

7-110
PAGE TWO, KC 44-760, UNCLAS EFTO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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FINANCED THE PLANE AT JOHNSON COUNTY BANK, AND BELIEVES THAT WILSON HAD A PARTNER. FISHER RECALLS THE NAME OF LOU CREWS, WHO OWNS LOU CREWS JEWELERS, GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI. FISHER INDICATED THAT THE AIRPORT KEEPS NO RECORDS OF LANDINGS OR TAKE-OFFS OF AIRCRAFTS. FISHER ALSO BELIEVES THAT WILSON WAS A SHRINER AND THAT HE DRANK A LOT.

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

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

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

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

44-775-1211
LG

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AND PRESENT ON APRIL 4, 1968.

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

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

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

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

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

BT

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☒ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date 8/24/78

2634 / 7023

FM ST. LOUIS (44-775) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE 1512

KANSAS CITY (44-760) PRIORITY 1542

MEMPHIS (44-1987 - SUB M) IMMEDIATE 1529

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH BLDG.

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

RE KANSAS CITY TELETYPE TO BUREAU, AUGUST 21, 1978.

PERSONNEL RECORDS ON FILE AT NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER,
 CIVILIAN PERSONNEL RECORDS (NPRC-C), ST. LOUIS, MO., DISCLOSED
 BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., SSAN [REDACTED] EMPLOYED AUGUST 3,
 1966, BY DEPARTMENT OF AIR FORCE, 442ND MILITARY AIRLIFT WING,
 RICHARDS-GEBAUR AFB, MO., AS FLIGHT ENGINEER (WITH DUAL STATUS AS
 AIR RESERVE TECHNICIAN). RESIGNED MARCH 10, 1968, TO GO INTO
 BUSINESS FOR SELF. RECORDS FAILED TO SHOW WILSON EMPLOYED BY U.S.
 GOVERNMENT ON APRIL 4, 1968.

WJE:bjb (1)

ip

44-775-1202

SEARCHED
 SERIALIZED
 INDEXED
 FILED

Approved: R/BK/WTransmitted Rel above
(Number) (Time)Per bjh
FBI/DOJ

F B I

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date _____

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FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONTAINED IN RECORDS:

NAME: BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AKA. BILL.

DESCRIPTION: DATE OF BIRTH _____ FULTON, MISS.

HEIGHT: 5 FT. 11 IN., WEIGHT: 165 LBS., HAIR: BROWN, EYES: BROWN.

EDUCATION: FULTON HIGH SCHOOL, FULTON, MISS., 1942-46;
~~UNIVERSITY~~ UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, 1952; UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, 1959.

ADDRESSES: 1605 BOXWOOD ST., MEMPHIS, TENN. (1947-60); 4086
REENIG AVE., MEMPHIS, TENN. (1960-62); 2612 ELMORE PARK RD., MEMPHIS,
TENN. (1962-64); 3612 COVINGTON PIKE, MEMPHIS, TENN. (1964-66); 3173
COURT ST., BARTLETT, TENN. (APRIL, 1966); 13707 12TH ST., GRANDVIEW,
MO. (MAY, 1966 - MARCH, 1967).

EMPLOYMENTS: APRIL, 1960, TO SEPTEMBER, 1962, PRUDENTIAL
INSURANCE CO., MEMPHIS, TENN.; SEPTEMBER, 1962, TO DECEMBER, 1963,
SELF EMPLOYED (WILSON CLEANERS), RALEIGH, TENN.; JANUARY, 1964, TO
MAY, 1964, ROCKETDYNE, CONOGA PARK, CALIF.; JUNE, 1964, TO MAY, 1966,
WILBUR ADVERTISING ENTERPRISES, INC., BARTLETT, TENN.

RELATIVES: BETTY LOU HOOTEN WILSON, WIFE, BORN _____,
WALNUT LOG, TENN., MARRIED FEBRUARY 28, 1955, GRENADA, MISS. CHILDREN:
DEBORAH A. WILSON, BORN _____ STEPHEN W. WILSON, BORN _____
_____ ; MARK A. WILSON, BORN _____.

*correction made
on mag card.
hyle*

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____
(Number) (Time)

Per _____

FBI/DOJ

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TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date _____

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MILITARY SERVICE: U.S. AIR FORCE, MAY, 1947, TO MARCH, 1948;
NOVEMBER, 1948, TO JUNE, 1950; FEBRUARY, 1951, TO NOVEMBER, 1954;
FEBRUARY, 1955, TO FEBRUARY, 1960, SERIAL NO. [REDACTED]

PASSPORT NO. [REDACTED]

BLOOD GROUP: O POSITIVE.

SOCIAL SECURITY NO.: [REDACTED]

REFERENCES: DR. IRA C. COLE, BROADMOOR BAPTIST CHURCH, RALEIGH,
TENN. (1966); WALTER K. WADE, 4126 FORBES AVE., FT. WORTH, TEXAS
(1966); BEN J. MANGINA, 442 MILITARY AIRLIFT WING, RICHARDS-GEBAUR
AFB, MO. (1966).

PHOTOGRAPH: NONE AVAILABLE.

BT

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____
(Number) (Time)Per _____
FBI/DOJ

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/22/78

LYNDA D. COBBLE was contacted at her residence 202 Crosswinds Apartments, Arnold, Missouri. Also present during the course of the interview was Arnold, Missouri Police Sergeant MICHAEL COLLIER.

COBBLE was advised of the identity of interviewing Agent by display of credentials. COBBLE was previously aware of identity of Sergeant COLLIER.

COBBLE stated that she had been the recipient of numerous threatening telephone calls subsequent to the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. She furnished the following information concerning those calls.

COBBLE received the first call at the residences of her mother in Cahokia, Illinois, telephone number 337-7267, shortly after the arrest of JAMES EARL RAY for the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. She advised that this call was made by a male caller, no further description, who stated "If you keep your mouth shut you won't get hurt". She stated that shortly later while she and her mother were at the K-Mart Store in Belleville, Illinois, she was approached by a white male approximately 6'6" tall with a scar on the side of his face approximate age 35 or 36, and a tattoo on his right bicep. She stated that the individual stated that she had a very pretty baby and that she had better keep her mouth shut. COBBLE stated that she received four or five additional calls while she was staying at her mother's house in Cahokia, Illinois, during the period of time shortly after the arrest of JAMES EARL RAY. She advised that all of the calls contained threats advising her not to make any statement.

