

nonlegal sense at least, this great leader of our civil rights movement assassinated, that I don't believe any legal concerns that we had impeded our pursuit of the facts.

Mr. BEESON. You mentioned that the next morning you went to Memphis. What was the purpose of that trip and who did you go with?

Mr. CLARK. The purpose was to be sure that everything possible was being done in a fairly difficult context and to be sure that people understood we cared. The people that went with me were Roger Wilkins who was the Director of the Community Relations Service; Clifford Alexander who is the Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Deke DeLoach who was an Associate Director of the FBI.

I called Mr. Hoover early that morning, maybe two or three, to tell him I wanted to take a high official of the FBI with me. That is all I can remember right now.

Mr. BEESON. For purposes of the record, Mr. Clark, I believe Mr. DeLoach's title was Assistant to the Director and not Associate Director. Mr. Tolson was Associate Director at that time.

Mr. CLARK. They use a little different terminology. I never bothered to get it straight.

Mr. BEESON. Do you recall a news conference at the airport in Memphis after arriving there, Mr. Clark?

Mr. CLARK. I recall a sea of press and being involved in the middle of it. I don't recall a stated press conference in the sense that it was preplanned. I think it was unavoidable, the focus of the country's attention was on that place and matter.

Mr. BEESON. You were reported to have stated during the meeting with the press at the airport that: "All of our evidence at this time indicates that it was a single person who committed this criminal act." This was a statement that you were making on the 5th of April, the day following the assassination of Dr. King.

Do you recall making that statement or one similar to that?

Mr. CLARK. There were several meetings with the press on that day. I think during the course of that day probably more than once I stated that from the evidence presented to me there was nothing indicating more than a single actor. That remained my evaluation of the evidence through various encounters with the press over the next several days.

Mr. BEESON. What was the purpose of making a comment on the state of the evidence at such an early stage? As I imagine you know, that comment and similar comments have been referred to by some as an initial official effort by the Government to hide involvement of others.

Did you consider comments of that type possibly backfiring in that way when you made it?

Mr. CLARK. The considerations were quite different at the time. I believe in the importance of the integrity of the investigation. I also believe in the public's right to know something that concerns it desperately and the public's desperate concern about the murder of Martin Luther King which was one of the finer reflections on our national character in my time impelled me to tell them what I knew. I believed it was important then. Hindsight does not change my view.

Handwritten signature: HSCA

Mr. BEESON. Mr. Clark, an article in the Wash. between 3 and 4 months found in MLK exhibit F Clark a copy of it. [The information follow

Vertical stamp area containing: 0-40 (Rev. 7-27-67), a large handwritten 'MURKIN' in a circle, and the date '79 MAY 6 - 1968'. There are also some illegible handwritten notes and a vertical stamp on the right edge.