

Case Number:

44-OC-①

Serial(s):

783

1/20/94

F.B.I.
50 Penn Pl
Okla. City, Okla. 73118

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is a hand written
copy of a letter that i sent to
Channel 4 in Albuquerque N. M.,
and to various other people, which
i thought may interest you.

Sincerely,
Frank Elliott # 42954
Penitentiary of New Mexico
P.O. Box 1059
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

SEARCHED ☒ INDEXED ☒
SERIALIZED ☒ FILED ☒
JAN 24 1994
FBI OKLAHOMA CITY

44-0-783

1/15/94

Dan Wade
Assignment Editor
KOB-TV 4 Broadcast Plaza
Albuquerque, N.M. 87105

Dear Sir,

Outside of the people who were involved, i am the only person alive who knows about the conspiracy that killed Rev. Martin Luther King.

The information, time & events, and people involved, was all told to me by inmate "Tom Rester Pugh" who was living in a cell next to me at the Okla. state Penitentiary during the early & middle part of 1993.

Tom Rester Pugh was part of the little dixie mafia in Tennessee during the 1960's.

Other men who were also involved were close friends and associates of his.

Jerry James, Kirksey Nix Jr. & Pat Urley are a few that are still alive.

Jerry James made a deal with the Government to get out of prison, and was once on the F.B.I.'s most wanted list.

Pat Urley is in a Federal prison in Arizona, and was once a member of the Airborne Rangers & a sharpshooter.

Kirksey Nix Jr. is also in prison and was once wanted by the F.B.I.

Turn Over

These men, along with another man named Al McDonald, committed crimes with Tom Pugh, that only I know about.

Like murders, robberies, and bombings.

Tom Pugh was ~~implicated~~ implicated along with his crime partner Al McDonald in other murders in Oklahoma, but was not convicted of some of them. But I personally know about them.

S. M. Fallis an ex-D.A. out of Tulsa Okla. also knows about these murders that he could not convict them of.

Tom Pugh & Al McDonald were both finally convicted of one count of murder each, on different cases, that they were both involved in together.

Tom is now doing life at the Okla. State Penitentiary, and Al McDonald was killed there in 1978.

Tom Pugh also did prison time in Texas; did prison time in Kentucky before escaping there in 1976 with Thomas Carver; and did prison time in New Mexico for robbing Desse Sawyer of 200 or 300 thousand dollars worth of jewelry in 1976 or 1977.

Desse Sawyer was some type of Democratic chairman or official.

Thomas Cawthorne was an F.B.I. informant; was Tom Pugh's crime partner in Robbing Jesse Sawyer; and was given a new identity under the witness protection program for telling about 17 burglaries they had committed together in different states while on escape.

Tom also told me that Cawthorne was smart enough not to say anything about anyone they had killed during that time.

I personally know about 3 or 4 "High profile" murder cases that Tom Pugh & Al McDonald, and Tom Pugh and Kirksey Nix Jr. committed in Oklahoma-Tennessee, and Alabama. And all of the cases are well known by the media the F.B.I., and S.M. Fallis out of Tulsa Oklahoma.

Tom told me that he is well known by the F.B.I. and refused to talk to them on different occasions.

He also told me that the White House has a special file on him, but will not release a copy to him. And he believes the file may have something to do with him and Pat Urley being in Memphis at the time of the assassination.

I personally know of and can place Tom Pugh & Pat Urley in Memphis on 2 separate occasions, prior to the assassination.

Turn Over.

These 2 men played only a small part in the conspiracy, but Tom told me "WHY" Martin Luther King was killed, and "WHO" carried out the conspiracy and paid off James Earl Ray.

There was a "Group of 2 other men" who planned and carried it out.

James Earl Ray does not even know about this. That is why he hasn't been able to say anything in 25 years.

Tom Pugh personally knew these people, had talked to them, and was in Memphis at the time.

Between the months of April & July of 1993, I wrote numerous people trying to get this information out.

I wrote to Chuck Colson, head of Prison Fellowship in Washington D.C., telling him I knew about the conspiracy, and asked him to please notify Rev. Jesse Jackson for me.

Some time later I received a response from a lady there, stating they could not help me with my request.

I also wrote Chaplain Ray, head of International Prison Ministry in Dallas Texas the same letter, and received the same response.

I also wrote to Judge Glenn Carter of the Pottawatomie County Court House at 325 N. Broadway, Shawnee, Okla. 74801, Phone # (405) 275-1296, telling him that i knew about the conspiracy, and asked him to forward my letter to David Walters the Governor of Oklahoma. I later recieved a reply from him stating that he did send my letter to Governor David Walters.

But the Governor never responded to my letter. He was having charges brought against him for money related crimes, so i guess he didn't care to answer my letter, or either didn't care about Martin Luther King.

I was transferred to this state out of Oklahoma on Oct. 23, 1993, because i was an eyewitness to a murder that happened at the Okla. State Penitentiary on Aug. 17, 1993, and the Internal Affairs interviewed me there on Aug. 24, 1993. I told them how 2 Guards allowed 2 inmates out of their cells to kill a man who lived in the cell next to mine. The same cell that Tom Pugh had moved out of earlier.

That should say something about my character and credibility.

I am a Christian and i believe in truth & justice, and doing what is right in the sight of God.

Turn Over

After 25 years, the Civil Rights Leaders and the Government wants to know what the "conspiracy" was in the assassination of Martin Luther King. Because they "believe" that there was a conspiracy, and that James Earl Ray did not act alone.

I am interested in telling the story to "Hard Copy" or "Current affair" on two conditions:

#1- I am to be paid for the story, so i can help my Mother who is in bad health, and having financial problems.

#2- I am to be given a new identity under the witness protection program and released from prison. Because my life would be in danger in any Penitentiary. I would even be willing to be sent to another country of my choice.

So please contact me as soon as possible, if you are interested.

And please send a copy of this letter to Rev. Jesse Jackson, and to James Earl Rays Attorney in Memphis.

Thank You!

Frank Elliott # 42954
Penitentiary of New Mexico
P.O. Box 1059
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date 1/28/94

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (44-0)

SUBJECT : ~~JAMES EARL RAY;~~ 12B-852-30
~~MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. VICTIM;~~ 12B-852-30 80-247
~~CR - CONSPIRACY~~
~~OO: MEMPHIS~~

Enclosed for Memphis is an original letter dated 1/20/94, addressed to the FBI in Oklahoma City and signed by FRANK ELLIOTT.

Enclosed for the Bureau and Albuquerque Division is one copy each of the above letter by Mr. ELLIOTT.

12B-2510 For information of receiving offices, persons mentioned in ELLIOTT's letter are: PAT URLEY, believed to be PAT EARLY; TOM LESTER PUGH, aka TOM PUGH, LESTER PUGH; JERRY JAMES, believed to be JERRY RAY JAMES, ex FBI Top Ten from 1960's; KIRKSEY NIX, JR., son of the now deceased Oklahoma Appeals Judge, currently serving time in Louisiana for murder; and AL MCDONALD, aka ALBERT MCDONALD, now deceased, also a well known criminal in Oklahoma.

Mr. Kirksey, McCord 12B-2510
 ELLIOTT states in his letter he has attempted to tell his story and to sell his story to many prominent persons without success. His last paragraph set forth what is believed to be ELLIOTT's true motivation: to get out of jail and make a lot of money.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
- 2 - Albuquerque (Enc. 1)
- 2 - Memphis (Enc. 1) (44-1987)
- ② - Oklahoma City

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Approved: _____

Transmitted _____

(Number) (Time)

Searched
 Serialized
 Indexed
 Per Filed

44-0-783(A)

44-0

LEADS

ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION

AT SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO:

Contact and interview ELLIOTT, inmate number 42954,
at New Mexico State Penitentiary.

- 1 -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/22/94

FRANK DEAN ELLIOTT, a white male born on December 30, 1958 at Shawnee, Oklahoma, was interviewed at Penitentiary of New Mexico (PNM), Santa Fe, New Mexico where he is currently serving a life sentence for first degree murder as a transfer inmate from the State of Oklahoma. ELLIOTT, who is incarcerated under PNM Inmate No. 42954, advised that he was sentenced on his current charge at Shawnee, Oklahoma on April 1, 1991 and was transferred from the Oklahoma State Penitentiary (OSP) to PNM on October 23, 1993.

ELLIOTT was advised of the official identity of Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and of the fact that he was being interviewed regarding any information he may have pertaining to the assassination of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. since he indicated in his letter dated January 15, 1994 to DAN WADE, Assignment Editor, KOB Television, Broadcast Plaza, Albuquerque, New Mexico that he did have pertinent information regarding the assassination of Reverend KING. ELLIOTT was advised that this interview was being conducted at the request of the Oklahoma City Division of the FBI after ELLIOTT sent a copy of his foregoing letter to DAN WADE to the Oklahoma City Division of the FBI by cover letter dated January 20, 1994.

The interview with ELLIOTT commenced in the presence of SHANNON MCREYNOLDS, PNM Classification Officer and Case Manager for Housing Unit 2A in the North Facility, the maximum security unit at PNM. MCREYNOLDS was present for security reasons and ELLIOTT, who was acquainted with MCREYNOLDS, agreed to his presence during the interview. ELLIOTT furnished the following information regarding the assassination of Reverend KING.

During the summer of 1993, ELLIOTT, while incarcerated at OSP, was housed in a cell next to another inmate named TOM LESTER PUGH, who was also serving time for murder. During their incarceration next to one another, the television program known as Home Box Office (HBO) featured a program about JAMES EARL RAY and the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. which prompted PUGH to talk to ELLIOTT. ELLIOTT thought that PUGH became sociable with him because PUGH, whom he claimed is homosexual, thought that he and ELLIOTT would later share a cell together. This did not happen, however.

Investigation on 3/17/94 at Santa Fe, New Mexico File # ME 44-1987

by SA [REDACTED] mit

Date dictated 3/21/94

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SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 29 1994	
FBI - OKLAHOMA CITY	

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44-0-783(B)

AQ 44-0
ME 44-1987

Continuation of FD-302 of FRANK DEAN ELLIOTT, On 3/17/94, Page 2

In PUGH's conversations with ELLIOTT, PUGH told him that in either October or November, 1967 he (PUGH) and PAT EARLY or URLEY (phonetic spelling) robbed some businessmen at a poker game which was taking place at a cabin in the Memphis, Tennessee area. The local newspaper said that the robbery occurred at a fish fry but PUGH said it was at a poker game. During the robbery a Rolex watch was stolen from one of the victims. PUGH claimed to have later been interviewed about this robbery by the FBI while in custody in Dallas, Texas.

PUGH told ELLIOTT that during February 1968 he and EARLY went to a gun shop on the west side of the river in Memphis, Tennessee where they purchased a .30 caliber rifle and a 30.06 caliber rifle. According to PUGH, the purpose for purchasing these weapons was to use them to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. when he visited Memphis, Tennessee later that year. PUGH was to plan the assassination and to act as the driver while EARLY was hired as the sharpshooter because of his previous training and shooting experience.

PUGH told him that the persons who contracted PUGH and EARLY to kill KING were unnamed members of the Retail Merchants Association of Memphis, Tennessee. Their reason for wanting KING killed was that local Afro-Americans in Memphis, Tennessee were boycotting local businesses of white merchants due to the civil rights movement in which KING was an instrumental figure.

The person who actually hired PUGH and EARLY to perform the assassination on behalf of the Retail Merchants Association was the business manager for the popular entertainer named JERRY LEE LEWIS. PUGH did not give the name of this individual but said he was the father of LEWIS' 13 year old cousin whom LEWIS married. PUGH was already acquainted with LEWIS' business manager since PUGH had previously committed unnamed crimes for this person.

PUGH told ELLIOTT that after this person hired PUGH and EARLY for the assassination and after they then purchased the two foregoing rifles, PUGH and EARLY thought about their assignment for a few days. PUGH realized that the assassination of KING would be a highly publicized event and that the FBI would be persistent in investigating the case so he told LEWIS' business manager that he and EARLY had changed their minds and would not be carrying out their assignment to assassinate KING.

According to PUGH, LEWIS' business manager then contacted a brother of JAMES EARL RAY, whose name was not given to ELLIOTT by PUGH. RAY's brother reportedly told LEWIS' business manager that his

AQ 44-0
ME 44-1987

Continuation of FD-302 of FRANK DEAN ELLIOTT, On 3/17/94, Page 3

brother, JAMES EARL RAY, would be willing to perform the assassination of KING since JAMES EARL RAY had just recently been released from a penitentiary.

PUGH told ELLIOTT that JAMES EARL RAY, after assassinating Reverend KING and his subsequent conviction, has been unable to tell authorities who was behind the assassination plot because the only contact RAY has had in this matter was his own brother. For this reason, RAY has given the authorities a phony name as his contact person to protect his brother.

