

FBI

Date: 10/10/69

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TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
 FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)
 MURKIN

Civil Rights

REC-62

Re Bureau airtel to Birmingham, dated 10/6/69.

Attorney ARTHUR HANES was interviewed by SA HENRY A. SNOW upon HANES' return to Birmingham, stating that he had spent the entire week in eastern North Carolina in the defense of criminal cases there.

During interview, HANES was very indefinite in any of his statements and appeared to merely wish to discuss his theories on the MURKIN case. The information he related as far as gunrunning would appear to in no way relate to JAMES EARL RAY, and for that reason, Birmingham suggests no further action in this matter concerning information furnished by HANES.

- 4 ENCLOSURE
- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)
 - 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
 - 2 - Birmingham
- HAS:cab
(6)

Rec: AAG Civil Rights Division
Form 6-94 (1-7-69)

OCT 16 1969

1 cc CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT

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Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

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REC-62



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Birmingham, Alabama
October 10, 1969

Re: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS CONSPIRACY

Assistant United States Attorney R. Macey Taylor, Birmingham, Alabama, advised on September 25, 1969, that he had been in conversation with Arthur Hanes, former defense counsel for subject Ray. Assistant United States Attorney Taylor related certain allegations that Hanes had proposed to him to the effect that one [REDACTED] a former resident of Cahaba Heights, a Birmingham suburb, may have conspired with other named individuals and subject Ray in interstate transportation of weapons to Memphis, Tennessee, where Hanes believed they were intended for black militant groups.

On October 10, 1969, Attorney Arthur J. Hanes was interviewed at his office, 617 Frank Nelson Building, after the absence of a week from Birmingham. Hanes entered into a lengthy discourse of his theories concerning the James Earl Ray case and stated that although Ray undoubtedly was involved, it was his theory that Ray had been led or instructed in his actions by other unknown individuals. He stated that he had two theories of groups who may have led Ray; one being the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and the other being black militant groups. He had no definite information in this connection whatsoever. He also commented that he had, while serving as Ray's defense counsel, observed the bullet which was alleged to have been fired from the rifle involved in this matter, and it was his personal opinion that the bullet was sufficiently intact to be identified as the murder projectile.

Regarding [REDACTED]
also known as [REDACTED] Hanes related as follows.

Re: JAMES EARL RAY;
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On December 18, 1968, the residence of [REDACTED] a residential suburb of Birmingham, had been burglarized, and numerous shotguns, including automatic shotguns together with silver service, had been taken by a local thief, [REDACTED] who is now serving a penitentiary term for burglary. [REDACTED] had informed Deputy Sheriff [REDACTED], Birmingham, that some of the stolen effects might be located in the residence of [REDACTED] and wife [REDACTED] who at that time were living at [REDACTED] Cahaba Heights. This led to [REDACTED] securing a search warrant for the residence and the recovery of the silver service belonging to the [REDACTED] family. [REDACTED] was subsequently charged with receiving and possessing stolen goods.

Hanes by reference to his file related that on May 15, 1969, he appeared with [REDACTED] in the Jefferson County Courthouse at which time Grand Jury action was waived. On that date, Hanes discussed with Deputy [REDACTED] possible cooperation of [REDACTED] in connection with recovery of the numerous guns taken from the [REDACTED] residence. [REDACTED] agreed to cooperate and in the presence of Deputy [REDACTED] and an agent of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division of the Treasury Department identified a photograph of one [REDACTED] of Memphis, Tennessee, as being the owner of a Cadillac into which he had observed [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] loading the weapons which were then taken to Memphis, and it was the information of Hanes that [REDACTED] was later charged by the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division with having transported automatic weapons from Birmingham to Memphis. Hanes stated that a local Birmingham hoodlum, [REDACTED] had also assisted in loading the weapons into [REDACTED] Cadillac according to information furnished by [REDACTED]. He stated that it was his opinion also that weapons such as these had been intended for black militant groups in Memphis, who might have intended to use them in King's assassination. It should be noted that all weapons involved in the transportation by [REDACTED] to Memphis which had been stolen from the [REDACTED] residence were shotguns and not rifles.

Re: JAMES EARL RAY;
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CIVIL RIGHTS CONSPIRACY

Mr. Hanes stated that he had read of weapons being brought to the United States through Gulf Coast ports such as Mobile, Alabama, and Pascagoula, Mississippi, and thought possibly some of these weapons may have been intended for use in the murder of Dr. King.

Hanes stated that his client [REDACTED] was arraigned on June 20, 1969, and on August 21, 1969, was sentenced to one year and one day which was suspended and he was placed on probation for two years.

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