

U. S. Department of Justice

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

FIELD OFFICE FILE  
FOIPA PROCESSED

FEDERAL BUREAU

DO NOT DESTROY  
PENDING LITIGATION

2778 3/85

of

DO NOT DESTROY  
HISTORICAL VALUE  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 44-38861

"DO NOT DESTROY:  
HISTORICAL VALUE,  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES"

See also Nos. 1cc destroyed  
per SAC Startzell  
5-7-71 (u)

SEE VOL 1  
FOR LITIGATION

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED  
FOR HISTORICAL  
DECLASSIFICATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED ETC  
10/24/04

Kept in  
closed Section

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 5/8/68

FROM : SA, JAMES M. STOCKTON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

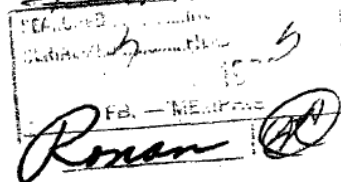
Rememo of SA THOMAS O. RONAN dated 4/30/68.

The following investigation was conducted by SA JAMES M. STOCKTON at Memphis, Tennessee:

On 5/3/68, Lt. CHARLES MOORE, Identification Division, Memphis Police Department advised that his department is in the process of searching all unidentified latent fingerprints obtained in local robbery cases, against the fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY.

On 5/8/68, Inspector W. L. MC ADEN, Commander of the Identification Bureau, Memphis Police Department, advised that all logical searches of unidentified latent prints have been compared with prints of JAMES EARL RAY without an identification being made.

44-1987  
JMS:



*(for summary today) Lave*

*JLT*

*44-1987-Sub-171 OF*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# Memorandum

TO : File

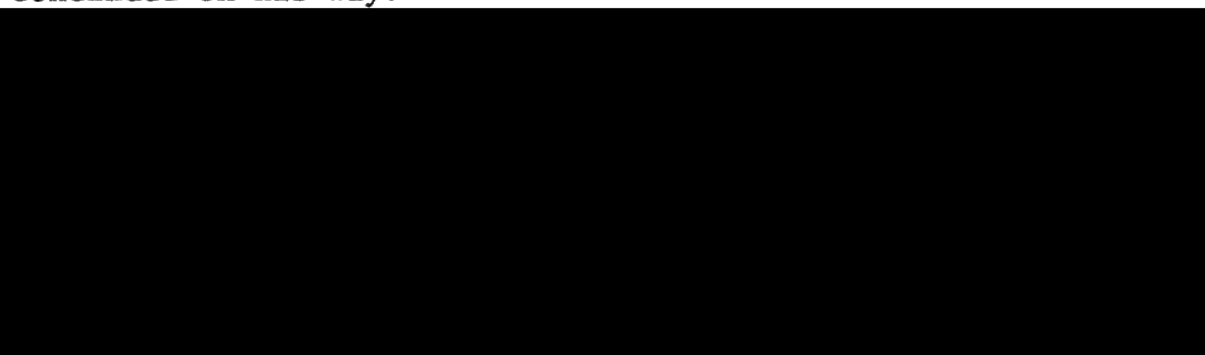
DATE: 2/24/77

FROM : W. Hickman Ewing, Jr.

SUBJECT: Lee Branch

At approximately 12:05 p.m. this date the receptionist advised me that Mr. Lee Branch was in the reception room wanting to see me. I went to the reception room and asked Mr. Branch to step back to my office. At this time he asked if his son could come with him, and I advised him that I did not see any reason why he couldn't. [Mr. Branch had gotten upset at the time of his appearance before the Grand Jury, because I would not permit his son (who appeared to be about 7 years old) to enter the Grand Jury room with him].

Mr. Branch, upon entering my office advised me that he had gotten two parking tickets at the time of his appearance before the Grand Jury, which would subject him to a \$20.00 fine. He asked me to take care of these or pay for them. I advised Mr. Branch that this office does not take care or pay for tickets for any witnesses. At about this time, United States Attorney Thomas Turley opened my office door at which time Mr. Branch asked Mr. Turley about the Government paying for his parking tickets. Mr. Turley in effect told him what I had told him but suggested that Mr. Branch put them on the docket in the city court and explain the circumstances to them over there. At that point Mr. Turley shut the door and continued on his way.



BRANCH INTERVIEWED 4/1/68  
RE KING CASE. NO  
ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANT  
INFORMATION IN THIS COMMUNICATION  
MSJ

44-1987 Sub 171

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[REDACTED]

I pointed out to Mr. Branch that the three persons at the polling place at Mitchell Road School, whom he had referred to as three large white football players, included a 59 year old white male [referring to Harry Douthitt], and a white attorney who was not very big [referring to Mr. Larry Scroggs]. Branch wanted to know what about the two people who had been directed to leave the polls. I advised Mr. Branch that the Republican Headquarters had apparently recalled the two persons who were Republic poll watchers at the start of the day at Mitchell and that these were a young white male and his young white pregnant wofe. I advised Mr. Branch that those poll watchers had been sent to Westwood and that Westwood poll watchers had been sent to Mitchell.

At some point in the conversation a black male, attired in a green suit with vest, entered the office while Mr. Branch was in the course of conversation. From the conversation I understood the man's name to be Bernard [last name unknown], who was in charge of the Ms. Black Memphis Pageant. Branch wanted to know when we were going to investigate the complaints of the black people during election day. Mr. Branch had

[REDACTED]

the FBI had had three persons answering complaints concerning the election on election day and that Mr. Enderson had indicated to me that no one from the Ford headquarters had called concerning complaints. Mr. Branch's reply to this, words to the effect, "Oh man, Oh man."

I informed Mr. Branch that we were trying to investigate the matter in a fair and impartial way, but to this point he was the only one who had furnished any names of any persons working in the Ford campaign that day, him furnishing only the names of Ware and Davis. I asked him if anyone had a list of persons who acted as poll watchers for Congressman Ford on election day.

Mr. Branch stated that he did not have such a list and that he probably would not furnish it if he had one, because we would use it in the manner we wanted to to put black folks in jail. I told him that our information indicated that, for example, a black male acted as a poll watcher at Lauderdale School throughout the day and that he could probably shed some light on some of the allegations made at that polling place. Therefore, it would be very helpful to know who that person was.

I told Mr. Branch and Bernard that if anyone had any information concerning any election law violations to please advise this office. Mr. Branch informed me that he knew the FBI was not going to do anything, just as they had not done anything in the Martin Luther King investigation. Branch advised me that approximately two days prior to the assassination of Dr. King that he had seen James Earl Ray, a white male named Gault, and another white male and a white car; that these three men had stopped and talked to him telling him that if Martin Luther King marched in the parade that he would be killed; and that the men showed him a telescopic sight. Branch advised me that he informed Dr. Vasco Smith of this and that Dr. Smith had the FBI come out and tape record Branch's statement. According to Branch the FBI agent said this was not important. Further, Branch said he has never been called as a witness since then.

Mr. Branch again reiterated that he had never drank or cursed in his entire life and asked Bernard to verify this, which he did. Branch further advised that he would have Nick Davis and others get in touch with us.

Branch did indicate also that the Government had been spending millions of dollars on investigations that amounted to nothing, citing the recent Lucchesi liquor indictment as a prime example. Branch advised that Lucchesi was the only liquor wholesaler in Memphis who employed blacks and that the other liquor wholesalers didn't have nairn.

*W. Hickman Ewing Jr.*  
W. Hickman Ewing, Jr.

WHEJr/jb

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

DATE: 4/8/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: UNSUB, aka  
John Willard;  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM  
CR

On the early morning of Sunday, 4/7/68, Dr. VASCO A. SMITH, Vice President, NAACP, Memphis, and wife, MAXINE SMITH, Executive Secretary, NAACP, Memphis, both called SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE at home and stated that they had just been visited by some reputable acquaintances, a Mr. and Mrs. LEE EDWARD BRANCH, who reside at 2546 Keen Road, Memphis, Tennessee. They stated that Mr. BRANCH is a District Manager of the Supreme Life Insurance Company and that his wife is a teacher, and that Mr. and Mrs. BRANCH, after seeing the artist's conception of the killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING which appeared in the Saturday, 4/6/68, Commercial Appeal newspaper, told the SMITHS that they feel that they saw this person about a week or so ago in a car in downtown Memphis, at which time the person in a derogatory vein yelled at them that he was going to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING.

On the morning of 4/7/68 SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE interviewed LEE EDWARD BRANCH and his wife, WILMA BRANCH, at their residence, 2546 Keen. Mr. BRANCH identified himself as Manager of the Supreme Life Insurance Company, 566 Vance, phone JA 6-4845, and his wife identified herself as a teacher at Norris School.

They stated that recently, to the best of their recollection, Sunday night, 3/31/68, they had both in their Pontiac automobile driven to the Main Post Office on Calhoun Street to pick up mail, and were driving north on Main Street, and had stopped for a traffic light at Main and Madison. A white 1959 or 1960 model Chevrolet

2-44-1987

1-170-49 - VASCO A. SMITH, JR.

1-170-83 - MAXINE SMITH

1-100-662 - NAACP

WHL:wp

(5)

*We had  
can hold  
this lead  
for later*

44-1987-Sub-171D

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*Hester* *QJH*



5010-108

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

ME 44-1987

convertible with red interior, pulled up beside them and was noted to be occupied by three whites, namely two white males and one white female. The female was tall, had short blonde hair, and sharp features. The driver appeared to be short, and the other male passenger sitting on the extreme right of the passenger's side closest to Mr. BRANCH, yelled out at Mr. BRANCH in a derogatory manner, "I've bought a gun with a scope and I've got some binoculars, and I'm going to shoot MARTIN LUTHER KING right between the eyes." This individual gave a funny laugh and then stated, "I've got 20 rounds." He had on a blue denim jumper or jacket, and his facial features closely resembled those of the artist's conception of the killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING which appeared in the Saturday, 4/6/68, issue of the Memphis Commercial Appeal newspaper.

*binoculars  
bought  
4/4/68*

Mr. BRANCH stated that he replied, "You poor bastard, you don't even have the money to buy the ammunition with."

At this point the traffic light changed and both cars proceeded ahead, with the white convertible in front. Mrs. BRANCH stated that she tried to ascertain the license number but was unable to do so, but is certain that the car had a Dyer County, Tennessee, license. Both Mr. and Mrs. BRANCH stated that they could recall nothing else concerning the car or its occupants and had been hesitant to say anything about this until they saw the artist's conception in the newspaper. They pointed out that they felt they could possibly identify the person who made the remark, should they see him again.

LEAD

MEMPHIS

AT DYERSBERG, TENN.

Will through cooperative law enforcement agencies be alert for the identity of any 1959 or 1960 model white Chevrolet convertible, and will thereafter identify the owner and give consideration to interviewing same to determine who may have been in the car when it was in Memphis on or about 3/31/68, looking toward any leads which might lead to the identification of the assailant of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Interviews of the BRANCHes are also being recorded on separate FD-302's.

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4/8/68

Mr. LEE EDWARD BRANCH was interviewed in the presence of his wife, WILMA BRANCH, at 2546 Keen Road, Memphis, Tennessee, his residence, and he advised as follows:

Mr. BRANCH is the District Manager of the Supreme Life Insurance Company, 656 Vance Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee.

On or about Sunday night, March 31, 1968, Mr. BRANCH and his wife had gone to the Main Post Office on Calhoun Street to pick up some mail. It was shortly after dark. As they left the Post Office, they drove north on Main Street in the downtown area of Memphis. They stopped for a stop light at Madison and Main, with Mr. BRANCH driving, the car being headed north at this time. Pulling up to Mr. BRANCH's left was a 1959 or 1960 model white Chevrolet convertible with the top down, and which appeared to have red upholstery or interior. This car was occupied by three whites, all sitting on the front seat. The driver appeared to be short and was white. Sitting beside the driver was a tall female white, with short blonde hair and sharp features, and sitting to her right, or on the extreme passenger side closest to Mr. BRANCH, was a white male, dark-headed, who appeared to be at least six feet tall, based on his seating position in the car. This individual yelled out in a derogatory fashion at Mr. BRANCH, a Negro, "I've bought a new high-powered rifle with a scope on it, and I've got some binoculars, and I'm going to shoot MARTIN LUTHER KING right between the eyes." He laughed and then added, "I've got 20 rounds." Mr. BRANCH recalled that he had on a blue denim jumper or jacket and could recall nothing else concerning this individual other than to say that he would be approximately 30 years of age.

Mr. BRANCH stated that he thought little about this until he saw the artist's conception, which appeared on page one of the Saturday, April 6, 1968, Commercial Appeal.

4/7/68 Memphis, Tennessee

Memphis 44-1987-Sub-1712

SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE:wp

*Stevens*

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*1968*



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4/8/68

Mrs. WILMA BRANCH, also known as Mrs. LEE EDWARD BRANCH, 2546 Keen Road, Memphis, Tennessee, on interview at her home, advised as follows:

She is a teacher at Norris School, Memphis, Tennessee.

On or about the night of March 31, 1968, she accompanied her husband to the Main Post Office on Calhoun Street to pick up mail, following which they drove north into the downtown business area of Memphis, driving on Main Street.

They stopped at a traffic light at Madison and Main, and as they did so, a 1959 or 1960 model white Chevrolet convertible with the top down, having red interior, pulled up beside them.

This car was occupied by three whites, including one white male, who appeared to be rather short, was wearing glasses, and was driving. Sitting beside him was a tall blonde female with short hair, and sitting beside her was a rather tall white male, having dark hair, who appeared to be about 30 years of age. He was wearing a denim jacket. This man with the denim jacket who was sitting on the passenger side and was closest to her husband when the two cars stopped side by side, yelled out to Mr. BRANCH in a seemingly derogatory fashion, "I've bought a new high-powered rifle with a scope on it, and I've got some binoculars, and I'm going to shoot MARTIN LUTHER KING right between the eyes. I've got 20 rounds." With this, he laughed, and by this time the traffic light had changed and the car sped on ahead of the BRANCHES' car.

