ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Department of Justice Washington, D.C. 20530

APR 2 6 1976

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

Dear Mr. Lesar:

Enclosed, as you requested, is one copy of each of the documents you reviewed in Mr. Gross' office on Wednesday, April 21, 1976. Copies are provided at a cost of 10 cents per page (28 C.F.R. 16.9(b)(1)).

The total number of pages provided at this time is sixty-four (64). The copying fee is \$6.40. This total should be added to the \$46.00 you owe for the unpaid portion of the search fee incurred and a check or money order, payable to the Treasury of the United States for the amount of \$52.40 should be sent to this office.

Sincerely,

John P. Town

James P. Turner

Deputy Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Division



SHOW WHENE DELIVERED (Only if requested, and include ZIP Code) SIGNATURE OF TAME OF ADDRESSEE (Must almays be filled in PLEASE FURNISH SERV CEIS MODICATED BY CHECKED BLOCKISS Deliver ONLY 11818 1/2 Dorothy Street California Mr. David S. Lifton SENDER: Be sure to follow instructions on other side SIGNATURE OF ADORESSEE'S AGENT, IF ANY Received the numbered article described below Los Angeles, Show to whom, date and address where di vered INSURED NO. REGISTERED NO. DATE DELIVERED CEN. 15D NO.

TCHINSON, JR

ELBL E FITTPATRICK

PHIL M. CANALE, JR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF TENNESSEE COUNTY OF SHELBY

SHELBY COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING 157 FOPLAR AVENUE MEMPHIS, TENN. 38103

April 15, 1968

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JAMES C. BEASLEY EWELL C. RICHARDSON JEWETT H. MILLER J. CLYDE MASON SAM J. CATANZARO LEONARD T. LAFFERTY CLAY N. SAUNDERS ARTHUR T. BENNETT PHILLIP E. KUHN T E. CRAWFORD DON D. STROTHER DON A. DINÓ JAMES P. CROSS JOSEPH L. PATTERSON BILLY F. GRAY

RECEIVED

APR 1 71968

Honorable Ramsey Clark Attorney General of the United States Department of Justice Washington, D. C.

Dear General Clark:

Enclosed herewith for your information is a letter I have written this date to the Director of Fire & Police of the Memphis Police Department and the Sheriff of Shelby County. The tremendous effort you are putting forth in this matter is greatly appreciated, and I wish to assure you of the cooperation of this office and the Memphis Police Department and the Shelby County Sheriff's Office.

Very truly yours,

PHIL M. CANALE, JR. District Attorney General

PMC: mm Enclosure

RECEIVED

APR 1 9 1983

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APR 18 1968

PHIL M. CANALE, JR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF TENNESSEE
COUNTY OF SHELBY

SHELBY COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING 157 POPLAR AVENUE MEMPHIS, TENN. 38103

April 15, 1968

ASSISTANTS

WILLIAM D. HAYNES JAMES C. BEASLEY EWELL G. RICHARDSON JEWETT H. MILLER J. CLYDE MASON SAM J. CATANZARO LEONARD T. LAFFERTY CLAY N. SAUNDERS ARTHUR T. DENNETT PHILLIP E. KUAN T E. CRAWFORD DON D. STROTHER DON A. DINO JAMES P. CROSS JOSEPH L. PATTERSON BILLY F. GRAY

EARL E. FITZPATRICK NON-SUPPORT DIVISION

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CARLISLE

J. DEACH

AUTCHINSON, JR.

INAL INVESTIGATORS

Honorable William N. Morris Sheriff of Shelby County 150 Washington Avenue Memphis, Tennessee

Honorable Frank C. Holloman Director of Fire & Police Central Police Headquarters Memphis, Tennessee

Gentlemen:

Looking forward to the day when the murderer of Dr. Martin Luther King is apprehended, and the attendant pressure which will be on all of us to release information to the news media concerning the investigation which led to the arrest of the killer, I wish to caution you at this time in releasing any information other than than which I outlined to Mr. Holloman in my letter of February 13, 1968.

I inadvertently failed to send Sheriff Morris a copy of this letter, and I am herewith enclosing a copy of same to Sheriff Morris.

I discussed this situation with both of you briefly on last Friday. As you know, the Reardon report published by the American Bar Association has recommended and set down rather stringent restrictions on the information which should be released in a criminal case prior to trial, in view of the effect which pre-trial publicity may have on the defendant receiving his constitutional guarantee of a fair Further, we have to realize that in the event trial. of a conviction of the killer of Dr. King, and a subsequent appeal to a higher court, the higher court could very well reverse any conviction due to the local atmosphere created by the release of any information pertaining to the accused and to the investiin his arrest.

Also, we would not want to create any situation by the release of this information which would result in a change of venue in this case from Shelby County to some other jurisdiction.

After the arrest of the murderer, it will, of course, be the responsibility of this office to prosecute this matter in court, and I request that this office be notified immediately upon the apprehension of the accused in order that we may work with you toward the successful conclusion of the case.

I would suggest that Mr. Holloman, Sheriff Morris and myself get together to lay some ground work in the premises of this letter, and that in the eventuality of an arrest, no statement should be issued by anyone until same has been cleared by the three of us.

Sincerely yours,

PHIL M. CANALE, JR. District Attorney General

PMC:mm

CC: Hon. Henry Loeb

Mayor

City of Memphis

Memphis, Tenn.

CC: Hon. Frank Gianotti

City Attorney City of Memphis Memphis, Tenn. T. 5/3/68 Re-T. 5/11/68 SJP:efw DJ 144-72-662;

FILED BY RFJ ON MAY 23 1933

1319 EV 1319 EV

Honorable Phil M. Canale, Jr. District Attorney General Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Shelby County Office Building Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Mr. Conals:

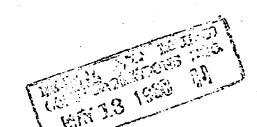
The Attorney General asked me to express his appreciation for your letter of April 15, 1968, concerning the investigation of Dr. King's murder. We fully agree with the comments in your letter to Shelby County and Hemphis officials, regarding any premature release of publicity with respect to the investigation or future trial of this case.

I want to thank you for your offer of cooperation and to assure you that the Danart-ment will cooperate with you in any way in meeting your responsibilities in this case.

Sincerely,

Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Division

cc: VRecords
Chrono
Pollak
Turner



SJP:efw DJ 95-100-473

man and man and the

Mr. Thil M. Conale, Jr. Abtorney Coneral due the Pifficinih Judelal Circuit Deste of Micheles Circuit Mamphic, Tennessee

Dear Hr. Canale:

reners and attachments (including photographs) unich were remarked to the Solivitor in Landon, angled for the passess of constant the retriction of Japan Sar Car Sarable, included in Tarabase.

I am sending a copy of this letter with a wirehold out a of the Park of the form the the Claude Armore and Mr. Talbert W. Hos. ()

Simperely,

CTIPHER J. POLLAX
Accistant Attorney Concret
Civil Rights Division

ce: Mr. Glaude Armour
Office of Governor Euford Ellington
State Capital
Nachville, Tann.

Mr. Albert P. Roe State Attorney General's Office Supreme Court Dailding Nashville, Tennessee

Records Chrono Pollak Haughey Mr. Feldman, State Department 00210 **9**5 95-100-473

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AR THE -- COUNTY MINEY

Patton of Control Cor the Traction of Caroutt Caroutt

Dear Mr. Canala:

I enclose for your file o full set of the Aine officevity, including the certifications and ottuchments (including photographs), which were forwarded ments (including photographs), which were forwarded for delivery to the velocities in Lundon, Uncloud, in completely to the velocities of frame 3. May the completely to the velocities of frame 3. May the

I the section of the enclosed papers to Mr. Cloude framer and Mr. Albert M. 100.

gincerely,

Assistant Attorney Honeral Civil Algato Division

oc: Mr. Claude Armour
Office of Covernor Buford Ellington
State Capital
Nashville, Tennessee

Mr. Albert D. Hie Otate Albertay Canaral's Office Supreme Court bullulay Nachville, Tennessue

bcc: Mr. Feldman, State Dept.
Mr. Fred Vincon, Justice Dept.
Records, Chrono, Pollak, Haughey

ROBERT K. DWYER

LLOYD A. RHODES

JOHN L. CARLISLE
H. J. BEACH
E. L. HUTCHINSON, JR.
GEORGE A. BECKER
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS

EARL E. FITZPATRICK

and consider the contraction of the state of

PHIL M. CANALE, JR.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF TENNESSEE
COUNTY OF SHELBY

SHELBY COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING 157 POPLAR AVENUE MEMPHIS, TENN. 38103

September 27, 1968

WILLIAM D. HAYNES JAMES C. BEAFLEY EWELL C. RICHARDSON JEWETT H. MILLER J. CLYDE MASON BAM J. CATANZARO LEONARD T. LAFFERTY CLAY N. SAUNDERS ARTHUR T. RENNETT PHILLIP E. KUHN T. E. CRAWFORD DON D. STROTHER DON A. DINO JAMES P. CROSS JOSEPH L. PATTERSON BILLY F. GRAY

Hon. Stephen J. Pollak Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Division Dept. of Justice Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Pollak:

In Re: State of Tennessee vs.

James Earl Ray

As you probably know, we have been doing extensive pre-trial work getting ready for the trial in the above styled matter on November 12, 1968. Prior to this time, we have received a number of investigative reports from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but there are some reports which we desperately need in preparing for this case which have not yet been tendered to us. In some instances, we have received laboratory reports pertaining to certain physical evidence, but have not received the field reports which would indicate to us who recovered the evidence that was examined in the laboratory, and how and by whom same was transmitted to the laboratory for examination. Of course, we have to keep intact the chain of evidence in presenting this material at the trial.

It is urgently requested that, as soon as possible, this office be furnished with any and all available investigative reports originating and emanating from the following localities, whether such reports have been submitted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, local law enforcement, or agencies outside the continental United States.

I make specific reference to the need for reports from the following localities:

Chicago, Illinois
New York City
Canada
London, England (We do have the
Scotland Yard report.)

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AND PARTS

Mexico Lisbon, Portugal.

Also, since the last report submitted to this office from field offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation dated May 17, we have received no reports since that date, and we would like to have the results of any supplemental investigations. I refer specifically to the possible supplemental investigations from Atlanta, Georgia, Los Angeles, California, Birmingham, Alabama, New Orleans, Louisiana, Kansas City, Missouri, and Newark, New Jersey.

Thanking you for your assistance in this matter, I

Sincerely yours,

PHIL M. CANALE, JR. District Attorney General

PMC: mm

: am

CC: Hon. Ramsey Clark
Attorney General of the U.S.
Dept. of Justice
Washington, D. C.

CC: Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
506 Old P. O. Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20535

Kult

SJP:eb D.J. 144-72-662

OCT 4 1968

Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr. District Attorney General County of Shelby 157 Poplar Avenue Memphis, Tenn. 38103

Dear Mr. Canale:

Re: State of Tennessee v. James Earl Ray

This will confirm the advice which Mr. Owen and I gave to you during our visit on Wednesday, October 2, 1968.

In response to your letter of September 27, 1968, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was requested to furnish to you copies of 24 additional reports and memoranda dated between May 10, 1968, and August 30, 1968, with respect to the James Earl Ray matter.

Sincerely,

Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Division

cc: Records Crirono Pollak ROBERT K. DWYER

LLOYD A. RHODES

JOHN L. CARLISLE
H. J. BEACH
E. L. HUTCHINSON, JR.
CLYDE R. VENSON
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS

PHIL M. CANALE, JR.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF TENNESSEE
COUNTY OF SHELBY

.

SHELBY COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
157 POPLAR AVENUE
MEMPHIS, TENN. 38103

EARL E. FITZPATRICK NON-SUPPORT DIVISION

provident of the contraction of a contraction of the second of the second of the contraction of the second of the

October 22, 1968

WILLIAM D. HAYNES
JAMES C. BEASLEY
EWELL C. RICHARUSON
JEWETT H. MILLER
J. CLYDE MASON
SAM J. CATANIARO
LEONAHD T. LAFFERTY
ARTHUR T. BENNETT
DON D. STROTHER
DON A. DINO
JOSEPH L. PATTERSON
BILLY F. GRAY
EUGENE C. GAERIG
HARVEY HERRIN
F. GLEN SISSON

JOHN W. PIEROTTI

ASSISTANTS

Mr. D. Robert Owen
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bob:

The three boxes of indices arrived, and I certainly appreciate your forwarding them to me. They are a beautiful piece of work and will be of great assitance to us in the trial of the Ray case.

I do feel it will be helpful for your secretary to come to Memphis and assist us in co-ordinating and checking our indices against yours to make sure neither one of us has overlooked anything, and also for her to explain to us any details regarding the indices which we could overlook.

If it is possible, I would like for her to come to Memphis on Monday, October 28. I have to be in Nashville on that date and part of Tuesday, but Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Beasley, and Mr. Carlisle will be back from their European trip by this weekend and your secretary can start right in with them and with my secretary Miss Fortinberry.

Will you please let me know if your secretary can be here on Monday, and if you will advise of her flight, I will make arrangements to have her met at the airport.

Thanking you for your co-operation, I am

Sincerely yours,

PHIL M. CANALE, JR. District Attorney General

PMCJr:MEF

Rays

Director Federal Bureau of Investigation *November 4, 1968

SJP:e5 D.J. 144-72-662

Stephen J. Pollak Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Division

Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Deputy Attorney General has asked me to respond to your memorandum of November 1, 1968, in respect to the above referenced matter.

You are hereby authorized to respond to the request of the office of Mr. Phil M. Uanale, Jr., that the Bureau search its files to determine whether any of the persons on the venire from which jurors will be chosen have or have had associations with the Ku Klux Klan or other hate groups.

cc: Records Chrono Yollak



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NEW SCOTLAND YARD, BROADWAY, LONDON, S.W.I

01-230 1212, Extn.2422

21st November, 130d -

3/68/530 (P.2)

Dear Mr. Dawnay,

Further to my letter of the 18th November and in confirmation of my telephone conversation with you thin afternoon, the following is a Press Release insued by thin office at 5.5. c.m. on the 8th June, 1959:-

Raymond George Sneyd born 8.10.32 Toronto, Canada, no fixed abode and no occupation was arrested at 11.15 a.m. on 8.6.68 at London Airport and later cherged at 3 mnon Row with possessing a forged passport and rossessing a firearm. He will appear at Bow Street Magistrates Court at 10.30 a.m. on 10.6.68. Setective Chief Superintendent Butler and 'etoc'ive Chief Inspector Thompson are in charge of the enquiry. The arrest was the result of liniagon with the F.B.I., the Poyel Canadian Scutted Solice and New Scotland Yard. The man was in transit through Immigration on arrival from Lisbon on his way to another country.

I do hope this will help.

Yours sincerely,

hublic nelations office

leter Lawney, Esq., leter Tawnny Itd., leter Tawney Itd., leter Tawney Itd., London, J. ... Four days before Scotland Yard wrote Dawnay the letter, which he never got, British European Airways inquiries Richard Bernabei, another independent invenade about Sneyd's travel arrangements with BEA (pairline which he used). Their reply confirms the seem of the Scotland Yard version, for BEA issued no such no other record of Ray's "having travelled" on their

BRITISH EUROPEAN AIRWAYS

P.O. Box No. 7

Bealine House, Ruislip, Middlesex.

D3/F4/1

Tith Novem

Mr. Richard Barnabel, Department of Classics, Quoen's University, Kingston, Ontario, CANADA.

Doar Sir,

Thank you for your letter of the 30th Octoberovenents of James Earl Ray. Ar. Ray travelled tof Mr. R. Sneyd from London to Lieben on the 7th last flight coupen of a ticket originally issued arrested at London Airpert (Heathrew) while attempted London to Erusaels on RE. 466 on the 2th June, he had travelled earlier that day from Lieben to so there is no record of him having travelled on indeed no ticket was issued for that purpose. I travelled from Lieben to London on a one-way tick in Liebent but we have been unable to confirm this

It is, therefore, something of a speculation Heathrow on the 8th June in time to be arrested.

Iours faithfully,

M.J. Lester Secretary & Solicitor

ReT. 12/27/68 SJP: MWL: vab DJ 144-72-662 #41-157-147 Percy Poreman, Esquire 804 South Coast Building Houston, Texas 77002 Dear Mr. Foreman: This is in response to your letter of November 23, 1968, to J. Edgar Hoover, requesting the privilege of talking with someone in the Pederal Bureau of Investigation concerning any knowledge that the Bureau may have concerning threats to Dr. Eartin Luther King during the two years prior to April 3, 1968, and to your subsequent telephone conversation with me confirming your request. Mr. Hoover has referred your letter to me for response. I regret to advise you that, after careful consideration of your request and of the Department's policies with respect to disclosure of information of the type you requested, we are unable to arrange the interview which you seek. Sincerely. STEPHEN J. POLLAK Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Division

Civil Rights Divi

cc: Records
Chrono
Pollak
Owen
Loper
AG
Director--FBI

Cit ! L

CA 4.932

Mr. James Earl Ray, Shelby County Jail, Memphis, Termessec.

Dear James Earl:

ALIN AT RUSK

You have heretofore assigned to me all of your royalties from magazine articles, book, motion picture or other revenue to be derived from the writings of Wm. Fradford Huie. These are my own property unconditionally.

However, you have heretofore authorized and requested no to negotiate a plea of guilty if the State of Tennessee through its District Attorney General and with the approval of the trial judge would waive the death panalty. You agreed to accept a sentence of 99 years.

It is contemplated that your case will be dis posed of toworrow, March 10, by the above plea and sentence.
This will shorten the trial considerably. In consideration
of the time it will save me, I am willing to make the fol lowing adjustment of my fee arrangement with you:

If the plea is entered and the sentence accepted and no embarassing circumstances take place in the court room, I am willing to assign to any bank, trust company or individual selected by you all my receipts under the above assignment in excess of \$165,000.00. These funds over and above the first \$165,000.00 will be held by such bank, trust company or individual subject to your order.

I have either spent or obligated myself to spend in excess of \$14,000.00, and I think these expenses should be paid in addition to a \$150,000.00 fee. I am sure the expenses will exceed \$15,000.00 but I am willing to rest on that figure.

Youns truly,

Gerei You

PF-4 June 62 Ber

LAW OFFICES

FENSTERWALD, BEVAN AND CHLHAUSEN

927 FIFTEENTH STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

August 20, 1969

TELEPHONE (202) 347-3319

cuse for

ROBERT L. BEVAN WILLIAM G. OHLHAUSEN

BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR.

The Honorable John Mitchell Attorney General Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

The undersigned have been retained by Mr. Harold Weisberg of Frederick, Maryland, to proceed under the Freedom of Information Act, P. L. 89-487, to obtain disclosure of two specific, identifiable Government records, copies of which are in the possession of the Department of Justice.

It is our view that, pursuant to Sec. 3 (c) of the Act, Mr. Weisberg is entitled to prompt access to these particular documents. However, despite numerous written requests over a period of months, not only has Mr. Weisberg been denied access to the records, he has not even received a reply to his repeated requests for the Department's rules relating to accessability of records under the Act. The files of your Department, especially these of the Griminal Division, contain copies of his various requests. After you have an opportunity to review this correspondence, you might understand Mr. Weisberg's sense of frustration, impatience, and anger, as well as his decision to file suit.

Nevertheless, it seems only reasonable that we should bring this matter to your attention before we file such a suit, in the hope that you will direct your subordinates to disclose these records to Mr. Weisberg, and thereby avoid the expense, both in time and money, of needless litigation.

The specific records requested by Mr. Weisberg are the following:

(1) All documents filed by the United States with the Court in England in June-July, 1968; in the extradition proceeding by which James Earl Ray, the convicted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King, was returned to this country. These proceedings were public, and in our

 view, all documents submitted on behalf of the United States constitute public records which should be made available to any person who desires to see them.

As the attached letter of May 1, 1969, from the Chief Clerk of Bow St. Magistrate's Court states "all papers which had been sent to this Court from Washington" have been returned to Washington, and, as far as is known to the Clerk, no copies were retained in England. We realize that the original of the returned "papers" may still be in the possession of the Department of State, but, as the "papers" were prepared in the Department of Justice, we assume that copies were retained in your Department's files. It is those that Mr. Weisberg asks to see.

(2) In the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions, on January 16, 1969, in the case of State of Louisiana v. Clay L. Shaw, in response to an order to show cause directed to James B. Rhoads, Archivist of the United States, the Department of Justice filed a brief to which was appended a "1963 Panel Review of Photographs, X-Ray Film, Documents and Other Evidence Pertaining to the Fatal Wounding of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas". A copy of this document is enclosed. Your attention is directed to page 5 of the "Review", and specifically to a reference in the middle of the page to a "memorandum of transfer, located in the National Archives, dated April 26, 1965". This memorandum refers to a transfer of the autopsy photographs and x-rays, although it is not clear from whom and to whom they were transferred. It is this "memorandum of transfer" which Mr. Weisberg is seeking, and which has been denied him by both the Department of Justice and the Archives, despite his many written requests.

It is our sincere hope that litigation will not be necessary to effect a reconsideration of Mr. Weisberg's requests. If within two weeks we do not receive a reply from you, we will assume that the Department is adamant in its present position and would prefer that we seek disclosure by filing suit in the District Court as provided in Sec. 3 (c) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Sincerely,

FENSTERWALD, BEVAN AND OHLHAUSEN

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

Enclosures

AW OFFICES

FENSTERWALD AND OHLHAUSEN

927 FIFTEENTH STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

TELEPHONE (202) 347-3919

Darmer Charles DUCKETED

NEW YORK ASSOCIATES

BASS & ULLMAN 342 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR. WILLIAM G. OHLHAUSEN

July 7, 1970

CIVIL RIGHTS

Hon. John Mitchell Attorney General Washington, D. C.

41-157-147

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

As an attorney of record for James Earl Ray, the convicted murderer of Dr. Martin Luther King, I ask your assistance in procuring certain correspondence which may prove most important re his Petition for Post Conviction Relief under the statutes of the State of Tennessee. Such a Petition is now pending in the Circuit Court, Shelby County, Tennessee.

Specifically, we request a copy of each piece of correspondence to and from Ray which you might have in your files from June 10, 1968 to date. Because of his incarceration, it has been difficult to make copies of outgoing letters, and some correspondence has gone to previous attorneys and, as a practical matter, is unavailable now.

We would greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR.

Attorney for James Earl Ray

BF:crr

T. 7/29//2 JL:XXX3'C:jft DJ 144-72-822 662

AUG 4 13/10

7-7-70

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., Eq. Fenstervald and Galhausen 927 Flatenath Street, H.W. Washington, D. C. 20005

Re: Your client -- James Earl Ray

Dear Mr. Fensterwald:

In your letter of July 7, 1970, to the Attorney Canaral, you requested copies of certain correspondence in the above-continued matter.

Piease be advised that the Department of Justice still has a pending prosecutive interest in this case and, therefore, we are unable to furnish you with any of the material from our files at this time.

Sincerely,

JERRIS LECNARD
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: records chrono
Turner
O'Connor

OC 7/2/170

GQORGE MCMILLAN

August 14, 1970

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am writing a biography of James Earl Ray for Little, Brown and Company the shape and approach of my book are known to Mr. Tom Bishop, your assistant.

