

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED
FOR HISTORICAL
DECLASSIFICATION

of

X DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

44-38861*See Sub A*
See Sub I
See Sub 2

See also Nos.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11/29/91 BY SP1-ucj/pdc

~~DO NOT DESTROY - PENDING LITIGATION~~

DO NOT DESTROY - PENDING LITIGATION

Closed Section
Robert G. 5-68

SHAW-WALKER 18-32850

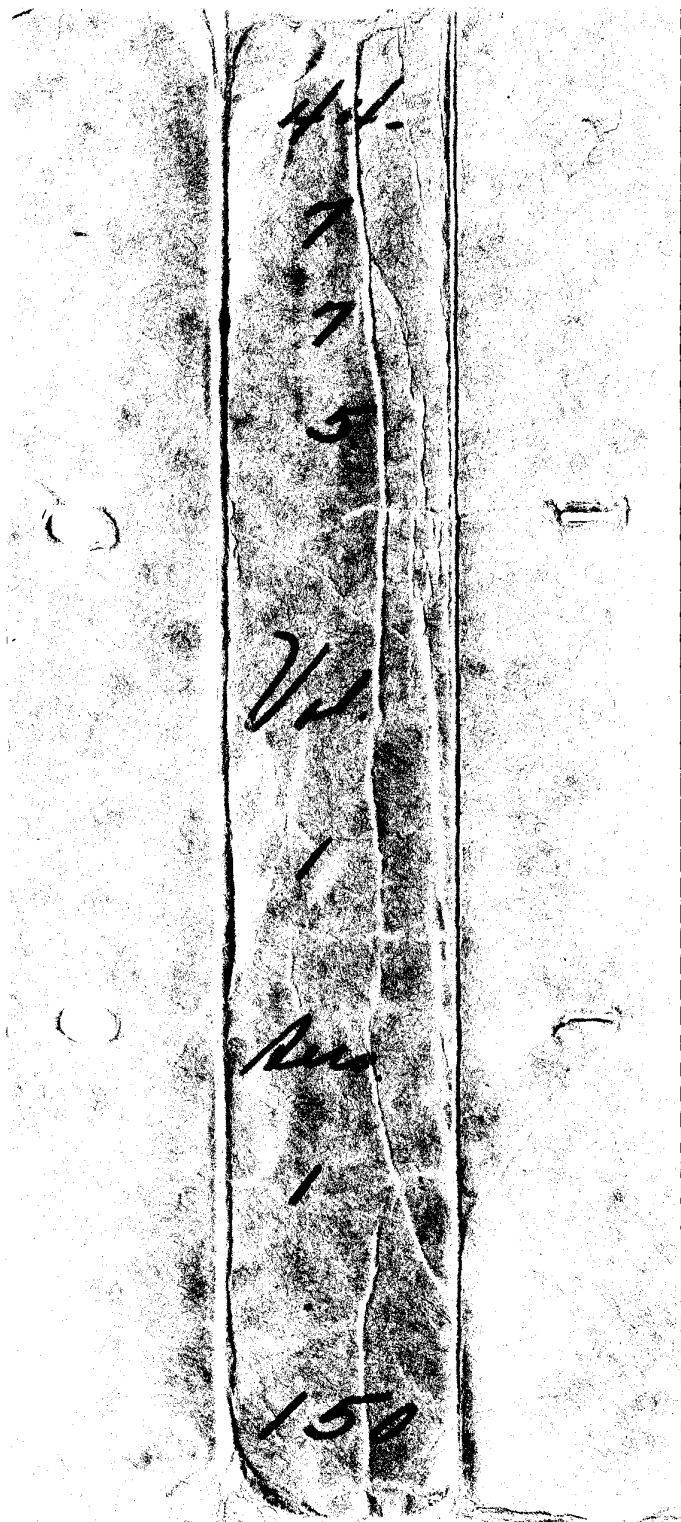
CLASSIFICATION NO.

44-38861

Serials

Volume Number

150



DO NOT DESTROY
PENDING LITIGATION

KEEP AS TOP SERIAL - FILE NO. 44-775

4210 1487
4367 2778
3210
3223
4007

Complaint Form
FD-71 (Rev. 10-26-65)

NOTE: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Indices: ☐ Negative ☐ See below

Subject's name and aliases UNSUB; aka JOHN WILLARD, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR - VICTIM			Address of subject —		Character of case CR
Complainant SA HOWARD TETEN			Complainant's address and telephone number BFO MEMPHIS		Complaint received ☐ Personal ☒ Telephonic Date 4-5-68 Time 8⁰⁰A.
Subject's Description	Race	Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female	Height	Hair	Build
	Age		Weight	Eyes	Complexion
	Scars, marks or other data				
Facts of complaint SA Teten telephonically furnished serial numbers found on Browning rifle bot recovered in this case and requested trace thru Browning Arms Co. records. Check was made by SA Dobson who advised SA Teten of results telephonically. Teten advised about caption is one being used by Memphis, and requested FD-302 be forwarded. This was at 10²⁰ am 4-5-68 at 10:40 am same date, Supv Clement McHowan of the Bureau called and requested same information, stating serial number in his estimation is #4744, Z 5. He was furnished same information as had been given Memphis.					
44-775-1 SEARCHED.....INDEXED..... SERIALIZED.....FILED..... APR 5 1968 FBI - SAINT LOUIS <i>SA Dobson</i>					
Action Recommended <i>O+A under this caption as substantive case, to distinguish and keep separate from ancillary matters which may arise from this incident.</i> <i>David R. Dobson</i> (Agent)					

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 5, 1968

Mr. WAYNE W. WADMAN, Customer Service Manager, Browning Arms Company, 1706 Washington Street, St. Louis, Missouri, advised the printed number "130712" appearing in the upper left corner of the label on the Browning High Power Rifle box found in this case, is a code designation which means the weapon it contained was a Safari grade, .243 Winchester caliber, Browning Rifle, with light weight barrel and sights.

The handwritten number appearing in the lower left corner of the label is the serial number of the weapon.

Browning high power rifle serial numbers consist of four arabic numerals, which are the actual serial number of the weapon, followed by a letter of the alphabet, known as the "Alpha designation", which is indicative of the caliber and grade of the weapon. This is followed by a single arabic numeral which is indicative of the last digit of the year in which the rifle was manufactured, in this case 1965.

Browning files fail to disclose any record of receipt or shipment of any .243 Winchester caliber, Safari grade rifles bearing serial numbers 4444Z5 or 4449Z5.

Serial number 4Y44Z5 is not a proper Browning serial number, as the first four digits are not arabic numerals, but was considered significant by Mr. WADMAN as being indicative of some question as to the second digit.

Mr. WADMAN explained that the serial numbers are handwritten in French script arabic numerals, which are sufficiently different in form in some instances to cause Americans considerable difficulty in correctly reading or interpreting them. In his experience, what may appear to be a "Y" is actually either a "1" or a "7".

Based on this possibility, search was made for serial number 4144Z5 with the result that no record was found.

On 4/5/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # ME: 44-1987
SL: 44-775-2
by SA HAROLD R. DOBSON : jmf Date dictated 4/5/68

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.

ME: 44-1987
SL: 44-775

Browning records for serial number 4744Z5 disclosed a .243 Winchester caliber, Safari grade, Browning rifle, bearing this serial number was part of a shipment destined to All American Sporting Goods, 1025 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara, California, on April 4, 1966, pursuant to Browning invoice number 017794 dated March 30, 1966, customer order number 0016265 and number 0016248.

This weapon was subsequently returned to Browning by the dealer, for credit. There is no way of knowing whether or not it was returned in the original box.

This rifle was later part of a shipment to Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham, Alabama, on October 21, 1966, pursuant to Browning invoice number 079679, dated October 17, 1966, customer order number 0001420 and number D001232. This is the last record Browning has of this weapon.

Mr. WADMAN stated that he felt almost sure that this rifle, serial number 4744Z5, was the one referred to by the box label in this case, but that it would be necessary for him, or some other experienced Browning employee, to view either the original label or a clear photograph thereof in order to effect a positive identification.

Mr. WADMAN is in lawful custody of pertinent Browning records, and is the proper person to whom a subpoena duces tecum should be directed for their production in court.

4/5/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) (P)
RE: UNSUB,
aka John Willard;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
CR
OO: Memphis

Re telephone calls of Memphis SA HOWARD TETEN and Bureau supervisor CLEMENT MC GOWAN to St. Louis; and SL call of SA HAROLD R. DOBSON to SA TETEN, 4/5/68.

Enclosures: 10 cc of FD-302 re results of Browning Arms Co. record check.

For info of Memphis, results of Browning record check were furnished Supervisor MC GOWAN, who stated in his estimation proper serial number is #4744Z5, and that if deemed necessary, photograph of box label would be furnished for exhibition to Browning employees. SL will do so if received, and advise.

2 - Memphis (Encl. 10) (RM)
① St. Louis
HRD:jmf
(3)

jmf

W

44-775-3

SEARCHED	_____
SERIALIZED	_____
INDEXED	_____
FILED	_____

[Signature]

F B I

Date: 4/6/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, LITTLE ROCK AND OKLAHOMA CITY
 FROM: ST. LOUIS (44-775)

UNSUB, AKA JOHN WILLARD: MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM; CR

ON APRIL SIX, INSTANT, AN ANONYMOUS MALE TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THAT ON APRIL THREE, LAST HE CASUALLY MET A MAN IN THE OKLAHOMA CITY GREYHOUND BUS TERMINAL WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS CLIFFORD SCOTT FROM FT. SMITH, ARK. DURING THEIR CONVERSATION SCOTT MENTIONED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN A HOSPITAL AND INCLUDED MENTION OF NORMAN, OKLA., ALTHOUGH THE CALLER DID NOT SPECIFICALLY RECALL THAT HE SAID THIS WAS THE LOCATION OF THE HOSPITAL THAT HE HAD BEEN IN; THAT SCOTT ALSO CLAIMED TO BE A GI; TO BE AN EXPERT ON GUNS AND THAT SCOTT EXPRESSED HATRED OF NEGROES. SCOTT WAS DESCRIBED AS A WHITE MALE, ABOUT THIRTYFIVE YEARS OLD, FIVE FOOT ELEVEN, ONE SEVENTYFIVE TO ONE EIGHTY LBS., TATTOO OF SOME KIND ON RIGHT FOREARM. NO OTHER DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION.

① - ST. LOUIS

RTH: pdp

(1)

44-775-4
 SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED _____
 INDEXED _____
 FILED _____

Approved: _____
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent

B 9A 3
 LR 9:54
 OC 9:50 A
 9A 3

M

Per

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO

SL 44-775

THE CALLER SAID HE WAS ADVISING THE FBI BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THERE IS A MENTAL HOSPITAL IN NORMAN, OKLA. AND WHEN SCOTT LEFT HIM HE SAID HE HAD TO GO SOUTH FOR AWHILE; THAT HE HAD A JOB TO DO WHICH WOULD UPSET A LOT OF PEOPLE; THAT SCOTT WAS NOT RIDING A BUS BUT CLAIMED HE WAS DRIVING A CAR (NOT SEEN BY CALLER) AND HE MAY HAVE BEEN THE ASSASSIN OF DR. KING. THE CALLER SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO FURNISH HIS NAME AND ADDRESS AS HE HAS THREE CHILDREN AND DOES NOT WANT TO JEOPARDIZE HIS FAMILY.

LITTLE ROCK AT FT. SMITH, ARK.: WILL THROUGH AVAILABLE SOURCES DETERMINE IF ONE CLIFFORD SCOTT IS A RESIDENT OF FT. SMITH AND IDENTIFY.

OKLAHOMA CITY AT NORMAN, OKLA.: WILL CHECK HOSPITALS IN NORMAN, OKLA. FOR ANY RECORD OF A PATIENT NAMED CLIFFORD SCOTT. WILL ALSO CHECK AVAILABLE SOURCES TO DETERMINE IF ONE CLIFFORD SCOTT WAS A PAST RESIDENT OF NORMAN, OKLA.

LITTLE ROCK AND OKLAHOMA CITY WILL SET OUT LEADS TO CHECK MILITARY RECORD OF ANY CLIFFORD SCOTT IDENTIFIED. P

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FBI ST LOUIS

FBI OKLA CITY

425PM URGENT 4-6-68 RJS

TO DIRECTOR , LITTLE ROCK AND ST. LOUIS 44-775
FROM OKLAHOMA CITY 44-NEW RUC 1P

UNSUB; AKA JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM
CR.

RE ST. LOUIS TEL TO DIRECTOR INSTANT DATE.

APRIL SIX, INSTANT, THE FOLLOWING HOSPITALS AND AGENCIES
WERE CHECKED AT NORMAN, OKLA., WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS RE
CLIFFORD SCOTT: CENTRAL STATE MENTAL HOSPITAL, PER JAMES DUNN;
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, PER MARY JACKSON; CLEVELAND COUNTY SO,
BLANCHE GIDDENS; NORMAN PD, PER COP BILL HENSLEE; OKLA. UNIV.
PD AND INFIRMARY PER CHIEF HAROLD BERNEIR; NORMAN WATER WORKS
AND CITY DIRECTOR PER SHERIFF BILL PORTER.

AT VINITA, OKLA., RECORDS OF EASTERN STATE MENTAL HOSPITAL
CHECKED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS PER HENRY O'BRIEN.

OKLA. CITY INDICES AND OKLA. CITY PD NEGATIVE.

UACB NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED *LSB*

OKLA. CITY SUGGESTS THAT ST. LOUIS ADVISE OFFICE OF
ORIGIN AT MEMPHIS.

END

SMK

FBI ST LOUIS

44-775-⁵
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
APR 6 1968
FBI - ST. LOUIS

F B I

Date: 4-6-68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via teletype URGENT
(Priority)To: Memphis
From: St. Louis (44-775)

UNSUB, AKA JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM; CR

The Following tel was sent to BU, LR AND OC ON 4-6-68

ON APRIL SIX, INSTANT, AN ANONYMOUS MALE TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THAT ON APRIL THREE, LAST HE CASUALLY MET A MAN IN THE OKLAHOMA CITY GREYHOUND BUS TERMINAL WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS CLIFFORD SCOTT FROM FT. SMITH, ARK. DURING THEIR CONVERSATION SCOTT MENTIONED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN A HOSPITAL AND INCLUDED MENTION OF NORMAN, OKLA., ALTHOUGH THE CALLER DID NOT SPECIFICALLY RECALL THAT HE SAID THIS WAS THE LOCATION OF THE HOSPITAL THAT HE HAD BEEN IN; THAT SCOTT ALSO CLAIMED TO BE A GI; TO BE AN EXPERT ON GUNS AND THAT SCOTT EXPRESSED HATRED OF NEGROES. SCOTT WAS DESCRIBED AS A WHITE MALE, ABOUT THIRTYFIVE YEARS OLD, FIVE FOOT ELEVEN, ONE SEVENTYFIVE TO ONE EIGHTY LBS., TATTOO OF SOME KIND ON RIGHT FOREARM. NO OTHER DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION.

44-775-6
 SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED _____
 INDEXED _____
 FILED _____

Approved: E. C. W. / J. A. S.
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent 6:15 PM MPer J. A. S.

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO

SL 44-775

THE CALLER SAID HE WAS ADVISING THE FBI BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THERE IS A MENTAL HOSPITAL IN NORMAN, OKLA. AND WHEN SCOTT LEFT HIM HE SAID HE HAD TO GO SOUTH FOR AWHILE; THAT HE HAD A JOB TO DO WHICH WOULD UPSET A LOT OF PEOPLE; THAT SCOTT WAS NOT RIDING A BUS BUT CLAIMED HE WAS DRIVING A CAR (NOT SEEN BY CALLER) AND HE MAY HAVE BEEN THE ASSASSIN OF DR. KING. THE CALLER SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO FURNISH HIS NAME AND ADDRESS AS HE HAS THREE CHILDREN AND DOES NOT WANT TO JEOPARDIZE HIS FAMILY.

LITTLE ROCK AT FT. SMITH, ARK.: WILL THROUGH AVAILABLE SOURCES DETERMINE IF ONE CLIFFORD SCOTT IS A RESIDENT OF FT. SMITH AND IDENTIFY.

OKLAHOMA CITY AT NORMAN, OKLA.: WILL CHECK HOSPITALS IN NORMAN, OKLA. FOR ANY RECORD OF A PATIENT NAMED CLIFFORD SCOTT. WILL ALSO CHECK AVAILABLE SOURCES TO DETERMINE IF ONE CLIFFORD SCOTT WAS A PAST RESIDENT OF NORMAN, OKLA.

LITTLE ROCK AND OKLAHOMA CITY WILL SET OUT LEADS TO CHECK MILITARY RECORD OF ANY CLIFFORD SCOTT IDENTIFIED.

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)*PAGE THREE*

FOR INFORMATION OF MEMPHIS OC HAS ADVISED THE FOLLOWING HOSPITALS AND AGENCIES WERE CHECK AT NORMAN, OKLA., WITH NEGATIVE RESLTS RE CLIFFORD SCOTT; CENTRAL STATE MENTAL HOSPITAL, PER JAMES DUNN; MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, PER MARY JACKSON; CLEVELAND COUNTY SO, BLANCHE GIDDENS; NORMAN PD, PER COP BILL HENSLEE; OKLA. UNIV. PD AND INFIRMARY PER CHIEF HAROLD BERNEIR; NORMAN WATER WORKD AND CITY DIRECTOR PER SHERIFF BILL PORTER.

AT VINITA, OKLA., RECORDS OF EASTERN STATE MENTAL HOSPITAL CHECKED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS PER HENRY O'BRIEN.

OC INDICES AND OC PD NEGATIVE.

UACB NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED.

END

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (~~157-5883~~) ^{44-NEW}

DATE: 4/7/68

FROM : SA ROBERT A. HESS

SUBJECT: MURKIN
RM

At approximately 12:15 p.m., ROBERT HODGINS, Sinclair Service Station, 8260 Forsythe Ave., Clayton, Mo., telephone # PA6-0023 advised he had this a.m. seen in the St. Louis Globe Democrat newspaper an artists conception of the killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He indicated that to him the artists conception resembled BENJAMIN FRANKLIN GIBSON, Imperial Wizard of the Missouri Klan.

HODGINS also stated that another employee of the service station, JIM (LNU), age 35 to 40, of High Ridge, Mo., believes he may have rented a car to GIBSON last week. ~~HODGINS~~ HODGINS stated he did not know how to get hold of JIM (LNU), however, he would be to work in the service station on monday, 4/8/68.

~~157-5883~~
44-NEW
RAH
(1)

44-775-7

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 10 1968	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

W

FBI WASH DC

332PM URGENT 4-7-68 SAA

TO ALL CON\NEN\AL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR 1P

MURKIN

THIS IS THE CAPTION FOR THE CIVIL RIGHTS INVESTIGATION TO IDENTIFY PERSON OR PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, ON APRIL FOUR LAST.

ALL INVESTIGATION MUST BE HANDLE UNDER THE PERSONAL DIRECTION OF THE SAC. LEADS ARE TO BE AFFORDED IMMEDIATE, THOROUGH IMAGINATIVE ATTENTION. YOU MUST EXHAUST ALL POSSIBILITIES FROM SUCH LEADS AS ANY ONE LEAD COULD RESULT IN THE SOLUTION OF THIS MOST IMPORTANT INVESTIGATION. SAC WILL BE HELD PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY FAILURE TO PROMPTLY AND THOROUGHLY HANDLE INVESTIGATIONS IN THIS MATTER.

END

SI..CEK

FBI SPRNGFLD

OM..JPD

FBI OMAHA

KC..KAM

FBI KAN CITY

MP...RDP

FBI MINNAPLS

LR..MHR

FBI LITTLE R

SL...RJK

FBI ST LOUIS

JN...KCH

FBI JKSN MISS

TU ORP CLR

*SAC advised
ASAC advised
RR*

44-775-8

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 7 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

W. L. Smith

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775)

DATE: 4-7-68

FROM : SA JACK A. FRENCH

SUBJECT: MURKIN

At approximately 3:00 Pm instant date, ART ROWOLD, Maintenance Supervisor, Motor Transportation Leasing Comp SLMO who resides at 220 Dorchester, Belleville, Ill. (EX 8-1169) telephonically advised the writer that BEN FRANKLIN GIBSON, his foreman on the mid-watch at Motor Transportation, had been ~~XX~~ at work every day (Mon-Fri) this past week.

~~XXXXXXXX~~

ROWOLD stated that GIBSON's normal hours are from 11:30 PM to 8:00 AM.

XX (1)

44-775-9

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 8 1968	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

TH



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, St. Louis (44-)

DATE: April 7, 1968

FROM : R. B. Smith, SA

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION MLK
RM

Per ASAC call was made to Memphis to determine if there is any identification of assassin or not so as to have some idea whether we should be running out all calls to identify this person.

At 1:35PM this date called Memphis, SA JOSEPH HESTER, to whom KING case assigned. He said there is no indication at all as to identity of assassin and that any info we receive as to killer should be run out. He said the shot killing KING was fired at 6:00PM 4-4-68 and any should be considered suspect whose whereabouts cannot be determined at that time. He said Bureau has latent prints of killer for comparison, and if possible prints should be taken of suspects, including palm prints, for submission to Bureau for comparison.

He also said that Bureau has an artist now in Memphis to make a new artists conception of suspect. Latest description of suspect is:

Age 26 to 40 (they tend to favor a young age near 30)
Weight 155-180
Probably tall and slender
Dark brown hair (definitely not black)
Getaway car in all probability is white mustang.

RBS

(1)

~~157-5883~~

44-



5010-106

44-175-10

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

W

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

F B I

Date: 4-7-68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR FBI AND MEMPHIS

FM: ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN GIBSON, IMPERIAL WIZARD, OZARK KLAN OF MISSOURI, NKKKK, BEARS SOME RESEMBLENCE TO ARTISTS CONCEPTION OF UNSUB AS CIRCULATED IN NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS. THIS DIVISION HAS NO INFORMATION TO LINK GIBSON WITH CAPTIONED MATTER OTHER THAN THIS RESEMBLENCE.

GIBSON HAS BEEN AT WORK DAILY IN ST. LOUIS APRIL ~~ONE~~ ONE THROUGH FIVE HOWEVER HE WORKS ELEVEN THIRTY PM TO EIGHT AM SHIFT THEREFORE HIS WORK SCHEDULE DOES NOT ELIMINATE HIM AS A SUSPECT. LOCAL KLAN INFORMANTS ARE CURRENTLY BEING CONTACTED IN ATTEMPT TO VERIFY GIBSON'S RECENT MOVEMENTS. GIBSON LAST KNOWN TO DRIVE NINETEEN SIX FIVE DARK BLUE TWO DOOR MUSTANG BEARING FLORIDA LICENSE SEVEN DASH FOUR THREE EIGHT ONE FIVE.