COBBLE stated that shortly after marrying her second husband, JAMES L. BIRCHETT, and while they resided at 40 Agnes Drive, Cahokia, Illinois, she received four or five additional calls advising her not to say anything about JAMES EARL RAY. She advised that these calls started approximately three to four months after she and BIRCHETT were married. Their wedding date was August 26, 1972. BIRCHETT and COBBLE were subsequently divorced.

Interviewed on 8/22/78 at Arnold, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA MICHAEL N. MURPHY:mt Date dictated 8/22/78

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.

SL 44-775

COBBLE married JERRY COBBLE, her present husband, and moved to 621 5th Avenue, Conway, Arkansas, approximately one year ago. Approximately six months ago, she received several telephone calls of the same nature and shortly later received several more calls. She advised that some of the calls mentioned JAMES EARL RAY by name and during the calls she was told to keep her mouth shut and she or her kids would not get hurt.

LYNDA COBBLE and her husband, JERRY COBBLE, moved from Conway, Arkansas to their present address in Arnold, Missouri, approximately two weeks ago. She has received four or five calls, and in each case the caller sounds to COBBLE to be the same individual. During one specific call she was told to keep her mouth shut if she wanted to see daylight the next day. She recalls that the first call that she received at her new residence in Arnold, Missouri, occurred approximately 9:30 PM on an unrecalled date and then the next call occurred approximately 3:00 AM the next morning. She claims to have also received several subsequent calls at approximately 7:00 AM on various mornings. COBBLE states that the last call was received the morning that MIKE COLLIER of the police department, Arnold, Missouri, came out and interviewed her in response to her telephone call to the Arnold Police Department. She stated with regards to all of the aforementioned calls she is positive that none of the calls were collect calls and that there was never an operator on the line.

Upon questioning, COBBLE furnished the following information concerning the history of her association with JAMES EARL RAY:

COBBLE married JAMES ALLEN BENNEY, white male, date of birth [REDACTED], on March 11, 1968. When they first got married, they were living at Maplewood, Missouri, at an unrecalled address. At approximately the fourth or fifth month of their marriage, her husband JAMES BENNEY brought JAMES EARL RAY home with him on one occasion and introduced RAY to COBBLE. COBBLE was pregnant at that time with her daughter, [REDACTED], and RAY appeared to be very crazy about kids. On fact on numerous occasions,

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RAY brought baby things during his visits to their residence for the expected arrival of the baby. COBBLE cannot recall any specific incidents involving criminal activity between her husband and RAY that occurred while they resided at Maplewood. Approximately two months after COBBLE met RAY, she and JAMES BENNEY moved to a new residence located at Florissant, Missouri. This was approximately four months before [REDACTED] was born. The baby's birth date was [REDACTED]. COBBLE and her husband resided at an apartment complex located behind the Ramada Inn or possibly a Holiday Inn near a Target Store and a Central Hardware Store in Florissant, Missouri. They lived at that apartment for approximately one year. During that year, JAMES EARL RAY visited their residence frequently.

COBBLE stated that she and her husband were still residing at the residence in Florissant, Missouri on [REDACTED] when her daughter [REDACTED] was born at Missouri Baptist Hospital. In fact, JAMES EARL RAY visited the baby, JANE BENNEY, at the Missouri Baptist Hospital at the approximate time of her birth and advised hospital officials that he was the baby's father. COBBLE stated that this all occurred prior to the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

Approximately three months after [REDACTED] birth, LYNDIA COBBLE moved out with the baby and they moved in with her mother at Cahokia, Illinois. She was living in Cahokia, Illinois when Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING was killed.

At the same time that COBBLE moved out of the apartment in Florissant and in with her mother, JAMES BENNEY moved out of the apartment also and relocated at a house in Memphis, Tennessee. The money for the down payment for the house was given to JAMES BENNEY by JAMES EARL RAY. Sometime before Dr. KING's death, BENNEY contacted COBBLE and asked her to come down with the baby to visit. She went down to Memphis and visited BENNEY for two or three days.

During the period of time that COBBLE was visiting with BENNEY at the aforementioned house in Memphis, Tennessee approximately five different men came and visited BENNEY at the house. She described the individuals as all being large white males wearing business suits and carrying attache cases and ranging in age from 25 to 30. JAMES EARL RAY and his

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brother, JERRY RAY, were also at the house in Memphis during her visit on numerous occasions. COBBLE recalls specifically overhearing a particular meeting between the aforementioned individuals at the house in Memphis, Tennessee. She recalls they were discussing a bank robbery to occur in Florissant, Missouri. JERRY RAY appeared to be the leader of the group and all of the individuals referred to a floor diagram of the bank to be robbed. The bank was to be robbed by JERRY RAY, JIM BENNEY, and two other individuals who were not at the meeting and who she never had occasion to meet. COBBLE believes that the business men had floor plans for several different banks and that the intent of the people in the group was to rob several different banks.

Upon questioning, COBBLE advised that she could not recall any mention during these meetings concerning the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING or any mention of MARTIN LUTHER KING or any mention of anybody named RAOUL.

COBBLE recalls that there were several conversations that occurred behind closed doors but she assumed they made reference to bank robberies.

COBBLE stated that the night before Dr. KING was killed, she and JAMES EARL RAY were watching television and RAY was playing with her baby, [REDACTED], on the floor in front of the television set when mention was made over the television concerning Dr. KING's visit in Memphis. COBBLE recalls that RAY made a statement to the effect "that black sonofabitch all he does is raise hell somebody ought to waste him". COBBLE advised that it was obvious from her numerous conversations with RAY that he absolutely hated black people and he made that hatred very clear. She recalls that on several occasions prior to that evening that she heard JAMES EARL RAY make statements to the effect that he would like to waste him. (Referring to Dr. KING). COBBLE stated that she got into an argument with JAMES EARL RAY that evening concerning the fact that she wanted to go back to Cahokia with the baby. RAY became enraged because he wanted COBBLE to stay there with the baby for a while.

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COBBLE stated that same evening which was the evening before Dr. KING's murder, she left Memphis and went back to her mother's residence in Cahokia, Illinois and never saw JAMES EARL RAY in person again.

COBBLE stated that two or three weeks after she returned from Memphis, the bank robbery occurred at Florissant, Missouri, and it was her understanding as related to her by JIM BENNEY that the money was obtained to raise lawyer fees for JAMES EARL RAY.

On the night of the aforementioned bank robbery, JAMES BENNEY came to visit COBBLE at her mother's residence in Cahokia, Illinois. COBBLE went out to the car in which BENNEY was riding and observed approximately four bags of money with currency scattered in the back seat. COBBLE described that car as fairly new at that time, green over green Charger. She recalls that BENNEY had several sets of registration certificates and several different sets of license plates for that car. She advised that BENNEY told her that he was supposed to meet the others involved in the bank robbery at Memphis, Tennessee to split up the money, however, he wanted her to leave with him and move out to Portland, Oregon and just keep all the money for themselves. COBBLE refused to go with BENNEY.

COBBLE recalls that JERRY RAY was apprehended on the very day of the bank robbery several hours after the bank robbery. She advised she observed JERRY RAY on television at the time of his arrest and that she has seen him on numerous occasions on television subsequent to that date. She stated that the individual that she has seen has identified as JERRY RAY on television is the same JERRY RAY that she saw at the aforementioned residence in Memphis, Tennessee.

COBBLE stated that after she refused to go to Portland, Oregon with JIM BENNEY, he went out there on his own and started working in a bar. She advised that he was shot and killed in a bar on November 28, 1971. She stated that at the time of his death he had only been out to Oregon several months.

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COBBLE further advised that on the day of her husband's death, she went to the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) located in St. Louis, Missouri and conferred with an Agent known to her as PETE concerning her husband's death.

Upon questioning COBBLE advised that she and her husband, JAMES BENNEY, previously owned the Grape Vine Bar located on Arsenal Street in St. Louis. She stated that they had purchased the bar from JERRY RAY.

COBBLE originally stated that the bar was sold to them by JERRY RAY after the death of Dr. KING and she was 17 years old at that particular time. She stated that they operated the bar for approximately six to eight months before they sold it. When confronted with the conflict in time concerning the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING COBBLE stated that actually she and JAMES BENNEY purchased the bar before Dr. KING was killed, but while they were separated and not living together. She stated that JAMES BENNEY subsequently sold the bar after Dr. KING's death at the request of JERRY RAY in order to raise money for JAMES EARL RAY's lawyers.

COBBLE was confronted with the fact that Dr. KING had been killed on April 4, 1968 and that it would be impossible for JAMES EARL RAY to have seen the baby prior to that date inasmuch as the baby was not born until [redacted], and COBBLE stated that there must be a mistake in dates. She further stated that she is absolutely sure that JAMES EARL RAY was very fond of her daughter, [redacted] who was born in December, 1968, and that on the night before Dr. KING was killed, RAY was playing with the baby in front of the television set at the residence in Memphis, Tennessee.

COBBLE stated that she believes that JAMES BENNEY and JERRY RAY had been involved in several bank robberies and service station holdups; however she was not cognizant of the details.

SL 44-775

The following information was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	LYNDA D. COBBLE, nee Leach, formerly LYNDA D. BENNEY and LYNDA D. BIRCHETT
Race	White
Sex	Female
Age	24
Date of Birth	
Height	5'2"
Weight	160 pounds
Hair	Bleach blond
Occupation	Housewife
Residence	202 Crosswinds Arnold, Missouri
Residential Telephone	296-2193
Former Residence	621 5th Avenue Conway, Arkansas
Relatives	Mother: IRENE BIRCHETT 102 Lazercheff Drive Cahokia, Illinois, telephone number 337-7267

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DE HQ 0083 2340017

ZNR UUUUU

P 222206Z AUG 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

TO FBI BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

FBI CHICAGO PRIORITY

FBI DALLAS PRIORITY

FBI HOUSTON PRIORITY

FBI JACKSON PRIORITY

FBI KANSAS CITY PRIORITY

FBI MEMPHIS PRIORITY

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY PRIORITY

FBI SAN ANTONIO PRIORITY

FBI ST. LOUIS PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

MURKIN

EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION HAS ALREADY BEEN CONDUCTED TO
RESOLVE THE ALLEGATION BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON⁰ THAT HE
ASSASSINATED MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND TO DETERMINE

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PAGE TWO DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

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

SAN ANTONIO:

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

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

JACKSON:

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

PAGE THREE DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

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

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

MEMPHIS:

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

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

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

PAGE FOUR DE HQ 0033 UNCLAS

APRIL, 1968.

ALL RECIPIENT OFFICES:

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

BT

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NNNN

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS ⁴⁴⁻⁷⁷⁵ (~~62-8097~~)

DATE: 8/16/78

FROM : Clerk W.R. Farhat

SUBJECT: Miscellaneous Information
Concerning Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr. ^{- 62-6097}

Instant date at approximately 7:20 PM, this office was contacted by Mr. Felton Mitchell, 12040 Kings Head, Florissant, Mo., telephone number 741-3283.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he deals in real estate part time and has a business address of #75 Central City Shopping Center, Ferguson, Mo., 63136, tel #868-7990. His business hours are in the evening from 4-9 PM. Mr. Mitchell advised that he has an answering service for his business. Upon reviewing his telephone call messages for 8/16/78, he reviewed a telephone message from a N/M, whom stated that he killed Dr. Martin Luther King. Caller at times during the message was incoherent, but did leave a phone number and possibly an address. Mr. Mitchell thought that the FBI should be notified. Mr. Mitchell further stated that since he has another job during the day he would be hard to contact. Upon trying to make arrangements to pick up the tape, Mr. Mitchell suggested that his wife Jonita Mitchell drop the tape off at 8:15 8/16/78. Writer received this tape from Mrs. Mitchell. Enclosed find one tape of telephone messages.



5010-110

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

44-775-1204
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W

UNKNOWN MALE:

Yes. My name EBIDAY (PH) (belches) BUDDAY
(PH) (belches) ADOBENEDICT^o (PH). The
las' time when MARTIN LUTHER KING got shot
and and the Martha Trail (PH), nineteen
fifty-eight. The newsroom, you know.
(belches) I am the one who did it. The
phone number is five-five-five-six-four-
eight-one. The address is University
City, zip code 'bersity City. Ad- my
address is fifty-one fifty-eight, and I
the one who had shot Doctor Martluth
shot Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING. You all
stupid ass. Ow-oo. Goodbye.

Not a
legit

him

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

DATE: 8/23/78

FROM : SUPERVISOR KENNETH A. WILLIAMS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re St. Louis memo of Security Clerk W. R. FARHAT
8/16/78.

Referenced memo reflects a contact from Mr. FELTON MITCHELL concerning a telephone message which was received on MITCHELL's answering service. The text of the conversation reflected on the tape, furnished by Mrs. JONITA MITCHELL, is set forth in FARHAT's memo.

This tape was heard on two occasions and the caller, who slurred his words, appears to be drunk. The telephone number which the caller furnished, 555-6481, is a nonexistent telephone number. There is no exchange in the St. Louis area with the prefix "555". The caller did not furnish any street address. The caller identified himself as EBIDAY BUDDAY ADOBENEDICT. The files of the Missouri Department of Revenue reflect no driver's license in this name. Records of the telephone, city, and county directories also failed to show a listing for this name.

The tape which bears the conversation from the caller is being returned to Mr. FELTON MITCHELL.



2)- St. Louis
KAW/lsn
(2)

5010-110

44-775-1204⁵

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 24 1978	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

11

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SA Mattes (72-88)

FROM : SC Virgil Johnson, jr

SUBJECT: Misc info re Jerry Ray

DATE: 8/17/78
1130/a

Linda Dell Benney, ph. 296-2193, 202 Crosswind Dr., Arnold, Mo. stated she has received several threatening phone calls from unsubs who stated she would be "wasted" if she contacted any officials re Jerry Ray or his brother James Earl Ray. Benney stated her husband James Allen Benney, deceased once robbed a bank with Jerry Ray in which part of the loot was never recovered. James Allen Benney was shot and killed in Portland, Oregon on November 1970 by unsubj. She was unable to tell if the telcals were local or interstate and was told to contact the local PD re threats.

Sgt. Mike Collier of the Arnold PD contacted this office re threats to Benney and stated he would call later with additional info.

2- St. Louis
vxj

A

44-775-1206
Ca



5010-110

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

Mattes

W

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE ST. LOUIS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 8/24/78	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/17-22/78
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS	TYPED BY lsn
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY	

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

St. Louis indices reflect no reference to LYNDA D. COBBLE, JERRY COBBLE, JAMES ALLEN BENNEY, JIM BENNEY, or JAMES L. BIRCHETT.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					☐ NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:		
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES					
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☐ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☐ NO		
APPROVED					SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW			
COPIES MADE: 4 - Bureau (44-38861) 3 - Memphis (2 - 44-1987) (1 - USA, Memphis) 1 - St. Louis (44-775)						44-775-1206 SEARCHED SERIALIZED INDEXED FILED <i>Murphy</i>			
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations			
Agency									
Request Recd.									
Date Fwd.									
How Fwd.									
By									

A*
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - United States Attorney, Memphis

Report of: SA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS Office: ST. LOUIS
Date: August 24, 1978

Field Office File #: SL 44-775 Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis: LYNDIA D. COBBLE (white female, DOB [REDACTED], residing Arnold, Missouri, advised she has been the recipient of numerous anonymous threatening telephone calls since the death of victim KING. COBBLE states caller warns her not to talk on threat of physical harm. First call received shortly after KING's death and have continued until present time. COBBLE states she married JAMES ALLEN BENNEY in 3/68. Four or five months following marriage, BENNEY brought JAMES EARL RAY to their residence in Maplewood, Missouri, when COBBLE was pregnant. COBBLE's daughter was born [REDACTED] at St. Louis, and RAY visited COBBLE during maternity confinement and advised hospital officials that he, RAY, was the child's father. According to COBBLE, the birth of her daughter and RAY's hospital visits occurred prior to the death of victim KING. In early 1969 COBBLE moved to her mother's residence, and her husband, JAMES ALLEN BENNEY, relocated in Memphis, Tennessee, after purchasing a house. The downpayment on BENNEY's residence in Memphis was paid by RAY. COBBLE advised the night before victim KING was killed she was at BENNEY's residence in Memphis, Tennessee. COBBLE and JAMES EARL RAY were watching television when reference was made on the television concerning KING. RAY made a statement referring to KING, "Somebody ought to waste him." COBBLE never saw RAY after that evening. COBBLE advised her former husband, JAMES BENNEY, was shot and killed in Portland, Oregon, on 11/28/71.

- RUC -

Details: AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

SL 44-775

This investigation was predicated upon LYNDIA BENNEY, residing 202 Crosswind Drive, Arnold, Missouri, advising the St. Louis Office on August 17, 1978, that she had received several threatening anonymous telephone calls in which the caller states that she would be "wasted" if she contacted any official regarding JERRY RAY or his brother, JAMES EARL RAY. She did not know the origin of the telephone calls as to whether they were local or long distance. She stated that her former husband, JAMES ALLEN BENNEY, who is now deceased, once robbed a bank with JERRY RAY in which part of the loot was never recovered.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 8/22/78

LYNDA D. COBBLE was contacted at her residence 202 Crosswinds Apartments, Arnold, Missouri. Also present during the course of the interview was Arnold, Missouri Police Sergeant MICHAEL COLLIER.

COBBLE was advised of the identity of interviewing Agent by display of credentials. COBBLE was previously aware of identity of Sergeant COLLIER.

COBBLE stated that she had been the recipient of numerous threatening telephone calls subsequent to the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. She furnished the following information concerning those calls.

COBBLE received the first call at the residences of her mother in Cahokia, Illinois, telephone number 337-7267, shortly after the arrest of JAMES EARL RAY for the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. She advised that this call was made by a male caller, no further description, who stated "If you keep your mouth shut you won't get hurt". She stated that shortly later while she and her mother were at the K-Mart Store in Belleville, Illinois, she was approached by a white male approximately 6'6" tall with a scar on the side of his face approximate age 35 or 36, and a tattoo on his right bicep. She stated that the individual stated that she had a very pretty baby and that she had better keep her mouth shut. COBBLE stated that she received four or five additional calls while she was staying at her mother's house in Cahokia, Illinois, during the period of time shortly after the arrest of JAMES EARL RAY. She advised that all of the calls contained threats advising her not to make any statement.

COBBLE stated that shortly after marrying her second husband, JAMES L. BIRCHETT, and while they resided at 40 Agnes Drive, Cahokia, Illinois, she received four or five additional calls advising her not to say anything about JAMES EARL RAY. She advised that these calls started approximately three to four months after she and BIRCHETT were married. Their wedding date was August 26, 1972. BIRCHETT and COBBLE were subsequently divorced.

Interviewed on 8/22/78 at Arnold, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA MICHAEL N. MURPHY:mt Date dictated 8/22/78

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.

COBBLE married JERRY COBBLE, her present husband, and moved to 621 5th Avenue, Conway, Arkansas, approximately one year ago. Approximately six months ago, she received several telephone calls of the same nature and shortly later received several more calls. She advised that some of the calls mentioned JAMES EARL RAY by name and during the calls she was told to keep her mouth shut and she or her kids would not get hurt.

LYNDA COBBLE and her husband, JERRY COBBLE, moved from Conway, Arkansas to their present address in Arnold, Missouri, approximately two weeks ago. She has received four or five calls, and in each case the caller sounds to COBBLE to be the same individual. During one specific call she was told to keep her mouth shut if she wanted to see daylight the next day. She recalls that the first call that she received at her new residence in Arnold, Missouri, occurred approximately 9:30 PM on an unrecalled date and then the next call occurred approximately 3:00 AM the next morning. She claims to have also received several subsequent calls at approximately 7:00 AM on various mornings. COBBLE states that the last call was received the morning that MIKE COLLIER of the police department, Arnold, Missouri, came out and interviewed her in response to her telephone call to the Arnold Police Department. She stated with regards to all of the aforementioned calls she is positive that none of the calls were collect calls and that there was never an operator on the line.

Upon questioning, COBBLE furnished the following information concerning the history of her association with JAMES EARL RAY:

COBBLE married JAMES ALLEN BENNEY, white male, date of birth [REDACTED], on March 11, 1968. When they first got married, they were living at Maplewood, Missouri, at an unrecalled address. At approximately the fourth or fifth month of their marriage, her husband JAMES BENNEY brought JAMES EARL RAY home with him on one occasion and introduced RAY to COBBLE. COBBLE was pregnant at that time with her daughter, [REDACTED], and RAY appeared to be very crazy about kids. On fact on numerous occasions,

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SL 44-775

RAY brought baby things during his visits to their residence for the expected arrival of the baby. COBBLE cannot recall any specific incidents involving criminal activity between her husband and RAY that occurred while they resided at Maplewood. Approximately two months after COBBLE met RAY, she and JAMES BENNEY moved to a new residence located at Florissant, Missouri. This was approximately four months before [REDACTED] was born. The baby's birth date was [REDACTED] COBBLE and her husband resided at an apartment complex located behind the Ramada Inn or possibly a Holiday Inn near a Target Store and a Central Hardware Store in Florissant, Missouri. They lived at that apartment for approximately one year. During that year, JAMES EARL RAY visited their residence frequently.

COBBLE stated that she and her husband were still residing at the residence in Florissant, Missouri on [REDACTED] when her daughter [REDACTED] was born at Missouri Baptist Hospital. In fact, JAMES EARL RAY visited the baby, [REDACTED], at the Missouri Baptist Hospital at the approximate time of her birth and advised hospital officials that he was the baby's father. COBBLE stated that this all occurred prior to the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

Approximately three months after [REDACTED] birth, LYNDIA COBBLE moved out with the baby and they moved in with her mother at Cahokia, Illinois. She was living in Cahokia, Illinois when Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING was killed.

At the same time that COBBLE moved out of the apartment in Florissant and in with her mother, JAMES BENNEY moved out of the apartment also and relocated at a house in Memphis, Tennessee. The money for the down payment for the house was given to JAMES BENNEY by JAMES EARL RAY. Sometime before Dr. KING's death, BENNEY contacted COBBLE and asked her to come down with the baby to visit. She went down to Memphis and visited BENNEY for two or three days.

During the period of time that COBBLE was visiting with BENNEY at the aforementioned house in Memphis, Tennessee approximately five different men came and visited BENNEY at the house. She described the individuals as all being large white males wearing business suits and carrying attache cases and ranging in age from 25 to 30. JAMES EARL RAY and his

brother, JERRY RAY, were also at the house in Memphis during her visit on numerous occasions. COBBLE recalls specifically overhearing a particular meeting between the aforementioned individuals at the house in Memphis, Tennessee. She recalls they were discussing a bank robbery to occur in Florissant, Missouri. JERRY RAY appeared to be the leader of the group and all of the individuals referred to a floor diagram of the bank to be robbed. The bank was to be robbed by JERRY RAY, JIM BENNEY, and two other individuals who were not at the meeting and who she never had occasion to meet. COBBLE believes that the business men had floor plans for several different banks and that the intent of the people in the group was to rob several different banks.

Upon questioning, COBBLE advised that she could not recall any mention during these meetings concerning the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING or any mention of MARTIN LUTHER KING or any mention of anybody named RAOUL.

COBBLE recalls that there were several conversations that occurred behind closed doors but she assumed they made reference to bank robberies.

COBBLE stated that the night before Dr. KING was killed, she and JAMES EARL RAY were watching television and RAY was playing with her baby, [REDACTED] on the floor in front of the television set when mention was made over the television concerning Dr. KING's visit in Memphis. COBBLE recalls that RAY made a statement to the effect "that black sonofabitch all he does is raise hell somebody ought to waste him". COBBLE advised that it was obvious from her numerous conversations with RAY that he absolutely hated black people and he made that hatred very clear. She recalls that on several occasions prior to that evening that she heard JAMES EARL RAY make statements to the effect that he would like to waste him. (Referring to Dr. KING). COBBLE stated that she got into an argument with JAMES EARL RAY that evening concerning the fact that she wanted to go back to Cahokia with the baby. RAY became enraged because he wanted COBBLE to stay there with the baby for a while.

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SL 44-775

COBBLE stated that same evening which was the evening before Dr. KING's murder, she left Memphis and went back to her mother's residence in Cahokia, Illinois and never saw JAMES EARL RAY in person again.

COBBLE stated that two or three weeks after she returned from Memphis, the bank robbery occurred at Florissant, Missouri, and it was her understanding as related to her by JIM BENNEY that the money was obtained to raise lawyer fees for JAMES EARL RAY.

On the night of the aforementioned bank robbery, JAMES BENNEY came to visit COBBLE at her mother's residence in Cahokia, Illinois. COBBLE went out to the car in which BENNEY was riding and observed approximately four bags of money with currency scattered in the back seat. COBBLE described that car as fairly new at that time, green over green Charger. She recalls that BENNEY had several sets of registration certificates and several different sets of license plates for that car. She advised that BENNEY told her that he was supposed to meet the others involved in the bank robbery at Memphis, Tennessee to split up the money, however, he wanted her to leave with him and move out to Portland, Oregon and just keep all the money for themselves. COBBLE refused to go with BENNEY.

COBBLE recalls that JERRY RAY was apprehended on the very day of the bank robbery several hours after the bank robbery. She advised she observed JERRY RAY on television at the time of his arrest and that she has seen him on numerous occasions on television subsequent to that date. She stated that the individual that she has seen has identified as JERRY RAY on television is the same JERRY RAY that she saw at the aforementioned residence in Memphis, Tennessee.

COBBLE stated that after she refused to go to Portland, Oregon with JIM BENNEY, he went out there on his own and started working in a bar. She advised that he was shot and killed in a bar on November 28, 1971. She stated that at the time of his death he had only been out to Oregon several months.

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SL 44-775

COBBLE further advised that on the day of her husband's death, she went to the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) located in St. Louis, Missouri and conferred with an Agent known to her as PETE concerning her husband's death.

Upon questioning COBBLE advised that she and her husband, JAMES BENNEY, previously owned the Grape Vine Bar located on Arsenal Street in St. Louis. She stated that they had purchased the bar from JERRY RAY.

COBBLE originally stated that the bar was sold to them by JERRY RAY after the death of Dr. KING and she was 17 years old at that particular time. She stated that they operated the bar for approximately six to eight months before they sold it. When confronted with the conflict in time concerning the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING COBBLE stated that actually she and JAMES BENNEY purchased the bar before Dr. KING was killed, but while they were separated and not living together. She stated that JAMES BENNEY subsequently sold the bar after Dr. KING's death at the request of JERRY RAY in order to raise money for JAMES EARL RAY's lawyers.

COBBLE was confronted with the fact that Dr. KING had been killed on April 4, 1968 and that it would be impossible for JAMES EARL RAY to have seen the baby prior to that date inasmuch as the baby was not born until [redacted], and COBBLE stated that there must be a mistake in dates. She further stated that she is absolutely sure that JAMES EARL RAY was very fond of her daughter, [redacted], who was born in December, 1968, and that on the night before Dr. KING was killed, RAY was playing with the baby in front of the television set at the residence in Memphis, Tennessee.

COBBLE stated that she believes that JAMES BENNEY and JERRY RAY had been involved in several bank robberies and service station holdups; however she was not cognizant of the details.

⁷
SL 44-775

The following information was obtained through
observation and interview:

Name	LYNDA D. COBBLE, nee Leach, formerly LYNDA D. BENNEY and LYNDA D. BIRCHETT
Race	White
Sex	Female
Age	24
Date of Birth	
Height	5'2"
Weight	160 pounds
Hair	Bleach blond
Occupation	Housewife
Residence	202 Crosswinds Arnold, Missouri
Residential Telephone	296-2193
Former Residence	621 5th Avenue Conway, Arkansas
Relatives	Mother: IRENE BIRCHETT 102 Lazercheff Drive Cahokia, Illinois, telephone number 337-7267

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE ST. LOUIS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 9/20/78	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/24/78
TITLE OF CASE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.		REPORT MADE BY SA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS	TYPED BY lsn
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR	

REFERENCE:

St. Louis teletype to Bureau, Kansas City, and
Memphis 8/24/78,
Bureau teletype call to St. Louis 9/20/78.

RUC -
#6

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						☐ NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
								PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☐ NO
								PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☐ NO

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:			
4 - Bureau (44-38861)			
3 - Memphis (2 - 44-1987) (1 - USA, Memphis)			
1 - St. Louis (44-775)		44-775-1208	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report		SEARCHED	
		SERIALIZED	
		INDEXED	
		FILED	
Agency		Notations	
Request Recd.			
Date Fwd.			
How Fwd.			
By			

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - United States Attorney, Memphis

Report of: SA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS Office: ST. LOUIS
Date: September 20, 1978

Field Office File #: SL 44-775 Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: Records, NPRC-C, St. Louis, disclosed BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., employed 8/3/66 by Department of Air Force, Richards-Debaur AFB, Missouri, as a flight engineer. WILSON resigned 3/10/68 to go into business for himself.

- RUC -

Details: AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by Special Clerk WILLIAM J. EBERT:

On August 24, 1978, review of personnel records on file at the National Personnel Records Center, Civilian Personnel Records, disclosed that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., Social Security Number [REDACTED] was employed on August 3, 1966, by the Department of the Air Force, 442nd Military Airlift Wing, Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri, as a flight engineer (with dual status as Air Reserve technician). Records disclosed that WILSON resigned on March 10, 1968, to go into business for himself. Records failed to show that WILSON was employed by the U.S. Government on April 4, 1968.

The following background information was contained in the records:

SL 44-775

Name: BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.
Alias: Bill
Date of Birth:
Place of Birth: Fulton, Mississippi
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 165 pounds
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Education: Fulton High School,
Fulton, Mississippi, 1942 - 1946;
University of Maryland, 1952;
University of Tennessee, 1959
Addresses: 1605 Boxwood Street,
Memphis, Tennessee,
1947 - 1960;
4086 Reenig Avenue,
Memphis, Tennessee,
1960 - 1962;
2612 Elmore Park Road,
Memphis, Tennessee,
1962 - 1964;
3612 Covington Pike,
Memphis, Tennessee,
1964 - 1965;
3173 Court Street,
Bartlett, Tennessee,
April, 1966
13707 - 12th Street,
Grandview, Missouri,
May, 1966 - March, 1967.
Employments: April, 1960, - September, 1962,
Prudential Insurance Company,
Memphis, Tennessee;
September, 1962 - December, 1963,
self-employed, Wilson Cleaners,
Raleigh, Tennessee;
January, 1964 - May, 1964,
Rocketdyne, Conoga Park,
California
June, 1964 - May, 1966,
Wilbur Advertising Enterprises, Inc.,
Bartlett, Tennessee

SL 44-775

Wife: BETTY LOU HOOTEN WILSON,
date of birth [REDACTED],
place of birth Walnut Log,
Tennessee

Married: February 28, 1955, Grenada,
Mississippi

Children: [REDACTED]
date of birth [REDACTED];
[REDACTED],
date of birth [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]
date of birth [REDACTED]

Military Service: U.S. Air Force, May, 1947, to
March, 1948; November, 1948, to
June, 1950; February, 1951, to
November, 1954; February, 1955, to
February, 1960, Serial Number
[REDACTED]

Passport Number: [REDACTED]
Blood Group: O Positive
Social Security
Number: [REDACTED]

References: Dr. IRA C. COLE, Broadmoor Baptist
Church, Raleigh, Tennessee, 1966;
WALTER K. WADE, 4126 Forbes Avenue,
Fort Worth, Texas, 1966;
BEN J. MANGINA, 442 Military
Airlift Wing, Richards-Gebaur
Air Force Base, Missouri, 1966

Photograph: None available

AIRTEL

10/2/78

To SACs, Birmingham (44-1740)
Chicago (44-1114)
Dallas (44-2649)
Houston (44-1509)
Jackson (62-544)
Kansas City (44-760)
Memphis (44-1987 sub 4)
Oklahoma City (44-686)
Pittsburgh (44-1572)
San Antonio (44-1242)
St. Louis (44-775)

From Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

RE ALLEGATION BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON

Copies of all reports from recipient offices have been received and have been forwarded to the Department.

Based on the extensive investigation conducted re this Burgess Audie Wilson allegation including the fact investigation determined he did not have access to the airplane in April of 1968, nor to a vehicle in Missouri as he claimed, the Department requested no further investigation re the Wilson allegation.

Promptly report any additional information to FBIHQ volunteered re the Wilson allegation; however, conduct no active investigation unless instructed by FBIHQ as directed by the Department.

44-775-1209

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 4 1978	
FBI-ST. LOUIS	

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype☐ Facsimile☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☒ Priority☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☒ UNCLAS E F T O☐ UNCLAS9155/
9128Date 11/2/78

FM ST. LOUIS (44-775)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT

MURKIN

REFERENCE ST. LOUIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU, NOVEMBER 11, 1965, UNDER TITLE "MARTIN LUTHER KING; SM-C"; AND ST. LOUIS AIRTEL TO BUREAU, NOVEMBER 12, 1965, WITH ENCLOSURES FD-376 AND LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM, ALSO ENTITLED "MARTIN LUTHER KING; SM-C," BUREAU FILE 100-106670, ST. LOUIS FILE 100-17801.

ON NOVEMBER 2, 1978, SHERIFF JAMES HICKMAN, ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY, FARMINGTON, MO., ADVISED ST. LOUIS DIVISION HE HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY ONE LOUIS J. ROSE, AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORT FOR THE ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH. ROSE TOLD HICKMAN HE WAS CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION CONCERNING DELANO ELMER WALKER, WHITE MALE, FBI NO. 60100468. ROSE RELATED THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY TALKED TO WALKER, WHO IS CURRENTLY

44-775-1210
SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

①- St. Louis

RBK:cms

(1)

014
Approved: per

Transmitted

(Number)

2159

(Time)

Per per

FBI/DOJ

F B I

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype☐ Facsimile☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☐ Priority☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date _____

PAGE TWO SL 44-775 UNCLAS E F T O

INCARCERATED IN THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON CITY, MO., AND WALKER HAD TOLD HIM, ROSE, THAT HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY AN UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL AND ASKED TO MURDER MARTIN LUTHER KING. WALKER REPORTEDLY FURTHER STATED THAT A RIFLE WHICH WAS IN HIS POSSESSION AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST BY THE ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WAS THE RIFLE FURNISHED TO HIM BY UNKNOWN PERSON TO PERPETRATE THE MURDER.

IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH HICKMAN, ROSE STATED HE WAS TRYING TO RUN DOWN THIS WALKER SITUATION AND SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED SHERIFF HICKMAN NOT TO ADVISE THE FBI OF HIS INVESTIGATION.

SHERIFF HICKMAN STATED THAT WALKER HAS A HISTORY OF MENTAL ILLNESS. HE ARRESTED WALKER ON DECEMBER 12, 1972, AND AT THAT TIME SEIZED FROM HIM A .308 CALIBER SANTA FE RIFLE, MODEL 1944, MANUFACTURED BY THE GOLDEN STATE ARMES COMPANY, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, BEARING SERIAL NUMBER 3032222 OR SERIAL NUMBER 66298. SHERIFF HICKMAN STATED THIS RIFLE IS STILL IN THE POSSESSION OF HIS OFFICE. ROSE ALSO REQUESTED THAT THIS RIFLE NOT BE GIVEN TO THE FBI.

THE BUREAU'S ATTENTION IS DIRECTED TO REFERENCED COMMUNICATIONS WHEREIN THE ALLEGATION CONCERNING WALKER AND THE MURDER OF DOCTOR KING WAS TREATED, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____

(Number)

(Time)

Per _____

FBI/DOJ

F B I

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype☐ Facsimile☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☐ Priority☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

9128

Date _____

PAGE THREE SL 44-775 UNCLAS E F T O

RIFLE SET FORTH ABOVE.

NO OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION CONCERNING WALKER CONTAINED IN
ST. LOUIS INDICES AND ST. LOUIS IN POSSESSION OF NO FURTHER
INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS MATTER.

ABOVE INFORMATION BEING FURNISHED THE BUREAU FOR INFORMATION
PURPOSES AND NO ACTION BEING TAKEN BY ST. LOUIS, UACB.

BT

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____
(Number) (Time)

Per _____

FBI/DOJ

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FM OKLAHOMA CITY (44-636) (P)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) ROUTINE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) ROUTINE

ST. LOUIS (44-775) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

MURKIN.

INMATE ROBERT E. HART, INMATE NUMBER 23747, DATE OF BIRTH
[REDACTED] WAS INTERVIEWED ON NOVEMBER 28, 1978, AT HIS
REQUEST, AT THE FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION (FCI), EL Reno,
OKLAHOMA. HART ADVISED HE IS CURRENTLY SERVING A TWO-YEAR
SENTENCE FROM ST. LOUIS ON A POSSESSION OF FIREARMS CHARGE
WITH ANTICIPATED RELEASE JUNE, 1979. HART STATED HE HAS
INFORMATION WITH REFERENCE TO JAMES EARL RAY AND THAT HE HAS
PREVIOUSLY BEEN APPROACHED BY CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND THE
SECRET SERVICE AND THAT TO DATE HE HAS REFUSED TO COOPERATE.
HE STATED THAT HE IS SOON DUE FOR RELEASE AND THAT IT IS
HIS DESIRE TO NOW COOPERATE SO THAT HE WILL NOT BE BOTHERED
FOLLOWING RELEASE FROM PRISON.

44-775-1211

11/28/78
WRR
87-23601-7

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI-ST. LOUIS	

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HART STATED THAT JAMES EARL RAY, A FORMER NEIGHBOR IN A NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE VICINITY OF MISSISSIPPI AND PARK STREETS, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, CAME TO HIS (HART'S) RESIDENCE AT 1921 BUTLER (PH) SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT THE DAY KING WAS ASSASSINATED AND THAT RAY REMAINED AT THE RESIDENCE UNTIL DAYBREAK. HART STATED THAT RAY ASKED THAT A NOTE BE DELIVERED TO HIS BROTHER, JERRY RAY, WHO OWNED A BAR ON BROADWAY IN ST. LOUIS, AND ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO DELIVER THAT NOTE, HART STATED, BUT BAR WAS CLOSED. NOTE STATED THAT "THE BLACK SON OF A BITCH WON'T BE F----- ANY MORE WHITE BROADS." NOTE WAS SHORT AND CONSISTED OF ONE HANDWRITTEN PAGE.

HART SAID THAT HE HAS MORE INFORMATION BUT WILL NOT DISCLOSE THAT INFORMATION UNTIL HE HAS BEEN GIVEN ASSURANCE OF NO PROSECUTION BY MISSOURI STATE AUTHORITIES. HE EXPLAINED THAT AT THE TIME RAY CAME TO HIS RESIDENCE, HE (HART) KNEW THAT RAY WAS AN ESCAPEE FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, AND THAT IF HE ADMITTED THAT RAY VISITED HIS RESIDENCE THE NIGHT OF THE KING ASSASSINATION, THAT HE FELT HE COULD BE PROSECUTED FOR HARBORING A STATE FUGITIVE.

PAGE THREE CC 44-686 UNCLAS

HART SAID DAVID SELLERS WAS THE MANAGER OF THE APARTMENT IN WHICH HE RESIDED ON RUGER STREET IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI. HART SAID THAT AT THE TIME OF RAY'S VISIT, HE DID NOT KNOW THAT RAY ASSASSINATED KING AND THAT HE LATER REALIZED WHAT HAPPENED WHEN RAY WAS ARRESTED IN ENGLAND.

ABOVE FURNISHED FOR INFORMATION. REPORT FOLLOWS FROM OKLAHOMA CITY.

BT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE OKLAHOMA CITY	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 12/1/78	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 11/28/78
TITLE OF CASE MURKIN		REPORT MADE BY SA GEORGE R. ZEIGLER	TYPED BY pr
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

REFERENCE:

Oklahoma City teletype to the Bureau, et al, 11/28/78.

- RUC -

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					☒ NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☐ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☐ NO		
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES				
APPROVED					SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE			DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:									
4 - Bureau (44-38861)									
3 - Memphis (44-1987)									
(1 - USA, Memphis)									
② - St. Louis (44-775)									
1 - Oklahoma City (44-686)									
Dissemination Record of Attached Report					Notations			44-775-1212	
Agency							SEARCHED	INDEXED	
Request Recd.							SERIALIZED	FILED	
Date Fwd.							DEC 4 1978		
How Fwd.							FBI-ST. LOUIS		
By									

- A* -
COVER PAGE

c43-10-83489-1 GPO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Memphis

Report of: SA GEORGE R. ZEIGLER
Date: December 1, 1978

Office: Oklahoma City

Field Office File #: 44-686

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: MURKIN

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: Inmate ROBERT E. HART, inmate number 23747, date of birth [redacted] was interviewed on 11/28/78, at his place of confinement, Bureau of Prisons, Federal Correctional Institution, El Reno, Oklahoma. Details with reference to that interview are set forth in report.

- RUC -

Details:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/1/78

1

Inmate ROBERT E. HART, inmate number 23747, date of birth [redacted] was interviewed at his request at the Bureau of Prisons Facility, the Federal Correctional Institution, El Reno, where he is confined. HART advised he is currently serving a two year sentence from St. Louis on a possession of firearms charge with anticipated release June, 1979. He stated he has information with reference to JAMES EARL RAY and that he has previously been approached by congressional committees and the Secret Service and that to date, he has refused to co-operate. He stated that he is soon due for release and it is his desire to now co-operate so that he will not be bothered following release from prison.

HART stated that JAMES EARL RAY, a former neighbor in a neighborhood in vicinity of Mississippi and Park Streets, St. Louis, Missouri, came to his, HART's, residence at 1921 Rutger (phonetic), shortly after midnight the day KING was assassinated, and that RAY remained at the residence until daybreak. HART stated that RAY asked that a note be delivered to his brother, JERRY RAY, who owned a bar on Broadway in St. Louis, and attempt was made to deliver that note, HART stated, but the bar was closed. The note stated that, "The black son-of-a-bitch won't be f----- any more white broads". Note was short and consisted of one handwritten page.

HART said that he has more information, but will not disclose that information until he has been given assurance of no prosecution by Missouri State authorities. He explained that at the time RAY came to his residence, he (HART) knew that RAY was an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary and that if he admitted that RAY visited his residence the night of the KING assassination, that he felt he could be prosecuted for harboring a state fugitive.

Interviewed on 11/28/78 at El Reno, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City
44-686
by SA GEORGE R. ZEIGLER:pr Date dictated 11/30/78

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.

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OC 44-686

HART said DAVID SELLERS was the manager of the apartment in which he resided on Rutger Street in St. Louis, Missouri. HART said that at the time of RAY's visit, he did not know that RAY assassinated KING and that he later realized what happened when RAY was arrested in England.

- 3* -

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS

(44-775)

DATE: July 25, 1979

FROM : SC Marion H. Ebert

MURKIN

SUBJECT: ~~DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING~~

Enclosed herewith is a letter from one WYNDELL SPIVEY relating to the assassination of Dr. King and was given to the writer for the Bureau for whatever action deemed necessary.

The letter was given to the writer on 7-25-79 by Mr. J. D. Kilgore, Director of the National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Mo. 63132.

MHE
(1)

*Chat:
Send Orig. Let. to Memphis
+ request they interview Spivey
at Nashville.*

*Re
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+
A*

44A

44-775-1213

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SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 26 1979	
FBI-ST. LOUIS	
<i>Smith</i>	

with attached Encl



5010-108

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