

The Associate Director

11/4/76

Legal Counsel

**HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS**

**PURPOSE:**

To advise of receipt of a letter addressed to the Attorney General dated 11/2/76 (copy attached), from Chairman of captioned Committee, for review of FBI files and Department of Justice files concerning the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy (JFK) and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK).

**DETAILS:**

Chairman Thomas Downing by letter dated 11/2/76, addressed to the Attorney General, requested, inter alia, access to FBI and Department of Justice files concerning the FBI's investigation into the assassinations of JFK and MLK. Additionally, they asked for an itemization of all such material in the possession of either the Department or the FBI that may have been transferred to another individual or agency and a summary of both investigations.

As to their access to FBI files, it is believed they should be granted access to the same extent that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities was granted. This position is consistent with what we understand has been in Departmental discussions with the Committee concerning this matter. Such access would include deletions or excisions of material which might disclose informants, sensitive sources or methods and involve obtaining third-agency clearance.

As to the portions of the request including an itemization of the material in the FBI's possession, it is believed that this particular topic should be discussed with representatives of the Committee so that an understanding as to the needs of the Committee and the ability of the Bureau to comply can be met.

**Enclosure**

- ① - Mr. Gallagher - Enc.
- 1 - Mr. Leavitt - Enc.
- 1 - Mr. Mintz - Enc.
- 2 - Mr. Daly - Enc.

**RECOMMENDATIONS - OVER**

PVD:lad

(6)

Legal Counsel to the Associate Director  
RE: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) That the General Investigative Division in coordination with the Intelligence Division furnish their comments as to Committee access to FBI files.

(2) That the Office of Congressional Affairs in coordination with the General Investigative and Intelligence Divisions furnish a response to the Department concerning access to the files requested including a recommendation for a meeting with staff members to clear up questions they might have.

(3) That the Intelligence and General Investigative Divisions designate a supervisor to be a contact point for responses to Committee requests and advise Office of Congressional Affairs, Legal Counsel Division.

OFFICE OF  
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Legislative Affairs

November 3, 1976

To: Paul Daly  
From: Mike Uhlmann

Please send your recommendation  
regarding President Kennedy's files to my  
attention.



HENRY B. GONZALEZ, TEX.  
P. CHANDLER, NEW YORK, N.C.  
LOUIS STICKES, OHIO  
WALTER C. FAUBUS, D.C.  
TYOCH, ALABAMA  
CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONN.  
HARRY D. E. FORD, TENN.

SAMUEL L. DEVINE, OHIO  
RUTH L. TALCOTT, CALIF.  
STEWART B. MCKINNEY, CONN.  
CHARLES THONE, NEBR.

Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3341 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-4624

RECEIVED

November 2, 1976

NOV 3 1976

Honorable Edward Levy  
Attorney General of the United States  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

The House Select Committee on Assassinations is interested in examining all the material relating to the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which is in the possession or control of the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Committee is also interested in obtaining an itemization of all such material that has been in the possession of either the Department of Justice or the Federal Bureau of Investigation but which has been turned over to any other individual or agency.

We are most interested in immediately obtaining a summary report of the investigations of both assassinations which has been prepared by either the Department of Justice or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

I will appreciate it if you will advise me of the most expeditious manner for the staff of my Committee to gain access to those files.

I shall look forward to hearing from you. With kindest regards,

I am

Sincerely,



Thomas N. Downing  
Chairman

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

FED. BU. OF INV.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

11

NOV 3 1976

O.R.O.M.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

FED. BU. OF INV.

TND/ca

*Coulson*  
*Lee*  
*DeLoach*  
The Associate Director

9/22/76

Legal Counsel

HOUSE RESOLUTION 1540 *H. Res. 1540*  
*Indonesian*  
*Indonesian*  
*Indonesian*

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise of the passage of H.Res.1540 establishing a select committee to investigate and study the circumstances surrounding the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.

DETAILS:

Attached hereto is a copy of H.Res.1540. On September 15, 1976, the House Rules Committee reported out H.Res.1540 creating a select committee to conduct an investigation and study of circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy and the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., and of any others the select committee shall determine.

On September 17, 1976, this matter came up on the House calendar for debate. This resolution creates a committee of twelve members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker and is authorized and directed to conduct a full and complete investigation into the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., and of any others the select committee shall determine. This committee is funded in the amount of \$250,000 to be used for organizational purposes and setting up of its staff and has been directed to report as soon as practicable during the present Congress the results of its investigation and study. This resolution was passed by vote of 280 to 65, with 84 members not voting.

Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. Adams (enc.)
- ① - Mr. Gallagher (enc.)
- 1 - Mr. Leavitt (enc.)
- 1 - Mr. Fehl (enc.)
- 1 - Mr. Mintz (enc.)
- 3 - Mr. Daly (enc.)
- 1 - Mr. Coulson (enc.)

CONTINUED - OVER

DOC:jsr (10)

Legal Counsel to the Associate Director Memo  
RE: H.RES.1540

There is no mention in the resolution that the Committee plans to review FBI documents regarding the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Office of Congressional Affairs, Legal Counsel Division, will follow the activities of this Committee in the event that the Committee decides to review the investigation conducted into these two assassinations by the FBI.

House Calendar No. 468

94TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 1540

[Report No. 94-1566]

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 1976

Mr. GONZALEZ (for himself, Mr. DOWNING of Virginia, and Mr. FAUNTROY)  
submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee  
on Rules

SEPTEMBER 15, 1976

Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

## RESOLUTION

*Resolved*, That there is hereby created a select committee to be composed of twelve Members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker, one of whom he shall designate as chairman. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the select committee shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. The select committee is authorized and directed to conduct a full and complete investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy and the death of Martin Luther King, Junior, and of any others the select committee shall determine. For the purpose of carrying out this resolution the select

1 committee, or any subcommittee thereof authorized by the  
2 select committee to hold hearings, is authorized to sit and  
3 act during the present Congress at such times and places  
4 within the United States, including any Commonwealth or  
5 possession thereof, whether the House is in session, has re-  
6 cessed, or has adjourned, to hold such hearings, and to re-  
7 quire, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony  
8 of such witnesses and the production of such books, records,  
9 correspondence, memorandums, papers, and documents as it  
10 deems necessary; except that neither the select committee  
11 nor any subcommittee thereof may sit while the House is  
12 meeting under the five-minute rule unless special leave to sit  
13 shall have been obtained from the House. The chairman of  
14 the select committee may establish such subcommittees of the  
15 select committee as he considers appropriate. A majority of  
16 the members of the select committee shall constitute a quorum  
17 for the transaction of business, except that the select com-  
18 mittee may designate a lesser number as a quorum for the  
19 purpose of taking testimony. The select committee may em-  
20 ploy and fix the compensation of such clerks, experts, con-  
21 sultants, technicians, attorneys, investigators, and clerical and  
22 stenographic assistants as it considers necessary to carry out  
23 the purposes of this resolution. The select committee may re-  
24 imburse the members of its staff for travel, subsistence, and  
25 other necessary expenses incurred by them in the perform-



1   ance of the duties vested in the select committee, other than  
2   expenses in connection with meetings of the select commit-  
3   tee or any subcommittee thereof held in the District of  
4   Columbia. Subpenas may be issued under the signature of  
5   the chairman of the select committee or any member of the  
6   select committee designated by him, and may be served by  
7   any person designated by such chairman or member.

8       The select committee shall report to the House as soon  
9   as practicable during the present Congress the results of its  
10  investigation and study, together with such recommendations  
11  as it deems advisable. Any such report which is made when  
12  the House is not in session shall be filed with the Clerk of  
13  the House.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

94TH CONGRESS  
2d Session

# H. RES. 1540

[Report No. 94-1566]

## RESOLUTION

Creating a select committee to conduct an investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy and the death of Martin Luther King, Junior, and of any others the select committee shall determine.

By Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. DOWNING of Virginia,  
and Mr. FAUNTROY

SEPTEMBER 14, 1976

Referred to the Committee on Rules

SEPTEMBER 15, 1976

Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be  
printed

1 - Mr. J. G. Deagan  
1 - Mr. J. S. Peelman

CLEAR

TELETYPE

ROUTINE

1 - Mr. P. V. Daly

9/27/76

FM DIRECTOR

TO MEMPHIS

1 - Mr. J. D. Maurice

BT

C L E A R

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS. (DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)

REURTEL 9/22/76, ABOVE CAPTION.

NO CONTACT HAS AS YET BEEN MADE WITH FBIHQ BY THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE LOOKING INTO THE KING ASSASSINATION. ANY REQUESTS OR PERTINENT INFORMATION RECEIVED BY FBIHQ INVOLVING THE MEMPHIS OFFICE, WILL BE PROMPTLY FURNISHED TO YOU.

SHOULD ANY REQUESTS BE RECEIVED BY MEMPHIS FROM CAPTIONED COMMITTEE, SUCH REQUESTS SHOULD BE RESPONDED TO BY INFORMING THE COMMITTEE TO CONTACT THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS, LEGAL COUNSEL DIVISION, FBIHQ. YOU SHOULD ALSO PROMPTLY NOTIFY FBIHQ OF ANY SUCH REQUESTS.

BT

JDM:lek  
(6)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

PAGE TWO

NOTE:

Memphis teletype 9/22/76 advised of news media stories indicating the recently created House Select Committee to investigate the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. intends to hold hearings immediately after the forthcoming presidential election. Memphis anticipates hearings will be held by the committee in Memphis and committee staff members will contact the Memphis office. Memphis requested to be furnished specific instructions as to what action should be taken in the event FBI personnel are subpoenaed, attempts are made to review FBI files or efforts are made to interview FBI personnel. Above response coordinated with Unit Chief Paul V. Daly, Office of Congressional Affairs.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 22 1976

TELETYPE

ME 0001 2662115Z

RR HQ

DE ME

R 222115Z SEP 76

FM MEMPHIS (66-2197) (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

ATTN: CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (DR. MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR.)

THE BUREAU WILL NOTE THAT MEMPHIS HAS OPENED A NEW CASE,  
CAPTIONED AS ABOVE, IN WHICH TO HANDLE ALL CORRESPONDENCE  
REGARDING THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS.

STORIES APPEARING IN THE NEWS MEDIA INDICATE THIS  
COMMITTEE INTENDS TO HOLD HEARINGS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE  
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER, 1976. IT IS ANTICIPATED  
HEARINGS WILL BE HELD BY THE COMMITTEE AT MEMPHIS. SINCE IT  
WILL BE EXPECTED THAT STAFF MEMBERS FROM THE COMMITTEE WILL  
CONTACT THE MEMPHIS OFFICE FOR INFO RE OUR INVESTIGATION OF  
THE KING MURDER, IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE BUREAU FURNISH

**CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE**

SA JOSEPH MAURICE IS COORDINATING  
AND HANDLING RESPONSE.

WJH

PAGE TWO ME 66-2197

MEMPHIS OFFICE WITH SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS AS TO WHAT ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN THE EVENT FBI PERSONNEL ARE SUBPOENAED, IN THE EVENT ATTEMPTS ARE MADE TO REVIEW FBI FILES, IN THE EVENT EFFORTS ARE MADE TO INTERVIEW FBI PERSONNEL, OR OTHERWISE ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN INFO AVAILABLE TO THE MEMPHIS OFFICE.

THIS CASE WAS DIRECTED DURING THE FIRST FEW DAYS BY NOW RETIRED INSPECTOR JOE SULLIVAN. ON THE DAY RAY'S CAR WAS LOCATED AT ATLANTA, INSPECTOR SULLIVAN LEFT MEMPHIS AND WENT TO THE ATLANTA OFFICE WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL HE WAS GIVEN A NEW ASSIGNMENT. THE SAC AT MEMPHIS, ROBERT JENSEN, NOW RETIRED BUT STILL RESIDING IN MEMPHIS, TOOK CHARGE OF THE INVESTIGATION AT MEMPHIS. THE CASE AGENT, SA JOE C. HESTER, IS STILL IN THE MEMPHIS OFFICE, AND MAY WELL BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR A SUBPOENA.

DUE TO THE PASSAGE OF EIGHT YEARS SINCE THE KING MURDER AND DUE TO THE MANY DIFFERENT PHASES OF THE INVESTIGATION IT WOULD BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY ONE INDIVIDUAL TO TESTIFY KNOWLEDGEABLY RE THIS INVESTIGATION. IN THE EVENT THE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTS THAT FBI PERSONNEL ARE TO SUBMIT

PAGE THREE ME 66-2197

TO INTERVIEWS BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE STAFF, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHOULD REQUIRE THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS WELL ENOUGH IN ADVANCE TO ALLOW TIME FOR RESEARCH BEFORE ANY ATTEMPT IS MADE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

IN THE EVENT THE MEMPHIS OFFICE IS CONTACTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OR BY STAFF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, NO INFO WILL BE FURNISHED TO THEM WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU AND THE CONTACTING INDIVIDUAL WILL BE SO ADVISED.

BT

SUPPLEMENT TO THE  
DAILY PRESS SUMMARY FOR THE DIRECTOR

PREPARED BY  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION  
SEPTEMBER 21, 1976

*Heiterholz*

TODAY'S LATE NEWS

PAGE

ASSASSINATION INQUIRIES

Los Angeles Times, Page 6:

1

House Committee on Assassinations plans to start investigations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., murders.



Dep. Asst. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. Asst. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Admin. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fin. & Pers. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lab. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rec. Mgmt. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

...the committee would "take them in order, Kennedy first and then King." But Walter D. Fauntroy, the non-voting, District of Columbia delegate to the House, said he planned to push for simultaneous investigations using separate subcommittees.

Neither Downing nor Fauntroy would discuss in detail the evidence they hoped the investigation would develop. But Fauntroy confirmed that motion picture writer-producer Abby Mann would be a witness in the King phase of the investigation.

Mann, who is working on a television film on King's life, told Fauntroy he had discovered that a Memphis detective who had been assigned as a bodyguard for King was pulled off the job shortly before the civil rights leader was killed.

An aide said that Sick would "more than likely" call for revival of the committee.

Downing said that the committee investigation would "take them in order, Kennedy first and then King." But Walter D. Fauntroy, the non-voting, District of Columbia delegate to the House, said he planned to push for simultaneous investigations using separate subcommittees.

Neither Downing nor Fauntroy would discuss in detail the evidence they hoped the investigation would develop. But Fauntroy confirmed that motion picture writer-producer Abby Mann would be a witness in the King phase of the investigation.

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The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 Washington Star-News \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Los Angeles Times \_\_\_\_\_

SEP 21 1976

Date \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSE - continued

Interstate Horseracing Act of 1976

Pages H10690-H10700 and H10719. The House passed H.R. 14071, to regulate interstate commerce with respect to parimutuel wagering on horseracing, to maintain the stability of the horseracing industry, and for other purposes. The text of the bill, as passed, is set forth in the Record.

Administration of National Park System

Pages H10707-H10710 and H10721-H10722. The House passed H.R. 11887, to amend the act approved August 18, 1970, providing for improvement in the administration of the National Park System by the Secretary of the Interior and clarifying authorities applicable to the National Park System. Subsequently, this action was vacated and S. 3430, a similar Senate-passed bill, was passed in lieu after being amended to contain the language of the House bill as passed. The measure now goes back to the Senate for further action. During the discussion on this measure, Congressman Sidney R. Yates (Illinois) asked, "Does the FBI have jurisdiction for entering park property in the event of a felony?" Congressman Roy A. Taylor (North Carolina) answered in the affirmative.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD 9/21/76.

Select Committee on Assassinations

Page H10723. Congressman Richard Bolling (Missouri) requested unanimous consent that the Speaker be authorized to appoint the delegate from the District of Columbia as one of the members of the Select Committee on Assassinations. Such was agreed to. The Speaker appointed the following as members of this Select Committee: Thomas N. Downing (Virginia) chairman; Henry B. Gonzalez (Texas); Richardson Preyer (North Carolina); Louis Stokes (Ohio); Walter E. Fauntroy (District of Columbia); Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (California); Christopher J. Dodd (Connecticut); Harold E. Ford (Tennessee); Samuel L. Devine (Ohio); Burt L. Talcott (California); Stewart B. McKinney (Connecticut); and Charles Thone (Nebraska).

Right To Private Records Act

Pages H10747-H10748. Congressman Edward I. Koch (New York) spoke concerning legislation he and Congressman Barry M.

The Associate Director

9-20-76

Legal Counsel

THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD  
SEPTEMBER 17, 1976

*H. O. Schloff*

SENATE

Congressional Cemetery

Pages S16059-S16060. The Senate passed without amendment and sent to the House S. 3441, authorizing the Architect of the Capitol to maintain for 2 years certain historical sections of the Congressional Cemetery, Washington, D. C., and to provide a study with a view to its permanent maintenance. (Mr. Hoover is interned in this cemetery.)

Records Management - Federal Agencies

Page S16070. Senator Abraham Ribicoff (Connecticut) announced that the Senate Committee on Government Operations will hold a mark up session on September 22, 1976, on various pieces of legislation, including H. R. 13828, the Federal Records Management Act, which would strengthen the authority of the Administrator of General Services with respect to records management by Federal agencies.

Freedom Of The Press

Pages S16075-S16077. Senator William Proxmire (Wisconsin) spoke concerning Daniel Schorr's appearance before the House Ethics Committee and freedom of the press. He pointed out that, "The freedom of the press can be abused by individual reports, papers, magazines, broadcasters, or broadcasting stations. Sure it can. But with competition--

1 - Mr. Adams  
1 - Mr. McDermott - enclosure  
1 - Mr. Decker - enclosure  
1 - Mr. Fehl - enclosure  
1 - Mr. Gallagher - enclosure

1 - Mr. Leavitt - enclosure  
1 - Mr. Long - enclosure  
1 - Mr. Malmfeldt - enclosure  
1 - Mr. Mintz - enclosure  
1 - Mr. Daly - enclosure

vcs/bjc  
(18)

CONTINUED - OVER

*Co. Hite*  
*Hetherington*  
*Page*  
*Rhyn*

Memorandum to the Associate Director  
Re: The Congressional Record

SENATE - continued

-- there is little or no danger of all elements of the press forming a clique or cabal to take over the Government or—and most important—to deceive the citizens, their customers. As long as the Government is kept from the neck of the press by the first amendment, the public shall be informed." Mr. Proxmire inserted in the Record Mr. Schorr's statement before the Ethics Committee and several news items.

Government Economy And Spending Reform Act of 1976

Pages S16095-S16096. Senator John Glenn (Ohio) placed in the Record an article prepared by Senator Edmund Muskie (Maine) entitled "Effective Government: Our Next Big Challenge" which appeared in the Policy Forum of the April 3 National Journal. Mr. Glenn cited S. 2925, the Government Economy and Spending Reform Act of 1976, that he, Mr. Muskie and others cosponsored. Mr. Glenn advised that he was including Mr. Muskie's article in order to acquaint Members with the necessity for, and implications of S. 2925.

Confirmations

Page S16142. The Senate confirmed the following Executive nominations: Frank J. Violanti, of Illinois, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of the Canal Zone; Thomas A. Grace, Jr., of Louisiana, to be U.S. Marshal for the Middle District of Louisiana; Peter T. Fay, of Florida, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit; and to be U.S. District Judges -- Sidney M. Aronovitz, of Florida, for the Southern District; W. Eugene Davis, of Louisiana, for the Western District; and Glen M. Williams, of Virginia, for the Western District.

Adjournment: Until Monday, September 20, 1976, at  
12 noon.

HOUSE

Select Committee To Investigate Deaths Of Kennedy, King And Others

Pages H10356-H10366. The House agreed to H. Res. 1540, creating a select committee to conduct an investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., and of any others the select committee shall

**Memorandum to The Associate Director  
Re: The Congressional Record**

**HOUSE - continued**

determine. During the discussion on this resolution reference is made to the destruction of a threatening note received by the Dallas Office shortly before President Kennedy's murder, the use of Jack Ruby as an FBI informant and the withholding from the Warren Commission of certain tapes of conversation between Michael and Ruth Paine, close friends of Oswald. Delegate Walter E. Fauntroy (District of Columbia) pointed out that, "What the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has documented about the shameful conduct of the FBI with respect to Dr. King is certainly enough to convince all of us that the responsible thing for the Congress to do is to undertake this investigation, resolve any lingering doubts and help restore confidence in our Government." Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink (Hawaii) spoke in support of this resolution. She stated, "The recent disclosure of J. Edgar Hoover's now infamous COINTELPRO memos outlines a nationwide program to 'expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize the activities' of organizations and leaders who did not share Mr. Hoover's political philosophy. And yet, I would remind my colleagues, that the investigations of the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were dependent upon information gathered under the direction of the very same J. Edgar Hoover. ---- The recent systematic violations of the Constitution, Federal, State, and local laws by the FBI, CIA, and other agencies, necessitates the direct intervention of this honorable body in order to determine if all facts have been brought to light." A detailed memorandum is being prepared on this matter.

Adjournment: Until Monday, September 20, 1976, at  
12 noon.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

**Free Press**

Pages E5097-E5099. Congressman H. John Heinz III (Pennsylvania) extended his remarks concerning Daniel Schorr's appearance before the Ethics Committee and the possibility of Mr. Schorr being cited for contempt for his refusal to reveal his source of a report by the Select Committee on Intelligence. He stated, "I was encouraged to read in this morning's paper that a majority of the members who serve on the Ethics Committee will oppose reporting a contempt resolution against Mr. Schorr to the full House. I deeply hope this remains the committee's

Memorandum to The Associate Director  
Re: The Congressional Record

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS - continued

final position when all the votes are counted. If a contempt resolution does reach the floor, however, I will ask my colleagues to join me in waging a vigorous fight against its passage." Mr. Heinz inserted in the Record the text of the letter 36 Members sent to the Committee Chairman in regard to this matter, a factsheet on the Newspaper Guild's activities in support of Schorr's first amendment rights, the text of a statement by Guild President Charles Perlik, and several letters and telegrams expressing concern over the consequences this episode may have for a free press.

Communist Front Groups

Pages E5103-E5105. Congressman Larry McDonald (Georgia) extended his remarks concerning the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) pointing out that it is a consortium of Marxists New Leftists working for the destruction of the existing American society and imposition of a new revolutionary system. He went on to discuss various activities of this organization. Mr. McDonald pointed out that the FBI has been harshly criticized for its interest in IPS. He continued, "Ignorant bureaucrats refused to defend the investigation, although clearly vast amounts of information on the institute's connections with foreign terrorists, domestic terrorists, and hostile Communist governments was available."

Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act

Pages E5122-E5123. Congressman Robert F. Drinan (Massachusetts) pointed out that, "Although two committees of the Senate have modified and approved the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1976 (S. 3197 and H.R. 12750), the opposition to the bill continues to mount. As more citizens and organizations have the opportunity to study this bill and reflect upon its implications, a large number are opposing it." He included an editorial from the September 13 issue of the Los Angeles Times and an article by Judith Miller which appeared in the October issue of the Progressive. Mr. Drinan advised that these two items examine this subject with a critical eye and conclude that, despite the actions of the Senate committees, it is still seriously deficient.

Civil Rights Division

9/22/76

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

xx (G/HWH/bam)

NOTE: Reference is made to my memorandum dated 2/17/76, which enclosed a United Press International article and my memorandum dated 3/2/76, containing a newspaper article from "Newsday" both of which pertain to Memphis Detective Edward Redditt.

Enclosed is a copy of a "Washington Post" article dated 9/18/76, captioned "House Votes 280-65 to Probe Kennedy, King Assassinations."

The following material is enclosed relative to Redditt and the firemen mentioned in the "Washington Post" article: A copy of a memorandum from Stephen J. Pollak, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, to the Director, FBI, dated 9/23/68; a copy of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) from the Memphis Office of the FBI dated 11/21/68, which was previously furnished to the CRD on 11/27/68. A copy of an LHM from the Atlanta Office of the FBI dated 1/31/69, which was previously furnished to the CRD on 2/3/69.

Also, for your information, our files reflect that on 1/31/69, Lt. E. H. Arkin, Intelligence Unit, Memphis Police Department (PD), advised that the Memphis PD does not maintain any officers on a "walking beat" other than on special occasion and that from a review of the Memphis PD records, he ascertained that there were no Memphis police officers assigned to a "walking beat" in Memphis on the day Dr. King was killed.

Also enclosed for your information is a copy of an interview of Rev. James M. Lawson, Jr., on 2/11/69, at Memphis, Tennessee.

The above information has been furnished to Office of Professional Responsibility Task Force, U. S. Department of Justice, which office is presently reviewing the FBI investigation of Dr. King.



Mr. Gallagher

9/22/76

J. S. Peelman

MURKIN

1 - Mr. Held  
1 - Mr. Adams  
1 - Mr. Gallagher  
1 - Mr. O'Connell  
1 - Mr. Peelman  
① - Mr. Helterhoff  
1 - Mr. Ingram  
1 - Mr. Mintz  
1 - Mr. Aldhizer

PURPOSE: To advise that the Task Force Leader of the Office of Professional Responsibility, U. S. Department of Justice (USDJ), which office is presently reviewing the FBI investigation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was advised on 9/22/76, of the location of information in Bufile 44-38861, relative to the reported basis for a new House investigation of the assassination of Dr. King. The Civil Rights Division (CRD), USDJ, was also advised on 9/22/76 of our previous investigative results.

SYNOPSIS: This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement. As set forth in a J. S. Peelman to Mr. Gallagher memorandum, dated 9/21/76, the U. S. House of Representatives has created a select committee to investigate the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Reported basis for House investigation of Dr. King deals with the ordered removal of Edward Redditt, Memphis Police Officer, from King security on day of his death due to the reported attempt on life of Redditt's family. Order for his removal attributed to Memphis Fire and Police Director Frank Holloman (retired Special Agent of FBI). Reported basis also deals with "sudden transfer" of two black firemen; including Floyd Newsum, from fire house across the street from motel where King was shot. These allegations re removal of Redditt and the firemen previously investigated by FBI in 1968 and 1969 and the pertinent results were furnished to the USDJ. On 9/22/76, Mr. Fred G. Polsom, Jr., Task Force Leader of the

HNH:bam (10)

44-38861

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher  
RE: MURKIN

Office of Professional Responsibility, USDJ, which office is presently reviewing the FBI investigation of Dr. King, was advised of the location of this information in Bufile 44-38861. Mr. Folsom advised the Task Force was already aware of these allegations and had already looked into this matter. The CRD, USDJ, was also advised on 9/22/76 of our previous investigative results.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

DETAILS: This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement.

As set forth in a J. S. Peelman to Mr. Gallagher memorandum, dated 9/21/76, an article in the "Washington Post," 9/18/76, reported that the U. S. House of Representatives has created a select committee to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The reported basis for the House investigation of Dr. King deals with the ordered removal of Edward Redditt, a Memphis Police Officer, from the King security on the day of his death due to a reported attempt on the life of the Redditt family. The order for his removal was attributed to the Memphis Fire and Police Director, Frank Holloman (retired Special Agent of the FBI). The reported basis also deals with the "sudden transfer" of two black firemen, including Floyd Newsum, from a fire house across the street from the motel where King was shot.

The allegations re the removal of Redditt and the firemen were previously investigated by the FBI in 1968 and 1969 and the pertinent results were furnished to the Department.

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher  
RE: MURKIN

You were advised in the J. S. Peelman to Mr. Gallagher memorandum dated 9/21/76, that the CRD would be advised of our previous investigative results and that the Task Force Leader of the Office of Professional Responsibility, USDJ, which is presently reviewing the FBI investigation of Dr. King, would be advised of the location of this information in Bufile 44-38861, the FBI civil rights assassination file. The Task Force has complete access to 44-38861 in connection with its review.

On 9/22/76, Mr. Fred G. Folsom, Jr., Task Force Leader, was referred to serials 5197, 5387, 5531, 5533, and 5557, of 44-38861, which reflect the information and our investigative results re the Redditt - firemen allegations.

Mr. Folsom advised the Task Force was already aware of these allegations and had already looked into this matter.

The CRD, USDJ, was also advised on 9/22/76, of our previous investigative results.

Mr. Gallagher

9/21/76

J. S. Peelman

MURKIN

X  
1 - Mr. Held  
1 - Mr. Adams  
1 - Mr. Gallagher  
1 - Mr. O'Connell  
1 - Mr. Peelman  
① - Mr. Helterhoff  
1 - Mr. Ingram  
1 - Mr. Mintz  
1 - Mr. Aldhizer

PURPOSE: To advise that the U.S. House of Representatives has created a select committee to investigate the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The reported basis for the House investigation re Dr. King was previously investigated by the FBI in 1968 and 1969 and the results were furnished to the U. S. Department of Justice.

SYNOPSIS: This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement. As set forth in a J. S. Peelman to Mr. Gallagher memorandum dated 2/18/76, in February, 1976, "Newsday," a Long Island, New York, newspaper reported that Ed Redditt, the Memphis, Tennessee, City Detective guarding King was pulled from his post hours before King was assassinated and told the U. S. Secret Service had learned of a "contract" on his life. Redditt, who protested his removal, reportedly had a "contingency plan" to apprehend any King assassin. On 2/17/76, this article furnished to the Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice (USDJ), which, at that time, had the FBI investigation of Dr. King under review, stating FBI was conducting no investigation re this article unless specifically requested by the CRD. Article in "Washington Post," 9/18/76 (copy attached) reported U. S. House of Representatives created a select committee to investigate assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. King. Reported basis for House investigation re Dr. King deals with ordered removal of Redditt from King security on day of his death due to reported attempt on life of Redditt's family. Order for his removal attributed to Memphis Fire and Police Director Frank Holloman (retired

Enclosure

HNH:bam (10)

CONTINUED - OVER

44-38861

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher  
RE: MURKIN

Special Agent of FBI). Reported basis also deals with "sudden transfer" of two black fireman, including Floyd Newsum, from firehouse across the street from motel where King was shot. The FBI civil rights assassination investigative file (Bufile 44-38861) reflects the CRD furnished a memorandum dated 9/23/68 containing results of interviews which J. Harold Flannery, Deputy Section Chief, Central Section, CRD, had with William Sartor, a contract writer for Time, Inc., who as a reporter had been inquiring into possible conspiracy to assassinate Dr. King. Sartor furnished various information, including the "Cosa Nostra" or "Mafia" could be involved, Redditt was moved from assignment at fire station, and two Negro firemen were moved from the station a day or two before the shooting. CRD requested FBI to "follow out" all of Sartor's indicated leads. FBI investigation in 1968 reflects that upon instructions from an Inspector of the Memphis Police Department (PD), Detective Redditt removed from guard duty due to information received from Senator McClellan's Senate Investigating Committee that a Negro detective was to be killed. Inspector believed this another threat against Redditt, who had been previously threatened, and removed Redditt for own protection. Memphis PD determined Negro fireman Floyd E. Newsum active in demonstrations by striking sanitation workers and closely associated with black militants. Newsum transferred to insure safety for Officers Redditt and another officer and to insure no information leaked to black militants. Another Negro fireman routinely reassigned due to manpower shortage. This investigation by FBI reported in Memphis letterhead memorandum (LHM) dated 11/21/68, disseminated to CRD 11/27/68, and by request also furnished to Office of Professional Responsibility Task Force, U. S. Department of Justice, on 6/4/76, which Office is presently reviewing the FBI investigation of Dr. King.

Bufile 44-38861 also reflects on 1/30/69 Rev. Ralph Abernathy, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, advised that Rev. James Lawson told him two Negro firemen, assigned to fire station across from King motel, were moved leaving fire station unmanned, and a Negro policeman was moved from beat of King's motel. (LHM reporting this furnished CRD 2/3/69). FBI investigation at Memphis PD reflected it had no officers assigned to "walking beat" on day King killed. Rev. Lawson interviewed by FBI on 2/11/69 and stated Floyd E. Newsum and another Negro

2 CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher  
RE: MURKIN

fireman were transferred, and Detective Redditt was removed from fire station, and these occurrences may have some significance. This new select House Committee, to date, has made no requests of the FBI.

RECOMMENDATION: For information. The CRD is being advised, and the Task Force Leader of the Office of Professional Responsibility, U. S. Department of Justice, presently reviewing the FBI investigation of Dr. King will be advised of the location of this information in Bufile 44-38861.

DETAILS: This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement in Tennessee.

As set forth in a J. S. Peelman to Mr. Gallagher memorandum dated 2/18/76, a United Press International Wire Service article dated 2/14/76, stated the following:

"Garden City, N.Y. (UPI) -- The top law enforcement official in Memphis, Tennessee, removed a detective assigned to protect Martin Luther King hours before the Civil Rights leader was assassinated in 1968, Newsday reported Saturday.

In a copyrighted story in its Sunday edition, the Long Island newspaper said Ed Redditt, the city detective/guarding King, was pulled from his post and told there was a plot to kill him.

The Memphis Public Safety Director did not replace Redditt after taking him off the assignment and allowed the detective to return to work three days after King was shot to death at the Lorraine Motel Newsday said.

It also said Redditt 'had prepared a contingency plan to enable the police department to apprehend an assassin should an attempt be made on King's life.'

'After Redditt was removed from duty, he was told at a meeting in police headquarters that the U. S.

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher  
RE: MURKIN

Secret Service had learned of a 'contract' on his life,'  
Newsday said.

'Redditt protested, saying he wanted to return  
to his post, but the city's then Public Safety  
Director, Frank Holloman, insisted on the officer's  
removal,' the newspaper said.

'Enroute home with his police guard, Redditt  
heard over the radio that King had been shot by an  
assassin,' the story said.

'Three days later, the round-the-clock guard  
watching Redditt was removed and he was allowed  
to return to work. The police department never  
offered any further explanation of the 'contract'  
on his life,' Newsday said.

The story also said Holloman acknowledged  
the report of a threat on Redditt's life, but refused  
to say who had made the threat.

'Redditt's assassination contingency plan,  
according to sources, called for the entire  
four-block area around King's Hotel to be  
sealed off by patrol cars,' the article said."

On 2/17/76, this article was furnished to the CRD  
USDJ, which at that time had the FBI investigation of Dr. King  
under review, stating the FBI was conducting no investigation re  
this article unless specifically requested by the CRD.

On 9/8/76, an article appeared in the "Washington Post,"  
(copy attached), reporting that the U. S. House of Representatives  
created a select committee to investigate the assassination of  
President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
The reported basis for the House investigation re Dr. King  
deals with the ordered removal of Edward Redditt from King's  
security on the day of his death due to a reported attempt on  
the life of Redditt's family. The order for his removal was  
attributed to Memphis Fire and Police Director Frank Holloman  
(retired Special Agent of the FBI). The reported basis also  
deals with the "sudden transfer" of two black firemen, including  
Floyd Newsum, from the fire house across the street from the  
motel where King was shot.

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher  
RE: MURKIN

The FBI civil rights assassination investigative file (Bufile 44-38861) reflects the CRD furnished a memorandum dated 9/23/68 (serial 5197) containing results of interviews which J. Harold Flannery, Deputy Section Chief, Central Section, CRD, had with William Sartor, a contract writer for Time, Inc., who as a reporter had been inquiring into a possible conspiracy to assassinate Dr. King. Sartor furnished various information, including that the "Cosa Nostra" or "Mafia" could be involved. Departmental Attorney Flannery also reported that Sartor furnished him with the following two allegations:

1. "An unidentified Negro policeman was moved from his assignment at the Fire Station (and Police Tactical Unit Station) at about 5:00 p.m. on the day of the assassination. According to Sartor, the Dispatcher told the policeman to move two or three times during the afternoon, but he did not do so until explicitly advised to that effect by a superior. In August, Sartor identified the policeman as E. E. Redditt and said that Redditt had broken off an interview with Sartor after starting to discuss his move from the station."

2. "Two Negro firemen were moved from the station a day or two before the shooting. One of them has reportedly told friends that, two or three days before Dr. King was shot, a telescope or binoculars were set up on a tripod in the fire station and focused on the Lorraine Motel balcony. In August, Sartor said that one firemen left the Department or was suspended shortly after the shooting, and that he has been unable to locate either of them. He did not have their names."

The CRD requested the FBI to "follow out" all of Sartor's indicated leads.

By LHM, the Memphis Office of the FBI reported the results of the investigation re the above two items as set forth below (serial 5387):



Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher  
RE: MURKIN

"In this regard, Inspector G. P. Tines, Intelligence Unit, Memphis Police Department, advised on 11/18/68, that on 4/3/68 he assigned Detective E. E. Redditt and Patrolman W. B. Richmond, Negro officers, both of whom are assigned to the Inspection Division of the Memphis Police Department, to a security detail at the Memphis Fire Station, Engine House #2, located at Butler and Main Streets. This location is approximately one block from the Lorraine Motel. The purpose of this assignment was to observe the activities of the "Invaders," local Black Power group at Memphis. A number of the "Invaders" were rooming at the Lorraine Motel at this time. These two officers were equipped with binoculars and were stationed in a room at the rear of the fire station with a view that included the room later occupied by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

In connection with this assignment, and prior to the time Officers Redditt and Richmond physically proceeded to this assigned location, it was determined by the Intelligence Unit of the Memphis Police Department that a Negro fireman stationed at the Fire Station and named Floyd E. Newsum had taken an active part in demonstrations by the striking sanitation workers in February and March, 1968, and had been closely associated with black militants connected with the strike. In order to insure security for Officers Redditt and Richmond, and to insure that no information regarding the Memphis Police Department Intelligence Unit's efforts to keep abreast of the activities of the "Invaders" was leaked to the black militants in Memphis, the Chief of the Memphis Fire Department was requested to temporarily transfer Fireman Newsum to another fire station. This was done on 4/3/68.

In addition, on 4/4/68, Negro Fireman Norvell E. Wallace was routinely assigned from Fire Station #2 to Fire Station #31, due to a manpower shortage at Fire station #31.

On 11/18/68, Fire Chief Hamilton advised that by letter dated 5/18/68, Fireman Newsum resigned from the Memphis Fire Department after thirteen years of service, giving as his reason for leaving "Personal Reasons." Chief Hamilton advised it is his understanding that Newsum has become an active worker with the NAACP at Memphis subsequent to his resignation from the Memphis Fire Department.

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher  
RE: MURKIN

At approximately 4:15 p.m. on 4/4/68, Lt. E. H. Arkin of the Intelligence Unit of the Memphis Police Department, on instructions from Inspector Tines, proceeded to Fire Engine House #2 and removed Detective Redditt from this station, leaving Officer Richmond at this post. The reason for the removal of Officer Redditt was due to the receipt of a telephone call on the morning of 4/4/68 by Philip Manuel, Chief Investigator for Senator McClellan's Senate Investigating Committee, Washington, D. C., to the effect that information had been received by the Committee that a Negro detective on the Memphis Police Department was to be killed.

Due to Detective E. E. Redditt's activities in attending meetings of the striking sanitation workers in February and March, 1968, Redditt had been threatened on several occasions. Inspector Tines therefore believed the telephone call received by the McClellan Committee was another threat directed against Redditt. He therefore ordered Redditt removed from his lookout post at Engine House #2 for Redditt's own protection. A police guard of two officers was assigned to Redditt and his family as a result of this threat.

A review of the tapes of the Memphis Police Department radio transmissions for April 4, 1968, failed to reflect any transmissions from Police Dispatcher ordering Redditt to move from his observation post and, in fact, it has been ascertained that no radio equipment was maintained by the police officers at this observation post with which to receive radio transmissions."

This Memphis LHM also disseminated to the CRD on 11/27/68 and by request was also furnished to the Office of Professional Responsibility Task Force, USDJ, on 6/4/76, which office is presently reviewing the FBI investigation of Dr. King.

An LHM from the Atlanta Office of the FBI dated 1/31/69 (serial 5531) reflected that Rev. Ralph Abernathy, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was interviewed by the FBI on 1/30/69 and he advised that several months previously, Rev. James Lawson told him the day before the assassination of Dr. King that two Negro firemen, who had been assigned to the fire station across the street from the motel where Dr. King was killed, were moved to another fire station.

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher  
RE: MURKIN

According to Rev. Lawson that move left the fire station unmanned and they were moved to a station which was already fully manned and equipped. Also according to Rev. Lawson, a Negro policeman, who worked the beat which included the motel where Dr. King was killed, was moved off of that beat the day Dr. King was killed, April 4, 1968, but prior to the killing. This Atlanta LHM was furnished to the CRD on 2/3/69.

An airtel from the Memphis Office of the FBI, dated 1/31/69 (serial 5533) reflects information from the Memphis PD that it had no officers assigned to a "walking beat" in Memphis on the day Dr. King was killed.

An airtel from our Memphis Office dated 2/11/69 (serial 5557) reflects that Rev. Lawson was interviewed by the FBI on 2/11/69 and he advised he feels that certain occurrences may have some significance.

Rev. Lawson said that on about April 2 or April 3, 1968, a Negro fireman, Floyd E. Newsum, was transferred from the firestation near the Lorraine Motel to another station that was already fully manned. He also said that another Negro fireman, name unknown, was transferred from that same station to another station on either Tuesday or Wednesday night before King was murdered on Thursday afternoon. He said this second fireman was transferred in the middle of his shift and was transferred "out of rotation."

Rev. Lawson explained "out of rotation" as follows:

When a fireman is assigned to a piece of equipment he remains in that assignment until all the men already assigned to it have been transferred. In other words, the last man assigned is the last man transferred.

Rev. Lawson stated also that a Negro police officer, Detective E. E. Redditt, who had been assigned to the same fire station to provide protection for Dr. King, had been removed from the station sometime prior to the murder.

Rev. Lawson stated he has made no attempt to verify any of this information except for his interview with Floyd Newsum.

This new select House Committee, to date, has made no request of the FBI.

Washington Post  
September 18, 1976

# House Votes 280-65 to Probe Kennedy, King Assassinations

By Mary Russell  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House created a select committee yesterday to investigate the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The 12-member committee, established on a 280-to-65 vote, will be headed by Rep. Thomas Downing (D-Va.) for the remainder of this Congress, Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla.) said. Downing, however, is retiring, and Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.), with Downing a prime sponsor of the committee, is expected to become chairman in the new session next January.

Downing said he would ask for \$350,000 to get the committee started and hire staff, but Rep. Frank Thompson (D-N.J.), chairman of the House Administration Committee which must authorize the funds, indicated yesterday he might be reluctant to approve that amount.

Because the select committee expires at the end of this year and will have to be re-established by the House next year, it should wait until then for funding, Thompson said.

Downing said the committee would not hold public hearings before the Nov. 2 elections, to avoid charges of capitalizing politically on the investigation, but he said it might hold some closed hearings "in order to preserve testimony."

Reasons for looking again at the 1963 Kennedy assassination, he said,

are revelations by the congressional intelligence committees that information about CIA attempts to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro was withheld from the Warren commission, "the murder of two Mafia members enlisted by the CIA to help assassinate Castro, and the destruction of notes on Kennedy's autopsy and a note by assassin Lee Harvey Oswald to a member of the FBI.

The commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren investigated the assassination of Kennedy in Dallas and concluded that Oswald acted alone.

But Downing said yesterday, "I am convinced there was a conspiracy involved. I do not know the identity of the conspirators or their motives. That should be investigated in depth."

Downing promised "to engage in no witch-hunts" and "not blame those who may have made mistakes in the original investigation."

Rep. B. F. Sisk (D-Calif.) called the planned investigation a waste of taxpayers' money to satisfy "the melodramatic desire of the morbid to create an incident."

Though Downing and Gonzalez set out more than a year ago to create the committee, they were going nowhere until they received a push from members of the Congressional Black Caucus, who felt they had received "new information" in the 1968 killing of Martin Luther King Jr. that called for a congressional investigation.

D.C. Del. Walter Fauntroy and Rep. Yvonne Burke (D-Calif.) confirmed that the information came from writer and TV producer Abby Mann, who is working on a documentary on King's death, and from writer Mark Lane, one of the first to doubt the Warren Commission conclusions.

Reportedly the information has been known since 1963 but never investigated by the FBI.

It deals with the removal of King's black security chief from his side shortly before he was killed in Memphis, and the sudden transfer of two black firemen from the firehouse across the street from the motel where King was staying and was shot.

Edward Redditt, in charge of security for King, was ordered to go home about 4 p.m. on the day of King's death, because of a reported attempt on the life of Redditt's family.

The order was attributed to Memphis Fire and Police Director Frank C. Holloman, who had worked for the FBI for 25 years, part of the time in the office of the late Director J. Edgar Hoover, who had tapped King's phone and ordered surveillance of the civil rights leader.

Floyd Newsum, one of the black firemen abruptly transferred from the fire station across from the motel, said he had attended a King rally in Memphis and, though he publicly told of the transfer at the time, says he was never interviewed by the FBI.

FBI

Date: 2/11/69

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
 FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)  
 SUBJECT: MURKIN

ReBuairtel 2/4/69 directing Memphis to interview  
 Rev. JAMES LAWSON.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 3 copies of an FD-302  
 reflecting interview of Rev. LAWSON on 2/11/69 at Memphis.

Information furnished by Rev. LAWSON regarding the  
 transfer of the 2 Negro firemen and the Negro police officer  
 from the fire station near the Lorraine Motel just prior to the  
 murder of KING has been covered in Memphis LHM dated 11/21/68,  
 which LHM also reflected the interview of Mr. BILL SARTOR by  
 Mr. J. HAROLD FLANNERY of the Justice Dept. LAWSON furnished  
 no new information and it is not felt that this matter warrants  
 further inquiry.

It is the opinion of the interviewing Agents that  
 LAWSON is a dangerous rabble rousing individual not worthy of  
 being considered a leader of any group. He openly admits  
 distrust of the police and of the FBI. He admits to having no  
 facts but does not seem embarrassed to openly advocate his theory  
 that KING's murder resulted from a conspiracy. He mentioned  
 the story that was told early in this investigation by JOHN  
 MC FERREN regarding his having overheard a conversation in a  
 local vegetable market which conversation would indicate that  
 the market owner, JOHN LIBERTO, and persons from New Orleans  
 were part of the murder conspiracy. As the Bureau is well  
 aware, MC FERREN's story has been thoroughly investigated and  
 has been found to be entirely without substance.

Airtel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Teletype \_\_\_\_\_  
 ③ - Bureau (Encs. 3)  
 A.M. 3 - Memphis (2 - 44-1987)  
 (1 - 170-98-Rev. JAMES M. LAWSON)

A.M.S.D. JCH:cjs  
 (6)

Spec. Del.

Reg. Mail

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

Registered \_\_\_\_\_ Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

FEB 20 1969

ME 44-1987

LAWSON was advised that the Bureau would be most interested in receiving any additional information which might come into his possession. In view of LAWSON's attitude toward the Bureau, it is suggested that we initiate no further contact with LAWSON if it can possibly be avoided.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 2/11/69

Rev. JAMES M. LAWSON, JR., Pastor, Centenary Methodist Church, 584 East McLemore Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he has no actual evidence of a conspiracy in the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING; however, he feels that certain occurrences around the time of the murder may have some significance.

*James*  
Rev. LAWSON said that on about April 2 or April 3, 1968, a Negro fireman, FLOYD E. NEWSUM, was transferred from the fire station near the Lorraine Motel to another station that was already fully manned. He also said that another Negro fireman, name unknown, was transferred from that same station to another station on either Tuesday or Wednesday night before KING was murdered on Thursday afternoon. He said this second fireman was transferred in the middle of his shift and was transferred "out of rotation".

Rev. LAWSON explained "out of rotation" as follows:

When a fireman is assigned to a piece of equipment he remains in that assignment until all the men already assigned to it have been transferred. In other words, the last man assigned is the last man transferred.

Rev. LAWSON stated also that a Negro police officer, Detective E. E. REDDITT, who had been assigned to the same fire station to provide protection for Dr. KING, had been removed from the station sometime prior to the murder.

Rev. LAWSON stated he has made no attempt to verify any of this information except for his interview with FLOYD NEWSUM.

On 2/11/69 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA JOE C. HESTER & SA ROBERT F. FOYLE:JCH:cjs Date dictated 2/11/69

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.

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-5357

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 2/11/69

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Rev. LAWSON stated also that a Negro police officer, Detective E. E. REDDITT, who had been assigned to the same fire station to provide protection for Dr. KING, had been removed from the station sometime prior to the murder.

Rev. LAWSON stated he has made no attempt to verify any of this information except for his interview with FLOYD NEWSUM.

On 2/11/69 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA JOE C. HESTER & SA ROBERT F. BOYLE:JCH:cjs Date dictated 2/11/69

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.



2-4-69

AIRTEL

1 - Mr. Long

To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

REC 44

From: Director, FBI (44-38861) - 5533

MURKIN

ReMEairtel to the Bureau dated 1-31-69.

Memphis should interview Reverend James Lawson for details of any information he possesses regarding the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. and conduct all necessary investigation to thoroughly resolve.

REL:jms  
(4) jms

NOTE: Article appeared in "The Washington Post" on 1-29-69. The article in part stated that the head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Reverend Ralph David Abernathy, indicated that a conspiracy existed in the Martin Luther King, Jr. assassination. We instructed our Atlanta Office to interview Abernathy and upon interview Abernathy advised that what he told the press was that he believed in view of the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, Medgar Evers, and Martin Luther King, Jr. there would be indication to him that there may be a conspiracy among the forces of evil to do away with any young militant who stands for righteousness. Abernathy stated he had no evidence indicating a conspiracy and it is only his belief or fear on his part that such a conspiracy exists. Abernathy during interview advised that Rev. Lawson of Memphis told him about some personnel of the Memphis Fire Department and personnel of the Memphis Police Department that were moved to different locations of the city on 4-4-68 (date of assassination of King) and this may be significant..

Memphis advised that they resolved all issues as set forth by Abernathy in his conversation with Rev. Lawson. Memphis being instructed to interview Rev. Lawson in order to thoroughly resolve this matter and to obtain all information.

MAILED 4  
FEB 4 - 1969  
COMM-FBI

Tolson ☒  
DeLoach ☒  
Mohr ☐  
Bishop ☐  
Casper ☐  
Callahan ☐  
Conrad ☐  
Felt ☒  
Gale ☒  
Rosen ☐  
Sullivan ☐  
Tavel ☐  
Trotter ☐  
Tele. Room ☐  
Holmes ☐  
Gandy ☐

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

F B I

Date: 1/31/69

PLAINTEXT

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

OO: ME

Re Atlanta teletype to Bureau, 1/30/69, concerning the interview of Reverend RALPH ABERNATHY, SCLC Headquarters, Atlanta, Georgia.

The results of the investigation conducted by the Memphis Division in regard to the reference of ABERNATHY re Citizens Band radio transmissions and the removal of Negro firemen and policemen from the immediate area of the Lorraine Motel shortly prior to the shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., were forwarded to the Bureau by Memphis airtels to the Bureau dated 7/29/68 and 11/21/68.

The only item mentioned by ABERNATHY that has not been fully explained to the Bureau is the fact that Reverend JAMES LAWSON, Memphis, advised ABERNATHY that a Negro policeman who worked the beat which included the motel where Dr. KING was killed was moved off that beat the day KING was killed.

On 1/31/69, Lt. E. H. ARKIN, Intelligence Unit, Memphis PD, advised that the Memphis PD does not maintain any officers on a "walking beat" other

Airtel \_\_\_\_\_  
Teletype \_\_\_\_\_  
A.M. \_\_\_\_\_  
A.N.S.D. \_\_\_\_\_  
A.C. Del. \_\_\_\_\_

3-Bureau

1-Atlanta (44-2386) INFO

2-Memphis

RFB:PEH

(6)

C. Bishop

REC 44

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FEB 5 1969

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

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

ME 44-1987

than on special occasions and that from a review of the Memphis PD records he ascertained that there were no Memphis police officers assigned to a "walking beat" in Memphis on the day Dr. KING was killed.]

In this regard it is believed that Reverend LAWSON was referring to Detective E. E. REDDITT, Memphis PD, who was removed from a lookout position at engine house #2 of the Memphis Fire Department on 4/4/68 due to the fact a number of threats had been made on REDDITT's life as a result of REDDITT's activities in attending meetings of the striking sanitation workers in Memphis in February and March, 1968. REDDITT was removed from this fire house and two officers of the Memphis PD were assigned at that time to protect REDDITT and members of REDDITT's family.

In view of the above, the Memphis Division does not anticipate interviewing Reverend JAMES LAWSON concerning the information LAWSON furnished to ABERNATHY.

A copy of this airtel is being submitted for the information of the Atlanta Division as Atlanta obtained the information in question as a result of the interview of Reverend ABERNATHY at Atlanta.

F B I

Date: 1/31/69

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN

Re Atlanta teletype to Bureau and Memphis dated 1/30/69, and Bureau telephone call to Atlanta, 1/30/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five (5) copies of LHM and to Memphis are two (2) copies of LHM captioned "ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, APRIL 4, 1968".

1cc: AAG Civil Rights Division  
Form 6-94 (B) *Red/100*

1cc: AAG Civil Rights Division  
Form 6-94 (B) *Red/100*

1cc: CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT FEB 3 1969

- ③ - Bureau (Enc. 5) (RM)
  - 2 - Memphis (Enc. 2) (RM) (RE)
  - 2 - Atlanta
- ORH:vsc  
(7)

**C. C. Bishop**

REC 101

4 FEB 3 1969

Approved: *[Signature]*  
62 FEB 1 1969 Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Atlanta, Georgia

January 31, 1969

ASSASSINATION OF  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE  
APRIL 4, 1968

The January 29, 1969, edition of "The Washington Post" newspaper contained an article which quoted Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, as indicating in a news conference that a conspiracy exists with regard to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 30, 1969, Rev. Abernathy was interviewed by a Special Agent of the FBI at Atlanta, Georgia, and the results are set forth on the following page:

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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.

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-5531

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date January 31, 1969

1

Rev. RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, 330 Auburn Avenue, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, telephonically advised with regards to his statement to the press, which was quoted in "The Washington Post" newspaper, Washington, D. C., on January 29, 1969, that what he told the press was that he believed in view of the assassinations of President JOHN F. KENNEDY, ROBERT F. KENNEDY, MEDGAR EVERS and MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., there would be an indication to him that there may be a conspiracy among the forces of evil to do away with any young militant who stands for righteousness. Rev. ABERNATHY advised that he has no specific information or other evidence that a conspiracy exists with respect to the specific assassination of Dr. KING. He advised that the statement made to the press on January 29, 1969, in which he referred to a conspiracy concerned the assassination of all of the above-mentioned persons. In regard to those assassinations he made it clear he has no evidence indicating a conspiracy and it is only his belief or fear on his part that such a conspiracy does exist. He stated he has no idea what individuals or forces would be involved in such a conspiracy.

Rev. ABERNATHY advised that several months ago Rev. JAMES LAWSON, Minister of the Centenary Methodist Church at Memphis, Tennessee, told him, Rev. ABERNATHY, that it was Rev. LAWSON's understanding that the day before the assassination of Dr. KING, two Negro firemen, who had been assigned to the fire station across the street from the motel where Dr. KING was killed, were moved to another fire station. [According to Rev. LAWSON that move left the fire station unmanned and they were moved to a station which was already fully manned and equipped. Also according to Rev. LAWSON, a Negro policeman, who worked the beat which included the motel where Dr. KING was killed, was moved off of that beat the day Dr. KING was killed, April 4, 1968, but prior to the killing.]

conclusion

loaned to your agency  
tributed to your agency

2\*

On 1/30/69 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386by SA O. RICHARD HAMILTON :vsc Date dictated 1/31/69

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.

FBI WASH DC

FBI ATLANTA

3:48 PM URGENT 1/30/69 SAT  
TO DIRECTOR 44-38861 AND MEMPHIS  
FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TEL TO ATLANTA JAN. TWENTYNINE, SIXTYNINE.  
APPOINTMENT WAS MADE THIS DATE FOR INTERVIEW WITH REV. RALPH  
ABERNATHY. WHEN SA'S O. RICHARD HAMILTON AND ARTHUR L. MURTAGH  
ARRIVED AT SCLC HEADQUARTERS, ABERNATHY'S SECRETARY ADVISED HE  
WAS NOT IN BUT SHE WOULD CONTACT HIM ON THE TELEPHONE. SA  
HAMILTON TELEPHONICALLY TALKED WITH ALBERNATHY WHO APOLOGIZED  
FOR BEING UNABLE TO KEEP THE APPOINTMENT AND SAID HE WAS "VISITING  
THE SICK".

ABERNATHY ADVISED CONCERNING HIS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS THAT A  
CONSPIRACY EXISTS IN THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,  
THAT WHAT HE ACTUALLY STATED WAS IN VIEW OF THE ASSASSINATIONS OF  
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, ROBERT F. KENNEDY, MEDGAR EVERS, AND  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., THERE WOULD BE AN INDICATION TO HIM  
END PAGE ONE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

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59 FEB 10 1969

PAGE TWO

AT 44-2386

THAT THERE MAY BE A CONSPIRACY AMONG THE "FORCES OF EVIL" TO DO AWAY WITH ANY YOUNG "MILITANT" WHO STANDS FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. ABERNATHY STATED HE HAS NO EVIDENCE NOR HAS HE HEARD FROM ANY SOURCE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION THAT A CONSPIRACY EXISTS IN THIS MATTER. HE ADVISED THAT THE STATEMENT MADE TO THE PRESS CONCERNING A CONSPIRACY CONCERNED THE ASSASSINATIONS OF ALL THE ABOVE MEN.

ABERNATHY ADVISED THAT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, REV. JAMES LAWSON, MINISTER OF CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH, MEMPHIS, TOLD HIM IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DAY PRIOR TO THE ASSASSINATION OF KING, TWO NEGRO FIREMEN WHO WORKED IN THE FIRE STATION ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE MOTEL WHERE KING WAS KILLED WERE MOVED, LEAVING SOME UNMANNED FIRE EQUIPMENT. ACCORDING TO LAWSON, THE TWO NEGRO FIREMEN WERE MOVED TO FIRE STATIONS WHICH WERE ALREADY FULLY MANNED AND EQUIPPED. ALSO ACCORDING TO LAWSON, A NEGRO POLICEMAN WHO WORKED THE BEAT WHICH INCLUDED THE MOTEL WHERE KING WAS KILLED WAS MOVED OFF OF THAT BEAT THE DAY KING WAS KILLED.

END PAGE TWO



THAT INFORMATION ALONG WITH WHAT HE HAS HEARD AND READ CONCERNING UNIDENTIFIED RADIO CALLS WHICH DIVERTED A SEARCH FOR A WHITE MUSTANG LEADS HIM TO BELIEVE THAT THERE MAY BE A CONSPIRACY IN THIS MATTER.

MEMPHIS CONTACT REV. JAMES LAWSON CONCERNING THE ABOVE MATTER IF NOT ALREADY DONE AND CONDUCT ALL NECESSARY INVESTIGATION TO RESOLVE THE MATTER.

END

P

ERT

FBI WASH DC

TU@

PLAINTEXT

1-29-69

TELETYPE

URGENT

1 - Mr. Long

TO: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386)  
FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

ARTICLE IN "THE WASHINGTON POST" NEWSPAPER (TODAY) QUOTES REVEREND RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY, HEAD OF SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC) IN A NEWS CONFERENCE AS INDICATING A CONSPIRACY EXISTS IN THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR (ASSASSINATION APRIL FOUR, NINETEEN SIXTY-EIGHT).

YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY INTERVIEW REVEREND ABERNATHY FOR DETAILS OF ANY INFORMATION HE POSSESSES, HIS SOURCE OF INFORMATION, AND CONDUCT ALL NECESSARY INVESTIGATION TO THOROUGHLY RESOLVE THIS MATTER AS WELL AS ANY INFORMATION STEMMING FROM INTERVIEW OF REVEREND ABERNATHY. KEEP BUREAU FULLY INFORMED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS. AIRMAIL COPY SENT MEMPHIS.

REC 11

19 JAN 30 1969

MEMPHIS (44-1987) (airmail)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

REL:jms  
(4)

JAN 29 1969

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO. . .

TELETYPE

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

6 FEB 6 1969