

FBI

Date: 5/1/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

MURKIN

Re Columbia teletype to Jackson, 4/26/68, with airmail copy furnished to Memphis.

Referenced teletype sets forth information from _____ Charleston, South Carolina, (CONCEAL IDENTITY) wherein _____ states he was stationed at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, prior to September, 1967, and did business at Fernwood Texaco Station in Biloxi, Mississippi.

He advised that the owner of the station was WAYNE RODGERS and that one of RODGERS's employees, a white male, 40 to 50 years old, was heard to state many times that he knew of a man that would pay a large sum of money for someone to kill KING.

Investigation at Biloxi, Mississippi, disclosed the following:

LOWELL WAYNE ROGERS, Owner, Fernwood Texaco Service Station, located and interviewed and states that prior to September 1967, he and WOODY PRINGLE were partners in the

- ② - Memphis (RM)
- 1 - Columbia (44-289) (Info) (RM)
- 2 - Jackson

JLP:ccs

(5)

Approved: RKM
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

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Fernwood Texas Station and that during that period of time, in addition to himself and PRINGLE, an individual identified as THOMAS MOODY, a white male, age approximately 44, and JOE SWANIER, a Negro male, approximately 28, were employed at the station.

ROGERS advised that he has never heard either PRINGLE or MOODY make any comment which could be construed to indicate that either of them was aware of an individual who would pay a great sum of money to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ROGERS advised that he has never made such a comment himself.

ROGERS advised that at the present time PRINGLE, MOODY, and SWAINER were working at the Fernwood Service Station, Biloxi, Mississippi. He said that to the best of his knowledge neither MOODY nor PRINGLE were particularly opposed to the civil rights movement and are not known to have ever been members of any organization opposed to the civil rights movement.

THOMAS BLOUNT MOODY was interviewed at Biloxi, Mississippi, on 4/26/68. He advised that to the best of his recollection he never made the comment to anyone indicating that he knew anyone who would be willing to pay a large sum of money to see that Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was killed. MOODY indicated that he is not opposed to the civil rights movement although he did not feel that the methods employed by certain civil rights leaders, including Doctor KING, were in the best interest of the country. He indicated that he regretted that Doctor KING had been murdered and felt that it was a tragedy for the nation. MOODY vehemently denied that he has made such a statement concerning the murder of KING. He stated that on occasion when he drinks he might make a statement of this type just to show off. He indicated that if such a statement was made, it was certainly no basis for it in fact.

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WOODROW W. PRINGLE, JR., was interviewed at Biloxi, Mississippi, on April 27, 1968.

PRINGLE stated that he has been acquainted with MOODY for several years and considers MOODY to be an honest, trustworthy individual. In the years that he has known MOODY, he stated he has never heard MOODY make any statement which might indicate that he was violently opposed to the civil rights movement in this country. Specifically, PRINGLE stated he has never heard MOODY make any type of comment which could be construed to indicate that MOODY knew of an individual who would pay a large sum of money to have Doctor KING killed. He stated to the best of his knowledge MOODY has never been a member of any Klan or hate-type organization and has never shown a propensity for violence in regard to the civil rights movement.

JOSEPH (NMN) SWAINER was interviewed at Biloxi, Mississippi, on April 27, 1968.

SWAINER, a male Negro, advised that prior to September, 1967, he was employed by ROGERS and PRINGLE at the Fernwood Texaco Service Station. During this period of time he worked with an individual named THOMAS MOODY, and he indicated he thought he was very well acquainted with MOODY. He said he never heard MOODY make any type of comment which might indicate MOODY was aware of an individual who would pay a large sum of money to see MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., killed.

SWAINER said he has no reason to believe that MOODY is now or ever has been a member of any Klan or hate-type organization.

All of the above investigation was conducted by SA PAUL A. MEISSNER, JR.

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Inasmuch as the above investigation is purely negative, FD 302s containing description and background information are being retained at Jackson.