

Jk 44-769
WLA/pas
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The following investigation was conducted by
SA WILLIAM LEE BOLYARD at Panama City, Florida on
April 23, 1968:

BUD HASTINGS, operator-owner, Treasure Island
Hotel, Panama City Beach, Florida, furnished the following
information:

On March 25, 1968, a Mrs. JASPER WARD and
a Mrs. GEORGIA DAVIS came to his motel seeking a room.
He pointed out to them that he was at the motel carrying
out certain maintenance details in preparation for
opening the motel and that he was not at that time ready
to rent any of his units in that he was still in the
process of painting and carrying on other maintenance
details. Thereafter, Mrs. WARD and Mrs. DAVIS left and
returned within a short period of time stating that they
liked his motel the best of any locations they had
observed on the beach and requested that he rent them
a room, if possible, for several days vacation. He
explained to them that he was willing for them to rent
his motel room if they were aware that the office to
the motel was not opened and there would be no telephone
service as a result of the office being closed. Both
agreed that they desired to rent the room and thereafter
he rented them Unit Number 4 which unit at that time was
available for occupancy.

Mrs. WARD registered, listing her address as
2540 Ransdell Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky. At the time
they registered, Mrs. WARD and Mrs. DAVIS were driving a
1967 Cadillac convertible. Mrs. WARD identified herself
as a State Senator in the Kentucky Legislature. At the
time they registered they indicated that they would be there
from two to three weeks. They also indicated that they
anticipated another guest arriving within several days who
could join them at the motel.

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On April 1, 1968, he came to the motel to continue his maintenance duties at which time he observed an individual seated on the patio of Unit Number 4 drinking a can of beer. This individual introduced himself as Reverend A.D. KING. Reverend KING checked into Unit 5 as a part of the party of Mrs. JASPER WARD and Mrs. GEORGIA DAVIS. They remained at the motel until April 3, 1968 when Reverend A.D. KING checked from the motel. Mrs. WARD and Mrs. DAVIS did not check from the motel, but stated they were leaving enroute to Memphis, Tennessee to participate in a demonstration march with Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING. Mrs. WARD indicated that she and Mrs. DAVIS would return to Panama City Beach to complete their vacation.

Mrs. WARD returned to the motel on April 6, 1968 at which time she checked herself and Mrs. DAVIS from the motel. Mrs. WARD was alone at the time.

During the time that these individuals stayed at the Treasure Island Motel, he had very little conversation with them as they remained on the beach most of the day, during which time he was in the general area conducting maintenance work on the motel. He did not observe any of these individuals having any visitors during the time they were at the motel, and they used the pay telephone located outside the motel office during their stay as the motel office was not opened. He recalls that they made numerous telephone calls and that they had numerous incoming calls through the pay telephone during the hours that he was in the general area conducting his maintenance duties.

Mr. HASTINGS advised that he has no information whatsoever pertaining to the death of Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING.

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Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM : SAC, JACKSONVILLE (44-769) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS

(OO: ME)

DATE: 5/9/68

Re LS airtel to Director, 4/16/68, setting forth information concerning Mrs. JASPER B. WARD furnished to Louisville concerning her visit with Mrs. GEORGIA DAVIS and Rev. A.D. KING to Panama City, Florida on 3/25/68.

Enclosed herewith to Memphis are nine (9) copies of an investigative insert setting forth the interview of BUD HASTINGS, owner, Teasure Island Motel, Panama City Beach, Florida.

2 - Memphis (Enc. 9)
2 - Jacksonville
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