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File No. 44-561-1A72

Date Received 8/18/78

From Robert Howerton

State Attorney Williamson
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

Marion, Ill.
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

James Rogers
(CITY AND STATE)

James Rogers
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes

Receipt Given ☐ Yes

☒ No

☒ No

Description:

*Copy of statement of
Shirley & Eugene Cox*

About noon on the day after
Martin Luther King was assassinated,
we (Eugene Cox and Shirley Cox,
402 South Market Street, Marion,
Illinois) left the Memphis International
Airport on a multiple lane highway.
At the intersection of routes 78 and 51,
Eugene Cox slowed down to stop
at a red light, the radio was on
and we heard ^{the police} the police were looking
for a white Mustang, we heard
a car horn honking behind us.
We both saw a white Mustang ^{about a block behind}
weaving in and out of traffic. The ^{etc.}
white Mustang occurred to our left
and ran the red light as a
National Guard truck approached
this intersection from our right.
Shirley Cox turned and watched
the driver of the white Mustang
come up behind us and pass
by on our left. The white Mustang
was driving fast probably about
60 miles an hour, went 3 or four
blocks and made a right hand
turn. The white Mustang was
going so fast that he drove up
through a filling station driveway
to make the right hand turn. We
do not recall what the name of the
filling station was, only that it
was a national brand gas station.
We had tried to get the attention
of the National Guardsmen in the
Army vehicle, but to no avail.
Witnessed: Shirley Cox Eugene Cox
Ronald N. Lee

Between 4 and 6 PM that same day we stopped for dinner at the St. Petite New Orleans Club in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Eugene Cox telephoned to the Memphis Police Department and told them that we had seen a white Mustang being driven erratically while we were in Memphis. The police officer did not seem too interested. We returned to our home in Marion, Illinois that evening. The following day we saw the composite drawing of the suspect slayer of Martin Luther King in the St. Louis Globe Democrat. Shirley Cox stated that the composite drawing was that of the driver of the white Mustang in Memphis. Eugene Cox only had a sideview of the driver of the white Mustang as he passed by us. We want to make this statement because we have watched James Earl Ray on television and knew that he has not truthfully accounted for his whereabouts on the day following Martin Luther King's assassination.

Witness: Robert Lee
Ronald H. Lee

Shirley
E. L. Cox
August 18, 1978