I write you to ask whether the time has not perhaps arrived when you can release more information about Ray? He seems to be about through with his procedures for appeal. The last one may be his post-conviction hearing which is to be held in Memphis on September 2, 1970.

If this appeal is turned down, would it be appropriate for me to submit a list of questions to you which I need answered to prepare a useful biography of Ray?

Simporely

George McMillan

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

LAW OFFICES
FENSTERWALD AND OHLHAUSEN

927 FIFTEENTH STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005
TELEPHONE (202) 347-3919

BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR. WILLIAM G. OHLHAUSEN

DASS & ULLMAN
342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

September 11, 1970

Mr. Jerris Leonard Assistant Attorney General Department of Justice Washington, D. C. 11-157-197 DOCKETED.

Dear Mr. Leonard:

Please refer to my letter of August 13th, a copy of which is attached.

As Mr. Ray's case is currently being argued on a Petition for Post Conviction Relief, the matter is pressing.

Unless I hear from you in a week, I feel constrained to proceed in District Court to seek an order for the papers which I believe should be made available to Ray for several Constitutional reasons.

Respectfully yours,

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

BF:crr Encl.

> DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE B SEP IV 1970 - I ON-AGAIN-DAV.

GOORGE MCMILLAN

September 15, 1970

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Tou wrote me on August 19 informing me that you had passed on to Mr. Jerris Leonard, Department of Justice, my query about James Earl Ray. I have not heard from Mr. Leonard up to this point. Should I write him directly?

Sincerely,

| Zorgz McMillan

George McMillan

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover Director United States Department of Justice Federal Bireau of Investigation Washington, D.C. 20535 LAW OFFICES

FENSTERWALD AND OHLHAUSEN

927 FIFTEENTH STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005 TELEPHONE (202) 347-3919

DERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR. WILLIAM G. OHLHAUSEN

NEW YORK ASSOCIATES BASS & ULLMAN

342 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

September 24, 1970

Mr. William O'Connor Chief, Criminal Section Civil Rights Division Department of Justice Washington, D. C.

KH1-157-147

DOCKETED

SEF 28 1970

Dear Bill:

Enclosed are the pleadings about which I spoke. I believe you will find them of interest.

Good to renew our acquaintance.

Hope to see you for lunch someday soon.

Best regards,

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

BF:crr

O# 41-157-14 "

"G. EORIGE MOMILLAN

September 28, 1970

DOCKETED

901 J 1970

CIVIL RIGHTS

Dear Mr. Leonard:

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover informs me that he has referred to you two letters of mine esking for information about James Earl Ray. I am writing a biography of Ray for Little, Brown & Company on which I have been working nearly two years. My whole book is shaped toward explaining Ray's motive and I need information, not about the details of his crime, but about various periods of his life.

I suggested to Mr. Hoover that the time probably had come when additional information might now be released by the FBI or by you. It is true that Ray still has some procedures of appeal under way but he will probably be appealing his case as long as he is alive. I wonder if I may ask your help in this case? I will be glad to furnish a list of questions of the material I am interested in if you feel that they can now be answered.

SincOrely,

Yenge Manilla

Mr. Jerris Leonard
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE R

SEP 30 1970

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CIV. RIGHTS DES

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE

ASSASSINATIONS

027 15TH STRET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005
(202) 347-3837

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October 19, 1970

Attorney General John Mitchell Department of Justice Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

Attached hereto is a completed form DJ-118, a request for access to official records under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 28 CFR Part 16.

The records sought are an FBI file with respect to Sirhan B. Sirhan.

If it were not for the fact that the file in question had been made available to writer Robert Blair Kaiser, and had not Mr. Kaiser made this fact known in his new book, RFK Must Die, [please see Attachment], you might be inclined to answer that the records in question were within an exemption in 5 U.S.C. 552. However, as they have been made available to a commercial writer and are the basis, at least in part, for his published book, we can see no reason why they should not be made equally available to our Committee, as 5 U.S.C. 552 require equality of treatment in access to records.

Therefore, we hope that the records can be made available without serious delay.

Most respectfully your

BOT 9 0 1076

Form DJ-118 (Ed. 7-4-67)



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON, D. C. 20530

REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO OFFICIAL RECORD UNDER 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 28 CFR PART 16

See instructions for payment an	d delivery of this form at bottom of page
ADD	RESS (street, city, state and zip code)
Investigate Assassinations	927 15th St., N.W.
DATE October 19, 1970	Washington, D.C. 20005
NUM	BER OF COPIES OF FICE AND CITY WHERE RECORD IS LOCATED (if known)
IF YES, SO INDICATE (no more than 10 copies of any	Los Angeles or Washington, D.
DESCRIPTION OF RECORD REQUESTED (include any information	n which may be helpful in locating record)
TO SEC DUMOS	, rile 62-587, approximately 4,000 pages
	dente with respect to an invocation
of Sirhan B. Sirhan, made upo	n request of the Attorney General.
LITIGATION: DOES THIS REQUEST RELATE TO A MATTER I	N PENDING OR PROSPECTIVE LITIGATION? YES NO
FILL IN IF COURT (check one) DISTRICT	NAME OF CASE State of California
IN PENDING -> LI FEDERAL	Calif. v. Sirhan, B. Sirhan
LITIGATION STATE Los Angeles,	
	- PRINTED HENCHERWATE AR
•	BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR. SIGNATURE
	IL A MANUAL ERE OF STOR MUST ACCOMPANY THIS REQUEST.
FOR USE BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ONLY THIS REQUEST IS:	OTHER CHARGES ARE AS FOLLOWS. (do not write in this box)
Inis reduces i is:	
GRANTED	FOR SECOND AND EACH ADDITIONAL ONE QUARTER HOUR SPENT IN SEARCHING FOR OR IDENTIFYING
	REQUESTED RECORD \$ 1.00
	FOR EACH ONE QUARTER HOUR SPENT IN MONITORING REQUESTER'S EXAMINATION OF MATERIAL \$ 1.00
	REQUESTER 3 EXAMINATION OF INVESTMENT
DENIED	COPIES OF DOCUMENTS:
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REFERRED	THE DEPARTMENT \$ 3.00 EACH
	G\$A CHARGE
•	TOTAL CHARGE

"R.F.K. Must Die!"

A History of the Robert Kennedy Assassination and Its Aftermath by Robert Blair Kaiser



E. P. DUTTON & CO., INC., NEW YORK, 1970

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... did anybody pay you to shoot Kennedy?"

321

"Of course it does," said Berman, wondering to himself just how the safe could be persuaded to let that happen.

"And I've got some books," said Jabara fiercely, "that ought to go in

"I'd like to have them right away," said Berman. "And anything else see see to the subject."

Jabara smiled and relaxed enough to enjoy the greatest fried shrimp in ann. "Okay," he said. "Okay."

"Here," I said, pushing a plate at Jabara, "have a fortune cookie and see that the fates have in store."

Libara took a sip of tea, opened his cookie carefully and burst into a ray of laughter. He handed over a tiny scrap of paper imprinted with the example: "DON'T LET YOUR ENTHUSIASM OVERRIDE THE REALITY AROUND YOU." Jabara laughed again.

While the lawyers settled down to the weary task of picking twelve jurors and six alternates, I continued to read the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Office File 56-156, Bureau File No. 62-587. It was impressively comprising at least 4.000 pages of reports from special agents all east the United States who looked into the case of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan report from request of the Attorney General of the United States under the Call Rights Act of 1968 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965."

And it was well written. The report of the assassination itself by Amater O. Richards, Jr., of the Los Angeles office was a model of telegraphic runty.

At approximately 12:15 A.M., 6/5/68, Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY problemed victory in California primary election in crowded Embassy Room, Ambassador Hotel, 3400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, As SENATOR KENNEDY and party were leaving Embassy Room through Litchen cuit, a series of shots were fired by an unknown individual, subsequently desified as SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN. SENATOR KENNEDY fell sellward onto floor, critically wounded with bullet in brain. SIRHAN wrested to floor, disarmed and turned over to Los Angeles, California, police expannent (LAPD).

The reports gave me a chance to verify many of the associations Sirhan Let Already told me about. Here were summaries of FBI interviews with towar who had known Sirhan in school and with some of those who had

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LAW OFFICES FENSTERWALD AND OHLHAUSEN

927 FIFTEENTH STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON. D. C. 20005 TELEPHONE (202) 347-3919

MANGERY PENETERNALD, JR.

November 24, 1970

BASS & ULLMAN
342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

Mr. William O'Connor Chief, Criminal Section Civil Rights Division Department of Justice Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill:

By the time I returned from California, Matt Byrne had flown the coop and returned there. I guess we passed in the night.

However, if you and/or others in the Department are interested in recent developments in the Sirhan case, I would be more than glad to fill you in on what I gleaned in Los Angeles. My present belief is that, although Sirhan was attempting to assassinate RFK and did in fact wound five persons, the fatal bullet was fired from behind RFK at point blank (1 to 3 inches) range by an unknown assailant. All three shots that hit RFK were fired from back to front, down to up, and at a maximum range of six inches. No single witness places Sirhan in a position to fire all of these shots. In fact, most witnesses place him, vis-a-vis RFK, so that he could not have fired any of the three shots; I'm not sure on this latter point.

The judge in Memphis has ordered the State to respond to Ray's petition by December 3rd. We should get some action after this.

Thank Miss Gallagher for digging up the correspondence for me. I am sorry to have put her to so much trouble.

Best regards,

Bul

144-72-66 file

Rornard Fonstorwald In

JL:130'C:13:pg DJ 144-72-662

JAN 15 1971

Mr. George McMillan Coffin Point Frommore, South Carolina 29920

Dear Mr. McMillon:

I am writing in response to your letter of September 23, 1970, to Mr. Leonard, and to your several letters to Mr. Hoover which have been referred to this Division.

Department of Justice files pertaining to James Earl Ray are confidential, since they relate to an official investigation of a possible violation of federal law. Accordingly, we cannot comply with your request for further information based on the FBI's investigation.

I would like to advise you that the documents end exhibits which were filed on behalf of Termessee and Missouri in the Ray extradition proceedings in the British Court do not come within this rule, and will be made available for your inspection in our offices in Mashington at your request. If you wish to inspect these papers, you may make the appropriate arrangements with Miss Monica Gallagher, an atterney in the Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division.

Sincerely,

JERRIS LEONARD
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: Records
Chrono
O'Connor
Gallagher
Trial file

By: K. WILLIAM O'COMMOR Chief, Crimbnal Section

13/1

. ارارا LAW OFFICES

FENSTERWALD AND OHLHAUSEN

905 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

TELEPHONE (202) 347-3919

BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR. WILLIAM G. OHLHAUSEN BASS & ULLMAN
342 MADISON AVENUE

March 12, 1471

Herr Bill, you probably have copies of the included material but, is not, it men be of rutered to you. inder rejarate over Im sanding an advance copy of a book on the Ray core which was sent me of the publishin. It; anthon, Kurd Weisley has been helying us with the case. He is also a chief of mire in some other millers, to if the Justice Dest. Did any thing come of the attente Cials? Best regards,

AFFIDAVIT OF RECEIPT OF WRITTEN MATERIAL OFFIED BY ROBERT H. STRADER AND AGREEMENT FOR RELFASE OF INFORMATION

I hereby acknowledge, under oath, the receipt of written documents and instruments which have been turned over to Donald F. Foley, my attorney, during his representation of my interests in regard to the publication of news stories concerning the assassination of Martin Luther King and the business and financial dealings of Senator Russell Long and the involvement therein of Charles Schapiro, Lillian Schapiro, Sam Boscoe, Julian Rodrigues, James Erwin, Ernest Donnell, Raymond Starns and the law firm of Nesom and Mellon.

