

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE SIX NO 100-16800

(13) NO 157-9936. "UNSUB, AKA BILL WILLIAMS; THREAT TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING; FANNIE ADAMS - COMPLAINANT; RM" (BUFILE UNKNOWN) THIS FILE CONTAINS ROUTINE CORRESPONDENCE WHICH INCLUDES NO TAPES, ELSUR LOGS OR TRANSCRIPTS, PHOTOGRAPHS OR BULKY EXHIBITS. THE FILE CONTAINS NO SUBFILES, AND CONSISTS OF ONE VOLUME OF SEVEN SERIALS.

(14) NO 157-10637. "WASHINGTON SPRING PROJECT; RM" (BUFILE 157-8428) THIS FILE CONTAINS ROUTINE CORRESPONDENCE, NONE OF WHICH ARE TAPES, ELSUR LOGS OR TRANSCRIPTS, PHOTOGRAPHS OR BULKY EXHIBITS. THIS FILE CONTAINS NO SUBFILES, AND CONSISTS OF ONE VOLUME CONTAINING TWO SERIALS. *MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. IS INDEXED AS SUBJECT*

(15) NO 157-10673. "JAMES EARL RAY, AKA; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM; CR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY; (MURKIN)" (BUFILE 44-38861) THIS FILE CONTAINS ROUTINE CORRESPONDENCE, NONE OF WHICH INCLUDES TAPES OR ELSUR LOGS OR TRANSCRIPTS. THERE ARE 72 ITEMS IN THE EXHIBIT ENVELOPE, MOST OF WHICH ARE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SUBJECT *RAY* AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS. THE BULKY EXHIBIT SECTION CONTAINS SIX ITEMS, INCLUDING CONTENTS OF THE HOTEL ROOM OF A LOOK-ALIKE OF THE

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

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Date:

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(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)

PAGE SEVEN NO 100-16800

SUBJECT, ALL OF WHICH WERE SUBMITTED FOR FINGERPRINT EXAMINATION. THERE ARE THREE SUBFILES, WHICH INCLUDE NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, ORIGINALS OF FD-302'S AND INSERTS, AND COPIES OF FD-302'S AND INSERTS MARKED FOR INDEXING. THE MAIN FILE CONSISTS OF 18 VOLUMES, TOTALING 1,308 SERIALS. THERE ARE 72 1-A EXHIBIT ITEMS AND SIX BULKY EXHIBIT ITEMS IN ADDITION TO THE THREE SUBFILES DESCRIBED ABOVE.

(16) NO 157-11617. "MARTIN LUTHER KING, CUT-OFF IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION; RM" (BUFILE UNKNOWN) THIS FILE CONTAINS ROUTINE CORRESPONDENCE, NONE OF WHICH CONSISTS OF TAPES, ELSUR LOGS OR TRANSCRIPTS, PHOTOGRAPHS OR BULKY EXHIBITS. THERE ARE NO SUBFILES, AND THIS FILE CONSISTS OF ONE VOLUME OF ONE SERIAL, AND WAS MADE A DEAD FILE FOR INDEXING PURPOSES.

(17) NO 157-11920. "MARTIN LUTHER KING ACTION MOVEMENT; INFORMATION CONCERNING" (BUFILE UNKNOWN) THIS FILE CONSISTS OF ROUTINE CORRESPONDENCE WHICH CONTAIN NO TAPES, ELSUR LOGS OR TRANSCRIPTS, PHOTOGRAPHS OR BULKY EXHIBITS. THERE ARE NO SUBFILES, AND THE FILE CONSISTS OF ONE VOLUME OF THREE SERIALS.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

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(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)

PAGE EIGHT NO 100-16800

(18) NO 157-12101. "COMMEMORATION OF THE DEATH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., APRIL 4, 1969; RM" (BUFILE 157-12709) THE FILE CONTAINS ROUTINE CORRESPONDENCE, NONE OF WHICH ARE TAPES, ELSUR LOGS OR TRANSCRIPTS, PHOTOGRAPHS OR BLUKY EXHIBITS. THERE ARE NO SUBFILES TO THIS FILE, WHICH CONSISTS OF ONE VOLUME OF 30 SERIALS.

(19) NO 157-13093. "SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., APRIL 4, 1970; RM" (BUFILE UNKNOWN) THIS FILE CONSISTS OF ROUTINE CORRESPONDENCE, NONE OF WHICH ARE TAPES, ELSUR LOGS OR TRANSCRIPTS, PHOTOGRAPHS OR BLUKY EXHIBITS. THERE ARE NO SUBFILES, AND THIS FILE CONSISTS OF ONE VOLUME OF FOUR SERIALS.

(20) NO 157-13947. "DEMONSTRATION IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING; RM" (BUFILE UNKNOWN) THIS FILE CONSISTS OF ROUTINE CORRESPONDENCE, NONE OF WHICH ARE TAPES, ELSUR LOGS OR TRANSCRIPTS, PHOTOGRAPHS OR BULKY EXHIBITS. THE FILE CONTAINS NO SUBFILES, AND CONSISTS OF ONE VOLUME OF THREE SERIALS.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

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(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)

PAGE NINE NO 100-16800

(21) NO 157-14101. "DEMONSTRATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., APRIL 4, 1971; RM" (BUFILE UNKNOWN) THIS FILE CONSISTS OF ROUTINE CORRESPONDENCE, NONE OF WHICH CONSISTS OF TAPES, ELSUR LOGS OR TRANSCRIPTS, PHOTOGRAPHS OR BULKY EXHIBITS. THE FILE CONTAINS NO SUBFILES, AND CONSISTS OF ONE VOLUME OF TWO SERIALS.

(22) NO 44-5100. "MARCUS WAYNE CHENAULT, AKA; MRS. MARTIN LUTHER KING, SR., AKA - VICTIM; EDWARD BOYKINS - VICTIM; JIMMIE MITCHELL - VICTIM; CR" (BUFILE 44-60978) THIS FILE CONTAINS ROUTINE CORRESPONDENCE, NONE OF WHICH ARE TAPES, ELSUR LOGS OR TRANSCRIPTS, OR BULKY EXHIBITS. THE 1-A ENVELOPE CONTAINS A PHOTOGRAPH OF DINO BALITO. FILE CONTAINS NO SUBFILES, AND CONSISTS OF ONE VOLUME OF 12 SERIALS.

(23) NO 9-2869. "UNSUB, AKA CHARLES OTTO FOX; MRS. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM; EXTORTION" (BUFILE 9-58180) THIS FILE CONSISTS OF ROUTINE CORRESPONDENCE WHICH INCLUDES NO TAPES, ELSUR LOGS OR TRANSCRIPTS, PHOTOGRAPHS OR BULKY EXHIBITS. THE FILE CONTAINS NO SUBFILES, AND CONSISTS OF ONE VOLUME OF 11 SERIALS.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

12/16/75

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) (RUC)
MURKIN

Re Birmingham airtel to the Bureau, 12/12/75.

For information of Memphis, referenced airtel and LHM furnished information from a Birmingham source, with whom insufficient information has been received to establish reliability, that indicated that MARTIN LUTHER KING's assassination was "lined up" by FRANK LABERTO (phonetic), an underworld figure in New Orleans.

FRANK LABERTO's connection in this matter was previously explored. Memphis airtel to New Orleans, 4/20/68, enclosed information received on 4/8/68, from JOHN MC FERREN, a Negro male, residing at Route 4, Box 133A, Somerville, Tennessee. On 4/4/68, MC FERREN picked up supplies for his grocery store at LLSL Produce Company, 814 Scott St., Memphis, Tennessee. While there, MC FERREN overheard a white male on the telephone say, "Kill the SOB on the balcony and get the job done. You will get your \$5,000." That person later said on the phone, "Don't come here. Go to New Orleans and get your money. You know my brother."

LLSL Produce Company was found to be operated by JAMES WILLIAM LATCH and FRANK CAMILLA LIBERTO. FRANK LIBERTO had a brother, TONY, in New Orleans.

- 2 - Bureau
- 2 - Birmingham (44-1740)
- 1 - Detroit (Info)
- 1 - Memphis (Info)
- 1 - New Orleans

CHA:pd
(7)

157-10673-1310

Searched	WJH
Serialized	WJH
Indexed	WJH
Filed	WJH

OK
SAC

NO 157-10673
CHA:pd

Both LATCH and FRANK LIBERTO were interviewed by Memphis on 4/19/68, wherein both emphatically denied any knowledge of the identify of the individual responsible for KING's death. They both failed to identify photograph of JAMES EARL RAY. Both denied receiving any telephone call on 4/4/68.

There is no Pontchartrain Restaurant in New Orleans. New Orleans telephone and city directories, New Orleans PD arrest records, and computerized drivers' licenses for the State of Louisiana operated by the Louisiana State Police, all failed to reflect the name FRANK LIBERTO.

New Orleans is not undertaking any further investigation in this matter, UACB.

12/12/75

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (C)
MURKIN 157-10673

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and three copies of an LHM containing information received from a confidential source of the Birmingham Office relating to the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

One copy of this LHM is being disseminated locally to the U. S. Attorney, Birmingham.

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source

File Where Located

BH T-1 is BH 1079-PCI

BH 137-2089

This informant was contacted on 4/18/74 and he said he would be willing to assist this Bureau on a confidential basis concerning violation of Federal and/or local laws that might come to this attention. It is noted that he has an extensive criminal record and is known to associate with much of the criminal element in the Birmingham area.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 4) (RM)
- 1 - Detroit (Enc. 1) (info) (RM)
- 1 - New Orleans (Enc. 1) (info) (RM)
- 1 - Birmingham

GBS:bkc
(5)

157-10673-1311

SEARCHED <u>B</u>	INDEXED <u>B</u>
SERIALIZED <u>B</u>	FILED <u>B</u>
DEC 15 1975	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Arduon *10/11*
AD

BH 44-1740

In August, 1974, it was noted that this source had been contacted at least once each 30 days since April, 1974 and failed to furnish any information of value. SA MICHAEL R. HARTMAN noted at that time that it appeared that source had been attempting to gain information concerning current FBI investigations rather than furnishing information. Due to this fact, the informant's case was closed.

This informant's file was reopened recently when he was contacted in a routine investigation. He said that his son was currently under arrest for selling drugs and in connection with this, source said he would like to help his son in any way he could by providing information to the Federal Government. Since then, he has given some reliable information. This source has a criminal record and has been characterized by SA RALPH H. BUTLER, who had an 87 case against source in which he was prosecuted, as a "pathological liar".



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Birmingham, Alabama

December 12, 1975

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 44-1740

ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CIVIL RIGHTS

On December 10, 1975, BH T-1, who has furnished insufficient information to establish his reliability, advised as follows:

Source furnished information regarding the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He does not know whether this information is reliable or not but he first heard it several weeks before King was killed. He got this information from an individual named Dr. Prosch (phonetic). He said that Prosch showed him a rifle which Prosch had in the trunk of his car and told him the gun was to be used in a "big killing". Prosch said that the rifle was obtained from Aeromarine Company, Birmingham.

BH T-1 advised that after the assassination when Prosch was drinking, Prosch told source that King's assassination had been set up by King's associates, namely Dr. Abernathy, and that Prosch's job was to obtain the weapon to be used in the murder. Prosch told source that James Earl Ray was only a decoy in the murder. Prosch advised that the man responsible for lining up the killer(s) of King was Frank LaBerto (phonetic), an underworld figure in New Orleans, Louisiana and a friend of Prosch. LaBerto allegedly received \$265,000.00 for arranging King's murder and went to Detroit the day King was killed. LaBerto runs a truck stop in New Orleans named The Lake Pontchartrain Restaurant. Dr. Prosch used to formerly spend a lot of time at the Gulas Restaurant on Highway 78 East, Birmingham and that after James Earl Ray's picture was published in the newspaper, source said that he recognized Ray as an individual who use to meet Prosch at the Gulas Restaurant a couple of weeks before King was murdered.

LaBerto

157-10673-1312

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.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 15 1975	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

SAC *OK*

ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

BH T-1 advised Prosch was a "gun nut" and that he has been convicted by Federal authorities on a firearms violation.

BH T-1 advised that he has not told anyone about this before because he did not think that any law enforcement agency would "touch" it.

It is noted that the "Birmingham News" for April 22, 1971 carried an article captioned, "Dr. Prosch indicted on gun charges". This article stated that Dr. Gus Joseph Prosch, Jr. was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in Birmingham on three counts of Federal gun control violations. He was arrested at his home and charged with unregistered weapons and was released on \$10,000.00 bond.

On March 10, 1971, Gus Joseph Prosch, Jr. was sentenced in Federal Court in Birmingham to five years in custody of the Attorney General for illegal possession of unregistered firearms. He was also sentenced to two other five year terms to run concurrently with the first count.

2*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Senate Testimony**FBI Tried to Discredit
Dr. King, Say Officials**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top FBI official said today there was no justification for the bureau's extensive campaign to destroy Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a leader of the civil rights movement.

However, Associate Deputy Director James B. Adams defended the bureau's investigation of possible Communist influences on King and said that the late Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy had requested and approved FBI wiretaps on the civil rights leader.

Testifying under oath before the Senate intelligence committee, Adams said a total of 25 schemes were directed at discrediting King for which there was "no statutory basis or justification."

Adams said the motive for the campaign against King "was known to (the late FBI Director J. Edgar) Hoover and one top official," but Adams refused to reveal that motive.

Evidence made public Tuesday revealed that the FBI had wiretapped and bugged King, sent his wife an anonymous letter which King took to be a suggestion he commit suicide shortly before he was to receive the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize, and sought to promote a successor to King as the "national Negro leader."

One document raised the possibility that the FBI had been responsible for King's stay at the Memphis hotel where he was shot and killed in April 1968.

Adams' remark about Kennedy's approval of the wiretap did not apply to the electronic bugs, and it remained unclear who had approved the installation of 16 such eavesdropping devices against King.

The FBI official told the committee that "the president of the United States and the attorney general specifically discussed their concern of Communist influence with Dr. King."

He identified Kennedy as the attorney general but did not mention the president by name. Kennedy served as attorney general under both Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and John F. Kennedy.

As described by Adams, Robert Kennedy initially requested the wiretap on King but then turned down the wiretap proposed submitted by the FBI. The bureau made a second proposal which Kennedy approved, according to Adams. "I don't know why he changed his mind," Adams said.

According to committee lawyers, the FBI campaign against King also included an unsuccessful 1964 effort to prevent King from meeting Pope Paul VI; a warning to then-New York Gov. Nelson A.

Rockefeller not to meet with King, and an attempt to convince a major university, which had awarded an honorary degree to then-FBI director J. Edgar Hoover not to make a similar presentation to King.

Chief counsels F. A. O. Schwarz III and Curtis R. Smothers told the committee the campaign began with a January 1962 memo in which Hoover concluded that King was "no good." The campaign escalated sharply after the August 1963 civil rights march on Washington despite a determination by agents just prior to the march that the Communist party had "failed dismally" in its efforts to infiltrate the movement lead by King, the lawyers said.

The finding that Communists had failed to infiltrate the civil rights movement was rejected by Hoover with the notation, "Time will only prove you're wrong," according to a series of memos read by the staff.

Several days after the march, William C. Sullivan, chief of the FBI domestic intelligence division, responded with a note that read "the director is correct ... We regret greatly the memo did not measure up to the standards that the director had every right to expect."

Another memo followed, recommending increased coverage of Communist influence in the civil rights movement, to which Hoover responded. "I can't understand how you can so agilely switch your thinking."

Ten days after than an unofficial memo written by Sullivan stated "it is obvious to us now we did not put the proper interpretation on the facts We regard

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

Front Page

State-Times
Baton Rouge, La.

Date: 11-19-75

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Ernest Gueymaid

Title: FBI Tried to
Discredit Dr. King,
Say Officials

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: NO

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673-1313

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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DEC 22 1975	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

AKG

Martin Luther King to be the most dangerous and effective Negro leader in the country."

That memo was followed by a December 1963 meeting at which bureau officials discussed a total of 21 different tactics for dealing with King, including "the possibility of placing a good looking female plant in King's office," staff lawyers said.

One month later the first of 16 electronic bugs and eight wiretaps on King was installed, according to the lawyers.

Schwarz said that "the extraordinary thing is to look at the timing of efforts the bureau made to destroy Martin Luther King." According to Schwarz, the campaign would reach peaks of intensity each time King reached high points in his career.

Thirty-four days before King was to receive the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize, his wife received an anonymous letter sent by the FBI and accompanied by a tape picked up by one of the bureau's bugs, Schwarz said. The letter read in part, "King, there is only one thing left for you to do. You know what it is. You have just 84 days in which to do (it). You are done. There is but one way out for you."

Staff members refused to describe the contents of the tape except to say that it contained material embarrassing to King.

Smothers said the idea behind the letter was that the FBI had enough material to discredit King should he accept the Nobel prize.

According to Mondale, King interpreted the letter to be a suggestion that he commit suicide.

A March 1968 memo whose stated purpose was "to publicize hypocrisy on the part of Martin Luther King" raised the possibility that the FBI may have been instrumental in King's checking into the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tenn., where he was shot and killed on April 4, 1968.

That memo, which a staff lawyer said bore a notation indicating that Hoover had approved it, recommended furnishing "a cooperative news media source" with the information that King, while urging a boycott of white merchants, was staying in a white-owned hotel despite the fact that "there is a first class Negro hotel in Memphis, the Hotel Lorraine."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'Ray Aspired to Be on FBI Wanted Spot'

By MILLIE BALL

James Earl Ray's major motivation in killing Martin Luther King was to gain attention, "to be featured at the end of 'The FBI' television show as the week's 'most wanted criminal,'" said Ray's biographer, William Bradford Huie, who labels recurring conspiracy theories "ridiculous."

It was on a Tuesday that the FBI announced it was looking for Ray in connection with King's assassination. So that Sunday, Ray ran all over Toronto, Canada, looking for a bar with a television set turned to "The FBI," said Huie.

He knew about the tag at the end of the show when the FBI announced it was searching for a particular criminal. For someone who always had been a loser, "a little guy with no status, even in prison," being that criminal was a big moment.

"Aristotle wrote that life is a constant effort to feel superior," said Huie in a recent interview at the Monteleone Hotel. "And people who are lonely and kooky and feel overlooked and who yearn for attention have learned the way to get on television, to be on the cover of 'Time,' is by threatening or shooting someone who's important."

"This is true for all assassins. The conspiracy theories are all ridiculous. I can't imagine who would conspire with these people — Oswald, Sirhan Sirhan, and James Earl Ray."

Huie became an authority on the Ray case after Ray accepted a deal to give the Hartselle, Ala., author his exclusive story in exchange for payment to Ray's attorneys. Although Huie wrote a book, "Hills and the Execution," about the case, he insists now it was a losing process for him. "I paid his lawyers 60 per cent of my gross, and the research cost me at least \$10,000."

And Ray is now charging that Huie violated his contract. "I guess I will have to defend that for the rest of my life," said Huie.

"Ray's saying that I took advantage of him. I know he's a pretty sharp cookie. He wrote 20,000 words for me through his lawyer," said Huie, who wasn't al-

lowed to meet with Ray before his trial. "I knew he wasn't a patsy. His recollection for detail was fantastic."

According to Huie, when Ray finally was arrested in London, he was sure every important lawyer "would rush to London to ask to defend him. It was his first great disappointment" when that didn't happen. Sirhan Sirhan was arrested about the same time (for the assassi-

nation of Robert Kennedy), and Ray was furious when three famous lawyers decided to represent Sirhan Sirhan, said Huie.

Ray finally was able to hire Houston, Tex., attorney Percy Foreman, who "compelled" him to plead guilty. Huie related Ray had no defense — he left his fingerprints on the rifle and his prison number on a transistor radio he left at the scene — and Foreman wasn't accustomed to losing cases and "getting beat over the head by a public attorney."

While Ray wanted a trial for "more attention," Foreman didn't need more publicity, said Huie. "Foreman put him over a barrel. He said if Ray wanted a trial, the public defender, who was ready, could defend him. And that would have been a disgrace to Ray."

Huie said his motivation for writing the book about Ray was to find the truth.

In fact that has been the impetus for all of Huie's stories. "Essentially, I write little stories about one man and his problems in the world," said the author of "The Execution of Private Slovik," "The Americanization of Emily," "The Klansman," "The Hiroshima Plot," and a new book, "In the Hours of Night."

"Nothing is more important than what happens to one man," said Huie. "There is no greater tragedy than unnecessary death or injustice to one human being."

Huie said no one has ever told him what to write. He's gotten his ideas for his books through his life. For instance, he served in the Navy and as a journalist during World War II, and "The first time I saw a stockade of men who wouldn't fight, I was interested in finding out why." The Slovik story, about the only American executed for refusing to fight

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

Section 1
Page 22

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

Date: 12-11-75
Edition: Morning
Author: Millie Ball
Editor: Ed Tunstall
Title: 'Ray Aspired to Be on FBI Wanted Spot'

Character: 157-10673-
or
Classification: ~~52-700~~
Submitting Office: MO

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 15 1975	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

157-10673-8314

during World War II, was the product of that curiosity.

"The Americanization of Emily" was close to Huie's own experiences during the war. "I was ordered to take a film crew to Omaha Beach during the Normandy invasion. You could find that film in the Pentagon and blow dust off of it. I had good cameramen, and three were killed. I wake up now wondering why they were killed. Maybe it was justified."

Huie said he is basically a story teller. And for two-and-a-half hours the taut-faced man with almost a military bearing, managed to silence two usually talkative reporters with his interview-soliloquy.

As he spun his tales, he looked directly into the eyes of his dual audience, sliced the air with emphasizing hand motions, and lowered and raised his voice inflections as he took on the verbal characteristics of the people he talked about and emphasized certain points.

His new book, "In the Hours of the Night," is, he said, "a story about the atomic bomb and disappointments and idealism."

In the book, Frank Castleton is "fictional." But those surrounding him are

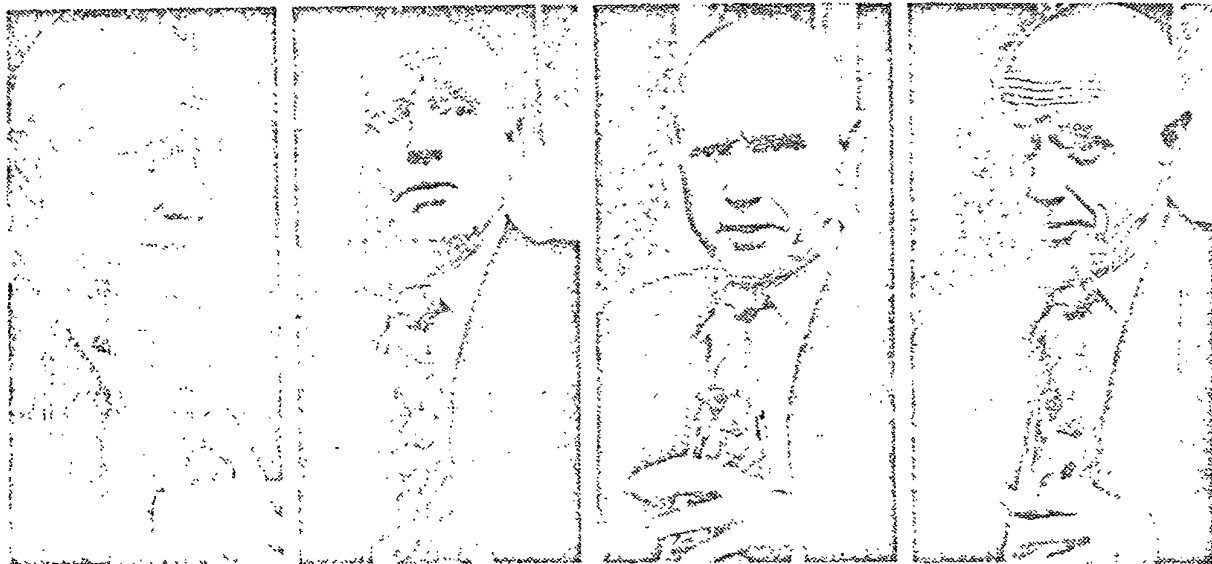
real historical figures from World War II. Castleton, who worked on the atomic bomb, has a nervous breakdown three years later because his idealism has been shattered with Hiroshima.

"All of the government story (in the book) is factual and all that is quoted is true. All (President Franklin D.) Roosevelt says to Castleton, he said to somebody.

"What we have here is a dramatic device as old as writing. I must create a fictional character who represents everybody, who serves a great man, and is affected by it, as you would have been had you been there. You can't depend on historians to do that job.

"Whenever you start looking for truth after a period of time, you have to turn to the novelist and dramatist. A novel is the way to write truth. It can be truer than a factual account, and it can reach more people than a historian's account."

Huie paused, and wrinkled his brow. "Hemingway said it better than me. The reason I write is to tell future generations what it was like to be there, what we dreamed, what we hoped and what the weather was. That's your purpose — all you can hope to achieve."



WILLIAM F. WILLFORD RIFE, author of "The Execution of Private Smith," "The Americanization of Emily," "The Klansman," and "The Hiroshima Plot," spent two-and-a-half hours recently expounding on his many intriguing theories

—Staff Photos by Burt Steel
ranging from James Earl Ray to his philosophy of writing. The 65-year-old Alabama resident has come out with a new book, "In the Hours of the Night," about the atomic bomb and the people who decided to bomb Hiroshima.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Hearing of King Tapes Proposed in Probe of FBI

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., says the Senate intelligence committee should listen to recordings of wiretaps placed by the FBI on Martin Luther King Jr. to determine if the bureau was justified in spying on the late civil rights leader.

Goldwater made his proposal Wednesday during testimony by Clarence M. Kelley, director of the FBI. Kelley told the intelligence committee that the tapes recorded at the orders of the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover will not be destroyed in the near future.

Kelley said the FBI will keep the tapes until it determines whether it needs to re-open the investigation in King's 1968 assassination.

ATTY. GEN. Edward H. Levi is to testify before the committee today on his proposals for curbing abuses by the FBI.

Earlier testimony has indicated that the FBI was used by presidents as a domestic spy agency and that Hoover often assigned agents to compile files on persons in whom he had a personal interest.

In response to Goldwater's proposal, Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, chairman of the panel, said committee staff members purposely refrained from listening to the FBI's King tapes because they thought that to do so would be a further violation of the late civil rights leader's privacy.

HOOVER HAD told associates he was concerned because King was associating with Communists.

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

Section A
Page 11

Shreveport Journal
Shreveport, La.

Date: 12-11-75

Edition:

Author:

Editor: George Shannon

Title: Hearing of King
Tapes Proposed in
Probe of FBI

Character:

or

Classification: 157-10673

Submitting Office: NO

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157-10673-1315

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 29 1975	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Kelley Rules Out FBI Harassment

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director Clarence Kelley says he can foresee no circumstances under which the FBI would undertake a long campaign of harassment against an individual as it did against slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Kelley said he would consult with the attorney general before authorizing any kind of secret action to prevent impending terrorist violence.

He made the remarks in an interview published Tuesday by the Washington Star. Asked whether a campaign of harassment, such as that conducted against King, could occur now, he told the Star:

"Something that would be categorized as a campaign of harassment certainly could not happen now."

But he added that in some situations, he would consider authorizing tactics some might consider harassment and would discuss it with the attorney general.

Asked about the FBI's past practice of distributing bogus brochures in an effort to create friction among dissident political groups, Kelley said, "I don't think that we should sponsor any movement that might bring about warfare or armed activity between groups no matter what might be their goal."

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

PAGE 9

SECTION 1

TIMES-PICAYUNE

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 2-18-76

Edition: MORNING

Author:

Editor: ED TUNSTALL

Title: KELLEY RULES OUT
FBI HARASSMENTCharacter: 157-137-11
or 157-10-15

Classification:

Submitting Office: NO 10037

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 24 1976	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	
157-10673-1316	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King slay probe critics ignored

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ignoring critics who say the Justice Department should not investigate itself, Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi is turning to an internal task force for a study of the FBI's handling of the investigation of the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Levi said yesterday the Office of Professional Responsibility, which he created last December, will complete a Justice Department probe of three separate issues surrounding King's murder eight years ago.

He said the task force will study the FBI harassment campaign against the slain civil rights leader; any potential links between the FBI and the assassination; and the fairness and honesty of the original FBI investigation, which resulted in a guilty plea by James Earl Ray, now serving a 99-year prison term for King's slaying.

OFFICIALS SAID Levi hopes the probe will re-establish the Justice Department's public credibility in the post-Watergate era.

Assistant Atty. Gen. J. Stanley Pottinger, head of the department's civil rights division, conducted a preliminary probe of the King investigation and recommended that an outside panel including civil rights leaders investigate the same questions.

But Levi rejected that, Pottinger said Thursday, because the attorney general "believes this department has a very serious responsibility to insure that any, alleged wrongdoing, whether inside or outside the department, is dealt with by the attorney general."

Almost as Pottinger spoke, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, successor to King as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, called for an independent blue-ribbon panel to probe the assassination.

ABERNATHY SAID he would not be satisfied until the president names a special panel of "citizens, who owe no allegiance to anyone except to their country and to justice and to truth."

The new internal investigative office is headed by former civil rights division attorney Michael Shaheen. The FBI is known to have opposed creation of Shaheen's office.

Pottinger said the new King probe will require a team of four to six lawyers to examine about 200,000 documents in FBI field offices as well as interviews with those involved in the investigation.

Pottinger said his initial investigation found no sign that the original FBI probe was either incomplete or dishonestly handled.

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

SECTION A
PAGE THREE

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-3-76

Edition: FINAL

Author:

Editor: WALTER G. COWAN

Title: KING SLAY PROBE
CRITICS IGNORED

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: N.O.

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673-1317

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 4 1976	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

FURTHERMORE, a review of 3,500 FBI documents revealed no evidence that the FBI had anything to do with King's death. King was shot on a motel balcony in Memphis, Tenn., April 4, 1968.

The statute of limitations has expired on all possible criminal violations except conspiracy charges, but Pottinger said wrongdoing by FBI officials still could be punished through disciplinary action.

He said nine ranking FBI officials identified as initiating or directing the bureau campaign against King have died or retired. He did not identify the nine. Pottinger said the harassment campaign, exposed in detail by the Senate intelligence committee, was a comprehensive attack against King and the civil rights movement.

It was not clear how long the new Justice Department probe would take, but Pottinger indicated it would be at least a matter of months.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

U.S. Launches New Probe into Murder of Dr. King

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department on Thursday launched a full review of the FBI investigation of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, although Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi said a preliminary inquiry turned up no evidence that the probe was less than thorough.

Levi said he will assign a team of department lawyers to review some 200,000 FBI documents dealing with the assassination of King and also the FBI campaign to harass and discredit him as a civil rights leader.

The team of four to six lawyers will review any other relevant documents and conduct interviews in a month's long investigation, said Asst. Atty. Gen. J. Stanley Pottinger.

Levi announced his decision after studying the conclusions Pottinger drew from a preliminary review of about 3,500 FBI documents.

Pottinger had recommended the appointment of an outside commission, including civil rights leaders, to pursue the investigation.

But Levi rejected the approach because he "believes this department has a very serious responsibility to insure that any alleged wrongdoing, whether inside or outside the department, is dealt with by the attorney general," Pottinger told a news conference.

Levi's decision to keep the investigation within the department was attacked immediately by the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, who succeeded King as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

"I will not be satisfied until the President appoints a special commit-

tee of distinguished American citizens who owe no allegiance to anyone except to their country and to justice and to truth," Abernathy said in Atlanta. "I do not have any faith whatsoever in the investigation as conducted by the FBI in the tragic assassination..."

Levi instructed Pottinger, head of the Civil Rights Division, to undertake the preliminary review after the Senate Intelligence Committee disclosed details of the FBI harassment of King until the assassination of April 4, 1968, on a motel balcony in Memphis, Tenn.

The harassment was ordered by the late J. Edgar Hoover, then FBI director. Pottinger said nine FBI officials were involved in planning and directing the harassment. He said all are now dead or retired, but he declined to name them.

Levi told the new task force to answer four questions:

—Whether the FBI probe of King's slaying was thorough and honest.

—Whether there is any evidence the FBI was involved in the assassination of King.

—Whether in light of the first two matters there is any new evidence which has come to the attention of the department concerning the assassination of Dr. King.

—Whether the nature of the relationship between the FBI and Dr. King calls for criminal prosecutions, disciplinary proceedings or other appropriate action.

James Earl Ray was arrested for killing King, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. He has since gone to court in an effort to withdraw his plea and go to trial.

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

SECTION ONE
PAGE TWO

TIMES-PICAYUNE

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-30-76

Edition: MORNING

Author:

Editor: ED TUNSTALL

Title: U.S. LAUNCHES
NEW PROBE INTO MUR-
DER OF DR. KING

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: N.O.

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 4 1976	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

157-10673-1318

LBJ, JFK Administrations Linked to King Smear Job

WASHINGTON (AP) — High officials in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations must share the blame for the FBI's campaign to destroy Dr. Martin Luther King, a Senate intelligence committee staff report said Wednesday.

It said there was no evidence that anyone outside the FBI approved the campaign against King, but it concluded that "officials responsible for supervising the FBI received indications that such an effort . . . might be taking place and failed to take adequate steps to prevent it."

The report said evidence showed that:

— Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy was given a summary of information obtained from bugs placed in King's hotel rooms;

— Atty. Gen. Nicholas DeB. Katzenbach and Asst. Atty. Gen. Burke Marshall told President Johnson that the FBI had offered to play tape recordings of the bugs to reporters;

— The FBI offered to play the tape recordings for Johnson aide Walter Jenkins; and

— Johnson aide Bill Moyers approved sending FBI reports containing derogatory personal information about King to other government agencies.

"The evidence reveals a disturbing attitude of unconcern by responsible officials and a failure on their part to make appropriate corrective measures," the report said.

One FBI memo quoted in the report stated that Jenkins had suggested leaking the hotel room tapes to the press. However, the report added that in a sworn interview "Jenkins expressly denied" making such a suggestion.

The 105-page study, which contained few new disclosures concerning the bureau's self-described campaign "to completely discredit King as the leader of the Negro people," was released as a supplementary volume to the intelligence panel's final report made public last week.

A total of 13 supplementary volumes will be released "in order that the American public may fully know the extent of the crimes" committed by U.S. intelligence agencies, chairman Frank Church, D-Idaho, said.

Church made clear that release of the volumes was intended to bolster the case of senators calling for creation of a new

congressional panel to monitor intelligence agencies.

The report suggested that the FBI attack against King was motivated both by a suspicion that Communists were serving as advisers to the civil rights leader and by director J. Edgar Hoover's personal feeling that King was "no good."

The staff said they had found no evidence that any of King's advisers "attempted to exploit the civil rights move-

ment to carry out the plans of the Communist Party."

According to the report, in October, 1963, Atty. Gen. Kennedy approved in writing the installation of wiretaps in King's home and in the New York and Atlanta offices of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in order to determine the extent of "Communist influence in the racial situation."

Three months later the first of 15 bugs was installed in King's hotel room without Kennedy's knowledge, according to the report. An FBI memo stated that the bugs were needed to obtain information about the private activities of King and his associates so that he could be "completely discredited."

The FBI's effort to discredit Dr. King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference "involved plans touching on virtually every aspect of Dr. King's life" and even continued after his death, the report said.

Evidence contained in the report showed that the FBI campaign included:

— Attempts to persuade officials at Marquette University and Springfield College not to grant King an honorary degree;

— Persuading Francis Cardinal Spellman to make an unsuccessful attempt to prevent a meeting between King and the Pope;

— Attempting to persuade then-Vice President Humphrey and New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller not to participate in ceremonies honoring King for having won the Nobel Peace Prize;

— Falsely informing contributors to the SCLC that King was stashing money away in a Swiss bank account;

— Furnishing Atlanta Constitution editor Ralph McGill with derogatory information about King as part of an effort to dissuade community leaders from attending a banquet honoring King; and

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

FRONT PAGE

TIMES-PICAYUNE

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 5-6-76
Edition: MORNING

Author:
Editor: ED TUNSTALL
Title: LBJ, JFK, ADMINISTRATIONS LINKED TO KING SMEAR JOB

Character:
or 157-10473
Classification:
Submitting Office: N.O. 19

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 11 1976	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

-A recommendation to brief
congressmen on King's personal life in
order to block passage of a bill declaring
the birthday of the slain civil rights lead-
er a national holiday.

NR059 WA CODE

10117PM NITEL 07/29/76 MDP

TO ATLANTA

BIRMINGHAM

CHARLOTTE

CHICAGO

NEW ORLEANS

NEW YORK

SPRINGFIELD

ST. LOUIS

FROM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

REBUTEL TO ALL OFFICES DATED JULY 28, 1976, WHICH SET FORTH BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONCERNING REVIEW OF OUR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., INVESTIGATIONS BY A TASK FORCE OF THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR), DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

PURPOSE OF THIS TELETYPE IS TO ALERT RECIPIENTS REGARDING PLANS OF OPR TASK FORCE PERSONNEL TO VISIT THEIR OFFICES TO CONTINUE REVIEW OF OUR KING INVESTIGATIONS.

DURING AUGUST, 1976, TASK FORCE PERSONNEL FRED FOLSOM, LEADER; JAMES WALKER; JOSEPH GROSS; JAMES KIECKHEFER AND WILLIAM WHITE WILL ARRIVE AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES ON DATES INDICATED: ATLANTA AUGUST 2-3, 1976; BIRMINGHAM AUGUST 4-5,

157-10673-1320

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 29 1976	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

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CC 100-106670

PAGE TWO

1976; AND NEW ORLEANS AUGUST 5-6, 1976. PRIOR TO JOINING THE GROUP IN ATLANTA, WALKER WILL ARRIVE AT THE CHARLOTTE OFFICE ON THE MORNING OF JULY 30, 1976. WITH EXCEPTION OF ATLANTA THE TASK FORCE DESIRES TO REVIEW KING ASSASSINATION FILES (MURKIN), THE INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND ALL KING RELATED SECURITY FILES. IN ATLANTA THE TASK FORCE IS ONLY INTERESTED IN REVIEWING MURKIN FILES AND PLANS A SECOND TRIP TO ATLANTA AT A LATER DATE TO REVIEW ALL SECURITY FILES.

DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 16-20, 1976, TRAVEL IS PLANNED TO CHICAGO, ST. LOUIS AND SPRINGFIELD, ALTHOUGH DURATION OF TIME IN EACH OFFICE IS UNKNOWN AT PRESENT. ALL KING RELATED FILES ARE TO BE REVIEWED IN ST. LOUIS AND SPRINGFIELD. IN CHICAGO THE TASK FORCE IS INTERESTED INITIALLY IN REVIEWING ONLY THE MURKIN FILE AND PLANS A LATER VISIT TO REVIEW THE KING INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION AND RELATED SECURITY FILES. ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING TRAVEL OF THE TASK FORCE DURING THE PERIOD AUGUST 16-20, 1976, WILL BE PROVIDED. NO SPECIFIC DATES FOR TRAVEL TO NEW YORK HAVE BEEN SET OTHER THAN IT WILL BE AFTER AUGUST 20 1976.

IT IS NOTED THAT ALL PERSONNEL ON THE TASK FORCE ARE AUTHORIZED TOTAL ACCESS TO PERTINENT FILES AND SUBFILES AT FBIHQ AND IN THE FIELD REGARDING INVESTIGATION OF KING, HIS FAMILY MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES. THIS WILL INCLUDE COVER PAGES OF

PAGE THREE

COMMUNICATIONS CONTAINING IDENTITIES OF SOME FBI SOURCES AND INFORMANTS WHO WERE NOT AFFORDED SYMBOL NUMBERS AT THAT TIME AND INDIVIDUALS WHO EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED CONFIDENTIALITY. INFORMANT FILES ARE NOT TO BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHOUT PRIOR FBIHQ AUTHORITY.

BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITY INVOLVING OUR INVESTIGATION OF STANLEY DAVID LEVISON, IT HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT HIS FILE AT FBIHQ AND IN THE FIELD BE RESTRICTED TO REVIEW BY FOLSON ONLY. THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT RENDERED A DECISION ON THIS RECOMMENDATION. THEREFORE, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, RECIPIENTS ARE TO DENY ALL TASK FORCE PERSONNEL ACCESS TO LEVISON'S FILE.

RECIPIENTS ASSIGN COORDINATOR TO HANDLE LIAISON WITH TASK FORCE PERSONNEL AND PROVIDE OFFICE SPACE IN WHICH TO CONDUCT REVIEW. CONFIRM THEIR ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE BY TELETYPE AND KEEP FBIHQ ADVISED OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

END

FBI NO L CLR WLN

NR0202 WA CODE SENT 4:40AM 7/30/76 MJW

PM NIEL 07/29/76 MDP

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BUDED AUGUST 9, 1976

FOR INFORMATION OF RECIPIENTS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (AG) HAS ORDERED A REVIEW OF THE FBI'S INVESTIGATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. ASSIGNED TO CONDUCT THIS REVIEW IS A TASK FORCE WORKING UNDER DIRECTION OF THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS INDICATED THE REVIEW IS TO RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING FOUR QUESTIONS: (1) WAS THE FBI INVESTIGATION OF KING'S ASSASSINATION THOROUGH AND HONEST? (2) IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THE FBI WAS INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION? (3) IS THERE ANY NEW EVIDENCE WHICH HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION? (4) DOES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BUREAU AND KING CALL FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION?

THIS REVIEW IS A CONTINUATION OF A "PARTIAL REVIEW" RECENTLY

cc to 100-16800
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7-8/10

157-10673-1321

MURKIN

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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JUL 29 1976	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Callahan S

PAGE TWO

CONDUCTED BY THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER DIRECTION OF ASSISTANT AG J. STANLEY POTTINGER. ALL PERSONNEL ON THE TASK FORCE ARE AUTHORIZED TOTAL ACCESS TO OUR FILES PERTAINING TO KING'S ASSASSINATION, OUR INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND ANY FILES RELATING TO BASIS FOR THESE INVESTIGATIONS. THIS WILL INC

UDE COVER PAGES OF COMMUNICATIONS CONTAINING IDENTITIES OF SOME FBI SOURCES AND INFORMANTS WHO WERE NOT AFFORDED SYMBOL NUMBERS AT THAT TIME AND INDIVIDUALS WHO EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED CONFIDENTIALITY.

TO DATE THE TASK FORCE HAS REVIEWED FBIHQ AND WFO FILES CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION OF KING CAPTIONED "MURKIN, BUREAU FILE 44-33861. TASK FORCE MEMBERS HAVE TRAVELED TO MEMPHIS, MILWAUKEE, KANSAS CITY, OMAHA, SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES AND REVIEWED MURKIN AND INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION FILES OF THOSE OFFICES. FUTURE TRAVEL BY THE TASK FORCE IS PLANNED FOR ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, CHARLOTTE, CHICAGO, NEW ORLEANS, NEW YORK, SPRINGFIELD AND ST. LOUIS.

AFTER ABOVE TRAVEL IS COMPLETED AND KING RELATED SECURITY FILES AT FBIHQ ARE REVIEWED, THE TASK FORCE WILL HAVE SEEN THE MAJORITY OF SERIALS IN OUR FILES RELATING TO THE KING INVESTIGATIONS. HOWEVER, SINCE IT IS THE GOAL OF THE TASK FORCE TO REVIEW KING RELATED FILES IN EVERY FIELD OFFICE, IT WILL BE

PAGE THREE

NECESSARY TO FORWARD XEROX COPIES OF FILES FROM THE REMAINING OFFICES TO FBIHQ FOR REVIEW.

THEREFORE, ALL RECIPIENTS WITH EXCEPTION OF THOSE OFFICES NAMED ABOVE, FURNISH FBIHQ ONE XEROX COPY OF EACH SERIAL CONTAINED IN YOUR KING ASSASSINATION FILE CAPTIONED "MURKIN." IT IS REQUESTED THIS MATERIAL BE PROCESSED AND MAILED TO REACH FBIHQ PRIOR TO AUGUST 9, 1976. THIS MATERIAL SHOULD BE SENT BY REGISTERED MAIL, ATTENTION DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR INGRAM, INTELLIGENCE DIVISION.

IF MURKIN FILES CONTAIN ANY PHOTOGRAPHS, EXHIBITS OR OTHER ITEMS WHICH CANNOT BE XEROXED A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH ITEM AND ITS LOCATION SHOULD BE SET FORTH IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTING THE DOCUMENTS TO FBIHQ.

SUBSEQUENT INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE ISSUED CONCERNING SUBMISSION OF COPIES OF OUR INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND RELATED SECURITY FILES. OFFICES TO BE VISITED IN THE FUTURE BY TASK FORCE PERSONNEL WILL ALSO BE FURNISHED APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS BY SEPARATE COMMUNICATION.

END

NR0071 WA CODE

8:00PM NITEL 7-30-76 CMB

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; BUDED AUGUST 9, 1976.

REBUIEL TO ALL SACS JULY 28, 1976.

FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE HAS RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING CHANGE REGARDING REPRODUCTION OF FIELD OFFICE SERIALS IN THE MURKIN INVESTIGATION, AS OUTLINED IN REFERENCED TELETYPE.

IT WILL BE NECESSARY ONLY TO XEROX THE FIRST PAGE OF ANY DOCUMENT IN YOUR MURKIN FILE IF A COPY OF THAT DOCUMENT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ. THIS WILL INCLUDE BOTH DOCUMENTS ORIGINATING IN YOUR OFFICE AND THOSE RECEIVED FROM OTHER FIELD DIVISIONS. ANY DOCUMENTS IN YOUR MURKIN FILE, COPIES OF WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ MUST BE REPRODUCED IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND FORWARDED TO FBIHQ.

IT IS NOTED THAT THIS FIRST PAGE SHOULD CONTAIN THE FIELD OFFICE SERIAL NUMBER IN ORDER THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN MAKE A COMPLETE CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNTING OF EACH FIELD OFFICE SERIAL.

END

*Anderson
advised
KES*

~~157-10637~~
157-10637-1322

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
JUL 30 1976	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Anderson
Callahan

FBI

Date: 8/6/76

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) (RUC)
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
RE BIRMINGHAM NITEL, AUG. 5, 1976.

THE FIVE MAN TASK FORCE OF THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR), DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, ARRIVED IN THE NEW ORLEANS OFFICE AT 9:20 A. M., AUG. 6, 1976. ALL VOLUMES OF THE FOLLOWING NEW ORLEANS FILES WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE TASK FORCE FOR REVIEW: MURKIN FILE (NO 157-10673); COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, IS-C. (NO-100-16849); MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., SM-C (NO 100-16800); COMMUNIST INFILTRATION IN RACIAL MATTERS (CIRM), IS-C (NO 100-17122); IN ADDITION VARIOUS 44, 157 AND 173 FILES WHICH CONTAIN REFERENCES TO KING WERE MADE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW. THE TASK FORCE DID NOT MAKE ANY REQUEST FOR ANY XEROXING OF THE MATERIAL REVIEWED AND THEY DEPARTED THE NEW ORLEANS OFFICE AT APPROXIMATELY 3:25 P.M., AUG. 5, 1976, OSTENSIBLY TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON, D. C.

END.

3 - New Orleans

(1 - 157-10673)

(1 - 100-16800)

(1 - 66-2855)

SMC/bdw

(3)

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Searched _____

Serialized _____

Indexed _____

Filed _____

Sent _____

Per _____

GPO : 1975 O - 590-992

8/9/76

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING SECTION
FINANCE AND PERSONNEL DIVISION

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (100-16800) (RUC)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.;
DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW;
COST DATA

Re Bureau nitel, 8/6/76.

In response to referenced Bureau nitel, the following recapitulates the manpower spent on Departmental review of New Orleans FBI files regarding MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.:

SA STEPHEN M. CALLENDER	GS-13, Step 3	42 Hours
SUPERVISOR CLIFFORD H. ANDERSON	GS 14, Step 1	3 Hours
SECRETARY PATRICIA A. DOUGLAS	GS 5, Step 6	3 Hours
CLERK WILLIAM A. MAC LANE	GS 3, Step 2	5 Hours
CLERK PETER H. JOHNSON	GS 5, Step 5	2 Hours

No unusual costs were incurred in this review by the New Orleans Office.

OACB, the above data will not be included in the New Orleans monthly submission in case entitled, "COST RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES FROM OTHER AGENCIES, CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES, AND REQUESTS UNDER THE FOIPA."

2 - Bureau

③ - New Orleans (1 - 100-16800)
(1 - 157-10673)
(1 - 66-2855)

GHA:pd
(5) *pd*

157-10673-1324
Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

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NR 005 BH CODE

8:13 PM NITEL AUGUST 5, 1976 FAS

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)
NEW ORLEANS

FROM BIRMINGHAM (100-4896) (P)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

RE ATLANTA NITEL TO DIRECTOR AND BIRMINGHAM, AUG. 3, 1976,
AND BIRMINGHAM NITEL TO BUREAU DATED 12/11/75.

THE FIVE-MAN TASK FORCE OF THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY (OPR), DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, ARRIVED IN THE
BIRMINGHAM OFFICE AT 8:55 AM ON AUG. 4, 1976. ALL VOLUMES OF
THE FOLLOWING BIRMINGHAM FILES WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE
TASK FORCE FOR REVIEW. MURKIN FILE (44-1740); SOUTHERN LEADER-
SHIP CONFERENCE, RACIAL MATTERS; COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF
THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, IS-C, BH 157-115;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., SM-C, BH 100-4896; AND COMMUNIST IN-
FILTRATION IN RACIAL MATTERS (CIRM) IS-C, BH 100-5150. THE
TASK FORCE LEADER REQUESTED THAT XEROX COPIES OF ALL NEWSPAPER
CLIPPINGS IN BIRMINGHAM FILE 44-1740 SFI, BE SENT TO FBI HDQ.,
ATTN: JAY ALHIZER, WHERE THEY WILL BE REVIEWED AT A LATER DATE.
BIRMINGHAM WILL SUBMIT THIS MATERIAL BY SEPARATE AIRTEL.

157-10673-1325

10673
157-10673

SEARCHED <i>UP</i>	INDEXED <i>UP</i>
SERIALIZED <i>UP</i>	FILED <i>UP</i>
AUG 5 1976	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	
<i>Callender</i>	<i>8</i>

PAGE TWO (100-4896) (P)

THE TASK FORCE MADE NO OTHER REQUESTS AND DEPARTED FROM
THE BIRMINGHAM FBI OFFICE AT APPROXIMATELY 12:40 PM, AUG. 5,
1976, PRESUMABLY TO TRAVEL TO NEW ORLEANS.

END.

FBI NO WLH CLR

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King probe data released

WASHINGTON (AP) — A pair of men's shorts with an unusual laundry mark was one of the clues that FBI agents pursued in their search for the assassin of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, according to newly disclosed FBI files.

Agents also investigated seven men named John Willard because the suspected assassin used that name when he checked into a rooming house near the hotel where King stayed on his fatal visit to Memphis, Tenn.

Those details emerged in a review of 442 pages of FBI files on its investigation of the April 4, 1968, slaying of the civil rights leader. The FBI released the documents from a total of 18,000 pages to comply with requests under the Freedom of Information Act. There was no indication when additional files would be made public.

A House committee is now investigating the King slaying.

THE FIRST BATCH of papers dealt with the investigation's early days and did not refer to James Earl Ray, who was arrested in London on June 8, 1968, and pleaded guilty to shooting King. Ray, now serving a 99-year prison term, has since recanted and is seeking to change his plea and go to trial.

The papers showed that hundreds of FBI agents chased scores of rumors and tips from citizens and tried to use such clues as the shorts and a man's T-

shirt to track the killer's identity. The underwear was found in a suitcase the assassin apparently left at the rooming house.

Agents called on the Textile Marking Machine Co. of Syracuse, N.Y., for help in tracing the laundry markings. The theory was that pinpointing the laundry that washed the assassin's underwear might provide further clues to his identity and his whereabouts.

Calls to all of Textile's sales representatives "disclosed that only one area of the United States (the Northeast) utilizes this code system," one memo said. Agents were ordered to check out a three-page list of laundries that might have made the marking.

THE FBI'S NEWARK bureau, checking out New Jersey laundries, mentioned in its findings in an April 8 memo that one Haddonfield, N.J., cleaner "advised he does not launder underwear. ..."

The first batch of documents did not indicate whether the laundry mark was ever traced. Nor did the documents show whether any of the John Willards became involved in the case.

Agents in New York asked the American Express Co. for credit records on anyone named John Willard. The credit card company came up with seven, all with different middle names or initials.

Agents found one John Willard at his home in Oxford, Miss., and determined that he had been mowing his lawn at the time King was shot.

157-10673
+ other

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

SEC A-3

STATES ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 11-17-76

Edition:

Author:

Editor: WALTER G. COWAN

Title: KING PROBE DATA RELEASED

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: N.O.

☐ Being Investigated

157-10673-1326

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 26 1976	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

1976

12/7/76

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING SECTION
FINANCE AND PERSONNEL DIVISION

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (100-16800) (RUC)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.;
DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW;
COST DATA

In response to Bureau nitel dated 8/6/76, requesting monthly reports on manpower spent on Departmental review of New Orleans FBI files on captioned subject, New Orleans reports no such activity since last reported.

UACB, no further monthly submissions will be made by New Orleans, until subsequent activity is directed and undertaken in this matter.

2 - Bureau
③ - New Orleans (1 - 100-16800)
① - 157-10673)
(1 - 86-2855)

CHA:pd
(5) *ph*

JR
157-10673-1327

ME0005 3520015Z

PP HQ NO

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FM MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) (ROUTINE)

NEW ORLEANS (PRIORITY)

BT

CLEAR

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO MEMPHIS, DECEMBER 15, 1976.

ONE ALFRED WILLIAM MARTINEZ HAS ADVISED SACRAMENTO OFFICE THAT WHILE IN SALT LAKE COUNTY JAIL ABOUT JANUARY TO MARCH, 1968, HE MET WILLIAM B. SIMPONIS. MARTINEZ CLAIMS TO HAVE WRITTEN LETTERS FOR SIMPONIS, ADDRESSED TO JAMES EARL RAY IN MEMPHIS, TENN. SIMPONIS ALLEGEDLY TOLD MARTINEZ TO GO TO MEMPHIS WHEN HE GOT OUT AND TO CONTACT RAY TO PULL OFF A BIG JOB. MARTINEZ COULD NOT GET CLOTHES AND MONEY FOR TRAVEL SO HE NEVER WENT TO SEE RAY.

*Rec'd
12/20/76
S*

*ADOK
OO: ME
12/27
C*

157-10673-1328

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DEC 23 1976	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

Callahan

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PAGE TWO NE 44-1987

NEW ORLEANS NOTE THAT JAMES EARL RAY IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN RESIDING AS A FUGITIVE IN LOS ANGELES DURING THE PERIOD MARTINEZ AND SIMPONIS WERE INCARCERATED TOGETHER AT SALT LAKE COUNTY JAIL.

SIMPONIS WAS SENTENCED AUGUST 12, 1966, AT SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, FOR ITSMV VIOLATION. HE WAS CONVICTED UNDER TITLE 18, SECTION 4246, HAVING BEEN FOUND INCOMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL. HE WAS COMMITTED TO MEDICAL CENTER FOR FEDERAL PRISONERS (MCFP), SPRINGFIELD, MO., AUGUST 21, 1966, AND RELEASED JANUARY 27, 1968. HE RETURNED TO COURT AND WAS AGAIN COMMITTED TO MCFP MARCH 2, 1968, AND DIED THERE ON JULY 14, 1968. WHILE AT MCFP SIMPONIS REQUESTED TO CORRESPOND WITH ONE JIMMIE W. RAY, 492 CLARICE DRIVE, MEMPHIS. HIS REQUEST WAS APPROVED. ON APRIL 1, 1969, ONE JIMMIE W. RAY, P. O. BOX 6, OLIVE BRANCH, MISS., INQUIRED OF SIMPONIS THROUGH MCFP AND WAS ADVISED OF SIMPONIS' DEATH.

PAGE THREE ME 44-1987

MEMPHIS OFFICE HAS LOCATED MRS. BETTY RAY BRASHEAR, 491 CLARICE, MEMPHIS, THE SISTER OF JIMMIE WAYNE RAY WHO PREVIOUSLY RESIDED 492 CLARICE, MEMPHIS. JIMMIE WAYNE RAY, FBI NO. 984936F, WAS ARRESTED AT MEMPHIS JANUARY 19, 1967, FOR TFIS AND ON FEBRUARY 7, 1967, WAS COMMITTED TO MCFP, SPRINGFIELD, FOR OBSERVATION. HE REMAINED MCFP UNTIL MAY, 1967, AND APPARENTLY KNEW SIMPONIS DURING THAT TIME.

THE BUREAU HAS INSTRUCTED THAT RAY BE LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED "TO DETERMINE IF SIMPONIS CORRESPONDED WITH HIM WHILE IN JAIL IN SALT LAKE CITY, NATURE OF ANY SUCH CORRESPONDENCE, AND WHETHER HE HAS ANY ASSOCIATION WITH JAMES EARL RAY OF CAPTIONED MATTER." MRS. BRASHEAR DOES NOT KNOW RAY'S ADDRESS BUT STATES HE RESIDES IN NEW ORLEANS, LA., AND IS EMPLOYED BY A BOAT COMPANY. RAY DOES NOT WORK ON A BOAT BUT WORKS FOR A COMPANY WHICH OPERATES BOATS. RAY IS A WHITE MALE, BORN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] AT LEWISBURG, MISS. IN 1967 HE WAS DESCRIBED AS 6'1" TALL,

PAGE FOUR ME 33-1987

176 POUNDS, BLACK HAIR, BROWN EYES. HE WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE ARMY IN 1963 FOR "REASONS OF NERVOUS BREAKDOWN AND ATTEMPT TO COMMIT SUICIDE." SINCE SIMPONIS WAS INCOMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL AND SINCE RAY HAD SUFFERED A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN AND HAD ATTEMPTED SUICIDE, IT WOULD APPEAR THEY HAD MUCH IN COMMON AT MCFF AND WERE VERY LIKELY ACQUAINTED. MEMPHIS IS CONVINCED THAT JIMMIE WAYNE RAY IS THE INDIVIDUAL TO WHOM MARTINEZ ADDRESSED LETTERS FOR SIMPONIS, AND THAT MARTINEZ IS OBVIOUSLY MISTAKEN IN BELIEVING HE WROTE LETTERS TO JAMES EARL RAY AT MEMPHIS.

NEW ORLEANS AT NEW ORLEANS, ATTEMPT TO LOCATE JIMMIE WAYNE RAY AND INTERVIEW. BUREAU HAS REQUESTED TO SUTEL RESULTS TO BUREAU.

BT

3520021Z NO 1



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Birmingham, Alabama

December 15, 1976

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

RE: ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.,
CIVIL RIGHTS

On December 14, 1976, BH T-1, who has furnished insufficient information to establish his reliability, furnished the following information:

Source met Dr. Gus Prosch, M.D., for the first time in late 1967 or possibly January, 1968, at Gulas' Restaurant and Lounge on Highway 78 East, Birmingham, Alabama. Prosch had just moved to Birmingham from northern Alabama, possibly Albertville, and was "down and out and bitter" since his wife had run off with another man and he had suffered financial reverses. Prosch and the source became regular drinking partners at Gulas' and on occasions the source loaned Prosch money, perhaps \$20 at a time. At this time, Prosch did not want people to know his identity, probably since he was a doctor, and he used the name John Willard and often introduced himself to people at Gulas' as John Willard. In early 1968 Prosch was setting up a medical practice in Birmingham.

157-10673-802
P-59a
In approximately February, 1968, at Gulas', Prosch introduced a friend of his to the source and this man's name was Frank Liberto (Phonetic). The source saw Frank Liberto at Gulas' with Prosch in February or March, 1968, usually on a weekend, as many as six or seven times. He described Frank Liberto (Phonetic) as a white male, in his late thirties, or early forties at the time, six feet tall, 190 pounds, dark complexioned, with a full head of black hair and dark eyes. Liberto was well built, well dressed, and a nice looking man. The source learned that Liberto owned an unnamed truck stop on Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans and Prosch described him to the source as the head of the Greek Mafia in New Orleans.

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.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 17 1976	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.,
CIVIL RIGHTS

Source never saw Liberto drive an automobile and did not know if he came to Birmingham in a car or by plane. On most occasions, when he saw Liberto with Prosch at Gulas', Liberto had one or two male companions in his company. His impression was that Liberto's companions were body guards and/or underlings.

At sometime in February, 1968, Prosch started showing affluence and definitely had money. Prosch was intensely interested in guns of all kinds and always had pistols on his person. The source believed that Prosch and Liberto had some kind of a gun deal in operation.

On or about March 15, 1968, the source was at Gulas' Restaurant with Prosch and Liberto. Looking out the window to the parking lot he observed a grey colored car park and a black man came from the car to the restaurant. He recognized this individual as the Rev. (First Name Unknown) Shuttleworth, a black male, personally known to the source at the time, as very active in civil rights matters at the time. Rev. Shuttleworth sent a message into the restaurant and Dr. Prosch and Frank Liberto left the restaurant and went out to the car that Rev. Shuttleworth had returned to. Prosch and Liberto got into the back of this car and Shuttleworth was in the front along with another black male whom the source recognized as Dr. Ralph Abernathy, who was also well known to the source. These four men sat in the car for a period of approximately one hour and during this time the source, at a corner booth in Gulas', observed them through the window. Prosch and Liberto returned to the restaurant and the car with Shuttleworth and Abernathy drove off. Prosch and Liberto said nothing regarding this meeting and the source wondered but did not ask any questions.

Shortly after this meeting, possibly a week later, Dr. Prosch came to Gulas' with another white male and introduced this individual to the source as Mr. Gault. The source could not remember the first name used. He described Gault as a white male, in his 30's, approximately 5'10", 160 pounds, neat in appearance (work clothes) and respectable. On this occasion Prosch, Liberto and Gault had a private conversation.

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.,
CIVIL RIGHTS

When the conversation broke up, Gault left Gulas' Restaurant and Prosch and Liberto stayed on and continued drinking. They made no comment whatever regarding their conversation with Gault. The source later came to know, from the newspapers and publicity, that the man introduced to him as Gault was James Earl Ray, and the source saw Gault on two occasions only in Birmingham.

Approximately one week later the source again observed a meeting between Dr. Prosch and Frank Liberto on the one hand and Dr. Abernathy and Rev. Shuttleworth on the other. The meeting took place at the same location, the parking lot of Gulas' Restaurant, and these four men sat in the same car for a period probably in excess of one hour. The black men left in their car and Prosch and Liberto returned to the restaurant but said nothing regarding the meeting.

A few nights later, again at Gulas' Restaurant, probably very late in March, 1968, Liberto was at Gulas' Restaurant when Dr. Prosch brought Gault to the restaurant for the second time. These three had a private conversation and Gault left the restaurant by himself. Nothing was said by Prosch or Liberto regarding this conversation. Source believes this was the last occasion that he saw Frank Liberto in Birmingham, Alabama.

On April 3, 1968, the source met Dr. Prosch at the bar in Gulas' at about 4:15 P.M. Prosch had been drinking quite a bit and the source had a drink. Prosch then took the source for a ride in his new car, a red Cadillac convertible with a white top. Prosch drove him around some and they went to the Aeromarine Company at the Birmingham Airport. Prosch went into Aeromarine leaving the source in the car. After ten minutes, he came out with a wooden crate approximately four feet by ten inches by eight inches, and put it in the trunk of the Cadillac. They drove back to Gulas' Restaurant and parked the car on the lot.

When they got out of the car, Prosch took the source to the rear of his car and told him he wanted to show him something. He opened the trunk and pried the top off the wooden box which contained a rifle. He talked about the rifle

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.,
CIVIL RIGHTS

and then told the source that this was the rifle that was going "to kill Martin Luther King". This was a bolt-action rifle, with a short clip and no scope.

Still standing behind the car on the parking lot, Prosch told the source that Dr. Abernathy and Rev. Shuttleworth had bought a contract for \$265,000 to have Martin Luther King killed. They felt that King had gone soft with his non-violence and the money coming into the SCLC and civil rights movement had fallen off considerably. The civil rights movement was coming to a halt and King was no longer effective but was very popular. They believed that if he were killed, he would become a martyr and the money would come flowing in to advance the civil rights movement and to influence Congressional sentiment to enact into law civil rights bills that were being held up.

Prosch said that Frank Liberto had gone on to Detroit and Gault had purchased another gun. Gault was to be the "decoy" to take the heat off the man who would do the killing. Prosch said Gault was to lay his gun down after he saw the killer leave the building. Then Gault was to meet Frank Liberto in Detroit and get the rest of his money and the necessary papers to get out of the country. This whole conversation took place on the parking lot near Dr. Prosch's car. Prosch and the source went into Gulas' and drank until 9:00 or 10:00 PM, at which time each went home for the night. This source has not seen Prosch since that night.

On April 4, 1968, the source was present at his place of business in Birmingham the whole day and had a business meeting at the Parliament House Hotel in Birmingham in the early evening with business associates. It was at this location that the source learned that Martin Luther King, Jr., had been killed on that day in Memphis, Tennessee. He tried to put what he knew out of his mind and was afraid to talk to anyone at the time regarding this matter.

Source followed the newspaper publicity and accounts regarding the killing at the time it occurred and has been interested in them ever since. Over the years he has commented to many people that he did not believe that James Earl Ray killed Dr. King. Recently, he became even more interested when he learned of the renewed interest on the part of the Congress and their intent to conduct investigations regarding assassinations. He also recently read

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.,
CIVIL RIGHTS

for the first time the alleged fact that a person using the name John Willard registered at 3:30 PM on April 4, 1968 at the hotel in Memphis where Dr. King was staying and it was his understanding that the landlady or hotel clerk could not identify James Earl Ray as identical with John Willard. Source believes that John Willard could be identical with Dr. Gus Prosch who used that name in early 1968 in Birmingham, Alabama. The source also believes that the bullet taken from Dr. King was not identified as having come from the rifle picked up at or near the scene of the assassination.

The source knows that Dr. Prosch picked up a rifle at Aeromarine on April 3, 1968 and he does not believe there is any record at Aeromarine of the sale of this rifle. This rifle, purchased by Prosch, was a bolt-action type rifle and an artist's drawing, that the source saw in a newspaper somewhere, depicting the rifle found at the scene of the assassination as a bolt-action weapon. The source's understanding is that the second rifle purchased by James Earl Ray using the name Harvey (Last Name Unknown) at Aeromarine in Birmingham, Alabama, was a Remington, Model 760, 30.06 caliber pump action rifle and the source believes that the previously described Remington rifle was probably used for the actual killing. In the second week of December, 1976, the source was told when he discussed Gus Prosch with an individual in Birmingham, that Prosch and his associates were storing guns in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1968 in connection with a gun running operation and that the gun that killed Dr. King was shipped out of the country to Costa Rica.

F B I

Date: 12/15/76

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (RUC)

MURKIN
CR
(OO: ME)

Re Birmingham teletype to Bureau and Memphis dated 12/3/76, and Birmingham airtel to Bureau, Detroit and New Orleans on 12/12/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and three (3) copies of an LHM; for Memphis two (2) copies; and one (1) copy each to Detroit and New Orleans. Also enclosed for the Bureau and Memphis are three (3) photographs of Dr. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH, JR., and one (1) photo of an artist's conception.

The source of the information furnished by [REDACTED] (PROTECT) in referenced teletype of 12/3/76 has been identified as a former PCI of the Birmingham Division. This former PCI is identical with the source in referenced Birmingham airtel of 12/12/75. His case is closed in Birmingham and he was last contacted as a PCI in February, 1976.

This source has functioned for the past year as an informant for DEA, Birmingham, and U. S. Secret Service, Birmingham, and has discussed captioned matter with representatives of both agencies. DEA advised on 12/14/76 that his narcotics information is accurate and reliable and both agencies have pending investigations in which he is furnishing worthwhile information on a continuing basis.

- 4 - Bureau (44-38861) (Enc. 8)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 6)
- ① - New Orleans (157-10673) (INFO) (Enc. 1)
- 1 - Detroit (Enc. 1) (INFO)
- 2 - Birmingham (1 - 44-1740)
- PJM:bhn (10) (1 - 137-2089)

157-10673-1330

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SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 17 1976	
FBI-NEW ORLEANS	

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

BH 44-1740

On 12/14/76, this source was interviewed by SA PATRICK J. MOYNIHAN of the Birmingham Office at the DEA Office in Birmingham in the presence of DEA Agent LARRY HAHN. The source did not desire to come to the FBI Office for interview and explained his reluctance to talk to the FBI since he was convicted in an ITSP case at Birmingham, Ala., in 1969 or 1970, which conviction was subsequently reversed in the 5th Circuit Court and cost the source a large amount of money to defend himself. He claims he was afraid to furnish the detailed information of the enclosed LHM shortly after the assassination of Dr. KING because he was afraid and at that time, or shortly after, he became involved in a variety of personal problems including his FBI case. Later, when he talked about this matter, people always "turned me off".

Source has not talked to any group from the U. S. Senate or House of Representatives, contrary to information furnished in referenced Birmingham teletype of 12/3/76, but he has discussed this matter with U. S. Secret Service, Birmingham, DEA, Birmingham, and with an Assistant U. S. Attorney at Birmingham, Alabama.

The enclosed photographs of Dr. GUS PROSCH were obtained by the source from U. S. Secret Service at Birmingham and he identified the enclosed artist's conception as a newspaper or magazine representation of an individual who registered at the hotel in which Dr. KING was killed, as ~~JOHN WILLARD~~ on 4/4/68. It is source's understanding that ~~JOHN WILLARD~~ was never identified and he believes WILLARD could be identical with Dr. GUS PROSCH who used the name JOHN WILLARD in Birmingham, Alabama, in the early part of 1968.

Memphis should give this matter due consideration and furnish the Bureau any comments or recommendations. No further investigation is being conducted at Birmingham UACB.

This former PCI expressed fear for his life and does not want his identity revealed.

F B I

Date: 12/21/76

993

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE
(Precedence)

FM NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) - P -

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ROUTINE 1803

MEMPHIS (44-1987) ROUTINE 1753

BT

CLEAR

MURKIN

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND NEW ORLEANS DATED
DECEMBER 15, 1976.

THE NEW ORLEANS CITY DIRECTORY AS WELL AS THE NEW
ORLEANS SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY CONTAIN NO
LISTING IDENTIFIABLE WITH JIMMY WAYNE RAY. CONTACT AT THE
U. S. PROBATION AND PAROLE OFFICE, NEW ORLEANS, DETERMINED
THAT THAT AGENCY HAD NO RECORD IDENTIFIABLE WITH RAY. THE
NEW ORLEANS INDICES WERE SEARCHED AND CONTAINED NO INFORMATION

SMC/mjb
(1)-mjb

157-10673-1331

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Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

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Per _____

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Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)

PAGE TWO NO 157-10673 CLEAR
IDENTIFIABLE WITH RAY.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THERE ARE FIVE PAGES OF BOAT AND
BOAT RELATED INDUSTRIES CONTAINED IN THE NEW ORLEANS TELEPHONE
DIRECTORY.

RECORDS OF THE NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT IN GREATER
NEW ORLEANS RETAIL CREDIT ASSOCIATION CONTAINED NO INFORMATION
IDENTIFIABLE WITH RAY.

A CHECK OF THE LA. DRIVER'S LICENSE RECORDS DETERMINED
THERE IS ON FILE A DRIVER'S LICENSE ISSUED TO ONE JIMMIE
W. RAY, P. O. BOX 506 AMA, LOUISIANA AND THIS INDIVIDUAL IS
DESCRIBED AS A WHITE MALE, BORN BROWN EYES, 6'1",
205 POUNDS.

NEW ORLEANS AT AMA, LOUISIANA. WILL LOCATE AND
INTERVIEW JIMMIE W. RAY THROUGH P. O. BOX 506 TO DETERMINE IF
HE IS IDENTICAL TO THE INDIVIDUAL LISTED IN REFERENCED
TELETYPE AND IF SO WILL INTERVIEW HIM RE THE PERTINENT
INFORMATION DESIRED.

THE RESULTS WILL BE FURNISHED TO THE BUREAU AND MEMPHIS.
BT

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Chief Thinks Ray Was Not Alone

By JERRY GRAY

MEMPHIS (AP) — Memphis Police Director E. Winslow Chapman says he is personally convinced that James Earl Ray did not act alone in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"That's based on nothing other than personal opinion," Chapman said. "Nothing I have found in the files or in my briefing by people who were privy to these files has particularly enforced or changed this opinion."

Chapman's comments came during the taping of Memphis radio station WREC's Sunday public affairs program, "Rostrum."

He was asked about his personal beliefs involving the 1968 King slaying in Memphis.

"We had a man who supposedly committed this crime and then later wound up in London and eluded all the police of the United States," Chapman said. "If you want a personal opinion, I don't think for one moment that he was alone. And that's just a personal opinion."

Ray was returned from England in 1969 to face prosecution for the King slaying. He admitted to the killing on March 10, 1969, as part of a bargain in which prosecutors agreed not to seek the death penalty if he would plead guilty.

Ray, now serving a 99-year prison sentence at Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros, Tenn., has

since requested a full trial. The courts have repeatedly rejected his attempts to withdraw his guilty plea.

In an interview following the taping of the radio program, Chapman repeated that his statement carried no official weight.

"Personally, I don't think James Earl Ray operated by himself," Chapman said, however. He would not elaborate when asked if he thought King's death was part of a conspiracy.

Chapman added that his comments at this time have nothing to do with the current probe by the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations. Committee staff members, who are investigating King's death and the 1963 slaying of President John F. Kennedy, have made several trips to Memphis.

"It has nothing to do relative to that," Chapman said. "It's something I have felt personally every since the perpetration of the crime. I've expressed it personally to friends and family — not officially — and I'm not expressing it officially now."

Chapman, 36, is a 1961 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and served three years in the Army before becoming a construction engineer in 1964.

He later served as Mayor Wyeth Chandler's administrative assistant for four years, giving up the post to become police director Sept. 23.

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

SECTION ONE
PAGE SIX

TIMES-PICAYUNE

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 1-3-77

Edition: MORNING

Author: JERRY GRAY

Editor: ED TUNSTALL

Title: CHIEF THINKS
RAY WAS NOT ALONE

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: N.O.

☐ Being Investigated

157-106737332

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FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

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Date: 1/14/77

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(Precedence)

FM NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) (P)
TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ROUTINE
MEMPHIS (44-1987) ROUTINE
BT
CLEAR
MURKIN

RE NEW ORLEANS TELETYPE DECEMBER 21, 1976.

JIMMIE WAYNE RAY FINALLY LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED AT
LULING, LA. RAY RELATED HE WAS INCARCERATED AT THE MEDICAL
CENTER FOR FEDERAL PRISONERS (MCFP), SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI,
FROM APPROXIMATELY JANUARY 1967 TO MARCH 1967.

DURING THIS TIME HE BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH ANOTHER
INMATE BY THE NAME OF WILLIAM B. SIMPONIS. FROM MARCH 1967
UNTIL APPROXIMATELY JUNE 1968 HE CORRESPONDED WITH SIMPONIS.

SMC:jss
(1) *[Signature]*

157-10673-1333
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Approved: _____
Special Agent in ChargeSent 19 30 2 M Per _____