

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Long
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Martindale
- 1 - Mr. McDonough

April 5, 1968

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MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

At approximately 6:03 p. m., April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr., was on a second floor balcony of the Lorraine Hotel and Motel, Memphis, Tennessee. King's associates, who were at the street level, heard a shot and King fell immediately after the shot was heard. He was taken at once to St. Joseph Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 7:05 p. m. Death resulted from bullet damage to major neck vessels and the spinal cord.

Investigation indicates that the shot may have been fired from the second floor bathroom of a rooming house at 422 1/2 South Main Street, approximately 205 feet from where King was standing. A shot was heard from the second floor at approximately 6 p. m. and immediately after the shot was fired, a white man left the bathroom and ran out of the building. The bathroom provides an open view of King's room. Occupants of the rooming house had observed a white man carrying a package approximately three feet in length and possibly wrapped in a piece of blanket. This man occupied Room 5B on April 4, 1968.

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Bessie Ruth Brewer, manager of the rooming house, advised that a white man who identified himself only as John Willard and who gave no address, appeared at the rooming house sometime between 3 p. m. and 3:30 p. m., April 4, 1968, and rented Room 5B, paying one week's rent in advance. Room 5B affords a view of the Lorraine Hotel and Motel. We are making every effort to locate Willard as quickly as possible.

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Guy Warren Canipe, Sr., operates an amusement machine company approximately 300 feet from King's room. At approximately 6 p. m. he heard a noise at his door. He looked up and saw a man walking away.

1 cc - The White House, the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, Assistant Attorney General Stephen J. Pollak by routing slip dated 4/5/68.

MAILED 24
APR 5 1968
COMM-FBI

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 _____

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MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

He then found an open carton and saw a gun barrel in the carton. A piece of green cloth was wrapped around the carton and a small zipper bag was nearby. Canipe also observed a white Mustang being driven away at a high rate of speed.

The items found by Canipe are presently undergoing exhaustive examinations in the FBI Laboratory and extensive efforts are being made to trace each item. The carton contained a .30-06 Springfield caliber Remington Gamemaster rifle, Model 760, serial number 461476. The rifle is equipped with a Redfield variable power telescopic sight. The zipper bag contained various personal items including a pair of binoculars.

The bullet recovered from King's body is also being examined by the FBI Laboratory.

Press reports have referred to two suspects who were arrested after they were observed changing clothes in a garage. These men are Manuel Marcus Levin and Alex J. Hurder. Both have been identified as civil rights workers by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and have been released.

A full investigation has been instituted and every effort is being made to promptly identify the person or persons responsible for this murder.