

Department of Justice

REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU

OF PENDING LITIGATION

of

~~DO NOT DESTROY PENDING LITIGATION~~

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

44-38861

Serials

Volume Number

DO NOT DESTROY-PRESERVE FOR SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

See also Nos. *IA, I-V*

X ref 166-3612

BUC 7/14/77

Thompson 6/27/77

Glue 6/27/77

Warren 5/12/77

Wheeler 3/23/77

Russell 5/10/77

3

FBI - CENTRAL RECORDS CENTER

LS - LOUISVILLE

LS-0044-0004W: LS

Class / Case #	Sub	Vol.	Serial #	
0044 947		6	381	Open

6/14/474544



RRP005WXC8

44-947



DO NOT DESTROY - PENDING LITIGATION

[illegible]

MAINTAIN - FLY SHEET

**FILES AND RECORDS
DESTRUCTION ORDER**Date 7/14/77

TO: SAC, COVINGTON
FROM: SA CHRIS R. HOEHLE
RE: File No. LS 44-947

I have reviewed this file, and under the criteria set forth in Part II, Section 3, of Manual of Rules and Regulations, this file should be:

☐ Destroyed

under the ☐ 6-month ☐ 10-year Rule

☐ Auxiliary Office original FD-302s, Laboratory or Latent FP reports and/or 1-A Exhibit or Bulky Exhibit FD-192 green sheets have been forwarded to OO as applicable.

☒ Retained

Justification for Retention is as Follows:

All information contained within
instant file is to be preserved pending
the outcome of litigation (62-2095)

DO NOT DESTROY-PENDING LITIGATION

Case Agent's Initials aySupervisor's Initials K

DO NOT DESTROY-PRESERVE FOR SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

TELETYPE

IMMEDIATE

EFTO

3/20/77

FM LOUISVILLE (100-4583) (P)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

BT

E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)

ON MARCH 20, 1977, M. G. (GENE) SNYDER, UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, KENTUCKY, APPEARING ON WHAS - TV "NEWS CONFERENCE" TAPED MARCH 18, 1977, AT LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, REVEALED THAT HE BELIEVED INVESTIGATION BY HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA) WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE, EVEN THOUGH HE DID NOT INITIALLY VOTE FOR FUNDING OF SAME. SNYDER INDICATED THAT HE HAD CHANGED HIS MIND IN LIGHT OF SOME RECENT INFORMATION WHICH HE WOULD CAREFULLY EXPLAIN SO AS TO NOT "DROP SOMEBODY IN" OR "SAY ANYTHING WRONG ABOUT SOMEBODY, THAT SHOULDN'T BE SAID".

1 - 100-4583

1 - 44-947

EVA/jt

(2)

LS 100-4583

PAGE TWO

SNYDER INDICATED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED LETTER A FEW WEEKS AGO FROM "CITIZEN" WHO IS RETIRED AFTER MANY YEARS, FROM RESPONSIBLE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THAT THIS "CITIZEN", NOT FURTHER DESCRIBED, HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY THREE (3) "FBI OFFICERS" AND THREE (3) OR FOUR (4) "PROMINENT PEOPLE AT THAT TIME IN THAT POLICE DEPARTMENT". SNYDER NOTED THAT THIS UNNAMED "CITIZEN" RECEIVED THIS "OFFER" ON TWO (2) SEPARATE OCCASIONS IN HIS AUTOMOBILE WHERE HE HAD TAPE RECORDER SECRETED. TAPES WERE MADE OF THE "OFFER" ON BOTH OCCASIONS, HOWEVER, ONE TAPE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY STOLEN. OTHER TAPE "CITIZEN" RETAINED AND FURNISHED SAME TO HSCA AFTER REPORTEDLY TRAVELING TO WASHINGTON, D.C., AT HIS OWN EXPENSE.

SNYDER HAS SPOKEN WITH "CITIZEN" PERSONALLY AND IN SNYDER'S OPINION, "CITIZEN" APPEARS TO BE RESPONSIBLE. SNYDER BELIEVES INSTANT "LEAD" AND OTHER LEADS SHOULD BE "CHECKED OUT". BECAUSE OF INSTANT "LEAD", UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE SAMUEL L. DEVINE (OHIO), RANKING MINORITY MEMBER OF HSCA, NOW INTENDS TO VOTE FOR CONTINUATION OF HSCA FUNDING.

LS 100-4583

PAGE THREE

SNYDER REVEALS THAT LETTER WAS RECEIVED IN "REGULAR UNITED STATES MAIL" AND THAT BASIC ALLEGATION IS THAT UNNAMED "CITIZEN", WHO IS RETIRED POLICEMAN, WAS APPROACHED BY "MEMBERS OF FBI AND UNNAMED POLICE DEPARTMENT" AND ENCOURAGED TO ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WHEN ASKED WHY SNYDER RECEIVED LETTER, SNYDER REPLIED "TIME WILL HAVE TO TELL" AND THAT HE "DIDN'T WANT TO GO INTO THAT".

SNYDER FURTHER REVEALED THAT UNNAMED "CITIZEN" HAS BEEN TO WASHINGTON AND THAT HSCA NOW HAS POSSESSION OF TAPE RECORDING WHICH IS BEING "WASHED DOWN" TO ELIMINATE BACKGROUND NOISES SUCH AS RUNNING AUTOMOBILE ENGINE. SNYDER HAS HEARD TAPE HIMSELF AND DESCRIBED SAME AS HAVING "SOME PRETTY INAUDIBLE SECTIONS" WHICH ARE BEING WORKED ON AT PRESENT. SNYDER NOTED THAT TAPE PURPORTS TO DEAL WITH INSTANT SUBJECT MATTER. SNYDER INDICATED THAT HE COULD NOT ATTEST TO AUTHENTICITY OF TAPE RECORDING SINCE HE WAS NOT ELECTRONICS EXPERT, BUT NOTED SAME MUST BE DETERMINED.

SNYDER DECLINED TO ANSWER INTERROGATORIES AS TO WHETHER LETTER CAME FROM HIS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OR LOUISVILLE,

LS 100-4583

PAGE FOUR

KENTUCKY, NOTING HE DID NOT THINK HE OUGHT TO PLACE UNNAMED "CITIZEN" IN JEOPARDY IF ALLEGATION IS TRUE, OR PEOPLE MENTIONED THEREIN IN JEOPARDY IF ALLEGATION FALSE. SNYDER BELIEVES HSCA WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHEN NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED ARE TO BE RELEASED AND MADE PUBLIC.

SNYDER DECLINED ANY FURTHER COMMENT ON MATTER, NOTING THAT IF ALLEGATIONS WERE TRUE, UNNAMED "CITIZEN" FURNISHING BASIS FOR SAME WOULD BE IN JEOPARDY FROM "FBI AND OTHERS NAMED" IN LETTER, AND IF ALLEGATION NOT TRUE, "RESPONSIBLE PERSONS" WOULD LIKEWISE BE IN JEOPARDY. SNYDER ASSUMED THAT HSCA WOULD GIVE INDIVIDUALS NAMED IN LETTER, OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES AT APPROPRIATE TIME.

ON MARCH 19, 1977, "COURIER-JOURNAL", DAILY NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, CARRIED ARTICLE CAPTIONED "SNYDER GIVES PANEL ALLEGATION OF PLOT TO ASSASSINATE KING", WHEREIN SNYDER IS REPORTED TO HAVE REVEALED, DURING TAPING OF ABOVE TELEVISION NEWS CONFERENCE, THAT HE HAD TURNED OVER TO HSCA AN ALLEGATION THAT FBI AGENTS AND POLICE PLOTTED TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

LS 100-4583

PAGE FIVE

SNYDER IS REPORTED TO HAVE RECEIVED THE ABOVE-MENTIONED LETTER IN "LATE FEBRUARY" FROM FORMER POLICEMAN WHO CLAIMS HE WAS TWICE OFFERED \$500,000 TO KILL KING. SNYDER REPORTEDLY WOULD NOT REVEAL NAME OF FORMER POLICEMAN OR NAMES OF THREE (3) FBI AGENTS AND POLICEMEN ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN PLOT.

