

SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

4/5/68

SA BRENT W. WARBERG

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
RM

The following investigation was conducted on  
4/5/68 at Columbus, Mississippi, by SA's BRENT W. WARBERG  
and LAWRENCE W. GORMAN:

TOMMY HARROLSON, manager and owner, G and H  
Liggett Rexall Drugstore, gave the following information:

HARROLSON stated that cash-register receipts  
for cash purchases made in his drugstore are automatically  
dated by the cash register. He stated that each cash-  
register receipt carries the title

G & H  
Rexall Drug  
Columbus, Miss.

Following this heading is the date of the purchase and  
below the date of the purchase is the amount of the pur-  
chase.

He stated that each cash-register receipt has  
a number; however, these numbers are immaterial to the  
business of his store. He stated when the numbers reach  
a level which he thinks is high he flips a switch on the  
cash register and the numbers start over. Therefore, the  
numbers mean nothing and no information concerning the  
accounting procedures of the store is filed by these  
numbers.

2 - Jackson  
BW:mif  
(2) *mf*

157-9586-25  
CK CK  
*h*

JN 157-9586

HARROLSON continued that the only other tickets handled by his drugstore are charge tickets, which carry the name G. & H. Liggett Rexall Drugstore, Columbus, Miss. He stated that the date has to be written in by a clerk and the numbers on these receipts go only to 50.

HARROLSON stated that his drugstore does put price tags on some articles. He stated that these price tags are labeled Liggett Rexall, and then the price of the article is written on the price tag and the price tag is put on the article.

He stated sacks in which merchandise is placed do not carry the name of his drugstore. He stated the only other label used by his drugstore is the label which is put on prescriptions and these contain the name G & H Rexall Drugs, Columbus, Mississippi; however, these are not placed on toilet articles.

HARROLSON continued that Liggett Rexall Drugs is a chain operation throughout the South. He stated his drugstore is the only Liggett Rexall Drugs in the state of Mississippi; however, other Liggett Drugs are predominant in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.

HARROLSON was given a description of the unknown subject, and he stated he could not recall having sold any Head and Shoulders shampoo or Palmolive Rapid Shave to any individual answering this description.

SONNY SMITH, clerk, G & H Liggett Rexall Drug Company, stated he could not recall selling any articles to an individual answering the description of the unknown subject.

JN 157-9586

A female clerk is also employed in this store; however, she was presently at lunch and she will be contacted when she arrives back at the store.

ROBERT A. MC PHERSON, Mississippi Wholesale Hardware, Columbus, Miss., stated that he knew of no Compag or Rompage Hardware in and around the area of Columbus. He stated the only way he would be able to check something like this would be through Dun and Bradstreet and even at that he would have to have the name of a city.

Info from WHITNEY STUART:

*Refer*  
MANUEL MARKUS LEVIN resides 1423 Magee Ave., Philadelphia, Penn., born [redacted] at Philadelphia. 5'7", 150 lbs., green eyes, brown hair, entered Ole Miss Law School 1966, currently resides No. 750 Kincannon Dormitory. No disciplinary record. Attended undergraduate school at Penn State where he belonged to the Arab Club, India Association and Hillel Association, all at Penn. State. He drives 1965 Dodge Dart, yellow in color, 4' door, bearing Penn. License 978-OIL.

ALEX HERDER (orig. name given) - at present time there is no such person enrolled at Ole Miss. and records fail reflect anyone by that name ever at Ole Miss, but there is a DAVID ALAN HERKNER who resides 2854 Brighton, Shaker Heights, Ohio, born [redacted] at Cleveland, Ohio, 5'10", 200 pounds, blue eyes, brown hair, he is a senior at Ole Miss. having entered September, 1965. Resides Pine Circle, Oxford. Attended Muskegan located at New Concord, Ohio, 1963-65. Also part time student 1965 at John Carroll University located in University Heights, Ohio. Also attended in 1965 Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, Ohio. Presently on disciplinary probation for having alcoholic beverages on campus. Drives 1961 Chevrolet Convertible, Ohio License EH3357.

MILLER/lsk

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*Quall...*

157-9586-26

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON

DATE: 4-5-68

FROM : SA WILLIAM W. PRICE, JR.

SUBJECT: UNSUB; Shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING  
RM

At 9:15 PM, 4-4-68, the Agent observed that the car of L. E. MATTHEWS, JR.. was not at his home at RFD Florence, Miss. Two pickup trucks, believed to belong to MATTHEWS, were parked at the house, but no automobiles were observed on the premises.

An earlier telephone call to the home of MATTHEWS girl friend, ELAINE SMITH, reflected she was not at home and was not expected until later in the evening. Information previously received reflected that MATTHEWS planned to see his girl friend on the evening of 4-4-68.

