

File No: 44-38861

Re: CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION / DOJ REFERRALS

Date: 5/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
1766(N)	4/16/68	MEMO FROM AAG, CIVIL RIGHTS DIV. TO DIRECTOR	3	3	b7C
1766(OUT)	4/23/68	AIRTEL TO JACKSONVILLE	1	1	b7C
1823	4/18/68	DOJ ROUTING SLIP & LETTER FROM PRIVATE CITIZEN	2	2	b7C
1824	4/19/68	LETTER TO AG FROM PRIVATE CITIZEN	2	2	b7C
1827	4/15/68	LETTER TO AG FROM PRIVATE CITIZEN	3	3	b7C
1866	4/12/68	LETTER TO AG FROM PRIVATE CITIZEN	2	2	b7C
1874	4/14/68	LETTER TO AG FROM PRIVATE CITIZEN	1	1	b7C
1875	4/15/68	LETTER TO AG FROM PRIVATE CITIZEN	1	1	b7C
1887	4/13/68	LETTER TO AG FROM <u>LOMAX</u> <u>POLL AND TRIBUNE</u>	3	3	-
2109	4/22/68	INTERNAL MEMO	10	10	-
2109(OUT)	4/25/68	LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR TO THE AG.	2	2	-
2572	4/24/68	LETTER TO THE AG FROM PRIVATE CITIZEN	1	1	b7C

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Re: CIVIL RIGHTS DIV. / DOJ REFERRALS

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			Actual	Released	
2578	4/22/78	LETTER FROM EXEC. ASS'T TO THE AG TO THE DIRECTOR	3	3	-
3072	5/3/68	JACKSON AIRTEL	6	6	b7C
4505	6/10/68	LETTER FROM AAG/CRD, TO DIRECTOR	20	20	-
4837	6/9/68	LETTER TO AG FROM PRIVATE CITIZEN	1	1	b7C
5197(IN)	9/23/68	LETTER FROM AAG/CRD TO DIRECTOR	7	7	-
5197(OUT)	9/26/68	AIRTEL TO MEMPHIS, JACKSON	2	2	-
5358	11/5/68	MEMPHIS AIRTEL	3	3	b7D
5899	12/15/70	DOJ MEMO - CC TO DIRECTOR	2	2	-
5904	2/1/71	LETTER FROM AAG/CRD TO DIRECTOR	19	19	b7C
5908	BLOCK- DATE 3/30/71	LETTER FROM AAG/CRD TO DIRECTOR	1	1	-
5942	4/24/74	LETTER FROM AAG/CRD TO DIRECTOR	6	6	-
6132	6/30/76	MEMO TO AG FROM AAG/LNRD	3	3	-

Memorandum

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: APR 16 1968

FROM : *SJP*
Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

SJP:JHF:ddc

DJ 144-72-662

SUBJECT: Unknown Subjects, Memphis, Tennessee;
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - Victim.
Conspiracy Against Rights
CIVIL RIGHTS

Pursuant to the telephone conversation between Mr. Long of your Bureau and Mr. Flannery of this Division on April 12, 1968, we are transmitting herewith communications received by this Division concerning the captioned matter.

We are advising the correspondents of these transmittals and that they may wish to contact directly the office of your Bureau nearest them.

We anticipate receiving additional communications of this nature and they also will be transmitted.

8968-T-470-15
APR 16 1968

*Airtel to SF: JH
TJH: CJK
4/23/68*

ST 109

REC-92

44-38861-1760

24
13 APR 1968

Flannery
Robert M. [unclear]

310373

[REDACTED]

April 7, 1968

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

Dear Mr. Clark:

Please have someone get in touch with me concerning
the death of Martin Luther King. There is a possibility that
I might have some information which could lead to the arrest
of his assassin.

Sincerely yours

[REDACTED]

44-38861-

44-72-1062
766
5
APR 10 1968
FBI

ENCLOSURE

CIVIL RIGHTS

PHOENIX DAILY NEWS
APRIL 17, 1958

Recognition of ... Received by ...

REMOVE THIS SET FROM
CHECKED CORRESPONDENCE
A PERMANENT PART OF
RD.

RECORDS
ISTRATION OFFICE

Dr. Johnson Missing For One Week

City police are searching for 46-year-old Tucson physician who has been missing for one week after failing to keep an appointment at St. Joseph's hospital.

Dr. Robert B. Johnson, of 100 W. Encanto, was last seen March 29 when he left his office at 1811 N. Country Club Rd. He told his nurse he would return in 10 hours later.

Officials at St. Joseph's said Dr. Johnson apparently never made it to the hospital.

The doctor is described as 5-foot-10, weighs about 175 pounds, and has a small scar on his forehead. He has brown eyes, graying hair worn in a crew cut and medium complexion.

Police said he was driving a 1957 white sports car when he disappeared.



King's Killer?

Artist's sketch of assassin, based on descriptions of man living in Memphis rooming house from which the killer fired. (AP Wirephoto)

Mrs. Brewer said the man was as tall as her husband—about six feet.

B. L. Reeves, a 74-year-old retired hotel clerk, watched the man as he talked to Mrs. Brewer.

"I seen him when she check him in. He had his back to me, but I judge he was about 5-foot-11. He had dark hair and a pretty neat hair cut."

Charlie Q. Stephens, in-room 6—between the room taken by Willard, and the bathroom—got a better look.

He saw the man when Mrs. Brewer was showing him room 5.

"He was clean shaven and had a long, sharp nose. He had normal eyes and a square chin. Thick hair at the front and receded on each side.

*See Phoenix
airtel 4/17/58
re Dr. Johnson
JHS*

44-38861-170

ENCLOSURE

44-72-160
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
APR 8 1958
F.A.D.
RIGHTS DIV.

April 23, 1968

Airtel

1 - Mr. Hudson

To: SAC, Jacksonville

From: Director, FBI (44-38861) — 1766

MURKIN

ST. 109
REC-92

The Civil Rights Division of the Department has forwarded a copy of a letter addressed to the Attorney General dated 4/7/68, from [redacted] Tallahassee, Florida. [redacted] indicates he has information concerning the death of the victim.

Immediately interview [redacted] for any information he may have in his possession and set out appropriate leads.

1 - Memphis

FJH:jdb
(5)

MAILED 12

APR 23 1968

COMM-FBI

- _____ Mason
- _____ Loech
- _____ hr
- _____ chop
- _____ sper
- _____ Mahan
- _____ nrad
- _____ li
- _____ le
- _____ sen
- _____ Hivan
- _____ wal
- _____ otter
- _____ le. Noon
- _____ me
- _____ ndy

7311 *Chen's pen*

2 APR 30 1968

JK

ROUTING SLIP

TO:	NAME	DI- VISION	BUILDING	ROOM
1.	Mr. Long			
2.				
3.				
4.				

<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PER CONVERSATION
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED
<input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE
<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> CALL ME	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION
<input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF _____		

REMARKS

More transmittals.

MURKIN

No action
Necessary

FROM:	NAME	BUILDING & ROOM	EXT.	DATE
	J. Harold Flannery	Main 1135	3831	4/18
				<i>File 4/18</i>

44-38861-1823

[Redacted]
Akron, Ohio, 44301
April 9, 1968

Attorney General Ramsey Clark
Justice Department
Washington, D.C.

0
MURKIN

Dear Attorney General Clark:

On Sunday afternoon, April 7, 1968, driving north on Interstate 71 in Ohio, near the Ashland exit sometime between 1:00 and 1:30 P.M. was a white male driving a car with an Alabama license plate 3-34652. His car was a very old model, very pale blue (almost white because it was so faded) with a top entirely rust covered and almost solid red-rust color. He drove at speeds of from 70-90 miles per hour, heading north. He attracted my attention first when he passed me, with his right hand covering his face, then cut his car immediately in front of me. On a very foolish and dangerous impulse indeed, I followed him for about half an hour. Each time that he passed another car, his right hand went up to cover his face. From his speed and attempt to conceal his profile I had the uncanny feeling that he was in interstate flight for some reason, and was trying to avoid being recognized. At the lower part of his back window was the sign KKK 2---. I could not see the last three numbers clearly. These were black numbers about 2½ to 3 inches high.

Please check the driver of Alabama 3-34652. Could he possibly be the murderer of Dr. Martin Luther King? Some 60 hours after the crime in Memphis, he could have driven to Ohio in that time.

This is no crank letter, sir. I am just trying to help out at this time of trouble.

REC-33

Thank you very much.

Sincerely, 44-38861-1823

No action necessary
See Bureau airtel (Miss) [Redacted]
to Mobile 4-12-68 [Redacted]
[Redacted] wrote
[Redacted] letter to Bureau.
JCS

Alton, Ohio 4/22/68 APR 23 1968 444

144-72-662
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
APR 12 1968
FBI

99
MAY 1 1968

7/16

April 9-1968

Attorney General Ramsey Clark
Washington - D.C.

*6
MURKIN*

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

E

Would you watch a re-run
of the hour long memorial
to Dr King - on Channel 2
on Sunday ^{evening} last - April 7th?

A man taking communion
in a Memphis church
(Catholic) strongly re-
sembled the ~~sketch~~ ^{sketch}
sketch of Dr. King's
murderer.

14 APR 23 1968
30 APR 12 1968
44-38861-1824
APR 25 1968

It might have been
Channel 4. I write a

*No action
Necessary
J.P.*

11 99
MAY 1 1968

W

letter - tore it up - and
then decided to write
again. It looked as
if he was writing two
very young children.

I wondered at the
time why so young
children were taking
communication with all
the adults.

The resemblance was
striking. I compared them.

Sincerely yours,

GREENWICH
Greenwich

[REDACTED]
- 1055

10 N

6

11-11-68

Memphis Tenn.
4-15-68

Dear Mr. Clark

I am writing this in Hopes
that this will be able to
help you. I was at [redacted]

[redacted] 4-4-68. Time 5:55
p.m. This is on the south side
Memphis. A man walk in and
said that King had been
shot. I left out and went to
my car. Then I heard on my
Radio that he had been shot.
Then I heard that the police
was shooting at a blue car.

Then I left [redacted]
when I got to Parkway-Hardendale
I saw this [redacted] car going East
on Parkway. Then the light change
44-72-662, 44-38861-1827

E

NOTE: Copy of letter received via routing slip from
F. Harold Flannery, Civil Rights Division.

APR 25 1968

Antid to M.E
under 2K [unclear] CP 70
1 K [unclear] [unclear] 4/18

2011

(2)

And I pull out and went
east on parkway. I overtake
him at parkway + Bellevue. Then
that is when I saw that police
transistor radio. Then I began
to wonder why he was listening at
the radio. And was driven a lot
wider car. but I was not thinking
that he could have been the
one that shot Dr. King or
know who did. The time this car
was at parkway - Lauderdale 6:15 AM
6:20 PM. 44-68. IF you can look
into this. I think you will have
your man. he had on dark red
vest ~~and~~ and the radio was semi. col.
The vest was. he was thin man
with dark hair about 20-25 years

(3)

Old. The car ~~was~~ he was
driver was white convertible
Olds. Aboth 1965-66 The lic. plat
was. BV-7925.

Mr. Clark I Hope This will Help
you. AND I DONT WANT MEMPHIS
TO KNOW THIS. YOU UNDERSTAND
I THINK THAT THEY WILL KILL
ME. IF THIS MAN SAY THAT
THIS WHITE CONVERTIBLE WAS NOT
AT PARKWAY LAUDERDALE
I THINK YOU WILL HAVE YOUR
MAN. MR. CLARK I TRUST YOU
BECAUSE CHECK ALL OVER MEMPHIS
IF YOU HAVE TO COME TO,
MEMPHIS. YOU CAN COME TO

[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL PLEASE ←

4/12/68

Att. of the Attorney General
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

C
100-1-12

Dear Sir:

As yet you have not located the killer of Martin Luther King, jr. The following may have no relationship to it whatsoever; on the other hand, it may be a one in a million clue.

I have a neighbor who formerly was a tile salesman, headquarters, Alabama. While a salesman he travelled the U. S.. He is, in my opinion, an intense racist, has written frequently in the newspaper expressing his views, and his son in turn brought to another neighbor racist newspapers from Mississippi. When his son returned from service in Germany, he had praise for Hitler.

OPEN RETIREMENT

The neighbor evidently began a floor-tile laying business two or three years ago, for a volks-type truck has frequently been at his house, cans debris indicate this, and very frequently, he receives packages via truck delivery. He leaves his home frequently and returns, frequently carrying packages into the house. I have heard the rumor that he obtained a rifle of special quality for his next door neighbor.

The man's son owns a white mustang Ford, and the last I knew, the son was working in Miami with an airline company.

As I said, typically a volks-type delivery truck comes to the house, and it has not been there for some time. In the two weeks beginning the Sundays of the 17th and the 24, there was an unusual flurry of activity around the house--across the street. A passenger car volkswagon appeared with young man, wife, and child and the rear apparently loaded with clothes. The young lady showed her face, and she may be a relative. The young man however during the several days he was here did not "show himself." Too, as I recall he had been at the house before, he or someone his age,-- and again had not shown himself. As I recall, the Volks passenger car reappeared for a second time with the family and again loaded with clothing, around the 19-23 of March. During this latter period a delivery truck--not the Volks, but an open one, appeared apparently loaded with square gallon or square five gallon cans. Nightly both the delivery truck and the volks backed into the neighbor's drive, the volks last *44-38861-1866*

W

Sometime around the 24, the neighbor's two cars, the Volks passenger, the delivery truck, all disappeared. The enclosed Volks floor-tile truck did not show up during this period. My wife and I went to Atlanta to a conference this same week

44-72-662
APR 25 1968
R.A.O.
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

22 APR 25 1968

NOTE: Copy of letter received via routing slip from J. Harold Flannery, Civil Rights Division.

Antel L. SK, add 2 days

214

and were away March 27, 28, 29. When we returned all cars were still gone. ~~xxxxxx~~ On the 5th of April ~~xxx~~ the man neighbor returned by himself with his personal cars. The wife no, and no other cars or trucks. It may be they all have gone to their home in Mass.

Anyway, this may have a bearing on the case or it may not. I know no more than this. If you feel it worthwhile I can give a name but I would rather not. The neighbor is my accross the street neighbor. Because we differ so strongly on our racial and political views we do not talk.

Yours truly, 



TAMPA, FLA. 33607

Complaint

RECEIVED
DEPT OF POLICE
APR 15 10 14 AM '68
CIVIL RIGHTS
DIVISION

Los Angeles
Apr 14, 1968

Dear Mr. Clark,

(yellow)

[redacted] introduced her mother
I think as a Mrs. Gault. Don't think
she knows her son is a killer - she
said if my boy whent had it would
kill me. Both drawings look like
me. The mexican drawing to much hair I
think to dark. face to rough looking - Boy looked
refined - jaw to heavy nose a little to thick
not mean looking - hair line on other drawing
a little better - I'm not sure about color of eyes -
of course hair could have been dyed.

EX-116

REC 137 4-38861-1874
APR 25 1968

44-72-662
5 APR 16 1968
R.A.O.

NOTE: Copy of letter
received via routing
slip from J. Harold
Flannery, CRD.

Airtel to LA 4/15/68
1-100 to ad [unclear]
[unclear] 4/15/68

Thank you -

[redacted]

JH
7/6

[Redacted]
Jackson, Mississippi 39203

Mr. Ramsey Clark,
United States Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Constitution Avenue & Tenth Street NW.,
Washington, D.C., 20530

(y r l l r l)

Honorable Sir:

About 9:30 PM, on the night of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther, Jr., I saw a white convertible 1967 "wildcat" with a Clarke County Mississippi tag number 120-134. This car passed me on South Prentiss (in Jackson, Mississippi). We were both traveling South; this car turned West on Central Street, and so did I. The next turn was South on Eastview Street, after our turn on Eastview Street, this wildcat abruptly stopped and parked.

As soon as I passed, this car turned completely around and headed in the opposite direction.

This car may not be in any way connected with the crime that took place in Memphis 2 1/2 to 3 hours earlier, but it was on my mind and it bothered my conscience.

L

If you think it will help in solving the case of the uncaught killer please check it out.

Sincerely,

EX-105

REC 15

44-38861-1875

4 APR 25 1968

4/15/68

PS: Honorable Sir: Since sending you the original of the above letter, I have seen and examined the sketch (in the News paper) of the suspected killer. So let me please add this: The driver of the white convertible Wildcat was White male fully matured. In his quick turn of his head to get a look at who was following him, he shook loose the long hair that was covering a ball spot on the back part of his head. So I urge you to please check out this above described automobile.

*airtel to JN (and 2 more) (det)
1cc - ME (and 1 more) (det)
1 copy det not airtel. CRU
7971/1
4/24/68*

44-72-662
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
31 APR 16 1968
R.A.G.
CIV. RIGHTS DIV. *JH*

NOTE: Copy of letter received via routing slip from J. Harold Flannery, Civil Rights Division.

LUMAX POLL AND TRIBUNE

A Monthly Poll of Negro Opinion
A Quarterly Organ of Negro Thought and Opinion

Alma Lomax, Editor-Publisher

1215 S. Tremaine
Los Angeles 90019, Calif.

938 - 8458, area code, 213

April 13, 1968

Attorney General Ramsey Clark
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I hate to be thought a quack, but I cannot get a very disturbing similarity of events which might relate to the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. out of my mind, and so, at whatever risk, I am impelled to write you.

I publish the above-named Poll monthly and the Tribune, a 'little' magazine when I can; but I covered the funeral of Dr. King for a newspaper, The Post, published at 2973 Sacramento st., Berkeley, Calif. 94705, a Negro weekly. I also serve The Post at present as a consultant, or contributing editor, in its efforts to build up its editorial content.

I just returned last night from Berkeley and after being away almost all week, what with the funeral, have just caught up on the daily papers; and I was struck by the similarity of reported activities of the suspected killer and a fictional killer I created in an unpublished book, "The Ten Most Wanted White Man". As the title would suggest, this man, who is sort of deranged by frustration over the continued humiliation of Negroes by the nonviolent movement and the continued violation of them by Deep South racists, picks out the ten racists from whose deaths he thinks the Negro would most benefit and goes out and kills them.

EX 11 REC 2744-38861-1887

I published the first five chapters in the Tribune. I am a former weekly newspaper publisher for 19 years of the Los Angeles Tribune, and I began the Tribune out of frustration while living in Tuskegee, Ala. in 1954-55. I started the Tribune, as a 'little magazine', as the Tuskegee Tribune, a mimeographed newspaper, and a large number of whites of the town, who were described by knowledgeable Negroes of the town as "members of the White Citizens Council" and Kluxer-types, subscribed.

6 APR 25 1968

I have as many subscribers among Alabamians whom I know or suppose to be white, as I do among Negroes — not that there are many of either.

Covering the Tuskegee City Council couldn't hold my interest, as I had suspended publication of the Tribune as a newspaper in order to write creatively.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
6 APR 16 1968

NOTE: Copy of letter received via routing slip from J. Harold Flannery, Civil Rights Division.

Art to LA (encl 2 Keray et al)
1-Att (encl) 1-PP (encl) 1-366 (encl)

Attorney General Ramsey Clark, 2

and I left Tuskegee in February of 1965 and returned to Los Angeles.

I have continued to send the Tribune to my southern subscribers, including the whites, whenever I have brought it out.

Beginning with the 14th number in March of 1965, I serialized "The Ten Most Wanted White Men", and continued into the fifth chapter before I got a contract for the book from Houghton-Mifflin Co. Other than in the first chapter where my hero, or anti-hero, conceived his plan as a way out of his frustration and lists his intended victims, I didn't in the serialization give away his plans or modus operandi. However, the idea was there.

Also, the entire book of 36 ^{chapters} ~~pages~~ has been read by Houghton Mifflin, which eventually decided not to publish it, on the grounds that the anti-hero was not believable, and by Globe Press, which rejected it, too. The first ten chapters were read, and rejected, last Summer by Harper & Row and have since been at Random House, along with the book's summary.

I hope you will not feel that I am suggesting that any of the ^{publishers'} readers of this book would be so insane as to assassinate Dr. King. However, the coincidence of your suspect apparently having abandoned a car in Atlanta, just walked away from it; belonging to the seaman's union in Mobile; renting the room in the rundown rooming house, and the actions of my anti-hero, or killer, is so striking that I hope it excuses this long and detailed letter. Perhaps it is my imagination, but the personality, the stride, etc., suggested by the newspaper stories, suggest my Josiah Herron, who likes to think of himself as "the Bronze Bomber", a sort of avenger of Negroes.

There is further the fact that while I was in Atlanta, I heard many people in the crowd outside the church and along the march say they feared, or had heard, that Rev. Abernathy, Stokely Carmichael, Congressman Adam Powell, and other Negro leaders were going to be "gotten". Some few people said they thought the killer might be standing on the sidewalk along the line of march.

I also heard that Negro extremists in Atlanta were planning to burn and blow up businesses, specifically Sears and others along Gordon Road, which is just above the Capitol Homes Housing Project where the car was parked in Atlanta. I lived from September 1 to Oct. 29, of 1965 in Atlanta and have a son in college there, though he is not an extremist or racist, and so have many leads there. I thought it notable that there was no mention of harming the housing project, even though many of the whites living there are openly hostile to Negroes passing there en route to shop on Gordon Road.

None of this may be of any value. However, I felt I had to relay it. Now that Mrs. King and Rev. Abernathy have resolved to continue the march to Washington, the same person or persons who were sufficiently exercised by distress as to kill Dr. King may attempt to harm them; and I felt that if I know anything which might remotely help solve the murder, I should relay it.

Attorney General Ramsey Clark, 3

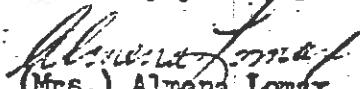
I do not keep the world's best records; but if you should like to look at my Alabama mailing list, I could type the names and addresses off the cards and send them to you. I think there are a couple in Birmingham.

My book is pretty much in disarray; one gets discouraged after three years. But if looking at it would shed any light, I think I could shuffle the chapters together. However, as you can see, I am wordy. It's about 400,000 words.

I will be at The Post Thursday and Friday, I think; but the address and phone number on the letterhead are my residence, where I do my other work.

I wish you the very best of luck in your investigation.

Sincerely yours,


(Mrs.) Almena Lomax
Editor-Publisher
Lomax Poll and Tribune

al/ml

P. S.: If you should have anyone from the local office of the FBI contact me, would you have them phone first?

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. DeLoach *DL*

DATE: April 22, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen *AR*

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Long
- 1 - Mr. Martindale
- 1 - Mr. McDonough
- 1 - Mr. Bishop

SUBJECT: MURKIN

This is the case concerning the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Attorney General's Office has furnished a copy of a "Time" report setting forth information received from John McFerren, a Negro of Somerville, Tennessee. We previously received information concerning this "Time" report and furnished pertinent information concerning it to the Attorney General in a memorandum dated 4/20/68.

Although there does not appear to be any substance to the information furnished by McFerren as set out in the "Time" report and the information furnished Bureau Agents by McFerren on interview which is substantially the same as that set forth in the "Time" report, we are completely running the information out. McFerren has participated in civil rights activities in and around Somerville, Tennessee, for a number of years. He has previously reported incidents to our Memphis Office, many of which were found to be without any substance in fact.

In essence, McFerren has reported that on the afternoon of 4/4/68, the date of the shooting of Martin Luther King, Jr., he overheard one end of a telephone conversation at the LL and L Produce Company in Memphis, Tennessee. The substance of the telephone conversation and the descriptions of the individuals involved as well as McFerren's belief that an individual who was previously employed at the produce market resembled Eric Starvo Galt, now identified as being James Earl Ray, led McFerren to believe that these individuals might be involved in the King murder.

Enclosure **ENCLOSURE**

EJM:wjc
(9)

EX-105 REC-69
↓ 5 ↓
CONTINUED - OVER

44-38861-2109

1 APR 29 1968

*Let, HG enc. "Time" report
55 ml wa, 4/25/68*

AK

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Re: MURKIN

In running out McFerren's information, Bureau Agents showed him six random photographs, one of which included the 1968 photograph of Eric Galt and he definitely eliminated Galt as the individual he saw at the LL and L Produce Company, and who he thought was identical with the sketch of the subject he saw in the newspaper. McFerren picked three photographs of individuals who are all under twentyfive years of age and do not resemble Galt at all. One individual in the photographs is known to be in prison at this time, and the other two are not known to have been in the Memphis area at any time.

MEMPHIS, TENN

Investigation disclosed that the individuals referred to in connection with the telephone call received at the LL and L Produce Company are Frank Camilla Liberto and James William Latch, President and Vice-President respectively of this company. They have denied ever discussing the possibility of shooting King or having knowledge of the person responsible. They stated they may have made derogatory remarks about King because of the loss of revenues caused by his activities. Mr. Liberto advised that he makes frequent trips to New Orleans for produce, has relatives in New Orleans and discusses large sums of money when making produce purchases over the telephone. Mr. Liberto stated he always employs Negro males as helpers in the produce department and has not had in his employment any individual fitting the description of the unknown individual previously described by McFerren.

ACTION:

1. Although the basic facts of McFerren's allegations have been run out and there appears to be no substance to them, we are continuing to completely resolve these allegations.

2. Inasmuch as the Attorney General has already been furnished substantial details of this matter, it is suggested that Mr. DeLoach may desire to return the attached "Time" report to the Attorney General pointing out the information previously furnished him in our memorandum of 4/20/68. A copy of the "Time" report is being retained in the Bufiles.

Egon
clm
JRM

- 2 -

Can be returned
by memo to A.G. - no
need of personal con-
tact. H

FROM A SOURCE WHO WANTS US TO BEND EVERY EFFORT TO PROTECT HIS IDENTITY WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING LEADS IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING:

1. ERIC STARVE GALT (OR WHATEVER HIS REAL NAME IS) IS SALLOW-SKINNED, HAS "JUNGLE ROT" OR SOME KIND OF SCARS OR POCK MARKS ON HIS NECK AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WAS IN MEMPHIS LAST FALL; HE WORKED AT A PRODUCE COMPANY THERE.

2. THE PRODUCE COMPANY SEEMS TO BE A BASE FROM WHICH THE CONSPIRACY PLOT WAS HATCHED OR CARRIED OUT OR BOTH.

3. KING WAS KILLED FOR DLRS5,000 BY A PROFESSIONAL HOODLUM.

4. THE PAYOFF -- OR AT LEAST THE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR IT -- WAS ARRANGED IN MEMPHIS.

5. KING'S DEATH WAS PART OF A CONSPIRACY INVOLVING AT LEAST THREE MEN (THE KILLER, HIS MEMPHIS CONTACT AND A "BROTHER" WHO MADE THE PAYOFF IN NEW ORLEANS) AND POSSIBLY SEVERAL OTHERS.

6. TACTICAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE PLOT SEEMS TO BE MEMPHIS, THE ORIGINAL PLANNING MAY HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT SEWHERE.

7. THERE IS AN UNINVOLVED WITNESS TO PART OF THE CONSPIRACY, WHO OVERHEARD THE ORDER TO KILL AND OVERHEARD FINAL PAYOFF ARRANGEMENTS.

8. THIS IS CONJECTURE, BUT IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT SEGREGATIONISTS INITIATED THE PLOT AND ASSIGNED THE ASSASSINATION TO PROFESSIONAL HOODLUMS TO CARRY OUT.

9. THERE IS STRONG INDICATION THAT LAW OFFICERS (EITHER LOCAL, STATE OR COUNTY) OR EX-LAW OFFICERS ARE INVOLVED.

(KNOTE FROM ROGER WILLIAMS -- WE ARE GIVING YOU THE

Date:

This is a
Time report
from Memphis.

es

See 11/17, DAB CRD
EJM, see 11/5/68
orig returned to A-4



REAL NAMES, AS FULLY AS WE KNOW THEM, OF THE CHARACTERS AND LOCATIONS, BUT WE ARE ASSUMING THAT -- FOR OBVIOUS REASONS -- YOU WILL NOT USE ANY OF THEM. REAL NAMES OR NOT, ALMOST ANY DESCRIPTION OF THE PRODUCE COMPANY AND ITS OCCUPANTS THAT DAY WILL PIN THIS STORY ON OUR SOURCE, SO BY ALL MEANS LET US DISCUSS THESE DETAILS AFTER YOU HAVE WRITTEN THE PIECE.)

HEREWITH THE STORY:

ON APRIL 4, AS HE HAD DONE EVERY THURSDAY FOR SIX YEARS, JOHN MCFERRIN DROVE INTO MEMPHIS TO BUY PRODUCE FOR HIS SMALL COUNTRY GROCERY STORE. THE STORE IS LOCATED IN THE HILLS EAST OF MEMPHIS, JUST OUTSIDE THE TOWN OF SOMMERVILLE, LESS THAN 100 MILES FROM MEMPHIS. MCFERRIN MADE SEVERAL UNEVENTFUL STOPS IN MEMPHIS. AT ABOUT 4:30 P.M. HE DROVE INTO THE PARKING LOT AT 11 AND 1 PRODUCE COMPANY, STOPPED IN ITS OPEN-AIR PRODUCE SHED, THEN WENT INTO THE WAREHOUSE BUILDING TO MAKE HIS PURCHASES.

AS HE WALKED THROUGH THE DOORWAY HE HEARD A MAN'S VOICE FROM AN OFFICE JUST OFF THE HALL. "THE MAN WAS SCREAMING AND I COULD HEAR HIS VOICE BEFORE I GOT INSIDE," SAYS MCFERRIN. "I STOPPED JUST INSIDE THE DOORWAY AND LISTENED FOR A MOMENT. I WAS STANDING IN THE HALL, JUST OUTSIDE THE OFFICE WHERE THIS MAN WAS SCREAMING."

THE MAN (WE'LL CALL HIM RED AND TRY TO FIND OUT HIS REAL NAME) WAS SITTING BEHIND A DESK IN A TINY 6' BY 6' OFFICE.

"HE KEPT SCREAMING OVER THE PHONE: 'KILL HIM. KILL HIM. I DON'T CARE HOW YOU DO IT. KILL THE SON OF A BITCH ON THE BALCONY.'" "

MCFERRIN LISTENED ONLY FOR A MOMENT. "THEN A MAN CAME DOWN THE HALL -- I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE CAME FROM, 'CAUSE I WAS SO BUSY LISTENING TO THIS MAN IN THE OFFICE -- AND TOLD ME TO GO ON INSIDE THE FOOD LOCKER AND HELP MYSELF."

MCFERRIN, WHO IS A NEGRO, PLAYED THE ACQUIESCENT DARKY -- A ROLE HE ADOPTED YEARS AGO FOR SELF-PROTECTION BUT SHEDS EASILY AMONG PEOPLE HE TRUSTS -- AND OBEDIENTLY SHUFFLED OFF. AS HE WAS LEAVING THE LOCKER FOUR OR FIVE MINUTES LATER THE PHONE IN THE LITTLE OFFICE RANG AGAIN AND A SLENDER MAN WITH A SCAR ON HIS NECK PICKED UP THE

KHMKYXKJESREKXXKXKX

PHONE, MUTTERED "YEAH, HE'S HERE" -- OR SOMETHING TO THAT EFFECT -- AND PASSED THE PHONE TO RED.

RED WAS IN NO MOOD FOR FURTHER TALK. HE SAT WITH BOTH ~~ELBOWS~~ ON THE DESK AND GROWLED: "DON'T CALL ME NO MORE, AND DON'T COME NEAR MY PLACE. YOU KNOW MY BROTHER IN NEW ORLEANS -- HE'LL GIVE YOU THE DLRS5,000. DON'T BRING YOUR ASS NEAR MY PLACE AGAIN." RED SLAMMED THE PHONE DOWN WITHOUT WAITING FOR A REPLY.

