

# Chenault May Have Had Visitors at Dayton Hotel

**Employees Assert They Heard Voices in Room and That Suspected Killer of Mrs. King Acted 'Strange'**

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DAYTON, Ohio, July 1—The authorities here have learned that Marcus Wayne Chenault, the accused killer of Mrs. Martin Luther King Sr., may have had visitors to his room at the Downtown Holiday Inn. The authorities are also investigating reports that another Dayton man was seen in Atlanta yesterday.

The police in Atlanta, where the shooting occurred yesterday, have said that they thought Mr. Chenault, 23 years old, had acted alone.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Dayton police have refused to comment, but hotel employes reported that they heard voices in Room 813, which was occupied by Mr. Chenault.

The F.B.I. obtained a search warrant for the room this afternoon. The authorities also confiscated an automobile driven by Mr. Chenault when he checked into the hotel, as well as clothing and a tape recorder in the room.

Hotel employes said that Mr. Chenault registered Friday evening and paid cash for Friday

and Saturday nights. They said he had acted "strange" while in his room. For example, he refused to let a maid clean the room Saturday morning and was heard uttering incoherent statements about not needing money "in this Christian world."

Mr. Chenault's room was not cleaned until Sunday morning, after he left and checked into the Downtown Holiday Inn in Atlanta. Two hours later, Mrs. King and a deacon were killed and a woman worshipper was wounded at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, seven blocks from the Atlanta hotel.

Hotel employes here, angered over the death of Mrs. King and thinking that a white man had occupied Room 813 and had been responsible, went on a brief strike Sunday morning, according to several workers. They resumed work after word spread that Mrs. King had been killed by a black man.

Mr. Chenault's activity before the shooting has left many questions unanswered and made even more mysterious by his statements in connection with the incident. He has said he was on a "mission for God."

Puzzling to the authorities is the fact that Mr. Chenault could have stayed with his parents here instead of going to a hotel.

Also, his father reported Saturday that two guns were stolen Friday night or Saturday morning during a break-in at the Chenault home, situated in a middle-class, predominantly black neighborhood on the city's west side.

The police also wondered why Mr. Chenault came to Dayton. He has lived in Columbus, 70 miles to the east, where he dropped out last December as a student at Ohio State University.

A ticket agent at the Greyhound bus station here said he sold a ticket to Atlanta to Mr. Chenault Saturday evening.