FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/12/68

Mr. ROBERT GEIGER, 749 Dickinson, Memphis, was interviewed at the Fred P. Gattas Distributing Company, Inc., where he furnished the following information:

He advised that he is employed as a warehouseman and that on April 4, 1968, he came to work at 11:19 a.m., and left at 6:27 p.m. He stated that he left about 5:00 p.m., to go to supper at Jim's Grill, 418 South Main, and returned to work at about 5:30 p.m. While he was at Jim's Grill he noticed nothing which would indicate unusual activity, and stated he could furnish no information in this matter. He did not learn that anything had happened until later on at work when another employee told them to get ready to go home. He recalls that he looked out of the window at that time and saw many police vehicles in the area. He stated that while eating at Jim's Grill he did not recall seeing a white Mustang on South Main Street nor does he recall seeing anyone go up the stairs to the boarding house which is adjacent to the grill. He ate alone and stated that if there were any strangers at Jims he would not have noticed them.

On 4/11/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987 -Sub-D-99

SA EUGENE A. MEDORI, JR.

SA JACK D. VAHRENWALD EAM:raj

by _____ Date dictated 4/11/68

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 Date 4/15/68

Mr. JAMES A. WALKER, JR., 1066 Poplar Avenue, Apartment 3, Memphis, advised he is an assistant buyer for the Tayloe Paper Company, 420 South Front Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

Mr. WALKER advised he left work about 5:15 p.m., on April 4, 1968, and drove his 1962 white Fairlane Ford to the area of Jim's Grill located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis. He stated he arrived at the area of Jim's Grill at approximately 5:20 p.m., and attempted to park in his usual parking place that is near the entrance to Jim's Grill. He said when he pulled up he noticed JOWERS' Cadillac parked in the first parking space just north of the fire hydrant that is near the entrance of Jim's Grill. He said he usually parks in the next parking space, but found that it was occupied by a white Mustang. He said as a result he had to back up and park in the first space just south of the above-mentioned fire hydrant. He said that he noticed prior to parking that BARRY TUBBS' Lincoln Continental was parked in front of the Mustang and that a white Rambler was parked near the corner and in front of the Continental.

Mr. WALKER stated he recalls that this was a 1966 white Mustang hardtop. He said the interior of the car was dark possibly red or black. He said he did not see the license on the car, but looked at the windows to see if there were any stickers. He said he was particularly aware of stickers because he has a habit of looking in the windows of cars to see if they belonged to a particular college fraternity. He said he does not recall seeing any stickers or antenna on the car. He said, however, there could have been an antenna that he did not notice. He said he did not look at the tires or the hubcaps and cannot furnish any other information concerning tires or stickers other than, as he recalls, the car appeared to be slightly dirty or at least not recently washed. He stated he does not recall looking into the car, but is certain that he would have seen a sticker especially on the rear window if there had been any stickers on the window of this Mustang.

On 4/12/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987-Sub-D-100

SA O. JAMES HOLBROOK

by SA HARLEY E. GYLFE HEG:raj Date dictated 4/13/68

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Concerning the Rambler that was parked in front of the Continental, he stated he believes this car belongs to an elderly white man whose name he does not know, but is very likely known by Mr. JOWERS, the owner and operator of Jim's Grill.

Mr. WALKER stated that he was concentrating on playing the pinball machine and the shuffleboard and listening to the jukebox and, therefore, was not aware of any activity that was taking place in that immediate area. He said that sometime later a deputy sheriff came to the door and instructed everyone to stay in the grill. He said the customers in Jim's Grill instructed JOWERS to lock the door so that no one could come in.

After the door was locked they went to the window and looked out and he said he does not recall seeing the Mustang there at that time. He said he is certain the Mustang was gone because he commented that his car was without a ticket on it. He had parked very close to the fire hydrant and possibly too close to be legally parked. He is certain there was another car parked behind him, but he does not recall make, model or color of that car. Mr. WALKER stated he cannot furnish any additional information concerning the car or any activity that occurred in that area.

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FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 25, 1968

1

Mr. FRANK HOLT, 287 Butler Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised he is employed as a trucker's helper to unload trucks at the M. E. Carter Company, 415 South Front Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

Mr. HOLT advised that on the evening of April 4, 1968, he left his residence at approximately 5:45 p.m., walked down to Calhoun Street, right on Calhoun to South Main Street, right on South Main, toward Huling Street.

Mr. HOLT stated that at approximately 6:00 p.m., when he was in front of Jim's Grill, located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, he was instructed by a Memphis police officer or a Shelby County Sheriff's officer to go in Jim's Grill and to stay off the street until further notice.

He stated he did not know, at that time, why he was instructed to enter Jim's Grill.

He said later a police officer requested that he write his name and address on a piece of paper. He said it was shortly after the police officer came into Jim's Grill that he and others in there learned that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot. He said he left Jim's Grill at possibly 7:30 or 8:00 p.m., and went directly to his residence.

Mr. HOLT advised he did not hear the shot that killed MARTIN LUTHER KING. He said he does not recall meeting anyone on the street as he walked from Calhoun on South Main toward Jim's Grill. He said he does not recall seeing any cars parked on the street or driving on the street while he was walking on South Main Street.

Mr. HOLT commented that obviously he met some individuals or saw some individuals on the street and obviously saw cars driving on the street and parked on the street, but he was not aware of any of the activity on the street.

On 4/17/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub-D-101

by SA HARLEY E. GYLFE:tjm Date dictated 4/23/68

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Mr. HOLT said he did not notice any activity because he was concerned about getting to work and, therefore, did not notice what was going on in the immediate area of Jim's Grill.

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FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 Date 4/15/68

Mr. WILLIAM ZENIE (BILL) REED, Room 6, Clarke Hotel, 106 Vance Street, Memphis, advised he is employed as a salesman for a photography firm and is currently working in the Memphis area.

Mr. REED stated that on April 4, 1968, he and RAY HENDRICKS stopped at Jim's Grill, 418 South Main Street, for something to eat. He said he was in Jim's Grill for sometime and feels that he arrived there at approximately 4:30 p.m., and believes that he left between 5:15 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. He said when he left he picked up his hat and he and RAY HENDRICKS paid their check and left Jim's Grill. He said that they left the entrance of Jim's Grill and proceeded north on South Main Street for a few feet when RAY HENDRICKS remembered he left his jacket in Jim's Grill.

Mr. REED stated he waited in front of Jim's Grill while HENDRICKS went back for his jacket. He commented that while waiting he looked and saw a white Mustang was parked near the entrance of Jim's Grill. Mr. REED stated he does not have a car and is inthe market for a car and was considering buying a Mustang and, therefore, he looked this car over.

He said he believed the car was an off-white color, that it was not dirty, but was not exactly clean either. He said he believes this car had not been recently washed. He said he does not recall the color of the interior, but believes that it was a dark color. He said he does not recall seeing anything inside the car other than five cartons lying on the back seat. He described these cartons as being the size of ten package cigarette carton. He said these cartons were red and white in color, but does not remember any lettering on the cartons nor does he remember whether the white or the red was predominant. He said when he saw these cartons he felt that the owner of this car was probably a traveling salesman.

Mr. REED stated he does not know whether or not any stickers were in the window of this car and he did not look

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On 4/13/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987-Sub-D-162

by SA HARLEY E. GYLFE/raj Date dictated 4/13/68

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at the license. He said he does not recall if this Mustang had whitewall tires and if it had wheel covers.

