

Transcript of tape recording - HALL

H. My name is Audrey Hall. I live at 605 East Macklin Avenue, Memphis, Tenn. On Thursday, April 4, 1968, Mr. Hanes and I attended a Citizens' Committee for the Blind. This committee meets every first Thursday in each month. Upon entering the room, I noticed not very many people. The tables were set up in a sort of L, or T, rather. Mr. Hanes and I decided to sit at the very end away from the other group, and I helped him take off his wrap and I took off my coat and got ready to situate ourselves. And the hostess called our attention to the fact that

Then she called me by name. I left Mr. Hanes alone at the table and went back. Mr. Hanes and I began to engage in small talk. Uh - someone else called my name, I can't remember who it was, and act that Mr. Hanes denied, sit closer, to the group there was quite a bit of space between us and the rest. I was aware of the conversation taking place and uh, as he sat next to uh, one - I don't know whom. I heard them name Dr. Martin Luther King. And uh, on the other side of ~~me~~ I heard uh, what I ~~heard~~ thought was the person said, I know some guys from Mississippi who think differently. This is what I thought I heard. Mr. Hanes and I did not have an opportunity to discuss this at the time. I was immediately embarrassed. I missed the because the person sitting directly in front of me leaned toward me and started talking, so that I could not tell you the course that the conversation took because of this person who diverted my attention. At first, I felt that this statement was made because Mr. Hanes and myself were the only two colored people present. And I was embarrassed. I paid \$2 for a dinner that I did not enjoy, could not eat. The meeting was a strictly business type and at the end of the meeting they asked Mr. Hanes to stay by a set time that they would take him back to work. I left Mr. Hanes and I went back to work.

It was that evening around after 7 when I learned that Dr. King was killed. I had no reaction at the time. I did not think of what I had heard, not until Mr. Hanes called me the next day. It might have been a day or so, I can't remember, <sup>which, and</sup> ~~but~~ he asked me, did I hear what he heard. I said, I think so; what did you hear? Uh, he went on to tell me, and I said, well, I thought it was like this. I thought I heard the man say 'I know someone in Mississippi who thinks differently' and Mr. Hanes corrected me. He said, 'The man say, I know someone in Mississippi who'll get him.' I said, is that right? I said, do you know who it was? He said, yes, I do. He said, you afraid to talk about it? I said, of course I'm not. He

said, well, I've gone out on the limb. I said, what do you mean? He said, I've gone to the authorities. I said, I think this call is going to involve me. I did not give him an opportunity to discuss it further, and at this date I really don't know exactly what he heard, and Mr. Hanes is our trainer; I'm pretty sure he heard more than I heard.

The meeting was at the Sheraton Motor Inn. Our meeting.

Q. Do you remember the time that you arrived?

H. I picked Mr. Hanes up - I left my office to go out about 11:30. It was between 11:30 and quarter to 12 that I picked Mr. Hanes up and we proceeded

I expect we got there around noon, so it might be slightly before or shortly after.

Perhaps I should bring out the fact that Mr. Hanes is visually handicapped himself and his ears are trained. I had made a statement earlier that Mr. Hanes could hear very well. He's not easily detracted. The person who made the statement was quite handsome, of stock - stockily built -

Q. The person who ...

H. The person who made the statement, he knew some guys from Mississippi. Was stocky-built; he talked an awful lot, ~~like~~ he talks real loud, and I think he has gray hair, and he is blind. There was another blind Caucasian there who spoke on the quiet side, he's tall and thin, slim, rather, and of course, Mr. Hanes. Now, these were the only two blind people that I've experienced.

I think I should bring out at this point that the conversation - the conversation that Mr. Hanes and I had over the phone uh - when he asked me, did I hear what he heard, proceeded to the point where he corrected me by telling me that uh, the man had spoke about he knew some guys in Mississippi who would get him. Uh, I didn't give Mr. Hanes a chance to go any further; I became frightened at the very thought of hearing such a statement that I had - I had not heard it, you know, and - and he hadn't had a chance to really discuss it, you know, since that day.

Today is April 13, 1968.

Transcript of tape recording - Fane (FAIN?)

F. My name is Gerald Fane, 561 Memphis, Tennessee. I am a witness to the statement for Mrs. Audrey Hall, here, April 13, at 1:15 p.m. I certify that I have witnessed the statement of Mrs. Hall - Mrs. Audrey Hall.

BF: This is Mrs. Blanche Fane. I have also witnessed the recording made by Mrs. Audrey Hall, Saturday, April 13, 1968.\*