

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

## Rep. Snyder Claims Letter Ties FBI To King Assassination Try

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — U.S. Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., says he has referred to the House Assassination Committee a retired police officer who claims FBI agents propositioned him to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In statements broadcast Friday on WHAS-TV,

Snyder said the former officer, who he declined to name, has a tape recording of a purported conversation between himself and FBI agents in which an alleged suggestion was made to murder King.

According to Snyder, the former policeman "names three FBI officers (and)

three or four prominent people at that time in the police department (and) indicates that the offer was made on two occasions in his automobile where he had a tape recorder."

Snyder, who represents Kentucky's 4th District, declined to name dates and the city where the purported offers were made.

Snyder also declined to specify whether the former officer was from Kentucky. He said the man contacted him by letter recently and that he later met the man and listened to one tape recording.

Part of the tape was inaudible, Snyder said, but he was able to discern that the subject was King's assassination.

"I have talked to him and in my opinion he appears to be a responsible citizen and I think these kinds of leads need to be checked out," Snyder said.

Snyder said Assassinations Committee now has the tape recording and is investigating the matter.

King was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968. The Assassinations Committee recently said it had new information on King's murder, but has not produced any evidence of involvement by anyone other than the convicted killer, James Earl Ray.

"Messenger",  
daily newspaper of  
general circulation,  
Mayfield, Kentucky,  
March 21, 1977

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# FBI-Police Plot To Kill Martin Luther King Is Revealed by Kentucky Congressman

By RICHARD L. WALKER  
United Press International

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., says he understands the House Assassinations Committee has "some right substantial leads" in regard to the Martin Luther King Jr. murder case, besides the information he relayed to them on an alleged assassination plot among FBI agents and police.

Snyder disclosed during the weekend that a retired police officer wrote him last month outlining an alleged conspiracy involving three FBI agents and "three or four police officers" to kill the civil rights leader. Snyder said the retired policeman claimed he was offered \$500,000 to commit the murder.

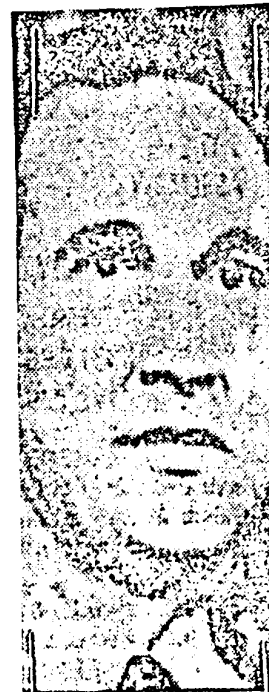
The Kentucky congressman declined to name the officer or his city police force. But United Press International learned from a reliable source yesterday that the alleged plot involved some high-ranking policemen and FBI agents from Louisville during the mid-1960s.

Snyder, who originally opposed creation of the House Assassinations Committee, now says he intends to vote for the panel's continuation.

Snyder said his informant had turned over a tape recording of a conversation which he says contains details of the half-million dollar offer to kill King. He said the ex-officer, now involved in private security work, had been to Washington to tell his story to investigators for the assassinations committee, but had not formally testified.

"I did think that I was sitting on something that was explosive whether accurate or not accurate," Snyder said. "That's the reason why I think I must be very careful not to reveal either who the writer was or who he named in his allegations."

Richard Sprague, chief counsel for the assassinations committee, has confirmed that the alleged plot to which Snyder referred was under investigation and refused further comment.



GENE SNYDER  
Discloses Plot

"Lexington Herald",  
daily newspaper of general circulation,  
Lexington, Kentucky, March 21, 1977

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

# Ex-Louisville cop bares King plot

BY JIM EBERLE

Kentucky Post Washington Bureau

**W**ASHINGTON—A retired Louisville policeman described by knowledgeable congressional sources as highly respected and reliable claims he was offered \$500,000 to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The man contacted U.S. Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., with the information and a tape recording to back up his claim.

Snyder says he turned over to the House Assassination Committee early this month a letter he received from the informant. Snyder describes the man as a 27-year veteran of the Louisville force, now in the private security business, but would not reveal his identity.

## ■ In danger?

Snyder said he was not identifying the man for several reasons: "If he's accurate and really interpreted everything properly that there was something going on then I don't think I ought to put him in jeopardy, people trying to get to him for one reason or another.

"I think they could even try to get him to keep him from talking any further.

"Or if he's not accurate I don't think the people he mentioned ought to have their good names smeared."

Snyder also declined to name the three FBI agents and four or five police officers the informant said were involved in the alleged plot or to identify the police department they were connected with.

However, Rep. Samuel Devine, R-Ohio, the ranking minority member of the assassination panel and the colleague to whom Snyder first took the letter, said Sunday the man was a former Louisville policeman, although he said he was not sure what the man's status was at the time of the alleged offer.

"Kentucky Post",  
daily newspaper of  
general circulation,  
Covington, Kentucky  
March 21, 1977

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It remains unclear whether the other men named in the letter were also Louisville policemen because none of the congressmen would say. Snyder, whose congressional district includes suburban Louisville, said only, "It wasn't too hard for me to check and find out if in fact they had been officers, and they were."

The offer about which the informant says he has personal knowledge allegedly took place two or three years before Dr. King was shot to death in Memphis in 1968, an informed source said.

"He said in his letter that he was offered \$500,000 and the offer was made in his car equipped with a tape recorder and he has a recording of the conversation," said Snyder.

"And then when I talked with him," the congressman continued, "he told me that actually there were two conversations but the one tape has been either misplaced or stolen."

"He has one tape and he's turned it over to the committee."

Snyder believes he never met the man before the letter arrived in his office on Feb. 28. He said Devine, a former FBI agent, had the man investigated and reported back to him "that the guy checked out good."

In a meeting with the man after he flew to Washington to be interviewed by the committee staff, Snyder said "he did not impress me as anybody who had any kind of mental problems."

Devine said he hadn't met the man, and he knows of no information "he was a psycho."

And Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, who is chairing the subcommittee dealing specifically with the King assassination, said he was told by Devine the man checked out as a "highly respected police officer reputed to be a reliable individual."

Stokes said he's taking the man's allegation "seriously."

Coming to Snyder was a last resort for the former policeman.

"In his letter he indicated that after he retired from the police department he made an attempt to get this to James Earl Ray's attorneys," said Snyder. Ray pleaded guilty to killing Dr. King in 1968 and is serving a 99-year prison sentence.

The man was referred by one of Ray's attorneys to a Frederick, Md., investigator, said Snyder, and called him.

Snyder said he'll now vote to keep the panel going because "I think the police man's story needs to be investigated...to find out what there is to it."

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# Identify ex-cop in King plot

BY TOM SCHEFFEY

Kentucky Post Frankfort Bureau

LOUISVILLE—Clifton E. Baird, 50, is the ex-patrolman who has just revealed to the House Assassination Committee in Washington that other Louisville policemen and three FBI men offered him \$500,000 in 1966 to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Four or five Louisville police officers and three Louisville FBI agents plotted to kill the civil rights leader two years before he was actually assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968, the committee has been told.

Baird, now an undercover private investigator, was not at his small brick home at 7813 Edsel Ln., in-suburban Fern Creek Monday night.

His wife Mary, 44, told The Kentucky Post in an exclusive interview why their secret is coming out now, and what it has been like living with it.

## ■ The secret.

Anonymous phone calls—some in the dead of the night—have plagued the Bairds through the seven years they have been married. "It frightens you to death, even if nobody says anything," said Mary Baird. The last call came a month ago.

"It didn't seem like it was ever going to stop," she said.

"I'm sure our phone has been tapped hundreds of times. It has an off sound, clicking little sounds while you're talking. "My husband has spent many a sleepless night—he'll lie there and toss and turn, then get up and read the paper. "He kept up with every report (of the assassination's aftermath) and he always reads all the articles on these deals," she said.

"Having peace of mind would mean a whole lot to everybody."

Clifton Baird didn't tell his wife the secret until after their marriage, the second for both of them.

## ■ Rigs up recorder.

"We haven't even told our children

about this, and he's kept a lot of it to himself, and hasn't even told me," she said.

But she knows the general story. "He had been driving this fellow (another Louisville policeman) home from work—the man's car had broken down or something. And he started asking a lot of strange questions, then he asked whether he'd kill King for half a million dollars. "I think this got him pretty upset, and puzzled, so he rigged up the tape recorder (under the front car seat). The guy made the same offer to him the next time they drove home," she said.

"He told him he didn't want any part of it. He didn't have anything against black people. That's why it was so hard for him to understand. "Why me?" you know?"

## ■ Feared for job.

Baird was not known among police as a marksman. "I guess he is a good enough shot, but he doesn't do target practice or anything," Mrs. Baird said.

After high school in Bowling Green, Baird enlisted in the Marines, and served in Korea, she said. "I think he was a sergeant."

One reason Baird did not speak up earlier was fear for his police job, from which he retired after 27 years in November, 1975. "Before now, he was so close to retiring, he was afraid they might kick him out," Mrs. Baird said.

Baird has felt victimized since he left the force.

"Somebody's got to have something (negative) in his records—why hasn't he been able to get a decent job since?" his wife wondered.

"He went to meatcutters school in Toledo, and tested out 98 per cent. And he went to three or four places that were desperate for a meatcutter and couldn't get a job.

"It's been like that all the time—and his only job reference is the police force. Things like that just don't add up," Mrs. Baird said.

"You can live with something like

"Kentucky Post",  
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general circulation,  
Covington, Kentucky,  
March 22, 1977

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... this. You can live with it, but you're not peaceful."

Mrs. Baird was not sure whether the alleged offer came in 1966 or 1967. Race riots gripped Louisville in 1967, sparked by an open housing drive led by Rev. A. D. King, brother of Martin.

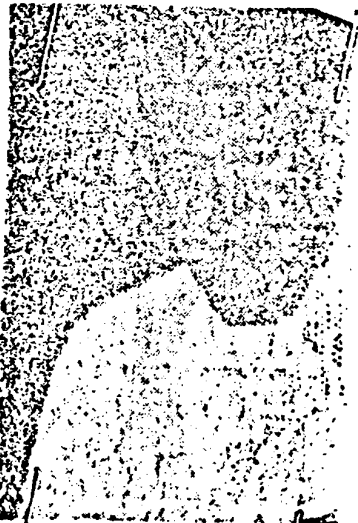
A. D. King was pastor of Louisville's Mt. Zion Baptist Church from 1965-69, and after moving to Atlanta, drowned in his home pool in 1970.

Baird is working on an undercover investigative job, and could not be reached for several days, his wife said.

As for the identities of alleged conspirators, "I've heard names, but I could not tell you—if my life depended on it I couldn't tell you," said Mary Baird.

Sources involved in the House committee probe of the assassinations of King and President John F. Kennedy said Baird is expected to testify under oath to the identities of the FBI agents and Louisville policemen in the alleged conspiracy.

Committee sources told Scripps-Howard reporters the Louisville allegation are considered "hot." One commented "They are placing it at the top."



**CLIFTON E. BAIRD**  
... key figure in King probe.



Mary Baird, 44, has known for seven years the secret her husband Clifton is sharing with the House Assassinations Committee.

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## Ray lawyer dismisses story of plot in Louisville to kill King

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One of James Earl Ray's lawyers says that more than a year ago he looked into an allegation that Louisville police and FBI agents plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He said he concluded "there wasn't much to it."

The lawyer, James H. Lesar, said yesterday that even if the allegation by a retired Louisville policeman is true, "it was remote from the assassination" because the man says there was only talk and not an attempt to kill the civil rights leader.

A House assassinations committee aide said investigators have talked to the retired policeman, who was not identified publicly, and are checking his story.

Lesar said the retired policeman told him in a letter that other Louisville policemen and FBI agents tried to hire him to kill King.

Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., disclosed last week that the policeman also wrote him a letter containing the allegation. Snyder said he turned it over to the assassinations committee.

(Snyder refused last night to confirm or deny that the policeman was retired from the Louisville department. "I think I've said enough," he said. "I just don't think I ought to nail it down.")

On a related matter, the House aide said two committee members will interview Ray today.

"Courier-Journal",  
daily newspaper of general circulation,  
Louisville, Kentucky, March 22, 1977

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## Assassination clue identified

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The wife of a former Louisville policeman has told newsmen her husband, Clifton Baird, is the source of the allegation that FBI agents and some members of the Louisville police department plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King.

But Baird, 50, now employed by a private security agency, was out of town and unavailable for comment.

He is reported to have been a patrolman on the Louisville police force from 1949 to 1975.

Baird's wife, Mary, 44, was quoted by WHAS-TV and The Courier Journal as confirming her husband was the source of allegations that he was offered \$500,000 to kill the civil rights leader, who was assassinated in 1968. James Earl Ray was imprisoned in Tennessee on a murder charge stemming from the assassination.

WHAS also quoted a spokesman for the House Select Committee on Assassinations as confirming Baird was the source of the allegations.

Attempts Tuesday night to reach Mrs. Baird about the media reports were unsuccessful.

Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., disclosed last week that he talked with a retired police officer who claimed he was offered money to kill King. Snyder did not name the officer or the city

in which the alleged plot occurred, but said he referred the man to the House assassinations committee.

Contacted at home Tuesday night about whether Baird was the man, Snyder refused to comment.

Earlier, Snyder quoted from a letter he said the man had written which said, "While I was in the police department I was innocently involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King."

The congressman said of the man making the allegation: "I don't think that he's a kook. I'm not in a position to say whether he's telling the truth or not, but he does not appear to me to be a person other than totally rational."

Snyder said he listened to a tape recording, now in the hands of House investigators, which purports to contain conversations relating to the alleged conspiracy.

A committee spokesman said the allegations are being investigated. If the House votes next week to extend the committee's charter, committee investigators may meet with the man in Louisville next month, the spokesman said.

Louisville Police Chief John Nevin said the department has not received any official communications from the assassinations committee.

"Sun-Democrat",  
daily newspaper of  
general circulation,  
Paducah, Kentucky,  
March 23, 1977



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# Man who gave information on plot against King is ex-Louisville officer

By JOHN FILIATREAU  
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

The ex-policeman who recently told U.S. Rep. M. Gene Snyder about an abortive conspiracy to murder Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been identified as Clifton E. Baird, 50, who retired as a patrolman from the Louisville Police Department in 1975 and now lives in Fern Creek.

Baird was identified as Snyder's informant in yesterday's edition of The Kentucky Post, which called him "a 27-year veteran of the Louisville force, now in the private security business."

In a brief interview at her home last night, Baird's wife Mary, 44, confirmed that it was her husband who told Snyder, R-4th District, about the alleged plot to kill King, the civil rights activist shot to death in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

Mrs. Baird declined to comment further, except to say that her husband is out of town and unavailable to newsmen.

Baird reportedly claimed he was offered \$500,000 to kill King, and said the conspiracy involved FBI agents and other Louisville policemen. According to Snyder, the offer to Baird was made in Baird's car, which was equipped with a

tape recorder, and Baird is in possession of a tape that supports his allegations.

According to Snyder, Baird wrote, "While I was in the Louisville Police Department I was innocently involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Martin Luther King."

Baird reportedly identified several members of the alleged conspiracy, including at least three FBI agents, the city's chief of detectives, a captain, two lieutenants, a patrolman and a sergeant who was president of the local lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).

The last reference apparently is to Tom Denton, who retired earlier this year as president of FOP Lodge 6. Denton, who has said he is considering running for Jefferson County sheriff, said yesterday, "I swear I don't know anything about it . . . I was quite surprised that it was in Louisville."

Former Chief of Detectives Priest Fry, another of those apparently referred to in Baird's letter, said last night that he "knew of" Baird, but never heard anything about the alleged plot to assassinate King.

Current Louisville Police Chief John Nevin said the department has not received any official communications from the congressional committee investigating King's assassination.

Nevin said he may have known Baird, but he "didn't know him very well. Of course we were from different generations. . . . My first reaction to the thing was that it was preposterous."

C. J. Hyde, a longtime Louisville policeman who became chief in 1968, said he remembers Baird as "a very fine police officer. . . . He was a tall, heavysset fellow who wasn't afraid of man or beast. If I was going on a job and expected trouble, I'd want him with me . . ."

"Courier-Journal",  
daily newspaper  
of general  
circulation,  
Louisville,  
Kentucky,  
March 23, 1977

ASSASSINATION OF  
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## Retired Policeman's Wife Says Husband Told Of King Plot

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—The wife of a retired policeman confirmed Wednesday it was her husband who told Rep. Gene Snyder (R-Ky.) of an alleged plot by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents and Louisville police officers to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mary Baird, 44, said her husband, Clifton E. Baird, a former Louisville police officer, told Snyder of the alleged plot.

SNYDER QUOTED Baird as saying the offer was made in a car by members of several members of the Louisville Police Department and several FBI agents.

Mrs. Baird said her husband retired from the Louisville Police Department several years ago after 27 years service.

"He told me about this when I first married him, seven years ago," Mrs. Baird said in an interview. "I think he thought he wasn't going to be believed."

Snyder said the man told him he was offered \$500,000 on two occasions to kill King.

Mrs. Baird said she believes one reason her husband came forward with the allegation was because "he wants to know why someone asked him" to kill King, who was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

"It sure has been on his mind," Mrs. Baird said. "He said it just got to bothering him and that's why he contacted Mr. Snyder."

Her husband, before contacting Snyder, told one of James Earl Ray's attorneys of the alleged plot, she said. Mrs. Baird said her husband was "discouraged" after talking with the attorney. Ray is serving 99 years in prison for the slaying of King.

SNYDER, WHO disclosed last week that he had heard from a man who claimed knowledge of a plot to kill King, refused to divulge the man's name.

Baird told his wife "he was offered \$500,000 to kill King and "he didn't appreciate it," Mrs. Baird said.

"Kentucky Enquirer",  
daily newspaper of  
general circulation,  
Covington, Kentucky,  
March 24, 1977

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FOB stands for Fraternal Order of Police, a collective bargaining organization for police officers.

Snyder said he could not divulge the names listed in the letter or the identity of the man who contacted him.

"What I'm saying," Snyder said, "is those blanks need to be protected if there's nothing to this. And if it is an accurate allegation that he's made, then the author of the letter needs to be protected. The committee is investigating it."

Snyder said the man "indicates further in the letter that after he retired he contacted who he says is James Earl Ray's attorney...."

Ray is serving a life term in prison in connection with the assassination of the late civil rights worker who was slain in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

Snyder said the former policeman claimed he was offered \$500,000 on two occasions to kill King.

Richard A. Sprague, the Philadelphia attorney who is chief counsel for the assassinations committee, confirmed Snyder had turned over material containing the allegation.

"The matter you refer to has been referred to the committee and is under investigation," Sprague said.

Snyder said he would vote to continue funds for the committee's continued existence solely on the basis of the allegation brought to him.

The former policeman, Snyder said, tried to turn over a tape recording of the alleged \$500,000 offer to Ray's attorneys but finally was asked by one of the attorneys' investigators "where he planned to hide if he tried to do anything with the tape."

Snyder said he has discussed the allegation with Rep. Samuel L. Devine of Ohio, the ranking minority member

of the committee. Devine, a former FBI agent, checked into the man's background and found him to be a "solid citizen," Snyder said.

Snyder said the man told him the offers for him to kill King were made in his automobile, where he had a tape recorder. Snyder quoted the man as saying he had two tapes, one of which was either stolen or lost.

ASSASSINATION C  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

# Government told of King murder story

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — U. S. Atty. George Long says he has told the Justice Department about an allegation that Louisville police and FBI agents conspired to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Long said Friday that the Justice Department hasn't decided yet whether it will investigate the allegations disclosed last week by Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky.

Snyder said he was contacted by a man who told him of a conspiracy to kill the late civil rights leader. The man alleged, Snyder said, that six members of the Louisville Police Department and several FBI agents were involved.

Snyder has refused to divulge the man's name. However, The Kentucky Post reported that Clayton Baird, 50, a retired Louisville policeman, made the allegations, and his wife Mary, 44, confirmed it.

Baird has not been available for comment since his wife confirmed he told Snyder of the alleged plot.

Snyder, who still refuses to identify the person who contacted him, said he talked with the man "face to face." The congressman quoted the man as saying he was offered \$500,000 to kill King, assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968. James Earl Ray is serving 99 years in prison for the murder of King.

Mrs. Baird said her husband is a security guard, that he retired from the police department after 27 years service and that he is out of town on an assignment. She has refused to elaborate.

She said her husband told her of the alleged plot seven years ago, when they were married. He told Snyder, she said, because he wanted "to know why someone asked him" to kill King. It had been "bothering him," she said.

Snyder said the man told him he had contacted one of Ray's attorneys, who dismissed the allegation as untrue. Snyder, however, said his impression of the man led him to believe the charge at least should be investigated. Snyder said the man was "rational" and that the FBI considered him a "solid citizen type."

The man told Snyder that he tape-recorded the alleged offer which he said was made in ear, the congressman said. Snyder also said the tape has been turned over to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, along with a letter from the man in which names of policemen and FBI agents allegedly involved were listed.

Snyder said he listened to a copy of the tape but that most of it was inaudible. However, he said he heard enough to establish it had something to do with King and money.

Snyder said, additionally, that he changed his mind about extending funding for the committee on the basis of his conversation with the man.

Louisville Police Chief John Nevin said his department would not know where to begin an investigation but that he would like to be supplied with any information the House committee has on the alleged involvement by Louisville police.

"I would very much like to have the information furnished to us so we can ask some serious questions," Nevin said. "Right now, it is really most difficult to deal with the situation, but I certainly think before it's over we're going to have to look into it. No question about it."

"Sun-Democrat",  
daily newspaper of  
general circulation,  
Paducah, Kentucky,  
March 27, 1977

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# Deny they were part of King plot

By TIM WYNGAARD and CARL WEST

Scripps-Howard Staff Writers

LOUISVILLE, KY.—They are almost all in their 60s now, graying and potbelled, leisurely working part-time retirement jobs after lifelong police careers.

And until last week, they must have felt that their glory days, and the excitement of police work, were behind them.

Now they have been named as part of a 1965 plot to kill the late Martin Luther King Jr.

They maintain they know nothing of the charges leveled against them by another former Louisville cop. They wonder why a man they recall fondly would secretly accuse them to investigators for the House Assassinations Committee.

But slowly they are finding out that the charges of retired Louisville patrolman Clifton E. Baird—that they offered him \$500,000 to kill King—have caught them in the rapidly closing vise of congressional politics.

BAIRD'S ACCUSATIONS, contained in a still-secret letter to the House committee, are being used by members of the beleaguered panel as a lever to pry approval for another year's continuation from a reluctant House.

Approval of a new budget of \$2.7 million is expected tomorrow, following committee leaks outlining Baird's charges and a 14-page preliminary committee report claiming new leads in the murders of King in 1968 and President Kennedy in 1963.

Scripps-Howard News Service has identified and interviewed four of the six Louisville policemen named in Baird's letter—and they categorically deny his charges.

One of Baird's former commanding officers recalled Baird warmly, and then exploded when a reporter told him the contents of the secret letter.

"IT'S PREPOSTEROUS," he said of Baird's claim that six local lawmen and three FBI agents planned to kill King during a period of open-housing tension here.

"It's so preposterous that it's ridiculous. I just can't believe it... He's wrong," he said.

A second called Baird's charges "silly and stupid," and offered to take a lie detector test.

He added, "If he's accusing me, he's an out-and-out liar."

A third, the only one of the four still on the Louisville police force, also offered to take a lie test and said he intends to deny the charges under oath to the House committee.

Another retired lawman—a ranking officer attached to the same district as Baird and the rest of the policemen named in the letter—took a more soft-spoken approach to his denials.

"It's kind of weird to me," he said. "But I really can't help you. All I know about it is what I have read in the newspapers."

Individually, they all raised the same private questions about Baird's charges.

WHY, THEY ASK, did Baird remain silent about the alleged murder plan for almost 12 years—and for two years following his retirement after an unblemished 27-year career as a policeman?

Where would they—even with the connivance of the FBI—have come up with \$500,000 to pay a gunman?

And, they ask, if the FBI was involved—with all the sophisticated equipment at its disposal—why would they have settled on an insignificant patrolman, not highly regarded as a marksman, as the triggerman?

Baird, now a Pinkerton's security guard here, has disappeared since making the charges. Reporters have been unable to find him and committee sources refuse to say whether he is being held under protective custody.

Ray cooperating—James Earl Ray gave staff members of the House

Assassinations Committee information yesterday which his lawyer said could identify the shadowy "Raoul" in the Martin Luther King Jr. assassination.

Chief counsel Richard Sprague and three other committee investigators spent six hours with Ray, King's convicted assassin, at Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee.

Sprague refused comment on what Ray told the investigators.

Among the information Ray provided the committee or made available through his previous lawyers, his attorney said, were travel dates and motel lodging records documenting his own movements as well as telephone numbers Ray claimed to have used to contact Raoul, a mysterious figure Ray has blamed for the King murder.

Ray, serving a 99-year prison sentence for the King assassination, is hoping to gain a new trial by cooperating with the committee.

"Kentucky Post",  
daily newspaper of  
general circulation,  
Covington, Kentucky  
March 29, 1977

ASSASSINATION OF  
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On March 25, 1977, Robert L. Keuch, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., who has been appointed Special Counsel for the Department of Justice in matters concerning the HSCA, advised that the Attorney General had authorized Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) interview of Clifton E. Baird, previously identified in newspaper articles contained herein, in the presence of an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA), Louisville, Kentucky, concerning all details of Baird's recent reported allegation that he had received an offer from FBI Agents and police officers to assassinate Martin Luther King, Jr. for \$500,000.00.

