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File #:

62-117290 -

SECTION 17

Serial Scope:

1051 THRU 1056

1059 THRU 1061

1062

1063 THRU 1066

1069 THRU 1079

1081

1081X2

1081X6, 1081X7

1ST NR 1081X9, 1082

~~1082~~

**DO NOT  
DESTROY**  
FOIPA# NA

Airtel

7/26/78

To: SAC, Memphis (66-2197)

From: Director, FBI (62-117290)

1 - Mr. Foster

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

Reference your airtel dated 7/19/78, which furnished full description of files and subfiles delivered to FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ) on 7/20/78.

This airtel is to confirm that three boxes containing Memphis files 170-70, 170-117, 170-1019, 170-1022 and 170-1040 were reproduced at FBIHQ on 7/20,21/78. Files were returned to Memphis accompanied by SA Buryl Johnson, aboard American Airlines, Flight 552, departing National Airport at 7:00 p.m. and scheduled to arrive at Memphis 7:58 p.m. on 7/21/78.

Enclosure

JTA:pjm (4)

NOTE: By letter dated 5/23/78, the HSCA asked for access to Memphis Field Office files of five informants who reported on activities of the Invaders, a Memphis youth gang. We denied access to these files. However, by letter dated 7/5/78, the HSCA Chairman requested the Attorney General resolve the matter and it is expected the files will eventually be made accessible to the HSCA. Therefore, files were brought to FBI Headquarters to begin processing, since Xeroxing capabilities of the Memphis Office prevented reproduction there.

MAILED 3  
JUL 27 1978  
FBI

EX-110  
REC-40

62 117290-1051

23 AUG 1 1978

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

AUG 14 1978

MAIL ROOM

#245882  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/5/86 BY SP7mac/mce

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP-SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- E F T O
- CLEAR

Date 7/27/78

TO: *RJK* DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290)  
*37A* (ATTN: UNIT CHIEF GEORGE J. FOSTER,  
 CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT,  
 ROOM 8988)

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Enclosed for FBIHQ is one copy of 3/19/74 memo of SA HOWARD C. KENNEDY, captioned "SL 3167-PCI."

*(Handwritten mark)*

**EX-110**

3 - Bureau  
 1 - St. Louis  
 JTH:dmn  
 (4)

REC-40

62-117290-1052

20 JUL 29 1978

**ENCLOSURE**

DOC. CLASS. REV.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 2/11/86 BY [signature]

*49*

54 AUG 14 1978

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Time)

Per \_\_\_\_\_ FBI/DOJ

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (137-16185)  
(ATTN: SA JEFFREY A. MEYER)

FROM : SA HOWARD C. KENNEDY

SUBJECT: SL 3167-PCI

DATE: 3/19/74

This informant, who was contacted in the area of Manchester and Chouteau, St. Louis, Mo., on 3/13/74, furnished the following information, advising that he is doing so strictly on a confidential basis, and he would never under any circumstances testify to any of this information:

UNSUBS;  
Theft of sterling silver busts of  
CHARLES A. LINDBERGH, sterling  
silver bust of ANNE MARIE LINDBERGH;  
ITSP - MAJOR THEFT  
SL '87-21859

In early 8/73, as he was moving into a new business location in the area of Kingshighway and Mayland, St. Louis, he and an associate were engaged in setting up a new shop when they were approached by a black couple, described as looking like "an affluent doctor and his wife", who proceeded to walk through the shop examining various articles and requesting information about a small broken item, inquiring as to whether it was Dresden or Meissen. They were informed that it was believed the item was a small piece of Dresden, and that it was for sale for \$10. They left the shop within a few minutes. The man was described as 30-35, 6', 170 pounds, handsome, wearing a business suit. The woman was described as 30 years old, 5'6", and well-dressed in a dress and accessories. Both were described as having a very fine bright or golden brown complexion.

Within two or three days time, as the associate was alone in the shop, she was approached by a white man, whose identity was later learned as RUSSELL BEYERS, 9329 Frederick, Ladue, Mo., an employee of Raiffee Vending Co., St. Louis, Mo. At the time, however, his identify was not

6. 117.90 - 1052  
ENCLOSURE

ALL INFO CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

SL 137-16185

known, and he inquired about a small item in the store that had been priced at about \$50, but purchased for \$15 in the St. Charles area. He offered to pay \$15 for the item, exhibiting considerable interest in and knowledge of antiques. He left the store without buying anything, but within a day or two returned to the store, also meeting informant, and still having interest in the piece he had previously looked at. This was the first meeting with informant. This individual brought with him a small pottery tea set, described as golden brown, with a set of cups and saucers, pitcher, sugar, and creamer, having a gold-brown shiny glaze. The set was believed to be worth about \$100, but he offered to sell it for \$300. He then identified himself as RUSSELL BEYERS. He is believed to be a very intelligent, perceptive person. No business was transacted. On that occasion, however, BEYERS "opened up" with informant, advising that he is personally represented by Attorney MURRAY RANDALL (former attorney, USDJ, and former AUSA, EDMO), and that he and RANDALL are very close personal friends. He said he had inquired of an individual at OK Novelty Co., St. Louis, also inquiring of informant as to "what kind of guy" was the informant. He said he had learned that he could talk to informant, advising further that it was his understanding that informant was not a "snitch". He also advised that he had personally sent the aforementioned black couple into informant's shop to "have him knocked off", but that after learning that he could be trusted, he had advised the black couple against taking anything from him. He asserted that if there was anything in St. Louis that informant wanted to buy, he would have it stolen and sell it to him at the right price. He came into informant's shop at least once or twice for the next several weeks, and shortly after the aforementioned second meeting in the shop, BEYERS told informant that he had a painting recently stolen, referring to it as the "Norman Rockwell". He said he intended "to have it on ice", but would sell it to informant for \$5,000. Informant advised he personally contacted his lawyer, inquiring as to whether it would be feasible to buy the painting and sell it to an insurance company. Reportedly, this lawyer, not identified by informant, made some inquiries and found that the involved insurance company was not interested in paying that amount

SL 137-16185

for same. A few days later, BEYERS again came to the shop offering to sell the painting for \$3,000, and then made a final offer to sell it for \$2,000. BEYERS then said that the painting was "going into cold storage". BEYERS has never again mentioned this painting.

✓ During the fall of 1973, five or six months ago, date not recalled, BEYERS came to the shop inquiring as to whether they could get together to talk, and they later did so at Pizza and Cream, Clayton, Mo., in the area of a Brod-Dugan Paint Store, where informant had traveled on business. BEYERS talked freely about himself and his business, and they later went to informant's house where BEYERS told a story about visiting a lawyer in St. Louis County, now deceased, not further identified, who had offered to give him a contract to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. He said that also present was a short, stocky man, who walked with a limp. (Later, with regard to the latter individual, BEYERS commented that this man was actually the individual who made the payoff of JAMES EARL RAY after the killing.) BEYERS said he had declined to accept this contract. He did remark that this lawyer had Confederate flags and other items about the house that might indicate that he was "a real rebel". BEYERS also commented that he had been offered either \$10,000 or \$20,000 to kill KING.

Sometime later, informant talked to JOSEPH "JO JO" OLIVESTRO, a known fence, with whom he is acquainted. This individual advised informant that BEYERS truly is a "very treacherous guy", cautioning him to stay away from him if he wanted to stay out of trouble.

About two or three months ago, BEYERS telephoned him at 7:00 on night, probably a Monday night, date not recalled, advising that he was going to kill a North St. Louis man, indicating that the man had "snitched <sup>of</sup> guns". He said BEYERS could have said that the man had "snitched <sup>of</sup> drugs". At 10:00 P.M. the same night, BEYERS again called him, advising that "the job is done". The next day, informant read about a man being killed at his home or in front of his house in North St. Louis, further details not recalled.

SL 137-16185

At about that same time, informant recalled that BEYERS inquired as to whether he knew anyone by the name of EUGENE ZIGLER who lives somewhere in West St. Louis County. BEYERS referred to him as an old man, believed by him to have stolen some paintings in Florida. BEYERS said he intended to find out whether the man had the paintings and if so, he intended to have them stolen from him.

About one month prior to the date of the reported burglary of the Jefferson Memorial, St. Louis, in which several items of Lindbergh trophies were taken, exact date not recalled, BEYERS came to his shop asking him if he was interested in buying any articles from the Jefferson Memorial, commenting specifically that he had in mind some "commemorative pieces" that were included in the Lindbergh trophies. Informant said he told him this would be "too hot to handle" whereupon BEYERS said they could be used to "set up enemies" by "stashing them in the trunk of somebody's car". Informant said he told BEYERS he was not interested in that kind of job since he had been in trouble once (robbery of Four Seasons Antique Shop) and did not care to get in that kind of trouble again. Within several days, informant heard the news of the breakin of the Jefferson Memorial and the theft of several items there. A day or two after that publicity, BEYERS came to informant's shop, advising that "now I've got my hands full - I've got a lot of problems". Informant recalled that it appeared BEYERS had not shaven for several days. Ordinarily, BEYERS is a very conservative, well-dressed person.

BEYERS never again mentioned the Jefferson Memorial items, and he never mentioned same to BEYERS, despite the recent publicity.

He firmly believes that BEYERS at one time had both these items and the Norman Rockwell painting and may still have same. He does not believe that BEYERS would ever confess to anything, BEYERS having told him on one occasion that the police would never get anywhere with him since he absolutely would never talk, even if confronted with information from other sources attributed to him.

BEYERS is further described as follows:



SL 137-16185

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	47-48 years old
Height	5'9" to 5'10"
Weight	170 lbs.
Build	Slightly stocky
Hair	Black curly, graying
Clothing	Usually dressed in sport jacket and slacks or suit with tie
Miscellaneous	Wearing dark horn-rimmed glasses

BEYERS is married to a sister of JOHN PAUL SPICA, an ex-convict involved several years ago in the MYZAK murder, and has several children. BEYERS drives two different automobiles, including a 1972 or 1973 skyblue four-door Chevrolet with dark blue vinyl top and a 1973 Oldsmobile two-door or four-door sedan, gray-brown with light cream vinyl top. BEYERS gives the appearance of a successful jewelry businessman. He is believed to be engaged in contacting customers for Raiffee Vending Co. equipment.

Informant has not had any contact with BEYERS in any way whatsoever for the past month or more. Most recently, BEYERS was talking about pulling a burglary at the Hollander Galleries, St. Louis County, where there are more than \$200,000 worth of paintings stored. Reportedly, BEYERS has been arrested many times, BEYERS advising informant that he had a "long Hoover sheet".

Informant advised he will immediately furnish any additional information received concerning these matters.

LA0041 1960345Z

OO HQ ME

DE LA

O 150345Z JL 78

FM LOS ANGELES (62-7841) ((3) (P)

TO DIRECTOR 62-117290 IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS EFTO

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

RE BUREAU TEL, JULY 14, 1978. <sup>1008</sup>

ON JULY 14, 1978, FINUS EDWARD BETHEL, FORMER ME 232-R, WAS CONTACTED AT HIS CURRENT ADDRESS, 3939 ROXANNE, APARTMENT 1, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, 90008, TELEPHONE (213) 296-3930.

BETHEL WAS ADVISED OF THE NATURE OF THE INQUIRY AS OUTLINED IN REFERENCED TELETYPE, AND HE STATED HE DOES NOT, REPEAT NOT, ~~WANT~~ <sup>EX-110</sup> HIS IDENTITY DISCLOSED TO THE HSCA. BETHEL STATED HE WANTS HIS PRIOR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION TO REMAIN STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

A FD-302 REGARDING THE INTERVIEW WILL BE PREPARED BY LOS ANGELES.

BT

54 AUG 22 1978

15 JUL 78 10 27 55

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Serv.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
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Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

*[Handwritten initials]*

REC-40 62-117290-1053

AUG 7 1978

*[Handwritten signature]*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/16/86 BY [signature]

ME0004 1981800Z

OO HQ

DE ME

O 1981800Z JUL 78

FM MEMPHIS (66-2197) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

17 JUL 78 18 17z

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

*Robert Foster*

Assoc. Dir.	
Dep. AD Adm.	
Dep. AD Inv.	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Intell.	
Laboratory	
Legal Coun.	
Plan. & Insp.	
Rec. Mgnt.	<i>HBS</i>
Tech. Servs.	
Training	
Public Affs. Off.	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA).

*ADP/ter*

RE BUREAU TELETYPE DATED JULY 14, 1978. 1008

ON JULY 15, 1978, THE SOURCES LISTED BELOW WERE CONTACTED AND ADVISED OF THE NATURE OF THE INQUIRY AS OUTLINED IN REFERENCED TELETYPE. EACH OF THEM STATED HE DOES NOT WANT HIS IDENTITY DISCLOSED TO HSCA. EACH EMPHATICALLY STATED HE WANTS HIS FORMER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FBI TO REMAIN STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

SOURCES CONTACTED ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FORMER ME 352-R, CATO JOHNSON, JR.

FORMER ME 339-R, ALLEN YANCEY, JR.

FORMER ME 338-R, ERNEST WITHERS.

*EX-100*

REC-40

62-117290-1054

AN FD-302 REGARDING THE INTERVIEW OF THESE INDIVIDUALS

23 AUG 4 1978

*Foster advised 5/11/78 WJB*

*4 [Signature]*

54 AUG 23 1978

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/16/86 BY [Signature]

PAGE TWO

ME 66-2197

UNCLAS E F T O

WILL BE PREPARED AND COPIES SUBMITTED TO THE BUREAU.

BT

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PG 001.207 1825Z

PP HQ KC

DE PG

P 26 1825Z JUL 78

26 JUL 78 18 49z

FM PITTSBURGH (62-3697) (RUC)

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) PRIORITY

KANSAS CITY PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA) <sup>1039</sup>

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO PITTSBURGH DATED JULY 25, 1978,  
AND PITTSBURGH TELCALLS TO THE BUREAU, JULY 26, 1978.

THE FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION WAS CONDUCTED AT PITTSBURGH,  
PA. IN EFFORT TO LOCATE ALEXANDER GEORGE BEN EDMONDSON, AKA  
ALEX BORMANN:

INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED AT RUST ENGINEERING, 600 GRANT  
STREET, PITTSBURGH, PA., DETERMINED THAT THAT COMPANY IS NOW  
PART OF A COMPANY KNOWN AS WHEELABRATOR-FRYE INC., AND THAT  
EMPLOYMENT RECORDS FOR ALL FORMER PERSONNEL OF RUST ENGINEERING  
ARE LOCATED IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA. REC-40 62-117290-1055

ON JULY 26, 1978, ~~IN SAID~~ CLAY, PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT,

2

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/1/86 BY SP-6 JMA/AR

4-Adm  
JMA/AR

54 AUG 22 1978

RECORDED

CC 137-7738

Assoc. Dir.	
De. Adm.	
De. Inv.	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Insp.	
Intell.	
Lab.	
Legal Coun.	
Plan. & Insp.	
Rec. Mgmt.	11/11/83
Tech. Serv.	
Training	
Public Affs.	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 131-7738

PAGE TWO, PG 62-3697, UNCLAS EFTO

RUST ENGINEERING, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, ADVISED THAT ALEX BORMANN WAS EMPLOYED AS A PROJECT ENGINEER FROM MAY 16, 1966, UNTIL JANUARY 15, 1971, WHEN HE RESIGNED. THIS IS CURRENTLY AN INACTIVE FILE AND THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT BORMANN EVER RESUMED HIS EMPLOYMENT WITH THE COMPANY. RECORDS INDICATE THAT AT THE TIME OF HIS RESIGNATION, BORMANN WAS EMPLOYED AT THE PITTSBURGH OFFICE AND WAS RESIDING AT 721 BRIGHTON ROAD, APARTMENT 403, PITTSBURGH, PA.

A REVIEW OF COLE'S DIRECTORIES FOR THE YEARS 1970 THROUGH 1978, WERE REVIEWED AND THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF ANYONE BY THE NAME OF ALEX BORMANN OR ALEXANDER GEORGE BEN EDMONDSON RESIDING AT 721 BRIGHTON ROAD, APARTMENT 403, PITTSBURGH, PA.

ON THIS SAME DATE, WILLIAM CAVANAUGH, CHIEF, BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PITTSBURGH, PA., ADVISED THAT A REVIEW OF HIS RECORDS FAILED TO DISCLOSE ANY RECORD OF ARREST IDENTIFIABLE WITH THE NAMES EDMONDSON OR BORMANN.

ON JULY 26, 1978, RONALD SHAULIS, OFFICER IN CHARGE, IDENTIFICATION SECTION, PITTSBURGH POLICE DEPARTMENT, PITTSBURGH, PA., ADVISED THAT A REVIEW OF HIS RECORDS FAILED

PAGE THREE, PG 62-3697, UNCLAS EFTO

TO DISCLOSE ANY RECORD OF ARREST IDENTIFIABLE WITH EDMONDSON OR BORMANN.

ON JULY 26, 1978, SPECIAL CLERK NICHOLAS S. SCIOTTO OF THE PITTSBURGH OFFICE ADVISED THAT HE WAS THE INDIVIDUAL WHO HAD ORIGINALLY TALKED WITH EDMONDSON, AKA BORMANN, WHEN HE APPEARED AT THE PITTSBURGH OFFICE IN AUGUST, 1970. SCIOTTO RECALLS EDMONDSON ADVISING HIM THAT HE HAD WORKED FOR RUST ENGINEERING IN MONTREAL, CANADA, PRIOR TO SERVING A TERM IN THE MISSOURI STATE PRISON. UPON HIS RELEASE FROM PRISON PENDING AN APPEAL OF HIS ARMED ROBBERY CONVICTION, EDMONDSON HAD BEEN REHIRED BY RUST ENGINEERING AND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE PITTSBURGH OFFICE. SCIOTTO RECALLED THAT EDMONDSON RETURNED TO THE PITTSBURGH OFFICE SOMETIME LATER AND ADVISED THAT HIS APPEAL HAD BEEN OVERTURNED AND THAT HE WOULD NOW HAVE TO RETURN TO PRISON. SC SCIOTTO ALSO RECALLED THAT ABOUT A YEAR AFTER EDMONDSON'S INITIAL APPEARANCE IN THE PITTSBURGH OFFICE, HE SAW AN ARTICLE IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER INDICATING THAT EDMONDSON WAS IN THE MISSOURI STATE PRISON. THIS ARTICLE FURTHER INDICATED THAT EDMONDSON WAS ON A SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL RELEASE PROGRAM AND WAS ATTENDING COLLEGE WHILE FULFILLING THE TERMS OF HIS SENTENCE.





Rec 8/2/78

House

LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN  
 RICHARDSON PREYER, N.C.  
 WALTER E. FAUNTROY, D.C.  
 YVONNE BRITHWAITER BURKE, CALIF.  
 CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONN.  
 HAROLD E. FORD, TENN.  
 FLOYD J. FITHIAN, IND.  
 ROBERT W. EDGAR, PA.

SAMUEL L. DICKERSON, OHIO  
 STEWART B. LEE, CONN.  
 CHARLES THORNTON, ILL.  
 HAROLD S. SAWYER, MICH.

Select Committee on Assassinations

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

U.S. House of Representatives

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-4624

July 26, 1978

The Honorable Griffin B. Bell  
 Attorney General of the United States  
 U.S. Department of Justice  
 Washington, D.C. 20530

Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch  
 Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
 Criminal Division, Room 2113

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

In connection with the investigation by this Committee into the circumstances surrounding the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., it is requested that the Federal Bureau of Investigation assist this Committee by providing us with certain material.

The attached memorandum refers to a racial conference which was held at FBI Headquarters in early 1968. Counter-intelligence proposals directed at Martin Luther King were apparently discussed at that conference.

The House Select Committee on Assassinations requests that we be provided with all documents in existence pertaining to such conference and any action taken as a result thereof. Your response should also include any documents relating to the scheduling of the conference.

Your earliest attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

G. Robert Blakey  
 Chief Counsel and Director

REC-40, 62-117290-1056

AUG 8 1978

ENCLOSURE

GRB:kmy

Enclosures: as

62-117290

(Vol 1 of 1)  
Field Office - Cointelpro  
Black Nationalist -  
Hate Groups

SAC, JACKSON (157-9097)

3/11/68

SECTION CHIEF GEORGE C. MOORE  
RACIAL INTELLIGENCE, SOG

WASHINGTON SPRING PROJECT  
RM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9/16/80 BY SP/maemre

At 5 PM, 3/11/68, GEORGE C. MOORE, Section Chief, Racial Intelligence, Division 5, SOG, advised ASAC ELMER F. LINBERG and Supervisor JAMES O. INGRAM AS follows:

He advised that the following proposal was sent to the Director:

The racial conference at the SOG discussed the Washington Spring Project headed by MARTIN LUTHER KING and recommended that the facts about the Project be brought to the attention of possible participants through a rumor campaign. We would use our informants, without their knowledge, to spread the story about lack of funds and organization. Fears of economic reprisal and personal safety should dissuade potential participants. We would point out also that the Project is strictly for MARTIN LUTHER KING's benefit which is actually the case. He thinks he can regain lost prestige by this demonstration. Some suggested rumors would consist of:

The participants would be told that their names would be taken in Washington and welfare checks from the Government discontinued.

Possible threats of violence and bodily harm to the participants would be spread. Also information showing that the Washington Negro Community is incensed and furious with respect to this march on Washington by outside Negroes.

The above are a few of the type of rumors that can be used and you should tie in any rumor of this nature to your local problem. Also think of other counterintelligence methods and secure telephonic approval from the Bureau prior to utilization.

2 - 157-9097

Counterintelligence Black Nationalist

62 117290 - SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
MAR 11 1968

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- E F T O
- CLEAR

Date 7/25/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290)  
(ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT,  
RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION)

FROM: *RK* SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

SUBJECT: *B* HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
(HSCA)

Re Bureau teletype to Chicago and St. Louis  
dated 7/25/78.

Enclosed herewith is one copy each of Serials 1  
through 34 in St. Louis file 137-16185, plus a copy of the  
Criminal Informant Review Sheet (FD-237) for the same file.

A copy of instant communication will also be  
added to 137-16185.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/16/86 BY *SP/mae/mce*

- ② - Bureau (Enc - 35)
- 2 - St. Louis  
(1- 62-5097)  
(1- 137-16185)

JFS:kmt  
(4)

~~ENCLOSURE~~

EX-110 62-117290-1059

REC-34

5 JUL 27 1978

*Enclosure  
Serials 1 and  
2 thru 34 in file 8988,  
via, Div. 4 July*

DOC. CLASS. REV.

Approved *57*

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Time)

Per \_\_\_\_\_ FBI/DOJ

SLO014 2072136

PP HQ

DE SL

P 262008Z JUL 78

FM ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION,

ROOM 8988, FBIHQ

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

REFERENCE BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL TO ST. LOUIS, JULY 26, 1978.

ST. LOUIS FILE 137-16185 ON RICHARD FRANCIS O'HARA (SL 3167-C) AND ALL FILES LOGICALLY RELATED THERETO, INCLUDING MURKIN MAIN FILE, ALL FAIL TO REVEAL ANY INDICATION AS TO WHY INFORMATION PROVIDED BY O'HARA CONCERNING MURKIN WAS NOT DISSEMINATED OR OTHERWISE ACTED UPON.

BT

26 JUL 78 22 25z

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REC-72 62-117290-1060

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Director's Sec'y	

FM KANSAS CITY (175-64)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) (ROUTINE)

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS.

*Attn: Document  
+ Records  
Section*

RE PITTSBURGH TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND KANSAS CITY

JULY 26, 1978. 10<sup>55</sup>

ON JULY 26, 1978, PAT PARKER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,  
 MISSOURI BOARD OF PROBATION AND PAROLE, ADVISED THAT GEORGE  
 BEN EDMONDSON'S LAST KNOWN ADDRESS WHILE UNDER PAROLE  
 SUPERVISION IN MISSOURI, WAS 115 NAGOGAMI TERRACE, ROLLA,  
 MISSOURI, IN UNIVERSITY HOUSING, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI -  
 ROLLA, WHERE HE WAS A STUDENT AND INSTRUCTOR, BUT HAS NO  
 RECORD OF HIS ADDRESS SINCE SEPTEMBER 5, 1972, WHEN HE WAS  
 DISCHARGED BY COURT ORDER FROM PAROLE SUPERVISION.

*Pat Parker*  
**(2)**

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 137-7730-1061

PARKER STATED SHE WAS INFORMED BY DICK MOORE, FORMER  
 PAROLE OFFICER OF EDMONDSON, THAT AS THREE MONTHS AGO,  
 HE HAD HEARD IN ROLLA THAT EDMONDSON WAS WORKING AS AN

EX 136  
REC 72 62-117290

1061

22 AUG 7 1978

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DATE 2/16/84 BY [signature]

*H. J. [signature]*  
JAN 1978

PAGE TWO ~~KC~~ 175-64 UNCLAS

ENGINEER IN BELGIUM, CITY NOT SPECIFIED, FOR AN UNNAMED  
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

FBIHQ MAY CONSIDER HAVING REVIEW OF PASSPORT RECORDS  
FOR EDMONDSON DONE.

BT

*gm*  
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# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Bassett *HNB/JP*

FROM : D. Ryan *DR*

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

DATE: 7/27/78

- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. McDermott
- 1 - Mr. Boynton
- 1 - Mr. Mintz  
(Attn: Mr. Heller)
- 1 - Mr. Bassett
- 1 - Mr. Bailey
- 1 - Mr. Foster

*Bassett*  
*Ryan*

**PURPOSE:** To provide background information regarding Russell George Byers and his allegation concerning the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which was contained in "The New York Times" article by Nicholas M. Horrock, of 7/26/78 (copy attached).

**SYNOPSIS:** During a file review conducted in an unrelated matter, St. Louis informant file 137-16185 was reviewed. Contained therein was a contact memorandum dated 3/19/74, which, in one paragraph, described a meeting between a St. Louis informant (SL 3167-C) and Beyers (later determined to be Russell George Byers) in the Fall of 1973. Byers told informant of a meeting with an attorney from St. Louis County and another unidentified individual during which an offer was made to Byers to kill Dr. King for \$10,000 or \$20,000. Byers stated to the informant that he refused this offer. By teletype to the Bureau 3/13/78, St. Louis Office advised of the above and that there was no indication that this information was ever disseminated.

(2)

By letter from Director, FBI, to Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch, dated 3/24/78, the information referred to above was furnished in letterhead memorandum (LHM) dated 3/13/78 for dissemination to the HSCA. Attached also was an LHM dated 3/20/78, which reflected background information regarding Russell George Beyers, telephonically furnished by the St. Louis Office to FBIHQ to facilitate the HSCA's evaluation of the information obtained by Beyers (copies of the transmittal letter and two LHM's are attached).

REC-72 62-117270-1062

AUG 2 1978

No FBI investigation into the information furnished by the St. Louis Office was undertaken pursuant to the policy set forth in Director, FBI, letter to the Attorney

Enclosures *#24882* CONTINUED - OVER

AUG 17 1978  
TWB:me (8)

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U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

*4 [signature]*

ENCLOSURE

FBI/DOJ

Memorandum to Mr. Bassett  
RE: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

General, dated 4/28/77, and confirmed by letter from Robert L. Keuch, Special Counsel to the Attorney General, to Director, FBI, dated 8/3/77 (copies attached).

By teletype dated 3/23/78, St. Louis Office set forth details of Byers' informant status with Bureau. Byers was opened 10/3/75 and closed 11/22/76, having furnished information on several "87" and "92" matters. A copy of previously mentioned contact memorandum had been placed in his St. Louis informant file; however, there was no indication that he was ever questioned concerning this information.

The HSCA requested, by letter of 6/5/78, all files on Russell George Byers. A search at FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ) revealed only one Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property (ITSP) reference, of which the Committee was advised by letter of 6/9/78. It has been determined that the St. Louis Office furnished incorrect spelling of "Beyers" instead of "Byers" and, subsequently, Bureau file 137-42744, as well as several additional Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicles (ITSMV) references, was located. No information regarding Byers' possible connection with the King assassination case (MURKIN) was found in the Bureau's informant file on Byers.

By letter dated 7/14/78, the HSCA requested that the Bureau contact the St. Louis informant who originally furnished information regarding Byers to determine if (1) he would agree to submit to interview by the HSCA, and (2) whether he would execute a waiver allowing for release of his informant files to the Committee. St. Louis Office advised this informant was closed and he had moved to Chicago. Chicago Office has been advised of the above and an attempt is being made to locate former St. Louis informant. This matter is being handled by separate communication.

SAC, St. Louis, has advised that both the Agent and Supervisor who handled SL 3167-C retired in February, 1977.

By teletype dated 7/26/78, St. Louis advised review of St. Louis file 137-16185 on Richard Francis O'Hara (SL 3167-C) and all files logically related thereto, including MURKIN main file, all fail to reveal any indication as to why information provided by O'Hara concerning MURKIN was not disseminated or otherwise acted upon.



Memorandum to Mr. Bassett

RE: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

DETAILS: The 7/26/78 edition of "The New York Times" contains an article by Nicholas M. Horrock, entitled "Report by a Missouri Man Suggests Plotters Sought Murder of Dr. King." This article sets forth information regarding an HSCA investigation into an allegation by Russell G. Byers that he was offered \$50,000 to kill Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1966 or 1967 by two men from Imperial, Missouri. The article states that the FBI had discovered the information regarding Byers during a file review in the St. Louis Office, and this information was subsequently transmitted to the HSCA in March of this year. The article states that this information provided the basis for the HSCA inquiry.

The information alluded to in "The New York Times" article was discovered during a file review conducted in the St. Louis Office for background information on Russell George Byers, who was a suspect in a recent St. Louis museum burglary. Byers was referred to in a contact memorandum dated 3/19/74, located in St. Louis file 137-16185. This memorandum, in addition to having information regarding several criminal matters, contained a paragraph in which it is reflected that Beyers advised SL 3167-C, in the Fall of 1973, that he had met with an attorney from St. Louis County and an unidentified individual who offered him \$10,000 or \$20,000 to kill Dr. King. Byers told the informant that he rejected the offer. By teletype dated 3/13/78, the St. Louis Office advised FBIHQ that this information had been located and that there was no indication that it was ever disseminated.

By airtel dated 3/13/78, the St. Louis Office transmitted an LHM to FBIHQ which set forth verbatim the above-mentioned paragraph. By letter from the Director, FBI, to Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch, dated 3/24/78, the information contained in the contact memorandum was furnished by LHM dated 3/13/78, for dissemination to the HSCA. In addition, an LHM dated 3/20/78 was attached which reflected background information regarding Russell George Beyers, which was telephonically furnished to FBIHQ by the St. Louis Office at the request of the Congressional Inquiry Unit, Records Management Division. This data was provided to facilitate the HSCA's evaluation of the information regarding Byers furnished by SL 3167-C. St. Louis, in communications with

Memorandum to Mr. Bassett

RE: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

FBIHQ, advised that last name was "Beyers"; however, it has been determined that the correct spelling is "Byers."

No active FBI investigation into the information located by the St. Louis Office regarding Byers and his possible connection with the MURKIN case has been undertaken pursuant to the policy set forth in Director, FBI, letter to the Attorney General, dated 4/28/77, and confirmed by letter from Robert L. Keuch, Special Counsel to the Attorney General, to Director, FBI, dated 8/3/77. As set forth therein, without a specific request from the Department, the FBI is not to further investigate any allegations regarding the King or John F. Kennedy assassinations. No request has been received from the Department regarding this matter.

The St. Louis Office, by teletype dated 3/23/78, furnished details of Byers' informant status. He was opened 10/3/75 and closed 11/22/76, having furnished information on several "87" and "92" matters. The Department had been previously advised that he had furnished information of value to this Bureau in our letter of 3/24/78. A copy of the previously mentioned contact memorandum had been placed in Byers' St. Louis informant file; however, there was no indication that he was ever questioned concerning this information.

The HSCA requested, by letter dated 6/5/78, all files pertaining to Russell George Beyers. A search conducted at FBIHQ located only one ITSP reference, of which the Committee was advised by memorandum of 6/9/78. Subsequently, a search conducted using the last name of "Byers" resulted in the location of Bureau file 137-42744; however, the four serials contained therein did not pertain to the MURKIN case. This search also resulted in two ITSMV file references pertaining to Byers.

By letter dated 7/4/78, the HSCA requested that the Bureau contact the St. Louis informant (SL 3167-C) who initially furnished the information regarding Byers to determine if (1) he would agree to submit to interview by the HSCA, and (2) whether he would execute a waiver allowing for release of his informant file to the Committee. The St. Louis Office telephonically advised that this informant was closed in May, 1975, and he has since moved to Chicago, Illinois. By Bureau teletype dated 7/25/78,

Memorandum to Mr. Bassett  
RE: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

Chicago was requested to immediately attempt to locate this informant, identified as Richard Francis O'Hara, and question him regarding the HSCA's request. This matter is being handled separately.

On 7/26/78, SAC Roy B. Klager, Jr., St. Louis, advised that SA Howard C. Kennedy was the Agent who handled St. Louis informant SL 3167-C. Kennedy retired 2/28/77. SA Robert L. Bender was the St. Louis Field Supervisor whose initials appear on the contact memorandum of 3/19/74. Bender retired 2/25/77.

By teletype dated 7/26/78, St. Louis advised review of St. Louis file 137-16185 on Richard Francis O'Hara (SL 3167-C) and all files logically related thereto, including MURKIN main file, all fail to reveal any indication as to why information provided by O'Hara concerning MURKIN was not disseminated or otherwise acted upon.

RECOMMENDATION: In view of the retirement of SAs Kennedy and Bender, no administrative action is recommended concerning the failure to disseminate the information received from Byers and our St. Louis informant.

Additionally, in accordance with the agreement between the Department of Justice and the Bureau concerning allegations in the King matter, no investigation be undertaken in this matter concerning the statements made by Russell George Byers.

ADVISOR  
SEARCHED  
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JUL 27 1978  
FBI - ST. LOUIS  
HND

7/31  
I subsequently  
directed inquiry by way of  
interview of the two agents involved  
on procedure followed  
— CWR

# The New York Times

CITY EDITION

Metropolitan area weather: Cloudy with rain tonight, sunny tomorrow. Temperature range today 65-80; yesterday 71-79. Details on page 10.

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

20 CENTS

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VOL. CXXVII No. 44,013

## Report by a Missouri Man Suggests Plotters Sought Murder of Dr. King

### He Tells of Spurning \$50,000 Offer to Arrange Death and of Link to the Prison Where Ray Was Held

The following article is based on reporting by Nicholas M. Horrocks, Anthony Morro and Wendell Rawls Jr. It was written by Mr. Horrocks.

Special to The New York Times

ST. LOUIS, July 25 — A 46-year-old man here has told the House assassination committee that late in 1966 or early in 1967 he turned down an offer of \$50,000 to arrange the death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Russell G. Byers, a former auto parts dealer, acknowledged in an interview with The New York Times that he had told the committee that two men from Imperial, Mo., had offered him the money on behalf of a group of businessmen to kill the civil rights leader, who was assassinated on April 4, 1968. Both men have since died, but their wives said that they did not believe the story.

The account has spurred an intense inquiry by investigators for the committee, largely because Mr. Byers's brother-in-law, John Spica, was serving a murder term at the time of the alleged offer in the Missouri State Penitentiary, where James Earl Ray, later convicted of killing Dr. King, was also a prisoner. The committee plans to administer a lie-detector test to Mr. Ray as a result of the Byers report.

#### Says He Rejected Offer

Mr. Byers told The Times that he had rejected the proposal and had not informed Mr. Spica about it. But he said he had suspected that word of a bounty on Dr. King's life might have reached men inside the prison through other routes.

A three-month investigation by the House committee, and an independent inquiry by a team of reporters for The New York Times, have uncovered a series of circumstantial connections leading from Mr. Byers and the two men from Imperial, Mo., into the state penitentiary, from which James Earl Ray escaped on April 23, 1967, almost a year before the fatal shooting of Dr. King in Memphis, Tenn.

#### Serving 99-Year Term

Mr. Ray is serving a 99-year prison term in Tennessee for the murder of Dr. King. Mr. Ray, who pleaded guilty to the murder, has more recently denied from time to time that he fired the fatal shot and has repeatedly requested a new trial, which he maintains would place the blame on others whose identity has not been disclosed so far.

Although no evidence has yet been produced that establishes a direct link between the alleged proposal to Mr. Byers and the death of Dr. King, this is the first of many conspiracy allegations that leads directly into the Missouri prison. At the prison, it was widely rumored in 1966 and 1967 that a conservative business group was willing to pay a large sum of money to anyone who would murder Dr. King.

House investigators are reported to regard this trail of evidence as one of the most tangible avenues of inquiry in their

explorations into the deaths of Dr. King and President John F. Kennedy.

The investigators have declined to comment on the allegations of Mr. Byers, but it is clear, from interviews with some of the persons that they have questioned, and from some of the public records that they are known to have checked, that they are trying to determine whether the information adds up to a true conspiracy, or whether they have merely come across

Continued on Page A12, Column 3

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**ENCLOSURE** #1

# Missouri Man's Report Suggests Conspiracy in Assassination of Dr. King

Continued From Page A1

a chain of casual acquaintanceships in a criminal setting.

Mr. Byers, who has been granted immunity from prosecution in this case and has testified under oath in Washington, said he could give no reason why the two men from Imperial should have presented him with such an offer. He has given no documentary corroboration for his allegation, but acknowledged in an interview that 10 years ago he had told others about the alleged plot.

He said he had been so "shocked and surprised" by the offer that after Dr. King was shot he told two lawyers and other unnamed persons about it.

### F.B.I. Withholds Comment

One of those he told, he said, was an informer for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and he said that the bureau had been given the details of the matter. Mr. Byers said the F.B.I. had never followed up on his report nor had anyone in the bureau talked to him about it. He said he suspected that the F.B.I. would now be "embarrassed" by its failure to investigate the matter fully.

The F.B.I.'s chief spokesman, Homer Boynton, would not comment specifically on the allegations today, except to say, without identifying any of the parties involved, that "certain information" concerning the assassination of Dr. King was provided to the bureau's St. Louis office in 1973.

A bureau source, however, said that the agents who received the information had simply filed it under the name of the informer and under the name of Mr. Byers, and had never made it a part of the assassination case file, and had never questioned Mr. Byers about it. "It just sat there for the past five years," he said.

### Came to Light in March

Mr. Boynton said that the information came to light in March of this year, when the files in St. Louis were being reviewed in connection with a separate matter. "It was forwarded to F.B.I. headquarters and to the Department of Justice for transmittal to the House Select Committee," he said.

He said the information was "limited in nature," and that, because of the way it had been filed in St. Louis, "it was not retrievable to anyone requesting information about Martin Luther King."

House investigators have been looking into the question of whether a plot was concocted to help Mr. Ray to escape and to finance his stalking of Dr. King in the months that followed.

Mr. Byers said he suspected that the offer to him has been an effort to recruit a dupe who would not actually commit the murder but who would be arrested for it. "They were looking for a pig," he said, suggesting that he suspected that the men who approached him were looking for someone to be slaughtered.

House investigators have also been trying to determine if Mr. Byers transmitted the offer to his brother-in-law, Mr. Spica, 40 years old, who in 1967 was serving a life sentence at the prison following his conviction in the contract killing in 1963 of a wealthy St. Louis real estate

Mr. Spica reportedly occupied a cell near Mr. Ray's — it was six cells away — and at one point worked with Mr. Ray in the prison bakery.

### Operates Fruit Stand

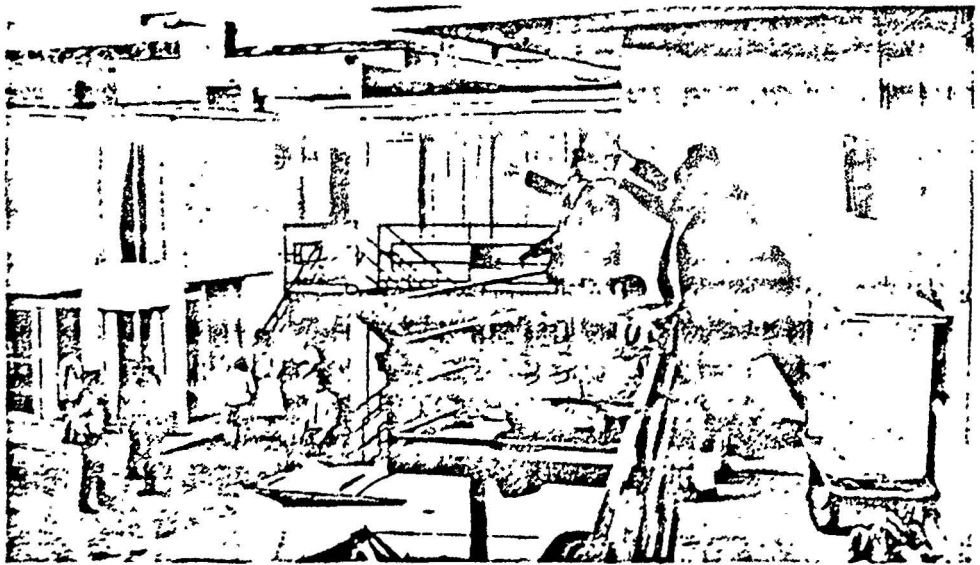
Mr. Byers said in an interview that he had not told Mr. Spica about the \$50,000 bounty until "just a little while ago" and that there was no record of his visiting Mr. Spica in prison prior to Dr. King's death.

Mr. Spica, who was released on parole in 1973, now operates a fruit stand here. When two reporters from The Times attempted to interview him about the matter, Mr. Spica threatened: "I'll blow your head off" if they did not leave his store. He angrily declined to answer any questions.

According to what Mr. Byers told the House committee, whose official name is the House Select Committee on Assassinations, a friend and business associate, John K. Kauffmann, who was 61 years old in 1966, invited him to a meeting with John H. Sutherland, a prominent St. Louis patent lawyer. At the meeting, he said, Mr. Sutherland told him that a group of businessmen would pay \$50,000 for the murder of Dr. King.

The widows of both Mr. Kauffmann and Mr. Sutherland said that they knew nothing about the alleged plot until they were questioned by House investigators this year. They also said that they did not believe that their husbands could have been involved in such a plot.

Mr. Sutherland, who died in 1976, had been a member of Gov. George C. Wallace's American Independent Party, a leader of the White Citizens Council of St.



The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. lying on the balcony of motel in Memphis moments after he was struck by an assassin's bullet. Aides surrounded him, pointing in the direction of the shot.

Louis and an official of the Southern States Industrial Council, a conservative group. One legal colleague said Mr. Sutherland had been a segregationist but not a "violent man."

### Associated in Business

Mr. Kauffmann and Mr. Sutherland were associated in the ownership of a small water company in Imperial and lived near each other in that small semi-rural community south of here.

Mr. Byers said that Mr. Kauffmann had not been involved in racial politics nor had been an outspoken segregationist. "His orientation was money," Mr. Byers said. He suggested that Mr. Kauffmann had been acting only as a go-between in this matter.

In 1967 Mr. Kauffmann was indicted and convicted on charges that he sold 100,000 amphetamine capsules to a Federal narcotics agent. He served a brief sentence at the Federal Medical Facility at Springfield, Ill.

His widow, Beulah G. Kauffmann, said in an interview that the first time she heard about the alleged murder plot was in May, when House investigators came to her home and questioned her. She said that it was "absolutely impossible" that her husband could have been involved in such a matter.

### Charges Fabrication

She said that her husband had known Mr. Byers for nearly two decades and she believed that Mr. Byers had fabricated the allegation about her husband to "help himself get out of the art case." Mr. Byers was implicated as a buyer of stolen goods in an investigation involving the theft last spring of a well-known Frederic Remington bronze sculpture, the "Bronco Buster," but prosecutors later dropped the charges.

Mrs. Kauffmann said that one of her husband's closest friends had been Dr. Hugh W. Maxey, the chief physician at the Missouri penitentiary. She said that over the years her husband had had a "little rehabilitation program" at his motel in Imperial, and had provided work for former convicts. She said at least one of these convicts had been placed there by Dr. Maxey.

She also said that on at least one occasion in 1968, John Spica came to visit her husband with Mr. Byers. She said she remembered the incident because Mr. Spica made a rude remark about the difference between her age and that of her husband, and that a former convict working on the property had ordered Mr. Spica to leave. If Mrs. Kauffmann's memory of the date is correct, it would mean that Mr. Spica was able to make an out-of-prison social visit while serving a life sentence for murder. Mrs. Kauffmann said that convicts had told her that Mr. Spica was able to take "furloughs" on holidays.

### Declar New 84

Records at the Missouri penitentiary indicate that Mr. Spica did not receive his first authorized "furlough" until 1972, but they also showed that he was in the Clayton County Jail in Missouri, seeking a new trial, between October 1968 (nearly six months after Dr. King's death) and May 1, 1969.

Dr. Maxey, now 84 and totally deaf, said in response to written questions that he had had no involvement in a plot to kill Dr. King. He acknowledged that he had known Mr. Kauffmann and that he had often been a guest at Mr. Kauffmann's motel. He said that he had had only a brief acquaintanceship with Mr. Sutherland.

For medical reasons, The Times was allowed to interview Dr. Maxey for only 10 minutes. His answers indicate that he could not recall the name of John Paul Spica.

However, prison records show that Mr. Spica worked in the medical department of the prison from May 1964 until January 1965.

Published reports have contradicted one another on how James Earl Ray escaped from the prison on April 23, 1967. In one interview Mr. Ray said he had gone over the wall without assistance. But a report issued in January 1977 by the Department of Justice said that the most plausible escape story was that Mr. Ray had reached freedom with the help of accomplices by secreting himself in a breadbox and being lifted onto a prison truck that delivered food to outlying prison farms.

According to information obtained by House investigators, Mr. Spica and Mr. Ray worked together in the prison's food service section at one point in their prison careers. But prison records show that at the time of Mr. Ray's escape, Mr. Spica was assigned to the prison's maintenance department.

### F.B.I. Admonished for Lapse

The Justice Department report in 1977 admonished the F.B.I. for its failure to develop fully whether James Earl Ray's family, his brothers John Larry Ray and Jerry Ray and his sister Carol Ray Pepper, had aided him in his escape or flight through the country. The members of the Ray family have denied any wrongdoing.

But House investigators are studying the relationship, if any, between Mr. Spica and the Ray family. Their attention centers on the Grapevine Tavern, a small neighborhood bar in South St. Louis, Mo., on which Mrs. Pepper held the license between November 1967 and December 1968.

In 1968 an employee of the tavern was Neoma Regazzi, according to sources familiar with the investigation. She is the former wife of Robert Regazzi, a seafood business operator from St. Charles, Mo.

Mr. Regazzi said in an interview that his son drowned in the Missouri River on July 23, 1968, and that during the search for the youngster's body, Mrs. Regazzi introduced him to her companion, John L.



James Earl Ray, in a photo made last year in Tennessee prison.

Ray, and later introduced him to James Earl Ray's other brother, Jerry.

Mr. Regazzi said that at the time John Ray said that he did not believe that his brother had killed Dr. King, but Mr. Regazzi said there had not been an extensive discussion of the assassination.

Mr. Regazzi said he also knew John Spica, whom he had met years earlier when both were incarcerated at the St. Louis County Jail at Clayton, Mo. But Mr. Regazzi said that he had never heard from any source that a \$50,000 bounty had been offered to kill Dr. King. And he said that he had not discussed such a matter with Mr. Spica or anyone else and that he had had no part in such a plot.

Mr. Regazzi is on probation from Federal court on a charge of receiving stolen goods in connection with the theft of 35,000 pounds of pork. Mr. Regazzi said he did not believe that his former wife knew any details of the Ray escape. He said that he did not know her present whereabouts or her present married name, but he said that he had heard informally that she had been questioned recently by the F.B.I.

Thus, House investigators are pursuing a number of leads that suggest at least casual links between the persons who allegedly made the proposal to Mr. Byers and James Earl Ray. These leads suggest one possible route through which information about a bounty on Dr. King might have found its way into the prison.

### Notation on Records

The man alleged to have made the proposal, Mr. Sutherland, died eight years ago of a heart attack, leaving an estate valued at several hundred thousands dollars. A note attached to the probate records in the Jefferson County, Mo., courthouse now reads: "Do not destroy this file — may be subpoenaed by Congressional Committee (Select Committee on Assassinations)."

Mr. Sutherland's widow, Anna Lee Sutherland, declined to be interviewed, saying through her attorney that she was cooperating with the House investigation, and that she believed that it would be improper to grant private interviews. She is reported, however, to have told committee staff members that she had never heard of the alleged plot before, and that she believed that it was impossible that her husband could have been involved in it.

One of Mr. Sutherland's former law partners, Philip B. Polster, said that although Mr. Sutherland had been a conservative on matters of race, he did not believe that Mr. Sutherland had had the sort of "violent" personality that one would expect of a person making such a proposal.

As a patent lawyer in this Mississippi River city, Mr. Sutherland represented a large number of corporate clients. At one point he was a local official of the Southern States Industrial Council, which was an outspoken lobbying organization against the civil rights legislation of the 1960's.

Some sources familiar with the inquiry agree that Mr. Byers's allegation is uncorroborated and that the lines into the prison may be no more than the casual relationships among persons who live in the same area, but they nonetheless argue that the situation merits the intense scrutiny that it is now receiving.

They also note that Mr. Byers did not offer, on his own, to cooperate, but testified only after the committee tracked him down. And they appear to believe that his account is buttressed to some extent by the fact that he told it to several persons at the time, and was not coming forward now, after the death of the persons who allegedly made the offer.

Several sources here The Times first interviewed Mr. Byers on the Oregon patio of his home in Rock Hill, Mo., a St. Louis suburb, he refused to discuss the case with more than one reporter present. After one reporter had withdrawn, Mr. Byers told the other newsman that the arrangement would allow him to deny that he had made any comment. He discussed the case, then, for 40 minutes.

Later, however, Mr. Byers instructed his lawyers, Roy Walker 3d and Terry B. Crouppen, that he did not want to talk further on the matter. Mr. Crouppen refused to confirm or deny any details of this matter and when reporters tried to question him he said he would "have to ask you to leave."

Several sources here said that the violence surrounding some figures in this matter might be intensified if its details were published.

In the recent burglary of the Remington sculpture, one of the suspects was mysteriously shot to death several months ago. Another source said the question of whether informers for the police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation might be exposed to jeopardy was "very real" in this case. The committee is expected to conduct a polygraph examination of Mr. Ray early next week. It has scheduled public hearings on the King assassination in August and additional hearings in November.

GIVE TO THE FRESH AIR FUND

# James Earl Ray: 10 Years of Notoriety and Protest

By WOLFGANG SAXON

From the time of the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. 10 years ago until this month, when the way was cleared for him to "go public" on Capitol Hill, James Earl Ray never allowed the public to put him out of mind for long.

Instead, Mr. Ray continually made news with denials of his guilt, with his role as a figure in conspiracy scenarios and with a spectacular jail break just over a year ago from Brushy Mountain State Prison, where he is serving a 99-term.

Over the years, Mr. Ray, now 50 years old, went through a succession of 11 lawyers, gave closed testimony to investigators of the House of Representatives and vainly pursued a quest for a new trial that, he insisted, would clear him of the accusation that he shot the civil rights leader in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

Twelve days ago, a Federal judge in Washington signed papers that would make it possible for Mr. Ray to be brought before the special House assassination committee. Members of the committee had previously questioned him behind closed doors in the Tennessee prison.

His most recent attorney, Mark Lane, said at the time that his client wanted to "go public" with his story. No immediate date for his committee appearance was set.

Mr. Lane, a New York lawyer, is the author of a book on the King assassination. Mr. Ray engaged him last October while involved in preliminary proceedings before a Criminal Court judge in Tennessee in connection with his trial on charges stemming from his escape from the state prison.

Mr. Ray told the judge that he wanted Jack Kershaw of Nashville, his previous lawyers, relieved because he had become "deeply involved in conflict of interest." The basis for this assertion was an interview that Mr. Kershaw had given to Playboy magazine.

The interview included results of polygraph tests purporting to show that Mr. Ray lied when he denied killing Dr. King as the civil rights leader stood on the balcony of a Memphis motel. Mr. Ray was accused of shooting Dr. King, acting alone, from a window of a nearby rooming house.

Mr. Ray was apprehended in London on June 8, 1968, two months after the assassination. In that time, he led the authorities on a 25,000-mile chase through three countries.

Among fellow prisoners, Mr. Ray had always been known as an escape artist, constantly plotting ways to get out. He succeeded in 1967 by slipping out of the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City. Prison offi-

cials never figured out how he managed it.

Then, on the night of June 10, 1977, he and five other inmates bolted over the wall of the maximum-security prison in Tennessee, executing an ingenious escape plot attributed to Mr. Ray. All of those who escaped were recaptured within days; Mr. Ray was seized a few miles from the prison after 54 hours.

The State of Tennessee then wanted the Federal Government to take charge of Mr. Ray, but his attorney contended that Mr. Ray would be in "grave danger" from those who want to keep secret the details of the King assassination if he were transferred to a Federal institution.

Mr. Ray, along with the others who escaped, was put in solitary confinement at Brushy Mountain until January.

Also in January, the Federal Bureau of Investigation made public its conclusion that Mr. Ray had financed himself through a series of robberies in the two months as a fugitive after the King assassination. The F.B.I. files disputed assertions that he had been financially supported by co-conspirators.

The documents disclosed that Mr. Ray was preparing for a flight to South Africa just before he was seized at London's Heathrow Airport in 1968.

Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division  
Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch  
Director, FBI

March 24, 1978

1 - Mr. Bailey  
① - Mr. S. J. Foster  
1 - Legal Counsel Division  
(Attn: Mr. Coulson)

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

In connection with the HSCA's investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., the FBI Field Office in St. Louis, by teletype dated March 13, 1978, advised that during an unrelated file review information not previously disseminated concerning this matter had been surfaced. This information was furnished to FBI Headquarters in a memorandum from the St. Louis Field Office dated March 13, 1978, which was received by the Congressional Inquiry Unit, Records Management Division, on March 16, 1978. Additional information concerning this matter was telephonically furnished by the St. Louis Office on March 17, 1978, which is contained in the attached memorandum dated March 20, 1978.

Russell George Beyers, mentioned in the attached memorandums, furnished information of value to this Bureau from October, 1975, to November, 1976.

Enclosed are an original and one copy each of two memorandums dated March 13, 1978, and March 20, 1978, which contain information of interest to the Committee. It is requested that you furnish copies of the enclosed memorandums to the HSCA.

Enclosures (4)

TWB:pfn (8)

NOTE: By teletype dated March 13, 1978, St. Louis advised file review of SL 137-16185, Bufile 137-36945, revealed information not previously disseminated concerning possible suspect in the Martin Luther King assassination. St. Louis furnished this information in letterhead memorandum form dated March 13, 1978.

1 - Civil Rights Division

1 - Office of Professional Responsibility  
(Attn: Mr. Michael E. Shaheen, Jr.)

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

ENCLOSURE

62-117270-1062

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

On March 17, 1978, Special Agent Jim Haggerty, St. Louis Field Supervisor, was contacted regarding additional information concerning this matter. Haggerty advised that St. Louis informant had spoken with Russell George Beyers who is a fence in the St. Louis area. Beyers was opened as a source (SL 137-16541; Bufile unknown) on October 3, 1975, and closed November, 1976. A copy of the original source contact memorandum was placed in Beyers' informant file and an 87-file, however, there is no evidence that Beyers was ever questioned about the meeting with the deceased St. Louis attorney. Additionally, there is no evidence that this information was ever acted on or disseminated outside the St. Louis Office. Beyers was arrested approximately two weeks ago by the St. Louis Police Department as suspect in a St. Louis museum burglary and this precipitated the file review which surfaced the information in question. Haggerty stated that both the Agent and Supervisor who handled original contact memorandum with St. Louis informant have retired. The original St. Louis informant (SL 3167-C; Bufile 137-30945) to whom Beyers spoke has been closed as an informant and is residing in Chicago, Illinois.

Response regarding Beyers' informant status was coordinated with Special Agent Jeff Jamar, Criminal Informant Unit, Division Six.

A search was made of the central records index for Russell George Beyers. The only reference to Beyers was in Bufile 87-129497-11, which concerned Beyers' possible involvement in fencing the proceeds from a St. Louis museum theft. No Bureau informant file was located.

Original St. Louis letterhead memorandum dated March 13, 1978, contained informant symbol number, and St. Louis and Bureau informant file numbers, and was, therefore, retyped with this information deleted.

As the HSCA is expected to have an intense interest in this information, it is being furnished in memorandum form through the Department to the Committee.



- 1 - Mr. Bailey
- 1 - Mr. G. J. Foster
- 1 - Legal Counsel Division  
(Attn: Mr. Coulson)

March 13, 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

In the course of a file review conducted at the St. Louis FBI Office in an unrelated matter, a St. Louis informant file was reviewed. This file contained a contact memorandum dated March 19, 1974, which set forth information relating to several criminal matters and also contained the following paragraph.

During the Fall of 1973, five or six months ago, date not recalled, Meyers came to the shop inquiring as to whether they could get together to talk, and they later did so at Pizza and Cream, Clayton, Missouri, in the area of a Broad-Duran Paint Store, where informant had traveled on business. Meyers talked freely about himself and his business, and they later went to informant's house where Meyers told a story about visiting a lawyer in St. Louis County, now deceased, not further identified, who had offered to give him a contract to kill Martin Luther King. He said that also present was a short, stocky man, who walked with a limp. (Later, with regard to the latter individual Meyers commented that this man was actually the individual who made the payoff of James Earl Ray after the killing.) Meyers said he had declined to accept this contract. He did remark that this lawyer had confederate flags and other items about the house that might indicate that he was 'a real rebel'. Meyers also commented that he had been offered either \$10,000 or \$20,000 to kill King.

Extensive further research in the St. Louis indices and files failed to reveal this information was in any way disseminated and the information simply reposes in the informant file.

TWR:pfm (8)

62-117290

ORIGINAL AND ONE SENT TO ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL,  
CRIMINAL DIVISION, ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT L. KEUCH

NOTE: See Director, FBI, letter to Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Attention: Robert L. Keuch, dated March 24, 1978, captioned as above.

- 1 - Assistant Attorney General  
(Civil Rights Division)
- 1 - Office of Professional Responsibility  
(Attn: Mr. Michael F. Shaheen, Jr.)

ENCLOSURE

62-117290-1062

1 - Mr. Bailey  
① - Mr. S. J. Foster  
1 - Legal Counsel Division  
(Attn: Mr. Coulson)

March 20, 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

In connection with the HSCA's investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., the St. Louis Office of the FBI surfaced information during a file review in an unrelated matter which it is believed is of interest to the Committee. This information concerning a St. Louis informant discussing with (first name not furnished) Beyers several individuals who may have information germane to the HSCA's investigation was furnished to FBI Headquarters, in the attached memorandum dated March 13, 1978.

In order to facilitate the Committee's evaluation of the information contained in above-mentioned memorandum, the St. Louis Office was asked to furnish background data on Beyers. On March 17, 1978, the St. Louis Office telephonically furnished the following:

NAME: Russell George Beyers  
DOB: August 19, 1931  
FBI NUMBER: 101-311E

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
MAR 22 1978  
FBI - ST. LOUIS  
BY [signature]

The information contained in the memorandum of March 13, 1978, was discovered as a result of a file review conducted for background data on Beyers who was recently arrested by the St. Louis Police Department for his alleged participation in the burglary of a St. Louis museum.

Where information is not provided, it is because it is not retrievable or is not being furnished pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding.

62-117290

TWB:pfm (8)

ORIGINAL AND ONE SENT TO ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL,  
CRIMINAL DIVISION, ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT L. KEUCH

NOTE: See Director, FBI, letter to Assistant Attorney General,  
Criminal Division, Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch, dated  
March 24, 1978, captioned as above.

- 1 - Assistant Attorney General  
(Civil Rights Division)
- 1 - Office of Professional Responsibility  
(Attn: Mr. Michael E. Shaheen, Jr.)

ENCLOSURE

62-117290-1062

AUG 3 1977

Robert L. Keuch  
Special Counsel to the Attorney General RLK:mal

House Select Committee on Assassinations

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigations

This is in partial response to your memorandum of April 28, 1977. In that memorandum you informed the Attorney General that the Bureau would refer all allegations relating to the investigations of the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and President John F. Kennedy, for Departmental consideration as to whether any investigation is required of the FBI. As you are aware those matters relating to the President Kennedy assassination are referred to the Criminal Division, [while those matters related to Dr. King's assassination are referred to the Civil Rights Division and the Office of Professional Responsibility,] all such reports, however, are directed to my attention in addition to this distribution.

This is to confirm that, absent a specific request from the Department, either by the Civil Rights Division, the Criminal Division, the Office of Professional Responsibility, or myself, no further investigation of the allegations which you are reporting related to these two assassination investigations is required or requested by the Department. I have discussed this procedure personally with representatives of the Civil Rights Division and the Office of Professional Responsibility and confirm that this procedure is understood by and satisfactory to that Division and Office, as well as to the Criminal Division.

2/7/80

Spinaepnel

T62-117290-141

ENCLOSURE

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1062

The Attorney General

Director, FBI

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

1 - Mr. Held  
1 - Mr. Adams

April 25, 1977

1 - Mr. Fehl  
1 - Mr. Peelman  
① - Mr. Lawn  
1 - Mr. Mintz  
1 - Mr. Daly

Reference is made to my letter dated March 11, 1977, with enclosure, under the caption "Assassination of President John F. Kennedy, November 22, 1963, Dallas, Texas," in which the assistance of the Department of Justice was requested in obtaining the test bullets from the National Archives for comparison purposes.

Reference is also made to my letter dated April 5, 1977, under the caption "Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.," in which the assistance of the Department of Justice again was requested in obtaining from the HSCA all information available pertaining to an allegation received by the HSCA from a former Louisville police officer who allegedly advised that he received an offer from FBI Agents and police officers to kill Martin Luther King, Jr., for \$500,000.

The HSCA did not bring this allegation pertaining to Dr. King to the attention of the FBI or to the Department, nor has the result of its investigation been furnished to the Department. At the request of the Bureau, the Attorney General authorized the FBI to attempt to interview the individual who made these allegations. He refused to be interviewed and terminated contact by stating, "I'll say it all to the House Committee."

In refusing to make available the information received by the HSCA pertaining to this allegation, as has been requested by the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, the HSCA has again attempted to affirm its primary investigative responsibility in these assassinations.

The FBI continues to cooperate with the HSCA in making the investigative results of both of these assassinations available, with necessary excisions, to the HSCA based on an agreement reached between the Department and the HSCA. Material available to the HSCA includes access to those volumes containing current investigation in both assassination investigations.

JCL:sas  
(15)

ENCLOSURE

The Attorney General

However, while the FBI continues to cooperate fully with the HSCA, both of these matters, as set out in the referenced letters, remain unresolved, continue to impinge upon our investigative responsibilities, and in essence, raise the question of this Bureau's continuing criminal jurisdiction in these investigations.

As you are aware, in November, 1963, the FBI initiated an immediate investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy based upon a request from President Lyndon B. Johnson to former Director John Edgar Hoover. Prior to the assassination, no Federal statute existed concerning the killing of, or assault on the President. Mr. Hoover, in testimony before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy (Warren Commission) stated that President Johnson communicated with him within 24 hours of the assassination and requested the FBI to investigate. (Hearings before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, Volume 5, Page 98.)

Although the Bureau's investigative responsibilities concerning the assassination of President Kennedy would have logically ended with the termination of the Warren Commission, Director Hoover, in his testimony before the Commission, agreed with a statement by a Commission Member, Representative Gerald R. Ford, that the responsibility to conduct the investigation is not an authority with a terminal point, but an authority that goes on indefinitely. (Hearings before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, Volume 5, Page 100.) The FBI has continued to investigate and report to the Department any new allegations or information received concerning the assassination.

In reference to this Bureau's criminal jurisdiction in the investigation of the assassination of Martin Luther King, by memorandum dated April 4, 1968, Assistant Attorney General Stephen J. Pollak, Civil Rights Division, requested that this Bureau conduct a full investigation into a possible violation of Title 18, Section 241, U. S. Code, in connection with the shooting of King in Memphis, on that date. (FBI jurisdiction was based on the possibility of a conspiracy to violate the civil rights of King, namely the right to travel interstate. King had traveled to Memphis, on April 3, 1968, from Atlanta, to take part in a demonstration scheduled for April 6, 1968.)

The Attorney General

On April 16, 1968, the Attorney General authorized the filing of a complaint charging Galt with violation of Title 18, Section 241, U. S. Code, for conspiring to interfere with the constitutional rights of King.

On April 17, 1968, Federal process was obtained and Galt was charged with conspiracy (Section 241) in that he and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy in Birmingham on March 29, 1968, by reason of their purchase of the rifle later used in the shooting of King.

On March 10, 1969, in State Court, Memphis, Tennessee, James Earl Ray entered a plea of guilty to charges of murder and received a 99-year sentence.

Federal process against Galt was dismissed on December 2, 1971, by U. S. Commissioner Macy Taylor, Northern District of Alabama, based upon a motion filed by Ray's Attorney, Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

In December of 1975, the Civil Rights Division began a review of the FBI's investigation of the King assassination and this review was recently completed by the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR), U. S. Department of Justice. The OPR issued a report of its review and reported, among other things, that ". . . the sum of all the evidence of Ray's guilt points to him so exclusively that it most effectively makes the point no one else was involved . . ." (Report of the Department of Justice Task Force to Review the FBI Martin Luther King, Jr., Security and Assassination Investigations, Page 109.)

Since the time of the Kennedy and King assassinations, the FBI has continued to investigate various allegations concerning these assassinations and has furnished the results to the Department. No viable information has been developed to negate the original findings of the FBI or the subsequent conclusions of the Warren Commission or the OPR.

During the HSCA review and investigation into these assassinations, additional allegations regarding these assassinations have been received. The FBI has continued to attempt to investigate all of these additional allegations; however, the FBI has found in several instances that the HSCA conducted independent and parallel investigations, the results of which are not available to the FBI:

The Attorney General

While this Bureau remains unaware that the FBI's criminal jurisdiction pertaining to these two investigations has been abrogated, the position taken by the Department of Justice, in not obtaining authority for the FBI either to gain access to the test bullets in the John F. Kennedy assassination investigation or to obtain from the HSCA the information pertaining to the alleged involvement of FBI personnel in a conspiracy to kill Martin Luther King, appears to support the position of the HSCA that "primary investigative responsibility" rests with that Committee.

Therefore, in order to avoid duplication of investigative effort and the attendant problems between the FBI and the HSCA that could arise in the future, and until the jurisdiction of this Bureau in these investigations is delineated by the Department, unless you advise to the contrary, the FBI will refer all allegations relating to these investigations to Mr. Robert L. Keuch, Special Counsel to The Attorney General, for departmental consideration as to whether any investigation is required of the FBI, or whether the Department desires to furnish these allegations directly to the HSCA. Copies of communications concerning allegations regarding the King assassination will also be furnished to the Civil Rights Division and the OPR.

- 1 - Deputy Attorney General
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division
- 1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division
- 1 - Office of Professional Responsibility
- 1 - Office of Legislative Affairs

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8/2/78

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI SPRINGFIELD ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/15/86 BY SP7mac/mse

C HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

BUDED AUGUST 9, 1978.

THE HSCA, WHICH IS INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATIONS OF JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BY LETTER DATED JULY 24, 1978, <sup>1044</sup> REQUESTED ACCESS TO ALL INFORMATION IN BUREAU FILES AND SPRINGFIELD FIELD OFFICE FILES REGARDING THE ROBBERY OF THE LEBANON TRUST AND SAVINGS BANK, LEBANON, ILLINOIS, ON OCTOBER 31, 1969.

THE BANK ROBBERY REFERRED TO ABOVE IS CAPTIONED "UNSUB; LEBANON TRUST AND SAVINGS BANK, LEBANON, ILLINOIS, 103169, B. R., OO: SPRINGFIELD", BUREAU FILE 91-34673, SPRINGFIELD FILE 91-4669.

2

IN RESPONSE TO ABOVE REQUEST, SPRINGFIELD SHOULD FURNISH

EX-136

HB/DR/20

RCB PFM (2)

8/2/78

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62-117290-1063

- 1 - MR. MINTZ  
ATTN: MR. HELLER
- 1 - MR. BAILEY
- 1 - MR. FOSTER
- 1 - MR. BUSCHING

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

AUG 7 1978

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 2/15/86 BY SP7mac/mse

AUG 17 1978



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CONTINUATION SHEET

PAGE TWO DO 0121 UNCLAS

FBI HEADQUARTERS (FBIHQ) TWO LEGIBLE COPIES OF EACH SERIAL OF THEIR FIELD OFFICE FILE INVOLVING 91-4669. SUBMIT ONLY FIRST PAGE OF ANY SERIAL THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN FORWARDED TO THE BUREAU.

ALL MATERIAL SHOULD BE FORWARDED BY COVER AIRTEL TO FBIHQ, ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION.

BT

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RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

*nd*

Transmitted by Facsimile - CLEAR

To: DIRECTOR, FBI  
(ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT,  
RM 5000B JEP1)  
From: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)  
Date: 8/8/78  
Time Transmitted:  
Subject: HSCA

Assoc. Dir.	
Dep. AD Adm.	
Dep. AD Inv.	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
Crim. Inv.	
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Intell.	
Liaison	
Plan. & Insp.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Serv.	
Training	
Public Affs.	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

*House Select Committee on  
Assassinations*

Fingerprint Photo  Fingerprint Record  Map  Newspaper Clipping  Photograph  
 Artistic Conception  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Special handling instructions:

SPECIAL - HANDCARRY TO ADDRESSEE

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Approved: *[Signature]*

EX-136

REC-72

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22 AUG 8 1978

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ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/18/86 BY [Signature]

54 AUG 17 1978

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Byers Knew Of Payoff, FBI Was Told

WASHINGTON — The Federal Bureau of Investigation received information in 1973 that Russell G. Byers, a former auto parts dealer and police character from Rock Hill, knew who "made the payoff of James Earl Ray" after the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Byers' accusation, reported by an informant, is contained in an internal St. Louis FBI office memorandum made available Wednesday to the Post-Dispatch under the Freedom of Information Act.

The memorandum, which went unnoticed for four years in the writing file in St. Louis, does not give the name of the man identified by Byers. But it describes the man as "a short, stocky man who walked with a limp."

This description, several sources have told the Post-Dispatch, fits John R. Kauffmann, a one-time stockholder of Imperial, Mo. Byers has reportedly told investigators for the House Assassinations Committee that Kauffmann and John H. Sutherland, both now dead, asked Byers to arrange King's murder.

However, one source said that at least one other man fitting the description could not be ruled out as the person described in the memorandum. The second man was described by St. Louis police sources as an avowed segregationist and an acquaintance of Sutherland's.

Byers refused to comment on the FBI memo when reached at his Rock Hill home Wednesday night. He said the House committee had asked him not to make public statements.

Byers was keenly interested, however, in the new disclosure. He carefully analyzed the copy of the FBI memo released Wednesday. And, while humming a tune, he read through a New York Times story about the memo.

Byers' allegations are currently under scrutiny by the House Committee on Assassinations. A committee source told the Post-Dispatch Wednesday night that the committee was still trying to assess the significance of Byers' story.

All names but that of Byers were deleted from the FBI memorandum by the FBI. **Page 42**

Acts Branch. But the memorandum discussed a meeting among Byers and two men in which Byers said he "had been offered either \$10,000 or \$22,000 to kill King."

Sources have told the Post-Dispatch that Byers told House investigators that Kauffmann and Sutherland, a latent lawyer, also from Imperial, asked him to arrange King's murder.

The memorandum, dated March 15, 1974, was written by a St. Louis agent of the FBI on the basis of information supplied by an informant.

"In the fall of 1973," the memorandum reads, "Byers (the name is consistently misspelled in the memo) talked freely

about himself and his business, and they later went to (short deletion by FBI) where Byers told a story about visiting a lawyer in St. Louis County, now deceased, not further identified, who had offered to give him a contract to kill Martin Luther King. He said that also present was a short, stocky man, who walked with a limp."

The memorandum then continues with this sentence, enclosed in parentheses:

"Later, with regard to the latter individual, Byers commented that this man was actually the individual who made the payoff of James Earl Ray after the killing.)"

Several sources have told the Post-Dispatch that Kauffmann was short, overweight and walked with a marked limp after being injured in an automobile accident several years prior to the events described by Byers.

The other man fitting that description, however, is known to have testified before the subcommittee in April. Roy A. Walther III, an attorney for Byers, refused to say whether the other man was implicated in Byers' testimony. Walther said he had never heard of the other man until the time of Byers' testimony before the House committee.

St. Louis Police Department sources

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

1A ST. LOUIS  
POST-DISPATCH  
ST. LOUIS, MO

Date: 8/3/78  
Edition: Bulldog  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification: SL 62-5097  
Submitting Office: ST. LOUIS  
 Being Investigated

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/5/80 BY [signature]

ENCLOSURE

62-117290-1064

said the man was an avowed segregationist, and had appeared in St. Louis frequently to speak at segregationist rallies during the late 1960s. He was also known to have been acquainted with Sutherland.

The man is further known to be closely associated with Ray, who pleaded guilty of King's murder in 1969 and is serving a 99-year prison sentence in Petros, Texas. Since pleading guilty, however, Ray has denied full responsibility for the shooting and has sought a new trial.

Kauffmann, a one-time stockbroker who was convicted in the late 1960s of selling 500,000 amphetamine pills to a

Federal agent, died in 1973. His wife, Beulah G. Kauffmann, testified for about three hours last week before the House Select Committee --

The committee did not ask her about the allegation that a "short, stocky man, who walked with a limp," had paid off Ray. The Post-Dispatch was told by a source familiar with her interrogation Mrs. Kauffmann refused to discuss the matter, hanging up on a reporter Wednesday night.

The memorandum's account of Hyers' story jibes in all but one detail -- the amount of money involved -- with an account Hyers gave at about the same time to a reputable St. Louisan

Assistant Attorney General **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**  
Criminal Division

August 7, 1978

Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch  
Director, FBI

- 1 - Mr. Mintz  
Attn: Mr. Heller
- 1 - Mr. Bailey
- 1 - Mr. Foster

**HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS**  
**U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)**

Reference is made to the letter to the Attorney General from G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director, HSCA, dated June 5, 1978, and Director, FBI, letter to Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch, dated June 9, 1978, which, in connection with the HSCA's investigation into the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., assassination, pertained to certain information concerning Russell George Beyers and others.

This is a supplemental response to the initial HSCA letter referenced above. This letter resulted from the discovery of the misspelling of "Beyers". The last name should be spelled "Byers". Based on the correct spelling, several additional file references were located.

Enclosed are an original and one copy of a memorandum in response to the above-referenced letter. It is requested that you deliver a copy of this memorandum to the HSCA.

Enclosures (2)  
FWB:pim (6)  
62-117290

*GTF/DR*

*2*

NOTE: St. Louis, in letterhead memorandum of 3/13/78, teletype of the same date, and telephonically on 3/17/78, furnished information relating to Russell George Beyers which was of interest to the HSCA. The Committee requested, by letter of 6/5/78, all files on Beyers. Subsequently, correct spelling of "Byers" was ascertained and new search of FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ) indices was conducted resulting in additional references being located, as follows: 87-146911; 26-347717; 26-352231-4; 137-42744. HSCA is being advised that additional references have been located, processed, and are available for review at FBIHQ. The Committee is not being advised of 137-42744 pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding.

MAILED 7  
AUG 7 1978

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

REC-72 62-117290-1065

25 AUG 9 1978

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/18/88 BY [signature]

*[Signature]*  
FBI/DOJ

MAIL ROOM  HNB/DR/GTF/DR

Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division  
Attention: Mr. Robert L. Kouch  
Director, FBI

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

August 10, 1978

- 1 - Mr. Mintz  
Attn: Mr. Heller
- 1 - Criminal Investigative  
Division  
Attn: Mr. J. J. Jamar
- 1 - Mr. Bailey
- 1 - Mr. Foster

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

Reference is made to letter to the Attorney General from G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director, HSCA, dated June 20, 1978, which, in connection with the HSCA's investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., requested certain information from FBI Headquarters files and that several FBI agents be made available for interview.

Enclosed are an original and one copy of a memorandum in response to referenced letter. It is requested that you furnish a copy of the enclosed memorandum to the HSCA.

Enclosures (2)

JTA:pfm (7)  
62-117290

*GJF/pta*

EX-136

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1/27/86 BY Jmacme

NOTE: By Legal Counsel memorandum to the Assistant Director, Administrative Services Division, agents named in HSCA letter were cleared from their employment agreement.

Informant A is SL 1215-C whose field office file has been destroyed. Informant B is LA 7932-PC.

REC-72 62-117290-1066

11 AUG 14 1978

The Congressional Inquiry Unit (CIU) believes file of KC 644-C should be made available because he was an informant during period of HSCA interest. Further, the HSCA's investigation has focused on allegations that an assassination conspiracy could have occurred in the Missouri State Penitentiary. During our King assassination investigation, informant stated he knew James Earl Ray as Ray Curtis, having served time with him at the Penitentiary and in jail in Springfield, Illinois. In its request of June 20, 1978, (enclosure not attached), the HSCA states it must determine if any individual or organization, including the FBI, was involved in the assassination and that if the FBI was involved, it would be through direct contact with Ray by an agent or informant. We previously made informant files, with identifying data excised, available to the Chief Counsel and Director, HSCA, only.

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO.

MAILED 7  
AUG 10 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

In that case there was also an allegation against the FBI, i.e., that our agents acted as agent provocateurs in instigating violence, causing King to return to Memphis where he was killed.

Access to this file will be given only to Mr. Blakey and in the presence of a representative of the CIU. All identifying data will be excised.

This matter has been coordinated with SA J. J. Jamar, Top Echelon and Criminal Investigative Division, and SA Ron Heller, Criminal Affairs and Legal Liaison Unit, Legal Counsel Division.

APPROVED

Director \_\_\_\_\_  
Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. W-3  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_

Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Coun. M/O  
Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 - Mr. Mintz  
Attn: Mr. Heller
- 1 - Criminal Investigative Division  
Attn: Mr. J. J. Jamar
- 1 - Mr. Bailey
- 1 - Mr. Foster

August 10, 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

Reference is made to letter to the Attorney General from G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director, HSCA, dated June 20, 1978.

Referenced letter furnished a list of Special Agents of the FBI believed by the HSCA to have been involved in the unlawful flight investigation of James Earl Ray, prior to the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., and requested these agents be made available for interview by the HSCA. This letter is to confirm that all agents except Rowen B. Ayers (deceased), have been cleared from their employment agreement and are available for HSCA interview. Arrangements for interviews can be made through contact with representatives of the Congressional Inquiry Unit (CIU), Records Management Division, FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ).

Referenced letter furnished a list of over 500 names of known and probable associates and possible contacts of James Earl Ray. The FBI was requested to determine the number of informants, operatives or sources on this list and attempt to ascertain if any such individual would consent to interview by the HSCA. In addition, it was requested that files of any such individual be prepared for review by the HSCA's Chief Counsel and Director. On July 13, 1978, HSCA Staff Member Michael Eberhardt modified this request to include field office files concerning any such person identified as an informant, operative or source.

According to a search of FBIHQ files, three individuals listed in referenced HSCA letter were identified as present or former FBI informants, operatives or sources. These are as follows:

*rw*

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_ 62-117290 *GA/for*  
 Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_ *QVA:pim (7)*  
 Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_ ORIGINAL AND ONE SENT TO ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, 5 0 51 10  
 Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_ CRIMINAL DIVISION, ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT L. KEUCH  
 Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_ NOTE: See Director, FBI, letter to Assistant Attorney General,  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_ Criminal Division, Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch, dated  
 Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_ August 10, 1978, captioned as above.  
 Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM

*505110*  
*5/18/86*  
*Shmaemel*

ENCLOSURE 62-117290-70

FBI/DOJ



HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

Informant A (probable associate). This individual advised on July 19, 1978, that he did not desire to be interviewed or contacted under any circumstances by anyone from the HSCA. Since this individual was operated as an informant from 1960 to April, 1966, and there are no documents in his file subsequent to April, 1966, this informant file is deemed outside the period of HSCA interest and is not being made available.

Informant B (probable associate). This individual was contacted on July 19, 1978, and stated he does not want his confidential relationship with the FBI revealed to the HSCA. Since this individual was not opened as an informant until August, 1972, and closed in March, 1973, his file is also believed to be outside the period of HSCA interest and is not being made available.

Informant C (probable associate). Efforts by two field offices of the FBI to locate this former informant have been negative. He was last reported to have left the United States for Europe, exact address unknown. Since this informant was operated for a brief period in 1968, and was an inmate of Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, his FBIHQ informant file will be made available to the HSCA's Chief Counsel and Director. All information tending to identify this informant will be excised in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding. Arrangements for review by Mr. Blakey should be coordinated with the CIU, Records Management Division, FBIHQ. Informant's field office file at the Kansas City Field Office was destroyed during routine file destruction on January 7, 1978. The HSCA should also note that this individual was interviewed during course of FBI's investigation of the King assassination and results of interview, along with informant's identity, was reported in FBIHQ assassination investigative file, which has been made available to the HSCA.

This letter completes response to HSCA's request of June 20, 1978.

*Blakey reviewed  
File 10/6/78  
JTA 11/4/78*

*ms*

*m/jef  
ms*

LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN  
RICHARDSON PRESTON, ILL.  
WALTER R. FAULKNER, D.C.  
J. C. DANFORTH, WHITE BIRKBE, CALIF.  
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CHARLES THONE, NEBR.  
HAROLD S. SAWYER, MICH.

(202) 225-6624

Select Committee on Assassinations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

Rec. CIV  
6/26/78  
4:08 PM

June 20, 1978

The Honorable Griffin B. Bell  
Attorney General of the United States  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20430

Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch  
Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division, Room 2113

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

Pursuant to the mandate under which the House Select Committee on Assassinations operates, it is incumbent upon us to ascertain not only the individual culpability of those individuals possibly involved in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but also the direct or indirect responsibility of any organizations so involved. Inasmuch as this portion of our mandate does not differentiate between governmental and non-governmental entities, the FBI is one of those organizations whose possible complicity in the assassination of Dr. King must be examined. Such an examination must proceed on some fundamental assumptions: if James Earl Ray killed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the FBI were involved then such involvement could have been effectuated only by direct FBI agent contact with James Earl Ray or through indirect contact by means of an FBI operative, informant or individual with whom the FBI had some type of source relationship.

In order to analyze the question of possible direct contact it will be necessary to interview certain FBI agents who either were stationed at the office serving Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri during 1960-1967 or were involved in the unlawful flight investigation of James Earl Ray prior to the death of Dr. King.

A prior request by this Committee has sought the identity of some of these agents. While a list of such agents is not yet complete, it would be helpful if the

ENCLOSURE

62-117290-1066

The Honorable Griffin B. Bell  
Page Two

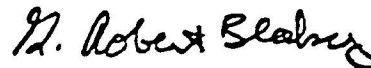
FBI were to arrange interviews by the Committee for the following identified agents:

UFAC - Robbery First - Case Agents

Kansas City, Missouri	SA Joseph L. Kissiah SA Thomas H. Weaver SA Rowen B. Ayers
Chicago, Illinois	SA Robert F. Pevahouse
Springfield, Illinois	SA Mack W. Oliver, Jr. SA Arthur Lee Woods SA Robert C. Haines
St. Louis, Missouri	SA Cletis B. Bidewell

To analyze the question of indirect FBI involvement through informants, it is requested that the FBI advise whether the enclosed lists of persons contain the names of any FBI informant, operative or source. In the event of an affirmative response, it is requested that the FBI provide the House Select Committee on Assassinations with the number of informants, operatives or sources in each of the three lists and make an attempt to ascertain whether any such individuals would consent to an interview by the Committee. It is also requested that the files on any such individual be prepared for review by myself personally. The enclosed lists represent an effort to establish priorities in what is recognized to be a consuming process on the part of the FBI. It is requested however that this review be completed by August 15, 1978.

Very truly yours,



G. Robert Blakey  
Chief Counsel and Director

GRB:meh  
Encls: as

xc: Danny O. Coulson

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- E F T O
- CLEAR

Date 7/31/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290) (ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT,  
RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION)

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON ASSASSINATIONS

ReButel to St. Louis 7/28/78. 1033

Enclosed herewith are three copies each of FD-302s reflecting interviews at St. Louis, Missouri, on 7/28/78 with ROBERT L. BENDER, former FBI Field Supervisor, and HOWARD C. KENNEDY, former FBI Agent.

*JK*  
ENCLOSURE

91

- 2 - Bureau (Encs.)
- 1 - St. Louis 4

EX-125

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/5/86 BY [signature]

RBK:nln  
(3)

REC-50

62-117290-1069

4 AUG 9 1978

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

1 Enc each of  
FD 302 of Kennedy  
and Bender detached  
and retained CIA,  
# 09881 JWB

JWB  
Brekke

JWB  
K

Approved: *[Signature]*

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Time)

Per \_\_\_\_\_ FBI/DOJ

62-117290-1069

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/31/78

Mr. HOWARD C. KENNEDY resides at 55 Harneywold Drive, Ferguson, Missouri 63136, residence telephone number (314) 521-8221.

Mr. KENNEDY is presently self-employed as a private investigator and polygraph examiner. He retired from FBI service on 2/28/77. Prior to his retirement he was assigned to the St. Louis Division of the FBI from 1954 to the date of his retirement. During 1974 he was assigned to general criminal matters and worked as a Special Agent under the supervision of Field Supervisor ROBERT L. BENDER.

Mr. KENNEDY was interviewed at the St. Louis FBI Office, at which place he voluntarily appeared.

Mr. KENNEDY was exhibited sufficient portions of a closed St. Louis file 137-16185 to enable him to identify it as a matter which was at one time assigned to him while he was an FBI Agent.

The file in this instance pertains to one RICHARD F. O'HARA, a former informant of the St. Louis Division of the FBI. The attention of Mr. KENNEDY was directed to a memorandum in this file dated 3/19/74 from him to the SAC, St. Louis. This memorandum is identified as serial 5 of the file. He was permitted to read this memorandum in order to refresh his memory concerning its contents. KENNEDY related that from his review of this memorandum it reflects the results of a contact by him with O'HARA at which time O'HARA furnished him several pieces of information. KENNEDY's attention was further directed to paragraph 2, page 3 of the memorandum, which paragraph begins "During the fall of 1973 ..., " and ending with "... \$20,000 to kill KING."

Mr. KENNEDY stated that upon having his memory refreshed by reading the above memorandum, he vaguely recalls receiving the information. He has no recollection, however, of having disseminated the information contained in the above-cited paragraph or that the information was otherwise acted upon. He can cite no reason for such failure other than inadvertence. To the best of his recollection, no action was, in fact, taken concerning the information about MARTIN LUTHER KING, as contained

Interviewed on 7/28/78 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 62-5097

by SAC ROY B. KLAGER, JR./nlh Date dictated 7/31/78

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/5/86 BY SP/mae

in the memorandum, and he shared this information with no other personnel in the office.

Mr. KENNEDY was unable to provide an evaluation of the information and he is sure that no other information concerning KING was furnished to him by O'HARA. He can make no comment with regard to the credibility of the information at this late date. He does not believe, however, that credibility of either O'HARA or BYERS entered into any decision or lack of decision with regard to dissemination of the information concerning KING.

KENNEDY recalls, however, from his many years of service in the FBI at St. Louis that RUSSELL BYERS was a well-known fence.

KENNEDY reiterated that he has no idea or reason for the failure to disseminate the information contained in paragraph 2 of page 3 of the cited memorandum as it relates to MARTIN LUTHER KING. He noted that there is nothing written on the memorandum to indicate such dissemination was made or action taken otherwise.

Mr. KENNEDY's attention was further directed to a handwritten notation on the first page of the memorandum which states, "Notify locals of info re killing." He identifies this notation as being in the handwriting of his former Supervisor, ROBERT L. BENDER. Upon reading the memorandum in detail, it was KENNEDY's conclusion that this handwritten notation did not apply to the above-cited paragraph but, instead, applied to an unrelated matter of interest to local authorities appearing on page 2 of the memorandum.

At the conclusion of interview, Mr. KENNEDY stated that in retrospect, the information concerning MARTIN LUTHER KING in the memorandum of 3/19/74 should have been acted upon.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/31/78

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Mr. KENNEDY was interviewed at the St. Louis FBI Office, at which place he voluntarily appeared.

Mr. KENNEDY was exhibited sufficient portions of a closed St. Louis file 137-16185 to enable him to identify it as a matter which was at one time assigned to him while he was an FBI Agent.

The file in this instance pertains to one RICHARD F. O'HARA, a former informant of the St. Louis Division of the FBI. The attention of Mr. KENNEDY was directed to a memorandum in this file dated 3/19/74 from him to the SAC, St. Louis. This memorandum is identified as serial 5 of the file. He was permitted to read this memorandum in order to refresh his memory concerning its contents. KENNEDY related that from his review of this memorandum it reflects the results of a contact by him with O'HARA at which time O'HARA furnished him several pieces of information. KENNEDY's attention was further directed to paragraph 2, page 3 of the memorandum, which paragraph begins "During the fall of 1973 ..., " and ending with "... \$20,000 to kill KING."

Mr. KENNEDY stated that upon having his memory refreshed by reading the above memorandum, he vaguely recalls receiving the information. He has no recollection, however, of having disseminated the information contained in the above-cited paragraph or that the information was otherwise acted upon. He can cite no reason for such failure other than inadvertence. To the best of his recollection, no action was, in fact, taken concerning the information about MARTIN LUTHER KING, as contained

Interviewed on 7/28/78 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 62-5097

by SAC ROY B. KLAGER, JR./nlh Date dictated 7/31/78

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SL 62-5097

in the memorandum, and he shared this information with no other personnel in the office.

Mr. KENNEDY was unable to provide an evaluation of the information and he is sure that no other information concerning KING was furnished to him by O'HARA. He can make no comment with regard to the credibility of the information at this late date. He does not believe, however, that credibility of either O'HARA or BYERS entered into any decision or lack of decision with regard to dissemination of the information concerning KING.

KENNEDY recalls, however, from his many years of service in the FBI at St. Louis that RUSSELL BYERS was a well-known fence.

KENNEDY reiterated that he has no idea or reason for the failure to disseminate the information contained in paragraph 2 of page 3 of the cited memorandum as it relates to MARTIN LUTHER KING. He noted that there is nothing written on the memorandum to indicate such dissemination was made or action taken otherwise.

Mr. KENNEDY's attention was further directed to a handwritten notation on the first page of the memorandum which states, "Notify locals of info re killing." He identifies this notation as being in the handwriting of his former Supervisor, ROBERT L. BENDER. Upon reading the memorandum in detail, it was KENNEDY's conclusion that this handwritten notation did not apply to the above-cited paragraph but, instead, applied to an unrelated matter of interest to local authorities appearing on page 2 of the memorandum.

At the conclusion of interview, Mr. KENNEDY stated that in retrospect, the information concerning MARTIN LUTHER KING in the memorandum of 3/19/74 should have been acted upon.

- 2\* -

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/31/78

Mr. ROBERT L. BENDER resides at Route 1, Box 388, Chesterfield, Missouri 63017, residence telephone number (314) 391-6513.

Mr. BENDER is presently unemployed, having retired from FBI service on 2/28/77. Prior to his retirement he was assigned to the St. Louis Field Division of the FBI from 1953 to the date of his retirement. Additionally, he served in the capacity of Field Supervisor in the St. Louis Division of the FBI for approximately nine years prior to and until the date of his retirement. He supervised general criminal matters.

Mr. BENDER was interviewed at the St. Louis FBI Office, at which place he voluntarily appeared.

Mr. BENDER was exhibited sufficient portions of a closed St. Louis file 137-16195 to enable him to identify it as a matter which was at one time under his supervision and assigned to an Agent under his supervision by the name of HOWARD C. KENNEDY.

The file in this instance pertains to one RICHARD F. O'HARA, a former informant of the St. Louis Division of the FBI.

The attention of Mr. BENDER was directed to a memorandum in this file dated 3/19/74 to the SAC, St. Louis, from Special Agent HOWARD C. KENNEDY. This memorandum is identified as serial 5 of the file. Mr. BENDER was permitted to read this memorandum in order to refresh his memory concerning its contents. Although he had no independent recollection of the memorandum or its contents, after reading it he concluded that the memorandum had crossed his desk on or about 3/19/74, as attested to by the appearance of his handwriting on the memorandum. BENDER's attention was further directed to paragraph 2, page 3 of the memorandum, which paragraph begins, "During the fall of 1973....," and ending with "... \$20,000 to kill KING."

Mr. BENDER related that he had no independent recollection of the paragraph in question; however, upon reviewing the entire memorandum dated 3/19/74, he found no evidence that the information contained in the above-cited paragraph was either acted upon or

Interviewed on 7/28/78 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 62-5097

by SAC ROY B. KLACER, JR./nin Date dictated 7/31/78

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2/8/76 Spinaemke

SL 62-5097

disseminated beyond the file in which the memorandum is located. He did note that there is a handwritten notation in his handwriting on page 1 of the memorandum which states, "Notify locals of info re killing." Upon reading the memorandum in detail, it was BENDER's conclusion that this handwritten notation did not apply to the above-cited paragraph but, instead, applied to an unrelated matter of interest to local authorities appearing on page 2 of the memorandum.

Mr. BENDER stated that he has absolutely no recollection as to why the information contained in the above-cited paragraph on page 3 of the memorandum in question was not disseminated or acted upon. He can only assume that such failure was through inadvertence. He can make no judgment whatsoever concerning the credibility of the information as a possible reason for not acting on it. BENDER related, however, that because of his long association with the FBI in St. Louis, he does recall an individual by the name of RUSSELL BYERS as a well-known thief and fence.

At the conclusion of interview, Mr. BENDER stated that in retrospect and in light of today's climate, the information concerning MARTIN LUTHER KING in the memorandum of 3/19/74 should have been acted upon.

- 2\* -

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/31/78

Mr. ROBERT L. BENDER resides at Route 1, Box 388, Chesterfield, Missouri 63017, residence telephone number (314) 391-6518.

Mr. BENDER is presently unemployed, having retired from FBI service on 2/28/77. Prior to his retirement he was assigned to the St. Louis Field Division of the FBI from 1953 to the date of his retirement. Additionally, he served in the capacity of Field Supervisor in the St. Louis Division of the FBI for approximately nine years prior to and until the date of his retirement. He supervised general criminal matters.

Mr. BENDER was interviewed at the St. Louis FBI Office, at which place he voluntarily appeared.

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SL 62-5097

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- 2\* -

JN0003 214 0715Z

RR HQ

DE JN

R 01 2300Z AUG 78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290) ROUTINE

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA); BUDED:

AUGUST 4, 1978.

RE DIRECTOR TELETYPE JULY 28, 1978, CAPTIONED AS ABOVE.

REVIEW OF DEATH RECORDS, STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, AUGUST 1, 1978,  
REFLECTS FORMER JN184-R NOW DECEASED.

BT

2 AUG 78 06 16 z  
RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Serv.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Insp.	_____
Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

1034

*(Handwritten initials)*

REC-50  
EX-125

62-117290-1070

AUG 8 1978

*(Handwritten signature)*

*(Handwritten signature)*

*(Handwritten signature)*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/5/86 BY SP/ma/mc

AUG 23 1978

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- E F T O
- CLEAR

Date 8/4/78

*Cc*  
AIR MAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290)  
ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT  
RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

FROM : SAC, MILWAUKEE (62-1835)(RUG)

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA);  
BUDED: 8/8/78

Re Butel to Milwaukee, dated 8/1/78.

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies each of the following: Milwaukee airtel to Bureau, dated 7/26/78, captioned "MURKIN" (MI 44-388-378), and Milwaukee memo of SA DON H. MARTIN, dated 8/12/68, captioned "MURKIN" (MI 44-388-380).

For information of the Bureau, a review of Milwaukee indices did not reflect any identifiable information with ROBERT FRANKLIN SANDERS, DPOB 11/18/27, Lenoir, North Carolina.

A review of MI 44-388, captioned "MURKIN" from questioned serial, Charlotte airtel to Bureau on 7/17/68, only reflected two communications where ROBERT FRANKLIN SANDERS' name was mentioned. These communications are being furnished as enclosures.

EX-125 REC-50 62-117290-1071

ENCLOSURE

11 AUG 7 1978

② - Bureau (Encs. 4) (RM)  
1 - Milwaukee  
JAS/bjt  
(3)

*2 copies maintained  
- Rm 8988  
RCB*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/18/06 BY SP6 JMK/jmm/mms  
DOC: 9/28/06

Approved: *H/O* Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Time) Per \_\_\_\_\_





MI 44-388

attempt to locate long distance toll records for three calls made from an unknown telephone number, Union Grove, Wisconsin, to the following telephone numbers in Lenoir, North Carolina, on June 11, 1968:

704-758-2908;  
704-754-4930;  
704-758-2100.

On July 23, 1968, WENZEL advised a search had been made of toll call records covering Union Grove, Wisconsin, during the pertinent period, and that said search failed to locate any toll calls reflecting calls to the above numbers. He said that if the calls were made on a collect basis or if a credit card was used, the records would be found in North Carolina.

It is noted that in the original interview with Mrs. FOXIE, she advised that the unknown caller paid for his phone calls and also apparently was calling from a coin-operated telephone.

LEADS

MILWAUKEE DIVISION

At Kenosha, Racine, and Union Grove, Wisconsin

Will conduct credit and criminal checks on the name of ROBERT FRANKLIN SANDERS.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MILWAUKEE (44-388)  
ATTENTION: SA WILLIAM Y. DORAN

DATE: August 12, 1968

FROM : SA DON H. MARTIN

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/5/86 BY [signature]

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Milwaukee airtel to the Bureau, July 26,  
1968.

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA TOLBERT L. GREENWOOD, at Union Grove, Wisconsin:

On August 1, 1968, DUANE PETERSEN, Chief of  
Police, Union Grove Police Department, advised that  
his files reflect no record for ROBERT FRANKLIN SANDERS.  
He stated that a ROBERT ANDERSON, date of birth  
December 13, 1942, of Box 26M, Kansasville, Wisconsin,  
was cited for speeding on September 29, 1967. He  
stated that he is not familiar with anyone by either  
name.

On August 1, 1968, JERRY VETTMAN, Village  
Clerk, Union Grove, advised that his files contain no  
listing for either name.

On August 1, 1968, HERMAN DAHL, Postmaster,  
U. S. Post Office, Union Grove, advised that a ROBERT  
ANDERSON lived on Highway 11 near Union Grove. ANDERSON  
is approximately 40 years of age and has been in the  
area for at least 10 years. He stated that he did not  
know any subscribers by the name of SANDERS. He stated  
that a Negro family by the name of SAUNDERS or SANDERS  
resided at the old Hemp Mill on Highway 11.

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA DON H. MARTIN:

On dates indicated, the following individuals  
caused searches to be made of their respective files  
and advised that they could locate no identifiable reference  
or record for ROBERT FRANKLIN SANDERS:

On August 5, 1968, EDMUND JAKOBOWSKI,  
Records Bureau, Racine, Wisconsin, Police  
Department.

44-388-380

2 - Milwaukee 44-388

62-117290-1071

DHM:ps

(2)

[signature]

[signature]



44-388  
DHM:ps

On August 6, 1968, Lt. ABE TOIGO, Records Bureau, Kenosha, Wisconsin, Police Department.

On August 6, 1968, Deputy JOE KOBALSNIK, Records and Identification, Kenosha County Sheriff's Department, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

On August 6, 1968, GLORIA MITCHELL, Clerk, Credit Bureau of Racine, Inc., Racine, Wisconsin.

On August 6, 1968, Deputy NAT CACCIOTTI, Records and Identification, Racine County Sheriff's Department, Racine, Wisconsin.

On August 6, 1968, MARION STEINMETZ, Manager, Credit Bureau of Kenosha, 815 - 57th Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Mr. Robert L. Keuch  
Special Counsel to the Attorney General

August 4, 1978

Director, FBI

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- 1 - Mr. Mintz  
Attn: Mr. Heller
- 1 - Criminal Investigative  
Division  
Attn: Mr. J.J. Jamar
- 1 - Mr. Bailey
- 1 - Mr. Foster

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

Reference is made to your letter dated July 24, 1978,  
captioned "House Select Committee on Assassinations Request  
for Memphis Field Office Files."

In response to your request in referenced letter,  
Memphis Field Office files of five informants, who reported  
on activities of the Invaders, are being processed by the  
Congressional Inquiry Unit (CIU), Records Management Division,  
FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ). As indicated in referenced letter,  
excised versions of these files will be made available only  
to Mr. G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director, HSCA.  
You will be advised when file processing is completed.  
Files involved total 47 sections.

1044  
MR. KEUCH KEPT  
COPIES OF RE-  
PROCESSED FILES  
BLAKEY REVIEWED  
FILES 9/25/78  
8/24  
10/16/78

In referenced letter, you advised you shared the  
FBI's concern regarding the release of these files. Based  
on this concern and believing your position to be sound, a  
representative of the CIU, subsequent to receipt of referenced  
letter, informally furnished you a list of points against  
making these files available.

On July 27, 1978, you advised that you reviewed our  
arguments and found them persuasive, but still believed the  
decision as outlined in referenced letter was the best course  
of action in this matter. However, you desired to use our  
arguments in responding to letter to the Attorney General from  
Congressman Louis B. Stokes, Chairman, HSCA, dated July 5, 1978.  
You asked that this information be furnished you on a formal  
basis.

In accordance with your request, the following points  
derived from decisions at FBIHQ and a review of Congressman  
Stokes' letter dated July 5, 1978, are submitted:

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSURE

JTA:mel  
(7)

SEE NOTE PAGE 6

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/15/86 BY BK [signature]

MAILED 7  
AUG 7 1978  
FBI

Mr. Robert L. Keuch  
Special Counsel to the Attorney General

1. As stated in our letter to Congressman Stokes dated June 13, 1978, if it becomes general knowledge that FBI informant files are being opened to outside parties, informant privilege is threatened and our informant development program can be severely hampered. Despite the HSCA's statement in the letter from Congressman Stokes that it is not seeking the informants' identities at this time, this is not the central issue in point. The central issue is the principle of opening a field office informant file to outside parties.

2. The HSCA was provided access to FBIHQ files concerning informants who reported on the Invaders. Although the HSCA feels these were administrative in nature, the policy of the Bureau at that time required that all information of a substantive nature be furnished to FBIHQ. Data such as informant's travel, amount of payments and a summary of background material are examples of such information provided to FBIHQ. Therefore, FBIHQ feels that its files contain significant information concerning the operation of any informant.

3. All information of substance concerning the Invaders organization furnished by these informants would be reported in the Invaders file at FBIHQ. The HSCA has had access to this file since December, 1977. The HSCA has shown no interest in reviewing the Memphis Field Office file concerning the Invaders, a file which would contain all reports from informants covering the Invaders. It would appear logical to examine this file in detail prior to pressing for files of informants, none of whom were even members of the Invaders at the time of or prior to King's assassination.

4. Review of FBIHQ informant files was restricted to Mr. G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director, HSCA, and not to his staff because, since the staff had access to the Invaders file at FBIHQ, their knowledge of the organization could possibly result in identification of informants through a cross checking of the files. Subsequent to Mr. Blakey's review of the informant files, the FBIHQ Invaders file was delivered to the HSCA on July 6, 1978. Now

Mr. Robert L. Keuch  
Special Counsel to the Attorney General

Mr. Blakey himself has access to the substantive Invaders file, and, similarly, his possible new knowledge could result in source identification if allowed access to field office files.

5. On July 17 and 18, 1978, all five informants were contacted to determine if they would permit disclosure of their identification to the HSCA. All declined.

6. Following his review of FBIHQ files on May 19, 1978, Mr. Blakey told agents present that he found no evidence that any of our informants acted as "agent provocateurs." He furnished notes taken during his review to FBIHQ and requested the notes be maintained by the FBI for possible future use in writing into his final report a paragraph to the effect he had found no evidence that any of these informants had instigated violence. He made no request at that time to review field office informant files. It is possible that Mr. Blakey is satisfied with the review of FBIHQ informant files.

7. The FBI desires to maintain consistency with regard to our position in this matter. In our letter to Congressman Stokes dated June 13, 1978, access to these files was denied. This position was decided upon after careful deliberation between interested divisions in the FBI and, in our view, the HSCA has provided no basis to cause a change of this position.

8. Providing the HSCA access to field office informant files, although excised, could serve as an undesirable precedent for other outside groups to review such files.

9. Because of the large number of excisions in these files to protect the identities of informants, it is unlikely the HSCA will be satisfied with its review, if granted. It will probably ask for fewer excisions and/or the identities of the informants.

Mr. Robert L. Keuch  
Special Counsel to the Attorney General

10. Finally, the letter from Congressman Stokes dated July 5, 1978, has been analyzed at FBIHQ and, generally, it is not believed it contains additional information giving substance to the allegation that our informants acted as "agent provocateurs." Specifically, the following points are noted:

a. The letter states (pages 1 and 4) that the HSCA had access to relevant Bureau personnel and has conducted extensive interview among those who may also be subjects of this aspect of the Committee's investigation. The Committee claims need to review the files to determine if the written record supports or refutes the oral testimony on the relevant questions. However, the letter offers no specific results of interviews of personnel or others concerning the basic allegation. It has not identified any specific individual who has furnished information bearing on this allegation.

b. The letter states (page 4) that based on field interviews with former members of the Invaders and people present in Memphis at the time of the march, the "Invaders were in fact a proximate cause of the violence." This is not new information. The FBIHQ file concerning the Invaders and media reports issued then and more recently verify the Invaders culpability regarding violence during the march. The letter also states (page 4) that "it is universally believed that the Invader followers who caused the violence were paid FBI operatives." The FBI considers this statement a sweeping generalization and again the Committee offers no specific identities of individuals who believed those causing violence were FBI informants. Other than articles appearing in "Newsday" magazine in 1976 and, more recently, statements by Mark Lane and possibly former members of the Invaders, who else shares this belief? The letter from Congressman Stokes identifies no one.

c. This letter states (page 4) that the "Memphis Field Office had prior knowledge of impending violence (a fact memorialized in FBI documents)." This statement implies the FBI knew of violence because its informants

Mr. Robert L. Keuch  
Special Counsel to the Attorney General

were instructed to instigate violence. However, as shown in our files, FBI knowledge of impending violence was based on information from various informants and officials, resulting from a tense situation brought about by the Sanitation Workers Strike, all of which made knowledge of impending violence rather obvious.

d. The letter states (pages 4 and 5) that "members of the Invaders were observed by agents of the FBI exhorting the crowd and readying weapons from signposts (a fact later testified to under oath by these agents)." A review of the Invaders and informant files at FBIHQ disclosed that none of the informants were members of the Invaders at the time violence occurred. Only one of these five informants was ever a member and that was subsequent to the assassination.

e. The letter states (page 5) that "Professor Blakey's review of the files revealed that at least one informant subsequently joined a more violence-prone organization." It is assumed this statement is to demonstrate the informant's propensity for violence. However, the FBI believes that King's death and the rioting that followed intensified racial feeling and tended to make some organizations more violent. Therefore, it is logical that whatever organization our informant was redirected into, it would be more violence prone.



Mr. Robert L. Keuch  
Special Counsel to the Attorney General

NOTE: This matter concerns HSCA request to review Memphis Field Office files of five informants who reported on activities of the Invaders, a Memphis youth gang. The HSCA is trying to resolve an allegation that our informants instigated violence which caused King to return to Memphis where he was killed. We granted access to Headquarters files of the informants to Mr. Blakey only, but denied his subsequent request for similar access to field office files. In letter to the Attorney General dated 7/5/78, Congressman Stokes requested a conference to resolve the issue. Mr. Keuch's letter of 7/24/78 stated his position, which is to provide Blakey access to the files, excising all identifying data. While we agree that Mr. Keuch's position is sound, our arguments against release are being provided him formally, per his request.

Full background and details regarding this matter were set forth in D. Ryan to Mr. Bassett memorandum dated 7/28/78, which recommended a letter to Mr. Keuch be sent listing our arguments against release of the files. This memorandum has been approved by the Director.

APPROVED:	Adm. Serv.	Legal Coun.
	Crim. Inv.	Plan. & Insp.
Director	Ident.	Rec. Mgmt. <i>WLB</i>
Asso. Dir.	Intell.	Tech. Serv.
Dep. AD Adm. <i>mm</i>	Laboratory	Training
Dep. AD Inv.		Public Aff. Off.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

JUL 24 1978

TO : The Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM : *RLK*  
Robert L. Keuch  
Special Counsel to the Attorney General

SUBJECT: House Select Committee on Assassinations  
Request for Memphis Field Office Files

DATE:

RLK:mal

By letter dated July 5, 1978, directed to the Attorney General, the Select Committee has repeated its request for access to the Memphis, Tennessee, field office informant files concerning informants in the Invaders, a black militant group in that city. It is my judgment, as Special Counsel for the Attorney General, that it is necessary to provide access to excised versions of the requested files to Committee Chief Counsel, Professor G. Robert Blakey. I have made an oral request to have the files processed and this is to request that this task be completed as soon as possible and that Professor Blakey be provided access to the processed files.

As you are aware, we had, by letter of June 13, 1978, previously refused the request of the Committee. I concurred in that action and believe it was correct based on the fact that, in our view, the only need demonstrated by the Committee for access to the field office files rested on naked allegations which had been denied in the past. In the Committee's latest demand, presented by the July 5 letter, the Committee, on pages 3, 4, and 5 of the letter, outlines in greater detail the justification for its request. While it may be our judgment that the information set forth by the Committee is not sufficient to substantiate the allegations made about the activities of the informants at issue, it is equally clear that we can no longer take the position that the Committee's legislative and investigative needs are based on pure speculation and/or naked allegations. That being the case, the limited access outlined above should be granted in response to the Committee's request.

I am, of course, aware of the deep concern held by the Bureau concerning any indication that we are willing to disclose informants or release information which will lead to their disclosure. I share that concern and my decision in this matter has been reached only with the greatest possible consideration of that concern.

cc: The Attorney General  
Keuch  
Calhoun

Chrom *Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan*

ENCLOSURE

62-117290-1072



In addition to the further justification submitted by the Committee for their request, I believe there are other factors which support my conclusion that we should provide the limited access discussed. An important factor is that, if the response to the Committee's latest request is a complete refusal, the Committee will issue subpoenas for the informant files. The only way we could respond to such subpoenas other than by providing the requested information would be to seek to have them enjoined by a federal court. While this type of confrontation may ultimately be necessary during the course of the Committee's proceedings, it does not appear wise to take this step without first offering limited access. This is so for two reasons.

First, in contrast to the limited access we will offer the Committee, a subpoena would request access to the informant files by the entire staff thereby increasing the possibility that the informants could be compromised through the knowledge of the members of the staff who have studied the other files in the matter in greater detail and, in any case, would broaden the number of individuals who could learn the identity of the informants.

Secondly, if we are to prevail in the litigation, a possibility which, in my judgment, is remote given the subject matter of the Committee's inquiry and the allegations and information that formed the basis of their request, we can only win if we show a reasonable posture to the court. An absolute refusal to comply would not do that. An attempt to meet the Committee's needs while protecting our interests by providing limited access to excised files would do that.

Further support for the procedure of providing limited access stems from the very nature of the Committee's investigation. Unlike the normal Congressional investigation and/or lawsuit, the Bureau and the Department of Justice are targets or subjects of the investigation. Under such circumstances our obligation to be as cooperative as reasonably possible with the Congress is obvious. The public conception of our cooperation is going to be a very important factor in the acceptance or lack of acceptance of the Committee's efforts and determinations in these investigations. To put ourselves in a posture of confrontation with the Committee over this particular issue without first attempting some accommodation of competing interests would only serve to revive all the allegations and criticisms of us and our actions concerning the assassinations.

It is regrettable but inescapable that the timing of this demand by the Committee makes our decisions much more subject to public comment and criticism. The present interest in, and repeated stories related to, the allegations in the case of Mr. Rowe makes this one of the worst times to come to a point of absolute refusal in the face of the justifications advanced by the Committee. If and when we reach the ultimate confrontation over the possible disclosure of informants, our position will be extremely strengthened by any steps we can take consistent with our needs to protect our informants to provide the Committee with necessary evidence and information. That balance, at least at this stage, is best struck by offering the limited access under discussion.

Since the Committee's last request was directed personally to the Attorney General by the Chairman of the Committee, the Committee is preparing for public hearings in the near future, and has delayed issuing subpoenas for these materials based on my representations that we were making immediate efforts to respond, we should not delay our response to the Committee. Therefore, I am sending a copy of this request to the Attorney General. If the Bureau disagrees with my determination and decides not to comply with my decision, your response should be directed to the Attorney General so this matter can be resolved quickly.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division  
Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch  
Director, FBI

August 8, 1978

- 1 - Mr. Mintz  
attn: Mr. Heller
- 1 - Mr. Bailey
- 1 - Mr. Foster

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

Reference is made to letter to the Attorney General from G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director, HSCA, dated August 2, 1978, which, in connection with the HSCA's investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., requested delivery of criminal arrest records of John Larry Ray and Jerry W. Ray.

Enclosed are an original and one copy of a memorandum in response to referenced HSCA letter. It is requested that you furnish a copy of the enclosed memorandum to the HSCA.

Enclosures (2)

62-117290

JTA:pfm (6)

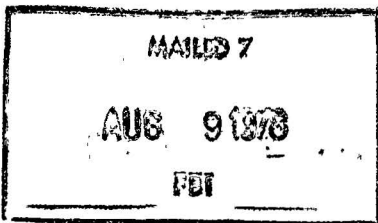
NOTE: Access to Identification Division records of John and Jerry Ray was provided based on HSCA request of 3-9-77. These individuals are brothers of James Earl Ray.

EX-136

REC-45 62 117290 - 1073

AUG 10 1978

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/5/86 BY [signature]

Handwritten initials 'me'

MAIL ROOM

1 - Mr. Mintz  
Attn: Mr. Heller  
1 - Mr. Bailey  
1 - Mr. Foster

August 8, 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

Reference is made to letter to the Attorney General from G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director, HSCA, dated August 2, 1978, which, in connection with the HSCA's investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., requested delivery of criminal arrest records of John Larry Ray and Jerry W. Ray.

This letter is to confirm that records requested in referenced letter were delivered on August 2, 1978, to HSCA Staff Member Dean B. Webb at FBI Headquarters. This letter completes response to HSCA request of August 2, 1978.

62-117290

*JTA*  
JTA:pfm (6)

ORIGINAL AND ONE SENT TO ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL,  
CRIMINAL DIVISION, ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT L. KEUCH.

NOTE: See Director, FBI, letter to Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch, dated August 8, 1978, captioned as above.

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM

*Hue/ce/est/pta*  
62-117290-10  
NW 55004 DocId:32989737 Page 77

FBI/DOJ

LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN

RICHARDSON PREYER, N.C.  
WALTER E. FAUNTROY, D.C.  
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE, CALIF.  
CHRISTOPHER JADODD, CONN.  
HAROLD D. FORD, TENN.  
FLOYD J. FITHIAN, IND.  
ROBERT W. EOGAR, PA.

SAMUEL L. WIRE, MD  
STEWART MCKINNEY, CONN.  
CHARLES W. WINE, NEBR.  
HAROLD W. WYER, MICH.

## Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

August 2, 1978

(202) 225-4624

The Honorable Griffin B. Bell  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch  
Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division, Room 2113

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

By letter dated March 9, 1977 to the Attorney General it was requested that the Federal Bureau of Investigation provide arrest records on certain individuals.

It is now requested that the Federal Bureau of Investigation deliver to the House Select Committee on Assassinations the criminal arrest records of the following individuals, as per the March 9, 1977 request:

- a. John Larry Ray  
d.o.b. February 14, 1931
- b. Jerry W. Ray  
d.o.b. July 16, 1935

Your prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



G. Robert Blakey  
Chief Counsel and Director

cc: Ron Heller

GRB:ghy

40 2 2 1978

62-117290-115

Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division  
Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch  
Director, FBI

August 8, 1978

- 1 - Legal Counsel Division  
Attn: Mr. Heller
- 1 - Mr. Bailey
- 1 - Mr. Foster

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

Reference is made to the letter to the Attorney General from G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director, HSCA, dated July 14, 1978, which, in connection with the HSCA's investigation into the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., requested that the FBI contact an informant who had furnished information regarding Russell George Byers and inquire as to (1) whether he would submit to interview by Committee, and (2) execute a waiver releasing all his Headquarters and field office informant files to the HSCA.

Enclosed are an original and one copy of a memorandum in response to the above-referenced HSCA letter. It is requested that you deliver a copy of this memorandum to the HSCA.

Enclosures (2)

62-117290

B:pjm (6)

NOTE: By teletype to Chicago, 7-25-78, Chicago was requested to contact former SL 3167-C and inquire as to points set forth in HSCA letter referenced above.

By airtel to Bureau, 7-30-78, Chicago advised that attempts had been made to contact SL 3167-C, identified as Richard Francis O'Hara. Contacting Agent arranged for meeting with O'Hara on 7-27-78; however, on that date, O'Hara refused to talk with Agent without his attorney being present.

On 7-28-78, the Agent arranged for a meeting between O'Hara, his attorney, and the Agent. O'Hara did not appear at the meeting against the advice of his attorney. The attorney stated that he could not convince O'Hara that the FBI was not planning to cause some kind of a problem for him. The attorney gave no indication that O'Hara had revealed to him the confidential relationship that had existed between him and the FBI, and, for this reason, no further attempts were made to contact O'Hara.

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
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- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO. . .

MAIL ROOM

FBI/DOJ



HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

On 7-31-78, Michael Eberhardt, HSCA Staff Member, was orally advised that the FBI had been unable to question the informant concerning the two points in above-referenced letter due to his unwillingness to discuss anything with the FBI.

1 - Legal Counsel Division  
Attn: Mr. Heller  
1 - Mr. Bailey  
1 - Mr. Foster

August 8, 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

Reference is made to the letter to the Attorney General from G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director, HSCA, dated July 14, 1978, which, in connection with the HSCA's investigation into the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., requested that the FBI contact an informant who had furnished information regarding Russell George Byers and inquire as to (1) whether he would submit to interview by Committee, and (2) execute a waiver releasing all his Headquarters and field office informant files to the HSCA.

This memorandum is to confirm a conversation between HSCA Staff Member Michael Eberhardt and Special Agent Tron W. Brekke on July 31, 1978, during which Mr. Eberhardt was informed that the FBI had been unable to pose the two questions set forth above to the former St. Louis informant due to his adamant refusal to meet with or talk to the contacting Agent.

In view of the above, no further action is being taken by the FBI to contact the former informant.

62-117290

*July 20, 1978*  
TWB:pjm (6)

ORIGINAL AND ONE SENT TO ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL,  
CRIMINAL DIVISION, ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT L. KEUCH.

NOTE: See Director, FBI, letter to Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch, dated August 8, 1978, captioned as above.

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Asst. Dir.:  
Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

*MLW*  
MAIL ROOM  HNS/DR/GSF/ATR

~~DUPLICATE YELLOW~~

*62 117290 11/1*

*2/16/80 Spinaerue*

)9002 2021914

RR HQ

DE SL

R 211542Z JUL 78

FROM ST. LOUIS (62-5097) (C)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA).

RE BUTEL TO KANSAS CITY, LOS ANGELES, AND ST. LOUIS JULY 18, 1978.

PER RE BUREAU TELETYPE FORMER SL 1215-C WAS INTERVIEWED AND ADVISED THAT HE DID NOT DESIRE TO BE INTERVIEWED OR CONTACTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BY ANYONE FROM HSCA. FORMER SL 1215-C WAS ADVISED OF ALL OF THE CONTENTS IN RE BUREAU TELETYPE AND WAS NOTIFIED THAT FBI WOULD DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO PROTECT HIS IDENTITY, HOWEVER HIS FILE COULD BE SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL SUBPOENA

ST. LOUIS INDICES REVIEW AND FILE CHECK SHOWS ALL ST. LOUIS FILES RE FORMER SL 1215-C HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

BT

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Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

21 JUL 78 19 37z

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

1035

EX-136  
REC 61 62-117290-1075

22 AUG 7 1978

10  
AUG 14 1978

4 JTB 4/20  
JTB AP

54 AUG 24 1978 RECORDS CC 137-6583

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1/18/00 BY SP/AC/MLG

Unrecorded Copy Filed in 137-6583-

KC0003 2002138Z

RR HQ

DE KC

R 192100Z JUL 78

FM KANSAS CITY (175-64)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) (ROUTINE)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

REBUTEL JULY 18, 1978. 1035

KANSAS CITY FILE 137-4907 RELATING TO ALEXANDER GEORGE BEN EDMONDSON WAS DESTROYED DURING ROUTINE FILE DESTRUCTION JANUARY 7, 1978 AND INDICES PURGED.

INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM SPECIAL AGENT FAMILIAR WITH EDMONDSON INVESTIGATION REVEALS EDMONDSON FORMER TOP TEN FUGITIVE, HAD ESCAPED FROM JEFFERSON CITY, MO.

IN EARLY 1960'S AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY LOCATED IN CANADA.

AS FBIHQ IS AWARE, DURING MURKIN INVESTIGATION,

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Serv.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
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Intell.	_____
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Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

19 JUL 78 21 45Z  
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FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten mark]*

REC-50

62-117290-1076

SI-126

AUG 4 1978

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/5/86 BY BK/SP/MP/ML

*[Handwritten signature]*  
JMA/AR

54110001978  
RECORDS: CC 137-7738.

LMR

AUG 14 1978

Unrecorded Copy Filed in 137-7738-

PAGE TWO KC 175-64 UNCLAS E F T O

EDMONDSON WAS INTERVIEWED RELATIVE TO THE EASE WITH WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL COULD OBTAIN FALSE IDENTITIES IN CANADA BASED UPON HIS OWN EXPERIENCE AS A FUGITIVE RESIDING IN THAT COUNTRY.

REVIEW OF RECORDS, JEFFERSON CITY PENITENTIARY, REVEAL EDMONDSON WAS PAROLED JUNE 1, 1972, AND RECEIVED FINAL DISCHARGE SEPTEMBER 5, 1972. CURRENT WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN.

BT

LA0369 2022052Z

PP HQ

DE LA

P 212052Z JUL 78

FM LOS ANGELES (62-7841) (P) (3) COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) ROUTINE

21 JUL 78 20 57z

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FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir.	
Dep. AD Adm.	
Dep. AD Inv.	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Intell.	
Laboratory	
Legal Coun.	
Plan. & Insp.	
Rec. Mgnt.	
Tech. Servs.	
Training	
Public Affs. Off.	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA).

RE BUREAU TELETYPE, JULY 13, 1978. 1035

ON JULY 19, 1978, JOHN MARSHALL BEFFEL, JR., USING THE NAME JOOHN MARSHALL ROBERTS, FORMER LA 7932-PC, WAS CONTACTED. HE RESIDES AT 5400 MOCO LANE, LOS ANGELES, TELEPHONE (213) 463-0941, AND IS EMPLOYED AT AUSSTIN AND ASSOCIATES REALTORS, 1680 NORTH VINE, SUITE 309, HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA, TELEPHONE (213) 467-6181.

BEFFEL WAS ADVISED OF THE NATURE OF THE INQUIRY AS

SI-126 REC-50 62-117290-1077

OUTLINED IN REFERENCED TELETYPE, AND HE STATED HE DOES NOT, REPEAT NOT, WANT HIS 137 FILE PROVIDED TO THE HSCA. BEFFEL DID STATE, HOWEVER, THAT APPROXIMATELY THREE OR FOUR MONTHS AGO HE WAS INTERVIEWED IN LOS ANGELES BY TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO HE RECALLS REPRESENTED THEEMSELVES AS

AUG 4 1978

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/18/06 BY [signature]

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RECORDS cc 137-30709

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PAGE TWO (LA 62-7841) UNCLAS E F T O

INVESTIGATORS FOR THE HSCA. HE SSTATED THEY DISPLAYED  
PHOTOGRAPHS OF JAMES EEARL RAY AND ASKED VARIOUS QUESTIONS  
REGARDING THE KING ASSASSINATION.

LOS ANGELES WILL PROVIDE ONE COPY OF BEFFEL'S FILE,  
LA 137-10611, AS REQUESTED BY THE BUREAU.

BT

#

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division  
Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch  
Director, FBI

August 4, 1978

- 1 - Legal Counsel Division  
Attn: Mr. Heller
- 1 - Mr. W. L. Bailey
- 1 - Mr. G. J. Foster

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

Reference is made to the letter to the Attorney General from G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director, HSCA, dated July 27, 1978, which requested, in connection with the HSCA's investigation into the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., assassination, that delivery be made of photographs of items of evidence labelled Q-19 and Q-25 found in the bulky exhibit folders of that case.

Enclosed are an original and one copy of a memorandum in response to the above-referenced letter. It is requested that you deliver a copy of the memorandum to the HSCA.

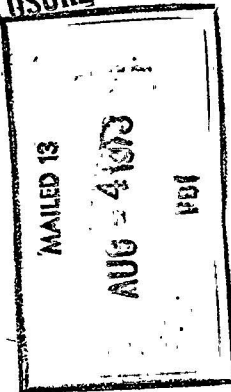
Enclosures (2)

TWB:pfm (6)

62-117290

NOTE: On 8/2/78, Gerald Hamilton, HSCA, requested expeditious handling of above request. Same date, one copy of the photographs of evidentiary items Q-19 and Q-25 "The Commercial Appeal" of April 4, 1968, and York Arms sales slip, respectively, were delivered to HSCA Staff Member Dean Webb.

ENCLOSURE



REC-34

62-117290-1078

EX-110

22 AUG 8 1978

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
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- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM

HNB/or/9/2/82

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1/18/86 BY [signature]

[signature]

FBI/DOJ



- 1 - Legal Counsel Division  
Attn: Mr. Heller
- 1 - Mr. W. L. Bailey
- 1 - Mr. G. J. Foster

August 4, 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

Reference is made to the letter to the Attorney General from G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director, HSCA, dated July 27, 1978, which requested, in connection with the HSCA's investigation into the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., assassination, that delivery be made of photographs of items of evidence labelled Q-19 and Q-25 found in the bulky exhibit folders of that case.

This memorandum is to advise that the two photographs mentioned above were delivered to Dean Webb, HSCA Staff Member, on August 2, 1978. This completes the response to the above-referenced HSCA letter.

*JWB*  
TWB:pfm (6)

62-117290

ORIGINAL AND ONE SENT TO ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL,  
CRIMINAL DIVISION, ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT L. KEUCH.

NOTE: See Director, FBI, letter to Assistant Attorney General,  
Criminal Division, Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch, dated  
August 4, 1978, captioned as above.

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
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- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

*Enc to let AAG CD 8-4-78*

*62-117290-1078*

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ENCLOSURE

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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8/1/78

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI MILWAUKEE ROUTINE

BT

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/5/86 BY Spmaence

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

BUDED AUGUST 8, 1978.

THE HSCA, WHICH IS INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATIONS OF JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BY LETTER DATED JULY 17, 1978, REQUESTED ACCESS TO ALL BUFILES AND SUBFILES PERTAINING TO ROBERT FRANKLIN SANDERS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE MURKIN FILES FROM THE MILWAUKEE FIELD OFFICE. THE LETTER NOTED THAT SANDERS IS REFERENCED IN THE BUREAU MURKIN FILE 44-38861-4669.

BUFILES REFLECT THAT SERIAL 4699 IS AN AIRTEL FROM CHARLOTTE TO BUREAU DATED JULY 17, 1968, AND CAPTIONED "MURKIN". A COPY OF THIS AIRTEL WAS ALSO SENT TO MILWAUKEE, FIELD OFFICE FILE 44-388. THE REFERENCED COMMUNICATIONS IN THIS.

HB/DR/1/19

RCB:PFM {2}

8/1/78 EX-13 8988/4

3685

- 1 - MR. MINTZ  
ATTN: MR. HELLER
- 1 - MR. BAILEY
- 1 - MR. FOSTER
- 1 - MR. BUSCHING

REC-34

62-117290-1079

AUG 8 1978

AUG 23 1978

2

CONTINUATION SHEET

PAGE ~~7/777~~ E\*DE HQ UNCLAS

AIRTEL EXPLAINED HSCA'S INTEREST IN SANDERS.

SANDERS WAS BORN NOVEMBER 18, 1927, AT LENOIR, NORTH  
CAROLINA.

IN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE REQUEST, MILWAUKEE SHOULD REVIEW  
INDICES TO IDENTIFY ALL RETRIEVABLE INFORMATION IDENTIFIABLE  
WITH SANDERS AND FURNISH FBI HEADQUARTERS (FBIHQ) TWO LEGIBLE  
COPIES OF EACH SERIAL.

ALL MATERIAL SHOULD BE FORWARDED BY COVER AIRTEL TO FBIHQ,  
ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION.

BT

CONFIDENTIAL

SI0033 1942055

R HQ

DE SI

R 132055Z JUL 78

FM SPRINGFIELD (62-2567) (P).

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO ST. LOUIS DATED JULY 12, 1978.

INDICES SEARCH REGARDING RHONDA GIBSON, ALSO KNOWN AS VERONICA STROTHERS, DATE OF BIRTH JULY 19, 1947, NEGATIVE.

BT

13 JUL 78 20 59z  
RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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Director's Sec'y	_____

*nr 9/12/78*  
Emp Sec & Spec  
Inq Section  
3826 JEH TL# 231

ST-137

REC-66

62-117290-1081

23 AUG 1 1978

*Bufile*

53 AUG 24 1978

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/5/86 BY *spmac/ml*

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- 1 - Mr. Mintz  
Attn: Mr. Heller
- 1 - Mr. Bailey
- 1 - Mr. Foster

July 14, 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

Former Special Agent LeRoy W. Sheets was interviewed by the HSCA on May 22, 1978, and thereafter furnished a memorandum reflecting that interview as follows:

"On May 22, 1978, LeRoy W. Sheets, Retired Special Agent, FBI, 2725-37 East Fir, Mount Vernon, Washington, was interviewed by a team of interviewers from the Select Committee on Assassinations, U. S. House of Representatives, at Washington, D. C. This team of interviewers consisted of Thomas Sacco, Staff Counsel, Jerome A. Cullings, Staff Investigator, and Robin Lindley, Attorney/Researcher.

The questions propounded were general in nature to determine if the FBI conducted a thorough investigation to determine if a conspiracy existed in the murder of Martin Luther King. They were assured by Sheets that every effort was made to identify the killer or killers of King and that at all times the question of a possible conspiracy was considered during the course of the investigation. Sheets emphasized that all leads were followed to their logical conclusion and at no time was the intensity of the investigation lessened during the period of time he was assigned to the case.

Questions were asked as to what procedure was followed when certain leads were developed. They were told that all leads regardless of how insignificant they might seem were investigated to their fullest to identify the killer or killers of King. It was pointed out that the existence of a conspiracy was considered at all times by the FBI in its investigation.

