

U. S. Department of Justice

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12/27/78

B. Johnson 8-1-77

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
JACKSON	MEMPHIS	9/19/78	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 bal
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY (B)	

REFERENCE:

Jackson report of SA WILLIAM E. BOOTH, JR., dated 9/12/78.

-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 <i>K/3-13</i>						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.)							
1 - Jackson (62-544)							
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations	
Agency						44-1987-Sub M-1260 SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED JUN 10 1968 FBI - MEMPHIS <i>[Signature]</i>	
Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.							
How Fwd.							
By							

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e43-16-33489-1 GPO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Report of: SA WILLIAM E. BOOTH, JR.
Date: SEPTEMBER 19, 1978

Office: JACKSON

Field Office File #: 62-544

Bureau File #: 44-38861

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

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis: Mrs. CHRISTINE GUNTARP, sister of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., emphatically stated on 8/23/78, that she did not contact her brother, "BILL" WILSON, in Ocean Springs, Ms., in the recent past concerning her alleged recognition of a likeness to him with regard to a sketch of the killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, which supposedly was shown on television.

-RUC-

DETAILS:

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☆ U.S.GPO:1975-0-575-841

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 9/19/78

Mrs. CHRISTINE (LEON) GUNTARP, Route 1, Box 36, Fulton, Mississippi, was recontacted, at which time she was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent. She was advised specifically that the purpose of this interview was to resolve a statement attributed to her brother, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., to the effect that GUNTARP's brother indicated that a sketch of a suspect in the Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., murder case, which was allegedly shown on television recently, was almost an exact likeness of WILSON. GUNTARP was advised that WILSON said his sister (GUNTARP) telephoned WILSON in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, after the sketch was allegedly shown on television, saying that the sketch looked exactly like him.

Concerning the above matter, Mrs. GUNTARP stated emphatically that she did not contact her brother, "BILL" WILSON, in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, in the recent past concerning her alleged recognition of a likeness to him with regard to a sketch of the killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, which supposedly was shown on television.

Interviewed on 8/23/78 at Fulton, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544
by SA DONALD H. GREENE: bal Date dictated 9/19/78

2*

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FBI/DOJ

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE ST. LOUIS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 9/20/78	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/24/78
TITLE OF CASE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.		REPORT MADE BY SA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS	TYPED BY lsn
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR	

REFERENCE:

St. Louis teletype to Bureau, Kansas City, and
Memphis 8/24/78,
Bureau teletype call to St. Louis 9/20/78.

- RUC -

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	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
COPIES MADE:		
4 - Bureau (44-38861)		
3 - Memphis (2 - 44-1987) (1 - USA, Memphis)		
1 - St. Louis (44-775)		

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

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 25 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

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COVER PAGE

c43-16-83480-1 GPO

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: September 20, 1978

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

Title: ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: Records, NPRC-C, St. Louis, disclosed BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., employed 8/3/66 by Department of Air Force, Richards-Debaur AFB, Missouri, as a flight engineer. WILSON resigned 3/10/68 to go into business for himself.

- RUC -

Details: AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by Special Clerk WILLIAM J. EBERT:

On August 24, 1978, review of personnel records on file at the National Personnel Records Center, Civilian Personnel Records, disclosed that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., Social Security Number [redacted] was employed on August 3, 1966, by the Department of the Air Force, 442nd Military Airlift Wing, Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri, as a flight engineer (with dual status as Air Reserve technician). Records disclosed that WILSON resigned on March 10, 1968, to go into business for himself. Records failed to show that WILSON was employed by the U.S. Government on April 4, 1968.

The following background information was contained in the records:

SL 44-775

Name: BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.
Alias: Bill
Date of Birth:
Place of Birth: Fulton, Mississippi
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 165 pounds
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Education: Fulton High School,
Fulton, Mississippi, 1942 - 1946;
University of Maryland, 1952;
University of Tennessee, 1959
Addresses: 1605 Boxwood Street,
Memphis, Tennessee,
1947 - 1960;
4086 Reenig Avenue,
Memphis, Tennessee,
1960 - 1962;
2612 Elmore Park Road,
Memphis, Tennessee,
1962 - 1964;
3612 Covington Pike,
Memphis, Tennessee,
1964 - 1965;
3173 Court Street,
Bartlett, Tennessee,
April, 1966
13707 - 12th Street,
Grandview, Missouri,
May, 1966 - March, 1967.
Employments: April, 1960, - September, 1962,
Prudential Insurance Company,
Memphis, Tennessee;
September, 1962 - December, 1963,
self-employed, Wilson Cleaners,
Raleigh, Tennessee;
January, 1964 - May, 1964,
Rocketdyne, Conoga Park,
California
June, 1964 - May, 1966,
Wilbur Advertising Enterprises, Inc.,
Bartlett, Tennessee

SL 44-775

Wife: BETTY LOU HOOTEN WILSON,
date of birth [REDACTED]
place of birth Walnut Log,
Tennessee

Married: February 28, 1955, Grenada,
Mississippi

Children: DEBORAH A. WILSON,
date of birth [REDACTED]
STEPHEN W. WILSON,
date of birth [REDACTED]
MARK A. WILSON,
date of birth [REDACTED]

Military Service: U.S. Air Force, May, 1947, to
March, 1948; November, 1948, to
June, 1950; February, 1951, to
November, 1954; February, 1955, to
February, 1960, Serial Number
14 225 795

Passport Number: [REDACTED]

Blood Group: O Positive

Social Security
Number: [REDACTED]

References: Dr. IRA C. COLE, Broadmoor Baptist
Church, Raleigh, Tennessee, 1966;
WALTER K. WADE, 4126 Forbes Avenue,
Fort Worth, Texas, 1966;
BEN J. MANGINA, 442 Military
Airlift Wing, Richards-Gebaur
Air Force Base, Missouri, 1966

Photograph: None available

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

REFERENCE: Kansas City report of SA DANIEL BELLICH, 9/13/78.

-RUC-

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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	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)		

Dissemination Record of Attached Report					Notations	SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED SEP 25 1978 <i>B. Johnson</i>
Agency	Request Recd.	Date Fwd.	How Fwd.	By		

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e43-16-83489-1 GPO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - U. S. Attorney, Memphis, Tennessee

Report of: SA DANIEL BELLICH Office: Kansas City
Date: 9/21/78

Field Office File #: KC 44-760 Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: MURKIN

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: In the course of his jewelry store business, BURGESS AUDI WILSON alleged he met a white male Italian in late 1960s who operated a jewelry trade shop on Walnut Street in Kansas City, Missouri. WILSON alleged that this male later introduced him to another Italian, MITCH (LNU), approximately 5'10", 190 pounds, black wavy hair, and had some business connection with a bonding company. BOB HADEL, Hadel Jewelers, said he heard of a person named MITCH (LNU) associated with a jewelry store on Walnut Street in Kansas City, Missouri, and also had some association with a bonding company. HADEL indicated that the only MITCH of whom he was aware having any association with a jewelry store and bond company was MITCH ZAMMAR. HADEL indicated that ZAMMAR used to hang out at FECHTER Jeweler, 12th and Walnut, Kansas City, Missouri. HADEL said that a few years back, a BOB SEREDICH purchased a jewelry store from THURMAN FECHTER. Both ZAMMAR and SEREDICH were subjects of prior Kansas City FBI cases. Both were subjects of KC 92- violations, anti-racketeering. Both men have arrest records.

-RUC-

DETAILS:

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

KC 44-760

MITCHELL ZAMMAR is described as follows:

Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Kansas City, Missouri
Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'7"
Weight	150 pounds
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Dark Brown
FBI Number	759 112
Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department Number	22414

ZAMMAR has been arrested and incarcerated in the past on numerous occasions. The charges range from violation of the Dyer Act, Kidnaping, Theft From Interstate Shipment, Assault, Burglary, Larceny and Assault With Intent to Kill.

A computerized criminal history check indicated that there are no identifiable NCIC criminal records under the name MITCHELL ZAMMAR, FBI number 759 112. The local criminal check provided the same information, no identifiable NCIC criminal record, FBI number 759 112.

2101098125004.QH.MOFBIKCOO.NAM/SEREDICH, ROBERT JOSEPH.
SEX/M.RAC/W.DOB/030342

REJ MKE ERR

2101098125004.QH.MOFBIKCOO.NAM/SEREDICH, ROBERT JOSEPH.

SEX/M.RAC/W.DOB/030342.PUR/C

2101098125004

MOFBIKCOO

REC

4001098125004

MOFBIKCOO

NCIC SUMMARY MULTIPLE STATE FBI/26627L6 08/25/78

EH SEREDICH, ROBERT M W KS DOB/030342 HGT/601 WGT/265 EYE/BLU

HAI/PRO SOC [REDACTED] FFC/19F019P015171619C114

COMMENT/OID/0760677

ADDITIONAL IDENTIFIERS -

AKA/SERDICH, ROBERT J

DLU/072577

TOTAL ARRESTS - 2

4002098125004

MOFBIKCOO

CHARGES CONVICTIONS OFFENSE

1	0	FRAUDULENT ACTIVITIES
1	2	TAX REVENUE

3

LAST ARREST STATUS (INCLUDED ABOVE)-

021777 MOUSMO100 US MARSHALS SERVICE KANSAS CITY MO

COURT STATUS (INCLUDED ABOVE)-

MO KANSAS CITY

01 6101 INCOME TAX-EVASION-1970-CONVICTED

4003098125004

MOFEIK000

DISP DATE/041377 SUSPEND/15M PROBAT/6M

02 6101 INCOME TAX-EVASION 1972-CONVICTED

DISP DATE/041377 CONFINED/15M

OTHER/ STAY OF SENT TO 060177

CUSTODY STATUS-

MO0390170 MEDICAL CNTR FOR FEDERAL PRISONERS SPRINGFIELD MO 060177

RECEIVED

MO0480170 FEDERAL COMMUNITY TREATMENT CENTER KANSAS CITY MO 022278

404098125004

MOFEIK000

REL EXPR MIN EXP 062278

END

BASED ON NAME CHECK

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE OKLAHOMA CITY	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 9/26/78	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/22 - 9/1/78
TITLE OF CASE MURKIN		REPORT MADE BY GEORGE R. ZEIGLER	TYPED BY rs
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

REFERENCE:

Kansas City teletype to Bureau 8/21/78;
 Oklahoma City teletype to Bureau 8/23/78;
 Dallas teletype to Bureau 8/23/78;
 Kansas City teletype to Bureau 9/1/78;
 Oklahoma City teletype to Bureau 9/1/78;
 Oklahoma City teletype to Kansas City 9/6/78.

-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						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE: 4-Bureau (44-38861) 3-Memphis (44-1987) (1-USA Memphis) 1-Oklahoma City (44-686) <i>Copy to USA 9/29/78</i>						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
						44-1987-Sub M-1263		
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency						<i>B. J. [unclear]</i>		
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.								
How Fwd.								
By								

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43-16-83489-1 GPO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1-USA, Memphis

Report of: GEORGE R. ZEIGLER
Date: 9/26/78

Office: Oklahoma City

Field Office File #: 44-686

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: MURKIN

Character: Civil Rights

Synopsis:

Records of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Aeronautical Center, on September 1, 1978, identified registration number N4434L as being assigned to a 1956 Model G-35 Beechcraft aircraft, serial number D-4600. History of aircraft ownership set forth with a current owner identified as RONALD N. KARAS, 120 Paige Court, Weinton, West Virginia.

-RUC-

DETAILS:AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA.

On August 22, 1978, records of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Aeronautical Center, Will Rogers World Airport, identified FAA registration number 34L as a deregistered number as of 1962. The number was previously assigned to a Beech E-18-5 (twin engine), serial number BA-73. All records in storage at the Federal Record Center, Fort Worth, Texas, under accession number 63-H-496, location 200,340, box 1.