GIBSON SUBJECT OF SL FILE ONE FIVE SEVEN DASH ELEVEN ZERO THREE, BUFILE ONE FIVE SEVEN DASH THIRTY TWO FORTY SIX. DESCRIBED AS WHITE, MALE, BORN

JAF:SL
JAF:jafApproved: JAF
Special Agent in ChargeSent WA 348
ME 353 M Per R

44-775-11

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED per
INDEXED _____
FILED per

TO: SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000) FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000) (P)
SUBJECT: [Illegible] (P)
[Illegible text block containing several lines of typed information, mostly obscured by noise and bleed-through.]

RE: [Illegible] (P)
[Illegible text block]

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____
(Priority)

~~sight~~

EIGHT TWENTY THREE AT MC CLURE ILLINOIS, FIVE FOOT
NINE, ONE FIFTY POUNDS, MEDIUM BUILD, BLUE EYES,
DARK BROWN THINNING HAIR, FBI NUMBER ONE ZERO SEVEN
ONE ZERO NINE C.

IDENT DIV IS REQUESTED TO COMPARE GIBSONS
FINGERPRINTS WITH ANY LATENTS FOUND. ST. LOUIS IS
FORWARDING RECENT PHOTO OF GIBSON TO MEMPHIS. P

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

4-7-68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) (P)

MURKIN

Re SL Teletype to Bureau and Memphis, 4-7-68

Enclosed for Memphis Division is five copies
of photograph of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN GIBSON, Imperial
Wizard, Ozark Klan of Missouri.

W

2 - Memphis (enc 5)
1 - Bureau (info)
① - St. Louis
JAF:jaf
(4)

[Handwritten signature]

44-775-12
44-775-17
SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED *[initials]*
INDEXED *[initials]*
FILED *[initials]*

FBI ST LOUIS

FBI WASH DC

11-04 PM URGENT 4-7-68 JMS

TO ST LOUIS 44-775 MEMPHIS 44-1987

FROM DIRECTOR 1P

MURKIN

RESLTEL APRIL SEVEN.

REMAINING UNIDENTIFIED LATENT FINGERPRINTS THIS CASE NOT
IDENTICAL FINGERPRINTS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN GIBSON, FBI NUMBER ONE
ZERO SEVEN ONE ZERO NINE C.

END

J

Miley

*Walters
advised
10:30 P
ASAC
advised
10:30 P
O'Brien*

44-775-13

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 7 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, St. Louis

DATE: Apr 7, 1968

FROM : R. B. Smith, SA

SUBJECT: MURKIN

At 10:30PM Sgt CASS, 4th District, SLPD called to inquire if we had a name of a possible suspect in this case so that any suspects they might pick up could be eliminated. He wanted a name in addition to the description that had been published. He was told we had no name, other than that published in the paper as the man who registered in the hotel in Memphis.

RBS

1)

44-775

44-775-14
APR 7 1968
W



5010-108

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

FBI MEMPHIS

705PM URGENT 4/7/68 CAF

TO ALL SACS

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987) 2P

MURKIN; CR. OO MEMPHIS.

RE BUTEL TO ALL SAC'S APRIL SEVEN, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT.

FOR INFO ALL OFFICES, PERTINENT PERIODS IN INVESTIGATION
ARE MARCH TWENTY NINE AND THIRTY IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA., AND
APRIL FOUR, SIXTY EIGHT, IN MEMPHIS, TENN.

IN EVENT ANY DATA DEVELOPED RE SUSPECTS, IF INTERESTED
OFFICES CAN ESTABLISH WHEREABOUTS OF SUSPECTS ON DATES ABOVE,
THIS MAY ELIMINATE SUSPECT. IF THIS CANNOT BE DONE, EFFORTS
SHOULD BE MADE TO SECURE PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUSPECTS IN QUESTION AND
FORWARD PHOTOS TO MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM FOR POSSIBLE ELIMINATION.
PERTINENT DESCRIPTIVE DATA SHOULD BE INCLUDED WITH PHOTOS.

IF UNABLE TO ELIMINATE ON BASIS OF ESTABLISHED WHEREABOUTS
IN PERTINENT PERIODS, INTERESTED OFFICES SHOULD MAKE EFFORTS
TO SECURE FINGERPRINTS OF SUSPECT IN QUESTION AND SUBMIT SAME TO
BUREAU FOR ELIMINATION.

COMPOSITE DESCRIPTION, BASED ON DATA DEVELOPED IN BIRMINGHAM
AND MEMPHIS, IS AS FOLLOWS:

END PAGE ONE

44-775-15

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 7 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

Wilton

ASAC

PAGE TWO

SUSPECT MALE WHITE, AGE TWENTY SIX TO FORTY YEARS, HEIGHT FIVE FT. EIGHT TO FIVE FT. ELEVEN INCHES, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY TO ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY LBS.; DARK BROWN OR SANDY HAIR, COMBED STRAIGHT BACK. EYES BLUE OR GREEN; MEDIUM BUILD; COMPLEXION AVERAGE, SMOOTH. GENERAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE; NEAT.

POSSIBILITY EXISTS SUSPECT IS NON-SMOKER. INDICATIONS WERE THAT SUSPECT RENTED ROOM BETWEEN THREE AND THREE THIRTY PM, APRIL FOUR, LAST, AND DEPARTED ROOM SHORTLY AFTER SIX PM. NO MATCHES OR CIGARETTES FOUND DURING THAT PERIOD, WHICH SUGGESTS SUSPECT MAY BE NON-SMOKER.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION MUST BE PROMPTLY FURNISHED BUREAU, MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM. P.

END

OM...VRG

FBI OMAHA

MP...RLT

FBI MINNAPLS

KC...ENT

FBI KAN CITY

SL...JLS

FBI ST LOUIS

TU CLR

F B I

Date: 4-8-68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

- AM URGENT 4-8-68 JHH

TO: DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ST. LOUIS (44-775) 2P

MURKIN

RE TELEPHONE CALL SUPV. AL HOGAN, DIVISION SIX.

REV. OLIVER W GIBSON, PARISH TEMPLE CME CHURCH, EIGHT HUNDRED NORTH UNION (NEGRO MINISTER) ADVISED THAT HE WAS MASTER OF CEREMONIES IN MEMORIAL TO KING TODAY AND AFTER EVENING SERVICES IN HIS CHURCH ABOUT NINE PM HE WAS TOLD A WHITE MAN WISHED TO SEE HIM. THIS MAN GAVE HIS NAME ONLY AS "COLLINS". HE WAS FIVE FEET EIGHT AND ONE HALF INCHES TALL, RUDDY COMPLEXION, BLONDE STRAIGHT HAIR, SMALL SCAR LEFT HAND, SCAR RIGHT CHEEK, ONE FIVE FIVE - ONE SIX ZERO LBS, ABOUT THIRTY YEARS OF AGE, WELL DRESSED IN DARK GREEN BUSINESS SUIT WITH SHIRT AND TIE. HE WORE WATCH WITH BLACK FACE ON LEFT HAND AND RINF ON RIGHT RING FINGER WITH "H" ON IT. AT END OF INTERVIEW WITH GIBSON HE SAID HIS REAL NAME WAS THOMAS ROBERT HENDERSON. AFTER IDENTIFYING SELF TO GIBSON HE SAID HE WAS NOT A BEGGAR BUT WAS A THIEF AND A MURDERER. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS IN COUNTERFIET CHECKS IN AN ATTACHE CASE HE WAS CARRYING, TOGETHER WITH SEVERAL CREDIT CARDS. HE CLAIMED HE CAME TO ST. LOUIS FROM CHICAGO MORNING FOUR SEVEN SIXTYEIGHT, METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION UNKNOWN.

END PAGE ONE

PSS

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16

F B I

Date: **4-8-68**

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

Approved: TJG/jh
Special Agent in Charge

Sent DIRECTOR 2:14AM
MEMPHIS 2:20AM

Per jhh

16

44-775-16
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

PAGE TWO
SL 44-775

F B I

Date: 4-8-68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

PAGE TWO

V

SL 44-775

HE SAID HE WANTED TO FIND PEACE. CLAIMED HE WAS RECENTLY IN ATLANTA AND HAD RECENTLY MET MARTIN LUTHER KING WHO BEFRENDED HIM. HE TOLD KING HE HAD BUT ONE YEAR TO LIVE DUE TO BRAIN TUMOR. HE HAD CARD WITH KINGS NAME AND HOME AND OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER. HE DID NOT SO STATE, BUT GAVE THE IMPRESSION TO GIBSON HE WAS THE ASSASSIN OF KING BY STATING HE HAD ORDERED SOMEONE KILLED. HE WONDERED IF HE SHOULD TURN HIMSELF IN. HE SAID HE HAD STUDIED PSYCHOLOGY, HAD BEEN IN THE MILITARY AND WON BOTH BRONZE AND SILVER STAR. HE HAS USED NARCOTICS. HE WANTED GIBSON TO HELP HIM FIND PEACE. HE HAD ONLY EIGHTEEN CENTS IN CASH. GIBSON GAVE HIM FIVE DOLLARS. HE WANTED GIBSON TO HELP HIM AND SAID HE WOULD MEET GIBSON AT THE CHURCH AT TEN THIRTY IN THE MORNING (OF FOUR EIGHT SIXTYEIGHT). HE SAID ALTHOUGH HE WAS WANTED BY THE FBI AND MAFIA "THEY CAN'T CATCH ME."

SL FILES CONTAIN ON THOMAS ROBERT HENDERSON (BUFILE 105-132449) WHO MAY BE IDENTICAL TO HENDERSON, ABOVE. THE HENDERSON IN BUFILE IS NOTED AS HAVING SUICIDAL TENDENCIES, WAS ONCE NARCOTICS USER, IS MENTAL CASE, DRIFTER, NUMEROUS ARRESTS AND HAS FBI NUMBER SEVEN ONE NINE THREE TWO ZERO C.

BUREAU ADVISE WHETHER OR NOT THIS PERSON WANTED BY FBI. SL WILL COVER ALLEGED MEETING WITH REV. GIBSON TEN THIRTY AM FOUR EIGHT SIXTYEIGHT AND INTERVIEW COLLINS, AKA HENDERSON, UACB.

FND Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, St Louis

DATE: Apr 8, 1968

FROM : R. B. Smith, SA

SUBJECT: MURKIN

At 11:15PM 4-7-68 Supv. AL HOGAN, Division 6, Bureau called to advise that MILTON LEWIS, Compliance Officer, U.S. Dept of Justice, home phone WO 1-3452 called one ED O'CONNELL, U.S. Dept of Justice in Washington, D.C. (who notified the Bureau) that he, LEWIS, had a call from a Rev. GIBSON, telephone 361-1350, that he, GIBSON, had talked to a man who was the killer of KING.

Mr. HOGAN desired that we contact LEWIS, then GIBSON and submit teletype or telephone reply to Bureau, whichever would be most appropriate.

I called Mr. LEWIS at WO 1-3452 and he said that GIBSON was Rev. OLIVER W. GIBSON, minister, Parish Temple CME Church, 800 N. Union, who had a white man visit him after the evening service and he thought this white man had killed KING. He said that GIBSON did not call the FBI, St. Louis since GIBSON had an unpleasant experience with the FBI in Little Rock, Ark. some time in the past. He said GIBSON was at the home of a friend and that was telephone 361-1350.

I called REV. GIBSON at this number. He said he was the master of ceremonies for KING memorial at Forest Park today (4-7-68) and after this he held his services at regular time at his church at 800 N. Union. After these services at about 9PM a white man who gave his name as ---- COLLINS, described as 5' 8½" (same height as the minister), ruddy complexion, straight blonde hair, small scar left hand, scar right cheek, 155-160 lbs., about 30 years of age. He was well dressed in a dark green business suit, shirt and tie. He wore a watch with black face on his left wrist and had a ring on his right ring finger with an "H" on it. He said he was not a beggar, but was a thief and murderer. He claimed to have \$10,000 in fictitious cashiers check in an attache case he was carrying. He said his home was in New Orleans and that he had come to St. Louis from Chicago, method of transportation unknown. He said he had ordered people killed and had killed some himself. He said he was wanted by the FBI and the MAFIA.

He said he wanted to find peace and wanted to know what to do.



5010-108

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

He said he had recently been in Atlanta - had ordered people killed, and on one recently was carried out, but the \$500. fee for it was not paid. He said once in Atlanta he met M.L.KING who befriended him and he told KING he had only one year to live since he had a brain tumor. He had a card (calling card) with M.L.KING name, home and business phone on it. He supposedly talked about the existence of God, right and wrong, etc with KING. He said he had only 18¢ in cash on him. He said he had stolen MAFIA records and asked if he should turn himself in. He claimed to have been in the military, won the bronze and silver star. He again said he was searching for peace. Said he had not slept in 3 days. He wondered if GIBSON could help him. GIBSON wondered what he could do and COLLINS asked to meet him in the morning at 10:30AM at the church. GIBSON agreed to this, and asked if he needed money. The man repeated he was not a beggar, but accepted a "loan" of \$5.00 from GIBSON. He said he was tired of running - staying in dingy hotels. He said he had some bags in a locker. He repeated having killed people and was sorry. He again talked about KING. He finally said his name was not COLLINS, but he had used phoney names. He said his name was THOMAS ROBERT HENDERSON, was wanted by the FBI but "they can't catch me" as in 4 hours he could be in California. He started to leave the attache case with GIBSON but didn't do it as GIBSON's life wouldn't be worth a nickel if he did. He left going out to Enright Ave. toward Union on foot and was not seen thereafter.

It was the talk about the killing that made GIBSON think he was the killer of KING. He told he had used narcotics and had studied psychology.

SL indices indicate one THOMAS ROBERT HENDERSON, born [redacted] has description similar to that above and HAS ATTEMPTED SUICIDE IN PAST, IS AN ADMITTED NARCOTICE USER, HAS RECEIVED PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT, AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED DANGEROUS. HE IS MENTAL CASE AND A DRIETER.

65-2003

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC ST. LOUIS

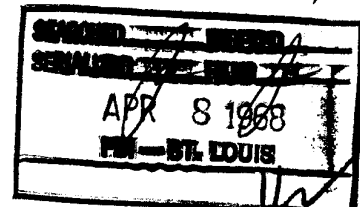
DATE: 4/8/68

FROM : SA HARRY C. JUNG

SUBJECT: MURKIN

At 6:30am, 4/8/68 Supr. ED MC DONOUGH at the Bureau telephonically advised that there was no wanted for THOMAS ROBERT HENDERSON.

