

3. Dr. King's Activities on April 4, 1968

f  
d  
According to Mrs. Georgia M. Davis of Louisville, Kentucky (FBI interview: HQ File 44-38861-2634, p.20) she, Rev. A.D. Williams King, (Dr. King's brother) and Mrs. Lucie Ward arrived in Memphis on April 4, 1968, from Florida and registered at the Lorraine Motel at approximately 1:00a.m. Upon inquiring about Dr. King, they were told that he was attending a strategy meeting at a church. The three then went to the church, but Dr. King was not there.

ed  
Returning to the motel, Dr. King's brother, Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Ward conversed in room 207 until they observed Dr. King, along with Reverends Ralph Abernathy and Bernard Lee, getting out of a taxicab in the motel courtyard at about 4:30a.m. Dr. King was invited to room 207 where he visited with his brother, Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Ward until about 5:00a.m. He then went to room 306 where he and Rev. Abernathy were registered. About a half hour later Dr. King went to room 201 where he visited with Mrs. Davis for approximately one hour. Afterwards he returned to room 306 for a strategy meeting scheduled for 8:00a.m.

Solomon Jones, Jr., Dr. King's chauffer, returned to the Lorraine Motel at about 8:30a.m. to take him to court.

However, Rev. Andrew Young advised Jones that he was going to court instead of Dr. King. Therefore Jones was requested to remain at the motel. (HQ 44-38861-2322, p.51).

Dr. King remained at the motel the entire day, returning to room 201 at about 1:30p.m. to visit Mrs. Davis. He was later joined in room 201 by his brother, Mrs. Ward, Abernathy, Lee, Young, and Attorney Chauncey Eskridge. The group conversed until about 5:45p.m. when Dr. King announced they were going to dinner at the home of Rev. Billy Kyles (HQ 44-38861-2634, p.23). <sup>\*/</sup> Enroute to room 306 to dress, Dr. King saw Solomon Jones, Jr. in the motel courtyard and told him to start the car as they were preparing to go to dinner (HQ 44-38861-2322, p.52).

---

<sup>\*/</sup> There is a discrepancy in the exact time Dr. King returned to room 306. Mrs. Davis places the time at 5:45p.m. However, in an FBI interview, Rev. Abernathy stated that on April 4, 1968, he and Dr. King did not leave the motel and spent most of the day in room 306. He further stated that he and Dr. King had been gone from their room for approximately one hour or less when they returned to the room at about 5:30p.m. to get dressed for dinner at the home of Rev. Billy Kyles. (HQ 44-38861-2322, p.48).

to

At approximately 6:00p.m. Dr. King and Rev. Abernathy started to leave room 306. Rev. Abernathy stopped for a moment and Dr. King walked out onto the balcony just outside the door to the room (HQ 44-38861-2322, p.46). He saw Jones standing beside the car on the ground level and began a conversation about the weather. Jones advised Dr. King that he should put on a topcoat as it was cool outside. During this conversation, Dr. King was facing west and Jones was facing east and looking up at Dr. King from the ground level. As Dr. King acknowledged Jones' concern about getting his topcoat, Jones heard a sound which he thought was a fire cracker and Dr. King fell to the floor of the balcony in front of room 306. Jones immediately called for help and a number of Dr. King's aides, who were either in their rooms or standing in the courtyard, rushed to his side (HQ 44-38861-2322, p.52). \*/

d  
ng

361-

---

\*/ Some critics of the FBI investigation have speculated that Solomon Jones, Jr. set Dr. King up for the assassination by unduly detaining him on the balcony. Nothing in the evidence reviewed by the task force lends any credence to such speculation.