

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch
Director, FBI

March 24, 1978

1 - Mr. Bailey
1 - Mr. G. J. Foster
1 - Legal Counsel Division
(Attn: Mr. Coulson)

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HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

In connection with the HSCA's investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., the FBI Field Office in St. Louis, by teletype dated March 13, 1978, advised that during an unrelated file review information not previously disseminated concerning this matter had been surfaced. This information was furnished to FBI Headquarters in a memorandum from the St. Louis Field Office dated March 13, 1978, which was received by the Congressional Inquiry Unit, Records Management Division, on March 16, 1978. Additional information concerning this matter was telephonically furnished by the St. Louis Office on March 17, 1978, which is contained in the attached memorandum dated March 20, 1978.

[REDACTED] furnished information of value to this Bureau

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Enclosed are an original and one copy each of two memorandums dated March 13, 1978, and March 20, 1978, which contain information of interest to the Committee. It is requested that you furnish copies of the enclosed memorandums to the HSCA.

Enclosures (4)

TWB:pfm (8)

MAILED 7
MAR 27 1978
FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 1/22/01 BY SP7/MSK

NOTE: By teletype dated March 13, 1978, St. Louis advised file review of SL [REDACTED], Bufile [REDACTED] revealed information not previously disseminated concerning possible suspect in the Martin Luther King assassination. St. Louis furnished this information in letterhead memorandum form dated March 13, 1978.

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- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Serv. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
- Fin. & Pers. _____
- Ident. _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Insp. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Tech. Servs. _____
- Training _____
- Public Affs. Off. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director _____

REC-36

62-117270-576

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SEE NOTE PAGE 2

58 APR 26 1978

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

PMS
FBI/DOJ

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

On March 17, 1978, Special Agent [redacted] St. Louis Field Supervisor, was contacted regarding additional information concerning this matter. [redacted] advised that St. Louis informant had spoken with Russell George Beyers who is a fence in the St. Louis area. [redacted]

[redacted] A copy of the original source contact memorandum was placed in [redacted] informant file and an 87-file, however, there is no evidence that Beyers was ever questioned about the meeting with the deceased St. Louis attorney. Additionally, there is no evidence that this information was ever acted on or disseminated outside the St. Louis Office. Beyers was arrested approximately two weeks ago by the St. Louis Police Department as suspect in a St. Louis museum burglary and this precipitated the file review which surfaced the information in question.

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[redacted] stated that both the Agent and Supervisor who handled original contact memorandum with St. Louis informant have retired. The original St. Louis informant [redacted] Bufile [redacted] to whom Beyers spoke [redacted]

Response regarding [redacted] was coordinated with Special Agent [redacted] Criminal Informant Unit, Division Six.

A search was made of the central records index for Russell George Beyers. [redacted]

Original St. Louis letterhead memorandum dated March 13, 1978, contained informant symbol number, and St. Louis and Bureau informant file numbers, and was, therefore, retyped with this information deleted.

As the HSCA is expected to have an intense interest in this information, it is being furnished in memorandum form through the Department to the Committee.

- 1 - Mr. Bailey
- 1 - Mr. G. J. Foster
- 1 - Legal Counsel Division
(Attn: Mr. Coulson)

March 20, 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

In connection with the HSCA's investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., the St. Louis Office of the FBI surfaced information during a file review in an unrelated matter which it is believed is of interest to the Committee. This information concerning a St. Louis informant discussing with (first name not furnished) Beyers several individuals who may have information germane to the HSCA's investigation was furnished to FBI Headquarters, in the attached memorandum dated March 13, 1978.

In order to facilitate the Committee's evaluation of the information contained in above-mentioned memorandum, the St. Louis Office was asked to furnish background data on Beyers. On March 17, 1978, the St. Louis Office telephonically furnished the following:

NAME: Russell George Beyers
DOB: [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7/22/84 BY SP10/ACM

The information contained in the memorandum of March 13, 1978, was discovered as a result of a file review conducted for background data on Beyers who was recently arrested by the St. Louis Police Department for his alleged participation in the burglary of a St. Louis museum.

Where information is not provided, it is because it is not retrievable or is not being furnished pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding.

62-117290

Asst. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.:

- Adm. Serv. _____ ORIGINAL AND ONE SENT TO ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, CRIMINAL DIVISION, ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT L. KEUCH
- Crim. Inv. _____
- Fin. & Pers. _____
- Ident. _____
- Intell. _____ NOTE: See Director, FBI, letter to Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch, dated March 24, 1978, captioned as above.
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Insp. _____ 1 - Assistant Attorney General (Civil Rights Division)
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____ 1 - Office of Professional Responsibility (Attn: Mr. Michael E. Shanahan)
- Tech. Servs. _____
- Training _____
- Public Affs. Off. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

212 wts
YELLOW *H2*

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

ENCLOSURE

62-117290-

FBI/DOJ

- 1 - Mr. Failey
- 1 - Mr. G. J. Foster
- 1 - Legal Counsel Division
(Attn: Mr. Coulson)

March 13, 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

In the course of a file review conducted at the St. Louis FBI Office in an unrelated matter, a St. Louis informant file was reviewed. This file contained a contact memorandum dated March 19, 1974, which set forth information relating to several criminal matters and also contained the following paragraph:

[REDACTED]

Beyers talked freely about himself and his business, and they later went to [REDACTED] where Beyers told a story about visiting a lawyer in St. Louis County, now deceased, not further identified, who had offered to give him a contract to kill Martin Luther King. He said that also present was a short, stocky man, who walked with a limp. (Later, with regard to the latter individual, Beyers commented that this man was actually the individual who made the payoff of James Earl Ray after the killing.) Beyers said he had declined to accept this contract. He did remark that this lawyer had confederate flags and other items about the house that might indicate that he was 'a real rebel'. Beyers also commented that he had been offered either \$10,000 or \$20,000 to kill King.

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Extensive further research in the St. Louis indices and files failed to reveal this information was in any way disseminated and the information simply reposes in the informant file.

DUPLICATE YELLOW

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Serv. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
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- Ident. _____
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- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

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62-117290

ORIGINAL AND ONE SENT TO ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL,
CRIMINAL DIVISION, ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT L. KNUCH

NOTE: See Director, FBI, letter to Assistant Attorney General,
Criminal Division, Attention: Robert L. Knuch, dated
March 24, 1978, captioned as above.

- 1 - Assistant Attorney General
(Civil Rights Division)
- 1 - Office of Professional Responsibility
(Attn: Mr. Michael F. Shaheen, Jr.)

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT 62-117290-576

FBI/DOJ