

KC 44-760

RBA:nks

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED]

On April 24, 1968, <sup>abc.</sup> [REDACTED] Classification Office, Missouri Department of Corrections, advised that [REDACTED] No. [REDACTED], was received at the Department of Corrections, Huntsville, Texas under that number as of [REDACTED]. He is former Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) No. [REDACTED] and was discharged [REDACTED]. His emergency address was care of [REDACTED], Houston, Texas. [REDACTED] His brother, [REDACTED] No. [REDACTED], was discharged [REDACTED].

On April 24, 1968, Lt. WILLIAM ROBERT TURNER, also known as "BILLY BOB", a Negro, advised that he was the first Negro officer at the MSP to have general jurisdiction over the whole yard, including white cells. He said, for this reason, some of the inmates resented him.

Lt. TURNER said he knew "JIMMY" RAY as an inmate and observed him in the yard on many occasions. He said the only inmate he ever saw RAY with on more than isolated occasions, was a [REDACTED], who was a cell mate of [REDACTED]. He noted [REDACTED] received a card signed [REDACTED] which he believed to be from [REDACTED]. It had no message except greetings "to a wonderful friend".

TURNER said it was his opinion that [REDACTED] was a person who would be willing to kill Negroes. He did not believe RAY would. He said he had occasion to sit on a discipline board before which [REDACTED] appeared. He said [REDACTED] tried to "snow the board" and he, TURNER, recommended rather a harsh punishment for him. He said this word could have gotten to RAY, who may have resented it.

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TURNER said that RAY was very quiet and got along well with the Negro population, but did not associate with them. He said [redacted] did not get along well with them at all and continually "bad mouthed" them. [redacted]

[redacted]. He said the sketch, which first appeared concerning the assassin of Dr. KING more closely resembled [redacted] than RAY.

Lt. TURNER said he circulates among the entire prison population all the time and supervises recreation periods in the yard. He said he never heard of any bounty on Dr. KING and he would have heard of this had there been any conversations in this regard in the penitentiary.

Lt. TURNER further recalled that he was on duty in the yard on April 23, 1967. He said an inmate came to him and advised him there had been an escape and perhaps two from this institution. He said he went to Major BERNARD POIRY, in charge, and gave him this information. They then called all known "escape artists" to the control center. However, for some reason, RAY was not included. All of the known "escape artists" were accounted for. They then took a roll call of all inmates and at the time discovered that RAY, and only RAY, was missing.

He said the inmate who advised him of the escape is [redacted]. He said this escape was called to his attention between Noon and 1:00 PM. He said [redacted] did not know who had escaped.

Lt. TURNER said he has talked to many inmates in the penitentiary regarding both RAY and possible hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan in the penitentiary. He said there are a few Black Muslims, but otherwise there is no indication of any "hate groups".

TURNER said he is acquainted with [redacted] released, and he could not recall ever seeing RAY with this person. He did not know RAYMOND LEWIS CURTIS either as an inmate or associate of RAY's.