"I MADE OUT LIKE I DIDN'T HEAR WHAT HE SAID -- THEY THINK I'M DEAF ANYWAY, 'CAUSE EVERYTIME I GO IN THERE I PLAY LIKE I'M HARD OF HEARING," SAYS MCFERRIN. "I WENT UP AND PAID MY BILL AND LEFT."

JOHN MCFERRIN HAS NOT BEEN BACK TO THE PRODUCE COMPANY SINCE.

BUT FOR SEVERAL YEARS -- ABOUT SIX, SAYS MCFERRIN -- HE HAD GONE THERE EVERY THURSDAY. MCFERRIN SAYS THE PRODUCE COMPANY IS A HANGOUT FOR POLICE, COUNTY OFFICERS AND SOME STATE LIQUOR OFFICERS. USUALLY THEY SIT AROUND IN RED'S OFFICE, WATCH TV AND GOSSIP; THEY OGLE RED'S PICTURES OF BATHING BEAUTIES WHICH HANG IN FRAMES ON THE WALL. THEY ARE SNAPSHOTS, USUALLY SHOWING RED AND SEVERAL GIRLS IN BATHING SUITS AT A BEACH OR SWIMMING POOL. "EVERY TIME I GO IN THERE, HE'S GOT A NEW SET OF PICTURES ON THE WALL," SAYS MCFERRIN.

RED TRAVELS A LOT, MCFERRIN SAYS, IS OFTEN GONE FOR TWO OR THREE WEEKS AT A TIME AND IN THE SIX YEARS THAT MCFERRIN HAS BEEN TRADING THERE, HE HAS NEVER HEARD RED TALK ABOUT HIS TRIPS. RED IS A BIG MAN -- WEIGHS ABOUT 300 POUNDS, OVER SIX FEET TALL, WITH A SALLOW COMPLEXION AND WIDE-SPACED TEETH. MCFERRIN SAYS THERE ARE GAPS IN HIS TEETH, BUT I DON'T THINK HE MEANS THE MAN IS SNAGGLE-TOOTHED.

ONCE, ONLY A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION, RED HAD COME OUT TO THE PARKING LOT WHERE MCFERRIN WAS LOADING HIS PICKUP TRUCK AND SAID, "WELL, WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT YOUR BUDDY?"

"WHAT BUDDY?" ASKED MCFERRIN.

"YOU KNOW YOUR BUDDY -- MARTIN LUTHER KING. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT TROUBLEMAKER?"

"I TOLD HIM, 'I JUST TEND TO MY OWN BUSINESS,' "

SAYS MCFERRIN. "I DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO START NOTHING WITH ME.

A FEW OCCASIONS, MCFERRIN HAS OVERHEARD RED AND HIS FRIENDS, USUALLY COPS, SITTING IN THE OFFICE AND TALKING POLITICS. OFTEN HE HAS HEARD THEM SAY THE USUAL SOUTHERN SEGREGATIONIST THINGS ABOUT LBJ, THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, ETC. ONCE HE OVERHEARD RED SAYS ABOUT MARTIN LUTHER KING:

"SOMEBODY OUGHT TO KILL THAT SON OF A BITHC."

MCFERRIN SAYS ERIC STARVO GALT -- OR A MAN CLOSELY RESEMBLING GALT'S DESCRIPTION -- WORKED AT THE PRODUCE COMPANY LAST FALL FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS. "HE WASN'T THE KIND OF MAN WHO USUALLY WORKED THERE," SAYS MCFERRIN. "AND HE DIDN'T TALK LIKE THE OTHER MEN WHO WORKED THERE." GALT -- IF THAT'S WHO IT WAS -- WAS A SLENDER, DARK-HAIRED YOUNG MAN IN HIS LATE TWENTIES. HE HAD A JAUNDICED COMPLEXION, A RASH OR POCK MARKS ON HIS NECK (MCFERRIN CALLS IT "JUNGOE ROT") AND HE WAS USUALLY DRESSED "CLEAN AND NEAT." HIS HARI WAS BLACK AND STRAIGHT. HE SEEMED TO BE FRIENDLY WITH RED.

WHEN THE FBI SHOWED MCFERRIN MUG PICTURES YESTERDAY, ONE OF THE FIVE MEN IN THE PICTURES HAD "JUNGLE ROT" ON HIS NECK; ASIDE FROM THAT, HE LOOKED VERY MUCH LIKE THE MAN MCFERRIN HAD SEEN WORKING AT THE PRODUCE COMPANY LAST FALL. "THEY DIDN'T HAVE A SIDE VIEW OF HIM", SAYS MCFERRIN (HE MEANS THREE QUARTERS VIEW) "OR I COULD HAVE TOLD FOR SURE. BUT HIS FACE LOOKED ABOUT RIGHT, HE HAD SLENDER SLOPING SHOULDERS AND JUNGLE ROT HIS NECK. I PICKED HIM OUT AS MY FIRST CHOICE."

MCFERRIN HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING IF THE MAN WHO WORKED AT THE PRODUCE COMPANY IS GAULT. HE HAS ONLY A GUT FEELING THAT THIS MAN WAS AN ITINERANT HOOD, PROBABLY LAYING LOW FOR AWHILE AND USING THE JOB AT THE PRODUCE COMPANY AS COVER, PLUS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE MAN RESEMBLES NEWSPAPERS DESCRIPTIONS OF GULT. THE FBI HAS NOT DENIED THAT THE MAN MAY HAVE BEEN GAULT.

WHEN MCFERRIN LEFT THE PRODUCE COMPANY HE PUZZLED ABOUT THE STRANGE PHONE CONVERSATIONS HE HAD OVERHEARD. "I DIDN'T KNOW THEN WHAT THEY MEANT AND I DIDN'T WANT TO STAY AROUND THERE

NYK19/WASH -- PARKER -- PAGE 5

TO FIND OUT BECAUSE IT SOUNDED FISHY TO ME. WHEN I GOT HOME AND HEARD THAT DR. KING HAS BEEN SHOT, I KNOW RIGHT THEN ~~THAT~~ WE WERE TALKING ABOUT. MY WIFE TOLD ME THE RADIO HAD SAID DR. KING HAD BEEN SHOT THAT AFTERNOON. I TOLD HER HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN SHOT THEN - THAT IT HAD TO HAVE HAPPENED AROUND 5:30 OR 6 BECAUSE I HAD HEARD THESE MEN ON THE PHONE AT ABOUT FIVE O'CLOCK."

FOR FOUR DAYS, MCFERRIN PONDERED WHAT TO DO WITH THE INFORMATION. HE WAS SCARED; SCARED HE WOULD ENDANGER HIS LIFE BY NOT TELLING; SCARED THAT HE WOULD ENDANGER A BUSINESS HE HAD WORKED MIGHTY HARD TO DEVELOP IF HE DID TELL ANYONE. FINALLY ON SUNDAY EVENING HE MADE UP HIS MIND:

→ BAXTON (PLEASE PROTECT NAME AND USE FICTIOUS NAME); BRYANT OF THE STATE COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS MADE A CHANCE TOUR OF SOMMERVILLE (PLEASE USE FICTIOUS NAME) AND MCFERRIN DREW HIM ASIDE TO TELL HIM THE STORY. HE HAS KNOWN BAXTON FOR YEARS AND BAXTON IS ONE OF THE FEW WHITE MEN MCFERRIN COMPLETELY TRUSTS. (MCFERRIN IS A NEGRO). BAXTON WENT BACK TO MEMPHIS, CONTACTED AN ACLU LAWYER NAMED DAVID CAYWOOD (PROTECT HIS NAME TOO) AND THE TWO MEN WENT BACK TO SOMERVILLE, TALKED WITH MCFERRIN AGAIN AND ARRANGED A MEETING IN MEMPHIS - IN BAXTON'S HOTEL ROOM AT SHERATON PEABODY

FINALLY, THERE'S THE MYSTERIOUS EPISODE OF THURSDAY MORNING:
THE MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL NEWSPAPER IN ITS FIRST
WEDNESDAY NIGHT HEADLINED:- "FBI CHARGES ERIC STARVO GALT IN
ASSASSINATION AND CONSPIRACY, LINKS SUSPECT AND "BROTHER".
THAT INFORMATION HIT MEMPHIS STREETS AT ABOUT 11 PM WEDNESDAY
AND PRESUMABLY WAS BROADCASTED OVER THE RADIO EVEN EARLIER
THAN THAT.

SHORTLY AFTER SEVEN AYEM THURSDAY, A MAN NAMED ROBERT POWERS
(PLEASE USE FICTICIOUS NAME AGAIN) BEGAN MAKING
INQUIRIES ABOUT MCFERRIN IN SOMMERVILLE. HE STOPPED FIRST AT
MCFERRIN'S STORE - A COMBINATION GROCERY, FILLING STATION
AND LAUNDROMAT - AND THEN WENT DIRECTLY TO MCFERRIN'S HOUSE.
HE DROVE UP IN A WHITE CADILLAC AND MET MCFERRIN IN HIS FRONT

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YARD.

"I'VE GOT SOME URGENT BUSINESS HERE IN SOMMERVILLE BUT I ~~DO NOT~~ GET IT CLEARED UP TONIGHT OR TOMORROW NIGHT," POWERS TOLD MCFERRIN. HE NEVER REALLY EXPLAINED HIS PURPOSE FOR VISITING MCFERRIN. HE SAID ONLY; "I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU. YOU HAVE CHANGED SOME IN THE LAST EIGHT OR 10 YEARS. YOU ARE NOT AS TALL AS I REMEMBERED YOU AND YOU ARE NOT AS SLIM AS YOU USED TO BE." THEN HE ASKED MCFERRIN ABOUT A LITTLE-USED COUNTRY ROAD THAT RUNS IN BACK OF MCFERRIN'S HOUSE. "I TOLD HIM WHAT HE WANTED TO KNOW BECAUSE I FIGURED HE WOULD GET IT FROM HIS KIN FOLKS IF HE WOULDNT GET IT FROM ME. (POWERS' RELATIVES LIVE IN SOMMERVILLE) I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO THINK THAT I WAS SUSPICIOUS." MCFERRIN SAID.

POWERS WAS WEARING NEAT SPORTS CLOTHES; HE WAS NOT DRESSED FOR A HUNTING OR FISHING TRIP OR FOR A PICNIC AND, SAYS MCFERRIN, THERE IS NO ONE POWERS WOULD BE LIKELY TO WANT TO VISIT WHO LIVES ON THE DIRT ROAD BEHIND MCFERRIN'S HOUSE.

MRS. MCFERRIN WATCHED THE STRANGE MEETING FROM HER WINDOW. "ONE THING THAT STRIKES ME AS STRANGE IS THAT HE (POWERS) SHOOK HANDS WITH JOHN. AIN'T NO WHITE MAN IN THIS COUNTY EVER PUT OUT HIS HAND TO A NEGRO," SAID MRS. MCFERRIN. "AS FAR AS I KNOW HE HAD NO REASON TO BE VISITING JOHN OR TO BE ACTING LIKE THAT CAUSE HE AND JOHN HAVEN'T EVER BEEN FRIENDLY." (THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ENEMIES - THEY JUST HAVEN'T BEEN FRIENDLY.)

MCFERRIN CALLED ME IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING. HE WAS FZZLED, WORRIED AND SCARED. "THE ONLY THING I COULD FIGURE OUT THAT POWERS WANTED TO SEE ME, BECAUSE HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT LOOKED LIKE SO HE COULD POINT ME OUT TO SOME TRIGGER MAN."

POWERS IS A NATIVE OF SOMMERVILLE AND HAS A RECORD OF SCRAPES WITH THE LAW. HE HAS BEEN IN THE PENITENTIARY IN TENNESSEE (ABOUT 1935) AND HE LOST A BEER LICENSE BECAUSE OF ILLEGAL WHISKEY POSSESSION IN 1958 OR 1959. HE'S BEEN INVOLVED IN BOOTLEGGING AND IN OTHER SHADY DEALS AND IS BELIEVED TO HAVE MURDERED AT LEAST ONE MAN SEVERAL YEARS AGO. NOW POWERS LIVES IN NEW ORLEANS AND OPERATES A GULF STATION AND TRUCK STOP THERE AND IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT HE IS MEXED UP IN THE RACKETS. RUNS MOONSHINE AND DOPE INTO MEMPHIS AMONG OTHER

THINGS. (WE ARE CHECKING POWERS OUT THRU OUR NEW ORLEANS STRINGER DAVID SNYDER).

IT SEEMS A VERY FAR FETCHED COINCIDENCE THAT A STRANGE MAN ~~ON~~ ORLEANS - OF ALL PLACES - SHOULD SHOW UP ON MCFERRIN'S DOOR STEP THE MORNING AFTER THE NEWS STORY CAME OUT.. MY BELIEF IS THAT THE MAN AT THE PRODUCE COMPANY APPARENTLY PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER - THEY SAW MCFERRIN OVERHEAR THEIR TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS. BUT AT THE TIME THEY THOUGHT THAT MCFERRIN WAS DEAF AND DIDN'T HEAR THEM TALK ABOUT A "BROTHER" IN NEW ORLEANS. THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL STORY - AND THE FACT THAT MCFERRIN DIDN'T BUY PRODUCE THERE LAST THURSDAY APPARENTLY HAS CONVINCED SOMEONE THAT MCFERRIN ISN'T DEAF AFTERALL.

MCFERRIN NOW IS A BADLY FRIGHTENED MAN, BUT HE REMAINS FIRM IN HIS STORY AND HE BELIEVES THAT HE MUST TELL IT. " IT'S NOT RIGHT TO LET A MAD DOG GO LOOSE."

THERE'S YET ANOTHER INDICATION THAT MCFERRIN SEEMS ON TO SOMETHING SOLID;

A PART TIME WORKER IN THE PRODUCE COMPANY IS A MAN WHO IS OR HAS BEEN A LAW OFFICER. MCFERRIN DOESN'T KNOW WHAT DEPARTMENT THE MAN HAS WORKED WITH (WE ARE WORKING TO FIND THAT OUT, AS WELL AS THE MAN'S NAME) BUT HE HAS SEEN THE MAN DRIVING OFFICIAL CARS, WITH RADIOS AND WITH ANTENNAS AND HAS KNOWN THE MAN TO MAKE LIQUOR ARRESTS FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF LIQUOR. HE ALSO KNOWS THE MAN - AND OTHER SOURCES VERIFY THIS - TO HAVE OPERATED A BOOTLEGGING BUSINESS ON THE SIDE. HE IS THE KIND OF A MAN WHO WILL SHAKE DOWN COMPETING MOONSHINERS AND WILL LET THEM OFF THE HOOK IF THEY AGREE TO CUT HIM IN ON A PERCENTAGE THEIR BUSINESS. HE IS NOT ABOVE TAKING BRIBE MONEY EITHER, OUR SOURCES SAY IN SHORT, HE IS A COP AND A CROOK, NOT NECESSARILY IN THAT ORDER.

THIS IS CONJECTURE, BUT THIS IS THE KIND OF MAN WHO WOULD KNOW HOW TO TAKE THE RADIO MESSAGES THAT SO CONFUSED MEMPHIS POLICE LAST WEEK. HE IS ALSO THE KIND OF MAN WHO WOULD HAVE THE EQUIPMENT AND, PRESUMABLY, THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO IT.

NOTE TO TK.

The Attorney General

April 25, 1968

Director, FBI

- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Long
- 1 - Mr. Martindale
- 1 - Mr. McDonough

44-38861-2109

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

REC-10

X-105

Reference is made to my memorandum dated April 20, 1968, setting forth pertinent details relative to information furnished by Mr. John McFerren regarding his suspicions that circumstances which occurred at the LL and L Produce Company in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, might be related to the killing of Martin Luther King, Jr.

As you were previously advised, the owners of the LL and L Produce Company denied having any connection with the killing and Mr. Frank Camillo Liberto, one of the owners, advised that he had relatives in New Orleans and discussed large sums of money when making produce purchases over the telephone.

