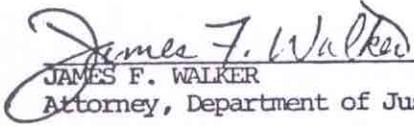


Memorandum of Reinterview of Edward E. Redditt

On September 28, 1976, I telephoned Edward E. Redditt at his place of employment and asked him whether he knew anything about the detail of firemen Norvell Wallace and Floyd Newsum from fire station no. 2. Redditt stated that he had no personal knowledge of the details. Moreover, he did not request that they be detailed because of the surveillance detail at the fire station nor does he have knowledge of any other police officer making such a request.



JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

Addendum: Redditt also stated that the author of the book: "An American Death" gave a pretty accurate account of his activities on the surveillance detail at the fire station.

Memorandum of Interview of Edward E. Redditt, formerly of the Memphis Police Department, now of the Office of Community Development, Memphis, Tennessee, on July 8, 1976

The interview of former officer Redditt was conducted by Messrs. Walker and Folsom of the task force. He was questioned primarily about why he was at fire station No. 2 on April 3-4

Redditt said he had been working in the Intelligence Unit of the M.P.D. since the start of the strike. He had been reassigned from the Community Relations Division. Redditt described his duty as guarding Dr. King every time King was in Memphis.

On April 3 the King delegation told Redditt and others from the police that they did not want a protective detail. Nevertheless the police went to the airport to meet King using a "cruiser" (i.e. an unmarked car) and escorted him to the Lorraine Motel. There the King party insisted the police leave. They did not want a guard with Dr. King. The assigned police went back to the perimeter, the edge of the motel grounds. After more protests, the police were moved out of sight which meant the firehouse. Redditt and Richmond were assigned to the firehouse.

On April 4 at about 5:00 p.m. Redditt was ordered by his commanding officer to report to the police station. There Redditt was told, in the presence of a representative from Senator Eastland's office, that word had been received that a contract had been put out on him, Redditt. Redditt was first ordered to go with his family to a motel in Mississippi. He objected he had a sick mother-in-law who could not be moved; he was then directed to go home and stay

there. Sitting in the squad car in front of his home, he heard the news of King's assassination at about 6:05.

Redditt recalled that while he was still at the fire station he saw eight or nine members of the "Invaders" leave suddenly in a group at about 4:15 p.m. He doesn't know why.

King's delegation consisted of Rev. Kyles, Rev. Lawson and others locally. Rev. Abernathy, Jesse Jackson and Rev. Bevel were not there.

At the conclusion of the interview, Redditt volunteered that he didn't believe Ray pulled the trigger or had anything to do with it. He said he thought the one-time firearms instructor for the police department, a Capt. Clark, a martinet and a hater of Negroes, could have done it. Capt. Clark sort of dropped out of sight just after the King assassination. That's all he knew.

Thereafter, Redditt, Mr. Walker and Mr. Folsom went to the office of the clerk of the Shelby County Criminal Court, and after getting a court order to supplement the order of July 7 which covered only Walker and Folsom, viewed a photograph taken April 4 at the entrance of Canipe's Amusement Co., 424 So. Main St., Memphis, Tennessee. Mr. Redditt said the officer in the picture was Louis McKay.

Memorandum of Interview With Police
Officer Willie B. Richmond; Federal
Building, Memphis, Tennessee,
July 7, 1976

Police Officer Willie B. Richmond of the Memphis Police Department was interviewed by team members Folsom and Walker on July 7, 1976. Officer Richmond, who is now a member of the robbery squad of the MPD, stated that when the sanitation workers strike began in February of 1968, he was assigned to plainclothes duty for purposes of observing the activities of the striking workers. On April 4, 1968, the day Dr. King was shot, Officer Richmond said that he was asked to report to Fire Station No. 2 to relieve Officer Edward E. Redditt whose life had been threatened. Officer Richmond said that he arrived at the fire station between 1:30 and 2:00 P.M. and Officer Redditt had already gone home.

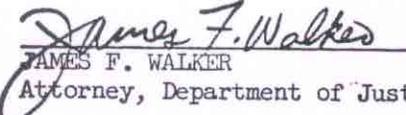
At approximately 6:00 P.M. Officer Richmond said he was getting ready to call headquarters to report that everything was quiet when he heard a shot and someone said that Dr. King had been shot. Officer Richmond then went to the observation post in the fire station (rear window) and saw Dr. King lying on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel. He then called headquarters and reported that Dr. King had been shot. Headquarters told Officer Richmond to report to the Homicide squad and Officer Richmond immediately left the fire station in his private automobile. The automobile was parked on the Butler Street

side of the fire station, and Officer Richmond proceeded north on South Main Street to Police Headquarters where he made a report of the shooting. Officer Richmond said that there was traffic on Main Street when he left the fire station, but he did not see any of the officers on Main Street. Officer Richmond estimated that approximately two minutes elapsed from the time he heard the shot to the time he left the fire station.

Memorandum for the File

On September 17, 1976, I attempted to talk to Attorney General Hugh Stanton, Jr., State of Tennessee, by phone regarding the MPD report concerning the threat on the life of former police officer Edward Redditt. Mr. Stanton was busy and I was transferred to Assistant Attorney General Jim Allen. Mr. Allen referred me to Chief Criminal Investigator John Carlisle as the individual most familiar with the file.

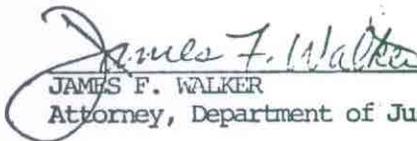
However, Mr. Carlisle said he would not touch the file unless he had a direct order from the Attorney General. In the meantime the Attorney General left the office for the day. Mr. Allen agreed to personally take the matter up with the Attorney General on Monday, September 20, 1976, and said either he or Mr. Carlisle would call me at that time.


JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

Memorandum of Reinterview of Police Officer
Willie B. Richmond

On September 28, 1976, I telephoned police officer Willie B. Richmond of the Memphis Police Department and inquired whether he had any knowledge of the detail of firemen Norvell Wallace and Floyd Newsum from fire station no. 2 on April 3rd and 4th of 1968.

Richmond stated that he did not know until recently that these individuals had been detailed. He said he had seen them at the fire station during the surveillance operation, but thought they may have been off duty or working another shift during the time in question. Richmond stated that he neither requested that Wallace and Newsum be detailed nor does he have knowledge of any one else in the police department having requested their detail.

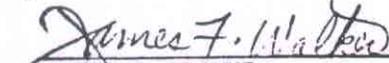


JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

Memorandum of Interview of Arthur J. Rivalto

On September 27, 1976, I telephoned Arthur J. Rivalto, former assistant chief, Memphis Fire Department regarding the detail of firemen Norvell Wallace and Floyd Newsom on April 3rd and 4th 1968.

Rivalto stated that the fire department shifted people around all the time when a company became understrength because of sickness, etc. Moreover, he does not recall the particulars of the detail of Wallace or Newsom nor does he know who ordered the detail.



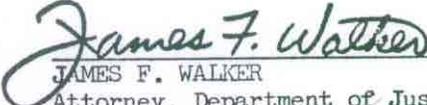
JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

Memorandum of Interview of W.E. Rountt

On September 17, 1976, I telephoned W.E. Rountt, former Assistant Chief, Memphis Police Department.

After identifying myself and stating my purpose, I requested any information which he might have relating to a threat made on the life of police officer Edward Redditt on April 4, 1968.

Mr. Rountt stated that during that time he was the night chief in charge of all operations. On the 4th of April 1968 he came on duty about 4:00pm. While he has heard about the threat on officer Redditt's life, he did not participate in any of the discussions and does not know the source of the information. However, he said a report should have been made in the police department when the information was received. Mr. Rountt said that he did not play any part in the assassination investigation; and that his primary role, as night chief at that time, was taking care of the disturbances that followed.



JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

Memorandum of Interview of Jack Smith

On September 27, 1976, I telephoned Jack Smith former lieutenant in the Memphis Fire Department, who is now retired and living in Mississippi. Mr. Smith confirmed that he was Floyd Newsum's commanding officer on April 3, 1968, and that he ordered him to report for duty on the 4th of April at fire station no. 31 instead of fire station no. 2.

