

FBI

Date: 4/5/68

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TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

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

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT, Aka John Willard;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

OO: Memphis

22/4/68
Sp

MURKIN

Enclosed are original and one Xerox copy each of 11 news articles re shooting of Victim, 4/4/68.

All of the enclosed articles appeared in the final edition of "The Commercial Appeal," Memphis, Tenn. newspaper, April 5, 1968.

22

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(3) - Bureau (Enc.-22)
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JCH:ME
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REC-69
EX 10E

44-38861-3558

25 MAY 17 1968

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 Adm. Serv. _____
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File "MURKIN"

6/1/68

57 MAY 23 1968
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King's Assassination Etched In Witnesses' Eyes, Ears

By ROBERT SAMSOT

"He didn't say a word; he didn't move, said The Rev. Andrew Young, executive vice president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

"It sounded like a firecracker."

The shot, he said, hit Dr. Martin Luther King in the neck and lower right part of his face. His eyes appeared first half-closed and then open but staring before a Fire Department ambulance took him to St. Joseph Hospital.

The Rev. James Bevel, one of Dr. King's closest aides, said after the ambulance left, "I think he's gone."

"I heard the ping and looked around and he was lying on his back," said Chauncey Eskridge, one of Dr. King's legal advisers.

"When I looked up, the police and sheriff's deputies were running all around. The bullet exploded in his face," said The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, who was with Dr. King on the balcony of the hotel.

"He had just bent over. If he had been standing up, he wouldn't have been hit in the face. When I turned around, I saw police coming from everywhere. They said, 'Where did it come from' and I said, 'Behind you.' The police were coming from where the shot came."

He said, "It was similar to the Kennedy incident (the assassination of President John Kennedy). The police were all around, but there is no military protection against ambush and he was ambushed.

On South Main, where the building in which the sniper may have hid squats in disrepair, Guy W. Canipe, part owner of Canipe Amusement Co., 424 South Main, said a gun was dropped next to the front door of his store.

"I didn't think anything about it. I just thought... (a man seen running) had dropped something and I went out to tell him. I just heard the sound of it falling."

Mr. Canipe described the man, whom he saw only from

dressed, wearing a dark suit the rear, as "clean, nicely (and bareheaded). Not like the kind of people you see down here," he said.

He estimated the man's age between 20 and 30. "It's hard to tell from the back.

"Just a couple of minutes, it seemed like, a deputy came down the street from the same direction the man came from and he had a gun in his hand. I saw him with that pistol and went back inside. I didn't want to get in trouble."

Two men were inside Canipe's store when the shooting took place.

Bernell Finley, 40, and Julius Graham, 22, of 804 North Fifth, said they heard a thump outside.

"I just heard this thing and looked out the window and there was that gun in the box just sitting there. When I looked up, I saw this young man laying rubber down the street," Mr. Finley said.

A stoneyfaced patrolman stood outside the door of Canipe's store. A Negro, he just shook his head when asked what happened.

A police detective, also a Negro, said, "Son of a bitch. You remember when they shot Meredith, I'm afraid they're going to just take this town apart."

When someone mentioned black power, he said, "It isn't just black power, it's gonna be everybody — from all over the damn country."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

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Editor: FRANK R. AHLGREN

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Being Investigated

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ENCLOSURE

The Rev. Mr. Jackson said Dr. King had been in his second-floor room — No. 306 — throughout the day until just about 6 p.m. He emerged, wearing a black suit and white shirt, paused, leaned over the green iron railing and started chatting with the Rev. Mr. Jackson, who introduced him to Ben Branch, a musician who was to play at a rally Dr. King was to address two hours later.

Dr. King asked if Branch would play a spiritual at the night meeting. Then Solomon Jones Jr. of 374 Vance, Dr. King's chauffeur, said he told Dr. King he should put his top coat on as he prepared to leave the motel and Dr. King said, "OK, I will," then the bullet struck. It was 6:05 p.m. Dr. King was pronounced dead at St. Joseph at 7 p.m.

After the shot, Jones said he saw a man with "something white on his face" creep from a thicket across the street.

At 6:19 p.m. police cars at the scene were radioed Dr. King was in "critical" condition.

And less than 45 minutes later a grim faced patrolman said, "He's dead." "Oh my God," said another. "There goes all hell."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Gaping Wound Claims Life —Hospital's Aid Is Futile

By THOMAS FOX

Dr. Martin Luther King, his head wrapped in a towel and an oxygen mask over his face, looked small on the stretcher as he was wheeled into the emergency room of St. Joseph Hospital at 6:16 last night.

His eyes were closed and the only sound was from the resuscitator which was pumping oxygen into his dying body.

Several of Dr. King's aides, his attorney Chauncy Eskridge and his chauffeur, Solomon Jones Jr., leaned over the Fire Department ambulance stretcher, their eyes were red-rimmed and all were silent.

