

FBI

Date: 8-23-68

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TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) ATTN: CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

Loose

Enclosed are original and one copy of news clipping from 8-23-68 issue of "Commercial Appeal," Memphis, Tennessee, reflecting Memphis Police providing full-time protection for CHARLES QUITMAN STEPHENS, witness in captioned matter.

ENCLOSURE - 1cc and 2ccs

3 BUREAU (Enc. 2)
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E.C. Bishop

REC-21

44-1987-5113

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EX-100

FBI

SEP 3 1968

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Guard Ordered For Witness

Memphis Police Providing
Full-Time Protection For
Charles Q. Stephens

By CHARLES EDMUNDSON

At the request of Atty. Gen. Phil M. Canale, Police Chief Henry Lux yesterday ordered a round-the-clock bodyguard for Charles Q. Stephens, expected to be a key witness in the trial of James Earl Ray, charged with fatally shooting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"In spite of a critical shortage of personnel we are providing security to the best of our ability for Mr. Stephens," Chief Lux said.

"We point out, however, that we have no legal authority to influence the movements of Mr. Stephens to enhance his security. This was adjudged in Circuit Court yesterday (in a habeas corpus order issued by Judge William W. O'Hearn). Stephens was held in Shelby County Jail from July 22 until last Wednesday when Judge O'Hearn ordered him released.

"We further emphasize that maximum security for an individual who moves about at will is at best less than dependable."

Chief Lux said that at any time Mr. Stephens, who is known to have a drinking problem, decides to move outside the Memphis city limits, where the police have no jurisdiction, police security will cease.

"Our past experience taught us," Chief Lux said, "that security for Mr. Stephens was difficult and posed problems, as evidenced by our support of an attempt at-court action to hold him in order to provide maximum security. This, in our opinion, was the only way we could provide maximum security."

"We also point out that the security we are providing necessitates diverting men from the investigation and suppression of crime, for which they are sorely needed in this area."

Mr. Stephens was a resident of the South Memphis rooming house from which the shot that killed Dr. King is said to have been fired April 4. Mr. Stephens told police he saw a man leaving a second floor communal bathroom seconds after the shot was fired.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 25

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

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