Mr. REED stated that after HENDRICKS obtained his jacket from Jim's Grill they proceeded north on South Main and walked on the east side of South Main Street. He said when they arrived at the intersection of Vance and South Main he was about ready to walk off the curb when for some unknown reason he looked around to see if there were any cars coming. He said as he looked back he saw a white Mustang about ready to turn the corner and go east on Vance from South Main Street. He said he does not know if this is the same car he saw parked in front of Jim's Grill, but added it seemed to be the same car. He said he did not see who was in the car, but believes it was a white male with white shirt, but does not recall if this individual had a tie or hat on. He said he had the impression this person was not young, but was not old. He said he would have no way of estimating the age of this person.

Mr. REED said the Mustang proceeded east down Vance Street and he has no idea where the car went after it turned the corner.

Mr. REED stated that he went to his room and that he had been in his room for quite some time, possibly as much as 15 minutes, when he heard numerous sirens in the immediate area going down toward Jim's Grill. He said he learned later that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot and that the sirens he heard were from officers going to that immediate area.

Mr. REED advised he cannot furnish any additional information concerning any cars parked on the street or any people in that immediate area.

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FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 25, 1968

Mr. RAY ALVIS HENDRIX, Room 14, Clark's Hotel, 106 Vance Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he is employed by the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Government, on the dredge "Ockerson." Mr. HENDRIX stated he works about six months of nice weather and is off the other six months of the year.

Mr. HENDRIX stated that on the evening of April 4, 1968, he and BILL REED, who resides in Room 4 of this hotel, ate their dinner at Jim's Grill, located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

He stated they left the grill at approximately 5:30 p.m., and slowly walked to the Clark's Hotel. He said they walked on the east side of South Main Street. Mr. HENDRIX commented that when they left Jim's Grill, he forgot his jacket and had to return for the jacket. He said he learned later that while he was getting his jacket, BILL REED looked at a white Mustang that was parked almost in front of Jim's Grill. He said he did not notice this Mustang or any other cars parked in front of Jim's Grill. He stated, however, that when he and BILL REED approached the intersection of Vance and South Main Street, BILL REED pulled him back to the curb because a car was turning the corner. He said this car was a white Mustang and that after the car turned the corner, BILL REED commented to him that this was the Mustang that was parked in front of Jim's Grill, which he looked at while he, HENDRIX, was retrieving his jacket.

Mr. HENDRIX stated he did not see who was in the car, but believes there was only one person. He said he could not describe him and would not be able to identify the driver of this car.

Mr. HENDRIX stated that as they were returning to their rooms or possibly were just entering their rooms, they heard sirens in the immediate area and going south on South Main Street. He said he learned later that the sirens

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On 4/17/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987 - Sub D-103

by SA HARLEY E. GYLFE:tjm Date dictated 4/23/68

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were from police cars that were going to the scene of the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He said as near as he can recall, he heard the sirens about 6:00 p.m., or just a few minutes after 6:00 p.m., on April 4, 1968.

Mr. HENDRIX stated that the Mustang that turned the corner and proceeded east on Vance Street, did not turn the corner very fast or make the tires squeal. He said he did not watch which way the Mustang turned or how far it traveled on Vance Street.

Mr. HENDRIX also stated he cannot furnish any information as to the cars parked or traveling in the immediate area of Jim's Grill at the time that he and BILL REED left. He also stated he cannot furnish any information concerning individuals in the immediate area of Jim's Grill at the time he left to return to his room.

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FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/19/68

Records of St. Joseph Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee, contain the following information concerning the admittance and treatment of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. on the evening of April 4, 1968:

"EMERGENCY ROOM SUMMARY - Dr. Martin Luther King

"The following is an Emergency room Summary on Dr. Martin Luther King who was brought into the Emergency room by an ambulance stretcher at approximately 6:15 p.m. on 4/4/68 immediately following an apparent gunshot wound of the right side of the face and neck.

"At the time of the patient's admission to the Emergency room Dr. Ted Galyon was in attendance in the Emergency room talking to the nurse about an out-patient who had just left the Emergency room. He went directly into Room #1, where the patient was, with Mrs. Steinkirch, Emergency room nurse and finding the patient totally unconcious flat on his back in the supine position with his head turned slightly to the left side. There was a large gaping wound in the root of the neck on the right side which was not actively bleeding at the time of his initial arrival. There was much blood on his clothes, neck and shoulder. His head was partially covered with a towel over the area of the wound.

"Dr. Galyon immediately secured a stethoscope, detected a palpable heart beat and radial pulse and started a cutdown over the left antecubital vein which was done immediately for fluids. These were started while blood was ordered from the Laboratory for resuscitation. A second cutdown was started in the ankle in the saphenous vein by Dr. John Reisser for blood which was infused under pressure. The surgical resident, Dr. Rufus Brown came in at 6:18 p.m. and

On 4/19/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987-Sub-D-104

by SA HOWARD D. TETEN / jms Date dictated 4/19/68

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because of the massive defect in the wound and no respiration a tracheotomy was started. Dr. Barrasso came in at 6:22 p.m. and completed the tracheotomy and a cuffed endotracheal tube was inserted. Assisted respiration was then carried out on this patient. Following the re-establishment of an airway on this patient, the heart was again auscultated and very little tone could be heard. An EKG was immediately ordered by Dr. Galyon and Dr. Barrasso and the strip showed very poor to no function. Intracardiac Adrenalin was immediately injected and closed chest cardiac massage begun.

"In the meantime, exploration of the neck was carried out by Drs. Barrasso and Galyon who found that the jugular vein on the right was severed. A large artery, which was felt to be probably subclavian, was shredded and sticking up into the wound with very little bleeding at this time. In addition, there was much bubbling and a portion of the right apex of the lung was bulging through the wound.

"On further exploration a defect in the vertebral bodies of C7 to T2 was present with complete loss of spinal cord substance. Dr. Fred Gioia was then called to confirm this diagnosis and attempts to secure closure of the chest cavity by packing and clamping of the vessels was done. A right closed thoracotomy tube was inserted in an attempt to drain the blood from the right chest and re-expand the lung. Immediately on insertion of the tube 1000 cc. of blood was obtained from the right chest cavity. At the time Dr. Gioia confirmed the diagnosis of loss of spinal cord substance. This patient's pupils were massively dilated with no reaction.

"Dr. Joe Wilhite, a chest surgeon, was also called in attendance and consultation. Dr. Julian Fleming came to the Emergency room at our request and an EKG strip was done which showed no function. The cardiac massage was continued with all resuscitative efforts being continued for approximately 50 minutes, during which time we had had no response of any kind of vital signs and patient was pronounced dead at 7:05 p.m. by Dr. Barrasso.

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"Post mortem X-rays of cervical area were done.

"Final presumptive diagnosis:
Gunshot wound of right side of face and neck with compound fracture rt. mandible, severance of right jugular vein and probable severance right subclavian artery, defect right pleural apex with hemopneumothorax, defect in C7 - T2 vertebral bodies on right with loss of spinal cord substance."

These records are confidential and are available only by a subpoena duces tecum. Should it be necessary to utilize this information in Federal Court, the subpoena should be directed to J. LUTON, Assistant Administrator, St. Joseph Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 19, 1968

Dr. JERRY T. FRANCISCO, Shelby County Medical Examiner, Room 529, 858 Madison Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished four copies each of five color photographs which show the upper torso of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. Dr. FRANCISCO stated that he personally took these photographs on the night of April 4, 1968, during a postmortem examination of Dr. KING. The photographs are described as follows:

1) Close-up showing entry wound on right side of victim's face and neck.