At 10:10 PM a telephone call to MATTHEWS residence was answered by a person believed to be his son, who advised that MATTHEWS was not at home, but was expected shortly. The person said that MATTHEWS had been at home during the early part of the evening. It will be noted that information was received by SA KEUTZER on the evening of 4-4-68, that MATTHEWS was at home between six and seven PM.

BILLY CARR, rear of 601 East Leake Street, Clinton, Miss., was contacted at 11:10 PM, 4-4-68, and advised he was in the Clinton area during the afternoon of 4-4-68, had dinner during the early evening, and had been at his home the rest of the evening.

A telephone call to the residence of JAMES M. HOWARD, 2882 Terry Road, Jackson, Miss., telephone #372-8430, was answered by MIKE HOWARD, who advised that CHARLES ROBERT GREENE does not reside at that address, but visits there from time to time. HOWARD said GREENE never spends the night at that address. HOWARD said he did not know the whereabouts of GREENE, had not seen him during the evening, and had no idea where he might be contacted. He said he does not know where GREENE lives.

## LEAD:

Contact CHARLES GREENE at McPHAIL'S Gulf Service Station, West Capitol and Ellis Avenue, and ascertain his whereabouts during the pertinent period of 4-4-68. Also definitely ascertain his present residence address.



5010-108-01

- 157-9586 (Unsub;)  
1 157-4096 (L. E. MATTHEWS)  
1 157-3129 (BILLY CARR)  
1 157-6351 (CHARLES GREENE)

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

157-9586-27

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FBI JKSN MISS

FBI JACKSVLE

1034 AM URGENT 4/5/68 MMH

TO DIRECTOR, JACKSON, NEW ORLEANS, MEMPHIS  
FROM JACKSONVILLE /157-1534/ 3P

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RM.

*Index* RE TAMPA TELEPHONE CALL TO JACKSONVILLE TODAY.

MR. EMMETT PETER, ONE THREE ONE NINE S. EIGHTH ST., LEESBURG,  
FLA., TELEPHONICALLY FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO SA TED  
R. TUCKER TODAY.

PETER STATED HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER FOR THREE YEARS OF THE NATIONAL  
CIVIL RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, WHICH IS HEADED BY SECRETARY OF  
AGRICULTURE ORVILLE FREEMAN. THE COMMITTEE HAS FIFTEEN MEMBERS COMPOSED  
CHIEFLY OF VARIOUS COLLEGE PRESIDENTS AND REPUTABLE INDIVIDUALS, BOTH  
NEGRO AND WHITE. THE COMMITTEE WHICH MEETS FOUR TIMES A YEAR IN  
VARIOUS LOCALES, TAKES TESTIMONY MAINLY FROM VARIOUS CIVIL RIGHTS  
LEADERS, WELFARE PEOPLE, AND THOSE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE EQUAL  
OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM.

ACCORDING TO PETER, A SOURCE WHOM HE DID NOT WISH TO IDENTIFY BUT  
WHO ACCORDING TO PETER, IS ABSOLUTELY RELIABLE, ADVISED THAT ON THURSDAY  
PRIOR TO THE RECENT ELECTIONS HELD IN MISSISSIPPI IN WHICH NEGRO NAACP  
END PAGE ONE

*157-9586-28*

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*Tel 10:49  
Dictated  
Sent 4/5/68*

PAGE TWO

*224*  
LEADER CHARLES EVERS WAS A CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL OFFICE, A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST IN LOUISIANA, NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED, RECEIVED A CONFESSION FROM A YOUNG WHITE MALE THAT A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS HAD GIVEN THIS PERSON TWENTYFIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO ASSASSINATE EVERS. ACCORDING TO PETER, THE PRIEST WAS TORN BETWEEN HIS LOYALTY AND DUTY TO THE CHURCH TO MAINTAIN THIS INFORMATION IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE OR TO TAKE THIS INFORMATION TO THE PROPER OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO POSSIBLY AVERT THIS ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. PETER STATED IT WAS RESOLVED TO MAKE THIS INFORMATION KNOWN AND HE BELIEVES THAT BOTH EVERS AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN MISSISSIPPI WERE NOTIFIED.

PETER ADVISED THAT FATHER LOUIS TOOMEY, PRESIDENT, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH, NEW ORLEANS, AND ONE AARON HENRY, NEGRO DRUGGIST, CLARKSDALE, MISS., BOTH OF WHOM ARE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, ARE AWARE OF THIS PLOT AND SHOULD KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE PRIEST INVOLVED. ACCORDING TO PETER, HENRY IS THE LEADER OF THE NAACP IN CLARKSDALE.

