

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

PAGE FIVE

BUTLER OF SCOTLAND YARD, WHEN ARRESTED THERE. HE SAID THIS RECEIPT MIGHT BE OF VALUE AT SOME FUTURE DATE. HE REFUSED TO CLARIFY THIS.

RAY WOULD NOT AT ANY TIME DISCUSS CONSPIRACY OR ANY ASPECTS OF IT. HE CONTINUOUSLY CLAIMED THIS WOULD BE MATTER FOR HIS ATTORNEY TO HANDLE AND POSSIBLY SENATOR EASTLAND'S COMMITTEE. RAY ALSO EXPRESSED DISLIKE FOR FORMER AG CLARK BECAUSE OF HIS STATEMENTS BUT WOULD NOT CLARIFY WHAT STATEMENTS. HE DID, HOWEVER, SAY ABOUT CLARK THAT IF HE WAS SOFT ON CRIME AS THE NEWSPAPERS SOMETIME REPORTED THIS WAS OKAY.

AT THIS TIME SAC ASKED RAY IF HE WOULD NOT LIKE TO MEET A PAIR OF ASSOCIATES OF SAC, AGENTS JOE C. HESTER AND ROBERT F. BOYLE. RAY SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO TALK TO FBI BECAUSE ALL THEY WANTED TO DO WAS TRICK HIM. RAY AT CONCLUSION OF INTERVIEW SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO TALK TO ANY OTHER AGENTS AT THIS TIME. HE WAS TOLD THERE WERE TWO OTHER AGENTS WITH SAC. HE DID MEET THESE TWO AGENTS JUST PRIOR TO BEING RETURNED TO HIS CELL. HIS PARTING COMMENT WHEN GOING THROUGH CELL DOOR WAS, "TAKE A GOOD LOOK AS YOU MAY BE LOOKING FOR ME AGAIN."

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

**PAGE SIX**

SAC TOLD RAY THAT HE WOULD RECONTACT HIM AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING AND PERHAPS WE COULD AGAIN ENGAGE IN SMALL TALK. RAY SAID 'MAYBE I WILL NOT TALK WITH YOU AGAIN.'

ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO SEEK SECOND INTERVIEW IN A.M. WITH RAY.

RAY'S COMMENT ABOUT TAKING A GOOD LOOK WAS SPECIFICALLY POINTED OUT TO THE OFFICERS ON DUTY IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY SECTION AND IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY POINTED OUT TO WARDEN RUSSELL. IN ADDITION, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH WARDEN RUSSELL, SAC REQUESTED THAT VISIT OF FBI TO TENNESSEE STATE PENITENTIARY SHOULD BE HELD CONFIDENTIAL. WARDEN INDICATED HE WOULD DO SO BUT, OF COURSE, STORY WOULD STILL GET AROUND IN THE PRISON YARD.

P.

END

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 3-12-69

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY  
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775)  
RE: JAMES EARL RAY  
CR

Re Memphis phone call, 3-12-69.

Enclosed is one copy of photograph of THOMAS ROBERT HENDERSON, IV, which was received from the Birmingham Office in connection with their case entitled THOMAS ROBERT HENDERSON, IV, aka; IS-R, BH file 105-1057.

2 - Memphis (Enc. 1) (SPECIAL DELIVERY)  
2 - St. Louis  
(1 - 44-775)  
(1 - 105-6215)

ECW:jtc  
(4)

*Photo furnished  
Jim Beasley 3/17/69  
GJB  
M*

44-1987-Sub-~~177~~ 17-441  
INDEXED *ll*  
SERIALIZED *ll* FILED *ll*  
MAR 14 1969  
FBI - MEMPHIS  
*Hester*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

March 13, 1969

AIRTEL

To: Legat, Mexico City (173-1)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

*Mexico - Telephone Call Vandy*

ReBuairtel to Legat, Mexico City, dated 2-10-69,  
and 2-14-69.

You should advise the results of investigation  
conducted to date regarding telephone calls allegedly made  
from Acapulco, Mexico, to Corpus Christi, Texas, by James Earl  
Ray and alleged dealing of Ray in marijuana at Puerto Vallarta,  
Mexico.

① - Memphis (44-1987) (for info)

*M1*

*44-1987-Sub-M-442*

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>lee</i>
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*Hester*

3/13/69

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) (P)

MURKIN

The Bureau is aware that New Orleans has been making preparations to interview Louisiana State Police Trooper RAUL V. ESQUIVEL in connection with information received that indicated Subject RAY and his unknown friend "RAOUL" were alleged to have been together in July and August, 1967, in Canada; again in August, 1967, in Birmingham, Ala.; in October, 1967, in Mexico; in December, 1967, in New Orleans, La.; and finally on 4/4/68 when "RAOUL" was allegedly in Memphis, Tenn.

The purpose of this interview, of course, is to determine if Trooper ESQUIVEL is possibly identical with the "RAOUL" originally mentioned by newspaper reporters.

In view of RAY's recent plea of guilty in this matter and subsequent sentencing to 99 years in jail, Bureau is requested to advise if New Orleans should proceed with the interview of Trooper ESQUIVEL.

3 - Bureau  
② - Memphis (44-1987)  
2 - New Orleans  
EJC:sab  
(7)

44-1987-Sub-M-443

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>ll</i>
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*Hester*

M

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI WASH DC

240PM URGENT 3-14-69 GMJ

TO KNOXVILLE MEMPHIS WASHINGTON FIELD  
FROM DIRECTOR 2P

*O*  
*index*  
ERNEST HENREID HOBSON MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION  
CONCERNING (CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION).

CAPTIGNED INDIVIDUAL TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED BUREAU HEADQUARTERS MARCH FOURTEEN SIXTYNINE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT DECODENT SOCIETY AND TO REPORT HE MAY GO TO TENNESSEE TO SHOOT JAMES EARL RAY. HOBSON SAID THAT HE MIGHT LEAVE EARLY THIS DATE FOR KNOXVILLE TO SEE HIS MOTHER, ONE EIGHT THREE ONE LEMON STREET, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, AND THEN SEE ABOUT RAY. HOBSON STATED HE WAS PRESENTLY RESIDING AT THE D.C. HOTEL, EIGHT ONE SIX K STREET, N.W., ROOM FORTYONE.

NO WANTS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C., NCIC, OR IDENTIFICATION DIVISION.

HOBSON HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF NUMEROUS ARRESTS FROM SEPTEMBER, NINETEEN FORTYSIX, THROUGH JULY, NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT.

END PAGE ONE

*mandrych advised by  
telegraph 3/14/69  
advised T.P. Stone  
late*

*M*

*44-1987-Sub-M-444*

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED *llh*  
SERIALIZED *llh* FILED *llh*

MAR 14 1969

FBI - MEMPHIS

*Hester gth*

PAGE TWO

HOBSON HAS FBI NUMBER ONE FIVE FIVE EIGHT SEVEN THREE A.

HOBSON'S ARRESTS INCLUDE FIGHTING, ROBBERY, FORGERY,  
ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON AND THREATS OF BODILY HARM.

HOBSON, A NEGRO MALE, ALSO HAS TENNESSEE STATE PENITENTIARY  
NUMBER FOUR FIVE ONE THREE ONE AND STATE PENITENTIARY, NASHVILLE,  
TENNESSEE, NUMBER FIVE ZERO THREE EIGHT FIVE.

HOBSON HAS CALLED THE BUREAU ON OTHER OCCASIONS AND IS  
SELF-DESCRIBED AS PSYCHOPATH WITH A WILD TEMPER. ABOVE SUB-  
MITTED FOR INFORMATION OF RECEIVING OFFICES. MEMPHIS ALERT  
APPROPRIATE PRISON AUTHORITIES RE POSSIBLE THREAT.

END

MMO

FBI MEMPHIS

P

F B I

Date: 3/14/69

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

Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN.

*Ray Interview index*

AT APPROXIMATELY TEN A.M. THIS DATE, SUBJECT RAY ADVISED SAC, MEMPHIS, AFTER THINKING MATTER OVER LAST NIGHT HE WOULD NO LONGER SPEAK WITH SAC. WHEN QUERIED AS TO REASONS, RAY SAID IN REGARD TO HIS TRIP TO NASHVILLE HE ONLY SAID THREE WORDS TO THE PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT HIM TO NASHVILLE AND THEN THE NEWSPAPERS WROTE ABOUT THREE PAGES CONCERNING WHAT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SAID. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO RAY THAT FBI HAD NO INTENTION TO RELEASE ANY INFORMATION TO NEWSPAPERS AND, IN FACT, DID NOT RELEASE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING CONTACT MADE YESTERDAY. RAY SAID HE REALIZED THIS BUT FELT WE WERE "ADVERSARIES." HE SAID HE HAD NOTHING FURTHER TO SAY AND REQUESTED THAT HE BE RETURNED TO HIS CELL. HE DID, HOWEVER, STATE, THAT IF HE CHANGED HIS MIND HE KNEW HOW HE COULD GET IN TOUCH WITH SAC. SAC IN PARTING TOLD RAY "I WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU AGAIN, PERHAPS IN THIRTY DAYS." RAY DID STATE THAT WAS ENTIRELY UP TO SAC. P.

*44-1987-Sub-M-445*

END

RGJ:BN

*M7*

*ell*

*ell*

(1)

Approved: *RG Jensen*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *BU 5:31 PM*

Per *meq*



FBI MEMPHIS

FBI NEW YORK

950PM TRCENT 3/14/69 DCC  
TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS  
FROM NEW YORK (44-1609)

44-1987

MURKIN

ATTORNEY JACK GREENBERG, DIRECTOR, LEGAL DEFENSE FUND, NAACP, TEN COLUMBUS CIRCLE, NYC, CONTACTED USA ROBERT M. MORGENTHAU, SDNY, THREE FOURTEEN SIXTYNINE AND ADVISED HE HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM RUSSELL THOMPSON, A MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE ATTORNEY WHO CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN RETAINED BY JAMES EARL RAY AT AN EARLY STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST RAY, PRIOR TO REPRESENTATION BY ATTORNEY HANES OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA. ACCORDING TO GREENBERG, THOMPSON ASKED TO SEE HIM IN ORDER TO TELL HIM THE NAMES OF OTHER PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH RAY IN THE MARTIN LUTHER KING KILLING, AND TO FURNISH SUPPORTING DETAILS. GREENBERG ARRANGED AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET WITH THOMPSON AS GREENBERG'S OFFICE AT NINE THIRTY AM, MONDAY, THREE SEVENTEEN SIXTYNINE. GREENBERG TOLD MORGENTHAU THAT  
END PAGE ONE

Russell x Sub. A - 5368  
5369

SAC admin  
3/15/69  
AEB

44-1987-Sub-M-446  
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Hester | JPH

PAGE TWO

THOMPSON IS KNOWN TO NAACP AS A REPUTABLE INDIVIDUAL WHO PREVIOUSLY HAS DONE RELIABLE WORK FOR THE NAACP IN THE MEMPHIS AREA. GREENBERG INFORMED MORGENTHAU, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT THOMPSON'S INFORMATION, AND DID NOT KNOW IF IT WERE A PUBLICITY STUNT. GREENBERG SAID THE "NY DAILY NEWS" CALLED HIM TODAY AND KNOWS THOMPSON IS DUE IN NYC NEXT MONDAY. HOWEVER, THE DAILY NEWS DID NOT KNOW THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP, AND GREENBERG DID NOT TELL THEM. GREENBERG TOLD MORGENTHAU HE CANNOT DO ANYTHING WITH THOMPSON'S INFORMATION, AND HAS NO WAY TO EVALUATE IT, AND THUS SUGGESTED AN FBI AGENT BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING. MORGENTHAU TOLD GREENBERG THE FBI WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THAT DECISION. GREENBERG THEN CONTACTED THE NYO AND FURNISHED THE SAME INFORMATION SET OUT ABOVE.

IT IS NOTED THAT RUSSELL THOMPSON HAS BEEN REPORTED ON NY RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS, THREE FOURTEEN SIXTYNINE, AS GOING TO NEW YORK FROM MEMPHIS ON SUNDAY THREE SIXTEEN SIXTYNINE TO TALK TO THE NAACP.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

THE NYO HAS HAD FREQUENT CONTACT WITH NAACP OFFICIALS  
OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS, ALL RELATIONS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN  
CORDIAL, BUT NO SPECIFIC CONTACTS WITH GREENBERG.

THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE THE NYO WHETHER

NEW YORK SHOULD PARTICIPATE

AT GREENBERG'S OFFICE ON THREE SEVENTEEN SIXTYNINE.

END

CORR PLS LAST PAGE LINE FIVE NOT CLEAR ON ME COPIES

NEW YORK SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERVIEW OF THOMPSON  
AT GREENBERG'S OFFICE ON THREE SEVENTEEN SIXTYNINE.

AS TU DND

FBI MEMPHIS

F B I

Date: 3/12/69

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM: *WPL* SAC, HOUSTON (44-1509) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR

Re Memphis telcall 3/12/69.

On 3/12/69, PERCY FOREMAN, Attorney, South Coast Life Building, was contacted and advised as follows:

FOREMAN has no objection to Agents of the FBI interviewing his client, JAMES EARL RAY, however, he does not wish to be quoted to anyone as giving permission and he is only speaking as an individual in this case.

FOREMAN advised that he talked to RAY for approximately 50 hours. He stated that he never discussed the facts in the case, and as a matter of fact it is his usual procedure never to discuss the facts in the case with the client, except in those cases where he intends to put the client on the stand. He stated he spent most of his time talking to RAY in an effort to get to know him as an individual and to convince him that FOREMAN was really representing him and was not in league with the District Attorney.

FOREMAN advised he believes RAY is a most unusual individual and is fully convinced that RAY will not cooperate with any authorities, particularly the FBI. He stated that

② - Memphis  
1 - Houston  
JJD/cbl  
(3)

*M.*

44-1987-Sub-M-447  
SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED *llb*  
SERIALIZED *llb* FILED *llb*  
MAR 14 1969  
FBI - MEMPHIS  
*Hester*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

HO 44-1509

RAY became upset in the courtroom when the names of RAMSEY CLARK and J. EDGAR HOOVER were mentioned, which names RAY associates with the "establishment", his enemy.

FOREMAN advised that RAY is a racist and at one point told FOREMAN that he, RAY, felt they had a 70% chance of winning, because NIXON and WALLACE got 70% of the vote in Memphis. RAY indicated to FOREMAN that politics has more to do with the outcome of a case than does legal ability. RAY believes that a defense attorney should be of the opposite political party as that of the prosecutor.

FOREMAN advised that as an example of RAY's extreme face conscious ideas, RAY refused to accept the legal services arranged by FOREMAN of one JOHN HOOKER, a brilliant attorney in Tennessee, because HOOKER's son when running for political office had received the support of Negro groups in Tennessee.

FOREMAN restated his position that the criminal proceedings concerning RAY are over, and, therefore, he personally would have no objection to an interview by the FBI, however, he believes such interview would be as unproductive as talking to the wall. He stated that when he last saw RAY he never expected to see or hear from him again, however, RAY's brother has indicated that RAY will probably have FOREMAN represent him in some civil proceedings which involve RAY's efforts to recover some of RAY's personal property.

FOREMAN also pointed out that RAY was critical of the FBI in this regard. RAY apparently has read numerous articles concerning the facts in this case and told FOREMAN that the FBI was apparently concealing evidence because there were numerous fingerprints on the gun according to RAY, whereas the FBI stated there was a limited number of fingerprints. RAY apparently deliberately left fingerprints on the gun and RAY feels he should have received more credit in this regard.

HO 44-1509

FOREMAN advised he is treating this information confidentially and, of course, could not be quoted because of his attorney-client relationship.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

San Antonio, Texas

March 12, 1969

FREDERIC L. CARLIN

At approximately 11 a.m., March 11, 1969, an individual identifying himself as Frederic L. Carlin appeared at the San Antonio Office of the FBI advising he had a "conspiracy theory" concerning the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King which he wished to discuss with the FBI.

Carlin proceeded to explain his "theory" which among other things encompassed the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the Senate debate on the appointment of Abe Fortas as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1968. Carlin contended the conspirators in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were Senator Phillip A. Hart (D-Mich.) for "being suspect" in the Detroit race riots; Senator Steven M. Young (D-Ohio) for "being suspect" in the Cleveland race riots; Senator Eugene Mc Carthy for being so liberal on different issues and for stating he planned to visit Red China if he were elected President; former Attorney General Ramsey Clark for supporting anti-gun law legislation; and FBI Special Agent George Bonebreak (phonetic), if not the whole FBI in general.

Carlin elaborated the conspirators in this case were the product of Communist infiltration into every phase of the United States Government, civil rights groups, and church groups in the United States, and each of the conspirators had contributed large sums of money to finance James Earl Ray and to keep Ray quiet, thereby protecting themselves.

Carlin stated if an investigation was launched to examine Congressional voting records, this would bear out his theory.

Carlin's main point in this theory centered around criticism of the FBI and Agent Bonebreak, stating the FBI acted too swiftly in issuing "two wanted flyers" on Ray. The

44-1987-Sub-M-448

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*[Signature]*

FREDERIC L. CARLIN

first flyer was on an Eric Starvo Galt while the second one was on James Earl Ray. Carlin contended the FBI could not possibly have known Eric Starvo Galt was an alias Ray might have used prior to actually identifying Ray by what was reported to be an exhaustive fingerprint examination. He, therefore, stated the FBI should be held accountable for possibly causing arrest and/or death of an innocent person.

Carlin, who throughout the foregoing conversation spoke in an extremely arrogant and belligerent manner, stated he had been discharged from the United States Navy in 1961. He exhibited a Navy identification card, No. [REDACTED], showing him to be a "non petty officer".

Carlin stated he was a former letter carrier for the United States Post Office, San Antonio, having been employed by that office until mid-1968, at which time he "resigned" or was "removed" due to medical problem involving his blood sugar count and the fact he had overextended his sick leave privileges. He stated he was presently self-employed as a farmer owning a small farm near Stockdale, Texas.

Carlin gave no exact address, stating he does not like to use a street address and that he received his mail through General Delivery or occasionally a box he might rent at the Post Office in San Antonio.

Carlin returned to an earlier statement of his concerning anti-gun law legislation and stated this was even more evidence to prove a Communist infiltration of the United States Government as he felt Americans should be allowed to own firearms as he felt they would be needed one day in the battle against Communism. He stated he personally owned firearms and described them as a .38 Special revolver and a "nice" 30.06 deer rifle.

Carlin indicated he had written the following individuals concerning his "conspiracy theory" and hoped they would see an investigation was launched to bear this theory out:



**FREDERIC L. CARLIN**

Governor Ronald Reagan of California (whom Carlin stated he backed in a bid for the Presidency of the United States);

Governor John McKeithan of Louisiana;  
Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau of Canada;  
Former President Lyndon B. Johnson while in office;  
President Richard M. Nixon;  
New Orleans, Louisiana, District Attorney James Garrison; and  
U. S. Senators Strom Thurman, Robert P. Griffin, James O. Eastland, Sam Ervin, Jr., Ted Kennedy, and John Tower.

From observation during the above conversation Frederic L. Carlin is described as a white male; in his early 30's; approximately 5'9"; 155-160 pounds; dark hair and eyes; wears glasses; and has pock marked complexion.

At approximately 2 p.m., March 11, 1969, Deputy United States Marshal Mario Granados, San Antonio, Texas, telephonically contacted the San Antonio Office of the FBI advising he had received the following information from his brother Rudy Granados.

At approximately 12:45 p.m., March 11, Rudy Granados was in Cap'n Jim's restaurant located at the intersection of Loop 13 and Roosevelt, San Antonio, and overheard an unknown man state he had "a .357 magnum" in his car and was "leaving to take care of Garrison". Granados observed this unknown individual, described as a white male, 5'8", approximately thirty years of age, leave the restaurant and drive off in a light blue Chevrolet Nova automobile bearing 1968 Texas license plates GNS 308.

Check of these license plates through Bexar County automobile registration records reflected they had been issued for a 1963 Chevrolet, Vehicle Identification No. 30411K127278, registered to F. L. Carlin, 511 Monticello, San Antonio, Texas.

A check of the current San Antonio city directory

FREDERIC L. CARLIN

reflected 511 Monticello is the address for one Clifford T. Carlin, a printer for the San Antonio Express Publishing Company. This directory further carried the listing for one Frederic L. Carlin, who was a carrier for the United States Post Office, San Antonio, and has a Post Office Box of 10039.

Driver records, Texas Department of Public Safety, Austin, Texas, reflected the following descriptive data for the above individuals:

Clifford Theodore Carlin:

White male; born [redacted]; 5'9"; 180 pounds; brown eyes; black hair; Texas operator's license 0031853; address 511 Monticello, San Antonio, Texas.

Frederic Leroy Carlin:

White male; born [redacted] 5'10"; 168 pounds; brown hair; brown eyes; Texas operator's license 1135972; address 511 Monticello, San Antonio, Texas.

The files of the San Antonio Division of the FBI fail to reflect any information identifiable with Frederic L., Frederic Leroy, or Clifford Theodore Carlin.

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: 3/12/69

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
 FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (44-1242)  
 RE: MURKIN

Re San Antonio teletype to the Bureau and New Orleans dated 3/11/69 captioned as above.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM suitable for dissemination. Two copies are being furnished New Orleans and two copies are also being furnished Memphis for information purposes in view of the fact that division is 00 in captioned matter.

Local dissemination has been made to U.S. Secret Service, San Antonio and Austin in view of the fact it would appear subject of enclosed LHM would fit Category 2 of the Agreement between Secret Service and this Bureau concerning Presidential protection. 112th MI Group, San Antonio, has also been furnished a copy of this LHM.

No further action is being taken by San Antonio.

3 - Bureau (Encs. 8)  
 2 - New Orleans (157-10673)(Encs. 2)  
 ② - Memphis (44-1987)(Encs. 2) *pdh*  
 3 - SA  
     (1 - 44-1242)(1 - 100-Dead)(Carlin)  
     (1 - 66-1620)

DAW:fes  
 (10)

*44-1987-Sub-M-449*

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester* *OK*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge

3-14-69

**AIRTEL**

**To: SAC, Dallas (44-2649)**  
**From: Director, FBI (44-38861)**

**MURKIN**

ReATairtel to the Bureau dated 3-11-69.

Dallas should immediately locate and interview Joe Griffin, 1918 N. Manhattan St., Amarillo, Texas, concerning any information he may have in his possession regarding the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. You should also determine location of Raymond Polacco through interview of Griffin and set forth leads to have him interviewed.

Atlanta should continue efforts to locate Raymond Polacco in an effort to interview him and completely resolve this allegation. It is noted that Polacco was allegedly employed at the First National Bank in Atlanta, Georgia, and allegedly attends Georgia State College in Atlanta. Your efforts to locate Polacco should not be limited to his alleged place of employment and school as all avenues must be exhausted to locate and interview him.

Based upon available information, Bureau indices contain no information identifiable with Raymond Polacco or Joe Griffin.

Keep the Bureau advised of pertinent developments.

- ① - Memphis (44-1987) (for info)  
1 - Atlanta (44-2386) (for info)

M

44-1987-Sub-M-458

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MAR 17 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

FBI NEW YORK

9:31 PM URGENT 3-17-69 AWS

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS  
FROM NEW YORK 44-1609

MURKIN;

JACK GREENBERG DIRECTOR, LEGAL DEFENSE FUND,  
NAACP, CONTACTED NARCH SEVENTEETH, SIXTYNINE, AND ADVISED  
THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF FBI WOULD NOT ATTEND CONFERENCE  
WITH RUSSELL THOMPSON AND THE NAACP.

GREENBERG WAS INFORMED THE FBI WAS DESIROUS OF  
RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION THOMPSON POSSESSED AID EXTENDED  
INVITATIONS TO GREENBERG AND THOMPSON TO COME TO THE NYO AND  
FURNISH THIS INFORMATION.

GREENBERG ADVISED THAT THOMPSON HAD WITH HIM MUCH  
PAPER MATERIAL AND HAD BEEN DISCUSSING INFORMATION HE POSSESSED.  
HOWEVER, GREENBERG ADVISED HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO  
EVALUATE THIS INFORMATION.

GREENBERG ADVISED HE WOULD REQUEST THOMPSON TO  
CONTACT THE NYO CONCERNING THIS MATTER. GREENBERG  
ADVISED THAT HE WOULD NOT ACCOMPANY THOMPSON TO THE NYO.

THOMPSON TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED NYO EVENING  
OF THREE SEVETEEN, SIXTYNINE AND ADVISED DUE TO PRIOR  
COMMITMENTS, HE WOULD AGAIN CONTACT NYO ON THREE EIGHTEEN,  
SIXTYNINE CONCERNING HIS AVAILABILITY IN THIS MATTER.

END

ME...RJT

FBI MEMPHIS

M

44-1987-Sub-M-451  
44-1987-  
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SERIALIZED ll FILED ll

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FBI - MEMPHIS

Hester

3/17/69

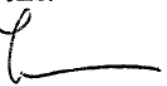
AIRTEL

AM

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

For the information of the Bureau, there is enclosed  
Xerox copy of Houston Airtel to Memphis 3/12/69.

3 BUREAU (Enc. 1)(AM)  
1 MEMPHIS  
RGJ:BN  
(4)



M

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llh

44-1987-Sub-M-452

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : FILE (44-1987)

DATE: 3/17/69

FROM : SAC ROBERT G. JENSEN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

This morning I took a call from BILL JOHNSON, Associated Press, who advised his Atlanta Office had some information regarding various statements made by JAMES BEVEL in Philadelphia regarding this case. He asked whether or not I would care to comment. I told him that I was in no position to comment one way or the other regarding any statements made. It was suggested that if he was interested in discussing the case he really should contact Attorney General CANALE.

RGJ:BN  
(1)

*ASAC col m*  
*#3 Desk of*  
*Hester*  
*Bayle RB*

44-1987-Sub-M-115  
SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....  
SERIALIZED.....FILED.....  
FBI - MEMPHIS



5010-108

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

made that one of them, we understood, was in the name of a police officer and he laughed heartily, but he didn't elaborate. He made no reference to the crime itself. He did ask one time if he would be placed in a cell or be allowed to be outside some and he was told that he should take this up with the warden of the institution. He indicated that he sure hoped they would not lock him in a cell. I recall that he said he had sure messed up and if it was to do over, he would not have pleaded guilty to the offense. We arrived at the Penitentiary at 8:06 and Ray was released to the prison authorities.

Q. That's all, thank you.

---

RICHARD M. DAWSON

1b



44-1987-Sub-M-453

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
INDEXED llh  
SERIALIZED llh  
FILED llh

Statement of RICHARD M. DAWSON, Captain of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, station at Jackson, Tennessee. Made in the Attorney General's Office at 11:40 A.M. on Tuesday, March 18, 1969. Questioned by John L. Carlisle. Typed by Mrs. Loretta Mendora.

\* \* \* \* \*

Relative to the JAMES EARL RAY case.

\* \* \* \* \*

Q. Captain Dawson, on the morning of March 11, 1969, did you, with other officers of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, accompany James Earl Ray to the State Penitentiary at Nashville?

A. Yes sir, I did.

Q. Would you name the officers that accompanied you and relate any discussion as you can recall between Ray and any of the officers.

A. Yes sir. We assumed custody of Ray at approximately 5:20 A.M. in the Highway Patrol Station on Summer Avenue, Memphis. He was placed in the rear seat of the automobile. I sat on his left. Commissioner O'Rear was on his right. Inspector Mickey McGuire drove. Deputy Commissioner Bud Hopton sat in the front on the right. I recall some...for the first 15-20 minutes, there was very little conversation. As we continued on, Ray made some remarks concerning the landscape and scenery. I remember asking Ray that yesterday was his birthday and he looked like he had celebrated it with a bang. He said, hell, yesterday wasn't my birthday. I've lied to them so much they don't know when I was born,..or words to that effect. I remember Inspector McGuire asking Ray then if the articles in Look Magazine pertaining to his case were in fact truth. Ray responded...hell no, about 90% of it is lies and Huie now knows about the time that I was in a mental institution and I understand that his next article is going to say that I'm crazy. I also remember McGuire asking Ray if he had been in Nashville before. Ray said that is where the Grand Ole Opry is, isn't it? I don't remember if he said he had or had not been in Nashville but he said he had not been to the Grand Ole Opry. I remember Ray asking me if I was with the prison. I told him no and asked why. He said I was wondering if legal services are available in the State Pen. Commissioner O'Rear told him he would have to take that up with the warden of the institution. I remember Ray saying they had not treated him badly in the Shelby County Jail other than the damn Federal man had had the windows boarded up and he could not see out or get any fresh air with the exception of what was blown in and it made him feel like he had a cold all the time. I remember asking Ray how the jail here compared to the confinement facilities in England. He said in England they had two types of jails, one before trial and one after trial and that the one before trial was not bad, but he understood the other one was rough as hell. I remember him saying that he was trying to get to Africa, but the riots were going on in France and he had gone to Portugal, but was unable to get a boat to Africa; but heard he could get one in Brussels so he returned to England intending to get to Brussels. He said he had run out of money, and that he had intended to go to Brussels and get a boat to Africa. I recall some conversation and I don't know who asked the question, concerning getting the passports in Canada and also the mention was

3-18-69

AIRTEL

AM

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

*Trip to State Prison incl*

There are enclosed two copies of report of Captain RICHARD M. DAWSON, one of the officers who accompanied RAY during his transfer from custody of the Sheriff's Department, Memphis, to the Tennessee State Prison, Nashville.

3 BUREAU (Enc. 2) (AM)  
1 MEMPHIS

RGJ:BN  
(4)

*✓*

*Rec'd Benley  
from J. Benley  
atty 3/18/69  
R*

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
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FILED \_\_\_\_\_

*M.*

*Hester*

*44-1987-Sub-M-454*

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI NEW YORK

1159AM URGENT 3/18/69 JAM  
TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS  
FROM NEW YORK 44-1509 2P

MURKIN

RE NEW YORK TEL, MARCH SEVENTEEN, SIXTYNINE.

MR. RUSSELL THOMPSON, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED THE  
NYO ON MARCH EIGHTEEN, SIXTYNINE, AT WHICH TIME HE EXPRESSED  
HIS DESIRE TO FULLY COOPERATE WITH THE FBI CONCERNING THE  
INFORMATION HE POSSESSES AND HAS HAD DISCUSSION WITH OFFICIALS  
OF THE NAACP IN NYC ON MARCH SEVENTEEN, SIXTYNINE.

MR. THOMPSON RELATED THAT MOST OF THE INFORMATION  
THAT HE POSSESSES HAS ALREADY BEEN FURNISHED TO THE FBI AND  
OTHER TENNESSEE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. HE STATED THAT HE  
DOES POSSESS SOME INFORMATION THAT HE HAS NOT DISCUSSED WITH  
THE FBI OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, HOWEVER, THIS INFORMATION  
MAY ALREADY BE KNOWN TO THESE AGENCIES.

END PAGE ONE

M

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED *lll*  
SERIALIZED *lll* FILED *lll*  
MAR 18 1969  
FBI - MEMPHIS

*Hester* | *AK*  
44-1987-Sub-M-455

PAGE TWO

MR. THOMPSON ADVISED THAT HE WAS PROBABLY RETURNING TO MEMPHIS ON MARCH NINETEEN, SIXTYNINE, AND UPON HIS RETURN WOULD CONTACT THE MEMPHIS OFFICE TO ARRANGE WITH THEM AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO DISCUSS ALL THE INFORMATION THAT HE POSSESSES. MR. THOMPSON POINTED OUT THAT HE BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE MORE PRACTICAL TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH FBI OFFICIALS IN MEMPHIS SINCE THEY ARE MORE FAMILIAR WITH STREET, LOCATIONS AND OTHER PERTINENT DETAILS.

MR. THOMPSON POINTED OUT THAT HE POSSESS NO INFORMATION THAT HE CLASSIFIED AS GREAT OR SPECTACULAR SUCH AS THE NEWS MEDIA WAS ATTEMPTING TO RELATE TO THE PUBLIC.

END

SDC

FBI MEMPHIS

P

3/18/69

**AIRTEL**

**AIRMAIL**

**TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)**  
**FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) (P)**  
**SUBJECT: MURKIN**  
**(OO: MEMPHIS)**

For the information of the Bureau and Memphis, on 3/17/69, Mr. KENT CORTNEY, publisher of the Conservative Journal, telephonically contacted the office and advised that he had just talked by telephone to JERRY RAY, brother of JAMES EARL RAY. He advised that RAY called from a pay phone in St. Louis, Mo., and advised CORTNEY that he was coming to New Orleans Thursday, 3/20/69, and would like to meet with CORTNEY and discuss his brother's situation. He advised that he is looking for a new attorney for his brother and that he knew CORTNEY by reputation to be a man interested in justice. He indicated to CORTNEY that a conspiracy did exist and that his brother did not act alone. Mr. CORTNEY wanted advice as to whether he should meet with RAY or not. Mr. CORTNEY was advised that any inquiries into this matter should be directed to Mr. PHIL M. CANALE, JR., State Attorney General, Shelby County Courthouse, Memphis, Tenn.

3 - Bureau (RM)  
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (RM)  
1 - New Orleans  
JFB:jpb  
(7)

M

44-1987-Sub-M-456

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>lll</i>
SERIALIZED <i>lll</i>	FILED <i>lll</i>
MAR 20 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Heiter* *OK*

3-20-69

AIRTEL

AM

SCREENED  
By Rm Date 5/14/69

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN,

Re New York teletype March 18, 1969.

As of close of business, March 20, 1969, RUSSELL X. THOMPSON has not made any effort to contact the Memphis Office. UACB, Memphis will make no efforts to set up appointment with RUSSELL X. THOMPSON, but will await his call

3 BUREAU  
1 MEMPHIS  
RGJ:BN  
(4)

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44-1987-Sub M-457

NW#: 36722 DocId: 31938250



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Dallas, Texas  
March 19, 1969

**ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION ALLEGING  
PARTICIPATION OF RAYMOND POLACCO  
IN ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

Reference is made to the memorandum, entitled as above, submitted by the Atlanta Office on March 11, 1969.

A check of the City Directory of Amarillo, Texas, failed to reveal an address of 1918 North Manhattan Street or the name of JOE GRIFFIN. The City Directory did reveal a J. E. Griffin, Painter, residing at 1913 North Manhattan Street.

Operator No. 20, Amarillo Credit Association, 912 Taylor Street, on March 17, 1969, advised that Johnnie E. Griffin, 1913 North Manhattan Street, had been known to their files since July of 1966, and was reportedly employed as a house painter. The name of his wife was shown as Judy but file also contained information that Griffin had filed for divorce from Judy on January 9, 1969.

On March 17, 1969, Mr. Johnnie Ernest Griffin, 1913 North Manhattan Street, Amarillo, Texas, was interviewed at his place of employment, the Astoria Park Apartments, Amarillo, Texas. Griffin advised that on

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.

44-1987-Sub. M-458

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>ll</i>	FILED <i>ll</i>
MAR 21 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester*



**ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION ALLEGING  
PARTICIPATION OF RAYMOND  
POLACCO IN ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

January 6, 1968, his wife's sister, Mrs. Charlie (Wanda) Johnston, came to Amarillo, and lived with them until May of 1968. He advised that she has now returned to her husband and that they reside at 812 - Apartment B, Eloise Courts, Atlanta, Georgia, and that the husband, Charlie Johnston, is employed as a fireman for the City of Atlanta, Georgia.

He advised that the mother of Charlie Johnston is Mrs. R. H. Johnston, 594 Hill Street, Atlanta, Georgia. He stated that one time at Amarillo while Wanda Johnston was drunk, she stated that her husband, Charlie Johnston, had run over a Negro boy and killed him. She stated that her husband had killed a Negro for free but that her mother in law got \$10,000.00 for shooting Martin Luther King. He stated that he did not know whether this was true or not, but that Mrs. Johnston did about that time send Wanda Johnston about \$2,000.00 to pay for a car.

Griffin advised that all of his wife's family call him Joe Griffin. He stated that his wife, Judy Griffin, left him about October, 1968, and returned to Atlanta, Georgia, where she resides with a sister, Deborah Blackman, at 834-C Confederate Courts, Atlanta, Georgia. He advised that there is presently a court fight going on for the custody of their three children.

Griffin advised that he was in Atlanta just before Christmas of 1968, and that Deborah Blackman told him that Mrs. Johnston had received another "big pay off" in the Martin Luther King case, and that this "pay off" had been made by Raymond Polacco. He advised that he had never met this Raymond Polacco but that he was going with Deborah Blackman at the time that he was in Atlanta.

**ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION ALLEGING  
PARTICIPATION OF RAYMOND  
POLACCO IN ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

Griffin advised that he returned to Amarillo, Texas, and that on January 28, 1969, he received a telegram which read as follows:

"Dear Sir: I would like to get in touch with you concerning your family. It is important. I would like for you to reply back to the Atlanta Main Office, sending your telephone number. Please answer one way or the other. BRUCE MARKS."