2) Showing right side of victim's head and neck and relative position of entry wound.

3) Showing entry wound path.

4) Showing missile after removal from victim.

5) Showing victim's back and point at which missile came to rest.

On 4/18/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub-D-105

by SA HOWARD D. TETEN:LF Date dictated 4/19/68

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/20/68

CHARLIE HARTZELL, Manager, Dance Club International, 3355 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, furnished the following information:

He stated that he managed the Continental Dance Studio, New Orleans, Louisiana, owned by MARLIN MEYERS, from January, 1964, through August, 1965. He advised that he knew all students who attended Continental Dance Studio during his tenure, and stated he did not recall anyone by the name of ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMEYER, or JOHN WILLARD attending his school at New Orleans.

He advised that his job was to collect weekly payments of students enrolled in dance courses, and advised he felt sure that if GALT did attend any classes at New Orleans, he would certainly recall his name.

He stated that MARLIN MEYERS had numerous photos of students taken at each weekly function and if GALT did attend the studio, MEYERS would most likely have a picture of GALT at the dance studio in New Orleans.

HARTZELL advised that Continental Dance Studio carried its own notes and did not discount or sell the papers to another agency. In view of this he stated if GALT did attend dance lessons at New Orleans, MEYERS should have a copy of his contract.

HARTZELL stated that the following individuals were dance instructors at the Continental Dance Studio during his tenure there:

FRANK DE SIMONE,
1242 Elysian Fields,
New Orleans, Louisiana;

CORBET DUKON
Address Unknown;

On 4/17/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987-Sub-D-106

by SA ANDREW SLOAN and
SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK RF/bbs Date dictated 4/20/68

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HARRY DUNN,
2300 NW 93rd Terrace,
Miami, Florida;

ARTHUR WOLFSON,
Chicago, Illinois;

BILL LANDPHEIRE
Address Unknown;

BOB STRICKLAND,
Sarasota, Florida;

LUELLA LUTZ, Financial Backer,
119 S. Clayborn,
New Orleans, Louisiana;

JACKIE COURVILLE,
2601 Corondolet
New Orleans, Louisiana.

A photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT was displayed to HARTZELL and he stated that he did not recognize this photo as being identical with any of his students who attended Continental Dance Studios, New Orleans, during his tenure there.

HARTZELL provided a list of students at his dance studio in New Orleans from January, 1965, through August, 1965:

FRED PUTFARK
VICTOR BETZ
Mr. CORMIER
Mrs. GERTEIS
CAROL ROBBINS
Mr. GENTILLY
Mrs. GENTILLY
Mr. QUELLETTE
DAVID NUMA
Mr. DE BORE
Mrs. DE BORE

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Mr. ESTEP
Mrs. ESTEP
ELIZABETH BARTH
Mrs. COBURM
Mrs. LURIA
Mrs. WEIL
Mrs. WALLACE
Mr. YOUNG
Mr. HARDOCK
Mr. BERINGER
Mr. BENSON
Mr. REUTHER
Mrs. LARIOS
Mr. THILOTSON
Mr. PSILOS
Mr. SLATTERY
Mr. YAGER
Mr. WALL
Mr. FISHER
Mr. WIGGINS
WALTER MOELLER
A Man
Miss IVEY
Mrs. COUCH
Mrs. DIPAOLA
Mrs. LAWRENCE
Mrs. FAUBION
Mr. STRICKLAND
Mrs. THOMES
Mr. JACOBS
A Man
Mrs. HERNANDEZ
Mrs. GRIEBS
Mrs. JO DAUZAT
Mr. HURRY
WARREN JACOB
Mr. MURPHY
Mrs. BONER
Mrs. LIVAUDAIS
Mrs. SHOWMACHER
NELLIE DEAN
NINA ROLLAND
LOUIS HUFF
HERRING ELVA
JEANETTE HEARTY
MARIE GUEDRY

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JOE MAESE
Mrs. M. BOURGEOIS
Mr. MONTALBAN
Mrs. MONTALBAN
E. D. CARAWAY
Mr. MUNDI
Mrs. MUNDI
FLO DAVIS
WARREN MOORE
Mrs. MARTINO
Mr. CUNNINGHAM
RAMONA CLAXTON
Mr. LOPER
A Man
MERCEDES RUSSELL
J. L. KEPPLE
A Man
Mr. BENNETT
CAROL RIVIERE
Mrs. O'ROURKE
Miss JOSEPH
Mr. HOFFMAN
Mr. BARQUERO
Mr. MC KENZIE
Mr. NUNGUESSER
Mrs. ANDRY
Mr. WILLIAMS
Mrs. FASSBINDER
Mrs. PENEGUY
Mr. CURRIER
Mr. SHELHAMER
Mr. BONNER
Mr. BRYAN
Mr. LAMBERT
Mr. PARKER
LOLITA NELSON
PETER MADERE
Mr. GERBER

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/26/68

1

Mr. HARRY SERO, 295 North McNeil, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he is former inmate No. 01903J at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), Jefferson City, Missouri.

SERO said he first came to Memphis, Tennessee, on about January 13, 1962, at which time he was wanted in Missouri for having violated his parole from the MSP. Upon his arrival in Memphis he went to work as a house remodeler, later working in a Gulf service station at the corner of Jefferson and Lauderdale Streets. SERO took over management of this station in about April 1962 and operated it until November 21, 1962, at which time he left Memphis after having gotten into trouble with the local police for having written some bad checks. SERO said he first went from Memphis to Pennsylvania to visit relatives and continued to run until he finally settled in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and went to work in a Texaco service station.

On February 14, 1964, SERO was arrested in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and was returned to the MSP where he was put in "B" block. He remained there from sometime in February 1964 until about June 12, 1964, at which time SERO was turned over on rendition to the State of Tennessee.

During the approximately four months that SERO was in the MSP he became friendly with JAMES EARL RAY. SERO also was acquainted with another inmate, one RAYMOND CURTIS, who has recently talked to newspaper reporters concerning his association with RAY. SERO said he can recall making the statement in the presence of RAY and CURTIS and other inmates that while he, SERO, had been in Memphis some unknown individual had speculated that if MARTIN LUTHER KING had ever attempted an economic boycott in the city of Memphis, it would be worth a large amount of money to Memphis businessmen to have KING killed. SERO said this conversation had actually taken place in his presence in Memphis but it had been mere speculation and had had no basis in fact. He said he later related this conversation to his prisonmates merely to make conversation and had not intended to imply that any person

On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub-D-167

by SA JOE C. HESTER:mnr Date dictated 4/26/68

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or group of persons had or were even contemplating placing a bounty on MARTIN LUTHER KING.

SERO stated that after being returned to Tennessee he was sentenced to three years for uttering forged checks and was incarcerated in the Tennessee State Penitentiary at Ft. Pillow. He said he believes he also related this same speculative conversation to inmates at the Ft. Pillow Prison.

SERO described JAMES EARL RAY as a "hayseed" and a "born loser." He said that to his knowledge RAY had never successfully gotten away with any criminal offense, and it was his belief that RAY had been detected and apprehended following each of his criminal offenses. He said it was his recollection that RAY had a great dislike for Negroes but he cannot recall that he particularly disliked MARTIN LUTHER KING. He said he would not describe RAY as a loner but would simply say he would not know how to make friends or how to mix with other persons. He said that RAY was a regular user of amphetamines in prison but he did not know him to use other narcotics, and he recalled that RAY had mentioned taking narcotic pills prior to being incarcerated.