Mr. Smith stated that he does not know why the detail was made, as he was only following orders. Sometime between 3:00pm and 5:00pm, he said he received a call from either Captain James T. Baity or Chief Arthur T. Rivalto in the fire department personnel office and was specifically requested to detail Newsum to No. 31. Smith said he immediately called Newsum, but he was not in. Therefore, he left a message to call the station as soon as he returned. No reason for the detail was given and Smith stated that he has not learned of a reason since the detail was made.

James F. Walker

JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

Memorandum of Interview of Graydon P. Tines

On September 20, 1976, I telephoned Graydon P. Tines, former Inspector, Memphis Police, and requested information regarding the source of the report of the threat on Edward Redditt's life on April 4, 1968. Mr. Tines said he knew the report came from out of town, but he does not know where it came from. He suggested that Capt. J.G. Ray or Lt. Arkin who were working in the Intelligence Division at the time should know. Mr. Tines also mentioned that Lt. Arkin put together a voluminous report covering the sanitation workers strike, the invaders and the events leading up to the assassination. He believes this report would be in the State AG's office as well as in the MPD.

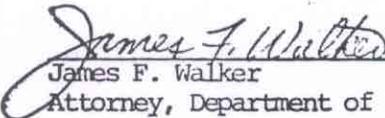


JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

Memorandum for the File

On September 23, 1976, I telephoned Attorney General Hugh Stanton, Jr., State of Tennessee and requested copies of certain Memphis Police Department records which are in the possession of his office. Specifically, I requested copies of: (1) the Homicide Report relating to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and (2) the report relating to information given the Memphis Police by Philip Manuel regarding a threat on the life of police officer Edward E. Redditt.

Mr. Stanton inquired whether I had subpoena power as he was reluctant to release any documents from the records in question. I informed Mr. Stanton that at this point we were attempting to secure information on a cooperative basis. Mr. Stanton said he was not saying that he would not give us copies in the absence of a subpoena. He then suggested that we make a formal request in writing for the records. When he receives the formal request, he will discuss the matter with the Memphis Chief of Police, since the records are actually theirs. He will then advise us accordingly.


James F. Walker
Attorney, Department of Justice

Memorandum of Interview With Norvell
E. Wallace; Federal Building, Memphis,
Tennessee, July 8, 1976.

Norvell E. Wallace, a lieutenant in the Memphis, Tenn. Fire Department, was interviewed by team members Folsom and Walker on July 8, 1976.

Wallace stated that on April 4, 1968, he had been stationed at Fire Station No. 33, located at S. Main and E. Butter Streets, for about two years. On April 3, 1968, his shift was from 7:00 A.M. until 7:00 A.M. the next day. However, at approximately 10:00 or 10:30 on the night of the 3rd, his captain told him that a call had come in requesting that a man be detailed to fire station No. 33, located near the airport. Wallace said that he normally went to bed about 11:00 P.M. and that it was raining that night, but he was sent to Station 33 immediately after the call was received and was detailed there for approximately three months.

Wallace stated that he does not know why he was transferred, but he explained the order had to come from the deputy chief or chief. While Wallace does not know whether fire station No. 33 was under-staffed as a whole, he does know that there was no shortage of personnel for the pump truck on which he worked. He said the hose size on the pump truck at Station No. 33 required only four men for the truck and they already had the four men there. Nevertheless, during the detail, Wallace rode the pump

truck as an extra fifth man.

Wallace stated that during the sanitation strike there were numerous trash fires. At one time he heard that he was transferred to Station No. 33 because of threats on his life. However, he can recall only one incident which could be considered a threat. This occurred at the scene of a trash fire when Wallace, the only black with the firemen responding to the fire, heard a black woman say: "Wait til dark, we will get you."

Wallace stated that police squad cars regularly gas up at the fire stations, and that during the sanitation strike the Tactical Units were in and out of the fire station at various times. He recalled that both Willie Richmond and Edward Reddit were undercover police officers who observed Dr. King and the strike supporters at the Lorraine Motel from a look-out post in the rear of the fire station. Wallace said an individual with the King party known as "baby Jesus" was being watched very carefully. However, Wallace stated that he did not overhear any discussions by the Tactical Unit members and did not know whether any FBI personnel were among the observers.

Wallace volunteered that he had been a supporter of the sanitation worker's strike and had attended some of their rallies. However, he said this was not discussed at the fire station as his support was primarily financial.

Memorandum of Telephone Interview of Nevelyn E. Zachary

On the night of September 15, 1976, at approximately 8:20pm, the undersigned telephoned Mr. Nevelyn E. Zachary, former Inspector of the Memphis Police Department's Homicide Squad, at his home

I identified myself as a Department of Justice Attorney assigned to the Attorney General's Task Force investigating the FBI's investigation of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and stated that I wanted to ask him some questions about the part he played in the investigation. Mr. Zachary stated that he would be happy to cooperate with me and related the following information.

On the afternoon of April 4, 1968, at approximately 6:00pm, he was in his office when a call came in reporting that a shooting had occurred at the Lorraine Hotel and possibly involved Dr. King. He immediately left the office and went to the Lorraine Hotel, arriving there at about 6:15pm. When he arrived, Dr. King had already been taken to the Hospital and there was a lot of confusion in the hotel courtyard. Some of the people in the courtyard claimed the police had shot Dr. King; others were discussing where the shot had come from.

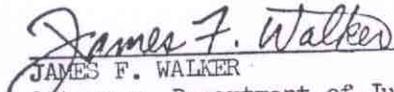
Shortly thereafter, a deputy sheriff advised him that a bundle containing a rifle had been discovered on N. Main Street in front of Canipe's Amusement Co. Mr. Zachary then went to N. Main Street, arriving there at about 6:30pm. He said the bundle was wrapped in a blanket and contained the rifle and a lot of personal items. He does not know which officer discovered the bundle; however, after the name "Ghormley" was mentioned by me, he said he thought he was the one, but he could be wrong. A lot of officers were standing around the bundle when he arrived on the scene. Mr. Zachary said he had the bundle placed in his car which was guarded by an officer until he returned to his office.

Mr. Zachary stated that the bundle, except for a tee shirt and pair of shorts, was turned over to the FBI at about 9:30 or 10:00pm. The tee shirt and shorts were retained because they thought the items contained a local laundry mark. During the night and the next day local laundries were checked with negative results. The tee shirt and shorts were then turned over to the FBI. Mr. Zachary said there was a very close working relationship with the FBI during the investigation and that the local police made the Memphis laundry checks, most of the Memphis motel checks and were paired up with FBI agents in other aspects of the local investigation.

Mr. Zachary stated that he did not have any first hand knowledge of the police surveillance post in fire station no. 2, or the activities of police informers since he was in homicide and came into the case only after the shooting.

Although stating that nothing is impossible, Mr. Zachary said he believed that James Earl Ray acted alone, killing Dr. King for the purpose of gaining recognition and fame. He further believes that he financed himself by pulling robberies in Canada and elsewhere. He went on to say that he believes he saw Ray sitting in the audience in the film of Dr. King making his "I've been to the mountain top" speech at the Mason Temple on the night of April 3, 1968. Mr. Zachary said: "if it were not Ray, it was a 'dead ringer' for him." He speculated that Ray probably went to Mason Temple and tried to join up with the SCLC for the purpose of getting lost in the civil rights movement, since he was on the run. He further speculated that the group did not accept Ray and this could have caused him to kill Dr. King.

The interview was concluded at 9:00pm.

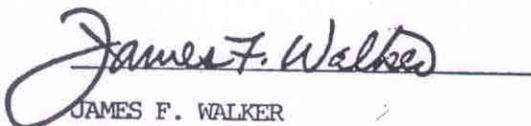


JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

Memorandum of Interview of John T. Buchanan

On October 15, 1976, I telephoned Lt. John T. Buchanan of the Memphis Fire Department regarding the details of firemen Norvell Wallace and Floyd Newsum prior to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Buchanan stated that he did not have any personal knowledge of the transfers. Furthermore, he said he was only a lieutenant at the time and the order detailing the men would have had to come from someone higher in rank than he.

I requested copies of the Strength Report - Firefighting and the log book entries reflecting the details. Buchanan then put Asst. Chief James T. Boatwright on the phone. Boatwright said he would search for the records and make copies available to me in Memphis (FD Admin. Office; Front and Union) next week.


JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

Memorandum of Interview of Phil M. Canale

On September 21, 1976, I telephoned Phil M. Canale, former Attorney General, State of Tenn., and questioned him about the plea negotiations in the James Earl Ray case.

Canale stated that he never met personally with Ray. The plea bargaining was suggested to Percy Foreman (who represented Ray at the time) by Hugh Stanton, Sr., who was the Public Defender. Foreman did not believe a plea would be accepted in a case of such notoriety. Canale said that it was his policy to accept a plea of guilty in a murder case if the defendant agreed to the recommended sentence and if the family of the decedent approved.

During the plea bargaining, no admissions were made except the stipulation of facts which were signed or initialed by Ray and Foreman. Canale said the stipulation contained a complete summary of the evidence the State would have offered to prove its case if there had been a trial. The only thing in the stipulation that Ray objected to, and they agreed to take out, was a statement that Ray agreed to take Stein from Los Angeles to New Orleans and return if Stein would sign a petition for Governor George Wallace. Canale said Ray did not want any politics connected with the plea.

Canale stated that he would never unequivocally say that Ray acted alone. However, he said he was satisfied that Ray did kill Dr. King. On the other hand, there was no credible evidence that Ray was involved in a conspiracy.


JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

Memorandum of Interview of Guy W. Canipe, Jr.,
424 South Main Street, Memphis, Tenn., July 7, 1976

Mr. Canipe, owner and operator of the Canipe Amusement Company, was interviewed at his place of business which was a part of the area of the crime scene. He met interviewing team members, Walker and Folsom on the sidewalk in front of his shop which he said was in the same condition as it was April 4, 1968. As we entered he pointed out the stairway between the building housing his shop and the building from which by all reliable accounts the shot was fired. [This portion of the flophouse complex was locked and not accessible for viewing. It has been visited, in June of 1976, by Review Task Force members, Kieckhefer, Gross and White.]

In his shop, from which the street is visible through the three quarter length plate glass windows, Mr. Canipe said that on April 4, 1968 there were two customers in his store looking at the used juke box records contained in a honeycombe-like shelf covering the south wall of the front portion of the establishment. He did not hear the shot that killed King, but he did hear the thump of something dropped in the doorway of his shop and he had a glimpse of the man who dropped the package. After a few minutes he went to the door, saw the shotgun box and the barrel of what he thought was a shotgun. He looked out and saw a deputy sheriff (he guesses from the uniform) with his revolver drawn and ducked back in. Then within minutes the place was crawling with police. When the police took the package and the box and rifle, he jokingly said if nobody claimed the shotgun he wanted it.

There was no unusual traffic at 6:00 p.m. April 4th on Main Street. He did not pay attention to the cars parked on the street or remember the white Mustang but the place where the Mustang was sighted by other witnesses must have been occupied because when he arrived at his store at about 5:30 p.m. he had to park in the last place and remembers because he had to carry a large step ladder from his station wagon into the shop. He did not see any police cars when he arrived.

Canipe pointed out where the rifle and bag wrapped in the bedspread were dropped against the short side (south) of the indented area into which the door to his shop is set.

Mrs. Brewer was a decent sort or woman according to Canipe. Mr. Brewer was a drunk.

Memorandum for the File

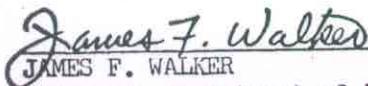
I telephoned John Carlisle, Chief Investigator, Attorney General's Office, State of Tennessee, on September 20, 1976. Mr. Carlisle indicated the AG had given him the ok to give me the information which I previously requested. He further stated that he had found a report containing the information. He summarized the report as follows:

Police Officer Edward Redditt was assigned to the Community Relations Division until sometime in February, 1968 when he was pulled off and put on a surveillance detail with respect to the sanitation workers. During February and March Redditt received several threats on his life. On April 3, 1968, he was assigned to keep Dr. King under surveillance. He went to the International Airport, along with several other officers, to meet Dr. King. Dr. King and his aides did not request any security.

While waiting at the airport a Mrs. Thomas Matthews, who was acting as chauffeur for Dr. King, pointed her finger at Redditt and said she was going to get him. Later, Mrs. Matthews informed another police officer that they "did not desire a police escort." Mr. Carlisle said this quote came from Lt. Davis.

Mr. Carlisle stated the report indicated that Mrs. Matthews was interviewed on April 11, 1968, at which time she confirmed the fact that Dr. King did not desire a police escort, but no mention was made of a threat on officer Redditt's life.

I informed Mr. Carlisle that the particular threat that I was concerned with was from an out-of-town source and resulted in Redditt being relieved from duty. Mr. Carlisle agreed to continue searching the records for this particular report and suggested that I call him on Wednesday, September 22, 1976.



JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

Memorandum of Interview of John Carlisle

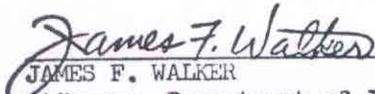
I telephoned John Carlisle, Chief Investigator, Attorney General's Office, State of Tenn., on September 22, 1976, with respect to information previously requested regarding a threat on the life of police officer Edward Redditt. Carlisle stated that he believed he had found the report and related the following information:

On or about April 3, 1968, Philip R. Manuel, of the U.S. Senate Investigating Committee for Senator McClellan, was in the Memphis Police Department (MPD) when he received a message to call his office in Washington. He called his office and was advised that a reliable informant of theirs in Mississippi had called them and advised of a plan that the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party had made to kill the Negro lieutenant in Memphis. This information was immediately given to the MPD by Manuel. Manuel also advised the MPD that he could not get any specific details because Jack Dross, his associate, had left the office. However, Manuel told the MPD that he was returning to Washington on a 5:50p.m. flight that day and would call them the next day.

The next day Manuel telephoned the MPD and advised them the Negro lieutenant referred to in the threat was in Knoxville rather than in Memphis.

Carlisle said Redditt was a detective at the time, but was in the "thick of things." He surmises that the MPD put two and two together and figured the information related to Redditt because of previous threats on his life.

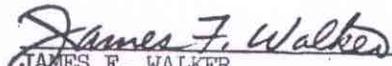
Carlisle stated that he could not send me a copy of the report unless he was authorized to do so by AG Hugh Stanton. Other relevant reports of the MPD which he has in his office include a 50 to 75 page homicide report and reports relating to the sanitation workers strike and the Invaders.


JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

Memorandum of Interview of Memphis Police Chief W.O. Crumby

On September 17, 1976, I telephoned Chief W.O. Crumby, MPD, and asked him if he would have a member of his staff check their records and advise me of the source of the information relating to the threat made on officer Edward Redditt's life on April 4, 1968.

Chief Crumby stated that all reports relating to Dr. King's assassination were sent to the Attorney General's office (State of Tenn.) after Ray was arrested. When asked why the report concerning the threat on Redditt was included, Chief Crumby said: "because Redditt was detailed to provide security for Dr. King." Chief Crumby mentioned that Redditt and someone else had recently requested the same information.



JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

Memorandum of Interview With Former
Patrolman Vernon V. Dollahite of the
Shelby County Sheriff's Department;
Federal Building, Memphis, Tennessee,
July 6, 1976

Former Patrolman Vernon V. Dollahite, Shelby County Sheriff's Department, was interviewed by team members Folsom and Walker on July 6, 1976. Former Patrolman Dollahite, who is now an officer with Metro Helicopters, stated that on April 4, 1968, he was working as a member of Tactical Unit No. 10, under the command of Lt. Judson Ghormley. The "Tact" Unit, consisting of three squad cars and 12 men, arrived at Fire Station No. 2, located at S. Main and E. Butler Streets, shortly before 6:00 P.M. Dollahite said the purpose of going to the fire station was to take a break and possibly to get gas for the squad cars.

Dollahite stated that around 6:00 P.M., while he was getting a cup of coffee in the kitchen area of the fire station, he heard a shot and then heard men in the fire station yell that Dr. King had been shot. Dollahite said he immediately ran out the north side entrance of the fire station, ran east toward the Lorraine Motel, climbed down the retaining wall at the rear of the fire station, and continued across Mulberry Street into the driveway of the Lorraine Motel. Upon entering the driveway Dollahite dropped his service revolver and stopped momentarily to retrieve it. He then proceeded to the area in the parking

lot beneath the balcony where Dr. King's body lay and saw the people gathered there pointing to the rear of a group of buildings on the west side of Mulberry Street.

Dollahite stated that he then ran out of the Lorraine Motel parking lot and turned north on Mulberry Street. He observed the roof tops in back of buildings on Mulberry Street as best he could, but did not see anyone. Dollahite was joined on Mulberry Street by an officer named Maley and they continued running north to Huling and west on Huling toward South Main Street. Officer Maley stopped to check out a driveway on Huling, but Dollahite continued running to South Main and turned south. Dollahite said he got a glimpse of an individual (later identified as Guy W. Canipe) who stepped out of a doorway on Main Street and quickly went back inside the building. Dollahite continued running until he came to Jim's Grill where he stepped inside briefly and told the customers to remain in the restaurant until the police had arrived. Dollahite then continued running south on Main Street with his service revolver drawn. As he passed Canipe's Amusement Co. he saw a suit case and rifle wrapped in a blanket lying in the doorway and saw Guy W. Canipe and two black men inside the store, but he continued running to the corner of the building (about 30 feet) to see if he could observe anyone. After seeing a group of officers running north on Main, Dollahite said he told a black officer to stand guard over the articles wrapped in the blanket.

Dollahite estimated that it took approximately one minute and 50 seconds from the time he heard the shot until the time he arrived at the corner of South Main and Huling. At that time he did not see anyone on the street, nor did he see a car leave the area at a high rate of speed.

Memorandum of Interview of Judge Robert K. Dwyer,
Memphis, Tennessee, July 6, 1976

Judge Dwyer, formerly Assistant Attorney General of Shelby County (1968-1969), was interviewed by team members Walker and Folsom in the judge's chambers. After he had expressed some annoyance at the persistence of questions raised by the James Earl Ray case for eight years, the Judge consented to be interrogated.

Judge Dwyer was advised that our inquiry was concerned with the role of the F.B.I. before and after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that we felt some of the answers might lie in the Attorney General's offices dealings with counsel and with Ray. Dwyer was at pains to explain that the prosecutors had nothing to do with cases until the police investigated them and submitted evidence sufficient to go to the grand jury. He said he was only concerned in the Ray case to put together the evidence to secure a conviction. He had refused to give defense attorney Percy Foreman the disclosure of the state's case that Foreman sought and thereafter Foreman had nothing to do with Dwyer. All his dealings for the plea were with Attorney General Canale. In all Dwyer had only casual conversations with either Arthur Hanes, Hanes' son or Foreman.

Dwyer assured us there had been no electronic surveillance to his knowledge. He said that the state backtracked all of the evidence secured by the F.B.I. and reinterviewed every witness they intended to call.

When questioned about the possibility that Ray was in a conspiracy, Judge Dwyer repeated his statements about only attending to the case presented to the Attorney General's office by the police and covered

by the grand jury's indictment. He said he did not live in a fairyland world and he never saw any legal evidence of the participation of anyone other than Ray in the killing of King.

Because Judge Dwyer was fully familiar with the evidence, he was asked why the rifle first purchased by Ray was returned to the dealer in Birmingham. Dwyer replied that he was told by the F.B.I.'s laboratory expert that a preservative used on firearms was still in the breech of the first rifle and a shell could not be seated.

Judge Dwyer said he was convinced the right man was convicted in the King murder. If we wanted more information about the plead bargaining we should talk to former Attorney General Canale and former Assistant Attorney General (now Judge) Beasley. He himself had been out of the office due to sickness; he would not have bargained as he wanted to try what he considered a very strong case.

Task Force Interview
July 13, 1976
Attorneys Gross, Kieckhefer and White

Dr. Mark O. Freeman,
Clinical Psychologist
Beverly Hills, California

Attorney James R. Kieckhefer contacted Dr. Mark O. Freeman, Clinical Psychologist, July 12, 1976 and requested an interview. After advising that he would first consult with his attorney, Dr. Freeman agreed to the interview and scheduled it for the afternoon of Tuesday, July 13, 1976 in his Beverly Hills office.

The task force's interest in Dr. Freeman is that while James Earl Ray was in Los Angeles in November and December 1967, he contacted and visited the clinical psychologist six times for professional care. Also, while seeing Dr. Freeman, Ray for the only time known to us did not use an alias.

Dr. Freeman explained that Ray's interest in seeing him was to learn the technique of self-hypnosis. By learning self-hypnosis, Dr. Freeman said, Ray hoped to gain power over people, self-confidence in his social contacts and overcome his shyness with women.

Dr. Freeman characterized Ray as a person who likely fantasized on being someone important, a self-motivated person who could act alone and a person capable of assassination.

Memorandum of Interview with Former Lt. Judson
E. Ghormley of the Shelby County Sheriff's Department;
Federal Office Building, Memphis, Tennessee July 7, 1976

Former Lt. Judson Ghormley of the Shelby County Sheriff's Department was interviewed by team members Folsom and Walker on July 7, 1976. Mr. Ghormley, now employed by the Public Defender's Office, Memphis, Tennessee, stated that in the early part of 1968 he was the commanding officer of one of the city of Memphis "Tactical Units." He said these "Tact" units were composed of officers from the city police, county sheriff's department and state troopers and he thinks they were organized by the city when the sanitation workers began their strike in February of 1968. The "Tact" unit would follow the striking workers marches for the purpose of preventing any type of violence.

On April 4, 1968, Ghormley stated that he was in command of Tactical Unit 10. The unit consisting of three squad cars and 12 officers arrived at Fire station No. 2, located at South Main Street at East Butler, shortly before 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of taking a break. The three cars parked at the north side of the entrance to the fire station so the fire trucks would not be blocked if a fire should occur. Ghormley's car was the lead car and was actually parked on the sidewalk with the front facing the street. The second car was directly behind him and the third car was doubled parked alongside these two cars. Ghormley believes anyone walking south on Main Street would undoubtedly have seen these scout cars and that this, no doubt, caused the individual to drop the bundle containing the rifle at Canipe's Amusement Co.

Ghormley stated that after arrival at the fire station the men began making phone calls to their homes, or getting themselves coffee.

He was in the rest room when someone yelled that King had been shot and the officers began running to the outside. Ghormley said most of the officers were in front of him since he had been in the rest room. They ran out the front entrance and north side entrance of the station, continued between the fire station and the adjacent parking lot, went over the rear retaining wall onto Mulberry Street and into the parking lot of the Lorraine Motel. However, Ghormley went only as far as the retaining wall where he said he observed his men running up the steps of the Lorraine Motel to the balcony where Dr. King had been shot. He said he also observed people on the balcony pointing across Mulberry Street in a northwesterly direction and he saw one of his men scaling the retaining wall on Mulberry Street to get into the back lot of a group of buildings there.

Ghormley stated he then retraced his steps between the fire station and the parking lot back to South Main Street and turned north. He said he has a bad hip and was not running, but was walking fast. He continued north on Main Street to Canipe's Amusement Co. where he observed a bundle which included a Browning rifle box with about a foot of the barrel of a rifle exposed. Ghormley stated that the owner of Canipe's Amusement, Mr. Guy H. Canipe, informed him that a white male had just dropped the bundle in front of his door and had continued south on Main Street. Moments later Ghormley said Canipe told him a white Mustang automobile had left the area at a high rate of speed. Ghormley said he radioed this information to his dispatcher and guarded the bundle of articles until he was relieved by a police captain.

