

her about her decision about noon, April 4, 1968.

Shortly after Dr. KING left Room 201, Mrs. WARD joined Mrs. DAVIS in Room 201 where they had coffee and conversed until about noon when Mrs. WARD left. About 1 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. Dr. KING returned to Room 201 and advised Mrs. DAVIS that he needed to relax for a short while and left Room 306 so as not to be bothered unless important matters occurred. From Room 201 Dr. KING phoned Room 306 and spoke with Rev. LEE advising Rev. LEE as to his whereabouts and informed Rev. LEE he did not want to be disturbed unless it was an important matter. While in Room 201 on this occasion Dr. KING made several phone calls using a credit card. Mrs. DAVIS recalls that Dr. KING phoned his secretary, DORA McDONALD, in Atlanta, Georgia, and also made a call to New York, identity of person called not specifically remembered by Mrs. DAVIS, but possibly being a STAN LEVINSON (phonetic) or a (First Name Unknown) WACHTEL (phonetic) as Mrs. DAVIS had heard Dr. KING speak of these individuals.

Thereafter as Dr. KING was just dialing his mother in Atlanta, Georgia, Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING came into Room 201 and Dr. KING and Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING conversed with their mother telephonically for a few minutes. About 45 minutes later Revs. ABERNATHY and LEE came to Room 201 and Mrs. DAVIS then phoned Mrs. WARD and invited her to Room 201. Mrs. WARD did come to Room 201.

Shortly after Mrs. WARD's arrival in Room 201, Mrs. WARD left to pick up some cleaning for Mrs. DAVIS at a laundry and dry cleaning store, name not recalled, located at Beale and Third Streets in Memphis. Mrs. WARD had taken the cleaning to this location earlier on April 4, 1968, for Mrs. DAVIS, probably about 10 a.m. and as Mrs. DAVIS recalls, she had been accompanied on that occasion by Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING.

During the absence of Mrs. WARD from Room 201, CHAUNCEY ESKRIDGE, the attorney from Chicago, and Rev. ANDREW YOUNG, came to Room 201. Mrs. WARD returned from her visit to the laundry very shortly thereafter, making a total of eight individuals in the room. The above eight individuals conversed generally until about 5:45 p.m., when Dr. KING announced that he was going to dinner at the home of Rev. BILLY KYLES in Memphis and he invited Mrs. DAVIS to join him for dinner at the Reverend's home. She advised him that she would need

about 15 minutes or so to freshen up and he stated he would go to his room and freshen up and wait for her. Mrs. DAVIS had just completed her preparation for leaving for dinner because she recalled that she was standing in front of a mirror with her raincoat on taking a last look as to her appearance when she heard a shot. She was stunned for just an instant but then immediately went outside the room and heard someone yell Dr. KING had just been shot. She looked up towards Room 306 and saw what she is convinced were Dr. KING's feet on the balcony protruding slightly over the edge. There was considerable confusion and panic and police arrived almost immediately. Mrs. DAVIS cannot be entirely certain of immediate events following, but as she recalls Rev. JACKSON was in the motel courtyard at the time she went out of Room 201 as was Mrs. WARD. Mrs. DAVIS immediately proceeded up to where Dr. KING was lying and remained in that vicinity until Dr. KING was taken away in an ambulance which Mrs. DAVIS estimates was approximately 10 minutes after she had heard the shot.

Mrs. DAVIS can recall no incident which she observed after coming out of Room 201 after the shot had been fired which she feels has any bearing on ascertaining the identity of the individual responsible for the shot.

After Dr. KING had been taken from the motel in an ambulance, Mrs. DAVIS recalls that Rev. JACKSON was in the courtyard and gave a press statement. Thereafter Mrs. DAVIS went to the motel office where she found Mrs. WARD who was ordering coffee. Then Mrs. DAVIS and a man Mrs. DAVIS recalls as a HAROLD MILLER, possibly a local minister from Memphis or Atlanta, went to Room 207 to advise Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING of the shooting of his brother. Rev. KING was asleep and they did not succeed in awakening him. Thereafter Mrs. WARD came to Room 207 and Mrs. DAVIS and the man she believes was named MILLER left the room.

Later on the night of April 4, 1968, possibly around 8:30 p.m. someone, Mrs. DAVIS did not know who, felt that Mrs. WARD, Mrs. DAVIS and Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING should not spend the remainder of that night at the Lorraine Motel and Mrs. DAVIS recalls packing her clothes and the three of them going out to the home of Rev. KYLES. After arrival at this home, it was decided again by someone not known to Mrs. DAVIS that Rev. KING would remain at Rev. KYLES that evening but that

Mrs. WARD and Mrs. DAVIS should spend the evening at a Howard Johnson Motel in Memphis. Mrs. WARD and Mrs. DAVIS together with individuals not now recalled went to the Howard Johnson Motel where Mrs. WARD registered for the two of them, but the plans again changed as Mrs. DAVIS recalls HOSEA WILLIAMS indicated that Mrs. DAVIS and her companions should return to the Lorraine Motel for the evening. Mrs. WARD and Mrs. DAVIS were then driven in Mrs. WARD's car by an unknown individual back to the Lorraine Motel where they entered Room 201. A short time later Rev. KYLES brought Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING back to the motel at which point Mrs. WARD left Room 201. Mrs. DAVIS spent the remainder of the night by herself in Room 201.

On Friday morning, April 5, 1968, Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING left the Lorraine Motel to go to the airport to meet the wife of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING who was arriving in Memphis on that morning.

Mrs. WARD and Mrs. DAVIS left Memphis, Tennessee, about 9 a.m., April 5, 1968, and drove to Atlanta, Georgia.

Mrs. DAVIS advised that during her stay in Memphis, on April 4 - 5, 1968, she personally had received no threats against her life nor does she have any knowledge of anyone at the Lorraine Motel being specifically threatened on that occasion.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 16, 1968

1

Mrs. JASPER D. (LUCRETIA B.) WARD, also known as Lukie Ward, 2540 Ransdell, Louisville, Kentucky, was interviewed in the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Louisville, Kentucky, and furnished the following information:

For the past several years she has served as administrative assistant to Reverend A.D. WILLIAMS KING of Louisville, Kentucky, and as secretary of the Kentucky Christian Leadership Conference (KCLC) at Louisville, Kentucky, an affiliate of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

About midnight April 3, 1968, or shortly thereafter on April 4, 1968, Mrs. WARD in the company of Mrs. GEORGIA DAVIS of Louisville, Kentucky, a Board member of the KCLC and a Kentucky State Senator from Louisville, and the Reverend A.D. WILLIAMS KING of KCLC and pastor of the Zion Baptist Church in Louisville, arrived in Memphis, Tennessee, in Mrs. WARD's 1967 Cadillac, bearing 1968 Kentucky license K79-447. The purpose of their visit to Memphis, Tennessee was to participate in a scheduled march there on April 5, 1968 to be led by Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Mrs. WARD and her companions registered in the Lorraine Motel occupying Rooms 201 and 207.

Mrs. WARD did not leave the Lorraine Motel from the time of her arrival until after the shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING at the motel at about 6 p.m. on April 4, 1968, except for one occasion. This was in the afternoon of April 4, 1968, possibly around 3 p.m., when Mrs. WARD left the motel to go to a nearby laundry, exact location not recalled, but the name of the laundry believed to be One-Hour Martinizing. The purpose of her going to the laundry was to pick up some clothes that were there ready for delivery to Mrs. GEORGIA DAVIS. When Mrs. WARD returned from the laundry, she joined a group that was gathered in Room 201 of the Lorraine Motel. As she recalls the individuals in the room were Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., Rev. RALPH ABERNATHY, Rev. ANDREW YOUNG, Attorney CHAUNCEY ESKRIDGE, Rev. BERNARD LEE, Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING and Mrs. GEORGIA DAVIS.