SERO said that RAY has a deep need for recognition and that he idolizes notorious criminals who are the subjects of wide-spread publicity. He said that when he considers RAY's need for recognition and then considers his dislike for Negroes, it is believable that RAY might have killed MARTIN LUTHER KING for no monitary gain.

He said that RAY had no important criminal connections to his knowledge as criminals of this type would not bother to associate with RAY. He said RAY never talked about his family but did indicate on one occasion that he had friends in Kansas City, Missouri. SERO said he has not heard from RAY since he left MSP, and he has no idea where he might be at present.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/20/68

LAWRENCE CHANCELOR HOWELL, 1888 Denison Street, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone 682-9840, employed at the Federal Aviation Agency, Democrat Road, Memphis, furnished the following information:

HOWELL advised that he resided in Room 23 in a rooming house at 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, from approximately September 11, 1967, until October 3, 1967. Mr. HOWELL advised that while in this rooming house, he was not acquainted with any individual named GALT, and when shown artist's conceptions of GALT, he could not recall having seen anyone of a similar appearance at the rooming house.

On 4/16/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub-D-108

by SA ROBERT W. GOODWIN and SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK: RF/bbs/wp Date dictated 4/20/68

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FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/29/68

LAWRENCE CHANCELOR HOWELL, 1888 Denison Street, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone 682-9840, employed at the Federal Aviation Agency, Democrat Road, Memphis, was reinterviewed and furnished the following additional information:

HOWELL advised that he resided in Room 23 in a rooming house at 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, from approximately September 11, 1967, until October 3, 1967. Mr. HOWELL advised that while in this rooming house, he was not acquainted with any individual named GALT or JAMES EARL RAY. HOWELL was shown a photograph of RAY, and he stated that he still could not recall having seen anyone of a similar appearance at the rooming house.

On 4/19/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub-D-109

by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK:vp Date dictated 4/25/68

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/30/68

Lieutenant A. S. ZELINSKI, Inspectional Bureau, Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he and Lieutenant J. L. HARRISON met Memphis City Engineer ARTHUR C. HOLBROOK, P. E., Tennessee License No. 5173, and a surveying crew at the Lorraine Motel on April 23, 1968, at 8:30 a.m. Certain engineering measurements were subsequently taken.

Lieutenant ZELINSKI advised that an engineer's transit was placed over the spot where Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was shot, the telescope being positioned 59 inches above the balcony floor. This height was based on information contained in the autopsy report of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., which indicated that the missile entered his body at a point 59 inches above the right heel with the head positioned to correspond with the path of the missile. He stated that the point where Dr. KING was standing when shot was indicated to them by Reverend JAMES BEVEL, a representative of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, who was staying at the Lorraine Motel.

From this position, two triangles were established with a baseline common to the two triangles established and measured. Every effort was made to ensure accuracy. It was determined that the level distance from the second floor rear bathroom window sill of 422½ South Main Street to the point where Dr. KING was standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel was 206.36 feet and the in-line distance from the window sill to the point where Dr. KING was standing was 207.02 feet. The window sill at the rear of 422½ South Main was determined to be 16.63 feet higher than a point 59 inches above the floor of the balcony of the Lorraine Motel at the location Dr. KING was standing when he was shot. The downward angle of the direct in-line distance from the second floor window sill at the rear of 422½ South Main to a point 59 inches above the balcony of the Lorraine Motel at the point where Dr. KING was standing was determined to be 4 degrees 36 minutes 25 seconds.

On 4/29/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub-D-110

by SA HOWARD D. TETEN:wp Date dictated 4/30/68

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FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/6/68

Mr. RALPH MEREDITH CARPENTER, 4844 Durbin Street, Memphis, Tennessee, a salesman for the York Arms Company located at 162 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, was shown pictures of the following individuals:

LAURELL DELVIN ROWELL, taken February 3, 1962, by the Sheriff's Department, Bossier Parish, La., and having Number 01980;

HUGH MARTIN PLATA, FBI No. 15316B;

THOMAS ALBERT TARRANTS, III, FBI No. 992582E; picture taken December 22, 1967;

JOHN REESE, not further identified;

TRUMAN OSWELL WILLIAMS, not further identified;

FRED JOHN DAVIS, FBI No. 462547D;

RICHARD HAROLD DAVIS, not further identified;

ROBERT C. COLLINS, not further identified;

BILLY WAYNE SINCLAIR, No. 21041, taken September 7, 1965, by the Police Department, Monroe, Louisiana;

KENNETH LOUIS LAKAMSKI, taken by the Sheriff's Department at Dallas, Texas, having No. 142350;

EUGENE JENKINS, FBI No. 659293B;

JOHN RILEY MEADOW, FBI No. 480347B;

Mr. CARPENTER did not identify any of these individuals as being the person to whom he sold a Bushnell 7 by 35 binocular on the afternoon of April 4, 1968.

On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File# Memphis 44-1987 Sub-D-111

by SAs RALPH J. LIEWER and ROBERT W. GOODWIN: RJL:gmh Date dictated 4/5/68

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FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub D-111

by SAs RALPH J. LIEWER and ROBERT W. GOODWIN: RJL:gmh Date dictated 4/5/68

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FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/9/68

Mr. EDWARD J. FITZPATRICK, Senior Resident Agent, Naval Investigative Service Office, Federal Office Building, Memphis, Tennessee, telephonically advised as follows:

At the request of Major A. E. TOLER, Commanding Officer, Marine Aviation Detachment, Naval Air Station, Millington, Tennessee, he conducted an investigation at the Naval Air Station, Millington, as follows:

A marine PFC, MICHAEL STEVEN SLOAN, who is presently based at the Naval Air Station, Millington, told his commanding officer about a conversation he had had with an associate on approximately March 18, 1968. This associate is another marine at the Naval Air Station in Millington by the name of WILLIAM FREDERICK TATROE, JR. On March 18, 1968, TATROE, in conversation with SLOAN, mentioned that he has a distant cousin who is an ex-marine and this cousin had contacted SLOAN on that date via telephone and mentioned the possibility of a "job" which could be worth $20,000 to TATROE. His cousin had stated that TATROE would have to be a "good shot". TATROE had the understanding the "job" involved shooting. The unidentified cousin then told TATROE that he would fly up from Florida to talk to TATROE about the job. Subsequently that same day, believed to be March 18, 1968, this cousin telephoned TATROE at 10:00 p.m., stating he was in Mississippi and that he had had to "sit down" in Mississippi because of airplane engine trouble. TATROE surmised that his cousin was using a rented plane. TATROE told SLOAN that on one occasion while talking to this cousin the cousin had stated that if he saw KING, meaning MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., he would "shoot the black bastard". No more was said relative to TATROE's conversation with his cousin after that time until the morning of April 5, 1968, when SLOAN remarked to TATROE as follows: "Looks like your cousin got to him", meaning MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. TATROE's reaction was one of surprise and he made some explanation and then stated that his cousin had an interest in guns and owns a 30-06 rifle and a white Mustang and is an ex-marine. In addition, TATROE told SLOAN he had heard this

On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub D-42

by SA RALPH J. LIEWER:cjs Date dictated 4/9/68

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

cousin express an interest in "professional assassination".