SNYDER MADE NO CONNECTION BETWEEN ALLEGED OFFER MADE TO UNNAMED RETIRED POLICEMAN WITH MORE THAN TWENTY (20) YEARS SERVICE, AND ACTUAL KILLING OF KING.

RICHARD A. SPRAGUE, CHIEF COUNSEL FOR HSCA, IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID MARCH 18, 1977, THAT SNYDER HAD TURNED OVER MATERIAL CONTAINING THE ALLEGATION TO HSCA AND THAT MATTER IS CURRENTLY "UNDER INVESTIGATION".

SNYDER REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT FORMER POLICEMAN HAD ATTEMPTED TO TURN TAPE REVEALING \$500,000 OFFER, OVER TO ATTORNEYS FOR JAMES EARL RAY, CONVICTED KILLER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BUT WAS FINALLY ASKED BY INVESTIGATOR FOR ATTORNEYS, "WHERE HE PLANNED TO HIDE IF HE TRIED TO DO ANYTHING WITH TAPE".

SAMUEL L. DEVINE, UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE (OHIO),

LS 100-4583

PAGE SIX

HERETOFORE MENTIONED, WHO IS FORMER FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) AGENT, REPORTEDLY HAS CHECKED INTO BACKGROUND OF RETIRED POLICEMAN AND FOUND HIM TO BE "SOLID CITIZEN".

ACCOUNT APPEARING IN "COURIER-JOURNAL" AS HIGHLIGHTED ABOVE IS REPORTEDLY BASED ON COMMENTS MADE BY SNYDER DURING TAPING OF WHAS-TV "NEWS CONFERENCE" PROGRAM BROADCAST MARCH 20, 1977. HOWEVER, NO MENTION WAS MADE BY SNYDER OF \$500,000 AMOUNT ALLEGEDLY OFFERED RETIRED POLICEMAN, DURING WHAS-TV "NEWS CONFERENCE" AS BROADCAST ON MARCH 20, 1977.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

RE LOUISVILLE TELCALLS TO BUREAU, MARCH 19, 1977, AND MARCH 20, 1977.

PURSUANT TO BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS, LOUISVILLE TRANSMITTING COPY OF MARCH 19, 1977, "COURIER-JOURNAL" ARTICLE TO FBIHQ VIA TELECOPIER FASCIMILE. TAPE RECORDING OF WHAS-TV "NEWS CONFERENCE" AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLE COPIES BEING FORWARDED FBIHQ BY AIRTEL MARCH 21, 1977. LOUISVILLE WILL FOLLOW AND REPORT

LS 100-4583

PAGE SEVEN

ALL PERTINENT ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING
INSTANT MATTER WHICH MIGHT BE REVEALED LOCALLY AT LOUISVILLE,
KENTUCKY.

BT

#

ADDENDUM:

On 3/19/77, matter involved herein was discussed by SAC STANLEY S. CZARNECKI with FBIHQ Supervisor ANTHONY ADAMSKI, Division 6, and on 3/20/77, matter was again discussed between Supervisor EDMUND V. ARMENTO and FBIHQ Supervisor JOHN BRADSHAW, Division 6.

3/21/77

AIRTEL

A I R M A I L

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, LOUISVILLE (100-4583)

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ASSASSINATIONS (MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)

Re Louisville teletype to the Bureau dated 3/20/77.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau is one (1) tape cassette recording of pertinent portions of WHAS-TV "News Conference" which was taped on 3/18/77 at Louisville, Kentucky and broadcast on Channel 11 (WHAS-TV) at 12:30 PM on 3/20/77, wherein M. G. "GENE" SNYDER, U. S. Representative, 4th Congressional District, Kentucky, reveals allegation against three (3) unnamed "FBI Officers" and others involving purported "offer" to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., details of which previously furnished Bureau by referenced communication.

Also enclosed for Bureau are two (2) copies of "Courier-Journal" news article captioned "SNYDER GIVES PANEL ALLEGATION OF PLOT TO ASSASSINATE KING", which was furnished to Bureau by telecopier facsimile on 3/20/77.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 3)
2 - Louisville (1 - 100-4583) (1) - 44-947)
EVA:cam

(4)

CAT

44-947 - 382

[Handwritten signature]

Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

INDEXED

100097 0050355

PR LF

DE MO

R 060025Z MAR 77

FM DIRECTOR (44-38861)

TO LOUISVILLE

BT

CL E A R

MURKIN

RE YOUR FACSIMILE DATED MARCH 23, 1977, AND BUTELCAL
MARCH 25, 1977.

ON MARCH 25, 1977, ROBERT L. KEUCH, DEPUTY ASSISTANT
ATTORNEY GENERAL, CRIMINAL DIVISION, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE, WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR THE
DEPARTMENT IN MATTERS CONCERNING THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS, ADVISED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS
AUTHORIZED THE INTERVIEW OF CLIFTON E. BAIRD BY THE FBI,
IN THE PRESENCE OF AN ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY (AUSA)
LOUISVILLE, CONCERNING ALL DETAILS OF HIS RECENT REPORTED
ALLEGATION THAT HE HAD RECEIVED AN OFFER FROM FBI AGENTS AND
POLICE OFFICERS TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FOR FIVE
HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.

3/28/77 xerox copies made
date

T 3/30
TEL / LHM

Armento
advised
3/25/77
JWA

Re
O: A
3/25
cc: ME

Hoehle

44-947-383

y
Armento

Xerox
1-100-4583

PAGE TWO CLEAR 44-38861

LOUISVILLE ARRANGE TO HAVE AN AUSA PRESENT AND PROMPTLY
INTERVIEW DAIRD FOR ALL DETAILS. ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN COPIES
OF ANY EVIDENCE HE HAS TO SUPPORT HIS ALLEGATION INCLUDING
COPIES OF THE ALLEGED TAPES. IF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED
STATES ATTORNEY HAS ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS MATTER
HAVE IT CONTACT MR. KENCH OF THE DEPARTMENT DIRECT.

SUTEL RESULTS FOLLOWED BY LHM.

BT

H00097 0850355

PP LS

DE HQ

P 260025Z MAR 77

FM DIRECTOR (44-3886L)

TO LOUISVILLE

BT

C L E A R

MURKIN

RE YOUR FACSIMILE DATED MARCH 23, 1977, AND BUTELCAL
MARCH 25, 1977.

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ATTORNEY GENERAL, CRIMINAL DIVISION, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE, WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR THE
DEPARTMENT IN MATTERS CONCERNING THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS, ADVISED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS
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ALLEGATION THAT HE HAD RECEIVED AN OFFER FROM FBI AGENTS AND
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HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.

T 3/30
TEL/LHM

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advised
3/25/77
JWS

XEROX
1-100-4583

44-947-383

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED
MAR 25 1977
FBI - LOUISVILLE
J. S. [signature]

PAGE TWO CLEAR 44-38861

LOUISVILLE ARRANGE TO HAVE AN AUSA PRESENT AND PROMPTLY INTERVIEW BAIRD FOR ALL DETAILS. ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN COPIES OF ANY EVIDENCE HE HAS TO SUPPORT HIS ALLEGATION INCLUDING COPIES OF THE ALLEGED TAPES. IF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY HAS ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS MATTER HAVE IT CONTACT MR. KEUCH OF THE DEPARTMENT DIRECT.

