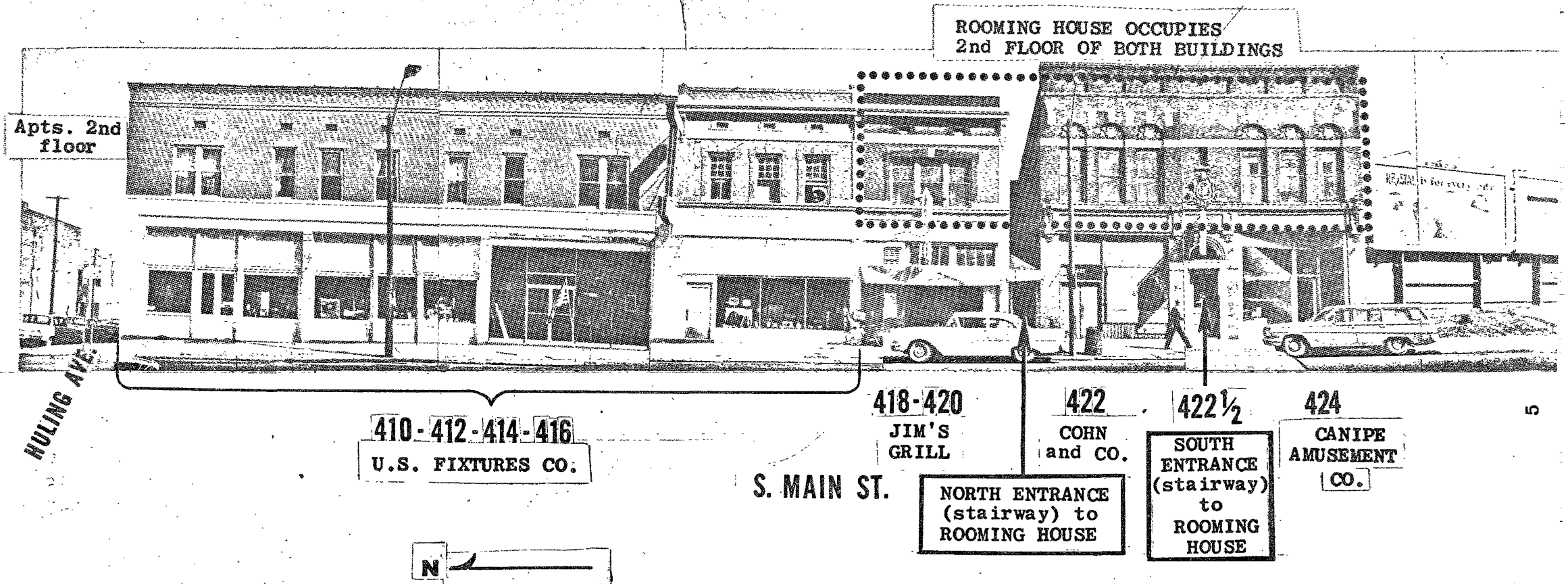
410-416

418-420 422 422½ 424

S. MAIN ST.

- ① Bathroom window, N. wing of rooming house
- ② Point where Dr. King was shot
- 424 - Canipe Amusement Co.
- Ⓐ 422½ - S. entrance (stairway) to rooming house, 2nd floor
- 422 - Cohn and Co.
- Ⓑ N. entrance (stairway) to rooming house, 2nd floor
- 420-418 - Jim's Grill
- Indicates 2nd floor area of rooming house from 418-424 with two entrances marked A and B
- Ⓒ Space for 3 cars between fire plug and driveway
- Ⓓ Concrete retainer wall

- 1 Ⓞ White Mustang seen here about 4:00pm and later
- 2 Ⓚ White Mustang seen here between approx. 4:45 pm and 6:00 pm