On March 26, 1977, an attempt was made to interview Clifton E. Baird, 7813 Edsel Lane, Louisville, Kentucky, concerning all details of recent reported allegation. Inquiry at the Baird residence by Special Agents of the FBI, accompanied by AUSA Alexander T. Taft, Jr., on March 26, 1977, revealed that Clifton E. Baird was out of town at an undisclosed location in Kentucky where, according to Baird's wife, Mary Baird, the former was on special assignment in connection with his employment with Pinkerton, Inc. Detective Agency, 510 West Broadway, Louisville, Kentucky. Mary Baird declined to furnish information concerning Baird's specific location since Baird was working on special assignment involving twelve hour shifts and interview of Baird while so employed could possibly jeopardize his job and cause him embarrassment inasmuch as his co-worker on that assignment had no knowledge of Baird's recent allegation. Mary Baird indicated that her husband would not return to Louisville, Kentucky, until the morning of March 29, 1977, at which time she would ask Baird to contact the FBI Louisville Office or United States Attorney's Office, Louisville, Kentucky.

Mary Baird advised that she had no personal knowledge of the reported offer which apparently occurred sometime in 1966 and that her husband had not revealed any pertinent facts of the allegation to her. Identities of the FBI Agents and Louisville Police Department officers reportedly named in her husband's letter to Representative M. G. (Gene) Snyder were unknown to Mary Baird.

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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According to Mary Baird, her husband, Clifton E. Baird, was interviewed by the HSCA in Washington, D. C. "several weeks ago", at which time a tape recording of the alleged offer to kill Martin Luther King, Jr. and all other pertinent data were provided committee members. Mary Baird did not believe that a copy of the tape recording existed and had no knowledge of any copy of the letter written by her husband to Snyder which may have been retained by the former.

Mary Baird was of the opinion that Snyder publicized receipt of the allegation in order to insure continued funding of HSCA scheduled to expire March 31, 1977. Mary Baird had no knowledge of how her husband's identity was "leaked" to the news media, noting that she has been harassed by the news media both at home and her employment, Stockyards Bank, Louisville, Kentucky, in an apparent effort to obtain additional information regarding the allegation and arrange an interview of her husband. As of March 26, 1977, no known interview of Baird had been conducted by the news media.

Mary Baird assured Special Agents of the FBI and AUSA Alexander T. Taft, Jr. that she would have her husband, Clifton E. Baird, contact the FBI or the United States Attorney's Office immediately upon his return to Louisville, Kentucky. The necessity for immediate interview of Clifton E. Baird was reiterated to Mary Baird and suitable arrangements for same on or about March 29, 1977, were made.

On March 26, 1977, the above information was furnished to United States Attorney George J. Long, Jr., Western District of Kentucky, Louisville, Kentucky.

On March 29, 1977, the second attempt was made to contact Clifton E. Baird, 7813 Edsel Lane, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of arranging a suitable interview with Special Agents of the FBI in the presence of AUSA Alexander T. Taft, Jr. Included herein as follows is a summary of that contact:

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**1**Date of transcription 3/30/77

On March 29, 1977, at approximately 7:28 PM, Special Agents EDMUND V. ARMENTO and CHRIS R. HOEHLE arrived at the residence of CLIFTON E. BAIRD, 7813 Edsel Lane, Louisville, Kentucky, for the specific purpose of contacting BAIRD in an effort to arrange a suitable interview of BAIRD with Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the presence of Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) ALEXANDER T. TAFT, JR. in connection with an allegation of an offer reportedly made to BAIRD by unnamed FBI Agents during 1966 to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Contact was made inasmuch as BAIRD had failed to initiate contact with the FBI or the United States Attorney's Office on March 29, 1977, as had been requested of his wife, MARY BAIRD, during previous contact on March 26, 1977.

Upon arrival at the BAIRD residence, MARY BAIRD answered the doorbell, at which time Special Agents immediately identified themselves and displayed their credentials. MARY BAIRD acknowledged that she recognized both Special Agents from previous contact with same on March 26, 1977, however, requested that Special Agents speak with her outside her residence. Interviewing Agents requested entrance into her residence for privacy reasons inasmuch as neighbors were sitting on front porches in close proximity to BAIRD residence and would be able to overhear all conversation. Entrance into residence was granted by MARY BAIRD following the above request. Upon entering the residence, MARY BAIRD was asked if she had been in contact with her husband, CLIFTON E. BAIRD, to which she replied that her husband was in fact present at the residence.

CLIFTON E. BAIRD entered the living room of the BAIRD residence, at which time Special Agents attempted to identify themselves with credentials in the presence of BAIRD's wife and explain the purpose of the contact. CLIFTON E. BAIRD exclaimed that he knew who the Special Agents were, refused to shake hands or look at the credentials. BAIRD stated, "I know who you are.", not giving the interviewing Agents opportunity to explain the reason for instant contact. BAIRD was immediately advised that the Attorney General of the United States had specifically requested he be interviewed

Interviewed on 3/29/77 at Louisville, Kentucky File # LS 44-947

by SA CHRIS R. HOEHLE  
SA EDMUND V. ARMENTO/EVA/scs Date dictated 3/30/77

25

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LS 44-947

2

concerning allegations recently revealed by BAIRD to United States Representative M. G. (GENE) SNYDER. BAIRD blurted, "I have no statement to make. Just leave.", not allowing interviewing Agents to complete statement.

BAIRD became visibly upset and his eyes appeared glassy and moist, speaking abruptly and not allowing interviewing Agents to express themselves fully. While leaving residence at the specific direction of BAIRD, Special Agents again advised BAIRD that the sole purpose of the contact was to arrange an interview of BAIRD with Special Agents of the FBI in the presence of a representative of the United States Attorney. BAIRD immediately inquired as to the identity of the United States Attorney and when informed that the local United States Attorney was GEORGE J. LONG, JR., BAIRD exclaimed, "Don't bring that man out here, I have no use for him." BAIRD further exclaimed, "I have received numerous threats from the FBI over the last ten years." and "I have nothing to say." BAIRD terminated the contact by stating, "I'll say it all to the House Committee." Immediately prior to termination of contact, BAIRD was advised that if he possessed any evidence of misconduct on the part of any FBI Agent, he should immediately bring same to the attention of the Attorney General of the United States. Contact was terminated at 7:32 PM and Special Agents immediately departed the area of the residence.

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

---

On March 29, 1977, AUSA Alexander T. Taft, Jr. was advised of the results of the contact with Clifton E. Baird by Special Agents of the FBI on the evening of March 29, 1977.

FBI

Date: 3/30/77

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Louisville teletype to Bureau dated 3/20/77, Bureau teletype to Louisville dated 3/26/77, Louisville teletype to Bureau dated 3/27/77, Louisville teletype to Bureau dated 3/29/77 and Bureau telephone call to Louisville, 3/30/77.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are ten (10) copies of self-explanatory LHM setting forth details concerning recent reported allegation by CLIFTON E. BAIRD, 7813 Edsel Lane, Louisville, Kentucky, that he had received offer from FBI Agents and police officers to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., inclusive of local newspaper articles relating to same and unsuccessful attempt to interview CLIFTON E. BAIRD.

Enclosed for Memphis are two (2) copies of above described LHM, which contains summary of all information developed to date concerning instant aspect of captioned matter.

It is noted that Louisville Division indices contain only single reference to "CLIFTON EUGENE BAIRD, Officer, Louisville Police Department" (LS 44-474), which file was destroyed on 2/28/77. No information is contained in Louisville Division files substantiating BAIRD's allegation on 3/29/77 that he has received numerous threats from the FBI over the last ten years.

Copy of enclosed LHM being disseminated locally to U. S. Attorney, Louisville, Kentucky.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 10)
  - ② - Memphis (Enc. 2) *[Handwritten initials]*
  - 2 - Louisville
- EVA/scs  
(6)

44-1987-Subm-1112

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 31 1977	

*[Handwritten signature]*

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

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ Per *[Handwritten signature]*

x

4/1/77

TO : Director, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, Memphis (44-1987) *sub M*  
MURKIN

Re telephone call from Supervisor HAL HELTERHOFF,  
FBIHQ, to Memphis, 3/30/77.

On 3/31/77, Acting Chief JOHN HOLT, Memphis Police  
Department, advised SA BURL F. JOHNSON that any information  
or reports furnished to the FBI by the Memphis Police Department  
in conjunction with captioned case may be released to the House  
Select Committee on Assassinations without the expressed consent  
of the Memphis Police Department.

2 - Bureau  
1 - Memphis  
RHB:ln  
(3)

*9/11*

SEARCHED	_____
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FILED	_____ <i>w</i>

*44-1987 sub M-1113*

3/30/77

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL - REGISTERED

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR  
OO: MEMPHIS

ReBHairtel, 3/21/77.