SUTEL RESULTS FOLLOWED BY LHM.

BT

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Bell may try to interview King assassin

By ANTHONY MARRO

© New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Griffin B. Bell said yesterday that he was still troubled by some unanswered questions surrounding the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. He said that he might try to answer them by interviews with the convicted murderer, James Earl Ray.

Bell made clear that he plans no such action until the House Select Committee on Assassinations decides whether to continue an investigation of its own. But he said he was particularly interested in learning how Ray obtained the money he had before and after the shooting of King and whether anyone had helped him obtain passports and make travel arrangements.

"I'd either want to speak to Ray myself or send one of my skilled people who know how to negotiate and interrogate," Bell said in response to a reporter's question. "If we came to the conclusion he was making a clean breast, then we'd see about (some) consideration."

But he noted that because Ray is serving a 99-year sentence in a Tennessee state prison, not a federal penitentiary, he had no direct access to him.

Ray traveled extensively and made expensive purchases between his escape from prison in 1967 and his arrest in London two months after the assassination. Where his money came from was not answered by a recent Justice Department study, made public last week.

That report said that the question of where Ray obtained his funds remained a mystery. But it said that the theory that he had committed robberies, as suggested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was a credible one. It also concluded that the FBI's probe of the murder had been thorough and professional and that the best available evidence suggested that Ray had acted alone.

Ray had refused to be interviewed by the Justice Department investigators who reviewed the FBI investigation, and his lawyer, James H. Lesar, said yesterday that he might advise Ray to continue to refuse interviews and insist instead on a new trial.

Bell's comments came during a session with about two dozen reporters. During the session, he also promised a broad campaign against all forms of organized crime, said he intended to keep the strike-force concept intact and praised the administrative abilities of Pittsburgh Mayor Peter F. Flaherty, who is expected to be named his deputy.

In the last months of the Ford administration, there had been several proposals within the Justice Department to de-emphasize or do away with the Criminal Division Strike Forces, special units intended to prosecute organized crime.

Bell said he intended to keep the strike forces but suggested that he might try to limit their autonomy.

Bell, who said he had not met Flaherty until recently, said that the Democratic mayor's administrative abilities were much in need. "I don't believe the department has been properly managed for years," he said.

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

Page A 4

Courier-Journal

Louisville, Ky.

Date: 2/25/77

Edition: Morning

Author:

Editor: Barry Bingham

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

707-4284-13

SEARCHED INDEXED

SERIALIZED FILED

FEB 28 1977

FBI - LOUISVILLE

44-947

44-947-384

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI cleared in King probe

The Justice Department has declared that the FBI investigation of the 1968 assassination of civil-rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was thorough and honest. A task force reviewed the probe and issued its findings today. The task force said the evidence virtually rules out the possibility of a conspiracy to kill King and indicates that James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to the slaying, acted alone.

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

PAGE A 2

LOUISVILLE TIMES

LOUISVILLE, KY

Date: 2/18/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor: BARRY BINGHAM

Title: JR

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated44-947-385
100-4583-133

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 23 1977	
FBI LOUISVILLE	

Xerox
44-947

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Snyder gives panel allegation of plot to assassinate King

By JIM ADAMS
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Gene Snyder, R-4th District, said yesterday that he has turned over to the House Assassinations Committee an allegation that FBI agents and police plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Snyder said that in late February he received a letter from "a former policeman" who claims he was twice offered \$500,000 to kill King.

Snyder made his comments yesterday while taping a WHAS-TV News Conference program, which will be broadcast at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow on WHAS television and radio.

Snyder would not reveal the name of the former policeman making the charge, or the names of three FBI agents and several policeman who allegedly were involved in the plot. Snyder also declined to name the police force that the man worked on for more than 20 years.

Snyder made no connection between the offer allegedly made to the policeman and the actual killing of King.

"I have always had confidence in the major law enforcement agencies of this country, and I had to assume that what they determined (about the slaying) was accurate," Snyder said. "Now I think this is something that needs to be investigated."

Richard A. Sprague, the Philadelphia attorney who is chief counsel for the assassinations committee, last night confirmed that Snyder had turned over material containing the allegation, but refused to answer questions about it.

"The matter you refer to has been referred to the committee and is under investigation," he said by telephone from Philadelphia.

King was slain in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968, and James Earl Ray was convicted of killing him. The House committee last fall began investigating the assassinations of King and President John Kennedy. The committee's funding expires March 31.

Snyder, who voted against the committee initially, told The Courier-Journal in an interview last night that he will vote to continue funds for its investigation solely on the basis of the allegation brought to him.

Snyder said he had no explanation for why the policeman brought the charges to him, rather than directly to the committee. The policeman asked Snyder to put him in touch with the committee, the congressman said.

He said the former policeman had attempted to turn a tape recording of the \$500,000 offer over to Ray's attorneys, but finally was asked by one of the attorneys' investigators "where he planned to hide if he tried to do anything with the tape."

Asked if he believes the man's allegation, Snyder said, "I don't know. But I think charges such as this need to be investigated."

Snyder said he has discussed the charges with U.S. Rep. Samuel L. Devine of Ohio, the ranking minority member on the committee. He said Devine, a former FBI agent, checked into the man's background and found him to be "a solid citizen." Devine could not be reached last night.

Snyder told WHAS, "I have talked to him (the policeman) personally and in my opinion he appears to be a responsible citizen."

He told the television station, "He (the former officer) was approached to assassinate Martin Luther King. He names three FBI officers, he names three or four prominent people at that time in the police department. He indicates that the offer was made on two occasions in his automobile where he had a tape recorder, that he taped those items. One of them (the tapes) was stolen, the other he still has."

Snyder said the man went to Washington and either appeared before the committee or was interviewed by its staff. Snyder said the committee has the tape. Asked if he has a copy of the tape,

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

Section B,
Page 1,
"Courier-
Journal",
Louisville,
Kentucky

Date: 3/19/77
Edition: Morning
Author: JIM ADAMS
Editor: BARRY BINGHAM
Title: "SNYDER GIVES
PANEL ALLEGATION OF
PLOT TO ASSASSINATE
Character:
or
Classification: LS 100-4583
Submitting Office: LS

☒ Being Investigated

100-4583-15
MAR 20 1977
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3-21-77 44-947-386
CAN

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray lawyer dismisses story of plot in Louisville to kill King

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One of James Earl Ray's lawyers says that more than a year ago he looked into an allegation that Louisville police and FBI agents plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He said he concluded "there wasn't much to it."

The lawyer, James H. Lesar, said yesterday that even if the allegation by a retired Louisville policeman is true, "it was remote from the assassination" because the man says there was only talk and not an attempt to kill the civil rights leader.

A House assassinations committee aide said investigators have talked to the retired policeman, who was not identified publicly, and are checking his story.

Lesar said the retired policeman told him in a letter that other Louisville policemen and FBI agents tried to hire him to kill King.

Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., disclosed last week that the policeman also wrote him a letter containing the allegation. Snyder said he turned it over to the assassinations committee.

(Snyder refused last night to confirm or deny that the policeman was retired from the Louisville department. "I think I've said enough," he said. "I just don't think I ought to nail it down.")

On a related matter, the House aide said two committee members will interview Ray today.

