

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: October 20, 1969

FROM : A. Rosen

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. McDonough
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan

SUBJECT: MURKIN

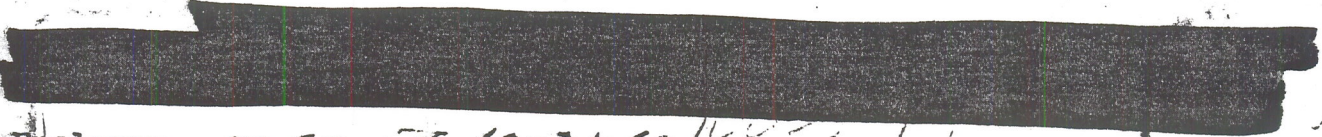
RA

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Internal Security Division of the Department has advised that pursuant to his request, Harold Weisberg, a freelance writer who resides in Frederick, Maryland, was interviewed by a Department attorney 10-8-69. During the course of the interview Weisberg advised that he had recently received a telephone call from J. B. Stoner, National Chairman of the National States Rights Party in which Stoner claimed that two men in his party formerly served as informants of the FBI and these two men are prepared to testify in court that the FBI offered them \$25,000 to frame James Earl Ray for the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Weisberg said the testimony presumably would be furnished in a habeas corpus proceeding.

This is obviously an attempt by Weisberg and Stoner to discredit the Bureau with such unwarranted, scurrilous allegations.

Weisberg is apparently identical with Harold Weisberg an individual who has been most critical of the Bureau in the past. He is the author of several books including one entitled, "Whitewash - The Report of the Warren Report" and has been critical of the FBI, Secret Service, police agencies and other branches of Government. He was one of ten employees fired by the State Department during 1947 because of his loyalty being suspected. He was later allowed to resign. (This is public source data, article in "Washington Post" 11-18-47.) Weisberg by letter in April, 1969, requested information on the King murder case for a forthcoming book. It was approved that his letter not be acknowledged. (100-35138)



Enclosures (2) sent 10-21-69

EJM:jmv

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CONTINUED - OVER

OCT 23 1969

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Handwritten notes and signatures:
Casper
D. J. [unclear]
11/10/69

With respect to the admission of perjury on the part of Dean Andrews, we are, as you surmised, well aware of developments in that regard. As the matter involves a possible criminal prosecution you can appreciate, I am sure, that comment by us to you at this time would be inappropriate. However, in your evaluation of Federal action or inaction on this subject you should consider the fact that substantially the same misconduct, though before another forum, is currently under consideration in the courts of the State of Louisiana. This raises two factors for consideration. First, whether Federal action would amount to intervention in the State proceedings, and second, whether misconduct relating substantially to the same acts of an individual should be made the subject of successive state and Federal prosecutions.

No doubt you intend to pursue your inquiries into the assassination. Hopefully, the release of additional materials in the files, as the passage of time or other events make it possible, will serve to answer some of your questions. Again, may I say, we will welcome receipt of your views from time to time, for, though our views on the means may differ, we seek as you do to serve the best interests of the Nation on this grave subject.

Sincerely,

WILL WILSON
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

By: CARL W. BELCHER
Chief, General Crimes Section

*Weisberg is the same
character who wrote me
a few days ago about the
Ray case.*
C. W.

Rosen to DeLoach Memo
RE: MURKIN

[REDACTED] On the basis of the information furnished, the two alleged former informants referred to cannot be identified in Bureau files.

ACTION:

1. In view of the nature of the information and the background on Weisberg [REDACTED] it is not felt that they should be interviewed regarding this matter.
2. The Savannah Office which is the office of origin in the case covering the activities of [REDACTED] and the Memphis Office which is office of origin in the James Earl Ray case and is following any appeals are being furnished background information in this matter and are being instructed to be alert for any further information along these lines in order that appropriate action can be taken on any such additional information as warranted.
3. The Memphis Office is being instructed to advise responsible Tennessee state authorities handling the King murder case of the information furnished by the Department and that there is no basis to the allegation that the FBI offered money to anyone to frame James Earl Ray for the King murder. Information furnished Tennessee state authorities will be confirmed in writing by the Memphis Office. Airtel along these lines attached for approval. Letter to Department attached for approval denying allegation against FBI.

SPW *Ch* *JMM* *R* *OK* *H* *k*