

JN 157--9586

5

PAT H. THOMPSON
P. O. Box 682
Magee, Mississippi

ED WALTON
State College, Mississippi

LLOYD L. FRITCH
1500 Glem Drive
Amory, Mississippi
(Valley Tractor and Equipment Corporation)

MARIA INGRAM
Route 2
Seminary, Mississippi

THOMAS J. HOBBER
YMCA
Jackson, Mississippi
(1007 Jackson
Corinth, Mississippi)

LAY HINDMAN
Harper Road
Corinth, Mississippi

JENNINGS DAVIS
709 Magnolia
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

PHILIP D. BAILEY
P. O. Box 71
Plantersville, Mississippi
(Brown and Williamson Tobacco Company)
Mississippi license 73-5006

AARON GUTHRIE
Route 1
Burnsville, Mississippi

JN 157-9586

6

JAMES W. PENDERGRAPH
Jeff Davis Hotel
Tupelo, Mississippi

TOMMY SUTTERFIELD
1704 East Church Street
Booneville, Mississippi
Mississippi license 593292

MIKE SIMS
2755 Pine Tree Drive
Jackson, Mississippi

J. T. THOMPSON
212 Summerhaven Drive
Columbus, Mississippi

B. L. McMILLON
Madison, Mississippi

ROBBIE S. RUDDER
614 Browder Street
Columbus, Mississippi
Mississippi license 9-9835

D. ADRIAN WARREN
P. O. Box 2305
Laurel, Mississippi

CHARLES McCARTY
Gardner Center
Laurel, Mississippi

JOHN WILLIS
741 North State Street
Jackson, Mississippi
(Jackson Dental Supplies)

JN 157-9586

7

CLIFF PORTERFIELD
1434 Sunset Circle
Clarksdale, Mississippi
(Coahoma Chemical Company)

W. HAROLD EMERSON
45 Oak Terrace
Webster Groves, Missouri

JACK HUNSTEIN
1177 Glenway Drive
Glendale, Missouri

Mr. and Mrs. FRED L. EASTMAN
3026 Awonda Road
Lima, Ohio

~~GERALD EPGREMON~~
738 Walnut Oak Street
Sand Springs, Oklahoma

J. C. SHOLAR
P. O. Box 17675
Memphis, Tennessee

JAMES HAYNES
528 South Washington
Brownsville, Tennessee
(Major Casket Company)

JAMES WARD
2153 Gayle
Memphis, Tennessee

D. B. COX
Memphis, Tennessee

BILLY WEBB, 1106 Kansas
Memphis, Tennessee

G. C. PYLE
Memphis, Tennessee

J. D. PRIESTER
1391 Laudees
Memphis, Tennessee

CARL ROSSER
4310 Fizer
Memphis, Tennessee

HENRY BLACK
3492 Southland
Memphis, Tennessee

R. B. MULROY
525 St. Nick Drive
Memphis, Tennessee
(George B. Jones and Company)

F. M. GILBREATH
1019 Sandra
Memphis, Tennessee

DANNY BOUCHELLON
718 Madison
Memphis, Tennessee
(George B. Jones and Company)

HOUSTON COUCH
Savannah, Tennessee

MAXINE PIERCE
517 East Heights Street
Lawrenceburg, Tennessee

LARRY MEYLES
1106 Kansas
Memphis, Tennessee

ANN PAWFLY
612 Waring
Memphis, Tennessee

A. D. PIPKIN
2707 McMurray
Memphis, Tennessee
(U.S. Post Office)

J. E. MURRAY
7930 Pipesmont
Houston, Texas
(B & C Construction Company)

GEORGE S. GRAY
1040 Neel Road
Pampa, Texas
Texas license 3PC478

ROBERT C. WALES
Apartment 10, 108 South Bowser Road
Richardson, Texas
Texas license KLG826

Mrs. TED MOODY
Hayward, Wisconsin

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/24/69

1

J. H. WICKER, Manager, No-El Motel, Highway 72 East, Corinth, Mississippi, made available the motel registration records for the period March 29, 1968, through April 3, 1968. The following individuals were registered during this period:

RED SHARP
Scottsboro, Alabama

B. H. PLEMONS
Box 385
Steele, Alabama
Alabama license 59-1044

J. A. SMELLY
Sheffield, Alabama

VERA ELKINS
Jasper, Alabama
(Olen Mills representative)

L. O. ELLIS
Sheffield, Alabama

C. D. WRIGHT
Box 939
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Mr. and Mrs. BILL SALMON
Salmon Lane
Harrison, Arkansas

(name illegible)
3530 Minkolo
Sarasota, Florida

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SEARCHED <u> </u>	INDEXED <u> </u>
SERIALIZED <u> </u>	FILED <u> </u>
MAY 13 1969	
FBI - OKLAHOMA CITY	

194

On 4/14/69 at Corinth, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586

by SA JOHN S. CASTLES /bdb Date dictated 4/18/69

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

44-686-278

D. H. HATOBETT
Bremen, Georgia
Georgia license 64A591

J. L. YOUNG, Jr.
1002 Forrest Boulevard
Decatur, Georgia

WILLIAM R. PARKER
15 Vine Court
Savannah, Georgia
Georgia license 3-D-889

C. S. CARSON and wife
Route 1
Sadorus, Illinois
Illinois license JE1010, Chevrolet

BOB FORMAN
Evansville, Indiana

Miss MARTHA COSCINO
1205 North Rampart
New Orleans, Louisiana
License 38-B-685

BILL and SANDY FERRELL
Route 1
Grand Junction, Michigan

JAMES D. FERRELL
Grand Junction, Michigan

WALTER PICKWICK
20440 Spencer
Detroit, Michigan

Mr. and Mrs. GALE BUTTERFIELD
118 Palmer Street, Northeast
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Michigan license JA45-70