PETER STATED HE BELIEVES EITHER PERSON WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO INTERVIEW, HOWEVER, SUCH INTERVIEW SHOULD BE MOST CIRCUMSPECT SINCE THIS INVOLVED A BREACH OF PRIEST AND WORSHIPER RELATIONSHIP SINCE THE INFORMATION WAS OSTENSIBLY OBTAINED BY THE PRIEST IN THE FORM OF A CONFESSION DURING A CONFESSIONAL PERIOD.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

PETER ADVISED HE DOES NOT KNOW IF THIS REPORTED PLOT HAS ANY CONNECTION WITH THE MARTIN LUTHER KING ASSASSINATION, BUT HE FELT THAT THIS COULD BE A POSSIBILITY AND SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE FBI.

PETER STATED IN THE EVENT HE RECEIVES ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE OCALA RESIDENT AGENCY AND MAKE THIS KNOWN.

JACKSON AT CLARKSDALE, MISS., DETERMINE IF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PLOT ON THE LIFE OF CHARLES EVERS WAS MADE KNOWN TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES. IF NOT AND IF NO REASON EXISTS NOT TO CONTACT AARON HENRY, JACKSON SHOULD INTERVIEW HIM FOR PERTINENT DETAILS CONCERNING THE INFORMATION FURNISHED BY EMMETT PETER AND THEN ADVISE NEW ORLEANS WHETHER OR NOT FATHER TOOMEY SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED CONCERNING THIS MATTER.

END

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FBI JKSN MISS

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FBI JKSN MISS

FBI JACKSVLE

1034 AM URGENT 4/5/68 MHM

TO DIRECTOR, JACKSON, NEW ORLEANS, MEMPHIS  
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157-9586-28

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PAGE TWO

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END

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FBI JKSN MISS

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F B I

Date: 4/5/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, JACKSONVILLE, NEW ORLEANS AND MEMPHIS  
FROM: JACKSON (157-9586)

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RM.

RE JACKSONVILLE TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, JACKSON, NEW ORLEANS,  
AND MEMPHIS, APRIL FIVE, INSTANT; JACKSON REPORT OF SA R.  
STEPHEN CARR, MARCH TWENTY TWO, LAST, ENTITLED "FRANKLIN  
WAYNE BUFORD; SHOOTING INTO HOME OF JAMES CHARLES EVERS,  
TWO FIVE FIVE FOUR QUEENSWOOD AVENUE, JACKSON, MISS., MARCH  
THREE, LAST; JAMES CHARLES EVERS - VICTIM; CR - EL; VRA  
NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE," AND JACKSON LHM MARCH SIX, LAST  
ENTITLED "MEETING SPONSORED BY NAACP SCHEDULED TO BE HELD  
JANUARY SEVENTEEN, LAST, JACKSON, MISS., TO SELECT NEGRO  
CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS, RM."

ON MARCH TWO, LAST, FATHER WILLIAM MORRISSEY (PI),  
WHITE MALE, CATHOLIC PRIEST IN NATCHEZ, MISS., CONFIDENTIALLY  
ADVISED BUAGENT HE HAD TALKED TO ONE "MOON" HAZEL. FATHER  
MORRISSEY REPORTED THAT HAZEL HAD BEEN HANGING AROUND WHERE

① - Jackson

RSC:bal

(1) bal

Approved: RKM  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

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Date:

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(Priority)

PAGE TWO

EVERS HAD BEEN SPEAKING AND ON ONE OCCASION GOT INTO AN AUTOMOBILE WITH FATHER MORRISSEY AND HAZEL CONFIDENTIALLY ADVISED HIM THAT HE HAD BEEN OFFERED FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS BY AN UNSPECIFIED PERSON TO KILL EVERS.

BUAGENTS PROVIDED THIS INFO TO NATCHEZ, MISS., PD, WHO ARRESTED HAZEL ON MARCH TWO, LAST, ON A CHARGE OF DRUNKENESS. DURING INTERVIEW BY BUAGENTS, HAZEL APPEARED PARTIALLY INCOHERENT AND ADVISED HE HAD BEEN OFFERED FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS TO KILL EVERS BY AN INDIVIDUAL HE COULD ONLY DESCRIBE AS "AVERAGE AMERICAN NAMED JOE." HAZEL STATED HE TOLD THIS INDIVIDUAL HE WOULD DO THE JOB FOR FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND A TRIP OUT OF THE U.S. HE STATES HE SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED FOUR OR FIVE ANONYMOUS CALLS AT BARS AND PAY PHONES REGARDING THE "HIT," BUT HAZEL STATED HE HAD DECIDED NOT TO DO THE "JOB" FOR ANY PRICE.

HAZEL HAS BEEN ARRESTED APPROXIMATELY FORTY TIMES IN PAST ON CHARGES FROM DRUNKENESS TO GRAND LARCENY.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

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Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

PAGE THREE

NATCHEZ PD RELEASED HAZEL MARCH SIX, LAST, AFTER INVESTIGATION OF THIS MATTER, AND J. T. ROBINSON, COP, NATCHEZ, STATED HE BELIEVED WHOLE MATTER TO BE A HOAX AND A RESULT OF TOO MUCH DRINKING BY HAZEL IN LOCAL BARS.

ARREST RECORD REVEALS FULL NAME AS FORNEY MARION HAZEL, WHITE MALE, DOB JULY FIVE, NINETEEN EIGHTEEN, POB DUNN, LA., HEIGHT FIVE FEET, ELEVEN INCHES, WEIGHT TWO HUNDRED POUNDS, FBI NUMBER FOUR ONE THREE NINE NINE EIGHT TWO. TATTOO OF STAR ON LEFT HAND AND "F M HAZEL" ON LEFT FOREARM. ADDRESS GIVEN AS ONE SEVEN ONE NINE COLEMAN AVENUE, WEST MONROE, LA., AND EMPLOYMENT WITH LOUISIANA DELTA PLANTATION, JONESVILLE, LA.

NEW ORLEANS AT WEST MONROE, LA., DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS OF HAZEL DURING EVENING APRIL FOUR, LAST. *At New Orleans contact Father Louis Toomey to determine if above info identical with info furnished by Emmett Peter in first reference.*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

FBI JACKSVLE

434

FBI JKSN MISS

434PM URGENT 4-5-68 VCG

TO DIRECTOR , JACKSONVILLE, NEW ORLEANS AND MEMPHIS  
FROM JACKSON (157-9586)3P  
ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RM.

RE JACKSONVILLE TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, JACKSON, NEW ORLEANS,  
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END PAGEONE

157-9586-28

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PAGE TWO

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END PAGE TWO



**FBI JKSN MISS**

**4:46**

**PLS HOLD FRO ANOTHER MESS**

**NNW**

**FBI NEW ORLS**

**440CAB**

**FBI WASH DC**

**TU**

**FBI NEW ORLS**

FBI JUNE 1964

454 ISJ

FBI MEMPHIS

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

PAGE THREE

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END

CJA

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI KAN CITY

FBI JKSN MISS

650 PM URGENT 4-5-68 REM

TO DIRECTOR, KANSAS CITY, AND MEMPHIS

FROM JACKSON (157-9586)

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RM.

RE JACKSON AND MEMPHIS PHONE CALLS THIS DATE.

JOHN HUBERT WILLARD

MEMPHIS ADVISED THIS AM ONE JOHN WILLARD POSSIBLE  
SUSPECT AS KNOWN TO OBTAINED ROOM ACROSS STREET FROM  
ASSASSINATION SITE. MEMPHIS PD RECORDS DISCLOSED WILLARD  
ARRESTED BY PD IN MEMPHIS, FIFTY-EIGHT, ON CHARGE OF ARSON  
AND RELEASED TO PONTOTOC COUNTY SO.

M. C. HEMBREE, FORMER SHERIFF, PONTOTOC COUNTY, ADVISED  
SUBJECT ARRESTED IN FIFTY EIGHT IN MEMPHIS AS FUGITIVE FOR  
ARSON. WARRANT ISSUED BY PONTOTOC COUNTY SO. RETURNED TO  
PONTOTOC COUNTY, PLEAD GUILTY, RECEIVED THREE YEARS PROBATION.  
WILLARD RESIDES IN PONTOTOC AND HAS NEW HOME ON HIGHWAY SIX,  
PONTOTOC COUNTY.

MHSP RECORDS REFLECT WILLARD BORN

END PAGE ONE

157-9586-30

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*Castle*  
(Submit ANY other Books of Interest)

*you conducted*

PAGE TWO

[REDACTED] ROUTE ONE, ECRU, PONTOTOC COUNTY, MISS.,  
ARRESTED MARCH FOUR, SIXTY SEVEN, PONTOTOC COUNTY, RECKLESS  
DRIVING, FINED FIFTEEN DOLLARS, ARRESTED DECEMBER TWENTY SIX,  
SIXTY SIX, SPEEDING FINED FIFTEEN DOLLARS, OCTOBER THIRTEEN,  
SIXTY FIVE SPEEDING, TEN DOLLAR FINE, SIXTY FOUR IN ACCIDENT  
LICENSE SUSPENDED, SIXTY THREE INVOLVED IN TWO ACCIDENTS.  
NOT WANTED BY MMSP.

ON OCTOBER THIRTEEN, SIXTYFIVE, OWNED CHEVROLET TRUCK.

STATE PROBATION AND PAROLE BOARD RECORDS REVEAL WILLARD  
ARRESTED FOR ARSON, BURNING OF AN AUTOMOBILE, PONTOTOC COUNTY,  
MISS. ARRESTED MEMPHIS, RETURNED TO PONTOTOC COUNTY, SENTENCED  
JUNE TWENTY FIVE, FIFTY EIGHT TO THREE YEARS PROBATION. DESCRIBED  
IN JUNE, FIFTY EIGHT AS WHITE MALE, BORN [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RESIDENCE ONE EIGHT FIVE ZERO JEFFERSON  
STREET, MEMPHIS, FIVE FEET ELEVEN INCHES, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY  
FIVE POUNDS, COMPLEXION RUDDY, BROWN HAIR, GRAY EYES, BUILD  
MEDIUM. WILLARD HAD SEVERAL RELATIVES LIVING MEMPHIS, FIFTY  
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

EIGHT. HE WAS EMPLOYED BY GAINES MANUFACTURING COMPANY, MEMPHIS. WHILE ON PROBATION WAS UNDER SUPERVISION OF MEMPHIS PAROLE OFFICER JOSEPH C. MITCHELL FROM JULY TWENTY EIGHT, FIFTY EIGHT, TO DECEMBER TWENTY TWO, FIFTY EIGHT. PROBATION ENDED MAY ONE, SIXTY ONE. SUBJECT WAS ARRESTED UNDER ARSON CHARGE WITH ONE HERMAN DANIEL, W/M, BORN  LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISS.

SELECTIVE SERVICE RECORDS, JACKSON, SHOW WILLARD CURRENTLY REGISTERED AND NOT DELINQUENT. NO RECORD LOCATED MISSISSIPPI STATE PENITENTIARY, PARCHMAN, MISS. JACKSON INDICES NEGATIVE. MRS. BARBARA WILLARD, WIFE OF WILLARD, INTERVIEWED AT OXFORD, BY BUAGENTS, WHERE EMPLOYED BY OXFORD, MISS., CREDIT BUREAU THIS DATE. RELATED SHE ARRIVED AT HER RESIDENCE, PONTOTOC COUNTY, FIVE THIRTY PM, APRIL FOUR, LAST, AND HUSBAND WAS HOME WITH HER SMALL SON MOWING LAWN. HE DID NOT LEAVE RESIDENCE ENTIRE EVENING. EMPLOYED BY DAY BRITE LIGHTING COMPANY, TUPELO, AND WORKED DAY SHIFT. COULD OFFER NO SUSPECTS WHO COULD HAVE

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

USED NAME JOHN WILLARD.

WILLARD INTERVIEWED THIS DATE BY BUREAU AGENTS DAY BRITE LIGHTING COMPANY, TUPELO AND ADVISED WORKED SEVEN AM TO THREE THIRTY PM SHIFT, APRIL FOUR, LAST. LEFT WORK AND WENT TO UNION MEETING WITH BILLY GLEN DOWDY AT UNION HALL. LEFT UNION HALL FIVE TEN PM, WENT TO RESIDENCE AND AWAITED ARRIVAL OF WIFE. DID NOT LEAVE RESIDENCE DURING EVENING. PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN WILLARD AND FD THREE ZERO TWOS AND PHOTOGRAPHS HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED BY AGENT IN BUCAR TO MEMPHIS. STATED JOHN WILLARD COMMON NAME BUT DOES NOT KNOW WHO COULD HAVE USED NAME IN MEMPHIS.

BILLY GLEN DOWDY INTERVIEWED AND VERIFIED WILLARD'S STORY, J. L. COLLUMS' NEIGHBOR SAW WILLARD MOWING LAWN DURING PERTINENT PERIOD.

PERSONNEL RECORD SHOWS WILLARD PUNCHED IN ON TIME CLOCK SIX FORTY SIX AM AND PUNCHED OUT THREE THIRTY TWO PM, APRIL FOUR , LAST.

END PAGE FOUR



PAGE FIVE

MRS. WILLARD LATER CONTACTED SA AT OXFORD, AND RELATED AT ONE TIME THERE WERE TWO JOHN WILLARDS LIVING VICINITY TUPELO, MISS. BELIEVES OTHER JOHN WILLARD KNOWN TO FILE OF CREDIT BUREAU. RECORDS, TUPELO CREDIT BUREAU, REVEAL IN JANUARY, SIXTY FOUR, INQUIRY MADE RE JOHN M. WILLARD, TWO NINE TWO NINE BOGAN DRIVE, TUPELO, FOR UNIVERSAL CIT, EMPLOYED FRED STRANGE MOTOR COMPANY.

FRED STRANGE, OWNER STRANGE MOTOR COMPANY, TUPELO, ADVISED JOHN MILBURN WILLARD, WHITE MALE, BORN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] FIVE FEET FOUR INCHES, ONE HUNDRED TEN POUNDS, BLACK HAIR, BROWN EYES, EMPLOYED MECHANIC SIXTY THREE AND LEFT MARCH FIVE, SIXTY FOUR. HE WORKED PRIOR AT SOWERS MOTORS, INC., ROLLA, MISSOURI, DRUITT MOTORS, SEDALIA, MISSOURI, AND KINDEN MOTOR, POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI. WILLARD STATED IN SIXTY FOUR RETURNING TO SEDALIA, MISSOURI. BELIEVES WORKING FOR J. W. SHEPHERD AT VOLKSWAGEN DEALERSHIP, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.

ABOVE HAS BEEN FURNISHED BY PHONE TO KANSAS CITY AND MEMPHIS.  
END PAGE FIVE

---

**FBI JKSN MISS**

**700LCC**

**FBI WASH DC**

---

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

**FBI JKSN MISS**  
**710DND**

**FBI MEMPHIS**

**P**

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

PAGE SIX

KANSAS CITY. IMMEDIATELY ADVISE MEMPHIS IF ONE JOHN  
MILBURN WILLARD EMPLOYED APRIL FOUR, LAST IN KANSAS CITY.

END

ENT

FBI KAN CITY

F B I

Date: 4/5/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI, KANSAS CITY, AND MEMPHIS  
FROM: JACKSON (157-9586)

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RM .  
RE JACKSON AND MEMPHIS PHONE CALLS THIS DATE.

JOHN HUBERT WILLARD

✓ MEMPHIS ADVISED THIS AM ONE JOHN WILLARD POSSIBLE  
SUSPECT AS KNOWN TO OBTAINED ROOM ACROSS STREET FROM  
ASSASSINATION SITE. MEMPHIS PD RECORDS DISCLOSED WILLARD  
ARRESTED BY PD IN MEMPHIS, FIFTY-EIGHT, ON CHARGE OF ARSON  
AND RELEASED TO PONTOTOC COUNTY SO.

✓ M. C. HEMBREE, FORMER SHERIFF, PONTOTOC COUNTY, ADVISED  
SUBJECT ARRESTED IN FIFTY EIGHT IN MEMPHIS AS FUGITIVE FOR  
ARSON. WARRANT ISSUED BY PONTOTOC COUNTY SO. RETURNED TO  
PONTOTOC COUNTY, PLEAD GUILTY, RECEIVED THREE YEARS PROBATION.  
WILLARD RESIDES IN PONTOTOC AND HAS NEW HOME ON HIGHWAY SIX,  
PONTOTOC COUNTY.

MHSP RECORDS REFLECT WILLARD BORN [REDACTED]

1 - Jackson

JOI:ccs

Approved: (1) Special Agent in Charge

Searched

Serialized

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Filed

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Per

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

PAGE TWO

[REDACTED] ROUTE ONE, ECRU, PONTOTOC COUNTY, MISS.,  
ARRESTED MARCH FOUR, SIXTY SEVEN, PONTOTOC COUNTY, RECKLESS  
DRIVING, FINE FIFTEEN DOLLARS, ARRESTED DECEMBER TWENTY SIX,  
SIXTY SIX, SPEEDING FINE FIFTEEN DOLLARS, OCTOBER THIRTEEN,  
SIXTY FIVE SPEEDING, TEN DOLLAR FINE, SIXTY FOUR IN ACCIDENT  
LICENSE SUSPENDED, SIXTY THREE INVOLVED IN TWO ACCIDENTS.

NOT WANTED BY MHSP.

ON OCTOBER THIRTEEN, SIXTY FIVE, OWNED CHEVROLET TRUCK.

STATE PROBATION AND PAROLE BOARD RECORDS REVEAL WILLARD  
ARRESTED FOR ARSON, BURNING OF AN AUTOMOBILE, PONTOTOC COUNTY,  
MISS. ARRESTED MEMPHIS, RETURNED TO PONTOTOC COUNTY, SENTENCED  
JUNE TWENTY FIVE, FIFTY EIGHT TO THREE YEARS PROBATION. DESCRIBED  
IN JUNE, FIFTY EIGHT AS WHITE MALE, BORN [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RESIDENCE ONE EIGHT FIVE ZERO JEFFERSON  
STREET, MEMPHIS, FIVE FEET ELEVEN INCHES, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY  
FIVE POUNDS, COMPLEXION RUDDY, BROWN HAIR, GRAY EYES, BUILD  
MEDIUM. WILLARD HAD SEVERAL RELATIVES LIVING MEMPHIS, FIFTY

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

PAGE THREE

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SELECTIVE SERVICE RECORDS, JACKSON, SHOW WILLARD CURRENTLY REGISTERED AND NOT DELINQUENT. NO RECORD LOCATED MISSISSIPPI STATE PENITENTIARY, PARCHMAN, MISS. JACKSON INDICES NEGATIVE. ✓ MRS. BARBARA WILLARD, WIFE OF WILLARD, INTERVIEWED AT OXFORD, <sup>Miss</sup> By But Agents, ~~WERE EMPLOYED BY OXFORD CREDIT BUREAU - BY BUREAU -~~ THIS DATE, RELATED SHE ARRIVED AT HER RESIDENCE, PONTOTOC COUNTY, FIVE THIRTY PM, APRIL FOUR, LAST, AND HUSBAND WAS HOME WITH HER SMALL SON MOWING LAWN. HE DID NOT LEAVE RESIDENCE ENTIRE EVENING. EMPLOYED BY DAY BRITE LIGHTING COMPANY, TUPELO, AND WORKED DAY SHIFT. COULD OFFER NO SUSPECTS WHO COULD HAVE

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
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(Priority)**PAGE FOUR****USED NAME JOHN WILLARD.**

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Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge



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Date:

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Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

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Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

**PAGE SIX**

**KANSAS CITY. IMMEDIATELY ADVISE MEMPHIS IF ONE JOHN  
MILBURN WILLARD EMPLOYED APRIL FOUR, LAST IN KANSAS CITY.  
END.**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

FBI JKSN MISS

FBI NEW ORLS

912PM URGENT 4-5-68 CDC

TO DIRECTOR , JACKSON, JACKSONVILLE, AND MEMPHIS  
FROM NEW ORLEANS 157-10673

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RM.

RE JACKSONVILLE TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, JACKSON AND  
NEW OREANS FOUR FIVE SIXTYEIGHT AT TEN FORTYONE AM, AND  
JACKSON TEL TO DIRECTOR, JACKSONVILLE AND MEMPHIS FOUR FIVE  
SIXTYEIGHT AT FOUR FORTYSIX PM.

INQUIRY AT MONROE, LA. PD, APRIL FIVE INSTANT DETERMINED

THAT FORNEY; MARION HAZEL IS CURRENTLY INCARCERATED IN JAIL AT  
MONROE, LA. AND HAS BEEN CONFINED CONTINUOUSLY SINCE MARCH EIGHT  
SIXTYEIGHT

FATHER LOUIS TOOMEY, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY, NEW ORLEANS ADVISED  
APRIL FIVE INSTANT THAT AT NO TIME HAS ANY INFORMATION EVER COME  
TO HIS ATTENTION FROM ANY SOURCE OF AN ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO ASSASS-  
INATE CHARLES EVERS.

END

JWD

FBI JKSN MISS

TUCLRP

157-9586-31

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FBI-JACKSON	

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FBI JKSN MISS

FBI NEW ORLS

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JWD

FBI JKSN MISS

TUCLRP

157-9586-31

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

DATE: 4/5/68

FROM : SA SAMUEL N. JENNINGS

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN  
LUTHER KING, JR.  
RM

WILLIE JAMES BURNS, Route 2, Box 141, Tchula, Miss., who operates a country store two miles south of Mileston, Miss., in Holmes County, telephonically contacted the FBI Office, Jackson, Miss., on 4/5/68 and advised SA SAMUEL N. JENNINGS as follows:

BURNS stated that two unidentified white men, driving an old model medium green Plymouth sedan, 1968 Miss. license H-22212, stopped at Mileston, Miss., about 11:30 A.M. today, 4/5/68, and attempted to trade a large sledge hammer for a tank of gasoline. They were not successful and drove on two miles south to BURNS' store where they attempted to trade this sledge hammer to BURNS' wife for ten gallons of gasoline. They were unsuccessful and drove on to the service station of JOHN LIBERTO, Thornton, Miss., where they were successful in trading the sledge hammer to LIBERTO for some gas for their car. They continued driving south on Highway 49 East toward Yazoo City.

BURNS advised these two white men acted very suspicious and he believes they could have something to do with the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. He could furnish nothing specific to tie them in with the assassination however.

The two white men were described by BURNS as follows:

(3) - Jackson  
SNJ/bdb  
(3)  
*edh*



5010-108-01

157-9586-32

*Jackson lead to*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 6 1968	
FBI JACKSON	

*[Signature]*

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

JN 157-9586

#1:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Height:	6'1"
Weight:	160-170
Hair:	Medium brown
Age:	30-35
Dress:	Wearing work clothes, bare-headed
Miscellaneous:	Had a medium brown, average looking suitcase in the trunk of the car

#2:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Height:	5'8"
Weight:	180-190
Age:	About 55 years
Hair:	Black - grey

Radio operator SANDIFORD, MHSP, Jackson, Miss., advised on 4/5/68 that 1968 Miss. license H-22212 was issued for a 1958 Plymouth, VIN LP2E71351, owned by ELMER TOTEN, Route 3, Box 477, Jackson, Miss.

Postal Inspector ROBERT E. WORTHEN (Protect Identity), Jackson, Miss., advised on 4/5/68 that Route 3, Box 477, is located on or very near Highway 49 North, a few miles outside of Jackson, Miss. The exact location could be determined later through the mail carrier of this route, GEORGE JAMES, but JAMES was not immediately available.

LEAD:

AT JACKSON, MISS.

