

SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

4/4/68

SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS

OO: Memphis

At approximately 10:15 PM the night of April 4, 1968, [REDACTED] called the writer, SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE, and stated he hesitated to furnish the name of the following suspect but due to the nature of the crime felt constrained to do so.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] He explained that on April 3, 1968, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] insisted on being informed as to the Memphis residence of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., which at the time was the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry. [REDACTED] had no time to talk with HAYS, although HAYS talked at length with [REDACTED]

HAYS has recently been driving a late model white automobile, make and model unknown, and was last known to be living in a little white clapboard house just east of North Watkins, one or two blocks south of Jackson Avenue (this would probably be Faxon or Tutwiler). He lives with an older woman who is his landlady and has a private room in the front of the house.

Informant recalled that HAYS is a schizophrenic and has been in and out of mental institutions in West Tennessee for

2 - ME 44-1987  
1 - ME 170-70-Sub [REDACTED]  
1 - ME 157-1092 (Sanitation Workers Strike, Memphis, Tenn.)  
1 - ME 170-831 [REDACTED]

WHL:ME  
(5)

170-1092-259A

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several years. While HAYS is not known to be anti-Negro, due to his mental quirks and due to the fact he has been a private detective for years, engaging in all types of nefarious and questionable schemes, informant feels that HAYS would be capable of an assassination either through personal compulsion or for hire. He stated that of particular significance is the fact that HAYS is an avid student of all facets surrounding the assassination of the late President JOHN F. KENNEDY, having read numerous books and writings relative thereto, and can espound for hours on all possible ramifications of that assassination.

[REDACTED] HAYS as recently as 1966 attempted to join the Haywood, Tennessee Klavern, United Klans of America, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the KKK, which at that time was aiming much of its harrassment activities against the Project people.

[REDACTED] At that time HAYS seemed to have a considerable knowledge of firearms [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At that time he was described as 6 ft. tall, weighed 165 lbs., born December 26, 1927, Crawfordville, Arkansas, brown eyes, black hair, medium complexion.

[REDACTED] At that time he was described as 6 ft. 1/2", 191 lbs. His father is R. W. RENFRO (deceased); mother, CORA HAYS, Norman St., Memphis, Tenn. He has fingerprint classification:

12 17 W MII 16  
25 U IOO 14