

AT 44-2386

3

The bar where he and his brother met RALPH (LNU) burned down several years ago and he believes that PETE DAVIS is currently manager for Shrimp Boat restaurants with headquarters in Macon, Georgia. DAVIS also could possibly be contacted through HERBERT DAVIS who lives on Flat Shoals Road in Atlanta, Georgia and used to own the Atlanta Technical School.

His former wife has no first hand knowledge of the matter. She is aware of the facts as he described them to her.

PETE DAVIS actually observed RALPH (LNU) enter and exit his bar but DAVIS never entered the conversation between RALPH (LNU) and themselves.

Neither he nor his brother were involved in the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., because the whole situation as he described above "scared us".  
th

He is willing to take a polygraph in this matter.

He has waited nine years to contact the FBI regarding this matter because he recently observed a documentary on television which disturbed his conscience and he felt he had to furnish this information to the FBI.

POWELL stated the reason he believes he and his brother were contacted by GODFREY is because his brother, SHOTGUN POWELL served five years for armed robbery and during the period of time around 1967 his brother had a reputation for being an expert with a shotgun. POWELL stated his brother constantly carried a shotgun because "He has an inferior complex".

AT 44-2386

4

POWELL advised he does not know JAMES EARL RAY and has no other information concerning the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

He believes that his brother will cooperate in discussing this matter with the FBI and he does not know if GODFREY would be willing to discuss his knowledge of what transacted between them in 1967.

The following description of LEON OWEN POWELL was obtained through observation and interview:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Stephens County, Georgia
Height	6'
Weight	142
Hair	Blond
Eyes	Brown
Build	Medium
Complexion	Light
Tattoos, marks and scars	Tattoo on right arm near shoulder of a lady in a champagne glass. The words Betty and True Love tattooed on left forearm. On left arm bicep is tattoo of a cherry with words 'here's mine where's yours'
Education	High School, Toccoa, Georgia
Employment	Self-employed as drywall installer, currently unemployed
Residence	Living with son DAVID POWELL age 18 and wife BRENDA at 3841 Austin Drive, Decatur, Georgia. His son DAVID will always know his whereabouts.

AT 44-2386

5

Military Service

U. S. Army, 1952-1955,  
service number RA14478523,  
Ranger Instructor, discharged  
as Private for going Absent  
Without Official Leave (AWOL)

Marital Status

Divorced

Other Home Address

Route 2, Toccoa, Georgia  
telephone 886-3254

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 1/15/76

1

CLAUDE POWELL, JR., was located at the Scottish Inn Motel, Interstate Highway 20 at Holiday Hill Road, Room 211. POWELL was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and at the outset of the interview, was asked if he had been in contact with any member of his family or in particular, his brother, LEON POWELL. POWELL denied being in contact with any member of his family, including LEON POWELL, since his departure from Atlanta, Georgia, on December 31, 1975. He was then interviewed as follows:

POWELL was asked if he had ever been offered a large sum of money to commit a murder, and he immediately volunteered that he had been offered \$25,000 shortly before the actual assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING. He recalled the circumstances of that offer as follows:

Approximately three to four weeks prior to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, he and his brother, LEON POWELL, were seated in a booth in Pete's Bar on Moreland Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia. A friend of his brother, RAY GODFREY, a musician and Atlanta City employee, joined them at their booth and engaged in conversation with LEON. He paid no particular attention to what LEON and RAY were talking about. GODFREY left the booth, and, in approximately 10 to 15 minutes, an individual previously unknown to him, came to their booth and seated himself opposite from LEON and him.

As this unknown person sat down, he placed an expensive-looking black brief case on the table. He described the unknown person as being a white male, approximately 5'8" in height, medium build, approximately 150 pounds, approximately 30 years of age. POWELL explained that the unknown person appeared to him to be out of place in such an establishment as Pete's Bar, in view of his dress, which did not fit into the crowd that frequented Pete's Bar.

---

On 1/8/76 at Midland, Texas File # EP 44-920  
by SA GERALD D. GALBREATH  
SA FRANZ W. NENZEL FWN:pm Date dictated 1/14/76

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.

The unknown person impressed him as being a well educated person, who appeared to be a professional type such as a lawyer. He said the unknown person was clean cut, and very calm and cool in his manner. He stated the unknown person may have introduced himself, but he does not recall any names. The unknown person asked LEON and him if they wanted to pull a job. He does not know the exact wording, but he questioned the unknown person concerning the nature of the job, and how much money it paid. The unknown person told him and LEON that he wanted them to do away with someone and when POWELL questioned the unknown person further, he was told that it was someone important. The unknown person then told him and LEON that he wanted them to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, and would pay them \$25,000 now and \$25,000 when the job was done. The unknown person then opened his brief case which was full of wrapped currency; some of the bills he noticed were in \$100 denominations. He stated that he was shocked by the statements of the unknown person, and initially assumed that it was some sort of prank or possibly a law enforcement officer trying to trick him. After the unknown person made the offer, he ignored any further conversation, whereupon the unknown person closed his brief case and departed.

He has never had any further contact, nor did he ever ascertain the identity of the unknown person, or means or reason for the offered payment to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. He related that he had gained the bad reputation of being a hoodlum because of his past prison record, participation in several fights, and habit of carrying a shotgun in his vehicle, which he frequently loaned to the bartender at Pete's Bar whenever trouble occurred. He denied ever receiving such an offer prior to this incident, and further denied affiliation with any group which advocated racial hatred. He admitted that he had made statements while drunk to the effect that he had no aversion to killing blacks, although he had never seriously considered doing so.

POWELL stated he was shocked and dismayed to learn, approximately three to four weeks later, that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been murdered. He advised that he did not

go to any law enforcement officers, and tell them of the above contact with the unknown person, because he felt he might become a suspect in the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

POWELL was then requested to assist the FBI by providing an artist conception of the unknown person who contacted him at Pete's Bar by the use of a facial identification catalogue. It was explained to POWELL that a sketch would be made from a combination of features that he selected from photographs displayed in the catalogue. Each category in the catalogue was thoroughly explained and photographs in these categories were shown to POWELL. POWELL then stated that he would be unable to assist in this regard because he had only talked with the unknown person for approximately five minutes, and that he would not recognize him even if he was brought into his motel room at that moment.