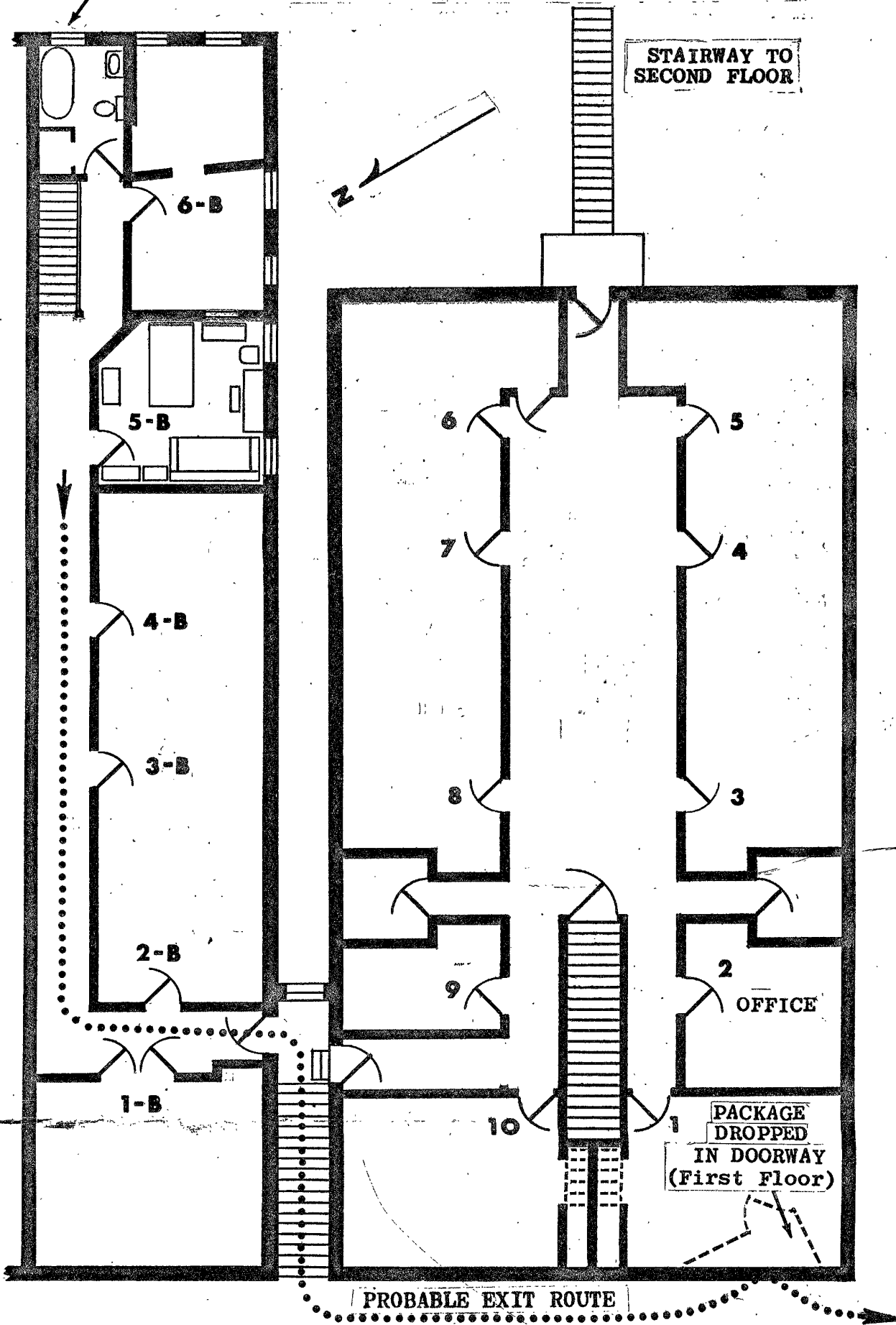


COMPOSITE PHOTO of
410-424 S. MAIN ST.

SECOND FLOOR PLAN of ROOMING HOUSE

BATHROOM WINDOW
FROM WHERE
SHOT WAS FIRED

STAIRWAY TO
SECOND FLOOR



418-420

422

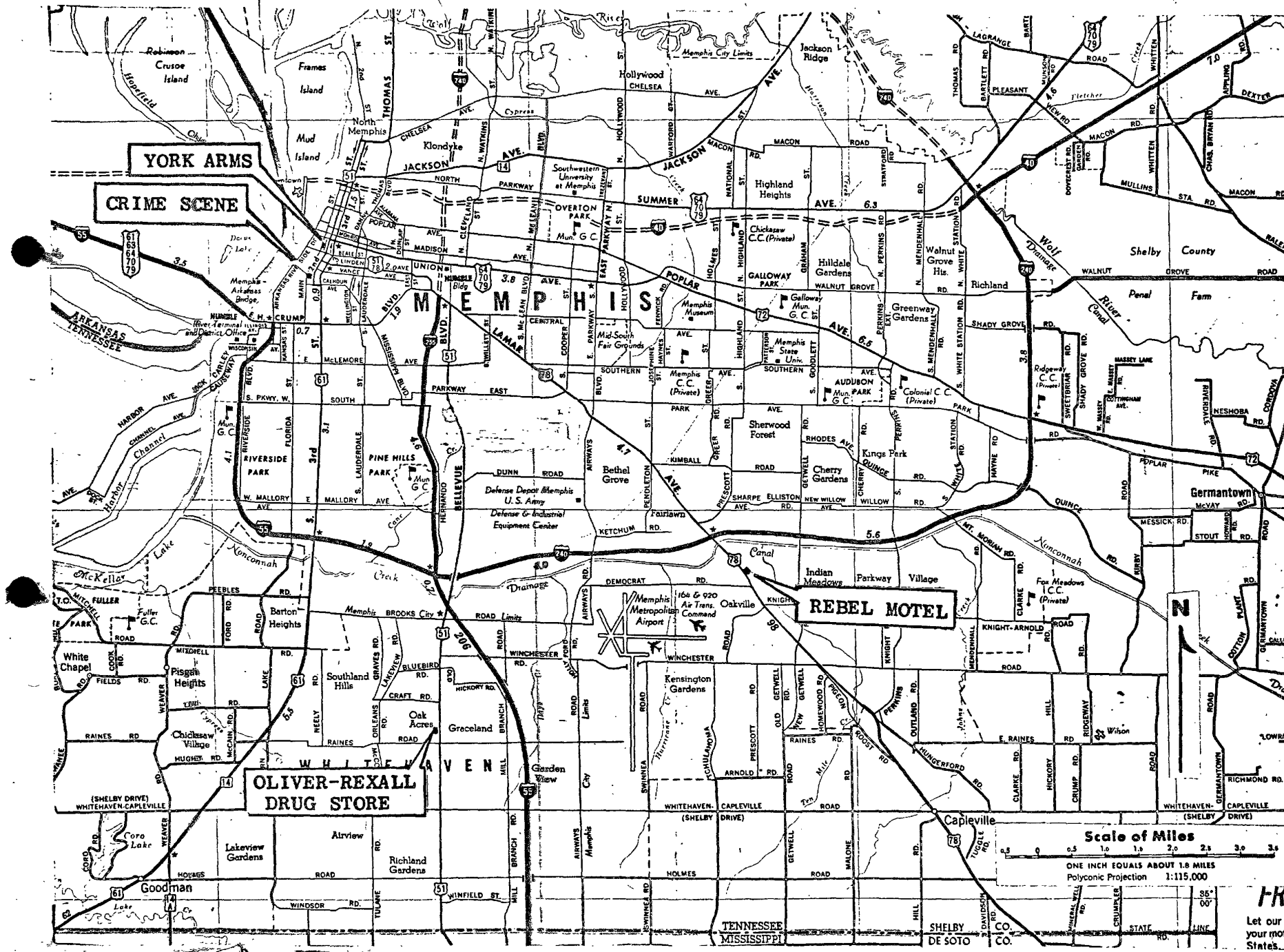
422½

424

NORTH ENTRANCE
(stairway)
TO ROOMING HOUSE

SOUTH ENTRANCE
(stairway)
TO ROOMING HOUSE

S. MAIN ST.



ME 44-1987

PERSONS AT ROOMING HOUSE,
422 $\frac{1}{2}$ SOUTH MAIN STREET

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 8, 1968

Mrs. BESSIE RUTH BREWER, Resident Manager, rooming house located at 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at Central Police Headquarters, Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department, at which time she furnished the following information:

Between 3:00 P.M. and 3:30 P.M. on April 4, 1968, a white male knocked on the door of the second floor of the rooming house and asked Mrs. BREWER if she had a room. She replied yes, and this individual then asked if he could see it. Mrs. BREWER showed him Room No. 8, which is located in the southwest part of the building, and the individual put his head into the doorway and after looking, stated that this would not be satisfactory as he did not need a stove and refrigerator but only wanted a sleeping room. Mrs. BREWER then showed this individual Room 5-B, and he put his head in the doorway of this room and said it would be fine. At this point the individual asked where the bathroom facilities were located, and she pointed to the bathroom located in the northeast portion of the hallway which is located in the same hallway as Room 5-B. She and this individual then returned to her office. The individual stated that his name was JOHN WILLARD and that he wanted a sleeping room for one week.

WILLARD then asked her how much the room rent would be for one week, and Mrs. BREWER replied \$8.50. WILLARD then put his hand into his right trouser pocket and withdrew a twenty dollar bill and two quarters and handed the money to her. She gave him change in denominations of one ten dollar bill and two one dollar bills. When WILLARD arrived at the rooming house, Mrs. BREWER did not notice any luggage in his possession, nor during the brief conversation with WILLARD did he volunteer any information concerning his home residence, line of business, or mode of transportation. WILLARD was not required to sign any type of register, and the only written record maintained of the transaction was a receipt for the \$8.50, which was made out in the handwriting of Mrs. BREWER.

Mrs. BREWER was unable to state if WILLARD returned

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA ROBERT F. BOYLE:jap Date dictated 4/8/68

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to Room 5-B or if he left the building at any time after renting Room 5-B. Mrs. BREWER did not again observe WILLARD after he rented the room.

Mrs. BREWER's husband returned home from work at 5:25 P.M. on April 4, 1968, and at that time Mr. and Mrs. BREWER commenced their dinner. After dinner Mr. BREWER then turned on the television set and was watching the "Rawhide" television program, and Mrs. BREWER did the dinner dishes. Shortly after completing the dinner dishes, Mrs. BREWER also sat down to watch the "Rawhide" television program. Within a matter of a couple of minutes, Mrs. BREWER heard what she thought to be a gun shot coming from the back of her rooming house. Mrs. BREWER believed that this must have been around 6:00 P.M. on April 4, 1968. She advised her husband that she thought it was a gun shot. Her husband took time to put on his slippers and both of them then proceeded to the southeast exit of the building. Upon arriving at this point, Mr. BREWER attempted to go out the back door; however, a law enforcement officer was in the back of the building and instructed both Mr. and Mrs. BREWER to close the door and return to their apartment. Mrs. BREWER did not hear any noise such as someone running through her building after hearing the gun shot, and the only noise she could recall hearing was a lot of hollering and screaming near the back of her building toward the Lorraine Motel.

Mrs. BREWER examined cash that she had on hand and determined that she had three \$20.00 bills in her possession. She was unable to specifically pinpoint which \$20.00 bill was furnished to her by WILLARD for payment of his room rent. Mrs. BREWER made available the following described twenty dollar Federal Reserve Notes:

- (1) Series 1963-A, Serial No. F14002844A
- (2) Series 1963-A, Serial No. H16164663A
- (3) Series 1963, Serial No. F06445143A

Mrs. BREWER furnished the following description of WILLARD:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	Approximately 35 years

Height:	5'11" to 6'
Weight:	180 pounds
Build:	Medium (carried weight well)
Appearance:	Real neat looking, clean shaven.

Mrs. BREWER stated that WILLARD appeared to have a smile or a sneer on his face during their entire conversation; did not appear as though he was the outdoors type; was wearing a dark sport jacket or short jacket, as he did not have to pull the jacket back when he reached his right hand into his pocket for his money; did not notice any rings or watches; paid no attention to his shoes, pants, shirt, or whether he had on a tie, but was quite positive that he did not have a hat; did not give the appearance of needing a haircut, nor was he wearing a mustache or any long sideburns; paid no particular attention to his teeth while he was talking and did not particularly notice about any part of his face, including nose, mouth, ears, chin, or eyebrows.

Mrs. BREWER claims that she did not particularly look at this individual as she did not like the smile or sneer that he had on his face.

Mrs. BREWER did recall that when she pointed out the bathroom facilities to WILLARD, she told him that everyone in the area of his room was usually quiet but that the guy next to him usually drinks a little bit. Mrs. BREWER claimed that WILLARD then stated, "I take a beer once in awhile myself." Mrs. BREWER claimed that she told him that was all right as long as he stayed in his room and kept quiet.

Mrs. BREWER was unable to state whether any of the other roomers at her rooming house had an opportunity to either observe or have any contact with WILLARD, nor was she able to furnish any additional information concerning WILLARD's activities during the brief period that he resided at her rooming house. She claims that she does not believe that she would recognize this individual again from a photograph or if she had an opportunity to see him in person, but qualified this by stating that she probably would be able to recognize him from the smile or sneer that he had on his face if she were able to observe that in the future.

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She claimed that WILLARD did not volunteer any information concerning his personal background or volunteer any information concerning his reason for being in Memphis. She claimed that WILLARD's speech was "just like the rest of us around here," and that his vocabulary and accent were not out of place in her rooming house. Mrs. BREWER recalled that when WILLARD first looked in Room 8, he remarked that he only wanted a sleeping room as he would not be in the room in the daytime, just at night.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/13/68

Mrs. FRANK (BESSIE) BREWER, Room 2, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, who manages the rooming house at this address and who has been interviewed previously by Agents of the FBI, telephonically contacted the FBI Office on April 10, 1968, at which time she requested to be contacted by an FBI Agent.

Mrs. BREWER was contacted by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON and Lieutenant W. S. SCHULTZ, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, at which time she advised that she was beginning to receive mail from individuals unknown to her. She displayed an envelope postmarked April 7, 1968, at Niagara Falls, New York, bearing the return address, Mrs. ZUCCO, 518 Ferry Avenue, Niagara Falls, New York, in which was located a one-page handwritten letter, which letter referred to newspaper publicity identifying Mrs. BREWER as operating a "flop house," the writer of the letter referring to the fact that Mrs. BREWER should "buy some paint" and ending by stating, "I'll bet you even have cockroaches!"

A second envelope was postmarked April 7, 1968, at Des Moines, Iowa, which contained a printed religious tract and neither the envelope nor the tract identified the sender.

On the occasion of this contact with Mrs. BREWER, she furnished the following information:

She stated she wanted to point out that she has previously forgotten to advise officers of the Police Department and FBI Agents that at the time she rented Room 5-B to a stranger using the name of JOHN WILLARD on April 4, 1968, there was a small, cheap chest of drawers, blond in color, in front of the east window on the south wall of Room 5-B, whereas after the shooting of Dr. KING and when she next saw Room 5-B, that chest of drawers was sitting against the west wall of that room and there was a chair sitting in front of

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On 4/10/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:wp Date dictated 4/12/68

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that window. She stated she was pointing this out since this would indicate that the occupant of the room definitely handled this chest of drawers.

Mrs. BREWER stated that since interviewed previously, she had been trying to think of anything else which might assist in identifying the guest who used the name of JOHN WILLARD. She stated as she has discussed the matter with her husband and thought more about it, the one thing which impressed her most about the appearance of this individual was the fact that when she first cracked open the door to her room after this man knocked, she observed that he was standing at the door with an unusual smile on his face. She went on to state that she would describe the smile as a "sneer" or a "smirk." She stated that she cannot be more specific other than to state that she was impressed by this expression on this man's face, as though he were trying to smile for no reason. She stated that she did not interpret the smile as an effort to be flirtatious.

She also stated that her initial impression of this man was that he did not "fit in" with other tenants in this rooming house. She pointed out that this rooming house is located in a poorer section of town where most of the tenants are older people or others with limited income, a number of whom are alcoholics, and this man was clean and neatly dressed, giving the impression that he could obtain lodging in nicer surroundings.

Mrs. BREWER at this time attempted to recall the words used by this person. As she recalls, when she went to the door and cracked open the door, leaving the chain fastened, the man's first words were, "Do you have a room for rent?" She answered in the affirmative and asked him whether he wanted a room by the week or by the month. He replied, as nearly as she can recall, by stating simply, "By the week." At this point she unfastened the chain which secured the partially opened door and walked directly to Room 8 located in the south wing of this rooming house. She stated that the man followed her to the room and looked inside the room but never actually entered the room, at which time his words,

as nearly as she can recall, were, "Well, I don't need the stove and refrigerator since I won't be doing any cooking. I was thinking more of a sleeping room."

At this point Mrs. BREWER explained that the only vacant "sleeping room" (or room with no stove and refrigerator) which she had in either wing of the rooming house was Room 5-B in the north wing. She therefore immediately walked from Room 8 in the south wing across the enclosed walkway which connects the south wing to the north wing of the rooming house, and thereafter to Room 5-B. Again she walked in front of the man. As soon as she opened the door to Room 5-B, the man immediately stated that he would take that room. She then walked to her room in the south wing of the building, followed by the unknown man, who paid her \$8.50, as outlined previously by her, for the rent of Room 5-B for one week in advance.

Mrs. BREWER stated that most of the rooms in this rooming house can be secured only with the use of a padlock, and after showing this individual Room 5-B, she removed the padlock from the door and took the padlock with her to her room. She stated it is necessary that tenants put up a deposit if they secure the padlock, but this tenant did not inquire as to how he could lock the door and did not request the padlock and a key. She also added that she did not explain to him the method of locking the door or that it was necessary that he put up a deposit in order to obtain the padlock.

She stated at this point that she had been somewhat unnerved when she first looked at this man, at which time he had the unusual smile on his face, or appeared to be "sneering" at her, and thereafter she made a point of having as little to do with him as possible, always walking in front of him and avoiding all unnecessary conversation or dealings with him.

Mrs. BREWER was asked whether she now feels that she could identify this man if she sees him again. She stated that she thought she might be able to identify this man if she sees him again. She stated the man used no slang or unusual expressions and she could not associate his accent with any particular area, adding he had no particular accent.

She also stated that she is positive she has never seen this man before. She pointed out that she has only been handling the rental of the rooms at this rooming house since March 12, 1968, however, and she would have no way of knowing whether he stayed at this rooming house prior to that time.

She stated that at the time she became the landlady at this rooming house, Room 5-B was occupied by an elderly man by the name of COMMODORE STEWART. This man was ill as of March 12, 1968, and she believed that it was on March 12, 1968, that he was taken to a Memphis hospital. A couple of days later, probably on either March 13 or 14, 1968, this man died. The room had not been rented from that time until the time the stranger using the name of JOHN WILLARD rented this room.

She understands that a number of different persons have acted in the capacity of rental agent for this rooming house in recent months, including Mr. WYATT MADDOX, who is now a clerk at the Tri-State Hotel located nearby, Mr. MADDOX never having lived in this rooming house, however, and apparently having acted as rental agent for only a short period of time. Another individual who handled the rental of rooms in this rooming house was H. R. THOMPSON, an old drunk, according to other tenants, who never lived in the rooming house. One other rental agent at this rooming house prior to the time Mrs. BREWER assumed these duties was W. V. SAMMONS, who she understands is now at the Madison Hotel in Memphis. She is sure that Mr. SAMMONS was the rental agent in January 1968, based on copies of receipts in her receipt book. She recalled that Mr. SAMMONS stabbed his wife while he was rental agent at this rooming house and the matter received publicity.

Mrs. BREWER advised that most of the occupants of rooms in this rooming house are more or less permanent tenants, although she does occasionally rent a vacant room to transients for only one night.

Mrs. BREWER advised that there are 10 separate apartments or rooms in the south wing of this rooming house and six separate apartments or rooms in the north wing. The six rooms in the north wing are referred to as 1-B, 2-B, etc., whereas the rooms in the south wing have

no letter of the alphabet following the room number. She furnished the following information concerning the status of these rooms as of April 4, 1968, when the man using the name JOHN WILLARD checked into Room 5-B:

SOUTH WING:

(Rooms are numbered in a counter-clockwise order, starting with Room No. 1 in the southwest corner of this wing of the rooming house.)

Room 1 - Vacant

Room 2 - Occupied by Mr. and Mrs. BREWER and referred to as the "office."

Room 3 - Occupied by Mr. BERTIE L. REEVES, an elderly man who is retired and who appears to be reasonably responsible. She stated that Mr. REEVES came out of his room about the same time as Mr. and Mrs. BREWER after all heard what they believed to be a shot about 6:00 p.m., April 4, 1968.

Room 4 - Occupied by HOWARD VANCE, an older man, chronic alcoholic, who works as a handyman at Jim's Grill located nearby, but who as of April 4, 1968, was known by Mrs. BREWER to have been drunk for two days. Mrs. BREWER stated she knew that VANCE was in his room as of 6:00 p.m., April 4, 1968, but she also knew that he had been on a two-day drunk and that he did not come out of his room.

Room 5 - Occupied by T. L. MESSER, a man 75 to 80 years of age, who has been ill recently, whose hearing is very defective, and who was in his room as of the time of the shooting. Mrs. BREWER added, however, that due to Mr. MESSER's age and his physical and mental condition, Mr. MESSER still does not understand what actually occurred and continues to ask what all the excitement was about when police officers and FBI Agents questioned occupants of the building.

Room 6 - Vacant. Man by the name of SAMUEL WILSON, who she understands had been a tenant for several months, vacated this room on April 3, 1968.

Room 7 - Occupied by FRANK M. MARLEY, an elderly man who is a chronic alcoholic, who was also drunk and in his room as of the time of the shooting. She stated that MARLEY did not come out of his room around the time of the shooting.

Room 8 - Vacant. (This is the room which Mrs. BREWER first showed to the man using the name JOHN WILLARD.)

Room 9 - Occupied by HAROLD CARTER, a man 55 to 60 years of age, unemployed, who receives welfare checks and who has a physical affliction. (She stated one of his hands is deformed or "drawn up.") She stated this man also drinks considerably. She does not believe he was home at the time of the shooting.

Room 10 - Occupied by LEONARD EATON, age 60 to 65, who she understands to be a long-time resident at this rooming house, who reportedly formerly worked on a river boat. She stated it is her impression that he was in his room asleep at the time of the shooting and that he too had been drinking.

NORTH WING:

(Rooms on north wing are numbered 1-B through 6-B, reading from west to east. Those doors having numbers have numerals only on them, but all of the tenants understand that the designation of "B" refers to the rooms in the north wing.)

Room 1-B - (located west of a north-south hallway which connects to an enclosed walkway connecting the two wings of the rooming house) Occupied by Mrs. JESSIE L. LEDBETTER, a widow who she understands has resided at this address for some 8 to 10 years. Mrs. LEDBETTER is a deaf mute.

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Room 2-B - Vacant.

Room 3-B - Vacant.

Room 4-B - Occupied by WILLIS ANCHUTZ, employed at Duvall Transfer Company. Mrs. BREWER later learned that Mr. ANCHUTZ reportedly saw the man running down the hall following the shooting and had some conversation with him.

Room 5-B - Room occupied by the man using name JOHN WILLARD and which room had not been rented since former tenant, COMMODORE STEWART, died about March 13 or 14, 1968.

Room 6-B - Occupied by Mr. and Mrs. CHARLIE STEPHENS. Mr. STEPHENS is an unemployed tuberculosis patient and his wife is presently confined to her bed.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/7/68

WILLIAM CHARLES ANSCHUTZ, 422½ South Main, Apartment 4B, Memphis, advised that he is employed by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, 1054 Firestone Avenue, Memphis.

He returned home from work about 2:30 p.m., April 4, 1968. Miss JESSE LEDBETTER, a neighbor in Apartment 1B, came to his room to watch television. They watched television throughout the afternoon.

On two occasions during the afternoon, ANSCHUTZ tried to get into the bathroom at the end of the hall to pour out some water he had used to wash dishes. Each time someone was in the bathroom. The second time ANSCHUTZ went to the bathroom, another neighbor, CHARLIE STEVENS of Apartment 6B, told ANSCHUTZ that a new tenant who rented Apartment 5B was in the bathroom. ANSCHUTZ did not know the exact time of his attempts to get into the bathroom, but he indicated these attempts were only a few minutes apart. He does not know how long the new tenant was in the bathroom, but it seemed like a long time to him.

Later ANSCHUTZ heard a shot. He had been watching television for some time, but he did not have any idea what time it was. He got up and went to the door. As he opened it a man came down the hall. ANSCHUTZ thought the man came out of Apartment 5B, but he could not tell for sure.

The man was running and as he passed ANSCHUTZ's door, he held his hand and arm over his face so ANSCHUTZ could not get a good look at him. As the man passed ANSCHUTZ, ANSCHUTZ said, "I thought I heard a shot!" The man answered, "Yeh, it was a shot."

The man was carrying something under his arm. It appeared to be something long and was wrapped in what looked like a blanket. ANSCHUTZ thought it might be a gun.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987

SA JACK D. VAHRENWALD; SA EUGENE A. MEDORI,
by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON; SA JOHN W. BAUER Date dictated 4/6/68

JDV:rah:jms

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ANSCHUTZ knew that the shot had been fired nearby, but he could not tell if it came from the bathroom or from apartment 5B. He had never seen the man or talked to him until he saw the man running down the hall. He thinks the man went down the stairs to Main Street, but he did not follow him.

After the man had run down the hall, CHARLIE STEVENS came out of his apartment, and said he had also heard a shot. ANSCHUTZ went into the bathroom, and looked out the window. A police officer in the backyard yelled for him to get away from the window. ANSCHUTZ heard a girl say that the shot had come from the window.

After leaving the bathroom, ANSCHUTZ went to the other side of the roominghouse, and told the landlady, Mrs. BREWER, that he had heard a shot. Then he went back to his room to watch television. To the best of his knowledge, ANSCHUTZ cannot remember the man having any other luggage, etc., except the object that was wrapped up in the blanket.

ANSCHUTZ describes the man as follows:

Height:	6'
Build:	Slim
Age:	30's
Clothes:	Did not seem to be wearing a coat.

ANSCHUTZ did not see the man's face because the man covered it with his arm and hand. ANSCHUTZ does not think he could identify the man if he saw him again. ANSCHUTZ said he had not been drinking at all during the afternoon. He had to stop drinking for health reasons.

ANSCHUTZ advised that JESSE LEDBETTER is a deaf mute. She can read and write and can speak sign language. ANSCHUTZ does not know if she saw the man when he ran past the door.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/10/68

1

Mr. CHARLIE QUITMAN STEPHENS, Room 6-B, second floor, 422½ S. Main Street, furnished the following information to Lieutenant J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:

Mr. STEPHENS, who stated he is 46 years of age, and his wife occupy 2 rooms in the north wing of a rooming house, the address of which is 422½ S. Main Street. This rooming house actually covers the second floor of 2 separate buildings, Mr. STEPHENS' room being located in the north building in the southeast corner of the north building.

Sometime in the late afternoon of April 4, 1968, he and his wife were in their room. His wife, who has recently been in the hospital for an extended period of time, was in bed in their combination of living-bedroom. He was in the kitchen, which is east of the living-bedroom. He was repairing a radio on a table located at the north wall of the kitchen. Immediately north of him is a common bathroom which is located at the east end of an east-west hallway in the north building. While he was repairing the radio, he heard what he is certain was a shot, and he is certain that shot came from the bathroom from a point within just a few feet of where he was sitting. He has no way of knowing the time but can only estimate it was sometime between 5:00 and 6:00 PM.

Upon hearing this shot, he walked out of the kitchen through his living-bedroom and opened the door leading onto the hallway and observed a man running west down this hallway and this man was carrying a large bundle of some kind. He would estimate that this bundle or package was at least 3 or 4 feet long and 6 to 8 inches thick. Although he saw the man and the bundle only momentarily, he gained the impression that the bundle was wrapped in something, possibly a newspaper. This man continued running to the end of the hallway turning left (south) and apparently thereafter ran down the stairways onto the street, although he could not actually see the man going down the stairway.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987
by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON /bbs Date dictated 4/9/68

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It immediately occurred to Mr. STEPHENS that this was the same man he had seen earlier in the afternoon, possibly around mid-afternoon, standing at the door to room 5-B which is located immediately west of Mr. STEPHENS's living-bedroom. He stated that around mid-afternoon he had seen a man with Mrs. BREWER standing in the hallway at the entrance to room 5-B looking into room 5-B. He saw the man's left side. The man had nothing in his hands at the time. He assumed this was some new guest looking at a room.

Mr. STEPHENS stated that he and his wife remained in their room the rest of the afternoon. He pointed out that he, Mr. STEPHENS, is a disabled veteran who has been treated for tuberculosis, and he spends most of his time in his rooms with his wife who is also ill and who at present is a bed patient.

Sometime after seeing this man with Mrs. BREWER, he heard someone in room 5-B and assumed the man he had seen had rented the room next door. He stated that he recalls on several different occasions hearing footsteps in this room and also leaving from this room past his (Mr. STEPHENS's) room and into the common bathroom at the east end of the hall. He was also very much aware that when the person went from room 5-B to the bathroom, that person remained in the bathroom for a considerable period of time. He pointed out that this is particularly noticeable since this is a common bathroom which must be used by a number of different tenants. He also specifically recalled that only on one occasion did he hear the commode being flushed and he was therefore curious as to why this person was spending so much time in the bathroom.

He stated that on the last occasion that someone went from number 5-B to the bathroom prior to the time he heard the shot, he would estimate that that person remained in the bathroom for at least 20 to 30 minutes. During this period he heard no noises coming from the bathroom. He also specifically recalls that during this same period, Mr. WILLIS ANCHUTZ (phonetic), who occupies room 4-B, immediately west of 5-B where the new tenant apparently was located,

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had knocked on Mr. STEPHENS's door and somewhat angrily inquired as to who was staying in the bathroom so long.

It was at the end of this latter period of time that Mr. STEPHENS heard the above described shot which he was certain came from the bathroom. He stated that immediately after the shot was fired he heard some people located across the street, east of the building where he lives, screaming. Due to the excitement of the moment, the fact that people across the street in the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel were screaming, and the fact that his hearing is not the best, he did not hear any additional noises coming from the bathroom. He pointed out that he would expect to hear a "scuffle" coming from the bathroom if the man in the bathroom had fired the shot that killed MARTIN LUTHER KING, but he cannot recall hearing such a "scuffle." He stated that he simply has no way of knowing whether the man came out of the bathroom, went into room 5-B and then ran out of 5-B down the hall toward the front of the building, or whether the man in the bathroom ran directly from the bathroom down the hallway toward the front of the building. He stated he did hesitate a few moments after hearing the shot and hearing the screaming outside before he went to the door and looked down the hall to see the man running carrying something in his hand.

Mr. STEPHENS advised that the only people in the north building of this rooming house at the time of this incident were (1) Mr. STEPHENS, (2) Mr. STEPHENS's wife, who was in bed and who was never in a position to observe anything, (3) Mr. WILLIS ANCHUTZ (phonetic), above, in room 4-B, who came out of his room and was seen by Mr. STEPHENS at the same time Mr. STEPHENS saw the man running down the hall, (4) Mrs. JESSIE LEDBETTER, a deaf and dumb lady who resides in room 1-B toward the front (west) of the north wing or north building, and (5) the unknown man who had occupied room 5-B who was running down the hall as previously stated.

Mr. STEPHENS stated that Mr. ANCHUTZ made some remark to the unknown man who was running down the hallway and the unknown man apparently made some kind of reply.

Mr. STEPHENS advised that whereas he could hear footsteps in 5-B and could hear footsteps between 5-B and the bathroom, he at no time heard any conversation in 5-B, and he is certain that there was no conversation in 5-B from the time the new tenant checked in until the time he heard the shot. He stated he never heard any noise or footsteps which would indicate to him there was ever more than one person in room 5-B. He pointed out that whereas his hearing is not too good, it is very easy to hear noises in the adjoining rooms of this rooming house and he definitely can hear normal conversation coming from that room. Mr. STEPHENS stated that when he saw the new tenant with Mrs. BREWER standing in front of 5-B, he only saw the left side of the new tenant, and when he saw what he believes to be the same man running down the hallway carrying something, he only saw this person from the rear. He pointed out he never saw him directly in front, but based upon his observations he would describe this person as follows:

Name:	Unknown
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	"in his 30's."
Height:	5' 10-11"
Weight:	165 pounds
Build:	Average
Posture:	Man stood erectly
Hair:	Described as sandy, also described as "dark blond" or having the appearance of unwashed sand. Further described hairline as receding on left side (and presumably on both sides) making it appear he would have "peaks" on either side but with full thick hair toward the front center of his head between the peaks. Hair combed straight back. Normal or average haircut.

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Dress:

Bare headed, wearing dark
suit

General Appearance:

Clean shaven, neat appearing
individual.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/7/68

CHARLES STEPHENS, Apartment 6B, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, advised that on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, he was with his wife at the above address. He stated that at about 3:30 p.m., on the above date, he began working on a table model radio of his which was in need of repair. He said he took a radio to the kitchen and placed it on the table which was against the wall that was adjacent to the bathroom which was used by all tenants on his floor. As he was working on his radio he could hear the man in the next apartment to him, Apartment 5B, leave his room several times and go into the bathroom. Mr. STEPHENS stated that he knew it was the man who had just checked in to Apartment 5B that afternoon because he could hear the door of Apartment 5B open and then footsteps would go down the hall to the bathroom, the bathroom door would open and then close.

Mr. STEPHENS said that during these various trips that the individual in Apartment 5B made to the bathroom he failed to flush the toilet or to run any water with the exception of the last time he was in the bathroom. At this time he flushed the toilet. He stated that this individual seemed to be spending an undue length of time in this bathroom. At about 6:00 p.m., on April 4, 1968, Mr. STEPHENS heard a loud noise which he described as sounding like a gunshot come from the bathroom. Upon hearing this noise, Mr. STEPHENS ran from the kitchen where he was repairing his radio to his door that led to the hallway. He stated this is only a distance of about 10 to 12 feet. Upon opening the door he saw a man leave the bathroom carrying a package of about three feet long and wrapped in what appeared to be newspaper. He saw the man run down the hall and then turn left as if he were trying to leave the apartment building. As this was happening WILLIE ANSCHUTZ, who lived in Apartment 4B, came out of his apartment and went to the bathroom. ANSCHUTZ then told STEPHENS to look out of his window. STEPHENS said that he then looked out of his kitchen window which faced the Lorraine Hotel and saw a lot of policemen scurrying about and people running screaming in the vicinity of the hotel.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987

SA JOHN W. BAUER
by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON JWB:raj Date dictated 4/5/68

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Mr. STEPHENS stated that the man who was in Apartment 5B had checked in about 3:00 or 3:30 p.m. on April 4, 1968. He stated he was sure of this because he had heard the landlady showing him the apartment at that time. He stated he glanced out of his door and got a fairly good look at the man who he described as being a white male; 5' 10-11"; weighing 165 pounds; slender build; ruddy complexion; sandy hair; had a long, sharp pointed nose; wearing what appeared to be a dark blue or black suit, white shirt and dark tie.

Mr. STEPHENS stated that the man who he saw running out of the bathroom closely resembled the man who had checked into Apartment 5B. He said he could only see the man who ran from the bathroom from behind, but his general build, hair coloring and clothes were the same as the individual in Apartment 5B.

Mr. STEPHENS described the individual he saw running out of the bathroom as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'10-11"
Weight	165
Build	Slender
Complexion	Ruddy
Hair	Sandy, slightly on dark side
Clothing	Wearing dark suit

Mr. STEPHENS added that he had never met the man who checked into Apartment 5B, talked to him, or knew his name.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/6/68

Mrs. GRACE HAYES STEPHENS, Apartment 6-B, 422½ Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

Mrs. STEPHENS said that she was in bed all day on April 4, 1968, as she has been ill for several months. She advised that she heard a noise, which sounded like a firecracker at 6 p.m., April 4, 1968. She said the noise sounded to her as if it came from the yard on the east side of her apartment. She said she did not think anything about the noise as it was common for trains to set off firecrackers on the tracks on the east side of her apartment. Mrs. STEPHENS said she heard soft footsteps coming from out of the bathroom, which is located adjacent to her apartment, and proceeding rapidly down the hallway toward the entrance to the apartment building.

Mrs. STEPHENS said she then heard screaming and yelling from the east side of her apartment near the Lorraine Hotel at 406 Mulberry Street. Mrs. STEPHENS said she did not get out of bed at any time on April 4, 1968, and did not see anyone leave the apartment bathroom and knows nothing else relating to the abovementioned noise.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SAs STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON
and JOHN W. BAUER SMD:gmh Date dictated 4/5/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/10/68

1

Mr. BERTIE L. REEVES, Room 3, wouth wing of rooming house located on second floor, 422½ S. Main Street, Memphis, furnished the following information to Lieutenant J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON. Mr. REEVES, who advised he is 74 years of age, retired, formerly a dragline operator, railroad fireman and hotel clerk, advised he has resided at this address for the past 8 years.

He stated that sometime in the late afternoon of April 4, 1968, exact time not recalled, he was in his room when he heard a shot. He immediately walked out into the large hallway at which time the landlady, Mrs. BESSIE BREWER, and her husband FRANK, who occupy room 2, next door to his room, also came out of their room. The 3 of them proceeded east down the large hallway or lobby of this wing of the rooming house to the east door. As they walked down the hallway they heard screams coming from across the street to the east of this building in the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel. Upon arriving at the rear (east) door, police officers in the area instructed them to get back inside and they did so.

Mr. REEVES advised he did not see anyone leave the building and does not know who fired the shot and has no way of knowing the exact location of the shot which he heard.

He advised that earlier in the afternoon of April 4, 1968, and perhaps around 3:00 P.M., he had returned to his room after going to Jim's Cafe located nearby. As he approached his room, he saw a strange man standing at the door of the landlady's room. This man thereafter left from the vicinity of the door to the landlady's room and walked north across a hallway to the north wing of this rooming house. He pointed out that the rooming house located on the second floor is actually located in two different buildings, but there is an enclosed walkway toward the front of these two buildings, connecting the two, so that persons on the

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987

by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON /bbs Date dictated 4/9/68

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second floor can walk from the north building to the south building. The rooms in the north building have a "B" number, such as 1-B, 2-B and so forth, whereas the rooms in the south building have no letter of the alphabet following the room numbers. This new tenant walked through this enclosed walkway from the south to the north building where the "B" rooms are located. He did not see him again. He pointed out that he only saw this man from the rear and right side as the man left the landlady's door and walked north to the north building.

Mr. REEVES furnished the following description of the man seen by him:

Name:	Unknown
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	25-30
Height:	5' 11" to 6'
Weight:	165-175 pounds
Build:	Average
Hair:	Dark, full head of hair
Dress:	Bare headed, in dark suit, did not see shirt or tie
General Appearance:	"Pretty neat"
Miscellaneous:	Mr. REEVES stated that this man definitely was not carrying anything when he saw him and the man did not say anything when he was in the man's presence.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/7/68

FRANK BREWER, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Apartment 2, Memphis, advised that his wife, BESSIE BREWER, is the landlord of the roominghouse at 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main, Memphis, Tennessee.

BREWER works at Velsicol Chemical Corporation, 1199 Warford, Memphis, Tennessee. He arrived home from work about 5:30 p.m. on April 4, 1968. He immediately sat down to eat supper. His wife told him that she had rented apartment 5B that afternoon, but she did not mention anything about the person to whom she rented the room.

BREWER finished his supper and sat down to watch television. He figured the time to be just about 6:00 p.m. He heard a loud noise that sounded like a gun, but he thought it must be a firecracker. He got up and went to the door to see what had made the noise. He opened the door that leads into the hall. He heard people behind the roominghouse yelling, "Oh God, help me!" He also heard some firemen from the nearby fire station running toward the Lorraine Hotel, and one of them said, "Someone has been shot."

BREWER ran to the back door and went out on the back porch. It took him two or three seconds to unlock the door and get it open. BREWER figures that the time elapsed from when he heard the noise until he stepped onto the back porch was about 15 - 20 seconds.

As he stepped out on the porch, a uniformed officer, possibly from the Sheriff's Office, ran into the backyard of the roominghouse and yelled to BREWER, "Get back in the house and lock the door." BREWER thought he was from the Sheriff's Office because he was wearing dark green pants and a tan shirt. As BREWER started back inside, another officer yelled, "The shot came from there," and pointed toward the northeast corner of the roominghouse. BREWER thought the officer was pointing toward either the windows on the northeast corner or the roof.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987
by SAs JACK D. VAHRENWALD
EUGENE A. MEDORI / JDV:jms Date dictated 4/6/68

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BREWER came back into the apartment house and locked the door. He looked out the window and saw two policemen on the roof of the building that faces Mulberry Street, and is just northeast of the building at 422 South Main.

BREWER went back to his apartment and sat down. He did not hear anything until WILLIAM ANSCHUTZ, who lives in apartment 4B, came to BREWER's door and yelled, "The guy that rented the room ran down the steps, and had something wrapped up that looked like a gun." BREWER did not go out to look for the man.

The police came to the door within a minute or two, and officers were there the whole night.

BREWER and his wife have lived at 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main, Apartment 2, since March 12, 1968. BREWER never did see the man registered as JOHN WILLARD, and, thus, could offer nothing concerning WILLARD's appearance. BREWER examined the rent receipts dating back to January 27, 1968, and could find no record of a JOHN WILLARD living here before April 4, 1968.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/6/68

Mr. HOWARD BONNIE VANCE, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Apartment 4, South Wing, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

Mr. VANCE said he was "intoxicated" for the two days of April 3 and 4, 1968. He said he went to the bathroom twice on April 4, 1968, at 9 a.m. and at 3 p.m., and did not see anyone or hear anyone on those two occasions. VANCE said he lives alone in his room. He said he was completely unaware of any activity outside of his room for the two above-mentioned dates.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987
by SAs STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON
and JOHN W. BAUER SMD:gmh/wp Date dictated 4/5/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/681

Mr. J. L. MESSER, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Apartment 5, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

Mr. MESSER, speaking in a very loud tone, stated that he was extremely hard of hearing and was almost deaf. He stated that he did not know anything had happened that was out of the ordinary on April 4, 1968, and that he was in his room the entire day. He stated he did not know anything had occurred until that morning, April 5, 1968, when Mrs. BREWER told him that someone had been killed. Mr. MESSER stated that he has been having trouble with his back and that he spends most of his time either in bed or sitting down in his room.

He stated he could furnish no information in this matter.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA JACK D. VAHRENWALD and
SA EUGENE A. MEDORI, JR. EAM/mnr Date dictated 4/10/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/7/681

FRANK M. MARLEY, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Apartment 7, advised that he was home all day on April 4, 1968. He heard a loud noise about 6:00 p.m. on April 4, 1968, but he had been drinking heavily all afternoon, and he did not get out of bed to see what was happening.

He did not see the man who rented Room 5B, and he did not hear anything unusual after he heard the loud noise.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987
by SAs JACK D. VAHRENWALD
EUGENE A. MEDORI / JDV:jms Date dictated 4/6/68

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ME 44-1987

FLJ/bbs

1

On April 5, 1968, an effort was made by Lieutenant J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON to interview Mr. FRANK MILLARD MARLEY, white male, 81 years old, tenant in room 7 south wing of rooming house second floor, 422½ S. Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. Extreme difficulty was experienced in an effort to interview Mr. MARLEY who stated he is 81 years of age. Mr. MARLEY stated he had heard a shot sometime late in the afternoon of April 4, 1968, at which time he stated he was standing on the back porch (located at the east end of a large hallway in the center of the south building or south wing of the rooming house at this address). He stated that he was on the back porch to hang out some clothing. He pointed out some items of clothing in water in a wash pan. It was noted these items of clothing had not been wrung out and were still in the wash water.

Mr. MARLEY related several different versions as to what he had seen and where he had been located, at one point stating there were 3 men involved in the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING and that he had seen one of them sliding down a bank east of the above mentioned back portion whereas the other 2 had run west out of the building. At this point, he stated that he was in the hallway when the 2 men ran west and one of them told him "get the hell out of the way." He also stated at one point that one of the men running west had a "yankee brogue" and at another point stated one of them looked like an Indian.

During efforts to interview Mr. MARLEY, Mr. FRANK BREWER, husband of the landlady of this building, Mrs. BESSIE BREWER, advised Lt. J. D. HAMBY and SA FRANK L. JOHNSON that Mr. MARLEY is a complete alcoholic, stays drunk all the time, and he personally knows that Mr. MARLEY was passed out in his room at the time Mr. BREWER, Mrs. BREWER, and another tenant Mr. BERTIE REEVES heard a shot around 6:00 PM, April 4, 1968.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/7/68

HAROLD CARTER, 422½ South Main, Apartment 9, advised that he arrived at home about 4:30 p.m., on April 4, 1968. He went to his room and he was still there when he heard a shot about 6:00 p.m. He stayed in his room until the police came inside about 10-15 minutes later.

CARTER did not see the man who rented Apartment 5B, and he did not notice anything unusual before or after he heard the shot. He does not feel he has anything that would help in the investigation of this case.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987
by SA JACK D. VAHRENWALD
SA EUGENE A. MEDORI JDV:raj Date dictated 4/6/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/7/681

ALFRED W. EATON, 422½ South Main Street, Apartment 10, advised that he had been in and out of the apartment most of the day on April 4, 1968. He had been drinking that afternoon, and was taking a nap when he was awakened by a loud noise and some commotion outside the boardinghouse. He got out of bed, and looked out the back window of the house. He saw someone covering up a body across the street.

EATON did not see the person who rented Apartment 5B in the roominghouse. He also heard nothing in the other wing of the building (where Apartment 5B is located) after the shot was fired.

EATON said he went back to bed shortly thereafter, and did not know what actually happened until the morning of April 5, 1968.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987
by SAs JACK D. VAHRENWALD
EUGENE E. MEDORI / JDV:jms Date dictated 4/6/68

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