Mrs. BRANCH attempted to get the license number, was unable to do so, but does recall that it was a Dyer County, Tennessee, tag. She pointed out that Dyer County is some 70 miles north of Memphis. She stated that her

4/7/68

Memphis, Tennessee

Memphis 44-1987-Sub-171B

SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE:wp

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*[Handwritten signature]*

ME 44-1987

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drawn by Staff Artist WILLIAM HERRINGTON. He stated that it now appears that the individual who spoke to him could possibly be identical with the person depicted in the drawing. He stated that his wife, WILMA BRANCH, attempted to get the license number of the car but was unable to do so, but she had told him that it was a Dyer County, Tennessee, license.

He stated that he felt he could identify this individual, should he see him again.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

DATE: 5/3/68

FROM : SA GARY M. RAMSEY

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re St. Louis teletype to Memphis 4/23/68 (Serial Sub E 612), requesting Memphis to check out 1964 green Chevrolet bearing 1968 Tennessee license BG3013, and Memo from SA HENDERSON HILLIN, JR., dated 4/29/68.

LOTTIE O. DOUGLAS, 4230 Hilldale, telephone number 683-9732, Memphis, advised on 5/1/68 that she owns a 1966 Pontiac GTO bearing 1968 Tennessee license BG3013. She further stated that she is employed at Dennis Beauty Salon, 4826 Poplar Avenue, which is owned and operated by her son, DENNIS DOUGLAS. She further stated that she was at work on 4/16,17/68 and was driving the above described vehicle. She advised that she has not loaned her car to anyone since she purchased the car in 1966 and that she has never been to St. Louis, Missouri, and that her car has never been to St. Louis, Missouri.

Mrs. DOUGLAS advised that she was assigned Tennessee license number BG3013 when she purchased her car in 1966 and that she has never lost a license plate or had a license plate stolen from the vehicle since that time.

Mrs. DOUGLAS viewed the Wanted Flyer #442-A for JAMES EARL RAY and stated that she could not identify the photograph as being of anyone known to her.

DENNIS DOUGLAS, owner, Dennis Beauty Salon, 4826 Poplar Avenue, advised on 5/1/68 that his records reflect that LOTTIE DOUGLAS was working at his beauty salon on both 4/16/68 and 4/17/68, from approximately 8:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. He further stated that Mrs. DOUGLAS always drove her 1966 Pontiac GTO to work each day and parked the vehicle in a parking lot located on the west side of the beauty salon.

GMR:wp  
(2)  
*wp*

*for summary*

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*Kester* *gmk*



5010-108

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

ME 44-1987

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husband replied to the man something to the effect that he did not probably even have the money with which to buy ammunition.

She stated she could recall nothing else concerning this incident but felt she could identify the person who made the statement should she ever see him again.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Sac

FROM : J. D. Tisdale

SUBJECT: Citizens Band  
FM Radio

DATE: May 3, 1968

Mr. Donald O'Dell, Glenn Allen, Inc., 300 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn., was contacted by the writer, this date, in regard to purchases of Citizens Band radio equipment on April 30, 1968.

Mr. O'Dell stated there were numerous places in Memphis where Citizens Band radio equipment could be purchased. Without checking his records, Mr. O'Dell advised some dealers purchased this equipment from Glenn Allen, Inc. for resale. Other distributors mentioned by Mr. O'Dell are as follows:

Radio Shack (5 locations)  
W & W Distributing Co. 644 Madison  
Majestic Battery and Equipment Co., 1383 Airways  
Bluff City Distributing Co. 234 East St.  
Lafayette Sales co. on Summer Ave.

Mr. O'Dell explained there were many others who might sell Citizens Band radio equipment and if so desired he would cooperate with the writer and try to list all such dealers.

Mr. O'Dell advised Lt. James Hamby of the Memphis P.D. had done considerable work regarding purchases of Citizens Band radio equipment in the past few days.

Mr. O'Dell also advised that a Mr. Jake Turner, Lafayette Sales Co. on Summer had advised him that he, Turner, had installed a Citizens Band Radio in a White Mustang, April 3, 1968.

Note: No written test is required by FCC to operate Citizens Band radio equipment. However, FCC does require that the "tag" obtained with the equipment, when purchased, be filled in and sent to FCC.

JDT:



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

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Boyle BB  
Hylle NC

ME 44-1987

It was noted from personal observation that a 1966 Pontiac GTO, bearing Tennessee license BG3013, was parked in the parking lot of Dennis Beauty Salon. It was further noted that Tennessee license plate reflecting the number BG3013 was attached to both the front and rear of this vehicle.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 5/8/68

FROM : SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On instant date, BILL REESE, Sales Representative, Madison Cadillac, Inc., 341 Union Avenue, Memphis, Tenn. Telephone number at home 323-5235, at business 526-5933 furnished the following information:

*Sub-172*  
REESE advised that on 5/3/68 an individual indentifying himself as EUGENE E. SEXTON came to his establishment to buy a Cadillac. REESE advised that SEXTON was extremely nervous and when checked through GMAC credit, no credit rating could be found.

General conversation with SEXTON revealed that he has been to Atlanta and Birmingham, according to REESE. Also, REESE advised that when SEXTON returned after 6:00 PM on the night of 5/4/68 he was extremely nervous especially upon being told that KING had been shot and killed. REESE advised that SEXTON left abruptly saying he has to go to Nashville, Tenn. and then drove off in his Cadillac that he had purchased.

REESE advised that the reason he was furnishing this information was because SEXTON is allegedly a "deadringer" for JAMES EARL RAY's photographs. Based on Photos of RAY, REESE feels that SEXTON and RAY are identical. He described RAY as W/M, approximately 37, 5'10", 165 lbs., red sandy hair, and cold sharp black or dark brown eyes. He furnished SEXTON's address as; 3000 Hillboro Road, Nashville, Tenn.

REESE REQUESTED HIS IDENTITY BE PROTECTED .

LEAD AT NASHVILLE, TENN.

Will contact SEXTON and attempt to eliminate him as subject.

2 - 44-1987  
RF/rf



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*44-1987-Sub-172*

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*Harris*

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM : SA HOWELL S. LOWE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/9/68

On 4/23, 4/24, 4/25, 4/30, 5/3, and 5/6/68, the following racial informants were contacted by SA LOWE and SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE and they advised they had no information re captioned matter:

ME 282-R (GHETTO)

Me 256-R

ME 156-R

CS ME 165-S

CS ME 167-S

CS ME 170-S

BOBBY JOE LAWSON, confidential source

ME 353-R (PROB)

ME 352-R (PROB)

ME 338-R (GHETTO)

ME 339-R (PROB)

WILLIAM LEE ROBINSON, RI (PROB) GHETTO

ROBERT BALESTRINO, RI (PROB) GHETTO

PAUL JEROME SIMS, RI (PROB) GHETTO

JACK H. LANSKY, RI (PROB) GHETTO

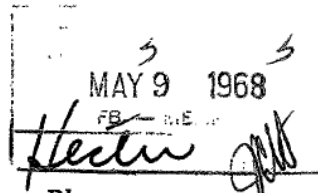
CLYDE ADAMS, RI (PROB) GHETTO

CARL JENKINS, JR., RI (PROB) GHETTO

✓ HSL:peh  
(2) *sen*



5010-108



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



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
Attention: SA THOMAS O. RONAN

FROM : SA GERARD J. WOLTEMAE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

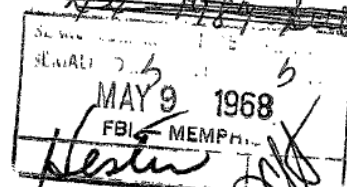
DATE: 5/9/68

Re Memphis memo of SA THOMAS O. RONAN,  
4/30/68.