As the stretcher disappeared behind the swinging double doors Mr. Eskridge leaned on the desk in the waiting room and put his head in his hands. "Why, why would anybody want to do this. I just don't understand it." He did not go into the room where a team of doctors were treating a gaping wound in Dr. King's neck. "I can't go in there," he said.

Other members of Dr. King's party emerged from the room and leaned against the walls; most were crying.

Police arrived within minutes after the ambulance and quickly posted guards at every entrance to the hospital. Two patrolmen with shotguns guarded the entrance to the emergency room and allowed only police officers and aides of Dr. King into the room.

Every telephone in the waiting room rang constantly and police referred all inquiries to Police Chief J. C. Macdonald at Central Police station.

Nurses ran in and out of the emergency room, pushing their way through the crowd with the help of policemen.

An aide emerged from the operating room about 15 minutes after Dr. King arrived and stood with tears running down his cheeks. "They have done killed Dr. King," he said before a police officer advised him not to make any statements and he returned to the emergency room.

Mr. Jones, who was talking with Dr. King as the shot rang out, fought back tears as he described the assassination to newsmen.

"I ran up the fire escape (after the shot) and when I got to him he looked like he was dead. I was in shock and the others pulled me away. I did not see the wound. A white man was the first to comfort him with a towel. I think he was staying at the motel."

Doctors remained silent on the condition of the Nobel Peace Prize Winner for an hour and fifteen minutes. A priest walked into the hall at 7 p.m. who had been in the emergency room. "He must have been dead when he arrived. Oh, the terrible wound," he said pointing to the right side of his neck.

At 7:30 several doctors lined up in front of the reception desk in the emergency room and all of Dr. King's party were called into the emergency room.

"Is he all right?," someone called out as they filed into the room. "No, he is not all right," said a Negro man standing behind one of the doctors.

Paul Hess, assistant hospital administrator, read a terse announcement at 7:30 which said: "At 7 p.m., Dr. Martin Luther King expired in the emergency room of a gunshot wound in the neck."

As the crowd of newsmen ran for telephones, a lone Negro woman sank into a chair in the waiting room and put her head in her hands. "I didn't have to go back there to find that out," she said.

Dr. King's body remained at the hospital until shortly before 9 p.m. when it was carried to the morgue at John Gaston Hospital in the same ambulance which had brought him to the hospital 2 hours and 45 minutes before.

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SEARCHED

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

President Stops Work Of Peace To Mourn Death

The Commercial Appeal-Chicago
Daily News Service

WASHINGTON, April 4. — President Lyndon Baines Johnson was seeking world peace, when domestic peace was shattered by the shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King.

The chief executive was conferring in the Oval Room of the White House with Llewellyn E. Thompson Jr., who had been summoned urgently from his ambassadorial post in Moscow to discuss Vietnam peace.

An aide entered the room and handed the President a wire service bulletin about the shooting of Dr. King. Mr. Johnson snapped: "Get Ramsey."

"Ramsey" is Ramsey Clark, the attorney general.

Within minutes Clark was on the telephone and Mr. Johnson was demanding detailed reports of the events in Memphis, where Dr. King was shot.

The President began drafting a statement. He was determined then to address the nation by radio and television to heal this latest wound in the divided nation he addressed only Sunday night. A few moments later Thompson had left the office.

Then George Christian, his press secretary, entered to break the grim news. Martin Luther King was dead.

The President held up his scheduled televised speech to reach Dr. King's widow by telephone in Atlanta.

Then he walked to the west wing of the White House and stood in a doorway, sheltered from a cold, April rain, to address the nation. The President was obviously deeply moved.

Will he go to Honolulu, as planned to discuss Vietnam peace?

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Rights And Political Leaders Voice Anguish, Shock, Grief

Johnson Speaks For Saddened Nation And Condemns Violence—Some Express Fear Of Increased Terrorism

From Our Press Services

The nation's civil rights and political leaders reacted with anguish, shock and grief last night at the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis.

There also was fear that the slaying could lead to more violence.

President Johnson spoke of an "America shocked and saddened" by the assassination as he condemned violence, lawlessness and divisiveness.

The President appeared in the doorway of the White House offices, stern-faced and spoke on all television and radio networks.

"I ask every American citizen," he said, "to reject the blind violence that has struck down Dr. King, who lived by nonviolence."

The President urged prayers for peace and understanding in the land and said:

"We can achieve nothing by lawlessness and divisiveness among the American people."

He said he hopes all Americans would search their hearts.

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey said the slaying "brings shame to our country. An apostle of nonviolence has been the victim of violence."

The vice president said, however, that his death will bring new strength to the cause he fought for.

Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon sent a telegram to Mrs. King, which said: "Dr. King's death is a great personal tragedy for everyone who knew him and a great tragedy for the nation. Mrs. Nixon joins me in sympathy and prayers for you and your family in this terrible ordeal."

New York Mayor John V. Lindsay: "The people of our city of every race, I am sure,

will join hands in paying tribute to him. Our greatest tribute to him will be to bear ourselves as he would want us to — with dignity and prayer."

