

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC ST. LOUIS 44-0

DATE: 2/24/70

FROM : SA WAYNE R. ALFORD

SUBJECT: GEORGE W. HAMPTON;
VICTIM

GEORGE W. HAMPTON, who resides at 4215 Dardene, St. Louis Missouri personally appeared at this office on this date and supplied the following information:

He is employed in Department 9150 of the Chrysler Assembly Plant, 1001 Highway Drive, Fenton, Missouri. Immediately after JAMES EARL RAY was sentenced for shooting MARTIN LUTHER KING, he became a target for constant harassment in his department at work. His fellow employees have done such things as install a hangman's noose in his working area, build little men out of paper and place a white hood over their head, place live ammunition in his work area, etc.

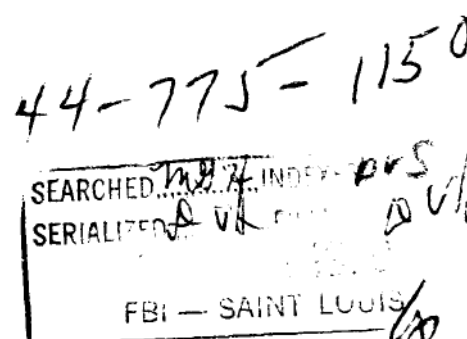
HAMPTON stated that he has brought this information to his foreman and the shop steward but they have not been able to stop these activities.

HAMPTON was advised that the facts of this case did not constitute a federal violation that the FBI could investigate. HAMPTON did request that this information be made a part of the FBI's record.



5010-108

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



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Taken To a New Prison

PETROS, TENN (AP) — Under cover of darkness and with a heavy guard, James Earl Ray was transferred Wednesday from state prison in Nashville to Brushy Mountain Prison, a maximum security facility.

Ray, serving 99 years for the rifle slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was lodged in Cell 5 of No. 2 walk in Brushy Mountain before the transfer was disclosed. Brushy Mountain is 200 miles east of Nashville.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

9P St. Louis Globe-
Democrat

Date:

3/26/70

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: SLMO

☐ Being Investigated

44-775-1151

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 2 1970	
FBI — SAINT LOUIS	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

James Earl Ray Caught Trying To Flee Prison

PETROS, Tenn., May 3 (UPI) —James Earl Ray, serving 99 years for the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, was foiled early today in an attempt to escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison.

Tennessee Correction Commissioner Mark Luttrell said Ray broke out of his cell by sawing through its bars. He left a dummy in his bunk.

Guards found the broken bars, however, and discovered that Ray was missing. Luttrell said Ray was caught before he could scale a wall surrounding the maximum security prison.

Ray was sentenced on a guilty plea to the April 4, 1968, sniper killing of King at a Memphis motel. He was transferred to Brushy Mountain in 1970 after serving almost a year at the main state prison in Nashville.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

**6A St. Louis
Post-Dispatch
St. Louis, Mo.**

Date: **May 3, 1971**

Edition: ***** Final**

Author:

Editor:

Title:

JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

*File Stripped
5-8-72
275*

44-775-1152

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MAY 10 1971	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

8

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

FROM : SPVR. LOUIS F. CAPUTO

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 1/8/74

ReButelcall, 1/8/74.

On 1/8/74, Bureau Spvr. JACK LAWN, Extension 3513, telephonically contacted writer and advised JAMES EARL RAY has been sending several letters throughout the country advising that at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING was killed there was a conspiracy concerning this plot. Spvr. LAWN requested that SL review all FD-302s concerning interviews with JAMES EARL RAY'S brother JOHN, who at the time was interviewed by SL and living on Arsenal Street, to determine whether there was any knowledge of a conspiracy re JAMES EARL RAY'S shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING. Spvr. LAWN also requested in reviewing the FD-302s concerning JOHN RAY if a conspiracy was indicated, whether any other persons were mentioned as being a part of this conspiracy.

Spvr. LAWN requested that this matter be handled as soon as possible and that he be telephonically contacted as to results of review of the SL MURKIN file concerning the interviews of JOHN RAY.

2-St. Louis
EC:mjl
2



5010-108

44-775-1153

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 8 1974	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

Leo
A
R. Williams
8

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

DATE: 1-9-74

FROM : SA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Rememo Spvr. CAPUTO 1/8/74

On 1/9/74, SA WILLIAMS called Bureau Supervisor JACK LAWN and advised that a review of the FD-302s reflecting interview with JOHN RAY, brother of JAMES EARL RAY, disclosed no indication or evidence that a conspiracy was indicated. LAWN advised no follow-up communication is necessary.

1 - St. Louis
KAW/gas
(1)

44-775-1154

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 9 1974	
FBI — SAINT LOUIS	

[Handwritten signature]



5010-108

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

NR15 SL PLAIN

PM NITEL 7/29/74 WRF

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MEMPHIS (44-1987) *KJW*

FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN

ON EVENING 7/29/74 [REDACTED], RESIDENCE 136 TEACHERS LANE, LACLEDE ^{TOWN} TOWNSHIP, ST. LOUIS, PHONE NUMBER 531-8629, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED SL OFFICE AND FURNISHED FOLLOWING: THIS EVENING, 7/29/74, AT ABOUT 3:30 PM, SHE WAS LEAVING A DOWNTOWN SL STORE AND WAS APPROACHED BY INDIVIDUAL WHO SAID HE WAS FROM JAMAICA. SHE DESCRIBED HIM AS DARK SKINNED, AGE 25-30, DARK HIAIR, MEDIUM BUILD, 5'6", PRONOUNCED ACCENT. THIS INDIVIDUAL, WHO NEVER GAVE [REDACTED] HIS NAME, CALAIMED HE WAS ENROUTE FROM CHICAGO TO TENNESSEE. HE ASKED [REDACTED] WHO IS NEGRO FEMALE, AGE 17, IF SHE KNEW ANY PROSTITUTION HOUSES IN AREA. HE DISPLAYED LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY TO HER, CLAIMING HE HAD \$5,000. DURING ENSUING CONVERSATION WITH [REDACTED] HE TOLD HER HE WAS GOING TO TENNESSEE TO FREE JMAES EARL RAY AND THE \$5,000 HAD BEEN FURNISHED BY RAY'S BROTHER TO PURCHASE DYNAMITE. [REDACTED] TALKED TO THE INDIVIDUAL ABOUT 2 HOURS WHILE WALKING AROUND SL STREETS. HE TOLD HER HE WAS LEAVING THIS EVENING FOR TENNESSEE, BUT DID NOT SAY WHERE HE WAS STAYING OR METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION. SHE THOUGHT HE TOLD HER HE WAS

END PAGE 1

44-775-1155
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 INDEXED

FILED
 Approved: *[Signature]*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

WA 1135

M

Per

WRF

U.S. Government Printing Office: 1972 - 455-574

,PAGE TWO

, SL 44-775

TRAVELING BY BUS. HE WAS WEARING BLUE SLACKS AND SHIRT. HE DID NOT OBTAIN [REDACTED] NAME AND ADDRESS AND THEREFORE WOULD NOT BE IN CONTACT WITH HER AGAIN. [REDACTED] INDICATED THE INDIVIDUAL APPEARED FLIGHTY AND IGNORANT OF AMERICAN CUSTOMS, BUT OTHERWISE SEEMED STABLE.

ABOVE FURNISHED FOR MEMPHIS TO DEISSIMINATE TO APPROPRIATE STATE
/ PRISON OFFICIALS.

, END

7-31-74

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) RUC

MURKIN
OO: Memphis

Re St. Louis teletype to Bureau and Memphis,
7-29-74.

On 7-31-74, Miss [REDACTED] Negro female, born [REDACTED] St. Louis, Mo., was personally interviewed for the purpose of enlarging upon the information she telephonically furnished the St. Louis Office on 7-29-74. WHEELER furnished the following information:

She was walking and enroute to a bus stop in downtown St. Louis at 3:30 P.M. on 7-29-74 when she was approached by a male individual with dark complexion whose complete description was previously obtained and furnished in retel. Individual stated he was from Jamaica (hereafter referred to in this communication as the Jamaican). The Jamaican asked her for directions to the Reese Boarding House for Colored People. [REDACTED] denied any knowledge of such a place. Individual then told her that he had paid \$75 to a colored girl for the purpose of a sexual date and he was to meet her at the Reese Boarding House for the date. For no apparent reason, the Jamaican then exhibited a large amount of money to [REDACTED], claiming it was \$5000 in cash. He asked her if she knew of any house of prostitution in the area and she denied any knowledge of such a house. At this time a second individual whom [REDACTED] described as a Negro male, 35-40 years, 5'9", medium build, who walked with a limp, came

2 - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - St. Louis
KAW:ss

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44-775-1156
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SERIALIZED
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RUC

SL 44-775

up to her and the Jamaican and entered in a casual conversation stating that he was from St. Louis and asked if he could be of assistance. Jamaican told the Negro male he would give him \$100 if he would find him a girl. Jamaican then proceeded to show the Negro male his money. Jamaican walked several feet away and the Negro male told [REDACTED] that he had been following the Jamaican and knew that he had a large quantity of money and was a stranger in this country. Jamaican returned to [REDACTED] and asked her if she knew JAMES RAY. She replied in the negative, whereupon he reminded her that JAMES RAY was the white male who killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. and RAY was then in a Tennessee penitentiary. Jamaican told [REDACTED] that RAY's brother owned a big farm in Jamaica and he was the houseboy at the farm. He further stated that RAY's brother, name not mentioned, had given him \$5000 in cash to go to St. Louis to buy dynamite and then go to Tennessee to blow up the prison to effect JAMES RAY's escape. Jamaican then told [REDACTED] and the Negro male it would be a while before he could buy the dynamite and did not know what to do with the money in his possession in the meantime. Jamaican asked [REDACTED] opinion where she would keep the money. [REDACTED] told him that the safest place would be to deposit it in a bank. Jamaican told her that he heard that Negroes in the U. S. could not deposit money in a bank. She told him that he was wrong. Jamaican asked her if she had a bank account and she replied that she did. Jamaican refused to believe her and told her that if she could show him that she could withdraw her money from the bank, he would give her \$100 just to prove it to him. [REDACTED] advised that the Negro male was present during this conversation and told her it would be an easy way for her to make \$100.

[REDACTED] advised the three of them went to the Mercantile Trust Company where [REDACTED] has a savings account. Upon arrival at the bank, the Jamaican asked to see her bank deposit book which she had in her possession and she showed it to him. At the time [REDACTED] had a \$24 balance. She withdrew \$20 as proof to the Jamaican that Negroes can withdraw money from a bank. He did not give her the \$100 and immediately the Negro male told the Jamaican that he knew where he could get him a girl and both hurriedly departed from the scene. [REDACTED] still retains possession of her \$20 bill.

SL 44-775

In view of the fact that the above incident was probably a flim-flam scheme with [REDACTED] as the intended victim, St. Louis is conducting no further investigation. St. Louis Police Department advised of scheme.

F B I

Date: 10/15/74

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

TO: SAC, ST. LOUIS
FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (62-0)
SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY ^{✓SSS}
INFO CONCERNING

Information copy being furnished Memphis
inasmuch as Memphis was origin in MUR KIN case
in which RAY was subject.

On 10/11/74 SUE KOCH, Route 1, Belvidere,
Illinois, advised that her mother, JONNIE RHODES, Route
80, Advance, Missouri, telephone number 314-722-3953,
wants to talk to the FBI regarding JAMES EARL RAY.
Mrs. KOCH said that her mother was a desk clerk at the
Gleaco Hotel in Hayti, Missouri, and JAMES EARL RAY stayed
at the hotel prior to the shooting of KING. She said
her mother told her that RAY left the hotel with a black
male.

LEADST. LOUIS.

AT ADVANCE, MISSOURI. Will contact JONNIE
RHODES, Route 80, and interview her regarding above
information. Furnish info to Memphis.

②-St. Louis
1-Memphis (Info)
1-Chicago

JAG/smm
(4)

Approved: RGT
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

44-775-1157

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 17 1974	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

Reo
A
Buxton

U.S. Government Printing Office: 1972 - 455-574

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Attorneys Back Story By Ray

MEMPHIS, Oct. 31 (UPI)—James Earl Ray's first defense attorneys testified yesterday that Ray steadfastly insisted he was an unwitting tool in a conspiracy to kill the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.

It was the first description in a court of Ray's version of what happened on the night the civil rights leader was killed.

One lawyer described how Ray told him about buying a rifle for a man named Raoul and about standing in front of a rooming house at the moment when the Rev. Dr. King was shot from ambush.

Arthur Hanes Sr.—one of the men Ray accuses of railroading him into a guilty plea—and his son Arthur Jr. appeared as the state's first witnesses in its effort to prevent a new trial for Ray. But their testimony appeared to support Ray's contention that he never admitted firing the weapon that killed the Rev. Dr. King.

The state began presenting its case after Ray ended three days of testimony without shedding any new light on the Rev. Dr. King's slaying.

Under questioning by Henry Haile, assistant state attorney general, the elder Hanes said Ray had never varied in his story of the night the Rev. Dr. King was killed.

"I pinned James Earl Ray down a number of times about whether he killed Martin Luther King. Invariably his answer was no," Hanes said.

Hanes said Ray told him that under instructions from a man he knew only as Raoul he purchased a rifle in Birmingham. On the day before the Rev. Dr. King was killed, the rifle "was taken from him in a motel in Mississippi. An he never saw it again until it was thrown down near him.

"They gave him a note with the address on Main Street and told him to be there at 3 o'clock," Hanes recounted the story he said Ray told him.

Hanes testified Ray said that when he arrived at the address, the rooming house from which authorities reported the Rev. Dr. King was killed, he was told to park his automobile in front of the house. He was then sent to buy a pair of binoculars.

"At 5:30 p.m., the contact said 'Jim, you go down and get yourself a couple of beers,' and he was standing in front of the rooming house at 6 or 6:01 p.m. when the shot was fired. He said when he saw that rifle on the ground he knew he was in trouble and he fled."

The testimony conflicted somewhat with Ray's story to a Memphis reporter last summer, in which he said he was getting air in a tire of his automobile when the Rev. Dr. King was killed.

Ray said in the interview at the Nashville State Prison that he had returned to the area of the rooming house and, finding the street swarming with policemen, made a U-

turn and headed south.

Hanes's son testified, "I feel now and I felt then that there was a conspiracy involved. He said that rather than urging Ray to plead guilty to avoid the death penalty, he was prepared to go to trial and beg the jury not to put the entire blame 'on this little man.'"

In his final testimony, Ray said he "had a couple of phone numbers" but "was never associated with more than one person" during the course of the activity that resulted in the Rev. Dr. King's death.

At another point, he said he did not remember ever using the words "conspiracy" or "conspirator" in describing

the killing.

United States District Judge Robert M. McRae Jr., who must decide whether a new trial is warranted, offered an explanation of why so many apparent contradictions were left unchallenged and so many questions unanswered.

