

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 4/22/68

FRANK CAMILLA LIBERTO, home address 3271 Powers Street, Raleigh, Memphis, Tennessee, employed as president of the M & L Produce Company, 514 Scott, Memphis, was interviewed at his place of business and he furnished the following information:

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

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

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

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

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by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK
SA ANDREW SLOAN: RE:cjs;bb Date dictated 4/22/68

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mother

EMILY LIBERTO,
2219 Altomaster Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Brothers

TONY LIBERTO,
resides two houses away from his
mother;
VINCENT LIBERTO,
who works for Viking Truck
Company as a dock foreman in
New Orleans;
SALVATORE LIBERTO, who works
for West Brothers as a truck
driver in New Orleans, Louisiana.

LIBERTO advised an individual who frequently is in and around his establishment is AMELIO GUASCO, 33 years of age, who was formerly a Shelby County Sheriff's Office deputy.

The following description of LIBERTO was obtained through observation and interview:

Name
Race
Sex
DOB
POB
Height:
Weight
Eyes
Hair
Vehicle

FRANK CAMILLA LIBERTO
White
Male
January 7, 1917
Memphis, Tennessee
5'10" - 5'11"
285
Grayish blue
Brown
Drives a 1967 Chevrolet Station
Wagon