JN 157-9586

3

LOIS HINDMAN
Parker Road
Corinth, Mississippi

JESSIE CLARK
1202 Meggie Street
Tupelo, Mississippi
Mississippi license 21-726

THOMAS R. SMITH
Route 2
Corinth, Mississippi

JOEL EVANS and TOMMY COWART
2212 Bell Avenue
Columbus, Mississippi

GARY LOWE
2212 Bell Avenue
Columbus, Mississippi

SAMMUEL WILLIAMS
805 Cemetery Street
Corinth, Mississippi

C. T. WALKER
1450 West Capitol Street
Jackson, Mississippi
Mississippi license H-44460

BRICKLE
837 Highland Drive
Las Vegas, New Mexico

Mr. and Mrs. LEIGH KETCH
249 Penfield Road
Rochester, New York
New York license MR 866

JN 157-9586

4

PAULINE BULLARD and G. L. LAWSON⁰
208 East 11th
Wewoka, Oklahoma

CHARLES WALTERS
1505 Vera Cruz
Memphis, Tennessee
Arkansas license B122-34

P. E. BENNETT
3730 Earls Court Road
Memphis, Tennessee

CHARLES T. BROWN
950 Runyan Drove
Chattanooga, Tennessee

THOMAS J. MYRICK
4530 Almo
Memphis, Tennessee
Tennessee license KP 1493

DAVID F. NABORS
412 Old Hickory Boulevard
Nashville, Tennessee

W. H. CARLETON
109 Bellevue
Memphis, Tennessee
Tennessee license KW7890

P.A.S. Talen Company, Incorporated
P. O. Box 349
Trenton, Tennessee

TONY WALKER
301 South Royal
Jackson, Tennessee

4/7/69

Airtel

To: SACs, Birmingham (44-1749)
Jackson (157-9586)
Memphis (44-1987)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

William Bradford Huie has written a third article for "Look" magazine. The article appears in the issue dated April 15, 1969, but this issue was circulated on April 1, 1969. A review of the article reveals that James Earl Ray allegedly registered at the Travelodge Motel, Five Points, Birmingham, Alabama, on March 29, 1968; at a motel near Florence, Alabama, on April 1, 1968; and at a motel near Corinth, Mississippi, on April 2, 1968. It is to be noted that Ray, using the name Harvey Lowmyer, negotiated the purchase of a rifle at the Aeromarine Supply Company, Birmingham, Alabama, on March 29 and 30, 1968. On April 3, 1968, he was registered at the Rebel Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.

In an effort to establish whether or not Ray was in contact with any individuals immediately prior to the assassination, appropriate investigation should be conducted by the Birmingham and Jackson Offices. It should be understood that there is to be no indication made whatsoever that the following investigation has any connection whatsoever with the case involving James Earl Ray.

Birmingham and Jackson Offices should make inquiries of the motels in or near the cities indicated above to determine the identities of individuals registered during the period March 29 to April 3, 1968. Efforts should be made to identify all individuals listed, as well as

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 13 1969	
FBI - OKLAHOMA CITY	

Simmons

44-686-279

Airtel SACs, Birmingham, Jackson, Memphis
RE: MURKIN

obtaining descriptions and registrations for the automobiles of such persons. A review of such records might indicate whether any one individual might have accompanied Ray or been in contact with him during this period. Pertinent or questionable registration records should be obtained if possible for examination by the FBI Laboratory.

Memphis should insure that the Bureau is kept currently advised of pertinent developments in this case, particularly all aspects of court action since the death of Judge Battle on March 31, 1969.

F B I

Date: 5/7/69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel, dated 4/7/69; Birmingham airtel to Bureau, dated 4/15/69, and Jackson airtel to Bureau, dated 4/18/69.

2 - Memphis (Enc. 13) (RM)	2 - Minneapolis (Enc. 6) (RM)
2 - Albany (Enc. 2) (RM)	2 - Mobile (Enc. 6) (RM)
2 - Albuquerque (Enc. 2) (RM)	2 - Newark (Enc. 2) (RM)
2 - Atlanta (Enc. 8) (RM)	2 - New Haven (Enc. 2) (RM)
2 - Birmingham (Enc. 10) (RM)	2 - New Orleans (Enc. 6) (RM)
2 - Buffalo (Enc. 2) (RM)	2 - New York (Enc. 4) (RM)
2 - Charlotte (Enc. 3) (RM)	2 - Oklahoma City (Enc. 5) (RM)
2 - Chicago (Enc. 7) (RM)	2 - Omaha (Enc. 7) (RM)
2 - Cincinnati (Enc. 3) (RM)	2 - Philadelphia (Enc. 3) (RM)
2 - Cleveland (Enc. 5) (RM)	2 - Richmond (Enc. 3) (RM)
2 - Columbia (Enc. 5) (RM)	2 - Sacramento (Enc. 3) (RM)
2 - Dallas (Enc. 8) (RM)	2 - St. Louis (Enc. 8) (RM)
2 - Denver (Enc. 4) (RM)	2 - Salt Lake City (Enc. 3) (RM)
2 - Detroit (Enc. 8) (RM)	2 - San Antonio (Enc. 2) (RM)
2 - Houston (Enc. 3) (RM)	2 - San Diego (Enc. 2) (RM)
2 - Indianapolis (Enc. 9) (RM)	2 - Savannah (Enc. 6) (RM)
2 - Jacksonville (Enc. 4) (RM)	2 - Seattle (Enc. 2) (RM)
2 - Kansas City (Enc. 8) (RM)	2 - Springfield (Enc. 10) (RM)
2 - Knoxville (Enc. 6) (RM)	2 - Tampa (Enc. 6) (RM)
2 - Little Rock (Enc. 9) (RM)	2 - Jackson
2 - Los Angeles (Enc. 2) (RM)	JSC:bal
2 - Louisville (Enc. 5) (RM)	(88)
2 - Miami (Enc. 6) (RM)	Re OVA
2 - Milwaukee (Enc. 6) (RM)	T-620

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED <u> ✓ </u>	FILED <u> ✓ </u>
MAY 10 1969	
FBI - OKLAHOMA CITY	

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

44-686-280

JN 157-9586

Enclosed for each office, except for Memphis and Birmingham, is one copy of referenced Bureau airtel, dated 4/7/69.

