

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : MR. TROTTER *llb*

FROM : N. E. McDaniel *q*

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 10-28-68

Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DeLoach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bishop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Casper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Callahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conrad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Felt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tavel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trotter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gandy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*James*

*R M J*

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. Previous information received from Memphis indicated that committee of seven attorneys advising Judge W. Preston Battle, Criminal Court, Memphis, Tennessee, was presenting to the Judge a petition stating that George Bonebrake, Latent Fingerprint Examiner, may be in violation of the Judge's court order restricting comment in this case. Their recommendation based on article appearing in Wichita, Kansas, "Beacon" newspaper concerning a police school conducted by Bonebrake in September, 1968. Bonebrake presented expert fingerprint testimony on June 27, 1968, in London, England, in connection with extradition of James Earl Ray. His testimony received widespread publicity in news media throughout the world. Bonebrake has emphatically denied discussing his fingerprint testimony with press representatives at any time or unnecessarily airing fingerprint testimony of this case before a police school in Wichita, Kansas. On one occasion representatives of this police school, in a closed session, attempted to query him as to details of the fingerprint testimony. Bonebrake reports he gave no facts other than what had already been quoted by the press concerning his London testimony. Administrative action has previously been taken against Bonebrake for discussing the case at the closed police school.

Judge Battle signed petition 10-24-68 which requires that Bonebrake appear before the Court on 12-6-68 to show cause why he should not be adjudged in contempt. The Judge noted he was setting the date of 12-6-68 which would be after the trial of James Earl Ray, subject of the case, since to do otherwise would result in unnecessary publicity, defeating purpose of his original order. The committee of attorneys in presenting the petition to the Judge recognized that the Court does not have jurisdiction. The committee of attorneys has no sound grounds to substantiate their recommendation and undoubtedly took this action against our employee as a face-saving gesture. The committee has been severely criticized by Ray's Defense Attorney Arthur Hanes, Sr., and a Memphis "Commercial Appeal" newspaper reporter Charles Edmundson, who are both currently under contempt citation by Judge Battle in this case as result of

Enc. sent 10-29-68

- 1 - Mr. Rosen PERSONNEL RECORDS
- 1 - Mr. Bishop PLACE COPY IN FILE

NEM:hs  
(6)

OF GEORGE BONEBRAKE EA-105

REC-14 44-38861 5313

25 NOV 6 1968

51 NOV 15 1968

NOTED

THREE

PERS. REC. UNIT