On 3/30/77, Major EMMETT DIXON, Alabama Highway Patrol (AHP), Montgomery, Alabama, advised that an ANP trooper had an informant who had been in contact with a MORRIS DAVIS, Birmingham, Alabama. DAVIS related information to the informant concerning a conspiracy to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING which involved FRANK LIBERTO and DR. GUS PROSCH. DAVIS indicated to the trooper's informant that the information had been related to the FBI, but apparently no action was taken.

Major DIXON was advised that the Birmingham Office had been in contact with MORRIS DAVIS on several occasions, had taken all information in the possession of DAVIS, and had furnished this information to FBIHQ and interested offices. DIXON was advised that Birmingham is positive that the FBIHQ had furnished DAVIS' information to interested congressional committees, as DAVIS had stated that a representative of the House of Representatives Committee had been in contact with him.

The above is set forth for information of FBIHQ and Mobile. As Birmingham has had numerous contacts with DAVIS, he will not be contacted at this time; however, Birmingham will continue to disseminate any pertinent information volunteered by DAVIS.

2 - Bureau  
1 - Mobile (Info)  
① - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)  
1 - New Orleans (Info)  
1 - Birmingham  
ALB:hss  
(6)

44-1987 sub M-1114

①

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B. Johnson

y

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

4/11/77

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau is one copy of a letter to the Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, from RUFUS J. HARPOM, Spokane, Washington.

For the information of the Bureau, the original of this letter was provided the Memphis Division of the FBI by a representative of the Homicide Bureau, Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department.

UACB, no action is contemplated by the Memphis Division regarding enclosed letter.

Note; Original letter maintained in 1-A section of file.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 1)  
1 - Memphis

SLP:jap  
(3)

*jap*

*SLP*

44-1987-SUM-1115

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_

SERIALIZED     

INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_

FILED

My friends I am writing to tell you  
that Earl Ray didn't kill Lushking  
the one that Lushking is one that shot  
from bath room. The told Ray go  
down there he wouldn't have do thing  
the take of him when we go in to  
bath room the one that shot

Lushking is one seen up in bath room  
so Earl Ray should be free did you  
ever look in bath room for prints  
from Earl Ray was not in bath room  
the one shot Lushking was in bath room  
so you work on that of bath room

I hope you find one that shot  
from Bath room

I am as ever your friend

Ray Robert Garrison

Box 1721. 90210

Spokane wash

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/25/77

DAVID ALAN KULLING, current address 2301 Stone, Ann Arbor, Michigan, telephone number 761-2333, was interviewed at the Ann Arbor, Michigan, Office of the FBI. KULLING provided the following information:

KULLING stated he is currently a student at Eastern Michigan University and is employed at the Forensic Center, Ypsilanti State Hospital, 3501 Willis Road, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

KULLING stated he felt he had information which could possible be of value in the current investigation concerning the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. KULLING stated he has been in touch with the congressional committee investigating the death of Dr. KING; however, he felt he should also supply this information to the FBI.

KULLING said approximately ten years ago, when he was in the sixth or seventh grade, he had a girl friend named CINDY MOTTS. KULLING said he and CINDY MOTTS attended Grant Junior High School on Nine Mile Road in East Detroit, Michigan, together. He said often he would spend afternoons and evenings at the MOTTS residence. While at her residence, he often overheard conversations between CINDY's mother, Mrs. (first name unknown) MOTTS and a dark hair, white male, age approximately 45, 5'8" tall, thin build.

KULLING said he believed Mrs. MOTTS and this white male were members of the Ku Klux Klan. He said he often heard them mention MARTIN LUTHER KING and the names of places where Dr. KING was leading marches. KULLING said the general tone of many conversations between Mrs. MOTTS and the white male had hatred of Dr. KING as the focal point. He said, however, he could not recall any explicit threats made by Mrs. MOTTS against Dr. KING.

KULLING said he recalls that CINDY MOTTS often made telephone calls for her mother and these telephone

Interviewed on 3/21/77 at Ann Arbor, Michigan File # Detroit 44-989  
 by SAs THOMAS F. KELLEHER  
JAMES E. CROSS, JR. TFK:bjk Date dictated 3/25/77

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DE 44-989

calls were made from the MOTTS residence, which was located in the 2200 or 2300 block of Brittainy in East Detroit. This residence is approximately one block south of Ten Mile Road.

KULLING said he last saw CINDY MOTTS in the winter of 1973. He said he does not know where she currently resides. He said Mrs. MOTTS had a boy friend who he believes is presently married to Mrs. MOTTS. Mrs. MOTTS' boy friend is a white male, 6'2" tall, 230 pounds, late 30's, speaks in a southern accent.

# memorandum

DATE: 4/5/77

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: SAC, DETROIT (44-989)(RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

Enclosed for Memphis is the original FD-302 reflecting interview of DAVID ALAN KULLING at Ann Arbor, Michigan, on 3/21/77, and I-A envelope containing interview notes.

For information of Memphis on 3/8/77, KULLING contacted the Detroit Office of the FBI and advised he had information regarding captioned matter.

Attempts to contact KULLING on 3/14/77 and 3/16/77, negative.

KULLING has contacted the Ann Arbor Office of the FBI on at least five occasions, offering to provide assistance in a variety of matters. His reliability is questionable at best.

2 - Memphis (Enc. 2) ✓  
1 - Detroit  
TFK/bjk  
(3)

44-1987 Sub M-1117

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>cut</i>
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APR 9 1977	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>S. Johnson</i>	

*Header*



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

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
(REV. 7-76)  
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6  
5010-112

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Seeking 'Conspirators' Agent of FBI Threatened Brother, Ray Tells Probers

By MARSHA VANDE BERG  
Tennessean Staff Correspondent

PETROS, Tenn. — James Earl Ray told House Assassination Committee staff members here yesterday a Memphis FBI agent threatened prison for Ray's brother if Ray didn't name members of an alleged conspiracy to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Jack Kershaw, Nashville attorney, quoted Ray as saying the alleged threat was made against his older brother, Jack, now in Leavenworth federal penitentiary, a day or two after Ray pleaded guilty to the April 4, 1968, assassination of King.

KERSHAW SAID he felt the conviction of Jack Ray on a charge of aiding and abetting a robbery the following year may have been related to the threat.

Kershaw said Ray could identify the agent only as "Jensen." He said Jensen was not a member of the Nashville FBI office but was accompanied by two FBI agents from the Nashville office when he talked with Ray at the Tennessee State Penitentiary.

It was learned last night that Robert G. Jensen, former special agent in charge of the Memphis FBI office, talked

with Ray at the Tennessee penitentiary in 1969.

JENSEN, NOW retired, was reached at his home in Germantown, Tenn., and asked about Ray's charge. He replied:

"There are records to support I visited Ray. I have no qualms about anything I have done, and I will testify about that under oath if necessary."

Jensen declined further comment about the meeting with Ray, who is now serving a 99-year sentence here at Brushy Mountain Prison for King's murder.

KERSHAW, WHO IS seeking a new trial for Ray on grounds that Ray was an "unwitting tool" of a conspiracy to kill King, called the meeting "an improper involvement of" the FBI.

"It indicates to me that the government itself did not believe Ray acted alone," Kershaw said. "The FBI was trying to make Ray an active conspirator ... because the government was worried to death about their white-wash."

Kershaw said that, at the meeting, Jensen "demanded

Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE /

THE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, TENN

Date:

4/15/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or 44-1987SubM-1118

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

44-1987SubM-1118

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED

APR 18 1977

FBI - MEMPHIS

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE /

THE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, TENN

Date: 4/15/77  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title:

Character:  
or 44-1987SubM-1118  
Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS  
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SERIALIZED FILED

APR 18 1977

FBI - MEMPHIS

(Continued From Page One)  
cooperation" and "the names of the co-conspirators." When Ray refused, Jensen left, turning to Ray as he walked out the door to say that unless Ray cooperated, "you can expect to see your brothers down here," Kershaw said.

**ACCORDING TO** Kershaw, Jack Ray is serving an 18-year sentence in Leavenworth for aiding and abetting in a robbery. He was convicted in 1970.

Kershaw said the FBI may have carried out its threat, because the man who allegedly committed the actual robbery was sentenced to only eight years, and has been granted a new trial.

Kershaw said he did not know where the robbery occurred or any details of the

conviction, but he said Jack Ray's conviction was on a "most peculiar robbery charge" and "I will now investigate that situation."

**KERSHAW SAID** Ray's lawyer at that time, Percy Foreman, also used implied threats against Ray's family to force Ray to enter a guilty plea rather than stand trial for the assassination of the civil rights leader.

Kershaw and four members of the House Assassinations Committee staff spent almost six hours with Ray behind the walls here yesterday in their third visit.

Kershaw, who met alone with Ray Wednesday, said another meeting has been scheduled tentatively for April 26.

# Did Man Called 'Raoul' Speak With Ray Before King's Death?

By MARSHA VANDE BERG  
The name "Raoul" was used as an "alias" by the man who contacted James Earl Ray before the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Ray's attorney Jack Kershaw said yesterday.

"Ray was only contacted by one person and he called himself Raoul," Kershaw said.

"HE WAS very frank to say Raoul was the handle and alias adopted by this man," Kershaw said referring to Ray's recent interviews with staff members of a House Assassinations Committee at Brushy Mountain Prison.

Kershaw's comments came after former committee counsel Richard A. Sprague told reporters in Washington yesterday that he has concluded from Ray's statements that "Raoul" was a fictitious name.

Sprague said Ray "indicated" the name Raoul "was a name made up," but added that Ray "did not spell out" whether the name was Ray's idea or another person's.

HERE ARE excerpts from a taped interview of Sprague by a reporter for the Associated Press.

Q. Did Ray concede Raoul is a fabrication, or did you and your staff conclude his story was not terribly credible?

A. There's a combination involved in answering that. There was not a discarding by Ray as to certain things he

(Turn to Page 4, Col. 6)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE /

THE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, TENN

Date: 4/29/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character: 44-1987 SubM-1120

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

indicated another person did. There was an indication that the name 'Raoul' was a name made up and that that was not in fact what he was named. There were other areas that indicated to me that certain facts being related were just not so.

Q. Is Ray saying he made up the name 'Raoul,' or did someone else make it up and make him use it?

A. He indicated that it was a name that he did not accept and he was using it as a name for another person, but he did not spell out whether that was his name or the name given to him by the other person.

During the interviews in the Petros, Tenn., prison where Ray is incarcerated, Sprague said Ray was consistent in his statements that he was not the lone assassin of King in April 1968 in Memphis.

Sprague quoted Ray as saying he had help in getting a weapon to escape from a Missouri prison, and that he contacted people after the assassination for help in escaping to Canada.

King was fatally shot about one year after Ray escaped from a Missouri prison. Ray was arrested in September 1968, in England. He arrived in England, via Canada, on a passport under an alias.

**THOSE WHO** helped Ray were not members of Ray's family, Sprague quoted Ray as saying. But Ray had not gotten to the point of describing the persons further, he said.

Committee counsel Robert Lehner is expected to interview Ray again Thursday at Brushy Mountain Prison.

Sprague resigned as the committee's chief counsel two weeks ago in a flurry of controversy over his role in the committee's investigations. The House voted to continue funding of the investigations after Sprague resigned.

IN A press conference yesterday, Sprague urged President Carter to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the assassinations, and then criticized the committee for "political expediency" and "titillating the public."

**Airtel**

**4/22/77**

**To: SAC, Seattle**

**From: Director, FBI (44-38861)**

**MURKIN**

**Re Memphis letter dated 4/11/77 enclosing a copy of a letter from Rufus J. Harpou, Spokane, Washington, copies of which are enclosed for Seattle.**

**Bufiles contain no information identifiable with Harpou. Seattle, unless some information contained in your files exists to the contrary, promptly interview Harpou for full details concerning any information he desires to furnish re captioned matter. Submit LHM results incorporating a copy of his enclosed letter as well as summarizing results of any prior information in your files.**

**Enclosures (2)**

**① - Memphis (44-1987) (For information)**

*44-1987 Sub M-1119*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1977	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*[Signature]*



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Ray: 'In Gas Station When King Was Slain'

WASHINGTON. — (UPI) — James Earl Ray said in a television broadcast today that he was in a Memphis gas station having his white Mustang car serviced at the time Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968.

Ray, who originally pleaded guilty to the murder, now wants a new trial, claiming that a man known to him only as Raoul might be responsible for the crime.

Ray was interviewed in his prison cell at Brushy Mountain Park in Tennessee by author-investigator Mark Lane, who claims the assassinations of both King and John F. Kennedy were the result of conspiracies and not the

single deeds of Ray and Lee Harvey Oswald.

Lane was interviewed on the ABC Good Morning America program in connection with publication of another book to support his theories. The program cut into portions of Lane's filmed interview with Ray.

Ray said of his movements on April 4, 1968, when King was shot:

"At that time, I intended to go to a movie ... I recalled that I had car trouble the day before. I doubled back to service the car. I believe that's close away from the terminal and where the shooting took place."

After he left the gas station, he said, "I ran

into a (police) road block in the immediate vicinity of where the shooting was supposed to have taken place. There have been police statements that they waved me off. Anyhow, I went to New Orleans."

The FBI, which investigated the King murder and a Justice Department review earlier this week, concluded that all the evidence showed that Ray killed King with a rifle he is known to have purchased several days before.

Lane said Ray claimed he had been involved with others, including a man named Raoul, in some smuggling schemes operating across the Canadian and Mexican borders.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

— PAGE 12

— MEMPHIS PRESS  
SCIMITAR

— MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: MAY 2, 1977

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

44-1987 sub M 1121  
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MAY 9 1977

FBI - MEMPHIS

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# King Investigation Team in Memphis

By CHARLES GOODMAN  
Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

Investigators today were to begin reading through case files at the Shelby County Attorney General's office and take into custody any material evidence they deem necessary, Ford said.

House Assassinations Committee investigators, in Memphis to review the 1968 death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., are trying to avoid the spotlight.

A committee spokesman, refusing to say where the team will be operating in Memphis this week, said investigators want to locate witnesses at the boarding house across the street from the Lorraine Motel where Dr. King was shot by a sniper.

Rep. Harold Ford of Memphis, a member of the Assassinations Committee, said the team will question "people who have already come to the front."

Members of the committee were not to be in Memphis today.

James Earl Ray, King's confessed assassin who is serving a 99-year sentence at Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros, Tenn., is attempting to win a new trial. His defense lawyer, Jack Kershaw of Nashville, said a West Memphis service station worker, Willie Green, 66, could give Ray an alibi.

Ray says that a conspiracy, headed by a mysterious Latin named "Raoul," was responsible for the King slaying.

Green interviewed by *The Press-Scimitar* last week, said he saw a man matching Ray's description using a telephone booth at the gas station and Third and Linden, seven blocks from the Lorraine Motel, at about the same time King was killed.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 10

MEMPHIS PRESS  
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: MAY 9, 1977

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

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BUREAU 5/13/77  
ADM

JAC

Handwritten initials

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Monday Book Report

# Errors Shoot Down Latest Martin Luther King Book

By **MENNO E. DUERKSEN**  
Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

**M**ARK LANE, WHO WROTE a best-selling book on President John F. Kennedy's assassination, has written a similar book, in collaboration with Dick Gregory, on the shooting death of Dr. Martin Luther King. It is *Code Name Zorro* (Prentice-Hall, Inc., \$9.95).

Lane's Kennedy book attempted to rip apart the report of the Warren Commission, the public body appointed to report to the American people on that slaying.

Lane's new book (Gregory wrote only a few chapters on the personal background of King) has been released coincident with the current congressional inquiry in Washington on the King slaying. It, too, is loaded with controversy.



Duerksen

If King had been assassinated in Chicago, or Detroit, it would have been much easier for this Memphis police reporter, present and on the job at the time of the King slaying, to believe the contents of a book by Lane on such a slaying.

### Elements of Doubt

Being in Memphis, however, where the King murder took place, makes it too easy to spot the errors in Lane's book. And once doubt has crept in on one, or two, or three points, one finds it difficult to accept the Lane findings.

**Example No. 1** — Lane places great importance on his charge that Police Detective Ed Redditt was assigned to provide "security" for the King party but was "mysteriously" pulled off the job two hours before the assassin fired his shot.

The truth, stated repeatedly in police reports and supported by Redditt's own statement made at the time, was that Redditt was never assigned to provide security but to provide police surveillance of the King party. In short, to keep tabs on King's movement and activities but not to provide security. Redditt himself confirmed the official version that he was pulled away because of threats to his life.

*Orig fwd to Bureau 5/13/77*

*SAR*

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 4

MEMPHIS PRESS SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: MAY 9, 1977

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

*44-19875-011*  
*1123*

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*AK*

King, in fact, did not have police security on his last tragic trip to Memphis, as he had previously had, because King and his party specifically refused to accept it when offered.

And the joker to the whole Lane concept is that the observation post selected by Redditt and police, at the rear window of a Fire Department station on Main Street, was too remote from the Lorraine Motel to provide security in the event of danger to King.

If Redditt had been withdrawn to prevent him from seeing things he was not supposed to see, as Lane has also suggested, it must be remembered that another black police officer, W. B. Richmond, was left at the fire station post and at least three other persons were present with him at the window at the moment when King was shot.

Example No. 2—Lane makes a considerable point about the suggestion that trees obscured the vision, and line of gunfire, between the window from which police say the shot that killed King was fired and the balcony of the Lorraine Motel where King stood when gunned down.

