

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

DATE: 6/11/68

FROM : SA DON C. BIRDWELL

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re telephone call from Memphis night club to SA DON C. BIRDWELL 6/8/68 based on phone call from Supervisor PETERSON at Bureau same evening.

This investigation was based on the phone call from the Bureau to the Memphis Division on the evening of 6/7-8/68 in which it was learned that an individual who identified himself as [redacted] Tennessee, telephoned the Pentagon in Washington, D. C., earlier that evening and reportedly said he was the killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He also said he was acquainted with the Sheriff PLUMMER of Montgomery County, Tennessee, and that he knew the girl in the polka dot dress who was observed at the scene of the shooting of Senator KENNEDY in Los Angeles.

On 6/8/68 Sheriff JOEL PLUMMER and Deputies BOBBY STANLEY and BOBBY HEATON, Montgomery County SO, advised that [redacted] resident of Rural Route 1, Cunningham, Tenn., is a local painter who has in the past served a prison sentence but the charge was unknown to them. According to the Montgomery County SO records, [redacted] was arrested 5/3/67 and again on 7/17/67 for assault and battery. He was described in the records as follows:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
DOB:	7/26/32
Height:	5'11"
Weight:	190 lbs.
Hair:	Red
Eyes:	Blue

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Deputies STANLEY and HEATON advised that [REDACTED] has on approximately 6 occasions in recent months provided information to them reportedly regarding the sale of illegal drugs and the location of illegal whiskey stills in Montgomery County. Full investigations based on the complaints of [REDACTED] have proven the information supplied by [REDACTED] in each instance was inaccurate and unreliable.

Sheriff PLUMMER and the two abovementioned deputies all consider [REDACTED] completely unreliable, untrustworthy and an alcoholic.

Deputies STANLEY and HEATON accompanied the writer to [REDACTED] residence on 6/8/68, at which time an attempt was made to interview him regarding the phone call made to Washington earlier that morning which resulted in an immediate denial by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] indicated in the interview that he was a supporter of GEORGE WALLACE for President and claimed that if WALLACE is elected, he, [REDACTED] will be a "big man."

When further efforts were made to interview [REDACTED] regarding the phone call made by a person using his name and telephone number to Washington, D. C., [REDACTED] again denied making the phone call and denied that he had any information concerning the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING or the murder of Senator ROBERT KENNEDY. He refused to be interviewed further and ordered the interviewing Agent and Deputies off his property, stating that if they wished to return to his property they had better have in their possession a warrant for the arrest of him.

In view of the attitude of [REDACTED] the interview was concluded.

Deputy HEATON ascertained from [REDACTED] Bell Telephone Company in Clarksville, that a man who identified himself as [REDACTED] Cunningham, Tenn., placed a Long-Distance telephone call to Governor GEORGE WALLACE at Montgomery, Alabama, at 12:48 a.m., 6/8/68, but the Office of the Governor refused the call. This same person at 12:52 a.m., telephoned the Pentagon, Washington, D. C., and talked for 8 minutes and 6 seconds, after which he hung up the phone. At 1:05 a.m., the same individual came back on the line and said he was cut off on his phone call to Washington. The connection was again made by the operator

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and this individual again talked to the Pentagon for a total of 15 additional minutes. The number he telephoned in Washington was Area Code 202, No. 545-6700.

[REDACTED] advised Deputy HEATON that she was sitting next to the operator who handled the calls from [REDACTED] and it was their opinion that the individual calling was intoxicated. They could hear a woman's voice in the background who apparently was trying to keep this person from making the telephone call.

Inasmuch as Sheriff PLUMMER and his Deputies have provided information indicating that [REDACTED] is completely untrustworthy and in view of [REDACTED] attitude when he was interviewed and further in view of the fact that it appears that [REDACTED] has no information pertinent to either the MURKIN or ROBERT KENNEDY murder, it is suggested that no further action be taken concerning investigation of [REDACTED] or any information he might claim to have.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.