"This is not a murder case," McRae said. "I want to point out that a habeas corpus proceeding is not a retrial."

The hearing is being conducted on Ray's request—a petition of habeas corpus—on the ground that he did not voluntarily plead guilty to the crime for which he is imprisoned. The issue of Ray's guilt or innocence is not to be decided at the hearing.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P16A, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis, Missouri

Date: 10/31/74

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: SL

☐ Being Investigated

44-775-1158

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 1 1974	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

SAC, MEMPHIS

12/23/74

SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) RUC

MURKIN

OO: Memphis

Re Chicago airtel to St. Louis, 10/15/74, captioned
"JAMES EARL RAY; INFORMATION CONCERNING."

On 12/11/74, SA WILLIAM R. BURTON interviewed JOHNNIE RHODES (Mrs. PAUL RHODES), P. O. Box 80, Advance, Mo. Mrs. RHODES advised that her brother, FRED GLASSCOCK, and his wife, both of whom are now deceased, formerly operated the Glaco Motel, Highway 61, Hayti, Mo. About one month before MARTIN LUTHER KING was killed in Memphis, Tenn., she was working at her brother's motel. A hitchhiker came in and he said in conversation with her that he was from Birmingham, that he had gotten to Birmingham on a ship and that he had worked in various places as a short order cook. Later, when she saw a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY she felt like this hitchhiker looked very much like RAY. She did state, however, that the photograph of RAY depicted him as being somewhat older than the hitchhiker who she had seen at the motel. She further thought there was something more than coincidence because the hitchhiker indicated that he was from Birmingham, had been on a ship and had worked as a short order cook and these were the same things that JAMES EARL RAY said he had been doing.

She stated that she had no idea as to the man's name and had no other information to furnish. She wanted the FBI to have the information because of the similarity in the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and the hitchhiker.

2 - Memphis
1 - St. Louis
WRB:kml
(3) *Prof*

44-775-1159
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Bill

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST LOUIS

DATE: 11/29/75

FROM : SPC VIRGIL D WOOLLEY JR.

SUBJECT: INFORMATION CONCERNING
ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

157-5863 NI

At 3:50 AM, 11/29/75, this writer was contacted by RICK RICKEART, BALTIMORE HOTEL, ROOM 633, ST LOUIS, MO. He stated he had information concerning the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He stated that the information concerned a prominent businessman in Memphis, Tenn. He also stated that he occasionally works for an Agent OIKER of DEA.

44-775-1160

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NOV 29 1975	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	
<i>K. Williams</i>	



5010-110

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

DATE: 12/8/75

FROM : SA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS
OO: MEMPHIS

On 12/1/75, RICHARD HART, white male, age 24, was interviewed in his room, 633, Baltimore Hotel, 205 North Ninth Street, St. Louis, Missouri, at which time he furnished the following information:

He was residing with his mother and step-father in West Memphis, Tennessee, on the day that Dr. King was assassinated. His step-father, JAMES C. MC CAA, JR., made the statement, "A group of Memphis businessmen had Dr. King killed." MC CAA did not elaborate or make any other statement. HART admits having a deep hatred for his former step-father because MC CAA squandered a small estate which his mother had and then abandoned her. They were subsequently divorced. The last information he had concerning MC CAA was that he was selling real estate in the land development corporation known as Cherokee Village Arkansas. HART indicated that he was attempting to locate MC CAA.

In view of the nebulous statement made by MC CAA and also due to the fact that HART is apparently attempting to locate him for personal revenge, it is recommended that no further investigation be conducted concerning this matter and this case should be RUC'd administratively.



5010-110

1 - St. Louis
KAW:ejk
(1) *AK*

*Destroy
10/1/85*

*ew
RUC*

44-775-1161

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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DEC 9 1975	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

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

Clarence L. Harrison
1732 Vandover Rd
Horton MO 63026



F B I Headman
Personal,
1520 Market

St Louis
Mo.

CERTIFIED

No. 247159

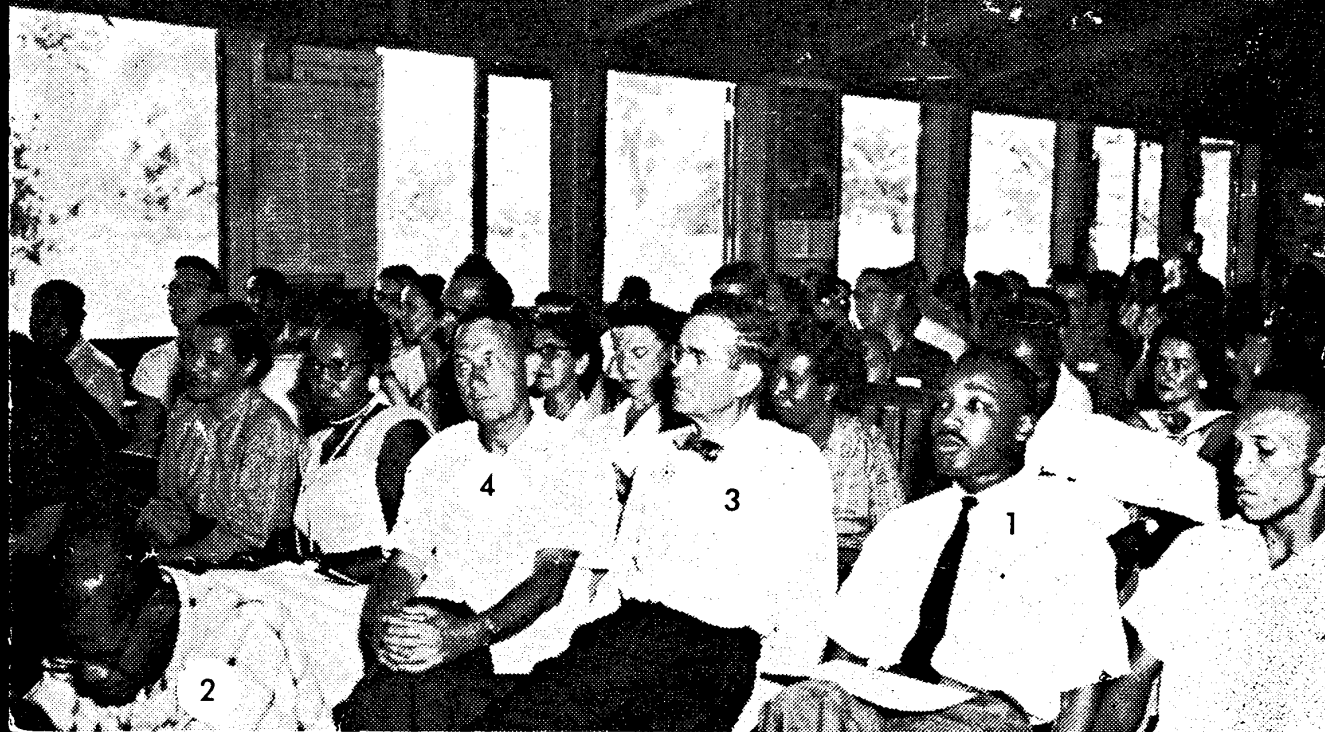
MAIL

**RETURN RECEIPT
REQUESTED**

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 1 1975	
FBI - CHICAGO	

44-775-1161

A Training School For Communists



Identificati

The picture on the other side was made at Highlander Folk School during the Labor Day week-end of 1957. Attentive pupils identified by the numbers are:

1. Martin Luther King, Jr. The association indicated here is not unusual for Dr. King, who belongs to several important Communist front organizations, and who regularly employs or affiliates with known Communists.

