

3/20/77

Dear Les,

You non-person you!

I've gone through the FBI HQ clipping file on the King case.

You are there by denial and omission, not in person.

Not only are your stories not there, the UPI copy on the 2/14 one is missing but said to be attached to a note to an old friend of yours, phone-pal Murphy.

There is a Tri-State Defender article based on an interview with Cobey Smith, who has a good state job now. He says your story is partly inaccurate. It boils down to there was not neather any shouting match 3/28. They were just in their own quiet, carefully-reasoned way trying to make the stupid old folk see things as they were.

All \$750,000 worth.

There are two small pieces of wire copy included but I can't read them they copy is that bad. I've made copies and when someone with better eyes is here I'll see if you did slip in by indirection.

Today's WxStar has a David Lifton-Jeff Cohen story by O'Leary. Beat New Times by a day. Their New Times story is due tomorrow and they've been scooped. On their own, and they had to go to all the trouble to make it up, too. I'll probably get both if you want them.

It is the Jerry was Raoul line.

By coincidence JB called me tonight. He appears not to have known the story was in the Star or coming in New Times. He was wondering what the scoop on the committee is.

I would not callify him as one of Kershaw's great admirers. He put is quietly, though, saying he had known K for years and years and would not consider him the man for the job of representing Jimmy.

He did not tell me that he and Kershaw are associated in Jerry's suit against McMillan et al. I didn't tell him I knew. Why hassle for nothing?

astily.

ENQUIRER

1-11-77

Startling New Questions About the Death of Martin Luther King

An ex-police detective assigned to guard Martin Luther King says he was pulled off the security detail only hours before King was murdered and ordered to stay home for three days because a "hit man" was gunning for him.

Ed Redditt, former detective with the Memphis police force, also revealed that when police officials learned of death threats against Dr. King, instead of beefing up security they incredibly slashed it from 10 men to two.

Even more unbelievably, when King was assassinated by a sniper's slug on April 4, 1968, both policemen assigned to guard him were not at the scene, said Redditt.

"When Dr. King was murdered I was miles away — and the only other officer on the detail with me that day (W.B. Richmond) was missing from the scene.

"Makes you wonder, doesn't it?" Redditt said. Redditt said hours before King was slain he was called to the office of Frank Holloman, then director of the Memphis police and fire departments, and introduced to a man identified by Holloman as a "Secret Service agent."

The man told Redditt he had information that a "hit man" from St. Louis had been given a "contract" to kill Redditt. "The whole thing just didn't make sense," Redditt said. "What the hell did the Secret Service care about a black police officer? They're supposed to protect the President and



VICTIM: Neither of Martin Luther King's police guards was of scene when he was killed by sniper.

Vice-President, not cops . . . Despite his protests to Holloman that he had a job to do, protecting Dr. King, Redditt was ordered to go home — and Holloman called in two burly police officers to escort him there and stand guard over him.

"It was as if the guards were trying to keep me in the house, rather than protect me," Redditt remembered.

That evening, at 6:01 p.m., as Dr. King stood chatting on the outdoor balcony of his second-floor motel room with his

associates, a single rifle bullet snuffed out his life.

Three days after the killing, Redditt was released from protective custody.

"Not another word was said about a killer looking for me," he told The ENQUIRER. "The whole thing was dropped, like it never happened."

Patrolman Richmond, who is also black, has stated publicly that he wasn't on the scene when Dr. King was gunned down. He refused to discuss the situation with The ENQUIRER.

Former Police Chief Holloman was also reluctant to discuss the strange circumstances surrounding Dr. King's assassination, but he said: "I can assure you the death threat against Detective Redditt was very real."

However, a Secret Service spokesman, Jack Warner, denied any Secret Service agent had warned Redditt of a death threat against him.

"That's absolutely bizarre!" he said, adding, "and definitely untrue."

Richard Feeney, assistant to the chief counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, which is reopening the probe into Dr. King's assassination, told The ENQUIRER that Memphis police records confirm Redditt's story. He said neither Redditt nor Richmond was on the scene when Dr. King was slain, and that Redditt had been ordered to go



Ed Redditt



Frank Holloman

to his home shortly before the murder, and was kept there under guard three days.

Redditt explained that he never told his story before because "officials had already made up their minds that James Earl Ray was the lone gunman — that there was no conspiracy to kill Dr. King. Once that decision was made, my story was totally irrelevant."

— JOHN BLACKBURN

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
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- Inspection _____
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- Plan. & Eval. _____

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44-38861-A-

NOT RECORDED
FEB 26 1976

Handwritten: File 58

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

84 FEB 27 1976

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

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- Dep. AD Adm. _____
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- Asst. Dir.:
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- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

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McDonough

[Faint, mostly illegible typed text, likely a news report or memorandum]

... EXPLAINED ...

... ALSO SAID HOLLER ...

... THE PATROL ...

NOT RECORDED
202 FEB 26 1976

44-38861-A-
WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Handwritten notes:
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84 FEB 27 1976

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DATE: 2/17/76

FROM : Director, FBI

ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference is made to _____ memorandum dated _____
(your file _____).

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent _____
dated _____ at _____.

A. This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H. This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

Enc.

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SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

FILE
COPY

[Handwritten initials]

NOTE: Attached is a copy of a UPI Wire Service article dated 2/14/76. Our files at FBI Headquarters, Washington, D. C., and at our Memphis Office contain no information relative to this reported threat against Ed Redditt. No further investigation is being conducted concerning this UPI article unless specifically requested by the Department.