

1 - Mr. Held
1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Pehl
June 10, 1977
1 - Mr. Peelman
1 - Mr. Lawn
1 - Mr. Mintz
1 - Mr. Cochran

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Set forth hereinafter is a transcript prepared from a tape made available by the House Select Committee on Assassinations and an examination of this tape by the Technical Services Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation:

Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Office of Professional Responsibility

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TELETYPE UNIT

The following is a transcript of a tape (which was difficult to understand due to poor quality) made available by Mr. James Chenowich of the House Select Committee On Assassinations on 4/29/77:

Side 1 of Tape

(Dotted lines denote words that are unintelligible.)

Baird - Today is September 20, 1965, on September 18, Officer Blair (or Bair) (phonetic), riding home with me while his car was broke down made the offer to me said he belonged to an organization that wanted Martin Luther King killed. The price he mentioned was \$500,000 to anyone killing this man. I refused the offer and tonight I will attempt to find out who made this offer. I will see if Officer Bair (or Blair) wants a ride home tonight while his car is broken down. This is Officer Clifton Baird. The next voice you will hear will be that of Arlie Blair (phonetic) and myself.

Arlie - Well anyway me and him is gonna have to have a little conversation---and I believe we can do it.

Baird - Down in the Carolina's?

Arlie - That's right.

Baird - When are you gonna get to see him? What did he do to you?---

Arlie - The guy ain't done nothing to me yet. I just want to whip his ass. Don't like his looks. Think I ought to take him up and kick him around.

Baird - Who is he?

Arlie - My nephew.

Baird - Your nephew? That's the one who's gonna drive the truck with you, is it?

Arlie - I don't know if I did?

Baird - With him? You're talking about your nephew, shit, you've been talking about us for three years.

Arlie - He's the only (obscene obscene) I have met that a man, not because he's my nephew, he's the only son-of-a-bitch I have met that is come out of the hills faster by God than since the last well, since I have been big enough to know what a man is,--- Just like on a rain pole when that old goddamn mule was marred. You remember that shit real well. I don't know what those (obscene obscene) gonna do. I know them son-of-a-bitches is dogs. That's right. I talked to them, not to Bill but to Wood.---

Baird - Do you know what universal is?---

Arlie - When you can run 'em like that, go down and have all that has money.

Baird - Well, they didn't know a damn thing about trucks when they started. Rafold (phonetic) was suppose to have been a truck driver before he had come to the police department. But, I think all he ever drove was farm trucks and that sort of stuff. But I don't think Rafold (phonetic) ever drove the real commercial trucks, I don't think he knew anything about them.

Arlie - I wouldn't doubt it.

Baird - They just took his opinion, that's all it was.--- They worked about six months and that outfit took them for everything they could get out of them and when they went broke, why they picked it up.

Arlie - That's another thing, if you are gonna hold out, you gotta take more out than you need. You know that?

Baird - Oh yeah.

Arlie - That's right. Yes sir. See when you work them lathes (phonetic), there is no proverb if best of all. Every time I talk about it, I get a kick out of that. You know someone told us about that black whiskey. You know what I mean?...

Baird - ... running them trucks, you gotta know something about it, you know, you can't just go into it blind.

Arlie - It's the easy thing you got Cliff. You gotta have the guts.

Baird - Arlie, not to change the subject. You know we were talking about Martin Luther King the other night. Who in the (obscene) is it you know who wants the son-of-a-bitch knocked off?

Arlie - Huh?

Baird - Talking about Martin Luther King the other night, who is it you know who wants him knocked off?

Arlie - Somebody.

Baird - Well, Arlie, here's the thing about it.

Arlie - A lot of them that want him knocked off.

Baird - Oh yeah, there is a lot of people, yeah, I agree with you.

Arlie - -----

Baird - But here is the thing about it, there is only two organizations that would have that much money it would be the Communist Party and the Ku Klux Klan and he couldn't trust anyone of them.

Arlie - No.

Baird - So I am going to tell you. The best thing you can do is to forget them.

(Noise of banging)

Baird - Backfires.

Arlie - I understand.

Baird - Because that son-of-a-bitch I am telling you Martin Luther King is a big son-of-a-bitch.

Arlie - Oh, he can be had.

Baird - He can be had, ya, that's right but when you do, here's the thing about it Arlie, when you do, you have to start a civil war, probably.

Arlie - Right now that's about the best thing we can have . . . a civil war.

Baird - But here's the thing about it, it's probably coming it anyway. I agree with you, it's probably coming. But that would start it I imagine.

Arlie - You know a funny thing Cliff.

Baird - But I tell you Arlie, I don't know, I just don't want no part in it, do you? I sure don't.

Arlie - The only way I would operate is if the money was right-which I ain't even involved, not now and I don't intend to be. The only way I would be involved if I went looking for it, and if I went looking for it, of course I went looking for it I would know uh----a number.

Baird - Well, I tell you Arlie, that Martin Luther King is big and it will probably start a civil war, I don't know who it is that made this offer to you, but boy I tell you, just forget it, because it is shit, it might start something that 10 million people get killed . . . women, kids, children, old ladies, old men, everybody else. But

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the bastards like you and I, it don't amount to much. I mean you know we're superficial, I mean we can be replaced, we will be replaced so will everybody. . . . I mean everybody will be replaced sometime or another.

Arlie - The thing about it is I ain't gonna worry about it. At one time . . . let me you know---

Baird - No, I'm not either Arlie.

Arlie - I don't know what them is.

Baird - You know all I want.

Arlie - No, I know what you're thinking about Cliff. And I think he misimproved me the other day on the. My good blood brother down south. With what I said, if I can kill you without question the good----oh anyone else would like to know. Without being caught.

Baird - Well here is the thing about it.

Arlie - I could.

Baird - Arlie, Arlie, the only people that wanted Martin Luther King knocked off is two people.

Arlie - Right.

Baird - I mean with one half million dollars is the Communist Party which they would do it just to start a bunch of crap, you know, and Ku Klux Klan. . . . they would do it just out of revenge. Ah--you know, to get even or to keep the colored people down. But I am gonna tell you Arlie, I don't exactly sympathize with colored people. I think most of them could do better if they tried. 90% of them could do better but you know down south in Alabama and Mississippi, colored people are accustomed to----. They are not allowed to walk on the damn street or anything else. They have no voice in the Government and you know here is why Hitler didn't like the colored people. They took all the shit and they didn't have backbone to fight back. That was his sole reason for hating colored people.

Arlie - That's the thing I think we ought to get together now on. I even had the chance now we can make a deep voice. That is why not we don't want those colored folks down in South Carolina.

Baird - That's it. That's right. Why don't they move up north. That's it, I would, wouldn't you?

Arlie - No---