2. Abner W. Berry, of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

3. Aubrey Williams, President of the Communist front, the Southern Conference Education Fund.

4. Myles Horton, Director of the Highlander Folk School (for Communist Training), Monteagle, Tennessee. This school was later abolished by an act of the Legislature of the State of Tennessee.

These postcards (No. CR2) are available at any American Opinion Library, at 20 cards for \$1.00; or directly by mail, postage paid, from

AMERICAN OPINION
Belmont, Massachusetts 02178

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

POST CARD

*I hope this card
can give you
some help*

*C L Lawson
1732 Vanderbilt
Foster Mo
63026*

celebration when black people ready to march Negro colleges," Rangel said. the drain while

FBI Official Asserts That U.S. Actions Against Dr. King Were Justified

HARTFORD, Conn., Nov. 22 (AP) — The six-year surveillance of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King by the Federal Bureau of Investigation was justified because there were suspicions that he was influenced by subversives, the agency's assistant

director says.

"We did what we felt we had to do for the welfare of the nation at the time. Don't forget they (subversives) were bombing the Pentagon. They said they were going to shut down the government," John J. McDermott said Fri-

day.

The disclosures about the FBI's involvement with the slain civil rights leader were made earlier this week before the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Evidence released Tuesday showed the agency actions

included the bugging of the Rev. Dr. King's hotel room, a blackmail attempt which he interpreted as a suggestion that he kill himself shortly before he was to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, and an effort to find and promote a replacement for the Rev. Dr.

King as a national Negro leader.

One document raised the possibility that the FBI was responsible for the Rev. Dr. King's checking into the Memphis hotel where he was killed in 1968.

McDermott was in Hartford to speak to the Hundred Club of Connecticut, a group that aids the families of policemen, firemen and corrections officers killed in the line of duty.

... Talks Are Postponed

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22 (AP) — Talks between members of a special House Committee and Vietnamese officials on the fate of Americans missing in action in Indochina have been postponed from next week until sometime in December, the head of the congressional panel said Saturday.

"I have just received a

now will be held in December, but that a specific date will be worked out with the committee later.

In preceding months members of the committee had written representatives of the two Vietnamese governments seeking a meeting on these questions.

In hearings, the committee

— Responses to previous inquiries — about 100 in all — on the fate of Americans thought to have been captured alive.

— Repatriation of the remains of the American dead.

Representative Richard L. Ottinger (Dem.), New York, a member of the committee, saw the talks "as a real breakthrough with promise of closing the last chapter of the Vietnamese War."

service dispatch from Peking. A Hanoi broadcast said only that they would be held "in the first half of 1976."

Mrs. Binh told the press conference that the U.S. government "must give up its hostile attitude toward the Vietnamese people and carry

gations from both the North and South. The broadcasts said it agreed on "national reunification in all aspects."

Exact details were not given in the broadcasts but presumed to have been adopted were proposals for a secret ballot, a minimum voting age of 18 and a minimum 25-year

Post Office Box 7251
Main Station
St. Louis, Missouri 63177

December 3, 1975

Mr. Clarence L. Lawson
1732 Vandover Road
Fenton, Missouri 63026

Dear Mr. Lawson:

This will acknowledge receipt of the material
which you were thoughtful enough to provide to my office.

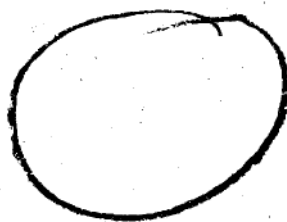
Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

HCP/
HARLAN C. PHILLIPS
Special Agent in Charge

1 - addressee
① - St. Louis (44-775)
JAF:kmt
(2)

[Handwritten signature]



44-775-1162
[Handwritten signature]

NR017 AT PLAIN

7:00 PM NITEL 2-26-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

SAC, ST. LOUIS

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

44-775

RE AT NITEL, FEB. 25, 1976.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, DURING ORIGINAL INTERVIEW WITH LEON POWELL, POWELL ADVISED THAT WHEN HE FIRST MET RALPH (LNU), RALPH AND HE AND HIS BROTHER WENT TO BACK ROOM OF BAR AND SAT IN THE BOOTHS. HOWEVER, DURING SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW, WHEN POWELL WAS SKETCHING DIAGRAM OF BAR, POWELL ADVISED THAT HE, HIS BROTHER AND RALPH WENT TO ONE OF THE TABLES LOCATED IN THE BACK PART OF THE BAR. POWELL ADVISED HE COULD NOT REMEMBER WHICH SPECIFIC TABLE, HOWEVER, THOUGHT IT WAS ONE RIGHT BEHIND THE PARTITION WHICH SEPARATED THIS ROOM FROM THE BAR.

ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW BILL LOWERY OF LOWERY MUSIC COMPANY ON TODAY'S DATE WAS NEGATIVE. LOWERY'S SECRETARY ADVISED THAT HE WOULD NOT RETURN TO OFFICE UNTIL A.M. OF FEB. 27, 1976.

END PAGE ONE

OKS
6:27PM

44-775-1162

Re
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A

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SERIALIZED <i>ml</i>	FILED <i>ml</i>
FEB 26 1976	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

M *Ref*

PAGE TWO, AT 44-2386

FOR INFORMATION OF ST. LOUIS, ON JAN. 12, 1976, LEON POWELL TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI AND ADVISED THAT HE AND HIS BROTHER CLAUDE POWELL, JR., HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY AN INDIVIDUAL AND ASKED IF THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ASSASSINATING MARTIN LUTHER KING. THIS INDIVIDUAL THEN PUT THEM IN CONTACT WITH A THIRD INDIVIDUAL, KNOWN ONLY TO THE POWELLS AS RALPH (LNU), WHO OFFERED THE POWELLS APPROXIMATELY \$75,000 TO DO THIS ASSASSINATION. THE POWELLS CLAIMED THEY NEVER TOOK THE CONTRACT AND DISMISSED THIS UNTIL THE RECENT DAN RATHER SPECIAL ON THE ASSASSINATION OF KING THE RELATIVES OF THE POWELLS HAVE BEEN CONTACTED AND ADVISED THAT THEY ARE NOT SURE THAT THIS INCIDENT AS RELATED BY THE POWELL BROTHERS ACTUALLY HAPPENED IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT BOTH LEON AND CLAUDE, JR., HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO DRINK QUITE HEAVILY. HOWEVER, BOTH LEON AND CLAUDE, JR., AFFORDED POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS BY POLYGRAPH EXAMINERS OF THE FBI AND CLAUDE POWELL, JR.'S EXAMINATION INDICATED THAT HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH. BUREAU HAS REQUESTED THAT THE MILITARY HISTORY ON BOTH CLAUDE AND LEON POWELL BE RESEARCHED TO NOTE WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS ANY INDICATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OR ANY OTHER

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE, AT 44-2386

PSYCHOLOGICAL DETAILS ON EITHER LEON OR CLAUDE POWELL.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS A BACKGROUND OF LEON OWEN POWELL:

W/M, DOB [REDACTED], STEVENS COUNTY, GA., SERVED IN ARMY FROM 1952-55, WITH REGULAR ARMY NO. RA [REDACTED]

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FOR CLAUDE POWELL, JR.:

W/M, DOB MARCH 26, 1926, STEVENS COUNTY, GA., THERE IS NO RECORD IN THE FILE THAT CLAUDE POWELL, JR. EVER SERVED IN ANY ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

ST. LOUIS AT ST. LOUIS. WILL AT FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER, ST. LOUIS, ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING MILITARY HISTORY OF BOTH CLAUDE AND LEON POWELL, NOTING PARTICULARLY ANY REFERENCES TO ANY MEDICAL PROBLEMS OR PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF EITHER OR BOTH OF THEM.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT BILL LOWERY AND ASCERTAIN FROM HIM IF HE KNOWS ANY RALPH (LMI).
END.

