

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) -P-

DATE: 4/24/68

FROM : SA JOHN W. BAUER

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR

Re 44-1987-Sub 90.

On 4/24/68, BYRON BURTON MC KNIGHT, Sales and Contract Manager, A. P. MILLS INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND, 344 St. Paul Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised SA JOHN W. BAUER that on 4/4/68 he attended a meeting of the Memphis Citizens Committee for the Blind at the Sheraton Motor Inn, Union Avenue. He stated that he sat at a large table with CONRAD LIGGIN, Head of Office Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Services for the Blind who was on his right, and on his left was VAN MELSON, Counselor, Office Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Services for the Blind. Mr. MC KNIGHT stated there were several other people at the table, PETER WINFREY (Chairman of the Memphis Citizens Committee for the Blind), and ROBERT FOLLEY, (member of the House of Representatives for the State of Tennessee). Mr. MC KNIGHT stated there were several other people at the table, the names of whom he is not sure of at this time.

Mr. MC KNIGHT was advised by SA BAUER that he was overheard speaking to another individual at this table and stating "That King was not going to carry that march because he knew a boy from Northern Mississippi who would stop him." Mr. MC KNIGHT emphatically denied that he made such a statement and stated that he could not even remember mentioning the name of Dr. KING, let alone making such an absurd statement.

Mr. MC KNIGHT added that due to the recent racial problems that had occurred in Memphis prior to the meeting he was sure that there was some discussion by the people at the meeting about the racial situation, but he stated that he never made any statements that could have been construed as a threat against Dr. KING nor did he heard any other member of the committee make such a statement.

JWB/vtp

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*Hester*

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MC KNIGHT further added that he did not know anyone from Mississippi, let alone anyone who would stop Dr. KING. MC KNIGHT said that CONRAD LIGGIN who was sitting on his right at the meeting could corroborate any statement that he made at this meeting.

MC KNIGHT stated that he felt the only one who could have made such a statement against him would have been ELBERT HAYNES. At this point it is to be noted that at no time during this interview did SA BAUER mention the name ELBERT HAYNES. Mr. MC KNIGHT went on to add that his reason for suspecting ELBERT HAYNES is because HAYNES used to work under him at the A. P. MILLS INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND.

Mr. MC KNIGHT stated it was for this reason that he felt this was not the type of individual who he would prefer to have working for A. P. MILLS INDUSTRIES and he therefore released him from his position. Mr. MC KNIGHT stated that he feels that because HAYNES was fired by him, HAYNES is retaliating by making an accusation that he (MC KNIGHT) made a threat against Rev. KING's life.

On 4/24/68, CONRAD LIGGIN, Head of the Office Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Services for the Blind, 170 North Main Street, advised SA JOHN W. BAUER that he had attended a meeting of the Memphis Citizens Committee for the Blind at the Sheraton Motor Inn on 4/4/68. He stated there was several prominent people at this meeting and he sat at a table next to ROBERT MC KNIGHT.

Mr. LIGGIN was advised by SA BAUER that an accusation had been made that ROBERT MC KNIGHT made the statement that "KING was not going to carry that march because he knew a boy from Northern Mississippi who would stop him".

Mr. LIGGIN stated that he was with Mr. MC KNIGHT during this meeting and he could not remember any statement that could be construed to be such by Mr. MC KNIGHT. He stated that the racial situation was discussed in personal conversation at the meeting, but he could not remember anyone making such a statement or any statement that could be misunderstood as a threat against Dr. KING's life. He added that Mr. PETER WINFREY who is chairman of

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the committee could provide the minutes of the meeting along with the names of those who attended in order that they could be questioned by the FBI in regards to this statement. He added that anyone at this meeting could vouch for Mr. MC KNIGHT with the exception of the individual who accused him of making this statement. He added that he felt the statement probably came from ELBERT HAYNES because HAYNES had once worked for Mr. MC KNIGHT and was fired by him.

Mr. LIGGIN stated that he felt the accusation is completely unwarranted and one of the most absurd things that could have been done to Mr. MC KNIGHT.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.