Senator Wayne Morse (D-Ore.), said Dr. King's death is "one of the saddest tragedies to befall the nation" and warned that the shooting will add to "a very serious domestic crisis. It's going to increase marching across our country."

Fred Meely, a spokesman for the militant Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, said, "There is no real comment that we can make. Everybody knows what happened and everybody knows why it happened and the black people in this country know what they have to do about it. That's all I have to say."

Tennessee Gov. Buford Ellington sent a telegram to Dr. King's widow saying he was "deeply saddened and shocked" by the shooting.

Representative Dan Kuykendall (R-Tenn.) in Washington said:

"This dastardly, cowardly act on the part of this unknown person is of great grief to me and, I know, to my city. This is an example of how violence breeds violence. Let's hope and pray that the action and

(Continued on Page 12)

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Rights And Political Leaders Voice Anguish, Shock, Grief

(Continued from Page One)

reaction of violence that has plagued our city for many weeks may stop with this act."

Senator James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said, "Violence is to be deplored. It does not solve anything."

Representative Robert A. Everett (D-Tenn.), whose Eighth District lies partly in Shelby County, said, "I deeply regret this tragic incident. I certainly hope we have no further violence."

Representative Ray Blanton (D-Tenn.) of the Seventh Congressional District said, "This tragedy is unfortunate and it never will be forgotten. He was an advocate of non-violence and a champion of his people's cause. The sick person who caused this tragedy is to be pitied. . ."

"A terrible, inexcusable, awful thing," said Senator Howard Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.).

Senator Fred Harris (D-Okla.), who was a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, called the death "an American tragedy."

"I think this is horrible," said Senator Clinton P. Anderson (D-N.M.) "Horrible. Horrible."

Louis Martin, deputy Democratic national chairman and a Negro, said "A black day for the nation" had occurred. "This is what this land needed the least as we were on the threshold of perhaps international peace negotiations and a new day."

"Violence," said Representative Hale Boggs (D-La.), "has no place in America. Anywhere. By anybody."

"I only regret that it is impossible in our nation to fully protect any citizen in his right to speak for and advocate the dictates of his conscience," said Senator Russell B. Long (D-La.).

"Unfortunately," Long said, "men who have strong beliefs and a great following are usually endangered for their lives, whether that man be a president, a man in public life or the leader of a cause."

Senator Edward W. Brooke (R-Mass.), the only Negro in the Senate, said:

"The crime is unspeakable. The grief is unbearable. In our anguish and bitterness over this awful event, we must not lose sight of the meaning of this great man's life."

"A tragic and senseless murder," said Senator Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.). "It is a bitter thing for all Americans that his dream of America should be shattered by a coward's bullet."

The National Student Association called "upon students across the country to join in a day of mourning for Dr. King's tragic death. We further pledge increased efforts to combat white racism in the United States," the student group said.

House Republican leader Gerald Ford (Mich.) said King's death "should make all Americans feel ashamed because it is a travesty on everything America stands for."

Senator Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn.) was campaigning in San Francisco for the Democratic presidential nomination when the news arrived. Addressing a group of union leaders in a hotel, he asked for a moment of silence, then went to his own room.

Presidential candidate George Wallace called the assassination "a senseless, regrettable and tragic act."

"It is another example of the breakdown of law and order in this country which must be stopped. It is my hope that whoever is guilty of this act will be speedily apprehended."

Mayor Richard Hatcher of Gary, Ind., one of the nation's first elected Negro mayors, said Dr. King's death "is every man's loss."

"We are all the survivors of this great leader . . . we are shocked, saddened beyond imagination and eternally diminished."

Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley said, "Chicago joins in mourning the tragic death of Dr. King." He "was a dedicated and courageous American who commanded the respect of the people of the world."

James Farmer, former national director of the Congress of Racial Equality, said the killing must not lead to more bloodshed.

"Martin is dead . . . God help us all," Farmer said.

Carl Stokes, Negro mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, said Dr. King's death "emphasizes that we must do what has to be done to prevent this kind of violence."

He appealed to Cleveland residents "not to adopt adverse reaction."

James Meredith, who was shot in June, 1966, during a voter registration march in Mississippi, said, "This is America's answer to the peaceful, nonviolent way of obtaining rights in this country."

Gov. John Connally of Texas, victim of a sniper's bullet with President John F. Kenne-

dy, said Dr. King "contributed much to the chaos and turbulence in this country, but he did not deserve this fate . . ."

Leontyne Price, a soprano for the Metropolitan Opera and a Negro, said: "What Dr. Martin Luther King stood for and was, can never be killed with a bullet."

Whitney Young, executive director of the National Urban League: "We are unspeakably shocked by the murder of Dr. King, one of the greatest leaders of our time. This is a bitter reflection on America. We fear for our country."

Floyd McKissick, national director of CORE, said that with Dr. King's death, nonviolence "is now a dead philosophy."

"This is racism in the most extreme form, it is truly American racism," McKissick said. "We make no predictions, but mark my word, black Americans of all sorts and beliefs loved Martin Luther King."

In Brisbane, Australia, Dr. Billy Graham, the American evangelist, said:

"Dr. King's death indicates the sickness of the American society and is going to further inflame passions and hates. It increases the necessity for spiritual awakening."

But Senator Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) had this to say: "I do not favor violence of any kind. I hesitate to say anything bad about the dead, but I do not share a high admiration for Dr. King. He pretended to be nonviolent..."

In Washington, along a grimy strip of 14th Street N.W., Stokely Carmichael, former chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, led a march through the Negro ghetto as his followers shouted: "Close the stores — Martin Luther King is dead." One by one, the shops closed.

The Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, who with Dr. King was one of the early organizers of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said one of Dr. King's philosophies was that "not one hair on the head of one white man shall be harmed by us."

"We dedicated ourselves and hoped America would accept the nonviolence as a way of life," Shuttlesworth said.

The Rev. James Groppi, white Roman Catholic priest who has led Milwaukee's marathon open housing marches, said: "This is tragic. This certainly is not going to be conducive to peaceful racial relations. . . . That man (Dr. King) is a saint and a martyr."

The Michigan House of Representatives at Lansing adjourned a night session out of respect for King.

A \$250-a-plate Democratic party fund-raising dinner in Washington broke up early, its thousands of guests leaving the ballroom in the Washington Hilton in silence and disbe-

lieve. Dr. King, said House Speaker John McCormack (D-Mass.), "was a martyr to a cause — and that cause will be strengthened if the House con-

The bill, adopted by the House earlier this year, would outlaw discrimination in the sale or rental of 68 per cent of the nation's housing. It also would make civil rights murders — such as King's — a federal crime.

In Stamford, Conn., former Brooklyn Dodger baseball star Jackie Robinson said the shooting "is the most disturbing and distressing thing we've had to face in a long time. . . . I am concerned about repercussions. I can't imagine people taking this kind of attitude."

Senator Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.) said, "Dr. King had a life dedicated to peace, justice, compassion and nonviolence. It is up to us to fulfill his dream."

In Newton, Mass., Kivie Kaplan, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, commented, "This is shocking — that people have to resort to actions like these to a man who was fighting for human dignity for all people."

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, undersecretary-general of the United Nations, in a telegram to Dr. King's widow, called the shooting "a most grievous blow to the cause of racial harmony. It was an unspeakable and outrageous act, presumably by a white bigot, which inevitably will be a most grievous blow to the cause of racial harmony throughout this country."

Richard Cardinal Cushing, Roman Catholic archbishop of Boston, said, "An eloquent voice for the rights of all men has been silenced, and men of good will everywhere will mourn."

Arthur Goldberg, ambassador to the United Nations said in a telegram to Dr. King's widow:

"Mrs. Goldberg and I are shocked and deeply grieved at the sad news of wanton killing of your distinguished husband. This is a tragic loss for our country and for all people everywhere who believe in freedom and equality for all men. We extend our deep sympathy to you and all in your family."

Senator Jacob J. Javits (R-N.Y.) said "This terrible tragedy has taken the life of one of the greatest and most inspiring leaders our country has produced. This moment of shock and grief for a fallen leader demands of all of us restraint and understanding and a renewed dedication to carry on the work of justice and decency among men of all races, the cause for which Dr. King gave his life."

"His doctrine of nonviolence will overcome, as he planned it should . . ."

New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller: "I am directing that the flags on all state buildings and facilities be flown at half staff tomorrow from sunrise to sunset as an expression of the deep sorrow felt by New Yorkers as well as men of good will throughout our nation and the world."

Arkansas Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller: "I am shocked by another act of violence that has been injected into an already explosive situation. Murder under any circumstance is deplorable. I can only interpret this as the irresponsible act of a deranged mind. . . ."

In Montgomery, Ala., officials of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, where Dr. King first came to prominence with his bus boycott in 1955, mourned his death but predicted his lieutenants would carry on his nonviolent tradition.

"I've been almost in a state of shock," said C. T. Smiley, chairman of the church's board of trustees. "He was a courageous man and a very smart man and yet a very humble man in many ways."

**Wilkins Is Stunned
At News Of Death
Roy Wilkins of New York,**

executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, called The Commercial Appeal at 7:05 last night to ask about Dr. King's condition.

When told the civil rights leader was dead and asked to make a statement, Mr. Wilkins asked, "He's what . . . he's what . . . he's what . . . he's what . . . he's what . . . he's what?"

Stunned, Mr. Wilkins then said, "I'm sorry, I can't make any other statement at this time."

NEW YORK, April 4 — (AP) — The NAACP's Roy Wilkins said late Thursday that "Tennessee Gov. Buford Ellington made the wrong move tonight" in calling back the National Guard into Memphis, where Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated. "Somebody gave him a bum steer."

Wilkins explained, "He put 4,000 men in Memphis . . . soldiers with rifles. Now this doesn't say to the Negro community that we know you're sorrowful and sad, and that you've lost a great man, and that we too have lost a great man."

"This says, 'We're gonna put 4,000 soldiers there to see that you behave yourself.' This is the wrong psychological move."

"And I'm not afraid," Wilkins added in a CBS television interview, "and not intimidated to saying it on the air . . ."

"For a governor to send 4,000 troops in there an hour after a man is shot, this simply exacerbates the whole situation."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Day-To-Day March Of Events Shattered By Sniper's Bullet

A chronology of events from the time employes of the city's sanitation workers walked off their jobs to the slaying yesterday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.:

FEB. 12—City sanitation workers, 930 of 1,100, left their jobs, without warning demanding recognition of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employes as their bargaining agent and asking redress of a series of grievances. Mayor Henry Loeb said the work stoppage was illegal.

FEB. 14—Mayor Loeb met with Charles Blackburn, director of public works, and Frank Holloman, fire and police director, and then ordered the hiring of new employes to replace strikers.

FEB. 18 — Mayor Loeb and leaders of the city's striking sanitation workers traded proposals during a face-to-face confrontation in a meeting called by the Memphis Ministers Association. Jerry Wurf, president of the employes' union, joined the 10-hour session soon after midnight.

FEB. 20 — Leaders of striking sanitation workers called for an economic boycott as talks sponsored by the Memphis Ministers Association continued without result. Daily marches from Clayborn Temple AME Church to City Hall and back began.

FEB. 22 — A City Council committee studying the city's position in the sanitation strike agreed to recommend recognizing of the union and a dues checkoff.

FEB. 23 — Striking sanitation workers clashed briefly with police in downtown Memphis after they left a City Council session at The Auditorium in which the council declined to grant concessions recommended by a study committee the day before. Police dispersed the estimated 900 marchers with night sticks and riot gas.

FEB. 24. — City officials went into Chancery Court and obtained a broad injunction against the strike from Chancellor Robert Hoffmann which gave the city the right to seek contempt of court citations against any leader of the union who engaged in marches or other demonstrations and also prohibited the strike itself.

FEB. 29 — Police arrested persons who refused to leave City Council chambers after a meeting in which the council again refused concessions in the strike.

FEB. 29 — The union asked that the state Chancery Court injunction against strike leaders be removed to United States District Court because it violates constitutional rights.

MARCH 1 — Federal Judge Robert McRae refused jurisdiction in the petition issued by Chancellor Hoffmann against union leaders.

MARCH 6 — Chancellor Hoffmann held seven top sanitation union leaders in contempt of a court order and gave each 10 days in jail and a \$50 fine — but said they could

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ENCLOSURE

purge themselves by calling off the four-week strike.

MARCH 7 — The United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati was asked to determine if the federal courts should rule on the constitutionality of the injunction issued against the sanitation workers strike.

MARCH 14—Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Bayard Rustin of the A. Philip Randolph Institute encouraged sanitation workers and their supporters in speeches to an estimated 9,000 persons at Mason Temple.

MARCH 16—Dr. King told an estimated 13,000 cheering persons at Mason Temple that they should consider a work stoppage if their demands were not met in the strike. He promised to return to Memphis to lead a march at a later date.

MARCH 21—City Council members did not vote on a proposal by the Rev. J. O. Patterson which would have allowed a dues checkoff but passed a resolution calling for mediation sessions with both sides sitting down with Frank B. Miles, a former federal mediator.

MARCH 23—What was to have been the first of a series of mediation sessions ended abruptly when representatives of the city said there was a legal question of whether they could talk with persons named in the anti-strike injunction issued by Chancellor Hoffman.

MARCH 25 — Chancellor Hoffmann said there was no legal reason to prevent the city and union representatives from negotiating and the first of the mediation sessions opened.

MARCH 27 — Union leaders walked out of mediation talks with the city as the third day of talks neared an end and charged that Mayor Loeb had in effect tied the hands of city representatives by not allowing them any decision-making function.

MARCH 28. — Teams of police and National Guardsmen moved into the city to enforce order and a city-imposed curfew after rioting broke out during a march being led down Main by Dr. King. One person was killed, about 300 arrested and many injured in the melee.

MARCH 28 — Sporadic incidents around the city were reported as the 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew was in its second day.

APRIL 1. — Mayor Loeb ordered the curfew lifted at midday and a city spokesman said the city was studying a series of steps in the face of a promised second march by Dr. King. Several aides of Dr. King were in town planning the march.

APRIL 2 — Spokesmen for ministers backing the sanitation workers said they would ignore any injunction forbidding a march in downtown Memphis.

APRIL 3 — Dr. King arrived as Federal Judge Bailey Brown issued a temporary restraining order against non-Memphians participating in a march.

