

Battle - death

44-38861-5675

25

3/31/69

SAC, ME

MURKIN

JIM BEASLEY, AAG, SHELBY COUNTY, TENN. ONE OF THE ATTORNEYS WHO HANDLED THE JAMES EARL RAY CASE, ENTERED JUDGE W. PRESTON BATTLE'S CHAMBERS AT APPROXIMATELY FIVE THIRTY FIVE PM THIS DATE AND FOUND JUDGE BATTLE SLUMPED OVER HIS DESK. BEASLEY IMMEDIATELY CALLED AN AMBULANCE WHICH TOOK JUDGE BATTLE TO METHODIST HOSPITAL WHERE HE LATER DIED. INDICATIONS ARE THAT JUDGE BATTLE DIED FROM NATURAL CAUSES.

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

MAR 31 1969

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI MEMPHIS

754 PM URGENT 3/31/69 RJT

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987)

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. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

MURKIN

JIM BEASLEY, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, ONE OF THE ATTORNEYS WHO HANDLED THE JAMES EARL RAY CASE, ENTERED JUDGE W. PRESTON BATTLE'S CHAMBERS AT APPROXIMATELY FIVE THIRTYFIVE P. M. THIS DATE AND FOUND JUDGE BATTLE SLUMPED OVER HIS DESK. BEASLEY IMMEDIATELY CALLED AN AMBULANCE WHICH TOOK JUDGE BATTLE TO METHODIST HOSPITAL WHERE HE WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD ON ARRIVAL.

ACCORDING TO THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT THERE IS NO INDICATION OF FOUL PLAY. INDICATIONS ARE THAT JUDGE BATTLE DIED FROM NATURAL CAUSES.

BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED OF ANY ADDITIONAL PERTINENT DETAILS.

END

MSE

FBI WASH DC

56 APR 9 1969

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

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