44-38861-5675 | 25 | 3/31/69

SAC, ME

MURKIN

JIM BEASLEY, AAG, SHELBY COUNTY, TENN. ONE OF THE ATTORNEYS WHO HANDLED THE JAMES EARL RAY CASE, ENTERED JUDGE W. PRESTON BATTLE'S CHAMBERS AT APPROXIMATELY FIVE THIRTY FIVE PM THIS DATE AND FOUND JUDGE BATTLE SLUMPED OVER HIS DESK. BEASLEY IMMEDIATELY CALLED AN AMBULANCE WHICH TOOK JUDGE BATTLE TO METHODIST HOSPITAL WHERE HE LATER DIED. INDICATIONS ARE THAT JUDGE BATTLE DIED FROM NATURAL CAUSES.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION
MAR 31 1969

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI MEMPHIS

754 PM URGENT 3/31/69 RJT

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN

JIM BEASLEY, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, ONE OF THE ATTORNEYS WHO HANDLED THE JAMES EARL RAY CASE, ENTERED JUDGE W. PRESTON BATTLE'S CHAMBERS AT APPROXIMATELY FIVE THIRTYFIVE P. M. THIS DATE AND FOUND JUDGE BATTLE SLUMPED OVER HIS DESK. BEASLEY IMMEDIATELY CALLED AN AMBULANCE WHICH TOOK JUDGE BATTLE TO METHODIST HOSPITAL WHERE HE WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD ON ARRIVAL.

ACCORDING TO THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT THERE IS NO INDICATION OF FOUL PLAY. INDICATIONS ARE THAT JUDGE BATTLE DIED FROM NATURAL CAUSES.

REC- 25 5675

16 APR 9 1969

BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED OF ANY ADDITIONAL PERTINENT DETAILS.

END

MSE

FBI WASH DC

56 APR 9 1969

MR DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR