

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/15/68

Patrolman **BARNER G. WRIGHT**, Memphis Police Department, home address 4264 Dunn Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised as follows:

On April 4, 1968, he was assigned to a Tact Unit which is an emergency unit. That unit consists of 3 automobiles with four police officers in each automobile. The automobiles consisted of both Memphis Police Officers and Shelby County Sheriff's Office Deputies. During the day of April 4, 1968, the members of that emergency squad did change cars from time to time so that at different times during the day he, himself, was riding with different police officers. They were doing this so that the members of the Shelby County Sheriff's Office did not feel that the Memphis Police Department did not want to work with them. Shortly before 6:00 PM, April 4, 1968, the 3 cars making up the emergency squad or Tact Unit parked in the driveway of the fire station at Main and E. Butler Streets. That fire station is located south of the rooming house from which the shot which killed Doctor **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**, was believed to be fired. A fenced in parking lot is located between the fire station and that building. The 3 vehicles making up the emergency squad were parked facing Main Street. Two of the vehicles were side by side, and the third vehicle was directly behind one of the 2 cars which faced onto Main Street.

He was sitting in the lounge of the fire station at Main and E. Butler Streets shortly before 6:00 PM reading a newspaper when he heard rattling of the plate glass window behind him. The lounge area of that fire station is on the south side of the building. He does not recall hearing any shot but only the rattling of the plate glass window, and immediately thereafter the other members in his emergency squad began running out of the north side of the fire station building. He ran out after them and on the outside of the building he was surprised to find that the other members of his emergency squad were running toward Mulberry Street and the Lorraine Motel instead of

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 by SA VINCENT H. LAMMERS  
SA JOE W. PHILLIPS JRP/bbs Date dictated 4/13/68

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toward their emergency vehicles. He ran to Mulberry Street, but did not cross Mulberry Street as there is a high retaining wall at Mulberry Street. As he arrived at Mulberry Street, other members of his emergency squad had gone beyond the retaining wall, had crossed Mulberry Street, and were at the Lorraine Motel. They were calling out that Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot and the shot was believed to have come from an apartment or rooming house north of the fire station. He then ran back to the emergency vehicle which he had previously been assigned to parked in the fire station driveway facing Main Street, and as he got into that vehicle, Patrolman E. E. DOUGLAS also got into the unit with him, and Patrolman DOUGLAS immediately began putting out a radio broadcast that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot.

He does not recall seeing any officer near Canipe's Amusement Center, 424 Main Street, at the time he and Patrolman DOUGLAS got into their emergency unit. After Patrolman DOUGLAS radioed the message that KING had been shot, they then drove their emergency unit out onto Main Street, but instead of turning north toward the building where the shot which hit Doctor KING was believed to have been fired, they turned south on Main Street, circled around the fire station there, and drove onto Mulberry Street and in front of the Lorraine Motel. They stopped momentarily in front of the Lorraine Motel on Mulberry Street and then proceeded on down Mulberry Street to the next street which is Huling Avenue, and they went west on Huling Avenue and around to Main Street where they parked their emergency unit in front of the building in which the shot which hit KING was believed to have been fired. He and Patrolman DOUGLAS got out of that emergency unit and took a position across the street from that building on Main Street to watch for any suspects who might come out of the building. He estimated that it took he and Patrolman DOUGLAS from 2 to 3 minutes from the time Doctor KING was shot until they made that circle around the block and came back to their position in front of the building on Main Street.

He was dressed in dark blue trousers, a royal blue shirt, a dark blue tie, and a blue steel helmet. He does

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not recall anyone in the area who might be described as wearing a light colored upper garment, or wearing anything which might resemble a hood. He does not recall any officers in any of the positions along Main Street in front of that building north of the fire station where he held a position after the shooting. He does not recall Patrolman DOLLASHITE or any other officer running past E. E. Mixtures moments after the shooting. He does not recall seeing any officer near Canipe's Innocent Center, 421 Main Street, immediately after the shooting. Since he saw the other Memphis Police Officers were interchanging cars and were switching off to ride with members of the Shelby County Sheriff's Office Deputies in their 3 emergency vehicles, the only persons he can recall as being in the emergency vehicle which he was assigned to at the time of the shooting were Patrolman E. E. DOUGLAS and Lieutenant J. E. CHORLEY.