

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 29 1968

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI MEMPHIS

413PM URGENT 3/29/68 CAF

TO DIRECTOR ATTN: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR W. C. SULLIVAN  
FROM MEMPHIS (157-1092) 3P

Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

*M.C. Moore*

SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, RM. RACIAL MATTERS

*M.H. [unclear]*

RE MEMPHIS TEL CALL TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR W. C. SULLIVAN.  
AT TIME INCIDENTS BEGAN IN MARCH HELD IN MEMPHIS, MARCH  
TWENTYEIGHT, SIXTYEIGHT, MARTIN LUTHER KING, AT HEAD OF MARCH,  
WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, "I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE." THIS  
STATEMENT FURNISHED BY LT. ARKIN OF MEMPHIS PD, WHO ALSO ADVISED  
KING WAS OBVIOUSLY SCARED.

EX-116  
REC-68

~~157-6-25-1414~~  
157-9146-47

FURTHER DETAILS AS TO INCIDENTS AT START OF MARCH SECURED  
FROM LT. M. E. NICHOLS OF MEMPHIS PD WHO WAS IN VICINITY AND  
OBSERVED ACTIVITIES. HE REPORTED DR. KING MADE NO EFFORT TO QUIET  
MOB AND HIS ONLY CONCERN WAS TO RUN AND PROTECT HIMSELF. LT.  
NICHOLS HAS ADVISED THAT DR. KING, RALPH ABERNATHY, BERNARD LEE,  
AND TWO OTHER NEGRO MALES UNKNOWN TO HIM WERE AT HEAD OF MARCH.  
WHEN TROUBLE BEGAN, THIS GROUP TRIED TO COMMANDEER A WHITE PANEL  
TRUCK TO GET THEM AWAY FROM MARCH. DRIVER OF TRUCK REFUSED TO  
HELP. A WHITE PONTIAC WHICH WAS OCCUPIED BY TWO NEGRO FEMALES  
FOLLOWED THE PANEL TRUCK IN THE CROSS TRAFFIC. ONE OF KING'S

END PAGE ONE  
Included in letter to White House  
and Attorney General. Date  
6 APR 16 1968

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

*[Handwritten signatures]*

AUG 30 1968

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AIDES MANAGED TO STOP PONTIAC. AIDE ASKED IF THE WOMEN WOULD ASSIST IN GETTING DR. KING OUT OF DANGER. THE WOMEN AGREED.

THEREAFTER, ONE OF KING'S AIDES SLID BEHIND STEERING WHEEL. THE OTHER FOUR NEGRO MALES, INCLUDING DR. KING, GOT IN REAR SEAT OF PONTIAC. CAR WAS DRIVEN TO BEALE AND FRONT STREET, AT WHICH POINT IT WAS SURROUNDED BY ABOUT FIFTY INDIVIDUALS CONSISTING OF NEGROES AND NEWS REPRESENTATIVES. LT. NICHOLS, WHO WAS ON MOTORCYCLE, CLEARED CROWD FROM AROUND PONTIAC AND ASKED DRIVER OF PONTIAC WHERE HE WAS GOING. DRIVER SAID HE HAD DR. KING IN BACK SEAT AND HE HAD TO GET AWAY. THE OFFICER WAS ASKED TO ESCORT THEM TO HOTEL SHERATON PEABODY. LT. NICHOLS EXPLAINED THAT DUE TO RIOTING THEY COULD NOT GET TO SHERATON PEABODY AND ASKED IF THEY WANTED TO GO TO ANOTHER PLACE. THE NEGRO DRIVER ASKED JUST TO GET THEM AWAY FROM TROUBLE.

LT. NICHOLS THEN ESCORTED THEM TO RIVERMONT MOTEL. LT. NICHOLS WENT TO DESK CLERK AND ASKED IF SHE HAD SPACE FOR FIVE NEGROES INCLUDING DR. KING. THE DESK CLERK TOLD LT. NICHOLS THE NEGROES COULD REMAIN IN THE LOBBY AND EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO OBTAIN ROOM FOR THEM. AFTER THE FIVE NEGROES, INCLUDING DR.

PAGE THREE

KING LEFT THE PONTIAC, THE TWO NEGRO FEMALES DROVE ON. LT. NICHOLS DID NOT OBTAIN NAMES OF THESE TWO FEMALES AND FEELS CERTAIN THEY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH DR. KING AND WERE NOT A PART OF DR. KING'S PARTY. LT. NICHOLS STAYED AT THE RIVERMONT HOTEL AND KNOWS THE TWO FEMALE OCCUPANTS OF THIS CAR DID NOT RETURN TO THE RIVERMONT WHILE HE WAS THERE.

INTERESTING OBSERVATION MADE BY MEMPHIS OFFICE IN THAT DR. KING IN HIS ROLE AS LEADER AT MOMENT OF DISTURBANCE AND TROUBLE WAS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN PRESERVATION OF HIMSELF AND MADE NO EFFORT TO QUIET GROUP THAT WAS FOLLOWING HIS LEADERSHIP. SOMEWHAT INCONSISTENT WITH STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM DURING TALK THAT THE BLACK MAN SHOULD SUPPORT HIS OWN BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS, DR. KING FIRST SOUGHT RESIDENCE AT SHERATON PEABODY AND ENDED UP STAYING AT RIVERMONT HOTEL, WHICH IS PART OF HOLIDAY INN CHAIN. IN PAST HE HAS STAYED AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL, WHICH IS A QUALITY NEGRO MOTEL, MEMPHIS.

DR. KING, ACCOMPANIED BY RALPH D. ABERNATHY AND BERNARD LEE, DEPARTED MEMPHIS BY EASTERN AIRLINES APPROXIMATELY THREE TWENTY PM THIS DATE. DESTINATION ATLANTA. ATLANTA ADVISED TELEPHONICALLY.

END

LCC

FBI WASH DC

APR 4 1968

cc - MRC:TRAM  
ROOM 836 32D