As directed by Bureau, a review of all motel records for the period March 29, to April 3, 1968, of motels in Corinth, Miss., made and the names of those individuals registered at the motels during this period have been obtained, and their names are revealed on appropriate FD-302s. One copy each of the FD-302s, where appropriate, are being submitted to the appropriate offices, as set out below:

FD-302

Mrs. LOUISE BREWER, Mgr.
Round-Town Motel

Division

Birmingham
Chicago
Dallas
Detroit
Indianapolis
Jacksonville
Kansas City
Little Rock
Louisville
Memphis
Miami
Milwaukee
New York
Omaha
St. Louis
Springfield
Tampa

JN 157-9586

FD-302

Mr. DON M. STRICKLAND, Mgr.,
Holiday Inn Motel

Division

Atlanta	Miami
Birmingham	Minneapolis
Charlotte	Mobile
Chicago	Newark
Cincinnati	New Haven
Columbia	New Orleans
Dallas	New York
Denver	Oklahoma City
Detroit	Omaha
Houston	Philadelphia
Indianapolis	Richmond
Jacksonville	Salt Lake City
Kansas City	Savannah
Knoxville	Seattle
Little Rock	Springfield
Louisville	Tampa
Memphis	

WALTER COUTURE, Mgr.
Cannoneer Motel

Albany	Minneapolis
Atlanta	Mobile
Birmingham	New Orleans
Cincinnati	New York
Denver	Oklahoma City
Detroit	Omaha
Indianapolis	Philadelphia
Kansas City	Sacramento
Knoxville	St. Louis
Memphis	Savannah
Miami	Springfield
Milwaukee	Tampa

JN 157-9586

FD-302

Division

BROOKS PHILLIPS, Owner,
Southern Motel

Atlanta
Birmingham
Charlotte
Chicago
Columbia
Dallas
Kansas City

Little Rock
Louisville
Memphis
Mobile
New Orleans
St. Louis

HOWARD STARNES, Mgr.,
Illinois Motel

Atlanta
Birmingham
Chicago
Cleveland
Dallas
Detroit
Indianapolis
Jacksonville
Kansas City

Knoxville
Little Rock
Memphis
Milwaukee
Mobile
St. Louis
Savannah
Springfield
Tampa

WILLIAM PHILLIPS, Owner,
Phillips Motel

Atlanta
Birmingham
Cleveland
Columbia
Dallas
Detroit
Kansas City
Knoxville

Little Rock
Los Angeles
Memphis
Omaha
Sacramento
St. Louis
San Diego

H. C. FREEMAN, Owner and
Operator, Carona Plaza Motel

Birmingham
Chicago
Cleveland
Dallas
Denver
Houston
Indianapolis
Kansas City
Louisville
Memphis

Miami
Minneapolis
Mobile
Oklahoma City
Omaha
Salt Lake City
San Antonio
Savannah
Springfield

JN 157-9586

FD-302

Division

Mrs. FREDDIE GLOVER, Owner,
Merry Acres Motel

Birmingham
Little Rock
Memphis

Milwaukee
Minneapolis
Springfield

Mrs. BERRY (SHIRLEY) SMITH,
Owner and Manager,
El-Ray Motel

Birmingham
Chicago
Cleveland
Columbia
Dallas
Detroit

Indianapolis
Memphis
Miami
New Orleans
St. Louis
Springfield

Mr. PAUL HAYES, Mgr.,
Dixie Court

Memphis
Milwaukee

J. H. WICKER, Mgr.,
No-El Motel

Albuquerque
Atlanta
Birmingham
Buffalo
Detroit
Indianapolis
Knoxville

Little Rock
Memphis
New Orleans
Oklahoma City
Savannah
Springfield
Tampa

Mrs. G. N. PRUETTE, Owner,
Teetotum Motel

Memphis

Mrs. BERRY (SHIRLEY) SMITH,
Nite-Fall Motel

Atlanta
Indianapolis
Little Rock
Memphis
Minneapolis

Omaha
Richmond
St. Louis
Springfield

JN 157-9586

A Xerox copy of each motel registration has been made by the Jackson Division, and copies of these registrations are being maintained in the bulky exhibit file of Jackson File 157-9586.

It is noted on the registrations that there is registration from Saskatchewan, Canada, at the Round-Town Motel, and a registration from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, at the Holiday Inn, during the pertinent period. It is being left to the discretion of Memphis, the Office of Origin, as to whether appropriate LHM should be submitted to the Bureau to have these individuals identified in Canada.

The names of those individuals appearing on the motel registrations who reside within the Jackson Division are being identified through indices check in the Jackson Office and appropriate credit and criminal being conducted within the cities in which they indicate they reside.

LEADS:

ALL RECEIVING OFFICES

All offices receiving copies of this communication will review the FD-302s which they have received for names of those individuals who reside within their respective divisions and will review the names through the appropriate office indices and will identify the individual through appropriate credit and criminal check, and if deemed advisable, will interview the individual if there is a possibility of any association with JAMES EARL RAY.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC OKLAHOMA CITY (44-686) (P)

DATE: 5/15/69

FROM : SA J. A. GRIMES

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel, 4/7/69, to Birmingham; and Jackson airtel to Memphis, 5/7/69.

Referenced Bureau airtel reflects that one WILLIAM BRADFORD HULE has written a third article for "Look" magazine and in this article indicates that JAMES EARL RAY allegedly registered at various motels in Alabama and Mississippi during the period March 29, 1968, to April 2, 1968. One of the motels allegedly registered at during this period was a motel located near Corinth, Mississippi. The Bureau instructed that appropriate investigation be conducted to establish whether or not RAY was in contact with any individual immediately prior to the assassination and instructed that in this investigation there is to be no indication made whatsoever that the investigation has any connection with the case involving JAMES EARL RAY.

The Jackson Office conducted appropriate investigation and identified individuals registered at various motels in the Corinth, Mississippi, area for the period March 29, through April 3, 1968. A review of the records by the Jackson Office at the following motels reflected individuals from Oklahoma registered during the above period.

NO - EL Motel, Highway 72 East, Corinth, Mississippi

PAULINE BULLARD and G. L. LAWSON
208 East 11th, Wewoka, Oklahoma

Corona Plaza Motel, Highways 72 and 45, Corinth, Miss.

GERALD EPGREMON, 738 Walnut Oak Street, Sand Springs, Oklahoma

JAG:ow
(5)



5010-108-02

Murkin
Lead
File

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 15 1969	
FBI - OKLAHOMA CITY	

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

44-686-281

Cannoneer Motel, Highway 45 South, Corinth, Miss.

R. E. GARLINGTON, 5928 East 36th Street, Tulsa,
Oklahoma, Oklahoma license ZA7535

Holiday Inn, Highway 72 West, Corinth, Mississippi

HAZEL N. SHINN, 1000 Cherokee, P. O. Box 322,
Grove, Oklahoma

Mrs. E. H. YEAGER, 2627 S. Winston, Tulsa,
Oklahoma, South Carolina license E52279,
Impala Chevrolet

RICHARD L. PEARSON, 1611 Riverside Drive, Tulsa,
Oklahoma, Oklahoma license ZF5337, Oldsmobile

Jackson instructed that the individuals registered at the motels set forth above be reviewed through office indices and the individual identified through appropriate credit and criminal checks and if deemed advisable, interview the individual if there is a possibility of any association with JAMES EARL RAY. The indices of the Oklahoma City Office are negative regarding individuals listed above. In the event it is deemed necessary to interview an individual to determine if there is a possibility of association with JAMES EARL RAY, such interview should not be conducted in any manner to indicate this investigation has any connection with the JAMES EARL RAY case. It is suggested a suitable pretext be used in order to ascertain the reason for the individual's presence in the Corinth, Mississippi, area and specifically at the motel where they are known to have been registered.

LEADS

OKLAHOMA CITY DIVISION

At Tulsa, Oklahoma

Conduct appropriate investigation re R. E. GARLINGTON;
Mrs. E. H. YEAGER and RICHARD L. PEARSON.

At Grove, Oklahoma

Conduct appropriate investigation re HAZEL N. SHINN.

At Wewoka, Oklahoma

Conduct appropriate investigation re PAULINE BULLARD and
G. L. LAWSON.

F B I

Date: 5/14/69

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN 44-686
44-1987-1001

By airtel dated 4/7/69, the Bureau advised that in a third "Look" magazine article, WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE stated that JAMES EARL RAY had spent the night of 4/2/68 in a motel near Corinth, Miss. The Bureau instructed Jackson to review motel records in and around Corinth to determine the identities of individuals registered there during the period 3/29/68 to 4/3/68. By airtel dated 4/18/69, the Jackson Office advised the Bureau that motel records at Corinth, Miss., had been reviewed under the subject's true name and aliases and had been reviewed for subject's Alabama license number. Nothing identifiable with the subject was located.

2 - Bureau
2 - Albany
2 - Albuquerque
2 - Atlanta
2 - Birmingham
2 - Buffalo
2 - Charlotte
2 - Chicago
2 - Cincinnati
2 - Cleveland
2 - Columbia
2 - Dallas
2 - Denver
2 - Detroit
2 - Houston
2 - Indianapolis
2 - Jackson
2 - Jacksonville
2 - Kansas City
2 - Knoxville
2 - Little Rock
2 - Los Angeles
2 - Louisville

2 - Miami
2 - Milwaukee
2 - Minneapolis
2 - Mobile
2 - Newark
2 - New Haven
2 - New Orleans
2 - New York
2 - Oklahoma City
2 - Omaha
2 - Philadelphia
2 - Richmond
2 - Sacramento
2 - St. Louis
2 - Salt Lake City
2 - San Antonio
2 - San Diego
2 - Savannah
2 - Seattle
2 - Springfield
2 - Tampa
2 - Memphis

JCH:jap

FILE STRIPPED
DATE 10-12-77
INITIALS [signature]

SEARCHED ☒ INDEXED ☒
SERIALIZED ☒ FILED ☒
MAY 1 3 1964
FBI - OKLAHOMA

Approved: R. J. Jensen
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

44-686-282

ME 44-1987

By airtel dated 5/7/69, copies of which were not furnished the Bureau, the Jackson Office set out leads for those offices to whom copies of this communication are designated. These offices have been requested to interview several hundred persons who spent the night in motels at Corinth, Miss., on or about 4/2/68.

In view of the fact that more than a year has passed since these persons stayed over night at Corinth, and since similar investigation of this type in this case has previously been unproductive, and since HUIE has admitted that RAY frequently is untruthful in statements to him, and further since it is not believed that it is of any particular importance to establish whether or not JAMES EARL RAY stayed over night at Corinth on 4/2/68, all offices will disregard the leads set out in Jackson airtel dated 5/7/69, unless specifically advised by the Bureau to cover same.

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

12/26/72

SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696)

MURKIN - 44-686 (4/68)
44-60-198 (4/68)

On 12/24/72, at approximately 9:34 AM, the Chattanooga, Tennessee, telephone security operator telephonically advised the Security Patrol Clerk RONALD CRUM of the Knoxville Office that one of the Chattanooga telephone operators had on that date received a call from Tulsa, Oklahoma, from an unknown person. The person calling stated that a Dr. W. R. REID (phonetic) of Tulsa, Oklahoma, knew all about Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S death and stated that it would be worth while to notify the FBI and have it investigated. No reason was given by the caller for not contacting the FBI directly.

W.R. Reid 87-6589 (4/68)

This is furnished for possible information.

2 - Memphis
① - Oklahoma City
1 - Knoxville

WFE/wsw
(4)

KRM

SEARCHED <i>W</i>	INDEXED <i>W</i>
SERIALIZED <i>W</i>	FILED <i>W</i>
DEC 29 1972	
FBI - OKLAHOMA CITY	

James

44-686-283

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)
ATTENTION: Deputy Assistant Director
INGRAM, INTD

8/6/76

SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (100-7259) -RUC-

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
BUDED: 8/9/76

Re Bureau teletypes to all SACs, 7/29 and 7/30/76.

Enclosed for the Bureau is one xerox copy of entire serials that have not been previously furnished the Bureau in case entitled "MURKIN" as instructed in above referenced teletypes. Those serials which have been previously furnished the Bureau will consist of page one only of that individual serial.

Oklahoma City "MURKIN" files consist of 350 serials which have been xeroxed and 27 1-A items which are described as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Date Serialized</u>	<u>Present Location</u>
1) Photograph of T-shirt and shorts bearing laundry mark 02B-6	4/15/68	44-686-1A
2) Negative and prints of Minneapolis suspect	4/19/68	"
3) Negative and prints of Birmingham suspect	4/19/68	"
4) Standup photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and WALTER TERRY RIFE	4/22/68	"
5) Photograph of WALTER TERRY RIFE, dated 3/28/55	4/22/68	"
6) Photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, dated 3/17/60	4/22/68	"

3 - Bureau (Enc. 350)
2 - Oklahoma City
(1 - 100-7259)
(1 - 44-686) (MURKIN)

WRM:pwg

(5)

OC 100-7259

<u>Item</u>	<u>Date Serialized</u>	<u>Present Location</u>
7) Photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, dated 9/8/66	4/22/68	44-686-1A
8) Copy of 1960 photograph of JAMES EARL RAY	4/22/68	"
9) Photograph of JESSE HENRY HACKNEY	4/25/68	OC 26-36241
10) Photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, dated 1/4/66	4/26/68	44-686-1A
11) Photographs taken by woman companion of subject while he was in Mexico in the fall of 1967. (See OC 44-686-129)	4/20/68	"
12) Registration cards and three room service tickets "RICHARD BURNS"	4/22/68	Returned to contributor 4/29/68
13) Photographs of subject taken by a woman companion while he was in Mexico in the fall of 1967. (See OC 44-686-119)	4/30/68	44-686-1A
14) Photograph of ROBERT DALE PORTER	5/1/68	"
15) 7 x 10 photographs of JAMES EARL RAY	5/2/68	"
16) Slides of JAMES EARL RAY	5/2/68	"
17) Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, aka ERIC S. GALT, fall 1967	5/7/68	"
18) Two pieces of paper with sample of laundry marking	4/23/68	Sent to FBI Laboratory 4/24/68

OC 100-7259

<u>Item</u>	<u>Date Serialized</u>	<u>Present Location</u>
19) Cloth with sample of symbol 20R-3	4/23/68	Sent to FBI Laboratory 4/24/68
20) Photograph of JAMES EARL RAY	5/9/68	44-686-1A
21) Photograph of laundry marks on shirt and bed linen for subject	5/15/68	"
22) Notes of SA WILLIAM R. FARRIS, OC Division on contacts regarding laundry mark	5/21/68	"
23) Notes of SA FARRIS on contact made to locate (FNU) LOWMEYER, (FNU) LOWMYER, and ERIC S. GALT	5/21/68	"
24) Notes of SA FARRIS on work done regarding suspect CHRISTOPHER A. DIGUILIS	5/21/68	"
25) Photograph of PAUL OSBORN BRIDGEMAN	6/12/68	"
26) Photograph of JACQUELINE "JACKIE" KLINE	6/12/68	"
27) Interview log regarding JOSEPH SEIBERT	6/25/68	"

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

VIA ENCIPHERED TELETYPEDate 8/17/78

FM OKLAHOMA CITY (44-686)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

JAMES EARL RAY; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM. CR MATTER.

FOR INFO BUREAU, ROY K. MOORE, AN ATTORNEY OF GOOD REPUTATION FROM LAWTON, OKLA., TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THAT HE HAD BEEN WATCHING THE TELEVISED PROCEEDINGS TODAY REGARDING JAMES EARL RAY'S TESTIMONY. HE NOTED THAT RAY COULD NOT ACCOUNT FOR HIS TIME FOR SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF KING.

MOORE STATED HE IS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH A LAWTON REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER, CARL STEPHENS, WHO HAS TOLD HIM ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF KING, HE ENCOUNTERED A MAN CLOSELY RESEMBLING JAMES EARL RAY ON HIS PROPERTY NEAR A LAKE OUTSIDE OF LAWTON, OKLA. HE DESCRIBED THIS INDIVIDUAL AS WELL DRESSED AND DRIVING A THUNDERBIRD AUTOMOBILE. MOORE ADVISED THAT STEPHENS IS

HHB:psb

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Searched CC
Serialized CC
Indexed CC
Filed CC

Approved: OBR/40Transmitted 06035422923402
(Number) (Time)Per RJP

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date _____

PAGE TWO. OC 44-686 UNCLAS

CONVINCED THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL IS IDENTICAL TO RAY.

MOORE STATED THAT STEPHENS IS RESIDING FOR THE SUMMER
IN DETROIT LAKES, MICHIGAN, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, TELEPHONE
218/847-2332.

NO LEADS ARE BEING SET FORTH IN THIS MATTER BY THE OKLA.
CITY DIVISION SINCE THE PERTINENCE OF THE INFORMATION IS UNKNOWN
TO THE OKLA. CITY DIVISION AND IS BEING FURNISHED TO THE
BUREAU FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.

BT

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Approved: _____

Transmitted _____
(Number) (Time)

Per _____

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

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FM OKLAHOMA CITY (44-686)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

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File
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44-686-285

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BT

KC0017 2340127Z

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DE KC

O 212330Z AUG 78

FM KANSAS CITY (44-760) P

TO DIRECTOR (44-3886L) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB M) IMMEDIATE

OKLAHOMA CITY (IMMEDIATE) OCI #758

ST. LOUIS (IMMEDIATE)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND KANSAS CITY,
AUGUST 21, 1978, AND ME TELCAL TO KC SAME DATE.

FOR INFO OF OKLAHOMA CITY AND ST. LOUIS, A SYNOPSIS
OF REFERENCED TELETYPE IS AS FOLLOWS:

ON AUGUST 19, 1978, ONE BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, BORN
AUGUST 28, 1934, AT MISSISSIPPI, 5'11", BROWN EYES, BROWN
HAIR, FBI NO. 879 421 E, WAS INTERVIEWED BY AGENTS OF THE
JACKSON OFFICE AT GULF PORT, MISSISSIPPI. WILSON TOLD

*2 Advised
7:00 AM
8/22/78*

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PAGE TWO, KC 44-760, UNCLAS EFTO

INTERVIEWING AGENTS THAT HE HAD SHOT AND KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. AMONG OTHER INFORMATION WHICH WILSON FURNISHED TO THE INTERVIEWING AGENTS, WILSON ADVISED THAT DURING THE PERIOD IN WHICH HE SHOT AND KILLED KING HE RESIDED AT 13125 HERRICK AVENUE, GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, AND THAT HE WAS AT THAT TIME IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVES, RICHARDS GEBUR AFB, EMPLOYED AS A CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE.