The following descriptive data was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	CLAUDE POWELL, JR.
Alias	Junior Powell Shotgun Powell
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Stephens County, Georgia
Height	6'2
Weight	170
Hair	Gray-Black
Eyes	Blue
Education	Finished 4th grade
Employment	Self employed
Occupation	Carpenter and dry wall finisher
Parent	HEPSIE POWELL, Route 3, Toccoa, Georgia
Brothers	LEON POWELL, Atlanta, Georgia HUBERT POWELL Route 3, Toccoa, Georgia WENDELL POWELL, Belmont, North Carolina (address unknown) EDWARD POWELL, Shamdon, Georgia

EP 44-920

4

Sister

FLORIS BRYSON  
Franklin, North Carolina  
(address unknown)

Wife

JACKIE POWELL,  
unemployed, 4163 Camby Lane,  
no telephone, Decatur, Georgia  
Same as wife

Permanent address  
Tattoos

Dragon, left bicep: "LUCY,  
my wife is so dear to me",  
left forearm: "LOIS" inside  
right forearm: "Too sweet  
to live, to mean to die",  
across chest: "BONNIE" upper  
right shoulder: "BETTY", upper  
left shoulder

AT 44-2386

TJW:wy

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON at Atlanta, Georgia:

On January 7, 1976, the Atlanta City Directory  
Haines City Directory, and Greater Atlanta Southern Bell  
Telephone Directory for the years 1967 and 1968 were  
reviewed with negative results regarding and establish-  
ment on Moreland Avenue named Pete's Place or any similar  
name.

SHIRLEY LANE, bartender, Driftwood Lounge,  
1575 Moreland Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia, advised that  
approximately seven or eight years ago an individual  
named PETE DAVIS did in fact own and operate a bar in the  
last block of Moreland Avenue. She has heard that PETE  
DAVIS has since passed away. Ms. LANE advised PETE's wife,  
DOROTHY DAVIS, could possibly be located at telephone  
number 957-2626. She stated she has been a frequent  
visitor to the lounge known as Pete's Place and that is  
the reason why she is so familiar with PETE and DOROTHY  
DAVIS.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 1/15/76

DOROTHY DAVIS, telephone number 957-2626, was contacted and advised that her husband, PETE DAVIS, did own and operate a bar on Moreland Avenue. This bar was at one time known as Pete's Place.

Her husband died from cancer in May, 1975.

She is not familiar with the name RALPH (last name unknown), LEON or CLAUDE POWELL. She remembers her husband talked about RAY GODFREY, however, she has no idea how he could be located.

She has no idea what became of the records concerning the operation of Pete's Place.

At the outset, Mrs. DAVIS was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent, the nature of the inquiry, and that any information she furnished could be used in a court of law. She voluntarily furnished the above information:

Interviewed 1/7/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 1/13/76

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

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/14/76

ANNIE LOIS CAMPOS was contacted at her residence and furnished the following information:

She was unable to remember any incident where her husband told her he and his brother had been hired to assassinate any individual. Upon the suggestion of the interviewing Agents by naming MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., as the victim, Mrs. CAMPOS immediately responded that sometime after MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was assassinated, her husband told her that an individual had approached him in a bar, had shown him a suitcase full of money and suggested that he and his brother assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. When he told her about this incident, he was under the influence of alcoholic beverages; in fact, she stated her husband was an alcoholic. Many times she had to go to the bar on a Friday night and physically remove her husband in order that he would spend all of his paycheck so the children would have some food. A lot of times when her husband was drunk he talked about killing different individuals. She assumed this had a lot to do with when he was in the Army.

Mrs. CAMPOS stated, however, that if her husband told her the same story while he was sober, she would tend to put some truth in the incident.

The following description of ANNIE LOIS CAMPOS was obtained through observation and interview:

Race	White
Sex	Female
Date of birth	
Place of birth	Homer, Georgia
Husband's name	OLE CAMPOS

She had previously been married to LEON OWEN POWELL from July, 1955, until 1975.

Interviewed on 1/7/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386  
by SA CHARLES T. CARROLL, JR., and  
SA THOMAS J. WILSON TJW:wy/cw Date dictated 1/13/76

AT 44-2386

TJW:wy

1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON in Atlanta, Georgia.

On January 7, 1976, Mrs. L. S. PENNINGTON, Director of Personnel, City of Atlanta, was contacted and advised she had caused the city personnel records to be reviewed and could find no record of RAY GODFREY or RAYMOND GODFREY being employed or having ever been employed by the City of Atlanta.

C. L. SNEED, Secretary, Musicians Union Number 148, Atlanta, Georgia, advised he reviewed the union's records and could find no reference to a RAY or RAYMOND GODFREY. SNEED suggested that BOBBY JOHNSON, radio station WPLO be contacted regarding the names of any old time country and western singers.

AT 44-2386

TJW:wy

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON at Atlanta, Georgia:

On January 8, 1976, BOBBY JOHNSON, Country Music Section, radio station WPLO, Atlanta, Georgia, advised there had been a country and western singer by the name of RAY GODFREY in 1967 or 1968. This singer was handled locally by Lowery Music Company, Atlanta, Georgia. BILL LOWERY at Lowery Music would probably have more information about the whereabouts of RAY GODFREY.

On January 8, 1975, MARY TALLENT, secretary to the president, Lowery Music Company, advised that back in 1967, Lowery Music had handled a country and western singer by the name of RAY GODFREY. GODFREY would at this time be a white male approximately 45 to 50 years of age. In 1967 GODFREY worked for the Atlanta Water Company, telephone 422-1481.

She had numerous dealings with RAY GODFREY and described him as a "very country fellow" and refused to believe that he could be in any sort of trouble.

COTTON CARRIER, song writer, Lowery Music Company, Atlanta, Georgia, was also contacted and advised that the last time he had talked to RAY GODFREY that RAY GODFREY was employed with the Atlanta Water or either the Atlanta Sewer Department at telephone number 622-1481. He stated that GODFREY was a very likeable fellow and could not possibly be in any trouble.

The Haines City Directory revealed that telephone number 622-1481 is listed to the City of Atlanta Sewer Department.

AT 44-2386

2

Mrs. L. S. PENNINGTON, Director of Personnel, City of Atlanta, was recontacted and advised that PAT SOJKA, supervisor, administrative services, would be the person to contact regarding anyone employed at telephone number 622-1481.

PAT SOJKA was contacted and advised that he is familiar with the City of Atlanta employee named RAY GODFREY. Current records of the Sewer Department reflect a true name of A. R. GODFREY living at 1105 Lakeshore Drive, Jonesboro, Georgia, telephone 477-5036.

On January 12, 1976, GROVE DAY, supervisor, City of Atlanta Sewer Division, was contacted and advised that RAY GODFREY was employed in his department and could be interviewed any morning before 8:30 A.M.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/14/76

ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, 1105 Lakeshore Drive, Jonesboro, Georgia, was contacted at his place of employment, City of Atlanta Sewer Department, 360 Englewood Road, SE, and advised that an interview was desired with him concerning an allegation regarding his participation in a plot to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING. He was promptly advised of his rights by Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON and stated he understood his rights, but did not wish to sign anything, however, would consent to be interviewed. Thereafter, and promptly following this, he was interviewed and furnished the following information:

He has been employed by the City of Atlanta in the Sewer Department since 1949. He worked for approximately eight years as a laborer, the last five years as a foreman and all the time in between as a truck driver. He was also a country and western singer for some time. Most of his records were produced in 1967 or 1968. One of the records under the Saber label was on one side "Count me out" and on the other side "Try one on for size". Another record under the Columbia label was called "Always room for one more Fool like Me".

