

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/24/68

HUBERT TOMLINSON, Service Beverage Company, Holly Springs, Mississippi, was located and interviewed at his place of business. TOMLINSON was advised the identity of the interviewing Agents.

TOMLINSON stated that he is a distributor for the Service Beverage Company of Clarksdale, Mississippi, and in conjunction with this employment, he distributes Schlitz Beer in Marshall County, Mississippi, and a protion of the De Soto County, Mississippi area.

TOMLINSON advised that it would have been impossible for him to have distributed any Schlitz Beer in Marshall County or De Soto County before the date March 15, 1968. TOMLINSON explained that the last shipment of Schlitz Beer he received, twelve and sixteen ounce cans, bore the date of March 8, 1968. He pointed out that he has not received any shipment of Schlitz beer with the cans of beer bearing a date subsequent to March 8, 1968.

TOMLINSON stated that any Schlitz beer purchased in De Soto County and bearing a date of March 15, 1968, would have had to be distributed by the Service Beverage Company in Clarksdale, Mississippi.

On 4/15/68 at Holly Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586 - 572116
by SA's RICHARD T. RABIDEAU, and
JOHN DENNIS MILLER/RTR/brh Date dictated 4/19/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION


Date 4/30/68

THOMAS BLOUNT MOODY was interviewed at his place of employment, Fernwood Shell Service Station. MOODY was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the purpose of the interview. He furnished the following information:

MOODY stated that he had never, to the best of his recollection, made a comment to anyone which could be construed as indicating that he knew anyone who would be willing to pay a large sum of money to see that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was killed. MOODY indicated that although he was not an open advocate of Civil Rights and although he did not feel that the methods employed by certain Civil Rights leaders, including Dr. KING, were in the best interest of the country, he was not by any stretch of the imagination disposed to any type of violence in this regard. He indicated that he regretted that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. had been murdered and felt that it was a tragedy for the nation. MOODY once again vehemently denied that he ever made such a statement, however, he stated that on occasion when he drinks he might make a statement of this type just "blowing smoke." He indicated that if such a statement was made, it was certainly no basis for it in fact.

MOODY advised that he was acquainted with a Sergeant ROBERT ELDRIDGE, who was a customer of his when he was employed at the Fernwood Texaco Service Station prior to September, 1967. He stated he and ELDRIDGE became fairly good friends and that they engaged in numerous bull sessions, during which time he as well as ELDRIDGE were prone to boasting and exaggeration. He thus stated that it was not impossible that he might have said something which might be construed as indicating he knew of someone who might have been willing to pay a ~~great deal of money for the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING~~

On 4/26/68 at Biloxi, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586-572-117

by SA PAUL A. MEISSNER, JR.:jrs  Date dictated 4/30/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

JN 157-9586

however again he stated that he did not remember making such a statement and further indicated that if he did it certainly had no basis in fact.

MOODY advised that he is not now nor has he ever been a member of or sympathized with any type of organization which was prone to violence in its opposition to the Civil Rights movement. Specifically he stated he was not now nor had he ever been a member of any Klan type organization. MOODY was unable to provide any further information of value in this matter.

The following description was obtained from observation and interview:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Date of Birth:	[REDACTED]
Place of Birth:	Graceville, Florida
Height:	5'7½"
Weight:	145
Hair:	Grey, receding
Build:	Medium
Eyes:	Brown
Military Service:	United States Navy 1943-45
Service #:	[REDACTED]
Arrests:	Admits drunk arrest 14 years ago Norfolk, Virginia
Residence:	488 Weaver, Mississippi City, Mississippi

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION


Date 4/30/68

LOWELL WAYNE ROGERS, 1619 Third Street, Gulfport, Mississippi, was interviewed at Fernwood Texaco Service Station, of which he is the owner. ROGERS was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and of the purpose of the interview. He furnished the following information:

Prior to September, 1967, he and WOODY PRINGLE were partners in ownership of the Fernwood Texaco Service Station. During that period of time in addition to him and PRINGLE, an individual identified as THOMAS MOODY, white male, age approximately 44, and JOE SWANIER, Negro male, approximate age 28, were employed at the service station. ROGERS advised that he has never heard either PRINGLE or MOODY make any comment which could be construed as indicating that either of them was aware of an individual who would pay a great sum of money to kill Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ROGERS advised also that he had never made such a comment.

ROGERS continued that at the present time PRINGLE, MOODY and SWANIER were working at the Fernwood Shell Service Station, Biloxi, Mississippi, owned and operated by PRINGLE. ROGERS was unable to furnish any further information of value in this matter, but stated to the best of his knowledge, neither MOODY nor PRINGLE were particularly opposed to the Civil Rights movement and to the best of his knowledge neither of them had ever participated or been a member of an organization violently opposed to the Civil Rights movement.

ROGERS stated that should he obtain any information of value in this matter he would immediately contact the FBI.

On 4/26/68 at Biloxi, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586-572-118
by SA PAUL A. MEISSNER, JR.:jrs  Date dictated 4/30/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/30/68

JOSEPH (NO MIDDLE NAME) SWANIER, Route 2, Box 308, Gulfport, Mississippi, was interviewed at the Fernwood Shell Service Station where he is employed. SWANIER was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the purpose of the interview. He furnished the following information:

SWANIER advised that prior to September, 1967, he was employed by L. C. ROGERS and WOODY PRINGLE at the Fernwood Texaco Service Station. During this period of time he worked with an individual named THOMAS MOODY and he indicated that he thought he was fairly well acquainted with MOODY. SWANIER advised that during the period of time he has known and worked with MOODY, MOODY has never made any type of comment which might indicate that he, MOODY, was aware of an individual who would pay a large sum of money to see MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. killed.

SWANIER advised that he had no reason to believe that MOODY is now or ever has been a member of any Klan or hate-type organization. SWANIER advised he could furnish no further information of value in this matter.

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Race:	Negro
Sex:	Male
Date of Birth:	[REDACTED]
Place of Birth:	Gulfport, Mississippi
Hair:	Black
Eyes:	Brown
Height:	6'
Weight:	165
Build:	Slender

On 4/27/68 at Biloxi, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586-572-119

by SA PAUL A. MEISSNER, JR.:jrs Date dictated 4/30/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION


Date 4/30/68

WOODROW W. PRINGLE, JR., 202 Pinewood Circle, Gulfport, Mississippi, was contacted at his place of employment, Fernwood Shell Service Station. PRINGLE was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and of the purpose of the interview. He furnished the following information:

PRINGLE stated that prior to September, 1967 he and WAYNE ROGERS were partners in the Fernwood Texaco Service Station. During that time he stated that Sergeant ROBERT ELDRIDGE, stationed at Keesler, was a regular customer and became quite friendly with THOMAS MOODY, who was also employed at the service station at that time.

PRINGLE stated that he has been acquainted with MOODY for several years and considers MOODY to be an honest and trustworthy individual. In the years that he has known MOODY he stated he has never heard MOODY make any statement which might indicate that he was violently opposed to the Civil Rights movement in this country. Specifically PRINGLE stated he has never heard MOODY make any type of comment which could be construed to indicate that he, MOODY, knew of an individual who would pay a large sum of money to have Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. killed. He stated to the best of his knowledge MOODY has never been a member of any Klan or hate type organization and has never shown a propensity for violence in regard to the Civil Rights movement.

PRINGLE stated that he could furnish no further information of value in this matter.

On 4/27/68 at Biloxi, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586-572-120
by SA PAUL A. MEISSNER, JR.:jrs  Date dictated 4/30/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 29, 1968

The wanted flier on JAMES EARL RAY, Wanted Flier Number 442-A, was exhibited to BILL MC LAUGHLIN; his wife, Mrs. BILL MC LAUGHLIN; and his seventeen-year-old son, WILLIAM MC LAUGHLIN, JR.

All advised that RAY is totally unknown to them and that they do not recall that individual purchasing a six-pack of twelve-ounce pop-top Schlitz beer, while driving a white Mustang automobile with an Alabama license.

On 4/24/68 at Southaven, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586-572-21
by SA JAMES W. SAMMON *JS* /blw Date dictated 4/27/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/15/68

MONROE FOSTER, Owner, Foster Beverage Company, West Main Street, Tupelo, Mississippi, advised that on **March 20**, 1968, he received a shipment of Schlitz Beer from the Schlitz Brewery, Long View, Texas. He stated that he received 840 cases of Hi-cone six packs, packed 24 cans to the case, and 336 cases of 24 cans each packed loose. Mr. FOSTER stated that a check of his inventory reflects that all of this beer which was brewed with a date, March 15, 1968, has been distributed to his customers, and he is now working on beer that was brewed March 20, 1968.

Mr. FOSTER commented that the only beer he purchases from Schlitz is the pop-top cans, commenting that these cans need no can opener to open.

He stated that he serves approximately 130 customers in Lee County and Okolona, Mississippi.

Concerning a brown bag, manufactured by Graham Paper Company, with a trademark "Homestead", he stated that his company does not use these bags, and he does not know if any of his retailers use this type of bag.

On 4/11/68 at Tupelo, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586-572-122

SA
by SA FRANCIS G. HONAN/bjk Date dictated 4/11/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/23/68

Mrs. SYBIL EURE, owner, Eure Real Estate Company, 423 Raymond Road, Jackson, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the inquiry.

It was explained to Mrs. EURE that since the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., her past association with LEROY McMANAMAN, an inmate of Leavenworth Penitentiary, may be of a more significant nature.

Mrs. EURE inquired as to whether this concerned the offer of a large sum of money to murder Dr. KING.

Mrs. EURE, who appears to be a reasonably successful businesswoman, neat in appearance and well spoken, said she now recalls how this alleged offer of money to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING all started.

She said that in 1964, when she first met McMANAMAN, he was introduced to her through mutual business friends. She said McMANAMAN was out of prison on some kind of bond waiting for an appeal. At the same time, the racial problems and disturbances in Neshoba County, Mississippi, were being mentioned very prominently in the newspapers. Sheriff LAWRENCE RAINEY of Neshoba County was presumed to be, at the time, some kind of an official in the Ku Klux Klan in Neshoba County. At least the newspapers, radio and television news stories at that time indicated as much. During the same period, her real estate business was in minor financial difficulty, and she recalls casually mentioning that if she approached the Sheriff of Neshoba County, she could probably get \$100,000 to kill KING. Mrs. EURE said she now feels that in all probability, McMANAMAN took her casual statements seriously. She said she now realizes the seriousness of such a statement since Dr. KING's murder.

On 5/13/68 at Jackson, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586-SF2-123
by SA JOHN L. PUDDISTER/clm Date dictated 5/17/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

JN 157-9586

Mrs. EURE explained that she is an outspoken businesswoman and often makes remarks of this nature more to attract some prospective customers than anything else. She said she firmly believes that this is the basis for McMANAMAN's information concerning the offer of money by the klan in Mississippi to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

In attempting to determine the circumstances concerning her meeting McMANAMAN in 1964, Mrs. EURE said she met him through a mutual business friend. Her association with McMANAMAN was strictly business. She said in her opinion, McMANAMAN had a world of knowledge in real estate business and that if he ever gets out of prison, she will always be willing to hire him as an assistant in her real estate business.

After his appeal was denied in 1964, McMANAMAN was returned to Kansas and began serving his sentence. She said she went out to the Leavenworth Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, on two occasions in 1964, the first time to pick up McMANAMAN's automobile which she financed for him. All other visits, two or three times in 1965 and once in 1966, were just friendly visits. She said the last time she visited him was early in 1966 and that she has not seen him or heard from him since that time. She said as far as she knows, he is still in prison.

Mrs. EURE was very apologetic, very cooperative, and stated that she has no information whatsoever concerning the person or persons responsible for the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. She said she has no information whatsoever concerning any plot or any offer of money for the murder of KING. If, in the event she receives any information which may be of help in this matter, she will immediately contact the FBI.

Mrs. EURE said she has never met DONALD JAMES NISSEN and has no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY. She said she has seen photographs of RAY and this individual is completely unfamiliar to her.

JN 157-9586

Mrs. EURE is a white female, approximately 5 feet 9 inches in height, slender, moderately attractive and approximately 50 years of age. Her ex-husband is JOHN EURE. Mrs. EURE has been separated and divorced and has not remarried.

A waiver of rights form was not exhibited to Mrs. EURE in that she stated she knew her rights and was perfectly willing to discuss anything with the FBI on a free and voluntary basis. She again expressed a desire to be cooperative and expressed her great admiration for the FBI.