

FBI

Date: 11-21-68

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

Via AIRTEL AM
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P
MURKIN

Re Memphis Airtel to Bureau 11/5/68.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are four copies of LHM regarding information furnished by one [redacted] to Departmental Attorney J. HAROLD FLANNERY regarding a possible conspiracy in this matter.

For the information of the Bureau, the following is a brief resume of activity that occurred in Memphis, Tennessee, which resulted in Martin Luther King's appearances in Memphis during March and April 1968.

On 11/4/68, [redacted] who has been most active in support of the Negro civil rights movement in Memphis in recent years, advised that a strike of the Memphis sanitation workers, most of whom are of the Negro race, commenced in Memphis 2/12/68. The strike was initiated by Local 1733, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). It started as a legitimate labor dispute, but soon developed into a political power struggle in the city of Memphis.

This informant explained that WILLIAM B. INGRAM, former Mayor of Memphis until January 1968, had been defeated in the November 1967 city election when he ran for re-election for Mayor against the present Mayor, HENRY LOEB. This had been a bitterly fought election in which INGRAM had the support of approximately 90% of the Negro electorate, who had categorized LOEB as a symbol of segregation. Beginning in late February,

3 BUREAU (Enc. 4) (RM)
2 MEMPHIS
RFB:BN
(5)

REC-95 41 387 5387

Approved: Reference
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

EXHIBIT UU

1 cc copy of this memo to [redacted] for [redacted] report of [redacted] 11/21/68

1 cc CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT NOV 27 1968

ME 44-1987

1968, and continuing until the settlement of the strike in Mid-April, 1968, the political supporters of INGRAM joined the Union in support of the strike and in opposition to LOEB. This support stemmed from diverse Negro groups led by CORNELIA CRENSHAW, Mrs. TARLESE MATHEWS, a barber, O. W. PICKETT, Negro realtor, and a group of Negro ministers. The ministers developed an organization for this purpose known as Community on the Move for Equality (COME). Included in the group were such leaders as Reverend EZEKIEL BELL, Pastor, Parkway Gardens Presbyterian Church, Reverend JAMES MORRIS LAWSON, JR., SAMUEL B. KYLES, Pastor, Monumental Baptist Church, and Memphis Convener of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Reverend H. RALPH JACKSON, AME Church, who is Director, Minimum Salary Office, and Reverend MALCOLM D. BLACKBURN, Pastor of the Claiborne Temple, AME Church, 280 Hernando. All sanitation strike marches supporting the strike originated from Claiborne Temple, located at 280 Hernando, Memphis. All the above-mentioned individuals, with the exception of BLACKBURN, are Negroes and all had strongly opposed LOEB and had supported INGRAM in the November, 1967, city election. Reverend LAWSON, who had been Director of the non-violent tactics for SCLC, and Reverend KYLES were later influential in bringing MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., Head of SCLC, to Memphis on March 28, 1968, and again on 4/3-4/68.

This source advised that as the strike developed, it became more and more apparent that the strike was a combined political and racial issue, nurtured, stimulated, and organized by political opponents of Memphis Mayor HENRY LOEB and supporters of former Mayor WILLIAM B. INGRAM. This was the group which so deeply involved SCLC in the strike, culminating in the 4/4/68 fatal shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

reporter, and [REDACTED] "Press-Scimitar"
reporter, both Memphis daily newspapers, who were contacted by
SA [REDACTED] "Commercial Appeal"

On 11/20/68, [REDACTED] Aka. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] furnished the following confidential information:

She stated that she has cohabited with [REDACTED] for approximately 1 1/2 months in the recent past, and that during this period [REDACTED] has been conducting an independent investigation concerning the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., in an effort to substantiate his theories that possibly the Mafia and the Memphis Police Department are involved.

Re: James Earl Ray

She stated [redacted] claimed he is divorced from his wife; however, he has been unable to display a divorce decree to her. She asserted that on the night of 11/19/68, she was in telephonic contact with [redacted] and during the conversation with him [redacted] indicated he still had the .25 caliber pistol belonging to [redacted] and that he intended to commit suicide with this weapon. She stated that although she has been acquainted with [redacted] for a period of time she was unable to state whether [redacted] made the remark concerning suicide in jest or whether he was serious.

The information furnished by [redacted] should not be disseminated to the U. S. Department of Justice, due to the fact that [redacted] furnished this information in confidence and in the event the Department releases any information to [redacted] concerning the remarks about suicide [redacted] would be in a position to immediately ascertain the source of the information.

If the information furnished by [redacted] as contained in the enclosed LHM, is accurate, it is obvious, since J. HAROLD FLANNERY was present during the interview of [redacted] by [redacted] that FLANNERY was in a position to know that the information concerning [redacted] and [redacted] originated with [redacted] and not with [redacted]. In view of this, it is believed that the memorandum prepared by FLANNERY was not an accurate resume of information he had gathered from [redacted] and the information he gathered in the presence of [redacted] from other individuals, and this has resulted in considerable wasted effort on the part of the Bureau to ascertain the veracity of information furnished by [redacted].

No further investigation is being conducted by the Memphis Division in regard to the information furnished by [redacted] to Departmental Attorney J. HAROLD FLANNERY.

[redacted] in the enclosed LHM is [redacted] who, as of 4/18/68, was a self-admitted [redacted] in Memphis, who volunteered information to SAS [redacted] and [redacted].

Re: James Earl Ray

[REDACTED] in the enclosed LHM is [REDACTED] who
furnished information to SA [REDACTED]



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
November 21, 1968

RE: JAMES EARL RAY, Aka.;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Mr. J. Harold Flannery of the U. S. Department of Justice, has prepared a memorandum reflecting interviews on June 12, 1968, and August 22, 1968, with [REDACTED] of Greenville, Mississippi, a contract writer for "Time" magazine. In this memorandum, [REDACTED] alleges that [REDACTED] a Negro civil rights activist from Somerville, Tennessee, had overheard part of a telephone conversation at the Scott Street Produce Market in which the speaker allegedly made reference to where an individual should be shot and as to where the individual doing the shooting should go to collect his money.