This is sheer nonsense. Dozens of persons, police officers, FBI agents and others looked out that window on the day of the slaying and found the line of fire completely clear. Pictures to that effect have been taken and published. Reporters were also later allowed to look out that window and found no obstruction. Press photographers also took such pictures.

Example No. 3—Lane places top emphasis on Grace Stephens, as "an important witness", and accuses police authorities of placing her in a mental institution, keeping her locked up there despite the fact that she is "completely sane," to prevent her telling her story. Mrs. Stephens, together with her husband, Charlie, occupied a room in the building from which the shot was fired.

Lane quotes her description of the man fleeing the building with a package — the gun — as being completely different from the description given by her husband, which roughly matched that of James Earl Ray.

Lane also quotes Mrs. Stephens as saying her husband was so drunk, and asleep on the bed to boot, that he could not possibly have seen the man running down the hall.

The police version of the story, coming from various sources, detectives and officials this reporter has known for years, is almost the complete opposite.

Some three hours later, police took her to headquarters and transcribed a written statement from Mrs. Stephens, which she signed, in which she said she was ill in bed, had gotten out of bed only once, around 2 p.m. (four hours before the slaying), with the help of her husband to go to the bathroom. In her own signed statement, made within four hours after the shooting, Mrs. Stephens said she had heard only vague sounds and had seen nothing.

Her husband's statement, given at the same time, contained much more detail, was more clearly stated and contains the statement that the man he saw running out of the building with the package was the same man he had seen earlier, who had rented the room occupied by the slayer.

### *Retired Agent Named Murtagh*

These are merely incidents in the story. Lane's major case is built against the FBI and his major witness is a single disgruntled retired FBI agent named Arthur Murtagh, who was not in Memphis at the time of the slaying but is quoted extensively about anti-King feeling in the FBI organization, from J. Edgar Hoover on down, and describes FBI efforts to discredit King.

Murtagh has testified before the present investigating committee in Washington and has been quoted extensively in press stories.

Lane quotes Murtagh as saying the FBI assigned the code name "Zorro" to a special FBI group assigned to the job of discrediting King.

It is undoubtedly true that the FBI was to a large degree "right oriented," as Murtagh charges, and that many FBI agents disliked King. There was undoubtedly some "anti-black" feeling in the agency. But this was also true of the Memphis Police Department, or any other police department in the U.S. at that time.

But this did not, in my opinion, prevent police officers in Memphis from "going all out," in the investigation of King's slaying. This reporter has had the privilege of reading many of the police investigative reports on the slaying and it is apparent that detectives were digging, and digging hard, even in the face of open hostility from some elements of both the white and black communities.

At the beginning, in fact, black leaders blamed police for the killings.

### *Statement by Lux Recalled*

Former Police Chief Henry Lux, an assistant chief at the time of the King slaying, the department's top liaison officer with the black leadership, and probably trusted more by King's organization than any other police officer, has flatly stated that he never detected any hesitancy or "foot dragging" on the part of the FBI to solve the crime.

Lane's new book will undoubtedly be widely read, and will also help fuel the American love affair with conspiracy.

In one sensational statement on the last page of the book, Lane states, "Persons employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1968 must be considered prime suspects in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King."

Our suggestion is that without better proof than Lane has produced, such a statement can only be calculated to provide more flame for a fire on which the ashes should properly be cooling off.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Seattle, Washington

May 26, 1977

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

RE: MURKIN

On May 25, 1977, Rufus J. Hayson, West 1419 Water Avenue, Spokane, Washington, 99201, advised that he subscribes to Post Office Box 1721 at the Riverside Station, Spokane, Washington, 99210. He resides at West 1419 Water Avenue in Spokane, and has no telephone and is not employed. He recalls that in about April, 1977, he did write a letter to the Police Department at Memphis, Tennessee, propounding his views of the killing of Martin Luther King. His views are derived entirely from newspaper accounts and he has no acquaintanceship with James Earl Ray, Martin Luther King or anyone who knows either of these people personally. He has never been in Memphis, Tennessee.

His views of the murder of Martin Luther King are that James Earl Ray did not kill Martin Luther King, but rather that some unknown person or persons killed Martin Luther King and thereafter, lured James Earl Ray to a bathroom, from which the shot which killed King was allegedly fired, and thereafter, made their escape while Ray remained and was captured. He has no basis for his theory other than newspaper accounts, but felt that he should communicate with the Memphis Police Department and advise them of his considered views.

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44-1987 Sub M-~~721~~ 1124

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 26 1977	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
OB	

FBI

Date: 5/26/77

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

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Precedence)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
  
FROM : SAC, SEATTLE (44-371) (RUC)  
  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Bureau airtel to Seattle, dated April 22, 1977.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six (6) and for Memphis one (1), copies of a Letterhead Memorandum reflecting interview of RUFUS J. HAYSON, Spokane, Washington, May 25, 1977.

Repeated efforts to contact HAYSON culminated in his interview on May 25, 1977.

The indices of the Seattle Office contain no references to RUFUS J. HAYSON.

- 2 - Bureau (44-38861) (Encl 6)
  - 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Encl 1) *fm*
  - 1 - Seattle (44-371)
- LBD/jcb  
(5)

*44-1987 sub m-1125*

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED <i>a</i>	FILED <i>u</i>
MAY 31 1977	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*MJ*

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

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RR HQ DL KX ME NO SE

DE MM

R 032300Z JUN 77

FM MIAMI (44-1854) RUC

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ROUTINE

DALLAS ROUTINE

KNOXVILLE ROUTINE

MEMPHIS ROUTINE

NEW ORLEANS ROUTINE

SEATTLE (44-371) ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

MURKIN. ✓

REBUTEL TO SEATTLE, JUNE 3, 1977.

ON JUNE 3, 1977, KEITH ERNEST LAMONICA LOCATED PALM BEACH HAWAIIAN MOTEL, PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, AND AT THIS TIME MADE AWARE OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REGULATIONS CONCERNING WITNESS PROTECTION. THIS INFO INCLUDED WHOM HE SHOULD CONTACT IN EVENT HE DESIRES OR IS ELIGIBLE FOR PROTECTION AND THE THREE CONDITIONS NECESSARY

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*44-1987 Sub M-1126*

*u u*

*UB*

PAGE TWO MM 44-1854 CLEAR

TO QUALIFY.

LAMONICA ADVISED THAT WHILE HE HAS SOME CONCERN FOR PROTECTION, HIS MAIN INTEREST IS TO DETERMINE IF RAFAEL MARTINEZ, AN ALLEGED "HIT MAN" IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, DOES ACTUALLY POSE A THREAT TO HIM. LAMONICA WAS ADVISED THAT NO SUCH DETERMINATION COULD BE MADE AND HE STATED HE IS PROBABLY GOING TO NEW ORLEANS IN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS AND WILL PURSUE THIS LOCALLY; HOWEVER, CLAIMED HE WOULD PROBABLY CONTACT FBI AT NEW ORLEANS WHILE THERE. LAMONICA CONTENDED HIS INVESTIGATION INTO CAPTIONED MATTER HAS PRODUCED NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND THAT HE INTENDS TO PURSUE HIS INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATION.

BT



MEMPHIS 153010Z - SEATTLE 153010Z

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

FROM SEATTLE (44-271)

020400Z JUN 77

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS PRIORITY

KNOXVILLE PRIORITY

MEMPHIS PRIORITY

NEW ORLEANS PRIORITY

B.

CLERK

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

RE SEATTLE TEL CALL TO BUREAU, JUNE 1, 1977.

AT APPROXIMATELY 6:40 P.M., PDST, JUNE 1, 1977, SAC SEATTLE

RECEIVED CALL FROM INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS (X) KEITH

ERNEST LAMONICA (X). LAMONICA ADVISED HE IS NEWS DIRECTOR WITH

KYYX RADIO, 1300 3RD AVENUE, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, TEL.

682-2626. (LAMONICA IDENTICAL WITH BUFILE 46-53387, CAPTIONED

KEITH ERNEST LAMONICA; DALE CURTIS TORNO, FAG, OO: SEATTLE.)

LAMONICA DESCRIBED PREVIOUS ASSOCIATION WITH BUREAU PERSONNEL

*Had Hesterhoff  
FBI HQ advised  
of evidence check  
6/3/77  
HLS*

*44-1987 Sub M-1127  
JF  
u u*

*B*

PAGE TWO SE 44-371 CLEAR

WHILE ASSIGNED AS INVESTIGATIVE REPORTED WITH WMPD RADIO,  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND ALSO WHILE WORKING ON THE YABLONSKI  
MURDER CASES IN KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE. LAMONICA PRESENTLY  
RESIDES 3122 - 48TH AVENUE SW, FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON.

