

NR002 AT PLAIN

12:09 AM URGENT 1-15-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

SAC, MEMPHIS

SAC, EL PASO

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2638) (P)

MURKIN.

RE AT TEL TO BU, JAN. 13, 1976

ON INSTANT DATE, DIANE BRADY, WHITE FEMALE, DOB

POB ATLANTA, GA., CURRENT OWNER OF THE OFFICE LOUNGE,

INTERVIEWED AND ADVISED SHE IS QUITE CERTAIN THAT IN 1967

SHE WAS EMPLOYED AS A CARHOP AND BARTENDER AT PETE'S PLACE

ON MORELAND AVE. SHE IS FAMILIAR WITH RAY GODFREY AND AFTER

VIEWING PHOTO OF CLAUDE AND LEON POWELL, WAS FAMILIAR WITH

BOTH OF THEM. SHE STATED SHE NEVER HEARD ANYONE TALKING

ABOUT ANY MURDER OF ANY TYPE AT PETE'S PLACE. SHE WAS UNABLE

TO IDENTIFY ANYONE RESEMBLING ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH

(LNU). SHE CAN ONLY DESCRIBE ONE INDIVIDUAL WHO CAME INTO

PETE'S PLACE WHO WAS WELL-DRESSED AND WALKED WITH A LIMP.

SHE KNEW THE INDIVIDUAL AS "DUKE". "DUKE" WAS A WHITE MALE,

APPROXIMATELY 6', 180 LBS., DARK HAIR, WALKED WITH A LIMP,

DROVE A LARGE DARK CAR WITH A GWINNETT COUNTY TAG. "DUKE"

END PAGE ONE

*Director*  
44-1987 SUBM 944  
*Ph*  
*my*  
*mt*  
JAN 14 1976  
*Aesler* *PH* *D*

PAGE TWO, AT 44-2638

ALWAYS SEEMED TO HAVE MONEY, IN FACT, GAVE HER \$50 TIP. SHE CANNOT LOCATE DUKE AT THIS TIME, IN FACT, HAS BEEN TRYING TO FIND HIM ON HER OWN. DUKE VERY RARELY WENT INTO BAR, ALWAYS GOT HIS BEVERAGES THROUGH THE CARHOPS. DIANE ADVISED ANOTHER CARHOR NAMED DOTTIE (LNU), WHO SHE THINKS IS CURRENTLY WORKING FOR BARBARA'S LOUNGE ON MORELAND AVE., MIGHT BE ABLE TO ASSIST IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION IN VIEW OF FACT SHE WAS A LONG-TIME EMPLOYEE OF PETE'S PLACE.

LEON POWELL REINTERVIEWED AND SHOWN ARTIST'S CONCEPTION. TO THE BEST OF HIS RECOLLECTION, WITH SOME MINOR COSMETIC CHANGES, CONCEPTION RESEMBLES INDIVIDUAL WHO CONTACTED HIM RE ASSASSINATION. POWELL IS CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL WHO CONTACTED HIM KNOWN AS RALPH DID NOT, REPEAT DID NOT, WALK WITH LIMP.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. LOCATE AND INTERVIEW DOTTIE (LNU) AND SHOW ARTIST'S CONCEPTION.  
END.

RJH

ME ACK FOR ONE AND THANKS

NR012 AT PLAIN

8:55 PM URGONT 1-15-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MEMPHIS

EL PASO (44-920)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN. ✓

44-1987

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, JANUARY 15, 1976.

ON INSTANT DATE, EDNA MC KINNON OWNER OF MC KINNON'S RESTAURANT, MORELAND AVENUE, ADVISED SHE DOES HAVE EMPLOYED AN EMPLOYEE NAMED "DOTTIE". "DOTTIE" DID WORK FOR HER WHEN SHE OWNED THE PIGLET RESTAURANT LOCATED AT HILL AND MORELAND, ATLANTA, GEORGIA. "DOTTIE" HAD THE DAY OFF AND IS CURRENTLY OUT OF TOWN, SHE WILL BE BACK AND REPORT FOR WORK AT 2:00 PM, FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1976.

DIANE BRADY RECONTACTED, ADVISED ALL OTHER EMPLOYEES OF PETE'S PLACE HAVE DIED SINCE PETE'S PLACE WAS CLOSED. AS FAR AS SHE CAN REMEMBER, THE ONLY INDIVIDUALS STILL LIVING THAT WERE CONNECTED WITH PETE'S PLACE ARE HERSELF, "DOTTIE", AND RAY GODFREY. A LOT OF THE CUSTOMERS ARE STILL AROUND AND FREQUENT HER BAR, "THE OFFICE".

END PAGE ONE.

44-1987-Sub M-945

SEARCHED *GD* INDEXED *GD*  
SERIALIZED *ml* FILED *GD*

JAN 15 1976

FBI - MEMPHIS

*Decker*

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW "DOTTIE"  
AT MC KINNON'S RESTAURANT.

POWELL BROTHERS, LEON AND CLAUDE, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED  
POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS.

END.

PLS HOLD

NR013 AT PLAIN

8:45 PM URGENT 1-13-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MEMPHIS

EL PASO (44-920)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN. *7K SUB*

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, JANUARY 12, 1976.

ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, AKA RAY GODFREY, INTERVIEWED AND DENIED ALL KNOWLEDGE OF ANY ASSASSINATION PLOT REGARDING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH NAMES CLAUDE AND LEON POWELL, BUT AFTER OBSERVING THEIR PICTURES KNEW THEM TO BE FREQUENT VISITORS TO PETE'S PLACE. GODFREY ADVISED HE WAS EMPLOYED AS A BARTENDER AT PETE'S PLACE. HE DID NOT TALK WITH EITHER OF THE POWELLS REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NOR DID HE INTRODUCE ANYONE TO THEM REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT WELL-DRESSED INDIVIDUALS FREQUENTING PETE'S PLACE, GODFREY VOLUNTEERED THAT A WHITE MALE IN HIS FORTIES, APPROXIMATELY FIVE FEET ELEVEN INCHES TALL, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY TO ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY POUNDS WITH DARK WAVY HAIR, FURTHER DESCRIBED AS WELL-GROOMED AND WELL-SPOKEN, A SWARTHY COMPLEXION, POSSIBLY OF CUBAN DESCENT DID  
END PAGE ONE.

*44-1987 Sub m 946*

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>mp</i>
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JAN 13 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*glt*

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

FREQUENTLY COME INTO PETE'S PLACE. HE IS UNABLE TO RECALL THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME, HOWEVER, ANOTHER FORMER BARTENDER BY THE NAME OF DIANE (LNU), WHO NOW HAS A BAR NAMED, "THE OFFICE", LOCATED ON FLAT SHOALS ROAD IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, MIGHT POSSIBLY REMEMBER THIS INDIVIDUAL. GODFREY STATED THE ONLY OTHER INDIVIDUAL WHO MIGHT REMEMBER THIS WELL-DRESSED MAN IS PETE DAVIS.

GODFREY AGREED TO POLYGRAPH VERY READILY.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW DIANE (LNU).

POWELL BROTHERS, LEON AND CLAUDE, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS.

END.

RJH

ACK FOR ONE AND TKS

NR 006 EP PLAIN

9:55PM NITEL JANUARY 9, 1976 SMC

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ATLANTA (44-2386)

FROM EL PASO (44-920) (P)

MURKIN

RE WASHINGTON TEL SENT JANUARY 9, 1976.

ON JANUARY 9, 1976, D.M. WILLIAMS, MANAGER OF THE SCOTTISH INN MOTEL, MIDLAND, TEXAS, ADVISED THAT THE MOTEL RECORD FOR ROOM 211, WHERE CLAUDE POWELL JR. IS RESIDING, REFLECTS NO OUTGOING TELEPHONE CALLS. INCOMING TELEPHONE CALLS ARE NOT RECORDED, WHETHER LOCAL OR LONG DISTANCE, AS TO THEIR POINT OF ORIGIN.

