

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/10/76

1

CLAUDE POWELL, JR., Room 211, Scottish Inn, was interviewed in his motel room during the late evening of February 5, 1976.

Discrepancies in his version of an alleged meeting with an unknown white male at Pete's Bar Atlanta, Georgia, as compared with LEON POWELL's were discussed. CLAUDE stated that any discrepancies are a result of a long passage of time since the incident and his statement is accurate in his recollection. He clarified his relationship with RAY GODFREY stating that GODFREY was a friend whom he has known for many years but GODFREY was more closely associated and a better friend of LEON's. CLAUDE also commented that he later learned GODFREY made an initial contact with LEON approximately one week prior to the unknown white male's proposition to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING but he did not know anything about the meeting at Pete's Bar until the unknown white male seated himself and made the offer, nor did he have prior knowledge of what transpired between 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 the offer of a substantial amount of money by an unknown white male to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING.

In addition, CLAUDE stated he and LEON talked about the alleged meeting with the unknown white male frequently after its occurrence but as time passed, they talked about it less and less. He said that he and LEON worked together on the same job at the time of the alleged meeting and continued to do so until approximately three months ago. He knows of no one who could verify that they were in Atlanta, Georgia, at the time of the alleged meeting but stated that both, he and LEON, were residing in Decatur, Georgia, during this time. CLAUDE described

Interviewed on 2/6/76 at Midland, Texas File # 44-1987 Sub 11914 EP 44-920 ME 44-1987
 by SA FRANZ W. NENZEL /pm Date dictated 2/9/76

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.

the interior of Pete's Bar, including the booth where each participant of the alleged meeting was seated and a sketch was made by Special Agent FRANZ W. NENZEL. CLAUDE was questioned specifically concerning his polygraph examination in response to the question "Do you know who asked you and LEON to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING?", and he denied having any prior knowledge of the unidentified person who offered he and LEON \$25,000 to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING.

CLAUDE stated that he telephonically contacted his brother, LEON POWELL, at telephone number 404-289-1545, Decatur, Georgia (telephone number is for DAVID POWELL, CLAUDE's nephew) after initial interview by FBI Agents at Midland, Texas. CLAUDE stated that he and LEON discussed the interview.

In addition, CLAUDE stated he had discussed the alleged meeting with the unknown person at Pete's Bar with WILLIAM DEAN WOODCOCK, his partner in business and roommate at the Scottish Inn. WOODCOCK is the only fellow employee whom he told of the alleged meeting.

CLAUDE stated that the unknown person who offered them the money to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING did not have any type of an accent. He repeated that all aspects of his statement including description, time reference and conversation between the unknown person who made the offer to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING were true and accurate to the best of his recollection.

2/10/76

AIRTEL

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

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies of an FD-302 reflecting the interview of CLAUDE POWELL, JR., at Midland, Texas. Enclosed for Atlanta and Memphis is one copy each of the above FD-302. Also enclosed for the Bureau is a copy of a sketch of Pete's Bar which was drawn by SA FRANZ W. NENZEL upon information given by CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

Telephone records at the Scottish Inn, Midland, Texas, reflect several outgoing calls, none of which were made by CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

WILLIAM DEAN WOODCOCK, CLAUDE's roommate and business partner, advised that CLAUDE told him of the alleged meeting at Pete's Bar in Atlanta, Georgia, after initial interview by FBI Agents. WOODCOCK said that to the best of his knowledge, he is the only co-worker of CLAUDE's who knows of the alleged meeting. He said CLAUDE told him because of their business relationship and his interest in the reason the FBI was contacting CLAUDE. He believed CLAUDE would have no reason to lie concerning the alleged meeting.

2- Bureau (Enc. 3)
2- Atlanta (44-2386) (Enc. 1)
②- Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 1)
2- El Paso
FWN:pm
(8)

Handwritten notes and stamps:
44-1987 Sub M 975
mp mp
Hester
Hester



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Cincinnati, Ohio
February 10, 1976

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

On February 9, 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 entry was recorded on Docket Number 75-1795:

1976

February 3, 1976

Cause argued by James Hiram Lesar for Appellant, by William J. Haynes, Jr., for Appellee and case submitted to the court.

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 976

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



2/10/76

AIRTEL

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

Re Cincinnati airtel and LHM to Bureau, 2/4/76.

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 close contact with the U. S. Court of Appeals in this matter.

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

DHV:gmb
(5)

44-1987 Sub M 977

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

Hester *JH*

NR012 AT PLAIN

6:53 PM URGENT 2-17-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL FEBRUARY 13, 1976.

WILLIAM SANFORD VENABLE CONTACTED THIS DATE AND ADVISED THAT HE AND ROBERT MC GARITY, PREVIOUSLY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1455 MORELAND AVENUE. AT THIS RESIDENCE WAS A LOUNGE KNOWN BY VARIOUS NAMES, INCLUDING PETE'S PLACE AND BILL BAILEY'S. IN 1966 BUCK BAILEY TOOK OVER THIS LOUNGE AND NAMED IT BILL BAILEY'S. AT APPROXIMATELY JANUARY, 1968, LEWIS W. CLARK HAD THE LIQUOR LICENSE CHANGED TO HIS NAME. PRIOR TO THIS TIME LEWIS CLARK HAD MANAGED AND RUN THE LOUNGE KNOWN AS BILL BAILEY'S FOR BUCK BAILEY. BUCK BAILEY NEVER PARTICIPATED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE LOUNGE.

VENABLE DOES NOT KNOW ANYBODY BY THE NAME OF POWELL, DOES NOT KNOW ANY "DUKE". HE KNOWS RAY GODFREY BY NAME, HOWEVER, HAS NEVER PERSONALLY MET THE INDIVIDUAL. HE DOES NOT KNOW ANY OF GODFREY'S PERSONAL ASSOCIATES.

END PAGE ONE.

44-1987-Subm 928
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
FEB 17 1976
FBI - MEMPHIS
Hester
Hester
OH

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

LEWIS W. CLARK CONTACTED AND ADVISED HE MANAGED BILL BAILEY'S LOUNGE, LOCATED AT 1455 MORELAND AVENUE FROM SEPTEMBER, 1966 THROUGH 1973. HE PERSONALLY ACTED AS BARTENDER AT THE LOUNGE NUMEROUS TIMES. AFTER BEING SHOWN A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS, HE PICKED OUT RAY GODFREY AND CLAUDE POWELL AS BEING PERSONS WHO FREQUENTED THE BAR. HE DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE PICTURE OF LEON POWELL. HE STATED CLAUDE POWELL IS A VERY QUIET INDIVIDUAL AND NEVER KNEW HIM TO BE IN ANY TROUBLE. RAY GODFREY WAS AN EXTREMELY EXTROVERTED INDIVIDUAL, ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY THE GUITAR IN THE BAR. HE WAS SHOWN A SPREAD, INCLUDING THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH AND WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANYONE. HE HAD NEVER SEEN ANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS IN THE BAR. CLARK ADVISED THAT JUNE HALL WAS THE DAY BARTENDER AT BAILEY'S AND SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SUPPLY FURTHER INFORMATION. HE COULD NOT RECALL ANY OTHER EMPLOYEES WHO WORKED AT BILL BAILEY'S. DIANE BRADY NEVER EMPLOYED AT BILL BAILEY'S.

JUNE HALL CONTACTED AND SHOWN SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS. SHE PICKED OUT CLAUDE POWELL, RAY GODFREY AS PERSONS WHO FREQUENTED THE BAR. SHE STATED CLAUDE POWELL VERY QUIET INDIVIDUAL WHEN
END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

SOBER, HOWEVER, COULD BE VERY UNRULY WHEN DRINKING. GODFREY VERY LIKEABLE INDIVIDUAL AND SHE DID NOT THINK HE COULD BE IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE.

HALL WAS SHOWN A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS, INCLUDING ARTIST'S CONCEPTION AND ADVISED SHE HAS NEVER SEEN ANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS. WHEN SPECIFICALLY SHOWN THE COMPOSITE OF RALPH, SHE WAS SURE SHE HAD NEVER SEEN THIS INDIVIDUAL AND FELT BECAUSE OF HIS GOOD LOOKS, WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED HIM IF HE CAME IN THE BAR.

JACKIE POWELL, WIFE OF CLAUDE POWELL, JR. INTERVIEWED AT HER RESIDENCE AND ADVISED THAT ONLY TIME SHE HEARD ABOUT INCIDENT INVOLVING OFFER OF MONEY TO ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WAS WHEN HER HUSBAND MENTIONED IT TO HER AFTER KING HAD BEEN ASSASSINATED. HER HUSBAND TOLD HER HE HAD BEEN OFFERED A SUM OF MONEY TO ASSASSINATE KING, BUT REFUSED CONTRACT. SHE STATED SHE HAS BEEN MARRIED TO CLAUDE FOR TWENTY YEARS AND THAT THE WHOLE STORY, IN HER MIND, IS A FABRICATION BY HER HUSBAND AND HIS ALCOHOLIC BROTHER, LEON. SHE WOULD NOT BELIEVE ANY OF THIS STORY; HOWEVER HAD NO FACTS TO BACK UP HER OPINION. SHE STATED AGAIN THAT SHE FELT GOVERNMENT WAS WASTING THEIR TIME AND SHE
~~_____~~
END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR (44-2386)

WAS SURE THAT WHOLE STORE IS A FABRICATION.

MRS. POWELL ADVISED HER HUSBAND, CLAUDE, HAD BEEN IN ATLANTA OVER THE PAST WEEKEND, HOWEVER, WAS RETURNING TO MIDLAND, TEXAS.

EL PASO AT MIDLAND. UPON RECEIPT OF CORRECTED COMPOSITE, WILL EXHIBIT TO CLAUDE POWELL. CORRECTED COMPOSIT BEING FORWARDED DIRECTLY TO MIDLAND RA VIA REGISTERED MAIL.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. ATTEMPT TO FURTHER IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW FORMER CUSTOMERS PETE'S PLACE.

END.

PLS HOLD

NR014 AT PLAIN

6:45 PM URGENT FEBRUARY 13, 1976 JKB

TO: DIRECTOR (44-28861)

MEMPHIS (44-1987) ✓

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL TO THE DIRECTOR, FEBRUARY 12, 1976.

ON FEBRUARY 13, 1976, MARJORIE COOLEY, WIFE OF ROY COOLEY, ADVISED SHE KEPT THE RECORDS FOR HER HUSBAND WHEN HE WAS IN BUSINESS FOR HIMSELF. SHE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ANY RECORDS GOING BACK TO 1967 AND 1968, REGARDING ANY INDIVIDUALS EMPLOYED BY HER HUSBAND. SHE SPECIFICALLY REMEMBERS THAT IN NOVEMBER, 1967 SHE HAD HER OWN HOUSE BUILT. DURING THE TIME THE HOUSE WAS BUILT, CLAUDE AND LEON POWELL PUT IN THE DRY WALL. SHE IS QUITE SURE CLAUDE AND LEON POWELL WORKED FOR HER HUSBAND FROM 1966 THROUGH 1969.

MARY GODFREY, MOTHER OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, BELLEMEADE APARTMENTS, KENNESAW, GEORGIA, CONTACTED AND ADVISED SHE DOES NOT KNOW ANY OF RAY'S FRIENDS. AS FAR AS SHE KNOWS, RAY HAS NEVER BEEN IN ANY TROUBLE.

SHIRLEY BULLOCK, SISTER OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, BELLEMEADE
END PAGE ONE.

44-1987 SUBM 979

5/1/76

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 13 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

9/1/76

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

APARTEMENTS, KENNESAW, GEORGIA, CONTACTED AND ADVISED SHE DOES NOT KNOW ANY OF RAY'S FRIENDS. RAY DOES NOT CONTACT HIS MOTHER VERY OFTEN AND THUS NEITHER SHE NOR HER MOTHER KNOWS ANY OF RAY'S FRIENDS.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. LOCATE AND INTERVIEW "YANK VENABLE"
END.

RJH

HOLD PSL

NR011 AT PLAIN

7:52 PM URGENT FEBRUARY 18, 1976 TLL

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL TO THE BUREAU, FEBRUARY 17, 1976.

LEE CARROLL GODFREY, BROADWATER ROAD, GILMER COUNTY, GEORGIA ADVISED HAS USED ARNOLD RAY'S NAME IN THE PAST. HE HAS NEVER HEARD MENTIONED OF ANY ASSASSINATION PLOT TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND DOES NOT KNOW JAMES EARL RAY. HE IS FRIENDLY WITH ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, IN FACT, HE, ARNOLD RAY, AND ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL PLAYED IN A BAND AT THE OFFICE BAR LOCATED ON FLAT SHOALS ROAD, ATLANTA, GEORGIA. HE DOES NOT KNOW CLAUDE OR LEON POWELL. THE OTHER INDIVIDUAL'S FIRST NAME WAS RALPH. LEE GODFREY THINKS THE LAST NAME OR RALPH WAS SMITH. LEE GODFREY DESCRIBED RALPH AS A WHITE MALE, FORTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE, FIVE FOOT ELEVEN, ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE POUNDS, CARPENTER BY TRADE. SISTERS OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY; MRS. IRA SMITH, EPWORTH COMMUNITY AND MRS. R. L. ENSLEY, ROUTE 1, BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA, HAD NO INFORMATION REGARDING ANY ASSASSINATION PLOT. THEY DO NOT KNOW THE POWELLS AND DO NOT KNOW
END PAGE ONE.

44-1987 Sub M 980

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>mlp</i>	FILED <i>mlp</i>
FEB 18 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester
Hester
CRH

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

ANYONE BY THE NAME OF RALPH. JAMES P. "TOMMY" GODFREY, SUGAR CREEK ROAD, FANNIN COUNTY, GEORGIA, ADVISED HE HAS NEVER HEARD OF ANY ASSASSINATION PLOT. HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANYONE NAMED POWELL. HE DOES KNOW THAT HIS BROTHER, ARNOLD RAY, AND COUSIN, LEE CARROLL, PLAYED IN A BAND WITH AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED RALPH, SETZER (PHONETIC). THE BAND PLAYED AT A BAR LOCATED IN ATLANTA CALLED "THE OFFICE". NONE OF THE FAMILY CAN BELIEVE THAT ARNOLD RAY GODFREY COULD BE IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE.

PATSY BOOZER, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ADVISED SHE WORKED FOR LEWIS CLARK AT BILL BAILEY'S LOUNGE. SHE PICKED OUT THE PICTURE OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY FROM A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS. SHE STATED GODFREY A FREQUENT CUSTOMER. SHE HAD NEVER KNOWN GODFREY TO BE IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE. SHE HAS NEVER HEARD OF CLAUDE OR LEON POWELL. SHE DID NOT KNOW ANY OF RAY GODFREY'S FRIENDS. SHE WAS UNABLE TO SELECT THE COMPOSITE OF RALPH FROM A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS AS BEING A CUSTOMER IN BILL BAILEY'S. WHEN SPECIFICALLY SHOWN THE COMPOSITE, SHE STATED SHE HAD NEVER THE INDIVIDUAL.

END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

HAZEL EVANS CONTACTED AND ADVISED SHE WAS BARTENDER AT BILL BAILEY'S FROM 1966 UNTIL 1969. SHE WORKED THE NIGHT SHIFT. SHE CAME IN AT 6:00 PM AND WORKED UNTIL 2:00 AM. THE DAY BARTENDER WAS JUNE HALL. A COUPLE OF TIMES HER NIECE, PATSY BOOZER, WORKED IN THE BAR. BILL BAILEY OWNED THE BAR IN 1966, HOWEVER, WAS BOUGHT OUT IN 1967 OR 1968 BY LEWIS CLARK; HOWEVER, CLARK MANAGED THE BUSINESS DURING THE WHOLE TIME. BAILEY HAD VERY LITTLE TO DO WITH THE BAR AND IT WAS VERY SELDOM HE CAME TO THE LOCATION. SHE PICKED THE PHOTOGRAPH OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY OUT OF A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND ADVISED SHE HAS KNOWN HIM SINCE HE MOVED TO ATLANTA FROM COPPER HILL, TENNESSEE. SHE STATED HE WAS A VERY QUIET INDIVIDUAL AND COULD NOT BELIEVE HE WOULD BE IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE. SHE ALSO PICKED THE PICTURE OF CLAUDE POWELL AS BEING A FREQUENT PATRON AT THE BAR. SHE WAS UNABLE TO PICK FROM THE SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) AS BEING EITHER A PATRON OF THE BAR OR A FRIEND OF RAY GODFREY. WHEN SPECIFICALLY SHOWN THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION, SHE STATED SHE DID NOT REMEMBER ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO LOOKED LIKE THAT EVER BEING AT THE BAR. EVANS ADVISED GODFREY NEVER WORKED AS A BARTENDER AT BAILEY'S.

END PAGE THREE.

PAGE FOUR (44-2386)

SHE KNOWS OF NO OTHER INDIVIDUAL WHO FREQUENTED THE BAR, NAMED RALPH. SHE DOES NOT KNOW WHERE ANY OF THE FORMER PATRONS OF BILL BAILEY'S CAN NOW BE LOCATED.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT DIANE BRADY, "THE OFFICE BAR", TO IDENTIFY RALPH SETZER (PHONETIC).

END.

PLS HOLD FOR ONE MORE TEL

SAC, MEMPHIS (62-0) (P)

1/29/76

SA HOWELL S. LOWE

~~Mrs. J. N. GRACE~~
INFORMATION CONCERNING

On 1/22/76 Mrs. GRACE, of 4890 Willow Road, Memphis, telephone number 683-8324, telephonically contacted the Memphis office and stated that in 1968 she was the owner of a rooming house located at 418½ and 422 South Main Street, the rooming house where JAMES EARL RAY was staying at the time of the assignation of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

According to Mrs. GRACE the FBI took three \$20 bills from Mrs. BESSIE BREWER, the manager of this apartment house and an employee of Mrs. GRACE. One of these \$20 bills supposedly had been given to Mrs. BREWER by JAMES EARL RAY in payment of his rent.

Mrs. GRACE stated that she had never received this \$60 and felt like the FBI owed her the \$60.

A review of Memphis file 44-1987 Sub M-595 reflects that on 4/13/68 by confidential voucher, item 4, reflects payment of \$60 to Mrs. BESSIE BREWER for the three bills which were taken from her and were returned as evidence.

It is noted that the original three \$20 were no longer needed as evidence and they were deposited in the Memphis confidential fund.

It was explained to Mrs. GRACE that the \$60 which was taken from Mrs. BESSIE BREWER was returned to Mrs. BESSIE BREWER.

At this point Mrs. GRACE demanded that the FBI institute an investigation locating Mrs. BESSIE BREWER.

1 - 62-0
① - 44-1987 Sub M
HSL:sad
(2) *sad*

*LHM sent to Bureau
2/11/76 in 62-0.
JHL*

44-1987 Sub M - 981
SEARCHED FILED
JAN 29 1976
FBI - MEMPHIS
OK

ME 62-0

BREWER and obtaining from her that \$60, inasmuch as BESSIE BREWER did not, according to Mrs. GRACE, turn the \$60 in to Mrs. GRACE.

It was pointed out to Mrs. GRACE that this was not a matter in which the FBI could investigate and that if she believed that Mrs. BREWER had taken the \$60 which rightfully belonged to Mrs. GRACE, Mrs. GRACE should contact local authorities and charge Mrs. BREWER with theft or misappropriation of funds.

Mrs. GRACE became incensed and accused the FBI of completely disrupting her business and the business of her husband during this period of 1968 at the time of the killing of JAMES EARL RAY. She stated that in her opinion the FBI had botched the investigation, that we had conducted a kingergarten-type investigation, that the person who killed Dr. KING was not JAMES EARL RAY, and that she believes the FBI still owes her \$60. She threatened to write to the United States Attorney General and the President of the United States regarding this matter.

RECOMMENDATION

The name Mrs. J. N. GRACE should be indexed, and no further action taken in this matter.

NR012 AT PLAIN

7:43 PM NITEL 2-23-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
EL PASO (44-920)
MEMPHIA (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE, FEBRUARY 20, 1976.

LIEUTENANT STRICKLAND, PERMIT SECTION, ATLANTA PD, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ADVISED DIANE BRAND, AKA BRADY, TOOK OVER MANAGEMENT OF BAR NAMED "THE OFFICE" ON AUGUST 28, 1974. PREVIOUS OWNER THOMAS M. HYATT, 2131 FLAT SHOALS ROAD, ATLANTA. HYATT OWNED BAR FROM FEBRUARY, 1972 TO AUGUST, 1974. OWNER PRIOR TO THAT WAS A JAMES MAYNARD LIVINGSTONE, 622 FARRAR COURT, DECATUR, GEORGIA. LIVINGSTONE OWNED BAR FROM 1969 THROUGH 1972.

MANAGER, APARTMENTS LOCATED AT 4131 FLAT SHOALS ROAD, ADVISED THOMAS M. HYATT HAS NOT LIVED AT THAT ADDRESS FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS. SHE HAS BEEN MANAGER AT THAT COMPLEX FOR THAT PERIOD OF TIME. SHE WAS UNABLE TO FIND ANY MATERIAL IN HER FILE REGARDING THOMAS M. HYATT. RECORDS OF THE US POST OFFICE, EAST ATLANTA BRANCH, METROPOLITAN AVENUNE, ATLANTA, GA., REVIEWED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS REGARDING ANY FORWARDING ADDRESS FOR THOMAS M. HYATT.

END PAGE ONE.

44-1987 Sub m 982

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>mcp</i>
SERIALIZED <i>mcp</i>	FILED <i>mcp</i>
FEB 23 1976	
FBI - ATLANTA	

CAB

PAGE TWO (44-3486)

CARRIER FOR THAT ROUTE ADVISED HYATT HAS BEEN GONE FROM THAT ADDRESS FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE YEARS.

ATLANTA CITY DIRECTORY AND ATLANTA SUBURBAN DIRECTORY LISTS APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED AND FOUR EITHER RALPH OR INITIAL R. SMITHS. THE GREATER ATLANTA SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY LISTS IN EXCESS OF ONE HUNDRED AND FOUR EITHER RALPH OR INITIAL R. SMITHS. NEITHER THE CITY DIRECTORY NOR THE TELEPHONE BOOK HAVE ANY LISTING FOR AN R. OR RALPH SETZER.

IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT DURING ORIGINAL INTERVIEW OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, AKA RAY GODFREY, HE STATED HE THOUGHT HE WAS IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE "SHACKED UP" ON THE DAY MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WAS KILLED. GODFREY THOUGHT HE COULD VERIFY THIS THROUGH SOME PERSONAL RECORDS, HOWEVER, SINCE THAT TIME IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT HE HAS BECOME UNCOOPERATIVE.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. (1) ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH TYPE OF VEHICLE GODFREY OWNED IN 1968. (2) ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH FURTHER BACKGROUND ON ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. (3) ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN IF GODFREY EVER IN MILITARY SERVICE.

END.

RJH

ME IS CLR FOR ONE

NR018 AT PLAIN

9:13 PM NITEL 2-24-76 HLFQ

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, EL PASO (44-920)

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

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

MURKIN

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE DATED FEBRUARY 23, 1976.

ON FEBRUARY 23, 1976, A COMPOSITE PHOTOGRAPH OF AN INDIVIDUAL AS RALPH (LAST NAME UNKNOWN) WAS SHOWN TO TOMMY GODFREY RESIDING ON SUGAR CREEK ROAD, FANNIN COUNTY, GEORGIA. TOMMY IS A BROTHER TO BOTH LEE CARROLL AND ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. TOMMY ADVISED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE INDIVIDUAL DEPICTED IN THE COMPOSITE AND FURTHER ANNOUNCED HE ACTUALLY DID NOT KNOW ANY ONE NAMED RALPH SMITH OR RALPH SETZER. HE MENTIONED THE NAME RALPH SETZER DURING A PRIOR INTERVIEW ONLY BECAUSE LEE GODFREY RELATED TO HIM ABOUT HIS CONTACT WITH THE FBI IN THEIR INTEREST IN RALPH. TOMMY THOUGHT LEE SAID THE MAN'S NAME WAS RALPH SETZER.

ON FEBRUARY 23, 1976, LEE CARROLL GODFREY, BOARD TOWN ROAD, GILMER COUNTY, GEORGIA, VIEWED THE ABOVE DESCRIBED COMPOSITE AND STATED IT WAS QUITE DISSIMILAR TO THE MAN HE REMEMBERED
END OF PAGE NUMBER ONE

44-1987-Sub m 983
mmp
LWH

LEH
Dester
JH
5

PAGE NUMBER TWO

AT 44-2386

AS RALPH SMITH, A FORMER ASSOCIATE OF HIS AND HIS BROTHER'S ARNOLD RAY. WHEN HE LAST SAW RALPH THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS AGO RALPH HAD A DUCK TAIL HAIR CUT, FULL ON THE SIDES AND FLAT ON TOP. HE WAS APPROXIMATELY 45 YEARS OLD, MUCH OLDER THAN THE COMPOSITE. THE ONLY INDIVIDUAL LEE COULD REMEMBER WHO KNEW RALPH WAS A DIVORCEE NAMED LAVENE COOK (PHONETIC) WHO RESIDED IN MARIETTA, GEORGIA.