APRIL 4 — Dr. King was slain by a sniper's bullet soon after returning to his motel after his attorneys asked Judge Brown to lift the restraining order.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Intensive Manhunt Is Quickly Mounted

President Johnson's Plane Is Reported En Route To Memphis; State Guard Alerted

By JOHN MEANS

A sniper shot and killed Dr. Martin Luther King last night as he stood on the balcony of a downtown hotel.

The most intensive manhunt in the city's history was touched off minutes after the shooting.

Violence broke out in Memphis, Nashville, Birmingham, Miami, Raleigh, Washington, New York and other cities as news of the assassination swept the nation.

National leaders, including President Lyndon Johnson, and aides close to the slain 39-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner, urged the nation to stand calm and avoid violence.

The entire nation was tense.

It was learned early this morning that Air Force One — the President's plane — had left Washington. It may be en route to Memphis.

There was no confirmation that the President was aboard.

The slaying of Dr. King brought Tennessee National Guardsmen back into Memphis. The entire 11,000 men in the state guard were on alert early today.

Memphis was placed under a tight, 24-hour curfew by Mayor Henry Loeb.

All schools will be closed today. Parents were urged to keep their children at home.

A rifle bullet slammed into Dr. King's jaw and neck at 6:01 p.m.

He died in the emergency room at St. Joseph Hospital at 7:05 p.m.

King, the foremost American civil rights leader, was alone on the second-floor walk of the Lorraine Hotel at 406 Mulberry when the bullet struck.

A young white man is believed to have fired the fatal shot from a nearby building.

Looters and vandals roamed the streets despite the imposition of a tight curfew. Shooting was widespread. National Guardsmen were rushed to the North Memphis area of Springdale and Howell after bullets blasted the windshield out of a police car near there.

Police — estimated at more than 150 — descended on the south Memphis hotel, sealed off the area, and almost immediately broadcast a description of the sniper: a white male, 30 to 32 years old, 5 feet, 10 inches tall, about 165 pounds, dark to sandy hair, medium build, ruddy complexion as if he worked outside, wearing a black suit and white shirt.

Frank R. Ahlgren, editor of The Commercial Appeal, announced that the newspaper will pay a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Dr. King's assassin.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1 + 12

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 4-5-68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: FRANK R. AHLGREN

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Being Investigated

14-38861-35
ENCLOSURE

Dr. King returned to Memphis Wednesday morning to map plans for another downtown march — scheduled for next Monday — in support of the city's striking sanitation workers. He had spent part of the day yesterday awaiting reports from his attorneys, who were in Federal Judge Bailey Brown's courtroom asking that a temporary restraining order against the proposed march be lifted.

The injunction was obtained by the city after Dr. King's first march broke out in violence downtown, brought the National Guard to the city in strength and seriously damaged the Negro leader's reputation for nonviolence. For the first time in his career, he had been present during violence, and it was this picture he was planning to dispel with the march next Monday.

Mayor Loeb declared today, tomorrow and Sunday as days of mourning, and said all flags in the city would be lowered "with appropriate observances."

All ministers, priests and rabbis in the Memphis area have been asked to meet at 10 a.m. today at St. Mary's Cathedral (Episcopal).

Frank Holloman, fire and police director, who took personal command of the murder investigation minutes after the shooting, said "every resource" of city, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies "is committed and dedicated to identifying and apprehending the person or persons responsible."

Mayor Loeb ordered a tight curfew, much stricter than the one imposed after last week's rioting. "All movement is restricted except for health or emergency reasons," the order said.

A few minutes after the shooting, police reported a high-speed chase in which a blue Pontiac was being pursued by a white Mustang out the Austin Peay Highway. Shots were reported fired between the two cars. A white Mustang, seen near the scene of the slaying, was still being sought by police early today.

Officials of Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, some of whom were standing near him on the narrow balcony of the hotel when he was shot, continued to urge his nonviolent teachings. His chief lieutenant, Dr. Ralph Abernathy, went to the Mason Temple last night to address a gathering of Dr. King's followers.

"Let us live for what he died for," Dr. Abernathy told the mourning group. "If we respect his leadership, if we appreciate the service that he rendered, then we must do all in our power to carry forth the work that is incomplete."

"If a riot or violence would erupt in Memphis tonight, Dr. King in Heaven would not be pleased."

A few had other ideas. "He died for us, and we're going to die for him," a young man shouted.

Early Friday morning, Mr. Holloman said police believe the murder weapon was a 30-caliber, pump-action Remington rifle equipped with a telescopic sight. Such a weapon

was among those stolen Tuesday night from Dowdle Sporting Goods Co. at 2896 Walnut Grove Road.

"The distance over which the bullet traveled before it struck Dr. King was 205 feet, 3 inches, at a down angle," Mr. Holloman said.

He also detailed "other evidence . . . that may help us identify the assassin. The shot was fired from the window of a common bathroom at the end of the hall on the east side of the building at 420 South Main. The suspect checked into the boarding house between 3 and 3:30 p.m. His room was close to the bathroom. The suspect was a white man, 6 feet tall, about 165-175 pounds, between 26 and 32 years of age."

