

AUTHORIZATION FOR FBI INVESTIGATION OF KING ASSASSINATION

When I requested the records reflecting the first authorization of an FBI investigation of the King assassination, after a long delay I was informed that no record of this first authorization could be found.

However, there is an authorization, one that is an early serial and is repeated as a later serial, with a missing attachment. As repeated it is of the time of this litigation and the House investigation, so the FBI, in processing the records, was aware of its existence and still did not provide it. Shea also informed me that no authorization could be found. This also raises questions about why Shea was misinformed or underinformed. Examination of this authorization suggests answers.

A paraphrase of then SAC Jensen's guilty plea testimony pertaining to authorization for the FBI investigation is that it was immediate, in response to his phone call to FBIHQ, which he estimated was about five minutes after Dr. King was killed or about 6:06 p.m. Memphis time, which is 7:06 p.m. Washington time - when one would not expect the Attorney General or the FBI Director to be in his office.

Serial 109, repeated as 6611, is a written request of the AAG, CRD, asking for an investigation under 18 U.S.C. 241. It bears no indication that it was hand-delivered and there is no attached record indicating that this could be pursuant to any phone call to the FBI and confirming that phone call.

There is an unidentified handwritten note reading "Investigation ordered." It is not dated, not initialed, and it cannot be the FBI's noting of authorization after which it began its investigation. The absence of dating and initialing is stypical. The FBI records such details pertaining to the most trivial matters. This was anything but a trivial matter. In addition, other records reflect that AAG Pollak was not in touch with the FBI until after a conference with the Attorney General, which was delayed. Jensen's testimony, confirmed by MURKIN records, is clear that the FBI was in the investigation before anyone in DJ asked or authorized it.

The FBI is a stickler for authorization, normally. It spends more money and time

obtaining and recording authorization for spending petty sums than the amount of the money spent. There are many such instances in MURKIN records. Yet with its most expensive manhunt in history to that time the records provided do not include this.

There is a parallel in the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy. *The FBI*  
~~It seized~~ <sup>seized</sup> that case immediately, without authorization. Later it claimed that its authorization was President Johnson's request of Hoover, personally, for a Presidential rather than a law enforcement investigation. Again there is no written record. However, there is another record, on a different subject. Cartha DeLoach finally persuaded Hoover to grant an interview to William Manchester, who was writing his officially-approved account of that assassination. DeLoach was present. He wrote a long memo on the interview for Hoover. This memo records that Hoover told Manchester that he took control of the investigation hours before Johnson spoke to him.

Locating Serial 109 was a simple matter with the abstracts and if the FBI were asked to find its authorization, one means would be by the abstracts. If one read all the abstracts to 109, which is not necessary, it would take little more than an hour for a clerk. However, the abstracts are designed to eliminate the need for reading them to locate such records. All non-Washington records, for example, <sup>are</sup> ~~as~~ eliminated at a glance, as rapidly as the abstracts can be flipped.

The most probable, if not the only possible explanations, are that what records the FBI has are not filed under MURKIN and they established that the FBI moved in and took de facto control on its own and without any DJ authorization or request. It would not want to disclose the latter.