Will locate and interview ELMER TOTEN, Route 3,

JN 157-9586

Box 477, and determine ~~is~~ whereabouts at 6:00 P.M. on 4/4/68. Also determine the circumstances surrounding his attempts to trade a sledge hammer for gasoline in Holmes County on 4/5/68.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

DATE: 4/5/68

FROM : SA SAMUEL N. JENNINGS

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN  
LUTHER KING, JR.  
RM

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SNJ/bdb  
(3)



157-9586-32

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FBI JACKSON	

*[Signature]*

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



JN 157-9586

#1:

Race:	White
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Dress:	Wearing work clothes, bare-headed
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Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Height:	5'8"
Weight:	180-190
Age:	About 55 years
Hair:	Black - grey

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LEAD:

AT JACKSON, MISS.

*Lead assigned to Blackletter.*

Will locate and interview ELMER TOTEN, Route 3,

JN 157-9586

Box 477, and determine is whereabouts at 6:00 P.M.  
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his attempts to trade a sledge hammer for gasoline in  
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

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SNJ/bdb  
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157-9586-32

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

JN 157-9586

#1:

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Holmes County on 4/5/68.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

DATE: 4/5/68

FROM : SA LESTER L. AMANN

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE  
4/4/68  
RM

On 4/5/68, JN 340-R (Prob), advised that SAM BOWERS was at John's Cafe, Laurel, Miss., from approximately 8:30 p.m. til 10:00 p.m. Source stated DEAVOURS NIX, owner of John's Cafe, was not at the restaurant the entire evening.

2 - 157-9586  
1 - 174-50  
1 - 157-18

LLA/pac  
(4) *LLA*



5010-108-01

157-9586-33

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

DATE: 4/5/68

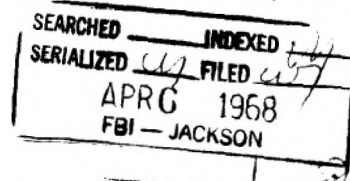
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SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF  
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MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE  
4/4/68  
RM

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2 - 157-9586  
1 - 174-50  
1 - 157-18

LLA/pac  
(4)



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

F B I

Date: 4/6/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN  
LUTHER KING, JR. -  
RM

Enclosed for Birmingham are two (2) copies  
of a photograph of BYRON DE LA BECKWITH.

BECKWITH is subject of Bufile 157-3744 and  
Bureau conducted extensive investigation of BECKWITH in  
June, 1963 in the murder of MEDGAR EVERS, National Asso-  
ciation for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)  
Field Secretary, Jackson, Mississippi, who was slain on  
June 12, 1963. BECKWITH was arrested by Bureau Agents  
June 22, 1963, for the murder, and was tried on two  
occasions at Jackson, and on each occasion, the jury was  
unable to reach a verdict.

Memphis has background on subject, and  
Jackson has forwarded photographs of BECKWITH to Memphis  
in this matter.

BECKWITH described as white male, born  
[redacted] Sacramento, California, 5' 10", 170  
pounds, dark hair, olive complexion, medium build,  
resides 101 Dewey Avenue, Greenwood, Mississippi, and  
is employed as sales representative for Barrentine  
Manufacturing Co., Inc., Greenwood, Mississippi. He has

3 - Bureau 2- Birminham (Enc. 2)

③ Jackson(157- 2- Memphis

Approved: *[Signature]*

*[Signature]* (157-1077) JOI/bjk (10) *se*  
Special Agent in Charge

Searched

Serialized *W*

Indexed

Filed *W*

M

Per



JN 157-9586

been involved in Klan activities for many years and due to past action, has a propensity for violence.

LEADS:

BIRMINGHAM

AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Should immediately exhibit photographs to employees of hardware store where weapon purchased.

MEMPHIS

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Memphis previously furnished photographs to exhibit to appropriate persons.

FBI

Date: 4/6/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN  
LUTHER KING, JR. -  
RM

Enclosed for Birmingham are two (2) copies  
of a photograph of BYRON DE LA BECKWITH. *Deley*

BECKWITH is subject of Bufile 157-3744 and Bureau conducted extensive investigation of BECKWITH in June, 1963 in the murder of MEDGAR EVERS, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Field Secretary, Jackson, Mississippi, who was slain on June 12, 1963. BECKWITH was arrested by Bureau Agents June 22, 1963, for the murder, and was tried on two occasions at Jackson, and on each occasion, the jury was unable to reach a verdict.

Memphis has background on subject, and Jackson has forwarded photographs of BECKWITH to Memphis in this matter.

BECKWITH described as white male, born [redacted] Sacramento, California, 5' 10", 170 pounds, dark hair, olive complexion, medium build, resides 101 Dewey Avenue, Greenwood, Mississippi, and is employed as sales representative for Barrentine Manufacturing Co., Inc., Greenwood, Mississippi. He has *586 34*

3 - Bureau  
2 - Birmingham (Enc. 2)  
③ - Jackson (157-9586)  
2 - Memphis

Approved: *[Signature]*

1 - (157-1077) JOI/bjk (10) *ge*  
Special Agent in Charge

Searched *157-9586 34*  
Serialized *W*  
Indexed *[Signature]*  
Filed *[Signature]*

M Per