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FEDERAL BUREAU

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INVESTIGATION

DO NOT DESTROY:
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NATIONAL ARCHIVESSer. 839, p. 491, 10-28-77
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Bureau File Number

FOIPA REQUEST

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See Next Section

B. Johnson 8-1

CLASSIFICATION NO.

44-1981 Sub M

File sent to Bureau

7/14/77

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Volume Number 13

Serials 1213-1259

KC0008 2372245Z

OO HQ ME

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O 252230Z AUG 78

FM KANSAS CITY (44-760) P

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) (IMMEDIATE)

MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB M) (IMMEDIATE)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH

MURKIN OO:MEMPHIS

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND KANSAS CITY,
8/21/78; MEMPHIS TELEPHONE CALL TO KANSAS CITY, 8/21/78;
JACKSON TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, KANSAS CITY AND MEMPHIS,
8/22/78; KANSAS CITY TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AND MEMPHIS,
8/24/78.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN UPDATED SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION
CONDUCTED TO RESOLVE THE ALLEGATION BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON
THAT HE ASSASSINATED MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND TO DETERMINE
THE WHEREABOUTS OF WILSON ON APRIL 4, 1968.

44-1987-Sub M-1213

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 25 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

B. Johnson

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PAGE TWO KC 44-760 UNCLAS

A CREDIT CHECK OF WILSON WAS PERFORMED AT THE CREDIT BUREAU OF THE GREATER KANSAS CITY AREA, 906 GRAND, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, ON 8/24/78. CREDIT BUREAU INDICATED THAT THERE IS NO RECORD OF CREDIT REGARDING WILSON. CREDIT BUREAU ALSO INDICATED THAT THEIR RECORDS ARE DESTROYED IF THERE ARE NO TRANSACTIONS FOR THE PAST 3 TO 4 YEARS.

THE WHITE MALE ITALIAN THAT WILSON CLAIMS HE MET IN THE LATE 1960'S, WHO OPERATED A JEWELRY TRADE SHOP ON WALNUT STREET IN KANSAS CITY, IS TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS ROBERT JOSEPH SEREDICH, DESCRIBED AS A WHITE MALE, DOB 3/3/42, 6'1", 265 POUNDS, BLUE EYES, BROWN HAIR, SSAN 515-38-7093, FBI NO. 26627L6. REFERENCE WAS MADE TO THE WHITE MALE ITALIAN IN MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND KANSAS CITY, 8/21/78.

ALSO IN REFERENCE TO SAME TELETYPE, THE INDIVIDUAL WITH THE NAME OF MITCH (LNU) WHO WAS DESCRIBED AS BEING APPROXIMATELY 5'10" TALL, 180 POUNDS, BLACK WAVY HAIR, AND HAD SOME BUSINESS CONNECTIONS WITH A BONDING COMPANY, IS TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS MITCHELL ZAMMER DESCRIBED AS A WHITE MALE, DOB 11/3/15, FBI NO 759112.

PAGE THREE KC 44-760 UNCLAS

BOTH OF THE INDIVIDUALS NAMED ABOVE, ZAMMER AND SEREDICH WERE PREVIOUS SUBJECTS OF INVESTIGATION BY THE KANSAS CITY ORGANIZED CRIME SQUAD.

INFORMATION REGARDING ZAMMER AND SEREDICH WAS OBTAINED FROM LEON MEYERS OF MEYERS JEWELRY STORE, 1015 WALNUT, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, TELEPHONE 842-5880. MEYERS INDICATED THAT ZAMMER'S WIFE, DORIS, OWNS DORIS BONDING COMPANY, KANSAS CITY, KANSAS. KANSAS CITY FBI RECORDS SHOW THAT ZAMMER WAS ASSOCIATED DURING 1960'S WITH BRUNO BONDING COMPANY, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.

KANSAS CITY DIVISION AT KANSAS CITY WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW ZAMMER AND SEREDICH REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON AND HIS ALLEGATIONS THAT HE ASSASSINATED MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

BT

ME-1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE ST. LOUIS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 8/24/78	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/17-22/78
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS	TYPED BY lsn
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY	

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

St. Louis indices reflect no reference to LYNDIA D. COBBLE, JERRY COBBLE, JAMES ALLEN BENNEY, JIM BENNEY, or JAMES L. BIRCHETT.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					☐ NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:			
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES						
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☐ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☐ NO			
APPROVED					SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE					
COPIES MADE:					DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW					
4 - Bureau (44-38861) 3 - Memphis (2 - 44-1987) (1 - USA, Memphis) 1 - St. Louis (44-775)					<i>44-1987-Sub M-1219</i> <i>8/24/78</i> <i>B. Johnson</i>					
Dissemination Record of Attached Report					Notations					
Agency					<i>B. Johnson</i> <i>mm</i>					
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By										

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - United States Attorney, Memphis

Report of: SA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS Office: ST. LOUIS
Date: August 24, 1978

Field Office File #: SL 44-775 Bureau File #: 44-38861

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

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis: LYNDIA D. COBBLE (white female, DOB [redacted] residing Arnold, Missouri, advised she has been the recipient of numerous anonymous threatening telephone calls since the death of victim KING. COBBLE states caller warns her not to talk on threat of physical harm. First call received shortly after KING's death and have continued until present time. COBBLE states she married JAMES ALLEN BENNEY in 3/68. Four or five months following marriage, BENNEY brought JAMES EARL RAY to their residence in Maplewood, Missouri, when COBBLE was pregnant. COBBLE's daughter was born [redacted] at St. Louis, and RAY visited COBBLE during maternity confinement and advised hospital officials that he, RAY, was the child's father. According to COBBLE, the birth of her daughter and RAY's hospital visits occurred prior to the death of victim KING. In early 1969 COBBLE moved to her mother's residence, and her husband, JAMES ALLEN BENNEY, relocated in Memphis, Tennessee, after purchasing a house. The downpayment on BENNEY's residence in Memphis was paid by RAY. COBBLE advised the night before victim KING was killed she was at BENNEY's residence in Memphis, Tennessee. COBBLE and JAMES EARL RAY were watching television when reference was made on the television concerning KING. RAY made a statement referring to KING, "Somebody ought to waste him." COBBLE never saw RAY after that evening. COBBLE advised her former husband, JAMES BENNEY, was shot and killed in Portland, Oregon, on 11/28/71.