FBI SL RJF CLR AND THKS

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

DATE: 3/1/76

FROM : SA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 3/1/76, Bureau Supervisor AL HELTERHOFF called referring to Atlanta nitel to the Bureau, Memphis and St. Louis dated 2/26/76.

~~Atlanta~~ ^{St. Louis} HELTERHOFF advised that the investigation requested of ~~Atlanta~~ be expedited and the results of the review of the military records of LEON POWELL and CLAUDE POWELL should be furnished to the Bureau, Atlanta and Memphis by nitel.

*J.C. JENKINS
ADVISED
3-1-76
JG*

Call M on this

② - St. Louis

KAW:dlv

(2)



5010-108

44-775-1163

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAR 1 1976	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

W

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

F B I

Date: MARCH 2, 1976

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE NITEL
(Precedence)TO ⁹²⁰ DIRECTOR (44-38861) *EMS*⁷⁴⁵ ATLANTA (44-2386) *HLF*⁷⁰⁴ MEMPHIS (44-1987) *RJH*

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

MURKIN

REFERENCE ATLANTA NITEL TO BUREAU, FEBRUARY 26, 1976; BUREAU
TELEPHONE CALL TO ST. LOUIS, MARCH 1, 1976.

RECORDS NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER, MILITARY BRANCH, ST.
LOUIS, MISSOURI, DISCLOSED LEON POWELL, ARMY SERVICE NUMBER

[REDACTED] SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER (SSAN) [REDACTED] BORN

[REDACTED] TOCCOA, GEORGIA, ENLISTED UNITED STATES ARMY AT
ATLANTA, GEORGIA, AND SERVED ACTIVE, SEPTEMBER, 1952, TO DECEMBER 21,
1955. HE WAS HONORABLY RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY AS A PRIVATE (LIGHT
WEAPONS INFANTRY MAN) AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA, AND TRANSFERRED TO
UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE (USAR). HE WAS HONORABLY DISCHARGED FROM
USAR ON DECEMBER 23, 1960, BY REASON OF EXPIRATION TERM OF SERVICE.

LEON'S REPORT OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION DATED DECEMBER 19, 1955,
DISCLOSED "MULTIPLE PSYCHOSOMATIC COMPLAINTS. DISQUALIFYING. EM
(ENLISTED MAN). DID NOT KEEP APPOINTMENT WITH NP CLINIC. DOES NOT
DESIRE TO REMAIN IN SERVICE FOR FURTHER TREATMENT AND/OR MEDICAL

① - St. Louis
GTJ:cma

(1) *cma*

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

Approved: *PJH*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent *ABOVE*

M

Per *WRR*

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)PAGE TWO - SL 44-775
DISPOSITION."

LEON WAS TRIED AND CONVICTED BY SUMMARY COURT MARTIAL, JANUARY 23, 1953, FOR ABSENCE WITHOUT OFFICIAL LEAVE (AWOL), JANUARY 3 THROUGH 14, 1953, SENTENCED 45 DAYS HARD LABOR AND FORFEITURE \$52.00; SPECIAL COURT MARTIAL ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1954, FOR BREAKING RESTRICTION, SENTENCE 45 DAYS HARD LABOR AND FORFEITURE \$55.00; AND BY SPECIAL COURT MARTIAL ON AUGUST 26, 1955, FOR AWOL AUGUST 15 THROUGH 21, 1955, SENTENCE SIX MONTHS CONFINEMENT HARD LABOR AND FORFEITURE \$234.00.

LEON OWEN POWELL UNDER SSAN HAD VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) CLAIM WITH VA DATED OCTOBER 14, 1969.

MILITARY SERVICE RECORD WAS NOT LOCATED FOR CLAUDE POWELL.

ST. LOUIS WILL REVIEW LEON POWELL'S VA CLAIM FILE AT VA RECORD PROCESSING CENTER, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, WHEN MADE AVAILABLE AND FURNISH NITEL RESULTS TO BUREAU, ATLANTA, AND MEMPHIS.

END.

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

F B I

Date: 3/5/76

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE NITEL
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) *8 27 EMS*
 ATLANTA (44-2386) *1020*
 MEMPHIS (44-1987) *1044 RSH*
 FROM: ST. LOUIS (44-775) RUC
 MURKIN

RE ATLANTA NITEL TO BUREAU FEBRUARY 26, 1976, BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL TO ST. LOUIS, MARCH 1, 1976; ST. LOUIS NITEL TO BUREAU, MARCH 2, 1976.

REVIEW MARCH 5, 1976, RECORDS MAINTAINED VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION RECORDS PROCESSING CENTER (VARPC), ST. LOUIS, MO., INDICATED LEON POWELL, SERIAL NUMBER [REDACTED], SSAN [REDACTED], FILED VA CLAIM JUNE 17, 1958, UNDER NUMBER [REDACTED], FOR OUTPATIENT DENTAL TREATMENT, ATLANTA, GA. CLAIM DENIED JULY 23, 1958, DUE TO APPLICATION NOT FILED PRIOR TO ONE YEAR OF SEPARATION FROM ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE.

VA CLAIM FILED OCTOBER 14, 1969, UNDER SSAN [REDACTED], WAS MADE BY VARPC AS A REQUEST TO NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER (MILITARY BRANCH), ST. LOUIS, MO., FOR SERVICE NUMBER VERIFICATION OF POWELL. NO OTHER VA CLAIMS WERE LOCATED IN THE RECORDS.

MEDICAL RECORDS CONTAINED NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN

013
 DRS:sfm
 (1) *sfm*

3-5-76
mel
see above

44-775-1165
 SEARCHED *mel*
 SERIALIZED *mel*
 INDEXED *mel*
 FILED *mel*

Approved: *Ph*
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent *see above* M Per *RUC*

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Precedence)

PAGE TWO SL 44-775)

REFERENCE TO PSYCHIATRIC COMPLAINTS.

HIS DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH SHOWN AS , TACCOA,
GA.

END.

-2-*

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

DATE: 8/19/76

FROM : SPVR. JACK A. FRENCH

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Department of Justice Task Force member JOSEPH F. GROSS, JR. arrived in St. Louis, Missouri, about noon on 8/16/76. He requested and received the entire closed file on SL 44-775 (MURKIN); SL 100-17801 (MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; SM), and SL 105-4027 (SCLC COMINFIL).

GROSS reviewed these files during the period 8/16-19/76, when he departed at approximately noon.

The only material which he requested Xeroxing consisted of three serials from the MURKIN file. These were serials 884, 831, and 830. He was provided with copies after deletions were made to protect the identity of the informants.

During the time he was here he requested and received the home telephone number of the MURKIN case agent, retired SA HAROLD R. DOBSON. GROSS advised that he had spoken with DOBSON on the phone but the results of his contact are not known to the writer.

When he departed he expressed his appreciation to the SAC for the courtesies rendered him. He indicated that he considered the FBI MURKIN investigation to be very thorough and he had no criticism of the case.

Total Agent time spent on this matter: 5 hours.

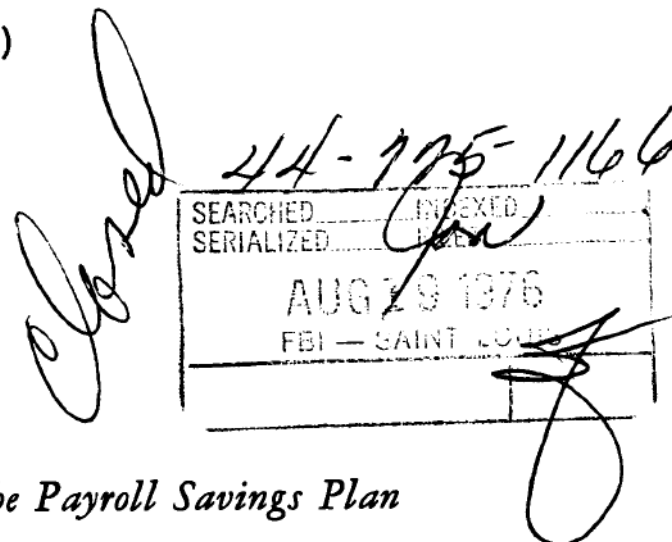
Total clerical time: 3 hours.

1- 44-775
1- 100-17801 (MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)

JAF:jtc
(2)



5010-110



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

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

House May Investigate Kennedy, King Killings

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15 (AP) — A resolution to set up a special House committee to investigate the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was adopted today by the House Rules Committee.

The resolution now goes to the House floor. No date was specified for House action.

The resolution also would empower the committee to investigate other assassinations, such as the killing of Senator Robert F. Kennedy (Dem.), New York.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P6C, St. Louis
Post-Dispatch,
St. Louis, Missouri

Date: 9/15/76

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

105-3665 (KENNEDY)

~~157-5883 (KING)~~

Character: 44-775-

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: SL

☐ Being Investigated

44-775-1167

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 17 1976	
FBI — SAINT LOUIS	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Inquiries on assassinations

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The path has been cleared for a House vote next week on re-opening investigations of the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and possibly Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The House Rules Committee approved consideration of a resolution for a special investigating committee Wednesday, and sponsors predicted revelations

in the cases of the president and the civil rights leader.

"Obviously there was a conspiracy" involved in the fatal shooting of John Kennedy, Rep. Thomas N. Downing, D-Va., told reporters.

Downing, who is in line to be named chairman of the special committee if it is created, has been pressing for a year for a new congressional investigation of the death.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P13A, St. Louis
Globe-Democrat,
St. Louis, Missouri

Date: 9/16/76
Edition:
Author:
Editor:
Title:
105-3665 (KENNEDY)
~~157-5683 (KING)~~
Character: 44-775
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: SL
☐ Being Investigated

44-775-1168

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 17 1976	
FBI — SAINT LOUIS	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Assassination Panel To Be Voted On

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16 (AP)—The way was cleared yesterday for a House vote next week on reopening investigations of the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and possibly Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The House Rules Committee approved

consideration of a resolution to form a special investigating committee.

The resolution calls for appointing a special committee to conduct a complete investigation of the circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy, The Rev. Dr. King and any others the committee shall determine.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P9A, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis Missouri

Date: 9/16/76

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

105-3665 (KENNEDY)

~~157-5882~~ (KING)

Character:

44-775

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: SL

☐ Being Investigated

44-775-1169

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 19 1976	
FBI — SAINT LOUIS	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Right To Know

The revelations of the 1970s have confirmed what few were willing to even suspect in the 1960s—that secrecy in high places concealed not only incompetence, but illegal and even assassination plots; that those charged with upholding the law and protecting the national interest at times put a polished public image ahead of performance; that lying to the public and cover-ups were often almost reflexive responses to potentially damaging and embarrassing disclosures.

As a result, the willingness to believe and trust in official pronouncements has been replaced by a new skepticism about past assurances. It is in this atmosphere that the House of Representatives has voted 289-65 to launch an investigation into the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A Senate investigation of the intelligence community has already shown that the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation concealed information that might have had a bearing on the Kennedy assassination, and that the FBI, which claimed to have thoroughly investigated the murder of the Rev. Dr. King, had also been conducting a disgraceful campaign of intimidation and blackmail to discredit

it and neutralize the civil rights leader.

These and other recent disclosures have raised new doubts about whether Lee Harvey Oswald was alone responsible for President Kennedy's death. That James Earl Ray acted alone has never been a very plausible theory. Whether the 12-member House committee, headed by Representative Thomas N. Downing, a Virginia Democrat, will be able to prove the existence of other conspirators in these murders remains to be seen.

Though the passage of time has made such an inquiry acceptable—even necessary—it will also make the task of the committee more difficult. In one sense the trail of evidence leading from each murder is cold; in another it is teeming with any number of conspiracy theorists and publicity seekers who may both help and hinder what must be a sober, fair and objective inquiry. The committee should move ahead quickly, but cautiously, lest it be caught up in an atmosphere of suspicion and sensationalism, which could undermine its credibility. Its task is too important for that. The American people have a right to know—if it can be known—whether two "lone assassins" changed the nation's history, or whether others plotted with them and are still at large.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P2B, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis, Missouri

Date: 9/21/76

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

105-3665 (KENNEDY)
44-775 (KING)

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: SL

☐ Being Investigated

44-775-1176

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 22 1976	
FBI — SAINT LOUIS	

HQ00048 2300050

RR AFD

DE HQ

R 052115Z OCT 76

FM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

TO ALL SACS ROUTINE

BT

E F T O

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

BUDED OCTOBER 26, 1976

REFERENCE BUREAU TELETYPES TO ALL OFFICES DATED JULY 28, 1976 AND JULY 30, 1976 WHICH PROVIDED BACKGROUND MATERIAL REGARDING REVIEW OF OUR KING INVESTIGATIONS CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTED BY THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. TELETYPES ALSO PROVIDED INSTRUCTIONS FOR CERTAIN FIELD OFFICES TO FURNISH TO FBIHQ A COPY OF ALL SERIALS CONTAINED IN THE KING ASSASSINATION FILE CAPTIONED, "MURKIN". *44-775*

PURPOSE OF THIS TELETYPE IS TO INSTRUCT MAJORITY OF FIELD OFFICES TO REPRODUCE AND SEND TO FBIHQ KING AND RELATED SECURITY FILES FOR REVIEW BY THE OPR TASK FORCE.

*KPD
10/5/76*

*No action
necessary.
ASAC - OM*

44-775-1171

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 6 1976	
FBI-ST. LOUIS	

Classified

PAGE TWO (100-106670) E F T O

THE TASK FORCE DESIRES TO REVIEW FIELD OFFICE FILES AND SUBFILES IN THE FOLLOWING INVESTIGATIONS: (1) MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., SM-C, BUFILE 100-106670; (2) COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, IS-C, BUFILE 100-438794; (3) COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN RACIAL MATTERS (CIRM), BUFILE 100-442529; (4) CPUSA - NEGRO QUESTION, BUFILE 100-3-116; (5) STANLEY DAVID LEVISON, SM-C, BUFILE 100-392452.

IT IS NOTED THAT EACH FIELD OFFICE PROVIDED A COMPLETE INVENTORY OF THE ABOVE FILES IN RESPONSE TO FBIHQ TELETYPE TO ALL OFFICES DATED DECEMBER 9, 1975 CAPTIONED, "MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR".

THE BELOW INSTRUCTIONS DO NOT APPLY TO ATLANTA AND CHICAGO BECAUSE TASK FORCE PERSONNEL HAVE PARTIALLY REVIEWED FILES OF THESE OFFICES AND PLAN TO RETURN THERE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO COMPLETE REVIEW.

THE BELOW INSTRUCTIONS DO NOT APPLY TO NEW YORK AND BALTIMORE BECAUSE TASK FORCE PERSONNEL PLAN TRAVEL TO THESE OFFICES IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO REVIEW ALL ABOVE FILES.

