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JOHN MC FERREN, Route 4, Box 133 A, Somerville, Tennessee, was interviewed at his place of business, Somerville, at which time he furnished the following information concerning the shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR:

On the morning of April 4, 1968, at 8:00 a.m., he traveled to Memphis, Tennessee, from Somerville to pick up his supplies for his grocery store in Somerville. Before obtaining these supplies he went to his brother's house regarding income tax returns to be filled out by his brother, ROBERT MC FERREN. He called his wife at home at approximately 2:30 p.m. and sometime thereafter, at approximately 3:00 p.m., he departed his brother's place of business to go to a "chicken place" near the Greyhound Station on Front Street to purchase some meat. He arrived at the "chicken place" a little before 3:15 p.m. and thereafter departed to go to Fineberg Meat Company, 2875 Starling Road, Memphis, Tennessee, arriving there at approximately 3:45 p.m. He bought \$72 worth of meat at this place and a white female waited on him. He left Fineberg Meat Company at approximately 4:15 p.m. enroute to the Farmers Market located on Scott Street and arrived there at approximately 4:25 to 4:30 p.m. Upon arriving at the Farmers Market, he went to the east shed to purchase a sack of potatoes from a Negro male, name unknown. He put these potatoes in the bed of his truck and then proceeded to LL & L Produce Company, 814 Scott Street, Memphis. He described this produce market as a large warehouse type building with a garage type door.

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

He stated the LL & L Produce Company is operated by a large heavy-set white male who weighs approximately 250 - 300 pounds, has straight hair, is approximately 6' tall, has gapped teeth, was wearing a red sport shirt and sitting in an office in

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Somerville, Tennessee

Memphis 44-1987

SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK &
SA ANDREW SLOAN:RF:cjs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MC FERREN stated that on the morning of April 18, 1968, between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m., a beige, late model 1966 or 1967 Cadillac with a golden emblem on the front license plate, license plate not noticed, drove into his driveway at Route 4, Box 133 A,

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Old Macon Road, Somerville, Tennessee. An individual, identified as ROBERT POWERS, and his wife, who approximately twelve years ago ran the Powers Store in Somerville, Tennessee, and thereafter left to live in New Orleans, Louisiana, or that vicinity. He stated this individual operates an all-night truck stop in Louisiana at the junction of Route 11 and Route 90. He further stated this individual has house trailers on the property.

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

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

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

MC FERREN was shown six photographs, five of which were random photographs of individuals who have been arrested in various parts of the country in the past. These photographs are of NORMAN JAMES BURHERT, FOLSE JOSEPH BERTAUT, JR., JOSEPH FRANK ARNONE, RONALD FRANCIS SCOTT, BERT VINCENT PATREM, and JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT. MC FERREN immediately eliminated the photographs of RAY, PATREM, and SCOTT and looked closely at the three remaining photographs. He stated that the

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

MC FERREN did not desire to furnish a signed statement regarding this individual stating he "did not want to get him in trouble" if this should be the wrong person. MC FERREN noted certain similarities in this photograph, namely, the hair style was the same, he had the same "jungle rot" on his neck, and the profile was similar to that of the sketch by the Commercial Appeal artist in the newspaper. The individual picked out by MC FERREN was born September 28, 1943, is 5'5" tall, weighs 152 pounds, medium build, brown hair, brown eyes, and was last known to be residing in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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

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

The following description of JOHN MC FERREN was obtained through observation and interview:

Race	Negro
Sex	Male
DOB	October 28, 1924
POB	Somerville, Tennessee

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Height	5'9"
Weight	178
Hair	Black
Eyes	Gray
Complexion	Light brown
Social Security #	[REDACTED]
Occupation	Proprietor of McFerren's Grocery Store, Somerville, Tennessee.