- RUC -

Details: AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

SL 44-775

This investigation was predicated upon LYNDIA BENNEY, residing 202 Crosswind Drive, Arnold, Missouri, advising the St. Louis Office on August 17, 1978, that she had received several threatening anonymous telephone calls in which the caller states that she would be "wasted" if she contacted any official regarding JERRY RAY or his brother, JAMES EARL RAY. She did not know the origin of the telephone calls as to whether they were local or long distance. She stated that her former husband, JAMES ALLEN BENNEY, who is now deceased, once robbed a bank with JERRY RAY in which part of the loot was never recovered.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 8/22/78

LYNDA D. COBBLE was contacted at her residence 202 Crosswinds Apartments, Arnold, Missouri. Also present during the course of the interview was Arnold, Missouri Police Sergeant MICHAEL COLLIER.

COBBLE was advised of the identity of interviewing Agent by display of credentials. COBBLE was previously aware of identity of Sergeant COLLIER.

COBBLE stated that she had been the recipient of numerous threatening telephone calls subsequent to the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. She furnished the following information concerning those calls.

COBBLE received the first call at the residences of her mother in Cahokia, Illinois, telephone number 337-7267, shortly after the arrest of JAMES EARL RAY for the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. She advised that this call was made by a male caller, no further description, who stated "If you keep your mouth shut you won't get hurt". She stated that shortly later while she and her mother were at the K-Mart Store in Belleville, Illinois, she was approached by a white male approximately 6'6" tall with a scar on the side of his face approximate age 35 or 36, and a tattoo on his right bicep. She stated that the individual stated that she had a very pretty baby and that she had better keep her mouth shut. COBBLE stated that she received four or five additional calls while she was staying at her mother's house in Cahokia, Illinois, during the period of time shortly after the arrest of JAMES EARL RAY. She advised that all of the calls contained threats advising her not to make any statement.

COBBLE stated that shortly after marrying her second husband, JAMES L. BIRCHETT, and while they resided at 40 Agnes Drive, Cahokia, Illinois, she received four or five additional calls advising her not to say anything about JAMES EARL RAY. She advised that these calls started approximately three to four months after she and BIRCHETT were married. Their wedding date was August 26, 1972. BIRCHETT and COBBLE were subsequently divorced.

Interviewed on 8/22/78 at Arnold, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA MICHAEL N. MURPHY:mt Date dictated 8/22/78

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COBBLE married JERRY COBBLE, her present husband, and moved to 621 5th Avenue, Conway, Arkansas, approximately one year ago. Approximately six months ago, she received several telephone calls of the same nature and shortly later received several more calls. She advised that some of the calls mentioned JAMES EARL RAY by name and during the calls she was told to keep her mouth shut and she or her kids would not get hurt.

LYNDA COBBLE and her husband, JERRY COBBLE, moved from Conway, Arkansas to their present address in Arnold, Missouri, approximately two weeks ago. She has received four or five calls, and in each case the caller sounds to COBBLE to be the same individual. During one specific call she was told to keep her mouth shut if she wanted to see daylight the next day. She recalls that the first call that she received at her new residence in Arnold, Missouri, occurred approximately 9:30 PM on an unrecalled date and then the next call occurred approximately 3:00 AM the next morning. She claims to have also received several subsequent calls at approximately 7:00 AM on various mornings. COBBLE states that the last call was received the morning that MIKE COLLIER of the police department, Arnold, Missouri, came out and interviewed her in response to her telephone call to the Arnold Police Department. She stated with regards to all of the aforementioned calls she is positive that none of the calls were collect calls and that there was never an operator on the line.

Upon questioning, COBBLE furnished the following information concerning the history of her association with JAMES EARL RAY:

COBBLE married JAMES ALLEN BENNEY, white male, date of birth [redacted] on March 11, 1968. When they first got married, they were living at Maplewood, Missouri, at an unrecalled address. At approximately the fourth or fifth month of their marriage, her husband JAMES BENNEY brought JAMES EARL RAY home with him on one occasion and introduced RAY to COBBLE. COBBLE was pregnant at that time with her daughter, [redacted], and RAY appeared to be very crazy about kids. In fact on numerous occasions,

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RAY brought baby things during his visits to their residence for the expected arrival of the baby. COBBLE cannot recall any specific incidents involving criminal activity between her husband and RAY that occurred while they resided at Maplewood. Approximately two months after COBBLE met RAY, she and JAMES BENNEY moved to a new residence located at Florissant, Missouri. This was approximately four months before [REDACTED] was born. The baby's birth date was [REDACTED] COBBLE and her husband resided at an apartment complex located behind the Ramada Inn or possibly a Holiday Inn near a Target Store and a Central Hardware Store in Florissant, Missouri. They lived at that apartment for approximately one year. During that year, JAMES EARL RAY visited their residence frequently.

COBBLE stated that she and her husband were still residing at the residence in Florissant, Missouri on [REDACTED] when her daughter [REDACTED] was born at [REDACTED]. In fact, JAMES EARL RAY visited the baby, [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at the approximate time of her birth and advised hospital officials that he was the baby's father. COBBLE stated that this all occurred prior to the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

Approximately three months after [REDACTED] birth, LYNDIA COBBLE moved out with the baby and they moved in with her mother at Cahokia, Illinois. She was living in Cahokia, Illinois when Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING was killed.

At the same time that COBBLE moved out of the apartment in Florissant and in with her mother, JAMES BENNEY moved out of the apartment also and relocated at a house in Memphis, Tennessee. The money for the down payment for the house was given to JAMES BENNEY by JAMES EARL RAY. Sometime before Dr. KING's death, BENNEY contacted COBBLE and asked her to come down with the baby to visit. She went down to Memphis and visited BENNEY for two or three days.

During the period of time that COBBLE was visiting with BENNEY at the aforementioned house in Memphis, Tennessee approximately five different men came and visited BENNEY at the house. She described the individuals as all being large white males wearing business suits and carrying attache cases and ranging in age from 25 to 30. JAMES EARL RAY and his

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brother, JERRY RAY, were also at the house in Memphis during her visit on numerous occasions. COBBLE recalls specifically overhearing a particular meeting between the aforementioned individuals at the house in Memphis, Tennessee. She recalls they were discussing a bank robbery to occur in Florissant, Missouri. JERRY RAY appeared to be the leader of the group and all of the individuals referred to a floor diagram of the bank to be robbed. The bank was to be robbed by JERRY RAY, JIM BENNEY, and two other individuals who were not at the meeting and who she never had occasion to meet. COBBLE believes that the business men had floor plans for several different banks and that the intent of the people in the group was to rob several different banks.