On 5/1/68, Sgt. JAMES GOSSETT, Identification Division, Metro PD, Nashville, advised SA WOLTEMAE that the PD maintains a latent fingerprint file concerning matters under which the PD has investigative jurisdiction. He stated that he would insure that the known fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY as set forth in IO #4182, 4/20/68, are compared with the latent fingerprints of the Metro PD acquired since 4/23/68.

Sgt. GOSSETT further advised that at the present time the Metro PD's Identification Division is understaffed and felt that it would take some time before the above requested investigation could be completed. He again emphasized that he would personally see that this investigation is completed at the earliest possible date. He stated that the results of this investigation would be furnished to SA WOLTEMAE.

✓ GJW:PEH  
(2)



5010-108

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

ME 44-1987

WMP:wp

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Chief of Detectives ED ALDERSON, Jackson, Tennessee, Police Department, advised SA WILLIAM M. PERRIGAN that his department does not maintain an unidentified latent fingerprint file.

44-1987-Sub-173B

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Ronan

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 5/10/68

FROM : SA JOSEPH M. BREWI

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DR. M.D. HOLMES, AN EYE DOCTOR, ~~XXXX~~ 4400 SUMMER, MEMPHIS, CALLED AND SAID HE DOES EYE EXAMS. FOR THE NATIONAL MARITIME UNION, A-21, RAILWAY EXCHANGE BUILDING, ST. LOUIS, MO. ON 5/6/68 A MAN CAME IN FOR AN EYE EXAM. OFF THE RIVER WITH A UNION RIVERS PENSION AND WELFARE SLIP # 33307, REQUESTING AN EYE EXAM. THIS ~~XXX~~ MAN SAID HE WAS A MATE, NO SHIP MENTIONED, AND GAVE HIS AGE AS 40 ON APRIL 10th., NO YEAR GIVEN. HOLMES SAID THAT HIS GIRL TYPED UP THIS MAN NAME AS JOHN MOSLEY BUT WHEN THIS MAN SIGNED IT IT LOOKS LIKE <sup>John</sup> ~~JOHN~~ MORLEY. HIS ADDRESS IS LISTED AS 2721 NIX COVE, MEMPHIS, TENN., AND HIS PHONE NUMBER AS 358-2682. HOLMES ADVISED THIS ~~XXXX~~ MAN'S NEW GLASSES JUST CAME IN AND HE IS TO CALL HIM AT THE ABOVE NUMBER TO COME IN AND PICK THEM UP.

~~MURKIN~~ HOLMES SAID THIS MAN LOOKS VERY MUCH LIKE SUBJECT IN THIS CASE AND WAS WEARING A BANDAGE ON HIS FACE. WHEN HE, HOLMES, REMARKED TO THIS MAN THAT HE LOOKED LIKE THE SUBJECT, THIS MAN AT FIRST MADE OUT THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT HOLMES WAS TALKING ABOUT. HE THEN TOLD HOLMES NOT TO SAY THAT AS IT WOULD GET HIM ARRESTED AND MENTIONED HE WAS IN CHICAGO, ILL. AT THE TIME OF THE SHOOTING.

HOLMES SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THIS CASE IN ANYWAY BUT WANTED TO PASS ON THE ABOVE INFO FOR WHAT IT WAS WORTH.

*Holmes office rechecked 5/10/68 and stated info*  
*Local lead assign to Ketchum RB.*  
*covered*

44-1987-Sub-174

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| SERIALIZED    | FILED   |
| MAY 10 1968   |         |
| FBI - MEMPHIS |         |

*Bugle RB*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

FROM : SA RAYMOND J. RATKOWSKI

SUBJECT: MURKIN;  
CR

DATE: 5/10/68

Ten copies of a mat received from the Memphis Division regarding JAMES EARL RAY were distributed to the following organizations:

Police Department, Gallatin, Tenn.  
Sumner County Sheriff's Office, Gallatin  
Trousdale County Sheriff's Office, Hartsville, Tenn.  
Police Department, Lebanon, Tenn.  
Wilson County Sheriff's Office, Lebanon  
Macon County Sheriff's Office, Lafayette, Tenn.  
Police Department, Mt. Juliet, Tenn.  
Police Department, Watertown, Tenn.  
Police Department, Portland, Tenn.  
Police Department, Westmoreland, Tenn.

RJR:mjh

*mjh*



5010-108

44-1987-Sub-174A

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| MAY 10 1968     |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

*Hester*

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

ME 44-1987

Shortly after conversation with SAC JENSEN, the writer contacted SA GOODWIN, who advised that the woman in question is (FNU) JOSEPH and that she is an eccentric individual and had furnished no information of any value concerning this case. SA GOODWIN suggested the writer ignore any other calls he might receive from this individual.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

DATE: 5/12/68

FROM : SPC CARROLL N. FULKERSON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

At approximately 11:50 a.m. instant date, this office received a telephone call from a female who would not give her name. This person requested to speak with SA ROBERT W. GOODWIN. The writer advised her that SA GOODWIN was not on duty and asked if a message could be taken. The unknown caller requested that the writer contact SA GOODWIN and in turn have him contact her at telephone # 276-1456. The caller requested that if the writer were unable to contact SA GOODWIN to please call her back and so advise.

The writer attempted to telephonically contact SA GOODWIN but was not able to do so.

The writer called the above number and advised the caller of this. The caller at this time stated that she had furnished SA GOODWIN information concerning "the assassination and the Klan's involvement in it and a member of her family (whom she would not identify) had told her she had caused more trouble than she knew and that she would have to pay for it." Caller stated, "I am being followed now by someone in a black Cadillac, and someone has been watching me for the past couple of days." The caller stated that she felt she had endangered herself by giving SA GOODWIN information on this matter. The caller requested that further attempts be made to contact SA GOODWIN and relate this to him.

The writer was unable to contact SA GOODWIN because he was at church and out to eat lunch; therefore, SAC JENSEN was contacted and informed of the above. SAC JENSEN advised the writer to continue efforts to locate GOODWIN and if unable to locate to call the anonymous caller and inform that SA GOODWIN was not available for the remainder of the day, and that if she felt that her life was in danger to contact the PD inasmuch as the FBI does not furnish protection to individuals.

CNF:CNF  
(2)



5010-108

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

44-1987-Sub-175

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| SERIALIZED    | FILED   |
| MAY 12 1968   |         |
| FBI - MEMPHIS |         |

*Goodwin 1968*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987 Sub B)

DATE: 5/10/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM M. HOBBS, JR.

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CIVIL RIGHTS

OO: ME

ReMiami airtel dated 5/7/68, serial 617 in Sub B.

MR. RAY MORRIS, 115 Blu Hills Ct., Donelson, Nashville, Tenn., was interviewed at his residence on 5/10/68.

He advised that he drives a dark blue 1955 Mustang bearing Florida license 6-47566 and was employed for eleven years as a teacher and football coach in Lake Worth, Florida. He added that he left ~~XXXX~~ Lake Worth on 4/2/68 and spent the night of 4/2/68 in Atlanta, Ga. He drove to Nashville 4/3/68 and was in Nashville at the Madison Motel on 4/4/68, date of the ~~XXXXXX~~ KING murder.

MORRIS is now district representative of the Career Academy of Atlanta.

MORRIS is 34 years of age and is not identical with subject in this case.

No further inquiry being made.

WMH  
(2)

44-1987-Sub-176

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| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| MAY 13 1968     |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

*Hester* *gpt*



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

FROM : SA WILLIAM M. PERRIGAN

SUBJECT: MURKIN;  
CR

DATE: 5/14/68

*Newspapers  
Produced*

The following newspapers in the area of the writer were contacted on 5/10/68 and a writeup was furnished them regarding subject JAMES EARL RAY:

GEORGE WILSON, Reporter, "Jackson Sun," Jackson, Tenn.

Mr. WILSON advised that he has previously received a writeup regarding RAY.

WOODY WHALEY, Manager, "Chester County Independent," 111 South Washington Street, Henderson, Tenn.

GEORGE HAMILTON, Manager, "McNairy County Independent," 180 West Houston Ave., Selmer, Tenn.

It should be noted that Mr. HAMILTON also owns a weekly newspaper in Adamsville, Tenn.

Mr. DAN WILLIAMS, "Savannah Courier," Main Street, Savannah, Tenn.

WMP:mjh

(2) *mjh*

44-1987-Sub-176A

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| SEARCHED.....   | FILED.....   |
| SERIALIZED..... | INDEXED..... |
| MAY 14 1968     |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

*Hester*



5010-108

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



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

DATE: 5/14/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM M. HOBBS, JR.

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Rememo of SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK dated 5/8/68.

Records of the Credit Bureau of Nashville as furnished to IC ROBERT M. CALK by MRS. REBECCA FORD, disclose that EUGENE E. SEXTON, 3000 Hillsboro Rd., Nashville, Tenn. has been known to the files since Nov. 1967 at which time he was transferred to Nashville by the Neely-Don, Inc. of New York City, N.Y. as the companies salesman for this area. SEXTON has been employed for 14 years by the New York firm, is married and resides in the Versailles Apts., 3000 Hillsboro Rd. No unfavorable information appears in either the files of the Credit Bureau of Nashville or the Credit Bureau of New York.

RICHARD ROYCE, Maintenance Supervisor, Versailles Apt., 3000 Hillsboro Rd., Nashville, advised the writer on 5/10/68 that SEXTON, his wife and two children, have resided in Apt. 72 since December of 1967, that SEXTON is employed as a salesman for a New York concern and is well regarded in the apartment complex.

ROYCE, after observing a photo of JAMES EARL RAY, stated that SEXTON is definitely not identical with RAY but is a much older man and bears no reasonable resemblance to RAY. He noted that he has visited in the SEXTON apartment several times and has talked with SEXTON on numerous occasions.

No further inquiry being conducted.

WMH:  
(2)

44-1987-Sub-176B

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| SEARCHED.....   | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| MAY 15 1968     |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

*[Handwritten signature]*



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 5/16/68

FROM : SA, JAMES M. STOCKTON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Mrs. BESSIE BREWER, 422½ So. Main Street,  
advised that she has a roomer by the name of CHARLIE  
STEPHENS, Room 25-D whom she believes knows some thing  
about the murder case. She requested that an agent come  
and talk with her about this person.

JMS:  
44-1987

44-1987-Sub-177

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| SEARCHED.....   | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| FBI — MEMPHIS   |              |

Ronan

Lead to Bauer

HUB

THE MEMPHIS OFFICE  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

MEMORANDUM TO AGENTS LISTED BELOW

RE: MURKIN

Enclosed for each Agent listed below is one copy of a photograph of the subject, made during late 1967 or early 1968, which is referred to as the "Patricia Anderson photograph."

The Bureau has instructed that photographs of the subject be shown to appropriate witnesses in all unsolved bank robberies. Memphis files reflect that the following bank robberies are unsolved and are assigned as indicated:

91-3578 - SA CRISTINA  
91-3463 - SA DUNKLING  
91-3595 - SA HAMAR  
91-3635 - SA HAMAR  
91-3331 - SA NORWOOD  
91-3476 - SA QUIMBY  
91-3621 - SA RODGERS  
91-3507 - SA WOLTEMATE

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

  
ROBERT G. JENSEN  
SAC

1-SA FRANCIS M. CRISTINA  
1-SA WALTER W. DUNKLING  
1-SA DARRELL L. HAMAR  
1-SA FRANCIS W. NORWOOD  
1-SA ALLEN H. QUIMBY  
1-SA JOHN E. RODGERS  
1-SA GERARD J. WOLTEMATE

✓ ME 44-1987

JCH:wp  
5/16/69  


SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_

SERIALIZED 5

INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_

FILED 5

44-1987-Sub-177A

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987) (P)

DATE: 5/16/68

FROM : SA ROBERT W. GOODWIN

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR

On 5/15/68 the reporting agent was at York Arms Company, 162 South Main Street, Memphis, Tenn. Mr. CORDA YORK, JR., advised this agent that RALPH CARPENTER, the individual who sold the MURKIN subject a pair of binoculars, has not been at work for approximately the last week and a half. Mr. YORK advised RALPH CARPENTER has been hospitalized during said absence in the John Gaston Hospital, Memphis, Tenn., in the psychiatric ward. Mr. YORK stated that apparently Mr. CARPENTER has been under a great strain and has suffered a "mental breakdown."

*For summary  
- but we will  
have to check  
out [initials]*

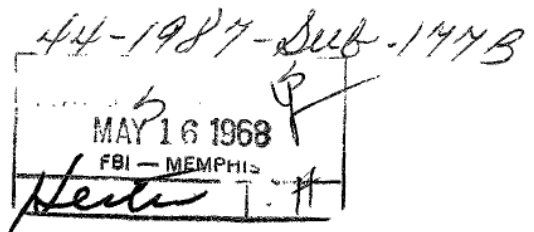
RWG/ngm

(2)

*ngm*



5010-108



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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 4/15/68

FROM : SA EUGENE A. MEDORI, JR.

MURKIN

SUBJECT: (O.O. MEMPHIS)

Reference FD-302 of Mr. Fred Gattas, owner, Fred P. Gattas Distributing Co., Inc., dated 4/11/68.

During the course of a neighborhood investigation in vicinity of 422½ S. Main St., Memphis, Tenn., the employees of the above mentioned company were interviewed. Mr. Gattas at that time was a patient at St. Joeseeph's Hosp. in Memphis, and by telephone expressed his desire to speak with agents of the FBI in connection with the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On 4/11/68 Mr. Gattas was contacted by agents and he stated that he and a friend, Mr. Willard Rundquist, V. P., Wabash, Inc., 1217 Florida, Memphis, Tenn., had been talking about the King killing and Rundquist stated that he had an idea who might have done it. Rundquist wanted to tell Gattas about this individual who was a former employee of Wabash, Inc., and Gattas told him to write the information on paper and he would see that it was given to the proper authority.