When he was actually engaged as a country and western singer he was tending bar part-time at a bar known as Pete's Bar on Moreland Avenue. He also had a band and sang with them at the same time.

He did not know anything about any assassination plot of any kind. He never talked with anyone regarding the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING before KING had been assassinated. He did not make any arrangements with anyone to have KING assassinated by CLAUDE and LEON POWELL. When questioned about any well-dressed individuals frequenting Pete's Place GODFREY remembered a white male approximately 45 years of age with wavy hair, very clean-cut and very well spoken being in Pete's Place numerous times. This individual carried a walking stick in his right hand and to the best of GODFREY's memory, this individual had something wrong with his right leg.

---

1/13/76	Atlanta, Georgia	AT 44-2386
Interviewed on _____	at _____	File # _____
SA BERNARD R. BERRY		
SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy		1/13/76
by _____	Date dictated _____	

- 17 -

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.

AT 44-2386

GODFREY could not remember the individual's name but described him as approximately 5'11", 170-180 pounds, of Latin descent. GODFREY further stated that this individual could talk in two different languages, one of which he thought was "Mexican". He stated that this individual had lots of money and was thought to be owner of a number of bars in honky tonk places around Atlanta. He thought that one of the bars that this individual owned in 1967 was located at the corner of Hunter and Bell Street in Atlanta. This individual was driving a big black automobile, probably a Lincoln. He was reportedly associated with the Venable Music Company in some manner. GODFREY thought that it was possible that some individual connected with Venable Music Company and this individual were connected in numerous enterprises throughout the city. GODFREY stated that PETE DAVIS would be able to identify this individual. GODFREY further stated that possibly DIANE (last name unknown) a former bartender at Pete's Place may also be able to identify this individual. DIANE also owns a bar known as "The Office" located on Flat Shoals in Atlanta

GODFREY again denied having any conversation with the POWELLS' or anyone else regarding the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING prior to his actual assassination. GODFREY advised he would be more than willing to take a polygraph examination to clear the air.

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of birth	<input type="text"/>
Place of birth	Copperhill, Tennessee
Height	6'3"
Weight	210

AT 44-2386

Hair  
Residence  
Telephone  
Military service

Greying  
1105 Lakeshore Drive  
Jonesboro, Georgia  
477-5036  
Served with the National  
Guard, State of Georgia  
Number 24-77-30-31, honorable  
discharge  
None admitted other than  
drunk driving

Arrest record

GODFREY stated he had never been a member of the  
Ku Klux Klan or any other radical organization.



AT 44-2386

On January 15, 1976, DIANE BRADY, white female, date of birth [REDACTED] place of birth Atlanta, Georgia, current owner of The Office Lounge, was interviewed and she advised she is quite certain that in 1967, she was employed as a carhop and bartender at Pete's Place on Moreland Avenue. She advised she is familiar with RAY GODFREY and after viewing a photograph of CLAUDE POWELL, JR., and LEON OWEN POWELL, she stated she was familiar with both of them. She stated she has never heard anyone talking about any murder of any type at Pete's Place. She was unable to identify anyone resembling an artist's conception of RALPH (Last Name Unknown). She advised she can only describe one individual who came into Pete's Place who was well-dressed and walked with a limp. She advised she knew the individual as "DUKE". "DUKE" was a white male, approximately 6'0", 180 pounds, dark hair, walked with a limp, and drove a large dark car with a Gwinnett County tag. She advised "DUKE" always seemed to have money, in fact, he gave her a \$50 tip. She can not locate "DUKE" at this time, and in fact, she has been trying to find him on her own. "DUKE" very rarely went into the bar, and always got his beverages through the carhops. DIANE advised another carhop named DOTTIE (Last Name Unknown), who she thinks is currently working for Barbara's Lounge on Moreland Avenue, might be able to assist in the identification of the individual in the artist's conception in view of the fact that she was a long-time employee of Pete's Place.

On January 15, 1976, EDNA McKINNON, owner of McKinnon's Restaurant, Moreland Avenue, advised she does have an employee named "DOTTIE". "DOTTIE" did work for her when she owned The Piglet Restaurant, located at Hill Street and Moreland Avenue in Atlanta. "DOTTIE" had the day off and McKINNON advised she was out of town. She stated DOTTIE would be back for work at 2:00 PM, Friday, January 16, 1976.

DIANE BRADY was recontacted and she advised all other employees of Pete's Place have died since Pete's Place was closed. She advised that as far as she can remember, the only individuals still living who were connected with Pete's Place are herself, DOTTIE, and RAY GODFREY. A lot of the customers are still around and frequent her bar, "The Office".

AT 44-2386

On January 16, 1976, DOTTIE UNDERHILL, waitress at McKinnon's Restaurant, Moreland Avenue, advised she has never worked at any other establishment on Moreland Avenue. She stated she has never been employed at any lounge called "Pete's Place", nor is she familiar with the name PETE DAVIS.

DAVID McKINNON, son of the owner of McKinnon's Restaurant, advised his father has employed numerous waitresses some of whom even supply phony names. He has worked for his father for the last eighteen years. He advised he can not recall any other waitress named "DOTTIE" other than the one who is employed now.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 1/14/76

JO PRESSLEY, Identification Division, Atlanta Police Department, advised her department had the following records on a LEON OWEN POWELL, date of birth [redacted] and a CLAUDE POWELL, JR. Ms. PRESSLEY provided photostatic copies of the identification record for both individuals which are attached hereto.

Interviewed on 1/7/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386

by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 1/13/76

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.

BUREAU NO.

211422

NAME POWELL, LEON OWEN RACE WHITE SEX MALE  
ALIASES \_\_\_\_\_ NATIONALITY U.S.A.  
ADDRESS 371 TERRY STREET S.E. CITY ATLANTA STATE GEORGIA  
OCCUPATION SERVICE STATION ATTENDANT EMPLOYER GRESHAM PARK PHILLIPS 66: ?? GRESHAM  
DEKALB CO., GA.  
BIRTHPLACE STEPHENS CO., GA. DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED] AGE 27  
EDUCATION 11 BUILD MEDIUM HEIGHT 6-0 WEIGHT 150  
COMPLEXION RUDDY +BLOND HAIR BLOND EYES GREY  
SCARS & MARKS TT OF WOMAN IN GLASS RT. UPPER OUTER ARM

TT "HERES MINE - WHERE'S YOURS" & CHERRY LT. OUTER UPPER ARM

SPOUSE LOIS POWELL ADDRESS SAME AS PRISONER  
PARENT MO: HEPSIE POWELL ADDRESS 509 SPRING ST., TOCCOA, GEORGIA  
RELATIVE BRO: EDWARD POWELL ADDRESS 963 KENT MORELAND AVE., NE., ATLANTA,  
CRIME A.M.C. DOCKET \_\_\_\_\_

ARRESTED JUN 29 1962 OFFICERS MOSS FROM COURT HOUSE WARR. ISSUED 6-29-62

JAIL ENTRY 662W-27-M-Warr-AMC-300-Civil-6-29-62

RELEASED FROM JAIL 397 Bond - Fulton - JUN 29 1962 B.F. \_\_\_\_\_

DISPOSITION 58096 Aband. w/c withdrawn 7-6-62

FURNISHED TO

DATE

1-7-76

211422

RECEIVED AT BELLWOOD

RELEASED FROM BELLWOOD

12 M 29 W 100 15

FPC

I 12 W 100 12

SIGNATURE

Leon O. Powell

INFORMATION BY

W.F. SHATTLES

FINGERPRINTED BY

W.F. Shattles

(Right Index)

DATE

JUN 29 1962

- 23 -

BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION, ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT, ATLANTA, GA.

FORM 32-1-30

PHOTO BY OK

CONSOLIDATED

B.

Captain in Charge

211422

The following is the record of APD No. \_\_\_\_\_ and FBI No. 220 012 E

AUGUST 1969

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE: This record is furnished for official use only

FORM 32-1-27

BUREAU NO.

231799

SS# UNKNOWN

NAME POWELL, CLAUDE JR. RACE W SEX M  
ALIASES POWELL, J.R. NATIONALITY \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS 4163 CANBY LANE S.W. CITY DECATUR, STATE GA.  
OCCUPATION DRY WALL FINISHER EMPLOYER SELF EMPLOYED  
BIRTHPLACE STEVENS CO. GA. DATE OF BIRTH        AGE 18  
EDUCATION 5 BUILD MED. HEIGHT 602 WEIGHT 171  
(FAIR-DARK-RUDDY-FRECKLED-ETC.) (SLENDER-MEDIUM-STOUT)  
COMPLEXION RUD HAIR BRO HAIR TYPE STRAIGHT  
(RECEDING-BALD-CURLY-KINKY-PROCESSED-ETC.)  
EYES BLU EYE DEFECT - (DESCRIBE) NONE MUSTACH-BEARD-GOATEE NONE  
TEETH NORMAL NOSE NORMAL  
(FALSE-PROTRUDING-BROKEN-MISSING-DECAYED-GOLOCAP) (HOOKED-PUG-CROOKED-LONG-BROAD-ETC.)  
MARKS TT:DRAGON-LUCY-MY WIFE IS SO DEAR TO ME. LEFT ARM  
(TATTOOS-MOLES-WARTS-DIMPLES-BIRTHMARKS-ETC.-DESCRIBE LOCATION)  
VISIBLE SCARS-(DESCRIBE) NONE VISIBLE  
(CUT-BURN-ETC.-DESCRIBE & LOCATION ON BODY)  
AMPUTATIONS & DEFORMITIES NONE  
MISC. CHARACTERISTICS RIGHT HANDED  
(LEFT-HANDED-HARE LIP-PIERCED EARLOBES-ETC.)  
SPEECH NORMAL GAIT NORMAL  
(SOFT-LOUD-RAPID-FOREIGN-VULGAR-LISPS-STUTTERS-MUMBLES-ETC.) (FAST-SLOW-SHUFFLES-LIMPS)  
CLOTHING TYPE - (SPORT-BUSINESS-WORK-ETC.) SPORT  
SPOUSE JACKIE POWELL ADDRESS SAME AS P  
PARENTS MO: HEPSIE POWELL ADDRESS TOCCOA, GA.  
RELATIVES BO: LEON POWELL ADDRESS ?? MEADOW LANE, DECATUR, GA.  
CRIME INDECENT EXPOSURE 2. DRUNK DOCKET 44564-20  
ARRESTED 082573 OFFICERS ML CROWDER WARR. ISS. \_\_\_\_\_  
JAIL ENTRY \_\_\_\_\_

RELEASE FROM JAIL

DISPOSITION

Indecent Exposure \$25 or 13 days 8/27/73  
Drunk \$25 or 13 days 8/27/73

POWERED TO

DATE

1-7-74

RECEIVED BY BELLWOOD

RELEASED FROM BELLWOOD

SIGNATURE

INFORMATION BY

PRINTED BY

PHOTOGRAPHED BY

DATE

082573

A FLC

PRES.

ARM

11 0 5

T 00 16

Indecent Exposure

I 13

T 01

15

IDENTIFICATION SECTION - ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FORM 12-73 (REVISED)

- 25 -

RIGHT INDEX PRINT

4-2573

0825

**ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION**  
**ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

*Herbert T. Jenkins,*  
*Chief of Police*

**231799**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
 Captain in Charge

The following is the record of APD No. \_\_\_\_\_ and FBI No. 212 946 A

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Mecklenburg Co. Pol. Charlotte, N. C.	Claude Powell, Jr. #4822	5-10-49	Armed Robb.	5-10 Yrs. S. Pen
B. of I. Pr. Div. Raleigh, N. C.	Claude Powell, Jr. #49663	5-24-49	Robb.	5-10 Yrs. 4-23-52 Paroled 3-28-54 Disch. Per Exp.
PD Atlanta, Ga	Claude Powell Jr #231799	6-28-65	Allowing Intox. Person to Drive (2)	56127- Ct 1- \$100 and 8 mos; 56128 Ct 2 \$25 and 4 mos conc w/ 56127 6-28-65
PD, Atlanta, Ga.	Claude Powell #231799	8-25-73	Indecent Exposure	\$25 or 13 das 8-27-73
			Drunk	\$25 or 13 das. 8-27-73
FURNISHED TO: <i>Walser</i> DATE: <i>7-26</i>				

\* Represents notations unsupported by fingerprints

NOTICE: This record is furnished for official use only

FORM 32-1-27

AT 44-2386

On January 14, 1976, the FBI Identification Division, Washington, D.C., provided the attached identification record for ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, date of birth   place of birth Cooperhill, Tennessee:



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

1-14-76 807 MLH

None Assigned

The following FBI record, NUMBER , is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.  
Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors.  
WHERE DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE OR DISPOSITION IS  
DESIRED, COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Forest Park GA	Arnold Ray Godfrey 13110	3-7-64	D/C drunk D/C cursing driving wrong side of road suspicion poss dangerous drugs	

Since neither fingerprints nor an  
identifying number which is indexed  
in our files are present, we request  
that you advise us if you know  
that this material concerns the  
individual in whom you are interested.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

1-14-76 807 MLH

2

The following information from FBI record, NUMBER  
is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

None Assigned

Description and Related Data: ARNOLD RAY GODFREY

Race: W

Sex: M

Height: 74"

Weight: 184

Hair: Brn

Eyes: Brn

Date and Place of Birth:  Cooperhill TN

Scars and Marks: Scar R/F arm 2"

Address: In 1964 569 Greham Ave Atlanta GA

Occupation: Construction

Since neither fingerprints nor an  
identifying number which is indexed  
in our files accompany your request  
FBI cannot guarantee in any manner  
that this material concerns the  
individual in whom you are interested.

Social Security Number: Unknown

AT 44-2386

The following investigation was conducted by the Charlotte Division of the FBI, on January 9, 1976:

WENDELL SUTTON POWELL, Foreman, Pharr Yarns, was interviewed at his home, 218 Ewing Drive, Belmont, North Carolina, and advised his correspondence with his brother, CLAUDE POWELL, JR., is very poor with only an occasional telephone call. He advised he last saw CLAUDE three years ago when their mother, HEPSIE POWELL, was very ill in Toccoa, Georgia. WENDELL related he had not heard of anyone contacting his brothers, CLAUDE and LEON, and offering them money to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and advised if CLAUDE had seen \$25,000 in one lump sum, CLAUDE would have told others about it. He advised CLAUDE used to drink a lot and talk glibly when in a drunken condition until a doctor told him to restrict his intake of alcohol following an accident.

WENDELL POWELL advised he did not believe CLAUDE and LEON had the capacity to assassinate KING. CLAUDE got the nickname "SHOTGUN" several years ago when a shotgun was taken from him by a policeman after CLAUDE was stopped for driving while intoxicated. WENDELL said neither he nor members of his family liked KING. WENDELL said KING stirred up trouble wherever he went and he and members of his family did not believe in trouble. WENDELL believed KING became a martyr to his people by being assassinated which might not have occurred had he lived. WENDELL stated in addition to being incarcerated by the North Carolina Prison Authorities, he had served time as a juvenile at Boys Town of Georgia, located between Athens and Macon, Georgia. WENDELL said neither he nor members of his family know anything about JAMES EARL RAY other than what they have read in the newspapers, to his knowledge. No members of his family are known to be present or former members of the Ku Klux Klan, or other extremist organizations.

WENDELL POWELL stated he has three brothers, CLAUDE JR., LEON and EDWARD, who reside in Atlanta he believed, place not known, and one sister, FLOYCE BRYSON (wife of JOHN BRYSON), Franklin, North Carolina, and a brother HUBERT, and his mother, HEPSIE, who live side by side in Toccoa, Georgia.

AT 44-2386

FLOYCE POWELL BRYSON, Route Number Five, Box 180, Franklin, North Carolina, was interviewed on January 14, 1976, and advised as follows:

LEON and CLAUDE POWELL are BRYSON's brothers, and although they are both morally good men, they each have a drinking problem. Neither LEON nor CLAUDE have ever been associated with the Ku Klux Klan or any Black Hate organizations. Likewise, neither have ever spoken against MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

BRYSON's brothers have never mentioned to her the alleged offer to kill KING and BRYSON quite frankly does not believe the event ever occurred. Also, neither possesses the capability to kill KING.

LEON POWELL was a Korean War Veteran and whenever he drinks to excess he becomes depressed and often calls members of his family in the middle of the night for consolation. LEON often states he wishes he were dead like the rest of the boys in his unit who were killed in Korea. BRYSON believes LEON's experiences in Korea have adversely affected his mind. BRYSON stated the last call made by LEON to BRYSON was several months ago.

BRYSON advised she last saw LEON during Christmas, 1975, and all appeared well.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1-23-761

HUBERT POWELL, Black Mountain Road, telephone 404-886-4754, was interviewed by SA JIMMIE D. BURRIS who identified himself to him as a Special Agent of the FBI.

HUBERT POWELL was informed by SA BURRIS of the nature of the inquiry and thereafter freely and voluntarily advised as follows:

He advised that he is the older brother of LEON POWELL and CLAUDE POWELL, JR. He stated that approximately one to two weeks ago, exact date unrecalled, WENDELL POWELL, another brother who resides in Belmont, North Carolina, telephoned him and told him that FBI agents had been to talk with him about LEON and CLAUDE.

He also stated that shortly after his talk with WENDELL, LEON telephoned him and, in his opinion, was in a drunken condition. He advised that LEON told him the FBI would probably be by to see him and LEON then added that several years ago, he (LEON) and CLAUDE were in a club in Atlanta when an unknown male individual asked anyone in the club if they were interested in making a lot of money. CLAUDE told the unknown person that he was interested.

According to HUBERT POWELL, LEON told him that some time later on this unknown person came back into the club with a briefcase and that he (LEON) and CLAUDE knew this person meant business. LEON told HUBERT that CLAUDE, at that time, told this person that they were not interested.

HUBERT POWELL stated that he could not recall any other details about the telephone call with LEON, however, he definitely knew that LEON nor CLAUDE had ever mentioned this story to him before.

HUBERT POWELL added that LEON and CLAUDE both liked to drink and talk a lot while drinking.

Interviewed on 1-22-76 at Toccoa, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

by SA JIMMIE D. BURRIS:dd Date dictated 1-22-76

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.

AT 44-2386

2

Mr. POWELL was advised at the outset that any information he furnished could be used in a court of law. He declined to furnish a signed statement.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1-23-761

Mrs. HEPSIE POWELL was interviewed at her residence, Anderson Terrace Road, telephone 404-886-4754, by SAs JIMMIE D. BURRIS and DAVID E. PHILLIPS who identified themselves as Special Agents of the FBI.

Mrs. POWELL was informed by SA BURRIS of the nature of the inquiry and thereafter freely and voluntarily advised as follows:

Mrs. POWELL, who is 85 years of age, stated that she is the mother of CLAUDE POWELL, JR. and LEON POWELL. She stated that at no time had her sons ever mentioned to her anything regarding being approached by anyone to make a lot of money.

Mrs. POWELL advised that she felt sure that she would know of the incident if it had happened to her sons, as in her opinion, they would have told her.

Mrs. POWELL could offer nothing further regarding this matter.

Mrs. POWELL was advised at the outset by SA BURRIS that any information she furnished could be used in a court of law. She declined to furnish a signed statement.

Interviewed on 1-19-76 at Toccoa, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

by SA DAVID E. PHILLIPS  
SA JIMMIE D. BURRIS :dd Date dictated 1-22-76

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.

AT 44-2386

On January 7, 1976, LEON OWEN POWELL reviewed the FBI Facial Identification Manual in order that an artist's conception of RALPH (Last Name Unknown), might be drawn.

On January 9, 1976, the attached artist's conception was obtained.

On January 22, 1976, LEON OWEN POWELL was recontacted and shown the artist's conception. POWELL advised that some of the grey should be eliminated from the hair and the face should be made shorter; otherwise, the picture is a good likeness of RALPH (Last Name Unknown).



BUR 44-38861 AT 44-2386  
1-9-76

W47

04

Mag unit, Jay

FBI

Date: FEBRUARY 4, 1976

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

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) 7:24P/chr  
 EL PASO (44-920) 6:20P/HKG  
 MEMPHIS (44-1987) 5:45/mjh  
 FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE BUREAU NITEL TO ATLANTA, FEBRUARY 3, 1976.

EFFORTS TO LOCATE LEON POWELL THIS DATE NEGATIVE. MESSAGE LEFT AT PLACE OF RESIDENCE TO IMMEDIATELY CONTACT FBI, ATLANTA, UPON RETURN. EFFORTS ALSO NEGATIVE IN CONTACTING DOROTHY DAVIS REGARDING ANY RECORDS OF FORMER EMPLOYEES OF PETE'S BAR. MESSAGE ALSO LEFT AT DAVIS' RESIDENCE TO CONTACT FBI, ATLANTA, UPON RETURN.

OTHER LEADS BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL ARTIST'S CONCEPTION IS SHOWN TO POWELL.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW LEON POWELL REGARDING DIFFERENCES IN ORIGINAL INTERVIEWS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HIS BROTHER. DISPLAY ARTIST'S CONCEPTION TO POWELL AND ASCERTAIN IF IDENTICAL WITH RALPH (LNU).

END.

① ATLANTA

TJW: CW  
(1)

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

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

44-2386-2395

JPD/RET

NR018 AT PLAIN

10:56 PM NITEL 2-5-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
SAC, EL PASO (44-920)  
SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN

RE AT TELETYPE TO BU, FEB. 4, 1976.

DOROTHY DAVIS CONTACTED AND ADVISED HAS NO RECORDS  
RE PETE'S BAR. ALL RECORDS DESTROYED. ARRANGEMENTS MADE  
TO FULLY INTERVIEW DAVIS ON MONDAY, FEB. 9, 1976.

ARRANGEMENTS MADE WITH PERSONNEL DEPT., CITY OF ATLANTA,  
TO INTERVIEW DIRECTOR, MRS. PENNINGTON, ON FEB. 6, 1976.

ADDITIONAL ATTEMPTS MADE ON THIS DAY TO INTERVIEW LEON  
POWELL WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND  
INTERVIEW LEON POWELL. INTERVIEW MRS. PENNINGTON RE BACKGROUND  
OF GODFREY.  
END.

RJH

ME IS CLR FOR ONE AND TKS

OUT-GOING  
SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED \_\_\_\_\_

WILSON *RW*  
44-2386-2396

FBI

Date: 2/5/76

018

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) 8:25p/chl  
SAC, EL PASO (44-920) 10:00p/HYG  
SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) 10:50p/rjh  
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)  
MURKIN

RE AT TELETYPE TO BU, FEB. 4, 1976.

DOROTHY DAVIS CONTACTED AND ADVISED HAS NO RECORDS  
RE PETE'S BAR. ALL RECORDS DESTROYED. ARRANGEMENTS MADE  
TO FULLY INTERVIEW DAVIS ON MONDAY, FEB. 9, 1976.

ARRANGEMENTS MADE WITH PERSONNEL DEPT., CITY OF ATLANTA,  
TO INTERVIEW DIRECTOR, MRS. PENNINGTON, ON FEB. 6, 1976.

ADDITIONAL ATTEMPTS MADE ON THIS DAY TO INTERVIEW LEON  
POWELL WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND  
INTERVIEW LEON POWELL. INTERVIEW MRS. PENNINGTON RE BACKGROUND  
OF GODFREY.

END.

OUT-GOING

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

44-2386-2396

Approved: R/D AIP: B.B. FAY

Special Agent in Charge

Sent per at

M

Per mlf

NR001 EP PLAIN

11:55AM URGENT FEBRUARY 6, 1976 CJP

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)  
ATLANTA (44-2386)  
MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM EL PASO (44-920) (P)

MURKIN

RE BUREAU NITEL DATED FEBRUARY 3, 1976.

CLAUDE POWELL, JR. RECONTACTED LATE PM FEBRUARY 5, 1976,  
SCOTTISH INN, ROOM 211, MIDLAND, TEXAS. DISCREPANCIES IN  
VERSION OF INCIDENT PETE'S BAR, ATLANTA, AS RELATED BY  
LEON AND HE (CLAUDE) DISCUSSED. CLAUDE STATED ANY DISCREP-  
ANCIES ARE RESULT OF PASSAGE OF TIME SINCE INCIDENT AND HIS  
STATEMENT IS ACCURATE IN HIS RECOLLECTION. HE CLARIFIED HIS  
RELATIONSHIP WITH GODFREY, STATING GODFREY WAS A FRIEND WHOM  
HE HAD KNOWN FOR MANY YEARS BUT GODFREY WAS MORE CLOSELY  
ASSOCIATED WITH AND A BETTER FRIEND OF LEON. CLAUDE ALSO  
COMMENTED HE HAD LATER LEARNED GODFREY MADE AN INITIAL  
CONTACT WITH LEON APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE  
UNKNOWN WHITE MALE'S PROPOSITION TO MURDER KING, BUT HE  
DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE MEETING AT PETE'S BAR  
UNTIL THE UNKNOWN MALE SEATED HIMSELF AND MADE THE OFFER,  
OR DID HE HAVE ANY PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT TRANSPIRED BETWEEN

END PAGE ONE

44-2386-2397

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB - 6 1976	
FBI-ATLANTA	
WILSON JFW	

EP 44-920

PAGE TWO

GODFREY AND LEON.

OTHER THAN THESE CHANGES, CLAUDE STANDS BY HIS ORIGINAL STATEMENT, EMPHASIZING THAT HIS STATEMENT MAY DIFFER IN SOME ASPECTS WITH LEON'S STATEMENT, BUT THE FACT IS BOTH HE AND LEON WITNESSED AN OFFER OF A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF MONEY TO MURDER KING BY AN UNKNOWN WHITE MALE.

IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED:

HE AND LEON TALKED FREQUENTLY ABOUT THE ALLEGED MEETING AT PETE'S BAR AFTER THE MEETING OCCURRED, BUT AS TIME PASSED, THEY TALKED ABOUT THE MEETING WITH LESS FREQUENCY. CLAUDE STATED HE COULD NOT GIVE ANY NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO COULD VERIFY THAT HE AND LEON WERE IN ATLANTA AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING, BUT STATED HE AND LEON WORKED TOGETHER AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING AND HAVE DONE SO UNTIL APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS AGO. BOTH HE AND LEON WERE RESIDING AT DECATUR, GEORGIA AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING. A DIAGRAM OF THE INTERIOR OF PETE'S BAR WAS PROVIDED BY CLAUDE. CLAUDE STATED THAT THE UNKNOWN  
END PAGE TWO



EP 44-920

PAGE THREE

WHITE MALE DID NOT HAVE ANY TYPE OF ACCENT. CLAUDE DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNIDENTIFIED PERSON WHO ALLEGEDLY MADE THE PROPOSITION TO MURDER KING.

CLAUDE ADMITTED TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH HIS BROTHER AFTER FIRST INTERVIEW BY FBI AT MIDLAND. CLAUDE STATED HE DISCUSSED THE INTERVIEW BY THE FBI AT MIDLAND.

RECORDS OF SCOTTISH INN FOR OUTGOING CALLS DO NOT REFLECT ANY TELEPHONE CALLS MADE BY CLAUDE POWELL, JR. IT IS NOTED THAT AS MANY AS FOUR INDIVIDUALS STAYED TOGETHER IN THE MOTEL ROOM OCCUPIED BY POWELL, BUT AT THE PRESENT TIME POWELL HAS ONLY ONE ROOMMATE. EL PASO OBTAINED LIST OF ALL LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALLS FOR ROOM 211.

EL PASO WILL SHOW ARTISTS CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) UPON RECEIPT.

FD-302 FOLLOWS.

END

FBI AT LMM CLR TU

NR001 EP PLAIN

11:55AM URGENT FEBRUARY 6, 1976 CJP

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)  
ATLANTA (44-2386)  
MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM EL PASO (44-920)(P)

MURKIN

RE BUREAU NITEL DATED FEBRUARY 3, 1976.

CLAUDE POWELL, JR. RECONTACTED LATE PM FEBRUARY 5, 1976, SCOTTISH INN, ROOM 211, MIDLAND, TEXAS. DISCREPANCIES IN VERSION OF INCIDENT PETE'S BAR, ATLANTA, AS RELATED BY LEON AND HE (CLAUDE) DISCUSSED. CLAUDE STATED ANY DISCREPANCIES ARE RESULT OF PASSAGE OF TIME SINCE INCIDENT AND HIS STATEMENT IS ACCURATE IN HIS RECOLLECTION. HE CLARIFIED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GODFREY, STATING GODFREY WAS A FRIEND WHOM HE HAD KNOWN FOR MANY YEARS BUT GODFREY WAS MORE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH AND A BETTER FRIEND OF LEON. CLAUDE ALSO COMMENTED HE HAD LATER LEARNED GODFREY MADE AN INITIAL CONTACT WITH LEON APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE UNKNOWN WHITE MALE'S PROPOSITION TO MURDER KING, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE MEETING AT PETE'S BAR UNTIL THE UNKNOWN MALE SEATED HIMSELF AND MADE THE OFFER, OR DID HE HAVE ANY PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT TRANSPIRED BETWEEN  
END PAGE ONE

44-2386-2397

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB - 6 1976	
FBI-ATLANTA	

RIF



EP 44-920

PAGE TWO

GODFREY AND LEON.

OTHER THAN THESE CHANGES, CLAUDE STANDS BY HIS ORIGINAL STATEMENT, EMPHASIZING THAT HIS STATEMENT MAY DIFFER IN SOME ASPECTS WITH LEON'S STATEMENT, BUT THE FACT IS BOTH HE AND LEON WITNESSED AN OFFER OF A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF MONEY TO MURDER KING BY AN UNKNOWN WHITE MALE.

IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED:

HE AND LEON TALKED FREQUENTLY ABOUT THE ALLEGED MEETING AT PETE'S BAR AFTER THE MEETING OCCURRED, BUT AS TIME PASSED, THEY TALKED ABOUT THE MEETING WITH LESS FREQUENCY. CLAUDE STATED HE COULD NOT GIVE ANY NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO COULD VERIFY THAT HE AND LEON WERE IN ATLANTA AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING, BUT STATED HE AND LEON WORKED TOGETHER AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING AND HAVE DONE SO UNTIL APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS AGO. BOTH HE AND LEON WERE RESIDING AT DECATUR, GEORGIA AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING. A DIAGRAM OF THE INTERIOR OF PETE'S BAR WAS PROVIDED BY CLAUDE. CLAUDE STATED THAT THE UNKNOWN  
END PAGE TWO

EP 44-920

PAGE THREE

WHITE MALE DID NOT HAVE ANY TYPE OF ACCENT. CLAUDE DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNIDENTIFIED PERSON WHO ALLEGEDLY MADE THE PROPOSITION TO MURDER KING.

CLAUDE ADMITTED TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH HIS BROTHER AFTER FIRST INTERVIEW BY FBI AT MIDLAND. CLAUDE STATED HE DISCUSSED THE INTERVIEW BY THE FBI AT MIDLAND.

RECORDS OF SCOTTISH INN FOR OUTGOING CALLS DO NOT REFLECT ANY TELEPHONE CALLS MADE BY CLAUDE POWELL, JR. IT IS NOTED THAT AS MANY AS FOUR INDIVIDUALS STAYED TOGETHER IN THE MOTEL ROOM OCCUPIED BY POWELL, BUT AT THE PRESENT TIME POWELL HAS ONLY ONE ROOMMATE. EL PASO OBTAINED LIST OF ALL LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALLS FOR ROOM 211.

EL PASO WILL SHOW ARTISTS CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) UPON RECEIPT.

FD-302 FOLLOWS.

END

FBI AT LMM CLR TU

NR003 KX PLAIN

427 PM URGENT FEB. 7, 1976 DCK

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM KNOXVILLE (44-696) (RUC)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR FEB. 6, 1976.

LOIS WALDEN GODFREY AND HUSBAND, ROBERT K. GODFREY,  
ROUTE ONE, GRASSY CREEK ROAD, COPPER HILL, TENN., INTER-  
VIEWED FEB. 7, 1976. GODFREY STATED ENTIRE FAMILY MOVED  
TO ATLANTA, GA. AREA IN LATE 1940'S AND HE IS ONLY  
MEMBER OF FAMILY CURRENT IN TENN.

