

Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

APR 16 1976

Mr. James H. Lesar, Esq.
1231 Fourth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Lesar:

This letter is in further response to your Freedom of Information Act request for certain documents concerning the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We have completed our search of Civil Rights Division files for records responsive to your request. At this point, we are prepared to release a number of the Civil Rights Division documents we located. Some of the documents we located originated in the Criminal Division and have been referred to that Division for a decision on release, and we are still reviewing the remainder for possible deletion of material which is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

The relevant documents we located, which we are now prepared to release, in full, constitute 120 pages. Forty of these consist of copies of two pleadings filed in Ray v. State of Tennessee and Lewis Tollett, No. H.C. 661, (Supplement to Amended Petition for Post Conviction Relief, filed September 22, 1970, and Petitioner's Answer to Respondent's Motion to Strike, with attached affidavit, filed August 31, 1970) and eight consist of a copy of Ray v. Rose, No. 73-1543 (6th Cir. 1974); these were attached to pieces of correspondence. We hope to reach a decision on release of the remainder of the Civil Rights Division documents we located within the next two weeks.

Our search for relevant documents took much less time than I had first estimated; Division personnel spent a total of fifteen hours completing the search for these documents. We have calculated this time at a rate of \$2.00 per quarter hour, as permitted by 28 C.F.R. 16.9(b)(6). The total search fee, therefore, is \$126.00. Since you have deposited \$80.00, the remainder of the search fee still

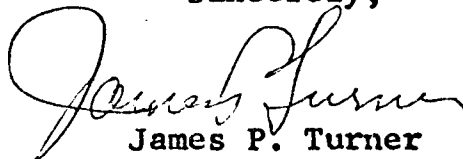


outstanding is \$46.00. This should be paid by check or money order, payable to the Treasury of the United States, and sent to this office.

Your letter requests "access" to these documents. If you wish to look at them in this building before requesting copies, we will be happy to make them available on any day, during working hours, which is convenient to you. Alternatively, if you prefer, we can make copies of all the documents which we located and have, at this time, decided to release, and send them directly to you. Under Departmental Freedom of Information Act regulations, copies of documents are supplied at a cost of 10 cents per page.

I have specifically named the pleadings and the Court of Appeals opinion which were attached to documents located during our search, because I suspect you already have copies of them in your files. If you wish us to send you copies of the documents we will release, but do not want copies of the pleadings and/or court decision, please so indicate when asking us for copies. If you would prefer to look at the documents here, please suggest a specific date convenient to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James P. Turner".

James P. Turner
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division