"We do know he bought a pair of binoculars this (Thursday) afternoon in Memphis . . . The man was seen to run from the 420 South Main building and discard the gun and a suitcase at 424 South Main. He simply faded. Nobody saw him get in the car, but a white Mustang was seen to flee the area."

"The evidence we now have indicates that only one man was physically in the area (the bathroom)."

Mr. Holloman would not reveal where the binoculars were purchased, and said he did not know if the name used by the sniper is his real one.

The gun found at the Main street address was turned over to the FBI for ballistics tests. Mr. Holloman said his office is "working closely with the FBI" on other aspects of the investigation.

The former FBI officer also said the investigation was "impaired by the riot situation which developed almost immediately."

"The bullet knocked him off his feet," said the Rev. Jesse Jackson, executive staff member of SCLC. "It sounded like

(Continued on Page 12)

'That Song, 'Precious Lord,' Sing It Real Pretty,' Was The Last Request Of Slain Rights Leader

(Continued from Page One)

a stick of dynamite, or a big firecracker."

The Rev. Mr. Jackson said Dr. King had walked out of his room ahead of several friends on the way to a dinner engagement at the home of the Rev. Samuel B. Kyles.

His last words were in reply to his chauffeur, Solomon Jones Jr., on the street below.

"I went out to start the car," Mr. Jones reported. "Dr. King was on the porch. I yelled up at him it was cool out, you better put your topcoat on. Dr. King said 'OK, I will.' He smiled and then I heard the shot."

"He just fell back. I turned around and I saw a man jump out of the thicket across the street. He ran toward Main. We all scattered.

"I got to the fire escape and climbed up to Dr. King's balcony. There was a white man there. I don't know who he was, but they said he lived at the hotel. Dr. King looked dead. The white man covered his face with a cloth."

Moments before, Dr. King was talking to Ben Branch, singer and bandleader who was to appear with him at the Mason Temple rally.

"I want you to sing for me tonight," the world's youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner said. "I want you to do that song for me, 'Precious Lord.' Sing it real pretty."

The slain leader's wife, Mrs. Coretta King, remained in Atlanta last night. Told by telephone that her husband had been shot, she was awaiting a plane to Memphis when she was notified that the wound was fatal.

Dr. King was bleeding profusely from a huge wound in the jaw and neck area as he lay face down on the concrete walkway of the hotel.

About 40 Negro men and women heard the announcement from the emergency room shortly after 7. The women began to cry and the men began exclaiming:

"Dr. King is dead. He'll have to be buried. We gotta do something about it. Do you hear?"

The curfew was ordered within minutes by Mayor Loeb, who heard the news of Dr. King's assassination on his pi. He immediately returned to his office, and remained in contact with Mr. Holloman and other officials.

The curfew closed down liquor stores and night spots in the city immediately. West Memphis liquor stores also were closed, and Arkansas Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller placed the 175-man West Memphis unit of the Arkansas National Guard on alert status.

The Rev. Mr. Jackson said police "came from everywhere" after the shooting. He estimated there were 150 officers on the scene within seconds, but "it was similar to the Kennedy incident. The police were all around, but there is no military protection against an ambush, and he was ambushed."

Mr. Holloman said he had assigned about 40 officers to protect Dr. King, though none of the SCLC officials had asked for protection for their leader. Some of these had been nearby ever since he returned to Memphis, and some were "within a few yards of him" when he was shot.

Two men inside the amusement company at 424 South Main said they saw a man racing from the scene in a white Mustang. Bernell Finley and Julius Graham said they heard "a thump" outside, looked out, "and there was this gun lying in the box, just sitting there."

David Wood, 25, of 3639 Townes, was drinking beer at Jim's Grill next door to Canipe's Amusements. He saw the Mustang parked in front of the cafe.

"The car had no front tag and no inspection sticker, so it must have been from out of state," said Mr. Wood.

Six other Tayloe employees corroborated Mr. Wood's account. They had been drinking beer in the grill for an hour.

Lloyd Jowers, owner of the grill, said the Mustang was parked in front of his white

Cadillac. He also said he felt he would have known if anyone had rented a room in the last few days at 419 1/2 South Main, over the cafe. He identified the owner of the rooming area as C. L. Short and the manager as Charles Stevens. The rooms are blocked off by police.

Some of the police technicians brought down a bucket and some miscellaneous stuff.

Ironically, Dr. King chose the hotel where he was shot because it was operated by Negroes, spurning the more secluded Holiday Inn-Rivermont where he was quartered last week.

He had reported threats on his life after last week's march, but "these reports did not bother him," said the Rev. Andrew Young, executive director of SCLC. He often joked with newsmen that his schedule depended on whether he lived long enough to fill it.