[REDACTED] was interviewed on two occasions by Special Agents of the Memphis FBI Division, and the results of these interviews are set out as follows:

94 33-000 588

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/68

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[redacted] Somerville, Tennessee, was interviewed at the Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee, in the presence of Inspector [redacted] Mr. [redacted] of the Tennessee Council on Human Relations, and Attorney [redacted]. [redacted] stated that he had some information he wished to furnish concerning the shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

[redacted] advised that on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, he traveled from Somerville, Tennessee, to Memphis, Tennessee, to pick up his supplies for his grocery store. He advised that he departed from the [redacted] Company, [redacted] Memphis, at approximately 4:20 P.M. He said he traveled directly to the Farmers Market located on Scott Street and after arriving purchased a sack of potatoes from a Negro man, name unknown, at the market. He then went to the place where he normally buys his produce and stated he does not know the name of this particular firm but said it was possibly the [redacted]. He said this business is operated by a large, heavy set white man, who weighs approximately 300 pounds and is of possible Puerto Rican extraction and who can be identified because his teeth are set apart from each other. [redacted] stated after arriving at this company he walked up to the door to the office and noticed that the heavy set man was sitting at his desk with his back to the door and talking on the telephone.

[redacted] stated that the heavy set man did not see him at that time. He stated he heard the heavy set man say, "Kill the S.O.B. on the balcony and get the job done. You will get your \$5,000." According to [redacted] a white man who is thin in build and who has a scar on his right cheek, saw him about that time and asked him what he wanted. [redacted] replied that he was there to pick up some produce and this man told him to go on to the back and help himself.

[redacted] said he went back to the rear portion of this office and shortly thereafter heard the telephone ring. The phone was answered by the man with the scar, and [redacted]

On 4/8/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 4/9/68

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said he could not hear what this man said. The man then handed the phone to the heavy set man, and [redacted] said he heard this man say, "Don't come out here. Go to New Orleans and get your money. You know my brother." [redacted] continued by advising that he bought his produce and wanted to purchase two bushels of apples. He said he saw apples at [redacted] but they referred him to another store and told him that he could get his apples there. [redacted] believes that he was only at [redacted] Company for approximately ten minutes and this was sometime between 4:45 P.M. and 5:15 P.M.

[redacted] continued by advising that approximately a week prior to April 4, 1968, he was at [redacted] at which time the heavy set man, the man with the scar, and approximately three other white men were in a group talking. He said he heard the heavy set man say at this time, "They ought to shoot the S.O.B." [redacted] advised that immediately after this the heavy set man walked over to him and said, "What do you think about King and his mess?" [redacted] told the heavy set man that he tended to his own business.

[redacted] advised that he arrived at his store in Somerville at approximately 6:15 P.M. He said immediately thereafter [redacted] telephonically advised him that KING had been shot. He said on the following day his wife told him about the description of the person who possibly shot KING, and he said according to this description the individual was approximately 5'6" tall. He said he saw the sketch which appeared in the Commercial Appeal and which was supposed to be a likeness of the unknown individual who shot KING and when he compared the description furnished by his wife from the paper and the sketch which appeared in the paper he thought of a person who was employed at [redacted] sometime last summer. He thinks this man might be identical to the person who actually shot KING and stated that this individual is a cross between an Indian, a Cuban, or a Mexican. According to [redacted] this person has a very yellow complexion, has "jungle rot" on his neck, and definitely gives the impression of being a Puerto Rican or a Cuban and definitely not an American. [redacted] also said, "This person is not 5 feet 6 like they said in the paper, but he is real tall. He is at least 5 feet 9."

[REDACTED] also advised that the person who he thinks might be identical to the person who shot KING weighs 140 pounds, has a slender build, and is approximately 25 years old. He could furnish no further description regarding this person or any further information of value to identify him.

[REDACTED] stated that he discussed what he had heard on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, with his wife and also discussed with his wife the possibility that he knows the identity of the person who shot KING. He said he was afraid to tell any person other than his wife and did not mention it to anyone except [REDACTED] whom he advised at approximately 7:00 P.M. on April 7, 1968.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/22/68

[REDACTED] Somerville, Tennessee, was interviewed at his place of business, Somerville, at which time he furnished the following information concerning the shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR:

On the morning of April 4, 1968, at 8:00 a.m., he traveled to Memphis, Tennessee, from Somerville to pick up his supplies for his grocery store in Somerville. Before obtaining these supplies he went to his brother's house regarding income tax returns to be filled out by his brother, [REDACTED]. He called his wife at home at approximately 2:30 p.m. and sometime thereafter, at approximately 3:00 p.m., he departed his brother's place of business to go to a "chicken place" near the Greyhound Station on Front Street to purchase some meat. He arrived at the "chicken place" a little before 3:15 p.m. and thereafter departed to go to Fineberg Meat Company, 2875 Starling Road, Memphis, Tennessee, arriving there at approximately 3:45 p.m. He bought \$72 worth of meat at this place and a white female waited on him. He left Fineberg Meat Company at approximately 4:15 p.m. enroute to the Farmers Market located on Scott Street and arrived there at approximately 4:25 to 4:30 p.m. Upon arriving at the Farmers Market, he went to the east shed to purchase a sack of potatoes from a Negro male, name unknown. He put these potatoes in the bed of his truck and then proceeded to [REDACTED] Memphis.

He stated that as he passed this door he heard a white male yell, "Kill the son-of-a-bitch on the balcony" and, "I don't care how you get the job done, just get it done." At the time he heard this remark he did not know just what it meant.

He stated [REDACTED] is operated by a large heavy-set white male who weighs approximately 250-300 pounds, has straight hair, is approximately 6' tall, has gapped teeth, was wearing a red sport shirt and sitting in an office in [REDACTED].

On 4/18/68 at Somerville, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK & [REDACTED] Date dictated 4/22/68

an office at this warehouse-type building at a desk with a telephone and was facing into the produce department area. He stated this individual had dark skin and was possibly of Puerto Rican or some "foreign" extraction. [REDACTED] stated he walked up to the door of this office and noticed the heavy set man was sitting at the desk with his back to the door talking on the telephone. This man did not notice him, [REDACTED] at the time.

At this time another individual, whom he described as a white male, clear skin, over 6' tall, 200 pounds, with a hat on, wearing casual clothes, and a scar on the right side of his throat, known by [REDACTED] to be another boss at [REDACTED] approached him and asked him what he wanted. According to [REDACTED] this man said, "Go ahead and wait on yourself." [REDACTED] advised that he then went back to the rear portion of the warehouse and purchased \$16 worth of produce.