Gattas furnished this information which was contained on two handwritten pages enclosed in a plain white envelope and which Gattas stated was given to him by Rundquist. Gattas stated that he had no personal information to furnish in this matter. He also expressed the wish that his and Rundquist's names not be divulged outside official channels as both of them are prominent businessmen in Memphis.

The original of the above 2-page letter has been designated for 1A exhibit and a copy of same is attached to this memorandum.

ACTION RECCOMENDED: Agent Medori will contact Mr. Rundquist and if deemed necessary will interview suspect.



5010-108

*David Gattas interviewed 4/16/68 EAM*

44-1987-Sub-178

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| SEARCHED.....   | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| APR 17 1968     |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

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

4-7-68

Paul Mc Carter

2152 Layton

Phone 357-2122

|        |               |
|--------|---------------|
| age    | about 30      |
| Born   | Corinth Miss. |
| Race   | white         |
| hair   | black         |
| height | about 6'0"    |
| weight | about 180     |

Owns and drives a 1966 or 67 cream colored mustang.

Worked in Production Control at Wabash Inc. 1217 Florida St.

until a month ago, when he quit to work for a Millwork Co. in Tupelo Miss., as an outside salesman. At Wabash he worked very closely with a John Smith and myself Willard Sundquist. "note the two first names."

He was in our office about  
noon on Thursday April 4th,  
visiting with me and others.  
I do not recall that conversation  
was of any importance to  
matter at hand.

2025 Standquist,  
25 Bely Blvd. apt. 1  
Memphis Tenn.  
948-4841

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 5/16/68

FROM : SA, JAMES M. STOCKTON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 5/16/68, a negro man who identified himself as BOBBY GENE MORRISETT, 337 E. McLemore Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, came into the Memphis Office and stated that he had information as to the identity of the person who killed Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

On questioning this person as to the information relating to the KING murder, he admitted that he had no information relating to this matter but that he wanted to get himself on record so that he would be in line for the reward when the KING murderer is located.

Further questioning of BOBBY GENE MORRISETT developed that he is mentally unbalanced as a result of a serious accident several years ago. He listed his personal physician as Dr. SAM MUNTER, Claybrook Building, Memphis, Tennessee.

MORRISETT denied ever having been committed to a mental institution but did state that he has considerable pain in his head most of the time.

MORRISETT stated that he has been employed by a Mr. ROBERT PUGHE on a farm near Jonesboro, Arkansas. He said PUGHE did not pay him the prevailing wage so he left PUGHE'S plantation on the night of 5/15/68. He was picked up by members of the Jonesboro Police Department on 5/15/68 and released. He was permitted to sleep in the police station the remainder of the night.

MORRISETT said he reported ROBERT PUGHE to the Labor Department to attempt to get more money for his labor during the past three months.

MORRISETT stated he is 36 years of age, height 5'10", weight 165 pounds and has dark brown complexion.

Even though MORRISETT had no information regarding the MURKIN case, this information is being recorded for future reference in case this person contacts this office again.

44-1987  
JMS:

44-1987-Sub-179

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| MAY 17 1968   |         |
| FBI - MEMPHIS |         |

*Boyle RB*



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : File (44-1987)

FROM : ASAC C. O. HALTER

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/17/68

Supervisor DICK LONG telephonically informed as follows  
AM, 5/17/68:

Memphis teletype of 5/16/68 refers to a handwritten map depicting the place in Mexico at which RAY is supposed to be buried. LONG requested that this map be sent to the Bureau by airplane pilot, AM, 5/17/68, and that when arrangements are perfected, telephonic contact should be made with Washington Field so that an Agent from that Office could obtain the map and thereafter deliver it personally to Mr. McGOWAN at the Bureau.

LONG instructed that Memphis send a teletype to San Francisco requesting that KENNETH LEE WADE be interviewed today "for all he is worth" and get the entire matter resolved today. San Francisco is to be instructed to send a teletype to the Bureau and Memphis, 5/17/68, after the WADE matter has been completely resolved.

COH:ME  
(1)

*ME*

*McGowan was  
advised  
map mailed  
yesterday  
5/17/68  
12*

*Done  
JH*

*Hester JH*

44-1987-Sub-180

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| SEARCHED.....   | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| MAY 17 1968     |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

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5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: May 19, 1968

FROM : SPC, DOWNUM

SUBJECT: MURKIN.

SA P. A. Cajgas, General Investigative Division, called the office at 4:40 p.m. and furnished the following information:

Bureau had just received call from DON G. CUMMINGS, 2733 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, Tenn. (no phone). CUMMINGS claimed to have information regarding a man who is in Nashville now, will be leaving tonight, who may have been involved in the murder of Dr. King. CUMMINGS advised SA Cajgas he wanted to give this info to the FBI.

The above information was telephonically given to SA Hobbs.

DND  
W(2)

44-1987-Sub-188A

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| SERIALIZED <i>h</i> | FILED <i>h</i>   |
| MAY 19 1968         |                  |
| FBI - MEMPHIS       |                  |



5010-106

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 5-20-68

FROM : SPC, FULKERSON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

RE: SPC, DOWNUM MEMO TO FILE 5-19-68, concerning BUREAU  
TELEPHONE CALL RE: DON G. CUMMINGS

SA JOE KELLY, GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, CALLED THE OFFICE AT 7:10 a.m. and inquired as to the results of the interview with CUMMINGS. SA KELLY REQUESTED WRITER TO ADVISED THAT CUMMINGS SHOULD IMMEDIATELY BE INTERVIEWED AND THE RESULTS OF INTERVIEW SHOULD BE SENT TO THE BUREAU VIA TELETYPE.

*Handled  
Teletype  
sent 5/20 AM*

(1)  
CNF



5010-108

44-1987-Sub-180B  
~~44-1987-Sub-44~~

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| MAY 20 1968 |         |
| FBI-MEMPHIS |         |

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : FILE (44-1987)

FROM : SAC ROBERT G. JENSEN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5-20-68

This morning I received a call from an individual giving his name as PAUL DAMYLLYSHIN, 4438 South Cumberland, Port Arthur, Ontario, Telephone 344-6324. He stated he had previously spoken with Inspector SULLIVAN and had some additional information regarding the MURKIN case which he wanted to pass on. He spoke of having extra sensory perception (ESP), and said it was through use of these powers that he thought the fellow of interest in the KING assassination might be using the name MOEZLANE or NOEZLANE, or possibly MOZLAND.

After some discussion with the caller, he indicated that possibly this was not the person's name but might be the town in Mexico where he felt certain the KING assassin was hiding. Further discussion with him disclosed that through use of ESP he was able to contact Martians, stating they have a call code 0.30 and he could reach the Martians by use of this code. He described the Martian he had been in contact with as looking like anyone else, in that he was white, except that the color of his hair was somewhat orange.

He was thanked for his information.

In view of previous correspondence emanating from Hamilton, Ontario in instant case, the complainant above was asked if he had ever been in Hamilton, Ontario. He stated he had never been in Hamilton, although he knew where it was.