Upon questioning, COBBLE advised that she could not recall any mention during these meetings concerning the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING or any mention of MARTIN LUTHER KING or any mention of anybody named RAOUL.

COBBLE recalls that there were several conversations that occurred behind closed doors but she assumed they made reference to bank robberies.

COBBLE stated that the night before Dr. KING was killed, she and JAMES EARL RAY were watching television and RAY was playing with her baby, [REDACTED], on the floor in front of the television set when mention was made over the television concerning Dr. KING's visit in Memphis. COBBLE recalls that RAY made a statement to the effect "that black sonofabitch all he does is raise hell somebody ought to waste him". COBBLE advised that it was obvious from her numerous conversations with RAY that he absolutely hated black people and he made that hatred very clear. She recalls that on several occasions prior to that evening that she heard JAMES EARL RAY make statements to the effect that he would like to waste him. (Referring to Dr. KING). COBBLE stated that she got into an argument with JAMES EARL RAY that evening concerning the fact that she wanted to go back to Cahokia with the baby. RAY became enraged because he wanted COBBLE to stay there with the baby for a while.

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COBBLE stated that same evening which was the evening before Dr. KING's murder, she left Memphis and went back to her mother's residence in Cahokia, Illinois and never saw JAMES EARL RAY in person again.

COBBLE stated that two or three weeks after she returned from Memphis, the bank robbery occurred at Florissant, Missouri, and it was her understanding as related to her by JIM BENNEY that the money was obtained to raise lawyer fees for JAMES EARL RAY.

On the night of the aforementioned bank robbery, JAMES BENNEY came to visit COBBLE at her mother's residence in Cahokia, Illinois. COBBLE went out to the car in which BENNEY was riding and observed approximately four bags of money with currency scattered in the back seat. COBBLE described that car as fairly new at that time, green over green Charger. She recalls that BENNEY had several sets of registration certificates and several different sets of license plates for that car. She advised that BENNEY told her that he was supposed to meet the others involved in the bank robbery at Memphis, Tennessee to split up the money, however, he wanted her to leave with him and move out to Portland, Oregon and just keep all the money for themselves. COBBLE refused to go with BENNEY.

COBBLE recalls that JERRY RAY was apprehended on the very day of the bank robbery several hours after the bank robbery. She advised she observed JERRY RAY on television at the time of his arrest and that she has seen him on numerous occasions on television subsequent to that date. She stated that the individual that she has seen was identified as JERRY RAY on television is the same JERRY RAY that she saw at the aforementioned residence in Memphis, Tennessee.

COBBLE stated that after she refused to go to Portland, Oregon with JIM BENNEY, he went out there on his own and started working in a bar. She advised that he was shot and killed in a bar on November 28, 1971. She stated that at the time of his death he had only been out to Oregon several months.

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COBBLE further advised that on the day of her husband's death, she went to the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) located in St. Louis, Missouri and conferred with an Agent known to her as PETE concerning her husband's death.

Upon questioning COBBLE advised that she and her husband, JAMES BENNEY, previously owned the Grape Vine Bar located on Arsenal Street in St. Louis. She stated that they had purchased the bar from JERRY RAY.

COBBLE originally stated that the bar was sold to them by JERRY RAY after the death of Dr. KING and she was 17 years old at that particular time. She stated that they operated the bar for approximately six to eight months before they sold it. When confronted with the conflict in time concerning the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING COBBLE stated that actually she and JAMES BENNEY purchased the bar before Dr. KING was killed, but while they were separated and not living together. She stated that JAMES BENNEY subsequently sold the bar after Dr. KING's death at the request of JERRY RAY in order to raise money for JAMES EARL RAY's lawyers.

COBBLE was confronted with the fact that Dr. KING had been killed on April 4, 1968 and that it would be impossible for JAMES EARL RAY to have seen the baby prior to that date inasmuch as the baby was not born until [redacted] and COBBLE stated that there must be a mistake in dates. She further stated that she is absolutely sure that JAMES EARL RAY was very fond of her daughter, [redacted] who was born in December, 1968, and that on the night before Dr. KING was killed, RAY was playing with the baby in front of the television set at the residence in Memphis, Tennessee.

COBBLE stated that she believes that JAMES BENNEY and JERRY RAY had been involved in several bank robberies and service station holdups; however she was not cognizant of the details.

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The following information was obtained through
observation and interview:

Name	LYNDA D. COBBLE, nee Leach, formerly LYNDA D. BENNEY and LYNDA D. BIRCHETT
Race	White
Sex	Female
Age	24
Date of Birth	
Height	5'2"
Weight	160 pounds
Hair	Bleach blond
Occupation	Housewife
Residence	202 Crosswinds Arnold, Missouri
Residential Telephone	296-2193
Former Residence	621 5th Avenue Conway, Arkansas
Relatives	Mother: IRENE BIRCHETT 102 Lazercheff Drive Cahokia, Illinois, telephone number 337-7267

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☒ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date 8/28/78

FM MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB M) (P)
 TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY
 BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH
 MURKIN

REBUTEL TO MEMPHIS AND OTHER OFFICES AUG. 23, 1978.

OPAL HOOTEN, BARTLETT, TENN., FORMER MOTHER-IN-LAW OF
 BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, UNABLE TO LOCATE FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS,
 TELEPHONE RECORDS, CHECK STUBS OR OTHER PAPERS WHICH RECORD
 PERIODS OF ILLNESS OF HER HUSBAND OR VISITS OF HER DAUGHTER,
 BETTY LOU WADE, AND GRANDDAUGHTER, DEBRA WILSON JONES, PRIOR
 TO 1975. MRS. HOOTEN AND HER HUSBAND, VERNON, UNABLE TO RECALL
 SPECIFIC PERIODS OF DAUGHTER AND GRANDDAUGHTER'S VISITS PRIOR
 TO 1975, INCLUDING 1968.

TELEPHONE TOLL RECORDS MAINTAINED BY SOUTH CENTRAL BELL
 TELEPHONE COMPANY SIX MONTHS AFTER CALLS MADE AND THEN DESTROYED.