When he was coming out of this warehouse-type building, he heard the telephone ring which was answered by the man with the scar on his throat and he heard this individual mumble something to the heavy set man but he could not hear what this man had said. The man with the scar then handed the telephone to the heavy set man and he heard the heavy set man say, "Go to New Orleans and get your \$5,000 and don't bring your ass near my place and don't call me any more-you know my brother in New Orleans." [REDACTED] advised that he had already purchased \$16 worth of produce but decided he wanted to purchase approximately two bushels of apples. He had seen the apples at [REDACTED] but stated the heavy set man and the man with the scar on his face acted very nervous and told [REDACTED] "to go next door and get your apples." [REDACTED] stated that he was in the warehouse for approximately 30 minutes and to the best of his knowledge the telephone call took place about 5:15 p.m. [REDACTED] advised that he bought two cases of apples from a Jewish fellow on the west side of [REDACTED] and then left to return to his home in Somerville, Tennessee.

[REDACTED] advised he arrived back at his store in Somerville at 6:15 p.m. and learned from [REDACTED] a friend of his, who telephonically advised him that Dr. KING had been shot. He stated that late that night, after talking with his wife and discussing the description of the person who

possibly shot KING, he figured the conversation he had heard may have had something to do with the murder of Dr. KING.

[REDACTED] stated that on the following day he saw a sketch appearing in The Commercial Appeal which was supposed to be a likeness of the unknown individual who shot KING and he compared the description furnished by his wife from the paper and the sketch which appeared in the newspaper and thought this to be a person who was employed at [REDACTED] sometime in the late fall or early winter of 1967. He stated this man, described as a light tanned or Puerto Rican type individual with long straight, coarse black hair, "jungle rot" on his neck, slender build, drop shoulders, white male, 5'10" - 5'11", 160 pounds, not a day over 25, as being identical with the individual who shot KING. He stated this individual was a cross between an Indian, Cuban, and Mexican and he could possibly identify this individual again. [REDACTED] stated he saw this individual for approximately one to two days at [REDACTED] in the late fall or early winter and has not seen him since that time at the produce company.

[REDACTED] advised another reason for his suspicions is that on a Thursday, a week before April 4, 1968, he was at [REDACTED] at which time the heavy set man, the man with the scar, said to him, "What do you think about your buddy?" [REDACTED] said he replied, "Who are you talking about?" The heavy set man then said, "MARTIN LUTHER KING", to which [REDACTED] replied, "I tend to my own business." [REDACTED] stated the heavy set man then said, "Somebody ought to shoot the son -of-a-bitch." [REDACTED] stated he again replied, getting into his truck, "I tend to my own business" and drove off. [REDACTED] stated this was the first time the heavy set man had ever spoken to him regarding a racial matter.

[REDACTED] advised that he had discussed what he had heard on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, with his wife and had also discussed with his wife the possibility he knew the identity of the individual who shot KING.

[REDACTED] stated that on the morning of April 18, 1968, between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m., a beige, late model 1966 or 1967 Cadillac with a golden emblem on the front license plate, license plate not noticed, drove into his driveway at [REDACTED]

[redacted] Somerville, Tennessee. An individual, identified as [redacted] and his wife, who approximately twelve years ago ran [redacted] in Somerville, Tennessee, and thereafter left to live in New Orleans, Louisiana, or that vicinity. He stated this individual operates an all-night truck stop in Louisiana at the junction of [redacted]. He further stated this individual has house trailers on the property.

He stated [redacted] and his wife got out of the car to shake hands with [redacted] and stated they were "glad to see him." [redacted] stated they asked him questions concerning his itinerary for that day and he told them he was going to Memphis at approximately 4:00 p.m.

[redacted] stated that [redacted] asked, "Are you putting on a lot of weight?" and then asked if the road behind the [redacted] still came out into Old Macon Road. [redacted] advised he "acted dumb" and after a while [redacted] left. [redacted] told [redacted] he was leaving tonight or tomorrow night. (April 18-19, 1968). [redacted] advised that [redacted] did not threaten him in any way and he was very suspicious and connected this incident with the telephone call at [redacted] because the "white man shook my hand." According to [redacted] it is very uncommon for white men to shake black men's hands in his part of the country.

[redacted] stated he can tell when individuals are wearing guns and stated many times in the past he has seen people who appeared very suspicious to him and who, he thought, were a threat to him inasmuch as they stared at him and acted "funny." He advised he always looks at individuals to see whether or not they are wearing shoulder holsters or sidearms or "45's" in their back pockets. [redacted] pointed out that he always acted dumb so that people will not give him a hard time when in reality he is actually very smart.

[redacted] was shown six photographs, five of which were random photographs of individuals who have been arrested in various parts of the country in the past. These photographs are of [redacted], and JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT. [redacted] immediately eliminated the photographs of [redacted], and [redacted] and looked closely at the three remaining photographs. He stated that the

photograph of [REDACTED] looked like the unknown individual he had seen in [REDACTED] in the late fall or early winter but stated he may be "too short."

[REDACTED] did not desire to furnish a signed statement regarding this individual stating he "did not want to get him in trouble" if this should be the wrong person. [REDACTED] noted certain similarities in this photograph, namely, the hair style was the same, he had the same "jungle rot" on his neck, and the profile was similar to that of the sketch by the Commercial Appeal artist in the newspaper. The individual picked out by [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] 1943, is 5'5" tall, weighs 152 pounds, medium build, brown hair, brown eyes, and was last known to be residing in New Orleans, Louisiana.

[REDACTED] was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT, who was identified to [REDACTED] as being the individual wanted by the FBI for the murder of Dr. KING. At this point, [REDACTED] took the photograph of RAY and intimated this individual, too, resembled the man he saw at [REDACTED] in late fall or early winter, 1967. He stated, "Now let's be honest, the hair is combed the same way and there was some similarity in the individual he was attempting to describe. [REDACTED] was reminded that he had positively eliminated RAY on three occasions and he thereafter stated he just "was not sure."

During the interview with [REDACTED] an individual who was known to be a Times Magazine reporter was taking photographs of Agents interviewing [REDACTED] and during the interview it was felt that the distraction caused by this Times Magazine reporter necessitated moving [REDACTED] to a more secluded spot so that an effective and penetrating interview with him could be accomplished.

The following description of [REDACTED] was obtained through observation and interview:

Race:
Sex:
DOB:
POB:

Negro
Male

[REDACTED]

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Height:	5'9"
Weight:	178
Hair:	Black
Eyes:	Gray
Complexion:	Light brown
Social Security #:	[REDACTED]
Occupation:	[REDACTED]

Re: James Earl Ray

As a result of the information furnished by [REDACTED] the following interviews were conducted by FBI Agents of the Memphis and New Orleans Divisions:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/22/68

[redacted] home address [redacted]
 Memphis, Tennessee, [redacted]
 [redacted] Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at his
 place of business at which time he furnished the following
 information:

On April 4, 1968, he arrived at work at approxi-
 mately 5:30 a.m. and stayed on the job, with the exception
 of lunch and possibly going to see one of his business
 associates, until 6:00 p.m.