Records of the FAA, Aeronautical Center, Will Rogers World Airport, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, were again checked on September 1, 1978 with reference to FAA registration number N4434L. Those records identified the number as being assigned to a 1956 Model G-35 Beechcraft aircraft, serial number D-4600. That aircraft was initially sold by Beechcraft on April 20, 1956 to Gopher Aviation, Inc., Rochester, Minnesota who sold the aircraft on May 3, 1956 to Franklin Manufacturing Company, 65

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Butte, Montana, 59701
September 13, 1978

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

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

On September 11, 1978, ROY G. KULP, General Delivery, Lewiston, Idaho, appeared at the Federal Bureau of Investigation Office in Lewiston at the request of Special Agent JOSEPH V. VENKUS furnishing the following information:

44-1987-Sub M-12641

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B. Johnson

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 9/13/78

ROY G. KULP, General Delivery, Lewiston, Idaho, voluntarily appeared at the Lewiston Federal Bureau of Investigation Office furnishing the following information:

KULP acknowledged that he wrote a letter to "Warden, Federal Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas," on August 1, 1978, in which he indicated that JAMES EARL RAY escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City in 1967, receiving this information from J. T. HULL, Sheriff's Office (Morgan County, Missouri), also indicating that HULL could have been involved in Stringbean-Hee-Haw (1974) regarding Nashville, Tennessee, Police Department.

When asked the significance of this information, KULP could not furnish any logical statement to indicate the relevance of this hypothesis.

At various points during the interview, KULP indicated that he could prove that he was the originator of "Stringbean" and "Hee-Haw" and, in fact, brought a suit of \$100,000.00 concerning this matter at Nashville, Tennessee.

He further advised that he is presently in the U. S. Army and has been waiting for orders since 1969. KULP advised that he is receiving his salary through Veterans Administration (VA) compensation; however, did not wish to dwell on this topic. He advised his last report from the Army indicated that he was a "full bird" Colonel.

KULP also acknowledged that he wrote two letters to the Police Department at Memphis, Tennessee, both dated August 17, 1978, and which reported the death of "Raoul" in Miami, Florida. KULP advised the death of "Raoul" may be a coincidence; however, he did not like coincidences in his life.

The inference the interviewing Agent received from KULP concerning this topic is that during the investigation of the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr., JAMES EARL RAY

Interviewed on 9/11/78 at Lewiston, Idaho File # BT #173-2
by SA JOSEPH V. VENKUS/inw - 2 - Date dictated 9/13/78

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BT #173-2
Page 2

from newspaper accounts, indicated if "Raoul" could be located it would prove his innocence. KULP advised that it is possible that "Raoul," who died in Miami, Florida, could have been identical to the "Raoul" mentioned by RAY.

KULP advised that although "Raoul" lived and died in the same apartment house, 320 Northwest 7th Avenue, Miami, Florida, he never had an occasion to actually speak to "Raoul."

KULP indicated the death of "Raoul" was too much of a coincidence and moved away from Miami.

He cited several other coincidences, indicating that the last day he celebrated his 30th anniversary in the U. S. Army, DONALD DAVID DeFREEZE, leader of the "SLA" was killed in Los Angeles, California. He also advised in 1965 he was accused of killing a seventeen-year-old girl in Versailles, Missouri; however, it was proven he could not have been responsible for the girl's death, in view of the fact that at the time of her death he was in Blackfoot, Idaho, at the State Hospital South, a mental institution.

KULP could furnish no other logical explanation concerning the relevance of the information contained in the three letters mentioned above.

KULP advised he was departing Lewiston, Idaho, permanently on September 12, 1978, displaying a bus ticket destined for Phoenix, Arizona.

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	ROY G. KULP
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Burlington, Iowa
Height	5'11 1/2"
Weight	190#

BT #173-2
Page 3

Parents

GERTRUDE E. KULP, Mother
GEORGE KULP, Father
Residing West Burlington,
Iowa

- 4* -

XX

9/20/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, BUTTE (173-2)(RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

*44-1987
157-1168-34*

Re Kansas City airtel to Bureau, 8/9/78, and
Memphis airtel to Bureau, 8/28/78.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and three
copies of LHM captioned "ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR., APRIL 4, 1968, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, CIVIL RIGHTS."

Enclosed for Memphis is one copy of same.

No further investigation is being conducted by
the Butte Division.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)(AM)
1 - Memphis (Enc. 1)(Info)(AM)
1 - Butte
JVV/lmw
(4)

44-1987-Sub M-1265A

SEARCHED <i>mt</i>	INDEXED <i>mt</i>
SERIALIZED <i>mt</i>	FILED <i>mt</i>
SEP 27 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

B. J. [signature]

AIRTEL

10/2/78

To: SACs, Birmingham (44-1740)
Chicago (44-1114)
Dallas (44-2649)
Houston (44-1509)
Jackson (62-544)
Kansas City (44-760)
Memphis (44-1987 sub M)
Oklahoma City (44-686)
Pittsburgh (44-1572)
San Antonio (44-1242)
St. Louis (44-775)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

RE: ALLEGATION BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON

Copies of all reports from recipient offices have been received and have been forwarded to the Department.

Based on the extensive investigation conducted re this Burgess Audie Wilson allegation including the fact investigation determined he did not have access to the airplane in April of 1968, nor to a vehicle in Missouri as he claimed, the Department requested no further investigation re the Wilson allegation.

Promptly report any additional information to FBIHQ volunteered re the Wilson allegation; however, conduct no active investigation unless instructed by FBIHQ as directed by the Department.

44-1987-Sub M-1265

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 6 1978	

B. Johnson

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PP HQ ME

P 161918Z OCT 78

FM JACKSON (62-544)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, JEM BUILDING
MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB-M) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS; MURKIN.

RE JACKSON AIRTEL TO BUREAU AND MEMPHIS, APRIL 18, 1969.

FOR INFO OF BUREAU, THE ALCORN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT,
CORINTH, MS., IS IN RECEIPT OF A LETTER DATED OCTOBER 10, 1978,
FROM JAMES EARL RAY, IN WHICH RAY STATES THAT UNTIL "JUST RECENTLY"
HE ASSUMED THAT AUTHORITIES KNEW THAT HE HAD REGISTERED IN A MOTEL
IN CORINTH, MS., ON APRIL 1, 1968. IN THE LETTER, RAY REQUESTS
THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ALCORN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND ANY
RECORDS THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE AT THAT DEPARTMENT TO VERIFY THAT
HE AND/OR A 1966 MUSTANG BEARING ALA. LICENSE B8993, REGISTERED TO
ERIC S. GALT, WAS SEEN IN CORINTH, MS., ON APRIL 1, 1968. RAY

44-1987-Sub M-1266

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 16 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

B. Johnson

JB

PAGE TWO DE JN 0001 UNCLAS JN 62-544

ATTACHED TO HIS LETTER A SKETCH OF HIS RECOLLECTION AS TO THE LOCATION OF THE MOTEL IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY STAYED APRIL 1, 1968.

INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE ABOVE DESCRIBED MUSTANG AUTO AND RAY AND HIS KNOWN ALIASES WAS CONDUCTED IN ALCORN COUNTY, MS., AT LOCAL MOTELS DURING THE COURSE OF INVESTIGATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE KILLING OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. REFERENCED AIRTEL DISCLOSED THAT CONTACT WAS MADE WITH ALL MOTELS LOCATED IN CORINTH, MS., AND VICINITY AND NO RECORD WAS LOCATED UNDER SUBJECT'S TRUE NAME, KNOWN ALIASES AND ALABAMA LICENSE IN CONNECTION WITH CAR DRIVEN BY SUBJECT.

LHM TO INCLUDE COPY OF RAY'S OCTOBER 10, 1978, LETTER TO THE ALCORN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE BUREAU.

BT

0001

NNNN

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Evidence Will Clear Ray, Attorney Claims

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Attorney Mark Lane said Saturday he has "irrevocable evidence" that James Earl Ray did not murder Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and that he knows who did and can provide the names of at least two members of the assassins' group.

Lane said persons in high positions in the U.S. government are aware of the information clearing Ray of the sniper murder in Memphis in 1968 but have not divulged it.

"They are, all of them, accessories to the fact in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King," Lane said.

Lane is the attorney who appeared with Ray in recent hearings before the House Assassinations Committee that investigated the murders of King and President John F. Kennedy.

Ray is serving a 99-year sentence for his confession to killing King with a rifle at a Memphis motel. Ray has recanted the confession, contending he was duped by others who killed King, but the Assassinations Committee did not call for a new trial for Ray.

Lane, in a telephone call to Washington radio station WRC, an NBC affiliate, said he will soon file motions in federal and district courts demanding a trial for Ray.

"We now know, with irrevocable evidence, evidence which is beyond any question, that the most cynical person in the country, even members of Congress, have to accept, we know for the first time who killed Martin Luther King," Lane said.

"Not only the group involved, but we have the names of two of the people involved in the group. We know James Earl Ray is not guilty, we know who was involved.

"We know who killed Martin Luther King. We are prepared to prove this, prepared to prove people in powerful positions of the U.S. government today who learned of this information before we did, who have this information now.

"I now feel confident for the first time that Mr. Ray must be given a trial. At that trial we will prove that we know who killed Dr. King and that James Earl Ray played no part in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King."

Lane said the information was a wedding present to Ray, who married artist Anna Sandhu Friday in brief ceremonies before returning to his cell.

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

PAGE 2A

COMMERCIAL
APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: 12/1/77
Edition: 1st

Title:

Character: *murder*
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

44-1987-Sub M-1207

SEARCHED INDEXED

SERIALIZED FILED

DEC 1 1977

FBI/DOJ

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☒ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date 11/21/78

FM MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB M) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE ✓

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT.

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

ON NOV. 20, 1978, SOLOMON JONES, JR., WHO IS CONFINED AT
 THE SHELBY COUNTY JAIL (SCJ), MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, TELEPHONICALLY
 CONTACTED THE MEMPHIS OFFICE OF THE FBI AND REQUESTED THAT AN
 AGENT BE SENT TO THE SCJ TO INTERVIEW HIM. ON NOV. 21, 1978,
 SA'S BURL F. JOHNSON AND JAMES A. DAVIS INTERVIEWED JONES AT
 THE SCJ AND OBTAINED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

JONES IS SERVING A JAIL SENTENCE AT THE SCJ FOLLOWING CON-
 VICTION ON A CHARGE OF EMBEZZLEMENT. IN 1968 HE ACTED AS
 CHAUFFEUR FOR DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING WHILE DR. KING WAS IN
 MEMPHIS. JONES WAS PRESENT AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL, MEMPHIS, ON

44-1987-Sub M-1268

BFJ:sad
 (1)

Approved: *SHT/B*Transmitted *326-2240 Z*

(Number)

(Time)

Per *GMC*

FBI/DOJ

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

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☐ Facsimile
☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date _____

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

APRIL 4, 1968, AND WAS STANDING NEAR DR. KING WHEN HE WAS KILLED THAT DATE. IMMEDIATELY AFTER DR. KING WAS SHOT JONES OBSERVED AN INDIVIDUAL DRESSED IN SOMETHING WHITE MOVING BEHIND THE BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE LORRAINE MOTEL IN THE DIRECTION FROM WHICH HE HEARD A NOISE THAT WAS APPARENTLY THE SOUND OF A GUN SHOT.

ON AN UNRECALLED DATE APPROXIMATELY 30 DAYS AGO MARK LANE, AN ATTORNEY, ACCOMPANIED BY DUNCAN RAGSDALE, WHO OPPOSED CONGRESSMAN HAROLD FORD IN THE 1978 CAMPAIGN FOR U. S. REPRESENTATIVE IN THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN MEMPHIS REPRESENTED BY MR. FORD, SOUGHT AND WERE GRANTED PERMISSION TO INTERVIEW JONES AT SCJ. LANE INITIATED THE INTERVIEW BY ASKING JONES IF HE WOULD TAKE \$1,000 TO PUT SOME HOT NEWS ON THE FRONT PAGE. AFTER JONES ASKED WHAT KIND OF NEWS LANE ASKED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND MADE THE FOLLOWING ASSERTIONS:

"DON'T YOU THINK THE FBI SET UP THE PLOT TO KILL DR. KING?" "YOU KNEW THE FBI WAS HARASSING DR. KING." "I'M GOING TO GET YOU BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AND I WANT YOU TO TELL THE COMMITTEE THAT FAUNTROY, REPRESENTATIVE FROM DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

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(Number) (Time)Per _____
FBI/DOJ

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☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date _____

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UNCLAS E F T O

AND DR. KING HAD WOMEN LIVING AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL AND WAS THAT TRUE?"

"THE MAN YOU DESCRIBED RUNNING FROM THE SCENE DRESSED IN SOMETHING WHITE - DON'T YOU THINK IT WAS THE FBI?" THE FBI PUT THE WOMAN IN THE CRAZY HOUSE TO KEEP HER FROM TESTIFYING SHE SAW THE FBI AROUND THE BUILDING BEFORE THE SHOOTING TOOK PLACE." "DON'T YOU THINK THE FBI HAS GOTTEN HOLD OF FAUNTROY TO KEEP HIM QUIET FROM BRINGING THE FBI TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE."

JONES REPORTED THAT HE TOLD LANE AND RAGSDALE HE DID NOT KNOW THE FBI WAS HARASSING DR. KING, THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHO SET UP THE PLOT TO KILL DR. KING AND DOES NOT KNOW WHO KILLED HIM; THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER FAUNTROY AND DR. KING HAD WOMEN LIVING AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL; THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE INDIVIDUAL RUNNING FROM THE SCENE OF THE KILLING AND KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE WOMAN WHO WAS PLACED IN A MENTAL HOSPITAL.

AFTER THE INTERVIEW LANE AND RAGSDALE PROCEEDED TO LORRAINE MOTEL AND HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE. AT THIS CONFERENCE HE ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD MET WITH SOLOMON JONES, DR. KING'S CHAUFFEUR, BUT JONES WAS UNABLE TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO THE CONFERENCE.

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

FBI/DOJ

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

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☐ Facsimile
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PRECEDENCE:

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☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
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Date _____

PAGE FOUR

ME 44-1987-SUB M

UNCLAS E F T O

THE FOLLOWING DAY RAGSDALE REPORTED THAT CONGRESSMAN FORD KNEW THAT THERE WAS A COVER-UP IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEATH OF DR. KING. FORD RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS A POLITICAL STUNT ON PART OF RAGSDALE.

JONES' WIFE, ELIZABETH, HAS INFORMED JONES SHE HEARD A BROADCAST ON RADIO STATION WDIA, MEMPHIS, THAT THE STATION HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM LANE STATING HE WAS ACTING AS SOLOMON JONES' ATTORNEY AND THAT JONES' LIFE WOULD BE IN DANGER IF HE APPEARED BEFORE THE HSCA TO TESTIFY.

ACCORDING TO JONES, LANE IS NOT NOW, HAS NEVER BEEN, AND WILL NEVER BECOME HIS ATTORNEY. JONES IS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT LANE WOULD BE PLEASED IF HE APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AND TESTIFIED THAT THE FBI WAS INVOLVED IN THE KILLING OF DR. KING BUT DOES NOT WANT HIM TO APPEAR AS A WITNESS OTHERWISE.

JONES WAS SUBPOENAED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA) IN JANUARY, 1978, BUT THE APPEARANCE WAS CANCELLED DUE TO THE DEATH OF SENATOR HUMPHREY. HE WAS INFORMED BY THE HSCA HIS APPEARANCE WOULD BE RESCHEDULED. NO DATE HAS BEEN SET.

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(Number) (Time)

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FBI/DOJ

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype☐ Facsimile☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☐ Priority☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date _____

PAGE FIVE

ME 44-1987-SUB M

UNCLAS E F T O

ADMINISTRATIVE:

RE MEMPHIS TELEPHONE CALL TO BUREAU, NOV. 21, 1978. AN
LHM WILL FOLLOW.

BT

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

FBI/DOJ

Memphis, Tennessee
November 27, 1978

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

On November 20, 1978, SOLOMON JONES, JR., who is confined at the Shelby County Jail (SCJ), Memphis, Tennessee, telephonically contacted the Memphis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and requested that a Special Agent of the FBI be sent to interview him. On November 21 and 22, 1978, Special Agents Burl F. Johnson and James A. Davis interviewed Jones at the SCJ and obtained the following information:

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5-Bureau
②-Memphis
BFJ/mgv
(7)

mgv

44-1987-Sub M-1269

Case
File
JB

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 11/27/78

SOLOMON JONES, JR., was interviewed at the Shelby County Jail (SCJ), Memphis, Tennessee. JONES furnished the following information:

JONES is serving a jail sentence at the SCJ following conviction on a charge of embezzlement. He is married to ELIZABETH JONES and they have six children, ranging in age from 4 to 18 years. His permanent address is 852 Faxon Street, Memphis, telephone 525-3447. Prior to his incarceration, he was employed by the Hughes Bonding Company, 95 North Second Street, Memphis, which is managed by NEILS JONES. JONES is represented by WAYNE EMMONS, Attorney, 100 North Main Street, Memphis, in all legal matters involving him.

In 1968, JONES served as chauffeur for Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING while Dr. KING was in Memphis. He was present at the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, on April 4, 1968, and was standing near Dr. KING when he was killed on that date. Immediately after Dr. KING was shot, JONES observed an individual dressed in something white moving behind the building across the street on the west side of the Lorraine Motel. This is the direction from which JONES heard a noise that was apparently the sound of a gun shot. He did not know the identity of this individual.

On November 22, 1978, SOLOMON JONES was again contacted at the Shelby County Jail. He furnished the following information:

On an unrecalled date, WAYNE EMMONS, JONES' attorney, informed JONES that DUNCAN RAGSDALE was attempting to locate him for MARK LANE, an attorney. RAGSDALE was a candidate in the 1978 election campaign opposing Congressman HAROLD FORD for U.S. Representative in the congressional district in Memphis represented by Mr. FORD. RAGSDALE learned JONES was incarcerated at the SCJ.

On an unrecalled date, approximately 30 days ago, RAGSDALE and MARK LANE made an appearance at the SCJ and requested permission of SCJ officials to see JONES. RAGSDALE

Investigation on 11/21-22/78 at MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE File # ME 44-1987-SUB M

SAs BURL F. JOHNSON
by JAMES A. DAVIS/BEJ/rev Date dictated 11/24/78

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told the SCJ officials JONES had invited him and LANE to visit him, which is not true. RAGSDALE later told JONES it was necessary for him to tell the jail officials this in order to obtain permission to see JONES. After JONES signed a memorandum prepared by SCJ officials indicating his willingness to see RAGSDALE and LANE, the jail officials allowed them to visit with him.

LANE opened the interview by asking, "Would you take \$1,000 to put some hot news on the front page?".

JONES asked, "What kind of news?". LANE said, "You know the FBI was harassing Dr. KING." JONES said, "No, I don't know. Dr. KING had personal business. I was Dr. KING's driver." LANE asked, "Don't you think the FBI set up the plot to kill Dr. KING?". JONES said, "I don't know who set up the plot and I don't know who killed him." LANE said, "I'm going to get you before the Committee and I want you to tell the Committee that WALTER FAUNTROY, representative from the District of Columbia, and Dr. KING had women living at the Lorraine Motel. Was that true?". JONES answered, "I don't know whether that was true." LANE stated, "The man you described running from the scene dressed in something white - don't you think it was the FBI?". JONES said, "I don't know who it was." LANE said, "The FBI put the woman in the crazy house to keep her from testifying she saw the FBI around the building before the shooting took place. Don't you think the FBI has gotten hold of FAUNTROY to keep him quiet and from bringing the FBI to testify before the Committee?".

JONES is of the impression that Mr. LANE wants him to testify before the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) provided he testifies that the FBI helped kill Dr. KING and prefers JONES not testify otherwise.

Following the appearance of Mr. RAGSDALE and Mr. LANE at the SCJ, they proceeded to the Lorraine Motel where they held a press conference. At this conference Mr. LANE announced he had met with SOLOMON JONES, the chauffeur of the late Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., but that Mr. JONES would be unable to accompany him at that time.

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The following day a news release attributed to LANE contained information to the effect that JONES is a key witness to the killing of Dr. KING and that the HSCA would not let him testify because his testimony would destroy the Committee.

Also on the following day, Mr. RAGSDALE reported that Congressman FORD knew there was a cover-up in connection with the death of Dr. KING. Congressman FORD responded that this was a political stunt on the part of RAGSDALE.

JONES' wife, ELIZABETH, and mother-in-law, MAGGIE MOORE, have heard a radio broadcast on Memphis radio station WDIA wherein it was reported that WDIA has received a letter from LANE stating he was acting as an attorney for JONES. The letter also stated that JONES would be in danger if he appeared as a witness before the HSCA.

LANE is not now, has never been and will never be retained as an attorney by JONES. JONES was subpoenaed by the HSCA and was scheduled to appear as a witness on January 17, 1978. This appearance was canceled due to the death of Senator HUMPHREY. JONES was informed by the Committee he would be subpoenaed at a later date but has not been subsequently subpoenaed.

On November 22, 1978, JONES furnished a written statement which is as follows:

Memphis, Tennessee
November 22, 1978

S. J.

I, Solomon Jones, Jr., make this free and voluntary statement to Burl F. Johnson and James A. Davis, who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement. I realize any statement I do make may be used in a court of law.

I am currently serving a jail sentence at the Shelby County Jail (SCJ), Memphis, Tennessee, following conviction on an embezzlement charge. My permanent residence is located at 852 Paxon Street, Memphis, telephone 525-3447. Prior to the incarceration I was employed by the Hughes Bonding Company, 95 North Second Street, Memphis, which is operated by Neils Jones.

In 1968 I served as chauffeur for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., while Dr. King was in Memphis. I was present at the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, on April 4, 1968, and was standing near Dr. King when he was killed on that date. Immediately after Dr. King was shot I observed an individual dressed in something white moving behind the building across the street on the west side of the Lorraine Motel. This is the direction from which I heard a noise that was apparently the sound of a gun shot. I do not know the identity of this individual.

S. J.



On an unrecalled date, Wayne Emmons, my attorney, who has an office at 100 North Main Street, Memphis, telephone number 523-7788, informed me that Duncan Ragsdale was attempting to locate me for Mark Lane, an attorney. Ragsdale was a candidate in the 1978 election campaign opposing Congressman Harold Ford for U.S. Representative in the congressional district in Memphis represented by Mr. Ford. Ragsdale learned I was incarcerated at the SCJ.

On an unrecalled date, approximately 30 days ago, Ragsdale and Mark Lane made an appearance at the SCJ and requested permission of SCJ officials to see me. Ragsdale told the SCJ officials I had invited him and Lane to visit me, which is not true. Ragsdale later told me it was necessary for him to tell the jail officials this in order to obtain permission to see me. After I signed a memorandum prepared by SCJ officials indicating I was willing to see Ragsdale and Lane, the jail officials allowed them to visit with me.

Lane opened the interview by asking, "Would you take \$1,000 to put some hot news on the front page?".

I asked, "What kind of news?". Lane said, "You know the FBI was harassing Dr. King." I said, "No, I don't know. Dr. King had personal business. I was Dr. King's driver." Lane asked, "Don't you think the FBI set up the plot to kill Dr. King?". I said, "I don't know who set up the plot and I don't know who killed him." Lane said,

S.J.
"I'm going to get you before the Committee and I want you to tell the Committee ^{S.J. WALTER} that Fauntroy and Dr. King had women living at the Lorraine Motel. Was that true?". I answered, "I don't know whether that was true." Lane stated, "The man you described running from the scene dressed in something white - don't you think it was the FBI?". I said, "I don't know who it was." Lane said, "The FBI put the woman in the crazy house to keep her from testifying she saw the FBI around the building before the shooting took place. Don't you think the FBI has gotten hold of Fauntroy to keep him quiet and from bringing the FBI to testify before the Committee?".

I understand the Committee referred to by Mr. Lane to be the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) and that Mr. Fauntroy is the representative from the District of Columbia.

I am of the impression that Mr. Lane wants me to testify before the HSCA provided I testify that the FBI helped kill Dr. King and prefers I not testify otherwise.

Following the appearance of Mr. Ragsdale and Mr. Lane at the SCJ they proceeded to the Lorraine Motel where they held a press conference. At this conference Mr. Lane announced he had met with Solomon Jones, the chauffeur of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but that Mr. Jones would be unable to accompany him at that time.

S.J.

S. J.
The following day a news release attributed to Lane contained information to the effect that I am a key witness to the killing of Dr. King and that the HSCA would not let me testify because my testimony would destroy the Committee.