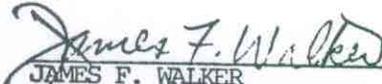
It was pointed out to Ghormley that there appeared to be some inconsistencies in his prior statement and that it was difficult to reconcile his statements with those of patrolman Vernon Dollahite. It was explained that in his prior statement (FBI Interview of 4/16/68) he said that after hearing that King had been shot he went down East Butler Street to Mulberry Street and then to the area of the Lorraine Motel parking lot and then retraced his steps to South Main and continued north on Main Street to Canipe's Amusement. Ghormley insisted that that statement is in error and that he did not go onto East Butler Street, but proceeded as he has described above.

It was explained that Patrolman Vernon Dollahite had stated that he went over the retaining wall onto Mulberry Street and into the Lorraine Motel parking lot, continued north on Mulberry Street to Huling, then west on Huling to South Main and then south on South Main past Canipe's Amusement Co. It was also explained that Patrolman Dollahite had stated that he was the first officer to reach the bundle of articles and that he had requested another officer to guard the articles. Ghormley said that he would not dispute Dollahite but if he requested someone to guard the articles, they were not there when he got there.

Memorandum of Interview of Edward A. Hamilton

On September 27, 1976, I telephoned Edward A. Hamilton former Chief of the Memphis Fire Department, regarding the detail of Norvell Wallace and Floyd Newsum on April 3rd and 4th 1968. Hamilton is now retired and is employed by Guardsmark, 22 S. Second, Memphis.

Hamilton stated that he had no recollection of the details of Newsum or Wallace. He does not know why they were detailed unless it was for a fill in to bring a company up to strength. Moreover, he said these matters would not be brought to his attention.



JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

Memphis, Tennessee Field Office on June 23, 1976

Mr. Hester was interviewed jointly by the team. We began by informing Mr. Hester that we had no particular biases favorable or unfavorable toward the Bureau but that many questions were raised by the review of the files completed thus far.

Concerning the Lorraine Motel, Hester categorically stated that no electronic surveillance had taken place with respect to King and his associates. Memphis was not in the mainstream of King's SCLC activity. In 1968, the Memphis Field Office did have a sound man by the name of _____, but he was relatively unsophisticated and was used primarily to do internal checks on the FBI communication system.

Hester stated that there had been no Bureau investigation of the Memphis Police Department (MPD) in connection with the assassination because there was "no need" to do so. It was inconceivable to Hester that the MPD could have been involved. He emphasized the irrationality and risks involved in the police having King killed in their own city. In this connection, he discounted the significance of the sudden removal of certain black City fire and police officers from the area prior to the shooting. Hester was not aware of any contingency roadblock plan devised by Officer Redditt to seal off the area around the Lorraine in case of a disturbance. Redditt was not interviewed because Holloman's (Director of Fire and Police) explanation of the MPD response in handling the assassination was considered satisfactory. Hester seemed to place a good deal of faith on the fact that Holloman had been a Bureau agent.

The idea of using a roadblock in Memphis to seal off possible routes of the assassin was considered impractical by Hester. There were too many possible escape routes to block particularly to the east and south of town. In addition, the authorities were not sure that they should be looking for a white Mustang in the first minutes and hours after the assassination.

11-11-76 1564

All persons associated with King should have been interviewed.

Hester eventually determined the LL&L Produce Co. story to be a bogus lead. All relevant persons were interviewed in Memphis and New Orleans. There was no indication of any past racial or Klan activity. Nothing of interest was discovered. This in combination with Mr. McFerren's low credibility in the eyes of the Bureau led to a termination of this lead. The story was related to the Bureau after the fact and Hester viewed McFerren as a publicity seeker in light of his past involvement in demonstration activity. Nothing was uncovered to reinforce McFerren's allegations.

The Bureau had no liason directly with the police officers assigned to the firehouse, but there was daily Bureau contact with the MPD. The Bureau was not involved in trying to protect King when he returned to Memphis for the second march.

The Bureau acquired considerable background information on Ray in an attempt to analyze his personality traits. The Army 201 file for Ray was probably obtained by the SLMO office and pertinent information forwarded to Memphis. Hester labeled Ray as a loser and a loner who was comfortable with prison life. He could not handle the responsibilities of life on his own. He shot King to make a name for himself and subconsciously may have wanted to be apprehended. He may have even fantasied about the possibility of being pardoned by a newly elected President Wallace.

Hester was of the opinion that if Ray had ever had a great deal of money at his disposal it would have been revealed in a more lavish lifestyle. Hester thinks Ray got his money through a series of small time robberies for which he was never identified. Unsolved crimes of this nature are not uncommon. Also, if Ray had been part of a conspiracy for which he was paid, he probably would have been eliminated by his co-conspirators out of fear of being discovered. It would have been very difficult for any conspirators to have insulated themselves from Ray.

Hester thought Ray was a hopeless amateur and was incredibly lucky in accomplishing the assassination and managing to get away. He returned the first rifle because he did not know how to clean

the cosmoline out of the chamber which had made it impossible to load. He put only one bullet in the rifle which he finally used. Ray shot for the head of his victim whereas an experienced assassin would have aimed for a better target such as the heart.

Hester had no explanation for Ray's first trip to Birmingham in 1967. There was no apparent logic to it.

Hester was pretty well convinced that the CB radio broadcast was a hoax perpetrated by the seventeen year old son of a prominent Memphis attorney.

Bureau agents were on the scene at the Lorraine as early as 6:30 or 7:00pm.

The fact that the latent prints from the scene were matched with those of James Earl Ray through examination of the federal fugitive warrant files was a stroke of luck. There was plenty of information on Eric Galt, but it didn't go anywhere. The chances that Galt was a federal fugitive were very small. Therefore, it was not a normal investigative procedure to search the fugitive warrant file. It was a desperation move by someone in the Bureau because all the leads on Galt had proved to be unproductive until that point. Hester thought the Bureau was lucky to connect with Ray even as late as April 19th.

Addendum to the Joe Hester Interview of June 23, 1976

On July 8, 1976, I recontacted S.A. Joe Hester to determine if the Memphis Field Office file had a lab report reflecting the finding of the cosmoline in the breech of the first rifle purchased by Ray at the Aeromarine Supply Co. in Birmingham. Mr. Hester said this had not been included in the report; it had been mentioned to SAC Jensen in a telephone call between Jensen and the F.B.I. lab. It had not been included in the lab report because the lab expert had not known there was any question about why the rifle had been returned.

Mr. Hester did not know the identity of the Memphis police officer who is in the photograph of the rifle, box and suitcase taken in the doorway of Canipe Amusement Co. - which photograph Review Staff attorneys Folsom and Walker view with all the other evidence on April 7, 1976, at the Shelby County Criminal Court.

Memorandum of Telephone Interview of Frank Holloman

On September 15, 1976, the undersigned telephoned Mr. Frank Holloman, former Director of Fire and Police, Memphis, Tenn. I identified myself as a Department of Justice Attorney assigned to the Attorney General's Task Force investigating the FBI's investigation of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and stated that I would like to ask him some questions. Mr. Holloman said that he would cooperate in any way he could, and related the following information.

Mr. Holloman said that he came to Memphis in August of 1959 and was the SAC of the Memphis FBI office until the Spring of 1960

He retired from the FBI in July of 1964. For about two years thereafter he was Director of Development at Memphis State University. In 1966 he became Executive Director of the Mid-South Medical Center Council for Comprehensive Health Planning. From January 1, 1968 until October 31, 1970, he was Director of Fire and Police for the City of Memphis.

As far as he can recall, Mr. Holloman said the Tactical units of the police department were organized in January or February of 1968 for the purpose of avoiding riots which other cities, such as Detroit, had experienced. After the Sanitation Workers Strike began, the units were used to escort garbage trucks in their efforts to pick up trash.