HCJ
(1)



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

4/6/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

ATTN: ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (66-1857)

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT
MEMPHIS DIVISION

MURKIN

The following personnel have arrived Memphis as indicated below:

<u>Name (Agents)</u>	<u>Office of Assignment</u>	<u>Bureau Vehicle</u>	<u>Time of Arrival</u>
M. HARRY CARMODY	Kansas City	KC 61	4/6/68 6:10 pm
LEONE J. FLOSI	Kansas City	KC 61	4/6/68 6:10 pm
KENNETH A. WILLIAMS	St. Louis	SL 65	4/6/68 4:15 pm
MELVIN E. DeGRAV	St. Louis	SL 65	4/6/68 4:15 pm
THOMAS L. BUCKLEY	St. Louis	SL 65	4/6/68 4:15 pm
WILLIAM J. BILLEAUD	Springfield	SL 65	4/6/68 4:15 pm
HERMAN O. LYLE	Springfield	SI 53	4/6/68 4:30 pm
O. JAMES HOLBROOK	Louisville	LS 22	4/6/68 5:35 pm
CHARLES L. LUTES	Louisville	LS 22	4/6/68 5:35 pm
JAMES J. STANTON	Louisville	LS 22	4/6/68 5:35 pm
VINCENT H. LAMERS	Little Rock		4/6/68 4:55 pm
JOE W. PHILLIPS	Little Rock	LR 8	4/6/68 10:30 pm
RICHARD S. BRANDT	Little Rock	LR 8	4/6/68 10:30 pm

3 - Bureau
1 - Cincinnati
1 - Kansas City
1 - Louisville
1 - Springfield
① - St. Louis
2 - Memphis
EAM/asp
(10)

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ME 66-1857

SHIELDS W. SMITH	Cincinnati	CI 34	4/6/68 7:30 pm
EDWARD M. QUINN	Cincinnati	CI 34	4/6/68 7:40 pm

STENOGRAPHERS

RUBY ARLENE JONES	Little Rock		4/6/68 4:58 pm
BETTYE B. STARK	Louisville	LS 22	4/6/68 5:35 pm
JEAN M. SAUND	Cincinnati	CI 34	4/6/68 7:40 pm

Miss RUBY ARLENE JONES brought with her Little Rock
IBM Electric typewriter, Serial Number 2596779.

F B I

Date: 4-8-68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
 FROM: ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN

REMYTEL, APRIL EIGHT INSTANT.

HENDERSON DID NOT MEET WITH REV. OLIVER N. GIBSON AT THE APPOINTED TIME, APRIL EIGHT INSTANT. HIS WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN. DURING INTERVIEW GIBSON TODAY HE SAID HENDERSON TOLD HIM HE ALWAYS HAD TROUBLE WITH HIS PARENTS, FIRST NOTICING IT AT AGE TEN WHEN HE SWORE AT HIS MOTHER, WHOSE NAME WAS PEGGY. HE SAID HE REBELS AGAINST AUTHORITY. HE HAD BEEN IN ATLANTA, NEW ORLEANS, TEXAS, CALIFORNIA, COLORADO (WHERE HE HAD RELATIVES) AND THAT HE FLEW FROM CHICAGO TO ST. LOUIS. ^{THE ABOVE DATA IS SIMILAR TO HENDERSON of Bufile 105-132469, FBI # 719326 C,} GIBSON SAID HE WAS CONFUSED AS TO PURPOSE OF HENDERSON VISIT, WAS FEARFUL OF BEING ALONE WITH HIM DUE TO ALLEGED WANTED STATUS. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN IN JAIL MUCH OF

1 - St. Louis
 RBS:amb
 (1)
amb

44-775-20
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 SERIALIZED _____
 INDEXED _____
 FILED _____

Approved: _____
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent 3:59 PM 4:05 ME Per LCR

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)SL 44-775
PAGE TWO

TIME. GIBSON SAID HE DID NOT DESIRE TO THEN SPEND MORE TIME WITH HENDERSON DUE TO LATE HOUR AND CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH CONTACTED BY HENDERSON. HE CAN ONLY ACCOUNT FOR CONTACT BY ASSUMING HENDERSON WAS IN CROWD AT KING MEMORIAL WHERE LOCATION OF GIBSON'S CHURCH ANNOUNCED. GIBSON FEELS HIS VISITOR IS SAME AS HENDERSON, FBI #SEVEN ONE NINE THREE TWO ZERO C.

IT IS SUGGESTED FINGERPRINTS HENDERSON BE COMPARED WITH LATENTS AVAILABLE IN THIS CASE. NO FURTHER ATTEMPTS BEING MADE TO LOCATE HENDERSON, UACB. P

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 4-8-68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS
 FROM: ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN; CR, OO:ME

RE MEMPHIS TEL, APRIL SEVEN LAST TO ALL SACS.

ON INSTANT DATE, EDWARD LIEBENGUTH, CLAIMS DEPT., VOLKSWAGEN CORP., SLMO, ADVISED APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS AGO RONALD WILLARD SPIVEY CAME TO HIS OFFICE TO DISCUSS A CLAIMS SETTLEMENT. LIEBENGUTH HAD EXTENSIVE INTERVIEW WITH SPIVEY DURING WHICH SPIVEY STATED HE WOULD TAKE DRASTIC ACTIONS IF NEGROES RIOTED IN NASHVILLE, TENN. SPIVEY DISPLAYED A REVOLVER WHICH HE WORE ON HIS HTP AND ALSO EXHIBITED VIALS OF WHAT HE TERMED "MACE" AND A BLACKJACK.

LIEBENGUTH STATED A MR. FRISTOE, PROFESSIONAL CLAIMS CO., NASHVILLE, TENN., HAD OBSERVED AN "ARSENAL" OF GUNS IN SPIVEY'S CAR INCLUDING DYNAMITE. FRISTOE DESCRIBED SPIVEY

1 - St. Louis
 HGS:amb
 (1)

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 SERIALIZED _____
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 FILED _____

(2)

Approved: _____
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent ME-11:20 M Per JLK
 Dir - 11:17 CAB
 SAB

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)SL 44-
PAGE TWO

AS "EMOTIONALLY UNSTABLE" AND STATED SPIVEY THREATENED TO
"BLOW UP" THE SUPERIOR MOTOR CO. IN NASHVILLE IF HIS CLAIM
WAS NOT SETTLED.

LIEBENGUTH VIEWED COMPOSITE DRAWING OF MARTIN LUTHER
KING'S ASSASSIN IN NEWSPAPER AND STATED IT CLOSELY RESEMBLED
SPIVEY. HE DESCRIBED SPIVEY AS WHITE MALE, EARLY THIRTIES,
ONE FIFTY TO ONE SIXTYFIVE LBS., SIX FEET, SLENDER BUILD,
BROWN HAIR, THIN FACE, PROMINENT NOSE, "FUNNY SMILE", VERY
TALKATIVE, OWNS HOUSE OF WILLARD, COLLECTION AGENCY, DONELSON,
TENN.

CONSIDER SUSPECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

MEMPHIS HANDLE.

P

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FBI ST LOUIS

FBI LITTLE R

2:42PM URGENT 4-8-68 ACT

TO ST. LOUIS

FROM LITTLE ROCK (157-1215) 2P

MURKIN. RACIAL MATTERS. OO MEMPHIS.

DOROTHY JONES, ROUTE ONE, SENATH, MISSOURI, EMPLOYEE, COMMISSARY, BLYTHEVILLE AIR FORCE BASE, ARKANSAS, ADVISED THIS DATE THAT SHE ATTENDED FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, SENATH, MO., ARPIL SEVEN NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT, DURING WHICH BROTHER BROWER, VISITING MINISTER WHO IS DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE METHODIST CHURCH, AND RESIDES IN POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI, MADE THE STATEMENT FROM THE PULPIT THAT HE WAS SORRY TO HEAR OF KING'S DEATH, BUT WOULD BE EVEN "SORRIER" WHEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE IDENTIFYING THE PERSON WHO DID IT. BROWER STATED THIS WAS BECAUSE THE ASSASSIN WAS FROM PEMISCOT COUNTY, MO. JONES STATED BOWER MADE THE STATEMENT IN SUCH A MANNER TO INDICATE THAT THE ASSASSIN WAS FROM PEMISCOT COUNTY, MO., BUT NOT PRESENTLY LIVING THERE.

END PAGE ONE

*Burton
advised
3 pm
4/8
w*

*harris
lead*

44-775-22

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Burton *WLB*

LR 157-1215

PAGE TWO

MEMPHIS ADVISED AM.

ST. LOUIS AT POPLAR BLUFF, MO., LOCATE AND INTERVIEW
BROTHER BROWER FOR ANY AND ALL INFORMATION HE MAY HAVE
REGARDING THIS CASE.

P.

END

DCJ

FBI ST LOUIS

X

FBI WASH DC

300PM URGENT 4-9-68 BJP

TO ALL CONTINENTAL OFFICES

FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 2P

MURKIN

AMONG ARTICLES RECOVERED AT SCENE OF SHOOTING, APPARENTLY ABANDONED BY UNSUB, WERE A PAIR OF BROWNISH CHECKERED PRINT UNDERSHORTS AND WHITE JOCKEY TEE SHIRT BEARING CLOTH LAUNDRY TAGS. THESE TAGS WERE MADE BY A THERMO SEAL MARKING MACHINE MANUFACTURED BY THE TEXTILE MARKING MACHINE COMPANY, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK. THESE TAGS ARE ONE QUARTER INCH WIDE AND ONE AND ONE SIXTEENTH INCH LONG, RED IN COLOR AND BEAR MARKING WHICH APPEARS TO BE "O TWO B DASH SIX" OR "D TWO B DASH SIX." ONLY A PORTION OF THE FIRST CHARACTER IS PRESENT ON EACH TAG, AND THIS CHARACTER IS CUT ON A SLIGHT BIAS. NO OTHER VISIBLE LAUNDRY MARKS WERE FOUND ON EITHER GARMENT.

IMMEDIATE CHECKS OF LOGICAL LAUNDRIES SUGGESTED BY TEXTILE MARKING COMPANY HAVE TO DATE BEEN UNPRODUCTIVE.
END PAGE ONE

LAUNDRY

*French
Harris
Bradley*

44-775-23

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Shen

PAGE TWO

UPON RECEIPT, ALL OFFICES SHOULD IMMEDIATELY TELEPHONICALLY
CONTACT ALL LAUNDRIES IN YOUR DIVISIONS TO IDENTIFY
LAUNDRY USING THIS CODE AND THESE TAGS AND PURSUE LOGICAL
LEADS DEVELOPED.

IF PERTINENT LAUNDRY IDENTIFIED, IMMEDIATELY ADVISE
BUREAU TELEPHONICALLY.

THIS MUST BE GIVEN TOP PRIORITY HANDLING TO INSURE
THAT THESE CHECKS ARE IMMEDIATELY RUN OUT.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD ANYONE BE TOLD THIS
INVESTIGATION IS IN CONNECTION WITH CAPTIONED MATTER.

END

LJDJSSI JDS

FBI SPRNGFLD

OM SCD

FBI OMAHA

KC PHM

FBI KAN CITY

MP TJJ

FBI MINNAPLS

LR LEF

FBI LITTLE R

SL MJD

FBI ST LOUIS

JN PGL

FBI JKSN MISS

FBI WASH DC

743PM URGENT 4/8/68 GJM

TO ALL CONTINENTAL OFFICES

FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 2P

MURKIN

THIS IS THE CASE INVOLVING THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ON APRIL FOUR, LAST, IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD ANYONE BE TOLD THIS INVESTIGATION IS IN CONNECTION WITH CAPTIONED MATTER.

IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT A RIFLE ABANDONED NEAR SCENE OF CRIME WAS PURCHASED BY INDIVIDUAL USING THE NAME HARVEY LOWMEYER OR LOWMYER.

LOWMEYER OR LOWMYER IS GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, THIRTYSIX YEARS OLD, FIVE FEET EIGHT INCHES TALL, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY - ONE HUNDRED SIXTY POUNDS, BLACK OR DARK BROWN HAIR.

IN VIEW OF THE UNUSUAL NATURE OF THE NAMES LOWMEYER AND LOWMYER, ALL OFFICES SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CHECK YOUR INDICES, ALL CITY DIRECTORIES, ALL TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES COVERING YOUR TERRITORIES, ALL DRIVERS LICENSE RECORDS, ALL AUTOMOBILE

END PAGE ONE

Duffey advised 8:25 PM
Burton advised 8:25 PM
Looney advised 8:30 PM
Pace advised 9:25 PM
Burton advised 9:35 PM
Sgt. Welter advised 7:41 PM
ASAC advised 7:02 PM
SAC advised 8:00 PM

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D. Mason

PAGE TWO

REGISTRATION RECORDS, VOTER REGISTRATION RECORDS, AND
CREDIT AND CRIMINAL RECORDS ON THE SURNAMES LOWMEYER
AND LOWMYER, IN VIEW OF THE UNUSUAL NATURE OF THE NAMES,
DO NOT CONFINE YOUR CHECK TO HARVEY LOWMEYER AND LOWMYER
ONLY. ANY INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED AS BEARING THESE SURNAMES
SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY CHECKED OUT COVERING THE PERTINENT
PERIOD. YOU SHOULD ALSO APPROPRIATELY CHECKOUT ALL
BOMBING SUSPECTS IN YOUR TERRITORIES.

HANDLE IMMEDIATELY AND GIVE TOP PRIORITY ATTENTION.

BUFILES CONTAIN NO INFORMATION IDENTIFIABLE ON
HARVEY LOWMEYER OR LOWMYER.

END

JLS

FBI ST LOUIS

FBI ST LOUIS

FBI SPRNGFLD

740PM 4-8-68 URGENT DJK

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND ST. LOUIS

FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561) 1P

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TEL TO ALL CONTINENTAL OFFICES INSTANT DATE.

INDICES SPRINGFIELD REFLECT REFERENCE TO HARVEY LOHMEYER,
WHITE MALE, AGE TWENTYTHREE IN NINETEEN FIFTY FIVE, FIVE FEET
EIGHT, FBI NUMBER SEVEN THREE ZERO NINE SEVEN NINE A. HOME
ADDRESS PALMYRA, MISSOURI.

INFO TELEPHONICALLY FURNISHED BUREAU AND LATENT FINGERPRINT
SECTION.

AS REQUESTED IN RETEL ST. LOUIS IMMEDIATELY CHECK OUT
LOHMEYER AT PALMYRA, MISSOURI

END

JLS

FBI ST LOUIS

ASAC : 7⁴⁹
SAC : advised 8⁰⁰ PM

Duffey advised 8:25 PM

44-775-25

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<i>Debra</i>	<i>D</i>

AS:12PM URGENT 4/8/68 'S

TO: DIRECTOR AND SAC ST. LOUIS, MEMPHIS, AND BIRMINGHAM.

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44-989)

MURKIN- CR

RE DETROIT TELEPHONE CALL TO FBI IDENT. DIVISION.

SOURCE FURNISHED FOLLOWING INFO RE WILLARD BENFIELD JR., AS
A POSSIBLE SUSPECT IN SLAYING OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING:

BENFIELD DURING THE RACIAL RIOT BENTON HARBOR, NINETEEN SIXTY-
SIX, WAS ARRESTED ON EIGHT THIRTY ONE, SIXTY SIX, FOR THE MURDER
OF CECIL HUNT, SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD NEGRO MALE, BUT CHARGE WAS DISMISSED
BECAUSE OF LACK OF EVIDENCE.