LAMONICA INDICATED HE HAS BEEN WORKING ON CAPTIONED CASE  
AND ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT PREVIOUSLY BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF  
"RAOUL" THEORY AS POSED BY JAMES EARL RAY, HE NOW HAS DEVELOPED  
INFORMATION INDICATING THAT "RAOUL" IS ACTUALLY (X) RAOUL SANTIAGO  
ESTEJO MARTINEZ (X), AND THAT WITH THE COOPERATION OF RAY'S  
ATTORNEY, <sup>New York</sup> JACK KERSHAW, HE, LAMONICA, IS TO MEET WITH MARTINEZ  
THROUGH AN INTERMEDIARY (X) <sup>H</sup> CLIFF ANDREWS (X), WHO SUPPOSEDLY  
<sup>44-1987 Sub M 928, 927</sup>  
SERVED PRISON TIME WITH RAY.

LAMONICA FURTHER INDICATED THAT WHEN THIS INFORMATION BREAKS  
IT WILL CAUSE CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY AND HE HAS ALREADY BEEN  
CONTACTED BY THREE MAJOR NETWORKS AND LEAVES THURSDAY MORNING  
TO BE INTERVIEWED BY THE NATIONAL ENQUIRER AT LANTANA, FLORIDA,  
FROM WHERE HE WILL RETURN TO SEATTLE POSSIBLY ON FRIDAY. HE SAID  
APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKENDS AGO HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY TWO INVESTI-  
GATORS NAMES MORIARTY (PH), AND GILBERT FROM THE HOUSE SELECT

PAGE THREE

SE 44-371

CLEAR

COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS WHO INDICATED THEY WOULD BE SUBPOENAIING LAMONICA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AT THE TIME OF THIS INTERVIEW LAMONICA DID NOT HAVE THE AFOREMENTIONED INFORMATION ON RAOUL MARTINEZ. MARTINEZ REPORTEDLY INDICATED HE WILL TESTIFY ABOUT CAPTIONED CASE IF HE CAN BE GRANTED IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION.

LAMONICA'S PURPOSE IN CONTACTING SEATTLE FBI WAS TO EXPRESS CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS TWO DAUGHTERS, DEBORAH ANGELA AGE 7, AND DANA EDNA AGE 6, WHO RESIDE WITH HIS PARENTS AT 4817 W. RICHARDSON, PASCO, WASHINGTON, TEL. 547-7935.

REASON FOR HIS CONCERN IS THAT HE HAD HEARD INDIRECTLY THAT A NEW ORLEANS "HITMAN" <sup>Ricardo</sup> RAFAEL <sup>see library</sup> MARTINEZ (NO RELATION TO RAOUL MARTINEZ) <sup>Q</sup> WOULD CAUSE HIM OR HIS FAMILY A LOT OF TROUBLE IF THE STORY BREAKS. HE SAID HIS NEW SOURCE TOLD HIM OF A CONFIDENTIAL MEMO BELIEVED FROM DALLAS, TEXAS, PD OR SO TO NEW ORLEANS IN WHICH MARTINEZ WAS DESCRIBED AS A VERY EXPERIENCED HITMAN.

LAMONICA ADVISED BY SAC OF THE WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM AND THAT HE SHOULD PROBABLY NOTIFY INVESTIGATORS FOR SELECT COMMITTEE OF HIS FEARS BUT TO CHECK WITH THIS OFFICE UPON HIS RETURN THIS COMING FRIDAY.

PAGE FOUR            SE 44-371            CLEAR

      ABOVE FURNISHED FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU FOR REFERRAL  
TO DEPARTMENT. ALL OFFICES HOLD SPECIFIC LEADS IN ABEYANCE  
PENDING INSIRUCTIONS FROM BUREAU

BT

W10

INVALID CHANNEL DESIGNATOR RESUBMIT



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

Mobile, Alabama

June 3, 1977

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

Set forth hereinafter is an interview form reflecting information furnished by James P. Dalton at Montgomery, Alabama, concerning captioned matter.

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.

7/1-16812-1158

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 3, 1977

1

**JAMES P. DALTON**, Field Investigator, Alabama Department of Pensions and Securities, telephone number 832-5953, voluntarily appeared at the Montgomery Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and advised as follows:

He had been employed as an investigatory reporter by Station WAAV-TV, Huntsville, Alabama, from June, 1970 to November, 1971. At that time his name was **JAMES DALTON CULPEPPER**, but he had his name legally changed during 1975 to the one currently being used. He was also employed as an investigatory reporter by Station WKAB-TV, Montgomery, Alabama, from July, 1974 until July, 1975.

During his employment with WAAV-TV, Huntsville, he developed information which later led him to believe was the possible motive behind the assassination of Dr. **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.** at Memphis, Tennessee during 1968. He had no personal knowledge concerning this matter, and it was strictly conjecture on his part, but he wanted to furnish it to the appropriate authorities for consideration and possible investigation if deemed necessary.

During 1971, the sanitation workers of the city of Huntsville became involved in a strike to obtain an hourly wage increase. Approximately two days after the strike started, **JOE DAVIS**, Mayor of Huntsville, negotiated contract with American Disposal, Inc., a local company headed by **GEORGE MC WHIRTER**, to handle the garbage pickup and disposal on a temporary basis in Huntsville during the period of the strike. **MC WHIRTER** was reported to have been formerly connected with McWhirter Materials Handling, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, and this company had merged with another company located in Dallas or Houston, Texas, which was also in the garbage disposal business.

The strike at Huntsville lasted about three months with numerous acts of violence committed during the period by

Interviewed on 5/31/77 at MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA File # MO 157-2627

by SA DAN O. STEPHENS, dds Date dictated 6/1/77

2

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individuals sympathetic with or opposed to the strike. Information was developed by DALTON indicating the strike was prolonged at the instigation of MC WHIRTER with the knowledge of Mayor DAVIS, in order to maintain the lucrative contract with the city, and that some of the acts of violence and vandalism were actually encouraged by MC WHIRTER as a means of prolonging the strike. Information was also developed indicating that Mayor DAVIS had possibly received a pay-off from MC WHIRTER and his associates for the contract. Due to MC WHIRTER's out-of-State connections, it was believed by DALTON that he possibly had some involvement with organized crime.

DALTON was unable to expose his findings because his employer feared some type of repercussion might result and is reporting all this information was suppressed.

He was unable to develop any positive information concerning MC WHIRTER's possible connection with any known organized crime figures.

Since a similar situation existed in Memphis, Tennessee during 1968, which resulted in the appearance of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. there on behalf of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to promote non-violence and effect a peaceful settlement of the strike, thus winning increased support of the black sanitation workers, the possibility existed that he was killed for or by individuals supporting some private concern that was handling the city garbage disposal at the time, or attempting to obtain a private contract for this service, and would therefore benefit from a prolonged violence ridden strike.

DALTON had no information of a specific nature concerning this matter. He did not know if any private garbage removal firm was handling the garbage pickup in Memphis during the strike, nor did he know of any concern which was attempting to negotiate with the city of Memphis for this business. He had developed no information indicating that MC WHIRTER or any of his associates were operating in Memphis during this period, and he could furnish no other information which would support his theory in this regard.

3

3

He displayed an article, however, which he claimed appeared in the "National Inquirer", dated May 31, 1977, which reported that WILLIAM SOMMERSETT, Miami, Florida Union organizer, had claimed that he had overheard a conversation between unidentified members of the Sanitation Workers Union and the Longshoremens Union in Washington, D. C. on April 1, 1968, wherein a statement was made by one of the individuals when discussing the labor situation in Memphis during that time, that if Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING returned to Memphis "we don't have any alternative but to kill him" because his activities in Memphis at the time were harming labor's cause. Article further stated that SOMMERSETT had reported this information to the Miami Police Department authorities and that it had been referred by that agency to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Article further stated that SOMMERSETT claimed he had overheard this conversation while in Washington attending a meeting of the National Labor Relations Board on April 1, 1968.

DALTON could furnish no additional information concerning this matter, nor could he furnish anymore information supporting his belief that Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING was possibly killed for individuals having an interest in prolonging the labor strike of the sanitation workers at Memphis, Tennessee during that period. He stated he had maintained a file on the information developed by him through his investigation concerning MC WHIRTER's involvement with Mayor JOE DAVIS during the strike of the sanitation workers in Huntsville, Alabama during 1971, and would make it available for further review if needed.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Mobile, Alabama

June 3, 1977

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

Set forth hereinafter is an interview form reflecting information furnished by James P. Dalton at Montgomery, Alabama, concerning captioned matter.

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44-1585270W-1158

44-1987SubM-1128

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MEMPHIS  
FBI - MEMPHIS  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 19 1964

FBI - MEMPHIS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE