

CV 100-28380

Mrs. DOROTHY BRENSON
12104 Thornwood
Cleveland, Ohio
Residence: 3216 East 80th Street
Cleveland, Ohio
Prior Residence: P. O. Box 675
Ittabena, Mississippi

Captain HONN advised that the above information was contained on JAMES BEVEL's application dated 8-5-55. JAMES BEVEL was hired on 8-9-55, as a porter at the Finishing Division Canteen. He was terminated on 10-4-55, for unsatisfactory attendance. He was rehired on 9-8-56, and terminated on 1-19-57, to attend Theological School.

VICTOR LLOYD BEVEL:

Race: Negro
Sex: Male
Date of Birth:
Place of Birth: Jackson, Mississippi
Social Security #:
Relatives:
Father: DENNIS BEVEL
Brothers: JAMES BEVEL
CHARLES BEVEL
Residence: 3216 East 80th
Cleveland, Ohio (1951)
Wife: CARLEEN (divorced at time of
application in 1951)

Captain HONN advised that VICTOR BEVEL was hired on 3-8-51, and is currently employed as a bricklayer.

OTIS CALVIN BEVEL:

Race: Negro
Sex: Male
Date of Birth:
Place of Birth: Greenwood, Mississippi
Social Security #:

CV 100-28380

Relatives:

Sister:	FLOYDZELLA BEVEL
	Date of Birth - <input type="text"/>
Sister:	HELEN BEVEL
	Date of Birth - <input type="text"/>
Brother:	JOHNNY BEVEL
	Date of Birth - <input type="text"/>
Mother:	ILLIE BEVEL

For further information, OTIS CALVIN BEVEL, Cleveland file number 29-1362, Bureau file 29-45052, was the prior Treasurer of the above Credit Union before VICTOR and his wife SHIRLEY BEVEL became Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer of the Credit Union. OTIS BEVEL was relieved of his position as Treasurer in 1/67, when it was discovered that he had embezzled approximately \$1,800 from the Credit Union. OTIS BEVEL was indicted by Federal Grand Jury, NDO, Cleveland, Ohio, on 10-30-68, for violation of Title 18, Section 657, USC. Prosecution is still pending in this matter. OTIS CALVIN BEVEL's FBI number is 239065F. During the course of this investigation, VICTOR LLOYD BEVEL was interviewed in 12/67, at which time he resided at 3266 East 143rd.

A sister, FLOYDZELLA SMITH, nee Bevel, was also interviewed on 4-24-68, at which time she resided at 896 Paxton, Cleveland, Ohio, and was employed by Pick 'N Pay, 8219 Hough Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

The above is being furnished for information only in view of the fact that JAMES LUTHER BEVEL has currently claimed that JAMES EARL RAY is innocent in the slaying of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and it is believed that the above background information may be helpful to offices investigating these matters.

VICTOR LLOYD BEVEL SHOULD BE APPROACHED WITH CAUTION
IN VIEW OF STATEMENT THAT HE HAS CONTEMPLATED SUICIDE.

1/22/69

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) -P-
RE: MURKIN
OO: Memphis

Re report of SA RAYMOND B. HOWE dated 12/13/68 at Kansas City.

On 1/21/69 DALE POLLACK, 4408 Northeast 45th Terrace, Kansas City, Missouri, telephonically furnished the following information:

He was reading an Associated Press feature story on JAMES EARL RAY which appeared in the Kansas City Star, January 19, 1969. In this story it mentioned that RAY spent time in Puerato Vallarta, Mexico. This brought to his attention that an individual by the name of HEINZ MANGER, a former SS officer with the Third Reich during World War II and reportedly a member of an organization called "Odessa" which is reportedly an organization of former SS officers, spent considerable time in Puerato Vallarta, Mexico.

POLLACK advised that he did not know MANGER personally but has been a student of post-war German history and knows that MANGER has been involved in numerous radical movements.

POLLACK further advised that MANGER presented a Mr. and Mrs. KARL RAPP, Leawood, Kansas, a painting while they were visiting in Puerato Vallarta. POLLACK did not

3-Bureau
1-Memphis (44-1987)
2-Kansas City
RBH:jlh
(6)

M

44-1987-Sub-M-351

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KC 44-760

give the subject matter of the painting but stated it was signed by HEINZ MANGER. POLLACK did not believe MANGER painted it. POLLACK stated that Mrs. RAPP gave him the painting inasmuch as she knew he was a student of German history. POLLACK advised that his home telephone is GL 3-2191, his business telephone is GL 2-6181 and that he would be glad to cooperate with the FBI in this matter at any time.

Indices of the Kansas City Office negative re POLLACK, MANGER or RAPP.

Kansas City Office will interview Mr. or Mrs. KARL RAPP, Leawood, Kansas, and reinterview DALE POLLACK for any additional information they may have connecting MANGER with JAMES EARL RAY.

1/21/69

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, PHILADELPHIA (44-1368)
MURKIN

RE PHILADELPHIA TELETYPES JANUARY ONE NINE, LAST.

PH EIGHT NINE SEVEN DASH R ADVISED EARLY A.M., THIS DATE, JAMES BEVEL WAS IN WASHINGTON, D. C., ON JANUARY TWO ZERO, LAST. HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO PHILADELPHIA TODAY.

INFORMANT ADVISED HE CONTACTED ERIC WARD, SCLC OFFICIAL MENTIONED BY BEVEL ON NEWS BROADCAST, AS PERSON AGREEING WITH HIM THAT JAMES EARL RAY DID NOT KILL KING.

WARD TOLD SOURCE THAT BEVEL IS QUOTE PLAYING A GAME UNQUOTE BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT RAY EXECUTED. BEVEL FEELS RAY IS PART OF A CONSPIRACY, AND HIS DEATH WOULD END ALL TALK OF CONSPIRACY. PEOPLE WOULD THEN FORGET ABOUT CONSPIRACIES TO KILL KING.

INFORMANT ALSO ADVISED MILITANTS IN PHILADELPHIA AREA FEEL BEVEL HAS QUOTE SOLD OUT UNQUOTE.

AIR MAIL COPY SENT MEMPHIS.

1 - MEMPHIS (AIR MAIL) (44-1987)
1 - PHILADELPHIA (44-1368)
EMC:BSM
(2)

M

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
January 21, 1969

JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Philadelphia news media on January 19, 1969, carried information that the Reverend JAMES BEVEL, Southern Christian Leadership Council of Philadelphia, Pa., sent a telegram to JAMES EARL RAY stating RAY did not kill Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING and BEVEL, who was present at KING's death, offered to testify in RAY's behalf.

On January 19, 1969, BEVEL appeared on WCAU-TV, Philadelphia, special news program during the half-time of the National Football League All-Star Game, stating that he had evidence that JAMES EARL RAY did not kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BEVEL refused to divulge his evidentiary information but offered to defend RAY in court though he (BEVEL) was not a licensed attorney, but was learned in the law and had had much experience in defending cases in the courts. BEVEL said he analyzed all the facts and concluded RAY was not guilty.

BEVEL said he was speaking for his friends in SCLC including the Reverend RALPH ABERNATHY.

The television interview said that an unnamed official of the SCLC in Atlanta, Ga., had told WCAU-TV that BEVEL has been under pressure and was speaking for himself, not SCLC.

The following is a verbatim tape transcription of the KYW Television news, 11 p.m., January 19, 1969:

Eleven o'clock report in color with BERT ROSELL and the eyewitness news team.

ROSELL: Good evening. There is a bizarre twist of events today in the case of JAMES EARL RAY. RAY is accused of killing Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and goes on trial in Memphis, Tenn., March 3. The Reverend JAMES BEVEL is Director of Non-violent

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JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Education and Direction Action for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). He was with KING when the civil rights leader was gunned down. BEVEL says that RAY is innocent and has offered to serve as RAY's attorney, free of charge. I talked to BEVEL this afternoon at his Philadelphia headquarters.

ROSELL: Reverend, how do you know that he is not guilty?

BEVEL: Well, in terms of gathering evidence, being present, studying the whole problem of men being murdered, how it is done, from all the logical conclusion and evidence that I have gathered my conclusion, based on the knowledge, in terms we built it to experience, knowledge to the sense that the five senses and even the sixth sense, my conclusion is that JAMES EARL RAY did not kill Dr. KING.

ROSELL: What evidence do you have to support your conclusions that JAMES EARL RAY is innocent?

BEVEL: Well, I would not like to get into my evidence and my information in terms of that because if he asks me to take the case, and I don't know whether he will or not, for me to give that information now would not be to his advantage.

ROSELL: Why have you held back this long in offering your services and proclaiming the innocence of JAMES EARL RAY?

BEVEL: Well, I don't know, probably because I have never (pause) I was involved in developing as I am now, because I was in a movement here in Philadelphia and I just haven't thought in terms of offering this free kind of service to him. When I started thinking about this particular predicament, then I thought about.....

JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

The following is an interview of Reverend JAMES BEVEL by JAY SILVA, over television station WCAU, Philadelphia. This is the local CBS affiliate. The announcer was RON MILLER. The person interviewing BEVEL was JAY SILVA.

MILLER: Reverend JAMES BEVEL of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) says he will keep the evidence he has which he says would prove that JAMES EARL RAY did not assassinate Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, if RAY does not accept BEVEL's offer of legal representation. Reverend BEVEL sent a telegram to RAY yesterday offering to represent him in court without a fee. The telegram added, "I was present on April 4th at the Lorraine Motel when Dr. KING died. You have been accused of murdering him; of course, I know you aren't guilty." Today, newsman JAY SILVA asked Reverend BEVEL about the proof he says he has concerning RAY's innocence.

BEVEL: Number one, based on the evidence that I have in terms of the incident that took place and based on the opinion of all of my friends, I don't have a friend that I know that thinks that he did it. I thought (inaudible) that the man is not guilty and have come to my conclusions, and based on my evidence.

SILVA: What specifically is the evidence that leads you to this conclusion?

BEVEL: At this time, I don't want to tell about that because if I was going to defend him, you see, then I would have to present that information to the jury. So, I would not go into the details of my evidence at this time because I would have to deal with that with the jury.

SILVA: You say that you have specific evidence that shows JAMES EARL RAY was not the man who murdered MARTIN LUTHER KING.

BEVEL: Mhm.

SILVA: Then, do you have any idea who did, that shows JAMES EARL RAY was not the man who murdered MARTIN LUTHER KING?

JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

BEVEL: For my friends? Ah, yes, my friends, RUTH BASCOMBE, BEVERLY ERIC, REVEREND SHEPPARD, DU BRADY, REVEREND ABERNATHY, MRS. ABERNATHY, MRS. KING, ANDY YOUNG.

SILVA: Do you say Reverend ABERNATHY agrees with you? You said your friends come to the same conclusion as you have.

BEVEL: I don't have any friends who ever told me that EARL RAY was guilty.

SILVA: So, inasfar as you know, Reverend ABERNATHY agrees with you.

BEVEL: Certainly, in terms of his position on him and I just talked to BERNARD LOVIER who is our Program Director and I pointed out that if RAY would give me the case, he would help me to do a lot of the research and defend him.

MILLER: In Atlanta, Georgia, a spokesman for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference said he, Reverend BEVEL, has been under a lot of pressure recently. Since Dr. KING's death he has gone into a deep depression and if he sent the telegram, he is speaking for himself.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

F B I

Date: 1/21/69

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

Via AIRTEL REGISTERED MAIL
(Priority)

To: Director, FBI

ATTENTION:

From: SAC, PHILADELPHIA
(44-1368)

CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION
(C) GENERAL INVEST. DIV.
 DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIV.

Subject: MURKIN

- CR EL VRA-65 CRA-64
- PA PE PF
- BM BM-Threats Racial Matters
- Klan Organization

Summary of Complaint:

Remytels 1/19/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are three copies of a self-explanatory LHM. Info copies furnished Memphis and Atlanta.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 3) (RM)
- 2 - Memphis (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 1 - Atlanta (Enc. 1) (RM)
- 2 - Philadelphia
- 1 - 44-1368
- 1 - 100-47194 (SCLC)

JRW/JBK
(8)

ACTION: UACB:

- No further action being taken and
 - LHM enclosed Copy furnished to USA
 - LHM being submitted
 - Report being submitted
- Preliminary investigation instituted
- Limited investigation instituted

EDPs.

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Per <i>[Signature]</i>	

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M
Special Agent in Charge

PH 44-1368

WF 1928-PRI advised 1/14/68 that Reverend JAMES BEVEL at an SCLC meeting recently held at Frogmore, S. C., wanted the Reverend RALPH ABERNATHY of SCLC to step down in favor of the Reverend JESSE JACKSON. WF 1928-PRI also said BEVEL was returning to Philadelphia to create a furor in the next four to six months.

F B I

Date: 1-24-69

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

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)
FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN.

ON JAN. TWENTYFOUR, SIXTYNINE, ME THREE THREE EIGHT R ADVISED THAT JAMES BEVEL OF SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC), ACCOMPANIED BY YOUNG MALE NEGRO, CEDRIC MOORE, FORMERLY OF MEMPHIS, NOW OF PHILADELPHIA, PA., ONE (FNU) RUTHERFORD, SCLC GENERAL MANAGER, AND (FNU) NIXON (PHONETIC), FORMER CAMPAIGN MANAGER OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY OF COMEDIAN DICK GREGORY, WERE IN MEMPHIS, TENN. ON NIGHT JANUARY TWENTYTHREE, SIXTYNINE. BEVEL CLAIMED TO HAVE CONFERRED FOR SEVERAL HOURS JANUARY TWENTYTHREE, SIXTYNINE, ON EIGHTH FLOOR OF PEABODY HOTEL WITH JAMES EARL RAY'S ATTORNEY, PERCY FOREMAN, AND LATER FOREMAN AND BEVEL CONFERRED WITH RAY IN SHELBY COUNTY JAIL. AT ABOUT TEN P.M., BEVEL CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE AT CLAYBORN TEMPLE AME CHURCH, AT WHICH HE INVITED DELEGATES TO NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES MID-WINTER CONFERENCE, THEN MEETING IN MEMPHIS. BEVEL CLAIMED THAT HE WAS CONVINCED OF RAY'S INNOCENCE IN KILLING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CLAIMED AMERICA IS TRYING TO LYNCH RAY. CLAIMED SCLC

WHL:BN

- CC (AM) 1 - PHILADELPHIA
- 1 - ATLANTA
- 1 - ME 170-70-Sub (ME 338-R)
- 1 - ME 157-166 (SCLC)

SEARCHED _____

Hester

Approved: *Raferson*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 2:14 PM Per _____

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F B I

Date: 1-24-69

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

Via _____
(Priority)

PAGE TWO

PRESIDENT, REV. RALPH ABERNATHY, IS ALSO CONVINCED OF RAY'S INNOCENCE. HE REFUSED TO FURNISH THE BASIS FOR HIS STATEMENTS, OTHER THAN TO CLAIM HE HAD "PROPHETIC POWERS." BEVEL ADDED THAT HIS CONVICTIONS REGARDING RAY'S INNOCENCE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY HIM WITH ABERNATHY AND OTHER SCLC LEADERS AT A RECENT SCLC RETREAT IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND HE HAD CONVINCED THEM HE HAD PROOF OF RAY'S INNOCENCE, INDICATING THAT HE IS MAKING THESE CHARGES WITH ACQUIESCENCE OF SCLC LEADERS.

AIR MAIL COPIES TO ATLANTA AND PHILADELPHIA.

P.

END

-2-

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

Tolson _____
 DeLoach _____
 Mohr _____
 Bishop _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 Felt _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

Ray Case Is Even More Tangled Since

THE WASHINGTON POST *✓* Sunday, Nov. 17, 1968 *A7*

Switch in Counsel *July*

The Washington Post *A7*
 Times Herald _____
 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) _____
 The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
 Daily News (New York) _____
 Sunday News (New York) _____
 New York Post _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Sun (Baltimore) _____
 The Daily World _____
 The New Leader _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 People's World _____
 Examiner (Washington) _____

Date *11/17/68*

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 FBI - MEMPHIS
Hester

(see memo this)

M

By Henry P. Lelfermann

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Nov. 16 (UPI)—The mixed-up case against James Earl Ray in the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. showed every sign this week of becoming even more tangled before a single word of testimony is ever heard in court.

Since Ray unceremoniously dumped Arthur J. Hanes as defense attorney and hired Percy Foreman last Tuesday, the case has quickly taken on these elements:

- Would-be eyewitnesses, one an 11-year-old Negro boy are cropping up to say they saw the assaasin.

- Attorneys, defendant, defendant's brothers, and authors are squabbling over who should make how much money out of the case.

- Arthur Hanes is negotiating to sell his story of Ray's defense to Life magazine, and refusing to turn over his files, if he has any, to Foreman, who presumably could read them in Life if he wanted to.

- Hanes now claims he may have been hired only as an ingredient to add more racial tension to the April 4 slaying of the Nation's major civil rights figure.

When Ray switched attorneys, Judge W. Preston Battle ordered Hanes to give Foreman all his files and research. Hanes was put under \$1000 bond to enforce the Judge's order on the research, and also to prevent Hanes from talking about the case.

"I'll let Tennessee keep that \$1000," Hanes said. "I keep my files right up here," he added, pointing to his forehead. "I never forget anything: times, names, dates, places, distances, calibrations—it's all up here."

Reports Blank Check

Whatever Hanes has, and wherever he keeps it, Life magazine wants to buy it. "They offered me a blank check," Hanes said.

Gerald Morre, Time-Life Bureau chief in Chicago, confirmed that negotiations are under way but said "no blank check" was offered, no specific figure mentioned, and no contract yet signed.

Ray's brothers, John and Jerry, also have become aware of the publication possibilities. The result is some bickering over who gets how much from which story in which magazine. The friction is thought to have contributed to Hanes's troubles with Ray's brothers, who felt Hanes should have gotten less and their brother more from Huie's articles.

Foreman, who has a warehouse full of merchandise payments in lieu of cash, has not yet said what his fee is nor how Ray will pay for it.

Finally, there is the fake chase of the white Mustang automobile broadcast on Memphis police radio frequencies F1 and F2 minutes after the assassination. At the time of the assassination it was thought the phony chase was a plot by accomplices to lure police into another part of town. But the Memphis Police Department has leaked to several reporters hints that two teen-aged ham radio operators have confessed they were responsible for the phony chase broadcast, and did it as a prank.

• A mysterious and phony chase broadcast over police radio and thought to be possible evidence of a conspiracy may have been the irresponsible prank of two teen-aged ham radio operators.

Claimed Bombshell

Ray's trial was postponed until March 3 Tuesday when Fireman, the celebrated Texan who defended heiress Candy Mossler and claims one loss to the electric chair in

1000 murder cases, took over the defense.

Two of the many sides in the case claim at least one eyewitness each. The prosecution claims Charles Q. Stephens, a disabled war veteran who lived in the dollar-a-day flophouse the state said Ray waited in to kill King.

Hanes claims he had an eyewitness, "a bombshell" whom he refused to identify. And there is the 11-year-old

Negro boy, whom Hanes claimed he never heard of, the prosecution remains silent about and other sources say may have been scared into silence.

The boy supposedly saw a white man with a rifle jump from bushes atop an embankment that faced the Lorraine Motel where King was standing when he was shot. Behind the bushes, in the same trajectory from window to balcony is the bathroom window the

prosecution said was the ambush hideout.

The boy ran to a Memphis fire station 100 yards from the Lorraine, breathlessly told three firemen—one of them a Negro—and then was whisked to police headquarters, according to sources.

Still at Center

Although Hanes was dismissed out of hand by Ray, the attorney remains a cog in the center of the case.

In an interview the former Birmingham Mayor noted another bizarre element.

"It wouldn't surprise me at all," Hanes said when asked if it were likely that he was "set up" by men who plotted King's murder, and in fact was never intended to take the case to trial.

The theory behind this plot within a plot, Hanes noted, could be that his selection—he

was a segregationist Mayor and successfully defended three Ku Klux Klansmen in the highway murder of Viola Liuzzo—would make the murder appear to be the work of white racists.

Author William Bradford Huie, in a copyright series of articles in Look magazine based on information from Ray, contends there was a conspiracy to kill King and its aim was to touch off waves of

racial violence even more severe than that which actually occurred.

Hanes said he and his son, Arthur Jr., 27, also an attorney, had decided that "only two groups could have done this: the CIA and black militants financed by Cuba or Red China." Hanes felt that only a clandestine organization with the backing of some government could have accomplished the killing.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

DATE: January 29, 1969

FROM : SAC, Little Rock (157-1215)

(P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

OO - Memphis

On 1/29/69, Mr. JIM FOSTER, Foster Oil Company, Conway, Arkansas, telephonically furnished the following information:

Mr. FOSTER's father, HARRY FOSTER, Leisure World, 62A Calle Cadiz, Laguna Hills, California, 92653, telephone 714-837-2584, was in the barber shop by the Metropolitan Airport, Detroit, located near Allen Park, Michigan, on the day following the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING. When news was received that KING had been killed, one of the two barbers present, who was described as being of Italian descent, stated that he knew who killed MARTIN LUTHER KING. The barber related that the day prior to the murder of KING, he was giving a haircut to a U. S. Marine who stated he had just returned from Viet Nam and that while he was in Viet Nam, two of King's followers had raped the Marine's southern-born wife. The Marine was extremely angry and said that he was en route to Memphis to kill King. The Marine supposedly was from Rochester, Michigan.

This information is being furnished to Memphis and Detroit for any action deemed desirable by Memphis in the light of the total circumstances.

- ② - Memphis (44-1987)
- 2 - Detroit
- 2 - Little Rock (157-1215)

HEH/rp
(6)

We've had this story or something similar before that was checked out - wasn't it?

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In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

January 23, 1969

JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

Reverend James Bevel was interviewed at his residence, 919 North 18th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., on January 21, 1969. The following are the results of this interview:

DECLASSIFIED BY *SP-1 CLK/tjt*
ON *10/31/01*

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Hester *AKB*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date 1/23/69

Reverend JAMES BEVEL was interviewed for ten minutes at his residence. He stated he was extremely busy as he had appointments through 11:00 p.m. that day. While the interview was in progress, a woman asked BEVEL if he could speak to a member of the press. BEVEL told her to tell the person on the telephone he was tied up until 11:00 p.m.

BEVEL stated he had proof of the innocence of JAMES EARL RAY in connection with the murder of his good friend Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING. BEVEL referred to KING as one of his closest and dearest friends. BEVEL stated that since the FBI was connected with the prosecution and he was involved with the defense, he felt he should not furnish this information.

It was pointed out to BEVEL that the FBI is an investigative agency and does not prosecute anyone. It was also pointed out to BEVEL that the FBI is as interested in proving a person's innocence as proving a person's guilt. BEVEL was advised the FBI was interested in obtaining and proving all facts possible during any investigation.

BEVEL stated he sent a telegram to RAY on Saturday, January 18, 1969, and as of the date of the interview, he had received no answer to his telegram. BEVEL stated in connection with this he planned to call PERCY FOREMAN, Attorney for RAY on the night of January 21, 1969, and offer his services in connection with RAY's defense.

BEVEL stated he would telephone the contacting agents on January 22, 1969, and advise if FOREMAN accepted his offer. BEVEL stated if FOREMAN does not accept his offer to aid the defense, he, BEVEL, plans to drop the entire matter as he feels he has no moral obligation towards RAY to produce his evidence of RAY's innocence if his offer of help is refused.

It was pointed out to BEVEL that if he had evidence of RAY's innocence, it should be brought to the attention of the court. BEVEL again stated he would do so only if he was allowed to be part of RAY's defense.

BEVEL stated that at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On 1/21/69 at Philadelphia, Pa. File# Philadelphia 44-1368

by SA RALPH C. HAMNER and
SA EDWARD M. COLE EMC:kpb Date dictated 1/22/69

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

PH 44-1368

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

was shot at the Loraine Motel in Memphis, he was standing on the ground underneath the balcony where KING was shot.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JAMES EARL RAY
MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

On January 22, 1969, Special Agent Edward M. Cole telephonically attempted to contact Reverend Bevel at approximately 2:30 p.m. The person answering stated Reverend Bevel would not return until 5:00 or 6:00 p.m.

On January 21, 1969, a source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised he with others spoke with Bevel concerning Bevel's statement on the innocence of James Earl Ray. This group, including the informant, are considered "militants" by Bevel. During the discussion with Bevel it was pointed out to Bevel that the general feeling of the militants is that Ray was guilty of shooting Reverend King and that Bevel should furnish what evidence he has or keep quiet.

Bevel told this group he has no evidence but that he feels the "system" is killing a man worth nothing while this man actually killed a greater man. Bevel stated that if he is allowed to defend Ray he, Bevel, will bring out everything that the "system" did to cause the death of King. Bevel also stated he feels this is a method to rejuvenate Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in Philadelphia, as SCLC has fallen off to almost nothing in Philadelphia. In connection with this, Bevel stated he is to receive a check by Western Union from SCLC, Atlanta, for \$500.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4*



*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

January 23, 1969

Title JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

Character

Reference Memorandum dated and captioned as
above at Philadelphia, Pa.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities
are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable
information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property
of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside
your agency.

FBI

Date: 1/23/69

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, PHILADELPHIA (44-1368)(P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Philadelphia teletypes dated 1/19/69 and 1/21/69.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are 11 copies of an LHM titled as above.

Copies are being furnished locally to MI, NISO, OSI, Secret Service, and USA, EDPa.

One copy of this LHM is being forwarded Atlanta for information since Atlanta is 00 in SCLC. Two copies are being furnished Memphis since Memphis is 00 MURKIN.

This LHM is classified confidential to protect identity of PH 897-R since PH 897-R and one other individual were present when BEVEL made this statement. PH 897-R continues to furnish excellent information concerning racial and security matters.

Source utilized in the LHM is PH 897-R.

When interviewed on 1/21/69, agents had to wait 30 minutes for BEVEL because BEVEL was holding a meeting in the next room.

- 5 - Bureau (RM) (Encs. 11)
 - 3 - 44-38861
 - 1 - 100-438794 (SCLC)
 - 1 - 157-10808 (JAMES BEVEL)
- 1 - Atlanta (SCLC) (Info) (RM)(Enc. 1)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)(MURKIN)RM) (Encs. 2)
- 5 - Philadelphia
 - 1 - 44-1987 (MURKIN)
 - 1 - 100-47194 (SCLC)
 - 1 - 157-1214 (RACIAL DISTURBANCES - MAJOR URBAN AREA)
 - 1 - 157-2979 (JAMES BEVEL)
 - 1 - 170-53 (PH 897-R)

44-1987-Sub-M-357B

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

Approved: EMC:kpb(13) Special Agent in Charge Sent _____ M Per _____

PH 44-1368

For the information of Atlanta, BEVEL is currently employed at the Health and Welfare Council, Inc., 1428 Columbia Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa., telephone CE 2-9911.

F B I

Date: 1/27/69

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

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574) (P)
RE: MURKIN
OO: Memphis

Re Memphis airtel to Los Angeles, 1/16/69.

On 1/23/69, Mr. BRUCE BEATTY, General Manager, Princess Cruises, Los Angeles, California, advised SA JIM R. FREEMAN that the "Princess Italia" had not sailed from Europe on its maiden voyage as of 10/29/67, and did not arrive in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, until 12/19/67. He stated the "Princess Italia" has an all Italian crew. Mr. BEATTY suggested that the cruise ship "Jason" may have been in Puerto Vallarta during October 1967.

Mr. HENRY BINKLEY, Port Superintendent, Williams, Diamond, and Company, Wilmington, California, advised SA FREEMAN on 1/23/69, that the "SS Jason" first began cruises to Mexico ports in December 1967, and would not have been in Puerto Vallarta on 10/29/67. He stated that he knew of no other cruise ship which might have been in Puerto Vallarta at that time except possibly the "SS Statendam".

Mr. VICTOR FOX MATSON, Steamship Company, Wilmington, California, advised SA FREEMAN on 1/23/69, that the "SS Statendam" did not stop in the port of Puerto Vallarta during October or November 1967.

Extra copy furnished for benefit of Legat, Mexico City.

- 4 - Bureau
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 2 - Los Angeles

JRF/cld
(8)

Joe - Legat clarify ship again - Done

44-1987-Sub-M-357C

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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JAN 30 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
Per <i>[Signature]</i>	

Approved: _____ Sent _____
Special Agent in Charge

1/30/69

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, DETROIT

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Little Rock letter, 1/29/69, one copy of which is enclosed for Los Angeles.

Detroit should attempt to locate the barber shop mentioned in relet and interview the barbers to resolve this allegation. In the event you need additional information to locate this barber shop, Los Angeles should interview Mr. HARRY FOSTER, Laguna Hills, California.

Airtel _____

Teletype _____

2 - Detroit

A.M. **2 - Los Angeles (Enc. 1)**

1 - Memphis

A.M. **JCH:jap**

(5)

Spec. Del *jap* _____

Reg. Mail _____

Registered _____

44-1987-Sub-M-358

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten initials]

llb
llb
llb

1/30/69

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Memphis airtel to Los Angeles, 1/16/69, and Los Angeles airtel 1/27/69, both of which pertain to attempts to identify Negro crew members of a ship which was docked at Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, on or about 10/29/67. These are the Negro males with whom the subject RAY had words while RAY was drinking in a cafe with a Mexican prostitute. Legat Mexico has suggested that these Negro males may have been members of the crew of the cruise ship "Italia," however, Los Angeles Office has discovered that this could not have been the case as the "Princess Italia" did not arrive at Puerto Vallarta until 12/19/67.

The Bureau is requested to have the Legat Mexico contact port authorities at Puerto Vallarta to determine what ships having Negro crew members were docked there around 10/29/67.

Airtel _____

Teletype _____

A.M. 3 - Bureau
2 - Memphis

A.M.S.D. JCH:jap

Spec. Del. (5) jap

Reg. Mail _____

Registered _____

X1
[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten signature]

44-1987-Sub-M-359
llb
llb
llb

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI ATLANTA

3:55 PM URGENT 1/30/69 SAT

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861 AND MEMPHIS
FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

*5843 M - Bureau
946-7601*

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TEL TO ATLANTA JAN. TWENTYNINE, SIXTYNINE.

APPOINTMENT WAS MADE THIS DATE FOR INTERVIEW WITH REV. RALPH ABERNATHY. WHEN SA'S O. RICHARD HAMILTON AND ARTHUR L. MURTAGH ARRIVED AT SCLC HEADQUARTERS, ABERNATHY'S SECRETARY ADVISED HE WAS NOT IN BUT SHE WOULD CONTACT HIM ON THE TELEPHONE. SA HAMILTON TELEPHONICALLY TALKED WITH ABERNATHY WHO APOLOGIZED FOR BEING UNABLE TO KEEP THE APPOINTMENT AND SAID HE WAS "VISITING THE SICK".

ABERNATHY ADVISED CONCERNING HIS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS THAT A CONSPIRACY EXISTS IN THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., THAT WHAT HE ACTUALLY STATED WAS IN VIEW OF THE ASSASSINATIONS OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, ROBERT F. KENNEDY, MEDGAR EVERS, AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., THERE WOULD BE AN INDICATION TO HIM

END PAGE ONE

44-1987-Sub M-36

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[Signature]

PAGE TWO

AT 44-2386

THAT THERE MAY BE A CONSPIRACY AMONG THE "FORCES OF EVIL" TO DO AWAY WITH ANY YOUNG "MILITANT" WHO STANDS FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. ABERNATHY STATED HE HAS NO EVIDENCE NOR HAS HE HEARD FROM ANY SOURCE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION THAT A CONSPIRACY EXISTS IN THIS MATTER. HE ADVISED THAT THE STATEMENT MADE TO THE PRESS CONCERNING A CONSPIRACY CONCERNED THE ASSASSINATIONS OF ALL THE ABOVE MEN.

ABERNATHY ADVISED THAT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, REV. JAMES LAWSON, MINISTER OF CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH, MEMPHIS, TOLD HIM IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DAY PRIOR TO THE ASSASSINATION OF KING, TWO NEGRO FIREMEN WHO WORKED IN THE FIRE STATION ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE MOTEL WHERE KING WAS KILLED WERE MOVED, LEAVING SOME UNMANNED FIRE EQUIPMENT. ACCORDING TO LAWSON, HE TWO NEGRO FIREMEN WERE MOVED TO FIRE STATIONS WHICH WERE ALREADY FULLY MANNED AND EQUIPPED. ALSO ACCORDING TO LAWSON, A NEGRO POLICEMAN WHO WORKED THE BEAT WHICH INCLUDED THE MOTEL WHERE KING WAS KILLED WAS MOVED OFF OF THAT BEAT THE DAY KING WAS KILLED.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

OT 44-2386

THAT INFORMATION ALONG WITH WHAT HE HAS HEARD AND READ CONCERNING UNIDENTIFIED RADIO CALLS WHICH DIVERTED A SEARCH FOR A WHITE MUSTANG LEADS HIM TO BELIEVE THAT THERE MAY BE A CONSPIRACY IN THIS MATTER.

MEMPHIS CONTACT REV. JAMES LAWSON CONCERNING THE ABOVE MATTER IF NOT ALREADY DONE AND CONDUCT ALL NECESSARY INVESTIGATION TO RESOLVE THE MATTER.

END

P

SDC

FBI MEMPHIS

TUP

1-30-69

AIRTEL

To: SAC, Kansas City (44-760)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Re Kansas City airtel dated 1-22-69.

Referenced communication incorporated an interview with one Wilbur O. Norton who is incarcerated at the Kansas State Penitentiary. Norton advised that a person who he refuses to identify allegedly has information concerning James Earl Ray and the killing of Martin Luther King, Jr.

When the Agents "bluntly" asked Norton what he wanted for information which he possesses, he indicated that he desired the Agents' interests with the local Judge on this local charge against him. Norton was then advised that his proposal would be brought to the Agents' supervisor's attention and if additional facts were desired, Norton would be recontacted.

It is incumbent upon you to insure that Norton fully understands that the FBI cannot be a bargaining agent between him and any tribunal nor can the FBI act as an intermediary between Norton and any other individual in such a matter as this. The Bureau should not be put in a position for any individual to be able to state at a later date that such a proposal was taken under consideration by the Bureau.

You should keep the Bureau fully advised of contacts made with Warden Crouse regarding his further interviews with inmate NORTON.

① - Memphis (44-1987)

M

44-1987-Sub-M-361

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Hester JKH

1-29-69

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386)
FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
MURKIN

ARTICLE IN "THE WASHINGTON POST" NEWSPAPER TODAY QUOTES REVEREND RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY, HEAD OF SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC) IN A NEWS CONFERENCE AS INDICATING A CONSPIRACY EXISTS IN THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR (ASSASSINATION APRIL FOUR, NINETEEN SIXTY-EIGHT).

YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY INTERVIEW REVEREND ABERNATHY FOR DETAILS OF ANY INFORMATION HE POSSESSES, HIS SOURCE OF INFORMATION, AND CONDUCT ALL NECESSARY INVESTIGATION TO THOROUGHLY RESOLVE THIS MATTER AS WELL AS ANY INFORMATION STEMMING FROM INTERVIEW OF REVEREND ABERNATHY. ^{KEEP BUREAU} ~~AIRMAIL COPY SENT~~
FULLY INFORMED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS.
MEMPHIS.

① - MEMPHIS (44-1987) (airmail)

1X7

44-1987-Sub-M-362

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FBI	

Hester *glt*

1/30/69

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) -P-
RE: MURKIN
OO: Memphis

dale
70-351
Re Kansas City airtel to the Director 1/22/69.

On 1/28/69 DALE L. POLLOCK¹⁹ advised that he is the minister of the Winnwood United Methodist Church, 4408 Northeast 45th Terrace, Kansas City, Missouri, where he also resides. He furnished the following additional information regarding HIENZ MANGER who reportedly lived for some time in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. POLLOCK advised that he lived there many years without obvious means of support but he is now, according to the German Ministry of Justice to be living in Friedberg/Hessen, Germany. MANGER reportedly was a friend of a Mr. JOHN MATTHIESEN, P.O. Box 53, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. POLLOCK also stated that HIENZ MANGER was formerly a General in the German Army. POLLOCK advised that he is aware of these things because he is a student of post German history.

POLLOCK stated that MANGER was a member of ODESSA (organization of former SS men). This organization was formed in 1947 at Strasbourg and utilizes funds remaining from the spoils of the Third Reich. The organization was responsible for the safe passage into neutral or friendly territories of high-ranking SS men. It also continues to be responsible for

3-Bureau (RM)
2-Memphis (44-1987)(RM)
1-Kansas City
LLA:jlh
(6)

44-1987-Sub-M-363

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Hess *gnt*

KC 44-760

financing extreme Nationalist and Right Wing activities throughout the world. For example, at a meeting in Milan, Italy, a large reward was offered for the murder of SIMON WIESENTHAL, the man who cracked down ADOLF EICHMANN in Buenos Aires. At such times as meetings of this organization are held, it is known that travel arrangements and lodgings are paid for from ODESSA funds, estimates of which run into the hundreds of millions of dollars. A portion of its treasure is reportedly still buried in the Toepnitzsee near Salzburg in Austria. Another significant activity of ODESSA was the financing of the military coup of JUAN PERON in Argentina.

POLLOCK advised that it seemed significant to him that JAMES EARL RAY should have spent a month in Puerto Vallarta and further significant that at the time of his arrest he should have been enroute to Lisbon, Portugal, which is one of the five known headquarters of ODESSA activity. POLLOCK further stated that he knows of no positive information connecting RAY and MANGER or ODESSA. He did add that probably the world's best authority on ODESSA is SIMONE WIESENTHAL, Vienna, Austria.

When the original information in this matter was received from POLLOCK telephonically on 1/21/69 his name was obtained as DALE POLLACK. The Kansas City Office indices were negative regarding DALE POLLACK. However, on DALE L. POLLOCK, Kansas City has an Internal Security - East German file in which he is the subject, KC 105-2706. This file reveals that POLLOCK had expressed an interest in the "Democratic German Report", an East German propaganda publication. No derogatory information was obtained regarding POLLOCK in this investigation and his interest was probably due to the fact that he is a student of post World War II German history. This information was furnished to the Bureau in a letterhead memorandum suitable for dissemination on 9/27/68 in case entitled "DALE L. POLLOCK, IS - EG, OO: Kansas City".

1/31/69
PLAINTEXT

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

OO: ME

Re Atlanta teletype to Bureau, 1/30/69, concerning the interview of Reverend RALPH ABERNATHY, SCLC Headquarters, Atlanta, Georgia.

The results of the investigation conducted by the Memphis Division in regard to the reference of ABERNATHY re Citizens Bank radio transmissions and the removal of Negro firemen and policemen from the immediate area of the Lorraine Motel shortly prior to the shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., were forwarded to the Bureau by Memphis airtels to the Bureau dated 7/29/68 and 11/21/68.

The only item mentioned by ABERNATHY that has not been fully explained to the Bureau is the fact that Reverend JAMES LAWSON, Memphis, advised ABERNATHY that a Negro policeman who worked the beat which included the motel where Dr. KING was killed was moved off that beat the day KING was killed.

On 1/31/69, Lt. E. H. ARKIN, Intelligence Unit, Memphis PD, advised that the Memphis PD does not maintain any officers on a "walking beat" other

3-Bureau
1-Atlanta (44-2386) INFO
2-Memphis

RFB:PEH
(6)

44-1987-Sub-M-364

llh
llh
llh

Hester

ME 44-1987

than on special occasions and that from a review of the Memphis PD records he ascertained that there were no Memphis police officers assigned to a "walking beat" in Memphis on the day Dr. KING was killed.

In this regard it is believed that Reverend LAWSON was referring to Detective E. E. REDDITT, Memphis PD, who was removed from a lookout position at engine house #2 of the Memphis Fire Department on 4/4/68 due to the fact a number of threats had been made on REDDITT's life as a result of REDDITT's activities in attending meetings of the striking sanitation workers in Memphis in February and March, 1968. REDDITT was removed from this fire house and two officers of the Memphis PD were assigned at that time to protect REDDITT and members of REDDITT's family.

In view of the above, the Memphis Division does not anticipate interviewing Reverend JAMES LAWSON concerning the information LAWSON furnished to ABERNATHY.

A copy of this airtel is being submitted for the information of the Atlanta Division as Atlanta obtained the information in question as a result of the interview of Reverend ABERNATHY at Atlanta.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : File (44-1987)

FROM : ASAC C. O. HALTER

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 1/28/68

MAURICE MILLER, U. S. Secret Service, Memphis, Tenn., telephonically furnished the following information at approximately 6:58 AM, 1/28/69:

Some time during the morning of 1/28/69, a man who gave the name R. M. GAINES and whose voice appeared to be that of a Negro male, telephonically furnished the following information at approximately 6:58 AM, 1/28/69:

Some time during the morning of 1/28/69, a man who gave the name R. M. GAINES and whose voice appeared to be that of a Negro male, telephoned the headquarters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C. He informed a switchboard operator that he was going to kill President NIXON. The caller was referred to Agent BOB HINES. The caller refused to repeat to HINES the statement made to the switchboard operator and commented he only wanted to talk to someone of importance about the MARTIN LUTHER KING case inasmuch as the wrong man is in custody in Memphis, Tennessee.

GAINES gave the following addresses in Memphis, Tennessee for himself:

1056 College St., Apartment 10
Care of MAHALIA JACKSON Chicken House, 785 South Parkway

He also gave the address 2006 Arena Place, ~~Memphis,~~ *Nashville*, Tennessee.

MILLER stated he has to interview GAINES and wanted to know if this Office desired that an FBI Agent accompany him on the interview with GAINES. I informed MILLER that I would check to determine whether the FBI in Washington had telephoned this office and would be in contact with him.

COH:ME
(2)



5010-108

44-1987-Sub-M-365

44-1987-Sub

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Hester

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

ME# 44-1987

A search of the Memphis indices reflects that one ROBERT M. GAINES, 2006 Arena Place, Nashville, Tenn., telephoned Investigative Clerk R. M. CALK at the Nashville RA approximately two years ago, at which time GAINES stated he had killed his wife and buried her in a pit. CALK referred the information to the Homicide Division of the Metro PD. This memorandum is recorded in 62-0-10732.

The above was given to SA HESTER at approximately 7:45 AM. SA HESTER was requested to contact MAURICE MILLER and arrange to accompany MILLER or the Secret Service Agent assigned to interview GAINES.

I telephonically requested SA WILLIAM M. HOBBS to check with the Metro PD, Nashville on R. M. GAINES or ROBERT M. GAINES to obtain any further information on file regarding that person.

SA HOBBS telephonically informed the morning of 1/28/69 that records of the Metro PD reflect the following regarding ROBERT McEWEN GAINES:

GAINES was born [redacted] or 1911, in Tennessee. He is 5' 8" in height, weighs 140 lbs., and has a dark complexion. He has been arrested on six occasions since 1956.

On 10/1/56, there was a breach of peace arrest. His wife obtained the breach of peace warrant and on 10/8/56, he was arrested for lunacy and carrying a shotgun. He was sent to the County Hospital. He was arrested 9/24/58 for carrying a pistol. On June 30, 1960, GAINES was arrested for disorderly conduct, drunkenness, and carrying a shotgun. Other arrests are for disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, and similar offenses.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

DATE: 1-28-69

FROM : SPC THOMAS S. JENKINS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

An individual giving his name as ROBERT M. GAINES of 1056 College, Apt. #10, Memphis, Tennessee, Tel. 774-2151, Nashville telephone 256-2960, and who stated he is employed in the chicken business by A. W. WILLIS, the headquarters of which is at 705 South Parkway East, called at approximately 6:30 a.m. this date. His first comment was "I am not going to say anything about the President." Then he went on to say he called to advise that he was suing the Southern Bell Telephone Co. for \$150,000,000 because they refused to accept a telegram over the telephone from him. He said he has telephones as listed above in both Nashville and Memphis.

This individual further stated he is in Memphis "to help the boy accused of murdering MARTIN LUTHER." He further stated that "it was not a white man that killed KING."

I informed Mr. GAINES that this information would be furnished to the SAC. It is to be noted that shortly before Mr. GAINES called, Mr. MAURICE MILLER of Secret Service, Memphis, called to inquire about GAINES, stating that GAINES had called FBI Headquarters in Washington, D. C. and furnished information which was referred to Secret Service.

RGJ:BN
(1)

44-1987-Sub-M-366

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Hester [initials]



5010-108

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

F B I

Date: January 28, 1969

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

Via Airtel _____
(Priority)

TO: SAC, Memphis

FROM: Director, FBI

**MURKIN - THREAT AGAINST
THE PRESIDENT**

R. M. Gaines, home address, 2006 Arena Place, Nashville, Tennessee, telephonically contacted the Bureau 7:10 a. m., 1/28/69, and stated he is presently located at 1056 College Street, Apartment 10, Memphis, Tennessee, and he is engaged in investigating the death of Martin Luther King. Gaines stated that he was a Negro but in his investigation he had concluded that no white man had killed King. He states he had taken a number of pictures and had other evidence that would bear out his conclusions.

Gaines stated he is presently employed by the Mahalia Jackson Chicken System, headquarters 705 South Parkway, East Memphis, that store is located at 691 South Parkway, East Memphis. He currently drives a Ford Mustang automobile.

It is noted that when Gaines first contacted the Bureau operator he made a threat that he would kill the president; however, upon talking to the Bureau Supervisor, specified he stated he only made this threat so that he would get to talk to someone.

Upon receipt notify local Secret Service of Gaines threat against the president. Secret Service Headquarters at Washington has been notified. Contact Gaines immediately and obtain full details of any information he may have concerning the shooting of Martin Luther King and advise Bureau results.

44-1987-Sub-M-367

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

Memphis, Tennessee
January 31, 1969

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
Telephone Operators and
Busby's Motors,
Nashville, Tennessee;
R. M. GAINES - Complainant;
INFORMATION CONCERNING

On January 25, 1969, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C., received a telegram from R. M. Gaines, 2006 Arena Place, Nashville, Tennessee, which stated "Discrimination against black people of Nashville by telephone operators and Busby's Motors of Nashville."

At 7:10 A.M. on January 28, 1969, R. M. Gaines, 2006 Arena Place, Nashville, Tennessee, telephonically contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Washington, D. C., and stated he was investigating the death of Dr. Martin Luther King. He stated he had evidence and photographs to support his conclusion that King had not been killed by a white man. Gaines said he could be located at 1056 College Street, Memphis, Tennessee. He said he is employed by the Mahalia Jackson Chicken System, 705 South Parkway East, Memphis, Tennessee.

On January 28, 1969, Mr. Harold Jones, Executive Vice-President, Mahalia Jackson Chicken System, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that Robert Gaines has been employed by that company since about August, 1968, and that because of Gaines' drinking problem he has been on a leave of absence since January 19, 1969, at which time Gaines became intoxicated and began to annoy other officers in the company with his telephone calls.

6 - Bureau
4 - 44-
2 - 44-38861
② - Memphis (C)
1 - 44-2147
1 - 44-1987

JCH:jap
(8)

jap

44-1987-Sub-M-368

llh

llh

**RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
Telephone Operators, Etc.**

On January 28, 1969, Gaines was located at 1056 College Street, Memphis, by a Special Agent of the FBI. Gaines was found holding a half empty bottle of whiskey and gave every indication of being highly intoxicated. He was sufficiently coherent to deny having any evidence concerning the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Records of Central State Hospital, Nashville, Tennessee, reflect that Robert Gaines entered that hospital on October 24, 1966, having been brought to the hospital by Nashville Police after he had fired a gun through the roof of his home. He was diagnosed [REDACTED] and he was found to be suffering from chronic alcoholism. He was granted a thirty day furlough from the hospital on January 6, 1968, but never returned to the hospital.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Atlanta, Georgia

January 31, 1969

ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
APRIL 4, 1968

The January 29, 1969, edition of "The Washington Post" newspaper contained an article which quoted Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, as indicating in a news conference that a conspiracy exists with regard to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 30, 1969, Rev. Abernathy was interviewed by a Special Agent of the FBI at Atlanta, Georgia, and the results are set forth on the following page:

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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SEARCHED INDEXED
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FBI - MEMPHIS
Hester

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date January 31, 1969

Rev. RALEPH DAVID ABERNATHY, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, 330 Auburn Avenue, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, telephonically advised with regards to his statement to the press, which was quoted in "The Washington Post" newspaper, Washington, D. C., on January 29, 1969, that what he told the press was that he believed in view of the assassinations of President JOHN F. KENNEDY, ROBERT F. KENNEDY, MEDGAR EVERS and MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., there would be an indication to him that there may be a conspiracy among the forces of evil to do away with any young militant who stands for righteousness. Rev. ABERNATHY advised that he has no specific information or other evidence that a conspiracy exists with respect to the specific assassination of Dr. KING. He advised that the statement made to the press on January 29, 1969, in which he referred to a conspiracy concerned the assassination of all of the above-mentioned persons. In regard to those assassinations he made it clear he has no evidence indicating a conspiracy and it is only his belief or fear on his part that such a conspiracy does exist. He stated he has no idea what individuals or forces would be involved in such a conspiracy.

Rev. ABERNATHY advised that several months ago Rev. JAMES LAWSON, Minister of the Centenary Methodist Church at Memphis, Tennessee, told him, Rev. ABERNATHY, that it was Rev. LAWSON's understanding that the day before the assassination of Dr. KING, two Negro firemen, who had been assigned to the fire station across the street from the motel where Dr. KING was killed, were moved to another fire station. According to Rev. LAWSON that move left the fire station unmanned and they were moved to a station which was already fully manned and equipped. Also according to Rev. LAWSON, a Negro policeman, who worked the beat which included the motel where Dr. KING was killed, was moved off of that beat the day Dr. KING was killed, April 4, 1968, but prior to the killing.

2*

On 1/30/69 at Atlanta, Georgia File# Atlanta 44-2386by SA G. RICHARD HAMILTON :vsc Date dictated 1/31/69

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

1/31/69

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN

44-1987

Re Atlanta teletype to Bureau and Memphis dated 1/30/69, and Bureau telephone call to Atlanta, 1/30/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five (5) copies of LHM and to Memphis are two (2) copies of LHM captioned "ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, APRIL 4, 1968".

3 - Bureau (Enc. 5) (RM)
2 - Memphis (Enc. 2) (RM) *gh*
2 - Atlanta
GRH:vsc
(7)

M

44-1987-Sub-M-370

SEARCHED <i>MS</i>	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>lee</i>	FILED <i>llh</i>
FEB 3 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester *gh*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

FROM : SPC THOMAS S. JENKINS, JR.

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 2-5-69

ROBERT M. GAINES telephonically contacted this office at approximately 6:21 a.m. this date, 2/5/69. GAINES advised he had been arrested twice in the past two days by the Memphis PD on a drunk charge. He stated his car, a 1969 Mustang, Tennessee License AN 0529, VIN unknown, was impounded by the MPD. GAINES advised he was to appear in court at 9 a.m., 2-6-69, on these charges. GAINES stated his life has been threatened by the MPD if he left his apartment.

GAINES requested that the FBI obtain his car from the Memphis PD lot and protect him from the Memphis PD. GAINES was advised that this was a police matter.

GAINES sounded quite intoxicated during this call.

SA HESTER was advised of the above.

TSJ:BN
(1)

*Gaines is alcoholic
and former mental patient
at Central State Hospital.*
JH

44-1987-Sub-M-371

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED <i>llh</i>
SERIALIZED <i>llh</i>	FILED <i>llh</i>
FEB 5 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester JH



5010-108

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

F B I

Date: **2-4-69**

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

Via **AIRTEL** _____
(Priority)

✓ To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)
✓ From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

ReMEairtel to the Bureau dated 1-31-69.

Memphis should interview Reverend James Lawson for details of any information he possesses regarding the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. and conduct all necessary investigation to thoroughly resolve.

M

*Done
Jett*

44-1987-Sub-M-371A
llh llh
MEMPHIS

*Hester
(Hendle)*

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

ROBERT K. DWYER
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

LLOYD A. RHODES
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

JOHN L. CARLISLE
H. J. BEACH
E. L. HUTCHINSON, JR.
CLYDE R. VENSON
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS

EARL E. FITZPATRICK
NON-SUPPORT DIVISION

PHIL M. CANALE, JR.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF TENNESSEE
COUNTY OF SHELBY

SHELBY COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
157 POPLAR AVENUE
MEMPHIS, TENN. 38103

ASSISTANTS

WILLIAM D. HAYNES
JAMES C. BEASLEY
EWELL C. RICHARDSON
JEWETT H. MILLER
J. CLYDE MASON
SAM J. CATANZARO
LEONARD T. LAFFERTY
ARTHUR T. BENNETT
DON D. STROTHER
DON A. DINO
JOSEPH L. PATTERSON
BILLY F. GRAY
EUGENE C. GAERIG
HARVEY HERRIN
F. GLEN SISSON
JOHN W. PIEROTTI

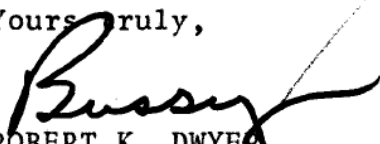
February 5, 1969

Mr. Robert Jensen
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Mr. Jensen:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of the memorandum I dictated in your presence regarding the conversation with Bradford Huie.

Yours truly,


ROBERT K. DWYER
Executive Assistant

RKD:MEF
Enclosure

44-1987-Sub-M-371B

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

Hester

MEMORANDUM

February 5, 1969

RE: CONVERSATION HELD WITH WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE ON FEBRUARY 4, 1969,
REGARDING STATE OF TENNESSEE VS. JAMES EARL RAY.

Yesterday General Canale, James Beasley, John Carlisle and myself met with Mr. Bradford Huie. This meeting took place in Mr. Huie's room, No. 1108, Rivermont Hotel. When we entered the room, Mr. Huie was alone and started telling us that his interest in the James Earl Ray case was only as a businessman. He related that he had no concern for James Earl Ray one way or the other, other than it was strictly a business situation existing between him and Arthur Hanes, former counsel for Ray and now his attorney Percy Foreman. He further stated that his only other interest other than business in that matter was a earnest desire to get and expose other co-conspirators of Ray. He further related that he wanted to know whether there existed a possibility of there not being a trial in this matter. He felt that a trial should be averted in the common interest of the country and the state of Tennessee and that his thinking was that Ray would ultimately end up and be a witness for the State of Tennessee. He stated that he would like to see Ray and confer with him and that was the reason he was now in the city other than meeting with us. He wanted to explore the possibility with us of him being permitted by the Court to go up and confer personally with Ray and that his main objective would be to convince Ray that he should plead guilty. He also enquired of us as to how much time he would have to serve on a ninety-nine year sentence and also on a life sentence. He interrupted his relating of this statement to enquire as to the possibility of the State not wanting to try this case. He was informed by the General and myself that was our business and we like to try law suits. He felt that if he could confer with Ray that he would have Ray amenable to pleading guilty. He also related that he thought Mr. Foreman whom he had known quite a few years had made a bad mistake by getting into this case. He related that he told Mr. Foreman that this was not a Candis Moessler trial and that he was going to get knocked off in this case. He further related that he told Mr. Foreman James Earl Ray killed Martin Luther King and that everybody knew and was aware of that fact. He further

related that Mr. Foreman had done some soul searching since he had entered into the defense of James Earl Ray and that Mr. Foreman wanted out of this case. He then began to related that he had traveled extensively checking out information given to him from Ray through Hanes. Ray's story about his complicity in the murder of King. He related that Ray had spent some time in Puerto Vallarto, Mexico, and that Ray had registered at a hotel in Acapulco on October 8 and had made a long distance phone call from that hotel to Corpus Christi, Texas. He related that the Mexican police had checked his registration and found out this fact four days after Ray had left the hotel. He stated that Ray, after killing Dr. King went to Birmingham and he is convinced that he met with someone in Birmingham that night and then on to Atlanta. From Atlanta he is convinced from what he knows about the case that Ray went to Gary, Indiana, and met Jerry his brother. He further stated that Ray went to Toronto and held himself to be Bridgman and Sneyd and that he spent nine days in Montreal and that this can be verified by the fact that in Montreal he robbed a food store. He stated further that Ray came in here on the third and stayed in a motel here and that on the fourth he got a hair cut on Union Avenue, that he had a fixation about getting hair cuts everywhere he went. Stated that Ray bought the binoculars; Ray took the rifle up into his room in the rooming house and that Ray told him that he was sitting in the Mustang car when the fatal shot was fired and an unnamed party came down the steps, jumped in the back of the Mustang, pulled a sheet over him and they fled the scene. An earlier version was he stated Ray told him he was to be in the room and to get the room so that they might meet an unnamed, unknown party and discuss the sale of weapons. Huie related that Ray would tell Hanes and himself a story and they would check this story out and would find that Ray had lied. They would then confront Ray with the fact that they had found out that Ray had told them lies and then Ray would relate another story. Mr. Huie was conveying to us that Ray was apt to lie on many occasions. Mr. Huie says that from his knowledge of cons and from being a police reporter shows that Ray's behavior was par for the course for that type of person. I asked Mr. Huie if prior to our meeting if he had not turned over to Percy Foreman all the handwritten notes that Ray had delivered to him. Mr. Huie