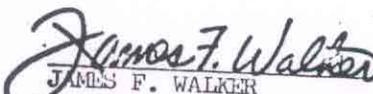
Mr. Holloman stated that Fire Station No. 2 on N. Main Street was used as a surveillance post in an effort to protect Dr. King. He said police officers had met Dr. King at the airport when he arrived in Memphis and offered him protection which he refused. Mr. Holloman believes Dr. King and his aides felt the police were attempting to spy on their activities in connection with the strike. Thus, he said, the police resorted to observing Dr. King and his group from the fire station. According to Mr. Holloman, this surveillance post had not been used before Dr. King arrived and refused protection. Mr. Holloman said a physical inspection of the general area was not made because the police did not know where Dr. King was planning to stay prior to his arrival.

With respect to the removal of officer Edward Redditt from duty at the fire station surveillance post on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, Mr. Holloman stated that he was in a court hearing, relating to the injunction against further marches, until about 5:00pm. When he returned to his office he was advised that a threat had been made on officer Redditt's life. He does not remember whether Redditt was already in his office or whether he ordered him to come in at that time. Nevertheless, Holloman said he advised Redditt of the threat and ordered him to move his family into a motel under an assumed name. He does not know whether Redditt followed the orders. The information about the threat had been received by other officials, probably Chief of Police McDonald, while he was in Court. Mr. Holloman said he does not know the source of the information, but recalls that it was from some government agency. After Dr. King was shot and the riots started he was busy restoring order to the city and the matter of the threat was out of his hands.

Mr. Holloman stated that he does not recall having any knowledge of the transfers of firemen Norvell Wallace and Floyd Newsom from fire station no. 2 on the day prior to Dr. King's assassination. He said he has since learned from questions asked him by newspaper people that they were transferred, but he had no knowledge of the transfers at the time.

In response to questions about informer coverage of the "Invaders", Mr. Holloman said that the only informer the Memphis police had was Marrell McCollough who had infiltrated the organization for the purpose of finding out what they were going to do.

Mr. Holloman indicated that he desired a copy of the memorandum of interview since he had read that the House of Representative was contemplating an investigation. He stated that he could possibly be interviewed by them and he would want to know what he had said to me. I advised Mr. Holloman that I did not think this would be a problem, but the request would have to be cleared with the Task Force Leader.


JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

FRANK C. HOLLOMAN

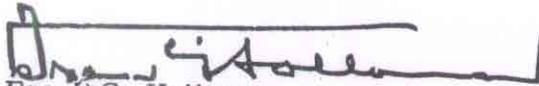
September 20, 1976

Mr. James F. Walker
Attorney
U. S. Department of Justice
Safeway Building
Room 856
521 12th Street N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Walker:

Pursuant to our telephonic conversation on the morning of September 17, 1976, I am enclosing a copy of a letter dated July 17, 1968, from Inspector G. B. Tines, Inspectional Bureau, Memphis Police Department, to Assistant Chief W. E. Routt entitled "Security and surveillance of Dr. Martin Luther King from time he arrived in Memphis on April 3, 1968, until he was assassinated on the evening of April 4, 1968" which, I hope, will be helpful to you in your investigation.

Sincerely,


Frank C. Holloman

FCH:GW
Enclosure ✓

CERTIFIED 144091

144-72-662

36	SEP 23 1976	R
K.A.V.		
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION		

SEP 23 1976
REGISTERED _____

MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT
INSPECTIONAL BUREAU
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

July 17, 1968

RE: Security and surveillance of Dr. Martin Luther King from time he arrived in Memphis on April 3, 1968, until he was assassinated on the evening of April 4, 1968.

Mr. W. E. Routt, Asst. Chief
Inspectional Bureau
Building

Dear Sir:

This report is being submitted as per request of Mr. Frank C. Holloman, Director of Fire and Police, for his information concerning the above captioned subject.

In the early morning of April 3, 1968, we received information that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., would arrive in Memphis from Atlanta, Georgia, on Flight No. 381, Eastern Airlines, arriving in Memphis at 10:15 A.M., Gate 17, Memphis Municipal Airport.

On receipt of this information I instructed Det. E. E. Redditt and Ptlm. W. B. Richmond to go to the Municipal Airport to observe and report when Dr. King arrived and try to ascertain the location where he would be staying while in Memphis. They were also advised to keep a continuing surveillance on Dr. King, so as to know who all he came in contact with.

The reason for surveillance being ordered was because Dr. King was a controversial figure plus the fact he had, according to our information, been meeting with local black militants while in Memphis on prior visits.

A short time after instructing Det. Redditt and Ptlm. Richmond to go to the airport, I was advised by Chief J. C. Macdonald that Chief W. P. Huston was sending a detail of men to be with Dr. King for security measures.

On April 5, 1968, I received a copy of report written to Chief W. P. Huston by Inspector Don H. Smith, who was in charge of the security detail for Dr. King, along with Lts. William Schultz, George Kelly Davis and Det. Ronald B. Howell. These men were also assisted by Inspector J. S. Gagliano and Lts. Hamby and Tucker. Inspector Smith's report reads as follows:

April 3, 1968, 8:30 A.M., I was instructed by Chief W. P. Huston to go to the Metropolitan Airport along with a detail of men who will be listed below for security purposes for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was to arrive in this city aboard Flight 381, Eastern Airlines at 10:15 A.M.

With me on this detail were Lt. William Schultz of the Homicide Bureau, Lt. George Kelly Davis and Det. Ronald B. Howell, of the Vice and Narcotics Bureau. I arrived at the Metropolitan Airport at approximately 9:10 A.M., April 3, 1968, and proceeded immediately to Gate 17, where Flight 381 from Eastern Airlines was to deplane.

On our arrival at Gate 17 at the Metropolitan Airport there was no one at this gate and only two passengers crossed the hallway at Gate 18 awaiting an outgoing flight. At approximately 9:15 A.M. on April 3, 1968, a white

female reporter and white cameraman arrived at Gate 17. A very few minutes later Mrs. Thomas Matthews, colored female, arrived at Gate 17 and during the conversation with Lt. George Kelly Davis she stated that she had come to the airport to pick up Dr. King. Mrs. Matthews stated that they had not asked for police to be assigned to Dr. King.

Between 9:15 A.M. and 10:33 A.M., which is the time Flight 381 arrived (Eastern Airline) in Memphis, a crowd of approximately 60 to 70 people had congregated at Gate 17 and in the hallway between Gate 17 and Gate 18. Some of the people who had congregated at this location were outbound passengers, Eastern Airline flights, and did not come to that location to greet Dr. King. The majority of the people congregated there were from the news media. There were approximately 15 to 20 colored males and females who were not with the news media.

After Dr. King deplaned at 10:33 A.M. (his plane being late) he held a short press conference in the hallway near Gate 17 at the Metropolitan Airport. Our dispatcher was kept advised of the approximate number of people who were congregating at Gate 17 and he was also advised the exact time Dr. King deplaned, and that the crowd assembled was orderly.

Shortly after Dr. King's press conference, he started toward the main lobby of the airport terminal and while walking down the hallway, the writer approached Reverend James Lawson and after identifying himself, asked Reverend Lawson if he would tell me where they were going on leaving the airport. Reverend Lawson stated, "We have not fully made up our minds."

Dr. King got into a grey with a black vinyl top Buick Electra bearing Tennessee License JP-9735, which was parked on the upper driveway at the Metropolitan Airport. This car was driven by Mrs. Thomas Matthews and Dr. King was in the front seat with her. There were three colored males in the rear seat of this automobile. There was also a yellow Lincoln Continental with a black vinyl top bearing Tennessee License BT-0039, which was occupied by several male coloreds who left the airport along with the Buick carrying Dr. Martin Luther King. The dispatcher was advised of the description of the cars and the license numbers, and the above mentioned officers followed, keeping the dispatcher advised of our location and our final destination, which was the Lorraine Hotel located at 406 Mulberry, arriving there at approximately 11:20 A.M. After arriving at the Lorraine Hotel, another cruiser occupied by Inspector J. S. Gagliano, Lts. Hamby and Tucker, arrived at this location at my request to assist in securing the area where Dr. King was staying.

At approximately 12:05 P.M., April 3, 1968, Dr. King left the Lorraine Motel in the same black over gray Buick bearing Tennessee License JP-9735, driven by Mrs. Thomas Matthews, and the above mentioned officers followed this car carrying Dr. King to 584 E. McLemore, the Centenary Methodist Church, where the officers in Cruiser John 1 secured the front entrance to the church off of McLemore and David 1 secured the rear entrance off Edith.

Dr. King, in the same automobile driven by the same person, left 584 E. McLemore at approximately 2:15 P.M. and was followed by a white Cadillac with a black vinyl top bearing Tennessee License KO-0708 driven by Solomon Jones and an unknown colored male sitting in the front seat with the driver. The above mentioned officers followed these two cars back to the Lorraine Hotel where the entrances were secured by the officers who remained on duty at that location approximately until 5:05 P.M. Dr. King arrived at the Lorraine Hotel on the last occasion at approximately 2:25 P.M.

During the time we were on duty at the entrances of this hotel between 2:25 P.M. and 5:05 P.M., the Federal Marshal and some of his deputies arrived at this location and Dr. King along with some of his aides were served with an injunction. Approximately 30 minutes after this injunction was served on Dr. King and his aides a meeting was held in Room 307 of the Lorraine Hotel between Dr. King, his aides and several attorneys.

It is not known by the writer if there were detectives assigned to this detail after 5:05 P.M. when we were pulled off, but it should be noted that at no time did Dr. King or anyone else ask for police protection while I was on this detail.

This concluded Inspector Don H. Smith's report.

It was not until April 10, 1968, that I received a report concerning Inspector Joe Gagliano's participation in this detail, as well as those assigned with him, Lts. J. C. Hamby and Joe Tucker. This report was written to Chief W. P. Huston and reads as follows:

April 3, 1968, at approximately 11:15 A.M., the writer received instructions from you that I was to meet Inspector Don Smith at Butler and Mulberry and assist him on the above captioned detail. I arrived at this location with Lts. J. C. Hamby and Joe Tucker around 11:25 A.M. and was briefed by Inspector Don Smith.

He advised me that Dr. King had been driven to the Lorraine Motel in a black Electra (black vinyl top and gray colored bottom) bearing Tennessee License JP-9735. He instructed me to take Lts. Hamby and Tucker and secure the Butler Street exit and to stay with Dr. King whenever he left this location. In the meantime we were to keep him under observation as best we could. He also told me that although he had requested Dr. King's schedule, he had been refused same.

The three (3) of us secured the Butler Street exit and at approximately 12:05 P.M. Dr. King and party left in the black and grey Electra bearing Tennessee License JP-9735, being driven by a colored female whom I later learned to be Mrs. Thomas Matthews. They came out the Butler Street exit and proceeded east on Butler, south on Second to Calhoun, east on Calhoun to Third, south on Third to McLemore, and then east on McLemore to 584 E. McLemore, which is Reverend Lawson's church. During this entire time this car was secured by Inspector Smith and his men, who followed immediately behind their Buick and we followed Inspector Smith's car. At this location I told Inspector Smith that I believed that there was an exit at the rear of this church and he instructed me to check and if so, to secure same.

After having secured the rear exit for about fifteen or twenty minutes, I noticed Gerald Fanion, male colored, enter the rear wing off Edith where he remained for approximately twenty or thirty minutes. When he came out, I motioned him over to our cruiser, at which time I requested that he try and determine for us what Dr. King's party's schedule was so that we could protect him. At this time Lt. Hamby told him, "We don't want anything to happen to him," and he answered, "I know what you mean," and he stated he would find out where they were going from here and would let us know. He went west on Edith on foot and returned a short time later, again entered the building, but never came back to inform us of Dr. King's party's intentions.

Around 2:15 P.M. we again followed Dr. King and his party west to Third Street off McLemore, then north on Third to the Hogue & Knott Super Market just north of Walker on Third where Dr. King and party parked briefly while

one of the male coloreds entered Hogue & Knott and returned to their car. At this time Inspector Smith was able to get immediately behind Dr. King's car. Previously; there was a white 67 or 68 Cadillac bearing Tennessee KO-0708, being driven by a male colored Solomon Jones, immediately behind Dr. King's car. We allowed this car to proceed between Inspector Smith's cruiser and ours. We went north on Third to Butler and west on Butler to the Lorraine Hotel, where we took up our same security stations.

We remained at this location until we were instructed by Inspector Don Smith that Chief J. C. Macdonald had ordered us to Headquarters at approximately 5:05 P.M., April 3, 1968. This was my only detail on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This concluded Inspector J. S. Gagliano's report.

The observations of Det. Redditt and Ptlm. Richmond on April 3, 1968, coincide with reports written by Inspector Smith and Inspector Gagliano, except go into more detail as to persons going to and from the Lorraine Hotel-Motel complex while Dr. King was there, for they had an observation post in the rear of Engine House No. 4, located at Main and Butler overlooking the Lorraine Hotel-Motel.

It should be noted at this point a remark made by Mrs. Thomas Matthews, as her name has been mentioned in the reports made by Inspectors Smith and Gagliano. and that is she stated, pointing her finger at Det. Redditt, "I am going to get you," or, "I am going to shoot you." This is listed to show the attitude toward the police that some of Dr. King's associates had. It was also mentioned by Lt. Davis that Mrs. Thomas Matthews was the first colored person to arrive at Gate 17 at the airport and upon talking with her, trying to find out arrangements that had been made for Dr. King, she stated they had not invited any police and later she was overheard telling Dr. King that, "We are just not receiving any police protection," and Dr. King stated to Mrs. Matthews, "Well, as soon as I get time, I will see what I can do about it." It is believed that Mrs. Matthews and Dr. King did not know these remarks had been overheard by Lt. G. K. Davis.

Det. Redditt and Ptlm. Richmond left their observation post at 6:35 P.M., April 3, 1968, and went to the Mason Temple where Dr. King was to make an address to a mass meeting. On arrival at this location they were met by Reverend Malcomb Douglass Blackburn, MW, 40, residence 857 Woodlawn, who is Associate Minister at Clayborn Temple, and was quite active during the sanitation strike.

Reverend Blackburn called Det. Redditt aside and asked what he was trying to do to himself and when Redditt inquired as to what he meant, he stated that the word is out that you were over in the fire station near the Lorraine Motel spying with binoculars.

After Reverend Blackburn had talked to Det. Redditt, he then approached Ptlm. Richmond, shaking his hand, and stating that he wished he wasn't there, as this was the wrong place for him, because tension was already high enough.

The meeting at Clayborn Temple got under way at approximately 7:15 P.M., April 3, 1968, but Redditt and Richmond left at approximately 8:40 P.M. because they felt that Reverend James Lawson was going to make their presence known after remarks had been made concerning the shooting of Larry Payne, calling it cold blooded murder.

I would like to make mention at this point that I have no idea as to why the security detail was removed from Dr. King after 5:05 P.M., April 3, 1968, as mentioned in Inspector J. S. Gagliano's report, as I was not conferred with concerning it. The surveillance detail, however, was again resumed at 10:30 A.M., April 4, 1968.

April 4, 1968, 10:30 A.M., Det. Redditt and Ptlm. Richmond resumed their surveillance of the Lorraine Hotel-Motel complex, noting everything that went on concerning persons going to and from this location.

While at the observation post at Firehouse No. 4, Det. Redditt received a phone call from a woman who did not identify herself, stating, "You are doing your own black people wrong and we are going to do you wrong also."

During the time this surveillance was in progress Mr. Philip R. Manuel, who is with the U.S. Senate Investigating Committee for Senator McClellan, was in our office and he received a call to return a call to his office in Washington and in doing so, he was advised that a reliable informer of theirs in Mississippi had called advising them of a plan the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party had made to kill the Negro Lieutenant here in Memphis and it was believed they could have been referring to Det. Redditt, for he had been in the thick of things since the beginning of the sanitation strike. Mr. Manuel was advised by his office that the plan had already been set in motion, but he could get no specific details because Mr. Jack Dross, his associate in Washington, had left the office without dictating a memo regarding this.

Mr. Manuel advised that his plane was to leave Memphis for Washington at 5:50 P.M. and that on arrival in his office the next morning, the particulars would be forwarded our office. NOTE: Information was received later from Mr. Manuel indicating that the Negro Lieutenant referred to was in Knoxville, Tennessee instead of Memphis.

Upon learning of this possible threat to Det. Redditt, he was pulled from the surveillance assignment and relieved of duty and sent home to be with his family and a police guard was set up at his home. Ptlm. Richmond, however, remained on his post, continuing surveillance of the Lorraine Hotel-Motel.

Ptlm. Richmond, while observing the motel, saw Dr. Martin Luther King at the time he was shot. He states that this was approximately 6:00 P.M. and at that time he heard a loud sound as if it were a shot and saw Dr. Martin Luther King fall back from the hand rail and put his hand up to his head. Upon observing this, he ran to the phone to report it, at which time he saw one of our tac units in front of the fire station, advising them that Dr. King had been shot, and at this time the dispatcher was made aware of what happened and all police units in the area began to converge on the scene.

At the time Dr. King was shot, there were two tac units and five cars in close proximity, which would give a minimum of 44 men in the area and a maximum of 52, as the tac units had anywhere from 12 to 16 men per unit and the cars had 4 men each assigned.

There was quite a lot of conversation at the Lorraine Hotel-Motel after police arrival as to how they got on the scene so fast, and it was even indicated that a policeman was responsible for the shooting. As a result of these remarks, I had Mr. Walter Lane Bailey, male Negro, who is the owner of the Lorraine Hotel-Motel, come to the Police Station on April 6, 1968, and

give a statement concerning our presence in the area, as we were keeping in close touch with him as to what was going on among Dr. King and his associates.

In Mr. Bailey's statement he states that he knew that we were observing his place of business from the fire station located at Main and Butler and the only criticism he had heard of the police was they were wondering how the police got there so quick and he told the parties making the remarks that the police were watching from the fire house and that they were always over there.

On reviewing the reports after Dr. King's death that were written by Inspector Smith, Inspector Gagliano, Det. Redditt and Ptlm. Richmond, there were certain things that I felt needed clarifying, such as Reverend Blackburn's statement to Det. Redditt, that he knew that we were spying on the activities at the Lorraine Hotel and also from Mrs. Thomas Matthews, her statement that they had not asked for any police in connection with Dr. King's visit. Also, a memo that was written to Mr. Frank Holloman by Captain Sidney Cole and Lt. B. P. McMillan dated April 5, 1968, which stated they escorted Reverend Lawson, Jesse Epps, J. Ciampa, Joe Paisley, Gerald Fanion and another male colored, whose identity was not obtained, to Mr. Holloman's office on his request and that this was at 1:10 A.M. and while in Mr. Holloman's office, Gerald Fanion made the statement that the Strategy Committee had considered asking for police protection for the Reverend Martin Luther King; however, had decided against it.

On April 11, 1968, I talked to Mrs. Thomas Matthews at her place of business, the Eureka Barber Shop on Park Avenue, ph. 324-9247, and she stated the same as Lt. Davis had mentioned in their report. She said she made the remark about the police being at the airport, for they weren't there the time before, and that on this occasion, however, referring to April 3, 1968, she saw Lt. Davis, Inspector Smith, Det. Redditt and his partner, referring to Ptlm. Richmond. Mrs. Matthews was asked to come to my office and give a statement, which she agreed to do, but never appeared.

On April 22, 1968, a statement was obtained from Reverend Malcomb Douglas Blackburn to the effect that he had spoken with Det. Redditt at Mason Temple, but didn't remember the exact context of their conversation, but did tell him that he had heard a remark or rumor that he had been observing the Lorraine Hotel with binoculars from in or near the fire house. Reverend Blackburn also stated that he had no knowledge of whether anyone had asked for police protection for Dr. King while in Memphis on April 3 and 4, 1968.

With reference to the memo concerning Gerald Fanion's remarks to Mr. Holloman, a statement was obtained from Gerald Fanion on April 24, 1968, wherein he stated that on April 3, 1968, while at the Centenary Methodist Church on McLemore he saw Inspector Gagliano and another gentleman he did not know and that he spoke to Inspector Gagliano, but cannot remember all the contents of the conversation, but he does remember being asked about Dr. King's schedule. He went on to state that he did not "resume" the responsibility of getting the information of Dr. King's schedule as requested by Inspector Gagliano.

When asked the question if he had been present on any occasion during strategy meetings pertaining to Dr. King's visits to Memphis and particularly his visit of April 3, 1968, was there any discussion with reference to asking

for police protection for Dr. King. Mr. Fanion answered by stating he had heard this mentioned prior to his first visit March 28, 1968, and went on to state that Dr. King's itinerary on both visits to Memphis were not discussed in strategy sessions where there would be general knowledge to a lot of people, but he has heard it mentioned that police protection is not a request of Dr. King's staff. In other words, it is not a policy to ask for police protection.

Mr. Fanion also makes mention that he had heard Det. Redditt had been watching the Lorraine Hotel-Motel from the fire station and remembered hearing that he had been removed from the fire station prior to Dr. King's assassination.

As to the remarks Mr. Fanion is supposed to have made in the presence of Mr. Holloman, he stated he cannot truthfully remember these remarks; however, he might have said this, that it had been mentioned.

All data mentioned in this report, such as copies of reports, statements, etc., will be made a part of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., surveillance file of April 3 and 4, 1968, maintained in the Inspectional Bureau office.

Respectfully submitted,



G. P. Tines, Inspector
Inspectional Bureau

GPT/mk

Special Agent Ray Howe (Murking Case Agent at
Kansas City Field Office)- Interviewed by
Gross, Kieckhefer and White on July 8, 1976

Special Agent Howe thought the overall investigation was good and that Hoover would never have interfered with its progress.

Howe is fairly certain that Ray escaped from the MSP with help from inside and that Ray's brother, who visited him the day before the escape, helped Ray on the outside by picking him up in an automobile. Ray had bought a radio right before the escape and was probably planning to use it as an aid in remaining a fugitive. The story given by Ray on his method of escape involved the same route used by another inmate the year before. Ray probably fabricated his story to protect those who helped him inside the prison. Ray had been practicing hiding out in the prison at various periods so that the authorities would not anticipate an escape when it was discovered that he was missing.

The search of the fugitive warrant file which led to the connection between Galt and Ray was not a standard procedure. Howe essentially agreed with the assessment by Special Agent Joe Hester in Memphis in this regard.

Howe believes that Ray obtained his funds from the Alton Bank robbery. Howe was not aware of any MSP group named "Cooley".

September 15, 1976

INTERVIEW OF WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE

William Bradford Huie was telephonically contacted in Hartselle, Alabama, on September 15, 1976. Huie was advised of the Task Force's responsibilities and its interest in his communications with James Earl Ray.

Ray had already cost him over \$15,000 in legal fees from various lawsuits by Ray against him. Huie stated he was conclusively convinced that Ray assassinated Dr. King, and that there was no conspiracy involved in the matter.

Huie further stated that his records for James Earl Ray were with his attorneys in Nashville, Tennessee. These records have been available to various reporters, writers and investigators for several years. He said we were welcome to review the files, but advised that he desired to retain the original documents as he will eventually give them to Arthur Hanes, Jr. In order to see the files we should contact Attorney Gareth Adam of the law firm of Hooker, Kewell, Datson and Harris, 900 National Trust Building, Nashville, Tennessee, 37201 (615/244-6840).

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Files

DATE: 9/8/76

FROM : Fred G. Folsom

SUBJECT: Conference With F.B.I. Internal Security Division
Representatives

In an informal discussion on September 2, 1976, covering several matters:

..., it was conceded by them that there was no evidence that Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., had ever been a member of the Communist Party, U.S.A., nor was there direct evidence (i.e., quotation of oral or written statements) that he espoused the communist philosophy or followed a "party line" distinguishable from the valid civil rights movement. It was stated that the Bureau's attention to King was predicated on his association with alleged CPUSA members, taking their tactical advice and using them for other matters such as legal advice, mass demonstrations and speech writing.



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan