

## Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

DATE: 4/11/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR(JOHN BENNETT BOYKIN,  
SUSPECT)

On 4/10/68 WILLIAM F. YOUNGSON, Director of Security, Memphis State University (MSU), advised, after consultation with Dr. CECIL C. HUMPHREYS, President, MSU, that HUMPHREYS and he felt constrained to call the following information to the attention of the FBI regarding a possible suspect, namely [REDACTED] MSU student, in connection with the 4/4/68 assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

As a matter of background, YOUNGSON pointed out that [REDACTED] is a white male, 6'2", 169½ pounds, dark brown or black hair combed straight back with a receding hairline. He pointed out that [REDACTED] very closely resembles in physical facial features the "sketch of killer," a staff drawing by Commercial Appeal newspaper employee, WILLIAM HERRINGTON, which appeared on page one of the Saturday, 4/6/68, issue of the Commercial Appeal depicting an alleged composite drawing of the purported assassin of KING.

YOUNGSON, who casually knows [REDACTED] advised that on Tuesday, 4/2/68, a group of Negro students sitting in one corner of the Student Center purchased some souvenir Rebel flags from the concession stand and had a ceremony of burning them. He stated that when he was called, another one was burned by a person he was unable to identify, following which a group of white students converged on the area and one of the Negroes threw a Coke bottle against a wall, shattering the bottle. YOUNGSON stated he had difficulty in dispersing the students, but that no further incidents occurred. He stated that [REDACTED] was one of the white students who

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came upon the scene and was apparently livid with anger at what the Negro students had done.

\_\_\_\_\_ shortly thereafter went to the office of President HUMPHREYS and told Mrs. JAY WILLIAMS, Dr. HUMPHREYS' secretary, that he demanded that something be done about the Negroes disrupting the university. He demanded to see Dr. HUMPHREYS, who was not then available, and indicated that if the school did not do something about the Negroes, he would, although he did not elaborate.

YOUNGSON added that following the assassination of Dr. KING on the evening of 4/4/68, at about 12:30 a.m., 4/5/68, two of his campus police, one of whom was Officer JONES in Unit #31, were patrolling the Veterans Village, a campus housing project just north of the maintenance building, and noticed six young men in the yard in front of \_\_\_\_\_ apartment. Officers JONES, YANCEY, and ODELL made a check and found that these men had firearms in their possession and asked them what they were doing with same, following which the young men stated they were only protecting their possessions.

Thereafter, Officer FUQUA and Officer JONES went to Dean JESSE PARRISH's office, he being the Dean of Students, and reported this to him. Dean PARRISH had WILLIAM TATUM of his staff and Mr. HAMPTON, Housing Director, go with them to Veterans Village to check, whereupon \_\_\_\_\_ at the time was armed with a pistol. Mr. HAMPTON asked him to remove the weapon, which he did, and thereafter he went to Dean PARRISH's office.

Thereafter, on 4/10/68, \_\_\_\_\_ came into YOUNGSON's Security Office to register a new Plymouth Fury which he had just purchased and he was still full of hatred. He referred to his "run-in" with campus officers on the early morning of 4/5/68 and stated that if any S.O.B. came into his yard, he would kill them. He commented that he had all sorts of shotguns and rifles. YOUNGSON stated that he understood that \_\_\_\_\_ is married, and his wife, who is also a student, has been away from Vets Village since about 4/5/68. YOUNGSON has also heard that \_\_\_\_\_ along with another student, name not known, living on Norriswood, and another student on Carnes, recently went to the West Memphis gun sales and purchased a scope and

two rifles and that they possibly modified the bolts of the rifles in the Industrial Technology Building at MSU.

Also, YOUNGSON recalled that on 4/10/68 [REDACTED] told him that he had recently been on a turkey hunt in Alabama, although he did not elaborate. YOUNGSON stated that in addition to the new yellow 1968 model Plymouth Fury, four-door sedan, [REDACTED] has a 1962 model gold Pontiac Tempest two-door sedan, which bears Shelby County, Tennessee, license [REDACTED]. He pays \$30 a month rent and lives at Apt. 7-A, Veterans Village. [REDACTED] recently worked as a freight handler at one of the local freight companies but is not now known to be employed.

Another interesting factor, according to YOUNGSON, is that he understood that the possible assailant of Dr. KING used the name JOHN WILLARD in registering into the rooming house at 422½ South Main Street, and YOUNGSON pointed out that it is interesting to note that the library at MSU is known as the John Willard Brister Memorial Library.

YOUNGSON stated that the school maintains no photographs concerning its students, and he has checked all of the recent yearbooks, the "DeSoto," and has been unable to locate any photograph of [REDACTED]

YOUNGSON checked [REDACTED] class schedule which showed that on Tuesday and Thursday his last class is dismissed at 12:30 p.m. On Monday and Friday his last class lets out at 11:00 a.m., and on Wednesday his last class lets out at 3:00 p.m. He is a Business Administration major and has Social Security # [REDACTED]. His parent is [REDACTED]. He was born 11/29/45 at Memphis, Tennessee. YOUNGSON pointed out that he uses P. O. Box 81310 for his mailing address, and when he registered for the spring semester 2/29/68 he listed his address as [REDACTED] Memphis, Tennessee, phone [REDACTED]. He is classified as a junior. His original transcript shows that he first entered MSU in the fall of 1965, being a transfer from Arkansas College, Batesville, Arkansas, where he had attended the 1964-65 school year, accumulating 21 semester hours, which were accepted by MSU. He attended MSU in the fall semester of 1965, the spring semester of 1966, the spring semester of 1967, and the fall semester of 1967, and is currently enrolled.

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Will consider [REDACTED] as a suspect under the miscellaneous breakdown of instant investigation. Mr. YOUNGSON and Dr. HUMPHREYS have requested that if any additional investigation is conducted by the FBI, any inquiries on campus be cleared through one of those two. The only people at MSU who know that the FBI has been notified are Dr. HUMPHREYS; WILLIAM F. YOUNGSON; ROY NICKS, Administrative Assistant to Dr. HUMPHREYS; and Dean of Students JESSE PARRISH.