BY PHYSICAL OBSERVATION, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED CHISCA PLAZA
 HOTEL, 262 SOUTH MAIN STREET, MEMPHIS, TENN., CURRENTLY UTILIZED

BFJ:cjs
 (1)

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TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
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PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE TWO ME 44-1987-SUB M UNCLAS E F T O

AS OFFICE BUILDING AND THE ANNEX MOTEL, 267 SOUTH MAIN STREET, MEMPHIS, CURRENTLY A VACANT BUILDING, ARE THE NEAREST BUILDINGS ON MAIN STREET, FORMERLY UTILIZED AS HOTELS IN VICINITY OF INTERSECTION OF SOUTH MAIN AND BEALE STREETS. IN RECENT YEARS, MANY BUILDINGS IN THE VICINITY OF SOUTH MAIN AND BEALE STREETS HAVE BEEN RAZED AND THE LAND IS EITHER VACANT OR NEW BUILDINGS WERE CONSTRUCTED ON IT. THE INTERSECTION OF MAIN AND BEALE STREETS IS APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF MILE NORTH OF THE LORRAINE MOTEL, 406 MULBERRY, MEMPHIS. THE CHISCA PLAZA HOTEL AND THE ANNEX HOTEL ARE APPROXIMATELY THREE TENTHS OF A MILE NORTH OF THE LORRAINE MOTEL. IT APPEARS THE LORRAINE MOTEL CANNOT BE OBSERVED FROM THE ANNEX HOTEL AND PROBABLY CANNOT BE SEEN FROM THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE CHISCA PLAZA HOTEL DUE TO INTERFERENCE FROM OTHER BUILDINGS.

BT

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____

(Number)

(Time)

Per _____

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/25/78

Dr. JERRE MINOR FREEMAN, who resides at 1509 Peabody Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at his office, 176 South Bellevue, Memphis. He furnished the following information:

He and his wife and their family resided at 1803 Evelyn Avenue, Memphis, in 1968 and they currently own the house at that address. From January to June, 1968, Dr. FREEMAN was attending Harvard University School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts. He made two trips to Memphis during this period - one in February due to a heart attack suffered by his father and the second following the birth of his daughter. He recalled that the sanitation workers for the City of Memphis were on strike in 1968 and that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING came to Memphis in support of the strike. He did not attend any rallies in connection with this strike and was not in Memphis in March or April, 1968.

Dr. FREEMAN is described by some people as having a "foreign appearance" due to his swarthy complexion. He and his wife rented an apartment at 1803 Evelyn Avenue to a series of persons; however, he could not recall the names of any of their tenants in 1968.

FREEMAN is described as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Shelby County, Tennessee
Height	6'
Weight	175 pounds
Hair	Brown - wavy
Eyes	Blue.

Investigation on 8/24/78 at MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE File # ME 44-1987-Sub M-1216
by SA BURL F. JOHNSON/mgv Date dictated 8/25/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/25/78

ANN DODD FREEMAN, who resides at 1509 Peabody Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at 1803 Evelyn Avenue, Memphis. She furnished the following information:

She and her husband, Dr. JERRE M. FREEMAN own and formerly resided at 1803 Evelyn Avenue. They resided at this residence in 1968; however, Dr. FREEMAN was attending Harvard University Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, during the period, January, 1968, through May, 1968.

Mrs. FREEMAN recalls the general events and activities that preceded the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING in April, 1968, very well. At the time, she was a teacher at Owen College, Memphis, a predominantly black school which has merged with LeMoyne College and the two colleges are now known as LeMoyne-Owen College. Many of the members of the student body and most of the faculty at Owen College were interested in the strike by sanitation workers for the City of Memphis and supported efforts by the sanitation workers to obtain increased wages. Mrs. FREEMAN felt that the sanitation workers were under paid. She never attended any rallies or other activities in which Dr. KING participated but regrets that she was not able to do so. She supported his efforts to assist the sanitation workers. She did attend a memorial service honoring Dr. KING after his death.

Her husband is sometimes described by some people as foreign in appearance. He is tall, has dark curly hair, dark complexion, and a turned up nose. He was also in sympathy with the effort made by sanitation workers in Memphis for increased wages in 1968. He did not participate in any rallies or other activities on behalf of the sanitation workers. He supported Dr. KING's efforts on behalf of the sanitation workers and never to her knowledge spoke critically of Dr. KING to anyone.

Mrs. FREEMAN is acquainted with ROBERT C. WILSON, who operated the Central Building Supplies Company. He is referred to as the "Colonel" and is the "Archie Bunker" type person. Mrs. FREEMAN could not recall hearing him make remarks critical of Dr. KING.

Investigation on 8/17/78 at MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE File # ME 44-1987-Sub M-
by SAs BURL F. JOHNSON
JAMES A. DAVIS/BFJ/mgv Date dictated 8/23/78 127

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ME 44-1937-Sub M

Mrs. FREEMAN has for several years been active in the Council for International Friendship, Memphis. This has brought her in contact with many international visitors and students in the Memphis area. The house at 1803 Evelyn Avenue has an apartment located on the second floor. This apartment has been rented to several foreign students and visitors as well as natives of the United States. She feels that perhaps someone who rented this apartment in the past may have made statements critical of Dr. KING. She could not recall the identity of the person or persons who rented this apartment in 1968. She believes that the apartment was then rented to a couple who came to Memphis from the state of Wyoming.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/25/78

ROBERT C. WILSON, who resides at 1637 Evelyn Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at the Central Lumber and Discount Company, 800 South McLean Boulevard, Memphis. He furnished the following information:

He has operated a business at 800 South McLean Boulevard, Memphis, for many years. The business was known as Central Building Supplies until 1977 when the name was changed to Central Lumber and Discount Company. For a short period of time around 1975, his son, JEFFERY, operated a business at the same address known as Central Interiors System, Incorporated.

He is well acquainted with Dr. JERRE FREEMAN on a social as well as professional basis. Dr. FREEMAN and his family formerly resided at 1803 Evelyn Avenue, Memphis. WILSON does not know how the FREEMANS feel about Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING and never heard them discuss him. He does not believe that Dr. FREEMAN and his wife resided at 1803 Evelyn in 1968 and could not recall who resided at that address at that time.

Mr. WILSON stated that he had no particular feeling for or in opposition to Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. He has never to his knowledge discussed Dr. KING's activities with Dr. FREEMAN or anyone who has resided at 1803 Evelyn Avenue.

Investigation on 8/17/78 at MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE File # ME 44-1987-Sub M 126
by SAs BURL F. JOHNSON
JAMES A. DAVIS/BEJ/mgv Date dictated 8/23/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/25/78

CHARLES HENRY CONLEY was interviewed at his residence, 956 Tully, Memphis, Tennessee. He furnished the following information:

He is currently employed by Prest Manufacturing Company, 468 Plum Street, Memphis. He was employed by the Central Building Supply Company, 800 South McLean Boulevard, Memphis, for about eight years. This business firm was operated by BOB WILSON at the time CONLEY was employed there. While employed by the Central Building Supply Company, CONLEY delivered building materials to a house located on the first east-west street south of a railroad overpass near where this street intersected McLean Boulevard. The residence was the third house west of the intersection on the south side of the street. He recalled observing this man with BOB WILSON at the Central Building Supply Company a few times. On one occasion they were discussing the strike by sanitation workers in Memphis and WILSON commented, "If the SOB marches tomorrow, his brains ought to be blown out". CONLEY is of the opinion that WILSON was referring to Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

Sometime later, date not recalled, CONLEY attended an affair at Mason Temple, Memphis, at which Dr. KING was one of the speakers. This was about two weeks prior to the death of Dr. KING. The auditorium was filled and CONLEY was not able to enter the building. He proceeded to the end of the building where the pulpit was located and stopped near an open door where he could see and hear Dr. KING. Shortly after Dr. KING started speaking, a white man bumped against CONLEY so vigorously that CONLEY fell to the ground. The man was carrying a navy blue suit style coat which was wrapped around an object. CONLEY believes the object inside the coat was a weapon and that the man was attempting to get in a position where he could shoot Dr. KING. CONLEY did not see the man after he fell and did not hear any shots. He was unable to furnish the identities of other persons in his vicinity when this incident occurred.

The man who bumped CONLEY was about 35 years of age, 5'11" tall, weighed approximately 150 pounds, had dark slightly wavy hair worn in short afro style, wore a mustache,

Interviewed on 8/14/78 at MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE File # ME 44-1987-Sub M-
by SAs BURL F. JOHNSON
JAMES A. DAVIS/BEJ/mgv Date dictated 8/21/78 1217

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ME 44-1987-Sub M

long sleeve shirt, color not recalled, and navy blue pants that appeared to match the coat he was carrying. He did not wear a tie and CONLEY could not recall observing his shoes, any head wear, and did not hear him speak. He appeared to be a "foreigner"; however, CONLEY was unable to furnish any information on which he based this observation. The individual appeared similar in appearance to the person he had observed at the Central Building Supply Company with BOB WILSON on the occasion mentioned above and who resided at the house where he had delivered building materials.

The man who resided near BOB WILSON's place of business was married and had two children. His wife, a white woman, was about 35 years of age, 5' tall, weighed about 130 pounds and had dark hair. She appeared to be a housewife. CONLEY did not know where the man was employed.

Memphis, Tennessee
August 25, 1978

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR., APRIL 4, 1968;
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE;
CIVIL RIGHTS

On August 13, 1978, Charles Henry Conley, 956 Tully, Memphis, Tennessee, telephonically contacted the Memphis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He advised he possessed information regarding the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and wanted to discuss it with an Agent of the FBI. Conley furnished the following information:

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4-Bureau
1-USA, Memphis
②-ME 44-1987-Sub M
BFJ/mgv
(7) *mgv*

44-1987-Sub M-1220

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED *me*
INDEXED _____
FILED *ms*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 8/25/78

CHARLES HENRY CONLEY was interviewed at his residence, 956 Tully, Memphis, Tennessee. He furnished the following information:

He is currently employed by Prest Manufacturing Company, 468 Plum Street, Memphis. He was employed by the Central Building Supply Company, 800 South McLean Boulevard, Memphis, for about eight years. This business firm was operated by BOB WILSON at the time CONLEY was employed there. While employed by the Central Building Supply Company, CONLEY delivered building materials to a house located on the first east-west street south of a railroad overpass near where this street intersected McLean Boulevard. The residence was the third house west of the intersection on the south side of the street. He recalled observing this man with BOB WILSON at the Central Building Supply Company a few times. On one occasion they were discussing the strike by sanitation workers in Memphis and WILSON commented, "If the SOB marches tomorrow, his brains ought to be blown out". CONLEY is of the opinion that WILSON was referring to Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

Sometime later, date not recalled, CONLEY attended an affair at Mason Temple, Memphis, at which Dr. KING was one of the speakers. This was about two weeks prior to the death of Dr. KING. The auditorium was filled and CONLEY was not able to enter the building. He proceeded to the end of the building where the pulpit was located and stopped near an open door where he could see and hear Dr. KING. Shortly after Dr. KING started speaking, a white man bumped against CONLEY so vigorously that CONLEY fell to the ground. The man was carrying a navy blue suit style coat which was wrapped around an object. CONLEY believes the object inside the coat was a weapon and that the man was attempting to get in a position where he could shoot Dr. KING. CONLEY did not see the man after he fell and did not hear any shots. He was unable to furnish the identities of other persons in his vicinity when this incident occurred.

The man who bumped CONLEY was about 35 years of age, 5'11" tall, weighed approximately 150 pounds, had dark slightly wavy hair worn in short afro style, wore a mustache,

Interviewed on 8/14/78 at MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE File # ME 44-1987-Sub M

by SAs BURL F. JOHNSON
JAMES A. DAVIS/BFD/agv Date dictated 8/21/78

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ME 44-1987-Sub M

2

long sleeve shirt, color not recalled, and navy blue pants that appeared to match the coat he was carrying. He did not wear a tie and CONLEY could not recall observing his shoes, any head wear, and did not hear him speak. He appeared to be a "foreigner"; however, CONLEY was unable to furnish any information on which he based this observation. The individual appeared similar in appearance to the person he had observed at the Central Building Supply Company with BOB WILSON on the occasion mentioned above and who resided at the house where he had delivered building materials.

The man who resided near BOB WILSON's place of business was married and had two children. His wife, a white woman, was about 35 years of age, 5' tall, weighed about 130 pounds and had dark hair. She appeared to be a housewife. CONLEY did not know where the man was employed.

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

By physical observation, Special Agents Burl F. Johnson and James A. Davis determined that the house located at 1803 Evelyn Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, is the third house on the south side of Evelyn Avenue west of the intersection of Evelyn Avenue and McLean Boulevard.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 8/25/78

ROBERT C. WILSON, who resides at 1637 Evelyn Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at the Central Lumber and Discount Company, 800 South McLean Boulevard, Memphis. He furnished the following information:

He has operated a business at 800 South McLean Boulevard, Memphis, for many years. The business was known as Central Building Supplies until 1977 when the name was changed to Central Lumber and Discount Company. For a short period of time around 1975, his son, JEFFERY, operated a business at the same address known as Central Interiors System, Incorporated.

He is well acquainted with Dr. JERRE FREEMAN on a social as well as professional basis. Dr. FREEMAN and his family formerly resided at 1803 Evelyn Avenue, Memphis. WILSON does not know how the FREEMANS feel about Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING and never heard them discuss him. He does not believe that Dr. FREEMAN and his wife resided at 1803 Evelyn in 1968 and could not recall who resided at that address at that time.

Mr. WILSON stated that he had no particular feeling for or in opposition to Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. He has never to his knowledge discussed Dr. KING's activities with Dr. FREEMAN or anyone who has resided at 1803 Evelyn Avenue.

Investigation on 8/17/78 at MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE File # ME 44-1987-Sub M

by SAs BURL F. JOHNSON
JAMES A. DAVIS/BFJ/agv 5 Date dictated 8/23/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 8/25/78

ANN DODD FREEMAN, who resides at 1509 Peabody Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at 1803 Evelyn Avenue, Memphis. She furnished the following information:

She and her husband, Dr. JERRE M. FREEMAN own and formerly resided at 1803 Evelyn Avenue. They resided at this residence in 1968; however, Dr. FREEMAN was attending Harvard University Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, during the period, January, 1968, through May, 1968.

Mrs. FREEMAN recalls the general events and activities that preceded the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING in April, 1968, very well. At the time, she was a teacher at Owen College, Memphis, a predominantly black school which has merged with LeMoyne College and the two colleges are now known as LeMoyne-Owen College. Many of the members of the student body and most of the faculty at Owen College were interested in the strike by sanitation workers for the City of Memphis and supported efforts by the sanitation workers to obtain increased wages. Mrs. FREEMAN felt that the sanitation workers were under paid. She never attended any rallies or other activities in which Dr. KING participated but regrets that she was not able to do so. She supported his efforts to assist the sanitation workers. She did attend a memorial service honoring Dr. KING after his death.

Her husband is sometimes described by some people as foreign in appearance. He is tall, has dark curly hair, dark complexion, and a turned up nose. He was also in sympathy with the effort made by sanitation workers in Memphis for increased wages in 1968. He did not participate in any rallies or other activities on behalf of the sanitation workers. He supported Dr. KING's efforts on behalf of the sanitation workers and never to her knowledge spoke critically of Dr. KING to anyone.

Mrs. FREEMAN is acquainted with ROBERT C. WILSON, who operated the Central Building Supplies Company. He is referred to as the "Colonel" and is the "Archie Bunker" type person. Mrs. FREEMAN could not recall hearing him make remarks critical of Dr. KING.

Investigation on 8/17/78 at MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE File # ME 44-1987-Sub M

SAs BURL F. JOHNSON
by JAMES A. DAVIS/DFJ/mgv C Date dictated 8/23/78

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ME 44-1987-Sub M

2

Mrs. FREEMAN has for several years been active in the Council for International Friendship, Memphis. This has brought her in contact with many international visitors and students in the Memphis area. The house at 1803 Evelyn Avenue has an apartment located on the second floor. This apartment has been rented to several foreign students and visitors as well as natives of the United States. She feels that perhaps someone who rented this apartment in the past may have made statements critical of Dr. KING. She could not recall the identity of the person or persons who rented this apartment in 1968. She believes that the apartment was then rented to a couple who came to Memphis from the state of Wyoming.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 8/25/78

Dr. JERRE MINOR FREEMAN, who resides at 1509 Peabody Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at his office, 176 South Bellevue, Memphis. He furnished the following information:

He and his wife and their family resided at 1803 Evelyn Avenue, Memphis, in 1968 and they currently own the house at that address. From January to June, 1968, Dr. FREEMAN was attending Harvard University School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts. He made two trips to Memphis during this period - one in February due to a heart attack suffered by his father and the second following the birth of his daughter. He recalled that the sanitation workers for the City of Memphis were on strike in 1968 and that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING came to Memphis in support of the strike. He did not attend any rallies in connection with this strike and was not in Memphis in March or April, 1968.

Dr. FREEMAN is described by some people as having a "foreign appearance" due to his swarthy complexion. He and his wife rented an apartment at 1803 Evelyn Avenue to a series of persons; however, he could not recall the names of any of their tenants in 1968.

FREEMAN is described as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Shelby County, Tennessee
Height	6'
Weight	175 pounds
Hair	Brown - wavy
Eyes	Blue.

Investigation on 8/24/78 at MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE File # ME 44-1937-Sub M

by SA BURL F. JOHNSON/mgv

8/25/78

Date dictated

3*

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8/25/78

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

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of an LHM dated as above captioned "Assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., April 4, 1968, Memphis, Tennessee; CIVIL RIGHTS".

For information of the Bureau, ANNE DODD FREEMAN, who was interviewed in connection with this investigation, was an Urban Informant during the period 5/22/68 - 1/12/73, Bufile 170-3078, ME file 170-1078.

Since logical investigation has been conducted in reference to this incident, no further action is contemplated by the Memphis Office, UACB. Memphis will retain the Memphis file in a pending status due to other matters pending in the MURKIN case.

A copy of enclosed LHM is being furnished to USA, Memphis.

2-Bureau (Enc. 4)
②-Memphis
BFJ/mgv
(4) *mgv*

2

44-1987-Sub M-1221

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FILED	<i>msc</i>

B. Johnson

KCO009HE402247Z

OO HQ ME

DE KC

O 282130Z AUG 78

FM KANSAS CITY (44-760) RUC

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) (IMMEDIATE)

MEMPHIS (44-1987) (SUB M) (IMMEDIATE)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, MURKIN; OO MEMPHIS.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND KANSAS CITY, AUGUST 21, 1978; MEMPHIS TELEPHONE CALL TO KANSAS CITY, AUGUST 21, 1978; JACKSON TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, KANSAS CITY, AND MEMPHIS, AUGUST 22, 1978; KANSAS CITY TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS, AUGUST 24, 1978; KANSAS CITY TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS, AUGUST 25, 1978.

ROBERT JOSEPH SEREDICH, DESCRIBED AS A WHITE MALE, BORN MARCH 3, 1942, 6'11", 265 POUNDS, BLUE EYES, BROWN HAIR, SSAN 515-38-7093, AND FBI 266 27L6, WAS INTERVIEWED ON AUGUST 28, 1978. SEREDICH INDICATED THAT HE HAS NEVER HEARD OF A BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. SEREDICH ALSO INDICATED THAT HE IS NOT FAMILIAR WITH WILBUR JEWELRY STORE IN BELTON

SA B. Johnson
Advised 8:00 pm
8-28-78 / GAC.

44-1987-Sub M-1222

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 28 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

B. Johnson

PAGE TWO KC 44-760 UNCLAS E F T O

MISSOURI, OR OF LOU CREWS.

SEREDICH INDICATED THAT HE HAS KNOWN MOST OF THE JEWELERS IN THE KANSAS CITY AREA FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS, HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT KNOW BURGESS AUDIE WILSON.

SEREDICH IS THE OWNER OF FECHTER JEWELRY, SUITE 413, 25 EAST 12TH, TELEPHONE 471-8457.

MITCHELL ZAMMAR WAS INTERVIEWED ON AUGUST 28, 1978. ZAMMAR IS NOW MARRIED TO DORIS (AUSTIN) ZAMMER, WHO OWNS DORIS BONDING COMPANY, 731 ANN, KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, TELEPHONE 621-5858. ZAMMAR SAID HE IS FAMILIAR WITH WILSON, HOWEVER, ONLY ON A CASUAL BASIS. ZAMMAR INDICATED THAT HE MET WILSON THROUGH THURMAN FECHTER, NOW DECEASED, FORMER OWNER OF FECHTER JEWELERS. ZAMMAR DESCRIBED WILSON AS BEING VERY NERVOUS. ZAMMAR SOLD A RING TO WILSON THAT HE PURCHASED FROM FECHTER. ZAMMER DESCRIBED THIS AS A SMALL RING WORTH APPROXIMATELY \$300 TO \$400. ZAMMAR SAID THAT HE VISITED WILSON AT HIS PLACE OF BUSINESS TWICE, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE MONEY FOR THE RING WILSON PURCHASED FROM ZAMMAR.

PAGE THREE KC 44-760 UNCLAS EFTO

ZAMMAR WAS ASKED IF WILSON MADE ANY MENTION THAT WILSON HATED BLACKS. ZAMMAR INDICATED THAT WILSON NEVER MADE MENTION THAT HE WAS PREJUDICE AGAINST BLACKS.

ZAMMAR WAS INFORMED THAT WILSON ALLEGED THAT WILSON ASSASSINATED MARTIN LUTHER KING. HE WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT WILSON RECEIVED A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFEL FROM HIM. ZAMMAR REPLIED THAT HE NEVER GAVE OR SOLD A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE OR ANY OTHER WEAPON TO WILSON. ZAMMAR ALSO INDICATED THAT HE NEVER HEARD WILSON TALK ABOUT KILLING MARTIN LUTHER KING.

KANSAS CITY DISCONTINUING FURTHER INVESTIGATION,
UACB.

BT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

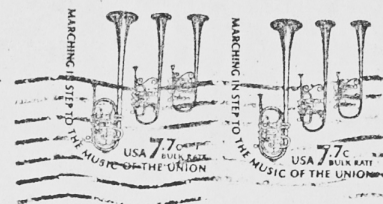
Date of transcription 8/28/78

Captain THOMAS H. SMITH, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished xerox copies of two letters sent to the Memphis Police Department from Lewiston, Idaho. The letters, which were sent in the same envelope, are as follows:

Interviewed on 8/22/78 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-SUB
by SA BURL F. JOHNSON:cjs Date dictated 8/24/78 M
-123

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Roy G. Hulp
In. Del.
Lewiston, Idaho 83501



Police Dept.
Memphis,
Capt. Smith Tenn.
Homicide

Aug. 17, 1978

Police Dept.,
Memphis, Tenn.

Sir:

Re death of Raoul at 3204 W 7th Ave,
Miami, Fla.

I was asleep at night and I heard a faint
call 'Help.'

I heard a man I took to be Jack McLanley,
son of Madelyn O'Shea, owner of the hotel, and
another man talking. The other man asked
'What happened?'

The other man must have been James Morgan.
Morgan had been injured twice in my case.
Jack McLanley told me the next morning
that Raoul had died last night.

Signed
Roy B. Kulp
Gen. Del.
Lewiston, Idaho 83501

Raoul - Cuban, over 6', trim build, blk. hair,
45 yrs.

Aug. 17, 1978.

Police Dept.,
Memphis, Tenn.

Dear Sir:

A man who, reportedly, went by the name of
Raoul died at 320 NW 7th Ave., Miami, Florida
in 1977.

The story as I learned it— Raoul had a lump
on the side of his face and it disappeared.

Other tenants of the hotel advised him to have
it checked, fast, but he paid no attention and
it moved to the right side of his neck.

He was informed that it was cancer and he
had requested the V A take care of him.

The V A couldn't do anything.

He died in late summer of 1977 in his room
at that address.

Signed

Roy B. Kulp

Gen. Del.

Lewiston, Idaho 83501

X Airtel

8/28/78

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

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of an LHM dated as above and captioned as "ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., APRIL 4, 1968, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE; CIVIL RIGHTS.

The Memphis Office does not contemplate any investigation regarding information set forth in LHM UACB. Copies of this LHM are being furnished to the Butte and Miami Offices for information since it contains information relating to areas covered by those divisions.

The Memphis file is being maintained in a pending status to handle investigation in the MURKIN case not related to the subject matter set forth in the enclosed LHM.

A copy of enclosed LHM is being forwarded to USA, Memphis, Tenn.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 4)
1 - Butte (Enc. 1) (Info)
1 - Miami (Enc. 1) (Info)
1 - Memphis

BFJ:cjs
(5)

44-1987-Sub-M-1225

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SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

WRE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

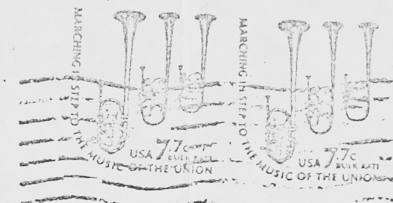
*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

Memphis, Tennessee
August 28, 1978

RE: ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR., APRIL 4, 1968,
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
CIVIL RIGHTS

On August 22, 1978, Captain Thomas H. Smith, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, telephonically contacted the Memphis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and advised he had received two letters regarding the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which he wished to make available to the FBI. Captain Smith furnished the following information:

Roy G. Hulp
Gen. Del.
Lewiston, Idaho 83501



Police Dept.
Memphis
Capt. Smith Tenn.
Homicide

Aug. 17, 1978

Police Dept.,
Memphis, Tenn.

Sir:

Re death of Raoul at 3204 W 7th Ave,
Miami, Fla.

I was asleep at night and I heard a faint
call 'Help.'

I heard a man I took to be Jack McLanley,
son of Madelyn O'Shea, owner of the hotel, and
another man talking. The other man asked
'What happened?'

