

NOTE:

Article appearing the "The Washington Post" on 1-29-69, in part states that the head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Reverend Ralph David Abernathy inferred that a conspiracy exists in the Martin Luther King, Jr. assassination. According to the information coming from the press conference, Abernathy claims that Negro leaders in Memphis believe that persons other than James Earl Ray were aware of the plan to kill Martin Luther King, Jr. The article further states that Abernathy said the information was second-hand and he could not vouch for its validity.

We are instructing Atlanta (Headquarters of SCLC) to interview Abernathy for details of information and to completely resolve. We previously interviewed Abernathy in Memphis, Tennessee, in April of 1968, and at that time he did not indicate that a conspiracy existed.

FBI

Date: 11-21-68

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

Via AIRTEL AM
(Priority)

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

MURKIN

Re Memphis Airtel to Bureau 11/5/68.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are four copies of LHM regarding information furnished by one BILL SARTOR to Departmental Attorney J. HAROLD FLANNERY regarding a possible conspiracy in this matter.

For the information of the Bureau, the following is a brief resume of activity that occurred in Memphis, Tennessee, which resulted in Martin Luther King's appearances in Memphis during March and April 1968.

On 11/4/68, ME 338-R, a well known Memphis Negro who has been most active in support of the Negro civil rights movement in Memphis in recent years, advised that a strike of the Memphis sanitation workers, most of whom are of the Negro race, commenced in Memphis 2/12/68. The strike was initiated by Local 1733, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). It started as a legitimate labor dispute, but soon developed into a political power struggle in the city of Memphis.

This informant explained that WILLIAM B. INGRAM, former Mayor of Memphis until January 1968, had been defeated in the November 1967 city election when he ran for re-election for Mayor against the present Mayor, HENRY LOEB. This had been a bitterly fought election in which INGRAM had the support of approximately 90% of the Negro electorate, who had categorized LOEB as a symbol of segregation. Beginning in late February,

BUREAU (Enc. 4) (RM)
MEMPHIS
RFB:BN
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44-38861-5387

NOV 29 1968

Approved: Rifener
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

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ME 44-1987

1968, and continuing until the settlement of the strike in Mid-April, 1968, the political supporters of INGRAM joined the Union in support of the strike and in opposition to LOEB. This support stemmed from diverse Negro groups led by CORNELIA CRENSHAW, Mrs. TARLESE MATHEWS, a barber, O. W. PICKETT, Negro realtor, and a group of Negro ministers. The ministers developed an organization for this purpose known as Community on the Move for Equality (COME). Included in the group were such leaders as Reverend EZEKIEL BELL, Pastor, Parkway Gardens Presbyterian Church, Reverend JAMES MORRIS LAWSON, JR., SAMUEL B. KYLES, Pastor, Monumental Baptist Church, and Memphis Convener of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Reverend H. RALPH JACKSON, AME Church, who is Director, Minimum Salary Office, and Reverend MALCOLM D. BLACKBURN, Pastor of the Claiborne Temple, AME Church, 280 Hernando. All sanitation strike marches supporting the strike originated from Claiborne Temple, located at 280 Hernando, Memphis. All the above-mentioned individuals, with the exception of BLACKBURN, are Negroes and all had strongly opposed LOEB and had supported INGRAM in the November, 1967, city election. Reverend LAWSON, who had been Director of the non-violent tactics for SCLC, and Reverend KYLES were later influential in bringing MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., Head of SCLC, to Memphis on March 28, 1968, and again on 4/3-4/68.

This source advised that as the strike developed, it became more and more apparent that the strike was a combined political and racial issue, nurtured, stimulated, and organized by political opponents of Memphis Mayor HENRY LOEB and supporters of former Mayor WILLIAM B. INGRAM. This was the group which so deeply involved SCLC in the strike, culminating in the 4/4/68 fatal shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Source #1 is KAY PITTMAN BLACK, "Press-Scimitar" reporter, and Source #2 is ANGUS McEACHRAN, "Commercial Appeal" reporter, both Memphis daily newspapers, who were contacted by SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE.

On 11/20/68, RUBY MARIE GEISENDORFF, Aka. MARIE LYONS, furnished the following confidential information:

She stated that she has cohabited with BILL SARTOR for approximately 1½ months in the recent past, and that during this period SARTOR has been conducting an independent investigation concerning the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., in an effort to substantiate his theories that possibly the Mafia and the Memphis Police Department are involved.

Re: James Earl Ray

She stated SARTOR claimed he is divorced from his wife; however, he has been unable to display a divorce decree to her. She asserted that on the night of 11/19/68, she was in telephonic contact with SARTOR and during the conversation with him SARTOR indicated he still had the .25 caliber pistol belonging to GEISENDORFF and that he intended to commit suicide with this weapon. She stated that although she has been acquainted with SARTOR for a period of time she was unable to state whether SARTOR made the remark concerning suicide in jest or whether he was serious.

The information furnished by Mrs. GEISENDORFF should not be disseminated to the U. S. Department of Justice, due to the fact that Mrs. GEISENDORFF furnished this information in confidence and in the event the Department releases any information to SARTOR concerning the remarks about suicide SARTOR would be in a position to immediately ascertain the source of the information.

If the information furnished by ROBERT PATRICK LYONS, as contained in the enclosed LHM, is accurate, it is obvious, since J. HAROLD FLANNERY was present during the interview of LYONS by SARTOR, that FLANNERY was in a position to know that the information concerning CACAMECI and MANN originated with SARTOR and not with LYONS. In view of this, it is believed that the memorandum prepared by FLANNERY was not an accurate resume of information he had gathered from SARTOR and the information he gathered in the presence of SARTOR from other individuals, and this has resulted in considerable wasted effort on the part of the Bureau to ascertain the veracity of information furnished by SARTOR.

No further investigation is being conducted by the Memphis Division in regard to the information furnished by BILL SARTOR to Departmental Attorney J. HAROLD FLANNERY.

Source #3 in the enclosed LHM is CHARLES S. BALLARD, who, as of 4/18/68, was a self-admitted Black Organizing Project (BOP) leader in Memphis, who volunteered information to SAs WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE and HOWELL S. LOWE.

Re: James Earl Ray

Source #4 in the enclosed LHM is ME 338-R, who
furnished information to SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
November 21, 1968

RE: JAMES EARL RAY, Aka.;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Mr. J. Harold Flannery of the U. S. Department of Justice, has prepared a memorandum reflecting interviews on June 12, 1968, and August 22, 1968, with Mr. Bill Sartor of Greenville, Mississippi, a contract writer for "Time" magazine. In this memorandum, Sartor alleges that John McFerren, a Negro civil rights activist from Somerville, Tennessee, had overheard part of a telephone conversation at the Scott Street Produce Market in which the speaker allegedly made reference to where an individual should be shot and as to where the individual doing the shooting should go to collect his money.

John McFerren was interviewed on two occasions by Special Agents of the Memphis FBI Division, and the results of these interviews are set out as follows:

He is a
contractor
about 35
years old
tall
black hair

McFerren stated
time. He said
"I.C.B. on the
about \$5,000." He
thin in build
about that time or
that he was there
to go on to

McFerren said
and shortly
was answered by

On 11/21/68 at Memphis, Tenn

by SA [redacted] V. JOHNSON:mmt

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44-38861-5387

ENCLOSURE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/68

1

Mr. JOHN MC FERREN, Somerville, Tennessee, was interviewed at the Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee, in the presence of Inspector N. E. ZACHARY, Mr. BAXTON BRYANT of the Tennessee Council on Human Relations, and Attorney DAVID E. CAYWOOD. Mr. MC FERREN stated that he had some information he wished to furnish concerning the shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 409-32-7708

Mr. MC FERREN advised that on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, he traveled from Somerville, Tennessee, to Memphis, Tennessee, to pick up his supplies for his grocery store. He advised that he departed from the Fineburg Meat Company, 2875 Starling Road, Memphis, at approximately 4:20 P.M. He said he traveled directly to the Farmers Market located on Scott Street and after arriving purchased a sack of potatoes from a Negro man, name unknown, at the market. He then went to the place where he normally buys his produce and stated he does not know the name of this particular firm but said it was possibly the LL&L Produce, 814 Scott Street. He said this business is operated by a large, heavy set white man, who weighs approximately 300 pounds and is of possible Puerto Rican extraction and who can be identified because his teeth are set apart from each other. MC FERREN stated after arriving at this company he walked up to the door to the office and noticed that the heavy set man was sitting at his desk with his back to the door and talking on the telephone.

Somerville at approximately 5:00 P.M. thereafter MC FERREN stated that the heavy set man did not see him at that time. He stated he heard the heavy set man say, "Kill the SOB on the balcony and get the job done. You will get your \$5,000." According to MC FERREN, a white man who is thin in build and who has a scar on his right cheek, saw him about that time and asked him what he wanted. MC FERREN replied that he was there to pick up some produce and this man told him to go on to the back and help himself.

his wife from the paper and the sketch which paper he MC FERREN said he went back to the rear portion of this office and shortly thereafter heard the telephone ring. The phone was answered by the man with the scar, and MC FERREN stated that this individual is a Cuban, or a Mexican. According to MC FERREN, he has a very yellow complexion, has "jungle rot" and definitely gives the impression of being a Cuban.

On 4/8/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-
said, "This person is not 5 feet 6 like they said on the paper, but he is real tall. He is at least 5 feet 10 inches tall."

by SA ORVILLE V. JOHNSON/mnr

Date dictated 4/9/68

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said he could not hear what this man said. The man then handed the phone to the heavy set man, and MC FERREN said he heard this man say, "Don't come out here. Go to New Orleans and get your money. You know my brother." MC FERREN continued by advising that he bought his produce and wanted to purchase two bushels of apples. He said he saw apples at the LL&L Produce Company, but they referred him to another store and told him that he could get his apples there. MC FERREN believes that he was only at the LL&L Produce Company for approximately ten minutes and this was sometime between 4:45 P.M. and 5:15 P.M.

JOHN MC FERREN continued by advising that approximately a week prior to April 4, 1968, he was at the LL&L Produce Company at which time the heavy set man, the man with the scar, and approximately three other white men were in a group talking. He said he heard the heavy set man say at this time, "They ought to shoot the S.O.B.!" MC FERREN advised that immediately after this the heavy set man walked over to him and said, "What do you think about King and his mess?" MC FERREN told the heavy set man that he tended to his own business.

MC FERREN advised that he arrived at his store in Somerville at approximately 6:15 P.M. He said immediately thereafter WILLIAM C. ANDERSON telephonically advised him that KING had been shot. He said on the following day his wife told him about the description of the person who possibly shot KING, and he said according to this description the individual was approximately 5'6" tall. He said he saw the sketch which appeared in the Commercial Appeal and which was supposed to be a likeness of the unknown individual who shot KING and when he compared the description furnished by his wife from the paper and the sketch which appeared in the paper he thought of a person who was employed at the LL&L Produce Company sometime last summer. He thinks this man might be identical to the person who actually shot KING and stated that this individual is a cross between an Indian, a Cuban, or a Mexican. According to MC FERREN, this person has a very yellow complexion, has "jungle rot" on his neck, and definitely gives the impression of being a Puerto Rican or a Cuban and definitely not an American. MC FERREN also said, "This person is not 5 feet 6 like they said in the paper, but he is real tall. He is at least 5 feet 9."

MC FERREN also advised that the person who he thinks might be identical to the person who shot KING weighs 140 pounds, has a slender build, and is approximately 25 years old. He could furnish no further description regarding this person or any further information of value to identify him.

JOHN MC FERREN stated that he discussed what he had heard on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, with his wife and also discussed with his wife the possibility that he knows the identity of the person who shot KING. He said he was afraid to tell any person other than his wife and did not mention it to anyone except Mr. BASTON BRYANT, whom he advised at approximately 7:00 P.M. on April 7, 1968.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/22/68

1

JOHN MC FERREN, Route 4, Box 133 A, Somerville, Tennessee, was interviewed at his place of business, Somerville, at which time he furnished the following information concerning the shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR:

On the morning of April 4, 1968, at 8:00 a.m., he traveled to Memphis, Tennessee, from Somerville to pick up his supplies for his grocery store in Somerville. Before obtaining these supplies he went to his brother's house regarding income tax returns to be filled out by his brother, ROBERT MC FERREN. He called his wife at home at approximately 2:30 p.m. and sometime thereafter, at approximately 3:00 p.m., he departed his brother's place of business to go to a "chicken place" near the Greyhound Station on Front Street to purchase some meat. He arrived at the "chicken place" a little before 3:15 p.m. and thereafter departed to go to Fineberg Meat Company, 2875 Starling Road, Memphis, Tennessee, arriving there at approximately 3:45 p.m. He bought \$72 worth of meat at this place and a white female waited on him. He left Fineberg Meat Company at approximately 4:15 p.m. enroute to the Farmers Market located on Scott Street and arrived there at approximately 4:25 to 4:30 p.m. Upon arriving at the Farmers Market, he went to the east shed to purchase a sack of potatoes from a Negro male, name unknown. He put these potatoes in the bed of his truck and then proceeded to LL & L Produce Company, 814 Scott Street, Memphis. He described this produce market as a large warehouse type building with a garage type door.

He stated that as he passed this door he heard a white male yell, "Kill the son-of-a-bitch on the balcony" and, "I don't care how you get the job done, just get it done." At the time he heard this remark he did not know just what it meant.

He stated the LL & L Produce Company is operated by a large heavy-set white male who weighs approximately 250-300 pounds, has straight hair, is approximately 6' tall, has gapped teeth, was wearing a red sport shirt and sitting in an office in Somerville at 6:15 p.m. and learned that a friend of his, who telephonically advised him that he had been shot. He stated that he then left the office and went to the back of the building and discussing the situation.

On 4/18/68 at Somerville, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK &

by ANDREW SLOAN-RE cjs:bb

Date dictated 4/22/68

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an office at this warehouse-type building at a desk with a telephone and was facing into the produce department area. He stated this individual had dark skin and was possibly of Puerto Rican or some "foreign" extraction. MC FERREN stated he walked up to the door of this office and noticed the heavy set man was sitting at the desk with his back to the door talking on the telephone. This man did not notice him, MC FERREN, at the time.

At this time another individual, whom he described as a white male, clear skin, over 6' tall, 200 pounds, with a hat on, wearing casual clothes, and a scar on the right side of his throat, known by MC FERREN to be another boss at the LL & L Produce Company, approached him and asked him what he wanted. According to MC FERREN, this man said, "Go ahead and wait on yourself." MC FERREN advised that he then went back to the rear portion of the warehouse and purchased \$16 worth of produce.

When he was coming out of this warehouse-type building, he heard the telephone ring which was answered by the man with the scar on his throat and he heard this individual mumble something to the heavy set man but he could not hear what this man had said. The man with the scar then handed the telephone to the heavy set man and he heard the heavy set man say, "Go to New Orleans and get your \$5,000 and don't bring your ass near my place and don't call me any more-you know my brother in New Orleans." MC FERREN advised that he had already purchased \$16 worth of produce but decided he wanted to purchase approximately two bushels of apples. He had seen the apples at the LL & L Produce Company but stated the heavy set man and the man with the scar on his face acted very nervous and told MC FERREN "to go next door and get your apples." MC FERREN stated that he was in the warehouse for approximately 30 minutes and to the best of his knowledge the telephone call took place about 5:15 p.m. MC FERREN advised that he bought two cases of apples from a Jewish fellow on the west side of the Farmers Market and then left to return to his home in Somerville, Tennessee.

MC FERREN advised he arrived back at his store in Somerville at 6:15 p.m. and learned from WILLIAM C. ANDERSON, a friend of his, who telephonically advised him that Dr. KING had been shot. He stated that late that night, after talking with his wife and discussing the description of the person who

possibly shot KING, he figured the conversation he had heard may have had something to do with the murder of Dr. KING.

MC FERREN stated that on the following day he saw a sketch appearing in The Commercial Appeal which was supposed to be a likeness of the unknown individual who shot KING and he compared the description furnished by his wife from the paper and the sketch which appeared in the newspaper and thought this to be a person who was employed at the LL & L Produce Company sometime in the late fall or early winter of 1967. He stated this man, described as a light tanned or Puerto Rican type individual with long straight, coarse black hair, "jungle rot" on his neck, slender build, drop shoulders, white male, 5'10" - 5'11", 160 pounds; not a day over 25, as being identical with the individual who shot KING. He stated this individual was a cross between an Indian, Cuban, and Mexican and he could possibly identify this individual again. MC FERREN stated he saw this individual for approximately one to two days at the LL & L Produce Company in the late fall or early winter and has not seen him since that time at the produce company.

MC FERREN advised another reason for his suspicions is that on a Thursday, a week before April 4, 1968, he was at the LL & L Produce Company at which time the heavy set man, the man with the scar, said to him, "What do you think about your buddy?" MC FERREN said he replied, "Who are you talking about?" The heavy set man then said, "MARTIN LUTHER KING", to which MC FERREN replied, "I tend to my own business." MC FERREN stated the heavy set man then said, "Somebody ought to shoot the son -of-a-bitch." MC FERREN stated he again replied, getting into his truck, "I tend to my own business" and drove off. MC FERREN stated this was the first time the heavy set man had ever spoken to him regarding a racial matter.

MC FERREN advised that he had discussed what he had heard on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, with his wife and had also discussed with his wife the possibility he knew the identity of the individual who shot KING.

MC FERREN stated that on the morning of April 18, 1968, between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m., a beige, late model 1966 or 1967 Cadillac with a golden emblem on the front license plate, license plate not noticed, drove into his driveway at Route 4, Box 133 A,

Old Macon Road, Somerville, Tennessee. An individual, identified as ROBERT POWERS, and his wife, who approximately twelve years ago ran the Powers Store in Somerville, Tennessee, and thereafter left to live in New Orleans, Louisiana, or that vicinity. He stated this individual operates an all-night truck stop in Louisiana at the junction of Route 11 and Route 90. He further stated this individual has house trailers on the property.

He stated POWERS and his wife got out of the car to shake hands with MC FERREN and stated they were "glad to see him." MC FERREN stated they asked him questions concerning his itinerary for that day and he told them he was going to Memphis at approximately 4:00 p.m.

MC FERREN stated that POWERS asked, "Are you putting on a lot of weight?" and then asked if the road behind the Powers Store Road still came out into Old Macon Road. MC FERREN advised he "acted dumb" and after a while POWERS left. POWERS told MC FERREN he was leaving tonight or tomorrow night. (April 18-19, 1968). MC FERREN advised that POWERS did not threaten him in any way and he was very suspicious and connected this incident with the telephone call at LL & L Produce Company because the "white man shock my hand." According to MC FERREN, it is very uncommon for white men to shake black men's hands in his part of the country.

MC FERREN stated he can tell when individuals are wearing guns and stated many times in the past he has seen people who appeared very suspicious to him and who, he thought, were a threat to him inasmuch as they stared at him and acted "funny." He advised he always looks at individuals to see whether or not they are wearing shoulder holsters or sidearms or "45's" in their back pockets. MC FERREN pointed out that he always acted dumb so that people will not give him a hard time when in reality he is actually very smart.

MC FERREN was shown six photographs, five of which were random photographs of individuals who have been arrested in various parts of the country in the past. These photographs are of NORMAN JAMES BURHERT, FOLSE JOSEPH BERTAUT, JR., JOSEPH FRANK ARNONE, RONALD FRANCIS SCOTT, BERT VINCENT PATREM, and JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT. MC FERREN immediately eliminated the photographs of RAY PATREM, and SCOTT and looked closely at the three remaining photographs. He stated that the

photograph of BURHERT looked like the unknown individual he had seen in the Farmers Market in the late fall or early winter but stated he may be "too short."

MC FERREN did not desire to furnish a signed statement regarding this individual stating he "did not want to get him in trouble" if this should be the wrong person. MC FERREN noted certain similarities in this photograph, namely, the hair style was the same, he had the same "jungle rot" on his neck, and the profile was similar to that of the sketch by the Commercial Appeal artist in the newspaper. The individual picked out by MC FERREN was born September 28, 1943, is 5'5" tall, weighs 152 pounds, medium build, brown hair, brown eyes, and was last known to be residing in New Orleans, Louisiana.

MC FERREN was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT, who was identified to MC FERREN as being the individual wanted by the FBI for the murder of Dr. KING. At this point, MC FERREN took the photograph of RAY and intimated this individual, too, resembled the man he saw at the Farmers Market in late fall or early winter, 1967. He stated, "Now let's be honest, the hair is combed the same way and there was some similarity in the individual he was attempting to describe. MC FERREN was reminded that he had positively eliminated RAY on three occasions and he thereafter stated he just "was not sure."

During the interview with MC FERREN, an individual who was known to be a Times Magazine reporter was taking photographs of Agents interviewing MC FERREN and during the interview it was felt that the distraction caused by this Times Magazine reporter necessitated moving MC FERREN to a more secluded spot so that an effective and penetrating interview with him could be accomplished.

~~The following description of JOHN MC FERREN was obtained through observation and interview:~~

Race:	Negro
Sex:	Male
DOB:	October 28, 1924
POB:	Somerville, Tennessee

ME 44-1987

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Height:	5'9"
Weight:	178
Hair:	Black
Eyes:	Gray
Complexion:	Light brown
Social Security #:	[REDACTED]
Occupation:	Proprietor of Mc Ferren's Grocery Store, Somerville, Tennessee.

Re: James Earl Ray

As a result of the information furnished by McFerren, the following interviews were conducted by FBI Agents of the Memphis and New Orleans Divisions:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/22/68

JAMES WILLIAM LATCH, home address 3137 Overbrook, Memphis, Tennessee, Vice-president, LL & L Produce Company, 814 Scott Street, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at his place of business at which time he furnished the following information:

On April 4, 1968, he arrived at work at approximately 5:30 a.m. and stayed on the job, with the exception of lunch and possibly going to see one of his business associates, until 6:00 p.m.

LATCH advised that in his capacity as vice president he is continually dealing with the public and business associates over the telephone and, therefore, does not have an exact recollection of just what transpired on that day. To the best of his knowledge, he does not remember discussing with anyone the possibility of shooting KING and emphatically denied having any knowledge of the activity of the person responsible for MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s death.

LATCH was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT, and failed to identify these photographs as being identical with any individual he knew.

LATCH advised it is not uncommon talk among co-workers in and around the produce company and other individuals in the Memphis area to discuss the comments of KING while he was in the Memphis, Tennessee, area. LATCH advised he may have made some general remarks regarding KING, especially since he felt the curfew in the Memphis area during KING's stay at Memphis, cost him approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000 in lost sales.

LATCH advised that he receives and makes numerous telephone calls and specifically denied any telephone call made mentioning the shooting of Dr. KING or of any reference to KING. He stated that he had no knowledge of the shooting of Dr. KING while at work at the produce company.

On 4/19/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK & SA ANDREW SLOAN:RE:cjs:bb Date dictated 4/22/68

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LATCH advised that he had been in New Orleans, Louisiana, just before Christmas, 1967. He advised it is not unusual for him to travel in his capacity as vice president of a produce company to obtain various produce in certain sections of the South. He left work at approximately 6:00 p.m., April 4, 1968, and feels certain he heard about the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., on his car radio although it is possible that if he stayed at work that day past 6:00 p.m. his sister or his wife may have telephonically contacted him as it is common for him to call these individuals just prior to leaving work. LATCH advised that he cannot be specific about his actions on April 4, 1968, inasmuch as he is continually on the go and is in constant contact with various individuals, many of whom are business people who are coming to him for the first time.

He reiterated he may have made disparaging remarks about KING, both prior to the shooting and after the shooting of KING, and stated he does not consider this to be uncommon.

The following description of LATCH was obtained through observation and interview:

Name:	JAMES WILLIAM LATCH
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
DOB:	October 18, 1928
POB:	Alcorn, Mississippi
Height:	6'
Weight:	200
Hair:	Sandy brown
Eyes:	Bluish gray
Scars and marks:	Scar on right side of neck
Vehicle:	Drives a 1963 Cadillac, Tennessee plates: 1966 Chevrolet Pickup Truck Tennessee plates
Military service:	U. S. Army, [REDACTED]
Weapons:	Owens Browning Shotgun, Italian Mauser, and .22 automatic pistol
Arrest record:	Arrested Memphis, Tennessee, on false pretenses, originating in Memphis,

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/23/68

FRANK CAMILLA LIBERTO, home address 3271 Powers Street, Raleigh, Memphis, Tennessee, employed as president of the LL & L Produce Company, 814 Scott, Memphis, was interviewed at his place of business and he furnished the following information:

To the best of his knowledge, he was at his place of business on April 4, 1968, and stated he did not recall exactly what time he arrived but remembered leaving at any time between 4:15 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. He called his wife at home just prior to leaving and she could probably verify the fact he arrived home sometime after 5:00 p.m.

LIBERTO emphatically denied having any knowledge of the identity of the person responsible for Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s death on April 4, 1968. He also emphatically denied ever discussing with anyone the possibility of shooting KING although he admitted he had made the usual derogatory remarks about KING's action in Memphis, Tennessee, and also about the fact KING was partly responsible for the curfew imposed on the city of Memphis resulting in loss of revenue by his business establishment in the Memphis area. He advised he may have made statements to the effect that KING should be killed although he does not recall any specific statements made by him to this effect. He stated that because of the curfew, he suffered approximately \$40,000 in lost sales at the produce company.

LIBERTO stated he frequently makes trips to New Orleans, Louisiana, to get strawberries and other produce and also because members of his family reside in the New Orleans area. He stated most of the co-workers, employees, and customers at his produce company know of his travels to New Orleans inasmuch as he frequently mentions his trips to New Orleans.

LIBERTO stated that regarding telephone calls allegedly made by him or telephone calls to him on April 4, 1968, he specifically denied receiving any call where mention was made of Dr. KING or of Dr. KING's shooting. LIBERTO stated most of his produce is purchased through telephone conversations and this

On 4/19/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK & SA ANDREW SLOAN: RE:cjs;bb Date dictated 4/22/68

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inevitably involves talking about large sums of money over the telephone. He advised he did not receive any telephone call on April 4, 1968, regarding KING and stated he would have remembered any conversation over the telephone or in person which allegedly took place on April 4, 1968, involving the death of KING. He further stated he would have no reason for being involved in any action of this sort.

LIBERTO advised he frequently taunts various individuals regarding racial matters and may have made disparaging remarks to some of his customers involving KING but reiterated he does not consider this uncommon among various co-workers at his place of employment.

LIBERTO advised he has had no individual employed recently in late fall or early winter at his produce company fitting the description of the unknown individual described as having long straight, coarse, black hair, "jungle rot" on his neck, slender build, drop shoulders, tan complexion, 5'10"-5'11", 160 pounds, and "not a day over 25" years of age. He always employs Negro males for help in the produce department and any unidentified white male seen in or around his produce company would most likely be a truck driver or an individual who had come to his establishment to purchase produce.

LIBERTO stated he left work between 4:15 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. and was not aware of KING's death until after his arrival at his home. He advised the first he heard of KING's death was from his wife or from the news media which reported it on television.

See

LIBERTO was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT and he stated he had never seen this individual before. He was furnished other aliases used by RAY and stated he had never heard any of these names used in his presence. He then made a search of his records but could locate no record on any individual by the name of JAMES EARL RAY, ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMEYER, or JOHN WILLARD as ever being employed at his establishment.

Arrest record

LIBERTO reiterated that he did not receive any telephone call on April 4, 1968, where mention was made of shooting KING or

any reference made to KING and stated he felt sure he would remember such a telephone conversation if it had, in fact, taken place.

LIBERTO advised he has family members residing in New Orleans, Louisiana, and identified these individuals as follows:

Mother

EMILY LIBERTO,
2219 Altomaster Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Brothers

TONY LIBERTO,
resides two houses away from his
mother;
VINCENT LIBERTO,
who works for Viking Truck
Company as a deck foreman in
New Orleans;
SALVADORE LIBERTO, who works
for West Brothers as a truck
driver in New Orleans, Louisiana.

LIBERTO advised an individual who frequently is in and around his establishment is AMELIO GUSCO, 38 years of age, who was formerly a Shelby County Sheriff's Office deputy.

The following description of LIBERTO was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	FRANK CAMILLA * LIBERTO	<i>La.</i>
Race	White	
Sex	Male	
DOB	January 7, 1917	
POB	Memphis, Tennessee	
Height:	5'10" - 5'11"	
Weight	285	
Eyes	Grayish blue	
Hair:	Brown	
Vehicle	Drives a 1967 Chevrolet Station Wagon	
Arrest record	Memphis, Tennessee, for embezzling peaches.	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/22/68

TONY SANSONE, 814 Scott Street, Sansone Produce Company, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

The individuals operating LL & L Produce Company were identified as JAMES LATCH and FRANK LIBERTO. SANSONE described LATCH as follows:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	Approximately 35
Complexion:	Fair
Characteristics:	Pug nose, casual dresser
Eyes:	Blue
Height:	6'1"
Weight:	200

He described LIBERTO as follows:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Complexion:	Dark
Age:	Approximately 40
Build:	Heavy
Weight:	325-350
Height:	5'10"
Scars and marks:	Scar on neck
Remarks:	Neat dresser.

SANSONE advised that LIBERTO had closed his business early and was not available for interview and that LIBERTO was at that time in New Orleans, Louisiana, buying strawberries for the produce market.

obse

SANSONE was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT and he failed to identify this individual as anyone being in and around his place of business.

On 4/18/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK & SA ANDREW SLOAN: RF:cjs:bb Date dictated 4/22/68

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Date 4/23/68

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Mr. ~~ANTHONY~~ LIBERTO located and interviewed at his residence, 2211 Almonaster, New Orleans, Louisiana, and advised as follows:

He is currently retired and living alone at this address. He formerly worked for a 17 year period with Viking Truck Lines, but for medical reasons was forced to retire. He stated that he is a diabetic with a heart condition. For that reason he cannot do strenuous labor. He stated that he has not been in telephonic contact with his brother, FRANK in Memphis in several years and the only member of his immediate family residing in New Orleans who may have possibly been in touch with FRANK would have been his mother, Mrs. EMMA LIBERTO, who resides at 2219 Almonaster.

He viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY stating this individual looked familiar but he could not identify it.

He stated that his brother SALVATORE lives some where on the West Bank of the Mississippi River, exact address unknown; however, his telephone number is 367-3020. He stated that both his brother, SALVATORE and VINCENT are employed with trucking firms and have been so employed for many years. He stated no one in his immediate family is employed in the produce business in New Orleans. He knows that his brother FRANK occasionally makes trips to the Hammond, Louisiana, area to purchase particularly strawberries but has no knowledge of any other business contacts of his brother in New Orleans. He stated he would have no knowledge of any disparaging remarks made by his brother or any of his employees concerning KING or the Negro element.

The following is a description gained through observation and interview:

Name	ANTHONY LIBERTO
Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'8"
Weight	300
Hair	Brown, bald on top

On 4/22/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SAS THOMAS L. COLLARELLI
PATRICK J. COLLINS, JR. TLC:man Date dictated 4/23/68

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NO 157-10673

2

Eyes
Birth data
Occupation

Blue
September 15, 1921, Memphis
Retired, formerly with Viking
Truck Lines

4/23/68

Date

1

New Orleans La.
Mrs. EMMA LIBERTO, 2219 Almonaster, was interviewed in the home of her son, ANTHONY LIBERTO, 2211 Almonaster and advised as follows:

She is the widow of VINCENT LIBERTO, and her maiden name was HARDIN. She was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee, and is 71 years of age. She and her husband came to New Orleans about 39 years ago and she has seven living children, of which three sons and one daughter reside in New Orleans.

She stated she saw her son FRANK last Friday when he stopped in to see her after a trip to the Hammond, Louisiana, area for the purpose of purchasing strawberries for his produce business.

She occasionally contacts him by telephone and in fact called him a couple of days after the KING assassination purely out of concern for the family and to inquire as to the local situation.

She viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that it looked familiar; however, she could not identify it specifically. She advised she has no knowledge of the KING assassination, other than what she has read in the newspapers and seen on television.

and advised he has seen this individual on television and has no knowledge of the other than that gained from the news media.

He stated he resides at 208 North [unclear] Mrs. EMMA LIBERTO, resides alone at 2219 Almonaster. He stated he would have no knowledge of any disparaging remarks by his brother FRANK concerning KING or the Negro.

The following is a description given by [unclear] and interview:

Name	VINCENT LIBERTO
Sex	Male
Race	White

4/22/68

New Orleans, Louisiana

NO 157-10673

On 4/22/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

by SAS THOMAS L. COLARELLI TLC:mah 4/23/68
by PATRICK J. COLLINS, JR. 20 Date dictated

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4/23/68

Date

-1

Mr. VINCENT LIBERTO located in the vicinity of his employment, Viking Truck Lines, 6750 Gentilly Road, New Orleans, and interviewed. He voluntarily furnished the following information:

There is only one member of his immediate family that is in the produce business and that is his brother FRANK, in Memphis, Tennessee. He has not talked to FRANK by telephone in at least four years. He stated FRANK is the oldest of the brothers and there are two other brothers residing here in New Orleans, at present. One is ANTHONY who resides at 2211 Almonaster, who is a retired diabetic with a heart condition, having previously been employed by Viking for many years. The other brother is SALVATORE, who works for West Brothers Trucking Lines, and has for many years. SALVATORE lives in Terry Town, just across the Mississippi River Bridge, and he believes the address is on Matador Drive.

He stated he was born and raised in Memphis and his father was in the produce business for many years, but none of the brothers in New Orleans are in the produce business. He knows that FRANK occasionally travels to Hammond, Louisiana, to purchase strawberries but he knows of no other business contacts of FRANK in the produce line in New Orleans.

He examined a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, and advised he has seen this individual in the newspapers and television and has no knowledge of the KING assassination other than that gained from the news media.

He stated he resides at 705 North Upton and is mother, Mrs. EMMA LIBERTO, resides alone at 2219 Almonaster. He stated he would have no knowledge of any disparaging remarks made by his brother FRANK concerning KING or the Negro element.

The following is a description gained from observation and interview:

Name	VINCENT LIBERTO
Sex	Male
Race	White

On 4/22/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SAS THOMAS L. COLARELLI
PATRICK J. COLLINS, JR. TLC:mah Date dictated 4/23/68

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NO-157-10673

2

Height
Weight
Birth data

Hair
Eyes
Occupation

Residence

5'8"

185

March 22, 1923, Memphis,
Tennessee

Black, graying

Blue

Truck driver-Viking Truck
Lines, 6750 Gentilly Road,
New Orleans

705 North Upton

Vincent X. Roberts

Date 4/23/681

SALVADOR ALBERT ~~LIBERTO~~, 856 Matador, Gretna, Louisiana, telephone number 367-3020, advised that he was born September 18, 1936, in New Orleans, Louisiana. On January 22, 1954, at New Orleans, he married PATRICIA KRELLER and has one son and three daughters. For the past thirteen (13) years, LIBERTO has been employed as a checker at the West Trucking Company, New Orleans.

LIBERTO stated that sometime just before the MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., assassination, exact date unrecalled, he telephonically spoke to his brother, FRANK LIBERTO, in Memphis, Tennessee. LIBERTO made this telephone-call from his mother's residence. The purpose of this call was to borrow \$200 from his brother. LIBERTO did not make this call from his own residence, as he did not want his spouse to know about the loan. His brother, FRANK LIBERTO, wired him \$200 in care of his mother's residence in New Orleans.

While on the telephone with his brother FRANK, FRANK invited him to visit him in Memphis, or to meet him at Hot Springs, Arkansas. LIBERTO advised that his brother, FRANK, follows the race horses and likes to go to a race track at Hot Springs, Arkansas, and bet horses. FRANK LIBERTO discussed his winnings and loses on the telephone with SALVADOR LIBERTO. SALVADOR LIBERTO does not recall the exact amounts of money he discussed.

LIBERTO viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and WALTER TERRY RIFE and advised that he did not know either of these individuals and he did not believe that he had ever seen either of these individuals.

On 4/23/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

by SA PATRICK J. COLLINS, JR.:sja Date dictated 4/23/68

23

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RE: James Earl Ray

Investigation by both Memphis and New Orleans has failed to associate any of the LIBERTOS with the Mafia - La Cosa Nostra, or to Carlos Marcellos.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, Sartor states that Joe Cacameci(PH) and Larry Mann, Aka. Larry Manning and Larry Max, two professional killers, are also involved in this matter. Sartor claims that Joe Cacameci allegedly met James Earl Ray at a Lion Service Station in Memphis the day of or the night before the shooting and Larry Mann has been saying he works for Frank Leberto and is responsible for "getting" James Earl Ray. According to one of Sartor's New Orleans informants, James Earl Ray was seen at or stayed at the Pontotoc Hotel in Memphis approximately three days before the shooting.

Sartor also refers to an individual by the name Pat Lyons who was interviewed by both Flannery and Sartor and allegedly made a statement to the effect that according to one "Ernie," Ray met Joe Cacameci at a Lion Service Station on the night before or the day of the shooting.

In connection with the information contained in the foregoing paragraph, Robert Patrick Lyons, Aka. Pat, was interviewed on November 19, 1968. His comments are set forth as follows:

is known
and is known
according to
Barrasse
businessman
is a nephew
Memphis businessman
as a worker

neither Max
killer.
the Memphis

-24-

On 11/19/68

SA ROBERT FITE
by SA TERRENCE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/21/68

Pat
Robert Patrick Lyons, 3529 Marion Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, unlisted Telephone 324-1803, was interviewed at his place of employment, Cruzen Equipment Co., Inc., 160 West Mallory Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, Telephone 947-3146, and was apprised of the identities of interviewing Special Agents of the FBI. Lyons furnished the following information:

Lyons advised that he is familiar with an individual by the name Bill Sartor, whom he met through Marie Geisendorf, Aka. Marie Lyons, shortly after the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. Lyons stated he was introduced in August, 1968, to an individual known as Nick Flannery, who stated he was from the Justice Department, Washington, D. C. Lyons advised that originally Bill Sartor had asked Geisendorf to ascertain information from Negroes in the Memphis community concerning the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., but then asked Pat Lyons to obtain any information concerning the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., with the possibility that the "Mafia" was connected with King's death. Lyons advised that he made no attempt to ascertain any information concerning the Mafia and the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

He stated that when he met Flannery, he repeated to Flannery exactly what Sartor had previously told him, namely that Joe Cacameci met with James Earl Ray at a Lion Service Station on the day before the death of Martin Luther King. He stated that this information came from Sartor and was in no way information he developed on his own. He stated that Cacameci is known to him as a cosmetics salesman in the Memphis area and is known to drink frequently in Caesar's Lounge, which according to Lyons is owned by Ernie Barrasso. Lyons states Barrasso is a former schoolmate of his and a legitimate businessman in the Memphis community. Lyons states Barrasso is a nephew of Frank Liberto, whom Lyons described as a local Memphis businessman. He identified Larry Max, Aka. Larry Mann, as a worker on a tug boat on the Mississippi River. He stated neither Max nor Cacameci is known to him as a professional killer. Lyons states both Max and Cacameci are employed in the Memphis area and his only association with them has been

On 11/19/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK
by SA TERRENCE P. NEIST RF:BN Date dictated 11/20/68

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44-1987

through the Club Caesar, which is owned by ~~Ernie Barrasse~~.

Lyons advised that Sartor inquired about Claude Cockrell, who is known to Lyons as a possible segregationist in the Memphis area. Lyons stated Sartor is of the opinion that if a car was used to go to Millington, as described by the news media, then Cockrell was the logical person, although no reason was given by Sartor for this. Lyons said Sartor was of the opinion that if another white Mustang was used to assist the killer of King in escaping the Memphis area, as referred to by the news media concerning the CB radio broadcast, then he considered Cockrell to be the logical person to have a private airplane waiting at Millington.

Lyons further stated that Sartor is of the opinion that officers who were suspended for alleged police brutality within the past year are involved in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King. According to Lyons, Sartor does not give any basis for this.

Sartor told Lyons that he has contact with the Mafia in New Orleans, New York, and Philadelphia, although he named only one individual, one Solo or Sola, as his contact with the Mafia in New Orleans.

Lyons stated he has had numerous casual meetings with Sartor and during this period Lyons has volunteered certain information of his personal life to Sartor, including facts regarding the tragic death of Lyons' wife. While volunteering information to Sartor regarding his wife's illness, Lyons mentioned that his wife had become addicted to the use of narcotics during her illness and in this regard had cooperated with Federal Drug Administration Supervisor Don Voight. Sartor had asked Lyons to ascertain information regarding narcotics from Voight.

Lyons described Sartor as being unreliable and as attributing false information to Lyons, which information was actually rumored by Sartor. According to Lyons, Sartor, by originating these rumors in different areas in Memphis, is able to get a "play back" from various sources, which he uses as a means of lending credence to his stories.

Lyons advised he could furnish no information concerning any conspiracy in the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. He said he knows of no individuals involved with James Earl Ray in the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Re: James Earl Ray

With regard to the allegation that Ray resided at the Pontotoc Hotel in Memphis approximately three days prior to the killing of Martin Luther King, Jr., a complete review of the records of the Pontotoc Hotel, 69 West Pontotoc Street, Memphis, on 11/18/68 for the period March 23 through April 8, 1968, failed to reveal any information concerning Ray under his true name or known aliases. Mr. George Antipas, Manager, Pontotoc Hotel, advised he has 27 sleeping rooms at the Pontotoc Hotel, and that approximately 21 or 22 of these rooms are occupied by more or less permanent residents. He claims he himself resides at the hotel and he is positive that Ray never resided at this hotel during the past eleven years.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, Sartor claims that a Reverend Carl Basinger, 1617 E. Moreland, Memphis, was advised by a ranking officer in the Memphis Police Department (Captain or above) not to go near Dr. King because something was going to happen to him.

Reverend Carl Basinger, 1617 Eastmoreland, Memphis, Tenn. was interviewed by Agents of the FBI on 11/18/68. Reverend Basinger claims that he has known Bill Sartor, a contract reporter for "Time" magazine, since approximately April, 1968, and has had frequent contact with him since that date. He claims that, in fact, Sartor at the present time maintains a room at Basinger's residence.

With regard to the information Sartor attributes to Basinger, Reverend Basinger stated that those are not the exact words he has used in discussions with Sartor, and the statement attributed to him by Sartor has been taken completely out of context and is inaccurate.

Basinger refused to state whether he had any discussion with any Memphis police officer concerning Martin Luther King, Jr.; however, he admitted that he has had many conversations with ranking police officers of the Memphis Police Department in the past six years. Basinger admitted

At 6:55
white male, and
arrested at Seco
Police Tactical
to the fact

Re: James Earl Ray

that he currently does hold a grudge against the Memphis Police Department due to the fact that he is not satisfied with the manner in which certain officers of the Police Department have handled complaints he has made to the Department in the past.

Reverend Basinger describes Bill Sartor as being an alcoholic who is currently experiencing marital difficulties. By "alcoholic", Reverend Basinger stated he means that he has observed Bill Sartor commence drinking alcoholic beverages, namely wine and hard liquor, as early as 8 o'clock in the morning and to continue to consume these alcoholic beverages throughout the day and into the night.

According to the memorandum of Mr. Flannery, Sartor claims that shortly after the killing a bartender overheard some Memphis policemen say there had been a "slip up" and that the assassination was originally scheduled to take place after the march for which Dr. King had returned to Memphis.

Since Sartor was either unwilling or unable to identify the bartender, the Memphis Office of the FBI has been unable to conduct any investigation to determine the veracity of this allegation; however, a review of the records of the Memphis Police Department and the Memphis FBI Office has failed to reveal any information to indicate that such an incident was ever reported to these respective law enforcement agencies.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, Sartor refers to a civilian having been observed lying in the back of a police car immediately after the shooting and near Mulberry and Huling. He got out of the police car, into another car, and was driven away.

In this regard, the records of the Memphis Police Department reveal the following:

At 6:55 p.m. on 4/4/68, Manuel Marcus Levine, a white male, and Alex Joy Hurder, a white male, were both arrested at Second Street and Vance by officers assigned to Police Tactical Units #14, inasmuch as they refused to give the due to the fact that these individuals refused to give the

Re: James Earl Ray

officers any reason for being in the area of the Lorraine Motel at the time of the shooting of Reverend King. According to the arresting officers, these two individuals were placed in a marked patrol car, questioned, and then transferred to an unmarked police car for transportation to Central Police Headquarters. According to Inspector Don H. Smith, Memphis Police Department, the handling of these prisoners was standard operating procedure and most persons arrested by tactical units during disturbances during this period were transported to Headquarters in unmarked cars, one arrestee to a car.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, Sartor claims that an unidentified Negro policeman was removed from his assignment at the Fire Station at about 5 p.m. on the day of the assassination. Sartor identifies this policeman as E. E. REDDITT.

Sartor also states that two Negro firemen were moved from the station a day or two before the shooting. One of them had reportedly told friends that two or three days before Dr. King was shot a telescope or binoculars had been set up on a tripod in the Fire Station and focused on the Lorraine Motel balcony. According to this memorandum, Sartor in August advised Flannery that one fireman left the Department or was suspended, shortly after the shooting, and that he had been unable to locate either of them.

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 Washington.

Re: James Earl Ray

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.

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

Smith offered the services in detail to

Re: James Earl Ray

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.

had decided against this

According to this memorandum, Sartor mentions something to the effect that Chief of Detectives W. P. Huston of the Memphis Police Department telephonically contacted the Lorraine Motel regarding stationing detectives at the motel.

(below the window area in room 101 has been fired. In this regard, Chief Huston has advised that he does not recall talking to any maid at the Lorraine Motel on 4/4/68; however, he stated he had been in telephonic

contact on a number of occasions with Mr. Walter Bailey, Manager of the Motel, regarding the identity of certain individuals registered at the Motel.

Memphis Police Department and failed to reveal any information of these residents. It has been determined from the Memphis Police Department that on the morning of 4/3/68, Memphis Chief of Police inform MacDonald ordered Chief W. P. Huston of the Department to send a detail of men to the Memphis Metropolitan Airport to offer security to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and his party. Police records reflect that Inspector Don H. Smith offered the services of the police detail to Mrs.

Re: James Earl Ray

Thomas Mathews, who was acting as chauffeur for Dr. Martin Luther King. Mrs. Mathews advised Lt. George Kelly Davis, Memphis Police Department, who is an officer in this detail, that they had not asked for police to be assigned to protect Dr. King, and did not desire a police escort. In addition, members of King's party refused to tell the police detail where they planned to stay or their itinerary while in Memphis. Inspector Smith, while offering the services of the Memphis Police Department to Dr. King for security, escort, and protection purposes, was advised by the Reverend James Lawson, an associate of King, that no assistance was desired and that they had not fully made up their minds where they were going with Reverend KING after they left the Memphis Metropolitan Airport.

At approximately 1:30 a.m., on 4/5/68, Gerald Fanion, a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Strategy Committee, advised Sidney L. Cole of the Memphis Police Department that this SCLC Strategy Committee had considered asking for police protection for the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.; however, the Committee had decided against this.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, Sartor stated that a little Negro boy allegedly heard a shot and saw a man jump up from the bushes behind the rooming house (below the window area from which the shot is thought to have been fired) and run off. According to Sartor, the little boy has been identified and interviewed by Bureau Agents and the Memphis Police Department.

In this regard, a review of the records of the Memphis Police Department and the Memphis FBI Office has failed to reveal any information to indicate that any officers of these respective law enforcement agencies interviewed a young Negro boy who is allegedly the contributor of the above information by Sartor. In this regard, on 11/15/68, Source One and Source Two, both advised that William Sartor, a 'Time' magazine

Re: James Earl Ray

reporter, had gone throughout the Memphis area immediately following the King slaying, and was overheard asking leading questions of Negroes, namely, "You think it's possible that a police officer could have killed Martin Luther King, Jr.?" According to these sources, as a result of this, practically the entire Memphis Negro community has given vent to the rumor that a police officer had killed King. The sources claim this rumor has embittered a very large segment of the Negro community and has caused widespread distrust by Negroes against all law enforcement officers and has caused a serious community cleavage between the Police and the Negro community.

In view of the fact that numerous allegations have been made, either by Bill Sartor or his alleged sources, stating involvement of Memphis police officers in the assassination of Dr. King, Frank Holloman, Director of Fire & Police, was contacted. Holloman advised that shortly after the assassination of Dr. King he received information that a representative of "Time" magazine was circulating in the Negro community and asking questions of the Negro residents. His sources informed him that the general tenor of the questions being asked was to the effect that it was conceivable that the Memphis Police Department was involved in the assassination of Dr. King. Director Holloman advised that later he learned the reported "Time" representative was an individual by the name of Sartor. He subsequently had an appointment with Sartor.

Director Holloman said at this time he informed Sartor that he had received certain information indicating that Sartor had, by his questions, created the inference in the Negro community that it was possible the Memphis Police Department was involved in the assassination of Dr. King. Director Holloman advised that he told Sartor that if Sartor wrote a story based on rumors and misstatements of facts such as he was collecting regarding the involvement of the Memphis Police Department, Director Holloman would institute a civil suit against him and do everything in his power to insure that Sartor wrote only the truth and did not print such falsifications regarding the Memphis Police Department.

Re: James Earl Ray

Director Holloman stated that after his discussion with Sartor, Sartor has not again called at his office for any information, nor has any story appeared.

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Cabbage

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He said

1
BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP),
Also known as Black Organizing Power,
Afro-American Brotherhood,
Black Student Association,
Invaders,
LeMoyne Intercollegiate Chapter of the
National Association for the Advancement
of Colored People (NAACP),
City Organizers

On April 18, 1968, a third source advised that a black power group in Memphis which has been in existence for several months has until recently been known as Black Organizing Power. It is now known as Black Organizing Project (BOP), also known as Black Organizing Power, with five cells or parts, known as (1) Afro-American Brotherhood (AAB), primarily consisting of Owen College students; (2) Black Student Association (BSA), primarily consisting of Memphis State University (MSU) Negro students; (3) LeMoyne Intercollegiate Chapter of the NAACP, consisting of LeMoyne College students; (4) the Invaders, consisting mostly of high school dropouts; and (5) the City Organizers, comprised of young adults.

AAB has about 12 members; BSA has about 20 members; the Invaders has about 15 members; the LeMoyne group has about 20 members; and the City Organizers has about 20 members.

Source three advised that the BOP attempts to create pride in black identity, attempts to teach and promote the teaching of Negro history, and to promote black culture and obtain more employment for young Negroes.

The Executive Secretary of BOP is Charles Laverne Cabbage.

On February 16, 1968, Charles Laverne Cabbage personally acknowledge being leader of BOP, claiming he is the impetus of black power in Memphis, Tennessee, and that BOP's purpose is to stimulate in the young Negroes a sense of black identity, black pride, and black consciousness. He said his group follows the teachings of Student Nonviolent

Coordinating Committee (SNCC) leaders H. Rap Brown and Stokely Carmichael but that BOP did not necessarily exist as a formal SNCC unit. CABBAGE further admitted he had made statements such as "Memphis should be burned" and "Memphis should have a good race riot," but claimed he did not mean these statements literally, merely endeavoring to shock the community into doing something to help the black race.

On February 27, 1968, a fourth source advised that at a public meeting on February 26, 1968, the BOP Chairman John Burrell Smith told a Negro audience, "We've got to do some fighting," and "You'd better get some guns, You're going to need them before this is over. You can't pray your way out."

On June 6, 1968, the fourth source advised that BOP primarily consists of about 30 to 35 young college and high school students and school dropouts, unemployed and not looking for work, who continually preach hatred of the white race and capitalistic economic system and advocating and predicting violence by blacks. The over-all plan of BOP, according to source four, is to scare the Memphis community leaders, both black and white, into fearing black militancy. The BOP leaders then hope to convince the community to fund them as a form of subtle blackmail whereby BOP can prevent racial violence. Source four said that BOP is more interested in publicity and money than in direct action, but is nevertheless preaching violence in an effort to scare the community.

APPENDIX



*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**Memphis, Tennessee
November 21, 1968**

**Title James Earl Ray, Aka.;
 Dr. Martin Luther King, Victim**

Character Civil Rights - Conspiracy

**Reference Memorandum dated November 21, 1968,
 and captioned as above.**

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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

Date: 11-5-68

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

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	_____

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

Enclosed to Bureau are four copies of LHM regarding information furnished by one BILL SARTOR to Departmental Attorney J. HAROLD FLANNERY regarding a possible conspiracy in instant case.

3 BUREAU (Enc. 4) (AM)
1 MEMPHIS

JCH:BN
(4)

ENCLOSURE

REC 55

44-38861-5358
20 NOV 9 1968

C. C. - Bishop

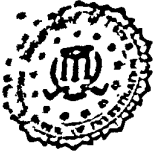
51 NOV 20 1968
Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
November 5, 1968

RE: JAMES EARL RAY, Aka.;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Mr. J. Harold Flannery of the United States Department of Justice, has prepared a memorandum dated September 17, 1968, reflecting interviews on June 12, 1968, and August 22, 1968, with Mr. Bill Sartor of Greenville, Mississippi, a contract writer for "Time" magazine.

Sartor states that "Charlie Stein, a petty racketeer connected with organized crime, contacted James Earl Ray in Los Angeles and told him that there were people in New Orleans whom he ought to talk to." Sartor states he does not know whether Stein's initial contact with Ray was accidental or on purpose, but he states that "Ray was told that the people he ought to talk to would help him with money and his fugitive status." Stein's account of his involvement in this matter as well as other investigation relative to Stein is set forth in reports furnished to the Department of Justice.

Sartor tells us that Ray was in touch in New Orleans with "Mafia" representatives who referred Ray to Frank Liberto, described by Sartor as being a Memphis racketeer and a lieutenant of Carlos Marcellos, the southern Mafia chieftain in New Orleans. Sartor then related to Mr. Flannery that one John McFerren of Somerville, Tennessee, on or about the day of King's murder, heard a man say on the telephone "shoot him on the balcony, shoot him anywhere; and go to New Orleans for your money, don't come back here." Information concerning this reported incident has also been furnished to the Department of Justice.

Claude Cockrell, described by Sartor as a segregationist, extortionist, narcotics pusher, and petty racketeer, was an unsuccessful candidate for election to the U. S. House of Representatives in the election of November 5, 1968. Inquiries concerning Cockrell made among knowledgeable members of the Memphis Police Department reflect that he has been suspected of complicity in a moonshine whiskey operation and has a questionable reputation among police officers.

44-38861-5358

ENCLOSURE

James Earl Ray, Aka.;
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Victim
CR - Conspiracy

Not loc {
Joe Cacameci and Larry Mann, identified by Sartor as professional killers, are unknown to this office. No information to date has connected these individuals with the murder of Dr. King.

According to Sartor, a young Negro boy allegedly heard a shot and saw a man jump up from the bushes behind the rooming house and below the window area from which the fatal shot is thought to have been fired. A thorough investigation was conducted in the neighborhood of this rooming house immediately after the murder and during the days immediately following the murder and no information was developed to indicate that any unidentified person was seen beneath the window from which Ray fired the fatal shot.

All of the individuals, both firemen and policemen, who were stationed in the fire house near the Lorraine Motel have been interviewed regarding the events before and after the murder, and these results have also been furnished to the Department of Justice.

Due to the tense racial situation that existed in Memphis on April 4, 1968, and because of the prominence of Dr. King, the Memphis Police Department had every reason to be in touch with persons at the Lorraine Motel in connection with the protection of Dr. King. There were police officers in and around the Lorraine Motel throughout the period that Dr. King was residing there.

Investigation is continuing relative to individual mentioned in Sartor's information.

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.

September 26, 1968

AIRTEL

1 - Mr. Long

TO: SACs, Memphis (Enclosures 2)
Jackson (Enclosures 2)

FROM: Director, FBI (44-38861) - 5197

MURKIN

ST-116

Enclosed are two copies of a memorandum received from the Department relative to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. The attached sets forth interview of Mr. Bill Sartor by Department attorney on June 12, 1968, and August 22, 1968, however, the memorandum was not furnished to us until September 23, 1968.

Memphis should completely evaluate the contents of the Departmental memorandum and submit comments and recommendations to the Bureau including what investigative aspects of the Departmental memorandum completed and indices check of Sartor. This should be handled immediately.

Jackson should immediately furnish Bureau and Memphis results of indices check concerning Sartor. Two copies of the Departmental memorandum furnished to Jackson in the event it becomes necessary for investigation to be conducted in the future.

Based upon available data, no information recorded in Bureau files concerning Bill Sartor. No interview of Sartor should be conducted until Bureau advises.

REL: xcp
(6)

MAILED 9
SEP 26 1968
COMM-FBI

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

SEE NOTE - PAGE TWO

1 OCT - 9 1968

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

NOTE:

Department, in a memorandum furnished us the results of an interview by them with one Bill Sartor who is allegedly a contract writer for Time, Inc., and who resides in Greenville, Mississippi. The interviews took place on June 12, 1968, and August 22, 1968, in which Sartor claims a conspiracy exists in the assassination of King and he gives names and locations including what appears to be Cosa Nosta figures, racketeers, and Memphis Police officers. Sartor does not furnish the Department complete details and he has not fully investigated this matter due to finances.

The Department has not furnished us with this information before, although we have been in receipt of some of the information contained herein which we ran out with negative findings as to a conspiracy involvement. The Department is requesting that we follow out all leads.

Sartor, in his interview with the Department expected or hoped that they would feed investigative results back to him, and if this is not possible he wanted to be given the story first or no later than anyone else. No indication in the Department memo of any commitments other than the person conducting the interview advised he would report this information to his superiors.

It is possible that Memphis has run out some of the items in the Department memo, which resulted in negative findings and the Bureau would not be aware of such. Negative findings are not necessarily reported to the Bureau, therefore, Memphis should make an evaluation and submit their recommendations.

Jackson is being instructed to furnish Bureau and Memphis the results of indices check concerning Sartor. Jackson is also being furnished two copies of the Departmental memo in the event it becomes necessary to conduct investigation there at a future date.

Memorandum

TO : The Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: SFP 23 1968

FROM : *SJP* Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

SJP:eb
D.J. 144-72-662

Encl 2-6
SUBJECT: James Earl Ray, Subject;
Martin Luther King, Jr., Victim;
Conspiracy Against Rights
CIVIL RIGHTS

Bill
1342 Kirk Circle
Attached is a copy of a memorandum of an interview which J. Harold Flannery, Deputy Section Chief of this Division's Central Section, had with William Sartor of Greenville, Mississippi. Mr. Sartor was identified to Mr. Flannery as a reporter who had been inquiring into the possible existence of a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Sartor described himself to Mr. Flannery as a contract writer for Time, Inc., who has covered racial matters in Memphis, Tennessee. *Temp*

As part of the full investigation of this matter requested by the Attorney General and confirmed in my memorandum of April 4, 1968, Please follow out all leads indicated in the attached memorandum if you have not already done so.

(ENCLOSURE

Attachment

201
REC-57*Det. to QN-11E
9-25-68
REL bcp*
44-38861-5197

ST-116

14 SEP 27 1968
SLX

Mr. Pollak

September 17, 1968
JHP:swb

J. Harold Flannery

James Earl Ray, Subject;
Martin Luther King, Jr., Victim.
Conspiracy Against Rights
CIVIL RIGHTS

I

I interviewed Bill Sartor in connection with the captioned matter for about four hours on August 22, 1968. He had been identified to me in June by Jesse Epps as a reporter who had been inquiring into the possible existence of a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. King. At Mr. Epps' request I met Sartor then briefly, and he gave me bits and pieces of information and rumors about the killing that he had accumulated to that point. His interest had been aroused, he said, by the firm conviction among many Negroes in Memphis that there was a conspiracy possibly involving some members of the Memphis Police Department. My conversation with him in June is set out in part II, below.

Sartor lives at 1242 Kirk Circle in Greenville, Mississippi (phone 335-3272), with his wife and one or two children. He is a contract writer for Time, Inc., and he has covered Memphis, particularly racial matters, since before the Sanitation Workers strike. He appears to be known and trusted by those Negro leaders in Memphis with whom I have talked (Epps, Trotter, Rev. Jackson, Rev. Bell, etc.), and he says that he is close to the (former) Mayor Ingram faction of the white community. I attach a copy of his latest piece on Memphis which appeared in the August 16, 1968, issue of Time.

I can not evaluate Sartor's reliability or that of his sources, but he is a "low key" fellow who is not apparently irrational or fanciful. He says he