

Interview of Richard E. Long

Mr. Richard E. Long was interviewed at his office on December 30, 1976 by James R. Kieckhefer. Mr. Long was the Headquarter's Supervisor for the MURKIN investigation in 1968, operating from the Civil Rights Unit of the General Investigative Division. Mr. Long is presently Assistant Director of the Finance and Personnel Division of the FBI.

Long advised that he was assigned the MURKIN investigation because he had geographical responsibility for the Memphis Field Office. On April 5, 1968, he and the Chief of the Civil Rights Section, Clem McGowan, went to see Assistant Director Alex Rosen regarding the investigation. Rosen inquired as to how Long would maintain a "tickler system." Long at a later time explained to Rosen how his tickler system would be formed and utilized. Long stated that he maintained the system with approximately 35 key classification. This system was retained in addition to the MURKIN file.

Long stated that each day there were prepared for the Director two daily reports, one in the morning (9:00 am.) and one in the afternoon (1:00 pm.). He was assisted in these reports by Supervisor Frank Hadson and Dick Bates of the Civil Rights Unit who would read the incoming teletypes with him. Long and Bill Martindale would then prepare the memo for the Director. The memo would be forwarded to McGowan for signature, then to James Malley, then to Rosen, and then to DeLoach. These were only reports of the current investigation and did not contain recommendations, said Long.

Long said that DeLoach would offer many suggestions. If a matter of importance was received, DeLoach would be called by telephone. Long advised that there were no limitations or restrictions on the investigation. However, this case was handled in a somewhat different manner because Headquarters had responsibility for the conduct of the case. Generally, the office of origin (Memphis) had this responsibility and would provide Headquarters with up-to-date reports on a case. Long said that he was instructed to use all manpower he felt necessary to complete a full investigation of the assassination.

Long related a story told him by Rosen regarding the search of fingerprint fugitive files. Rosen said that the Director believed, after some point in the investigation, that the assassin was a

Appendix B. CIVIL RIGHTS

fugitive and recommended a search of appropriate files. Since the thumb print taken from an Atlanta map found at Galt's vacated room in Atlanta had a unique "ulner loop" and was a very clear print, this was used in the search of the fugitive files. The first 100 jackets of the file contained Ray's identity, and the other fingerprints obtained during the investigation matched the Ray file.

Regarding the directives from Headquarters, Long advised that they were standard procedure in a major case. He stressed that because of the importance of the case shorter deadlines were enforced. Again, Long added this was a massive investigation without restrictions. Long believes this was a complete, highly responsible and successful investigation by the FBI. Until Ray was apprehended, there was 24 hour supervision at FBI Headquarters.

Long stated that he was not really aware of the investigation by the Domestic Intelligence Division on Dr. King. He could not recall any contact with Division 5 and did not know that there were two agents from the Domestic Intelligence Division reading incoming teletypes. Although it is a possibility that this was being done if it was done it was without his knowledge.

Long stressed that the FBI was very concerned with Ray's source of funds, and believes that Ray committed some type of crime to finance himself. Long believes that Ray was a strong racist and used the example of Ray not attending a softball game at the Missouri State Penitentiary if blacks were even in attendance. Long explained that the Ray family was interviewed numerous times, but stated the Bureau was uncertain as to the veracity of any family members.