Other members of the Liberto family in New Orleans have been interviewed and they have advised that they have no knowledge of the killing beyond accounts appearing in local news media.

On the basis of the information reported by Mr. McFerren and the information developed through our inquiries, it is not felt further inquiries along these lines are warranted.

Returned herewith is the copy of the "Time" report previously furnished.

MAILED 3
 ENCLOSURE R 25 1968
 COMM-FBI

1 - The Deputy Attorney General

1 - Mr. Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General

- _____ Tolson
- _____ DeLoach
- _____ Mohr
- _____ Bishop
- _____ Casper
- _____ Callahan
- _____ Conrad
- _____ Felt
- _____ Gale
- _____ Rosen
- _____ Sullivan
- _____ Tavel
- _____ Trotter
- _____ Tele. Room

EJM:vea (9)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

~~APR 29 1968~~
 [Handwritten initials and marks]

MAY 1 1968

1968 TELETYPE UNIT

[Handwritten signatures and initials: "Jim", "R", "dk", "dk"]

NOTE:

The Attorney General's office furnished a copy of a "Time" report of information from John McFerren, Negro from Somerville, Tennessee. The Attorney General was previously furnished substantial information developed indicating there is no basis for McFerren's information. The "Time" report is being returned to the Attorney General with additional information developed in connection with McFerren's story.

OFFICE

RESIDENCE

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

Attorney at Law

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. 35203
AREA CODE 205

April 24, 1968

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

Dear Mr. Clark:

Because of the fact that Martin Luther King was a trouble maker as stated by former president, Harry Truman, and his conduct has created the loss of millions in burned property in the cities and several deaths, I suggest that instead of trying to arrest Gault, and prosecute him, that you start a trust fund and take up donations and build a monument of honor to Gault because he did the work you failed to do in taking Martin Luther King out of circulation a long time ago.

Martin Luther King has had this coming to him for a long time. Because you did not give it to him, now Gault has given it to him. I suggest that the least you can do is to take up free-will offerings and build a monument to Gault rather than trying to catch him and prosecute him.

Respectfully yours,

[Redacted signature]

Attorney at Law

[Redacted]

cc: J. Edgar Hoover

REC-44
EX 109

44-38861-2572
5-1
22 APR 26 1968

CORRESPONDENCE

EXP. PROC.

55 MAY 6 1968

346

Memorandum

TO : Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, FBI

DATE: April

FROM : Sol Lindenbaum
Executive Assistant to
the Attorney General

0
marked

SUBJECT: Re: Telegram from Congressman Selden

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Casper	✓
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. Conrad	✓
Mr. Felt	✓
Mr. Gale	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Sullivan	✓
Mr. Tavel	✓
Mr. Trotter	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Miss Holmes	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

me Selden

Attached is a telegram sent to the Attorney General by Congressman Selden with regard to the issuance of the warrant for the arrest of Eric Starvo Galt, later identified as James Earl Ray.

Also attached is a copy of my letter of acknowledgment, informing Mr. Selden of this referral.

*memo from to DeLoach
4-21-68 ETR/ma*

*Yett. to AG
cc to Deputy AG
AG & Callahan
4-21-68*

*memo to Congressman Selden
4-21-68 ETR/ma*

44-38861-2574

UNRECORDED COPY

APR 22 1968

ENCLOSURE

REC-14

44-38861-2578

EX 109

14 APR 29 1968

APR 30 1968 XEROX

MAY 6 1968

WUB253 (00)NSA285

NS BMB363 PDB BIRMINGHAM ALA 19 354P CST

HON RAMSEY CLARK, ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WASHDC

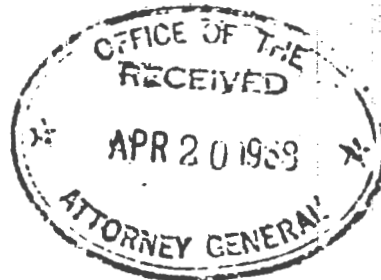
APR 19 5 3:02

PLEASE ADVISE WHY ARREST WARRANT FOR ERIC STARVO GALT WAS ISSUED IN BIRMINGHAM. FBI'S EVIDENCE REVEALED THUS FAR CLEARLY INDICATES THAT GALT SPENT ONLY A FEW WEEKS IN BIRMINGHAM AND THAT HE ALSO SPENT TIME IN SEVERAL OTHER STATES. THE CRIME WAS NOT COMMITTED IN BIRMINGHAM. THIS IS A MOST UNUSUAL PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW

ARMISTEAD SELDEN MEMBER OF CONGRESS

358).

733P EST APR 19 68



1 XEROX APR 30 1968

44-38861-7578 ENCLOSURE

April 22, 1968

Honorable Armistead Selden
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Selden:

The Attorney General has asked me to acknowledge your telegram of April 19 with respect to the federal warrant issued for the arrest of Eric Starvo Galt, later identified as James Earl Ray.

The choice of a jurisdiction in which to apply for the warrant was made by the investigators. Your telegram is therefore being referred to the FBI for reply. However, I might add that since the warrant was based on a complaint alleging a conspiracy that began in Birmingham, it was not inappropriate to seek it in that city.

Sincerely,

Sol Lindenbaum
Executive Assistant to
the Attorney General

APR 30 1968 XEROX

44-38861-2578

FBI

Date: 5/3/68

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Jackson, 4/24/68, concerning
"UNSUB, MISSISSIPPI LICENSE 120-134."

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of an
LHM disclosing results of investigation in this matter. It
should be noted there is no such license number as 120-134,
Mississippi. It was determined that license number 12D-134
is in all probability the license number that the complainant
observed.

Jackson indices negative re WILLIAM E. SIKES, JR.

Investigation at BMV was conducted by SA LAURIER
C. BUTEAU.

Investigation at Clarke County, Mississippi,
conducted by SA FRANK B. WATTS.

Investigation at Jackson, Miss., conducted by
SA ANTHONY E. DANIELS.

1cc CBU
22
ENCLOSURE

3-Bureau (Enc. 4)
1-Jackson (Enc. 2)
JLP/wgj

REC-15

44-38861-3072

16 MAY 6 1968

EX-115

79 MAY 1968

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Jackson, Mississippi 39205
May 3, 1968

UNKNOWN SUBJECT; MISSISSIPPI
LICENSE NUMBER 120-134.
COMPLAINANT - [REDACTED]

By communication dated April 24, 1968, FBI
Headquarters, Washington, D. C., forwarded a copy of
the following letter from [REDACTED] to the Jackson,
Mississippi, Office.

44-38861-2072
ENCLOSURE

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
MISSISSIPPI LICENSE NUMBER 120-134

On April 25, 1968, Miss Sherry Armstrong, Motor Vehicle Comptroller's Office, Jackson, Mississippi, advised that there is no such prefix as 120 for automobile registrations in the State of Mississippi, and further that there is no such tag number issued as 12-0134.

The 1968 Mississippi tag 12-134 is registered to Mrs. J.N. McRee, Quitman, Mississippi (Clarke County) for use on a 1954 Ford.

The 1968 Mississippi tag 12-1034 is registered to W. W. Buckley, Jr., Route 2, Enterprise, Mississippi (Clarke County) for use on a 1961 Ford.

The 1968 Mississippi tag 12D-134 is registered to William E. Sikes, Jr., Stonewall, Mississippi, (Clarke County) for use on a 1965 Buick, Vehicle Identification Number 464675X132855.

A review of the Road and Bridge Privilege Tax receipt for 1968 tag number 12D-134 disclosed it is registered to William E. Sikes, Jr., Stonewall, Mississippi, for use on a 1965 Buick Wildcat, white convertible, eight cylinder, bearing Vehicle Identification Number 464675X132855.

On April 29, 1968, Mrs. Beatrice Sikes, mother of William E. Sikes, Jr., operator of Stonewall Hotel, Stonewall, Mississippi, advised that her son, William E. Sikes, Jr., is employed at the Emporium Department Store, Jackson, Mississippi, and resides at 820 Eastview Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

On May 2, 1968, Mr. William E. Sikes, Jr., was located at the Emporium Department Store, Jackson, Mississippi, where he is employed as a salesman.

Mr. Sikes advised that on April 4, 1968, he worked

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
MISSISSIPPI LICENSE NUMBER 120-134

at the Emporium Department Store in downtown Jackson from 12:00 noon to 9:00 P.M., closing time. He stated he could not specifically recall whether or not he went anywhere that particular night after working but his usual procedure is to go home to his Eastview Street address immediately after work. Mr. Sikes could not recall any unusual event on the night of April 4, 1968, but assumes he went straight home after work. He advised that South Prentiss Street is less than a block away from his home on Eastview Street. He said he could not recall whether or not anyone followed him home this particular night.

Mr. Sikes advised that he is leaving the Jackson, Mississippi, area around June 1, 1968, and is taking a new position as a salesman with the National Jewelry Company, Ruston, Louisiana, and that his new address will be 1602 Ridge Street, Ruston, Louisiana.

The following descriptive information was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	William E. Sikes, Jr.
Address	820 Eastview Street Jackson, Mississippi
Place of birth	Meridian, Mississippi
Date of birth	December 22, 1924
Height	Five feet eight inches
Weight	One hundred sixty pounds
Hair	Gray
Eyes	Blue
Social Security Number	[REDACTED]
Military Service	United States Marines, Honorable Discharge
Marine Serial Number	[REDACTED]

Mr. Sikes is not identical to James Earl Ray

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
MISSISSIPPI LICENSE NUMBER 120-134

but does bear a slight resemblance in height, weight, and age only.

Mr. Sikes advised he has no information other than what he has read in the newspapers concerning the assassination of Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM : *SJP* Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: James Earl Ray, Subject;
Martin Luther King, Jr., Victim
Conspiracy
CIVIL RIGHTS

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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

DATE: June 10, 1968

SJP:ash

White
John
Robert
Donald

In order to secure extradition of James Earl Ray from Great Britain, affidavits must be presented to the British Court which establish probable cause that Ray committed the crime for which extradition is sought (the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King).

I attach, herewith, draft affidavits prepared for execution by the following seven individuals:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Ralph Meredith Carpenter | Guy Warren Canipe |
| Charles Quitman Stephens | John Webster deShazo |
| George J. Bonebrake | Robert A. Frazier |
| Donald F. Wood | |

The affidavits were prepared from the reports in this case submitted by your Bureau.

We intend to have these affidavits executed for submission as part of the case for extradition.

Before execution, each of the affidavits will be reviewed and approved by the Attorney General of Shelby County, Tennessee, Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., who is responsible for prosecution of the State's case.

REC 83

44-37761-4505

25 JUN 18 1968

11
ENCLOSURE

COPIES
508-93
FOR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TO HSCA REQUEST DATED *5-16-78*
(SEE BUFILE 62-117290)

80 JUN 25 1968

I would appreciate receiving any comments or suggestions you may have with respect to the attached affidavits.

John Rosenberg of this Division is in Memphis, Tennessee, and will be responsible there for securing execution of the affidavits of persons present in that City. Frank Allen of this Division, is in Birmingham, Alabama, and will be responsible there for securing execution of the affidavits of persons present in that City. Mr. Rosenberg and Mr. Allen will be in touch with your field offices in connection with this matter.

Attachments

STATE OF TENNESSEE
 COUNTY OF SHILLS

I, Charles Guffman Stephens, being duly sworn,
 depose and say:

1. I am 46 years of age and reside with my wife at 422 1/2 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. We occupy two rooms, a living-bedroom and a kitchen, in the north wing of the second floor of a rooming house at that address and were living there on April 4, 1968. Our apartment is number 6-B. The floor plan attached hereto and marked Exhibit I shows the relationship of the various rooms on my floor.

2. Mrs. Bessie Erwin is the resident manager of the rooming house. At about mid-afternoon on April 4, 1968, I saw her and a man standing in the hallway at the entrance to room 5-B, which is located immediately west of my living-bedroom. The man was a stranger to me and I assumed he was a new guest looking at a room. I got a good look at the man from his left side.

3. Attached and identified as Exhibit II is FBI Wanted Flyer 442-A. The photograph on the left, which is a profile view, is one which I identified on April 24, 1968 as looking very much like the man I saw looking at room 5-B on the afternoon of April 4, 1968. I have re-examined the photograph today and reaffirm that identification.

4. My wife and I spent the rest of the afternoon in our apartment. I am a disabled war veteran who has been treated for tuberculosis and spend most of my time in my bedroom. My wife is also ill and was at that time a bed patient.

5. After seeing the strange man with Mrs. Brewer, I heard someone in room 5-B and assumed the man I had seen had rented the room next door. On several occasions on that afternoon I heard footsteps in room 5-B and also heard footsteps leaving room 5-B and going past my room and into the common bathroom at the east end of the hall. I was very much aware that when the person went from room 5-B to the bathroom, he remained in the bathroom for a considerable period of time. This was particularly noticeable because this is a common bathroom which must be used by a number of different tenants. I also recall specifically that on only one occasion did I hear the commode being flushed and I was therefore curious as to why this person was spending so much time in the bathroom.

6. During this period, Mr. Willis Anschutz, who occupies room 4-B, immediately west of room 5-B where the new tenant apparently was located, knocked on my door and inquired angrily as to who was staying in the bathroom so long.

7. At the end of the afternoon, sometime between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. I was in the kitchen of our apartment, which is immediately adjacent to the common bathroom. At that time I heard a sound which I am certain was a shot. I am certain it came from the bathroom, from a point within just a few feet of where I was sitting.

8. Immediately after hearing the shot, I heard some people located across the street, east of my building in the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel, screaming. After a few moments, I walked out of my kitchen, through the living-bedroom, and opened the door leading to the hallway. I saw a man running west down the hallway, away from me. This man was carrying a large bundle of some kind. I estimate that this bundle or package was at least 3 or 4 feet long and 6 to 8 inches thick. Although I saw the man and the bundle only momentarily, I had the impression that the bundle was wrapped in something, possibly a newspaper. The man continued running to the end of the hallway, then turned left (south) and apparently thereafter ran down the stairway and on to the street, although I did not actually see his going down the stairway.

9. Although I did not see the face of the man running down the hall, since his back was toward me, from my observation of him I believe he was the same man I had earlier seen with Mrs. Brewer in front of room 5-B.

CHARLES QUITMAN STEPHENS

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this _____ day of June, 1968.

ADVERTISE

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
COUNTY OF SHELBY) ss:

I, RALPH WERNITH CARPENTER, being duly sworn, depose and say:

1. On April 4, 1968, I was employed as a salesman at the York Arms Company, located at 162 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

2. At approximately 4:00p.m. on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, a man entered the store and stated that he wished to purchase some binoculars. I obtained for him a pair of 7 by 35 Bushnell binoculars from the display window in the front of the store. The total cost of the binoculars, together with a leather or similar type carrying case, was \$41.50.

3. The store does not record or maintain serial numbers for these binoculars, and I do not know what, if any, serial number was on these binoculars.

4. On April 16, 1968, I was visited by two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who exhibited to me the photographs of five men. After studying the photographs carefully, I placed my name on the back of the photograph which I felt most resembled the man who bought the set of binoculars from me on April 4, 1968. I was not furnished any names or any descriptive data regarding the photographs shown. Attached as Exhibit I is a photograph which is identical to the one I identified on April 16, 1968.

5. I have re-examined this photograph and reaffirm today my identification of it.

EARLE KENNETH CARPENTER

Sworn to before me
this _____ day of
June, 1900.

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission expires:

A F F I D A V I T

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA) ss:

GEORGE J. BORNBAKE, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am 46 years old and I live at 12114 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland.

2. I am a Fingerprint Examiner in the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C. I have held this position since October 1951. I have attended schools and other training classes conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to qualify me for my position. During the time I have been a Fingerprint Examiner, I have made millions of fingerprint comparisons for identification purposes. I have testified as a fingerprint expert witness in numerous cases in federal and state courts as well as in military courts-martial with regard to my findings based on comparisons of fingerprints.

3. On April 5, 1968, at approximately 5:15 a.m., at the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, I received certain objects of evidence from Special Agent Robert Fitzpatrick. These objects were identified to me as being part of the investigation into the shooting of Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee, on the previous day. Among the items delivered to me were a Remington Model 760 rifle, serial number 401470, with Redfield telescopic sight number A 17350, and a pair of 7 by 35 Bushnell binoculars, serial number DQ 408164. I examined each of these objects for latent fingerprints, and subsequently on April 5, 1968,

I developed one latent fingerprint on the rifle, one latent fingerprint on the telescopic sight, and one latent fingerprint on the binoculars. These were the only latent prints on these objects which contained sufficient ridge characteristics to be of value for identification purposes.

4. On April 19, 1960, I identified each of the afore-mentioned three latent prints as being the fingerprints of James Earl Ray. I made this determination by comparing the latent prints with a fingerprint card containing the known fingerprints of James Earl Ray, which were obtained by officials of the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles, California, on October 11, 1959. The fingerprint card made by the Los Angeles Police Department is contained in the official fingerprint files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C. I determined that the latent fingerprint on the Remington rifle and the latent fingerprint on the binoculars were identical to the left thumbprint of James Earl Ray, and that the latent fingerprint on the telescopic sight was identical to the right ring-fingerprint of James Earl Ray.

5. The official fingerprint files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington also contain the fingerprint record of James Earl Ray, taken in connection with his incarceration in the Missouri State Penitentiary on March 17, 1960, following a conviction of first degree robbery. I have compared the fingerprints of James Earl Ray taken in connection with his arrest on October 11, 1959, by the Los Angeles Police Department with the fingerprints taken in connection with the incarceration of James Earl Ray in the Missouri State Penitentiary on March 17, 1960, and I have determined that these prints are of the same person.

6. Attached as Exhibit I is a photographic copy of the known prints of James Earl Ray, taken in connection with his arrest on October 11, 1969, by the Los Angeles, California Police Department. Attached as Exhibits II, III and IV are three photographs, each depicting one of the afore-mentioned three latent fingerprints developed by me respectively on the rifle, the telescopic sight, and the binoculars.

GEORGE J. BOWEN

Sworn to before me
this _____ day of
June, 1969.

WALTER PERRY

My Commission expires:

AFFIDAVIT

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM }
STATE OF ALABAMA } ss:

I, Donald F. Wood, being duly sworn, depose and say:

1. I reside at 405 Lance Lane, Birmingham, Alabama, and am employed by my father, Robert E. Wood, Sr., at his store, Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham, Alabama, as a salesman.

2. On Friday, March 29, 1968, in the early afternoon I observed Mr. U. L. Baker, also a salesman at the Aeromarine Supply Company, completing the sale of a rifle to an individual unknown to me. The purchaser had given his name as Harvey Lowmeyer. He purchased a Remington Model 700, caliber .243 Winchester with a Redfield scope mounted thereon, and 20 rounds of .243 ammunition.

3. Either later that afternoon or early the following morning (Saturday) someone identifying himself as Lowmeyer called on the telephone and stated that he had had a conversation with his brother and had decided that he wished to exchange the rifle he had purchased for a Remington Model 760, 30.06 caliber. I agreed to make this exchange at additional cost.

4. At approximately 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 30, 1968, the same individual returned to the store with the gun he had previously purchased. I told him that I would change the scope from the caliber .243 rifle to the

model 760, but that it would take me until approximately 3:00 in the afternoon.

5. He returned that afternoon and I gave him the model 760 gun with the scope mounted on it. The serial number of the gun was 461476, and a copy of the sales invoice is attached to this affidavit as Exhibit I. I also exchanged the box of .243 caliber ammunition for a box of 30.06 ammunition. I did not charge him the additional amount as anticipated because the base and rings used for mounting the scope on the second gun were less expensive and made up the difference. The purchaser left the store carrying the gun in a cardboard box utilized by the Browning Manufacturing Company. This box was given to him because, with the scope mounted on it, the rifle would not fit in the normal Remington box.

6. On April 16, 1968, I was visited by two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and shown photographs of seven white males. After viewing the group of photographs, which were identified to me only by number, and after careful consideration, I selected the photograph which had been marked No. 5 (attached to this affidavit as Exhibit II) as the man to whom the rifle was sold on March 29, 1968, and who returned it to me on March 30, 1968, in exchange for a Remington Model 760. At that time I advised the agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation as follows: "I can't say exactly at this time but I think this is the man. To the best of my memory I believe that this is the man that bought the gun."

7. Upon examining the photograph again today I reaffirm the statement I made on April 16, 1968, to the agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

DONALD F. WOOD

Sworn to before me this
 day of June, 1968.

AFFIDAVIT

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM)
STATE OF ALABAMA) ss;

I, John Webster De Shazo, being duly sworn,
depose and say:

1. I reside at 17 Montevello Lane, Mountain Brook, Alabama, and am a regular and frequent customer at the Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham, Alabama.

2. On March 29, 1968, I went to the Aeromarine Supply Company, arriving sometime around 3:00 p.m. I stayed there for approximately one to one and one-half hours.

3. About 20 minutes after I arrived, a man in a dark brown business suit came into the store. He looked at and handled several different weapons and finally decided to buy a Remington Model 700, caliber .243 Winchester. He also wanted a Redfield variable scope.

4. I recall saying to this man, "You have really got quite a gun there. You'll have to learn how to use it." I made this statement because the man did not appear to be a hunter and looked out of place in the store. He replied that he was going deer-hunting in Wisconsin with his brother or brother-in-law who had invited him to hunt.

5. On April 16, 1968, I was visited by two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who showed me seven photographs of white males. From this group of photographs, which were identified to me only by number, I selected the photograph which had been marked

No. 5 (attached to this affidavit as Exhibit I)
as the photograph of the man who could be identical with
the one I observed on March 29, 1960, at the Aero-
marine Supply Company in Birmingham and who purchased
the Remington caliber .243 Winchester rifle and Redfield
variable scope. I then told the agents: "I believe
this is a photograph of this man, but I could be more
positive if I saw this purchaser in person."

6. I have reexamined this photograph and re-
affirm today my identification of it.

JOHN WEBSTER DE BIAZO

Sworn to before me this
_____ day of June, 1960.

A F F I D A V I T

CITY OF MEMPHIS)
) ss:
STATE OF TENNESSEE)

I, GUY WARREN CANIPE, Jr., being duly sworn
depose and say:

1. I reside at 1078 Brower Road, Memphis,
Tennessee, and am the owner of the Canipe Amusement
Company, 424 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee.
My store is located immediately adjacent to the rooming
house at 422 1/2 South Main Street in Memphis.

2. My store was closed and unattended most of the
day on April 4, 1968, and I returned to it shortly after
5:00 p.m.

3. Sometime around 6:00 p.m., I heard a thud in the
vicinity of the front door of my store. When I looked
up I saw a bundle lying in front of the door to the store.
Almost simultaneously, I saw a white man walking on the
sidewalk in front of the store.

4. I then walked onto the sidewalk to see what
had happened to the man who had dropped this bundle.
At that time a small white car, in which there was only
the driver as occupant, pulled away from the curb just
south of my store.

5. Immediately thereafter, I saw a deputy sheriff
and other officers walking south on the sidewalk past
my store. I called their attention to the bundle lying
in front of my store.

6. The bundle or package appeared to include a
large pasteboard box, the top of which was ajar and
from which the portion of a gun barrel was extended.
Some type of green cloth was over the top of the bundle.

The box had the word "Browning" on it. There was also some type of suitcase or brief case underneath the cloth.

7. The bundle was taken into custody by officers of the Memphis Police Department.

GUY WALTER CANIPÉ, JR.

Sworn to before me
this _____ day of
June, 1968.

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission expires:

AFFIDAVIT

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA) ss:

ROBERT A. FRASLER, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am 49 years old and I reside at 2705 Gaither Street, Hillcrest Heights, Maryland.

2. I obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Idaho in 19 . I have been a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation since December 1942. I am Chief of the Firearms Unit of the Physics and Chemistry Section of the Federal Bureau of Investigation laboratories in Washington, D. C. I have been assigned to the Firearms Unit continuously since June 9, 1941. I received the specialized training program in firearms identification of approximately one year; duration from the Federal Bureau of Investigation when I was initially assigned to the Firearms Unit. Since being assigned to this unit I have made thousands of comparisons of bullets and cartridge cases with firearms for the purpose of determining whether a particular firearm fired a certain bullet or cartridge case. I have testified on numerous occasions in federal and state courts, as well as in military courts martial, as a firearms identification expert witness.

3. On April 5, 1968, at the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory, I received certain items of evidence from Special Agent Fitzpatrick, who had brought

them by airplane from Memphis, Tennessee. These objects has been obtained in connection with the investigation of the shooting of Martin Luther King on the previous day.

4. Among the items of evidence I received was a 30.06 Springfield caliber Remington "Gamemaster" Slide-action rifle Model 760, Serial Number 461470, with Redfield telescopic sight, Serial Number A17350, with clip. I also received from Special Agent Fitzpatrick a .30 caliber metal-jacketed "soft-point" sporting type Remington-Peters bullet, a 30.06 Springfield Remington-Peters cartridge case, and Peters cartridge box, bearing manufacturers index number 3053 containing five 30.06 Springfield Remington-Peters cartridges and four 30.06 Springfield U. S. military cartridges containing full metal-jacketed bullets.

5. Because of distortion due to mutilation and insufficient marks of value, it was not possible to establish that the submitted bullet was fired from the submitted rifle. However, I determined that the .30-caliber metal-jacketed rifle bullet had been fired from a barrel rifled with six lands and grooves, right twist, and that the submitted rifle produces general rifling impressions on fired bullets having the physical characteristics of those on the submitted bullet. I also determined that the submitted bullet was a 150-grain soft point bullet identical to the bullets in the five cartridges contained in the submitted Peters cartridge box.

6. The 30.06 Springfield Remington-Peters cartridge case was identified by me as bearing an extractor mark made by the extractor of the submitted rifle. Based on physical characteristics, I determined that the submitted bullet and the submitted cartridge case could originally have been portions of the same cartridge, which would have been similar to the cartridges in the Peters cartridge box.

7. On April 6, 1968, I received a window sill from Special Agent Fitzpatrick. This sill was identified to me as having been removed from the bathroom of the room house at 422 1/2 Main Street in Memphis, Tennessee. I examined the surface of this window sill and found a recent indentation which bore microscopic impressions. Even though there were not sufficient microscopic impressions in the indentation for positive identification of the object which made it, these impressions on the dent have characteristics similar to those produced by the polishing marks on the side of the barrel of the submitted rifle near its muzzle.

ROBERT A. FRAZIER

Sworn to before me this
_____ day of June, 1968.

*General
C... ..*

[Redacted]

June 9, 1968

EXP-PROC.

Markin

U. S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Attorney General Clark:

I saw you on television on the ABC program today and you captured some ground that you had previously lost.

I agree with you that part of our trouble is a state of mind. In the south, looters would be annihilated and they know it.

My principle purpose in writing to you is to suggest that after the greatest man-hunt in the Nation's history and the great necessity for a trial that you take no chances in bringing James Earl Ray back to this country.

Don't even take a chance with one boog. Send
no.

Hoping that you look upon this with all seriousness, I remain,

Very truly yours,

EX-116' 99-338

44-38861-4837

[Redacted]

15 JUN 12 1968

CAL/rtcl
cc J. Edgar Hoover
U. S. Senator Allen J. Ellender

7/3/68
1968

Sady
SIX

[REDACTED]
Jackson, Mississippi 39203

Mr. Ramsey Clark,
United States Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Constitution Avenue & Tenth Street NW.,
Washington, D.C., 20530

Honorable Sir:

About 9:30 PM, on the night of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther, Jr., I saw a white convertible 1967 "Wildcat" with a Clarke County Mississippi tag number 120-134. This car passed me on South Prentiss (in Jackson, Mississippi). We were both traveling South; this car turned West on Central Street, and so did I. The next turn was South on Eastview Street, after our turn on Eastview Street, this wildcat abruptly stopped and parked.

As soon as I passed, this car turned completely around and headed in the opposite direction.

This car may not be in any way connected with the crime that took place in Memphis 2 1/2 to 3 hours earlier, but it was on my mind and it bothered my conscience.

If you think it will help in solving the case of the uncaught killer please check it out.

Sincerely,

V. P. Collier

VRC/111

4/15/68

PS: Honorable Sir: Since sending you the original of the above letter, I have seen and examined the sketch (in the News paper) of the suspected killer. So let me please add this: The driver of the white convertible Wildcat was White male fully matured. In his quick turn of his head to get a look at who was following him, he shook loose the long hair that was covering a bald spot on the back part of his head. So I urge you to please check out this above described automobile.

44-38861-3072

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

TO : The Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: SFP 22 1968

FROM : *SJP* Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

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

SUBJECT: James Earl Ray, Subject;
Martin Luther King, Jr., Victim;
Conspiracy Against Rights
CIVIL RIGHTS

1292 Kirk Circle

Attached is a copy of a memorandum of an interview which J. Harold Flannery, Deputy Section Chief of this Division's Central Section, had with William Sartor of Greenville, Mississippi. Mr. Sartor was identified to Mr. Flannery as a reporter who had been inquiring into the possible existence of a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Sartor described himself to Mr. Flannery as a contract writer for Time, Inc., who has covered racial matters in Memphis, Tennessee.

As part of the full investigation of this matter requested by the Attorney General and confirmed in my memorandum of April 4, 1968, please follow out all leads indicated in the attached memorandum if you have not already done so.

ENCLOSURE

Attachment

REC-51

44-38861-5197

ST-116

14 SEP 27 1968

Mr. Pollak

September 17, 1968
JHP:swb

J. Harold Flannery

James Earl Ray, Subject;
Martin Luther King, Jr., Victim.
Conspiracy Against Rights
CIVIL RIGHTS

I

I interviewed Bill Sartor in connection with the captioned matter for about four hours on August 22, 1968. He had been identified to me in June by Jesse Epps as a reporter who had been inquiring into the possible existence of a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. King. At Mr. Epps' request I met Sartor then briefly, and he gave me bits and pieces of information and rumors about the killing that he had accumulated to that point. His interest had been aroused, he said, by the firm conviction among many Negroes in Memphis that there was a conspiracy possibly involving some members of the Memphis Police Department. My conversation with him in June is set out in part II, below.

Sartor lives at 1242 Kirk Circle in Greenville, Mississippi (phone 335-3272), with his wife and one or two children. He is a contract writer for Time, Inc., and he has covered Memphis, particularly racial matters, since before the Sanitation Workers strike. He appears to be known and trusted by those Negro leaders in Memphis with whom I have talked (Epps, Trotter, Rev. Jackson, Rev. Bell, etc.), and he says that he is close to the (former) Mayor Ingram faction of the white community. I attach a copy of his latest piece on Memphis which appeared in the August 16, 1968, issue of Time.

I can not evaluate Sartor's reliability or that of his sources, but he is a "low key" fellow who is not apparently irrational or fanciful. He says he

approached the allegations of a conspiracy with skepticism (which I doubt), but that he is now largely persuaded there was one. He declines (for the moment) to identify his sources, with three unimportant exceptions, beyond saying that they include four or five petty racketeers in Memphis, New Orleans, and elsewhere and one well placed protege of Carlos Marcellos in New Orleans.

He comes to us, he says, primarily to assist in ascertaining the truth, but also with the expectation or hope that we will feed investigative results back to him. If that is not possible, he would like to be given the story first or, failing that, no later than anyone else. He has been spending most of his time on this since the assassination, but can not go much farther because some of his sources have begun to ask for the kind of money or protection that he is unable to provide.

Charlie Stein, a petty racketeer connected with organized crime, contacted James Earl Ray in Los Angeles and told him that there were people in New Orleans whom he ought to talk to. Whether Stein happened upon Ray or sought him out knowing that he needed money and was an escaped prisoner is not known, but Ray was told that the people he ought to talk to would help him with money and his fugitive status.

Ray's contacts in New Orleans were with Mafia-Cosa Nostra representatives who referred him to Frank Leberto (or Liberto), a Memphis racketeer and lieutenant of Carlos Marcellos, the Southern Mafia chieftan in New Orleans. Leberto owns or works at the Scott Street Produce Market where John Vererron, of Somerville allegedly overheard a man speaking on the telephone say, on or about the day of the assassination: "Shoot him on the balcony, shoot him anywhere; and go to New Orleans for your money, don't come back here."

According to Sartor's informants, the Cosa Nostra agreed to "broker" or to arrange the assassination, for an amount somewhat in excess of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000), after they were contacted in the Northeast (New Jersey or Pennsylvania), by representatives of "Forever White", an elite organization of wealthy

segregationists with officers or subgroups in seven Southern states. The Mafia's (which Sartor used interchangeably with Cosa Nostra throughout the interview) interest was less the money than the investment-type opportunity presented, i.e., to get in a position to extract (or extort) governmental or other favors from some well placed Southern white persons, including the KKK and White Citizens Councils. Quitman, Mississippi, was said by Sartor to be a possible base of "Forever White's" operations.

Claude Cockrell, allegedly a Memphis segregationist, extortionist, narcotics pusher, and petty racketeer, may have been a contact between the Mafia and "Forever White." In any event, he is thought to have gone to Miami, Florida, between April 14 and 24, 1968, where he may have picked up money to be delivered to Philadelphia or New Jersey. Cockrell also may have been instrumental in getting Ray out of Memphis after the assassination either by truck (according to Sartor's New Orleans informants) or in Cockrell's private plane, which is said to use a private landing strip at Millington and which is piloted by one Joe Shafer.

According to Sartor, Joe Cacacaci (ph.) and Larry Mann (aka. Larry Manning and Larry Fox), two professional killers, are also involved. Joe Cacacaci allegedly met James Earl Ray at a Lion Service Station in Memphis the day of or the night before the shooting. Larry Mann has been saying that he works for Frank Lebarto and is responsible for "getting" James Earl Ray. According to one of Sartor's New Orleans informants, James Earl Ray was seen at, or stayed at, the Pontotoc Hotel in Memphis approximately three days before the shooting.

The original plan was that Ray would be arrested immediately after the shooting, tried, and acquitted. There was a change, however, perhaps as late as an hour before the shooting, due to a mix-up involving the money. Either the Mafia wanted him at large until the balance of the price was paid or, more likely, says Sartor, the money was still in the North and the shares of those in

Memphis (Leberto and others) had not been paid, and it was they who wanted Ray at large as a lever on higher-ups in the rackets.

In any event, Sartor's informants claim that Ray's escape from Memphis was engineered with the connivance of several Memphis police officers who knew of the plot. After the money problem was resolved, Ray deliberately permitted himself to be arrested in London with the understanding that he will be acquitted in Memphis. However, another story has it that he will be killed in a holocaust which will endanger a large number of lives.

Two aspects of the foregoing information persuade Sartor of its accuracy. First, he has received identical fragments of information independently from different sources. Secondly, several of his sources in Memphis and New Orleans have told him that agents of Bureau and non-Bureau Justice Department representatives, including a man named (FNU) Voight, have interviewed them about the assassination.

Sartor took me to meet Pat Lyons who, according to Sartor, is a petty gambler with sources of information close to Frank Leberto. In my presence, Lyons repeated to Sartor that, according to "Ernie" (Lyons did not give a last name), Ray met Joe Cacaceci at a Lion Service Station on the night before or the day of the shooting. Lyons expressed concern for the safety of his wife and children; I did not comment or ask him any questions. He also said that the "talk" was that Ray would be acquitted.

Sartor says that his informants will probably be willing to talk to us, but that they will ask for money, immunity, or protection or all three. Because Sartor wants us to contact his principal informants through him, he declined to identify any contacts except Lyons, Rev. Carl Basinger and Memphis policeman E. E. Redditt, below.

An additional, apparently unrelated, piece of information furnished by Sartor was 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 Sartor, the little boy has been identified and interviewed by Bureau agents and the Memphis Police Department.

II

During our first conversation, on June 12, 1968, Sartor gave me the following fragments of allegations and information:

1. Shortly after the killing, a bartender overheard some Memphis policemen say that 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. When I asked Sartor about this in August, he said that one of his New Orleans informants had also referred to a similar change in plans.

2. A minister, identified by Sartor in August as Rev. Carl Basinger, 1617 E. Moreland, 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.

3. According to former Mayor Ingram (although my notes are not clear as to whether Sartor got this directly from him), a civilian was seen lying in the back of a police car immediately after the shooting, and near Mulberry or Huling he got out of the police car, into another car, and was driven away. Sartor had nothing further on this in August.

4. John McFerren, the Negro civil rights activist from Somerville, Tennessee, overheard part of a telephone conversation at the Scott Street Produce Market in which the speaker allegedly made the comments noted above. Shortly thereafter, McFerren was visited,

for no apparent reason, by a man named Powers from New Orleans. Sartor had nothing further on this in August.

5. An unidentified Negro policeman was moved from his assignment at the Fire Station (and Police Tactical Unit Station) at about 5:00 p.m. on the day of the assassination. According to Sartor, the Dispatcher told the policeman to move two or three times during the afternoon, but he did not do so until explicitly advised to that effect by a superior. In August, Sartor identified the policeman as E. E. Redditt and said that Redditt had broken off an interview with Sartor after starting to discuss his move from the station.

6. Two Negro firemen were moved from the station a day or two before the shooting. One of them has reportedly told friends that, two or three days before Dr. King was shot, a telescope or binoculars were set up on a tripod in the fire station and focused on the Lorraine Hotel balcony. In August, Sartor said that one fireman left the Department or was suspended shortly after the shooting, and that he has been unable to locate either of them. He did not have their names.

7. Memphis Chief of Detectives, W. P. Houston, called the Lorraine Motel in the early afternoon of April 4 and spoke to a maid named Dolores (LNU). He inquired about stationing detectives there, and the maid said that the manager would call back. He did not; nor did Houston. Sartor says that former Mayor Ingram provided this information.

Sartor was unable during either interview to relate the foregoing allegations to his conspiracy theory, but he says that some of it, and other information possessed by former Mayor Ingram concerning corruption in the Police Department, suggest that a number of officers may have known of or participated in the conspiracy-- because they were bribed or feared exposure.

I told Sartor that I would report his information to my superiors.

September 26, 1968

1 - Mr. Long

AIRTEL

TO: SACs, Memphis (Enclosures 2)
Jackson (Enclosures 2)

FROM: Director, FBI (44-38861) - 5197

0 MURKIN

ST-116

Enclosed are two copies of a memorandum received from the Department relative to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. The attached sets forth interview of Mr. Bill Sartor by Department attorney on June 12, 1968, and August 22, 1968, however, the memorandum was not furnished to us until September 23, 1968.

Memphis should completely evaluate the contents of the Departmental memorandum and submit comments and recommendations to the Bureau including what investigative aspects of the Departmental memorandum completed and indices check of Sartor. This should be handled immediately.

Jackson should immediately furnish Bureau and Memphis results of indices check concerning Sartor. Two copies of the Departmental memorandum furnished to Jackson in the event it becomes necessary for investigation to be conducted in the future.

Based upon available data, no information recorded in Bureau files concerning Bill Sartor. No interview of Sartor should be conducted until Bureau advises.

SEP 26 1968

COMM-FBI

REL:bcp
(6)

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

Handwritten signature/initials

SEE NOTE - PAGE TWO

51 OCT - 9 1968

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

NOTE:

Department, in a memorandum furnished us the results of an interview by them with one Bill Sartor who is allegedly a contract writer for Time, Inc., and who resides in Greenville, Mississippi. The interviews took place on June 12, 1968, and August 22, 1968, in which Sartor claims a conspiracy exists in the assassination of King and he gives names and locations including what appears to be Cosa Nosta figures, racketeers, and Memphis Police officers. Sartor does not furnish the Department complete details and he has not fully investigated this matter due to finances.

The Department has not furnished us with this information before, although we have been in receipt of some of the information contained herein which we ran out with negative findings as to a conspiracy involvement. The Department is requesting that we follow out all leads.

Sartor, in his interview with the Department expected or hoped that they would feed investigative results back to him, and if this is not possible he wanted to be given the story first or no later than anyone else. No indication in the Department memo of any commitments other than the person conducting the interview advised he would report this information to his superiors.

It is possible that Memphis has run out some of the items in the Department memo, which resulted in negative findings and the Bureau would not be aware of such. Negative findings are not necessarily reported to the Bureau, therefore, Memphis should make an evaluation and submit their recommendations.

Jackson is being instructed to furnish Bureau and Memphis the results of indices check concerning Sartor. Jackson is also being furnished two copies of the Departmental memo in the event it becomes necessary to conduct investigation there at a future date.

F B I

Date: 11-5-68

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

AIRTEL

AM

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

Enclosed to Bureau are four copies of LHM regarding information furnished by one BILL SARTOR to Departmental Attorney HAROLD FLANNERY regarding a possible conspiracy in instant case.

BUREAU (Enc. 4) (AM)
MEMPHIS

CH:BN
1)

REC 55

44-38861-5358

C. - Bishop

Approved: Perout Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
November 5, 1968

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

Mr. J. Harold Flannery of the United States Department of Justice, has prepared a memorandum dated September 17, 1968, reflecting interviews on June 12, 1968, and August 22, 1968, with Mr. Bill Sartor of Greenville, Mississippi, a contract writer for "Time" magazine.

Sartor states that "Charlie Stein, a petty racketeer connected with organized crime, contacted James Earl Ray in Los Angeles and told him that there were people in New Orleans whom he ought to talk to." Sartor states he does not know whether Stein's initial contact with Ray was accidental or on purpose, but he states that "Ray was told that the people he ought to talk to would help him with money and his fugitive status." Stein's account of his involvement in this matter as well as other investigation relative to Stein is set forth in reports furnished to the Department of Justice.

Sartor tells us that Ray was in touch in New Orleans with "Mafia" representatives who referred Ray to Frank Libarto, described by Sartor as being a Memphis racketeer and a lieutenant of Carlos Marcellos, the southern Mafia chieftain in New Orleans. Sartor then related to Mr. Flannery that one John McFerron of Somerville, Tennessee, on or about the day of King's murder, heard a man say on the telephone "shoot him on the balcony, shoot him anywhere; and go to New Orleans for your money, don't come back here." Information concerning this reported incident has also been furnished to the Department of Justice.

Claude Cockrell, described by Sartor as a segregationist, extortionist, narcotics pusher, and petty racketeer, was an unsuccessful candidate for election to the U. S. House of Representatives in the election of November 5, 1968.

[REDACTED]

James Earl Ray, Aka.;
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Victim
CR - Conspiracy

Joe Cacameci and Larry Mann, identified by Sartor as professional killers, are unknown to this office. No information to date has connected these individuals with the murder of Dr. King.

According to Sartor, a young Negro boy allegedly heard a shot and saw a man jump up from the bushes behind the rooming house and below the window area from which the fatal shot is thought to have been fired. A thorough investigation was conducted in the neighborhood of this rooming house immediately after the murder and during the days immediately following the murder and no information was developed to indicate that any unidentified person was seen beneath the window from which Ray fired the fatal shot.

All of the individuals, both firemen and policemen, who were stationed in the fire house near the Lorraine Motel have been interviewed regarding the events before and after the murder, and these results have also been furnished to the Department of Justice.

Due to the tense racial situation that existed in Memphis on April 4, 1968, and because of the prominence of Dr. King, the Memphis Police Department had every reason to be in touch with persons at the Lorraine Motel in connection with the protection of Dr. King. There were police officers in and around the Lorraine Motel throughout the period that Dr. King was residing there.

Investigation is continuing relative to individual mentioned in Sartor's information.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

C. Eardly
Dep. AAG
Civil Div.

W. R. Wilson
Assist. AG
Criminal Div.

Jerris Leonard
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Files Pertaining to James Earl Ray,
Martin Luther King, Jr.

DEC 15

JL:MG:4

DJ 144.

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Sullivan	✓
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Brennan, C.D.	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Walters	
Mr. Soyars	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

Department of Justice file number 95-100-473 contains materials pertaining to the extradition of James Earl Ray from Great Britain for the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. and for his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary. As an international extradition proceeding the matter came within the jurisdiction of the Criminal Division. File number 125-12-1403 contains materials pertaining to a civil suit against this Department under the Public Information Act in which the plaintiff sought access to certain documents filed in the Ray extradition proceedings, and is assigned to the Civil Division.

The Department's investigation of the King assassination was predicated on a possible conspiracy violative of 18 U.S.C. 241, and accordingly the substantive investigation file (144-72-662) is assigned to this Division.

I am aware that, in connection with the civil suit brought under the Freedom of Information Act, certain portions of the extradition file have been made available to the private plaintiff and thereafter to members of the public, including publishers. In order that the Department will continue to observe a

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FBI
DEC 15 1970

cc: Director
F.B.I.

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EX-106 DEC 11 1970

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12 DEC 17 1970

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IS DIRECTOR

uniform policy with respect to this matter, I am going to notify those authors, publishers and others who have requested access to the Ray files through this Division, or who have been referred to this Division through the FBI, that they may now inspect these papers.

However, because there is an outstanding complaint charging Ray with a civil rights violation, and because the matter is still under consideration in this Division, I do not believe it would be appropriate to disclose any further contents of the Ray files at this time.

Accordingly, I am seeking your agreement to restrict access to each of these files to officials of your Division who may have responsibilities in connection with the matter and to officials of this Division. With your agreement, I would ask the Records Administration Office to notify the responsible attorney in this Division whenever one of these files is charged out, so that we will stay advised as to the status of this matter.

Memorandum

TO :K. William O'Connor
Chief, Criminal Section

DATE: January 25, 1971

MG:pg

FROM :Monica Gallagher
Attorney
Criminal Section

SUBJECT: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

At your request Mr. Queen and I met on January 13, 1971 for some four hours with Mr. Ken Smith, a self employed "researcher" and sometime investigator for the "Committee to Investigate Assassinations" which is headed by Attorney Bud Fensterwald. The following is a report of the significant or possibly significant matters which Mr. Smith reported to me. Mr. Smith advised that he can supply addresses and further information in connection with some of the persons referred to if we so desire. Mr. Smith did not interrogate me or Mr. Queen about our knowledge of the case, nor did either of us volunteer any information whatever. Mr. Smith advised as follows:

I. Personal Data

I retired in 1960 from my employment with the U.S. Treasury after 22 years as an investigator with the Alcohol-Tobacco-Tax unit. During my government employment I worked mainly out of Chicago although I also had other assignments. During a portion of my government employment I worked for the Internal Security Division as a supervisor of criminal investigations, and I was a deputy chief of an investigative unit.

After my retirement I opened a real estate office in Washington, D.C., and I still work in real estate part time. Recently I have been spending much of my time as a contract researcher for various clients. For example, I did research for a legislative lobby seeking

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prohibition of the "soreing" of Tennessee Walking Horses; I am now engaged to do research on baby seals in the Aleutian Islands. I accept these projects when my services are not needed by my old friend Bud Fensterwald, who has first call on my time. Also I work for Mr. Fensterwald for \$50 per day plus expenses, whereas my usual rate is \$100 plus expenses.

I met Fensterwald when I testified before Senator Long's Committee on Wiretapping, of which Fensterwald was Chief Counsel. Thereafter I worked as Chief Investigator for the Committee for about three years, until the whole staff resigned when Senator Kennedy assumed the chair.

In checking my references, you will find that a bad report will be given by the Assistant Commissioner for Internal Revenue. Otherwise, I believe my superiors have thought reasonably highly of me and my work.

II. The Ray - Raoul Linkup in Atlanta

I have a source nicknamed Fruitjar, whose full identity I do not care to disclose at this time. Fruitjar (hereinafter FJ) is a former small-time criminal. He is about my age; in poor health (in and out of, mostly in, a government hospital in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area); married to a much younger woman (possibly 30 or so), a former prostitute. FJ got his nickname because he sold moonshine out of a fruit jar during prohibition. I do not believe FJ is presently engaged in any criminal activities.

FJ came to Fensterwald in approximately February, 1970, and volunteered that he had information concerning James Earl Ray's activities in Atlanta. I was asked to and did check out FJ's background. He has in the past been a paid informant for the A.T.U., and an agent whom I knew while working for the government told me this man had sometimes furnished reliable information.

When I went to interview FJ I found him difficult to draw out. I thought at first he wanted money - more than I was able to offer; but it turned out what he really wanted was legal representation in some civil suit he wanted to bring. I think it may have been against the government. Fensterwald agreed to represent him; but as far as I know the action has not yet been filed.

FJ said he knew a man in Atlanta called "Starvo" whom he identified from pictures as identical with James Earl Ray. He said that in Atlanta I would find other individuals, frequenters of the 10th and Peachtree area or people who "hang out" there, probably mainly small time criminals, who would remember Starvo and his association with Raoul. FJ said Starvo, Raoul and two girls went away for several days to a fishing camp together. The leads furnished by FJ were checked out by me as follows.

A. Ralph George Dickerson or George Ralph Dickerson, aka Rocky, aka Raoul, is an ex-prize fighter. He is half Norwegian (paternal) and half Indian (maternal), has a swarthy complexion, is a "torpedo" or muscle man, and was or may have been in army intelligence at some time in the past. He is now an alcoholic and on the two occasions I saw and spoke to him he was pretty well gone on alcohol. Accordingly, I got no useful information from him. I do know he speaks Spanish and I have heard him called Raoul, although he is apparently more often called Rocky. Raoul hangs around a bar called "Doc's Place" at 10xx Peachtree.

I understand from FJ that Starvo had let it be known in Atlanta that he was a "safe man", i.e. that he specialized in safecracking. FJ says he tried to interest Starvo in a safe "job" involving \$200,000 in cash, and that Starvo told Raoul he would do it. However, this job never came off.

I do not have a picture of Raoul but I do have a picture of a Mexican friend of Fensterwald's who looks quite a lot like Raoul. Sometimes I show people this picture of the Mexican in seeking an identification of Raoul.

B. Becky aka Be [redacted] Mart aka Becky Jones (allegedly after a man named Joe [redacted] whom she lived with for a while) and Martha aka Martha [redacted] Palmer. I believe that these two girls went with Starvo and Raoul to a fishing camp for several days. Neither of these girls provided me with any directly useful information, but that did not surprise me greatly.

[redacted]

Becky and Martha lived at a rooming house operated by Mrs. FNU Edwards at 107 6th Street, N.E. in Atlanta. Mrs. Edwards told me she remembered the girls' driving a white Mustang, sometimes alone and sometimes with two men who meet the descriptions of Starvo and Raoul.

C. FJ had described to me roughly the place where he thought Starvo and Raoul had gone with the girls. I followed his directions to a fishing camp about 10-12 miles from Perry (phonetic), Florida, where Route 14, a gravel road, goes down toward the gulf and dead-ends. The camp is called Nutall Rise. The operator of the camp, name unrecalled, told me he vaguely remembered a white car, red-headed girl, blond girl, Indian fellow and white fellow being around the area for several days. He did not think they stayed at his camp, but wasn't sure.

As I was walking back to my car on Route 14 I saw what appeared to be a "path" leading to a still, and I found and interviewed the moonshiner, name unknown. He was driving a 1951 or 52 faded blue Chevrolet quarter-ton pickup. He said he remembered these four people clearly, as they were doing a lot of shooting, possibly target shooting, in the area (which made him nervous) and it was after the Turkey season. He identified pictures of Ray and of the Mexican who resembles Raoul. He described the girls as one redhead and one short brunette, and thought they were driving a car with Georgia plates.

D. A person who told me he remembered Raoul (Rocky) and Starvo hanging around together, and going on a fishing trip together, is Henry (I think that is his first name but it could be his last name). He is a "wino" and an itinerant house painter, and possibly a small time criminal,

III. The Overhead Conversation

A. The Substance

Byron Watson is a boy now 17 years old. His father, a former Deputy Sheriff, was killed in December 1966. His mother, Lillian Watson, is an overbearing individual and the boy's principal companion. The boy is extremely intelligent but in my judgment very strange or "weird". He has been preoccupied since childhood with antiques, relics, rare coins, etc., to the exclusion of usual youthful interests. I understand he is reputed to be one of the most skilled coin appraisers in the United States. He impresses me as a modern but non-hippe type boy, mildly anti-establishment as today's youth tend to be; he reminds me of the fellow on "Laugh In" who carries the flower (Harry Gibson). He does not smoke; uses no drugs (except for his asthma); drinks only wine with dinner.

[REDACTED]

In the spring of 1968 Byron (then 14) was employed part-time after school and on Saturdays at an establishment in Atlanta called Magellan, 3340 Peachtree Road, apparently a semi-museum and semi-sales outlet for antiques, rare coins, gems, relics, etc. I believe that Magellan or its associates may also have been involved with smuggling, as appears below. Byron was being paid \$5.00 per hour plus the opportunity to buy coins at wholesale prices.

On a Thursday in March 1968, which I believe to have fixed as March 28, 1968, (Byron remembers hearing the noon news about the garbage workers strike), Byron reported for work at about 12:30 p.m. There was no school that day. In the building occupied by Magellan there is a room just to the right of the main entrance which was used as the office; it was a "den" when the building was

formerly occupied as a residence. Byron went into the office where he observed a meeting in progress. Present were Gene Purcell, Larry Meier, Bayne Culley, and five or six other men unknown to him, of which he thinks perhaps one and possibly two were Negroes, although because of the physical layout and lighting he is not at all sure. Gene Purcell handed him \$2.00 and said "Go get yourself some lunch." Byron told Gene he had just had lunch. Gene said then "go get me a pack of cigarettes, and get yourself a coke, and take your time about it." Byron left with the \$2.00. Outside in the rear he saw parked a black Cadillac, thought to have had New York license plates, which he associated with the unknown persons inside at the meeting.

Byron returned in about 10-15 minutes with Gene's cigarettes. He found that he had left the door slightly ajar and, as he stood in the entryway, he overheard the following conversation:

Gene said: "I'm going to kill that nigger bastard King next Thursday in Tennessee just like I killed Kennedy."

Larry Meier said: "You sure pulled that one off good. They'll never know in a hundred years who did it."

Gene: "I've got a jailbird set up to take the rap on this one just like the other one."

Byron became frightened. He rattled the door which had been ajar as though he was just coming in, entered and delivered the cigarettes to Gene. The meeting seemed to be breaking up or broke up shortly afterward.

When the meeting had broken up, Gene and Larry Meier interviewed Byron about whether he had been eavesdropping. Their manner was very threatening, and although Byron denied having overheard anything, they seemed to be suspicious. Byron thinks it is possible someone in the office may have seen him as he approached the house or just before he came in. At one point in the interview Gene threw a bowie knife into the wall near Byron and said that it could as easily have gone through him, or words to that effect.

Byron claimed he wasn't feeling well, called his mother, and went home with her. He told his mother about the conversation that afternoon. Both became frightened and decided that Byron should not continue working at Magellan. However, they decided they should go back on Saturday to make an explanation rather than just having him fail to return.

On Saturday Mrs. Watson took Byron to Magellan where she explained to Gene Purcell that Byron could not work there any more because it was interfering with his school work. While Mrs. Watson was talking to Purcell in the office, Byron was taken by Larry Meier to Meier's apartment on the second floor, where he was again interrogated about overhearing the conversation, which he continued to deny. During this interview Meier threatened Byron, saying in effect that if he had overheard anything he had better forget it fast, or a bomb might explode in his mother's car or he could be shot by a high powered rifle from a long way away.

On or about April 1, 1968, Purcell, Meier and Culley left Magellan and are believed to have left

Atlanta. They did not return until June 10 or 11, 1968. During this interval Jean Sayre operated Magellan.

B. Other Accounts

The preceding information reflects what Byron and Mrs. Watson told me. I understand they have reported substantially identical information to others, as described below. What follows incorporates information received from the Watsons, Mr. Fensterwald and Atlanta attorney Lynwood Maddox.

At some point Mrs. Watson became concerned about the fact that the information she and Byron had concerning the overheard conversation had not been communicated to the proper authorities. She wrote a letter to the White House, possibly addressed to President Nixon, in which she said she had some information. Thereafter she and Byron were called on by two Secret Service agents, one of whom was named Manning. According to the Watsons the Secret Service agents received this information with open disbelief and hostility, one of them saying to Byron, among other things, "Don't tell me what happened in Dallas; I was there." Mrs. Watson and Byron were badly frightened by this interview.

Attorney Lynwood Maddox represented Mrs. Watson in connection with a civil suit she wanted to file or filed against William S. Arnett, an individual formerly associated with Magellan and who she claims defrauded her of some \$50,000. Trusting Mr. Maddox, Mrs. Watson reported to him both the substance of the overheard conversation (as substantiated by Maddox to me) and the incident with the Secret Service.

Mr. Maddox arranged for Mrs. Watson and Byron to have an appointment with Governor Maddox of Georgia, during which, in Attorney Maddox's presence, the story was repeated. According to Attorney Maddox, Mrs. Watson insisted to the Governor during this interview that they were entitled to some reward as a result of furnishing this information; the Governor was unreceptive; and the interview was not successful. The Governor's position was, in effect, that the matter was a federal one and should be taken up with federal authorities.

After this interview Attorney Maddox contacted Congressman Weltner, who knew of the work of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations and referred Maddox to Mr. Fensterwald. This is how we learned of the Watsons' story, and this happened about the first week in August 1970.

Mr. Fensterwald thereafter arranged for Byron to submit to a polygraph examination. This was done by an expert named (FNU) Baxter in New York. I have listened to the tape recording of this examination and I believe that the results are utterly invalid. It appears from the tape that within a few hours prior to the examination Byron had had some six shots of isopril (medication for his asthma), which would alone completely negative the possibility of reaching any conclusions from the polygraph. Also in my judgment the examiner used an overbearing tone and manner which would tend to intimidate the person questioned, thus affecting the polygraph results. I understand that Mr. Baxter's report indicates that the examination was "partly inconclusive and partly negative," suggesting that Byron was lying in certain areas. I think this examination must be regarded as wholly inconclusive. While Byron may be lying about whether he deliberately eavesdropped (he says it was accidental and not deliberate, whereas I

believe it was probably deliberate), I honestly believe from my interviews and impressions that he is telling the truth about what he heard or thought he heard.

C. Persons Associated with Magellan

The following are people who have been associated with Magellan:

1. William S. Arnett, aka William S. Arnowich, of Columbus, Georgia. Arnett managed Magellan for a period of time on a 10% commission basis until December 1967, when he was "thrown out," possibly because he is Jewish. (This version reported by Byron and confirmed by Arnett). He is engaged in antique dealing. Mrs. Watson thinks Arnett defrauded her of \$50,000 in connection with antique transactions. Mrs. Watson also claims to have evidence against Arnett of smuggling and income tax violations. (See the Byron burglary, below). Arnett admitted to me that he has been arrested for smuggling but told me that he beat the rap. Arnett told me Magellan robbed him and that he is now being "extorted" of \$500 per month by Magellan interests. Arnett was financially backed in Magellan by William Moog, a real estate developer. Arnett told me that Adams, Sutherland and Nelson were all admitted John Birchers. He also said he thinks Purcell, Culley and Meier are violent or potentially violent individuals.

Arnett told me that Sutherland told him that Purcell is now occupied as a part-time gun-runner in or near Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

2. FNU Clifford, financially backed by William Thibodeaux, Atlanta-Decatur real estate speculator and bank president. He leased the premises at 3340

Peachtree and was licensed as Magellan, Blocade Runners, and Southeast Restoration Laboratories.

3. Harold Eugene Purcell, aka Gene Purcell, knowledgeable about guns and relics and in charge of that phase of the Magellan operation, as well as apparently exercising the biggest share of control over the whole Magellan operation. Purcell has bragged of "beating the rap" in connection with the burning of a Negro church in Tennessee in the late 1950's. Also he is proud of having his picture in Life Magazine in connection with the Clinton, Tenn. "school riots" during the same era. He allegedly told Arnett he had been tried and acquitted three times for aggravated assault on "niggers".

4. Jean (Mrs. John) Sayre (phonetic), who managed Magellan for a short time. She and her husband have disappeared from Atlanta and can't be found. Her husband was president of a corporation called "Par-Take-Of-Atlanta" which may have been a non-existent corporation. They are originally from Virginia, she from an old-line Virginia family. After Magellan closed, she also operated the premises for a short time doing business as "Tudor Fair".

5. Lawrence (Larry) Meier, who is now teaching in a high school in Six Flags, Georgia. Meier is a notorious homosexual and has been involved in a car theft ring. He specialized at Magellan in restoration and appraisal of antique pottery.

6. Bayne Culley, a muscle man whose association with the others is unknown.

7. John Seymour, executive at Lockheed in Atlanta, who was involved in an unknown way, and was apparently the largest stockholder (of a total of 22) in Magellan.

8. Jerry Adams, private detective and possible wiretapper, sometimes operating as a TV-radio repairman. Formerly employed Jimmy Kempf, now deceased. Present employer of Buzz McQueen, a bill collector and "tail".

9. Ben Sutherland

10. FNU Nelson

11. FNU Sutton

D. Peripheral Matters Related to Magellan

At 3177 Peachtree Road N.E. there is a building which appears to have four establishments in it. They are: (a) Adams Associates, a private detective agency operated by Jerry Adams; (b) Atlantic Clearing Exchange, allegedly a clearing house for trading stamps; (c) E.E. Inc.; and (d) Answering Northside, which apparently purports to be an answering service but does not seem to be wired to conduct this business.

I have gone by there several times but never found anyone there when I knocked on the doors. They are all listed as having the same telephone number, which is also the telephone number which Magellan had when it was in operation.

When I was in Atlanta on August 11, 1970 I called that number (261-4184) and asked for "Gene". The person who answered, who may have been Jerry Adams' employee Buzz McQueen, said he had never heard of Gene. Then he called someone else to the phone who I think may have been Jerry Adams. I told this person that Gene Purcell had given me this number and told me he could always be reached there. I told him I wanted to "do some business" with Gene like I had in the past. He told me Gene was on the West Coast but would be back in about three weeks and would check in with him. I said I would call again.

E. Other Miscellaneous Information from Byron

1. Byron has identified a picture of the Mexican who resembles Raoul as being very like a person whom he saw at least once at Magellan, "except for the pock marks." I noted that Raoul has noticeable pock marks on his face, whereas there are none discernable in the Mexican's picture.

2. Byron has also identified a picture I showed him of Clay Shaw as a person whom he has seen at least once at Magellan.

3. Gene Purcell once told Byron he knew how to reactivate a deactivated machine gun.

4. Byron has seen, in addition to antique firearms, some seven to ten modern rifles at Magellan.

5. Gene had a room in the Magellan basement where he worked on guns.

6. 

7. Purcell bought a new yellow streamlined deluxe Ford pickup truck in March, 1968, just before the meeting on 3/28. He also had a Firebird.

8. Byron saw a 24 carat emerald which Purcell may have smuggled into the United States when he went on a trip abroad with Clifford.

F. The Byron Burglary

On December 23, 1970, Byron Watson and two friends, Thad Barnes (19 years old) and Doug Hale (17 years old) drove from Atlanta to Columbus, Georgia. Byron's intention allegedly was to threaten Arnett with exposure of his smuggling and income tax evasion if he did not deliver certain antiques and art objects which Byron and his mother claim belong to Mrs. Watson. Allegedly, Byron and companions went to Arnett's mother's house, where they found no one at home; then to Arnett's house, where they found no one at home; then to Arnett's "Museum Shop." There they allegedly arrive about 1:30 p.m., found no one, but found the back door open. They apparently entered and removed some \$26,500.00 worth (Arnett's estimate) of art objects which they loaded into Thad's car. It is alleged that two little boys, aged 7-8, observed this and called Arnett's wife, Judy, who together with a neighbor called the police and went to the store with a gun. The police allegedly found Byron's pocket filled with Jade and other gems.

The three boys were allegedly charged with burglary; afforded a preliminary hearing on 12/24/70 which received extensive news coverage; and released on bail on 12/26/70. .

Attorney Lynwood Maddox has allegedly had a falling-out with Mrs. Watson, no longer represents her in any connection, and refused to represent Byron in connection with this charge. Byron may be represented by Attorney Paul Killpatrick of Columbus, Georgia.

Memorandum *CLP*

TO : Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: FEB 1 1971

JL:KWO'C:MG:pg
DJ 144-72-662

FROM : *JL* Jerris Leonard
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Sullivan	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Bishop	✓
Mr. Brennan	CD
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. Casper	✓
Mr. Conrad	✓
Mr. Felt	✓
Mr. Gale	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tavel	✓
Mr. Walters	✓
Mr. Soyars	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Miss Holmes	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

en 5701

Reference is made to your memoranda dated December 22, 1970 and January 1, 1971, and to other communications in the captioned matter.

I. The material enclosed with your memorandum of 12/22/70, which appears to be an undated flyer or newsclipping, refers to an interview between Renfro T. Hays, Memphis private detective, and a "'National Insider' reporter," possibly Jim Brown, in which Mr. Hays allegedly disclosed certain facts discovered by him in the course of his inquiries into the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Please interview Mr. Hays with respect to the statements quoted in the enclosed document and generally with respect to his knowledge of matters related to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

II. Your communication of January 1, 1971, contains information concerning a piece of mail addressed to James Earl Ray by one [redacted] return address Surrey, Great Britain, suggesting that [redacted] is or was "1/2 of the original 'Eric Starvo Galt'".

ST 101

EXP. PROC.

37 FEB 2 1971

except

UNRECORDED COPY OF ENCL FILED IN 105-34074-2-

*AIRTEL to SAC, AT & ME
2/5/71 REL/pwr*

REC-6 *44-38861-590*

FEB 2 1971

*Jim Turner of
Dept now on 2/3/71
to hold request
ab. since [unclear]
conf. [unclear] with him
not*

XEROX
FEB 10 1971

[Handwritten signature]

Please interview [REDACTED], allegedly of Charleston, South Carolina, with reference to any knowledge he may have of [REDACTED] of Eric Starvo Galt, or of the circumstances surrounding the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. The substance of [REDACTED] communication may be discussed with [REDACTED] if necessary. In addition, please make discrete inquiries of appropriate British sources to determine whether [REDACTED] has a record or reputation of mental instability, criminal activity, etc.

III. Please find attached copies of a memorandum prepared by Miss Gallagher of this Division, reflecting the report of an interview with Mr. Ken Smith, a "researcher" for the "Committee to Investigate Assassinations." Because of the serious implications of the information supplied by Mr. Smith, I believe it will be necessary to make appropriate investigation to determine the extent to which this information is factual and accurate.

However, because it appears that inquiries involving the Watsons or the persons involved with Magellan might if known jeopardize both the completion of the investigation and even possibly the physical safety of Byron Watson, I believe it would be desirable to obtain certain background and peripheral information before any of the principals become aware that an investigation is or may be in progress. Accordingly, please conduct the following investigation:

1. Please obtain full background information on Mr. Smith, including any information which would help to evaluate his reliability as a source.

2. Please provide name check and indices information for all persons identified by Mr. Smith, as reflected in the attached memorandum, including criminal records and, if accessible, index information reflecting investigation by other federal agencies such as the Internal Revenue Service, Customs Bureau, etc.

3. To the extent it can be obtained from records or from any other source except interview of the principals or interview of persons likely to communicate the fact of the interview to the principals, please obtain full background on Byron Watson and Mrs. Lillian Watson. Please include school records of Byron and employment, financial, etc., records for Mrs. Watson.

4. Please obtain from public sources all available information concerning the incorporation, licensure, business activities, financial status, etc. of the corporations or other business entities identified by Mr. Smith, including Magellan, the establishments at 3340 Peachtree Road, "Par-Take-Of-Atlanta," and the Arnett antique dealership in Columbus, Georgia. Please supply any information contained in the incorporation papers or elsewhere which reflects the identities of persons having ownership or managerial interests in these businesses, and the amount of their capitalization.

5. Please ascertain the identities of the Secret Service personnel who interviewed Byron Watson and/or Mrs. Watson; obtain copies of any reports made by them in this connection; and interview the agents with respect to all details of their contact with the Watsons. If available in their files, please obtain a copy of the Watson letter to the President.

6. Please ascertain from appropriate Georgia Executive Branch personnel whether records would reflect that the Watsons made some presentation to Governor Maddox. If so, please supply any details reflected by such records, and interview anyone present at the presentation other than the Governor, attorney Maddox and the Watsons with respect to all details of what transpired. If there are no such records, or if they do not reflect the identity of anyone other than the above named persons who was present, please interview Governor Maddox about the details of his contact with the Watsons.

7. Please identify polygraph expert FNU Baxter in New York. Please ascertain from Mr. Baxter whether the polygraph chart, Mr. Baxter's report, or the tape recorded transcription of the Watson examination (or any of them) can be obtained for inspection or duplication from him. Please do not invite consultation by Mr. Baxter with Mr. Fensterwald or with the Watsons; if Mr. Baxter advises that the permission of any of the above would be required, please advise him that an attorney of this Division will make such arrangements as are deemed appropriate in that regard. (i.e., we would wish to consider the matter further before deciding whether to attempt to obtain such authorization). Please obtain copies or advise as to the contents of any of the above items which Mr. Baxter makes available.

8. Please ascertain the charges against Byron Watson arising out of the Columbus burglary; the identities and charges against his companions; the status of the cases against them including hearing and trial dates if set; and the identity of their counsel if apparent of record. Please obtain copies of any police records involving this incident and of any local news coverage.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Brennan, C.D.	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Dalbey	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	<i>[Signature]</i>
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Walters	_____
Mr. Soyars	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO : Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: M

JL:MG:p
DJ 144-

FROM : Jerris Leonard
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.
CIVIL RIGHTS

By 9/3/71

Reference is made to your memorandum dated March 16, 1971 at Atlanta and to previous communications in the captioned matter.

It appears that Robert Byron Watson (Byron Watson) may have information pertinent to the captioned matter. Please interview Byron Watson fully with respect to all details of this matter and with respect to his background, education, employment, criminal record if any, and any other matters which may cast light on the creditability of his statements in connection with the captioned matter.

94

If the statement furnished by Byron Watson is substantially similar to that attributed to him and his mother by your source (pp. 3-5 of your memorandum of 3/16) or to the statement attributed to him by Ken Smith (my memorandum of 2/1/71, pp. 5-8 of attachment), please provide full background information on Byron Watson and his parents, and, in addition, please conduct the investigation requested in paragraph III (4.) of my memorandum of February 1, 1971.

EXP. PROC.

36 MAR 26 1971

40

REC 98

44-38861-5908

115 9 1 1971

*Out to [unclear]
4/9/71
EX-112
[unclear]
[unclear]*

15 MAR 26 1971

[Signature]

Memorandum

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: APR 24 1974

JSP:FDA:SH:bmp

FROM: J. Stanley Pottinger
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DJ 144-72-662

SUBJECT: Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Reference is made to your investigation of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., Bureau file #44-38861, and the attached correspondence between this Division and Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, attorney for James Earl Ray.

Mr. Fensterwald asserts that authors Gerold Frank, William Bradford Huie and George McMillan have had access to FBI reports in connection with this matter.

Please interview the appropriate Bureau personnel who may have information, or comments, with regard to Mr. Fensterwald's assertion and advise us whether there is any indication that these authors had access to the reports as asserted.

EXP. PROC.
APR 25 1974

*1cc to Dept of Justice for review
see FOIA log of Hengel, ARLha
2/7/75 gpd*

*Case 44-38861-5942
S. J. P.
E. J. M.*

REC-116

APR 25 1974

*Facsimile to SACs BS-ENC.3
CO-ENC.3*

*1- ME (INFC) ENC-3
EJM/PWL 4/26/74*

Law Offices
FENSTERWALD AND OHLHAUSEN

810 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 223-1887

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

NEW YORK ASSOCIATES
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,

Burd

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

BF:CFE
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!!

144-72-662

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 2 1974	
FBI - HOUSTON	
O.H.S.M.	
CIV. RIGHTS DIV.	

44-38861-594

*copy for my Ray file, pl.
to FDA/...
4/4/74.
I took out file 4/5
24*

Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

APR 24 1974

Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.
Law Offices
Fensterwald and Ohlhausen
910 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Fensterwald:

This is to reply to your letter of March 27, 1974, enclosing a letter from one George McMillen to John Larry Ray, and requesting access to our investigative file pertaining to the assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King.

As an investigative file pertaining to a possible violation of federal criminal statutes, this material is specifically exempted from disclosure pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. See 5 U.S.C. §552. Any disclosure of the contents of this file would be contrary to Department policy and regulations.

I regret that we could not be of more assistance.

Sincerely,

K. William O'Connor
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

44-38861-5942
ENCLOSURE
-1-

Sept 14, 1973

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, 1974. It is the absolute last date on which I can do anything with my manuscript. 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 xxxxxxxx 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 Memphis. 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 of stuff. 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 shit. Then the other day I looked at it again, read it all over carefully. I changed my mind about it. I decided that Jerry had told me the truth, that all the stuff was pretty much true, that maybe he had lied to me about some names, invented something here or there, but that the general story he 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 before I write this section I am going to check the FBI file on the case; that's been made available to me. knowing that the FBI file on the case is not the same as the file sent look different to me from what they looked to Frank and Julie.

(More) 44-2561-5942

ENCLOSURE
-3-

ES I thought a man named Eaton ran the pool hall. REX And had his shop. Did he come before or after Pat Brown? Or did Eaton own it and Pat run it?

What I would like 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 wouldn't want to write me about. Am I wrong? Let me know. If it's OK with you, it's OK with me.

And I will ~~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 Foreman have urged Jimmy to talk with me but counterweld 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 Muir. Nobody is going to pay him anymore unless they check the story in advance. Oh, maybe some TV 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 soon.

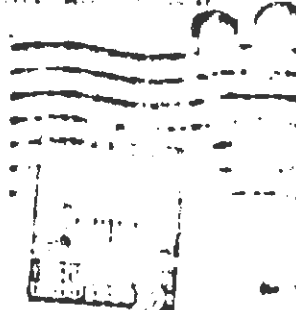
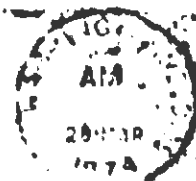
Sincerely,
GM

Mr. John Lerry ~~Ray~~ #86798
Verion
Illinois

PS If moving South October 1st so answer this letter to me at
Coffee Point
Frogmore, South Carolina 29520

Law Office
FENSTERWALD & OHLHAUSEN

910 16th STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

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

70530

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

ENCLOSURE
25511-5942

Memorandum

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: APR 24 1974

JSP:FDA:SH:bmp

FROM: J. Stanley Pottinger
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DJ 144-72-662

SUBJECT: Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Reference is made to your investigation of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., Bureau file #44-38861, and the attached correspondence between this Division and Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, attorney for James Earl Ray.

Mr. Fensterwald asserts that authors Gerold Frank, William Bradford Huie and George McMillan have had access to FBI reports in connection with this matter.

Please interview the appropriate Bureau personnel who may have information, or comments, with regard to Mr. Fensterwald's assertion and advise us whether there is any indication that these authors had access to the reports as asserted.

EXP. PROC.
APR 25 1974

*1cc to Dept of Justice for review
per FOIA request of Hengel, AR, lha
2/7/75 gml*

*copy sent to
38861-5942*

REC-116

APR 25 1974

*Facsimile to SACs BS-ENC.3
CO-ENC.3*

*1- ME (INFC) ENC-3
EJM/PWL 4/26/74*

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

NEW YORK ASSOCIATES
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.

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Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Burd

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

BF:crf
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 Oh joy!!

144-72-662

RECEIVED	APR 2 1974
O.H.S.A.	
CIV. RIGHTS DIV.	

44-38861-594

copy to my Ray file, pl. to FDAlton per 4/4/74. Q. talk F. on file 4/3

Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

APR 24 1974

Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.
Law Offices
Fensterwald and Ohlhausen
910 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Fensterwald:

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As an investigative file pertaining to a possible violation of federal criminal statutes, this material is specifically exempted from disclosure pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. See 5 U.S.C. §552. Any disclosure of the contents of this file would be contrary to Department policy and regulations.

I regret that we could not be of more assistance.

Sincerely,

K. William O'Connor
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

44-38861-5942
ENCLOSURE
-1-

Department of Justice

Washington

June 30, 1976

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Edward H. Levi,
Attorney General

FROM: Peter R. Taft, AAG
PTS Land and Natural Resources Division

RE: Request of Estate of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As I understand it, the King Estate seeks access to materials on King which were turned over to the Church Committee and to any other materials dealing with King involving harassment or otherwise. The King Estate further seeks to play an affirmative role in the Department's investigations of the King assassination and of FBI harassment of King while he lived.

With respect to access to materials, I see no reason to change the normal substantive standards for providing access whether based on the Freedom on Information Act, Privacy Act, or any other rationale for access. The only exception I would make would be if Fred Folsom were to determine that disclosure of certain materials otherwise exempt would assist him in completing the investigations.

I would grant a priority in disclosure over the normal Freedom of Information Act waiting list if Fred Folsom believes that immediate access will assist him in completing the investigations. This would also provide the only role for the King Estate in the investigations which I consider appropriate. Clearly, private parties should not take an affirmative role in a Departmental investigation, especially one which could possibly conclude

44-38861-6132

in criminal referrals. Nonetheless, the King heirs could be extremely helpful in these investigations since they have knowledge about King's activities, associates, and enemies unavailable to the Department. The situation is not unlike that presented in Alderman v. United States, 394 U.S. 165 (1969), involving a defendant's right to examine logs of an illegal electronic surveillance, even though the government contended the subject matter was unrelated to the prosecution. The government wished to limit review to an in camera examination by the trial judge. The Court ordered the materials to be turned over to defendant, stating:

An apparent innocent phrase, a chance remark, a reference to what appears to be a neutral person or event, the identity of a caller or the individual on the other end of a telephone, or even the manner of speaking or using words may have special significance to one who knows the more intimate facts of an accused's life. And yet that information may be wholly colorless and devoid of meaning to one less well acquainted with all the relevant circumstances. Unavoidably, this is a matter of judgment, but in our view the task is too complex, and the margin of error too great, to rely wholly on the in camera judgment of the trial court to identify those records which might have contributed to the Government's case. Id. at 182.

A similar ruling was entered in Dennis v. United States, 384 U.S. 855 (1966) with respect to the disclosure of grand jury minutes to the defendant, even though the government believed their content irrelevant to the prosecution or defense of the case. If the King Estate (and presumably the King heirs) had immediate access to those materials to which it is entitled, it could become an

important source of information and evaluation of government documents on behalf of the investigations. The need for immediate review of the materials in order to meet the immediate investigative needs, would be adequate grounds to place a priority on access for the Estate.

Finally, in my opinion, Martin Luther King, Jr. is already an important figure in the history and social fabric of our country. I believe it is important to protect his image as best as possible from the unwarranted dissemination of information from FBI files, some of which may have been illegally or improperly collected or used. I presume the Estate feels likewise. However, I can offer few suggestions in carrying out such a policy. For the sake of my own mental health, I have chosen to rely on the expertise of others to interpret the intricacies of the FOIA and Privacy Act.