

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. TROTTER *llb*

FROM : N. E. McDaniel *McDaniel*

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 10-28-68

Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DeLoach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bishop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Casper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Callahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conrad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Felt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tavel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trotter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gandy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. Previous information received from Memphis indicated that committee of seven attorneys advising Judge W. Preston Battle, Criminal Court, Memphis, Tennessee, was presenting to the Judge a petition stating that [redacted] may be in violation of the Judge's court order restricting comment in this case. Their recommendation based on article appearing in Wichita, Kansas, "Beacon" newspaper concerning a police school conducted by [redacted] in September, 1968, [redacted] presented expert fingerprint testimony on June 27, 1968, in London, England, in connection with extradition of James Earl Ray. His testimony received widespread publicity in news media throughout the world. [redacted] has emphatically denied discussing his fingerprint testimony with press representatives at any time or necessarily airing fingerprint testimony of this case before a police school in Wichita, Kansas. On one occasion representatives of this police school, in a closed session, attempted to query him as to details of the fingerprint testimony. [redacted] reports he gave no facts other than what had already been quoted by the press concerning his London testimony. Administrative action has previously been taken against Bonebrake for discussing the case at the closed police school.

Judge Battle signed petition 10-24-68 which requires that [redacted] appear before the Court on 12-6-68 to show cause why he should not be adjudged in contempt. The Judge noted he was setting the date of 12-6-68 which would be after the trial of James Earl Ray, subject of the case, since to do otherwise would result in unnecessary publicity, defeating purpose of his original order. The committee of attorneys in presenting the petition to the Judge recognized that the Court does not have jurisdiction. The committee of attorneys has no sound grounds to substantiate their recommendation and undoubtedly took this action against our employee as a face-saving gesture. The committee has been severely criticized by Ray's Defense Attorney Arthur Hanes, Sr., and a Memphis "Commercial Appeal" newspaper reporter Charles Edmundson, who are both currently under contempt citation by Judge Battle in this case as result of

Enc. *cont* 10-29-68

1 - Mr. Rosen *PERSONNEL RECORDS*

1 - Mr. Bishop *PLACE COPY IN FILE OF GEORGE BONEBRAKE*

NEM:hs
(6)

51 NOV 15 1968

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25 NOV 6 1968

NOTED

RECEIVED

FBI - MEMPHIS

Memorandum to Mr. Trotter
Re: Murkin

recommendation by the committee of attorneys. The committee is reportedly extremely liberal and, in fact, one member, Lucius E. Burch, Jr., according to SAC, Memphis, has served as an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union.

The Court has not officially notified the Bureau of the petition but reportedly has mailed a copy to the Attorney General. The Department has requested a letter from the Bureau setting out information concerning the nature of the police school conducted by [redacted] at Wichita, Kansas, in September, 1968, and what transpired at his meeting. The Department indicated they intend to present this to the Court in Memphis. Attached is proposed letter. Copy of letter being sent to SAC, Memphis, for his information and so that he may properly advise the State's Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, prosecutor in this case. State's Attorney General is fully aware of this entire situation and is of the opinion that this will have no adverse effect on his handling of the prosecution.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter to the Department be approved.

J. Trotter
✓
I am sending letter to Dept
but do so reluctantly as
Benebrake → "it is obvious [redacted] just
can't keep his lips buttoned
up."