PAGE THREE (100-10667) E F T O

BIRMINGHAM, CHARLOTTE, KANSAS CITY, LOS ANGELES, MEMPHIS,
MILWAUKEE, NEW ORLEANS, OMAHA, ST. LOUIS, SAN FRANCISCO,
SPRINGFIELD AND WASHINGTON FIELD DISREGARD BELOW INSTRUCTIONS SINCE
OPR REVIEW OF YOUR KING RELATED FILES HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

SAN JUAN DISREGARD BELOW INSTRUCTIONS SINCE YOUR FILE
INVENTORY RESPONSE SHOWS YOUR OFFICE HAS NO SECURITY FILES
RELATING TO KING.

ALL OTHER RECIPIENTS FURNISH FBIHQ ONE XEROX COPY OF EACH
SERIAL CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE SPECIFIED FILES.

IT WILL BE NECESSARY ONLY TO XEROX THE FIRST PAGE OF
ANY DOCUMENT IN YOUR FILES IF A COPY OF THAT DOCUMENT HAS BEEN
SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ. THIS WILL INCLUDE DOCUMENTS ORIGINATING
IN YOUR OFFICE AND THOSE RECEIVED FROM OTHER FIELD DIVISIONS.
IT IS NOTED THAT THIS FIRST PAGE SHOULD CONTAIN THE FIELD OFFICE
SERIAL IN ORDER THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN MAKE A COMPLETE CHRONO-
LOGICAL ACCOUNTING OF EACH FIELD OFFICE SERIAL. ANY DOCUMENTS
IN YOUR FILES, COPIES OF WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ,
MUST BE REPRODUCED IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND FORWARDED TO FBIHQ.

IF ANY FILE CONTAINS PHOTOGRAPHS, EXHIBITS, OR OTHER

PAGE FOUR (100-106670) E F T O

ITEMS WHICH CANNOT BE XEROXED, A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH ITEM AND LOCATION SHOULD BE SET FORTH IN COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTING DESIRED DOCUMENTS TO FBIHQ.

WITH RESPECT TO FILES CONCERNING CIRM AND CPUSA - NEGRO QUESTION, THE OPR TASK FORCE HAS AGREED TO A CUTOFF YEAR OF 1960. THEREFORE, NO SERIAL IN THESE FILES DATED PRIOR TO JANUARY 1960 NEED BE SUBMITTED. THIS CUTOFF DATE DOES NOT APPLY TO INVESTIGATIVE FILES CONCERNING KING, SCLC AND LEVISON.

IT IS REQUESTED THIS MATERIAL DESIRED BY THE TASK FORCE BE PROCESSED AND MAILED TO REACH FBIHQ BY OCTOBER 26, 1976. THE MATERIAL SHOULD BE SENT BY REGISTERED MAIL, ATTENTION DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JAMES O. INGRAM, GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION.

SINCE THE DEPARTMENT TASK FORCE MUST SEE EVERY SERIAL IN OUR INVESTIGATION OF KING AT FBIHQ AND IN THE FIELD, IT IS ECONOMICALLY BENEFICIAL TO THE GOVERNMENT TO REPRODUCE AND MAIL THESE DOCUMENTS RATHER THAN HAVING TASK FORCE PERSONNEL TRAVEL TO ALL FIELD OFFICES. ABOVE MENTIONED OFFICES TO BE VISITED IN THE FUTURE BY THE TASK FORCE WILL BE FURNISHED TRAVEL INFORMATION AT A LATER DATE.

BT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS ⁴⁴⁻⁷⁷⁵ (~~157-5883~~)

DATE: 10/7/76

FROM : SA JOHN R. HAWKEN

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

On 10/6/76, Bureau Supervisor J. ALDHIZER, Ext. 4643, advised he has been requested by the Department to attempt to ascertain the present location of JERRY RAY, brother of JAMES EARL RAY.

Supervisor ALDHIZER said that information has come to his attention that on 10/2/72 a letter was received by JOHN RAY, then an inmate at the Federal Correctional Institution, Marion, Illinois, who was a brother of JAMES EARL and JERRY RAY. This letter was from JERRY RAY and bore the return address 1982 Arsenal St., St. Louis, Mo.

Supervisor ALDHIZER stated that he did not desire active investigation to locate JERRY RAY. However, he requested that the St. Louis indices and City and Telephone Directories be reviewed in an attempt to determine if JERRY RAY is residing at 1982 Arsenal St. Supervisor ALDHIZER said that if there is any doubt that a pretext call could be made at this address.

Supervisor ALDHIZER requested that this be done at the earliest possible moment. He said results of it should be called to him by no later than Tuesday, 10/12/76.

1- St. Louis
JRH:jtc
(1)

44-775-1172

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 10 1976	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

[Handwritten signature]



5010-110

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

DATE: 10/8/76

FROM : SA RICHARD T. HRADSKY

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re memo of SA JOHN R. HAWKEN dated 10/7/76.

The above-captioned investigation, SL 44-775, serial 877, page 43, reported that in 1968 the street number 1982 Arsenal, SLMO, was the location for the Grapevine Tavern; that it was licensed in the name CAROL PEPPER, also known as Mrs. ALBERT BENNY PEPPER, sister of JAMES EARL RAY and JERRY WILLIAM RAY. 1972 City of St. Louis Directory shows that this location was vacant in 1972. A check of the 1975 Polks City and St. Louis County Directories failed to list a JERRY WILLIAM RAY. Current telephone directories and addressakey directories also fail to list JERRY WILLIAM RAY.

1- St. Louis
RTH/cw
(1)
cw



5010-108

*Given to J. Alchagiri
FBI-HQ
10-12-76*

44-775-1173

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 8 1976	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

Closed

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

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Several Subpenas Issued In Assassination Inquiry

Compiled From News Services

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17 — The House assassination committee is issuing "quite a few" subpoenas in connection with its investigation of the murders of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The 12-member panel late yesterday authorized chief counsel Richard A. Sprague to issue the subpoenas.

Sprague refused to say exactly how many subpoenas would be issued, to whom they would be directed, or what information they would request.

He said the committee was investigating an unconfirmed report that documents relating to the King murder had been destroyed since the investigation began in September.

Sprague said the allegation had come to him from staff investigators but cautioned that he had not determined that the documents had been destroyed, or that they related to the King case.

Sprague's comments were considerably more cautious than those of committee counsel Robert Ozer, a former Department of Justice attorney who has conducted a preliminary investigation for the panel in Memphis, where the Rev. Dr. King was killed in 1968.

At a public hearing yesterday, Ozer

was asked by Representative Henry Gonzalez (Dem.), Texas, whether he had any reason to believe that documents related to the King case had been destroyed recently.

"I believe there are some documents that have been destroyed," Ozer said.

Sprague refused to say whether the documents in question were those mentioned in recent news accounts about the destruction by Memphis police of files relating to the surveillance of radicals in the 1960s.

The committee viewed picture slides of the aftermath of the Rev. Dr. King's assassination on the balcony of a Memphis motel April 4, 1968.

The committee was told that the wound was caused by an expanding bullet fired from a Remington rifle.

In another development, knowledgeable sources confirmed that investigators for the Warren Commission and a Senate intelligence subcommittee had seen a Federal Bureau of Investigation memorandum indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald had told Cuban officials he planned to kill Kennedy.

Administration and congressional sources made the disclosure in reaction to news reports that the memo had been discovered only recently in Justice Department files.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P12E, St. Louis Post
Dispatch, St. Louis
Mo.

Date: 11/17/76

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

105-3665 (KENNEDY
ASSASS.)

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: SL

☐ Being Investigated

44-775-1174
105-3665

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 18 1976	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Revisiting Assassinations

Next Monday will mark that fateful day on which President John F. Kennedy was assassinated 13 years ago on Nov. 22, 1963 in Dallas, Tex. And more than 8½ years have elapsed since Dr. Martin Luther King was murdered on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tenn.

Admittedly, many people remain dissatisfied with the conclusions and answers from the Warren Commission and others regarding the two tragedies. After all the intervening years what hope, realistically, is there of coming up with the facts? No answer or alleged solution would be satisfactory to everyone. What then? Should further investigations be ordered?

Despite the chasm of time the House Committee on Assassinations appears to be on the verge of hysteria in its unswerving determination to span the long years and sift out the actual facts. To get there the committee is planning to hire 170 investigators for the inquiry. Such massive numbers almost give the project the appearance of a make-work effort in the battle against unemployment rather than an investigation.

Richard Sprague, the committee counsel,

attempts to downplay the size of the investigative force to be assembled by saying that the Warren Commission had 53 assistants of its own, 150 FBI agents and additional help from the Internal Revenue Service and the Central Intelligence Agency. Despite its size, Sprague's investigative army faces hopeless odds and obstacles.

The missing links are numerous. Important principals have died. The passage of time has a way of playing tricks with memories, and the two assassination cases are no exception to this fact. Fiction has been distorted into fact, while theories and conjectures of unqualified individuals have jumped to erroneous and unfounded conclusions.

When all has been said and done, people are likely to continue believing exactly the same about the two assassinations as they do now. Congress would do far better to expend part of the funds for investigators that might help keep some of its wayward members in line. Such action is in order, too, since a considerable segment of the populace has misgivings about members of Congress.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Lawyers in King case blasted

By ARTHUR SIDDON
Globe-Democrat-Chicago Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The chief counsel for the House Select Committee on Assassinations has criticized prosecutors who failed to get a written confession from James Earl Ray, convicted killer of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Richard A. Sprague told reporters Tuesday that it was "most unusual" that prosecutors did not interrogate Ray and get a signed statement from him before accepting his guilty plea March 10, 1969.

Sprague, an experienced prosecutor who won a murder conviction against ousted United Mine Workers President W.A. (Tony) Boyle, said it is standard

procedure in plea bargaining to get the right to interrogate the suspect.

"I THINK IT IS most unusual where someone is pleading guilty (not to follow that procedure). I would assume the prosecution would make a part of the plea bargaining a full interrogation (to determine) whether others were involved," he said.

At the time Ray pleaded guilty to the 1968 King slaying in exchange for the prosecution pledge not to seek the death penalty, he said he did "not accept" statements by the prosecutor and his own attorney that there was no conspiracy in the killing.

Ray was sentenced to 99 years in prison but is appealing the conviction on the grounds he was "set up to take the rap for a crime he didn't commit."

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C L E A R

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

FOR INFORMATION OF RECIPIENTS, AT THE CLOSE OF THE 94TH CONGRESS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CREATED A SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS TO INVESTIGATE THE DEATHS OF JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. THIS COMMITTEE AND THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, HAVE REACHED AN AGREEMENT STIPULATING THAT ALL COMMITTEE REQUESTS FOR ACCESS TO FBI FILES AND PERSONNEL WILL BE MADE IN WRITING TO THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS.

IT IS NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE STAFF HAVE SOUGHT ON THEIR OWN TO INTERVIEW DEPARTMENTAL EMPLOYEES KNOWLEDGEABLE REGARDING THE KENNEDY AND KING INVESTIGATIONS. SIMILAR EFFORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TOWARD FBI FIELD OFFICES

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AND HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL. IF SUCH CONTACTS OCCUR, YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO REFER THE CONTACTING HOUSE COMMITTEE OFFICIAL TO THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS OF THE DEPARTMENT OR TO FBIHQ. ATTEMPTS BY THE COMMITTEE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION THROUGH YOUR PERSONNEL OR ANY OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE SHOULD BE FURNISHED PROMPTLY TO FBIHQ, ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION.

FOR YOUR FURTHER INFORMATION, IN THE EVENT PERSONNEL ARE CONTACTED FOR PURPOSE OF INTERVIEW OR TESTIMONY, REFER TO MY LETTER, CUMBER 1-75, DATED MAY 28, 1975, CAPTIONED "MEMORANDUM TO ALL EMPLOYEES; RE: INTERVIEWS OF FBI EMPLOYEES." THIS MEMORANDUM DETAILS EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION AS OUTLINED IN THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, AND THE FBI EMPLOYEE AGREEMENT, WHICH REQUIRE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY BEFORE FURNISHING INFORMATION, TESTIMONY OR RECORD MATERIAL.

RECIPIENTS ARE ALSO REMINDED THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR DESTRUCTION OF FILES AND RECORDS PROGRAM, RECORDS POSSESSING EVIDENTIARY, INTELLIGENCE OR HISTORICAL VALUE, SUCH AS THE KENNEDY AND KING ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATIONS ARE

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EXCLUDED FROM THE FILE DESTRUCTION PROGRAM AND CANNOT BE
DESTROYED.

ALL LEGATS ADVISED SEPARATELY.

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Inquiry to include mobsters' deaths

By NORMAN KEMPSTER
Globe-Democrat-Los Angeles Times
News Service

WASHINGTON — A congressional committee plans a thorough investigation of the nature of the murders of Sam Giancana and John Roselli to find out if the mobsters' deaths were linked to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Richard A. Sprague, staff director of a special House committee on assassinations, said Tuesday that the committee would explore the relationship between Kennedy and the two men as part of its investigation of the killings of Kennedy and civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther

King Jr.

"In the investigations of both King and Kennedy, any other murder that has the appearance of relevancy must be investigated as well," Sprague, a former Philadelphia prosecutor, said in an interview.

OUTLINING his plans for the \$6.5 million-a-year investigation he has proposed, Sprague said that his staff would use two types of lie detectors — the usual Polygraph, which must be physically attached to the witness, and a "stress evaluator" that its developers claim, can indicate truth or falsity of tape-recorded oral statements.

The committee also plans to buy two tiny transmitters that can be hidden in the clothing of an investigator during the questioning of a potential witness. When combined with the stress evaluator, this device will permit the committee to subject individuals to secret lie detector tests.

Sprague said witnesses — including present or former government officials — would be asked to submit voluntarily to a Polygraph test. He said, "The stress evaluator can be used when a person does not agree to the Polygraph."

DISCUSSING the value of the Polygraph, Sprague said that a good operator "can subject someone to a test and have the person remain mute, yet on the basis of the questions and the reading of the emotional responses, he can pinpoint where people met, on what occasions, who met them."

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He said no "bona fide" conclusion could be reached if a person refused to take a Polygraph test. But he added, "from an investigator's standpoint, it might then make us question why not, and dig in that particular area more thoroughly."

Sprague said the purpose of the investigation is to answer questions that have been raised since the Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin of Kennedy and since James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the murder of Dr. King.

"This investigation is for the purpose of disclosure," Sprague said.

HE SAID the committee would make public — chiefly through open hearings — the information that it develops, even if the disclosures might affect individuals or government agencies only indirectly involved.

Sprague said the committee might even reveal the identity of undercover CIA agents, if necessary to tell the full story.

Sprague said last week the committee would hire its own investigators because it could not rely on the FBI and the CIA. He said the agencies had withheld information from the Warren Commission on at least two occasions.