WILSON ALSO STATED THAT AT THE TIME OF KING'S DEATH, HE HAD OWNED A RED AND WHITE BONANZA AIRPLANE, REGISTRY NUMBER 34L, AND A CESSNA 310 TWIN-ENGINE BLUE AND WHITE AIRCRAFT. WILSON PROVIDED THE IDENTITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL FROM WHOM HE HAD PURCHASED ONE OF THESE PLANES, THE BONANZA, AS BEING (FNU) FISHER. _____

INVESTIGATION AT KANSAS CITY DIVISION REGARDING THESE PERTINENT BITS OF INFORMATION FURNISHED BY WILSON HAS YIELDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

IN REVIEW OF THE 1969 COLE'S DIRECTORY, KANSAS CITY, DISCLOSED THAT WILSON WAS SUBSCRIBER TO PHONE NUMBER 601-6526 AT 13125 HERRICK AVENUE, GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI.

PAGE THREE, KC 44-760, UNCLAS EFTO

INDICES, COMPUTER CRIMINAL HISTORY, AND THE LOCAL CRIMINAL HISTORY WERE CHECKED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION WITH THE GRANDVIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT INDICATED THAT THE ONLY RECORD, CRIMINAL, TRAFFIC, OR MISCELLANEOUS, THAT WILSON HAD WAS A VIOLATION ON 8/9/69 FOR NOT DISPLAYING A CITY STICKER. WILSON PAID THE FINE ON 8/26/69.

DON FISHER, FISHER SALES AND SERVICES, LEAWOOD, KANSAS, WAS CONTACTED AND INDICATED HE BOUGHT THE STATE LINE AIRPORT, LEAWOOD, KANSAS, IN 1964. FISHER REMEMBERS THE SALE OF A MODEL G, NUMBER 56 BONANZA TO WILSON. HE SAID HE DOES NOT REMEMBER THE PARTICULAR DATE. HE SAID HE REMEMBERS THE SALE BECAUSE HE PURCHASED THE PLANE FROM A.C.C. MILLER, A RETIRED EXECUTIVE WITH WESTERN AUTO PARTS. HE SAID MILLER BASED THE PLANE AT STATE LINE AIRPORT UNTIL HE BOUGHT THE PLANE FROM MILLER. HE SAID HE THEN SOLD THE PLANE TO WILSON. FISHER SAID ALL THE RECORDS PERTAINING TO THIS PURCHASE WERE DESTROYED IN A FIRE LAST YEAR. FISHER THINKS THAT WILSON

PAGE FOUR, KC 44-760, UNCLAS EFTO

FINANCED THE PLANE AT JOHNSON COUNTY BANK, AND BELIEVES THAT WILSON HAD A PARTNER. FISHER RECALLS THE NAME OF LOU CREWS, WHO OWNS LOU CREWS JEWELERS, GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI.

FISHER INDICATED THAT THE AIRPORT KEEPS NO RECORDS OF LANDINGS OR TAKE-OFFS OF AIRCRAFTS. FISHER ALSO BELIEVES THAT WILSON WAS A SHRINER AND THAT HE DRANK A LOT.

REVIEW OF CURRENT DIRECTORIES, AN INQUIRY OF INFORMATION FOR BELTON, MISSOURI, GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, RAYMORE, MISSOURI, AND PECULIAR, MISSOURI, FOR A WILBUR JEWELERS PROVED NEGATIVE, ALL POSSIBLE SPELLINGS FOR WILBUR WERE SEARCHED.

RICHARDS-GEBAUR AIR BASE WAS CONTACTED AND INDICATED THAT ALL RECORDS OF PAST EMPLOYEES ARE STORED AT THE RECORDS CENTER, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, TELEPHONE 314-268-7243.

KANSAS CITY PHONE COMPANY INDICATED THAT RECORDS FOR THE PERIOD IN QUESTION HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

ST. LOUIS AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, WILL CHECK RECORDS AT MILITARY RECORDS CENTER FOR ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION REGARDING WILSONS EMPLOYMENT AT RICHARDS-GEBAUR AIR BASE DURING APRIL 1968. PARTICULARLY PAYING ATTENTION IF WILSON WAS EMPLOYED

PAGE FIVE, KC 44-760, UNCLAS EFTO
AND PRESENT ON APRIL 4, 1968.

✓ OKLAHOMA CITY AT OKLAHOMA CITY, WILL CONTACT FAA
RECORDS CENTER AND WILL PERFORM A COMPLETE TITLE SEARCH
FOR BONANZA PLANE, REGISTRY NUMBER 34L. ADDITIONALLY,
WILL DETERMINE CURRENT OWNER AND WILL SET OUT LEADS TO
APPROPRIATE FIELD OFFICE TO CONTACT OWNER FOR REVIEW OF
PLANE LOG BOOK WHICH SHOULD REVEAL DISPOSITION OF PLANE
DURING PERIOD IN QUESTION.

MEMPHIS AT MEMPHIS, CONSIDER OBTAINING PILOTS LOG BOOK
OF WILSON WHICH COULD REVEAL FLIGHT ACTIVITY OF WILSON DURING
PERIOD IN QUESTION.

KANSAS CITY AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, WILL CONTACT THE
APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AT JOHNSON COUNTY BANK AND OBTAIN ANY
PERTINENT INFORMATION REGARDING THE FINANCING OF THE BONANZA
PLANE. (2) WILL PERFORM CREDIT CHECK AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
TO DETERMINE PAST EMPLOYMENT OF WILSON.

