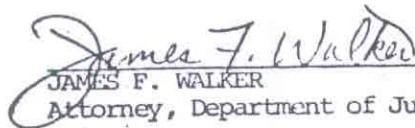


Memorandum of Reinterview of Edward E. Redditt

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.