RGJ:BN  
(1)

44-1987-Sub-181

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| Hester H.  |         |



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/21/68

On 5/15/68 an individual identifying himself as JAMES "JIM" DARLINGTON, home phone 682-9371, office employee at Hunt-Wesson Foods, Inc., a close friend of Attorney RICHARD ELY, and a self-admitted member of the John Birch Society, phoned the writer at ELY's suggestion advising as follows:

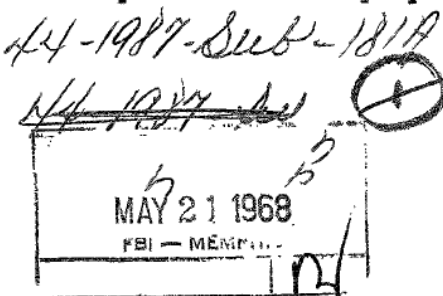
He heard of the so-called ~~fake~~ Citizens Band radio broadcast regarding the alleged car chase and shooting following the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and is now of the opinion it may have been a hoax.

He explained that he is of British descent, born in British Honduras; that he once lived in Cuba, employed by Goodyear; that he has been back in the U. S. 8 months; and that he is a convert to the JBS. He bought 5 copies of ex-FBI Agent CLEON SKOUSEN's book, "The Communist Attack on the U. S. Police", that he was impressed by it and wanted to get it into the hands of the news media.

His wife's father who is a ham radio operator suggested he give a copy to WILSON RANEY, Chief Engineer, Radio and Television Station WREC. Accordingly, one night recently he took a copy to RANEY at the latter's home, 933 N. McLean. RANEY was a long time bachelor who married recently. He has a ham station at 933 N. McLean with the call letters "W 4 FW." When DARLINGTON went in he noticed a copy of "The Highlander Report" on the coffee table. This he said is published by Highlander Center, Knoxville, Tennessee, long reputed to be a haven for pro-Communists.

RANEY has much sophisticated and powerful CB equipment.

② - 44-1987 (MURKIN)  
1 - 100-3727 (JBS)  
1 - 61-34 (Highlander Center)  
WHL:gmh  
(4) *gmh*



5010-108

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

ME 44-1987

It is only a hunch, he said, probably because he, DARLINGTON, is so anti-Communist; but he now feels in retrospect that if a fake broadcast was made for the purpose of confusing the police that it could well have been made by RANEY since his home is not far from the Jackson Avenue area where the alleged chase took place.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

None.

*Right*  
*Raney is very*  
*pro FBI*

SAC(44-1987-1027)

5/22/68

SA MAHLON J. PRICE

MURKIN

Re Saint Louis teletype to Bureau and Memphis 12:01 PM  
5/16/68.

Miss Pat Roberts, Bell Telephone Security Office advised  
on 5/22/68 that Martin, Tennessee telephone number 587-3691  
is subscribed to by Dickey Arrington, Volunteer Trailer Park,  
Trailer # 27, Martin. Dickey Arrington has mailing address  
C/o UT Box 580.

LEAD

MEMPHIS

AT MARTIN, TENNESSEE

Will promptly interview Dickey Arrington. Xerox copy  
of re teletype attached for information.

MJP/rd

44-1987-Sub E-182

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| SEARCHED.....   | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| MAY 22 1968     |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |
| TOLTRUCK        |              |

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 5/20/68

FROM : SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re SA HOWELL S. LOWE'S Memo to SAC, dated 4/6/68. (44-1987-Sub 36)

On 4/7/68, photograph of ACIE LAWRENCE was shown to RALPH M. CARPENTER, YORK ARMS, S. Main Street, Memphis, Tenn. by SA RALPH LIEWER and was rejected as not being the individual who purchased a pair of binoculars on 4/4/68.

It should be noted that Lawrence does not fit general description of subject in ~~this~~ this matter.

44-1987-Sub 183

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| SERIALIZED ..... | FILED .....   |
| 1968             |               |
| FBI - MEMPHIS    |               |

Hester



5010-108-01

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



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

DATE: May 20, 1968

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM : SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re KC airtel to Me dated 4/27/68.

On 4/30/68, Lt. E. H. ARKIN, Intelligence Division contacted and advised that he was familiar with attendants in large parking lots in the Memphis area and could offer no information leading to the identity of JAMES (LNU) as set out in referenced airtel.

On 5/1/68, the proprietors of the following parking lots were contacted with negative results;

ALLENBURG PARKING STATIONS  
199 Jefferson Avenue  
Memphis, Tennessee

ALLRIGHT AUTO PARKS, INC.  
171 Monroe Avenue  
Memphis, Tenn.

SHOPPER'S GARAGE  
35 Monroe Avenue  
Memphis, Tennessee

It is noted that the above parking lots are among the largest in the city of Memphis and because of the vagueness and ambiguity of lead set out in re airtel no information of value could be ascertained.

RF/rf



5010-108-01

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

44-1987-Sub-184

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| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| MAY 22 1968     |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

*Hester*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: MAY 21, 1968

FROM : SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re SA JOSEPH M. BREWSTER'S Memo to SAC dated 5/10/68

DR. M. D. HOLMES, 4400 Summer Avenue, Memphis, Tenn telephonically recontacted the FBI Office on 5/10/68 and stated that information given in instant memo was erroneous and inaccurate, HOLMES advised that individual referred to in instant memo does not fit the description of JAMES EARL RAY.

RF/mb

44-1987-Sub-125

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| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| MAY 24 1968     |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

Hester



5010-108-01

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

FROM : SA EUGENE A. MEDORI, JR.

SUBJECT: MURKIN;  
CR

DATE: 5/22/68

Re: 44-1987-SUB-B-752

On 5/17/68 Mr. EARL RAY, JR., 2680 Frisco Ave., Memphis, Tenn., and his wife Mrs. MELVA RAY, same address, were contacted at the R and H Iron Works, 447 East Mallory Ave., Memphis, Tenn. The following information pertaining to Mr. RAY was obtained from both of these individuals:

EARL RAY, JR., is part owner of the R and H Iron Works Company and his wife has been employed as a part-time secretary by the company for a period of approximately seven or eight years. They have resided with their three children at the Frisco Avenue address for approximately nine years. Other than Mr. RAY, no one else in their family bears the name of EARL RAY, to their knowledge, and they were certain that no one in their family had anything whatsoever to do with the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. and Mrs. RAY were married on 11/17/56 in Hernando, Miss., and they have three children, GLENN - age 11 years, TERESA - age 8 years, and DONNA - age 7 years. Mr. RAY has a daughter by a previous marriage, SHARON RAY, age 14 years. Mr. RAY's former wife is also remarried and her name is BETTY SUE DECKLEMAN nee JOHNSON, and she presently resides on Benvenue St., Memphis, Tenn., with her family.

The following description of Mr. RAY was obtained: during interview:

|        |                        |
|--------|------------------------|
| Name   | EARL RAY, JR.          |
| Sex    | Male                   |
| Race   | White                  |
| Age    | Approximately 37 years |
| DOB    |                        |
| POB    | Crenshaw, Miss.        |
| Height | 5' 7"                  |
| Weight | 145 lbs.               |

EAM:mjh  
(2) *mjh*



5010-108

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

44-1987-Sub-B-752

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ME 44-1987

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hair             | Black                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Complexion       | Dark                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Eyes             | Brown                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Residence        | 2680 Frisco Ave., Memphis, Tenn.<br>(for approximately nine years)                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Military Service | United States Army, 8/12/53 -<br>6/23/55                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| U. S. Serial No. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Arrest Record    | Arrested Memphis PD in 1949 or 1950<br>when approximately 17 or 18 years<br>of age for charge of assault and<br>battery                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Brothers         | RALPH EDWARD RAY, age 21, United<br>States Army, presently in Vietnam,<br>home address - Memphis, Tenn.<br>HANCLE P. RAY, age 29, married<br>with three children, presently<br>residing in a trailer park off<br>W. M. C. Road, Memphis, Tenn.                                             |
| Sisters          | AURETTA GOODSON, age 41, Batesville,<br>Miss.<br>MARY LEE TOWNSEND, age 35, Woodale<br>Subdivision, Parkway Village,<br>Memphis, Tenn.<br>NETTE MAY CLARK, age 32, Laurie<br>Lane, Memphis<br>MAXINE KENNEDY, age 27, Clarksdale,<br>Miss.<br>EARLENE WOODLIEF, age 24, Longview,<br>Texas |
| Father           | MARVIN EARL RAY (deceased)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Mother           | MARY S. RAY, 4035 New Willow Road,<br>Memphis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

Mrs. RAY made available for identification purposes  
Tennessee Driver's License No. 2586917 which reflected that  
MELVA L. RAY, 2680 Frisco, Memphis, was issued this license on  
11/18/66.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

FROM : SA JACK D. VAHRENWALD

SUBJECT: MURKIN;  
CR

DATE: 5/22/68

Re: 44-1987-SUB-101

On 5/20/68 Mrs. MARY PAUL, 592 East Gage, Memphis, Tenn., advised that about 11:45 P. M. on 4/3/68 she drove to the Harlow's Donut Shop at 2369 South Bellevue, Memphis, Tenn., to buy some doughnuts. She was alone at the time. As she drove up to the doughnut shop, a large man came around the corner of the shop. He was carrying a sack of doughnuts and Mrs. PAUL noticed that he had a gun on his left hip in a holster.

Mrs. PAUL felt that this individual may have had something to do with the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING because he was acting so strangely. When asked to describe his behavior, she advised that he stood in the parking lot of the doughnut shop for a long time and then came back in and asked where he could find a telephone. The girl behind the counter told him that there was one across the street. He went over to the phone, but he did not use it. Then, he came back and stood in the parking lot for approximately fifteen more minutes. Mrs. PAUL felt that she should call the police but the girl behind the counter in the doughnut shop said that she did not think it would be necessary.

Mrs. PAUL then got into her car and drove home where she discussed this individual with her son, LOUIS E. PAUL, JR. She advised that her son is a good artist and at the time she asked him to attempt to sketch the individual from the description which she had given him. Her son drew a sketch but she advised it did not look anything at all like the individual whom she had seen so she threw it away.

She described the individual whom she had seen as follows:

JDV:mjh  
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*Hester*

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Race

White

Sex

Male

Height

6' 3"

Weight

240 lbs.

Eyes

Bluish grey

Hair

Dark brown and slightly curly

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

FROM : SA JOHN W. BAUER

SUBJECT: MURKIN;  
CR

DATE: 5/22/68

RE: 44-1987-SUB-177

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA JOHN W. BAUER on 5/17/68, Memphis, Tenn.:

Mrs. BESSIE BREWER, 522 $\frac{1}{2}$  South Main Street, advised that one her roomers, CHARLEY STEPHENS, Room 25D, has been doing a lot of talking lately concerning the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He has been bragging to his friends that he knows more about the killing than he is "letting on," to the authorities. She stated that he has been bringing people into the rooming house and conducting guided tours, showing them the room in which JOHN WILLARD stayed and a bathroom from where the fatal shot was fired. He has been spoken to by her on several occasions about ceasing his tours and bringing friends into the rooming house, and he told her that he was not taking any orders from her and that he was going to run this rooming house. She stated that several of the boarders have told her that he has been bragging that he is carrying a knife and has a gun in his room. She added that she realizes that CHARLEY STEPHENS is a heavy drinker and has apparently done much of his bragging when he was under the influence of alcohol, but she is frightened of the man and would like to see him leave.

CHARLES STEPHENS, Room 25D, 522 $\frac{1}{2}$  South Main Street, advised that he has provided all of the information to the local police and FBI that he knows of in this case. He stated that he has been very cooperative with the authorities in this matter and knows nothing else about the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He reiterated that he has provided all of the information available to him to the FBI and local police. He stated that he does not carry a knife and he does not have a gun in the room. He stated that he has not been bragging about

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holding back information in this case and that this accusation is completely false.

Mr. STEPHENS was advised of the provisions of the Harboring Statute and advised that he has given all information in this matter previously to the FBI.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 5/22/68

FROM : SA, JAMES M. STOCKTON

91-26544

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Buairtel 5/16/68 set forth information furnished by the St. Louis Office which was obtained from JOHN EUGENE GAWRON.

GAWRON claimed that he taught SUBJECT RAY the art of committing burglary. However, it is noted that RAY has not been arrested or charged with a burglary as shown on his Identification Record.

GAWRON claimed that an unidentified man told him, GAWRON, that the unidentified man and RAY and possibly others had been involved in a bank robbery matter approximately April 1, 1968. He indicated the bank is located in the deep south in a state like Mississippi but not in Mississippi. The amount taken was approximately \$50,000 and the robbers were out of that state within five minutes.

GAWRON indicated that incident occurred in June or July, 1967.

From the wording of the information furnished to Memphis, it is not possible to determine if GAWRON is talking about a burglary or armed robbery of a bank.

It is noted that subject RAY escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary after March 10, 1967, the date of the robbery of the Whitehaven Branch, National Bank of Commerce, by a lone robber. RAY was incarcerated in Missouri Penitentiary at that time.

*Naill Bk of Commerce 48,008.60*

There is no unsolved robbery involving approximately \$50,000 on record with the Memphis Police Department. Likewise, there is no burglary involving a case of that magnitude, with the Memphis PD or Shelby County SO.

It is noted that the description and general location of a city on the east bank of the Mississippi River generally describes the city of Memphis. No such case as mentioned by GAWRON has been discovered within the Memphis area.

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1-CC ME 91-3118  
JMS:

*In Summary  
5/23/68*

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

DATE: 5/27/68

FROM : SA DON C. BIRDWELL

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re memo of SA THOMAS O. RONAN 4/30/68.

It is noted that the only law enforcement agency in the Clarksville RA territory which maintains fingerprint cards on file is the Clarksville PD.

On 5/1/68 Det. Sgt. WILLIE JAMES, Clarksville PD, was supplied with an Identification Order on JAMES EARL RAY and was requested to check the prints of RAY against his unidentified latent fingerprints.

On 5/2/68 Mr. JAMES advised he had compared RAY's prints with all of the unidentified latents of his department with negative results.

All other major law enforcement agencies in the Clarksville RA have been made aware of the Bureau's interest in the apprehension of RAY and all have the IO prominently displayed.

DCB/acp  
*[Signature]*

*in summary  
5/22/68  
W*

44-1987-Sub-189A

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