

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/7/68

Mr. **TRIMBLE W. MARTIN**, Installation Supervisor, U. S. Fixtures Company, Inc., 416. South Main, Memphis, telephone 527-9360, was interviewed at his place of business and at the time advised his home address is 1727 Beckdale Street, Memphis, home telephone 356-7973. Mr. MARTIN was interviewed in the presence of Lt. **CHARLES J. GREGORY**, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department.

Mr. MARTIN advised that on the evening of April 4, 1968, he was in the office at U. S. Fixtures Company, Inc., waiting for his salesman to return from a late service call. He said he was alone at the time and that the front door was open since he was waiting for a serviceman. MARTIN advised he heard a shot, but at the time did not realize it was a shot from a gun. He said he does not know the time because he did not check the clock at that time, but feels certain it was very close to 6:00 p.m., on April 4, 1968. He explained further that he did not realize it was a shot inasmuch as there are apartments above his office and very often the children knock over chairs, furniture, etc., at times causing very similar noises.

Mr. MARTIN commented that he did not pay attention to the activity outside of the building at the time of the shot. He said he turned around afterward to look out the front door to see if his serviceman was returning. He stated he cannot judge the time and has no way of measuring it, but feels that within 30 second to as late as two minutes he saw a white man run past the front door of his building. He said this individual came from the north in the direction of Bellingham Street and ran south on the east side of the street toward the firestation which is located at Butler and South Main.

Mr. MARTIN stated the white male that ran past his front door was running as though he were running to catch a bus or getting to a store before the doors were closed. He said this individual was not running possibly as fast as he could, but he was not loafing either. He explained

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 by SA FARLEY E. GYLFE/rzj Date dictated 4/7/68

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he was only able to get a glance at this individual who he believed to be rather young. He said as he recalls this individual had on either a brown suit or brown jacket or brown coat. He explained further he could only see from the waist up and, therefore, does not know the color of this individual's pants or shoes or if this individual was carrying any object or package. Mr. MARTIN stated when this individual ran past the door he did not associate the running of this person with anything or with the shot that he heard. Mr. MARTIN commented that he did not realize anything had occurred in the neighborhood until he heard the sirens and saw the police converge on this area. He said it seemed like the police arrived immediately after the shot was fired, but at that time did not realize it was a gun shot.

Mr. MARTIN stated he is unable to furnish any information as to this individual's age, type of shirt he was wearing or if he was wearing a tie, and believes this individual had a normal hair cut which did not appear to be very short nor to be too long.

Mr. MARTIN was asked if he is certain that this individual he saw was running from the north to the south on South Main Street in front of his building and he was most emphatic that the individual did run from the north direction to the south direction. Mr. MARTIN added he is certain he would not recognize the individual that ran past his store if he should see him.

He said the individual was running alone because he does not recall seeing anyone else running with him.

Mr. MARTIN stated he does not recall seeing any car drive either way in front of his office other than the police cars that seemed to converge on the area immediately.

Mr. MARTIN stated although he did not see a shoulder patch on the arm of the individual that ran past his door, he said it is likely and possible this individual was a law enforcement official, probably a deputy sheriff, since the Shelby County Sheriff's Office officers wear brown uniforms.