AT GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI; WILL ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN
WILSON'S CONNECTION WITH KATZ DEPARTMENT STORE OF GRANDVIEW.
(2) CONTACT LOU CREWS AND ASCERTAIN CREWS' RELATIONSHIP WITH

PAGE SIX, KC-44-762, UNCLAS EFTO

WILSON. (3) WILL ATTEMPT THROUGH FORMER NEIGHBORS AND ASSOCIATES, TO ESTABLISH WILSONS WHEREABOUTS DURING CRITICAL PERIOD, APRIL 1968. (4) WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE EXISTANCE OF JULIE TRADE SHOP ON WALNUT STREET TO ESTABLISH EXISTANCE OF INDIVIDUAL AS DESCRIBED BY WILSON IN RE TEL.

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FM KANSAS CITY (44-760) P

TO DIRECTOR (44-3886L) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB M) IMMEDIATE

OKLAHOMA CITY (IMMEDIATE)

ST. LOUIS (IMMEDIATE)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND KANSAS CITY,
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FBI-OKLAHOMA CITY	

[Signature]

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PAGE TWO, KC 44-760, UNCLAS EFTO

INTERVIEWING AGENTS THAT HE HAD SHOT AND KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. AMONG OTHER INFORMATION WHICH WILSON FURNISHED TO THE INTERVIEWING AGENTS, WILSON ADVISED THAT DURING THE PERIOD IN WHICH HE SHOT AND KILLED KING HE RESIDED AT 13125 HERRICK AVENUE, GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, AND THAT HE WAS AT THAT TIME IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVES, RICHARDS GEBEUR AFB, EMPLOYED AS A CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE.

WILSON ALSO STATED THAT AT THE TIME OF KING'S DEATH, HE HAD OWNED A RED AND WHITE BONANZA AIRPLANE, REGISTRY NUMBER 34L, AND A CESSNA 310 TWIN-ENGINE BLUE AND WHITE AIRCRAFT. WILSON PROVIDED THE IDENTITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL FROM WHOM HE HAD PURCHASED ONE OF THESE PLANES, THE BONANZA, AS BEING (FNU) FISHER.

INVESTIGATION AT KANSAS CITY DIVISION REGARDING THESE PERTINENT BITS OF INFORMATION FURNISHED BY WILSON HAS YIELDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

IN REVIEW OF THE 1969 COLE'S DIRECTORY, KANSAS CITY, DISCLOSED THAT WILSON WAS SUBSCRIBER TO PHONE NUMBER SO1-6526 AT 13125 HERRICK AVENUE, GRADVIEW, MISSOURI.

PAGE THREE, KC 44-760, UNCLAS EFTO

INDICES, COMPUTER CRIMINAL HISTORY, AND THE LOCAL CRIMINAL HISTORY WERE CHECKED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. FURTHER INVESTIGATION WITH THE GRANDVIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT INDICATED THAT THE ONLY RECORD, CRIMINAL, TRAFFIC, OR MISCELLANEOUS, THAT WILSON HAD WAS A VIOLATION ON 8/9/69 FOR NOT DISPLAYING A CITY STICKER. WILSON PAID THE FINE ON 8/26/69.

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ST. LOUIS AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, WILL CHECK RECORDS AT MILITARY RECORDS CENTER FOR ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION REGARDING WILSONS EMPLOYMENT AT RICHARDS-GEBAUR AIR BASE DURING APRIL 1968. PARTICULARLY PAYING ATTENTION IF WILSON WAS EMPLOYED

PAGE FIVE, KC 44-768, UNCLAS EFTO

AND PRESENT ON APRIL 4, 1968.

OKLAHOMA CITY AT OKLAHOMA CITY, WILL CONTACT FAA RECORDS CENTER AND WILL PERFORM A COMPLETE TITLE SEARCH FOR BONANZA PLANE, REGISTRY NUMBER 34L. ADDITIONALLY, WILL DETERMINE CURRENT OWNER AND WILL SET OUT LEADS TO APPROPRIATE FIELD OFFICE TO CONTACT OWNER FOR REVIEW OF PLANE LOG BOOK WHICH SHOULD REVEAL DISPOSITION OF PLANE DURING PERIOD IN QUESTION.

MEMPHIS AT MEMPHIS, CONSIDER OBTAINING PILOTS LOG BOOK OF WILSON WHICH COULD REVEAL FLIGHT ACTIVITY OF WILSON DURING PERIOD IN QUESTION.

KANSAS CITY AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, WILL CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AT JOHNSON COUNTY BANK AND OBTAIN ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION REGARDING THE FINANCING OF THE BONANZA PLANE. (2) WILL PERFORM CREDIT CHECK AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI TO DETERMINE PAST EMPLOYMENT OF WILSON.

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PAGE SIX, KC 44-760, UNCLAS EFTO

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BT

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OC ANOTHER RELAY JUST CAME IN SO I HAVE THREE FOR U

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PP BH CG DL HO JN KC ME OC SL SA

DE HQ 0083 2350224

ZNR UUUUU

P 222206Z AUG 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

TO FBI BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

FBI CHICAGO PRIORITY

FBI DALLAS PRIORITY

FBI HOUSTON PRIORITY

FBI JACKSON PRIORITY

FBI KANSAS CITY PRIORITY

FBI MEMPHIS PRIORITY

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY PRIORITY

FBI SAN ANTONIO PRIORITY

FBI ST. LOUIS PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

MURKIN

44-686

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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AUG 23 1978	
FBI-OKLAHOMA CITY	

[Handwritten signature]

EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION HAS ALREADY BEEN CONDUCTED TO
RESOLVE THE ALLEGATION BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON THAT HE
ASSASSINATED MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND TO DETERMINE

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PAGE TWO DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

WILSON'S WHEREABOUTS ON APRIL 4, 1968, THE DAY KING WAS ASSASSINATED. IN ADDITION, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, THE FOLLOWING OFFICES SHOULD CONDUCT THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION:

SAN ANTONIO:

WILSON ALLEGED ON AN UNSPECIFIED DATE MITCH (LNU) FURNISHED HIM A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY USED TO SHOOT KING. DEBRA JONES, DAUGHTER, ADVISED HE WAS ARRESTED ABOUT FOUR AND ONE HALF YEARS AGO AT BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, WHILE INTOXICATED AFTER HAVING MADE THREATS TO KILL HIS WIFE, AND THE POLICE FOUND A RIFLE IN HIS CAR.