This data was put in the custody and control of Donald F.

Foley over a period of time beginning November 21, 1968 and ending

September 19, 1969, including but not limited to:

- 1. A Texaco credit card and receipts therefrom given to Robert H. Strader by Raymond Starns and issued to L. B. Thrower.
- 2. Rusiness records and correspondence which cover Robert E. Strader's commercial interest in Dallas, Texas and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Miami, Florida; and correspondence relating to the assassination of Martin Luther King and Senator Russell Long's business dealings; such information includes maps, plats, prints and other husiness records relating thereto.
 - 3. The existence and identification of a 38 caliber revolver.
- 4. Personal correspondence between Robert H. Strader and his wife Margaret M. Strader.
- 5. Written documents relating to Robert H. Strader's dealings with Sam Boscoe, Slidell, Louisiana.

- cial dealings with Julian Rodriques, Charles and Lillian Schapire, Fracet Donnell, Raymond Starns, and the daw firm of descrease Mellon.
 - 8. Five (5) Edison Voicewriter disk recordings made by Robert R. Strader on December 5, 1968 outlining his account of said stories.

It is understood that Donald F. Foley shall not make any disclosure of the above listed information whether it is a part of a recorded statement or in documentary form or whether it was erally communicated to Donald F. Foley by Robert H. Strader or Margaret M. Strader unless consent is delivered to Donald F. Foley by Robert H. Strader in writing stating specifically the information to be disclosed, to whom the information is to be divulged, the manner in which said information should be divulged, whether such evidence includes evidence in documentary form and if so, a description thereof.

It is agreed that said written consent for disclosure of the described information shall either be delivered personally by Robert H. Strader or sent by United States certified mail with return receipt requested and marked "Personal".

This signed statement of three (3) pages contains, together with statements and documents, all the information which I supplied to my attorney, Donald F. Foley, in written form and includes all information which said attorney has in his file in regard to the assassination of Martin Luther King and the business and financial dealings of Senator Russell Long, the relationship of Charles Schapiro and Lillian Schapiro thereto and other parties listed above other than my attorney's personal notes and copies of correspondence thereon.

The above is a complete list and description of the documents,

This statement is made and there papers and materials were designed to me attorney in professional confidence, and pursuant to the attorney-client relationship, with the understanding that there will be no unauthorized use or disclosure thereof and with the understanding that there have been no copies made of this information and retained by Donald F. Foley or published to outside sources.

I hereby acknowledge receipt of all materials and documents which I originally delivered to my attorney, Donald F. Foley

Robert H. Strader

STATE OF INDIANA)
COUNTY OF MARION)

On this 19th day of September, 1969, before me personally appeared Robert H. Strader to me known to be the person described herein and he acknowledged that he executed the same as his free act voluntarily without coercion from any source.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand in Indianapolis, Indiana, this 15 day of September, 1969.

Jella Br. Claude Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

3/30/71

ACCEPTED:

Donald P. Foley

Rias Pile Faley! The factoring is an outline of my proposed. to my Geny Lieun of the Chicago Raily name as per his request. In addition, I have cillined distant time and conditions which must be met upon their acceptance of the proposal. Willen : 77 Typen and the staff of the Chicago Baily news accept the terms and inditions of this proposal, I shall juguen the following assignment efelusively for the Chicago Waily Rus in the manner described below. truit, on a date to be specified later o I will-, far all intense and purposes expect a reparation from my mige and irracle from this recently by automabilito the Bator Longe - New Orleans area where I will take up residency and secure employment with a rectain company. exists out revealing my association ar employment by the Chicago Daily newe. tran this position, I shall with the. resistance and cooperation of a certicin justy (on employee of the Chicago Waily Tiens with putable experience and qualipeations, but who much meet weith my perioual approved) phtain one anduce the dollowing information

Jacci non limericane of laboration of arigin such sucre inotremental.

and implemental in the conspisory to accessinate Martin duther fing.

I The true identity and enhereaboute

I The true identy and subcreationte of James Earl Ray's associate and contact during his tracels. to Monteral, Biringdom, Alabama. and new Orleans.

3. The identity of and suchercuborite of secural prominent and influential white linesicens sitizens who conficied and sontributed financially toward the assassination of Martin Father Ting.

I The identity of secured militarity ilack americans who conspired directly and indirectly, and in part contributed finencally toward the assassination of Martin Luther ting.

5. Corclusiere widence that Janea Earl Ray did not assessinate plant as as to enable the "hit man." to carry out the decarration enthout failure or being apprehended.

6. That more than one discussed affect in and pround the manghing Innessee area prior to and after the assassantion—
that the success of these discussions not only enabled the scrape of the "het man and his accomplises," but also the escape of James Fail Ray.

That certain authorities mether
the Memphis, Tinnessee law
infarcement agencies knowingly
conspired and acted in consort
with the conspirary to set up
certain diversions for the
successful escape of the persons
risponsible for the death of
Martin Luther Ting.

I. The identy of these putherities. Their position and allers.

in Rech would proce James Earl ling ismorant of murker, but -chat fames Earl Lay, because of his navare and at one time heing a fugitive from justice is iliberating being hell solely responsible for the assassination rather than reveal to the american public the full and true facts inerdicing the comperacy as well. ac et majoretude. 1. That the sole purpose for the

That the sole purpose for the association of Martin Lether King with entered primarily to create a national crises during a time of political and simil unrest between black and white americane.

11 Conclusive seidence that sail
assassination was in fact a Conspiracy
of great magnitude involving certain
prominent and influential white
American setting, sertain black
certain revolutionary leaders of
the Cuban government that
a certain black American militant.

Calon and ather Communist Laker!

12: That I know and specionally -known by sertain persons in several southern states sucho sucre involved directly and indirectly in the sonspiracy to associate Martin Sether Fingitiant this sonspiracy stated many months prior to the association.

13. Ifet I personally was approached by certain persons directly and indirectly connected with this conspirary are membere of an all white southern supremercy groups, that I was on two accosions propinitional with an open to act as a possible "het man" for the assausination of Martin Suther thing assausination of Martin Suther thing assausination of the possessination of certain other persons for a considerable sum of money.

conspiracy many months priorities to the assacsination of Marken tester fing, but ded not reveal such knowledge to the sutherities bicause of my position and presention with certain members of this conspiracy.

It that I was aware of Martin Luther Fings impending death and rectain deversions a few days before the assacination took place, but again finds the proper the information to the proper the transfer

inth have since been threatens.

with heath by persons unknown

the me if I were to reveal

this information as well as

my knowledge of the the

conspiracy to the authorities—

that on one accession I was

what at by persons unknown.

connected much the conspirancy and
that I have received a threatmenty
mate makes has since been
thered over to the FBI.

18 That I man approached recently
hy a certain ferson where
mane is unknown to me to
accept a certain sum of money

hy a ceitain person where

name is unknown to me to

we cept a certain seem or money

for my testimony in behalf of

Games Earl Ray to support the

fact that a conspirary existed,

that another meeting to arrange

for instructions never materialized—

shot this information was made

known to the FBJ by me.

19. Ital instead of keeping meeting suith me as planned, a note required mich money I would require and instructions requesting a meeting of auport was deposited in the door of my previous home some four months ago. This note was

THE NATIONAL MEMORY TRAINING INSTITUTE

EVERGREEN ACRES
MEMORY LANE
NORTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02766
617-339-2633

Dar Sirs,

James Earle Ray had a copy of my book on memory with him when he was captured.

I thought that he might have used the code for numbers given in the book as a means of co-necaling numbers for people he might have had contacts with.

The book contains a complete list of words that can be substituted for numbers and it was my thought that he might have idicated by markings some that interested him.

According to reports the book was "well worn" when he was captured.

The FBI pooh poded the idea and almost threw me out for venturing into their Bost on office.

It mya be late but I'd like to see yomeone take a look at this possibility.

Sincerely,

16/1/16 Dec 59

Law Offices FENSTERWALD AND ONLHAUSEN

910 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 223-1667

BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR.
WILLIAM G. OHLHAUSEN
GORDON F. HARRISON
OF COUNSEL

BASS & ULLMAN 342 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

February 21, 1974

Mr. William O'Connor 550 11th St., N.W. (12th Flr.) Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill:

Thank you so much for the meeting yesterday. It's frustrating to know we are on the right track and not be able to do anything about it. Maybe, someday....

Enclosed are the two books we mentioned. One is pro-conspiracy and the other, con. Needless to say, I prefer the Weisberg book but both are worth reading.

Also enclosed is the 6th Circuit opinion for your files. Its language is remarkably firm.

Further, I enclose the Scotland Yard letter and the recent letter from the author of How to Cash in on Your Hidden Memory Power.

George McMillan's address is Frogmore, S.C. 29920 (11 miles from Beaufort, on the coast). The last phone number I have from him is (803) 524-6742.

The CIA (?) man is Philip Di Tommaso, 6431 Woodvale Drive, Falls Church, Va. 533-1690. I have not approached him.

Ken Smith suggests one other name and person to be checked out: Ralph "Rocky" Nickerson. His habitat is the underworld/skid row Atlanta. He is half Indian and tough as hell. We believe he was a pal of Jimmy's in Atlanta. However, of interest is the fact that he fits the description of the mysterious man who went to the Lorraine Motel and insisted that King's reservation be changed from the first to the second floor. He also fits the description of the man who ditched the Mustang in Atlanta after the murder. Have Steve call me if he wants more on this.

-Mr. Wm. O'Connor Page 2 Feb. 21, 1974

You asked to be reminded to check up on the "identifying marks" on the missing window sill from the rooming house bathroom.

Guess that's it. Again thanks for the interest and cooperation.

Warm regards,

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

BF:crr Encls.

February 26, 1974

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., Esq. Fensterwald and Chihausen 910 Sixteenth Street, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Bud:

Thanks for your letter of February 21, and for your real cooperation in the meeting which we had on February 20. We are working on a number of concerns which you raised, and, of course, because of the ponderous volume of data, it will be some time before we have a very firm basis for further discussion.

In the event that you think that your client's interest would include a discussion with you and me of the facts which he may know, I would be very anxious to pursue that discussion.

Best regards,

K. WILLIAM O'COMNOR

Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Civil Rights Division

cc: Allen

The Assassination of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., and Possible Links With the Kennedy Murders

Wayne Chastain, Jr. 810 Washington, Apt. 408 Memphis, Tenn. 38105

The Eggs and Sausage Man

An athletic-appearing man walked into Jim's Cafe, 411 S. Main, in downtown Memphis, Tenn., about 4:30 p.m. on April 4, 1968. He ordered eggs and sausage. His mood and manner evoked the attention of at least two persons — the black waitress who took his order, and the white owner, Lloyd Jowers. The memory of the customer's face and figure remains firmly etched in the minds of both Jowers and his waitress, more than five years after the event.

At 6:01 p.m. the same day, about an hour after the eggs and sausage man had digested his last morsel, wiped his plate clean with a biscuit, paid his bill and left the cafe. Jowers heard an exploding sound in back of his cafe.

The Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King

A sniper had assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as he stood on the balcony of the second floor of the Lurraine Motel, an establishment that catered exclusively to blacks, less than a block away from the cafe.

Wayne Chastain of Memphis, Tenn., is a veteran newspaper reporter and southern journalist with experience on several metropolitan dailies in Texas including El Paso, Houston, Dallas and San Antonio, as well as on the St. Louis Globe-Democrat and a Memphis daily. He had traveled with Dr. King's entourage on and off for two years prior to the assassination. He had spent the last two days of King's life covering his speeches in Memphis prior to the shooting. He was on the murder scene within 10 minutes after Dr. King was shot. He interviewed eyewitnesses for one of the first comprehensive news accounts to the nation of Dr. King's death. A native Texan and a graduate of the University of Texas with a bachelor's degree in history and political science, Mr. Chastain also spent several months in early 1964 investigating and researching the assassination of President Kennedy, Jack Ruby's link with Lee Harvey Oswald and a group of pro-Cuban arms runners, and other activities related to Kennedy's death. Months before The Warren Commission's report, which was published in the fall of 1964, Mr. Chastain - after exhaustive interviews with hundreds of witnesses - had reached the conclusion that President Kennedy's death was the result of a plot involving paramilitary professionals financed by a group of wealthy, right-wing Texans with strong connections with former high officials with

"The shot sounded as if it were fired in back of the cafe." Jowers said. "At the time I thought it was just a backfire from a truck."

- Part One

The killer fired a single rifle shot. The bullet pierced Dr. King's lower right jaw, ripping open a wide, flap-like area extending from his lower face. upper neck and upper shoulder. The shell, however, shattered into fragments, later making it impossible for ballistic experts to ascertain the exact weapon from which it was fired. The bullet apparently traveled in an upward trajectoryl because witnesses maintained the impact thrust Dr. King's body in an upward motion, literally lifting him off his heels and into the air. The official version, however, disputes the upward trajectory and maintains the shot was fired from the second story rooming house above Jim's Cafe, rather than from a site in back of the cafe.

Chauffeur Witnesses Slaying

Solomon Jones, Dr. King's chauffeur, stood on the ground floor below the balcony and was looking up in Dr. King's face as Dr. King leaged down on the balcony and asked Jones if he needed an overcoat. Jones said he was looking directly in Dr. King's face when a red splotch flashed across his chin and upper chest.

"He seemed to float up in the air and come down on his back," Jones told this writer less than 30 minutes after King was shot. "I heard the shot and turned around and saw a man with a white sheet on his face in some bushes over there." Jones pointed to a clump of bushes to the right of the back door of Jim's Cafe. Jones said he thought the gunman threw something from the bushes and then "hunkered down again" as if he were going to fire another shot. (A famous writer2, however, has related a slightly different version of Jones' story.) Jones told this writer on that night that when the man "hunkered down", that he, Jones, ducked down behind Dr. King's Cadillac parked directly under the second story railing, because he thought he might be shot if the gunman was going to fire again. Seconds later, when people were rushing onto the Lorraine parking lot from all directions - including policemen, firemen and plainclothesmen - Jones rose up from behind the Cadillac and again looked over to the clump of bushes. Jones told this writer he was positive he saw the same man he saw a few minutes before - sans white sheet on his face and sans weapon — stand up from the bushes again. He walked out of the bushes at a slow pace, and casually joined a group of firemen running toward the Lor-

wask + kggn / Weby

"The guilty plea of James Earl Ray amounts to nothing more than the fact that his attorneys had advised him that he was deemed as guilty under the Tennessee homicide statute as the man who fired the shot. . . . Judge Battle not only attempted to stop Ray before Ray could blurt out details of a conspiracy in open court, but Battle was aided by Ray's own defense attorney, Percy Foreman."

"Things were happening so fast," Jones said. "I believe he got within 25 feet of me, but he didn't have any sort of weapon. There was so much confusion at that point. People were running over to the motel in every direction it seemed. The man wore a jacket and I believe a plaid shirt. Suddenly, he just seemed to vanish in the crowd."

Chauffeur's Story Not Believed

Jones said he broke himself from the frozen stance and jumped into the Cadillac (the motor had been running at the time King was shot) and attempted to drive off the motel property to see if the man had fled down adjoining streets. But Jones was hemmed in by incoming police cars and an ambulance. At that point, Jones said he began concentrating on getting Dr. King into an ambulance and received permission from police to drive the Cadillac behind the ambulance to the hospital.

Jones said the police never believed his story. This writer wrote a byline article that appeared in the afternoon daily the next day, relating Jones' story. Neither Jones nor this writer were subpoenaed as witnesses at the trial of James Earl Ray, although other reporters were.

Motel Owner's Wife Dies of Heart Attack

Walter Bailey, a black man who had been employed 20 years by The Holiday Inns of America Inc., owned the Lorraine Motel. This motel was named after his wife, who managed the motel during the day when he was at work. Bailey and his wife had invested their life savings in the Lorraine Property and had made the Lorraine a going concern.

Less than 30 minutes after the shooting of Dr. King. Mrs. Bailey dropped dead of a heart attack.

The attack came after she had learned of Dr. King's death on the second floor. Before the attack and seconds after she had been informed of the shooting, an employe told this writer Mrs. Bailey groaned: "My God, what have I done?"

A very religious woman, Mrs. Bailey had been an ardent admirer of Dr. King. The employe told this writer that Mrs. Bailey became as excited as a "school girl" when her husband told her a few days before that Dr. King was going to stay at The Lorraine on his next visit to Memphis.

Dr. King's Farlier Visit to Memohis

tional Guard. <u>Time</u> magazine described the event as the "beginning of the long, hot — and bloody — summer of 1968" in the following week's issue.

Dr. King left Memphis after the riot and vowed he would return to the city and lead a peaceful demonstration. The week before, he had completed plans to lead the Poor People's March from Mississippi to Washington, D.C., and now he not only would lead a peaceful march through the city of Memphis in April, but that Memphis would probably be the first major stop on his summer march to Washington.

In order to make the next march a peaceful one, however, Dr. King realized he had to make certain concessions to the young, black militants who had sparked the riot, violence, and destruction, so that he could contain them.

These black militants had bitterly criticized Dr. King for staying at the posh Holiday Inn — Rivermont, a symbol of white affluence in Memphis, a Gazzling edifice that towered 15 stories above the bluffs of The Mississippi River near the Memphis & Arkansas Bridge. King had also used the hotel as his press headquarters.

Thus, one of the concessions Dr. King made to the militants was to move out of the hotel and into a black motel. When Mrs. Bailey learned this fact from her husband, she quickly prepared her best suite on the first floor, according to the employee.

Fraudulent Advance Security

Then, on April 2, a day before King was supposed to arrive in Memphis, Mrs. Bailey received a visit by a man she presumed to be black, but whom an employee later warned her was a white man pretending to be black. He identified himself as an advance security man for Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The employee sensed the visitor was a "white man imitating a black". Mrs. Bailey later laughed off the employee's suspicions, poohpoohing the idea that a white man would imitate a Negro.

The employee described the visitor as about six feet tall, with a "physique like a football player". He had strong facial features and "penetrating black eyes", and "looked more Indian than he did Negro", the employee said. Rocky heat the consequent

The visitor - whether he be black, white or In-

Lewish Park

Roeli bezir local black SCLC officials who acted as advance security for Dr. King's arrival, or could fit the description given by the employee.

The purported black visitor asked Mrs. Bailey to show him Dr. King's suite. When he saw it was on the first floor, he said: "No. no. Mrs. Bailey. This simply won't do. Dr. King always likes to stay on the second floor overlooking a swimming pool."

Mrs. Bailey quickly reversed the arrangements. She cancelled an earlier reservation she received for an upstairs suite overlooking the swimming pool. She prepared it for Dr. King's arrival.

Jim's Cafe

On the day Dr. King was killed, an observer could peer out the back door of Jim's Cafe and almost see the balcony of The Lorraine where Dr. King was standing when the fatal shot was fired. If endowed with a good baseball pitcher's arm, he could step out the back door, walk several feet to the right, wind up, and let go with a ball that could strike anyone standing on the balcony. From inside the cafe, the view of the balcony was partially obscured by a clump of bushes, and trees with broken limbs hanging down. The same observer, outside the back of the cafe, could walk several feet to the left (or north) and could not see the balcony. The motel balcony from the back door of the cafe is less than a city block away.

The Lorraine Motel is on Mulberry Street, which runs parallel with Main Street. On the day Dr. King was killed, the lot in back of Jim's Cafe was thick with brush overgrowth. One week after King was killed, however, the bushes, the thick brush and limbs from the trees were mysteriously cut, on orders from someone inside The City of Memphis government's parks division. The result was an unobstructed view of the balcony from a bathroom window upstairs over Jim's Cafe. The window is left - or north - of the Cafe's back door. This is the room from which the Memphis police, the FBI and the Shelby County Attorney-General's office would later contend that the fatal shot was fired - a trajectory'that would be in a downward direction toward the spot where King stood.

The Mysterious Man

What was the significance of the "eggs and sausage" man's visit to Jim's Cafe?

The man — clad in a dark sweater, expensivelooking white dress shirt but no tie — aroused the curiosity of Jowers and his waitress.

"He just wasn't our regular run of customer."

Jowers said. "His physique reminded me of a football player or college athlete, but his voice suggested that he was older and more mature."

The waitress described him as "very handsome" Mith dark eves and dark wavy hair. She said he reminded her of an Indian because of his "high cheekbones" and because of his taciturn mood.

"He was quiet, did not smile, short on words, and seemed to grant whenever I said anything to him."

Jowers, however, said he is not afraid. "If they were going to do anything to me, they would have done it a long time ago".

Jowers said the eggs and sausage customer appeared — and smelled — clean. He did not reek of alcoholic fumes. He appeared "dead sober" — a physical state that set him apart from most of Jowers' customers.

"He did not seem to be on dope either." Jowers said. "I have seen too many of these hop-heads. I can tell by looking at their eyes, and their arms if they are uncovered. I became curious as to why he was down in this part of town. He was husky and handsome enough that he would not have to come to this part of town if he were looking for a whore or an easy lay."

Main Street's South End

The South end of Memphis' Main Street is an area of blight. It marks the periphery of the city's massive black ghetto. The businesses on this end of Main Street are largely operated by whites in a long row of two story buildings.

Many of the buildings contain vacancies. Many doors and display windows are boarded up. Planks have replaced glass in many of the display window openings. "For Lease" signs are plastered on many of the deserted sites. The second stories are used as stock rooms, and warehouses in many of these buildings. Other second story sites are rented out as living quarters to poor whites. On streets running parallel with Main Street, as well as perpendicular to it, there are black businesses and many decaying residences now occupied mostly by black families.

South Main parallels the Mississippi River. The waves of "Old Man River" splash against the levee less than five streets away, separated by the Illinois Central Railroad tracks. Jim's Cafe is less than a quarter of a mile to the Memphis & Arkansas Bridge, a juncture that connects with Interstate 55 headed north to St. Louis about 300 miles away, and Interstate 40 which runs west to Little Rock less than 150 miles away.

Above Jim's Cafe, there is a rooming house occupied exclusively by poor whites. Although Jowers scrupulously avoids using the word "flophouse", this is how many of his neighboring businessmen characterize the rooming establishment. (Technically, Jowers is correct, because a flophouse denotes a large barracks-like space where all tenants sleep on cots, and an interior devoid of rooms and partitions.)

The particular rooming house above Jowers' Cafe included on the day in question "winos", redeemed alcoholics "trying to shake the habit", and working whites, poor, but resentful because they had to live with boozers who kept them up all night fighting and drinking.

"Another reason we remember the man who ordered eggs and sausage was because not many of our custemers order those two items at that time of day." Jon-Alers said. "Also, the man did not order either a beer or a set-up and did not have a bottle — that

A Disgruntled Customer

"The man kept going over to the wall where the telephone was located but he never picked up the phone." the waitress said. "He looked at the wall and appeared to be angry about something. There was a telephone book nearby but he didn't bother using it. I thought he might have forgotten a telephone number or something!"

The waitress recalls asking him if he needed the phone book to look up a number. She remembers him "grunting", which she assumed to be a negative response, but does not remember what he actually said. She said she could not tell if he had any kind of accent or not, because he would "just always mumble when I said something to him".

The man ate his order there. He drank a cup of coffee. He left about 5 p.m.

Then, at 6:01 p.m., Jowers said he recalls hearing the shot that supposedly killed King. "It sounded as if it came from the back of the cafe rather than upstairs in the rooming house, where the police said the killer fired it," Jowers said. "At the time, I thought it was a backfire of an automobile over on Mulberry Street (approximately in front of the balcony of The Lorraine)."

James Earl Ray

The official FBI and police investigation today contends the fatal shot that killed King came from a bathroom window upstairs in the rooming house by James Earl Ray, 41, then an escaped convict from the Missouri State Prison. Ray today is serving a 99year sentence for the murder of Dr. King after he pleaded guilty in Criminal District Court in Memphis in exchange for the 99-year sentence. It is always relevant to point out, however, Ray's guilty plea cannot be logically interpreted necessarily as the confession of a man who actually fired the shot that killed King. Coupled with the fact that Ray stated in open court words to the effect that there had indeed been a conspiracy, Ray's guilty plea amounts to nothing more than the fact that his attorneys had advised him that he was deemed as guilty under the Tennessee homicide statute as the man who fired the shot. This is the so-called "felony murder" rule namely, anyone who participates in the commission of a felony that results in a homicide is as guilty in the eyes of the law as the man who actually caused the homicide. Because the felony committed here was murder itself, it would almost be superfluous to say that one who conspires with another to commit murder is as guilty as the man who actually carries out the execution of the crime.

Conspiracy?

It is relevant to point out that in the February 1^60^9 hearing in which Ray pleaded guilty, he appeared eager to clarify the question as to whether there was a conspiracy behind Dr. King's death. The late was a conspirately behind Dr. King's

immediately entered objections to his own client's testimony by insisting on two points: one, the prosecution presented no evidence of conspiracy; and two, any evidence of conspiracy would have nothing to do with that particular trial nor with having any effect on his client's guilty plea and the subsequent sentence. Battle quickly upheld Foreman's objections.

Today Ray is appealing his guilty plea. Asking for a new trial, based upon Percy Foreman's improper and "unethical" representation. Ray's appeal has gone through the state courts and has been rejected. He is now appealing through the federal courts. He is represented by Robert Livingston, a Memphis attorney; and Bernard Fensterwald, a Washington, D.C. attorney who is also representing James McCord in the Watergate case. Fensterwald is also executive director of the privately financed Committee To Investigate Assassinations. 6

As most readers know, Ray was arrested at the London International Airport by Scotland Yard agents after he had eluded the FBI in the U.S., fled to Canada, later flew to England, then to Portugal for several days. His arrest at the London Airport came when he had returned to England and was prepared to fly to Brussels on a forged passport.

Ray became the chief suspect when Memphis Police Inspector N.E. Zachary found a bundle near the foot of the stairwell leading to the rooming house over Jim's Cafe. The bundle contained the rifle which. the FBI would later say was the murder weapon because of shells found with it that were of the same caliber as the bullet that shattered in King's body. Wrapped in a bedspread which contained fibers from the trunk of Ray's car, the bundle also contained a radio with Ray's Missouri State Prison serial number on it; a suitcase with clothing belonging to a man smaller than Ray as well as clothing belonging to Ray; and binoculars with Ray's fingerprints on them. Tracing them to a Memphis store where the binoculars had been purchased the day before, police also obtained a statement from a clerk that identified Ray as the purchaser.

Cafe Investigation

Back at the cafe after King was killed, Jowers had said he thought the blasting sound to the rear of his cafe and toward Mulberry Street was the backfire of a truck. Minutes after the sound, police swarmed over the area, taking positions in front of the cafe. They told Jowers no one could leave the cafe. (About 5:30 p.m., after the eggs and sausage man left, the cafe had filled with workers who had just gotten off duty at a nearby paper company. It was payday and many of them came to cash pay checks and drink beer.)

"The police were rushing around like chickens with their heads cut off," Jowers said. "They did not seem to know where the shot was fired. I later learned it was almost an hour before they went upstairs to the rooming house to question anyone up there. Before that, and minutes after the shooting.

to question me. They could have been FBI men because they did not look familiar and I know at least by face most of the Memphis detectives."

The captain and the plainclothesmen seemed very interested in the "eggs and sausage man". They also questioned the waitress, and examined the table where he sat, and the wall near the telephone, Jowers pointed out.

The plainclothesmen left. The police captain told Jowers: "If that 'eggs and sausage man' comes back, you get on the phone and call us immediately. He is probably our man."

(In the next installment - "The Eggs and Sausage Man Returns")

Footnotes

- 1. Jim Bishop, The Days of Martin Luther King Jr. (G.P. Putnam & Sons), P-61. Bishop accepts a conspiracy theory behind King's murder but paradoxically accepts some key assumptions of the official "non-conspiracy" theory - namely that the shot was fired from a second story bathroom window over Jim's Cafe. Thus, he must accept the downward trajectory conclusion of Dr. Jerry Francisco. Memphis medical examiner who performed the autopsy on King's body. Francisco ignored eyewitness testimony that Dr. King was hunched over the balcony railing, looking down to the ground floor when the shot was fired. Francisco's pure medical findings cannot be faulted - namely, the bullet entered King's lower right jaw, severed the neck from the spinal cord with fragments coming to rest at the back of his neckline. Note, in a lcuning position. Dr. King's lower jaw would be on a lower plane than the rear of his neckline. Viewed within this frame of reference, Dr. Francisco's medical findings would be consistent with an upward trajectory. A brilliant forensic pathologist. Dr. Francisco has been bitterly criticized by Memphis defense attorneys for anticipating what the prosecution wants to prove in a given case, and then extrapolating legal conclusions from his medical findings to corroborate the prosecutor's theory. His findings were bitsterly disputed in two other widely-publicized Memph:s murders. One involved a wealthy Memphis merchant convicted largely on Dr. Francisco's medical testimony. The conviction was reversed on appeal. . Dr. Robert Hausmann, a noted American forensic pathologist, and assistant medical examiner of New York City, gave expert medical testimony for the defense, rebutting all of Dr. Francisco's findings. An appellate judge said Dr. Hausmann's rebuttal testimony was sufficient to have justified a directed verdict in the defendant's favor.
- Gerold Frank, An American Death (Doubleday & Co.), P-283. Frank relates Jones' story in one paragraph from second hand sources, indicating he never interviewed Jones. Frank also cites another witness, Harold (Cornbread) Carter, who corroborates Jones' story about a man in the bushes. Again, Frank only relates Carter's story by citing official reports, indicating he never talked personally with Carter. This writer was unfortunate in that he did not get to talk to Carter on the night of the slaying, but I reached him several weeks later. He related substan-

then almost step on him running from the bushes. Carter was jailed shortly afterwards for public drunkeness. Ray's defense attorneys deemed Carter's story significant because: 1) he was white; 2) he had never seen or talked to Jones before. the slaying; and 3) he was on record as telling his story to police on the night of the slaying before police had constructed the upstairs bathroom as the scene of the crime.

- 3. Harold Weisberg. The Frame-Up. Distributed by E. P. Dutton & Co., P-106, 107.
- 4. John Seigenthaler, A Search For Justice, (Aurora Publishers), PP-187-188/ P199. Author Seigenthaler, editor of The Nashville Tennessean, one of the most respected metropolitan dailies in the Mid-South, severely takes Judge Battle to task for not putting Ray on the witness stand and eliciting details about the conspiracy Ray suggested that led to Dr. King's death. As Judge Sirico did in the Watergate case, Judge Battle had the authority to do this because Ray at that point could not plead self-incrimination as he had already pleaded guilty.
- 5. Frame-Up, P-103. Weisberg points out the curious fact that only Foreman said there "was no conspiracy" in open court. The prosecutors only said there was "no evidence of conspiracy" in King's death.
- 6. As the reader will learn later on, Fensterwald obtained a rap sheet and other data on a man that the Committee has tentatively identified as the "eggs and sausage man". More will be said in a subsequent article about this tentative suspect under the code-name of "Jack Armstrong".

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BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR. WILLIAM G. OHLHAUSEN

> GORDON F. HARRISON OF COUNSEL

BASS & ULLMAN 342 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

March 27, 1974

Mr. William O'Connor 550 11th St., N.W. Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill:

I enclose a copy of a letter which I obtained, and which should be of interest to you. It is from George McMillan, well known writer and hopeful biographer of James Earl Ray; it is to John Ray, Jame's brother.

As you will note, McMillan claims access to the FBI file and asserts that both Gerold Frank and William Huie had access.

If this is true, and I have reason to believe it is true at least in the cases of Huie and Frank, I believe that I, as Ray's attorney, am entitled to access. In fact, I believe I'm entitled under the FOI Act as an individual. It would be to everyone's advantage, I believe, to let me examine it quietly rather than after a big, public flap.

Would you look into this and take it up with your elders.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

Encl PS. Despite our best efforts, Ray is still in solitary; starting his 18th month. We go to Houston to depose Percy Foreman on April 2 1974 Oh joy!!

0.h.)...1.

Dear Jack:

That was a good letter you wrote about the blackberries, etc. Peacock is now living in Lewiston, not far from Ewing. I heard that his wife is an alcoholic and that he isn't doing much of anything himself.

My lawsuit to see you goes on, in fact my lawyers expect some kind of decision from the federal judge here in Boston within next two weeks. But, even if he acts in my favor, the government has recourses which will still delay my seeing you. I am now well along with my book and am working against a hard deadline of March 15, 1973. It is the absolute last that means it will be published in the Fall of 1974, about a year from now. Book publishing is a very slow affair.

The thing I want to talk with you about now is something about what went on between you and Jimmy and Jerry and Jimmy in that year between the time he escaped from Jeff City and was arrested in London. I especially want to know about the time between Jeff City and Memonis. What I most want to do is check with you the story Jerry told me in Chicago in the summer of 1972 when I went out there two times to interview him. He told me one hell of a lot etuff. Then he sent me a tape on which he said he had conned me. I put all the stuff I got from him aside, telling myself it was probably all a lot of Then the other day I looked at it again, read it all over carefully. I changed my mind about it. I decided that Jarry had told me the truth, that all the stuff was pretty much tous, that marke he had lied to me about some names, invented something here or there, but that the general story he h told me was true. That's what I believe now, and I mean to use the stuff.

But I want to check it as much as I can. I've already checked a couple of things & they've turned out to be true. Sometime befor I write this section I am spins to leading and work at the file on the case; that's bean made available to me. Anowing what when some or the things in that wink to Frank and huie.

And barber Cason own d1d Brax Or ol hall? Brown?... lood ran the af ter 0 Y aon 0 g C) or C Set named Φ 🗠 man ne ಥ thought a hop. Did t and Fat hop. tand

HOH

GEORGE MCMILLAN
12 HILLIARD STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02138
PHONE 617-547-6280

What I would like ND more than anything is to check Jerry's story with you. What do you think about doing it by mail? I've just been taking for granted that this is something you jwouldn't want to write me about. Am I wrong? Let me know. If it's CK with you, it's 6K with me.

And I mwill xxxx pay you something for your help. Not a big sum. And I won't pay in advance. I've been had too often for that. But I will pay as we go along.

And if we don't do it now, I don't know when we will ever do it. Time is running out for me. And I'm going to use something so it might as well be the straight story.

I would like to talk with Jimmy. The Tennessee officials have given me permission. But Jimmy won't see me, just as he hasn't seen any writer. Jerry says that if Jimmy's current appeal is turned down in Cincinnati that Jimmy is going to talk, hold a press conference. Well, I doubt that there would be much for me in that press conference. Both Stoner and Foreran have ursed Jimmy to talk with me but rensterwald does not want him to.

I think he should. Mine is the last book that's going to be done in the foreseeable future. And he can't sell another "story" like he sold to Huie. Nobody is going to pay him anymore unless they check the story in advance. Oh, maybe some IV network might pay him a relatively small sum for an on-camera interview. But that wouldn't help anybody.

One more question. Do you have any pictures of your family? Your mother? Any old pictures of any kind of any member of the family?

Look forward to hearing from you som.

Sincerel,

Mr. John Larry Ray #86798 Marion

Illinois

FS I moving South Octobr 1st so answer this letter to me at Coffin Point Frognore, South Garolina 20020

STATE OF TENNESSEE



MILTON P. RICE ATTORNEY GENERAL & REPORTER OFFICE OF THE

ATTURNEY GENERAL

SUPREME COURT BUILDING

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September 30, 1974

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ROBERT E. KENDRICK

Honorable William B. Saxbe Attorney General of the United States United States Department of Justice Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Saxbe:

I am counsel for the State of Tennessee for the James Earl Ray evidentiary hearing in the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. Ray v. Rose, Civil Action No. C-74-166, Western District of Tennessee, Western Division.

Among the issues at the hearing will be the competency of Ray's former counsel, Percy Foreman of Houston, Texas in Ray's Tennessee criminal proceeding that culminated in Ray's guilty plea to the first degree murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In his deposition for this hearing, Mr. Foreman stated that between November 12, 1968 and March 10, 1969, he wrote several letters to then Attorney General of the United States, Ramsey Clark, requesting any evidence in the Ray case that was in Mr. Clark's possession.

We are requesting your assistance as to whether any such letters from Mr. Foreman to the Attorney General exist. If such letters do exist, will you please provide our office with certified copies of those letters. We appreciate any assistance that you can give us in this matter.

With kindest regards, I remain

OCT 4 1974

VICE TO THE TOP

William J. Haynes, Jr. Assistant Attorney General

State of Tennessee

Sincerely

RECOID OF CUTSIDE CONTACT (DJ order No. 532-73)

Subject matter: File (DJ No.) 144-72-662____

Outside Contact: [X] (Initiator)

Name & Title/Position: CBS News Representative

Address or Office:

DOJ Employee: [](Initiator)

Name & Title/Position: Stephen Horn, Attorney, Criminal Sec., CRD

Date & Time of Contact: 6/13/75 - approx.: ____.m.

Place (if not telephone):

Substance of discussion:

On June 13, 1975, I received a phone call from CES News. The CES representative desired to know whether the Department was opposed to CES using an FBI mock-up of the Martin Luther King assassination site in a future special program.

Pursuant to a suggestion from Robert Murphy and myself, the FBI had (this date) previously declined to furnish this mock-up to CLS because of the potential adverse publicity to James Earl Ray at a time when he was actively involved in pertinent litigation.

I acknowledged to the CBS representative that we shared the FBI viewpoint. I further advised her that if she hould formally request this mock-up via Department channels we would refer to the FBI as it is their property.

cc: Files
Horn
Nancy Sweesy

J. Stanley Pottinger Assistant Attorney Coneral

November 3, 1975

Stephen Horn Attorney Criminal Section

SH:vap DJ 144-/2-663

Freedom of Information Requests: Martin Luther Rips File -

On October 30, 1975, I attended a meeting at the Hoover Building for the purpose of discussing two FOIA requests received by the Department requesting certain FBI reports and evidentiary materials concerning the King investigation. Present were Volney Brown of the FOIA Appeals Unit headed by Quinlan Shea, and Tom Bresson and Tom Blacman of the Eureau's FOIA Unit.

The subject requests are attached. One is from CBS, which, as you know, is preparing to dir a documentary on the assassination on Movember 30, 1975; the other from Harold Weisberg, who is represented by James Lesar, Ray's attorney. Weisberg is acting in the capacity of Lesar's "investigator". Lesar has represented to Drown that, if need be, Ray himself will join in their FOLA request.

We have, of course, previously taken the position that the disclosure of King materials (the FRI scale model of the scene of the crime) would prejudice Ray's right to a fair trial, should be secure a new one, and this cannot be disclosed. I still strongly advocate this position.

If my reading of Brown was correct, the FOIA Unit may be viewing this from a slightly different perspective:

cc: Records Chrono Murphy Allen Horn Brown empressed Shea's desire to avoid being "blasted" (on the air) by CIS for being "uncooperative". While I took the approach that the FOIA Unit should formulate an appropriate lagged argument against disclosure and work court approval of what I believe to be a strong fact situation for non-disclosure, the thrust of Drown's comments was that the case law could support disclosure under those circumstances. However, he aid state that he may in the final analysis, adopt our position.

There is some question as to whether some of the requested materials have already been made public, in one form or another, either at the extradition proceeding in England, the "mini-trial" wherein the state prosecutors made a proffer to satisfy the Court that there was a busis for the guilty plea, or the evidentiary hearing in U.S. District Court on Ray's petition for labors conjunctive (the denial of which is en appeal to the Sixth Circuit). The FBI is making efforts to determine the ensure to this question and is in contact with Tennessee authorities.

I told Brown that the fact that evidence may have been released in one form may not justify its release in another. In other words, from the perspective of projudicial pre-trial publicity, I see a big difference between the affidavit of an FBI expert, already made public, and the disclosure of the actual raw data and photographs upon which he formulated his opinion. (Obviously, CBS and Weisberg see the difference too, why else so through the FOIA process to get material already a matter of public record?)

The possible legal theories for non-disclosure is not the present issue. What is important now is whether the Department decides to contest disclosure in court, if at all legally practicable, or make disclosure in the immediate future. The Deputy Attorney Coneral should have the views of this Division as well as that of the DDI' Unit.

I have drafted a memo for your signature if you are inclined to agree with my position.

November 28, 1975

Dear Mr. Pottinger:

. .

I have for six years been writing a biography of James Earl Ray which is to be published in May, 1976, by Little Boown & Co.

This leads me to think that we might have a useful exchange of views. I would be glad to come to Washington to talk with you at your convenience. Will you give me an appointment?

I am attaching a press release that describes my book briefly.

Sincerely, MCM. II m

Mr. Stanley Pottinger
Assistant United States Attorney General
Deprtment of Justice
Washington, D. C.

13/2/25

'1. Jems : W. Lose r
Att. at Lew
1231 Ath St., S.W.
Wesh. D.C.

Re: Gr. indictment no. 16645, Shelby county, Tn. 1968. Roy (def.) v. Tennessec.

Deer Jim:

On November 26th 1975 press releases reported that the United States Attorney General, Hon. Edward H. Levi, had ordered some sort of proliminary re-inquiry into the above crationed suit and assigned Generals, J. Stanly Pottinger & Richard J. Thornburgh, to the task. The principal reason given by Justice for the re-inquiry was "fresh details", primarily revelations concerning the late/ FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover's, controversy with Dr. Martin Luther King jr. wired before a congressional committee by, Senaton Church.

Apportantly these "fresh details" were subpoended by the Church Committee from FTI files (the ones that weren't incinerated shortly after Mr. Moover's death) and the parent Justice Department files.

Now it would appear to the defendant that it would not require a Chicago lawyer to determine that the Asst. Generals involved, particularly Gen. Pottinger, were not so negligent to the degree that they didn't know what was in their own files—they must have been conversant with the subject material fter conglying with Sen to subjection—but I than he had to hear that I have the subject investigator on television.

As to why the re-inquiry, I am certain the J.D. is aware that we at this time have an appeal before the U.S. sinth circuit; the defendant is equally certain that the results of this "re-inquiry" will be releasted with all fanfare available, news conferences, the troting out of a Jack Anderson with another instant revelation supporting the government, ect., before final adjudication in appellate courts...maybe even in time for the CBS-TV inquiry ciring the same matter.

Further, it has evidently been documented, eg. Ellsberg case, that the executive branch of government has in the past attempted to influence or intimidate the judiciary and it capears the only question in the instant matter is what action if any we should take, appraise the courts for the record what must be obvious to them as is to us?

The FBI & Justice department have intermittently usurped on exclusive State jurisdiction in the instant matter when it suited their political & public relations interest and then they have, including those who with Percy public relations interest and then they have, evolved like the planus court

powers were available to all parties as in last year's habeas corous hearing in Hamphis, Tennessee-- although the court conviently ruled we could not enforce supposess over 100 miles from Manghis. The same also applies to the prosecution's literary performers, Pratford Huie & Gerold Frank, who not only evoided the hearing but refused to comply with subposes; in this respect's a J.D. inquiry into the notives, beside money, of Huie & Frank's for entering the case might be more fruitful then reviewing Mr. Hoover's files.

To summarine, public or legal deceptiveness is apparently unnecessary by either party herein as it appear's obvious that the only path defendant intends to follow, and must to receive equity, is vious the courts and ultimately through a jury—if the U.S. Courts rule against a trial then perhaps through a proceeding in England challenging in some manner the integrity of the extradition; conversely the only apparent forum where the prosecution can prevail in this matter is through exparent re-investagations, signaling the courts, utilizing their obligors in the communications industry, ect.

The primary reason for this correspondence is to request that no one representing me or their agents have any exchange with those connected with said "re-inquiry", i.e., impartin; investagative material to them.

Here it may be worth noting that Att. Percy Foreman in his deposition to the aforementioned Habeas Corpus hearing offered testimony through pp.154-158 therein, the type testimony the J.D. is now allegedly looking for, concerning grane numbers in, New Orleans, E., and althou and testimony and likely wis contrived by Att. Foreman a State's Att. Sen. Henry Hable to offselw simular testimony colicited from me by Judge McRae or Gon. Hable, nevertheless maybe it should have been pursued to learn what dispossessed person or screens Foreman & Heile intended slandering.

Also, as you know neither the court or General Haile pursued this line of testimony after the court ruled don. Haile could inquir of anything Ray told his former counsel, Percy Fereman.

Finally, nothing in your conduct since entering the suit five years ago would even suggest any unethical contact with the prosecution but my past experience with counsel of the Percy Foreman manner of operating along with present Tennessee counsel's apparent belief in the virtue of cooperation if I interpreted weisberg correctly, necessitate's I believe this letter.

Concluding, the defendant has been arbitrarily, until just recently, detained for years in solitary confinement along with an attempt by the J.D. and Tennessee politicans in 1975 (see, att, clipping) to illegally transfer defendant into a federal mental institution. Upon inquiry by a United States Schater to the J.D. concerning some of the above actions, the above Ceneral

Jach. d.c.

Dear Jin:

I've received another retition from CPS-TV's counsel directed at the Tennessee appeal's court saying something about oral argument this month.

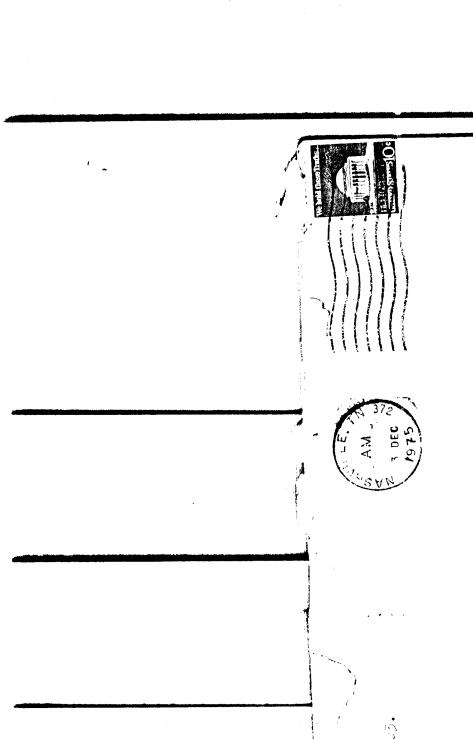
I just wented to tell you I don't expect you are other counsel to appear for said arguement. This thing will prombly go all the way to the u.s. sup. ct. and their is no point in wasting money on something that is not connected with a trial.

couple days ago that the J.D. Antends re-investagating the case right when we have an appeal pending. They apparently are going to pretent that they didn't know what was in their own files the PMI to justify the re-investigation.

Concluding, Jerry was here on a vacation last month and went flown to see Stoner before he returned to work. He apparently appeared on a radio tak show while their and on the way back to see me he was arrested on the free way in Georgia, right outside Chattenooga, and charged with drunken driving. He said they towed his car in and made him pay 50% to get out on bond. We also said the deputy sheriff who arrested him (sheriff was out of jurisdiction freeway) also had another prisoner in the squad car dressed up (maybe 1711) Anyway Jerry wasn't drunk nor had a drink and demanded a blood test which he was given. He said they shook his car down real good including going through papers I had given him, nost duplicate copies of petitions you had filed and sent me duplicates.

This may not mean nothing except an attempt of some small time town-clown to shake somebody down but though I would mention it.

Sincerely:



MO: Mr. James M. Lesar Lit. at Law

itt. at Law 1231 Fourth Street, C.E.

sesiington, D C...20024.

Ar. Junes H. Deser Accept Lune 1231 4th At., Ansh. b.C.

100 July 1070

Chelby county, Th. 1963. They (def.) v. lennessec.

Dear Jim:

On November 26th 1975 press releases reported that the United States Attorney General, Non. Adward N. Levi, had ordered some sort of preliminary re-inquiry into the above captioned suit and assigned Scherels, J. Stonly Pottinger & Richard J. Thornburgh, to the task. The principal reason given by Justice for the re-inquiry was "fresh details", primarily revelations soncerning the later FRI Director, J. Edgar Hoover's, controversy with Dr. Martin Luther King jr. sired before a congressional committee by, Senato Church.

Apparently these "fresh details" were subpoensed by the Church Committee from EBI files (the ones that weren't incinerated shortly after Mr. Hoover's death) and the parent Justice Department files.

Now it would appear to the defendant that it would not require a Chicago lawyer to determine that the Asst. Generals involved, particularly Gen. Pottinger, were not so negligent to the degree that they aidn't know what was in their own files—they must have been conversant with the subject material after complying with Senate subpoenss—but rather had to have the material read out for them by some Senate investagator on television.

As to why the re-inquiry, I am certain the J.D. is aware that we at this time have an appeal before the U.S. sixth circuit; the defendant is equally certain that the results of this "re-inquiry" will be releasted with all fanfare available, news conferences, the troting out of a Jack Anderson with another instant revelation supporting the government, ect., before final adjudication in appellate courts...maybe even in time for the CBS-TV inquiry airing the same matter.

Further, it has evidently been documented, eg. Ellsberg case, that the executive branch of government has in the past attempted to influence or intimidate the judiciary and it appears the only question in the instant matter is what action if any we should take, appraise the courts for the record what must be obvious to them as is to us?

DEC 9 RECO

Jowers were evailable to all parties as in last year's hace a corpus hearing in the datable, democrated—although court convictify well as each not and force succession of the prosecution's literary performers, fratford Huic : derold Brank, who not only avoided the hearing but refused to comply with subgoings; in this respect's a J.D. inquiry into the motives, beside money, of Huic & Fank's for entering the case might be more fruitful then reviewing Mr. Hoover's files.

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Also, as you know neither the court or General Haile pursued this line of testimony after the court ruled Gen. Haile could inquiry of anything Ray told his former counsel, Percy Foreman.

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BR Tied to 'Plet'?

Ray Alleges Ally Negligent in Case

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) -- James Earl Ray says he wanted two persons investigated after the slaving of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. but his lawyer was negligent in pursuing information about them.

Bay, serving a 99-year sentence in the Tennessee State Prison for the 1968 slaving, did not name the two persons in a federal court suit filed Thursday. The suit seeks \$500,000 in damages from the state

Ray said he gave Percy Foreman of Dallas the telephone Ma Scrious
numbers of two Louisiana resi- Ma Scrious vestigate them.

formation to Z. T. Osborne, a Nashville lawyer who has since Inche Care died, and asked him to investigate them Ray did not list the telephone numbers.

Ray pleaded guilty to the King flooding this sp shooting, but there has been Mississippi Riv continuing speculation that a higher than n conspiracy to k II the civil again icons, a fede

King was fatally shot by rifte fire in April 1903 as he stood on any a Memphia matel balcony. At spring, r the time, he was in Memphia to mal," C support a strike by garbage the Ne norkers belonging to the Team-lower sters Union.

In a typewritten suit, Ray Co said: "Mr. Osborne reguled the engl resident listed under the Baton neer Rouge phone number was a par-door ish official under the influence aux of a Teamsters union official in the Baton Rouge area; that the resident listed under the New me Orleans area was, among other things, an agent of a Mideast-line oriented organization disturbed th because Dr. Martin Luther King's reported forthcoming, before his death, public support of the the Palestine Arab cause.

In Houston, Foreman said: "We did find one number and in c checking it out found that it was fe a New Orleans bar." Foreman r said "I don't know anything r. alout a Baton Rouge number but I believe we did check another New Gleans number and it turned out it had been disconnected.

Ray's suit also asks that the state be temporarily restrained from transferring him to a medical center for federal prisoners in Springfield, Mo.

estigate them.
He said Foreman gave the in- FOOODING !-

SLIDELL, La. (* are no indication.

Cente

RECORD OF OUTSIDE CONTACT (DJ Order No. 532-73)

Subject matter: File (DJ No.) 144-72-662

Outside Contact: 🔀 (Initiator)
Name & Title/Position: Les Payne, Reporter
Address or Office: Newsday Newspaper

DOJ Employee: (Initiator)

Name & Title/Position: Robert A. Murphy, Chief, Criminal Section, CRD

Date & Time of Contact: 1/20/76 - approx. 3: 40 p.m.

Place (if not telephone):

Substance of discussion: I was called by Les Payne of Newsday who inquired as to the status of our investigation into the Martin Luther King assassination. I told him that our review was not completed and that we had not yet made a recommendation to the Attorney General but that we would probably do so within a matter of weeks. In response to his question, I said we were not limited simply to reading files but that we could and would take action as we saw fit. He asked about the Lorraine Hotel and Holiday Inn matter. I told him that the matter was contained in a memo and was suggested as a means of embarrassing Dr. King. I would not comment on the accuracy of the New York Times article that made reference to this incident because I did not recall the contents of that article specifically. Mr. Payne asked if he could call later and I said he could.

cc: Files
Murphy
Nancy Sweesy

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Pepartment of Justice Washington, A.C. 20530

MAY 2 5 1976

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

Dear Mr. Lesar:

During your visit to Mr. Gross' office on April 21, 1976, at which time you examined various documents requested under the Freedom of Information Act, you asked Mr. Gross to check on the availability of a clearer copy of one document, and on the availability of a copy of an envelope in which a second document was mailed. Please excuse our delay in responding.

The first document is a handwritten letter to the Department of Justice from James Earl Ray, dated January 12, 1970 (the date appears on the second page). The reason the xerox copy is light is because Mr. Ray wrote the letter in green ink, which does not make clear copies. If you find that the copy enclosed is illegible, and would like to see the original it can be made available for your inspection. Please contact Mr. Gross, (739-4126) to arrange a convenient date, and time for such inspection. We have, at your request, included xerox copies of the envelope in which the letter was mailed to us.

The second document is a xerox copy of a letter written by Mr. Ray to the Department of State, dated August 13, 1969 (the date is on the third page of the letter). You inquired whether we had the envelope in



(A)

which this letter was sent. In fact, our files contain only a xerox copy of the letter and a xerox copy of the front of the envelope. We have enclosed a copy of those pages. If you wish to see the original, I suggest you contact the Department of State, which may still have the original in its files.

Sincerely,

James P. Turner

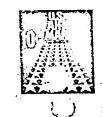
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Civil Rights Division

Washington - Fr. RECEIVED JAH 16: JAH 15 10 18 PH '70 CONTROL TO THE TOTAL TOTAL TO THE TOTAL TH This letter in returne to an mon continue to an in returne to an england, Bow st. court, Huring The mouth of June and at this hours The hours The Parket Dresented Various documento and 8 JAN 16-1970 To The court to support its lecturation requer ap la délantant. CRIV. ADM RECTIT VETON cons Since returning to the 11-milet States the definition in the oftention bining has made protected the Showith Stell Steamen presented to the English court as their browns There Caro; no be well need the shetic for future court Ciliator. Doynewa defendant has been admind his last the English court and The Willed & toler Late Department Strate much present to here roturned - on request to the timber Decetment State questing a regulation . Who to bed a special deposite will amit For the public Houseur & on The defendat not the multister pulling CR2-1

his latin wint pot to the Colored But it demu towns of a presenting Court of Low in a Criminal Case then Withhow such moterial when defendant might went to Challage such material cuillies in furthe court litigation. Detendent realized afromentioned processing the Sormer Elminstelle of Mr. Romsy Clark and That what An proceeded proby is irruncible but le would appreciate à letter-for the recordof present administration position. Thanks. Sincerely JAMES EIRAY WORK AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME This THE 12th DAY OF THNOARY-1978 NOTHRY PUBLIC MY COMMISSION EXPIRES- 4-26-76

THMES E, RHY-65477 STHTION-A-WEST MS.B. 3004 NASHUILLE, TENN. 39203



To. United States Justice Lept, Washington-D.C.

CRIMINAL-DIVISION.

U.S. Depart of State Ovashington-DC. Dear Sin; AUGUNIOTRATIVE In July - 1968- I was extraditied from London England to the state of Tennesse. Since that time attorneys representing meand I - hour mode vousus attempte to prowe the trongings of the extradition proceeding in the London Caux. The court itself Boundt. Court - wrote me that exturned over all tronscript. populato the "U.S. State Dept." and that only they, and the English attorney representing me in Lordon, Mr. Mulel Evyune hour a true copy Mr. Eugene always gives lossives onsers When defence consul oak him for his copy, or my copy, of the proceeding It is my belief; and altony representing me that Mr. Eugure was appointed to defend me at the instigation of the local administration, and was acting in their interest, not mine. MO Besides his failure to turn over the transwips to

in the routine monner - as It's English Caux Clerk has an wird me-specifically, several other low companies were possed over on the rotation list-which English Courte follow—to got to his company, The Michel Dresden co.

Two! His, Mr. Eugane's questions seemed more directed & The crime-which I remined himthan to the eltralitin proceeding. also the usual defensive action in a matter of this type of howing me sign a document, praising his performance!

Therefore my reason for writing your office is; would exam office make available to the defense a true copy of the tronscript, including all information, such as documents, pretures, ext, ext, that was originally sent to London

The defence attorneys will pay what ever fee this may incur.

In the absents of this transcript defendant would have to relie or notes he took

the document from one of the new ogeneys. Which smouthed the peroceedings.

Obsert preserve tronswips The defend to personal tronswips ore considered official. But defendent dosent this this should be nessons when their one town official tronswipt in pristence.

Thomps for one consideration on the motter, and if no solisfaction con be given would your office great letter stating so.

Sinearly: Jones Enl Ray

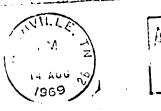
SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME,

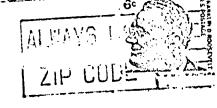
This The 13th DAY OF AUGUST, 1969

NOTHRY PUBLIC - ATLANGE - Temp

MY CIMMISSION EXPIRES 4-26-1972

JAMES E. RAY 65477 STATION-A-WEST M.S.B. 4-3 NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203,





To. United States Deportment of State"

Washington - D. C.

LECAL DIVISION - EXTRAPTION SECTION.