

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION

JUL 7 1968

TELETYPE

- 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. Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI MEMPHIS

550 PM URGENT 7-2-68 DGB

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987) 2 P

MURKIN

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STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL PHIL CANALE, MEMPHIS, ADVISED SAC HIS OFFICE HAS BEEN CONSIDERING WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH CHARLES Q. STEPHENS. STEHPENS, AS BUREAU IS AWARE, IS PRINCIPAL WITNESS AS HE WAS RESIDENT OF ROOMING HOUSE IN MEMPHIS WHERE SUBJECT STAYED. STEPHENS HAS PROPENSITY FOR DRINKING AND FREQUENTS LOW CLASS BARS. STEPHENS RETURNED TO MEMPHIS FRIDAY LAST AFTER HAVING SPENT SEVERAL DAYS AT RELATIVE'S FARM. SINCE THAT TIME MEMPHIS PD HAS MAINTAINED COVERAGE OF STEPHENS. AG CANALE EXPRESSED SOME FEAR THAT BECAUSE OF STEPHENS' HABITS SOME HARM MIGHT COME TO HIM BEFORE TRIAL OF RAY.

AG CANALE ADVISED THERE APPEARED TWO ALTERNATIVES OPEN TO HIM, THE FIRST TO MAKE EFFORTS TO SECRETE STEPHENS SOMEWHERE UNTIL TRIAL, OR SECOND TO TAKE HIM INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY. CHIEF OF POLICE LUX AND SHERIFF WILLIAM B. MORRIS PRESSED CANALE TO MAKE SOME DECISION AS TO WHAT COULD BE DONE IN CONNECTION WITH STEPHENS. CHIEF LUX WAS POSITIVE IN REQUESTING CANALE EXPLORE ALL LEGAL AVENUES TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT STEPHENS MIGHT NOT BE TAKEN

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PAGE TWO

INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY. CANALE ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS SOME BASIS UNDER WHICH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MIGHT TAKE STEPHENS INTO CUSTODY. HE WAS TOLD BY SAC THAT STEPHENS WAS, OF COURSE, MATERIAL WITNESS IN STATE CASE AND SAC HAD NO KNOWLEDGE AS TO HOW FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MIGHT TAKE STEPHENS INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO AG CANALE THAT RETURN OF SUBJECT FROM ENGLAND WAS BASED ON STATE REQUEST AND THAT STEPHENS' TESTIMONY WOULD BE GIVEN IN STATE CASE AND THAT DECISION AS TO WHAT TO DO RE STEPHENS SHOULD BE MADE BY HIM. AG CANALE INDICATED HE WOULD CALL ASST.- ATTORNEY GENERAL STEVE POLLACK OF THE CIVIL RIGHT DIVISION, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE SOME BASIS ON WHICH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COULD TAKE SOME ACTION IN REGARD TO CHARLES Q. STEPHENS.

BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENT AND THIS IS SUBMITTED FOR BUREAU'S INFORMATION. P.

END.

LLD

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