

SUPPLEMENT # 79  
 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39  
 Homicide No. 3367  
 Thursday, April 4, 1968, 6:00 P.M.

REPORTED BY: LT. W. J. SCHULIZ  
 LT. J. B. WILLIAMS

On April 17, 1968, on instructions of Capt. R. A. Cochran, we contacted Insp. Jimmy Wilkins, Communications Director, in regards to obtaining the tapes of the broadcast made over the Police Radio, at the time Dr. Martin Luther King was fatally shot at the Lorraine Hotel. Permission was obtained from Assistant Chief W. W. Wilkins, for the transcription of these tapes. Ptl. H. B. Freeman, of the Administrative Services Division, did obtain his tape recorder from his home, and loaned it to the investigating officers for the purpose of playing these tapes.

The following transmissions were taken from the dictaphone recordings of radio transmissions on April 4, 1968, and are transcribed to the best ability of the listeners to read the transmissions. The following transcript is of Frequency-2, with Frequency-1 to be transcribed later in this report.

38 The crossing is clear just south of Poplar.  
 37 In Service, returning.  
 Disp. 37 in service, (6:01)  
 35 In service.  
 Disp. 35 in service, (6:01)  
 38 In service.  
 Disp. 38 in service, (6:02)  
 Tact. 10 (Inaudible) Tact. 10  
 38 Mr. Morish is blocked  
 Tact. 10 Tact. 10  
 Disp. Go ahead, Tact. 10.  
 Tact. 10 We have information that King has been shot at the Lorraine.  
 Disp. Repeat your information again, Tact. 10.  
 Tact. 10 We have information that King has been shot at the Lorraine, (6:03 P.M.).  
 Disp. Okay, Tact. 10, show you on the call.  
 Disp. Tact. 9 and Tact. 8, pull into the Lorraine, report of a shooting.  
 Disp. Tact. 9  
 Tact. 9 Tact. 9  
 Disp. Tact. 8  
 Tact. 8 Tact. 8  
 Disp. Any cruisers on the air in the vicinity of the Lorraine, 406 Halberry?  
 Tact. 10 On scene on Halberry.  
 Disp. Okay, Tact. 10, (6:03 P.M.)  
 Tact. 10 We are also by, we are in that.

358 Transmissions taken from Memphis  
 Police Department Radio Tapes

Page 2: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 18, (6:04 P.M.), any other  
 232 (Inaudible)  
 228 On scene, (6:04 P.M.).  
 Disp. All cars on the Lorraine Hotel call  
 cars are to remain in the cars until  
 remain in the cars until it has been  
 Tact. 10 He has been shot.  
 Disp. Okay, Tact. 10 advised that King has  
 Tact. 11 Do you want us to pull down?  
 Disp. Check, Tact. 11, pull down.  
 Tact. 11 Okay, Tact. 11.  
 Disp. Signal "Q", Signal "Q".  
 Disp. All Tact units on the call, you are  
 You are to form a ring around the  
 the traffic, no pedestrian traffic, 1  
 Hotel. A ring is to be formed around  
 243 In the area.  
 Disp. Check, 243. Any 200 cars in the  
 247 In area.  
 Disp. Check, 247, (6:05 P.M.)  
 365 In area.  
 Disp. Check, 365, (6:05 P.M.)  
 232 On scene.  
 Disp. 232 is on the scene, (6:05 P.M.)  
 224 224  
 Disp. Go ahead, 224.  
 224 We're in the loop, put us on that call  
 Disp. Okay, 224, (6:05 P.M.)  
 Tact. 10 We have information that the shot car  
 (direction) directly west from Lorr  
 Disp. Okay, Tact. 10. Tact. 10 has inform  
 building directly across from the Lorr  
 from the Lorraine. On the east side  
 Tact. 17 In the area.  
 Disp. Tact. 17 in the area, (6:06 P.M.)  
 Tact. 10 That building is west of the Lorraine  
 Disp. OK, this will be the building west of  
 the building west of the Lorraine. T  
 fired. (6:06 P.M.)  
 Disp. All Armer Station cars. All Armer/  
 the detail cars in relation to P. U. A.  
 M. I. Armer Station (1:18)

Page 2: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ME, 39.

from Memphis  
Radio Tapes

Disp. Okay, Tact. 18, (6:04 P.M.), any other cars in the area?

232 (Inaudible)

228 On scene, (6:04 P.M.)

Disp. All cars on the Lorraine Hotel call, we have received another call on it. cars are to remain in the cars until it has been verified. All men are to remain in the cars until it has been verified. (6:04 P.M.)

Tact. 10 He has been shot.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 10 advised that King has been shot, (6:04 P.M.)

Tact. 11 Do you want us to pull down?

Disp. Check, Tact. 11, pull down.

Tact. 11 Okay, Tact. 11.

Disp. Signal "Q", signal "Q".

Disp. All Desk units on the call, you are to form a ring around Lorraine Hotel. You are to form a ring around the Lorraine Hotel. No one is to enter or let no traffic, no pedestrian traffic, is to enter or leave the area at the Lorraine Hotel. A ring is to be formed around the hotel as soon as possible. (6:05 P.M.)

245 In the area.

Disp. Check, 245. Any 200 cars in the loop to make the call?

247 In area.

Disp. Check, 247, (6:05 P.M.)

365 In area.

Disp. Check, 365, (6:05 P.M.)

232 On scene.

Disp. 232 is on the scene, (6:05 P.M.)

224 224

Disp. Go ahead, 224.

224 We're in the loop, put us on that call.

Disp. Okay, 224, (6:05 P.M.)

Tact. 10 We have information that the shot came from a brick building directly east or (correction) directly west from Lorraine.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 10. Tact. 10 has information that the shot was from a brick building directly across from the Lorraine. Be on the east side directly across from the Lorraine. On the east side from a brick building. (6:06)

Tact. 17 In the area.

Disp. Tact. 17 in the area, (6:06 P.M.)

Tact. 10 That building is west of the Lorraine.

Disp. OK, this will be the building west of the Lorraine. The circle is to include the building west of the Lorraine. The brick building from where the shot was fired. (6:06 P.M.)

Disp. All Armour Station cars. All Armour Station cars to switch to the P-I. Only the Patrol cars to remain on P-I. All Armour Station cars to switch to the P-I.

Insp. Jimmy  
he broadcast  
ly shot at  
ilding, for  
tires Services  
he investigating

radio trans-  
listeners to  
Frequency-1

6:05 P.M.)

ing.

library?

Page 3: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NC, 39.

Hobb. 9 Hobb. 9 in service.  
 Disp. Hobb. 9 switch to P-1 (6:06)  
 Disp. All units, 150 advise all Task Units to seal this area off completely. All units, 150 advise all Task Units to seal this area off completely, (6:06)  
 Task. 10 Task. 10  
 Disp. Go ahead, Task. 10.  
 Task. 10 I have the weapon in front of 424 and the subject ran south on Main Street.  
 Disp. South on Main, the subject responsible for the shooting is running south on Main Street. 424 has the weapon at 424 Main, and the subject ran south from that location. (6:07 P.M.)  
 Task. 11 We're on Butler, east of Mulberry, we will cover this area.  
 365 We are at St. Paul and Main.  
 Disp. Okay, 365 is at St. Paul and Main. The other car repeat.  
 Disp. Not to touch the weapon. The weapon is not to be touched, (6:07 P.M.) - Repeating, the information, the subject ran south on Main from 424, any physical description on the subject?  
 Task. 10 All we know is he is a young white male, well dressed, dark colored, (Dread  
 Disp. He's a young white male, a young white male, well dressed, a young white male well dressed, ran south from 424 N. Main, (6:08)  
 Car 16 Car 16 in service.  
 Disp. 16 in service, and switch to the P-1.  
 Task. 12 In area cruising.  
 Disp. Okay, Task. 12, (6:08 P.M.) Task. 12, you are advised to take up a position and seal the area.  
 Task. 12 Okay.  
 230 In area.  
 Disp. Is that 230?  
 230 Check, 230.  
 Disp. Okay, 230.  
 Henry 16 Responding to call at the Lorraine Hotel.  
 Disp. Okay, Henry 16, 201 is on the call, (6:08 P.M.)  
 236 In area.  
 Disp. Check, 236, (6:08 P.M.)  
 Task. 6 In area.  
 Disp. Okay, Task. 6, (6:08 P.M.)  
 Task. 12 Main and Butler  
 Disp. Okay, Task. 12, is in position at Main and Butler, (6:09 P.M.)  
 Disp. Any car needing the loop lights?  
 Task. 6 We need them.

Page 4: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN

Disp. Okay, you have the loop lights clear, (6:09 P.M.)  
 Task. 10 Task. 10  
 Disp. Task. 10, ambulance on the way  
 315 Phil. Wolfe is in the Fire Dept  
 Disp. Okay, the Fire Department has ambulance, all Task Units are into the area.  
 Task. 10 It's also believed that this is north on Main.  
 Disp. Information that subject maybe white Mustang, north on Main & here on the subject, a young white Mustang, went north on N  
 Task. 6 Cleared lights.  
 Disp. Task. 6, repeat.  
 Task. 6 Cleared the lights.  
 Disp. Any other car needing lights?  
 Task. 17 Main and Butler.  
 Disp. Okay, Task. 17, (6:10)  
 170 In loop, checking.  
 Disp. Okay, 370, you are advised to  
 Task. 9 On scene, Lorraine Hotel.  
 Disp. Okay, Task. 9, (6:10 P.M.)  
 Task. 8 At Lorraine.  
 Disp. Okay, Task. 8, (6:10 P.M.)  
 150 Keep some of these Task Units  
 Disp. Couple of Task Units to reach  
 Task. 6 We will be cruising.  
 Disp. Okay, Task. 6, will be cruising  
 Disp. Task. 15, location.  
 Task. 15 Sumner and Holmes, en route.  
 Disp. Okay, Task. 15, take St. Joe  
 Task. 15 St. Joe?  
 Disp. Check, St. Joe Hospital, 15  
 Task. 15 Okay, 15  
 Disp. Only description this time, a 424 S. Main and seen running; may be in a late model white!

Page 7: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., III, 39.

Disp. Negative, reporters are to be withheld at this time, (6:21)

Tact. 9 Okay, Tact. 9.

Disp. Cars attention, cars on the Lorraine Hotel, cars to switch to the F-2 frequency, all Tact Units on the F2 frequency, cars not on the call, to switch to F-1, (6:22)

367 367 on the scene.

Disp. 367 on the scene, (6:22)

Disp. Repeating the information we have at this time on the shooting at 406 Mulberry, a young well dressed white male, dark hair, possibly black, a dark suit, it's also possibly black, medium heavy build. He was seen walk from 423 S. Main, possibly connected a late model white Mustang, was seen north on Main, (6:23)

Tact. 7 Tact. 7

Disp. Go ahead Tact. 7.

Tact. 7 Do you have any description on a license number on this Mustang?

Disp. No Tact. 7, a late model Mustang is all we have at this time.

Tact. 7 Repeat.

Disp. A late model white Mustang is all the information we have.

George 9 George 9 special at St. Joseph.

Disp. Is that George 9 at the St. Joseph?

George 9 Check.

Disp. Okay, George 9, John 5, disregard the call, (6:23)

John 5 Okay, John 5

Disp. The car that has the weapon on Main Street, come in with your number.

(Inaudible) Two transmissions, some car saying something about homicide.

Disp. Your number?

Disp. Is that Tact 10?

Tact. 10 Check.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 10, (6:24)

Tact. 16 Tact. 16, we are at Denny Thomas and Adams, just been stopped by a male who advised us some other subjects had followed that subject in question, north on Denny Thomas Blvd., going north on Thomas from this location.

Disp. Did they get a license number?

Tact. 16 They did not.

Disp. Information that the subject had been followed, subject responsible for the shooting had been followed north on Denny Thomas, and then north on Thomas. North on Denny Thomas and then north on Thomas. In a Mustang, Tact. 16?

Tact. 16 Stand by.

Disp. Okay, Sheriff's Department to copy. They went north on Thomas from the vic of Parkway, (6:25)

413 413 in service.

Page 8: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER

Disp. 413 switch to F-1, 413 in service (6:25)

Tact. 16 They are unable to give any description, just question.

Disp. Okay, advised the subject responsible for the from the parking, (6:25)

Disp. Tact. 16, how long ago was that?

Tact. 16 Just a few ago.

Disp. Okay, they did advise Thomas?

Tact. 16 Check, said they went north.

Disp. Okay, information they went north on Adams.

Tact. 17 Area of Thomas and Chelsea, cruising.

Disp. Tact. 17?

Tact. 17 Check.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 17, (6:26)

Disp. 101?

Disp. 68 pull up to the city limits.

Disp. 17 Chelsea and Watkins.

Disp. 101?

100 100

Disp. 100

100 Go ahead to 101, he's answering you.

Disp. (Inaudible) Stand by.

Tact. 9 I have Rev. Middlebrook, and Rev. Jackson don't go in.

Disp. Rev. Middlebrook and Rev. Jackson?

Tact. 9 Check, Tact. 9.

Disp. 150, Tact. 9 has Rev. Jackson and Middlebrook up there, are they to be admitted?

150 Check, that's all right.

Tact. 9 Okay, Tact. 9.

Disp. 100, 100, the Governor wants to know where you

(Inaudible) Transmission from 100.

Disp. Relay that to me.

(Inaudible)

Disp. 150, are you reading that?

150 Repeat 150

Dispatcher Repeat 100, we are not getting you, we wanted t

(Inaudible) From 100

JR., MO, 39.

ncy, on April 4, 1968, from

al.

place, okay, if

It is verified that King, King

confirmed that King has been sh:

age 20: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MO, 39.

155, you are to form a ring around the hotel, form a ring around the hotel, Tact Units are responding. (6:04)

157 159, I'm moving down on that call.

156 Okay, 159, 156, pull down.

156 Okay, 156.

17 Advise no pedestrian traffic, no traffic is to leave the vicinity of the hotel

17 17 in service

17 17 in service. (6:05)

2 2 in service.

17 Have information this shot came from a brick building, it's a brick building directly east from the Lorraine Hotel. The shot came from the brick building directly east from the Lorraine Hotel. (6:06)

17 I will move in on that.

17 Okay.

17 170

17 170

170 Be sure that the Tact Units seal that location off.

170 Okay, 170.

170 All units, that's all units, 170 advising all Tact Units are to seal this area off completely. All Tact Units are to seal this area off completely. (6:06)

2 2 in service.

170 2 in service. (6:06)

170 170 has the weapon at 424 S. Main, one of the cars has the weapon at 424 S. Main. The subject responsible ran south on Main, the subject responsible ran south from 406 Main.

170 Tact 1, pull up.

170 Tact 1.

170 Get my description!

170 Thank, steady, a young white male, well dressed, a young white male well dressed, ran south from 406 S. Main. (6:08)

16 16 headquarters.

16 Okay, 16.

155 155 on the scene.

155 Okay, 155, (6:08)

68 In service.

68 68 in service. (6:08)

16 16 in the area.

16 Okay, 16, (6:08)

24 24 in the area.

Police Board  
Tape - Transcribed  
in 1985