On 4-15-68 at Louisville, Kentucky File # LS 44-947
by SA WARREN L. WALSH WLW/ds Date dictated 4-16-68

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The above group remained together engaging in just general conversation until approximately 5:40 p.m., April 4, 1968, at which time the group decided that they would go to dinner, and the individuals left to go to their various rooms to freshen up for dinner. Mrs. WARD left Room 201 in the company of Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING and the two of them went to Room 207. Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING had partaken of some alcoholic beverages during the afternoon and had decided to rest rather than join the group for dinner. Approximately 15 - 20 minutes after arriving in Room 207 at which time Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING was sleeping, Mrs. WARD heard a shot. She immediately opened the door to the room and looked out and heard someone yell that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING had just been shot. The news stunned Mrs. WARD and while she cannot be exactly certain of her exact movements immediately thereafter, as she recalls upon hearing the news she briefly re-entered Room 207 and then immediately went out into the courtyard of the motel. There was much confusion and police were immediately in the area. Mrs. WARD observed nothing which gave her any indication as to the possible identity of the individual responsible for the shooting. Mrs. WARD recalls that she did not advise Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING of the shooting of his brother until about 20 minutes after the incident occurred. Rev. KING's reaction was one of extreme grief and he gave no indication that he had any idea as to the identity of the person responsible.

As Mrs. WARD recalls, someone, specific identity not now recalled, thought it best that Mrs. WARD, Mrs. DAVIS and Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING not remain the remainder of the night of April 4 - 5, 1968, at the Lorraine Motel. Accordingly, at about 10 p.m. they left the motel and went to the home of a Rev. WILLIAM KYLES whom Mrs. WARD believes is a minister in Memphis. Rev. KYLES or someone suggested that Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING remain at his home that evening and that Mrs. WARD and Mrs. DAVIS obtain motel accommodations at a nearby Howard Johnson's Motel. Mrs. DAVIS and Mrs. WARD did go to such a motel and Mrs. WARD registered in the motel, but just as she did so HOSEA WILLIAMS who was present at the time decided that Mrs. WARD, Mrs. DAVIS and Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING should go back to the Lorraine Motel and spend the rest of the night. They did this.

LS 44-947

3

Mrs. WARD and Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING being in Room 207 and Mrs. DAVIS occupying Room 201. En route Mrs. WARD had stopped at a drug store and purchased some sleeping pills which she administered to the Rev. KING and Mrs. DAVIS because of their extremely excited condition.

Mrs. WARD commented that she possesses no information which she feels might assist in identifying the individual responsible for the shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 16, 1968

Mrs. JASPER D. (LUCRETIA B.) WARD, also known as Lukie Ward, 2540 Ransdell, Louisville, Kentucky, telephonically furnished the following information:

Since being interviewed on April 15, 1968, Mrs. WARD recalls that in addition to leaving the Lorraine Motel in the afternoon of April 4, 1968, she had left the motel on that date on one other occasion. This was during the morning, believed to be around 11 a.m., when she took some cleaning for Mrs. GEORGIA DAVIS to the nearby cleaners, the One-Hour Martinizing. On this occasion, she was accompanied by the Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING because she recalls that as she was taking the cleaning into the cleaners, Rev. KING purchased some beer from a store located diagonally across the corner from the cleaners.

Mrs. WARD also advised that she and Mrs. DAVIS and Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING, prior to their arrival in Memphis, Tennessee about midnight, April 3, 1968, had been vacationing in Panama City, Florida, at the Treasures Island Motel. They had driven to Memphis in Mrs. WARD's automobile from Florida. Prior to leaving the Florida motel, Mrs. WARD had notified Mrs. FRANCES HASTINGS who, together with her husband, owns the motel, that they were departing but that she, Mrs. WARD, would return shortly for about a week's stay. Mrs. WARD inadvertently told Mrs. HASTINGS that she and her companions were going to Birmingham. Mrs. WARD recalls that when she and her companions were nearly halfway to Memphis that she remembered that she had erroneously told Mrs. HASTINGS they were going to Birmingham. She feels that she made this mistake in that she had earlier talked to the HASTINGS who had told her they were originally from Birmingham, Alabama.

After Dr. KING's assassination, Mrs. WARD changed her plans about spending any further time in Florida and at 6:50 a.m., April 6, 1968, she flew from Memphis, Tennessee, to Panama City, Florida, to get the rest of her clothes. She rented a car at the airport and drove to the motel. When she arrived at the motel, she met Mrs. HASTINGS who immediately

On 4-16-68 at Louisville, Kentucky File # LS 44-947

by SA WARREN L. WALSH WLW/ds Date dictated 4-16-68

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advised Mrs. WARD that the motel was full and there was no room for Mrs. WARD. Mrs. WARD felt this statement to be untrue as there appeared to be room at the motel, and she spoke rather plainly to Mrs. HASTINGS about her feeling that Mrs. HASTINGS did not want her at the motel because she had been in the company of two Negroes, Rev. KING and Mrs. DAVIS. Mrs. HASTINGS made some comment about them, the HASTINGS, run a respectable motel, and Mrs. WARD replied that it was because the motel had that reputation that she and her companions had originally decided to vacation there.

Mrs. WARD stated that it appeared to her that the motel owners, the HASTINGS, did not object to herself and Mrs. DAVIS having occupied the motel, but apparently objected to the presence in the motel of Rev. A.D. WILLIAMS KING.

Mrs. WARD stated that at no time did either of the HASTINGS make any type of specific threat to Mrs. WARD, against Mrs. WARD or her companions, but it was clear to Mrs. WARD that she was no longer welcome at the HASTINGS' motel.

Mrs. WARD left Panama City by plane about 1:30 p.m. on April 6, 1968 and flew to Atlanta, Georgia, where she was met by Mrs. DAVIS.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/17/68

1

WALTER LANE BAILEY, Owner, Lorraine Hotel-Motel, 406 Mulberry Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that a check of his records reflected the following named persons as having been registered into his motel on either April 3 or April 4, 1968, or both dates:

- 1) GERALD HARRELL
Room No. 10
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 5427 Urguhart Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2) JAMES LEWIS
Room No. 11
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 78 West Trigg Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee
- 3) M. JACKSON
Room No. 12
on April 3, 1968
no address given
- 4) R. ROGERS
Room No. 200
on April 3, 1968
no address given
- 5) WILLIE WILLIAM
Room No. 201
on April 3, 1968
address: 810 Parson Street
Atlanta, Georgia
- 6) R. B. COTTONREADER
Room No. 202
on April 3, 1968
address: 408 Third Street
Marks, Mississippi

31

On 4/11/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA EUGENE A. MEDORI, JR. and
SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON SMD/mnr Date dictated 4/17/68

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ME 44-1987

2

- 7) TOBIE WYNN
Room No. 204
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 3204 St.
Columbus, Georgia
- 8) BERNARD LEE
Room No. 206 (on April 3, 1968)
Room No. 205 (on April 4, 1968)
address: 334 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia
- 9) TRACY WRIGHT
Room No. 208
on April 3-4, 1968
no address given
- 10) ANDREW YOUNG
Room No. 209
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 334 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia
- 11) JOHN WILLIAM
Room No. 210
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 334 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia
- 12) WARREN LARDSON
Room No. 211
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 1076 Walton Avenue
Dayton, Ohio
- 13) EUGENE COURTNEY
Room No. 212
on April 3-4, 1968
no address given
- 14) WILLIAM MALONEY
Room No. 301
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 334 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia

- 15) P. A. RANCE
Room No. 303 (on April 3, 1968)
Room No. 200 (on April 4, 1968)
no address given

- 16) JAMES ORANGE
Room No. 304
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 334 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia

- 17) JESSIE JACKSON
Room No. 305
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 366 East 47th Street
Chicago, Illinois

- 18) MARTIN KING
Room No. 306
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 334 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia

- 19) RALPH ABERNATHY
Room No. 306
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 334 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia

- 20) DOROTHY COTTON
Room No. 307
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 334 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia

- 21) JAMES LOVE
Room No. 308
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 8231 Chancery Court
Alexandria, Virginia

- 22) JOSEPH LOUW
Room No. 309
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 45 Tiemann Place
New York, New York

ME 44-1987

4

- 23) CHARLES BALLARD
Room No. 310
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 506 Kansas Street
Atlanta, Georgia
- 24) STERLING TUCKER
Room No. 311
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 626 Third Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.
- 25) Reverend SAMUEL KYLES
Room No. 312
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 704 South Parkway East
Memphis, Tennessee
- 26) JEAN SMITH
Room No. 314
on April 3-4, 1968
no address given
- 27) MABELLE HENDRICKS
Room No. 315
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 767 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia
- 28) JAMES WELDON
Room No. 316
on April 3-4, 1968
address: 111 Hunter Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia
- 29) A. D. KING
Room No. 201
on April 4, 1968
address: Louisville, Kentucky
- 30) OFFELIN RUTHERFORD
Room No. 202
on April 4, 1968
address: 334 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia

- 31) J. B. WILLIAMS
Room No. 203
on April 4, 1968
address: 2510 Jackson Avenue
Forrest City, Arkansas

- 32) HENRY ANTHONY
Room No. 206
on April 4, 1968
address: 334 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia

- 33) BERNARD LAFAYETTE
Room No. 206
on April 4, 1968
address: 334 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia

- 34) C. A. DAVIS
Room 207
on April 4, 1968
address: Louisville, Kentucky

- 35) L. B. WARD
Room No. 207
on April 4, 1968
address: Louisville, Kentucky

- 36) HERMAN SWEAT
Room No. 214
on April 4, 1968
no address given

- 37) EARL CALDWELL
Room No. 215
on April 4, 1968
no address given

- 38) JOHN HALL
Room No. 1
on April 4, 1968
no address given

- 39) S. MC COLLOUGH
Room No. 12
on April 4, 1968
address: 6618 South Woodlawn Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

ME 44-1987

6

- 40) ----- HILL (first name not given)
Room No. 13
on April 4, 1968
no address given
- 41) JIMER GUEMOOR
Room No. 14
on April 4, 1968
address: 750 Pearl Street
Grenada, Mississippi
- 42) Reverend H. VERNER
Room No. 202
on April 4, 1968
address: 5320 South Drexel Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
- 43) Reverend W. BENNETT
Room No. 202
on April 4, 1968
address: 5320 South Drexel Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
- 44) GARY MASSONI
Room No. 214
on April 4, 1968
address: 366 East 47th Street
Chicago, Illinois
- 45) JAMES BEVEL
unknown room number
on April 4, 1968
address: 8407 South Ribash Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 26, 1968

Reverend SAMUEL B. KYLES, minister of the Monumental Baptist Church, 704 South Parkway East, who resides at 2215 South Parkway East, Memphis, Tennessee, on interview advised as follows:

Reverend KYLES, who has lived in Memphis for approximately the past eight years, is on the Executive Board of the Memphis, Tennessee, Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and is also a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the national headquarters of which is Atlanta, Georgia, and the President of which, up until April 4, 1968, was Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reverend KYLES advised that a sanitation workers' strike began in Memphis, Tennessee, February 12, 1968, and that shortly after its start a group of Negro ministers in Memphis, including himself, banded together to form a group which adopted the name of Community on the Move for Equality (COME), raising funds for the sanitation strikers and assisting them in daily marches and other strike-support activity. He stated that as early as March 18, 1968, he, along with some of the other COME leaders, induced Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., to come to Memphis where, on the night of March 18, 1968, he gave an inspiring talk at Mason Temple to approximately 10,000 to 12,000 people, urging the Negro community of Memphis to unite behind the sanitation workers.

KYLES and some of the other COME leaders also induced Dr. KING to return to Memphis on the morning of March 28, 1968, to lead a massive downtown march in support of the sanitation workers.

Considerable breaking of downtown windows and looting resulted during this march, as a result of which KYLES stated the sanitation strike received nationwide publicity, and Dr. KING agreed to return to Memphis, along with other SCLC staff members, in early April, 1968, to continue support on behalf of the sanitation workers.

37

On 4/23/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SAs HOWELL S. LOWE
and WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE WHL:gmh Date dictated 4/25/68

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Reverend KYLES recalled that Dr. KING actually returned to Memphis on Wednesday morning, April 3, 1968, with several of his staff associates including the Vice President of SCLC, Reverend RALPH D. ABERNATHY, and his administrative assistant BERNARD LEE. They all checked into the Lorraine Hotel and Motel, 406 Mulberry Street, Memphis, and actually KYLES had rented rooms for some of the SCLC staff members under his name. He pointed out that actually he was registered in Room 312 of the Lorraine Motel as of April 3, 1968, although he did not physically occupy this room and did not now recall the exact SCLC individual who occupied Room 312. He recalled that Dr. KING occupied Room 306, as did Reverend RALPH D. ABERNATHY.

He recalled that Dr. KING and his staff remained in Memphis on the night of April 3, 1968, and also remained in Memphis on April 4, 1968. In addition, he pointed out that there had been widespread publicity in not only the Memphis news media, including the two daily white newspapers, but also on virtually all of the radio and television stations concerning the presence of Dr. KING and his staff in Memphis and of the fact that they were staying at the Lorraine Motel. He stated he could not recall the specific radio broadcast but there was at least one broadcast, possibly more, which even gave the room number, namely Room 306, in which Dr. KING was staying in Memphis, and that this information was readily available to anyone who tended to read the newspaper or took the time to listen to the radio news broadcasts. In other words, he said it was no secret as to where Dr. KING was staying.

Reverend KYLES recalled that he personally went to the Lorraine Motel at approximately 3:30 p.m. on April 4, 1968, and recalled that the Operation Breadbasket band, a singing group of the SCLC, was rehearsing in one of the rooms in the motel, this group being led by BEN BRANCH, a former music teacher of Memphis, Tennessee. KYLES joined this group and they all sang various hymns and SCLC songs until approximately 5 p.m. At this point, Reverend KYLES went to Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel to visit with Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and Reverend RALPH D. ABERNATHY. He pointed out that he had earlier invited Dr. KING and Reverend ABERNATHY to his home at 2215 South Parkway East for a "soul dinner" on the evening of April 4, 1968, pointing out

that Dr. KING and Reverend ABERNATHY both savored "soul food," which would normally consist of neck bones, chitterlings, turnip greens and black-eyed peas, and that his wife had consented to cook such a dinner for Dr. KING and his group. He pointed out that both KING and ABERNATHY had been reminded by him earlier that dinner was to be at approximately 6 p.m.

He recalled that during the approximate period from 5:30 p.m. to 5:55 p.m., April 4, 1968, that Dr. KING, Reverend ABERNATHY and Reverend KYLES sat and talked in Room 306 as Dr. KING and ABERNATHY dressed in preparation for the dinner appointment. At a time estimated by KYLES as being 5:55 p.m., or thereabouts, Dr. KING walked out of Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel, the door of which faces west and overlooks a swimming pool and parking area onto Mulberry Street, which is a narrow north-south street in Memphis. Dr. KING's room, 306, was on the second floor and as one walks out of the room there is a balcony and walkway area, the balcony having an iron rail approximately three feet high to keep one from falling off the balcony. Dr. KING, KYLES recalled, stood on the balcony and was speaking with various people standing in the parking area of the motel directly beneath him. One of the persons with whom Dr. KING was speaking was Reverend JESSE JACKSON, an SCLC staff member from Chicago, Illinois. KYLES recalled leaving Room 306 and going out and talking with Dr. KING, telling him not to bring too many people to his house or there would not be enough food to satisfy all of them. KYLES also recalled that SOLOMON JONES, a local Negro who works for one of the funeral homes, had been Dr. KING's chauffeur while in Memphis and that KING may have made some comment to JONES about getting the car ready for their trip to the KYLES residence.

Reverend KYLES also recalled that at about this period of time Reverend ABERNATHY had applied shaving cream to his face preparing to take a quick shave before departing to dinner and that KYLES and KING were standing side by side on the balcony and he also recalled that KING spoke to CHAUNCEY ESKRIDGE who is an attorney for SCLC and who was in Memphis with the SCLC staff.