[redacted] advised that in his capacity as [redacted]
 he is continually dealing with the public and business
 associates over the telephone and, therefore, does not have an
 exact recollection of just what transpired on that day. To
 the best of his knowledge, he does not remember discussing
 with anyone the possibility of shooting KING and emphatically
 denied having any knowledge of the activity of the person
 responsible for MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s death.

[redacted] was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, also
 known as ERIC STARVO GALT, and failed to identify these
 photographs as being identical with any individual he knew.

[redacted] advised it is not uncommon talk among co-workers
 in and around the produce company and other individuals in the
 Memphis area to discuss the comments of KING while he was in
 the Memphis, Tennessee, area. [redacted] advised he may have made
 some general remarks regarding KING, especially since he felt
 the curfew in the Memphis area during KING's stay at Memphis,
 cost him approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000 in lost sales.

[redacted] advised that he receives and makes numerous
 telephone calls and specifically denied any telephone call made
 mentioning the shooting of Dr. KING or of any reference to KING.
 He stated that he had no knowledge of the shooting of Dr. KING
 while at work at the produce company.

On 4/19/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK & [redacted] Date dictated 4/22/68

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[redacted] advised that he had been in New Orleans, Louisiana, just before Christmas, 1967. He advised it is not unusual for him to travel in his capacity as [redacted] of a produce company to obtain various produce in certain sections of the South. He left work at approximately 6:00 p.m., April 4, 1968, and feels certain he heard about the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., on his car radio although it is possible that if he stayed at work that day past 6:00 p.m. his sister or his wife may have telephonically contacted him as it is common for him to call these individuals just prior to leaving work. [redacted] advised that he cannot be specific about his actions on April 4, 1968, inasmuch as he is continually on the go and is in constant contact with various individuals, many of whom are business people who are coming to him for the first time.

He reiterated he may have made disparaging remarks about KING, both prior to the shooting and after the shooting of KING, and stated he does not consider this to be uncommon.

The following description of [redacted] was obtained through observation and interview:

Name:	[redacted]	<i>Lai.</i>
Race:	White	
Sex:	Male	
DOB:	[redacted]	
POB:	[redacted]	
Height:	5	
Weight:	200	
Hair:	Sandy brown	
Eyes:	Bluish gray	
Scars and marks:	Scar on right side of neck	
Vehicle:	[redacted]	
Military service:	U. S. Army, US [redacted]	
Weapons:	Owns Browning Shotgun, Italian Mauser, and .22 automatic pistol	
Arrest record:	[redacted]	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/23/68

[redacted] home address [redacted] Memphis, Tennessee, employed as [redacted] 814 Scott, Memphis, was interviewed at his place of business and he furnished the following information:

To the best of his knowledge, he was at his place of business on April 4, 1968, and stated he did not recall exactly what time he arrived but remembered leaving at any time between 4:15 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. He called his wife at home just prior to leaving and she could probably verify the fact he arrived home sometime after 5:00 p.m.

[redacted] emphatically denied having any knowledge of the identity of the person responsible for Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s death on April 4, 1968. He also emphatically denied ever discussing with anyone the possibility of shooting KING although he admitted he had made the usual derogatory remarks about KING's action in Memphis, Tennessee, and also about the fact KING was partly responsible for the curfew imposed on the city of Memphis resulting in loss of revenue by his business establishment in the Memphis area. He advised he may have made statements to the effect that KING should be killed although he does not recall any specific statements made by him to this effect. He stated that because of the curfew, he suffered approximately \$40,000 in lost sales at the produce company.

[redacted] stated he frequently makes trips to New Orleans, Louisiana, to get strawberries and other produce and also because members of his family reside in the New Orleans area. He stated most of the co-workers, employees, and customers at his produce company know of his travels to New Orleans inasmuch as he frequently mentions his trips to New Orleans.

[redacted] stated that regarding telephone calls allegedly made by him or telephone calls to him on April 4, 1968, he specifically denied receiving any call where mention was made of Dr. KING or of Dr. KING's shooting. [redacted] stated most of his produce is purchased through telephone conversations and this

On 4/19/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK & SA [redacted] Date dictated 4/22/68

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inevitably involves talking about large sums of money over the telephone. He advised he did not receive any telephone call on April 4, 1968, regarding KING and stated he would have remembered any conversation over the telephone or in person which allegedly took place on April 4, 1968, involving the death of KING. He further stated he would have no reason for being involved in any action of this sort.

[REDACTED] advised he frequently taunts various individuals regarding racial matters and may have made disparaging remarks to some of his customers involving KING but reiterated he does not consider this uncommon among various co-workers at his place of employment.

[REDACTED] advised he has had no individual employed recently in late fall or early winter at his produce company fitting the description of the unknown individual described as having long straight, coarse, black hair, "jungle rot" on his neck, slender build, drop shoulders, tan complexion, 5'10"-5'11", 160 pounds, and "not a day over 25" years of age. He always employs Negro males for help in the produce department and any unidentified white male seen in or around his produce company would most likely be a truck driver or an individual who had come to his establishment to purchase produce.

[REDACTED] stated he left work between 4:15 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. and was not aware of KING's death until after his arrival at his home. He advised the first he heard of KING's death was from his wife or from the news media which reported it on television.

[REDACTED] was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT and he stated he had never seen this individual before. He was furnished other aliases used by RAY and stated he had never heard any of these names used in his presence. He then made a search of his records but could locate no record on any individual by the name of JAMES EARL RAY, ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMEYER, or JOHN WILLARD as ever being employed at his establishment.

[REDACTED] reiterated that he did not receive any telephone call on April 4, 1968, where mention was made of shooting KING or

any reference made to KING and stated he felt sure he would remember such a telephone conversation if it had, in fact, taken place.

[redacted] advised he has family members residing in New Orleans, Louisiana, and identified these individuals as follows:

Mother

[redacted]
New Orleans, Louisiana

Brothers

[redacted]
resides two houses away from his mother;

[redacted]
who works for [redacted] in New Orleans

~~brother of [redacted] who works~~

[redacted] who works for [redacted] in New Orleans, Louisiana.

[redacted] advised an individual who frequently is in and around his establishment is [redacted] 38 years of age, who was formerly a Shelby County Sheriff's Office deputy.

The following description of [redacted] was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	[redacted]	<i>Za.</i>
Race	[redacted]	
Sex	White	
DOR	Male	
POB	[redacted]	
Height:	5 10 1/2	
Weight	285	
Eyes	Grayish blue	
Hair	Brown	
Vehicle	[redacted]	
Arrest record	[redacted]	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/22/68

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

The individuals operating LL & L Produce Company were identified as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] described [REDACTED] as follows.

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	Approximately 35
Complexion:	Fair
Characteristics:	Pug nose, casual dresser
Eyes:	Blue
Height:	6'1"
Weight:	200

He described [REDACTED] as follows:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Complexion:	Dark
Age:	Approximately 40
Build:	Heavy
Weight:	325-350
Height:	5'10"
Scars and marks:	Scar on neck
Remarks:	Neat dresser.

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had closed his business early and was not available for interview and that [REDACTED] was at that time in New Orleans, Louisiana, buying strawberries for the produce market.

[REDACTED] was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT and he failed to identify this individual as anyone being in and around his place of business.

On 4/18/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK & [REDACTED] Date dictated 4/22/68

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Date 4/23/68

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[redacted] located and interviewed at his residence, [redacted] New Orleans, Louisiana, and advised as follows:

He is currently retired and living alone at this address. He formerly worked for a 17 year period with Viking Truck Lines, but for medical reasons was forced to retire. He stated that he is a diabetic with a heart condition. For that reason he cannot do strenuous labor. He stated that he has not been in telephonic contact with his brother, [redacted] in Memphis in several years and the only member of his immediate family residing in New Orleans who may have possibly been in touch with [redacted] would have been his mother, [redacted] who resides at [redacted]

He viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY stating this individual looked familiar but he could not identify it.

He stated that his brother [redacted] lives some where on the West Bank of the Mississippi River, exact address unknown; however, his telephone number is [redacted]. He stated that both his brother, [redacted] and [redacted] are employed with trucking firms and have been so employed for many years. He stated no one in his immediate family is employed in the produce business in New Orleans. He knows that his brother [redacted] occasionally makes trips to the Hammond, Louisiana, area to purchase particularly strawberries but has no knowledge of any other business contacts of his brother in New Orleans. He stated he would have no knowledge of any disparaging remarks made by his brother or any of his employees concerning KING or the Negro element.

The following is a description gained through observation and interview:

Name	[redacted]
Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'8"
Weight	300
Hair	Brown, bald on top

On 4/22/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

by SAS [redacted] TLC:man Date dictated 4/23/68

NO 157-10673

12

Eyes
Birth data
Occupation

Blue

[REDACTED] Memphis
Retired, formerly with Viking
Truck Lines

4/23/68

Date

1

[REDACTED] was interviewed in the home of her son [REDACTED] and advised as follows:

She is the widow of [REDACTED] and her maiden name was [REDACTED]. She was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee, and is 71 years of age. She and her husband came to New Orleans about 39 years ago and she has seven living children, of which three sons and one daughter reside in New Orleans.

She stated she saw her son [REDACTED] last Friday when he stopped in to see her after a trip to the Hammond, Louisiana, area for the purpose of purchasing strawberries for his produce business.

She occasionally contacts him by telephone and in fact called him a couple of days after the KING assassination purely out of concern for the family and to inquire as to the local situation.

She viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that it looked familiar; however, she could not identify it specifically. She advised she has no knowledge of the KING assassination, other than what she has read in the newspapers and seen on television.

On 4/22/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

by SAS [REDACTED] TLC:mah Date dictated 4/23/68
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Date 4/23/68

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[redacted] located in the vicinity of his employment, [redacted] New Orleans, and interviewed. He voluntarily furnished the following information:

There is only one member of his immediate family that is in the produce business and that is his brother [redacted] in Memphis, Tennessee. He has not talked to [redacted] by telephone in at least four years. He stated [redacted] is the oldest of the brothers and there are two other brothers residing here in New Orleans, at present. One is [redacted] who resides at [redacted] [redacted] who is a retired diabetic with a heart condition, having previously been employed by Viking for many years. The other brother is [redacted] who works for [redacted] Trucking Lines, and has for many years. [redacted] lives in Terry Town, just across the Mississippi River Bridge, and he believes the address is on Matador Drive.

He stated he was born and raised in Memphis and his father was in the produce business for many years, but none of the brothers in New Orleans are in the produce business. He knows that [redacted] occasionally travels to Hammond, Louisiana, to purchase strawberries but he knows of no other business contacts of [redacted] in the produce line in New Orleans.

He examined a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, and advised he has seen this individual in the newspapers and television and has no knowledge of the KING assassination other than that gained from the news media.

He stated he resides at [redacted] and is mother, [redacted] resides alone at [redacted]. He stated he would have no knowledge of any disparaging remarks made by his brother [redacted] concerning KING or the Negro element.

The following is a description gained from observation and interview:

Name	[redacted]
Sex	Male
Race	White

On 4/22/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
 by SAS [redacted] Date dictated 4/23/68
 TLC:mah

NO. 157-10673

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Height
Weight
Birth data

Hair
Eyes
Occupation

Residence

5'8"
185

[REDACTED] Memphis,
Tennessee
Black, graying
Blue
Truck driver [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
New Orleans
[REDACTED]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/23/681

[REDACTED] Louisiana, telephone number [REDACTED] advised that he was born September 18, 1936, in New Orleans, Louisiana. On January [REDACTED] at New Orleans, he married [REDACTED] and has one son and three daughters. For the past thirteen (13) years, [REDACTED] has been employed as a [REDACTED] at the West Trucking Company, New Orleans.

[REDACTED] stated that sometime just before the MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., assassination, exact date unrecalled, he telephonically spoke to his brother, [REDACTED] in Memphis, Tennessee. [REDACTED] made this telephone call from his mother's residence. The purpose of this call was to borrow \$200 from his brother. [REDACTED] did not make this call from his own residence, as he did not want his spouse to know about the loan. His brother, [REDACTED], wired him \$200 in care of his mother's residence in New Orleans.

While on the telephone with his brother [REDACTED] invited him to visit him in Memphis, or to meet him at Hot Springs, Arkansas. [REDACTED] advised that his brother, [REDACTED] follows the race horses and likes to go to a race track at Hot Springs, Arkansas, and bet horses. [REDACTED] discussed his winning and loses on the telephone with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] does not recall the exact amounts of money he discussed.

[REDACTED] viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and [REDACTED] and advised that he did not know either of these individuals and he did not believe that he had ever seen either of these individuals.

On 4/23/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

by SA [REDACTED] da [REDACTED] Date dictated 4/23/68

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RE: James Earl Ray

Investigation by both Memphis and New Orleans has failed to associate any of the [REDACTED] with the Mafia - La Cosa Nostra, or to Carlos Marcellos.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, [REDACTED] states that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Aka. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] two professional killers, are also involved in this matter. [REDACTED] claims that [REDACTED] allegedly met James Earl Ray at a Lion Service Station in Memphis the day of or the night before the shooting and [REDACTED] has been saying he works for [REDACTED] and is responsible for "getting" James Earl Ray. According to one of [REDACTED] New Orleans informants, James Earl Ray was seen at or stayed at the Pontotoc Hotel in Memphis approximately three days before the shooting.

[REDACTED] also refers to an individual by the name [REDACTED] who was interviewed by both Flannery and [REDACTED] and allegedly made a statement to the effect that according to one [REDACTED] met [REDACTED] at a Lion Service Station on the night before or the day of the shooting.

In connection with the information contained in the foregoing paragraph, [REDACTED] Aka. [REDACTED] was interviewed on November 19, 1968. His comments are set forth as follows:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/21/68

[REDACTED], Memphis, Tennessee, unlisted Telephone [REDACTED] was interviewed at his place of employment, [REDACTED], Inc., [REDACTED] Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, Telephone [REDACTED], and was apprised of the identities of interviewing Special Agents of the FBI. [REDACTED] furnished the following information:

[REDACTED] advised that he is familiar with an individual by the name [REDACTED] whom he met through [REDACTED] Aka. [REDACTED] shortly after the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. [REDACTED] stated he was introduced in August, 1968, to an individual known as Nick Flannery, who stated he was from the Justice Department, Washington, D. C. [REDACTED] advised that originally [REDACTED] had asked [REDACTED] to ascertain information from Negroes in the Memphis community concerning the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., but then asked [REDACTED] to obtain any information concerning the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., with the possibility that the "Mafia" was connected with King's death. [REDACTED] advised that he made no attempt to ascertain any information concerning the Mafia and the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

He stated that when he met Flannery, he repeated to Flannery exactly what [REDACTED] had previously told him, namely that [REDACTED] met with James Earl Ray at a Lion Service Station on the day before the death of Martin Luther King. He stated that this information came from [REDACTED] and was in no way information he developed on his own. He stated that [REDACTED] is known to him as a cosmetics salesman in the Memphis area and is known to drink frequently in Caesar's Lounge, which according to [REDACTED] is owned by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] states [REDACTED] is a former schoolmate of his and a legitimate businessman in the Memphis community. [REDACTED] states [REDACTED] is a nephew of [REDACTED], whom [REDACTED] described as a local Memphis businessman. He identified [REDACTED], Aka. [REDACTED] as a worker on a tug boat on the Mississippi River. He stated neither [REDACTED] nor [REDACTED] is known to him as a professional killer. [REDACTED] states both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are employed in the Memphis area and his only association with them has been

On 11/19/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA [REDACTED] RF:BN Date dictated 11/20/68

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44-1987

through the Club Caesar, which is owned by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] inquired about [REDACTED] who is known to [REDACTED] as a possible segregationist in the Memphis area. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] is of the opinion that if a car was used to go to Millington, as described by the news media, then [REDACTED] is the logical person, although no reason was given by [REDACTED] for this. [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] was of the opinion that if another white Mustang was used to assist the killer of King in escaping the Memphis area, as referred to by the news media concerning the CB radio broadcast, then he considered [REDACTED] to be the logical person to have a private airplane waiting at Millington.

[REDACTED] further stated that [REDACTED] is of the opinion that officers who were suspended for alleged police brutality within the past year are involved in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King. According to [REDACTED] does not give any basis for this.

[REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that he has contact with the Mafia in New Orleans, New York, and Philadelphia, although he named only one individual, one [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] as his contact with the Mafia in New Orleans.

[REDACTED] stated he has had numerous casual meetings with [REDACTED] and during this period [REDACTED] has volunteered certain information of his personal life to [REDACTED] including facts regarding the tragic death of [REDACTED] wife. While volunteering information to [REDACTED] regarding his wife's illness, [REDACTED] mentioned that his wife had become addicted to the use of narcotics during her illness and in this regard had cooperated with Federal Drug Administration Supervisor [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had asked [REDACTED] to ascertain information regarding narcotics from [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] described [REDACTED] as being unreliable and as attributing false information to [REDACTED] which information was actually rumored by [REDACTED]. According to [REDACTED] by originating these rumors in different areas in Memphis, is able to get a "play back" from various sources, which he uses as a means of lending credence to his stories.

[REDACTED] advised he could furnish no information concerning any conspiracy in the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. He said he knows of no individuals involved with James Earl Ray in the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Re: James Earl Ray

With regard to the allegation that Ray resided at the Pontotoc Hotel in Memphis approximately three days prior to the killing of Martin Luther King, Jr., a complete review of the records of the Pontotoc Hotel, 69 West Pontotoc Street, Memphis, on 11/18/68 for the period March 23 through April 8, 1968, failed to reveal any information concerning Ray under his true name or known aliases. [REDACTED] Pontotoc Hotel, [REDACTED] has 27 sleeping rooms at the Pontotoc Hotel, and that approximately 21 or 22 of these rooms are occupied by more or less permanent residents. He claims he himself resides at the hotel and he is positive that Ray never resided at this hotel during the past eleven years.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, [REDACTED] claims that a [REDACTED] Memphis, was advised by a ranking officer in the Memphis Police Department (Captain or above) not to go near Dr. King because something was going to happen to him.

Reverend [REDACTED] Memphis, was interviewed by Agents of the FBI on 11/18/68. Reverend [REDACTED] claims that he has known [REDACTED], a contract reporter for "Time" magazine, since approximately April, 1968, and has had frequent contact with him since that date. He claims that, in fact, [REDACTED] at the present time maintains a room at [REDACTED] residence.

With regard to the information [REDACTED] attributes to [REDACTED] Reverend [REDACTED] stated that those are not the exact words he has used in discussions with [REDACTED] and the statement attributed to him by [REDACTED] has been taken completely out of context and is inaccurate.

[REDACTED] refused to state whether he had any discussion with any Memphis police officer concerning Martin Luther King, Jr.; however, he admitted that he has had many conversations with ranking police officers of the Memphis Police Department in the past six years. [REDACTED] admitted

Re: James Earl Ray

that he currently does hold a grudge against the Memphis Police Department due to the fact that he is not satisfied with the manner in which certain officers of the Police Department have handled complaints he has made to the Department in the past.

Reverend [redacted] describes [redacted] as being an alcoholic who is currently experiencing marital difficulties. By "alcoholic", Reverend [redacted] stated he means that he has observed [redacted] commence drinking alcoholic beverages, namely wine and hard liquor, as early as 8 o'clock in the morning and to continue to consume these alcoholic beverages throughout the day and into the night.

According to the memorandum of Mr. Flannery, [redacted] claims that shortly after the killing a bartender overheard some Memphis policemen say there had been a "slip up" and that the assassination was originally scheduled to take place after the march for which Dr. King had returned to Memphis.

Since [redacted] was either unwilling or unable to identify the bartender, the Memphis Office of the FBI has been unable to conduct any investigation to determine the veracity of this allegation; however, a review of the records of the Memphis Police Department and the Memphis FBI Office has failed to reveal any information to indicate that such an incident was ever reported to these respective law enforcement agencies.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, [redacted] refers to a civilian having been observed lying in the back of a police car immediately after the shooting and near Mulberry and Huling. He got out of the police car, into another car, and was driven away.

In this regard, the records of the Memphis Police Department reveal the following:

At 6:55 p.m. on 4/4/68, [redacted], a white male, and [redacted], a white male, were both arrested at Second Street and Vance, by officers assigned to Police Tactical Unit #14, inasmuch as they refused to give the [redacted] fact that these individuals refused to give the [redacted]

Re: James Earl Ray

officers any reason for being in the area of the Lorraine Motel at the time of the shooting of Reverend King. According to the arresting officers, these two individuals were placed in a marked patrol car, questioned, and then transferred to an unmarked police car for transportation to Central Police Headquarters. According to Inspector [REDACTED], Memphis Police Department, the handling of these prisoners was standard operating procedure and most persons arrested by tactical units during disturbances during this period were transported to Headquarters in unmarked cars, one arrestee to a car.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, [REDACTED] claims that an unidentified Negro policeman was removed from his assignment at the Fire Station at about 5 p.m. on the day of the assassination. [REDACTED] identifies this policeman as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] also states that two Negro firemen were moved from the station a day or two before the shooting. One of them had reportedly told friends that two or three days before Dr. King was shot a telescope or binoculars had been set up on a tripod in the Fire Station and focused on the Lorraine Motel balcony. According to this memorandum, [REDACTED] in August advised Flannery that one fireman left the Department or was suspended, shortly after the shooting, and that he had been unable to locate either of them.

In this regard, Inspector [REDACTED] Intelligence Unit, Memphis Police Department, advised on 11/18/68, that on 4/3/68 he assigned Detective [REDACTED] and Patrolman [REDACTED], Negro officers, both of whom are assigned to the Inspection Division of the Memphis Police Department, to a security detail at the Memphis Fire Station, Engine House #2, located at Butler and Main Streets. This location is approximately one block from the Lorraine Motel. The purpose of this assignment was to observe the activities of the "Invaders," local Black Power group at Memphis. A number of the "Invaders" were rooming at the Lorraine Motel at this time. These two officers were equipped with binoculars and were stationed in a room at the rear of the fire station, with a view that included

Re: James Earl Ray

the room later occupied by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

In connection with this assignment, and prior to the time Officers [redacted] and [redacted] physically proceeded to this assigned location, it was determined by the Intelligence Unit of the Memphis Police Department that a Negro fireman stationed at the Fire Station and named [redacted] had taken an active part in demonstrations by the striking sanitation workers in February and March, 1968, and had been closely associated with black militants connected with the strike. In order to insure security for Officers [redacted] and [redacted] and to insure that no information regarding the Memphis Police Department Intelligence Unit's efforts to keep abreast of the activities of the "Invaders" was leaked to the black militants in Memphis, the Chief of the Memphis Fire Department was requested to temporarily transfer Fireman [redacted] to another fire station. This was done on 4/3/68.

In addition, on 4/4/68, Negro Fireman [redacted] was routinely assigned from Fire Station #2 to Fire Station #31, due to a manpower shortage at Fire Station #31.

On 11/18/68, [redacted] advised that by letter dated 5/18/68, Fireman [redacted] resigned from the Memphis Fire Department after thirteen years of service, giving as his reason for leaving "Personal Reasons." [redacted] advised it is his understanding that [redacted] has become an active worker with the NAACP at Memphis subsequent to his resignation from the Memphis Fire Department.

At approximately 4:15 p.m. on 4/4/68, Lt. [redacted] of the Intelligence Unit of the Memphis Police Department, on instructions from Inspector [redacted] proceeded to Fire Engine House #2 and removed Detective [redacted] from this station, leaving Officer [redacted] at this post. The reason for the removal of Officer [redacted] was due to the receipt of a telephone call on the morning of 4/4/68 by [redacted] for Senator McClellan's Senate Investigating Committee, Washington, D. C., to the effect that information had been

Re: James Earl Ray

received by the Committee that a Negro detective on the Memphis Police Department was to be killed.

Due to Detective [REDACTED] activities in attending meetings of the striking sanitation workers in February and March 1968, [REDACTED] had been threatened on several occasions. Inspector [REDACTED] therefore believed the telephone call received by the McClellan Committee was another threat directed against [REDACTED]. He therefore ordered [REDACTED] removed from his lookout post at Engine House #2 for [REDACTED] own protection. A police guard of two officers was assigned to [REDACTED] and his family as a result of this threat.

A review of the tapes of the Memphis Police Department radio transmissions for April 4, 1968, failed to reflect any transmissions from Police Dispatcher ordering [REDACTED] to move from his observation post and, in fact, it has been ascertained that no radio equipment was maintained by the Police officers at this observation post with which to receive radio transmissions.

According to this memorandum, [REDACTED] mentions something to the effect that [REDACTED] of the Memphis Police Department telephonically contacted the Lorraine Motel regarding stationing detectives at the motel.

In this regard, [REDACTED] was advised that he does not recall talking to any maid at the Lorraine Motel on 4/4/68; however, he stated he had been in telephonic contact on a number of occasions with [REDACTED] regarding the identity of certain individuals registered at the Motel.

It has been determined from the Memphis Police Department that on the morning of 4/3/68, Memphis [REDACTED] ordered [REDACTED] of the Department to send a detail of men to the Memphis Metropolitan Airport to offer security to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and his party. Police records reflect that Inspector [REDACTED] offered the services of the police detail to [REDACTED]

Re: James Earl Ray

[redacted] who was acting as chauffeur for Dr. Martin Luther King. Mrs. Mathews advised Lt. [redacted] Memphis Police Department, who is an officer in this detail, that they had not asked for police to be assigned to protect Dr. King, and did not desire a police escort. In addition, members of King's party refused to tell the police detail where they planned to stay or their itinerary while in Memphis. Inspector [redacted] while offering the services of the Memphis Police Department to Dr. King for security, escort, and protection purposes, was advised by the Reverend [redacted] an associate of King, that no assistance was desired and that they had not fully made up their minds where they were going with Reverend KING after they left the Memphis Metropolitan Airport.

At approximately 1:30 a.m., on 4/5/68, [redacted] a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Strategy Committee, advised [redacted] of the Memphis Police Department that this SCLC Strategy Committee had considered asking for police protection for the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.; however, the Committee had decided against this.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, [redacted] stated that a little Negro boy allegedly heard a shot and saw a man jump up from the bushes behind the rooming house (below the window area from which the shot is thought to have been fired) and run off. According to [redacted] the little boy has been identified and interviewed by Bureau Agents and the Memphis Police Department.

In this regard, a review of the records of the Memphis Police Department and the Memphis FBI Office has failed to reveal any information to indicate that any officers of these respective law enforcement agencies interviewed a young Negro boy who is allegedly the contributor of the above information by [redacted]. In this regard, on 11/15/68, Source One and Source Two both advised that [redacted] a "Time" magazine

Re: James Earl Ray

reporter, had gone throughout the Memphis area immediately following the King slaying, and was overheard asking leading questions of Negroes, namely, "You think it's possible that a police officer could have killed Martin Luther King, Jr.?" According to these sources, as a result of this, practically the entire Memphis Negro community has given vent to the rumor that a police officer had killed King. The sources claim this rumor has embittered a very large segment of the Negro community and has caused widespread distrust by Negroes against all law enforcement officers and has caused a serious community cleavage between the Police and the Negro community.

In view of the fact that numerous allegations have been made, either by [redacted] or his alleged sources, stating involvement of Memphis police officers in the assassination of Dr. King, Frank Holloman, Director of Fire & Police, was contacted. Holloman advised that shortly after the assassination of Dr. King he received information that a representative of "Time" magazine was circulating in the Negro community and asking questions of the Negro residents. His sources informed him that the general tenor of the questions being asked was to the effect that it was conceivable that the Memphis Police Department was involved in the assassination of Dr. King. Director Holloman advised that later he learned the reported "Time" representative was an individual by the name of [redacted]. He subsequently had an appointment with [redacted].

Director Holloman said at this time he informed [redacted] that he had received certain information indicating that [redacted] had, by his questions, created the inference in the Negro community that it was possible the Memphis Police Department was involved in the assassination of Dr. King. Director Holloman advised that he told [redacted] that if [redacted] wrote a story based on rumors and misstatements of facts such as he was collecting regarding the involvement of the Memphis Police Department, Director Holloman would institute a civil suit against him and do everything in his power to insure that [redacted] wrote only the truth and did not print such falsifications regarding the Memphis Police Department.

Re: James Earl Ray

Director Holloman stated that after his discussion with [REDACTED] has not again called at his office for any information, nor has any story appeared.

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BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP),
Also known as Black Organizing Power,
Afro-American Brotherhood,
Black Student Association,
Invaders,
LeMoyne Intercollegiate Chapter of the
National Association for the Advancement
of Colored People (NAACP),
City Organizers

On April 18, 1968, a third source advised that a black power group in Memphis which has been in existence for several months has until recently been known as Black Organizing Power. It is now known as Black Organizing Project (BOP), also known as Black Organizing Power, with five cells or parts, known as (1) Afro-American Brotherhood (AAB), primarily consisting of Owen College students; (2) Black Student Association (BSA), primarily consisting of Memphis State University (MSU) Negro students; (3) LeMoyne Intercollegiate Chapter of the NAACP, consisting of LeMoyne College students; (4) the Invaders, consisting mostly of high school dropouts; and (5) the City Organizers, comprised of young adults.

AAB has about 12 members; BSA has about 20 members; the Invaders has about 15 members; the LeMoyne group has about 20 members; and the City Organizers has about 20 members.

Source three advised that the BOP attempts to create pride in black identity, attempts to teach and promote the teaching of Negro history, and to promote black culture and obtain more employment for young Negroes.

The Executive Secretary of BOP is Charles Laverne Cabbage.

On February 16, 1968, Charles Laverne Cabbage personally acknowledge being leader of BOP, claiming he is the impetus of black power in Memphis, Tennessee, and that BOP's purpose is to stimulate in the young Negroes a sense of black identity, black pride, and black consciousness. He said his group follows the teachings of Student Nonviolent

APPENDIX

Coordinating Committee (SNCC) leaders H. Rap Brown and Stokely Carmichael but that BOP did not necessarily exist as a formal SNCC unit. CABBAGE further admitted he had made statements such as "Memphis should be burned" and "Memphis should have a good race riot," but claimed he did not mean these statements literally, merely endeavoring to shock the community into doing something to help the black race.

On February 27, 1968, a fourth source advised that at a public meeting on February 26, 1968, the EOP Chairman John Burrell Smith told a Negro audience, "We've got to do some fighting," and "You'd better get some guns. You're going to need them before this is over. You can't pray your way out."

On June 6, 1968, the fourth source advised that EOP primarily consists of about 30 to 35 young college and high school students and school dropouts, unemployed and not looking for work, who continually preach hatred of the white race and capitalistic economic system and advocating and predicting violence by blacks. The over-all plan of EOP, according to source four, is to scare the Memphis community leaders, both black and white, into fearing black militancy. The BOP leaders then hope to convince the community to fund them as a form of subtle blackmail whereby EOP can prevent racial violence. Source four said that EOP is more interested in publicity and money than in direct action, but is nevertheless preaching violence in an effort to scare the community.

APPENDIX



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
November 21, 1968

Title James Earl Ray, Aka.;
Dr. Martin Luther King, Victim

Character Civil Rights - Conspiracy

Reference Memorandum dated November 21, 1968,
and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.