ON TODAY'S DATE, BARBARA WAGER, DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, WAS CONTACTED AND REQUESTED THAT SHE REVIEW THE STATE OF GEORGIA'S RECORDS FOR AN AUTOMOBILE OWNED BY ARNOLD RAY GODFREY DURING THE YEAR 1967 AND 1968. MRS. WAGER ADVISED IT WOULD BE QUITE EXTENSIVE TO REVIEW THESE FILES BUT WOULD ATTEMPT TO DO SO.

JOE WALLACE, SECURITY OFFICER, DELTA AIR LINES, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ADVISED THAT THE AIR LINES DOES NOT KEEP THE ACTUAL NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO FLIGHT ON THEIR AIR LINES. THE NAMES ARE KEPT ON A COMPUTER RUN WHICH IS ONLY MAINTAINED IN THEIR FILES FOR 30 DAYS. THE ACTUAL TICKETS ARE MAINTAINED BY THE
END OF PAGE TUMBER TWO

PAGE NUMBER THREE

AT 44-2386

AIR LINES FOR 90 DAYS ACCORDING TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE
CAB.

ON TODAY'S DATE, BETTY H. NEELY, PERSONAL RECORDS, GEORGIA
NATIONAL GUARD, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ADVISED THAT ARNOLD RAY GODFREY,
BORN ON [REDACTED] COPPER HILL, TENNESSEE, AND ENLISTED IN
THE GUARD ON JANUARY 9, 1951. HE ENLISTED INTO THE MEDICAL
COMPANY WITH THE 122 INFANTRY. THIS UNIT WAS LOCATED IN ATLANTA,
GEORGIA. GODFREY WAS DISCHARGED 1954 AS A CORPORAL WITH AN HONORABLE
DISCHARGE. HIS OCCUPATION DURING SERVICE WAS A LIGHT TRUCK
DRIVER. RECORDS HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION.

NUMEROUS INDIVIDUALS WHO KNEW ARNOLD RAY GODFREY IN
1968-69, INTERVIEWED AND ALL ACKNOWLEDGED GODFREY AS A "GOOD
OLD COUNTRY BOY" WITH NO VIOLENT TENDENCIES. ONE INDIVIDUAL
STATED GODFREY HAD NO USE FOR NEGROES BUT WOULD NOT HARM
ANYONE.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR, AT 44-2386

DIANE BRADY ADVISED GODFREY STILL FREQUENTS THE "OFFICE"
AND IS WELL KNOWN TO HER. GODFREY IS A VERY AMIABLE PERSON
WITH NO VIOLENT TENDENCIES.

IT IS TO BE NOTED IN PREVIOUS TELETYPE, LEE CARROLL
GODFREY WAS MENTIONED AS A COUSIN OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, WHEN
IN FACT, HE IS BROTHER OF ARNOLD.

LEADS. ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL RECONTACT BARBARA WAGER.
AT MARIETTA, GA. ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW LOVINE
COOK.
END.

RJH

ME IS CLR FOR OEXXONE

NR018 AT PLAIN

8:55 PM URGENT 2-19-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL FEBRUARY 18, 1976.

CLINTON STANFORD, ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSIONER, ENVIRONMENT AND STREET SERVICES, CITY OF ATLANTA, ADVISED THAT HIS RECORDS SHOW THAT ARNOLD RAY GODFREY DID NOT TAKE ANY LEAVE DURING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1967. THIS WOULD TEND TO SHOW THAT GODFREY WAS ON DUTY EVERY DAY THOSE TWO MONTHS. HOWEVER, FOR THE PAY PERIOD APRIL 3, THROUGH APRIL 17, 1968, GODFREY WAS CHARGED WITH THREE VACATION DAYS. FOR THE PAY PERIOD APRIL 17 THROUGH MAY 1, 1968, GODFREY WAS CHARGED WITH TWO VACATION DAYS. ATLANTA CITY RECORDS DO NOT SHOW EXACT DAYS THAT GODFREY WAS ON VACATION. ALL OF THIS TYPE OF RECORDS ARE PURGED EVERY THREE YEARS.

DIANE BRADY, OWNER/OPERATOR OF "THE OFFICE BAR" LOCATED AT MORELAND AND FLAT SHOALS ROAD, ADVISED SHE HAS NEVER EMPLOYED ANY BAND AT HER BUSINESS. RAY GODFREY DOES COME INTO THERE EVERY NOW AND THEN PLAYS HIS GUITAR. SHE CONTACTED HER DAY BARTENDER
END PAGE ONE.

44-1987 Sub-m 984

Joe Hester

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 19 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester *JHK* *D*

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

TO SEE IF RAY GODFREY HAD EVERY PLAYED AT THE BAR DURING THE DAY WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS. THE DAY BARTENDER ADVISED THAT GODFREY HAD NEVER PLAYED THERE WITH ANYONE DURING DAY AT "THE OFFICE. BRADY SHOWN SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS, UNABLE TO PICK OUT THE PHOTOGRAPH OF RALPH (LNU). WHEN SPECIFICALLY SHOWN THIS PHOTOGRAPH, SHE ADVISED SHE HAS NEVER SEEN THIS INDIVIDUAL. SHE IS POSITIVE THAT THE PERSON WHOSE LIKENESS IS REPRESENTED BY THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION IS NOT THE PERSON WHOM SHE KNOWS AS "DUKE". BRADY ALSO ADVISED THAT AFTER PETE DAVIS SOLD HIS ESTABLISHMENT, SHE WENT TO WORK FOR THE DRIFTWOOD LOUNGE WHICH IS LOCATED IN THE NEXT BLOCK FROM PETE'S BAR. SHE NEVER WORKED AT BILL BAILEY'S AND SHE NEVER WAS EMPLOYED BY LEWIS CLARK. SHE FURTHER ADVISED AFTER PETE DAVIS SOLD HIS BAR, HE WENT TO WORK IN SAUDI ARABIA FOR ONE YEAR. BRADY WAS UNABLE TO SUPPLY NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ANY OF THE OLD-TIME CUSTOMERS OF PETE'S BAR. EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE SOME OF THEM DROP IN AT HER BAR, BUT THIS IS NOT DONE ON A REGULAR BASIS. BRADY AGAIN STATED THAT SHE KNOWS OF NO FRIENDS OF RAY GODFREY EITHER MUSICIANS OR CO-WORKERS NAMED RALPH AND THAT WOULD INCLUDE RALPH SMITH OR RALPH SETZER (PHONETIC). SHE ALSO DOES NOT KNOW LEE GODFREY. DIANE BRADY FURTHER STATED THAT SHE WOULD

END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT RAY GODFREY WAS IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE AND THAT THE POWELL BROTHERS, WHOM SHE KNOWS TO BE ALCOHOLICS AND FRIENDLY INDIVIDUALS COULD BE ACCUSED OF DOING ANYTHING WRONG.

ATLANTA AT GILMER COUNTY. WILL EXHIBIT PHOTOGRAPH OF RALPH (LNU) TO LEE CARROLL GODFREY AND ASCERTAIN IF RALPH (LNU) IS IDENTICAL WITH RALPH (SMITH OR SETZER) (PHONETIC).
END.

RJH

ME IS CLR FOR ONE

NR017 AT PLAIN

5:35 PM URGENT 2-20-76 HLF

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

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL, FEBRUARY 19, 1976.

RAYMOND GODFREY INTERVIEWED THIS DATE AND ADVISED HE IS FAMILIAR WITH INDIVIDUAL NAMED ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, AKA RAY GODFREY. BOTH HE AND RAY GODFREY FREQUENTED A BAR ON MORELAND AVENUE KNOWN AS PETE'S PLACE. HE PICKED FROM A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS THE PICTURES OF CLAUDE POWELL AND RAY GODFREY AS FREQUENT PATRONS OF PETE'S BAR. RAYMOND GODFREY ADVISED HE IS NO RELATIVE OF RAY GODFREY, HOWEVER, CAME TO KNOW HIM FAIRLY WELL WHILE THEY WERE BOTH PATRONNS OF PETE'S BAR. HE KNEW THAT CLAUDE POWELL HAD A REPUTATION AROUND THE BAR AS HAVING QUITE A BOASTFUL MANNER WHILE HE WAS DRUNK. HE NEVER KNEW CLAUDE POWELL TO BE IN ANY TROUBLE OR TO BE VICIOUS IN ANY WAY. HE DESCRIBED RAY GODFREY AS BEING A "GOOD OLE BOY" WHO WOULD NOT BE IN ANY TROUBLE. HE WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY, FROM THE SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS, THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU). WHEN SPECIFICALLY SHOWN THIS PHOTO

END PAGE ONE.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>mf</i>	FILED <i>mf</i>
FEB 20 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

GA

44-1987 Sub m 985

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

HE ADVISED HE HAS NEVER SEEN THIS INDIVIDUAL. HE STATED THAT HE WAS IN PETE'S BAR AND BILL BAILEY'S LOUNGE ALMOST EVERY NIGHT DURING THE TIME PERIOD OF LATE 1966 THROUGH 1967.

A REVIEW OF THE FILE INDICATES THAT ALL LEADS, EXCEPT ONE, HAS BEEN COVERED BY THE ATLANTA OFFICE. THE LEAD TO SHOW PHOTO OF RALPH (LNU) TO LEE CARROLL GODFREY, TO ASCERTAIN IF IDENTICAL WITH RALPH (SMITH OR SETZER) (PHONETIC) IS ANTICIPATED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1976.

REPORT WILL FOLLOW.

END.

OK FBI ME MJH

F B I

Date: 2/24/76

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

Via TELETYPE NITEL
(Precedence)

oof

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) *7/6/DLS*
ATLANTA (44-2387) *8/1/HSE*
FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, FEBRUARY 23, 1976;
BUREAU TELCALL TO MEMPHIS, FEBRUARY 24, 1976.

A REVIEW OF THE 1968 NASHVILLE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY REVEALED
THAT THERE WERE FORTY MOTELS IN DOWNTOWN AREA AND 22 IN THE
SUBURBAN AREA.

THE FOLLOWING SAMPLING WAS MADE OF SOME OF THE MOTELS:

ALAMO PLAZA HOTEL COURTS, 450 MURFREESBORO ROAD, REVEALED
THAT THEY HAVE RECORDS DATING BACK TO SEVEN YEARS;

BILTMORE MOTEL, 2400 FRANKLIN ROAD, ONLY HAVING RECORDS
DATING BACK TO 1970; ANY PREVIOUS RECORDS POSSIBLY EXIST AT
PROVIDENT TRUST COMPANY IN NASHVILLE;

CONTINENTAL INNS OF AMERICA, 303 INTERSTATE DRIVE, HAVING
RECORDS DATING BACK FIVE TO SEVEN YEARS;

CAPITAL PARK INN, 400 FIFTH AVENUE NORTH, HAVING RECORDS
IN STORAGE ROOM BUT NOT FILED BY YEARS;

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED *mp*
INDEXED _____

TJF/mgy (1)

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *2/24/76* *[Signature]* M Per *[Signature]*

44-1987 Sub m 986

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Precedence)

PAGE TWO (ME 44-1987)

MONTEREY MOTEL, 3301 DICKERSON ROAD, HAVING RECORDS DATING
BACK APPROXIMATELY SIX YEARS;

HOLIDAY INN, 230 WEST TRINITY, ONE OF THE HOTELS LISTED
AS OPENING IN MAY, 1968.

NO ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO LOCATE GUEST REGISTRATION CARD
FOR GODFREY MENTIONED IN RE BUCALL UACB.

END.

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

NR010 AT PLAIN

7:35 PM NITEL 2-25-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, EL PASO (44-920)

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

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

MURKIN.

RE AT TEL, FEB. 24, 1976.

ON THIS DATE, BARBARA WAGER, DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES, ATLANTA, GA., ADVISED THAT HER RECORDS REFLECT THAT IN 1968, A. R. GODFREY OF 569 GRESHAM ROAD, ATLANTA, GA., HAD LICENSED IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA A 1960 CHEVROLET IMPALA, GA. LICENSE 2J40393. MRS. WAGER ADVISED THAT THERE ARE NO OTHER CARS REGISTERED TO A. R. GODFREY, HOWEVER, THERE ARE OTHER CARS REGISTERED TO AN ARNOLD GODFREY.

FOR INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT A. R. GODFREY IS THE SAME AS ARNOLD RAY GODFREY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THE ADDRESS, 569 GRESHAM, IS IDENTICAL WITH THE ADDRESS THAT ARNOLD RAY GODFREY GAVE TO THE CITY WHEN HE WAS EMPLOYED BY THEM.

A REVIEW OF THE ATLANTA FILE, 44-2386, REVEALED THAT THE DISTANCE FROM WHERE PETE'S BAR IS LOCATED TO WHERE JAMES EARL
END PAGE ONE

44-1987 Sub M 987
mr [signature]

Index 197
[signature]

[signature] [signature]

PAGE TWO, AT 44-2386

RAY STAYED IS FIVE AND ONE HALF MILES AS THE CROW FLIES, THAT IS A DIRECT LINE DISTANCE, NOT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE STREETS. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT IT IS A THREE AND ONE HALF MILE DISTANCE FROM THE PETE'S BAR TO WHERE THE CAR WAS LOCATED.

ATLANTA WILL FORWARD THE MAP OF THE CITY SHOWING THESE LOCATIONS BY REGISTERED MAIL.

A REVIEW OF THE GREATER ATLANTA SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY FAILED TO REFLECT ANY LISTING FOR A LAVERNE OR LAVENE COOK. A REVIEW OF THE COBB COUNTY AND CITY OF MARIETTA DIRECTORY ALSO FAILED TO REFLECT ANY LISTING FOR LAVERNE OR LAVENE COOK.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEWS BILL LOWERY. LOWERY MUSIC COMPANY, AND ASCERTAIN IF HE HAS ANY KNOWLEDGE RE RALPH (LNU).

END.

RJH

ME IS CLR FOR ONE

NR002 EP PLAIN

11:15AM URGENT FEBRUARY 26, 1976 MGS

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

FROM: EL PASO (44-920)

MURKINS.

RE ATLANTA NITEL TO EL PASO, FEBRUARY 17, 1976.

COMPOSITE PHOTOGRAPH OF RALPH (LNU) RECEIVED AT
MIDLAND RESIDENT AGENCY, FEBRUARY 25, 1976.

ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) DISPLAYED IN
SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS TO CLAUDE POWELL, JR., FEBRUARY 26,
1976. POWELL UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANY OF PHOTOGRAPHS AS
BEING INDIVIDUAL WHO APPROACHED HIM AND HIS BROTHER IN
PETE'S BAR IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, TO ASSASSINATE MARTIN
LUTHER KING. POWELL AGAIN STATED HE WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE
THE INDIVIDUAL IF HE WERE EVER TO MEET HIM AGAIN.

FD-302 FOLLOWS.

END.

ME FBI OK KJW

44-1987 SUBM 988

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 26 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

See
Next
Section