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feet away and placed a call to the intelligence section at police headquarters to inform them of the shooting. Simultaneously, all the other police officers and firemen responded instinctively, immediately rushing out of the station and toward the Lorraine. Most dropped over an eight-foot retaining wall at the rear of the fire station in their rush to the crime scene. 10 However, that meant they ran away from South Main Street, the road on which the rooming house fronted, and from which any shooter would emerge. That was fortuitous for the assassin, who could not have known when he picked his perch at the rooming house that the neighboring lire station was teeming with police. Argues of the way that it is a station was teeming with police.

At the rooming house, the rifle shot startled most tenants. Willie Anschutz was watching television when he heard a sound that he thought was a gunshot. He walked to his door and, as he opened it, saw a man moving quickly toward him. As he passed Anschutz's door, the man-who was carrying something long and wrapped in a blanket in one hand-held his free hand and arm over his face, preventing Anschutz from getting a good look at him. Anschutz felt it might be the new tenant from Room 5B, but he was not certain. "I thought I heard a shot," Anschutz said. "Yeah, it was a shot," the man muttered as he rushed by.11 Anschutz, who thought the shot came either from the bathroom or Room 5B, glanced quickly at the bundle in the man's arm. It looked like a gun. Meanwhile, Charlie Stephens, who had heard a gunshot that sounded like it came from the bathroom that adjoined his room, opened his door and glanced down the hallway. He saw a man leaving the vicinity of the bathroom, carrying a three-foot-long package wrapped in what appeared to be newspaper. It was possibly the new tenant in 5B, but since he saw him only from the rear, he based that hunch on the man's general build, dark hair, and dark suit. Londer Stephens watched as the stranger hurried down the hallway and turned left to will leave the building *12 (- - + MG CTVCCT

A moment after Stephens and Anschutz saw the stranger flee the rooming house with a bundle in his arms, Guy Canipe, the owner of the Canipe Amusement Company, located on the ground floor at the front of the rooming house,

* There has been much controversy over the years as to whether Charlie Stephens had been drinking that day, especially since he later developed into the state's key eyewitness against Ray. Even if sober, his testimony was not that compelling, as the best he could say for the prosecution was that the man leaving the scene of the crime looked like the 5B tenant by build, hair, and clothes. However, the author spoke to ex-Memphis homicide detective Roy Davis. "I took the written statement from Stephens at the police station within a couple of hours of the shooting. He was not real drunk, but he was not sober even then. I distinctly remember that he said he could not identify the man. I would not like to rely on him as my only witness." (Interview June 16, 1997.)

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