AUG 30 1978

During the course of the investigation ~~Cullings~~ attempted to elicit information concerning the COINTEL program as it related to the King case. He was advised that Sheets was not there to discuss the COINTEL program and would not answer any questions regarding same.

TWB:pfm (6) ORIGINAL AND ONE SENT TO ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, 62-117290 CRIMINAL DIVISION, ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT L. KEUCH.

NOTE: See Director, FBI, letter to Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch, dated July 14, 1978, captioned as above.

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
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- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM

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 FBI  
 AUG 24 1978  
 MAIL ROOM

REC-72 62-11729-1081X7

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1-CRM  
1-CIU  
TWR:pfm - 82



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

July 14, 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

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During the course of the investigation Cullings attempted to elicit information concerning the COINTEL program as it related to the King case. He was advised that Sheets was not there to discuss the COINTEL program and would not answer any questions regarding same."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/5/86 BY SP/maem/ra

File Copy

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

DATE: August 24, 1978

FROM : Director, FBI (62-117290)

ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT L. KEUCH

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)Reference is made to \_\_\_\_\_ memorandum dated \_\_\_\_\_  
(your file \_\_\_\_\_).There is enclosed one copy of <sup>a letterhead</sup> ~~the report of Special Agent~~ memorandum \_\_\_\_\_  
dated 7-14-78 at Washington, D. C.A.  This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.B.  The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.C.  The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.D.  Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.E.  Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.F.  This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.G.  This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.H.  This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

Enc. (1)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/16 BY SP-1 MAC/MSJWB  
A

1 - Mr. G. J. Foster  
1 - Mr. D. Ryan

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

July 20, 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

On July 13, 1978, Special Agent (SA) David Ryan was interviewed by Mr. Kenneth S. McHargh, Attorney, Mr. Ronald B. Adrine, Attorney, and Ms. Barbara Robinson, Researcher, all of the staff of the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA). The interview lasted from 10:06 a.m. until 12:46 p.m., and was held in the annex of the House Office Building at 3rd and D Streets, Northwest, Washington, D. C.

Mr. McHargh advised the purpose of the interview was to develop information relating to the security investigation of Martin Luther King, Jr., and particularly as regards so-called Cointelpro-type activities which were taken by the FBI in an effort to discredit or to neutralize King.

SA Ryan advised the committee members that he was not assigned to the security investigation of King and, although during the period of the King security investigation he was assigned to Cointelpro-type operations, these did not involve King and to Ryan's knowledge he never was involved in approving or perfecting any operation relating to King. The Committee staff members exhibited to Ryan a number of documents relating to the King investigation and Cointelpro activities. They were particularly interested in a document opening the Cointelpro effort against black extremists which was prepared by Ryan and why the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) was included as a target in this Cointelpro effort. They were advised SA Ryan had initiated the original opening instructions in the Black Extremist Cointelpro upon instruction and the SCLC was included as a target in this program based on instructions he received from either the Racial Intelligence Section or other officials of the Intelligence Division whom he was unable to specifically recall. Ryan was questioned as to why his name was included as receiving a copy of a memorandum relating to a Cointelpro action directed against King in 1968. Ryan advised the staff

REC-126 62-117290-1081X6

MAILED 19  
AUG 25 1978

22 AUG 28 1978

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
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- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/2/86 BY SP/mae/mie

1 - Personnel file, SA David Ryan

DR:lfj/f

SEP 13 1978

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

WLB  
H2

010-57 (en)  
1-AAG-Crim. Div  
1-CIV-412  
Twe: pfm  
8-24-78



House Select Committee on Assassinations  
U. S. House of Representatives (HSCA)

members that as indicated by the memorandum, a copy was disseminated to him because at the time he was the coordinator for the Intelligence Division's "Mass Media Program." The staff members exhibited great interest in this program and its purpose and administration was described to them in some detail.

The staff members persistently questioned Ryan regarding his opinion, "feelings," or views as relates to the FBI's past investigation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Ryan advised he did not believe his opinions were significant or important to the Committee's inquiries or mandate, but the staff members responded that they were trying to develop the atmosphere in which the investigation was conducted. Ryan advised in his mind there was no question that King warranted investigation because of his close association with a significant communist and because, as the Bureau subsequently accidentally determined, of his hypocritical and apparent opportunist character. The staff members acknowledged that they had read considerable information regarding both King's association with a key communist and his private life. They were advised by Ryan that he would not pursue the former because of the sensitivities involved, nor the latter because he felt enough had been said already relating to King's moral activities and philosophy.

The staff members asked a number of questions seeking Ryan's knowledge or opinion relating to the continued investigation of King. Ryan stated that he had no opinion regarding the duration of the investigation except to point out that the FBI, based on pressures from the White House and the Department of Justice, was, during the 1960s, carefully following all areas of possible violence, including demonstrations, and thus they would be interested in any area where King was engaging in activities which would involve large demonstrations.

SA Ryan is of the belief, based on the questions asked and the comments solicited, that the three staff members of the HSCA were endeavoring to substantiate their already-developed conclusions relating to FBI activities in connection with the investigation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Among

House Select Committee on Assassinations  
U. S. House of Representatives (HSCA)

others, these are: (1) that J. Edgar Hoover had a personal vendetta seeking to discredit and neutralize King and that the Director of the FBI abused his authority in this regard; (2) that the FBI improperly furnished information relating to the private life of Martin Luther King, Jr., to media and private individuals; (3) that the FBI continued its security investigation for a prolonged duration; (4) that the FBI disseminated false and misleading information in an effort to discredit King; (5) that the activities of the FBI in connection with the security investigation of King contributed to an atmosphere which resulted in the King assassination.

Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division  
Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch  
Director, FBI

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

July 14, 1978

- 1 - Mr. Mintz  
Attn: Mr. Heller
- 1 - Mr. Bailey
- 1 - Mr. Foster

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

Reference is made to letter to the Attorney General from G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director, HSCA, dated June 5, 1978, which requested, in connection with the HSCA's investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., delivery of certain material from the files of the FBI.

Enclosed are an original and one copy of a memorandum in response to the above letter. It is requested that you furnish a copy of the enclosed memorandum to the HSCA.

Enclosures (2)

62-117290

JMN:prf (6)

NOTE: FBI information furnished Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSC) was requested in January, 1978. This material was provided the FBI on February 6, 1978, by SSC and processed for HSCA access. June 5, 1978, request asked for delivery. Legat access folder maintained at FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ).

Memphis Field Office files/King Security case, Atlanta Field Office files/King Security Case, Sanitation Workers Strike, and Invaders files have all previously been prepared for HSCA access at FBIHQ.

ST-126 REG-33 62-117290-1081X2

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
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- Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

607  
JUL 18 1978

AUG 28 1978

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/5/86 BY SP/mae/...

MR. Heller  
Rm 3659

*Handwritten initials*  
FBI/DOJ

1 - Mr. Mintz  
Attn: Mr. Heller  
1 - Mr. Bailey  
1 - Mr. Foster

July 14, 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

Reference is made to letter to the Attorney General from G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director, HSCA, dated June 5, 1978, which requested, in connection with the HSCA's investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., delivery of certain material from the files of the FBI.

On June 29, 1978, HSCA Staff Member Michael Eberhardt orally restricted the time periods of delivery for the Memphis and Atlanta Field Offices to March 1, 1968, through April 15, 1968, and September 1, 1967 through April 15, 1968, respectively.

This is to confirm delivery of the Memphis Field Office file/King Security Case to HSCA Staff Member Mark Flanagan on July 7, 1978; Atlanta Field Office files/King Security Case to HSCA Staff Member Lisa Berlow on July 12, 1978; Sanitation Workers Strike files to HSCA Staff Member Lisa Berlow on June 28, 1978; Invaders files to HSCA Staff Member Mark Flanagan on July 6, 1978; and Senate Select Committee on Intelligence material to HSCA Staff Member Lisa Berlow on June 16, 1978.

It was also requested that the Bureau check the status of three earlier requests. The HSCA was notified that these requests were completed and ready for HSCA access at FBI Headquarters.

Where information is not provided in response to the above, it is either not retrievable or is not being furnished pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding.

This letter completes response to HSCA request of June 5, 1978.

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. 62-117290  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: JMN:PEM (6) JLC  
Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_ ORIGINAL AND ONE SENT TO ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL,  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_ CRIMINAL DIVISION, ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT L. KEUCH.  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_ NOTE: See Director, FBI, letter to the Assistant Attorney General,  
Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_ Criminal Division, Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch, dated  
Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_ July 14, 1978, captioned as above.  
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Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_ MAIL ROOM  HB/DK  
62-117290-1  
ENCLOSURE

LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIR  
RICHARDSON PRESTON, MISS.  
WALTER E. SAUNDERS, D.C.  
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE, CALIF.  
CHRISTOPHER J. DOOL, CONN.  
FRANCIS D. FORD, TENN.  
FLOYD J. PITTMAN, IND.  
ROBERT W. EDGAR, PA.

SAMUEL L. DRYWAL, OHIO  
STEWART E. MCKINNEY, CONN.  
CHARLES THOMAS, NEBR.  
THOMAS E. SAWYER, MICH.

Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

333 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

June 5, 1978

Letter #1

The Honorable Griffin B. Bell  
Attorney General of the United States  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C. 20530

Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch  
Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division, Room 2113

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

In connection with the Select Committee's investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the following FBI files previously prepared for access are now requested for delivery:

- A. Memphis Field Office Files/King Security Case
- B. Atlanta Field Office Files/King Security Case
- C. The Sanitation Strike
- D. The Invaders
- E. Senate Intelligence Committee Materials

In addition, it is also requested that the Bureau check the status of our earlier requests in connection with the following:

- 1) All personal and confidential files related to Samuel B. Kyles.
- 2) Response in reference to the Memphis Field Office files on Calvin Taylor and Ronald Ivy.
- 3) Memo dated 8/25/67 from the Director of the FBI to 23 SACs initiating the Black Nationalist COINTELPRO Program (not included in the COINTEL response previously received).

62-117290

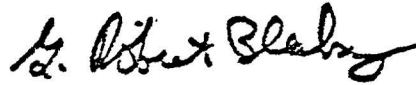
TREAT AS-7713  
ORIGINAL

62-117290-15  
ENCLOSURE

The Honorable Griffin B. Bell  
June 5, 1978  
Page 2

Your prompt attention in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



G. Robert Blakey  
Chief Counsel and Director

GRB:bmd

cc: Danny Coulson

File Copy

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

DATE: August 24, 1978

FROM : Director, FBI (62-117290)

ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT L. KEUCH

SUBJECT: 0  
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

Reference is made to \_\_\_\_\_ memorandum dated \_\_\_\_\_  
(your file \_\_\_\_\_).

There is enclosed one copy of a letterhead ~~extra report of Special Agent~~ memorandum  
dated 7-20-78 at Washington, D. C.

A.  This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B.  The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C.  The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D.  Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E.  Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F.  This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G.  This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H.  This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

Enc. (1)

NOT RECORDED  
23 SEP 15 1978

ENCLOSURE

248832  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1/5/86 BY [signature]

56 SEP 22 1978



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

July 20, 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

On July 13, 1978, Special Agent (SA) David Ryan was interviewed by Mr. Kenneth S. McHargh, Attorney, Mr. Ronald B. Adrine, Attorney, and Ms. Barbara Robinson, Researcher, all of the staff of the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA). The interview lasted from 10:06 a.m. until 12:46 p.m., and was held in the annex of the House Office Building at 3rd and D Streets, Northwest, Washington, D. C.

Mr. McHargh advised the purpose of the interview was to develop information relating to the security investigation of Martin Luther King, Jr., and particularly as regards so-called Cointelpro-type activities which were taken by the FBI in an effort to discredit or to neutralize King.

SA Ryan advised the Committee members that he was not assigned to the security investigation of King and, although during the period of the King security investigation he was assigned to Cointelpro-type operations, these did not involve King and to Ryan's knowledge he never was involved in approving or perfecting any operation relating to King. The Committee staff members exhibited to Ryan a number of documents relating to the King investigation and Cointelpro activities. They were particularly interested in a document opening the Cointelpro effort against black extremists which was prepared by Ryan and why the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) was included as a target in this Cointelpro effort. They were advised SA Ryan had initiated the original opening instructions in the Black Extremist Cointelpro upon instruction and the SCLC was included as a target in this program based on instructions he received from either the Racial Intelligence Section or other officials of the Intelligence Division whom he was unable to specifically recall. Ryan was questioned as to why his name was included as receiving a copy of a memorandum relating to a Cointelpro action directed against King in 1968. Ryan advised the staff

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62-117290





House Select Committee on Assassinations  
U. S. House of Representatives (HSCA)

members that as indicated by the memorandum, a copy was disseminated to him because at the time he was the coordinator for the Intelligence Division's "Mass Media Program." The staff members exhibited great interest in this program and its purpose and administration was described to them in some detail.

The staff members persistently questioned Ryan regarding his opinion, "feelings," or views as relates to the FBI's past investigation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Ryan advised he did not believe his opinions were significant or important to the Committee's inquiries or mandate, but the staff members responded that they were trying to develop the atmosphere in which the investigation was conducted. Ryan advised in his mind there was no question that King warranted investigation because of his close association with a significant communist and because, as the Bureau subsequently accidentally determined, of his hypocritical and apparent opportunist character. The staff members acknowledged that they had read considerable information regarding both King's association with a key communist and his private life. They were advised by Ryan that he would not pursue the former because of the sensitivities involved, nor the latter because he felt enough had been said already relating to King's moral activities and philosophy.

The staff members asked a number of questions seeking Ryan's knowledge or opinion relating to the continued investigation of King. Ryan stated that he had no opinion regarding the duration of the investigation except to point out that the FBI, based on pressures from the White House and the Department of Justice, was, during the 1960s, carefully following all areas of possible violence, including demonstrations, and thus they would be interested in any area where King was engaging in activities which would involve large demonstrations.

SA Ryan is of the belief, based on the questions asked and the comments solicited; that the three staff members of the HSCA were endeavoring to substantiate their already-developed conclusions relating to FBI activities in connection with the investigation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Among

House Select Committee on Assassinations  
U. S. House of Representatives (HSCA)

others, these are: (1) that J. Edgar Hoover had a personal vendetta seeking to discredit and neutralize King and that the Director of the FBI abused his authority in this regard; (2) that the FBI improperly furnished information relating to the private life of Martin Luther King, Jr., to media and private individuals; (3) that the FBI continued its security investigation for a prolonged duration; (4) that the FBI disseminated false and misleading information in an effort to discredit King; (5) that the activities of the FBI in connection with the security investigation of King contributed to an atmosphere which resulted in the King assassination.

Assoc. *JMV* ✓  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

FBI/DOJ

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM : *RLK*  
Robert L. Keuch  
Special Counsel to the Attorney General

SUBJECT: House Select Committee on Assassinations  
Request for Memphis Field Office Files

DATE: JUL 24 1978

RLK:mal

By letter dated July 5, 1978, directed to the Attorney General, the Select Committee has repeated its request for access to the Memphis, Tennessee, field office informant files concerning informants in the Invaders, a black militant group in that city. It is my judgment, as Special Counsel for the Attorney General, that it is necessary to provide access to excised versions of the requested files to Committee Chief Counsel, Professor G. Robert Blakey. I have made an oral request to have the files processed and this is to request that this task be completed as soon as possible and that Professor Blakey be provided access to the processed files.

As you are aware, we had, by letter of June 13, 1978, previously refused the request of the Committee. I concurred in that action and believe it was correct based on the fact that, in our view, the only need demonstrated by the Committee for access to the field office files rested on naked allegations which had been denied in the past. In the Committee's latest demand, presented by the July 5 letter, the Committee, on pages 3, 4, and 5 of the letter, outlines in greater detail the justification for its request. While it may be our judgment that the information set forth by the Committee is not sufficient to substantiate the allegations made about the activities of the informants at issue, it is equally clear that we can no longer take the position that the Committee's legislative and investigative needs are based on pure speculation and/or naked allegations. That being the case, the limited access outlined above should be granted in response to the Committee's request.

I am, of course, aware of the deep concern held by the Bureau concerning any indication that we are willing to disclose informants or release information which will lead to their disclosure. I share that concern and my decision in this matter has been reached only with the greatest possible consideration of that concern.

cc: The Attorney General

*Memorandum to Bureau*  
*7/28/78 JTA:mal*

*4- [Signature]*

62-117290

UG 24 1978 Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

EXP. PROC.

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AUG 10 1978

In addition to the further justification submitted by the Committee for their request, I believe there are other factors which support my conclusion that we should provide the limited access discussed. An important factor is that, if the response to the Committee's latest request is a complete refusal, the Committee will issue subpoenas for the informant files. The only way we could respond to such subpoenas other than by providing the requested information would be to seek to have them enjoined by a federal court. While this type of confrontation may ultimately be necessary during the course of the Committee's proceedings, it does not appear wise to take this step without first offering limited access. This is so for two reasons.

First, in contrast to the limited access we will offer the Committee, a subpoena would request access to the informant files by the entire staff thereby increasing the possibility that the informants could be compromised through the knowledge of the members of the staff who have studied the other files in the matter in greater detail and, in any case, would broaden the number of individuals who could learn the identity of the informants.

Secondly, if we are to prevail in the litigation, a possibility which, in my judgment, is remote given the subject matter of the Committee's inquiry and the allegations and information that formed the basis of their request, we can only win if we show a reasonable posture to the court. An absolute refusal to comply would not do that. An attempt to meet the Committee's needs while protecting our interests by providing limited access to excised files would do that.

Further support for the procedure of providing limited access stems from the very nature of the Committee's investigation. Unlike the normal Congressional investigation and/or lawsuit, the Bureau and the Department of Justice are targets or subjects of the investigation. Under such circumstances our obligation to be as cooperative as reasonably possible with the Congress is obvious. The public conception of our cooperation is going to be a very important factor in the acceptance or lack of acceptance of the Committee's efforts and determinations in these investigations. To put ourselves in a posture of confrontation with the Committee over this particular issue without first attempting some accommodation of competing interests would only serve to revive all the allegations and criticisms of us and our actions concerning the assassinations.

It is regrettable but inescapable that the timing of this demand by the Committee makes our decisions much more subject to public comment and criticism. The present interest in, and repeated stories related to, the allegations in the case of Mr. Rowe makes this one of the worst times to come to a point of absolute refusal in the face of the justifications advanced by the Committee. If and when we reach the ultimate confrontation over the possible disclosure of informants, our position will be extremely strengthened by any steps we can take consistent with our needs to protect our informants to provide the Committee with necessary evidence and information. That balance, at least at this stage, is best struck by offering the limited access under discussion.

Since the Committee's last request was directed personally to the Attorney General by the Chairman of the Committee, the Committee is preparing for public hearings in the near future, and has delayed issuing subpoenas for these materials based on my representations that we were making immediate efforts to respond, we should not delay our response to the Committee. Therefore, I am sending a copy of this request to the Attorney General. If the Bureau disagrees with my determination and decides not to comply with my decision, your response should be directed to the Attorney General so this matter can be resolved quickly.