

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 10, 1968

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NOEL M. KELLY resides at 4563 Windward Drive, Memphis, Tennessee, and is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Bond's Welding and Supply Company, 805 South Main Street.

KELLY stated that ROSCOE SMITH is known to him as a salesman for Vulcan Binder and Cover Company of Birmingham, Alabama. SMITH initially came to his company when Bond was interested in putting out some catalogues relative to their products. RALPH BROWN was the Sales Manager at the time and had been referred to make inquiries of Vulcan by the Sales Manager of A. R. Taylor Company.

By the time Vulcan made their first visit to Bond, represented by ROSCOE SMITH, it was December, 1967. Bond already had given the catalogue business to another company since they wanted it distributed by Christmastime and the catalogues were in the office at the time SMITH arrived.

The second time SMITH came to Bond was at approximately 1:00 p.m., in the afternoon on April 4, 1968. He gave his calling card to the receptionist, MARY ALICE MALONE, and asked for RALPH BROWN. Since BROWN had left the company for other employment, SMITH was referred to Mr. KELLY.

KELLY stated that the individual entered his office and appeared to be a white male American of approximately 40 years of age or just shy of 40. He was about 5'10", 165 pounds, with a long nose, a protruding jaw and light brown or sandy hair.

KELLY described the hair as in the stages of growing out of a crew cut and was thinning. The hair line on both sides of the temples receded a bit.

KELLY stated that his impression of this individual was very similar to the sketch which appeared in one of the Memphis daily newspapers of the suspected assassin of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. He believes this sketch was prepared by a press representative.

On 4/9/68 at Memphis, Tennessee

File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub-D-135

by SA GARY M. RAMSEY  
SA THOMAS O. RONAN TOR:tjm

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DJP

It is KELLY's understanding, through conversation which transpired with SMITH, that SMITH has a 17-year-old son and a 15-year-old daughter.

SMITH sat down in KELLY's office and after asking what had happened to RALPH BROWN, started discussing things in general, including the racial problem and the march which was scheduled to take place in Memphis. He also discussed the march of supporters of the sanitation workers strike which had occurred the preceding Thursday.

KELLY, who stated that he, himself, is from Mississippi, mutually discussed the racial problems with SMITH, mentioning how business had suffered at Birmingham due to boycotts instigated by Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SMITH also mentioned the inconveniences imposed on people and the business customer losses, much of which would never be recovered.

KELLY said that he agreed with the thoughts of SMITH during the discussion and gave examples to him of how the neighboring business had suffered, naming a particular man, who was unable to pay for his insurance and upkeep as a direct result of the strike.

KELLY said that SMITH stated "They are making another Jesus out of KING."

KELLY stated that the more SMITH talked on the subject the more agitated he seemed to get and KELLY was of the opinion that SMITH's eyes took on a glazed appearance. KELLY said that this glazed or glassy appearance was noticeably in that SMITH appeared to be looking, not at him, but through him, at an unseen object.

KELLY further stated that periodically during the conversation SMITH would interrupt himself to pass a few jokes and during this conversation also, MARY ALICE MALONE, the receptionist and secretary, entered the room and listened to what SMITH had to say.

Included in SMITH's conversations in the presence of MARY ALICE MALONE was the fact that he won all of his arguments with his wife at home and that he was the "perfect man." SMITH further said that he had written a Readers Digest article in 1963 entitled "The Perfect Man."

Concerning discipline at home, SMITH told KELLY that all disciplinary matters relative to the children were stored up and referred to him by his wife when he got home.

KELLY said that SMITH told him, and he believes this was in jest, that at one time recently he had brought his wife to Memphis and introduced her to his girl friend, a cashier at the Chisca Hotel. KELLY said that just the tone alone that SMITH used indicated to him that this was a matter of jest and not of fact.

Abruptly, SMITH returned to the topic of marches and the racial situation at Memphis and said that "something should be done to stop this nonsense." SMITH did not say anything specific and did not give any indication of a positive action to be taken on his part.

SMITH told KELLY that the girls at the Birmingham office of Vulcan Binder and Cover Company questioned SMITH when he said he was going to Memphis and he said that he told the girls of the office that he had no reason not to go to Memphis and he was not afraid of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

After approximately an hour of this conversation, KELLY tired of listening to him and began rattling and folding papers on his desk. He hoped that SMITH would take the hint and leave.

It was at about this time that the other girl of the office, BARBARA HARDIN, returned from lunch. KELLY said that this would be approximately 2:00 p.m., and she came into the office for a moment or two while SMITH was speaking.

It is KELLY's recollection that SMITH, in his conversation, noted that he had just left Birmingham that morning. As a result, KELLY does not know how long SMITH was in Memphis or when he arrived. After a few additional moments of conversation, none of which was relative to the products of the Vulcan Binder and Cover Company, SMITH got up and left the office. KELLY said that he saw SMITH go out the front door of the building, since his, KELLY's office, is on street level at the front of the building. SMITH went out the front door and started to cross the street toward a row of cars. His walk was an even gait, but he appeared to keep his toes constantly on the ground or, if they did leave the pavement, it was for a very brief period of time. KELLY said that it was also as though he were "pigeon-toed."

At this time, KELLY was distracted by the telephone and when he looked up again SMITH was out of sight. KELLY does not know if he entered any of the cars across the street or walked up around the corner. There had been a late model Pontiac sedan, parked across the street from the office, light blue in color, which was no longer there five or ten minutes later when KELLY again looked out. He does not know if SMITH entered this automobile or departed in some other car.

He cannot recall SMITH mentioning any associates or anything much about himself other than his perfection.

SMITH had been wearing a dark colored suit, probably brown and was in typical business attire of a white dress shirt and tie.

KELLY periodically referred to the fact there was a \$100,000 reward offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the assassin of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and conjectured as to when the local officials of the City of Memphis and the private groups sponsoring this reward would pay him should this person, SMITH, be the true assassin.