Beaten several times, he was stabbed in 1958 by a Negro woman in a Harlem boot store in 1958, and almost died then. His home was booby trapped with a dynamite bomb during the Birmingham boycott, and another house where he was staying was sprayed with rifle bullets.

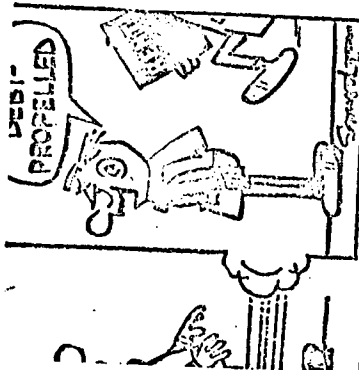
He came to Memphis in 1965 for another march, the completion of the one begun by James Meredith, who was gunned down by a Memphian near Hernando, Miss., as he walked down Highway 51 on his way to Jackson. Mr. Meredith was not seriously hurt.

The man who made "We Shall Overcome" a national anthem to millions of Negroes now joins a growing list of their martyrs, including Medgar Evers and Vernon Dahmer, civil rights leaders who died violently. Evers, too, was the victim of a sniper's bullet, and Dahmer was burned to death in his fire-bombed home in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Dr. King's nonviolent protest policy earned him numerous comparisons to Mohandas Gandhi, the Indian religious leader who used nonviolence to break the back of the British Empire in India. Gandhi, too, was the victim of an assassin.

In Washington, the leaders of the union whose attempts to organize Memphis' sanitation workers brought Dr. King here, said the union will march Monday in his honor.

Jerry Wurf, president, and Joseph L. Ames, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers, called on Mayor Loeb "to provide conditions of safety for the men and women who march in this tribute to our martyred leader."



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AMERICAN AUTO MART

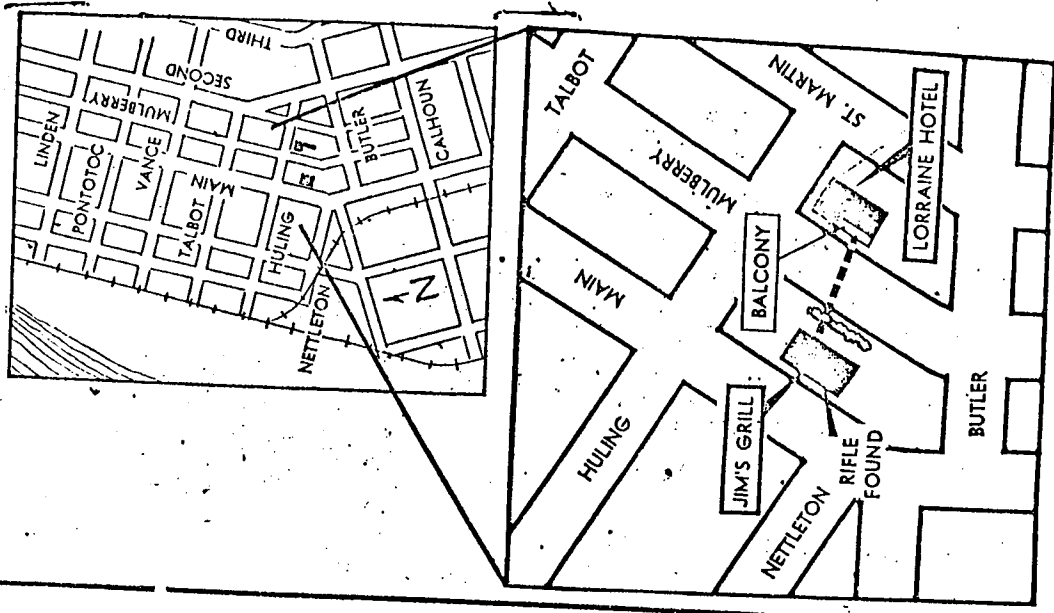
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Wagon, Powerglide, Power steering, V-8, factory air, 6 passenger.
- '64 FURY . . . \$1495
Wagon, 9 passenger, all power and air, white, rack on top.
- '64 GALAXIE . . . \$1495
Wagon, 7 passenger Country Squire, power and air, a good miles, like new.
- '65 MALIBU . . . \$1595
2 door hardtop, Powerglide, V-8, blue with white top.
- '65 CORVAIR . . . \$995
2 door hardtop, 3 speed, white with red interior, good gas mileage.
- '67 IMPALA . . . \$2495
4 door sedan, power and air, cream color, low mileage, still in warranty.
- '67 CAMARO . . . \$2195
Automatic, V-8, 11,000 actual miles, like new.

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The Scene

The bullet that killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. yesterday was probably fired from one of the windows in the building at right, above Jim's Grill, 418 South Main. The rifle believed to have fired the fatal shot was found in the doorway of the building at left, the Canipe Amusement Co., 424 South Main.

(Stories, Additional Pictures on Pages 1, 12 and 13)
—Staff Photos by Robert Williams



Broken Line Shows Probable Path Of Bullet
—Staff Map by William Herrington