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

PAGE A 11

COURIER JOURNAL

LOUISVILLE, KY

Date: 3/22/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor: BARRY BINGHAM

Title: JR

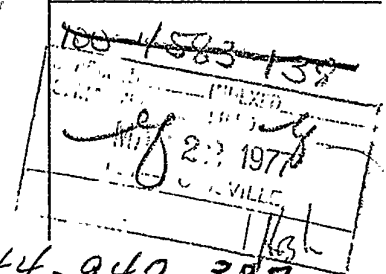
Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: LS

☐ Being Investigated



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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Snyder made his comments yesterday while taping a WHAS-TV News Conference program, which will be broadcast at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow on WHAS television and radio.

Snyder would not reveal the name of the former policeman making the charge, or the names of the FBI agents and several policeman who allegedly were involved in the plot. Snyder also declined to name the police force that the man worked on for more than 20 years.

Snyder made no connection between the offer allegedly made to the policeman and the actual killing of King.

"I have always had confidence in the major law enforcement agencies of this country, and I had to assume that what they determined (about the slaying) was accurate," Snyder said. "Now I think this is something that needs to be investigated."

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Snyder said he had no explanation for why the policeman brought the charges to him, rather than directly to the committee. The policeman asked Snyder to put him in touch with the committee, the congressman said.

He said the former policeman had attempted to turn a tape recording of the \$500,000 offer over to Ray's attorneys, but finally was asked by one of the attorneys' investigators "where he planned to hide if he tried to do anything with the tape."

Asked if he believes the man's allegation, Snyder said, "I don't know. But I think charges such as this need to be investigated."

Snyder said he has discussed the charges with U.S. Rep. Samuel L. Devine of Ohio, the ranking minority member on the committee. He said Devine, a former FBI agent, checked into the man's background and found him to be "a solid citizen." Devine could not be reached last night.

Snyder told WHAS, "I have talked to him (the policeman) personally and in my opinion he appears to be a responsible citizen."

He told the television station, "He (the former officer) was approached to assassinate Martin Luther King. He names three FBI officers, he names three or four prominent people at that time in the police department. He indicates that the offer was made on two occasions in his automobile where he had a tape recorder, that he taped those items. One of them (the tapes) was stolen, the other he still has."

Snyder said the man went to Washington and either appeared before the committee or was interviewed by its staff. Snyder said the committee has the tape. Asked if he has a copy of the tape,

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

PAGE B 1

COURIER JOURNAL

LOUISVILLE, KY

Date: 3/19/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor: BARRY BINGHAM

Title: JR.

Character: BU #

or

LS # 44-947

Classification:

Submitting Office: LS

☐ Being Investigated

44-947-388

FILED
MAR 21 1977
FBI - LOUISVILLE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Assassination proposal told

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — U.S. Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., says he has referred to the House Assassination Committee a retired police officer who claims FBI agents propositioned him to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In statements broadcast Friday on WHAS-TV, Snyder said the former officer, whom he declined to name, has a tape recording of a purported conversation between himself and FBI agents in which an alleged suggestion was made to murder King.

According to Snyder, the former policeman "names three FBI officers (and) three or four prominent people at that time in the police department (and) indicates that the offer was made on two occasions in his automobile where he had a tape recorder."

Snyder, who represents Kentucky's 4th District, declined to name dates and the city where the purported offers were

made.

Snyder also declined to specify whether the former officer was from Kentucky. He said the man contacted him by letter recently and that he later met the man and listened to one tape recording.

Part of the tape was inaudible, Snyder said, but he was able to discern that the subject was King's assassination.

"I have talked to him and in my opinion he appears to be a responsible citizen and I think these kinds of leads need to be checked out," Snyder said.

Snyder said Assassinations Committee now has the tape recording and is investigating the matter.

King was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968. The Assassinations Committee recently said it had new information on King's murder, but has not produced any evidence of involvement by anyone other than the convicted killer, James Earl Ray.

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

PAGE 11-B

SUN-DEMOCRAT

PADUCAH, KY.

Date: 3/20/77

Edition: SUNDAY

Author:

Editor: EDWIN PAXTON

Title:

Character: 89-63

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: LS

☐ Being Investigated

44-947-389	
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 28 1977	
FBI - LOUISVILLE	

COPY SENT BUREAU

3-22-77

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Snyder says man revealed police plots to kill King

By BILL HENDRICK
Associated Press Writer
LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., said Saturday the House Assassinations Committee is investigating an allegation from a "logical, rational" man who claims several members of a police department and FBI agents plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Snyder said he met the man "face to face" and that "he appeared to be rational, a logical kind of man."

Snyder said he received a letter from the man and listened to a tape recording the man said he made of the alleged assassination plot. He refused to say whether the man or the police department involved were in Kentucky.

Asked why the man contacted him and let him listen to a copy of the tape recording, Snyder said "he may have just been looking for someone with nerve, a fighter."

Snyder read part of the letter and used the word "blank" where the man had used names.

"I retired from (blank) police department in (blank) after serving (blank) years," the letter said. "While I was in the police department I was innocently involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King.

"Involved in this conspiracy were agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, agents (blank), (blank) and (blank) and others that I did not know," Snyder said, continuing to read the letter. "Members of the (blank) police department, chief of detectives, captain

(blank), lieutenant (blank), officer (blank), lieutenant (blank) of the homicide bureau and president of the FOP sergeant (blank)."

FOB stands for Fraternal Order of Police, a collective bargaining organization for police officers.

Snyder said he could not divulge the names listed in the letter or the identity of the man who contacted him.

"What I'm saying," Snyder said, "is those blanks need to be protected if there's nothing to this. And if it is an accurate allegation that he's made, then the author of the letter needs to be protected. The committee is investigating it."

Snyder said the man "indicates further in the letter that after he retired he contacted who he says is James Earl Ray's attorney..."

Ray is serving a life term in prison in connection with the assassination of the late civil rights worker who was slain in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

Snyder said the former policeman claimed he was offered \$500,000 on two occasions to kill King.

Richard A. Sprague, the Philadelphia attorney who is chief counsel for the assassinations committee, confirmed Snyder had turned over material containing the allegation.

"The matter you refer to has been referred to the committee and is under investigation," Sprague said.

Snyder said he would vote to continue funds for the committee's continued existence solely on the basis of the allegation brought to him.

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

PAGE A-16

SUN-DEMOCRAT

PADUCAH, KY.

Date: 3/20/77
Edition: SUNDAY
Author: BILL HENDRICK
Editor: EDWIN PAXTON
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Submitting Office: LS

Being Investigated	SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED	
APR 3 1977		
FBI - LOUISVILLE		

COPY SENT BUREAU 3-22-77

44-947-390

FBI-Police Plot To Kill Martin Luther King Is Revealed by Kentucky Congressman

By **RICHARD L. WALKER**
United Press International

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., says he understands the House Assassinations Committee has "some right substantial leads" in regard to the Martin Luther King Jr. murder case, besides the information he relayed to them on an alleged assassination plot among FBI agents and police.

Snyder disclosed during the weekend that a retired police officer wrote him last month outlining an alleged conspiracy involving three FBI agents and "three or four police officers" to kill the civil rights leader. Snyder said the retired policeman claimed he was offered \$500,000 to commit the murder.

The Kentucky congressman declined to name the officer or his city police force. But United Press International learned from a reliable source yesterday that the alleged plot involved some high-ranking policemen and FBI agents from Louisville during the mid-1960s.

Snyder, who originally opposed creation of the House Assassinations Committee, now says he intends to vote for the panel's continuation.

Snyder said his informant had turned over a tape recording of a conversation which he says contains details of the half-million dollar offer to kill King. He said the ex-officer, now involved in private security work, had been to Washington to tell his story to investigators for the assassinations committee, but had not formally testified.

"I did think that I was sitting on something that was explosive whether accurate or not accurate," Snyder said. "That's the reason why I think I must be very careful not to reveal either who the writer was or who he named in his allegations."