The other man must have been James Morgan.
Morgan had been injured twice in my case.
Jack McLanley told me the next morning
that Raoul had died last night.

Signed
Roy B. Pulp
Gen. Del.

Lewistown, Idaho 83501

Raoul - Cuban, over 6', trim build, blk. hair,
45 yrs.,

Aug. 17, 1975

Police Dept.,
Memphis, Tenn.
Dear Sir:

A man, who, reportedly, went by the name of
Raoul died at 320 NW 7th Ave., Miami, Florida
in 1977.

The story as I learned it - Raoul had a lump
on the side of his face and it disappeared.

Other tenants of the hotel advised him to have
it checked, first, but he paid no attention and
it moved to the right side of his neck.

He was informed that it was cancer and he
had requested the V.A. take care of him.

The V.A. couldn't do anything.

He died in late summer of 1977 in his room
at that address.

Signed

Roy B. Kulp

Gen. Del.

Lewiston, Idaho 83501

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/30/78

By physical observation it was determined the Chisca Plaza Hotel, 262 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, now utilized as an office building, and the Annex Hotel, 267 South Main Street, Memphis, currently a vacant building, are the closest buildings on Main Street formerly used as hotels in the vicinity of South Main and Beale Streets, Memphis. In recent years portions of Main Street just south of Beale Street have been razed and are either vacant or new buildings were constructed there. The intersection of Main and Beale Streets is approximately half a mile north of the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry Street, Memphis. The Chisca Plaza Hotel and the Annex Hotel buildings are approximately three tenths of a mile north of the Lorraine Motel.

It appears the Lorraine Motel cannot be observed from the Annex Hotel and probably cannot be seen from the third floor of the Chisca Plaza Hotel.

Investigation on 8/28/78 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987 Sub M
by SA BURL F. JOHNSON:mrp Date dictated 8/28/78 *226*

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/30/78

GLENN MITCHELL, Maintenance Supervisor, Hagler Aero Service, C. W. Baker Airport, Millington, Tennessee, made available fuel receipts maintained by the Hagler Aero Service for the period January through April, 1968. A review of these receipts revealed no information regarding BURGESS AUDIE WILSON or an aircraft bearing number N34L or number 4434L. According to Mr. MITCHELL, receipts are not maintained for credit and cash purchases of fuel, supplies, and equipment. Mr. MITCHELL does not know BURGESS WILSON personally and could furnish no information concerning him.

Investigation on 8/25/78 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987 Sub M
by SA JAMES A. DAVIS and
SA BURL F. JOHNSON:mrp/BFJ Date dictated 8/29/78 1227

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/30/78

SANDRA HAYNES, Secretary to Security Director,
South Central Bell Telephone Company, Memphis, Tennessee,
furnished the following information:

Toll records are maintained by the South Central
Bell Telephone Company for approximately six months following
dates the calls were made.

Investigation on 8/25/78 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987 Sub M
228
by SA BURL E. JOHNSON:mrp Date dictated 8/25/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/30/78

Mrs. OPAL HOOTEN, 3095 Ruskin Road, Bartlett, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

She conducted an extensive search of family papers and effects and was unable to locate family medical records, check stubs, canceled checks, insurance records, or telephone bills for periods prior to 1975 which record periods of illness of her husband or visits of their daughter, BETTY LOU WADE, and granddaughter, DEBRA WILSON JONES. Mrs. HOOTEN and her husband, VERNON HOOTEN, are unable to recall specific dates of their illnesses during the period prior to 1975 or the visits of their relatives on occasions when they were ill.

Investigation on 8/20/78 at Bartlett, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987 Sub M
by SA BURL F. JOHNSON:mrp Date dictated 8/25/78 - 229

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/30/78

Mrs. OPAL HOOTEN was interviewed at her residence, 3095 Ruskin Road, Bartlett, Tennessee. She furnished the following information:

She could not recall a visit of her daughter, BETTY LOU WADE, and granddaughter, DEBRA WILSON JONES, on occasions following heart attacks suffered by her husband, VERNON HOOTEN. BETTY LOU WADE has in the past visited both Mrs. HOOTEN and her husband when they were ill, but she could not recall the specific dates. She planned to check family medical records and attempt to establish specific dates when Mr. HOOTEN was ill.

Investigation on 8/20/78 at Bartlett, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987 Sub M
by SA BURL F. JOHNSON:mrp Date dictated 8/25/78 - 2230

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/30/78

JAMES HOOTEN was interviewed at his residence, 2081 St. Elmo, Memphis, Tennessee. He furnished the following information:

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, who is commonly known as BILL WILSON, is his former brother-in-law. About 9:30 P.M. on August 17, 1978, BURGESS WILSON telephonically contacted JAMES HOOTEN informing him he was calling from Canyon Lake, Texas. WILSON made general inquiries regarding the health and welfare of JAMES HOOTEN and his wife MARIE and then requested HOOTEN call the Shelby County, Tennessee, Sheriff GENE BARKSDALE for him. HOOTEN questioned WILSON regarding the nature of his request, and WILSON told him he had telephoned BARKSDALE on the evening of August 17, 1978, and had an appointment with him on August 20, 1978, place not stated. WILSON told HOOTEN he had called BARKSDALE and was meeting with him to surrender himself because he shot and killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING in 1968. He wanted HOOTEN to call Sheriff BARKSDALE for the purpose of confirming WILSON's identity and the appointment. HOOTEN refused to honor WILSON's request and questioned his sincerity regarding his claim for both the killing of Dr. KING and the appointment with Sheriff BARKSDALE. WILSON insisted he had killed Dr. KING and stated he had met with Sheriff BARKSDALE personally about two weeks previously. He terminated the call when he realized HOOTEN would not call the Sheriff as he requested.

HOOTEN reported that WILSON is an extremely heavy drinker. He believes that WILSON was under the influence of alcohol when he called and that his heavy consumption of alcohol over a long period of time has had an adverse effect on his mind. WILSON was at one time placed in an unknown hospital in Texas by his son STEVEN to be treated for alcoholism. HOOTEN is of the opinion that WILSON had nothing to do with the assassination of Dr. KING but due to the mental deterioration of his mind may believe he did. HOOTEN is not certain but believes WILSON was not in the Memphis area at the time Dr. KING was killed. HOOTEN did not know but believes WILSON never possessed a gun or other

Investigation on 8/18/78 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987 Sub M
by SA BURL F. JOHNSON:mrp Date dictated 8/24/78 - 231

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weapon. He stated that WILSON had never mentioned Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING to him prior to August 17, 1978.