The following is data supplied by Mr. FITZPATRICK relative to MICHAEL STEVEN SLOAN:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
Height	5'4"
Weight	140
Build	Slight
Hair	Light brown
Complexion	Ruddy
DOB	
POB	Kokomo, Indiana
U.S. Marine Corps SN	2398770
Rank	PFC
Present military service residence	Marine Aviation Detachment Barracks, Naval Air Station, S-18, bunk 27, cubicle 5, section 1
Wife	CAROL LEE SLOAN, Nee NOEL
Her residence	759 South Sixth, East Salt Lake City, Utah
SLOAN's permanent residence	17 East 5300 South Murray, Salt Lake City, Utah
Father	ROBERT PAUL SLOAN, 17 East 5300 South Murray, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Mr. FITZPATRICK described WILLIAM FREDERICK TATROE, JR, as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
Age	21
DOB	
POB	Lansing, Michigan
Height	5'10"
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Hazel

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

U.S. Marine Corps SN 2381873
Rank PFC
Social Security No.
Selective Service No. [redacted],
Local Board 54, Port Washington, Wisconsin

Wife JANE ALICE TATROE
Address of TATROE and wife 7126 Millington-Arlington Road, Millington, Tennessee

Permanent address 262 East Monroe, Port Washington, Wisconsin, which is also the address of TATROE's parents.

Mr. FITZPATRICK further stated that SLOAN, whom he had interviewed, believed TATROE's cousin is a "distant cousin". TATROE has stated to SLOAN that his cousin has traveled extensively and TATROE told SLOAN that he receives $100 checks from this cousin. SLOAN saw one $100 handwritten green check in TATROE's possession on April 2, 1968. SLOAN did not see who made this check nor know where TATROE got it. TATROE has told SLOAN his cousin is a "rotten so and so" but SLOAN does not believe TATROE told him all this for any reasons of revenge or a desire to "get even" with this cousin. TATROE had told SLOAN not to "spread this around".

Mr. FITZPATRICK stated he evaluates SLOAN as a reasonably intelligent individual, not motivated by any desire for publicity, reasonably truthful, and in reasonably good financial condition.

SLOAN evaluates TATROE as seemingly straight forward and not the type to fabricate a story.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/9/68

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub D-113

by SA RALPH J. LIEWER:cjs Date dictated 4/9/68

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Nationality	American
Height	5'4"
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Complexion	Ruddy
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POB	Kokomo, Indiana
U.S. Marine Corps SN	2398770
Rank	PFC
Present military service residence	Marine Aviation Detachment Barracks, Naval Air Station, S-18, bunk 27, cubicle 5, section 1
Wife	CAROL LEE SLOAN, Nee NOEL
Her residence	759 South Sixth, East Salt Lake City, Utah
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Height	5'10"
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Hazel

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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Rank	PFC
Social Security No.	[redacted]
Selective Service No.	Local Board 54, Port Washington, Wisconsin
Wife	JANE ALICE TATROE
Address of TATROE and wife	7126 Millington-Arlington Road, Millington, Tennessee
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FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/10/68

GENE PEARSON CRAWFORD, 32-B Westwood Gardens, Jackson, Tennessee, home telephone 424-3415, was interviewed by Lieutenant J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON in a Bureau automobile on the morning of April 5, 1968, at which time he furnished the following information:

He hitchhiked from Jackson, Tennessee, to Memphis, Tennessee, on the early morning of April 4, 1968, catching a ride with an individual who stated he was from Medina, Tennessee, and who was hauling some pigs from his home to a 4-H Club affair of some kind being held at the Fairgrounds in Memphis. During the previous night and until CRAWFORD caught a ride, he stated that he stood underneath an expressway overpass at Highway 20 and Interstate 40 near Jackson, Tennessee, having stood underneath this overpass because it was raining. He arrived in Memphis about 7:30 a.m. He had only a couple of dollars in his pocket. He therefore went to Baptist Memorial Hospital and sold a pint of blood for $15. He produced a receipt reflecting that he did appear at this hospital on April 4, 1968.

From the Baptist Hospital he caught a taxicab to the Wynne Hotel, a rooming house at 390½ South Main Street, Memphis,where he has stayed before when he was in Memphis. He checked into that hotel around 9:30 or 10:00 a.m., remaining in his room most of the day. He ate only one meal during the entire day, consisting of sausage, eggs, and iced lemonade. He would estimate this was around 2:00 p.m., he having eaten at a cafe known as Jim's Cafe in the immediate vicinity of the Wynne Hotel.

While he was at the Baptist Hospital, he had made a number of telephone calls to various persons and firms in Memphis attempting to get a ride "to California." He first looked at the Commercial Appeal to find the names of persons or firms who were seeking drivers of automobiles to the West Coast. He recalls that he talked to a firm known as Insured Driveways or some similar name

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987 Sub ID-123

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

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on Summer Avenue, and he also talked to some man named HUTTON who had this type ad in the newspaper. One of the persons he had called suggested that he call back around 6:00 p.m. to clarify whether or not he would be permitted to drive an automobile to California. Therefore, just prior to 6:00 p.m., he left his room in the rooming house and walked to the Ambassador Hotel, which is located about a block north of the Wynne Hotel. He stated there is no pay telephone in the rooming house known as the Wynne Hotel, and he did not want to bother the landlady, who has a private phone in her room. He made several additional calls based upon ads in the paper and telephone numbers he had previously called, at the Ambassador Hotel.

Around 6:00 p.m. as he left the Ambassador Hotel to return to his room, there was considerable excitement in the area, but he did not know the cause of this excitement. He stated he recalls seeing several men in the front of the Ambassador Hotel. He also recalls that there were two girls standing out on the sidewalk and he saw some police officers in the vicinity. He also recalls seeing an ambulance pass. He stated he does not recall seeing any man running in any direction and cannot recall what the traffic situation was. He stated he did not see any car speed away from the area and does not recall seeing a white Mustang at all.

He stated he walked south on Main Street to the Wynne Hotel, where he returned to his room and did not leave again until the morning of April 5, 1968. He stated that upon returning to the Wynne Hotel, he learned that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING reportedly had been shot at a motel nearby. He stated that he neither heard nor observed anything whatever which in his opinion would have any bearing on the shooting of Dr. KING.

CRAWFORD stated that he would gladly furnish any information or cooperate in any manner in order that he could immediately be eliminated as having anything to do with the shooting of Dr. KING. He stated that he would be glad to display the contents of his luggage, which consisted of one attache type brief case containing various papers, toilet articles, two dirty shirts, undergarments, and socks, and one cardboard box containing

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a new radio inside a cellophane wrapper.

He stated he has traveled a great deal in the past and always "travels light." He stated that he expected to be hitchhiking and simply could not afford to carry much in the way of clothing. As to why he was carrying a new portable radio in a cardboard box, he stated that a day or so before, he had traded for this radio in Little Rock, Arkansas, and had the radio with him so that he could pawn it or sell it and get additional money for food while en route to California hitchhiking.

