

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987 Sub M)

DATE: 1/26/76

FROM : SA LARRY F. THOMAS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re memo of SA DARRELL L. HAMAR dated 12/1/75.

On 1/5/76, **ROY ALLEN RICHARDSON**, Belfast, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

He does not remember the date or even the year, but sometime prior to the time that MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was killed, he (RICHARDSON) had flown to Memphis in a private plane for tryst with a young Memphis State college student, whom he declined to identify.

He, at one time, owned two different private airplanes and had access to a third one and does not recall which plane he may have taken to Memphis on this occasion. In all of his flights to Memphis, and there were many of them, he always utilized the airport located on the island in the Mississippi River.

One reason he cannot recall any more details is that during this particular period, he drank exceptionally heavily and used all sorts of drugs.

As best he can recall, on the occasion in question he checked into the Downtowner Motel.

While waiting for his girl friend, he realized that he could hear voices in an adjoining room. As best he could tell, there were two men in this room, one apparently known as FRANK, and the other referred to as JOHN J. He does not know what they were talking about, but got the impression that they were discussing the possible elimination or murder of a person.

He cannot hope to remember the exact conversation but remembers that the one identified as JOHN J. made some comment to the effect that "the money situation is no problem. That's been taken care of."

The individual referred to as FRANK commented to the effect that the money or part of it had been put in the right place.

LFT:bc
(2)

No action warranted.
Warrants
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

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FBI - MEMPHIS



He believes it was FRANK who said, "RAY has part of his money already."

FRANK (LNU) during the conversation, referred to a female as JANICE ANN or ANN and that she and RAY were getting their money but they did not know where it was coming from.

JOHN J., on one occasion, referred to "this damn black troublemaker" and another time indicated that "by the time this is done I will be Governor of the State."

At no time was the name JAMES EARL RAY mentioned nor did he hear the name MARTIN LUTHER KING mentioned.

He thought nothing more about it at the time, and it was only after he was in prison or maybe even after he got out that this incident reoccurred to him and began to think that possibly it had something to do with MARTIN LUTHER KING.

He does know, however, that he left the room after overhearing this conversation, and as he went out of his room, a man exited the room next to him from which he had heard the voices. He recognized this man as JOHN J. HOOKER.

He has never personally met HOOKER or had any business dealings with him in any way whatsoever, but readily recognized him from having seen HOOKER in the news media many, many times.

HOOKER looked at RICHARDSON for a long time and seemed to recognize him, although there was no reason for him to. HOOKER, in speaking through the open door, said to someone inside that he was going to the bar to get him another drink. HOOKER had a glass in his hand.

RICHARDSON also went to the bar and noticed that HOOKER sat watching him for a long period of time.

He had had no contact with HOOKER since that time.

Sometime later, date unknown, RICHARDSON received an anonymous telephone call from someone who said in effect that he should just forget everything he saw or heard while he was in Memphis. He has no idea who made this call or whether they were referring to this conversation or not.

He reiterated that at this time he was running around with many different women much to the chagrin of his wife and that he was forever getting calls from unknown individuals relating to his exploits.

RICHARDSON said he is certain that this incident occurred before he was ever involved in the robbery of the bank in Belfast, but he cannot recall whether or not he was under investigation by the FBI on the stolen car problem at this time, again, because he drank so much he could not remember well.

It was pointed out to RICHARDSON that this writer had been in contact with him on many, many occasions since this happened and was asked why he had not mentioned this earlier.

RICHARDSON stammered a bit and when forced for an answer, said that he did not think much about it until recent months and knew that he had not seen nor heard anything of any evidentiary value and because of this thought it would be foolish for him to say anything. He said, however, that the matter has weighed on his conscious and he wanted to make it known for whatever it might be worth.

He said that except for DENNIS BATES, the only other person that he ever told about this was his attorney in Lewisburg, HAYWOOD WHITAKER. He claims to have told WHITAKER several months ago.

RICHARDSON was asked if he had any objection to the FBI talking to WHITAKER on the premise that RICHARDSON might have remembered some information and given it to WHITAKER but has since forgotten it.

RICHARDSON did not voice any particular objection to this, but did not seem to be pleased with the prospect of it.

It will be noted that this Agent has investigated ROY ALLEN RICHARDSON, at great length in a car theft ring and investigated and prosecuted him for robbery of the bank in Belfast. Up until the time RICHARDSON was convicted of bank robbery, he was totally uncooperative, but subsequent to that time went through a period of apparent sole searching and seemed desirous of telling everything that he knows.

At no time did he ever indicate that he had any information of this sort in his possession.

Recently, RICHARDSON has undergone severe financial reverses based, he says, on his ill health.

Throughout recent years, RICHARDSON has been frequently hospitalized and showed outward signs of being ill.

On 1/5/76, RICHARDSON outwardly was a "picture of health" and said that he was feeling better than he had for a long time. His reaction to and demeanor before this Agent was somewhat different from what it has been in recent years. Where he had previously exhibited his air of cooperation, on 1/5/76 he appeared somewhat reluctant to furnish details.

It is the interviewing Agent's opinion that if the incident did, in fact, occur, RICHARDSON had no knowledge at the time that it was related in any way to MARTIN LUTHER KING and that his subsequent connections with the KING murder is purely a move on his part to gain release from his parole.

Every possible effort was made to pin RICHARDSON down as to a date this incident occurred in the hope that it could be verified, at least as to his residence at the Downtowner Motel. RICHARDSON steadfastly maintained he could not remember the date and had no records to search to determine this date and that even his white records were destroyed or he did not know where they were.

He claimed that he traveled to Memphis on an average of once a month during this time, which would make it virtually impossible to determine the date in question, and because of this no specific leads are being set forth.