BENFIELD WAS AGAIN ARRESTED THREE-FIVE-SIXTY SEVEN, FOR FELONIOUS
ASSAULT AFTER HE HAD BEATEN MALE NEGRO WITH A PIECE OF CHAIN. HE WAS
CONVICTED OF ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON BY A JURY ON SIX-TWENTY NINE-
SIXTY SEVEN, AND WAS SENTENCED TO SERVE FROM THREE TO FOUR YEARS ON
SEVEN-THIRTY ONE- SIXTY SEVEN. PRESENTLY FREE ON FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR
APPEAL BOND ON THIS CHARGE AND ALSO ON TWO THREE HUNDRED DOLLAR
APPEAL BONDS FROM BENTON HARBOR MUNICIPAL COURT. ONE CHARGE GROWING
OUT OF AN ASSAULT.

BENFIELD HAS FBI NUMBER FOUR NINE FIVE TWO ONE C.

DESCRIBED AS MALE, WHITE, BORN DUNKLIN COUNTY, MO.,

, FIVE FEET TEN INCHES TO SIX FEET TALL, ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY FIVE
POUNDS, MEDIUM BUILD, BROWN HAIR, BROWN EYES, TATOOS: THE LETTERS
LOVE ON KNUCKLES OF LEFT HAND; HEART AND "BUD" LEFT UPPER ARM.

END PAGE ONE.

ASAC advised 7²⁹ PM
Sgt. Welton advised 7³⁹ PM
SAC advised 8⁰⁰ PM
Bau for ack 9³⁵ P

44-775-26

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[Signature]

SCARS: THREE INCH SCAR RIGHT CHEEK. PARENTS WILLARD BENFIELD, SR., AND GLADYS, BENTON HARBOR, MARITAL STATUS- MARRIED; WIFE GEORGIA, NOT KNOWN IF STILL MARRIED. PRESENT ADDRESS ONE FOUR FOUR SEVEN ST. THOMAS STREET, BENTON HARBOR.

BENFIELD IS WELL KNOWN TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICES AS BEING AN EXTREME RACIST WHO HAS A DEEP HATRED FOR NEGROES.

ON THURSDAY, FOUR-FOUR-SIXTY EIGHT, BENFIELD WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF HIS BONDSMAN LEFT BENTON HARBOR ABOUT TWO OR THREE AM IN A NINETEEN SIXTY FOUR WHITE CADILLAC CONVERTIBLE WITH BLUE TOP, WHICH HE OWNS, BEARING MICHIGAN LICENSE, NUMBER UNKNOWN. ACCOMPANIED BY HIS FATHER WILLARD BENFIELD, SR., WHO AT ONE TIME WAS ALSO SUSPECTED OF IMPLICATION IN THE CECIL HUNT MURDER. BENFIELD AND HIS FATHER RETURNED TO BENTON HARBOR LATE IN THE NIGHT OR EARLY MORNING OF FOUR-SEVEN- SIXTY EIGHT, SUNDAY.

WHEN CONTACTED BY HIS BONDSMAN BENFIELD'S WIFE STATED BENFIELD HAD GONE TO HAYTI, MO., TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF A BROTHER, NAME UNKNOWN. WHEN HE LEFT HE TOOK WITH HIM ALL OF HIS TOOLS INCLUDING A DRILL AND A BUFFER BELONGING TO ANOTHER PERSON. REASON FOR HIS TAKING THESE TOOLS IS UNKNOWN.

BENFIELD, JR., IS AN AUTOMOBILE MECHANIC AND PRESENTLY OPERATES A GARAGE AT RIVERSIDE ROAD AND HIGHWAY M-ONE THIRTY NINE NORTH, WHICH IS JUST OUTSIDE THE CITY OF BENTON HARBOR.

END PAGE TWO.

DE 44-989

PAGE THREE

PHOTO OF BENFIELD TAKEN BY SO, ST. JOSEPH, ON NINE-TWENTY SEVEN-SIXTY SIX, IS LATEST PHOTO AVAILABLE BUT IS A GOOD LIKENESS OF HIM.

BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO COMPARE ANY LATENTS WITH THOSE OF BENFIELD. ST. LOUIS CONDUCT INVESTIGATION AT HAYTI TO DETERMINE WHETHER ONE OF BENFIELD'S BROTHERS WAS BURIED AND WHETHER BENFIELD AND HIS FATHER HERE IN ATTENDANCE.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

SOURCE REFERRED TO IS DE FILE ONE THIRTY SEVEN DASH THREE EIGHT SIX TWO.

END.

DSD...

FBI ST LOUIS

TUOX

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775)

DATE: 4/8/68

FROM : SA CHARLES S. DUKE

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS MATTER

Sergeant CHARLES O'BIREN, Fourth District Detective Bureau, St. Louis Police Department, telephonically advised this date that a JOHN RICHARD THOMPSON was approached by him at the Warwick Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri, based on information received from the East St. Louis Chief of Police to the effect that JOHN RICHARD THOMPSON resembled the composite photograph appearing in the paper concerning MARTIN LUTHER KING's killer.

O'BIREN stated that THOMPSON stated that he lost his billfold since he was in St. Louis and that he was driving a yellow Dodge Charger. He stated that THOMPSON was described as being 5 feet 11 inches, 130 pounds, white male, blond hair and blue eyes. THOMPSON advised him that his address was 1767 Nashville Road, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

O'BIREN stated that THOMPSON appeared to be a homo and that he would further check him out concerning his residence during the latter part of last week.

O'BIREN subsequently re-contacted this Office and stated that THOMPSON was taken to the Biltmore Hotel where he said he was residing temporarily and that he was identified as being there on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and in room 457. He then moved to the Warwick Hotel, room 851 on Friday, which was April 5, 1968. *Disqualified*

The above was furnished as a matter of information.

1 - St. Louis
CSD:jfb
(1) *[initials]*



5010-108

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44-775-28

Debarre

Wilton

*Have you known of this?
yes.*

Re: MURKIN; CIVIL RIGHTS
OO: Memphis

This is the caption for the civil rights investigation to identify person or persons responsible for the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee on 4-4-68.

For your information, pertinent periods in the investigation are 3-29-68 and 3-30-68 in Birmingham, Alabama and 4-4-68 in Memphis, Tennessee.

In the event any data is developed re suspects and if interested offices can establish whereabouts of suspects on dates above, this may eliminate the suspects. If this cannot be done, efforts should be made to secure photographs of suspects in question and forward photos to Memphis and Birmingham for possible elimination. Pertinent descriptive data should be included with photos.

If unable to eliminate on basis of established whereabouts in pertinent periods, interested offices should make efforts to secure fingerprints of suspect in question and submit same to Bureau for elimination.

Composite description based on data developed in Birmingham and Memphis is as follows:

Suspect	White, male
Age	26 - 40 years
Height	5' 8" - 5' 11"
Weight	150 - 170
Hair	Dark brown or sandy, combed straight back
Eyes	Blue or green
Build	Medium
Complexion	Average, smooth
General physical appearance	Neat

Possibility exists suspect is non-smoker. Indications were that suspect rented room between 3:00 and 3:30 P.M., 4-4-68, and departed room shortly after 6:00 P.M. Results of investigation must be promptly furnished Bureau, Memphis and Birmingham.

MEMO TO ALL AGENTS
ST. LOUIS DIVISION

1 - 66-124

1 - 44-775

April 8, 1968

ECW:mvs

65

Thom J. Meany
SAC

SEARCHED ☒	INDEXED ☒
SERIALIZED ☒	FILED ☒
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FBI - ST. LOUIS	

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