Others recalled by KYLES being on the ground level within viewing and listening distance of Dr. KING were Reverend JAMES L. BEVEL, also of the SCLC staff and who has recently been living in Chicago, and several young Negroes, names not recalled, who had been hanging around and supporting the sanitation workers strike. He pointed out that he would put these folks in the category of "hero worshipers" who liked to be around KING and other important personages.

At this point, KYLES estimated the time as being approximately 6 o'clock p.m., and stated that he, KYLES, started to walk north on the balcony walkway toward the old Lorraine Hotel portion of the establishment for the purpose of getting his car, which was parked on the parking lot. He recalled looking down and saying something to CHAUNCEY ESKRIDGE who was standing on the ground and estimated that he had walked approximately four door-lengths north of Room 306 when he, KYLES, heard a loud but possibly muffled sound. At first he thought it was a noise from the immediate area possibly caused by the backfiring of an automobile or possibly even a loud firecracker which had exploded in the immediate vicinity.

He was next conscious of seeing Reverend JAMES L. BEVEL who had been standing on the ground north of Room 306 running to the motel area ostensibly for cover and recalled some unknown individual yelling in a loud voice, "They've shot MARTIN." At this point he turned around and looked back south toward the entrance of Room 306 and was next conscious of seeing Dr. KING's prone body. KING was resting on the balcony floor with his back to the floor, his face facing upward, his feet partially protruding through the grill work of the iron railway, and his head headed in a south-easterly direction toward the passageway just south of Room 306.

KYLES continued that he took a quick glance at KING's prone body after reaching same and saw a gaping hole in what he recalled to be the right side of KING's face in the area of his cheek bone and protruding downward into his neck area. He stated that he was not familiar with guns or gun wounds but he subconsciously realized that the

noise which he had heard had undoubtedly been that of a gunshot which had wounded Dr. KING. He pointed out that KING's eyes appeared to be open and that he personally felt KING may still have been alive. He was not conscious of anyone else near KING's body at this time and pointed out that he went into a state of shock and ran rather hysterically into Room 306 where he attempted to use a telephone for the purpose of calling an ambulance. In the meantime, ABERNATHY had run out of Room 306 with shaving cream still on his face in an effort to see what had happened to Dr. KING. KYLES pointed out that in his confusion he was unable to pick up the phone properly to call the motel switchboard to ask for an ambulance and recalled ABERNATHY running back into the room and telling him to settle down and gain his composure as everything would be all right.

KYLES came back out of the room to the vicinity of KING's body and was next conscious of seeing several uniformed Memphis Police officers running on foot toward the vicinity of KING's body and recalled some of them yelling, "What happened?" He stated that he recalled yelling at some of the police officers to call an ambulance. He was next conscious of Reverend ABERNATHY leaning over KING's prone body attempting to talk with KING or to get some response from him and could recall hearing ABERNATHY say, "MARTIN, can you hear me?"

Reverend KYLES recalled running into Room 306 and grabbing up a bedspread off one of the beds which he brought out to use to cover KING's body. He recalled that a white male employee of the United States Justice Department, name not recalled, who had been staying at the motel brought a towel which someone held over the large gaping wound on the right side of KING's face.

Within a few moments an ambulance arrived to take KING's body to a hospital and he recalled that a JOSEPH LOUW, an African who is a photographer and who was staying at the motel, took some pictures in the immediate vicinity and that many of the people who by this time had come to the balcony seemed to point toward the west side of Mulberry where there is a thicket of bushes and empty land bordered further on the west by the back side of some old two-story brick buildings which face on Main Street and indicated in

their pointing and comments that the shot probably came from that general direction. In other words, the shot came from the west toward the east.

Thereafter, according to Reverend KYLES, an ambulance crew took Dr. KING's body to the St. Joseph Hospital.

Reverend KYLES looked at a series of photographs which appeared in "Life Magazine," issue of April 12, 1968, some of which were taken immediately after the shooting of Dr. KING and prior to the arrival of the ambulance and which depict Dr. KING's prone body lying face up on the concrete walkway on the second floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel and taken by Photographer JOSEPH LOUW. He stated that the only people that he could identify by name in the early photographs prior to the arrival of the ambulance were Reverend ANDREW YOUNG of the SCLC staff and some local unidentified Negroes who were apparently assisting in an effort to render immediate first aid to Dr. KING. Reverend KYLES pointed out that these photographs must have been taken almost immediately following the shooting of Dr. KING because they do not show the bedspread over KING's body.

He stated that very few people actually were cognizant of the fact that Dr. KING was to be a dinner guest at his home on the evening of April 4, 1968; that among the guests who had been invited to his recollection were Dr. KING, his brother, Reverend A. D. WILLIAMS KING, and two of the latter's companions, Mrs. LUKIE WARD and Mrs. GEORGIA M. DAVIS, both of Louisville, Kentucky; and that Reverend ABERNATHY was to have been there, as was CHAUNCEY ESKRIDGE. He stated that Reverend ANDREW YOUNG and HOSEA WILLIAMS, both of the SCLC staff, were also to be his dinner guests on that evening.

He stated that to his recollection there had been no publicity concerning the fact that KING and his small party were to be his dinner guests and that it appeared to be a mere coincidence that Dr. KING walked out in front of the doorway of Room 306 and stood there some four to five minutes prior to the time that he was shot.

Reverend KYLES stated that he had searched his memory during the intervening time subsequent to Dr. KING's being shot and that at no time could he recall seeing anyone to the west or northwest from which direction he is now convinced the shot came. He saw no one looking out any of the windows in the buildings facing Main Street, the rear entrances of which would have faced the Motel; and he saw no one on the ground below.

He stated that he talked with CHAUNCEY ESKRIDGE shortly after the shooting and that ESKRIDGE who was on the ground level in the parking area in front of the Motel stated that after the shot he, ESKRIDGE, had run west from the Motel to the middle of Mulberry Street but that he did not see anyone with any firearm either on the ground or in any of the buildings. Reverend KYLES recalled that SOLOMON JONES has been reported to have stated that he saw someone possibly with a white headpiece in the ground area just west of the west side of Mulberry Street behind the bushes and possibly saw someone drop something in that area.

Reverend KYLES stated that in fairness to JONES, JONES could not have seen the ground area which he had originally described because of the fact that there is a brick retaining wall which surrounds the swimming pool and that JONES would have been behind this wall when KING was shot and could not have seen behind the bushes on the west side of Mulberry Street as this wall is about eight feet tall.

Reverend KYLES concluded that none of his acquaintances in the SCLC or other acquaintances in Memphis who have been close to the Negro movement can recall anything concerning any suspicious movements in the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel immediately preceding or during the time that Dr. KING was shot.

ME 44-1987

HSL:PEH

1

On April 18, 1968, CHARLES BALLARD, 830 Kansas Street, Memphis, Tennessee, personally contacted the Memphis, Tennessee, FBI Office and advised SA HOWELL S. LOWE and SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE that he registered into room 310 of the Lorraine Motel on the afternoon of March 30, 1968, and remained registered at this motel until April 4, 1968. He departed from this motel just prior to 6 P.M. the evening of April 4, 1968.

BALLARD advised he was not at the motel at the time Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING was shot and advised he has no knowledge regarding who may have shot Dr. KING. He stated that during the period he resided at the motel, no one inquired of him of any information regarding Dr. KING, and he noticed no one in particular expressing any unusual interest in the location of Dr. KING's room at the motel.

BALLARD stated that when he departed the motel at approximately 5:45 P.M., April 4, 1968, there were several persons walking around in front of the motel. He stated he paid no particular attention to these persons and is unable to recall anyone in this group whom he knows.

ME 44-1987

WHL:cjs

1

On April 23, 1968, SA's HOWELL S. LOWE and WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE interviewed an individual identifying himself as JAMES ELMORE PHILLIPS, JR., who resides at 1592 Short Street, Memphis, Tennessee, and who is a senior at LeMoyne College, 807 - 25 Walker Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee.

Mr. PHILLIPS advised that on or about March 30, 1968, he checked into room 315 of the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry, Memphis, and continued to stay there until the late afternoon of April 4, 1968. He stated he well recalled the arrival of Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, in Memphis on the morning of April 3, 1968, and recalled that Dr. KING and several of his Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Staff associates checked into the Lorraine Motel on April 3, 1968, with Dr. KING staying in room 306 on the second floor, which was several doors north of the room occupied by PHILLIPS.

PHILLIPS stated that he left the motel about 5:45 p.m. Thursday, April 4, 1968, with some of his associates, CHARLES BALLARD, CHARLES LAVERNE CABBAGE, JOHN BURRELL SMITH, and EDWINA HARRELL, who also had been staying at the motel. PHILLIPS stated he left on foot, walked south on Mulberry to Butler Street, west on Butler to Main Street, where he caught a #45 "Walker Homes" bus, a city bus, going south on Main Street, catching this bus almost immediately after arriving on Main Street.

He stated he rode this bus to South Memphis and walked to 1644 Hanauer, apt. 2, the apartment currently occupied by JOHN B. SMITH. He stated upon arrival at the SMITH residence, someone had on the television and they heard the report on television that Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., had been shot at approximately 6:01 p.m. as he stood on the second floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel.

PHILLIPS stated that at no time during the period in which he stayed at the Lorraine Motel did anyone, to his recollection, inquire as to where Dr. KING was staying or as to which room was being occupied by Dr. KING and he saw no individuals in the area arousing his suspicions.

PHILLIPS stated that he paid no particular attention to the buildings on South Main Street just west of the Lorraine Motel and recalled seeing no one look out any of the windows in

ME 44-1987

2

those buildings during the late afternoon of April 4, 1968, when he was in the process of leaving the motel.

PHILLIPS stated that as he was walking from the motel toward the bus stop, as indicated above, he did not see anything of an unusual nature.

ME 44-1987

PERSONS AT JIM'S GRILL,
418 SOUTH MAIN STREET,
ON APRIL 4, 1968

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/7/68

LOYD JOWERS, owner, Jim's Grill, 418 South Main Street, advised that at approximately 3:55 p.m. on April 4, 1968, he arrived at the Grill, and parked directly in back of a white Mustang that was parked on the street directly in front of his Grill. He stated that he believed that the car had Mississippi license plates on it because they were of an orange or orangish-yellow color. He stated that upon parking the car he went into the Grill where he saw a stranger sitting at the bar having a meal. He stated that it was unusual for him to get any strange customers in the Grill since most of his customers were local people of a steady nature. Mr. JOWERS described the stranger as follows:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Height:	5'8" to 5'9"
Weight:	160 pounds
Build:	Heavy
Age:	27 to 30
Hair:	Sandy
Complexion:	Ruddy
Dress:	Wearing a dark suit.

He stated that the man finished his meal and left the Grill, and he could not notice in which direction he walked, but he did not get into the white Mustang, which was parked in front of the Grill.

Mr. JOWERS stated that this same individual returned to the Grill at about 8:00 p.m. on April 5, 1968, and ordered breakfast. Mr. JOWERS stated that in his estimation, this individual acted strangely because he seemed very calm when everyone else at the Grill and in the area was excited over the shooting. In view of the fact that he felt the individual was acting strange and also because he was a stranger in the area, Mr. JOWERS called the Police, and told them that he had a man of a suspicious nature at the Grill. He said that when the stranger

48

On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987
by SAS JOHN W. BAUER
STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON / JWB:jms Date dictated 4/5/68

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ME 44-1987

2

finished his breakfast, he left the Grill and was arrested on the sidewalk in front of the Grill by the Memphis Police Department.

Lieutenant JIM HARRISON, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, later identified this arrested individual as GENE PEARSON CRAWFORD, 32-B Westwood Gardens, Jackson, Tennessee, who was determined to have had no part in the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/15/68

Mr. GILBERT STEPHEN (STEVE) CUPPLES, 935 Parkhaven Drive, Memphis, Tennessee, advised he is employed as a clerk in the Fine Paper Department of Tayloe Paper Company, 425 South Front Street, Memphis.

Mr. CUPPLES stated he left work at approximately 5:03 p.m., drove his 1959 white Chevrolet Impala, and parked it immediately across the street from Jim's Grill located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. He said he parked the car heading south and immediately behind in the next available parking space to KENNY FOSTER's Camero. He said when he parked his car he recalls seeing several cars parked across the street in the vicinity of the entrance to Jim's Grill. He said he recalls seeing JIMMY WALKER's white Fairlane Ford parked directly south of the fire hydrant located near the entrance of Jim's Grill and recalls seeing JOWERS' Cadillac located in the first parking space north of the fire hydrant. He said JOWERS operates Jim's Grill. CUPPLES stated he recalls seeing a white Mustang that could have been a 1967 or possibly 1968 model parked directly in front of JOWERS' Cadillac. He said this Mustang had black wall tires and believes it had large hubcaps. He said when he entered Jim's Grill he walked behind JOWERS' Cadillac and, therefore, did not notice very many details of the Mustang. He said he does not recall the color of the interior of the Mustang and did not notice what license was on the Mustang. He said he got the impression the Mustang was dirty or not freshly washed.

Mr. CUPPLES stated he was playing the pinball machine and the shuffleboard machine and that a great deal of noise was caused by these machines and the jukebox and, therefore, he did not hear what activity was occurring outside the grill. He stated sometime later he learned, at approximately 6:05 p.m., a deputy sheriff came to the door of the grill and instructed everyone to stay inside the grill until further notice. He stated shortly thereafter he and others in the grill looked out the front window and he recalls that the Mustang he had seen parked in front of JOWERS' Cadillac was gone. Mr. CUPPLES stated he did not see anyone enter the Mustang or drive it away.

50

On 4/12/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987

by SA O. JAMES HOLBROOK
SA HARLEY E. GYLFE HEG:raj Date dictated 4/13/68

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ME 44-1987

2

Mr. CUPPLES advised that after the deputy sheriff had told them to stay in the grill he believes it was a police officer that entered and told them all to write their names and addresses on a piece of paper. He said it was not until then that he and others learned that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot. He stated he did not hear a shot that was fired.

Mr. CUPPLES advised he cannot furnish any additional information concerning activity in this area.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/15/68

Mr. DAVID M. WOOD, 3639 Towns, Memphis, advised he is employed with Tayloe Paper Company, 420 South Front Street, Memphis, Tennessee, as a city desk clerk.

Mr. WOOD advised he left work at approximately 5:00 p.m., on April 4, 1968, and walked alone to Jim's Grill, located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis. He said he walked down Huling Street to South Main and crossed South Main diagonally toward Jim's Grill. He said he would estimate it was approximately 5:05 p.m., when he walked in front of a Mustang automobile which was parked close to Jim's Grill. He explained there is a fire plug on the east side of South Main Street very close to the entrance of Jim's Grill. He stated immediately to the north of the fire plug was parked a white Cadillac that is owned by the owner of Jim's Grill. He said immediately in front of this Cadillac, which would be the second space north of the fire plug, was parked a Mustang. He stated he is familiar with Mustangs and knows this was a Mustang automobile. He said he felt that this was a white car that appeared to be dirty and not recently washed. He said this car did not have hubcaps, had black tires, but he did not notice the interior of the car. He said he did not look at the license, but glanced down and there was no front license plate. He said also he noticed in the window there was no city of Memphis sticker in this window. He said he does not recall that anything else was hanging from hangers or the rear view mirror of this car.

Mr. WOOD stated he entered Jim's Grill and began playing shuffle board and pinball machine located inside the grill. WOOD explained the shuffle board is located in the northwest corner of this building and that it is close to the front window of Jim's Grill. He stated, however, he was interested in playing shuffle board and the pinball machine and did not look out the window while he was playing either machine. He added, however, it is possible he may have looked out the window, but stated he does not recall seeing any activity in the street nor did he see anyone in the Mustang or drive away in the Mustang.

52

On 4/12/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987
by SA O. JAMES HOLBROOK
SA HARLEY E. GYLFE HEG:raj 4/13/68
by _____ Date dictated _____

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WOOD advised he was not aware of the activity outside on the street or that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot until a deputy sheriff came into the grill with a gun in his hand advising everyone to stay in the grill until they were notified they could leave. He said almost immediately Mr. JOWERS, owner of Jim's Grill, locked the door to keep everyone in the place and to prevent anyone else from entering. WOOD stated that after the door was locked they ceased playing pinball and shuffle board and looked out the window. He said this was shortly after 6:00 p.m., and he noticed at that time the white Mustang that had been parked in front of the grill was gone. He added he recalls that a ~~Mustang~~ owned by JIMMY WALKER was parked just south of the fire plug and that just north of the Mustang was parked a white Lincoln Continental automobile. He said in front of the Lincoln was parked a white Rambler and added there were no cars parked in front of the Rambler to the corner of the intersection of Huling and South Main. He said he also recalls that STEVE CUPPLES' 1959 Chevrolet was parked across the street headed south and that KENNETH FOSTER's Camero was parked directly across the street from Jim's Grill. He stated he cannot recall any other cars parked on this street.

Mr. WOOD stated he recalls that when JIMMY WALKER entered Jim's Grill which was shortly after 5:00 p.m., that WALKER made a remark that the Mustang took his parking place. He said he knows therefore that there was a Mustang parked in front of Jim's Grill.

Mr. WOOD stated he did not see anyone enter and drive away in the Mustang and he does not recall seeing anyone running or carrying a package in the immediate vicinity of Jim's Grill during the time he was in Jim's Grill.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/15/68

Mr. KENNETH W. FOSTER, 3072 New Willow Road, Apartment 9, Memphis, Tennessee, advised he is employed as a city desk clerk for Tayloe Paper Company, 420 South Front Street, Memphis.

Mr. FOSTER advised he left work at approximately 5:00 p.m., with BILLY HOARD, picked up his car and drove to a parking space immediately across the street from Jim's Grill, located 418 South Main Street, Memphis. He said he would estimate it was approximately 5:05 p.m., when he entered Jim's Grill with BILLY HOARD. He stated he recalls specifically that he walked between a white Mustang and a white Cadillac that were parked near the entrance to Jim's Grill. He said he noticed the Mustang had black tires, but does not recall if it had hubcaps. He added he does not recall looking to determine if the Mustang had stickers on the window or it had a local license. He said he noticed specifically that the white Mustang was parked in this area because this is the usual parking place that JIMMY WALKER generally takes when he parks in this area. Mr. FOSTER explained that JIMMY WALKER parked his white Ford Fairlane just south of the fire hydrant located very close to the entrance of Jim's Grill. He said immediately north of the hydrant was parked JOWERS' white Cadillac and immediately in front of the white Cadillac to the north was parked a white Mustang. He said he recalls that BARRY TUBBS parked his white Lincoln Continental immediately in front of the white Mustang and that there was a white Rambler parked immediately in front of the Continental. He said he does not know who owns the Rambler.

Mr. FOSTER advised he was in the grill playing pinball machine and shuffle board machine. He said he was not aware of any activity taking place in the immediate area and did not hear a shot and was not aware of the shooting until some time after a deputy sheriff came to the door and told everyone to stay in the grill until advised to leave. He said after the deputy sheriff left he and others went to the window and looked out. He said he noticed at that time that the white Mustang which had been parked in front of JOWERS' white Cadillac was gone. He said he did not see anyone in this Mustang and did not see anyone

54

On 4/12/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987
SA O. JAMES HOLBROOK
SA HARLEY E. GYLFE HEG:raj 4/13/68
by _____ Date dictated _____

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ME 44-1987

2

drive this Mustang away. He stated he has no idea when the car left. He said this Mustang was a late model car, but does not know the exact year. He said it was not dirty and yet it was not very recently washed. He said the interior of the car was dark, possibly red, black or blue. He said he does not recall seeing anything hanging from the rearview mirror or from a hanger in the car.

FOSTER advised he cannot recall any additional information concerning the Mustang or any individuals in the area.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/15/68

Mr. PAUL SANDER GARGAS, JR., 2521 Thompson Street, West Memphis, Arkansas, advised he is employed as an inside salesman by Tayloe Paper Company, 420 South Front Street, Memphis.

Mr. GARGAS stated he left work at approximately 5:00 p.m., on April 4, 1968, and shortly thereafter walked with STEVE CUPPLES, FRANKLIN RAY, and JIMMY WALKER to Jim's Grill located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis. He said they walked down Huling Street toward South Main Street and when they reached that intersection they walked diagonally across toward Jim's Grill. He said he recalls walking between some cars possibly in front of JOWERS' white Cadillac that is usually parked in front of the grill. He said he recalls seeing five or six cars parked in the immediate vicinity in front of the grill on both sides of the street. He does not recall any specific car other than JIMMY WALKER's white Ford Fairlane parked just south of the entrance of Jim's Grill. He said he was playing pinball machine and shuffleboard machine and left Jim's Grill approximately 5:40 to 5:45 p.m. He said he left alone and walked across the street to his car that was parked in Fred P. Gattas Company parking lot. He said he recalls there were several people in Jim's Grill when he left, but does not recall any individuals in the immediate vicinity of the entrance to Jim's Grill at the time he left. He said he does not recall looking out the window at any time at Jim's Grill, but may have. He said he does not recall any cars driving past or in the immediate vicinity of Jim's Grill other than those mentioned previously. He said he has a feeling there was a car parked in front of JOWERS' Cadillac when he entered, but does not recall if the car was there when he left. Mr. GARGAS advised he cannot furnish any additional information concerning individuals or cars in the immediate vicinity of Jim's Grill during the time he entered and left Jim's Grill.

56

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by SA O. JAMES HOLBROOK
SA HARLEY E. GYLFE HEG:raj Date dictated 4/13/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/15/68

Mr. BARRY ELWOOD TUBBS, 315 Dias Street, Trumann, Arkansas, advised he is employed as a sales representative for Tayloe Paper Company, 425 Front Street, Memphis.

Mr. TUBBS stated he left work at approximately 5:00 p.m., April 4, 1968, picked up his car, a 1961 four-door, white Lincoln Continental, and drove to a parking place in the vicinity of Jim's Grill located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis. Mr. TUBBS advised he recalls that he had to park near the intersection of Huling Street and South Main because there were two other cars parked near the entrance to Jim's Grill. He said there were usually a few cars in the street when he goes there, but this time most of the parking places were filled on the east side of Main near Jim's Grill.

He said he was one of the first, if not the first, from Tayloe Paper Company who went to Jim's Grill. He said he played shuffleboard and the pinball machines and drank three or four beers before a deputy sheriff came to the door and advised everyone to stay in the grill. Mr. TUBBS stated as soon as the deputy sheriff left he and others went to the window and looked out. He said he recalls seeing JIMMY WALKER's white Fairlane parked just south of the fire hydrant near the entrance of Jim's Grill. He said he recalls seeing STEVE CUPPLES' car parked across the street and recalls seeing JOWERS' white Cadillac parked just north of the fire hydrant mentioned above.

Mr. TUBBS stated he does not recall specifically what car was parked in front of JOWERS' Cadillac, but does recall there was a car there. Mr. TUBBS stated he was not aware of any activity taking place in the immediate area and was not aware of the reason that the deputy sheriff told them to stay there. He stated it was sometime later that an individual he believed to be with the Memphis Police Department asked them to all write their names and addresses on a sheet of paper. He said it was then they learned MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot. He stated he did not know KING was in the area and he did not hear the shot because of the noise

57

On 4/12/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987

by SA O. JAMES HOLBROOK
SA HARLEY E. GYLFE HEG:raj Date dictated 4/13/68

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ME 44-1987

2

in the grill because of the shuffleboard and pinball machines and the jukebox.

Mr. TUBBS stated he does not have any information concerning the activity that took place in the immediate vicinity of Jim's Grill and cannot furnish any information concerning cars in the immediate area and the individuals in the immediate area.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/15/68

Mr. BILLY RAY HOARD, 1592 South Highland, Memphis, advised he is employed as a city desk clerk, Tayloe Paper Company, 420 South Front Street, Memphis.

Mr. HOARD advised he left work at Tayloe Paper Company at about 4:55 p.m., April 4, 1968, and walked with KENNY FOSTER to FOSTER's car and then drove to a parking place directly across the street from Jim's Grill which is located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. He stated that FOSTER drove a 1967 blue Camero car with black vinyl top. He stated he and FOSTER entered Jim's Grill at approximately 5:00 p.m., and he and FOSTER and others in the grill immediately began to play the pinball machine and shuffle board machine.

Mr. HOARD stated that when he walked toward Jim's Grill he recalls seeing a line of white cars parked immediately in front of the grill. He said he would estimate there were four or five cars in that vicinity and recalls seeing JIMMY WALKER's car parked behind and just south of the fire hydrant near the corner. He also recalls seeing Mr. JOWERS' car, a white Cadillac, parked immediately in front of the grill. He said other than that he cannot recall seeing any specific cars in that area.

Mr. HOARD stated that after they had been playing these machines for a while, and he was not cognizant of the exact time, he recalls a deputy sheriff came to the door with a gun drawn and told everyone to stay in the grill. He stated sometime later he came back and told them to all write their names and addresses down on a sheet of paper. Mr. HOARD stated that after the deputy sheriff came in and after Mr. JOWERS locked the door he recalls going to the window and looking out. He said he seems to recall then the only cars he specifically recalls were JOWERS' Cadillac and WALKER's Ford Fairlane.

Mr. HOARD stated he did not hear a shot or any noise similar to the noise of a shot at approximately 6:00 p. m., on April 4, 1968, but added there was a great deal of noise in the grill and, therefore, he could not hear the shot. He said

59

On 4/12/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987

by SA O. JAMES HOLBROOK
SA HARLEY E. GYLFE HEG:raj Date dictated 4/13/68

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ME 44-1987

2

he does not know the names of any other individuals that were in the grill at that time other than several employees from Tayloe Paper Company.

Mr. HOARD stated he did not see any activity in the street just prior to and immediately after the shot and does not recall seeing anyone running or driving away from that immediate area. He said he cannot furnish any information as to the identity of the individual who shot MARTIN LUTHER KING.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/12/68

Mr. ROBERT GEIGER, 749 Dickinson, Memphis, was interviewed at the Fred P. Gattas Distributing Company, Inc., where he furnished the following information:

He advised that he is employed as a warehouseman and that on April 4, 1968, he came to work at 11:19 a.m., and left at 6:27 p.m. He stated that he left about 5:00 p.m., to go to supper at Jim's Grill, 418 South Main, and returned to work at about 5:30 p.m. While he was at Jim's Grill he noticed nothing which would indicate unusual activity, and stated he could furnish no information in this matter. He did not learn that anything had happened until later on at work when another employee told them to get ready to go home. He recalls that he looked out of the window at that time and saw many police vehicles in the area. He stated that while eating at Jim's Grill he did not recall seeing a white Mustang on South Main Street nor does he recall seeing anyone go up the stairs to the boarding house which is adjacent to the grill. He ate alone and stated that if there were any strangers at Jims he would not have noticed them.

61

On 4/11/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987
SA EUGENE A. MEDORI, JR.
SA JACK D. VAHRENWALD EAM:raj
by _____ Date dictated 4/11/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/15/68

Mr. JAMES A. WALKER, JR., 1066 Poplar Avenue, Apartment 3, Memphis, advised he is an assistant buyer for the Tayloe Paper Company, 420 South Front Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

Mr. WALKER advised he left work about 5:15 p.m., on April 4, 1968, and drove his 1962 white Fairlane Ford to the area of Jim's Grill located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis. He stated he arrived at the area of Jim's Grill at approximately 5:20 p.m., and attempted to park in his usual parking place that is near the entrance to Jim's Grill. He said when he pulled up he noticed JOWERS' Cadillac parked in the first parking space just north of the fire hydrant that is near the entrance of Jim's Grill. He said he usually parks in the next parking space, but found that it was occupied by a white Mustang. He said as a result he had to back up and park in the first space just south of the above-mentioned fire hydrant. He said that he noticed prior to parking that BARRY TUBBS' Lincoln Continental was parked in front of the Mustang and that a white Rambler was parked near the corner and in front of the Continental.

Mr. WALKER stated he recalls that this was a 1966 white Mustang hardtop. He said the interior of the car was dark possibly red or black. He said he did not see the license on the car, but looked at the windows to see if there were any stickers. He said he was particularly aware of stickers because he has a habit of looking in the windows of cars to see if they belonged to a particular college fraternity. He said he does not recall seeing any stickers or antenna on the car. He said, however, there could have been an antenna that he did not notice. He said he did not look at the tires or the hubcaps and cannot furnish any other information concerning tires or stickers other than, as he recalls, the car appeared to be slightly dirty or at least not recently washed. He stated he does not recall looking into the car, but is certain that he would have seen a sticker especially on the rear window if there had been any stickers on the window of this Mustang.

62

On 4/12/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987

SA O. JAMES HOLBROOK
by SA HARLEY E. GYLFE HEG:raj Date dictated 4/13/68

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Concerning the Rambler that was parked in front of the Continental, he stated he believes this car belongs to an elderly white man whose name he does not know, but is very likely known by Mr. JOWERS, the owner and operator of Jim's Grill.

Mr. WALKER stated that he was concentrating on playing the pinball machine and the shuffleboard and listening to the jukebox and, therefore, was not aware of any activity that was taking place in that immediate area. He said that sometime later a deputy sheriff came to the door and instructed everyone to stay in the grill. He said the customers in Jim's Grill instructed JOWERS to lock the door so that no one could come in.

After the door was locked they went to the window and looked out and he said he does not recall seeing the Mustang there at that time. He said he is certain the Mustang was gone because he commented that his car was without a ticket on it. He had parked very close to the fire hydrant and possibly too close to be legally parked. He is certain there was another car parked behind him, but he does not recall make, model or color of that car. Mr. WALKER stated he cannot furnish any additional information concerning the car or any activity that occurred in that area.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 25, 1968

Mr. FRANK HOLT, 287 Butler Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised he is employed as a trucker's helper to unload trucks at the M. E. Carter Company, 415 South Front Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

Mr. HOLT advised that on the evening of April 4, 1968, he left his residence at approximately 5:45 p.m., walked down to Calhoun Street, right on Calhoun to South Main Street, right on South Main, toward Huling Street.

Mr. HOLT stated that at approximately 6:00 p.m., when he was in front of Jim's Grill, located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, he was instructed by a Memphis police officer or a Shelby County Sheriff's officer to go in Jim's Grill and to stay off the street until further notice.

He stated he did not know, at that time, why he was instructed to enter Jim's Grill.

He said later a police officer requested that he write his name and address on a piece of paper. He said it was shortly after the police officer came into Jim's Grill that he and others in there learned that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot. He said he left Jim's Grill at possibly 7:30 or 8:00 p.m., and went directly to his residence.

Mr. HOLT advised he did not hear the shot that killed MARTIN LUTHER KING. He said he does not recall meeting anyone on the street as he walked from Calhoun on South Main toward Jim's Grill. He said he does not recall seeing any cars parked on the street or driving on the street while he was walking on South Main Street.

Mr. HOLT commented that obviously he met some individuals or saw some individuals on the street and obviously saw cars driving on the street and parked on the street, but he was not aware of any of the activity on the street.

64

On 4/17/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA HARLEY E. GYLFE:tjm Date dictated 4/23/68

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ME 44-1987

2

Mr. HOLT said he did not notice any activity because he was concerned about getting to work and, therefore, did not notice what was going on in the immediate area of Jim's Grill.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/15/68

Mr. WILLIAM ZENIE (BILL) REED, Room 6, Clarke Hotel, 106 Vance Street, Memphis, advised he is employed as a salesman for a photography firm and is currently working in the Memphis area.