Griffin advised that he sent a telegram back furnishing his phone number and the next day received a telephone call from Raymond Polacco from Atlanta, Georgia. Polacco advised that he understood that Griffin was looking for evidence to indicate that his wife was morally unfit to have the children and stated that he would secure pictures of his wife in the nude or in bed with some man if Griffin would pay him \$500.00. He indicated to Griffin that he was an investigator and told Griffin that he could be reached at Atlanta telephone number 404-361-7297.

Griffin advised that he called Polacco back at this number and talked with a woman whose name he understood to be "Calloway". She advised that Polacco did not live at that address but that she babysat for the four year old daughter of Polacco. She said that Polacco lived "down the street" and advised that she lived at 4550 Ridgecrest Drive. She stated that Polacco was a Cuban, 27 years of age, was not employed, but had a wife who worked in a drug store. She said that Polacco was attending school somewhere in Atlanta.

Griffin was then asked if he wrote a letter to the Atlanta Constitution, Atlanta, Georgia, about this matter and emphatically denied writing such a

**ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION ALLEGING  
PARTICIPATION OF RAYMOND  
POLACCO IN ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

letter. He stated that all that he knew about the Martin Luther King assassination had come from members of his wife's family and that he knew nothing of his own knowledge about the matter.

On March 17, 1969, Mr. Dee Miller, Attorney at Law, Fisk Building, Eighth and Polk Streets, Amarillo, Texas, advised that he represented Johnnie E. Griffin in a divorce and child custody suit against his former wife, Judy Griffin, of Atlanta, Georgia. He advised that he did receive a call from a man named Raymond, last name not given, from Atlanta, Georgia, advising that he would secure compromising photographs of Judy Griffin for use in the child custody matter for \$500.00. Miller advised that this caller claimed to be an investigator but stated that it was immediately apparent to him that the caller was not an investigator since he did not even have a camera and wanted an advance so that he could buy a camera. Miller told this caller that they were not interested in such a proposition.

Mr. Miller advised that there was a hearing at Amarillo, Texas, on January 24, 1969, in the child custody matter and that Griffin had furnished him some letters from an "Aunt Ella" from Decatur, Georgia, which letters described the immoral behaviour of Judy Griffin while in Atlanta. He advised that he subpoenaed this person to the hearing and attempted to introduce the letters but "Aunt Ella" denied writing such letters and stated she convinced him that she did not write the letters. He stated that he accused Griffin of preparing the letters from "Aunt Ella" but he denied it. Mr. Miller advised that in view of this, he was seriously considering asking permission of the court to withdraw from the case.

3/19/69

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, DALLAS (44-2649) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Dallas dated 3/14/69.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are five copies of LHM captioned "ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION ALLEGING PARTICIPATION OF RAYMOND POLACCO IN ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.", dated 3/19/69, at Dallas, Texas.

Two copies each are also enclosed for the Atlanta and Memphis offices.

The interview of JOHNNIE ERNEST GRIFFIN also known as Joe Griffin, was conducted by SAs WILLIAM R. JENKINS and LARRY J. STEGING. The interview of Attorney DEE MILLER was by SA WILLIAM R. JENKINS.

LEADS

ATLANTA

AT FOREST PARK, GEORGIA. 1. Will interview Mrs. ALF CALALAY, 4550 Ridgecrest Street, since this is apparently the person that GRIFFIN talked with by phone and who said that she was a babysitter for RAYMOND POLACCO and kept his four year old daughter.

2. Will determine holder of Atlanta phone number 404-361-7297, and if not listed to ALF CALALAY will interview them for information concerning POLACCO.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 5)  
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) *lll*  
2 - Atlanta (44-2396) (Enc. 2)  
1 - Dallas  
WRJ:mar  
(8)

*M*

44-1987-Sub-M-459

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>lll</i>	FILED <i>lll</i>
MAR 21 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester*

**Charges Lack of Guard**

Special to The New York Times

PHILADELPHIA, March 17—

The Rev. James Bevel charged here today that police officials of Memphis had known about a plot to assassinate Dr. King but took no special precautions to guard him.

Mr. Bevel, director of non-violent education and direct action for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, insisted that "there definitely was a conspiracy" to murder Dr. King. He made the charges in an interview with Claude Lewis,

a reporter for The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

Mr. Bevel said that the conference learned about the alleged plot a couple of days before Dr. King arrived in Memphis on April 3. He said the information came about as the result of a mistake made by Memphis postal authorities.

A letter addressed to a white woman was delivered to a Negro woman of the same name who lived in another section of Memphis, Mr. Bevel said. The letter, he added, contained "the relevant and pertinent information that Dr. King was to be assassinated while in Memphis."

Mr. Bevel said the letter was immediately turned over to the Memphis police, but no special security measures were placed around the Lorraine Motel, where Dr. King was slain.

44-1987-Sub. M-460

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>llh</i>	FILED <i>llh</i>
APR 17 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>Hester</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>

**Charges Lack of Guard**  
Special to The New York Times

PHILADELPHIA, March 17—  
The Rev. James Bevel charged here today that police officials of Memphis had known about a plot to assassinate Dr. King but took no special precautions to guard him.

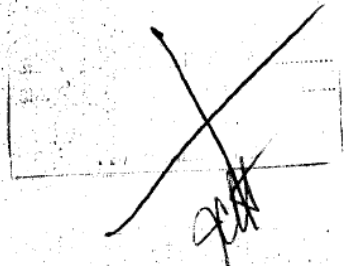
Mr. Bevel, director of non-violent education and direct action for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, insisted that "there definitely was a conspiracy" to murder Dr. King. He made the charges in an interview with Claude Lewis,

a reporter for The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

Mr. Bevel said that the conference learned about the alleged plot a couple of days before Dr. King arrived in Memphis on April 3. He said the information came about as the result of a mistake made by Memphis postal authorities.

A letter addressed to a white woman was delivered to a Negro woman of the same name who lived in another section of Memphis, Mr. Bevel said. The letter, he added, contained "the relevant and pertinent information that Dr. King was to be assassinated while in Memphis."

Mr. Bevel said the letter was immediately turned over to the Memphis police, but no special security measures were placed around the Lorraine Motel, where Dr. King was slain.



F B I

Date: 3-20-69

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

To: SACs, Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) *WGM*  
Philadelphia (44-1368) (Enc. 2)  
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

**MURKIN**

Enclosed for Memphis and Philadelphia are two copies of an article which appeared in the "New York Times" on March 18, 1969, concerning statements made to the press by Reverend James Bevel, an official of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in Philadelphia.

Memphis should review this article and determine through review of office files or inquiry at the Memphis Police Department if information exists to support or refute the statements of Bevel.

Memphis *SULHM* to Bureau and Philadelphia concerning all information developed relative to the newspaper article.

Copies of this communication and article are being provided to Philadelphia in the event it becomes necessary to interview Bevel at a later date. Philadelphia should not interview Bevel until so instructed by Bureau.

*44-1987-Sub-M-461*

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED <i>lll</i>	FILED <i>lll</i>
MAR 23 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester*

Sent Via \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Memphis, Tennessee  
March 21, 1969

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;  
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM  
CR - CONSPIRACY

An article appearing in the March 18, 1969, edition of the "New York Times," a daily newspaper published at New York, New York, contained an article datelined March 17, 1969, at Philadelphia, which states that Reverend James Bevel, identified in the article as Director of Non-Violent Education and Direct Action for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, has indicated that "there definitely was a conspiracy" to kill Dr. King. This article quotes Rev. Bevel as saying that as a result of a mistake made by Memphis Postal Authorities, a letter addressed to a white woman was delivered to a Negro woman of the same name who lived in another part of Memphis. This letter, he stated, contained the "relevant and pertinent information that Dr. King was to be assassinated while in Memphis." Rev. Bevel further states that this letter was immediately turned over to the Memphis Police but that no special security measures were placed around the Lorraine Motel, at which place Dr. King was killed.

On March 21, 1969, Inspector N. E. Zachary, Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, who was in charge of the Homicide Bureau at the time Dr. King was killed, advised that he has never heard of such a letter and that at no time during his investigation of the King murder was it ever called to his attention that such a letter had ever existed.

On March 21, 1969, Inspector Don Smith, Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, who was in charge of security arrangements for Dr. King's visit to Memphis on April 3, 1968, advised that when he met Dr. King and

4 - Bureau (44-38861)  
2 - Philadelphia  
① - Memphis (44-1987)

JCH:jap  
(7)

*jap*

*44-1987-Sub-M-462*

*llh*  
*llh*  
*llh*

*SD*



RE: JAMES EARL RAY;  
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

his associates at the Memphis Airport on April 3, 1968, he inquired of Dr. King as to his plans for his stay in Memphis in order that necessary security measures might be put into effect. Inspector Smith said he was told by Rev. James Lawson, Pastor of the Centenary Methodist Church, Memphis, and who was one of Dr. King's associates, that Dr. King's plans had not been fully made and that he was unable to furnish Inspector Smith any information. Inspector Smith said that when Dr. King left the Memphis Airport, he (Inspector Smith) had no idea of the destination and that he "tagged along" to find out where they were going. He said that as soon as Dr. King arrived at the Lorraine Motel, he called for additional officers and had them posted in the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel.

Inspector Smith stated that he has never heard of a letter such as the one described by Rev. Bevel, and he doubts that such a letter ever existed.

On March 21, 1969, Mr. Louis Peele, Postal Inspector's Office, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he has no information in his possession to indicate that such a letter as the one described by Rev. Bevel ever existed.

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.

3/21/69

AIRTEL

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

Enclosed for the Bureau are 4 copies and for Philadelphia 2 copies of an LHM pertaining to statements made by Rev. JAMES BEVEL, as reported in the March 18, 1969, edition of the "New York Times."

No further investigation is being conducted in this regard.

*M*

- 3 - Bureau (Encs. 4)
- 2 - Philadelphia (Encs. 2)
- ① - Memphis

JCH:jap  
(6)

*jap*

*[Handwritten signature]*

Airtel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Teletype \_\_\_\_\_  
 A.M. \_\_\_\_\_  
 A.M.S.D. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spec. Del. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reg. Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Registered \_\_\_\_\_

*llh*

*llh*

*44-1987-Sub-M-463*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 3/21/69

Mr. DON WOOD, Aeromarine Supply Service, contacted the Birmingham Division following the conclusion of the case against JAMES EARL RAY and made known his desire to have returned to him certain items of evidence in the possession of the local prosecutor in Memphis. These items are one Remington Model 700 .243 caliber rifle; nine boxes of .243 caliber Norma cartridges; one set of Redfield ring mounts for a telescopic sight and the original invoice plus the yellow copy reflecting this sale.

WOOD is most anxious to have these items returned to him and although he feels they eventually will be he wants to alleviate any possibility that the return of these items may be forgotten by the local prosecutor.

Due to WOOD's extreme cooperation with this Bureau and his excellent attitude and help furnished in connection with this investigation, it is requested that Memphis contact prosecutors CANALE and BEASLEY and make known WOOD's request for the return of these items.

- ② - Memphis
- 2 - Birmingham
- NPS:jam
- (4)

M

44-1987-Sub-M-464

SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....  
SERIALIZED.....FILED.....

MAR 22 1969  
FBI - MEMPHIS

Hester



5010-108

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

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE - GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA

RCMP-GRC 6882

C 237  
REV. 1-4-66

OTHER FILE REFERENCES: REF. AUTRES DOSSIERS:	DIVISION <b>"C"</b>	DATE <b>5 MAR 69</b>	RCMP FILE REFERENCES: REF. DOSSIERS GRC:  <b>68GIS 790-107</b> <b>68C 790-19</b>
	SUB-DIVISION - SOUS-DIVISION		
	DETACHMENT - DÉTACHEMENT <b>Montreal C.I.B.</b>		

RE:  
OBJET:  
**Martin Luther KING -  
Murder of:  
- Assistance to F.B.I. -**

1. Further to memorandum of the A/Officer i/c C.I.B. dated in Montreal on the 19 FEB 69 and appended FBI correspondence, enquiries conducted with the MCP revealed that only two (2) unsolved armed robberies occurred during the periods running from July 17, 1967 to August 17, 1967, and from April 8, 1968 to the 6 May 1968. The establishments robbed are as indicated hereunder:

(a) Date: 21 JUL 67

Tupper Grocery  
Louis WEINER (prop.)  
2067 Tupper Street,  
Montreal, Quebec.

Amount: \$1,280.00

MCP file P-7-10-6284 -

This robbery was committed by two armed individuals who spoke English with a French accent and the perpetrators were identifiable by Louis WEINER. WEINER was interviewed by Cst. GUAY of this office on the 3 MAR 69, at which time he was exhibited photographs of James Earl RAY. At the time of exhibition to WEINER, photographs of RAY had been mixed together with photographs of other individuals. No identification made and WEINER was positive that the photographs of the men who had robbed the store were not among the ones he viewed.

(b) Date: 4 MAY 68

Laiterie Perrette,  
6355 Sherbrooke East,  
Montreal, Quebec.

Amount: \$1,098.91

MCP file P-8-7-2261

Witnesses: Lucien BLOUIN, Manager,  
7122 Candiac,  
St-Léonard, Quebec.

Robert ROUPART, employee,  
8135 Fabre,  
Apt. 2,  
Montreal, Quebec.

44-1987-Sub-M-465  
INDEXED *lll*  
SERIALIZED *lll* FILED *lll*  
MAR 24 1969  
FBI-MEMPHIS  
*Hester*

This robbery was committed by one individual who spoke French and is identifiable by the two witnesses. Enquiries conducted at Laiterie Perrette revealed that BLOUIN was no longer employed there and his present whereabouts were unknown. Enquiries conducted at BLOUIN's known home

RE:  
OBJET.

PAGE 2

Martin Luther KING -  
Murder of:  
- Assistance to F.B.I. -

address also met with negative results as BLOUIN has moved out approximately four (4) months ago leaving no forwarding address. At the present time, attempts are being made to locate BLOUIN. POUPART is no longer employed at the Laiterie Perrette and was contacted at his residence by telephone. When he was advised of the purpose of our wishing to meet him to identify photographs of the possible robber, he stated that he did not wish to get involved in any police investigation which might lead him to become a witness in any type of prosecution. Attempts will be made to interview POUPART personally, at his home, and the outcome will be reported on. It is however, to be noted, that the perpetrator of this theft in this case, spoke French and it is not believed at this point that James Earl RAY speaks French.

D.D. 14-3-69

*E.J.C. Mager*  
( E.J.C. Mager ) Sgt.  
#17440  
Montreal C.I.S.

*JIB PROULX*  
(JIB PROULX) S/SGT.  
NCO I/C G.I.S.

Routing Slip  
0-7 (Rev. 9-25-67)

(Copies to Office Checked)

TO: SAC,

- Albany
- Albuquerque
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TO LEGAT:

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- Bonn
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- London
- Manila
- Mexico, D.F.
- Ottawa
- Paris
- Rome
- Santo Domingo
- Tokyo

Date March 21, 1969

RE:

### ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

For information     Retention optional     For appropriate action     Surep, by \_\_\_\_\_

The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report,  conceal all sources,  paraphrase contents.

Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:

**Enclosed is one copy each of two separate RCMP reports. Do not disseminate.**

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 24 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

Enc. (2) *Men*

Bufile **44-38861**

Urfile **44-1987**

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE - GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA

RCMP  
GRC 6880

C 237  
REV. 1-4-66

OTHER FILE REFERENCES: REF. AUTRES DOSSIERS:	DIVISION "O"	DATE 26 FEB 69	RCMP FILE REFERENCES: REF. DOSSIERS GRC: 68HQ-791-Q-60(VOL.2) 68-0-790-205 68-790-74
	SUB-DIVISION - SOUS-DIVISION		
	DETACHMENT - DÉTACHEMENT Toronto C.I.B. General		

RE:  
OBJET:  
Martin Luther KING -  
Murder of.  
(ASSISTANCE TO F.B.I.)

17 FEB 69

1. On this date, Mrs. Mabel AGNEW, ARCADE PHOTO STUDIO, advised that her doctor informed her that she has a heart condition. Considering this problem and her fear of air travel, she did not think that she would be able to testify at the trial of James Earl RAY. She was interviewed this same date and the importance of her evidence was discussed. As a result of this interview, she agreed to go to Memphis with a friend, Mrs. RICHARDSON.

20 FEB 69

2. Raymond SNEYD contacted me on this date and disclosed that on 10 JAN 69 he received notification that a year's free subscription to the Magazine "Play Boy" had been given to him by a person by the name of Ahmad NAMER. He did not consider this as being anything but a prank until he received two copies of this publication. The original notification is being retained here as an exhibit and photostat copies are attached. SNEYD advised that he has never applied or had previously received a copy of this Magazine and further the person by the name of Ahmed NAMER is completely unknown to him. The cost of a year's subscription to this publication is \$13.00 and in view of this and the fact that he will be giving testimony in this case might be of some significance. The possibility exists that this is a movement to discredit the witness or reflect on his morals. Possibly the U.S. authorities might be able to obtain some further information in this regard.

3. On this date, Henry MOOS was acquitted of the charges emanating from the signing of the Passport Application for James Earl RAY. Mrs. Lillian SPENCER gave evidence at this trial indicating that she assisted RAY in completing the Application for Passport Forms and also identified a photograph of him. Mr. D. CARTWRIGHT, Crown Prosecutor in this case suggested that being that SPENCER was a very poor witness, and that she had admitted to helping RAY, and further identified him by photo, the prosecuting authorities in Memphis would no doubt be interested in receiving a copy of the transcript of this trial.

4. Mr. T. MORAN, Court Reporter, Old City Hall, Toronto, advised that the cost of this service was approximately \$25.00 for SPENCER's testimony and \$100.00 for the complete trial.

5. In considering the time element involved in preparing this transcript and also the problems concerning Mrs. A. DWYER was contacted in Memphis and advised.

44-1987-Sub-M-466  
INDEXED  
SERIALIZED  
FILED  
MAR 24 1969  
FBI - MEMPHIS 2  
Hester

M

RE:  
OBJET.

Martin Luther KING

PAGE

2.

6. Attached are copies of Forms C.246.

S.S.I.

D.D.: 30-4-69

.....  
(L.N.M.) S/Sgt.  
i/c Tor. CIB Gen.

Cpl.  
(J.S. Dunlop) # 17852.  
Toronto C.I.B. General.

THE COMMISSIONER, OTTAWA

FORWARDED for your information, together with the mentioned enclosures.

2. While no confirmation has been received, the investigator has advised that the trial is now scheduled for 7-4-69. However, U.S. authorities do not expect they will be in a position to call any witnesses until after 12-5-69.

3. Your further instructions as indicated in memorandum from the Assistant Officer i/c Headquarters C.I.B. dated 13-12-68 will be awaited.

TORONTO  
7-3-69

(C.R. Doey), Supt.  
Officer i/c C.I.B.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, (44-1987)

DATE: March 25, 1969

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Reference is made to article on page 12, Memphis Press Scimitar, a local newspaper, issued on Saturday, March 22, 1969 captioned "Thompson's Confidential File on Ray Turned Over to FBI" written by Press Scimitar staff writer ROY HAMILTON. This article stated that the Memphis attorney (RUSSELL H. THOMPSON) whose confidential file on the JAMES EARL RAY case has attracted national attention disclosed today that he has turned over all of his information to the FBI saying his findings indicate the possibility of a conspiracy in the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING but he declined to make his evidence public.

The article stated that THOMPSON was back in Memphis after spending four days in New York where he made a report on his investigation to the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund as well as to the FBI; that THOMPSON investigated the KING murder after being consulted by RAY's first attorney, ARTHUR J. HANES, before RAY fired HANES and hired PERCY FOREMAN last November.

HAMILTON's story stated that when asked if he had information previously unknown to Federal authorities, THOMPSON replied, "I believe I did. At least they seemed surprised at some of the things I had". THOMPSON added, however, that it would be "erroneous" to conclude that he had definite proof of a conspiracy. He was further quoted as stating, "Looking at it in a totally objective way, I know it would be extremely difficult to mold some of my information into the form of evidence which could be introduced into a court of law. I prefer to reserve my opinion and my judgment until this information can be properly checked and the credibility of various informants properly evaluated". THOMPSON was further reported as saying he did not know at this time what the NAACP Legal Defense Fund planned to do but the article said there had been reports that the organization may call for a new government investigation.

*44-1987-Sub-M-466A*

- ① - 44-1987
- 1 - 170-866 (RUSSELL X. THOMPSON)

SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....  
SERIALIZED.....FILED.....

MAR 25 1969

FBI - MEMPHIS

WHL:jl  
(2) *jl*

*44-1987-Sub-M-466A* *Jester*

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



ME 44-1987

On Sunday, March 23, 1969, RUSSELL X. THOMPSON who has known the writer for several years called writer at home, stated that he was at home and not at his office; that he was somewhat concerned that the newspaper reporters had stretched out of proportion comments which he had made concerning his turning his files over to the FBI. He pointed out that he had not formerly turned over any written files to the FBI; recalled that back in April he furnished information to SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE as well as to Inspector N. E. ZACHARY, then head of the Homicide Division, Memphis, Tennessee Police Department, concerning the so-called "blond Latin" whose name he was not then privileged to disclose who claimed to have information concerning the killing of KING. This information has since been set forth in detail in airtel leads to Denver and New Orleans and has been resolved as not having any bearing on information of evidence with regard to the killing of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

THOMPSON stated that he was in New York on March 17 - 18, 1969 to discuss his knowledge of the JAMES EARL RAY case with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, also known as NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, which has, in recent years, hired him to represent various Negroes in connection with criminal and civil rights matters in the Memphis, Tennessee, area.

He stated that he has turned over all of his information to them; that the bulk of his information has to do with the visit to his office in early April 1968 of the so-called "blond Latin" and also the information furnished by Fayette County, Tennessee male Negro, JOHN MC FERRIN, a Negro merchant who originally gained notoreity by furnishing information concerning his alleged overhearing a produce dealer in Memphis making a telephone call with regard to the alleged shooting of KING.

THOMPSON recalled that someone in the NAACP Legal Aid Office at New York called the FBI in New York on or about March 17, inviting that office to send a representative to confer and receive information from THOMPSON, but the New York office declined, stating that it did not want to send a representative to a private conference. Later on Tuesday, March 18, 1969, he, THOMPSON, while staying in New York, called the New York office, talked to an Agent whose identity he did not recall, at which time he offered to turn over all information in his possession concerning possible relation to the JAMES EARL RAY case and the KING killing to the FBI at New York. The Agent told him that since he was not familiar with all the ramifications