Among the various papers in the above-mentioned attache case was a yellow, lined pad, the first four pages of which contained handwriting, preceded by the date, March 25, 1968. The contents of the writing on this pad follow:

"March 25, 1968

"I got up at 5:50 AM from my bed at home where I had spent the weekend. This had been one of the pleasantest times at home for me since my marriage to Margaret nine years ago. Indeed the way Margaret had acted this weekend made it a refreshing time for me though deep within I knew that a sweeping change was immenent. A change that would affect not only her life and mine but all of our people and many scattered thoughout our country. I almost did not go home for the weekend but I was hoping right up to the last moment that someway I could avoid having to sever my relations with everyone and everything I have known and loved. (I only hope now that this separation and the road ahead for me will bring the peace and fellowship with God which I want and must have above anything else. For years I have prayed that God would allow me to suffer in any way. In whatever way He desired. I have hoped He would so order things that I might be drawn closer to Him and that my life might become a pleasure to Him.) Now the axe has fallen! I am chopped away from family and home and likely never to be with my loved ones again. I am a fugitive. Like the first murderer, I have slain the tender flower of trust. I have trodden down that which was lovely. Alas! I choke as I feel her tears soak

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through my clothing as she nestles in my arms. My hands feel strange. There is a coldness in my veins. A chill hangs icily over the room. My children call for me. They ask for me but I am not there. Am I dead? Do I live? What is there left for me? Will I be chased and cornered and finally penned up like an animal? Other questions--other misgivings, doubts, and fears pound and pound and dizzyly I go on and on and on."

CRAWFORD voluntarily made these pages available, stating that this was "something of a diary" that he had been keeping, adding that all of the writing on these pages was his and he had prepared the material at different times. He stated that he has always considered writing a book. He advised that at the present time he is not only having domestic difficulties at home but also faces financial disaster, particularly because he owes approximately $1,000 to his employer, The Relax-A-Cizor Company of Los Angeles, California, he having made sales and collected money which he has not turned in to the company. He stated that this was the reason he was en route to California, adding that he intended to go to Los Angeles and talk to an official there about making some arrangements to repay the $1,000 which he does not have.

He stated that the references in the above quoted "diary" to murder, to his being a "fugitive," and similar remarks were merely figures of speech which he had used while sitting alone in his room and brooding over his financial and domestic situation. He stated that he has previously served time in the penitentiary as a result of embezzling postal funds while in the military service, and he fears that he may face prosecution as a result of having not turned in money which he has received from customers and which money belongs to his employer.

He stated that he does not have a weapon and has never been charged with any type of violence or harmed anyone in any manner. He stated that he is not a member of any organization or in sympathy with any organization which advocates violence or which has a point of view with regard to race. He stated that he

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has no animosity toward any person or any group of persons. He stated that he has never been confined to any institution and has never received psychiatric treatment, but he volunteered the statement that he is aware that he needs psychiatric help.

CRAWFORD stated that he would be more than happy to accompany officers of the Memphis Police Department to the Central Police Station where he would attempt to furnish additional information to clarify his presence in Memphis and to establish that he had nothing whatever to do with the shooting of Dr. KING and that he had no knowledge whatever which would be of assistance in identifying the person who shot Dr. KING.

The following descriptive and background information was obtained during the interview with CRAWFORD:

Name	GENE PEARSON CRAWFORD
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Jackson, Tennessee
Height	5'7"
Weight	150 pounds
Hair	Light brown
Eyes	Blue
Education	Equivalent of high school diploma (as result of G.E.D. test)
Military Service	Served in U. S. Navy under Navy Serial No. 7838809 on two different occasions, first from about January 1945 to June 1946 and again entered military service September 1, 1950, during Korean War. Stated volunteered both times but during latter service was court-martialed as detailed hereafter.

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Tennessee
Driver's License 3134957
Selective Service [redacted]
Marital Status Stated has been married four times as follows:
(1) present wife is MARGARET CRAWFORD, nee LITTON, to whom married 9 years. She now resides 32-B Westwood Gardens, Jackson, Tennessee, with her son by a previous marriage, JIMMY FULBRIGHT, and a daughter by CRAWFORD, [redacted], age 6;
(2) NAOMI TURNER of Jackson, Tennessee, to whom he was married about one month in about 1957;
(3) LOUISE BELCH, to whom he was married about 5 years, by whom he has 2 children, [redacted]A. age about 14, and [redacted], age 17 or 18. This wife remarried to CHARLES A. WROBLESKI and resides in St. Clair Shores, Michigan;
(4) GERALDINE MORGAN, first wife, from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, no children.

Employment (1) has been part-time salesman for The Relax-A-Cizor Company, 980 North LaCienega Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, since April 1967
(2) dispatcher for Transports, 238 Madison, Memphis, a company which operates buses between Millington and Memphis. Employed by this firm two different periods, first from October 1964 to June 1966 and again about 6 months from about January 1967 to about July 1967.

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Employment, continued

(3) has also worked part time for Central Hearing Service selling hearing aids since about September 1967

Addresses

(1) 32-B Westwood Gardens, Jackson, Tennessee, telephone 424-3415, since September 1967;
(2) has downstairs apartment at 1464 Madison, Memphis, which he rented January 19, 1968, and where rent was due March 19, 1968, but he moved out before rent due. Kept this apartment because he was working in Memphis and stated his wife knew he had this apartment;
(3) 787 Leath, Memphis, Tennessee, prior to moving to Jackson in September 1967. Premises believed to be owned by former policeman named FRANK BRUNO, who was killed in Memphis.
(4) Apartment 9, 2641 North Watkins, about one year
(5) Apartment 5, 2641 North Watkins, in same apartment project as 2641 North Watkins
(6) Stated that he stayed at room in rooming house, 2204 Battery, Little Rock, Arkansas, several days prior to April 5, 1968, being in Little Rock selling Relax-A-Cizors, being at that address when he purchased 1958 Ford station wagon mentioned hereafter.

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Arrest Record

Stated he was convicted U. S. District Court, Memphis, in 1952 for Grand Larceny and Embezzlement and sentenced to 7 years as result of his having embezzled and cashed money orders while he was in the military service, he having been a postal clerk in the service. Served most of his time in U. S. Penitentiary, Terre Haute, Indiana.

Automobiles

Had receipt in his billfold for a 1958 Ford station wagon purchased from Rowe Motor Sales, Little Rock, Arkansas, on March 27, 1968, for $49, Vehicle Identification Number shown as B8MX119674 (Stated car is at home of his wife's father, G. F. LITTON, Route 1, Jackson, Tennessee.)

[redacted]

Stated that for about past year he has owned and operated a 1965 light blue Comet which he purchased from Ford Credit Company, 2400 Poplar, Memphis, as a repossessed car and in last several days he turned that car in to that company because he could not pay for it.

Miscellaneous

Stated he does not drink or smoke; frequently cried during interview; neatly dressed in gray hound's tooth type suit, white shirt and tie, bareheaded.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

D-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/10/68

GENE PEARSON CRAWFORD, 32-B Westwood Gardens, Jackson, Tennessee, home telephone 424-3415, was interviewed by Lieutenant J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON in a Bureau automobile on the morning of April 5, 1968, at which time he furnished the following information:

He hitchhiked from Jackson, Tennessee, to Memphis, Tennessee, on the early morning of April 4, 1968, catching a ride with an individual who stated he was from Medina, Tennessee, and who was hauling some pigs from his home to a 4-H Club affair of some kind being held at the Fairgrounds in Memphis. During the previous night and until CRAWFORD caught a ride, he stated that he stood underneath an expressway overpass at Highway 20 and Interstate 40 near Jackson, Tennessee, having stood underneath this overpass because it was raining. He arrived in Memphis about 7:30 a.m. He had only a couple of dollars in his pocket. He therefore went to Baptist Memorial Hospital and sold a pint of blood for $15. He produced a receipt reflecting that he did appear at this hospital on April 4, 1968.

