

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- ☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date 9/5/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
 FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (173-65) (RUC) (SQ. 4)
 SUBJECT: MURKIN
 CIVIL RIGHTS
 OO: MEMPHIS

Enclosed for the information of the Bureau and the Memphis Division are two copies each of an FD-302 and a Police Department Intra-Departmental Memorandum reflecting contact and interview with DORI JEAN BREHAUT. San Francisco Police Department records and San Francisco division indices negative for CASTILLIO. Contact with Cuban sources, San Francisco Division, additionally negative for CASTILLIO. No further investigation being conducted by San Francisco Division. UACB.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)
 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Encs. 4)
 1 - San Francisco
 CLT/saq
 (5)

44-1987-Sub B 17-1253
 44-1987-Sub B 17-1253

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 8 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

B. J. [Signature]

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

PG 009 2550225Z

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FM PITTSBURGH (44-1572) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ROUTINE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT

MURKIN (OO: MEMPHIS)

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU DATED SEPTEMBER 1, 1978.

RONALD N. KARAS, 120 PAIGE COURT, WEIRTON, W. VA.,

INTERVIEWED THIS DATE AND ADVISED HE PURCHASED 1956 BEECHCRAFT

BONAN ZA AIRCRAFT, MODEL G-35, REGISTRATION NO. N4434L, ON
OR ABOUT OCTOBER 24, 1977, AND THAT THE AIRCRAFT IS CURRENTLY
HANGARED AT THE OHIO COUNTY AIRPORT, WHEELING, W. VA. AT HIS
RESIDENCE, KARAS REVIEWED ALL DOCUMENTS IN HIS POSSESSION,

PERTAINING TO THE AIRCRAFT, WHICH MIGHT DETERMINE ITS
LOCATION APRIL 4, 1968, AND/OR INFORMATION PERTAINING TO
BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. KARAS ADVISED

44-1987-Sub M-1254

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 11 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

B. Johnson

44

PAGE TWO

PG 44-1572

UNCLAS

THAT THE AIRCRAFT'S LOG BOOK WAS IN HIS PLANE AND CALLED THE OHIO COUNTY AIRPORT, ADVISING LEROY HARRIS, DIRECTOR OF AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE, TO OBTAIN ALL LOGS AND MAKE AVAILABLE TO FBI.

ON THIS DATE, LEROY HARRIS, AS ABOVE, MADE AVAILABLE THREE AIRCRAFT LOGS PERTAINING TO THE ABOVE AIRCRAFT, AS WELL AS THE ENGINE LOG. A COMPLETE REVIEW OF THESE LOGS FAILED TO DISCLOSE THE NAMES OF BURGESS AUDI WILSON OR LOU CREWS.

A REVIEW OF ALL LOGS INDICATED THE AIRCRAFT RECEIVED AN ANNUAL INSPECTION, FEBRUARY 28, 1968, WHICH INSPECTION WAS SIGNED BY (FNU) - ,.3 -003-48,& 59 73 14-, (3,183)\$, INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION NUMBER AI1136526. NO FURTHER IDENTIFYING DATA AVAILABLE. THE NEXT INSPECTION DATE FOR THE AIRCRAFT WAS JULY 19, 1968, WHICH INSPECTION WAS ALSO SIGNED BY FRANKENFIELD.

ON OCTOBER 12, 1968, THE AIRCRAFT ENGINE RECEIVED MAINTENANCE ATTENTION, AT WHICH TIME THE MAINTENANCE WORK WAS SIGNED BY FLOYD OLSON, AIR FRAME AND POWER PLANT NO. 1724046. NO FURTHER IDENTIFYING DATA AVAILABLE AND NO LOG ENTRIES FOR

PAGE THREE
APRIL 1968.

PG 44-1572

UNCLAS

HARRIS INDICATED THAT FAA RECORDS SHOULD DISCLOSE
LOCATION FOR FRANKENFIELD AND OLSON AT THOSE PARTICULAR
TIMES.

ANY SUBSEQUENT LEADS ARE BEING LEFT TO THE DISCRETION
OF OO.

REPORT FOLLOWS.

END

BT

ME 1 TEL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE HOUSTON	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 9/9/78	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/19-22/78
TITLE OF CASE MURKIN		REPORT MADE BY SA RUSSELL E. KALIHER, JR.	TYPED BY lhh
		CHARACTER OF CASE	

REFERENCES:

Jackson teletype to Bureau, 8/19/78.
Houston teletype to Bureau, 8/19/78.
Houston teletype to Bureau, 8/21/78.
Memphis teletype to Bureau, 8/21/78.
Houston teletype to Bureau, 8/22/78.
Bureau teletype to Birmingham, 8/22/78.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Original FD 302 and notes of interview with BOB
SORRELL follow by FD 491.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					☒ NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	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) (ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH)							
3 - Memphis (44-1987 Sub M) (1 - USA, Memphis, Tenn.)							
1 - Houston (44-1509)							
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations	
Agency						44-1987-Sub M-1255 SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED SEP 15 1978 FBI - MEMPHIS B. Johnson	
Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.							
How Fwd.							
By							

A *
COVER PAGE

c43-16-83489-1 GPO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Copy to: 1 - United States Attorney, Memphis, Tennessee

Report of: SA RUSSELL E. KALIHER, JR. Office: HOUSTON
Date: September 9, 1978

Field Office File #: 44-1509 Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: MURKIN

Character:

Synopsis: Investigation at Liberty County, Texas, negative regarding any information concerning a non child support warrant issued at Cleveland, Texas. BOB SORRELL, former employee, Hagler Aero Service, Charles W. Baker Airport, Millington, Tennessee, interviewed and recalled that BILL WILSON flew into the airport on two occasions, perhaps in 1968 or 1969. Full scope of interview included in details.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

Investigation in this case was predicated upon receipt of a communication from the Jackson Office of the FBI requesting investigation at Cleveland, Texas, for full details concerning a non child support warrant issued against BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as BILL.

On August 19, 1978, LARRY ALLEN, Patrolman, Cleveland Texas Police Department, reviewed the files of the Cleveland Police Department, but could locate no record identifiable with BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., Date of Birth [REDACTED] ALLEN advised that if a non child support warrant were issued in Cleveland, it was probably filed through the Cleveland City Court and warrant issued by Judge GLEN JONES, City Judge.

HO 44-1509

The records of the City Court are not available for review until 9 A.M. on August 21, 1978, and Judge GLEN JONES is currently unavailable.

On August 21, 1978, the following persons at their respective agencies were contacted with negative results concerning the issuance of a non child support warrant or any type of civil or criminal process concerning a BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.:

GLEN JONES
City Judge
Cleveland, Texas

LOUISE HOUGH
Secretary
JACK HARTELL
County Attorney
Liberty County
Liberty, Texas

LOUISE MORRIS
Clerk
Liberty County District Court
Liberty County,
Liberty, Texas

NELL WHITTINGTON
Identification Division
Liberty County Sheriff's Office
Liberty County
Liberty, Texas

HO 44-1509

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Liberty County District Court
Liberty County,
Liberty, Texas

NELL WHITTINGTON
Identification Division
Liberty County Sheriff's Office
Liberty County
Liberty, Texas

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 9/9/78

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BOB SORRELL, Route 1, Box 260, (Beaumont Colony), Kountze, Texas, was contacted at his residence where he was advised of the identity of Special Agent RUSSELL E. KALIHHER, JR. who identified himself as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was advised that any information he furnished could possibly be used in a court of law. SORRELL was observed to be a white male, age 46, who exhibited no physical or mental impairments which would prevent his testifying in a court of law. SORRELL advised he preferred not to furnish a signed statement but did furnish the following oral information:

SORRELL became personally acquainted with BILL WILSON, through his, SORRELL's attendance at the Hollywood Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee, which was pastored by Brother WILSON, father of BILL WILSON. SORRELL had no other association with BILL WILSON except through contact at church. SORRELL attended that church as a youngster and continued until approximately 1958, when his family moved from the neighborhood and his attendance stopped.

He, SORRELL, had no other contact with BILL WILSON until after 1967 when SORRELL became employed at Hagler Aero Service, Charles W. Baker Airport, Millington, Tennessee, telephone number 872-2261. SORRELL was employed part-time at Hagler until October or November, 1967 when he became a full-time employee functioning as a lineman.

SORRELL recalled that sometime after becoming a full-time employee that BILL WILSON flew into the airport, exact date unrecalled, in a twin Beechcraft (D-18) believed to be red and white in color with possibly a blue stripe. SORRELL recalled that he, SORRELL, refueled this airplane, but he cannot recall the time of day that WILSON arrived at the airport. As best recalled by SORRELL, WILSON was wearing civilian clothing and paid cash for the fuel purchase. SORRELL and WILSON had little conversation other than a routine greeting. As best recalled by SORRELL, WILSON stayed overnight and left the following day, time unknown. SORRELL does not know how WILSON was transported from and to the airport.

Interviewed on 8/22/78 at Kountze, Texas File # HO 44-1509

by SA RUSSELL E. KALIHHER, JR./lhh Date dictated 8/24/78

3

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Within two or three months, WILSON made a second visit to Hagler in the same aircraft where he received gas, paid cash and laid over for two or three days. Again, SORRELL has no idea as to the transportation from and to the airport. SORRELL has no information as to where he came in from or his destination upon departure from the airport. SORRELL could supply no information about a 1965 white Mustang and did not know that WILSON had a daughter, DEBORAH.

SORRELL has not seen nor heard from WILSON since WILSON's last visit to Hagler.

SORRELL terminated his employment at Hagler in October, 1976. SORRELL cannot recall the exact time of arrival or departure of WILSON, but does believe that both visits occurred in either 1966 or 1969. SORRELL advised that fuel receipts are broken down by single engine or multi-engine aircraft and are maintained on a monthly basis. He said that a GLENN MITCHELL, Maintenance Supervisor, Hagler Aero Service, could assist if a review of the gas receipts became necessary to determine the exact date of arrival of WILSON.

SORRELL had no information as to how WILSON came into possession of the aircraft and does not know whether it was leased or owned by him. In recalling the two visits by WILSON, SORRELL has a "gut feeling" that someone may have been with him on each occasion, but this is just a feeling on his part and he can supply no information to confirm this feeling. SORRELL had no information about an airport in Olatha, Kansas, where WILSON allegedly landed after departure from Memphis.

As further background information, SORRELL recalled that during his attendance at the Hollywood Baptist Church he got the impression that WILSON was "in and out of trouble" although he does not know the type. He may have received this information from one of WILSON's sisters, names unrecalled. Through contact with WILSON at church, WILSON impressed SORRELL as the type of guy who always had a "big deal", "kind of a con man personality". Again, and it may have been one of WILSON's sisters who mentioned it, SORRELL got the impression that WILSON had been arrested and received time for an unknown offense. SORRELL advised that contact with WILSON's sisters was always at church. He again stated that he has a "gut feeling" that one

NO 44-1509

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of them may have been at the airport on one of the two occasions of WILSON's arrival.

SORRELL did not know for certain that WILSON served in the U. S. Air Force, but recalled that WILSON wore a uniform to church on occasions. SORRELL was not aware that WILSON was employed at Prudential Insurance Company, but does recall his marriage to BETTY LOU (Maiden name unknown), because BETTY lived in the same neighborhood. SORRELL had no information about WILSON's cleaning business or time spent in the Tennessee National Guard or that WILSON ever left the Memphis area.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE KANSAS CITY	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 9/13/78	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/21/78 - 9/7/78
TITLE OF CASE MURKIN		REPORT MADE BY SA DANIEL BELLICH	TYPED BY cjc
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

REFERENCES: Memphis teletype to Director and Kansas City, 8/21/78.
 Memphis telephone call to Kansas City, 8/21/78. (IO)
 Jackson teletype to Director, Kansas City, and
 Memphis, 8/22/78.
 Kansas City teletype to Director and Memphis, 8/24/78.
 Kansas City teletype to Director and Memphis, 8/24/78.
 Bureau telephone call to Kansas City, 8/30/78 and 8/31/78.

-RUC-

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						☒ NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CON VIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
								PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☒ YES ☐ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☒ YES ☐ NO

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

4-Bureau (44-38861)
 4-Memphis (44-1987) (SUB M)
 (1-USA, Memphis, Tennessee)
 1-Kansas City (44-760)

44-1987-Sub M-1256

Dissemination Record of Attached Report					Notations
Agency					
Request Recd.					
Date Fwd.					
How Fwd.					
By					

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 10 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

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c43-16-83459-1 GPO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Memphis, Tennessee

Report of: SA DANIEL BELLICH
Date: 9/13/78

Office: KANSAS CITY

Field Office File #: KC 44-760

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: MURKIN

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis:

On August 18, 1978, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON turned himself over to FBI Agents of the Jackson, Mississippi, Office. WILSON alleged that he murdered MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. At the time of KING's death, WILSON resided at 13125 Herrick Avenue, Grandview, Missouri. During the same period of time, WILSON owned a jewelry store in Belton, Missouri, called Wilburs Jewelry Store. As a result of doing business as a jeweler, he met MITCH ZAMMAR who he alleges gave him a Japanese Sniper Rifle with which he killed KING. ZAMMAR admitted knowing who WILSON was, however, he said he does not know anything about WILSON's involvement with the assassination of KING. ZAMMAR only met WILSON once as a result of selling WILSON a diamond ring. ZAMMAR said that he had five brothers who are now all deceased. He said that his brother, JIM, had a scar on his face as a result of an injury sustained as a infant. WILSON also alleges that a LOU CREWS of Crews Jewelry Store, Grandview, Missouri, engineered the assassination of KING. CREWS died of cancer on August 22, 1978, before he could be interviewed. According to FAA records, WILSON purchased a Bonanza Airplane #4434L from FISHER Sales and Services on June 6, 1968. DON FISHER, of Fisher Sales and Services, purchased this plane on May 27, 1968, from a CORNIE C. MILLER, 9618 Sagamore, Kansas City, Missouri. WILSON alleges he used this plane to fly from Kansas City to Memphis. FISHER said that prior to the time that WILSON purchased the plane from him, WILSON rented the plane from him on numerous occasions. FISHER said that MILLER, the previous owner, never rented the plane to anyone while he was the owner.

KC 44-760

MILLER indicated he never rented or leased the plane to anyone while he was the owner of Bonanza Plane #4434L. WILSON also alleges that he drove to the airport in a Thunderbird owned by him, however, the records of the Johnson County Bank, Kansas, show that the car was not purchased until October 9, 1968. WILSON has been described as a con man and a heavy drinker.

-RUC-

DETAILS:

Investigation was initiated on August 21, 1978, upon receipt of an immediate teletype from Memphis, indicating that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON surrendered to FBI Agents of the Jackson Office. WILSON, at that time, alleged that he assassinated MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 8/24/78

After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, DON FISHER, Fisher Sales and Services, State Line Airport, Leawood, Kansas, telephone 681-2496, provided the following information:

FISHER purchased State Line Airport in 1964. He remembered the sale of a Model G #56 Bonanza to WILSON. He said he does not remember the exact date, however. He said he remembers the sale of the plane to WILSON because FISHER originally purchased the plane from C. C. MILLER, a retired executive for Western Auto Supply Co. FISHER indicated that MILLER based the plane at State Line Airport from the time MILLER purchased the plane until FISHER bought it from him. FISHER indicated that all the records pertaining to the sale of the aircraft to WILSON were destroyed in a fire at the airport last year.

FISHER thinks that WILSON financed the plane with the Johnson County Bank in Kansas and thinks that WILSON had a partner named LOU CREWS, who owns Crews Jewelers, Grandview, Missouri.

FISHER indicated that he thinks WILSON was a Shriner and also that WILSON drank a lot. FISHER said he thinks WILSON was a jeweler in Grandview, Missouri. He could not recall whether he owned the jewelry store or if he worked for another company.

FISHER indicated that the airport keeps no records of landings or takeoffs.

FISHER said that if he cannot be contacted at State Line Airport, he will be at the Lake of the Ozarks, telephone 314/873-5166.

Investigation on 8/21/78 at Kansas City, Missouri File # KC 44-760

by SA DANIEL BELLICH - 1kc Date dictated 8/23/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 8/24/78

EDWARD BUSH, person in charge of airplane loans, Johnson County Bank, Kansas, telephone 362-7000, after being advised of the identity of interviewing Agent, provided the following information:

BUSH said he searched his files regarding the financing of a Bonanza plane purchased from a DON FISHER. BUSH indicated that a BURGESS AUDIE WILSON did finance a plane purchased from FISHER in 1968. He indicated that his records show that a Credit Bureau check was made on June 5, 1968. He also indicated that the bill of sale was dated June 6, 1968.

BUSH said that WILSON's applicant for the loan listed his residence as 13125 Herrick, Grandview, Missouri. It listed his employment as owner of Wilbur Wholesale Jewelry, telephone 331-2500. BUSH indicated that there was no date on the application.

BUSH indicated that WILSON signed a security agreement on June 6, 1968, along with LOU CREWS. He said on June 6, 1968, the plane was registered listing both CREWS and WILSON as partners. The address of the registration of the plane was 553 North Scott, Belton, Missouri.

BUSH said that CREWS' application showed his residence as Hickman Mills Drive, Old 71 Highway. His employment was listed as Clipper Manufacturing. BUSH also indicated that there was no date on the application, nor was there an address or telephone number for Clipper Manufacturing.

BUSH indicated that there is a letter in the file dated November 22, 1968, stating that WILSON and CREWS transferred all rights in the Bonanza #4434L back to DON FISHER.

BUSH indicated that WILSON, on October 9, 1968, purchased a 1968 Thunderbird from Paul Ford Sales, Inc., Kansas City, Missouri, VIN 8Y83N138079. BUSH indicated that the date of loan was October 8, 1968. He indicated that the bank repossessed the car and disposed of it on July 10, 1970.

Investigation on 8/21/78 at Kansas City, Missouri File # KC 44-760

by SA DANIEL BELLICH - ikc Date dictated 8/21/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 8/24/78

After being advised of the identity of interviewing Agent, ELLA BANKER, clerk, Grandview, Missouri, Police Department, telephone 763-3900, provided the following information:

BANKER said she has no record of any violations under the name of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. She also indicated that she is not aware of where WILSON was employed.

Investigation on 8/21/78 at Kansas City, Missouri File # KC 44-760
by SA DANIEL BELlich - 1kc Date dictated 8/22/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 8/24/78

After being advised of the identity of interviewing Agent, MURNE ELLIS, Court Clerk, Grandview, Missouri, telephone 763-3900, provided the following information:

ELLIS indicated that on August 9, 1969, WILSON received a ticket for not displaying a city sticker. WILSON paid the fine on August 26, 1969. ELLIS said that WILSON has no other violations, criminal, traffic or miscellaneous. ELLIS also indicated that she does not have any information regarding WILSON's place of employment.

Investigation on 8/21/78 at Kansas City, Missouri File # KC 44-760
by SA DANIEL BELLICH - ikc Date dictated 8/22/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

9/7/78

Date of transcription _____

After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, VINCE HARRISON, Manager, Chamber of Commerce, Grandview, Missouri, telephone 761-6505, telephonically provided the following information:

HARRISON indicated that they had two people that can be contacted who knew BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. The first being JOHN CAMPBELL, Chief of Police, Grandview Police Department, Grandview, Missouri, telephone 763-3900. The second person is SAM LICKTEIG, telephone 765-1991. HARRISON said that LICKTEIG was on the City Counsel when WILSON ran for Mayor of Grandview in 1969.

Investigation on 8/23/78 at Kansas City, Missouri File # KC 44-760
by SA DANIEL BELlich - dk Date dictated 8/30/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

9/7/78

Date of transcription _____

After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, SAM LICKTEIG, telephone 765-1991, provided the following information.

LICKTEIG indicated that he was on the City Council when WILSON was a candidate for Mayor in 1969. He said that ARNOLD HOLTON ran against WILSON and HOLTON won the election by a landslide.

LICKTEIG feels that WILSON was very strange. He said that WILSON kept a consignment of diamonds in his house, and that he was burglarized on what seemed to be a regular basis. LICKTEIG stated he does not know how he stayed in business with all his burglaries. He also said that WILSON appeared to be having family problems.

LICKTEIG said that WILSON lost the Mayor election by a large volume and does not know if anyone backed him up. He does not know if LOU CREWS was involved with the election. LICKTEIG said that one of WILSON's campaign stands was as follows:

"To oppose school district consolidation, consolidation would mean our children could and would be transported to other schools 10 to 15 miles away, and other children from Kansas City transported to our schools."

LICKTEIG said that WILSON attended University of Tennessee. He also said that WILSON was a member of the Kansas City Masonic Lodge.

Investigation on 8/23/78 at Kansas City, Missouri File # KC 44-760
by SA DANIEL BELLICH - dk Date dictated 8/30/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

9/7/78

Date of transcription _____

After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, JOHN CAMPBELL, Chief of Police, Grandview, Missouri, Police Department, provided the following information:

CAMPBELL said he is aware that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON owned a jewelry store, but cannot remember the name or location. CAMPBELL said that before WILSON left Grandview, he does not remember the date, that WILSON got very paranoid about something. WILSON hired off duty policeman to guard inventory of WILSON's jewelry store. Subsequently WILSON auctioned off all his inventory. The auctioneer was a TOMMY COMPTON, telephone 761-2277.

CAMPBELL heard that before WILSON came to Grandview he was in some type of business with LOU CREWS of Crews Jewelry Store, but does not remember the name of the business. When WILSON came to Grandview, he split with CREWS and leased a counter from Katz Drug Store, Truman Corners Shopping Center, Grandview, Missouri. When WILSON split CREWS was real mad because he, CREWS, got cheated out of several thousand dollars, and made the comment "If I get a chance I'm going to bump the son-of-a-bitch off." Subsequently WILSON moved from KATZ and opened a new store, location and name unknown. CAMPBELL indicated that on January 6, 1969, WILSON filed for candidate for Mayor of Grandview, Missouri. He said WILSON was defeated by a large margin in April 1969.

CAMPBELL was asked if WILSON was capable of killing someone, and he replied that WILSON was very capable because of his type of character. CAMPBELL said that LOU CREWS died on August 22, 1978 of cancer and that a SAM KAPPERA (phonetic), officer, Grandview Police Department, a real close friend of CREWS's might be able to provide more information on the relationship between CREWS and WILSON.

CAMPBELL said that WILSON was a con man and also that he was a heavy drinker.

8/24/78	Kansas City, Misosuri	KC 44-760
Investigation on _____	at _____	File # _____
SA DANIEL BELLICH - dk		8/30/78
by _____	Date dictated _____	

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 9/7/78

After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, BOB HADEL of Hadel Jewelers, 12th and Walnut Building, Kansas City, Missouri, telephone number 421-9606, provided the following information:

HADEL indicated that he has never heard of a BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. He also indicated that he has not heard of Wilburs Jewelry Store.

HADEL was asked if he had heard of a person named MITCH (LNU) who was associated with the jewelry store on Walnut Street in Kansas City, Missouri, and also had some association with a bonding company. HADEL indicated that the only MITCH that he is aware of that had any association with the jewelry store and the bonding company was MITCH ZAMMAR. He indicated that ZAMMAR had married a DORIS AUSTIN of Doris Bonding Company, telephone number 621-5858. HADEL indicated that ZAMMAR, in the past, use to hang out at Fechter Jeweler, 12th and Walnut, Kansas City, Missouri. He said that a few years back BOB SCERED purchased the jewelry store from THURMAN FECHTER.

Interviewed on 8/25/78 at Kansas City, Mo. File # KC 44-760

by SA DANIEL BELLICH (ofj) Date dictated 9/1/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 8/31/78

After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, MITCH ZAMMAR, Doris Bonding Company, 731 Ann Street, Kansas City, Kansas, telephone 621-5858, provided the following information.

ZAMMAR indicated that he is familiar with the name of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. He said that THURMAN FECHTER, now deceased, former owner of Fechter Jewelers, introduced him to WILSON at Fechter Jewelry Store.

ZAMMAR said that he purchased a ring from FECHTER and subsequently sold it to WILSON for approximately \$300 to \$400. ZAMMAR said that this is the only dealing he had with WILSON. He said he visited WILSON at Wilsons Jewelry Store twice in order to pick up the payment for the ring that WILSON purchased from him.

ZAMMAR described WILSON as being a likable guy, however, he said WILSON was very nervous.

FECHTER subsequently sold his jewelry store to a JOHN SEREDICH, father of ROBERT JOSEPH SEREDICH.

ZAMMAR indicated that he never gave or sold WILSON a Japanese sniper rifle or any other weapon. ZAMMAR also indicated that he has never owned a Japanese sniper rifle.

Interviewed on 8/28/78 at Kansas City, Kansas File # KC 44-760

by SA DANIEL BELLICH - cjc Date dictated 8/28/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 9/7/78

After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, MITCH ZAMMAR of Doris Bonding Company, Kansas City, Kansas, furnished the following information:

ZAMMAR was asked if any of his brothers had any scars on their face. ZAMMAR indicated that his brother JAMES did have a scar on his face. He said he had a scar on his right cheek as a result of a fall out of a baby buggy when he was an infant.

ZAMMAR was asked the names of his brothers as well as the years that his brothers died in. ZAMMAR replied that he feels the year that his brothers died in is irrelevant and something that he did not have to answer. ZAMMAR did, however, furnish the names of his brothers. He named the following as being his brothers in the order from the oldest to the youngest:

FERRIS, FRED, MITCHELL, JOE, CHARLIE, and JAMES.

Interviewed on 8/31/78 at Kansas City, Mo. File # KC 44-760
by SÁ DANIEL BELLICH (ofj) Date dictated 9/1/78

12

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 8/31/78

After being advised of the identity of the Interviewing Agent, ROBERT JOSEPH SEREDICH, Fechter Jewelers, 12th and Walnut, Kansas City, Missouri, provided the following information.

SEREDICH indicated that he has never heard of a BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. He also stated that he has never heard of a Wilbur Jewelers or a LOU CREWS.

SEREDICH indicated that he has known the majority of the jewelers in the Greater Kansas City area in the past 10 years, however, he has never heard of WILSON.

SEREDICH indicated that he purchased Fechter Jewelers a few years ago.

Interviewed on 8/28/78 at Kansas City, Missouri File # KC 44-760

by SA DANIEL BELLICH - cjc Date dictated 8/28/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 9/7/78

After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, SA FISH, Fisher Sales and Services, State Line Airport, Leawood, Kansas, telephone number 681-2496, provided the following information:

FISHER was asked if BURGESS AUDIE WILSON would have had access to the Bonanza Airplane that WILSON purchased from him prior to the time of the actual purchase which was June 6, 1968. FISHER replied that yes he would have had access to that particular plane because he rented it on several occasions prior to the purchase. FISHER said that WILSON rented other plans that he had for rent such as Cessna 150s, 172s, and Skyline. FISHER said WILSON did a lot of renting because WILSON was on the GI program and under this program they paid ninety percent of WILSON's training. FISHER thinks that WILSON was training for his commercial license.

FISHER was asked if WILSON could have had access to the plane while the original owner C.C. MILLER owned the plane. FISHER said that MILLER never rented the plane out. The first time the plane was ever rented out was when he purchased the plane from MILLER. WILSON said that WILSON and others used the Bonanza because it was a faster plane than any of the others single engine type planes he had for rent.

FISHER said in order for him to get paid for WILSON's rentals, he would prepare a report for the Veterans Administration stating the number of days and hours WILSON used an aircraft. WILSON signed a slip which was an authorization slip and that

Interviewed on 8/31/78 at Kansas City, Mo. File # KC 44-760

by SA DANIEL BELLICH (ofj) Date dictated 9/1/78

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KC 44-760

2

would be sent together with the monthly usage to the Veterans Administration in Wichita, Kansas. The Veterans Administration would then send the check to FISHER and FISHER would then have WILSON sign the check.

FISHER was asked if he recalled the type of car that WILSON drove back and forth to the airport. FISHER said that he did not remember the type of car, however, when he was asked if it was a Thunderbird, he said yes that was the type of car he was driving. FISHER was then asked if he was driving a Thunderbird to the airport prior to the time that WILSON purchased a 1968 Thunderbird from Paul Ford Sales on October 9, 1968. FISHER said he thinks that WILSON drove a Thunderbird to the airport before the time he purchased the plane which was June 6, 1968. FISHER said that LOU CREWS also had a Thunderbird and that maybe WILSON was using CREWS's Thunderbird.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 9/8/78

After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, CORNIE MILLER, 9618 Sagamore, Leawood, Kansas, provided the following information:

MILLER indicated that he never rented or leased the plane to anyone while he owned the Bonanza plane. MILLER said he didn't even allow anyone to fly the plane. MILLER also said that he was sure that nobody flew it without his knowing about it because of a recording tachometer off of which he logged his flight hours. MILLER said that if somebody did fly it, he would have known about it because the distance from Kansas City to Memphis and back is far enough that he would have noticed a discrepancy in his log book when he recorded the flight hours off the tachometer.

MILLER said that when he sold the plane, DON FISCHER, Fischer's Sales and Services, acted as a selling Agent for him. MILLER said that the man that was buying the plane through FISCHER owned a jewelry store; however, he could not remember the name of the person who owned the store.

Interviewed on 9/7/78 at Kansas City, Missouri File # KC 44-760

by SA DANIEL BELlich (jmm) Date dictated 9/8/78

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44-760

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA DANIEL BELLICH at Kansas City, Missouri, on August 21,
1978:

Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base was contacted
and they indicated that all records of former reservists
or Civil Service employees are maintained at the Military
Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri, telephone 314/268-7243.

In indices, computer criminal history and local
checks on the name of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON proved negative.

A review of the 1969 Cole's Directory, Kansas
City, disclosed that WILSON was the subscriber to telephone
number SO 1-6526 at 13125 Herrick, Grandview, Missouri.

Review of current directories and inquiries of
information for Belton, Missouri; Grandview, Missouri;
Raymore, Missouri; and Peculiar, Missouri, for WILBUR
JEWELERS proved negative. All possible spellings for
WILBUR JEWELERS were searched.

The following investigation was conducted by
SA TONY E. TRIPLETT at Kansas City, Missouri, on August 21,
1978:

The Southwestern Bell Telephone Company was
contacted regarding any information relating to BURGESS
WILSON. SA TRIPLETT indicated that the Telephone Company
has destroyed all records for that period.

KC 44-760

DB:ikc

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA DANIEL BELLICH at Kansas City, Missouri, on August 22,
1978:

The following places were contacted and asked
if they had available a criss-cross directory for the years
1968 or 1969 to help determine the employer of BURGESS AUDIE
WILSON during 1968:

Both Grandview, Missouri, libraries were contacted
at 763-0550 and 252-0950;

Grandview City Hall, 763-3900;

R and L Pok~~e~~ Publishers, Kansas City, Missouri,
telephone 756-0425.

All the above indicated they did not have any
criss-cross directories or any other information relating
to the employment of WILSON.

The Grandview Chamber of Commerce, 761-6505,
indicated they might be able to provide some information
relating to the employment of WILSON, however, said they
would recontact the FBI after making their research.

KC 44-760

DB:ksu

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA DANIEL BELLICH at Kansas City, Missouri, on August 24, 1978:

A credit check was made at the Credit Bureau of Greater Kansas City, 906 Grand, Kansas City, Missouri, and they indicated they had no record of any credit for BURGESS AUDIE WILSON.

Credit Bureau indicated that if there are no transactions for the past three or four years, all records of a particular person are destroyed.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE DALLAS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 9/8/78	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/19 - 21/78
TITLE OF CASE MURKIN		REPORT MADE BY SA PERRY F. COLE	TYPED BY jeh
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS (A)	

REFERENCES: Memphis teletype to Bureau dated 8/19/78.
 Memphis teletype to Bureau dated 8/20/78.
 Jackson teletype to Bureau dated 8/19/78.
 Dallas teletype to Bureau dated 8/19/78.
 Dallas teletype to Bureau dated 8/20/78.
 Dallas teletype to Bureau dated 8/21/78.
 Bureau teletype to Dallas dated 8/22/78.

- RUC -

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					☒ NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☒ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☒ NO
CONVIC	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
APPROVED						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:							
4-Bureau (44-38861)							
3-Memphis (44-1987) (SubM)							
(1-USA, Memphis)							
1-Dallas (44-2649)							
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations	
Agency						44-1987 Sub M-1254	
Request Recd.						SEP 13 1978	
Date Fwd.							
How Fwd.							
By							

COVER PAGE

42-15-5349-1 GPO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1-USA, Memphis, Tennessee

Report of: PERRY F. COLE
Date: 9/8/78

Office: Dallas, Texas

Field Office File #: 44-2649

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: MURKIN

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: BETTY LOU WADE, ex-wife of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, states WILSON positively at Grandview, Missouri, at time of KING's murder. WILSON's two sons, STEPHEN and MARK WILSON, confirm WILSON with them at Grandview, Missouri, at time of KING's death. All describe BURGESS AUDIE WILSON as a liar and conman who has serious mental problems. None have ever heard him make allegation that he killed MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. STEPHEN WILSON confirms his father gave him a Japanese rifle which he pawned in San Antonio.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

This investigation was predicated upon a teletype from Memphis requesting interview of BETTY LOU WADE, ex-wife of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 9/8/73

BETTY LOU WADE, 233 Smith Street, Burleson, Texas, telephone number 817/295-2200, furnished the following information:

She is the ex-wife of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. She has been divorced from WILSON for approximately five years. She was married to WILSON on April 4, 1963. At that time, they were residing at an unrecalled address on Herrick Street in Grandview, Missouri, and WILSON had a jewelry business at the Katz Drugstore in Grandview, Missouri. She said the business, known as Wilbur's Jewelers, was subsequently moved to Belton, Missouri, where it was located in a small shopping center.

WADE said she could positively state that WILSON was in Grandview, Missouri at the time Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was shot.

WADE advised that WILSON has had serious mental problems for years, but he declines to seek treatment. She said WILSON has made threatening and harassing telephone calls to her on numerous occasions over the past five years, and her son, MARK WILSON, had his father arrested at Cleburne, Texas, two years ago as a result of one of these calls and due to non-child support. WADE described her ex-husband as a liar and con-artist with serious mental problems. She said he cannot differentiate between the truth and fantasy, and that he lives in a dream world most of the time. She felt he needs medical attention.

WADE said the following relatives of WILSON could substantiate her evaluation:

Sister

LINDA MC GAHEY,
2002 East Eighth Avenue North,
Columbus, Mississippi
telephone number 327-1141;

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Burleson, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649
Memphis 44-1987
by SA PERRY F. COLE/jeh Date dictated 8/24/78

2

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DL 44-2649

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Sister	CHRISTINE GUNTHERP, Route 1, Box 36, Fulton, Mississippi;
Brother	ALLISON WILSON, Reform, Alabama;
Son	STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON, 3117 Livingston, Fort Worth, Texas; telephone number 817/923-9414,
Son	MARK ANTHONY WILSON, 514 Southeast Gardens, Apartment 132, Burleson, Texas, telephone number 817/295-2854;
Daughter	DEBORAH ANN JONES, 2628 Newburg Road, Trailer space 106, Belvedere, Illinois, telephone number 543-9734.

WADE said her ex-husband has never owned or had access to a white Mustang vehicle and her daughter, DEBORAH ANN, never drove such a vehicle from Kansas City, Missouri, to Memphis, Tennessee.

WADE advised that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON has been known to carry a .38 pistol in the past, and she does consider him dangerous.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 9/8/78

BETTY LOU WADE, 233 Smith Street, Burleson, Texas, was telephonically recontacted and furnished the following:

She advised that her visit to Memphis to see VERNON HOOTEN at the Baptist Hospital was several weeks after the MARTIN LUTHER KING murder. She felt that her daughter was possibly confused about the time, because there was still a lot of publicity on the television and in the newspapers concerning the investigation.

WADE confirmed that she was in contact with WILSON by telephone while she was visiting her father at Memphis, Tennessee. She said she does not recall whether she called him or he called her; however, she said WILSON would usually call her on such occasions.

WADE confirmed that WILSON did buy their daughter a cream colored Mustang in February, 1968, but says he never drive the vehicle on any trips to her knowledge or recollection. WADE said her husband had a new red Thunderbird at that time and always drove that vehicle.

WADE reconfirmed that her ex-husband, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, was at their home in Grandview, Missouri, at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was murdered. She further advised that she has never heard WILSON make any statement that he killed KING. WADE said she has heard WILSON make allegations concerning other news stories written up in the news media, but she cannot recall him ever alleging that he was responsible for the murder of Dr. KING.

Interviewed on 8/20/78 at Burleson, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649
by SA PERRY F. COLE/jeh Date dictated 8/24/78
Memphis 44-1987

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 9/8/78

STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON, 3117 Livingston,
Fort Worth, Texas, telephone number 817/923-9414,
furnished the following:

He is the son of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. He said he would have been fifteen years of age at the time of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING's murder, and does recall hearing about his death and watching newscasts concerning it. He said he remembers the entire family was at home in Grandview, Missouri, at that time. He further advised that his father, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, was definitely home at that time. WILSON said there was no way his father could have killed KING, because he was in Missouri at that time.

WILSON confirmed that his sister, DEBORAH ANN, was given a Mustang by their father, but stated the vehicle remained at Grandview and was never driven to Memphis, Tennessee. WILSON confirmed that his father did drive the vehicle on occasion, but it was primarily driven by DEBORAH ANN. WILSON said he recalled the vehicle to be light blue in color and a 1965 model.

WILSON said when he got out of the military service in January, 1976, he went to San Antonio, Texas. He said his father was living at New Braunfels, Texas, at that time and was placed on probation there for some kind of criminal offense. WILSON said that after his father was placed on probation, and because of his known alcohol addiction, he went to New Braunfels and picked up his father and took him back to San Antonio, Texas, where he was placed in the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Clinic for three or four days to try to get him "dried out". At this time his father's mental state was not rational. He said after his father was released from the clinic, he took him home. WILSON said his father stayed with him for several weeks but was asked to leave after it was discovered he was drinking alcohol during the day and had made numerous long distance telephone calls to his ex-wives and girl friends.

Interviewed on 8/20/78 at Fort Worth, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649
Memphis 44-1987
by SA PERRY F. COLE/jeh Date dictated 8/24/78

DL 44-2649

2

WILSON said his father has been known to make threats and has physically and verbally abused his wife and children for many years; however, he has never known him to be violent with anyone else. WILSON said he has never heard his father make any statement that he killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, and was of the opinion that he would not be capable of such an act.

WILSON said he last saw his father at San Marcos, Texas, in January, 1978, when he and MARK had dinner with their father. WILSON said his father seemed to be doing alright at this time, he seemed happy and there was no indication of any problems.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

9/3/78

MARK ANTHONY WILSON, 514 Southeast Gardens, Apartment Number 132, Burleson, Texas, furnished the following information:

He is the son of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. He said his father is a very sick man and may even be insane. He was advised of his father's allegation that he killed MARTIN LUTHER KING, and WILSON said his father could not have done it, because to the best of his recollection, BURGESS WILSON was at home in Grandview, Missouri, at the time of the KING killing. WILSON said his father was babysitting with him and his brother, STEPHEN WILSON, at the time and he thinks his mother and sister were in Memphis, Tennessee, visiting his grandmother.

WILSON confirmed that his sister had a white 1965 Mustang vehicle at that time. He said BURGESS WILSON would drive the vehicle on occasion primarily to instruct DEDORAH ANN to drive. He did not recall the father ever making any trip to Memphis, Tennessee, in the Mustang.

WILSON described his father as a habitual liar who always wanted to be someone important. He said his father is an alcoholic who thinks the whole world is crazy and he is the only sane person.

WILSON confirmed his father was a private pilot and said he used to own a Bonanza aircraft when they lived at Grandview, Missouri.

He said he has never heard his father make any allegation that he killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Interviewed on 8/20/78 at Burleson, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649
Memphis 44-1987
by SA PERRY F. COLE/jeh Date dictated 8/24/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

8/31/78

Date of transcription

MARK WILSON, 514 Southeast Gardens, Burleson, Texas, was telephonically contacted and advised of the identity of SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY as a Special Agent of the FBI. He was advised he was being recontacted regarding the statement of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, his father, that he had killed Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING. It was explained to MARK WILSON that his father claimed that he had shot Reverend KING with a Japanese sniper rifle. In addition, his father indicated during interview that he flew a Bonanza Beechcraft from Grandview, Texas to Memphis and then returned to Grandview by plane after shooting Doctor KING. MARK WILSON advised the following information:

He personally had no knowledge of any of his father's firearms as he had no interest in guns. He, therefore, could not verify whether his father ever owned a Japanese sniper rifle.

His dad, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, was definitely at home in Grandview, Texas taking care of himself and his brother, STEPHEN, at the time Doctor KING was killed in Memphis, Tennessee. He recalled his father flew a plane, Bonanza Beechcraft, usually on weekends from a small air field near town. He believed his dad owned the plane; however, he is not positive. He recalled that his mother and sister had flown to Memphis by commercial airliner to see their grandparents and were in Memphis at the time Doctor KING was killed.

Interviewed on 8/21/78 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649
by SUPERVISORY SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY/gcs Date dictated 8/25/78

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 8/31/78

Mrs. BETTY LOU WADE, 233 Smith Road, Burleson, Texas, was contacted telephonically and advised of the identity of SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY as a Special Agent of the FBI. She was advised that she was being recontacted regarding the statements of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, her former husband, that he had killed Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING. It was explained to Mrs. WADE that BURGESS WILSON had claimed that he had killed Reverend KING with a Japanese sniper rifle. Mrs. WADE advised that she had no recollection of her husband having a Japanese rifle. She stated she separated from BURGESS WILSON in 1974 which would mean if he actually had owned such a weapon, he most probably obtained it after that time period. She stated she is certain that she would have been aware if he had purchased or obtained the weapon while they were living together.

Interviewed on 8/21/78 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649
by SUPERVISORY SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY/gcs Date dictated 8/25/78

9

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

8/23/78

Date of transcription

STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON, 3117 Livingston, Fort Worth, Texas, was contacted telephonically and advised of the identity of SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY as a Special Agent of the FBI. He was advised that he was being recontacted regarding his father's statement (BURGESS AUDIE WILSON) that he had killed Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING. It was explained to WILSON that his father claimed that he had shot Reverend KING with a Japanese sniper rifle which he had later given to GEARY. STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON advised the following information:

The WILSONs were a closely-knit family, and were very conscious of each other's activities. He is positive his father obtained the Japanese rifle from an unknown source after he was in the military service, which would have been after 1970. He recalled his dad showing it to him when he came home on military leave. STEPHEN never fired the weapon because he was afraid that it would not function properly, and secondly, because they never had any ammunition for the rifle. He personally never knew of his dad using the weapon. His dad had the stock of the weapon worked on by a friend who was a furniture refinisher in Canyon Lake, Texas, but that was the only work ever done on the rifle. The gun was of Japanese manufacturer, as it had Japanese printing on its various parts.

WILSON's dad gave the gun to him while he was in the service, and he hooked the rifle at a pawn shop in San Antonio sometime in the early 1970's, date unrecalled. He has no receipt or bill of lading for the rifle.

Interviewed on 8/21/78 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649
by SUPERVISORY SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY/gcs Date dictated 8/25/78

10*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE JACKSON	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 9/12/78	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/18/78 - 8/23/78
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA WILLIAM E. BOOTH, JR.	TYPED BY lrm
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY (B)	

REFERENCE:

Jackson airtel to Bureau, dated 8/21/78.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

In the interest of brevity, numerous teletypes generated by this investigation are not included in above references.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						☒ NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	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 (44-1987 Sub M) (1 - USA, Memphis, Tenn.) <i>forward to 44</i> 1 - Jackson (62-544) <i>9-12-78</i>						<i>44-1987 Sub M-1258</i> <i>for [signature]</i>		
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency						<i>B. Johnson</i>		
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.								
How Fwd.								
By								

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c43-10-83450-1 GPO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Report of: SA WILLIAM E. BOOTH, JR.
Date: September 12, 1978

Office: JACKSON

Field Office File #: Jackson 62-544

Bureau File #: 44-38861

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

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis: BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., claims that he is "man that murdered MARTIN LUTHER KING" and conveyed this admission in recent past to at least eight non-law enforcement personnel (confirmed by enclosed interviews). WILSON arrested 8/18/78, by Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Police Department on probation violation from New Braunfels, Texas, PD and remanded to custody of Texas authorities on 8/23/78. WILSON variously described by relatives and associates as a quiet man, intelligent and coherent, while also at the same time, a "problem drinker" who, while under the influence of alcohol, loses contact with truth and reality.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/21/78

Mr. WILLIAM DON GLADDEN, age 46, white male, Route 3, Box 205-R-3 (Meadowlark Drive), Gulf Park Estates, Ocean Springs, Mississippi (telephone number 875-3518), was contacted at the Seasons and Reasons Gift Shop located at 2446 Highway 90 East, Ocean Springs, Mississippi (telephone number 875-2531). Mr. GLADDEN furnished the following information:

He is employed as the manager of the Social Security Administration Office in Gulfport, Mississippi (telephone number 896-3221), but also is owner of the above noted gift shop along with his wife, ALICE A. GLADDEN. GLADDEN advised that he and his wife opened the gift shop in Ocean Springs on July 3, 1978.

On or about July 26, 1978, a man came to the gift shop and identified himself as "Bill" WILSON. He talked with GLADDEN's wife stating that he was getting ready to open a watch repair business in the Edgewater Shopping Mall in Biloxi, Mississippi, and wanted to use the GLADDEN's gift shop as a pickup point for watches to be repaired. Mrs. GLADDEN discussed the matter with her husband and he and WILSON agreed approximately four or five days later to permit WILSON to rent repair shop space in the rear of GLADDEN's gift shop.

According to GLADDEN, neither he nor his wife had ever met WILSON before but he was a friendly outgoing individual whom they came to trust. He was a very good worker and always was the first one to open the store in the morning. WILSON paid his own money for a lot of radio ads for his watch repair business. WILSON had some of his own jewelry and watch repair equipment but after moving into GLADDEN's gift shop, spent several thousand dollars of his own money for additional equipment. GLADDEN advised that the only investment he (GLADDEN) had in the watch repair effort was that he agreed to go in half with WILSON on an \$800 sign for the store.

GLADDEN again described WILSON as being a very fast, good worker, who was tactful with customers and was

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by SA ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT and
SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR./KWS/njb Date dictated 8/21/78

always trying to "draw up new business". According to GLADDEN, all signs were that BILL WILSON was going to stay with the gift shop as a watch repairman on a permanent basis. After a few days, WILSON advised Mr. and Mrs. GLADDEN that he had changed his mind about opening up a watch and jewelry repair business in the Edgewater Mall, Biloxi, Mississippi.

GLADDEN advised that neither he nor his wife ever visited the WILSON residence in Ocean Springs but it was their understanding that WILSON resided in Apartment No. 9 at the Palm Pines Motel on Highway 90 in Ocean Springs for several days after first arriving in town. Later WILSON advised the GLADDENS that he had moved to a residence located at Route 6, Box 387, Ocean Springs (telephone number 875-9542). GLADDEN advised that this residence apparently is located on the Vandervee Road north of the Ocean Springs Hospital. WILSON told the GLADDENS that the house is owned by an unidentified friend who was letting him live there in exchange for keeping the house in good repair.

GLADDEN advised that WILSON is an excellent pilot. GLADDEN and his son flew with WILSON in a rented plane and according to GLADDEN, WILSON appeared to know everything about flying the plane and could handle it well in rough weather. GLADDEN did not know the extent of WILSON's education but described him as being an "extremely intelligent man". WILSON would come and go in the shop every day and had numerous advertising fliers pinned up which he apparently had delivered in various businesses around the Ocean Springs area.

GLADDEN advised that sometime after WILSON began working at his watch repair business in Ocean Springs, he became aware that WILSON had a drinking problem. The drinking problem, however, did not affect WILSON's work because he would come into the shop early every morning and do all of the watch repairs that were waiting for him and then he would leave for the day. GLADDEN advised that one salesman (identity unrecalled) who apparently had some contact with WILSON stated that WILSON told him that he had a drinking problem but was trying to work hard at the watch repair business in order to defeat this problem.

On August 17, 1978, at around 11:45 p.m. WILSON telephoned ALICE GLADDEN at the GLADDEN residence in Ocean Springs. He asked to speak to WILLIAM D. GLADDEN who at that time was asleep. GLADDEN answered the phone and WILSON told him that he had to see him and his wife immediately about a matter which would not wait until the morning. WILSON refused to come to the GLADDEN residence and stated that they should meet at the gift shop to discuss a matter of "national urgency". GLADDEN stated that he became worried at WILSON's insistence so besides his wife, he took his 18 year old son along and met WILSON at the gift shop at 12:15 a.m. on August 18, 1978.

WILSON arrived at the gift shop at the appointed time driving his old model blue Chevrolet with a white top and unrecalled Louisiana license tags. He had been drinking because his breath smelled of alcohol and his eyes were extremely red; however, he did not talk like an intoxicated person. He appeared very depressed according to GLADDEN.

WILSON opened the conversation by saying, "I am the mystery man." When questioned by GLADDEN as to what he meant by this remark WILSON said, "I am the man that murdered Martin Luther King." GLADDEN advised that WILSON then talked with him for the next hour and 15 minutes about how he had grown up in Grenada, Mississippi, where his father was a Baptist preacher. WILSON described how his father's church was open for local blacks to worship in and they were treated like neighbors. When the racial unrest was running rampant in the State of Mississippi in 1967 some "northern" blacks came to the church escorted by FBI Agents. WILSON's father welcomed them to the church only if they were not there "for trouble". However, according to WILSON, they did come for trouble and his father subsequently died of a heart attack as a result of the racial unrest.

WILSON then stated again that, "I am the one that pulled the trigger." He stated that the KING killing was a conspiracy and that he was the logical one to pull the trigger. WILSON told the GLADDENS that he had been with the Government (not further described) and had been involved in undeclared wars (not further described). WILSON also said that he knew MARTIN LUTHER KING's father and brother and grew up right next door to KING's cousin and knew the entire family.

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(WILSON did not furnish the name of KING's cousin to the GLADDENS.)

GLADDEN advised that WILSON told him that he had purchased a white Mustang for his daughter and that it was similar to a vehicle which GLADDEN had purchased for his daughter in Ocean Springs. WILSON told GLADDEN that his daughter had driven the white Mustang to Memphis, Tennessee, just prior to the KING assassination. WILSON was supposed to be in Kansas City, Missouri, at the time of the assassination and had alibis to prove it when actually he was in Memphis.

WILSON told GLADDEN that JAMES EARL RAY was the "fall guy". He said that RAY only saw him twice but WILSON knew who RAY was. RAY was supposed to have gotten away clean. WILSON said that he was surprised that RAY has brought it all back up again inasmuch as he (RAY) is probably due for parole in about two years.

WILSON told GLADDEN, "You won't see me anymore after tonight." He wanted the GLADDENS to have his watch repair equipment. WILSON again insisted to the GLADDENS that the KING assassination was a "group conspiracy". WILSON stated that he would only deal with the "Sheriff of Memphis, Tennessee, whom WILSON used to fly with". WILSON also said that he felt the Government (not further described) wanted the KING killing to happen and he (WILSON) knew it needed to be done and did not expect to get much time for it.

WILSON told GLADDEN that he was not sorry he did the KING killing since the "niggers are better off". Later in their conversation WILSON did say he was sorry that he had pulled the trigger.

WILSON told the GLADDENS that the Sheriff of Memphis had talked to him on the telephone and had agreed to meet WILSON in the Gulfport, Mississippi, Holiday Inn the morning of August 18, 1978. WILSON speculated that he would probably be allowed to have a television set in his cell and would probably be allowed to repair watches or give instruction in watch repair while in prison.

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WILSON also told the GLADDENS that he fired the shot that killed MARTIN LUTHER KING not from 50 yards but from about 50 feet away and he saw the bullet hit. WILSON said that, "I shot the shit out of him and saw it fly." WILSON never mentioned the type of gun he used nor did he tell the GLADDENS the location from which he allegedly fired the shot.

At one point during their conversation, WILSON looked at GLADDEN's son who apparently appeared disturbed by WILSON's revelations. WILSON told GLADDEN's son that he could tell he did not approve of what he had done but that he had better keep his nose out of it.

WILSON, who apparently had served in the U. S. Air Force, indicated that he had worked in some type of investigative work while in the military service.

WILSON kept bringing up the fact that he was going to meet with the Sheriff of Memphis, Tennessee, the morning of August 18, 1978, and even offered to furnish GLADDEN this individual's name and telephone number if he wanted it for verification. GLADDEN declined.

WILSON said that he had gone through 10 years of hell because he killed KING. He said that it had ruined 26 years of a good marriage and now his conscience was bothering him more than ever in the last few years.

WILSON referred to a sketch of the KING murder suspect which apparently had been recently shown on television and told GLADDEN that the sketch was almost an exact likeness of him (WILSON).

WILSON said that he has a sister in Fulton, Mississippi, who telephoned him in Ocean Springs after the sketch was shown on television saying that the sketch looked exactly like him. According to WILSON he called his sister and other members of his family to let them know he was turning himself in.

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GLADDEN advised that at the end of their conversation, WILSON left the gift shop and drove east on Highway 90. GLADDEN feels sure that WILSON probably drove to the Angular's Inn Tavern which is located a short distance from the gift shop and was apparently frequented by WILSON.

GLADDEN advised that shortly before noon on August 18, 1978, he was telephonically contacted by WILSON who said that he was now at home and that he had been to the Holiday Inn in Gulfport, Mississippi, accompanied by "the father" (not further identified). The sheriff of Memphis, Tennessee, had not shown up; however, there were individuals there believed by WILSON to be FBI Agents. He believed he had been betrayed and was now ready to "blow anyone's head off who comes to my house except the father". About three hours after this conversation WILSON walked into GLADDEN's gift shop. He was clean and neat and told GLADDEN that he apparently had been in touch with the FBI and that the FBI was not going to do anything to him. According to GLADDEN, WILSON indicated that he had worked out some "bargain" with the FBI and now WILSON wanted to live a normal routine life. He asked GLADDEN if he could continue working in the watch repair business. GLADDEN advised WILSON that he and his wife were seriously contemplating selling the business and they would make no decision about retaining him.

Outside the possibility that WILSON had a drinking problem, GLADDEN observed nothing unusual about the person and did not consider him to be "the typical psychopath". GLADDEN stated that in his job as manager of the Social Security Office he deals with a lot of people who have mental problems. He does not fit WILSON into any of the categories of mental imparities that he has observed. He recalled that he has heard a lot about WILSON's past life but nothing about his activities within the past 10 years. He recalled WILSON saying he had been married five times, twice to the same woman. WILSON said that he had been on the Mississippi Coast only for about three months even though he grew up in the State of Mississippi.