SAN ANTONIO AT BROWNSVILLE, OBTAIN DETAILS OF THIS ARREST, AND OBTAIN ANY DESCRIPTION OF RIFLE REPORTEDLY LOCATED BY POLICE.

JACKSON:

APPARENTLY REFERRING TO A SKETCH OF KING'S KILLER, WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS (WORKING ASSOCIATES IN OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI) THAT IT WAS ALMOST AN EXACT LIKENESS OF HIM AND BECAUSE IT WAS RECENTLY SHOWN ON TV, HE DECIDED TO TURN HIMSELF IN. WILSON SAID HE HAS A SISTER IN FULTON, MISSISSIPPI,

PAGE THREE DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

WHO TELEPHONED HIM IN OCEAN SPRINGS TO SAY THAT THE SKETCH LOOKED JUST LIKE HIM.

JACKSON, IN YOUR ATTEMPT TO LOCATE CHRISTINE WILSON, SISTER, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, ALSO INTERVIEW HER RE ALLEGED CALL RE SKETCH DESCRIBED ABOVE.

MEMPHIS:

WILSON ADVISED THE TWO WHITE MALES IN MEMPHIS TOOK HIM TO A HOTEL ON SOUTH MAIN STREET NEAR BEALE STREET AND TOOK HIM TO A ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR. MEMPHIS ADVISE PROXIMITY OF THIS ADDRESS TO ACTUAL KING ASSASSINATION LOCATION.

OPAL HOOTEN, MOTHER OF BETTY LOU WADE, WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH SPECIFIC DATES OF VISITS OF BETTY AND DEBRA, HOWEVER, WOULD CHECK FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS. DEBRA ALSO STATED WHILE HER MOTHER BETTY AND HER WERE IN MEMPHIS VISITING HOOTENS AT TIME KING WAS ASSASSINATED, BETTY CALLED WILSON IN KANSAS CITY AT LEAST TWO TIMES.

MEMPHIS FOLLOW STATUS OF HOOTEN LOCATING FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS, AND DETERMINE WHETHER SHE HAS ANY TELEPHONE RECORDS, OR IF SAME ARE AVAILABLE AT TELEPHONE COMPANY, SHOWING ANY CALLS TO KANSAS CITY, OR GRANDVIEW AREA, DURING PERIOD OF

PAGE FOUR DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

APRIL, 1968.

ALL RECIPIENT OFFICES:

SUTEL SUMMARY RESULTS OF ANY INVESTIGATION STILL
OUTSTANDING, AND PROMPTLY SUBMIT REPORTS REPORTING ALL
INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED RE WILSON'S ALLEGATION, DESIGNATING
4 COPIES TO BUREAU, AND 3 TO MEMPHIS, WITH COPY DESIGNATED
FOR USA MEMPHIS.

BT

0083

NNNN

OC ANOTHER RELAY JUST CAME IN SO I HAVE THREE FOR U

VZCZCHQ0083

PP BH CG DL HO JN KC ME OC SL SA

DE HQ 0083 2350224

ZNR UUUUU

P 222206Z AUG 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

TO FBI BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

FBI CHICAGO PRIORITY

FBI DALLAS PRIORITY

FBI HOUSTON PRIORITY

FBI JACKSON PRIORITY

FBI KANSAS CITY PRIORITY

FBI MEMPHIS PRIORITY

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY PRIORITY

FBI SAN ANTONIO PRIORITY

FBI ST. LOUIS PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

MURKIN

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FBI-OKLAHOMA CITY	

[Signature]

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PAGE THREE DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

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PAGE FOUR DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

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4 COPIES TO BUREAU, AND 3 TO MEMPHIS, WITH COPY DESIGNATED
FOR USA MEMPHIS.

BT

0083

NNNN

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Assassination Theatre

JUDGED on its success in shedding new light on the murders of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. the House Assassination Committee has been an expensive turkey from the start. But it has provided some good theatre and some interesting copy for news media during an otherwise dull Washington summer.

As an entertainment production, the inquiry probably peaked this week with the performance of James Earl Ray, who once confessed to the murder of Dr. King but later changed his mind.

There is nothing new about this. But the committee did liven up its own proceedings by hauling in Ray and letting him repeat his recantation and his latest version of the crime for the cameras.

There is overwhelming proof that Ray bought the murder weapon. Witnesses have placed him at the rooming house from which the fatal shot was fired. His fingerprints were found on the rifle after the slaying. A reasonable person might entertain some small doubt that Ray actually pulled the trigger. But there is no doubt whatever that he took part in the killing, at least as an accomplice. So any protestation that Ray is "innocent" has to be treated as a bad taste joke.

But there remain a lot of important, unanswered questions surrounding the King assassination?

Did Ray act alone? Was he a hired killer? Who, if anyone, gave him money and other assistance making good his initial

escape?

Unfortunately, any answer that Ray himself might give to any of these questions must be treated as perfectly worthless unless it is corroborated by other witnesses. As the Rev. Jesse Jackson pointed out in a recent interview, Ray is an habitual liar. And he has a good motive for lying now.

Many civil rights leaders are emotionally committed to the possibility that the FBI may have been involved. This theory is not supported by a single fact or piece of believable evidence. But black leaders remember that the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover disliked King and did a number of things to besmirch his reputation. In their minds, it follows that Hoover may have stooped to murder.

If Ray could convince respectable black leaders that he is innocent and that the FBI may have had a role in the murder, he would acquire some powerful allies in his effort to switch the blame for the crime.

But Ray's problem is that there are no facts and no evidence to support his latest version of the King murder.

Ray's case is also hurt by the fact that his lawyer, Mark Lane, has a vested interest in the matter that goes beyond the guilt or innocence of his client. Lane has made a fortune peddling various conspiracy theories about the King and Kennedy murders. Anything he says or does has to be judged in that light.

So far, the assassination probe has cost \$2 million. Taxpayers haven't gotten anything much for their money.

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