CLAUDE POWELL JR. RECONTACTED AND ADVISED HE WOULD SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION CONCERNING THE INFORMATION HE PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED ON JANUARY 8, 1976. EL PASO AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS BY BUREAU RE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION.

AIR MAIL COPY SENT TO MEMPHIS.

END.

TKR FBIHQ 2

1 - MEMPHIS

44-1987 Sub M 947

SEARCHED <i>mp</i>	INDEXED <i>mp</i>
SERIALIZED <i>mp</i>	FILED <i>mp</i>
JAN 13 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*[Signature]*

FBI

Date: 1/16/76

12

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

Via TELETYPE NITEL  
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)  
ATLANTA (44-2386)  
EL PASO (44-920)

FROM: MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

MURKIN

INDICES OF THE MEMPHIS OFFICE CONTAIN NOTHING WHICH  
WOULD LINK CLAUDE POWELL, LEON POWELL, RAY GODFREY, OR ANY  
OF THE POWELL RELATIVES TO THE MURKIN INVESTIGATION.

NO FURTHER ACTION BEING TAKEN AT MEMPHIS.

END.

JCH:jap  
(1)

*jap*

WA - 11<sup>30</sup>P - MEB  
AT - 10<sup>45</sup>P - HLF  
EP - 4<sup>45</sup>A - OXM

44-1987 sub m 948

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED map  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED map

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

*[Handwritten signature]*

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



NR020 AT PLAIN

7:57 PM URGONT 1-16-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MEMPHIS

EL PASO (44-920)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN. *44-1987*

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, JANUARY 15, 1976.

ON INSTANT DATE, DOTTIE UNDERHILL, WAITRESS AT MC KINNON'S RESTAURANT, MORELAND AVENUE, ADVISED SHE HAS NEVER WORKED AT ANY OTHER ESTABLISHMENT ON MORELAND AVENUE. SHE HAS NEVER BEEN EMPLOYED AT ANY LOUNGE CALLED "PETE'S PLACE", NOR IS SHE FAMILIAR WITH THE NAME PETE DAVIS. DAVID MC KINNON, SON OF OWNER, ADVISED HIS FATHER HAS EMPLOYED NUMEROUS WAITRESSES, SOME OF WHOM EVEN SUPPLY PHONY NAMES. HE HAS WORKED FOR HIS FATHER FOR THE LAST EIGHTEEN YEARS. HE CANNOT RECALL ANY OTHER WAITRESS NAMED "DOTTIE" OTHER THAN THE ONE WHO IS EMPLOYED NOW.

ATLANTA. WILL, ASAP, MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE A. RAY GODFREY AND LEON POWELL AFFORDED POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION.

POWELL BROTHERS, LEON AND CLAUDE, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS.

END.

PLS HOLD

*Jmb*

*Joe N...*

*44-1987 Sub m 949*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 16 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester*

NR010 AT PLAIN

3:21 PM NITEL 1-19-76 LMM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
SAC, MEMPHIS  
SAC, EL PASO (44-920)  
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)  
MURKIN

RE ATLANTA NITEL TO THE BUREAU DATED JANUARY 16, 1976.

ON JANUARY 16, 1976, A. RAY GODFREY WAS CONTACTED CONCERNING HIS WILLINGNESS TO SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH EXAMINE AT THE ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI AT WHICH TIME GODFREY STATED "I AM INNOCENT" AND HE THEN ADVISED THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO TAKE ANY POLYGRAPH EXAMINE AND HE STATED HE DID NOT WISH TO TALK TO THE FBI ANY FURTHER AND IF THE FBI NEEDS ANY FURTHER INFORMATION THEY SHOULD CONTACT HIS ATTORNEY, JACK V. DORSEY, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS 633-9607 OR 934-8921.

ON THE SAME DATE, LEON OWEN POWELL ADVISED THAT HE IS WILLING TO TAKE A POLYGRAPH EXAMINE AND STATED THAT HE WOULD BE AT THE ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI SOMETIME BETWEEN 3:00 AND 7:00 P.M. ON JANUARY 19, 1976, FOR THE POLYGRAPH EXAMINE.

UACB, ATLANTA DIVISION WILL NOT CONTACT ARNOLD RAY GODFREY ANY FURTHER OR HIS ATTORNEY, JACK V. DORSEY.  
END OF PAGE NUMBER ONE

44-1987 sub m 950

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JAN 11 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester*  
*Hester* *OK*

PAGE NUMBER TWO

AT 44-2386

POWELL BROTHERS LEON AND CLAUDE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED  
POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS.

END

H M OK FBI ME MJH

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SACS ATLANTA (44-2386)

1/15/76

EL PASO (44-920)

SAN ANTONIO

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

REBUTELCALLS JANUARY 14, 1976.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION (CRD), U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, HAS REQUESTED THAT POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS BE AFFORDED TO LEON OWEN POWELL, CLAUDE POWELL, JR., AND ARNOLD RAY GODFREY.

ATLANTA, HAVE SA JOHN B. REYNOLDS, BUREAU-APPROVED POLYGRAPH EXAMINER, AFFORD POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS TO LEON OWEN POWELL AND ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. OBTAIN NECESSARY WAIVERS.

EL PASO, COORDINATE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION FOR CLAUDE POWELL, JR. SA LOREN K. LEE, BUREAU-APPROVED POLYGRAPH EXAMINER, SAN ANTONIO DIVISION, IS INSTRUCTED TO AFFORD THIS POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION. EL PASO CONTACT CLAUDE

① MEMPHIS (44-2987) C

*Wrong file*

44-1987 sub m 951

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JAN 19 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester* *JH*

①

PAGE TWO (44-38861)

POWELL, JR., AS TO AVAILABILITY AND CONTACT SAN ANTONIO DIVISION  
DIRECT RE ARRANGING THE TIME AND PLACE FOR THIS POLYGRAPH  
EXAMINATION. OBTAIN NECESSARY WAIVERS.

HANDLE PROMPTLY AND SUTEL SUMMARY RESULTS.

COPY MAILED MEMPHIS.

END

NR007 SA PLAIN

10:55PM NITEL JANUARY 20, 1976 LPP

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS

FROM SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) (RUC)

MURKIN. **44-1987**

REBUTEL TO ATLANTA, JANUARY 15, 1976, AUTHORIZING REINTERVIEW OF CLAUDE POWELL, JR., WITH USE OF POLYGRAPH.

ON JANUARY 19, 1976, AT 8:15 P.M., CLAUDE POWELL, JR., AFFORDED POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION AT MIDLAND, TEXAS, BY SA LOREN K. LEE (SAN ANTONIO) WHO WAS UNASSISTED IN COLLATERAL INTERVIEW.

POWELL'S "YES" RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS, "DID SOMEONE OFFER YOU AND LEON \$50,000 TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.?" AND "DID SOMEONE ASK YOU TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.?" WERE LESS THAN RESPONSES TO CONTROL QUESTION, INDICATING POWELL IS TRUTHTELLING IN STATING SOMEONE DID, IN FACT, OFFER HIM AND HIS BROTHER \$50,000 TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. POWELL'S "NO" RESPONSE TO QUESTION, "DO YOU KNOW WHO ASKED YOU AND LEON TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.?" AND HIS REACTIONS FOLLOWING THE ANSWER INDICATE POSSIBLE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING UNIDENTIFIED PERSON MENTIONED IN ABOVE QUESTIONS.

*44-1987 Sub m 952*

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JAN 20 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester*

*Hester*

*AK*

*o*

PAGE 2 SA 44-1242

SUBJECT POWELL WAS LEFT WITH IMPRESSION THAT RESULTS OF POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION WERE UNCLEAR AND THAT STRONG POSSIBILITY EXISTED WHEREIN FBI WOULD REQUEST ADDITIONAL TEST IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. RESULTS OF TEST WERE NOT DISCUSSED IN ANY WAY WITH POWELL NOR WAS INTERROGATION EFFECTED.

BUREAU REQUESTED TO FURNISH COPY OF THIS COMMUNICATION TO BUREAU FILE 80-5.

E N D.....

RJH

ACK FOR ONE

NR009 AT PLAIN

2:44 PM NITEL 1-20-76 LMM

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MEMPHIS

EL PASO (44-920)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN. - 44-1987\*

RE ATLANTA NITEL TO THE BUREAU, JANUARY 19, 1976.

LEON OWEN POWELL WAS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR IN THE ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI TO TAKE A POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION SOMETIME BETWEEN 3:00 PM AND 7:00 PM ON JANUARY 19, 1976. APPROXIMATELY 7:00 PM, POWELL TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED THE ATLANTA OFFICE, ADVISING HE WAS "SICK" AND THAT HE DESIRED TO POSTPONE THE POLYGRAPH EXAM UNTIL THE WEEK OF JANUARY 26 THROUGH 30, 1976.

POWELL WAS TENTATIVELY RESCHEDULED TO TAKE THE POLYGRAPH EXAM ON JANUARY 26 OR JANUARY 27, 1976.

UACB, ATLANTA DIVISION WILL SUBMIT NO FURTHER TELETYPES IN THIS MATTER UNTIL POWELL IS POLYGRAPHED.

POWELL BROTHERS, LEON AND CLAUDE, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS.

END.

HK FBI ME MJH

44-1987-Sub M-953

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JAN 20 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Wester* *gt*



1/16/76

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
AND SAC, SAN ANTONIO

FROM: SAC, EL PASO (44-920) (P)

MURKIN. ✓ 44-1987

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO EL PASO, JANUARY 16, 1976, AND  
MIDLAND RESIDENT AGENCY TELEPHONE CALL TO SAN ANTONIO,  
JANUARY 16, 1976.

POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION FOR CLAUDE POWELL, JR.,  
COORDINATED WITH SA LOREN K. LEE, SAN ANTONIO DIVISION,  
FOR JANUARY 19, 1976, 8:00 P. M., MIDLAND, TEXAS. NECESSARY  
WAIVER FOR POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION OBTAINED FROM POWELL.

EL PASO WILL SUTEL RESULTS OF THE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION.  
ATLANTA (44-2386) AND MEMPHIS ADVISED AIRMAIL.  
END.

1 - Atlanta (44-2386) (AM)  
① - Memphis (AM)  
1 - El Paso

FWN:myg  
(3)

44-1987 SUBM 954

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JAN 20 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester* *OK*

1/30/76

TELETYPE

NITEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
(80-5-2)

EL PASO (44-920) (MAIL)

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) (MAIL)

MEMPHIS (MAIL)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (94-481) (P)

MURKIN. - 44-1987

ON JANUARY 29, 1976, AT 7:45 P.M., LEON OWEN POWELL,  
AFTER EXECUTING FD-328 (POLYGRAPH CONSENT FORM), AFFORDED  
POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION IN ATLANTA OFFICE OF FBI. ASSISTING IN  
COLLATERAL INTERVIEW WAS SA AUGUST W. BULFER. POWELL DURING  
PRE-POLYGRAPH INTERVIEW FURNISHED SUBSTANTIALLY SAME INFORMATION  
AS IN PREVIOUS INTERVIEWS WITH EXCEPTION TO INFORMATION CONCERNING  
MONEY OFFERED BY GODFREY. POWELL, ACCORDING TO HIS RECOLLECTION,  
STATED GODFREY NEVER MENTIONED THE AMOUNT OF MONEY TO BE PAID  
BUT INDICATED HE STATED HE WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO WAS  
INTERESTED IN MAKING "BIG MONEY." ALSO GODFREY INDICATED "BIG  
MONEY" WOULD BE PAID FOR KILLING MARTIN LUTHER KING. POWELL  
PREVIOUSLY STATED GODFREY MADE STATEMENT FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS

END PAGE ONE

1 - El Paso (Mail)  
1 - San Antonio (Mail)  
① - Memphis (Mail)  
2 - Atlanta (1 - 44-2386) (1 - 94-481)  
JBR:ld  
(5)

44-1987 SUBM 955

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - MEMPHIS	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials are present over the stamp and to its right.]*

AT 44-2386 (PAGE TWO)

WAS TO BE PAID. HOWEVER, WHEN GOING OVER POLYGRAPH QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED OF HIM, HE REQUESTED THAT THE AMOUNT BE DELETED FROM QUESTION AND WORDS "BIG MONEY" BE SUBSTITUTED FOR FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS. ACCORDING TO POWELL, THE CONVERSATION WITH GODFREY CAME ABOUT WHILE THEY WERE SITTING IN PETE'S BAR DURING FALL OF 1967 AND CONVERSATION WAS CONCERNING MARTIN LUTHER KING'S ACTIVITIES AT WHICH TIME SOMEONE STATED KING SHOULD BE KILLED AND POWELL'S BROTHER, CLAUDE POWELL, MADE STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT HE WOULD KILL HIM FOR THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF MONEY. POWELL ADVISED A COUPLE OF DAYS AFTER THE INITIAL CONVERSATION WITH GODFREY WHILE THEY WERE IN PETE'S BAR A WHITE MALE ENTERED THE BAR INQUIRING ABOUT THE POWELLS. AFTER LOCATING THEM, HE STATED HE CAME TO TALK TO THEM CONCERNING A MATTER THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN DISCUSSED AFTER THEY ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE THAT THEY KNEW WHY HE WAS THERE. THE WHITE MALE, WHOM POWELL IDENTIFIED AS RALPH, THEN ASKED IF THEY WERE READY TO GO THROUGH WITH IT. POWELL STATED THIS WHITE MALE NEVER MENTIONED THE KILLING OF KING OR DISCUSSED HOW THE KILLING WOULD TAKE PLACE BUT ONLY DISPLAYED A SMALL BRIEFCASE WHICH CONTAINED A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY. ONE QUESTION ON THE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION WAS "DID RALPH SAY HE HAD

END PAGE TWO

AT 44-2386 (PAGE THREE)

TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS IN THE BRIEFCASE?" HOWEVER, POWELL STATED RALPH NEVER INDICATED THE EXACT AMOUNT, ONLY STATING HE HAD "TWENTY-FIVE." POWELL, WHEN QUESTIONED AS TO WHETHER HE MEANT TWENTY-FIVE HUNDRED OR TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND, STATED RALPH NEVER DID STATE THE AMOUNT BUT HE REALIZED THAT THAT MUCH MONEY IN THAT SIZE BRIEFCASE WOULD HAVE TO BE AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS. RALPH ALSO MADE STATEMENT THAT THERE WOULD BE "FIFTY MORE" WHEN MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS BURIED. HOWEVER, WHEN HE QUESTIONED THEM AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THEY WOULD GO THROUGH WITH IT, CLAUDE POWELL STATED THEY WOULD HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT AT WHICH TIME RALPH DEPARTED THE BAR STATING THAT IF THEY HAD NOT MADE UP THEIR MINDS BY THAT TIME HE COULD NOT DO BUSINESS WITH THEM.

POWELL WAS AFFORDED FOUR SEPARATE EXAMINATIONS, THE FIRST BEING A CARD TEST WHERE POWELL VIEWED THREE DIFFERENT CARDS OF DIFFERENT COLORS BUT WAS ADVISED TO DELIBERATELY LIE TO THE COLOR OF TWO OF THESE CARDS. IT WAS NOTED THE RESULTS OF THIS EXAMINATION INDICATED NO SIGNIFICANT REACTION TO THESE QUESTIONS AND THIS TEST WAS INCONCLUSIVE.

END PAGE THREE

AT 44-2386 (PAGE FOUR)

EXAMINATIONS TWO, THREE AND FOUR, ALL CONTAINING RELEVANT, IRRELEVANT AND CONTROL QUESTIONS, THE RELEVANT QUESTIONS CONCERNING STATEMENTS MADE BY GODFREY AND CONTACT BY RALPH, WERE ALSO INCONCLUSIVE IN THAT POWELL DID NOT REACT SIGNIFICANTLY TO ANY ONE OF THESE QUESTIONS. POWELL DID REACT TO TWO QUESTIONS CONCERNING GODFREY, PARTICULARLY THE QUESTIONS "DID GODFREY EVER ASK YOU IF YOU WERE INTERESTED IN MAKING BIG MONEY?" AND "DID GODFREY TELL YOU THE BIG MONEY WAS TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING?" THE REACTION INDICATED ON THE CHART WAS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY STRONG ENOUGH TO DRAW A CONCLUSION AS TO DECEPTION AND IT IS POSSIBLE THIS REACTION COULD BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO POWELL'S CHANGING HIS STORY FROM THE ORIGINAL INTERVIEW OF GODFREY MAKING THE STATEMENT CONCERNING FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO NOW STATING "BIG MONEY."

DURING THE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION, POWELL APPEARED TO HAVE DIFFICULTY BREATHING AND THE UPPER PNEUMOGRAPH HAD TO BE CONTINUALLY ADJUSTED BY THE EXAMINER. POWELL DID NOT APPEAR OVERLY NERVOUS, DID NOT DISPLAY ANY OUTWARD SIGN OF EMOTION, BUT DID STATE ALL DURING THE POLYGRAPH THAT HE WAS VERY NERVOUS CONCERNING THIS WHOLE MATTER AND THAT HE HAD A HARD TIME BREATHING PROPERLY,  
END PAGE FOUR

AT 44-3386 (PAGE FIVE)

PARTICULARLY AS THE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION PROGRESSED. WHEN QUESTIONED CONCERNING RESPONSES INDICATED ON THE CHART, POWELL WOULD ONLY STATE THAT HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH AND THAT HE TOLD ALL THAT HE KNEW AND COULD RECALL CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT. POWELL INDICATED HE HAD A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DEGREE, HOWEVER, HE APPEARED TO BE OF LIMITED INTELLIGENCE AND APPEARED TO BE MUCH OLDER THAN FORTY YEARS OF AGE. DURING QUESTIONING, HE ADMITTED TO DOING A LOT OF BEER DRINKING, HOWEVER, DENIED DRINKING ANYTHING DURING THE DAY OF THE EXAMINATION.

A REVIEW OF THREE CHARTS REFLECTS POWELL RESPONDED GENERALLY IN THE SAME MANNER TO ALL QUESTIONS ASKED WITH NO SIGNIFICANT RESPONSE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL QUESTION WHEREBY A CONCLUSION COULD BE DRAWN AS TO HIS BEING TRUTHFUL OR UNTRUTHFUL. THEREFORE, THESE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS WERE DETERMINED TO BE INCONCLUSIVE.

END.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987 Sub M)

DATE: 1/26/76

FROM : SA LARRY F. THOMAS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re memo of SA DARRELL L. HAMAR dated 12/1/75.

On 1/5/76, ROY ALLEN RICHARDSON, Belfast, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

He does not remember the date or even the year, but sometime prior to the time that MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was killed, he (RICHARDSON) had flown to Memphis in a private plane for tryst with a young Memphis State college student, whom he declined to identify.

He, at one time, owned two different private air-planes and had access to a third one and does not recall which plane he may have taken to Memphis on this occasion. In all of his flights to Memphis, and there were many of them, he always utilized the airport located on the island in the Mississippi River.

One reason he cannot recall any more details is that during this particular period, he drank exceptionally heavily and used all sorts of drugs.

As best he can recall, on the occasion in question he checked into the Downtowner Motel.

While waiting for his girl friend, he realized that he could hear voices in an adjoining room. As best he could tell, there were two men in this room, one apparently known as FRANK, and the other referred to as JOHN J. He does not know what they were talking about, but got the impression that they were discussing the possible elimination or murder of a person.

He cannot hope to remember the exact conversation but remembers that the one identified as JOHN J. made some comment to the effect that "the money situation is no problem. That's been taken care of."

The individual referred to as FRANK commented to the effect that the money or part of it had been put in the right place.

LFT:bc

(2) *bc*

*no action warranted*  
*Warrants*  
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

44-1987 Sub M 956

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 26 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	



5010-108

ME 44-1987 Sub M

He believes it was FRANK who said, "RAY has part of his money already."

FRANK (LNU) during the conversation, referred to a female as JANICE ANN or ANN and that she and RAY were getting their money but they did not know where it was coming from.

JOHN J., on one occasion, referred to "this damn black troublemaker" and another time indicated that "by the time this is done I will be Governor of the State."

At no time was the name JAMES EARL RAY mentioned nor did he hear the name MARTIN LUTHER KING mentioned.

He thought nothing more about it at the time, and it was only after he was in prison or maybe even after he got out that this incident reoccurred to him and began to think that possibly it had something to do with MARTIN LUTHER KING.

He does know, however, that he left the room after overhearing this conversation, and as he went out of his room, a man exited the room next to him from which he had heard the voices. He recognized this man as JOHN J. HOOKER.

He has never personally met HOOKER or had any business dealings with him in any way whatsoever, but readily recognized him from having seen HOOKER in the news media many, many times.

HOOKER looked at RICHARDSON for a long time and seemed to recognize him, although there was no reason for him to. HOOKER, in speaking through the open door, said to someone inside that he was going to the bar to get him another drink. HOOKER had a glass in his hand.

RICHARDSON also went to the bar and noticed that HOOKER sat watching him for a long period of time.

He had had no contact with HOOKER since that time.

Sometime later, date unknown, RICHARDSON received an anonymous telephone call from someone who said in effect that he should just forget everything he saw or heard while he was in Memphis. He has no idea who made this call or whether they were referring to this conversation or not.



He reiterated that at this time he was running around with many different women much to the chagrin of his wife and that he was forever getting calls from unknown individuals relating to his exploits.

RICHARDSON said he is certain that this incident occurred before he was ever involved in the robbery of the bank in Belfast, but he cannot recall whether or not he was under investigation by the FBI on the stolen car problem at this time, again, because he drank so much he could not remember well.

It was pointed out to RICHARDSON that this writer had been in contact with him on many, many occasions since this happened and was asked why he had not mentioned this earlier.

RICHARDSON stammered a bit and when forced for an answer, said that he did not think much about it until recent months and knew that he had not seen nor heard anything of any evidentiary value and because of this thought it would be foolish for him to say anything. He said, however, that the matter has weighed on his conscious and he wanted to make it known for whatever it might be worth.

He said that except for DENNIS BATES, the only other person that he ever told about this was his attorney in Lewisburg, HAYWOOD WHITAKER. He claims to have told WHITAKER several months ago.

RICHARDSON was asked if he had any objection to the FBI talking to WHITAKER on the premise that RICHARDSON might have remembered some information and given it to WHITAKER but has since forgotten it.

RICHARDSON did not voice any particular objection to this, but did not seem to be pleased with the prospect of it.

It will be noted that this Agent has investigated ROY ALLEN RICHARDSON at great length in a car theft ring and investigated and prosecuted him for robbery of the bank in Belfast. Up until the time RICHARDSON was convicted of bank robbery, he was totally uncooperative, but subsequent to that time went through a period of apparent sole searching and seemed desirous of telling everything that he knows.

ME 44-1987 Sub M

At no time did he ever indicate that he had any information of this sort in his possession.

Recently, RICHARDSON has undergone severe financial reverses based, he says, on his ill health.

Throughout recent years, RICHARDSON has been frequently hospitalized and showed outward signs of being ill.

On 1/5/76, RICHARDSON outwardly was a "picture of health" and said that he was feeling better than he had for a long time. His reaction to and demeanor before this Agent was somewhat different from what it has been in recent years. Where he had previously exhibited his air of cooperation, on 1/5/76 he appeared somewhat reluctant to furnish details.

It is the interviewing Agent's opinion that if the incident did, in fact, occur, RICHARDSON had no knowledge at the time that it was related in any way to MARTIN LUTHER KING and that his subsequent connections with the KING murder is purely a move on his part to gain release from his parole.

Every possible effort was made to pin RICHARDSON down as to a date this incident occurred in the hope that it could be verified, at least as to his residence at the Downtowner Motel. RICHARDSON steadfastly maintained he could not remember the date and had no records to search to determine this date and that even his white records were destroyed or he did not know where they were.

He claimed that he traveled to Memphis on an average of once a month during this time, which would make it virtually impossible to determine the date in question, and because of this no specific leads are being set forth.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Cincinnati, Ohio

February 4, 1976

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

On February 4, 1976, Betty Tibbles, Deputy Clerk, United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio, advised an employee of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that the following additional entries were recorded on Docket Number 75-1795:

1976

January 19, 1976	Motion of Appellee to strike exhibits from Appellant's Appendix
January 30, 1976	Opposition to Appellee's motion to strike exhibits
January 30, 1976	Motion of Appellant to correct errors and omissions in transcript
February 2, 1976	Response to Appellant's motion to correct errors and omissions

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 SUBM 957  
Bel map

*[Handwritten signatures]*



2/4/76

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI (157-1893) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re CI airtel and LHM to Bureau, 12/2/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of an LHM captioned "JAMES EARL RAY".

Enclosed for Memphis are two copies of the same LHM.

Information furnished in the enclosed LHM was obtained from records at the U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio, by SC DWIGHT H. VOGEL.

Cincinnati will maintain contact with the U.S. Court of Appeals in this matter.

2-Bureau (Enc. 6)  
2-Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)  
2-Cincinnati

DHV:cmm  
(6)

44-1987 SUBM 958  
BHV map

Hester  
JH

NR018 AT PLAIN

10:56 PM NITEL 2-5-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
SAC, EL PASO (44-920)  
SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) ✓  
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN

RE AT TELETYPE TO BU, FEB. 4, 1976.

DOROTHY DAVIS CONTACTED AND ADVISED HAS NO RECORDS  
RE PETE'S BAR. ALL RECORDS DESTROYED. ARRANGEMENTS MADE  
TO FULLY INTERVIEW DAVIS ON MONDAY, FEB. 9, 1976.

ARRANGEMENTS MADE WITH PERSONNEL DEPT., CITY OF ATLANTA,  
TO INTERVIEW DIRECTOR, MRS. PENNINGTON, ON FEB. 6, 1976.

ADDITIONAL ATTEMPTS MADE ON THIS DAY TO INTERVIEW LEON  
POWELL WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND  
INTERVIEW LEON POWELL. INTERVIEW MRS. PENNINGTON RE BACKGROUND  
OF GODFREY.

END.

RJH

ME IS CLR FOR ONE AND TKS

44-1987 SUBM 959

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 5 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Joe Hester*  
*Hester*  
*PHB*

**File—Serial Charge Out**

☆ U.S. GPO: 1974-560-582

FD-5 (Rev. 6-17-70)

File 44-1987-SUB M Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Class. Case No. Last Serial

Pending

Closed

Serial No. Description of Serial Date Charged

SERIAL

960

SKIPPED

Employee \_\_\_\_\_

**RECHARGE**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_

Initials of Clerk { \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date { \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date Charged \_\_\_\_\_

Employee \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

NR001 EP PLAIN

11:46AM URGENT FEBRUARY 6, 1976 CJP

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM EL PASO (44-920) (P)

MURKIN

RE BUREAU NITEL DATED FEBRUARY 3, 1976.

CLAUDE POWELL, JR. RECONTACTED LATE PM FEBRUARY 5, 1976, SCOTTISH INN, ROOM 211, MIDLAND, TEXAS. DISCREPANCIES IN VERSION OF INCIDENT PETE'S BAR, ATLANTA, AS RELATED BY LEON AND HE (CLAUDE) DISCUSSED. CLAUDE STATED ANY DISCREPANCIES ARE RESULT OF PASSAGE OF TIME SINCE INCIDENT AND HIS STATEMENT IS ACCURATE IN HIS RECOLLECTION. HE CLARIFIED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GODFREY, STATING GODFREY WAS A FRIEND WHOM HE HAD KNOWN FOR MANY YEARS BUT GODFREY WAS MORE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH AND A BETTER FRIEND OF LEON. CLAUDE ALSO COMMENTED HE HAD LATER LEARNED GODFREY MADE AN INITIAL CONTACT WITH LEON APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE UNKNOWN WHITE MALE'S PROPOSITION TO MURDER KING, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE MEETING AT PETE'S BAR UNTIL THE UNKNOWN MALE SEATED HIMSELF AND MADE THE OFFER. NOR DID HE HAVE ANY PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT TRANSPIRED.

END PAGE ONE

44-1987 SUBM 961

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>mf</i>
SERIALIZED <i>mf</i>	FILED <i>mf</i>
FEB 6 1976	
FBI MEMPHIS	

*Wester*  
*Wester*  
*Wester*

EP 44-920

PAGE TWO

GODFREY AND LEON.

OTHER THAN THESE CHANGES, CLAUDE STANDS BY HIS ORIGINAL STATEMENT, EMPHASIZING THAT HIS STATEMENT MAY DIFFER IN SOME ASPECTS WITH LEON'S STATEMENT, BUT THE FACT IS BOTH HE AND LEON WITNESSED AN OFFER OF A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF MONEY TO MURDER KING BY AN UNKNOWN WHITE MALE.

IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED:

HE AND LEON TALKED FREQUENTLY ABOUT THE ALLEGED MEETING AT PETE'S BAR AFTER THE MEETING OCCURRED, BUT AS TIME PASSED, THEY TALKED ABOUT THE MEETING WITH LESS FREQUENCY. CLAUDE STATED HE COULD NOT GIVE ANY NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO COULD VERIFY THAT HE AND LEON WERE IN ATLANTA AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING, BUT STATED HE AND LEON WORKED TOGETHER AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING AND HAVE DONE SO UNTIL APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS AGO. BOTH HE AND LEON WERE RESIDING AT DECATUR, GEORGIA AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING. A DIAGRAM OF THE INTERIOR OF PETE'S BAR WAS PROVIDED BY CLAUDE. CLAUDE STATED THAT THE UNKNOWN

END PAGE TWO



EP 44-920

PAGE THREE

WHITE MALE DID NOT HAVE ANY TYPE OF ACCENT. CLAUDE DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNIDENTIFIED PERSON WHO ALLEGEDLY MADE THE PROPOSITION TO MURDER KING.

CLAUDE ADMITTED TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH HIS BROTHER AFTER FIRST INTERVIEW BY FBI AT MIDLAND. CLAUDE STATED HE DISCUSSED THE INTERVIEW BY THE FBI AT MIDLAND.

RECORDS OF SCOTTISH INN FOR OUTGOING CALLS DO NOT REFLECT ANY TELEPHONE CALLS MADE BY CLAUDE POWELL, JR. IT IS NOTED THAT AS MANY AS FOUR INDIVIDUALS STAYED TOGETHER IN THE MOTEL ROOM OCCUPIED BY POWELL, BUT AT THE PRESENT TIME POWELL HAS ONLY ONE ROOMMATE. EL PASO OBTAINED LIST OF ALL LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALLS FOR ROOM 211.

EL PASO WILL SHOW ARTISTS CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) UPON RECEIPT.

FD-302 FOLLOWS.

END

FBI M E OK KJW

NR012 AT PLAIN

8:12 PM URGENT 2-9-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)  
MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
EL PASO (44-920)  
FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)  
MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL TO THE BUREAU, FEBRUARY 6, 1976.

ON FEBRUARY 9, 1976, DOROTHY DAVIS, LOCUST GROVE, GEORGIA ADVISED ALL PERSONAL RECORDS DESTROYED REGARDING PETE'S BAR. SHE WAS NOT PRIVY TO ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE OPERATION OF THE BAR. HER HUSBAND DIDNOT TELL HER OF ANY INCIDENTS AT THE BAR. SHE WAS NOT SURE OF THE EXACT DATES HER HUSBAND OWNED THE BAR BUT THOUGHT POSSIBLE HER HUSBAND DIVESTED HIMSELF OF OWNERSHIP IN 1966 HOWEVER COULD HAVE BEEN 1967. SHE CANNOT REMEMBER EXACT DATES. SHE DOES NOT KNOW NAMES OF ANY EMPLOYEES.

CONTINUED EFFORTS TO LOCATE POWELL NEGATIVE.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. (1) LOCATE AND INTERVIEW POWELL.  
(2) WILL THROUGH CITY RECORDS ATTEMPT TO TRACE OWNERSHIP OF PETE'S BAR.

END.

*JH*

44-1987-506-992

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
FEB 9 1976  
FBI MEMPHIS  
*Phl mep*  
*Hester*  
*Hester* *alt*

*MB*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 1/15/76

1

CLAUDE POWELL, JR., was located at the Scottish Inn Motel, Interstate Highway 20 at Holiday Hill Road, Room 211. POWELL was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and at the outset of the interview, was asked if he had been in contact with any member of his family or in particular, his brother, LEON POWELL. POWELL denied being in contact with any member of his family, including LEON POWELL, since his departure from Atlanta, Georgia, on December 31, 1975. He was then interviewed as follows:

POWELL was asked if he had ever been offered a large sum of money to commit a murder, and he immediately volunteered that he had been offered \$25,000 shortly before the actual assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING. He recalled the circumstances of that offer as follows:

Approximately three to four weeks prior to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, he and his brother, LEON POWELL, were seated in a booth in Pete's Bar on Moreland Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia. A friend of his brother, RAY GODFREY, a musician and Atlanta City employee, joined them at their booth and engaged in conversation with LEON. He paid no particular attention to what LEON and RAY were talking about. GODFREY left the booth, and, in approximately 10 to 15 minutes, an individual previously unknown to him, came to their booth and seated himself opposite from LEON and him.

As this unknown person sat down, he placed an expensive-looking black brief case on the table. He described the unknown person as being a white male, approximately 5'8" in height, medium build, approximately 150 pounds, approximately 30 years of age. POWELL explained that the unknown person appeared to him to be out of place in such an establishment as Pete's Bar, in view of his dress, which did not fit into the crowd that frequented Pete's Bar.

*44-1987 Sub M 963*

		SEARCHED <i>mp</i>	SERIALIZED <i>mp</i>
On <u>1/8/76</u>	at <u>Midland, Texas</u>	File # <u>EP244-920</u>	
by <u>SA GERALD D. GALBREATH</u>		<i>Decker</i> Date dictated <u>1/15/76</u>	
SA FRANZ W. NENZEL FWN:pm			

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*44-1987-508M*

The unknown person impressed him as being a well educated person, who appeared to be a professional type such as a lawyer. He said the unknown person was clean cut, and very calm and cool in his manner. He stated the unknown person may have introduced himself, but he does not recall any names. The unknown person asked LEON and him if they wanted to pull a job. He does not know the exact wording, but he questioned the unknown person concerning the nature of the job, and how much money it paid. The unknown person told him and LEON that he wanted them to do away with someone and when POWELL questioned the unknown person further, he was told that it was someone important. The unknown person then told him and LEON that he wanted them to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, and would pay them \$25,000 now and \$25,000 when the job was done. The unknown person then opened his brief case which was full of wrapped currency; some of the bills he noticed were in \$100 denominations. He stated that he was shocked by the statements of the unknown person, and initially assumed that it was some sort of prank or possibly a law enforcement officer trying to trick him. After the unknown person made the offer, he ignored any further conversation, whereupon the unknown person closed his brief case and departed.

He has never had any further contact, nor did he ever ascertain the identity of the unknown person, or means or reason for the offered payment to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. He related that he had gained the bad reputation of being a hoodlum because of his past prison record, participation in several fights, and habit of carrying a shotgun in his vehicle, which he frequently loaned to the bartender at Pete's Bar whenever trouble occurred. He denied ever receiving such an offer prior to this incident, and further denied affiliation with any group which advocated racial hatred. He admitted that he had made statements while drunk to the effect that he had no aversion to killing blacks, although he had never seriously considered doing so.

POWELL stated he was shocked and dismayed to learn, approximately three to four weeks later, that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been murdered. He advised that he did not

go to any law enforcement officers, and tell them of the above contact with the unknown person, because he felt he might become a suspect in the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

POWELL was then requested to assist the FBI by providing an artist conception of the unknown person who contacted him at Pete's Bar by the use of a facial identification catalogue. It was explained to POWELL that a sketch would be made from a combination of features that he selected from photographs displayed in the catalogue. Each category in the catalogue was thoroughly explained and photographs in these categories were shown to POWELL. POWELL then stated that he would be unable to assist in this regard because he had only talked with the unknown person for approximately five minutes, and that he would not recognize him even if he was brought into his motel room at that moment.

The following descriptive data was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	CLAUDE POWELL, JR.
Alias	Junior Powell Shotgun Powell
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Stephens County, Georgia
Height	6'2
Weight	170
Hair	Gray-Black
Eyes	Blue
Education	Finished 4th grade
Employment	Self employed
Occupation	Carpenter and dry wall finisher
Parent	HEPSIE POWELL, Route 3, Toccoa, Georgia
Brothers	LEON POWELL, Atlanta, Georgia HUBERT POWELL Route 3, Toccoa, Georgia WENDELL POWELL, Belmont, North Carolina (address unknown) EDWARD POWELL, Shamdon, Georgia

EP 44-920

4

Sister

FLORIS BRYSON  
Franklin, North Carolina  
(address unknown)

Wife

JACKIE POWELL,  
unemployed, 4163 Camby Lane,  
no telephone, Decatur, Georgia

Permanent address

Same as wife

Tattoos

Dragon, left bicep; "LUCY,  
my wife is so dear to me",  
left forearm; "LOIS" inside  
right forearm; "Too sweet  
to live, to mean to die",  
across chest; "BONNIE" upper  
right shoulder; "BETTY", upper  
left shoulder

1/15/76

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-39861)  
FROM: SAC, EL PASO (44-920) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN - 44-1987-Sub M 964

Re El Paso teletype to Bureau, 1/8/76.

Enclosed for the Bureau and receiving offices are two copies each of an FD-302 reflecting interview of CLAUDE POWELL, JR. at Midland, Texas, on 1/8/76.

El Paso Division will leave this matter pending until such time as the Bureau or receiving offices request additional interview or polygraph examination of CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

2- Bureau (Enc. 2)  
2- Atlanta (44-2638) (Enc. 2)  
② Memphis (Enc. 2) *msb*  
2- El Paso  
PWN:pm  
(8)

44-1987-Sub M 964

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>msb</i>
SERIALIZED <i>msb</i>	FILED <i>msb</i>
JAN 23 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester* *msb* *msb*

②

NR041 WA PLAIN

8:25PM NITEL 2/3/76 AJN

TO ATLANTA (44-2336)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MURKIN

*44-1987 Sub M 960  
953  
951  
950  
941*

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION (CRD), U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,  
HAS REQUESTED FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION TO RESOLVE  
THE ALLEGATION OF LEON OWEN POWELL AND CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

*44-1987 Sub M 951  
936  
952  
960*

ATLANTA AND EL PASO SHOULD THOROUGHLY REVIEW THE  
INTERVIEWS OF THE POWELLS NOTING THE DIFFERENCES IN EACH OF  
THEIR VERSIONS AND REINTERVIEW THE POWELLS TO FURTHER  
RESOLVE ALL DETAILS OF THIS ALLEGED MEETING IN THE BAR.  
DETERMINE WHEN AND HOW MANY TIMES THEY TALKED WITH EACH OTHER  
ABOUT THIS ALLEGED MEETING SINCE ITS OCCURRENCE. DETERMINE  
FROM THEM HOW IT CAN BE VERIFIED THAT THEY WERE IN ATLANTA  
AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING AND CONDUCT ANY  
INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION TO VERIFY THEY WERE ACTUALLY  
IN ATLANTA AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING. HAVE EACH OF THE  
POWELLS PREPARE A DIAGRAM OF THE INTERIOR OF PETE'S BAR,  
INCLUDING THE BOOTH WHERE EACH PARTICIPANT OF THE ALLEGED

*Robert N  
supp 4 re press inquiries.*

*SAC*

*RAB*

*44-1987 Sub M 965*

SEARCHED <i>mm</i>	INDEXED <i>mm</i>
SERIALIZED <i>mm</i>	FILED <i>mm</i>
FEB 3 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Decker*  
*Indef + Clear*  
*all names.*

*all pages*



PAGE TWO

MEETING WAS SEATED. DETERMINE FROM EACH IF THE UNSUB (RALPH LNU) HAD ANY TYPE OF AN ACCENT. EL PASO QUESTION CLAUDE SPECIFICALLY RE POLYGRAPH INDICATING HE HAS POSSIBLE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING THE UNIDENTIFIED PERSON AS SET FORTH IN YOUR JANUARY 20, 1976, TELETYPE.

EL PASO SHOULD SHOW THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) (THE FINAL, AS PREPARED BY LEON OWEN POWELL) TO CLAUDE POWELL, JR., IN A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS. EL PASO SHOULD ALSO INTERVIEW CO-WORKERS OF CLAUDE POWELL, JR., TO DETERMINE IF HE HAS TALKED ABOUT THIS ALLEGED MEETING. RE-CHECK RECORDS OF SCOTTISH INN FOR RECORD OF ANY OUTGOING CALLS MADE BY CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

ATLANTA SHOULD ASCERTAIN IF ANY RECORDS ARE IN EXISTENCE TO ESTABLISH IDENTITY OF ALL FORMER EMPLOYEES OF PETE'S BAR AND INTERVIEW THEM FOR ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THIS INCIDENT AND ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY RALPH (LNU).

ATLANTA SHOULD ALSO IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW ALL KNOWN FORMER CUSTOMERS OF PETE'S BAR NOTING THAT DIANE BRADY, WHO OPERATES "THE OFFICE" BAR, STATED A LOT OF THE CUSTOMERS ARE STILL AROUND AND FREQUENT HER BAR, "THE OFFICE."

44-1987 Sub M 944  
960 P 2  
945

PAGE THREE

MAKE FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW "DUKE."

ATLANTA SHOULD MAKE FURTHER EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW "DOTTIE," A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF PETE'S BAR. IF NECESSARY, IF IT CAN BE ARRANGED, HAVE DIANE BRADY OBSERVE DOTTIE UNDERHILL TO DETERMINE IF SHE IS IDENTICAL WITH THE DOTTIE FORMERLY EMPLOYED AT PETE'S BAR, SINCE UNDERHILL DENIED SHE EVER WORKED THERE.

*44-1987 Sub M 951, 946, 960p 3*

ATLANTA SHOULD CONDUCT INVESTIGATION INTO THE BACKGROUND OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY TO ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE ALLEGATION BY THE POWELLS THAT HE INTRODUCED THE UNSUB TO THEM IN THE BAR. IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW HIS RELATIVES, ASSOCIATES, INCLUDING ANY "COUNTRY AND WESTERN SINGER" ASSOCIATES. PARTICULARLY DETERMINE IF GODFREY EVER KNOWN TO ASSOCIATE WITH A RALPH AND ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW RALPH. VERIFY GODFREY'S PRESENCE IN ATLANTA AT TIME OF ALLEGED MEETING. CRD STATED GODFREY'S ATTORNEY SHOULD NOT BE CONTACTED AT THIS TIME.

*44-1987 Sub M 936 960p 3*

ATLANTA INTERVIEW JACKIE POWELL, 4163 CANBY LANE, DECATUR, GEORGIA, WIFE OF CLAUDE POWELL, JR., FOR ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THIS INCIDENT, INCLUDING WHETHER CLAUDE POWELL, JR., EVER TOLD HER ABOUT THIS ALLEGED PAYMENT OFFER.

ATLANTA AND EL PASO SHOULD SHOW THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) IN A SPREAD TO ALL PERTINENT WITNESSES.

PAGE FOUR

44-1987 Sub M 241

ATLANTA REINTERVIEW DOROTHY DAVIS RE REMEMBERING WHETHER HER HUSBAND EVER TOLD HER OF ANYONE COMING INTO BAR WITH LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY, OR IF SHE HAS ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THIS INCIDENT; SHOW ON AN ATLANTA CITY MAP LOCATION OF PETE'S BAR IN COMPARISON TO WHERE JAMES EARL RAY HAD STAYED IN ATLANTA.

THE CRD IS ADVISING THE USAS AT ATLANTA AND MEMPHIS OF THE INSTITUTION OF THE INVESTIGATION RE THE POWELL ALLEGATION. CRD, HOWEVER, REQUESTED THAT YOU DO NOT DISSEMINATE ANY INFORMATION TO THE USAS. IF THE USAS HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, ADVISE THEM TO CONTACT THE CRD DIRECT.

CRD STATED THE FBI SHOULD NOT COMMENT TO ANY INQUIRIES FROM THE NEWS MEDIA CONCERNING THIS INVESTIGATION AND ANY SUCH INQUIRIES SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE CRD.

ATLANTA SHOULD COORDINATE ALL ASPECTS OF THIS INVESTIGATION TO RESOLVE THE POWELL ALLEGATION. HANDLE ANY ADDITIONAL OBVIOUS AND LOGICAL LEADS DEVELOPED AND IF ANY QUESTION ARISES RE COVERING ANY ADDITIONAL LEAD, PROMPTLY CONTACT FBIHQ.

PROMPTLY CONDUCT THIS INVESTIGATION AND SUTEL SUMMARY ON A DAILY BASIS UNTIL THIS INVESTIGATION

PAGE FIVE

IS COMPLETED. HANDLE ANY LEADS OUT OF YOUR  
DIVISION BY TELETYPE. HANDLE PURSUANT TO SECTION 27,  
VOLUME II, MANUAL OF INSTRUCTIONS.

END

IT

RJH

ME IS CR CLR FOR NUMBER 41 AND TKS

NR014 AT PLAIN

5:45 PM URGENT 2-4-76 HLFW

TO: DIRECTOR (44-33861)  
EL PASO (44-920)  
MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)  
MURKIN.

RE BUREAU NITEL TO ATLANTA, FEBRUARY 3, 1976.

EFFORTS TO LOCATE LEON POWELL THIS DATE NEGATIVE. MESSAGE LEFT AT PLACE OF RESIDENCE TO IMMEDIATELY CONTACT FBI, ATLANTA, UPON RETURN. EFFORTS ALSO NEGATIVE IN CONTACTING DOROTHY DAVIS REGARDING ANY RECORDS OF FORMER EMPLOYEES OF PETE'S BAR. MESSAGE ALSO LEFT AT DAVIS' RESIDENCE TO CONTACT FBI, ATLANTA, UPON RETURN.

OTHER LEADS BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL ARTIST'S CONCEPTION IS SHOWN TO POWELL.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW LEON POWELL REGARDING DIFFERENCES IN ORIGINAL INTERVIEWS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HIS BROTHER. DISPLAY ARTIST'S CONCEPTION TO POWELL AND ASCERTAIN IF IDENTICAL WITH RALPH (LNU).

END.

OK FBI ME MJH

44-1987-505M 966

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>mp</i>	FILED <i>mp</i>
FEB 4 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester* *dk*

NR018 AT PLAIN

10:56 PM NITEL 2-5-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
SAC, EL PASO (44-920)  
SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

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

MURKIN

RE AT TELETYPE TO BU, FEB. 4, 1976.

DOROTHY DAVIS CONTACTED AND ADVISED HAS NO RECORDS  
RE PETE'S BAR. ALL RECORDS DESTROYED. ARRANGEMENTS MADE  
TO FULLY INTERVIEW DAVIS ON MONDAY, FEB. 9, 1976.

ARRANGEMENTS MADE WITH PERSONNEL DEPT., CITY OF ATLANTA,  
TO INTERVIEW DIRECTOR, MRS. PENNINGTON, ON FEB. 6, 1976.

ADDITIONAL ATTEMPTS MADE ON THIS DAY TO INTERVIEW LEON  
POWELL WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND  
INTERVIEW LEON POWELL. INTERVIEW MRS. PENNINGTON RE BACKGROUND  
OF GODFREY.

END.

RJH

ME IS CLR FOR ONE AND TKS

44-1987 SUBM 967

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>my</i>	FILED <i>my</i>
FEB 5 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*AAB*

NR021 AT PLAIN

7:10 PM URGENT 2-6-76 HLF

TO:                       
DIRECTOR (44-38861)  
EL PASO (44-920)  
MEMPHIS (44-1987) ✓  
KNOXVILLE

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL TO THE DIRECTOR, FEBRUARY 5, 1976. FOR THE INFORMATION OF KNOXVILLE, LEON POWELL, A RESIDENT OF ATLANTA, CONTACTED THE ATLANTA OFFICE ON JANUARY 4, 1976 AND ADVISED HE AND HIS BROTHER, CLAUDE POWELL, JR. WERE APPROACHED BY AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED ARNOLD RAY GODFREY IN LATE NOVEMBER, 1967 WITH AN OFFER TO ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FOR A SUM OF MONEY. GODFREY ALLEGEDLY PUT THEM IN CONTACT WITH A RALPH (LNU) WHO OFFERED THE POWELL'S \$75,000 TO ASSASSINATE KING. THE POWELLS REFUSED THE OFFER. LEON AND CLAUDE POWELL HAVE BEEN POLYGRAPHED. LEON'S POLYGRAPH WAS INCONCLUSIVE, HOWEVER, EXAMINER FOR CLAUDE POWELL WAS OF OPINION POWELL TELLING TRUTH. ARNOLD RAY GODFREY DENIES INVOLVEMENT, HOWEVER, REFUSED POLYGRAPH AND HAS SINCE HIRED ATTORNEY AND REFUSED TO ANSWER FURTHER QUESTION. GODFREY IS A WHITE MALE, BORN JUNE 11, 1930 AT COPPER HILL, TENNESSEE.

END PAGE ONE.

*Joe Hester  
Advised 2-8-76  
C.H.E.*

*J. Hester*

*44-1987 Sub M 968*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>mp</i>	FILED <i>mp</i>
FEB 6 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>HESTER</i>	

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

EFFORTS TO LOCATE LEON POWELL ON THIS DATE STILL NEGATIVE. POWELL'S DAUGHTER-IN-LAW CONTACTED AND ADVISED SHE HAS NOT SEEN HER FATHER-IN-LAW SINCE HE LEFT HER RESIDENCE. SHE WOULD ATTEMPT TO LOCATE HIM AND ADVISE HIM TO CONTACT THE ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI.

MRS. L. N. PENNINGTON, DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, CITY OF ATLANTA, REVIEWED HER RECORDS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. THE RECORDS SHOW THAT GODFREY HAS A WIFE NAMED MILLIE. NO OTHER RELATIVES ARE LISTED ON THE EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION. EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION WAS FILED IN 1949 AND THE FOLLOWING REFERENCES WERE NOTED: FRANK WALDON, ROUTE 1, COPPER HILL, TENNESSEE; WALTER STYNUS, ROUTE 1, COPPER HILL; CLAUDE CRANFORD, ROUTE 1, COPPER HILL. RECORDS FURTHER REFLECT THAT GODFREY WENT THROUGH THE FIFTH GRADE AT COPPER HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

CLINTON STANFORD, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, ENVIRONMENT AND STREET SERVICES, CITY OF ATLANTA, WAS CONTACTED AND ADVISED ALL RECORDS CONCERNING THE EXACT DAYS WORKED BY ANY CITY EMPLOYEES ARE CURRENTLY STORED IN A VAULT AT CITY HALL. HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO LOCATE THESE RECORDS AND VERIFY THE WHEREABOUTS OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY DURING THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER  
END PAGE TWO.



PAGE THREE (44-2386)

1967, AND MARCH AND APRIL, 1968 HE STATED HE WOULD TELEPHONICALLY CONTACT THE FBI OFFICE WHEN HE LOCATED THESE RECORDS.

KNOXVILLE AT COPPER HILL. WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE REFERENCES FOR ARNOLD RAY GODFREY AND ALSO ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY RELATIVES OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, HAS REQUESTED THAT GODFREY'S RELATIVES, ASSOCIATES BE IDENTIFIED AND INTERVIEWED CONCERNING ANY ASSOCIATE OF GODFREY NAMED RALPH.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW LEON POWELL.

END.

FBI ME CLR BES

FOR TWO TELS

TAHANK YOU

NR003 KX PLAIN

430 PM URGENT FEB. 7, 1976 DCK

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM KNOXVILLE (44-696) (RUC)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR FEB. 6, 1976.

LOIS WALDEN GODFREY AND HUSBAND, ROBERT K. GODFREY,  
ROUTE ONE, GRASSY CREEK ROAD, COPPER HILL, TENN., INTER-  
VIEWED FEB. 7, 1976. GODFREY STATED ENTIRE FAMILY MOVED  
TO ATLANTA, GA. AREA IN LATE 1940'S AND HE IS ONLY  
MEMBER OF FAMILY CURRENT IN TENN.

HE ADVISED HIS MOTHER, MARY GODFREY, RESIDES WITH  
HIS SISTER, SHIRLEY BULLOCK, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, BUT THAT  
BULLOCK CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE MARIETTA, GA. SCHOOL  
BOARD WHERE SHE IS EMPLOYED DIRECTING TRAFFIC AT SCHOOL  
CROSSINGS. OTHER SISTERS, MRS. R. L. (EDNA) ENSLEY AND  
MRS. IRA (DENA) SMITH, RESIDE ON ROUTE ONE, BLUE RIDGE, GA.  
BROTHER, JAMES T. GODFREY, ALSO RESIDES ROUTE ONE, BLUE

*Joe West  
advised 2-8-76  
GAC.*

44-1987 Sub M 969

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 7 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*[Handwritten initials]*

*[Handwritten circle]*