From the Baptist Hospital he caught a taxicab to the Wynne Hotel, a rooming house at 390½ South Main Street, Memphis, where he has stayed before when he was in Memphis. He checked into that hotel around 9:30 or 10:00 a.m., remaining in his room most of the day. He ate only one meal during the entire day, consisting of sausage, eggs, and iced lemonade. He would estimate this was around 2:00 p.m., he having eaten at a cafe known as Jim's Cafe in the immediate vicinity of the Wynne Hotel.

While he was at the Baptist Hospital, he had made a number of telephone calls to various persons and firms in Memphis attempting to get a ride "to California." He first looked at the Commercial Appeal to find the names of persons or firms who were seeking drivers of automobiles to the West Coast. He recalls that he talked to a firm known as Insured Driveways or some similar name

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub-D-113

SERIALIZED ___ FILED ___

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

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on Summer Avenue, and he also talked to some man named HUTTON who had this type ad in the newspaper. One of the persons he had called suggested that he call back around 6:00 p.m. to clarify whether or not he would be permitted to drive an automobile to California. Therefore, just prior to 6:00 p.m., he left his room in the rooming house and walked to the Ambassador Hotel, which is located about a block north of the Wynne Hotel. He stated there is no pay telephone in the rooming house known as the Wynne Hotel, and he did not want to bother the landlady, who has a private phone in her room. He made several additional calls based upon ads in the paper and telephone numbers he had previously called, at the Ambassador Hotel.

Around 6:00 p.m. as he left the Ambassador Hotel to return to his room, there was considerable excitement in the area, but he did not know the cause of this excitement. He stated he recalls seeing several men in the front of the Ambassador Hotel. He also recalls that there were two girls standing out on the sidewalk and he saw some police officers in the vicinity. He also recalls seeing an ambulance pass. He stated he does not recall seeing any man running in any direction and cannot recall what the traffic situation was. He stated he did not see any car speed away from the area and does not recall seeing a white Mustang at all.

He stated he walked south on Main Street to the Wynne Hotel, where he returned to his room and did not leave again until the morning of April 5, 1968. He stated that upon returning to the Wynne Hotel, he learned that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING reportedly had been shot at a motel nearby. He stated that he neither heard nor observed anything whatever which in his opinion would have any bearing on the shooting of Dr. KING.

CRAWFORD stated that he would gladly furnish any information or cooperate in any manner in order that he could immediately be eliminated as having anything to do with the shooting of Dr. KING. He stated that he would be glad to display the contents of his luggage, which consisted of one attache type brief case containing various papers, toilet articles, two dirty shirts, undergarments, and socks, and one cardboard box containing

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a new radio inside a cellophane wrapper.

He stated he has traveled a great deal in the past and always "travels light." He stated that he expected to be hitchhiking and simply could not afford to carry much in the way of clothing. As to why he was carrying a new portable radio in a cardboard box, he stated that a day or so before, he had traded for this radio in Little Rock, Arkansas, and had the radio with him so that he could pawn it or sell it and get additional money for food while en route to California hitchhiking.

Among the various papers in the above-mentioned attache case was a yellow, lined pad, the first four pages of which contained handwriting, preceded by the date, March 25, 1968. The contents of the writing on this pad follow:

"March 25, 1968

"I got up at 5:50 AM from my bed at home where I had spent the weekend. This had been one of the pleasantest times at home for me since my marriage to Margaret nine years ago. Indeed the way Margaret had acted this weekend made it a refreshing time for me though deep within I knew that a sweeping change was immenent. A change that would affect not only her life and mine but all of our people and many scattered thoughout our country. I almost did not go home for the weekend but I was hoping right up to the last moment that someway I could avoid having to sever my relations with everyone and everything I have known and loved. (I only hope now that this separation and the road ahead for me will bring the peace and fellowship with God which I want and must have above anything else. For years I have prayed that God would allow me to suffer in any way. In whatever way He desired. I have hoped He would so order things that I might be drawn closer to Him and that my life might become a pleasure to Him.) Now the axe has fallen! I am chopped away from family and home and likely never to be with my loved ones again. I am a fugitive. Like the first murderer, I have slain the tender flower of trust. I have trodden down that which was lovely. Alas! I choke as I feel her tears soak

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through my clothing as she nestles in my arms. My hands feel strange. There is a coldness in my veins. A chill hangs icily over the room. My children call for me. They ask for me but I am not there. Am I dead? Do I live? What is there left for me? Will I be chased and cornered and finally penned up like an animal? Other questions--other misgivings, doubts, and fears pound and pound and dizzyly I go on and on and on."

CRAWFORD voluntarily made these pages available, stating that this was "something of a diary" that he had been keeping, adding that all of the writing on these pages was his and he had prepared the material at different times. He stated that he has always considered writing a book. He advised that at the present time he is not only having domestic difficulties at home but also faces financial disaster, particularly because he owes approximately $1,000 to his employer, The Relax-A-Cizor Company of Los Angeles, California, he having made sales and collected money which he has not turned in to the company. He stated that this was the reason he was en route to California, adding that he intended to go to Los Angeles and talk to an official there about making some arrangements to repay the $1,000 which he does not have.

He stated that the references in the above quoted "diary" to murder, to his being a "fugitive," and similar remarks were merely figures of speech which he had used while sitting alone in his room and brooding over his financial and domestic situation. He stated that he has previously served time in the penitentiary as a result of embezzling postal funds while in the military service, and he fears that he may face prosecution as a result of having not turned in money which he has received from customers and which money belongs to his employer.

He stated that he does not have a weapon and has never been charged with any type of violence or harmed anyone in any manner. He stated that he is not a member of any organization or in sympathy with any organization which advocates violence or which has a point of view with regard to race. He stated that he

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has no animosity toward any person or any group of persons. He stated that he has never been confined to any institution and has never received psychiatric treatment, but he volunteered the statement that he is aware that he needs psychiatric help.

CRAWFORD stated that he would be more than happy to accompany officers of the Memphis Police Department to the Central Police Station where he would attempt to furnish additional information to clarify his presence in Memphis and to establish that he had nothing whatever to do with the shooting of Dr. KING and that he had no knowledge whatever which would be of assistance in identifying the person who shot Dr. KING.

The following descriptive and background information was obtained during the interview with CRAWFORD:

Name	GENE PEARSON CRAWFORD
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Jackson, Tennessee
Height	5'7"
Weight	150 pounds
Hair	Light brown
Eyes	Blue
Education	Equivalent of high school diploma (as result of G.E.D. test)
Military Service	Served in U. S. Navy under Navy Serial No. 7838809 on two different occasions, first from about January 1945 to June 1946 and again entered military service September 1, 1950, during Korean War. Stated volunteered both times but during latter service was court-martialed as detailed hereafter.

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Tennessee
Driver's License 3134957
Selective Service [redacted]
Marital Status Stated has been married four times as follows:
(1) present wife is MARGARET CRAWFORD, nee LITTON, to whom married 9 years. She now resides 32-B Westwood Gardens, Jackson, Tennessee, with her son by a previous marriage, JIMMY FULBRIGHT, and a daughter by CRAWFORD, [redacted], age 6;
(2) NAOMI TURNER of Jackson, Tennessee, to whom he was married about one month in about 1957;
(3) LOUISE BELCH, to whom he was married about 5 years, by whom he has 2 children, [redacted] age about 14, and [redacted]N, age 17 or 18. This wife remarried to CHARLES A. WROBLESKI and resides in St. Clair Shores, Michigan;
(4) GERALDINE MORGAN, first wife, from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, no children.

