

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 4/15/68

Mr. GILBERT STEPHEN (STEVE) CUPPLES, [REDACTED] Memphis, Tennessee, advised he is employed in [REDACTED] Memphis.

Mr. CUPPLES stated he left work at approximately 5:03 p.m., drove his 1959 white Chevrolet Impala, and parked it immediately across the street from Jim's Grill located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. He said he parked the car heading south and immediately behind in the next available parking space to KENNY FOSTER's Camaro. He said when he parked his car he recalls seeing several cars parked across the street in the vicinity of the entrance to Jim's Grill. He said he recalls seeing JIMMY WALKER's white Fairlane Ford parked directly south of the fire hydrant located near the entrance of Jim's Grill and recalls seeing JOWERS' Cadillac located in the first parking space north of the fire hydrant. He said JOWERS operates Jim's Grill. CUPPLES stated he recalls seeing a white Mustang that could have been a 1967 or possibly 1968 model parked directly in front of JOWERS' Cadillac. He said this Mustang had black wall tires and believes it had large hubcaps. He said when he entered Jim's Grill he walked behind JOWERS' Cadillac and, therefore, did not notice very many details of the Mustang. He said he does not recall the color of the interior of the Mustang and did not notice what license was on the Mustang. He said he got the impression the Mustang was dirty or not freshly washed.

Mr. CUPPLES stated he was playing the pinball machine and the shuffleboard machine and that a great deal of noise was caused by these machines and the jukebox and, therefore, he did not hear what activity was occurring outside the grill. He stated sometime later he learned, at approximately 6:05 p.m., a deputy sheriff came to the door of the grill and instructed everyone to stay inside the grill until further notice. He stated shortly thereafter he and others in the grill looked out the front window and he recalls that the Mustang he had seen parked in front of JOWERS' Cadillac was gone. Mr. CUPPLES stated he did not see anyone enter the Mustang or drive it away.

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On 4/12/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987
 by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 4/13/68

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Mr. CUPPLES advised that after the deputy sheriff had told them to stay in the grill he believes it was a police officer that entered and told them all to write their names and addresses on a piece of paper. He said it was not until then that he and others learned that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot. He stated he did not hear a shot that was fired.

Mr. CUPPLES advised he cannot furnish any additional information concerning activity in this area.