SA [REDACTED] asked ELLIOTT if PUGH told him what happened to the two rifles that PUGH and EARLY purchased together to be used in the assassination of KING and he said PUGH did not tell him what happened to these two weapons. ELLIOTT said that he was told that after the killing of KING, JAMES EARL RAY was arrested in another country in possession of \$10,000 cash, a couple of passports and a 30.06 caliber rifle, but he did not know if this rifle was one of the two rifles previously purchased by PUGH.

ELLIOTT said that as he was being furnished this information by PUGH, ELLIOTT asked PUGH where he was when KING was assassinated and PUGH got angry and told ELLIOTT that he would not say anything which would implicate him in this matter. PUGH did not say whether he (PUGH) was in Memphis, Tennessee at the time that Reverend KING was assassinated. ELLIOTT felt that PUGH was being truthful when furnishing the foregoing information to ELLIOTT about the assassination of Reverend KING.

SA [REDACTED] asked ELLIOTT for his motive in sharing this information with authorities and he said he was mainly interested in seeing that justice was done. He said he would be willing to testify in a court of law, if necessary, and hoped that this new account of the assassination of Reverend KING would be pursued by one of the current news story programs such as "Hard Copy," "Current Affair" or "Inside Edition." He said he was not seeking personal financial gain but his only hope was that his mother would receive a small amount of money if his information proved accurate and was pursued by the media.

To his knowledge, PAT EARLY or URLEY is currently incarcerated in a federal prison in the State of Arizona.

AQ 44-0
ME 44-1987

Continuation of FD-302 of FRANK DEAN ELLIOTT, On 3/17/94, Page 4

ELLIOTT furnished the following information regarding
himself:

Name:	FRANK DEAN ELLIOTT
Alias:	Frank Elliott
Sex:	Male
Race:	White
Date of Birth:	[REDACTED]
Place of Birth:	Shawnee, Oklahoma
Height:	5'10"
Weight:	150 Pounds
Hair:	Red
Eyes:	Green
Social Security Account Number:	[REDACTED]

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date 3/22/94

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
 FROM : SAC, ALBUQUERQUE (44-0) (RUC)
 SUBJECT : JAMES EARL RAY; 44-0-783A AB-852-32
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.-VICTIM (DECEASED);
 CR-CONSPIRACY 128-852-32
 OO: MEMPHIS 44-0-783A
 80-247-

Re Oklahoma City airtel to the Bureau dated
 1/28/94.

Enclosed for Memphis is an original and one copy of an FD-302 for interview of FRANK DEAN ELLIOTT at Santa Fe, New Mexico on 3/17/94 along with agent's interview notes. Enclosed for the Bureau and Oklahoma City are one copy each of this FD-302.

While ELLIOTT stated in his letter dated 1/15/94 to KOB Television, Albuquerque, New Mexico that he was aware of other crimes committed by TOM LESTER PUGH and others, Albuquerque has limited its current interview of ELLIOTT to the captioned matter which is being furnished to the Bureau and Memphis for whatever action is deemed necessary. An information copy of ELLIOTT's interview is being furnished to Oklahoma City.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
 2 - Memphis (Enc. 3) (44-1987)
 ② - Oklahoma (Enc. 1) 50
 2 - Albuquerque
 DCJ:mjt
 (8)

SEARCHED INDEXED
 SERIALIZED FILED

MAR 29 1994

Per

Approved: *B m f / 13*

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

FBI - OKLAHOMA CITY

For the information of the Bureau, Memphis and Oklahoma City, U.S. Probation Officer GUNTHER HASELBAUER, Santa Fe, New Mexico, contacted the U.S. Bureau of Prisons at the request of SA [REDACTED] Albuquerque Division, on 3/18/94 and determined that there are currently three federal prisoners named PATRICK EARLY but none are located in federal facilities in the State of Arizona at this time.

JAMES EARL RAY has at least two known brothers. One is JOHN LARRY RAY, DOB [REDACTED] SSAN [REDACTED], FBI #368725A, who is the subject of a case entitled, "JOHN LARRY RAY; FARMERS BANK OF LIBERTY, LIBERTY, ILLINOIS, 5/30/80, BANK ROBBERY, OO: SPRINGFIELD, 91A-SI-8398."

The other brother is JERRY WILLIAM RAY, description unknown, living in Northbrook, Illinois as of 1980.

Albuquerque is placing its case in an RUC status since no further investigation remains in the Albuquerque Division but requests that Albuquerque be provided with information copies of any pertinent developments resulting from the enclosed information provided by FRANK DEAN ELLIOTT.