Employment (1) has been part-time salesman for The Relax-A-Cizor Company, 980 North LaCienega Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, since April 1967
(2) dispatcher for Transports, 238 Madison, Memphis, a company which operates buses between Millington and Memphis. Employed by this firm two different periods, first from October 1964 to June 1966 and again about 6 months from about January 1967 to about July 1967.

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Employment, continued

(3) has also worked part time for Central Hearing Service selling hearing aids since about September 1967

Addresses

(1) 32-B Westwood Gardens, Jackson, Tennessee, telephone 424-3415, since September 1967;
(2) has downstairs apartment at 1464 Madison, Memphis, which he rented January 19, 1968, and where rent was due March 19, 1968, but he moved out before rent due. Kept this apartment because he was working in Memphis and stated his wife knew he had this apartment;
(3) 787 Leath, Memphis, Tennessee, prior to moving to Jackson in September 1967. Premises believed to be owned by former policeman named FRANK BRUNO, who was killed in Memphis.
(4) Apartment 9, 2641 North Watkins, about one year
(5) Apartment 5, 2641 North Watkins, in same apartment project as 2641 North Watkins
(6) Stated that he stayed at room in rooming house, 2204 Battery, Little Rock, Arkansas, several days prior to April 5, 1968, being in Little Rock selling Relax-A-Cizors, being at that address when he purchased 1958 Ford station wagon mentioned hereafter.

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Arrest Record

Stated he was convicted U. S. District Court, Memphis, in 1952 for Grand Larceny and Embezzlement and sentenced to 7 years as result of his having embezzled and cashed money orders while he was in the military service, he having been a postal clerk in the service. Served most of his time in U. S. Penitentiary, Terre Haute, Indiana.

Automobiles

Had receipt in his billfold for a 1958 Ford station wagon purchased from Rowe Motor Sales, Little Rock, Arkansas, on March 27, 1968, for $49, Vehicle Identification Number shown as B8MX119674 (Stated car is at home of his wife's father, G. F. LITTON, Route 1, Jackson, Tennessee.)

[redacted]

Stated that for about past year he has owned and operated a 1965 light blue Comet which he purchased from Ford Credit Company, 2400 Poplar, Memphis, as a repossessed car and in last several days he turned that car in to that company because he could not pay for it.

Miscellaneous

Stated he does not drink or smoke; frequently cried during interview; neatly dressed in gray hound's tooth type suit, white shirt and tie, bareheaded.

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FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/8/68

1

MICHAEL STEVEN SLOAN, Private First Class, U. S. Marine Corps, Marine Air Detachment, Millington, Tennessee, was interviewed in a a private office at the headquarters of the Marine Air Detachment, and he furnished the following signed statement:

"Millington, Tenn.
April 6, 1968

"I, Michael Steven Sloan, PFC, U. S. Marine Corps, serial #2398770, make the following voluntary statement to Cyril F. Busch and Ralph J. Liewer who have identified themselves as Special Agents of the FBI.

"I was born [redacted] at Kokomo, Indiana, am married, live at Barracks South 18, Marine Air Detachment, Millington, Tenn., and am a student in the AD School here.

"I have known PFC W. F. Tatroe, Jr., as a fellow student at this school since about Feb. 27, 1968, and I consider him a friend.

"On a Tuesday morning, about Mar. 18, 1967, at about 6:30 A.M., just before formation, I had a conversation with Tatroe. We were standing around waiting for formation outside my barracks. He said he wanted to tell us something. He then said that last night (Monday night) he had gotten a call from a distant cousin. (He did not mention the cousin's name nor had he ever mentioned a cousin before). He said the cousin was asking him 'if he had a good shot' and was telling him that he had a job for a man like this and that the job was worth $20,000.00. He said the cousin told him (Tatroe) that if he (Tatroe) wanted to come along the cousin would pick him up at 10:00 that night (Monday). Tatroe said he asked when he would be back, and the cousin said he would be back in time to go to school in the morning (Tueday at 6:45 AM). Tatroe said he was supposed to meet the cousin at 10:00 PM Monday but at about 10:00 PM he received a telephone call from the cousin saying that his plane had

On 4/6/68 at Millington, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub-D-114

by SA RALPH J. LIEWER and SA CYRIL F. BUSCH CFB/peh Date dictated 4/8/68

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developed engine trouble in Mississippi and he couldn't meet Tatroe. The cousin tried to get Tatroe to meet him at 6:00 AM that Tuesday morning but Tatroe said he told the cousin he could not do it because he had to be on the Marine base at 6:00 AM.

"During that same conversation I had with Tatroe that Tuesday morning he said that his cousin had mentioned to him 'the professional assassination business." The cousin had once said that he was interested in going into this business, pointing out that an assassin could kill Castro in Cuba and if he got back to the States nothing would be done to him. The cousin also said that an assassin could shoot someone in the United States, flee to a foreign country and not be harmed, and that a person could be well paid for this.

"During the same conversation we talked about Tatroe's wife having a baby due in the next few days. The whole conversation took less than 15 minutes. Nothing more was said about this matter.

"On or about Wednesday, Apr. 3, 1968, at about 4:45 PM (a day or two before Rev. Martin Luther King came to Memphis), PFC Tatroe showed me a $100.00 handwritten check made payable to himself. This was before payday and I asked where he had gotten it. Without mentioning the cousin I asked if he had gotten it from the cousin and Tatroe nodded his head in the affirmative. In a joking manner, I said 'I guess he's going to pay you the $20,000.00 anyway.' In a joking manner Tatroe said 'Yeah, I guess so.' I don't know where this check came from.

"On Friday morning just before the 7:00 AM formation, I said to Tatroe,,'It looks like your cousin got to King.' (This was the first time Rev. King was mentioned between us). Tatroe laughed and said something like, 'Yeah, I guess so.'

"About that time a white Mustang was driven by us. Tatroe motioned to this car and said, 'My cousin has a white Mustang just like that.' (Both of us had heard that the man who killed King was driving a white Mustang, according to newspapers reports). He then said that his cousin is

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an ex-Marine and has a '30.06.' He had a surprised look on his face at this time, as if he ____ wondering at the coincidences between his cousin and the person who shot Rev. King. We were all talking about the shooting of Rev. King and Tatroe then said that his cousin had once said 'if he ever saw that black bastard he would shoot him.'

"I recall seeing Tatroe leave our school building at the Base at about 5:00 PM as usual in his 1965 or 1966 dark green Chevelle Malibu. He lives near the Base with his wife. He arrived Friday morning as usual at about 6:00 AM.

"I tried to contact Tatroe at his home but I don't believe that he has a telephone. I don't see how his cousin could have contacted him, Tatroe, at his home if he has no phone.

"I have read this 6 page statement and to the best of my knowledge all of the above said is true.

"Michael Steven Sloan

"Witnesses:
"Cyril F. Busch, Special Agent, FBI, Memphis, 4/6/68.
"Ralph J. Liewer, Special Agent, FBI, Memphis, 4/6/68."'

He also advised that the initial remarks made by PFC TATROE regarding his cousin talking about being a professional assassin were made in the presence of a Marine named LARRY STOKES, who is also stationed at Millington.

He furnished the following descriptive data concerning himself:

Name	MICHAEL STEVEN SLOAN
Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	20
Date of birth	
Place of birth	Kokomo, Indiana

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Height	5'7½"
Weight	145
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Florid.

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