

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
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Via _____
(Priority)

**ME 44-1987
PAGE FOUR**

**ELIMINATED BY JACKSON AGENTS AS HIS WHEREABOUTS ACCOUNTED FOR
DURING PERTINENT PERIOD.**

**LAUNDRY TAPE WHICH APPEARS ON T-SHIRT AND SHORTS OF
SUBJECT INSTANT CASE HAS BEEN ELIMINATED FROM CONSIDERATION
IN LAUNDRIES MEMPHIS AREA. BIRMINGHAM CONDUCTING INTENSIVE
INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF LAUNDRY MARKS PERTINENT THAT
CASE.**

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P.

END.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI WASH DC

553AM URGENT 4/7/68 ELR

TO MEMPHIS (44-1987) NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) 1P
FROM DIRECTOR

MURKIN; CIVIL RIGHTS.

REMEAIRTEL APRIL SIX LAST AND NOTEL APRIL SIX LAST.

TWO LATENT FINGERPRINTS ON LIFTS SUBMITTED BY MEMPHIS. THESE
PRINTS NOT IDENTICAL WITH PREVIOUSLY REPORTED LATENT PRINTS.
LATENT FINGERPRINTS THIS CASE NOT IDENTICAL FINGERPRINTS RONALD
BARDIN SIMPSON, USAF NUMBER ONE FOUR SEVEN TWO THREE FOUR TWO SIX.

EXAMINATION CONTINUING. CONFIRMING.

END

DGB

FBI MEMPHIS

*Memphis
Kare*

44-1987-103
SEARCHED *lls* INDEXED *lls*
FBI - MEMPHIS
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FBI MEMPHIS

II

FBI CHICAGO

957AM URGENT TAB 4-7-68

TO: DIRECTOR NEW HAVEN MEMPHIS

FROM: CHICAGO (44-NEW) (P)

MURKIN

INDEX

DAVE POTTER, DAILY DEFENDER, CHICAGO RECEIVED ANONYMOUS CALL FOUR SIX LAST REFLECTING "SPERLING OF UNITED MOTORS, SIX FIVE FIVE ONE W. BELMONT, HAS WHITE CAR AND MEETS GENERAL DESCRIPTION KING ASSASSIN." SPERLING IN MEMPHIS WHEN KING ASSASSINATED AND SAID "HE HAD TO GET OUT OF MEMPHIS BECAUSE HE MET DESCRIPTION OF KILLER."

FRANK M. SCHWAB, CG DISTRIBUTION MANAGER, U.S. ELECTRICAL MOTORS, SIX FIVE FIVE ONE W. BELMONT ADVISED FOUR SIX LAST NO EMPLOYEE NAMED SPERLING. ALFRED C. SPOERL NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION MGR. OF COMPANY'S MILFORD, CONN. OFFICE, TELEPHONE TR FOUR DASH TWO FIVE FIVE ONE. SPOERL RESIDES TRUMBEE, CONN. SCHWAB BELIEVES SPOERL IN MEMPHIS FOUR TWO LAST AND DROVE TO PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI IN AVIS RENT A CAR. RETURNED MEMPHIS BY CAR AND THEREAFTER FLEW CHICAGO FOUR FIVE LAST.

SPOERL NOT CONSIDERED SUSPECT BY SCHWAB. SPOERL DESCRIBED WM, FORTY YEARS, SIX ONE, ONE NINETY- NINETY FIVE POUNDS, BLONDISH HAIR.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

NEW HAVEN CONDUCT SUFFICIENT INVESTIGATION TO ELIMINATE SPOERL IF THIS CAN BE DONE.

END

DND

FBI MEMPHIS

TTUX

*lead
New Haven
4/11/68
Hester*

44-1987-104
llh
wb
FBI MEMPHIS
Hester | JH

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI SAN FRAN

1115AM URGENT 4/7/68 LFH

TO DIRECTOR, LOS ANGELES AND MEMPHIS
FROM SAN FRANCISCO (173-65)(P) 1P

UNSUB; AKA JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM. CR
OO: MEMPHIS

RAYMOND COOPER, FORTY TWO CREEK ROAD, SAN ANSELMO, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED HE HAD BEEN EMPLOYED AT SIZZLING PLATTER
CAFE, RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA UNTIL ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO WHEN FIRED
BY MANAGER, ED MARLOW (PHONETIC). SHORTLY LATER, MARLOW ABSCOUNDED
WITH FIFTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS OF CAFE'S MONEY AND REPORTEDLY WENT TO
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE TO OPERATE POOL HALL. COOPER ADVISED MARLOW
RESEMBLED NEWSPAPER SKETCH OF UNSUB, IS ABOUT TWENTYSIX TO TWENTY-
SEVEN YEARS, AND HAS A "SILLY SMILE". MARLOW HAS RIFLE COLLECTION
AND IS CONSIDERED A RACIST. MARLOW LEFT RIVERSIDE WITHOUT WIFE AND
FOUR CHILDREN, BUT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MAN AND HIS WIFE, FELLOW
BOWLERS.

INQUIRY AT VICINITY FORTY TWO CREEK ROAD, SAN ANSELMO REVEALS
FORTY TWO NONEXISTANT AND NEIGHBORHOOD INQUIRY DISCLOSED COOPER
UNKNOWN.

EFFORTS BEING MADE TO LOCATE COOPER FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

LOS ANGELES CONDUCT INQUIRY AT RIVERSIDE RE MARLOW AND SUTEL
PERTINENT DATA TO MEMPHIS.

END,

DND

FBI MEMPHIS

*Leads
at LA*

44-1987-105

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FBI MEMPHIS

FBI RICHMOND

1213PM URGENT 4/7/68 ECS

TO MEMPHIS KNOXVILLE

FROM RICHMOND

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CIVIL RIGHTS.

ON FOUR SEVEN SIXTYEIGHT, ANONYMOUS CALLER ADVISED WILLIAM V. WILBURN, FORMER PROFESSOR SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND, RECALLED AS RADICAL REGARDING RACIAL MATTERS AND CLAIMED GRANDMOTHER RAPED BY NEGROES. WILBURN HAS PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS SIMILAR TO UNSUB THIS CASE. CALLER SAID WILBURN LAST KNOWN TO ATTEND GRADUATE SCHOOL UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE, TENN. IN NINETEEN SIXTYSIX.

KNOXVILLE DETERMINE CURRENT ADDRESS OF WILBURN AND ADVISE MEMPHIS.

END.

BSD

FBI MEMPHIS

*Teletype
sent to Knoxville
4/7/68
RW*

44-1987-106

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Date: 4/7/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: KNOXVILLE
FROM: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN

RE RICHMOND TEL APRIL SEVEN, INSTANT, TWELVE EIGHTEEN P.M.,
CAPTIONED, "ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,
CIVIL RIGHTS."

RICHMOND AND KNOXVILLE PLEASE NOTE CODE NAME WHICH IS
USED TO FURNISH INFO. PERTAINING TO THE MURDER OF DR. KING.

FOR INFO. AND ASSISTANCE OF KNOXVILLE, THE PERIOD OF
INTEREST IS APPROXIMATELY SIX P.M., APRIL FOUR, PAST. IF
WHEREABOUTS OF WILLIAM V. WILBURN CAN BE ESTABLISHED AT THAT
TIME, THIS WOULD APPEAR TO ELIMINATE HIM AS SUSPECT. IF ANY
DOUBT REMAINS, KNOXVILLE SHOULD MAKE EFFORTS TO SECURE THROUGH
SUITABLE SOURCES FINGERPRINT RECORD OF WILBURN AND SUBMIT SAME
TO BUREAU FOR ELIMINATION PURPOSES. AM CC. RICHMOND.

END.

1 - Richmond (AM)

RGJ:jms
(2)

SEARCHED

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44-1987-107

Approved: R. Jensen
Special Agent in Charge

Sent KX 12:52 p M Per [Signature]

[Handwritten mark]

F B I

Date: 4/7/68

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO BUREAU AND NEW HAVEN
FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987) 1P
MURKIN.

RE CHICAGO TELETYPE NINE FIFTY SEVEN AM, APRIL SEVEN INSTANT.
FOR ASSISTANCE OF NEW HAVEN IN CONDUCTING ADDITIONAL
INVESTIGATION, TIME OF INTEREST IS APPROXIMATELY SIX PM ON
APRIL FOUR, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT. IF WHEREABOUTS OF ALFRED C.
SPOERL CAN BE ESTABLISHED AT THAT TIME, THIS WOULD APPEAR TO
ELIMINATE HIM. IF NEW HAVEN UNABLE TO DO SO, IT SHOULD SECURE
PRINTS OF SPOERL AND SUBMIT SAME TO BUREAU FOR ELIMINATION
PURPOSES. P.
END

RGJ:ME

(1)

RGJ

ADDRESSES
TELEPHONE
FACSIMILE
MAILING ADDRESS
CITY
STATE
ZIP
REGISTRATION

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44-1987-108

Approved: *RG Jensen* Sent *PM 12:33* Per *RM*
Special Agent in Charge

PPXXXXXXXX

FBI MEMPHIS

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FBI NEW YORK

1:27 4-7-68 DEFERRED JED

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS PLAINTEXT

FROM NEW YORK PGS 5

MURKIN OO: MEMPHIS.

ON APRIL SIX NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, PORT AUTHORITY POLICE, LA GUARDIA AIRPORT, QUEENS, NEW YORK, ADVISED THEY HAD SUSPECT IN ASSASSINATION OF DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING IN CUSTODY AT AIRPORT. PORT AUTHORITY POLICE ADVISED SUSPECT RESEMBLED ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF KILLER WHICH APPEARED IN APRIL SIX NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT ISSUE OF "DAILY NEWS" AS WELL AS PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION. SUSPECT INTERVIEWED BY SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE NEW YORK OFFICE AT AIRPORT AND IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS JACK CUSTAR HAM, ONE FIVE FOUR ONE ONE EAST FORTY FIRST STREET, INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI. HAM ADVISED HE ARRIVED AT AIRPORT, NEW YORK ONE PM, APRIL SIX NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT FROM WASHINGTON, DC. HAM WAS OBSERVED
END PAGE ONE

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[Handwritten signatures and initials]

TO BE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF LIQUOR AND ADMITTED HE HAD BEEN DRINKING PRIOR TO BOARDING THE PLANE IN DC.

HAM VOLUNTEERED TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED BY PORT AUTHORITY POLICE. HE CONSENTED TO ACCOMPANY SPECIAL OF THE NEW YORK OFFICE WHERE HE ALSO CONSENTED TO BE FINGERPRINTED AND PHOTOGRAPHED. HAM VOLUNTARILY STATED THAT HE HAD MARITAL PROBLEMS AND HE HAD BEEN DRINKING HEAVILY DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL FIRST. HE STATED HE LEFT HIS WIFE IN MISSOURI ON APPROXIMATELY MARCH EIGHTEEN LAST AND WENT TO DALLAS, TEXAS TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT. HE RETURNED TO MISSOURI ON APRIL FIRST NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, WHERE HE WAS SERVED WITH DIVORCE PAPERS. ON APRIL FIRST LAST, HE BOARDED A PLANE FOR DES MOINES, IOWA, WHERE HE STAYED AT THE SAVERY HOTEL ON APRIL FIRST AND SECOND LAST, HAM ADMITTED HE WAS DRINKING HEAVILY AT THIS POINT. ON THE EVENING OF APRIL SECOND LAST, ACCORDING TO HAM, HE BOARDED A FLIGHT FROM DES MOINES TO RETURN TO DALLAS TEXAS.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

HE STATED THAT BECAUSE OF HEAVY DRINKING, HE HAD NO RECOLLECTION OF STOP-OVERS ENROUTE TO DALLAS, BUT THAT HE MIGHT HAVE STOPPED IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, BECAUSE HE RECALLED A "JACK DANIELS" SIGN AT AIRPORT. HE FURTHER RECALLED THAT HE ARRIVED IN DALLAS ON APRIL THIRD LAST WHERE HE TOOK A FLIGHT TO LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. HAM PRODUCED A RECEIPT FROM THE HOTEL HACIENDA, LOS ANGELES, WHICH DISCLOSED HE DEPARTED THIS HOTEL ON APRIL THIRD NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT AT FOUR PM. WHILE IN LOS ANGELES, ACCORDING TO HAM, HE MADE APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH AMERICAN AIRLINES AND VISITED A DOCTOR FOR AN EXAMINATION. NAME AND ADDRESS OF DOCTOR NOT RECALLED BY HAM. HE RETURNED TO DALLAS ON APRIL THIRD LAST.

ON APRIL FOUR LAST, HAM BOARDED A FLIGHT FROM DALLAS TO WASHINGTON, DC, VIA AMERICAN AIRLINES. HE STATED WHEN HE ARRIVED IN DC, IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE HEARD OR READ ABOUT THE KILLING OF DOCTOR KING. HE ADDED, THAT BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF FUNDS HE STAYED AT THE AIRPORT

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

IN DC, WHERE HE SENT A WIRE TO A RELATIVE FOR TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS. UPON RECEIVING THE TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS, HAM REGISTERED AT THE STATLER HILTON HOTEL, DC, ON APRIL FIVE LAST, WHERE HE STAYED AT THE HOTEL UNTIL HE BOARDED SHUTTLE FLIGHT TO NEW YORK ON APRIL SIX LAST VIA EASTERN AIRLINES. HAM STATED HE CAME TO NEW YORK TO OBSERVE AIRPORT OPERATIONS INASMUCH AS HE DESIRED TO OBTAIN AIRPORT EMPLOYMENT WITH AIRLINES COMPANY. SUSPECT COOPERATIVE DURING ENTIRE INTERVIEW. UPON COMPLETION OF INTERVIEW HAM STATED HE WOULD RETURN TO HIS HOME IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI TO ATTEMPT TO PATCH UP MARITAL DIFFICULTIES. SUSPECT RETURNED TO LA GUARDIA AIRPORT, NEW YORK. INDICES OF THE NEW YORK OFFICE NEGATIVE. NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER NEGATIVE. BUREAU IDENTIFICATION DIVISION ADVISED PRINTS NEGATIVE.

HAM DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: JACK CUSTAR HAMM, ALSO KNOWN AS JACK C. HAM, WHITE MALE, SEVENTY THREE INCHES
END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

TALL, ONE HUNDRED SEVENDY POUNDS, SLIM BUILD, BLUE EYES,
HAIR LIGHT BROWN, RECEDING AT TEMPLES, BRUSHED BACK IN
CENTER, SPARCE ON TOP, POINTED NOSE, FAIR COMPLEXION, FOUR
INCH SCAR INSIDE LEFT FOREARM, MOLE ON RIGHT SIDE OF CHEEK
NEAR MOUTH, MOLE ON RIGHT SIDE OF NECK. SOURCE, LULUBELLE
CHESTER, ONE FIVE FOUR ONE ONE EAST FORTY FIRST STREET,
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI. SOCILA SECURITY NUMBER FOR SUSPECT

[REDACTED] LAST

EMPLOYMENT, SALESMAN, HYPHEN EDUCATIONAL COUNSELLOR, AIRLINE
TRAINING CENTER, INCORPORATION, THREE NINE FOUR ZERO
BROADWAY, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.

END

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FBI MEMPHIS

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FBI MEMPHIS

F B I SEATTLE

208 PM URGENT 4-7-68 KNY

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS

FROM SEATTLE

MURKIN

HERBERT A. FORRESTER, THREE ONE ONE ZERO C, PORTAGE BAY EAST, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, A FORMER ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, ADVISED THAT HE OBSERVED A PICTURE OF THE SUSPECTED KILLER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DRAWN BY BILL HARRINGTON, MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL STAFF ARTIST, WHICH APPEARED IN APRIL SIXTH EDITION OF SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER. FORRESTER STATES PICTURE BEARS MARKED RESEMBLANCE TO JOHN FORBES NASH WITH WHOM HE DID GRADUATE STUDY AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY NINETEEN FIFTY TO NINETEEN FIFTYFOUR, AND NASH HAD "A SILLY SMILE" AS NOTED BY LANDLADY OF THE KILLER. STATES NASH WAS ONE OF COUNTRY'S LEADING MATHMETICIANS UNTIL HE WAS INSTITUTIONALIZED FOR MENTAL ILLNESS IN NINETEEN FIFTYEIGHT. ACCORDING TO FORRESTER HE RECEIVED POSTCARD FROM NASH APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS AGO POST-MARKED ROANOKE, VIRGINIA, HOWEVER DOES NOT KNOW NASH'S PRESENT

END PAGE ONE

*Real lead
for water
Pw*

44-1987-110

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PAGE TWO

WHEREABOUTS OR EMPLOYMENT BUT BELIEVES INFORMATION ON NASH'S
BACKGROUND CAN BE OBTAINED FROM PRINCETON UNIVERSITY OR THE
INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY AT PRINCETON WHICH SUBSIDIZED
NASH'S RESEARCH. SEATTLE INDICIES NEGATIVE AS TO FORRESTER
AND NASH.

IF A DEFINITE SUSPECT HAS NOT BEEN DEVELOPED IT IS
SUGGESTED THAT JOHN FORBES NASH BE CONSIDERED.

END

CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

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