Mr. REED stated that on April 4, 1968, he and RAY HENDRICKS stopped at Jim's Grill, 418 South Main Street, for something to eat. He said he was in Jim's Grill for some time and feels that he arrived there at approximately 4:30 p.m., and believes that he left between 5:15 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. He said when he left he picked up his hat and he and RAY HENDRICKS paid their check and left Jim's Grill. He said that they left the entrance of Jim's Grill and proceeded north on South Main Street for a few feet when RAY HENDRICKS remembered he left his jacket in Jim's Grill.

Mr. REED stated he waited in front of Jim's Grill while HENDRICKS went back for his jacket. He commented that while waiting he looked and saw a white Mustang was parked near the entrance of Jim's Grill. Mr. REED stated he does not have a car and is in the market for a car and was considering buying a Mustang and, therefore, he looked this car over.

He said he believed the car was an off-white color, that it was not dirty, but was not exactly clean either. He said he believes this car had not been recently washed. He said he does not recall the color of the interior, but believes that it was a dark color. He said he does not recall seeing anything inside the car other than five cartons lying on the back seat. He described these cartons as being the size of ten package cigarette carton. He said these cartons were red and white in color, but does not remember any lettering on the cartons nor does he remember whether the white or the red was predominant. He said when he saw these cartons he felt that the owner of this car was probably a traveling salesman.

Mr. REED stated he does not know whether or not any stickers were in the window of this car and he did not look

66

On 4/13/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987

by SA HARLEY E. GYLFE/raj Date dictated 4/13/68

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ME 44-1987

2

at the license. He said he does not recall if this Mustang had whitewall tires and if it had wheel covers.

Mr. REED stated that after HENDRICKS obtained his jacket from Jim's Grill they proceeded north on South Main and walked on the east side of South Main Street. He said when they arrived at the intersection of Vance and South Main he was about ready to walk off the curb when for some unknown reason he looked around to see if there were any cars coming. He said as he looked back he saw a white Mustang about ready to turn the corner and go east on Vance from South Main Street. He said he does not know if this is the same car he saw parked in front of Jim's Grill, but added it seemed to be the same car. He said he did not see who was in the car, but believes it was a white male with white shirt, but does not recall if this individual had a tie or hat on. He said he had the impression this person was not young, but was not old. He said he would have no way of estimating the age of this person.

Mr. REED said the Mustang proceeded east down Vance Street and he has no idea where the car went after it turned the corner.

Mr. REED stated that he went to his room and that he had been in his room for quite some time, possibly as much as 15 minutes, when he heard numerous sirens in the immediate area going down toward Jim's Grill. He said he learned later that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot and that the sirens he heard were from officers going to that immediate area.

Mr. REED advised he cannot furnish any additional information concerning any cars parked on the street or any people in that immediate area.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 25, 1968

Mr. RAY ALVIS HENDRIX, Room 14, Clark's Hotel, 106 Vance Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he is employed by the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Government, on the dredge "Ockerson." Mr. HENDRIX stated he works about six months of nice weather and is off the other six months of the year.

Mr. HENDRIX stated that on the evening of April 4, 1968, he and BILL REED, who resides in Room 4 of this hotel, ate their dinner at Jim's Grill, located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

He stated they left the grill at approximately 5:30 p.m., and slowly walked to the Clark's Hotel. He said they walked on the east side of South Main Street. Mr. HENDRIX commented that when they left Jim's Grill, he forgot his jacket and had to return for the jacket. He said he learned later that while he was getting his jacket, BILL REED looked at a white Mustang that was parked almost in front of Jim's Grill. He said he did not notice this Mustang or any other cars parked in front of Jim's Grill. He stated, however, that when he and BILL REED approached the intersection of Vance and South Main Street, BILL REED pulled him back to the curb because a car was turning the corner. He said this car was a white Mustang and that after the car turned the corner, BILL REED commented to him that this was the Mustang that was parked in front of Jim's Grill, which he looked at while he, HENDRIX, was retrieving his jacket.

Mr. HENDRIX stated he did not see who was in the car, but believes there was only one person. He said he could not describe him and would not be able to identify the driver of this car.

Mr. HENDRIX stated that as they were returning to their rooms or possibly were just entering their rooms, they heard sirens in the immediate area and going south on South Main Street. He said he learned later that the sirens

68

On 4/17/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA HARLEY E. GYLFE:tjm Date dictated 4/23/68

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ME 44-1987

2

were from police cars that were going to the scene of the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He said as near as he can recall, he heard the sirens about 6:00 p.m., or just a few minutes after 6:00 p.m., on April 4, 1968.

Mr. HENDRIX stated that the Mustang that turned the corner and proceeded east on Vance Street, did not turn the corner very fast or make the tires squeal. He said he did not watch which way the Mustang turned or how far it traveled on Vance Street.

Mr. HENDRIX also stated he cannot furnish any information as to the cars parked or traveling in the immediate area of Jim's Grill at the time that he and BILL REED left. He also stated he cannot furnish any information concerning individuals in the immediate area of Jim's Grill at the time he left to return to his room.

ME 44-1987

MEDICAL INFORMATION
RE
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/19/68

Records of St. Joseph Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee, contain the following information concerning the admittance and treatment of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. on the evening of April 4, 1968:

"EMERGENCY ROOM SUMMARY - Dr. Martin Luther King

"The following is an Emergency room Summary on Dr. Martin Luther King who was brought into the Emergency room by an ambulance stretcher at approximately 6:15 p.m. on 4/4/68 immediately following an apparent gunshot wound of the right side of the face and neck.

"At the time of the patient's admission to the Emergency room Dr. Ted Galyon was in attendance in the Emergency room talking to the nurse about an out-patient who had just left the Emergency room. He went directly into Room #1, where the patient was, with Mrs. Steinkirch, Emergency room nurse and finding the patient totally unconscious flat on his back in the supine position with his head turned slightly to the left side. There was a large gaping wound in the root of the neck on the right side which was not actively bleeding at the time of his initial arrival. There was much blood on his clothes, neck and shoulder. His head was partially covered with a towel over the area of the wound.

"Dr. Galyon immediately secured a stethoscope, detected a palpable heart beat and radial pulse and started a cutdown over the left antecubital vein which was done immediately for fluids. These were started while blood was ordered from the Laboratory for resuscitation. A second cutdown was started in the ankle in the saphenous vein by Dr. John Reisser for blood which was infused under pressure. The surgical resident, Dr. Rufus Brown came in at 6:18 p.m. and

71

On 4/19/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987

by SA HOWARD D. TETEN / jms Date dictated 4/19/68

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because of the massive defect in the wound and no respiration a tracheotomy was started. Dr. Barrasso came in at 6:22 p.m. and completed the tracheotomy and a cuffed endotracheal tube was inserted. Assisted respiration was then carried out on this patient. Following the re-establishment of an airway on this patient, the heart was again auscultated and very little tone could be heard. An EKG was immediately ordered by Dr. Galyon and Dr. Barrasso and the strip showed very poor to no function. Intracardiac Adrenalin was immediately injected and closed chest cardiac massage begun.

"In the meantime, exploration of the neck was carried out by Drs. Barrasso and Galyon who found that the jugular vein on the right was severed. A large artery, which was felt to be probably subclavian, was shredded and sticking up into the wound with very little bleeding at this time. In addition, there was much bubbling and a portion of the right apex of the lung was bulging through the wound.

"On further exploration a defect in the vertebral bodies of C7 to T2 was present with complete loss of spinal cord substance. Dr. Fred Gioia was then called to confirm this diagnosis and attempts to secure closure of the chest cavity by packing and clamping of the vessels was done. A right closed thoracotomy tube was inserted in an attempt to drain the blood from the right chest and re-expand the lung. Immediately on insertion of the tube 1000 cc. of blood was obtained from the right chest cavity. At the time Dr. Gioia confirmed the diagnosis of loss of spinal cord substance. This patient's pupils were massively dilated with no reaction.

"Dr. Joe Wilhite, a chest surgeon, was also called in attendance and consultation. Dr. Julian Fleming came to the Emergency room at our request and an EKG strip was done which showed no function. The cardiac massage was continued with all resuscitative efforts being continued for approximately 50 minutes, during which time we had had no response of any kind of vital signs and patient was pronounced dead at 7:05 p.m. by Dr. Barrasso.