My wife, Elizabeth, and mother-in-law, Maggie Moore, have heard a radio broadcast on Memphis radio station WDIA wherein it was reported that WDIA has received a letter from Lane stating he was acting as an attorney for me. The letter also stated that I would be in danger if I appeared as a witness before the HSCA.

Lane is not now, has never been and will never be retained as an attorney by me. I was subpoenaed by the HSCA and was scheduled to appear as a witness on January 17, 1978. This appearance was canceled due to the death of Senator Humphrey. I was informed by the Committee I would be subpoenaed at a later date but I have not been subsequently subpoenaed.

S. J.
REVEREND WALTER FAUNTROY WAS ON THE BOARD OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN 1968. REVEREND FAUNTROY WAS REGISTERED AT THE LORNING MOTEL THE DAY DR. KING WAS KILLED. *S. J.*

I have Read this Forty Letters, Q. Salante. and it Truth to Best of my Knowledge. Solomon Jones for

WITNESSED BY: *Paul D. Johnson, Special Agent, FBI, Memphis, Tennessee, 11/22/78.*
James A. Davis, Special Agent, FBI, Memphis, Tennessee 11/22/78.

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On November 22, 1978, JONES orally advised that DUNCAN RAGSDALE confined his remarks to statement about Congressman HAROLD FORD having knowledge of a cover-up in connection with the death of Dr. KING.

Mr. JONES stated that the written statement represents an accurate report of the information he recalled on the occasion of his interview by Mr. LANE. He stated he is concerned about the safety and welfare of his family and wanted the FBI to know of his concerns.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 11/27/78

ELIZABETH JONES, 852 Faxon Street, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at the lobby of the Shelby County Jail, Memphis. She furnished the following information:

She is the wife of SOLOMON JONES, JR. On November 20, 1978, she heard a news broadcast on Memphis radio station WDIA wherein the newscaster reported that WDIA had received information from MARK LANE that he, LANE, was acting as an attorney for SOLOMON JONES, JR. According to this report, LANE had received a letter which indicated JONES would be in danger if he appeared as a witness before the Committee investigating the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. The origin of the letter LANE reported he had received was not mentioned on the broadcast.

Investigation on 11/22/78 at MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE File # ME 44-1987-Sub M
by SAs BURL F. JOHNSON
JAMES A. DAVIS/BFJ/mgv Date dictated 11/24/78

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

The November 23, 1978, issue of the Memphis Commercial Appeal, a daily newspaper published in Memphis, Tennessee, contained an article on page 71 entitled, "Payoff not Accepted, King's Driver Claims". According to this article, on November 22, 1978, SOLOMON JONES, JR., chauffeur for the late Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., said that Attorney MARK LANE offered him \$1,000 to say the FBI had harassed KING and might even have set up the plot to kill him. JONES, who was one of the last persons to talk to KING before he fell dead of an assassin's bullet in 1968, said he told LANE he knew nothing of such allegations and refused the money.

LANE, the attorney for JAMES EARL RAY, convicted killer of Dr. KING, strongly denied the accusation on the night of November 22, 1978. He said he had met JONES in the jail in the presence of lawyer DUNCAN RAGSDALE and no such offer was made. LANE said, "Either the reporter (who talked to JONES) is a liar or Solomon Jones is a liar".

RAGSDALE, who ran unsuccessfully against U.S. Representative HAROLD FORD of Memphis in November, 1978, disputed the charge by JONES. He said, "That's not true at all. Nothing like that was said. There was never any discussion of money or of Mr. Lane serving as an attorney for Jones. I frankly cannot believe that Mr. Jones made those remarks. If he did, it was only because of tremendous pressures brought to bear on him by either the FBI, the local district attorney general's office or both."

RAGSDALE said he had not sought out JONES but was approached by JONES' attorneys about two months ago. The attorneys told him that he, RAGSDALE, should talk to JONES because he had an interesting story to tell. LANE and RAGSDALE went to the Shelby County Jail and were allowed to talk with JONES after some haggling. There was no discussion of money.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 11/27/78

SOLOMON JONES, JR., was interviewed at the Shelby County Jail (SCJ), Memphis, Tennessee. JONES furnished the following information:

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SAs BURL F. JOHNSON
by JAMES A. DAVIS/BFJ/mgv Date dictated 11/24/78

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ME 44-1987-SUB M

The following day a news release attributed to LANE contained information to the effect that JONES is a key witness to the killing of Dr. KING and that the HSCA would not let him testify because his testimony would destroy the Committee.

Also on the following day, Mr. RAGSDALE reported that Congressman FORD knew there was a cover-up in connection with the death of Dr. KING. Congressman FORD responded that this was a political stunt on the part of RAGSDALE.

JONES' wife, ELIZABETH, and mother-in-law, MAGGIE MOORE, have heard a radio broadcast on Memphis radio station WDIA wherein it was reported that WDIA has received a letter from LANE stating he was acting as an attorney for JONES. The letter also stated that JONES would be in danger if he appeared as a witness before the HSCA.

LANE is not now, has never been and will never be retained as an attorney by JONES. JONES was subpoenaed by the HSCA and was scheduled to appear as a witness on January 17, 1978. This appearance was canceled due to the death of Senator HUMPHREY. JONES was informed by the Committee he would be subpoenaed at a later date but has not been subsequently subpoenaed.

On November 22, 1978, JONES furnished a written statement which is as follows:

Memphis, Tennessee
November 22, 1978

S. Q.

I, Solomon Jones, Jr., make this free and voluntary statement to Burl F. Johnson and James A. Davis, who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement. I realize any statement I do make may be used in a court of law.

I am currently serving a jail sentence at the Shelby County Jail (SCJ), Memphis, Tennessee, following conviction on an embezzlement charge. My permanent residence is located at 352 Paxon Street, Memphis, telephone 525-3447. Prior to the incarceration I was employed by the Hughes Bonding Company, 95 North Second Street, Memphis, which is operated by Neils Jones.

In 1968 I served as chauffeur for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., while Dr. King was in Memphis. I was present at the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, on April 4, 1968, and was standing near Dr. King when he was killed on that date. Immediately after Dr. King was shot I observed an individual dressed in something white moving behind the building across the street on the west side of the Lorraine Motel. This is the direction from which I heard a noise that was apparently the sound of a gun shot. I do not know the identity of this individual.

S. Q.

 On an unrecalled date, Wayne Emmons, my attorney, who has an office at 100 North Main Street, Memphis, telephone number 523-7788, informed me that Duncan Ragsdale was attempting to locate me for Mark Lane, an attorney. Ragsdale was a candidate in the 1978 election campaign opposing Congressman Harold Ford for U.S. Representative in the congressional district in Memphis represented by Mr. Ford. Ragsdale learned I was incarcerated at the SCJ.

On an unrecalled date, approximately 30 days ago, Ragsdale and Mark Lane made an appearance at the SCJ and requested permission of SCJ officials to see me. Ragsdale told the SCJ officials I had invited him and Lane to visit me, which is not true. Ragsdale later told me it was necessary for him to tell the jail officials this in order to obtain permission to see me. After I signed a memorandum prepared by SCJ officials indicating I was willing to see Ragsdale and Lane, the jail officials allowed them to visit with me.

Lane opened the interview by asking, "Would you take \$1,000 to put some hot news on the front page?".

I asked, "What kind of news?". Lane said, "You know the FBI was harassing Dr. King." I said, "No, I don't know. Dr. King had personal business. I was Dr. King's driver." Lane asked, "Don't you think the FBI set up the plot to kill Dr. King?". I said, "I don't know who set up the plot and I don't know who killed him." Lane said,

S.J.
"I'm going to get you before the Committee and I want you to tell the Committee ^{S.J. WALTER} that Fauntroy and Dr. King had women living at the Lorraine Motel. Was that true?". I answered, "I don't know whether that was true." Lane stated, "The man you described running from the scene dressed in something white - don't you think it was the FBI?". I said, "I don't know who it was." Lane said, "The FBI put the woman in the crazy house to keep her from testifying she saw the FBI around the building before the shooting took place. Don't you think the FBI has gotten hold of Fauntroy to keep him quiet and from bringing the FBI to testify before the Committee?".

I understand the Committee referred to by Mr. Lane to be the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) and that Mr. Fauntroy is the representative from the District of Columbia.

I am of the impression that Mr. Lane wants me to testify before the HSCA provided I testify that the FBI helped kill Dr. King and prefers I not testify otherwise.

Following the appearance of Mr. Ragsdale and Mr. Lane at the SCJ they proceeded to the Lorraine Motel where they held a press conference. At this conference Mr. Lane announced he had met with Solomon Jones, the chauffeur of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but that Mr. Jones would be unable to accompany him at that time.

The following day a news release attributed to Lane contained information to the effect that I am a key witness to the killing of Dr. King and that the HSCA would not let me testify because my testimony would destroy the Committee.

My wife, Elizabeth, and mother-in-law, Maggie Moore, have heard a radio broadcast on Memphis radio station WDIA wherein it was reported that WDIA has received a letter from Lane stating he was acting as an attorney for me. The letter also stated that I would be in danger if I appeared as a witness before the HSCA.

Lane is not now, has never been and will never be retained as an attorney by me. I was subpoenaed by the HSCA and was scheduled to appear as a witness on January 17, 1978. This appearance was canceled due to the death of Senator Humphrey. I was informed by the Committee I would be subpoenaed at a later date but I have not been subsequently subpoenaed.

REVEREND WALTER FAUNTROY WAS ON THE BOARD OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN 1968. REVEREND FAUNTROY WAS REGISTERED AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL THE DAY DR. KING WAS KILLED.

I have read this letter and it is full of lies. I have read this letter and it is full of lies. I have read this letter and it is full of lies.

WITNESSED BY: Paul D. Johnson Special Agent, FBI, Memphis, Tennessee, 11/22/78.
James A. Davis Special Agent, FBI, Memphis, Tennessee 11/22/78.

ME 44-1987-Sub M

On November 22, 1978, JONES orally advised that DUNCAN RAGSDALE confined his remarks to statement about Congressman HAROLD FORD having knowledge of a cover-up in connection with the death of Dr. KING.

Mr. JONES stated that the written statement represents an accurate report of the information he recalled on the occasion of his interview by Mr. LANE. He stated he is concerned about the safety and welfare of his family and wanted the FBI to know of his concerns.

x airtel

11/27/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB-M) (P)

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR., APRIL 4, 1968, MEMPHIS, TENN.
CR (A)

Re ME telephone call and ME teletype to Bureau,
11/21/78.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and
four copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above.

Since it does not appear a violation of
Federal law is involved in connection with the contact
of SOLOMON JONES, JR., by Attorneys MARK LANE and DUNCAN
RAGSDALE, no further investigation will be conducted UACB.

Memphis file 44-1987-Sub M is maintained in
a pending status for purpose of handling leads and
inquiries re the MURKIN case.

2-Bureau (Enc. 5)
②-Memphis
BFJ/mgv
(4) *mgv*

44-1987-Sub M-1270

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

[Handwritten signature]

000009 3330537Z

RR HQ ME SL

DE OC

R 280537Z NOV 78

FM OKLAHOMA CITY (44-686) (P)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) ROUTINE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) ROUTINE

ST. LOUIS (44-775) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

MURKIN.

44-1987-Sub M

INMATE ROBERT E. HART, INMATE NUMBER 23747, DATE OF BIRTH APRIL 26, 1932, WAS INTERVIEWED ON NOVEMBER 28, 1978, AT HIS REQUEST AT THE FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION (FCI), EL RENO, OKLAHOMA. HART ADVISED HE IS CURRENTLY SERVING A TWO-YEAR SENTENCE FROM ST. LOUIS ON A POSSESSION OF FIREARMS CHARGE WITH ANTICIPATED RELEASE JUNE, 1979. HART STATED HE HAS INFORMATION WITH REFERENCE TO JAMES EARL RAY AND THAT HE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN APPROACHED BY CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND THE SECRET SERVICE AND THAT TO DATE HE HAS REFUSED TO COOPERATE. HE STATED THAT HE IS SOON DUE FOR RELEASE AND THAT IT IS HIS DESIRE TO NOW COOPERATE SO THAT HE WILL NOT BE BOTHERED FOLLOWING RELEASE FROM PRISON.

Sub M

44-1987-1271

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED *mse* FILE *mse*

NOV 28 1978

FBI - MEMPHIS

B. Johnson
B. Johnson