Richard Sprague, chief counsel for the assassinations committee, has confirmed that the alleged plot to which Snyder referred was under investigation and refused further comment.

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

PAGE A-1

LEXINGTON HERALD

LEXINGTON, KY.

Date: 3/21/77
Edition: AFTERNOON
Author: RICHARD L. WALKER
Editor: DON MILLS
Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 89-63
Submitting Office: LS

☐ Being Investigated



GENE SNYDER
Discloses Plot

COPY SENT BUREAU 3-22-77

44-947-391

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 28 1977	
FBI - LOUISVILLE	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

A bizarre new twist in King killing

Representative Snyder's revelation of an alleged police-FBI plot to murder Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is yet another reason for a thorough congressional probe of the slaying.

The House committee investigating the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy and the 1968 killing of Dr. King has until recently been an unfunny joke. It wasted months and much money with internal quarreling.

Now a new chairman has taken over the fractious committee, and it will soon face a key House vote on

times editorial

whether it should be continued or abolished.

Rep. Snyder's story is just one of many major reasons the assassinations committee should be continued. Mr. Snyder says a former Louisville policeman told him he was twice offered a half million dollars to assassinate Dr. King.

The ex-policeman claims that several policemen and three FBI agents were involved in the plot, according to Rep. Snyder. The former policeman has delivered his information to the congressional committee.

One of the lawyers who has represented James Earl Ray, the convicted

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

Opinion Page

Louisville Times

Louisville, Ky.

Date: 3/23/77

Edition: Evening

Author:

Editor: Barry Bingham J

Title:

Character:

or 1-Bu

Classification: 1-Ls

Submitting Office: Ls

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 28 1977	
FBI - LOUISVILLE	

44-947-392



Conrad in the Los Angeles Times

Rush to judgment

slayer of Dr. King, says he has looked into the ex-policeman's charge and concluded "there wasn't much to it."

Mr. Ray, however, has long charged that his lawyers have not adequately represented him. He has sought to have a new trial to prove he was not the only one involved in the King assassination.

The matter definitely deserves deep investigation. And Congressman Snyder, who initially opposed the as-

sassinations committee, now supports the congressional effort to probe further into the tragic slayings.

His willingness to change in face of disturbing new material about the King assassination should be an example to other House members. The ex-policeman's story, for instance, may be bizarre. But the recent years have been full of bizarre events in which official lies were revealed and wild plots were exposed. The matter revealed by Mr. Snyder cannot lightly be dismissed.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ex-Louisville cop bares King plot

BY JIM EBERLE
Kentucky Post Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—A retired Louisville policeman described by knowledgeable congressional sources as highly respected and reliable claims he was offered \$500,000 to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The man contacted U.S. Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., with the information and a tape recording to back up his claim.

Snyder says he turned over to the House Assassination Committee early this month a letter he received from the informant. Snyder describes the man as a 27-year veteran of the Louisville force, now in the private security business, but would not reveal his identity.

■ In danger?

Snyder said he was not identifying the man for several reasons: "If he's accurate and really interpreted everything properly that there was something going on then I don't think I ought to put him in jeopardy, people trying to get to him for one reason or another.

"I think they could even try to get him to keep him from talking any further.

"Or if he's not accurate I don't think the people he mentioned ought to have their good names smeared."

Snyder also declined to name the three FBI agents and four or five police officers the information said were involved in the alleged plot or to identify the police department they were connected with.

However, Rep. Samuel Devine, R-Ohio, the ranking minority member of the assassination panel and the colleague to whom Snyder first took the letter, said Sunday the man was a former Louisville policeman, although he said he was not sure what the man's status was at the time of the alleged offer.

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

Page 1

Kentucky Post

Covington, Ky.

Date: 3/21/77

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor: Vance H. Trimble

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Louisville

☐ Being Investigated

44-947-393	
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 26 1977	
FBI - LOUISVILLE	

It remains unclear whether the other men named in the letter were also Louisville policemen because none of the congressmen would say. Snyder, whose congressional district includes suburban Louisville, said only, "It wasn't too hard for me to check and find out if in fact they had been officers, and they were."

The offer about which the informant says he has personal knowledge allegedly took place two or three years before Dr. King was shot to death in Memphis in 1968, an informed source said.

"He said in his letter that he was offered \$500,000 and the offer was made in his car equipped with a tape recorder and he has a recording of the conversation," said Snyder.

"And then when I talked with him," the congressman continued, "he told me that actually there were two conversations but the one tape has been either misplaced or stolen."

"He has one tape and he's turned it over to the committee."

Snyder believes he never met the man before the letter arrived in his office on Feb. 28. He said Devine, a former FBI agent, had the man investigated and reported back to him "that the guy checked out good."

In a meeting with the man after he flew to Washington to be interviewed by the committee staff, Snyder said "he did not impress me as anybody who had any kind of mental problems."

Devine said he hadn't met the man, and he knows of no information "he was a psycho."

And Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, who is chairing the subcommittee dealing specifically with the King assassination, said he was told by Devine the man checked out as a "highly respected police officer reputed to be a reliable individual."

Stokes said he's taking the man's allegation "seriously."

Coming to Snyder was a last resort for the former policeman.

"In his letter he indicated that after he retired from the police department he made an attempt to get this to James Earl Ray's attorneys," said Snyder. Ray pleaded guilty to killing Dr. King in 1968 and is serving a 99-year prison sentence.

The man was referred by one of Ray's attorneys to a Frederick, Md., investigator, said Snyder, and called him.

Snyder said he'll now vote to keep the panel going because "I think the policeman's story needs to be investigated to find out what there is to it."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Alleged Police Plot To Kill Dr. King Now Being Probed, Rep. Snyder Says

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Rep. M. Gene Snyder (R-Ky.) said Saturday the House Assassinations Committee is investigating an allegation from a "logical, rational" man who claims several members of a police department and FBI agents plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Snyder said he met the man "face to face" and that "he appeared to be rational, a logical kind of man."

Snyder said he received a letter from the man and listened to a tape recording the man said he made of the alleged assassination plot. He refused to say whether the man or the police department involved were in Kentucky.

"I RETIRED from (blank) police department in (blank) after serving (blank) years," the letter said. "While I was in the police department I was innocently involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King.

"Involved in this conspiracy were agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, agents (blank), (blank) and (blank) and others that I did not know," the letter said, as Snyder read it, citing but not naming several other officers.

Snyder said he could not divulge the names or the identity of the man who contacted him.

"What I'm saying," Snyder said, "is, those blanks need to be protected if there's nothing to this. And if it is an accurate allegation that he's made, then the author of the letter needs to be protected. The committee is investigating it."

SNYDER SAID the man "indicates further in the letter that after he retired he contacted (a man) who, he says, is James Earl Ray's attorney. . . ."

Ray is serving a life term in prison in connection with the assassination of the late civil rights worker who was slain in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

Snyder said the former policeman claimed he was offered \$500,000 on two occasions to kill King.

Richard A. Sprague, the Philadelphia lawyer who is chief counsel for the assassinations committee, confirmed Snyder had turned over material containing the allegation, and that it "is under investigation."

The former policeman, Snyder said, tried to turn over a tape recording of the alleged \$500,000 offer to Ray's lawyers, but one of their investigators finally asked "where he planned to hide if he tried to do anything with the tape."

SNYDER SAID he has discussed the allegation with Rep. Samuel L. Devine of Ohio, the ranking minority member of the committee. Devine, a former FBI agent, checked into the man's background and found him to be a "solid citizen," Snyder said.

Snyder said the man told him the offers for him to kill King were made in his automobile, where he had a tape recorder. Snyder quoted the man as saying he had two tapes, one of which was either stolen or lost. The other tape has been turned over to the committee, Snyder said.

"Most of it was inaudible to me," he said. "I could make out a little. I made out enough to believe and ascertain that a discussion was being had about King and money, but I didn't even listen to all of it."

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

Kentucky
Enquirer

Covington, Ky.

Page 1

Date: 3/20/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Louisville

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 23 1977	
FBI - LOUISVILLE	

44-947 394

SNYDER SAID he wants the allegation to be thoroughly investigated "and this guy ought to be protected from any problems. If it is inaccurate, then those people who he names need to be protected. He names three alleged FBI agents, four or five members, prominent members at the time, of a police department."

The man has been interviewed by the committee's investigative staff, Snyder said.

Snyder said he received the letter from the man on Feb. 28.

"I don't know if it is valid," he said. "It is up to the committee to investigate it."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ex-cop is expected to name alleged King conspirators

By TIM WYNGAARD and CARL WEST
Scripps-Howard Staff Writers

WASHINGTON — A former Louisville, Ky., patrolman is expected to name under oath Louisville and federal lawmen he alleges conspired to kill Martin Luther King Jr. two years before the civil rights leader was assassinated.

Sources involved in the House investigation of the murders of King and President Kennedy said today that the Louisville allegation is the "top priority" in the King investigation but congressional probes also have uncovered the following leads:

- A Somerville, Tenn., businessman alleges that while he was in Memphis two days before King was murdered there in April, 1968, he overheard part of a telephone conversation involving shooting someone on a balcony. The businessman has told investigators for the House Assassination Committee that he heard someone named "Roberto" tell another party "to kill the bastard even if you have to shoot him on the balcony."

- A female friend of Jack Ruby, killer of Lee Harvey Oswald, Kennedy's assassin, has told investigators that she has "got religion" and wants to testify about Ruby's activities prior to Kennedy's shooting in Dallas in 1963.

Committee investigators, led by chief counsel Richard A. Sprague, are in Tennessee today interviewing James Earl Ray, King's convicted killer. Ray and his brother Jerry are expected to be called before the committee to testify.

To complete the investigation of these and other leads that committee members say are promising, the panel is asking \$2.7 million for a 12-month probe, thus backing away from an earlier request for almost \$13 million to cover a period of two years. The controversy over that request almost killed the committee.

COMMITTEE STAFFERS have

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

Page 1

Cincinnati Post

Cincinnati, Ohio

Date: 3/22/77

Edition: Late News

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Louisville

☐ Being Investigated

44-947-395

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 28 1977	
FBI - LOUISVILLE	

already interviewed the Louisville policeman about his allegations that three local federal agents and four city policemen conspired in the mid 1960s to kill King. The patrolman said he twice was offered \$500,000 to kill King and claims he tape recorded one of the offers.

Rep. M. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., who passed the former patrolman's information along to the assassination committee, said he heard a reproduction of the tape but much of it was inaudible. However, the committee's staff is believed to have the technological capability to improve the quality of the recording.

Sources said the alleged Louisville King conspiracy preceded by several months what became an open and bitter controversy in the Kentucky city over "open housing," an issue which created deep hatred between the police and the black community. King's brother, the

Rev. A.D. Williams King, was living in Louisville at the time, was active in civil rights and was pastor of a local church.

However, the sources say there is "no doubt" that Martin Luther King and not his brother who died in 1969 was the target of the alleged murder conspiracy. Informed sources said the committee regards the Louisville allegations as "hot." "They are placing it at the top," one commented.

THE SOURCES also said the committee intends to call "Roberto" as a witness, indicating the committee has determined his full identity.

Assassination committee leaders met with the House Rules Committee yesterday to outline the new leads in an effort to win approval for continuation of the committee, now scheduled to end its work March 31.

"I don't think he ever wanted to be promoted; he just went along and did his job," Hyde said. "It wasn't that he was lax on his job; some of them just never wanted to be promoted . . . It's a surprise to me that he even talked. He never had anything bad to say about anybody."

Hyde said he knows nothing about the alleged conspiracy to murder King. "I didn't even know of any rumors within our department," he said. "I hope there isn't anything to that . . . Whenever Dr. King came to Louisville, we did everything possible to see that he would be safe. I always thought even an attempt on his life would be bad for our city."

The \$500,000 offer allegedly was made two or three years before King was shot to death in April 1968, according to an "informed source" quoted by The Post.

Snyder forwarded Baird's letter and tape recording to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, which is investigating the civil rights leader's murder. Snyder, whose congressional district includes suburban Louisville, did not identify Baird or specify that his allegations involved the Louisville police force.

Snyder, reached last night by telephone in Washington, refused to confirm or deny that Baird is the officer who gave him the material.

Without naming Baird, Snyder had said earlier, "I don't think that he's a kook. I'm not in a position to say whether he's telling the truth or not, but he does not appear to me to be a person other than totally rational."

According to Snyder, Rep. Samuel Devine, R-Ohio, the committee's ranking Republican and the man to whom Snyder first took Baird's letter, conducted an investigation into Baird's background. He said Devine, a former FBI agent, told him "that the guy checked out good."

Snyder said Baird "indicated" that after he retired from the police department he made an attempt to get this to James Earl Ray's attorneys. Ray pleaded guilty to killing King and is now serving a 99-year sentence in a Tennessee prison.

During the years before his death, King was a frequent visitor to Louisville. His brother, the Rev. A. D. Williams King, lived here and was active in open-housing and other civil rights movements during the 1960s.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Man who gave information on plot against King is ex-Louisville officer

By JOHN FILIATREAU

Courier-Journal Staff Writer

The ex-policeman who recently told U.S. Rep. M. Gene Snyder about an abortive conspiracy to murder Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been identified as Clifton E. Baird, 50, who retired as a patrolman from the Louisville Police Department in 1975 and now lives in Fern Creek.

Baird was identified as Snyder's informant in yesterday's edition of The Kentucky Post, which called him "a 27-year veteran of the Louisville force, now in the private security business."

In a brief interview at her home last night, Baird's wife Mary, 44, confirmed that it was her husband who told Snyder, R-4th District, about the alleged plot to kill King, the civil rights activist shot to death in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

Mrs. Baird declined to comment further, except to say that her husband is out of town and unavailable to news-men.

Baird reportedly claimed he was offered \$500,000 to kill King, and said the conspiracy involved FBI agents and other Louisville policemen. According to Snyder, the offer to Baird was made in Baird's car, which was equipped with a

tape recorder, and Baird is in possession of a tape that supports his allegations.

According to Snyder, Baird wrote, "While I was in the Louisville Police Department I was innocently involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Martin Luther King."

Baird reportedly identified several members of the alleged conspiracy, including at least three FBI agents; the city's chief of detectives, a captain, two lieutenants, a patrolman and a sergeant who was president of the local lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).

The last reference apparently is to Tom Denton, who retired earlier this year as president of FOP Lodge 6. Denton, who has said he is considering running for Jefferson County sheriff, said yesterday, "I swear I don't know anything about it . . . I was quite surprised that it was in Louisville."

Former Chief of Detectives Priest Fry, another of those apparently referred to in Baird's letter, said last night that he "knew of" Baird, but never heard anything about the alleged plot to assassinate King.

Current Louisville Police Chief John Nevin said the department has not received any official communications from the congressional committee investigating King's assassination.

Nevin said he may have known Baird, but he "didn't know him very well. Of course we were from different generations. . . . My first reaction to the thing was that it was preposterous."

C. J. Hyde, a longtime Louisville policeman who became chief in 1968, said he remembers Baird as "a very fine police officer. . . . He was a tall, heavyset fellow who wasn't afraid of man or beast. If I was going on a job and expected trouble, I'd want him with me."

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

Page B 1

Courier-Journal

Louisville, Ky.

Date: 3/23/77

Edition: Morning

Author:

Editor: Barry Bingham J

Title:

Character:

or Hq 100-106670

Classification: ~~100-4583~~

Submitting Office: Louisville

☐ Being Investigated

44-947-396

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 28 1977	
FBI - LOUISVILLE	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Identify ex-cop in King plot

BY TOM SCHEFFEY

Kentucky Post Frankfort Bureau

LOUISVILLE—Clifton E. Baird, 50, is the ex-patrolman who has just revealed to the House Assassination Committee in Washington that other Louisville policemen and three FBI men offered him \$500,000 in 1966 to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Four or five Louisville police officers and three Louisville FBI agents plotted to kill the civil rights leader two years before he was actually assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968, the committee has been told.

Baird, now an undercover private investigator, was not at his small brick home at 7813 Edsel Ln., in suburban Fern Creek Monday night.

His wife Mary, 44, told The Kentucky Post in an exclusive interview why their secret is coming out now, and what it has been like living with it.

■ The secret.

Anonymous phone calls—some in the dead of the night—have plagued the Bairds through the seven years they have been married. "It frightens you to death, even if nobody says anything," said Mary Baird. The last call came a month ago.

"It didn't seem like it was ever going to stop," she said.

"I'm sure our phone has been tapped hundreds of times. It has an off sound, clicking little sounds while you're talking. "My husband has spent many a sleepless night—he'll lie there and toss and turn, then get up and read the paper. "He kept up with every report (of the assassination's aftermath) and he always reads all the articles on these deals," she said.

"Having peace of mind would mean a whole lot to everybody."

Clifton Baird didn't tell his wife the secret until after their marriage, the second for both of them.

■ Rigs up recorder.

"We haven't even told our children

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

Page 1

Kentucky Post

Covington, Ky.

Date: 3/22/77

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor: Vance H. Trimble

Title:

Character: 44-947-100-4583

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Louisville

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 2 1977	
FBI - LOUISVILLE	

44-947-397

about this, and he's kept a lot of it to himself, and hasn't even told me," she said.

But she knows the general story. "He had been driving this fellow (another Louisville policeman) home from work—the man's car had broken down or something. And he started asking a lot of strange questions, then he asked whether he'd kill King for half a million dollars. "I think this got him pretty upset, and puzzled, so he rigged up the tape recorder (under the front car seat). The guy made the same offer to him the next time they drove home," she said.

"He told him he didn't want any part of it. He didn't have anything against black people. That's why it was so hard for him to understand. 'Why me?' you know?"

■ Feared for job.

Baird was not known among police as a marksman. "I guess he is a good enough shot, but he doesn't do target practice or anything," Mrs. Baird said.

After high school in Bowling Green, Baird enlisted in the Marines, and served in Korea, she said. "I think he was a sergeant."

One reason Baird did not speak up earlier was fear for his police job, from which he retired after 27 years in November, 1975. "Before now, he was so close to retiring, he was afraid they might kick him out," Mrs. Baird said.

Baird has felt victimized since he left the force.

"Somebody's got to have something (negative) in his records—why hasn't he been able to get a decent job since?" his wife wondered.

"He went to meatcutters school in Toledo, and tested out 98 per cent. And he went to three or four places that were desperate for a meatcutter and couldn't get a job.

"It's been like that all the time—and his only job reference is the police force. Things like that just don't add up," Mrs. Baird said.

"You can live with something like

this. You can live with it, but you're not peaceful."

Mrs. Baird was not sure whether the alleged offer came in 1966 or 1967. Race riots gripped Louisville in 1967, sparked by an open housing drive led by Rev. A. D. King, brother of Martin.

A. D. King was pastor of Louisville's Mt. Zion Baptist Church from 1965-69, and after moving to Atlanta, drowned in his home pool in 1970.

Baird is working on an undercover investigative job, and could not be reached for several days, his wife said.

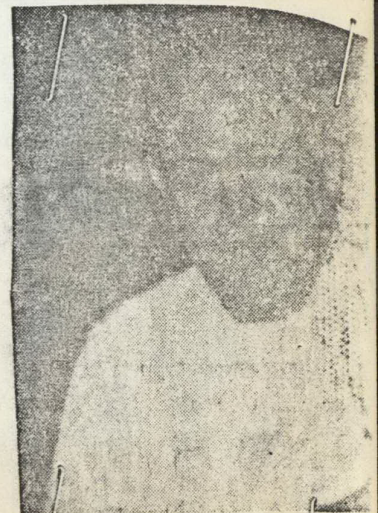
As for the identities of alleged conspirators, "I've heard names, but I could not tell you—if my life depended on it I couldn't tell you," said Mary Baird.

Sources involved in the House committee probe of the assassinations of King and President John F. Kennedy said Baird is expected to testify under oath to the identities of the FBI agents and Louisville policemen in the alleged conspiracy.

Committee sources told Scripps-Howard reporters the Louisville allegations are considered "hot." One commented, "They are placing it at the top."



Mary Baird, 44, has known for seven years the secret her husband Clifton is sharing with the House Assassinations Committee.



CLIFTON E. BAIRD
... key figure in King probe.

Routing Slip
FD-4 (Rev. 3-7-69)

Date 3/23/77

To: ☒ Director

Att.: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FILE _____
DIVISION

☐ SAC _____ Title HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
☐ ASAC _____ ON ASSASSINATIONS
☐ Supv. _____ (MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)
☐ Agent _____
☐ SE _____
☐ SC _____
☐ CC _____ RE: _____
☐ Steno _____
☐ Clerk _____ ☐ Rotor #: _____

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge	☐ Open Case
☐ Assign _____ Reassign _____	☐ Prepare lead cards
☐ Bring file	☐ Prepare tickler
☐ Call me	☐ Return assignment card
☐ Correct	☐ Return file
☐ Deadline _____	☐ Search and return
☐ Deadline passed	☐ See me
☐ Delinquent	☐ Serial # _____
☐ Discontinue	☐ Post ☐ Recharge ☐ Return
☐ Expedite	☐ Send to _____
☐ File	☐ Submit new charge out
☐ For information	☐ Submit report by _____
☐ Handle	☐ Type
☐ Initial & return	
☐ Leads need attention	
☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.	

Attached are 5 newspaper articles regarding captioned matter, telecopier facsimile copies of which furnished Civil Rights Division VI on 3/23/77.

SA STANLEY S. CZARNECKI

Office LOUISVILLE

See reverse side

GPO : 1973 528-720

44-947-398

Transmit attached by Facsimile - PLAINTEXT

Priority IMMEDIATE

To: BUREAU

Date: 3/23/77

From: LOUISVILLE (100-4583)

Time: Transmitted - 3:46

Subject: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ASSASSINATIONS (MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)

Initials - BAS

☐ Fingerprint Photo ☐ Fingerprint Record ☐ Map 5 ☒ Newspaper clippings ☐ Photograph

☐ Artists Conception

☐ Other _____

Special handling instructions:

HAND CARRY TO SECTION CHIEF JAMES S. PEELMAN, CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION,
DIVISION 6, ROOM 5121.

Approved: SSC/HBL

44-947-399

F B I

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☒ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date 3/26/77

FM LOUISVILLE (44-947) (P)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) PRIORITY

BT

E F T O

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO LOUISVILLE, MARCH 25, 1977.

ON MARCH 26, 1977, ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO INTERVIEW CLIFTON E. BAIRD, 7813 EDSSEL LANE, LOUISVILLE, KY., CONCERNING ALL DETAILS OF RECENT REPORTED ALLEGATION THAT BAIRD HAD RECEIVED OFFER FROM FBI AGENTS AND POLICE OFFICERS TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

INQUIRY AT BAIRD RESIDENCE BY BUAGENTS, ACCOMPANIED BY AUSA ALEXANDER T. TAFT, JR., ON MARCH 26, 1977, REVEALED CLIFTON E. BAIRD CURRENTLY OUT OF TOWN AT UNDISCLOSED LOCATION IN KENTUCKY, WHERE BAIRD IS ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH EMPLOYMENT, PINKERTON, INC. DETECTIVE AGENCY, 510 WEST BROADWAY, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.

MARY BAIRD, WIFE OF CLIFTON E. BAIRD, DECLINED TO FURNISH

INDEXED NO

Q-44-947
1-100-4583
EVA/drj (2)

ASAC *AD*44-947-400
Hoehn

Approved: *[Signature]* Transmitted (Number) (Time) Per *[Signature]*

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Date _____

PAGE TWO LS 44-947

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MARY BAIRD, WHO APPEARED COOPERATIVE AND TRUSTWORTHY, INDICATED HUSBAND WOULD NOT RETURN TO LOUISVILLE, KY., UNTIL MORNING OF MARCH 29, 1977, AT WHICH TIME BAIRD WILL CONTACT FBI, LOUISVILLE OFFICE OR USA'S OFFICE, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.

MARY BAIRD ADVISED SHE HAS NO PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF REPORTED OFFER, WHICH APPARENTLY OCCURRED SOMETIME DURING 1966, AND HUSBAND HAS NOT REVEALED PERTINENT FACTS OF ALLEGATION TO HER. IDENTITIES OF FBI AGENTS AND LOUISVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS REPORTEDLY NAMED IN HUSBAND'S LETTER TO REPRESENTATIVE M. G. "GENE" SNYDER, UNKNOWN TO MARY BAIRD.

ACCORDING TO MARY BAIRD, HUSBAND WAS INTERVIEWED BY HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA) IN WASHINGTON, D.C., SEVERAL WEEKS AGO AT WHICH TIME TAPE RECORDING OF ALLEGED OFFER TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND ALL PERTINENT DATA PROVIDED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. MARY BAIRD DID NOT BELIEVE COPY

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____
(Number) (Time)

Per _____

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

F B I

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
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☐ CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE THREE LS 44-947

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MARY BAIRD ASSURED BUAGENTS AND AUSA THAT SHE WOULD HAVE HUSBAND, CLIFTON E. BAIRD, CONTACT FBI OR USA IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS RETURN TO LOUISVILLE, KY. NECESSITY FOR IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW REITERATED TO MARY BAIRD AND SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAME ON OR ABOUT MARCH 29, 1977 MADE.

ABOVE INFORMATION PERSONALLY FURNISHED BY BUAGENTS TO USA GEORGE J. LONG, JR., WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY, LOUISVILLE, ON MARCH 26, 1977.

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____

(Number)

(Time)

Per _____

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

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☐ Teletype
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Date _____

PAGE FOUR LS 44-947

ADMINISTRATIVE:

LOUISVILLE WILL FOLLOW MATTER CLOSELY AND SUBMIT SUMMARY
TELETYPE SUBSEQUENT TO INTERVIEW, FOLLOWED BY LHM.

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Approved: _____

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(Number) (Time)

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GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

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FM LOUISVILLE (44-947) (P)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) PRIORITY

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44-947-400

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PAGE FOUR LS 44-247

ADMINISTRATIVE:

LOUISVILLE WILL FOLLOW MATTER CLOSELY AND SUBMIT SUMMARY
TELETYPE SUBSEQUENT TO INTERVIEW, FOLLOWED BY LHM.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI, cops 'in dark' on King plot

BY TOM SCHEFFEY
Kentucky Post Frankfort Bureau

LOUISVILLE—Top police and FBI spokesmen here said Tuesday they are not involved with Clifton E. Baird, and are neither questioning him nor providing security.

Baird, 50, is the retired Louisville patrolman expected to name under oath members of law enforcement agencies as part of a group that offered Baird \$500,000 to assassinate the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Through U.S. Rep. Gene Snyder, Baird has captured the attention of the House Assassinations Committee, which is probing the killings of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. King.

Snyder has asked the committee to provide protection for Baird, in case

someone sought to "get to" the 27-year police veteran before he testified.

In the dark.

"Cliff Baird doesn't have anything to fear from the Louisville Police Department," Col. James Nunn said Tuesday. Nunn was the ranking officer in charge. Chief John Nevin was off work Tuesday.

"We have no information and have no way of getting it until the committee releases it," Nevin told Kentucky Post Washington correspondent Jim Eberle Monday.

"I'm concerned that a question has been raised, but I can't clarify it until we get more information."

Nevin pointed out the difficulty of questioning Louisville's 720-plus police officers, "if we have to start from scratch.

"If the committee wanted to tell us anything, we'd cooperate. If it's in fact true (that Louisville officers plotted an assassination) and any of those folk are still on the force, we want to know about it," said the chief.

Louisville FBI Bureau chief James S. Zarnecki said, "As far as we know, there's no basis to it (the charge of FBI plot involvement) and further than that I

can't comment because I don't have the facts. Now Congressman Snyder and Mr. Baird, I would think, would be in the best position to give the complete rundown or whatever the heck they have—because I'm in the complete dark myself.

During the time of the alleged murder offer, 1966, the Louisville FBI chief was Palmer Bakehe, now retired.

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

Page 1

Kentucky Post

Covington, Ky.

Date: 3/23/77

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 44-947

Submitting Office: Ls

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAR 29 1977	
FBI - LOUISVILLE	

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The ranking Republican on the assassinations committee, Rep. Sam Devine, R-Ohio, is a former FBI agent. Devine was the first panel member Snyder contacted after receiving Baird's letter Feb. 28.

Checking with FBI sources, Devine said Baird's believability "checked out good," according to Snyder.

Though Louisville FBI men said they never heard Baird's name before, Col. Nunn said, "Yeah, I remember Cliff Baird—real big guy—and a good police officer."

Baird is six feet one inch tall, 235 pounds.

"He always had a real good record, long as I knew about him," said Nunn. The Colonel was sure nothing in Baird's personnel file would stand in the way of a good job recommendation. Mrs. Baird had raised that question because her husband had unusual difficulty finding a good job after retirement.

So far, investigation by the congressional committee, Snyder's personal assessment, and comments by fellow Louisville police officers give Baird high marks for reliability.

A less objective source, his wife, did too.

Widowed in the mid-1960's, Mary

Baird didn't meet her present husband until 1969. "I know I've been really lucky to have two good husbands—a lot of women never had one," she said.

Both she and her husband drink on occasion, but "I've never seen him drunk—not even at a party," Mrs. Baird said.

Though Baird appears sober, sane and serious, the alleged—and still unnamed—King conspirators may not have been. "I think what he (Baird) really wants to know is why they did it. If they wanted to tell a joke, why this?"

"And if it's a joke, why the intimidation, the anonymous phone calls?" the Bairds' number is unlisted.

She said there have been no threatening letters, and neither of the Bairds have been followed nor spied on "that I know of."

Last night Mrs. Baird said the three Louisville FBI agents named in her husband's letter to Snyder were not names mentioned on a tape recording Baird has offered as evidence. The tape is claimed to be a recording of another Louisville policeman offering the half million bounty for King's death.

The alleged FBI involvement evidently became clear to Baird at a different time.

"You'll have to get that from him. I'm not sure I'd get it right," Mrs. Baird said.

She said she didn't believe the conversations reached the point of discussing how or where the assassination would be carried out.