HE ADVISED HIS MOTHER, MARY GODFREY, RESIDES WITH  
HIS SISTER, SHIRLEY BULLOCK, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, BUT THAT  
BULLOCK CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE MARIETTA, GA. SCHOOL  
BOARD WHERE SHE IS EMPLOYED DIRECTING TRAFFIC AT SCHOOL  
CROSSINGS. OTHER SISTERS, MRS. R. L. (EDNA) ENSLEY AND  
MRS. IRA (DENA) SMITH, RESIDE ON ROUTE ONE, BLUE RIDGE, GA.  
BROTHER, JAMES T. GODFREY, ALSO RESIDES ROUTE ONE, BLUE

44-2386-2398

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>ru</i>	FILED <i>ru</i>
FEB - 7 1976	
FBI-ATLANTA	

*[Signature]*

PAGE TWO

44-696

DGE, GA. MRS. GODFREY ADVISED OTHER BROTHER, LEE RROLL GODFREY, HAS IN THE PAST BEEN INVOLVED IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND HAS USED THE NAME ARNOLD RAY GODFREY IN THE PAST. ACCORDING TO THE GODFREYS, LEE RROLL GODFREY'S WHEREABOUTS PRESENTLY UNKNOWN, HOWEVER, HE WAS INCARCERATED AT BLUE RIDGE COUNTY JAIL DURING CHRISTMAS, 1974. THEY ALSO ADVISED THAT IN NOV. 1975, ANOTHER BROTHER, RYAN S. GODFREY, DIED AND EFFORTS TO LOCATE LEE GODFREY AT THAT TIME NEGATIVE. LEE GODFREY IN THE BLUE RIDGE, GA. AREA SINCE NOV. AND RELATIVES BELIEVE HE IS RESIDING IN LILJAY, GA. NEITHER LOIS OR ROBERT GODFREY ACQUAINTED WITH A RALPH (LNU) AND STATED THAT BROTHER ARNOLD HAS NOT RESIDED IN THE COPPER HILL AREA IN 27 YEARS AND HAS NO ASSOCIATES IN THE AREA. THEY ADVISED ARNOLD MARRIED TO LILLIE CAMERON AFTER MOVING TO ATLANTA.

REFERENCES FRANK WALDEN, WALTER STYMUS AND CLAUDE LAWFORD LISTED AS REFERENCES BY ARNOLD IN 1949 WERE NEIGHBORS OF THE GODFREY FAMILY IN COPPER HILL PRIOR TO



AGE THREE

K 44-696

MOVING TO ATLANTA. LOIS GODFREY ADVISED ARNOLD NOT IN  
CONTACT WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS SINCE MOVING TO ATLANTA.

LEAD. ATLANTA. AT MARIETTA AND BLUE RIDGE, GA.  
LOCATE AND INTERVIEW RELATIVES OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY  
CONCERNING ASSOCIATE BY THE NAME OF RALPH (LNU). ALSO  
ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS OF BROTHER, LEE CARROLL  
GODFREY, WHITE MALE, AGE 42, AND SET FORTH LEADS TO  
LOCATE AND INTERVIEW HIM CONCERNING INSTANT MATTER.

END

BI AT CLR CEB

F15414

Mag unit, pls. rtrn to Jay

FBI

Date:

2/6/76

21

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

PLAINTEXT

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_

TELETYPE

URGENT

(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) 6:07P/whk  
 EL PASO (44-920) 6:41P/bmc  
 MEMPHIS (44-1987) 7:10P/BES  
 KNOXVILLE 8:01P/whk  
 FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL TO THE DIRECTOR, FEBRUARY 5, 1976. FOR THE INFORMATION OF KNOXVILLE, LEON POWELL, A RESIDENT OF ATLANTA, CONTACTED THE ATLANTA OFFICE ON JANUARY 4, 1976 AND ADVISED HE AND HIS BROTHER, CLAUDE POWELL, JR. WERE APPROACHED BY AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED ARNOLD RAY GODFREY IN LATE NOVEMBER, 1967 WITH AN OFFER TO ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FOR A SUM OF MONEY. GODFREY ALLEGEDLY PUT THEM IN CONTACT WITH A RALPH (LNU) WHO OFFERED THE POWELL'S \$75,000 TO ASSASSINATE KING. THE POWELLS REFUSED THE OFFER. LEON AND CLAUDE POWELL HAVE BEEN POLYGRAPHED. LEON'S POLYGRAPH WAS INCONCLUSIVE, HOWEVER, EXAMINER FOR CLAUDE POWELL WAS OF OPINION POWELL TELLING TRUTH. ARNOLD RAY GODFREY DENIES INVOLVEMENT, HOWEVER, REFUSED POLYGRAPH AND HAS SINCE HIRED ATTORNEY AND REFUSED TO ANSWER FURTHER QUESTION. GODFREY IS A WHITE MALE, BORN [REDACTED] AT COPPER HILL, TENNESSEE.

END PAGE ONE.

(1) Atlanta

TJW:far

(1)

44-2386-2398

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

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

GPO : 1975 O - 590-982

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

EFFORTS TO LOCATE LEON POWELL ON THIS DATE STILL NEGATIVE. POWELL'S DAUGHTER-IN-LAW CONTACTED AND ADVISED SHE HAS NOT SEEN HER FATHER-IN-LAW SINCE HE LEFT HER RESIDENCE. SHE WOULD ATTEMPT TO LOCATE HIM AND ADVISE HIM TO CONTACT THE ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI.

MRS. L. N. PENNINGTON, DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, CITY OF ATLANTA, REVIEWED HER RECORDS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. THE RECORDS SHOW THAT GODFREY HAS A WIFE NAMED MILLIE. NO OTHER RELATIVES ARE LISTED ON THE EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION. EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION WAS FILED IN 1949 AND THE FOLLOWING REFERENCES WERE NOTED: FRANK WALDON, ROUTE 1, COPPER HILL, TENNESSEE; WALTER STYNUS, ROUTE 1, COPPER HILL; CLAUDE CRANFORD, ROUTE 1, COPPER HILL. RECORDS FURTHER REFLECT THAT GODFREY WENT THROUGH THE FIFTH GRADE AT COPPER HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

CLINTON STANFORD, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, ENVIRONMENT AND STREET SERVICES, CITY OF ATLANTA, WAS CONTACTED AND ADVISED ALL RECORDS CONCERNING THE EXACT DAYS WORKED BY ANY CITY EMPLOYEES ARE CURRENTLY STORED IN A VAULT AT CITY HALL. HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO LOCATE THESE RECORDS AND VERIFY THE WHEREABOUTS OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY DURING THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

0.10BER.  
A

END PAGE TWO.

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

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

1967, AND MARCH AND APRIL, 1968 HE STATED HE WOULD TELEPHONICALLY CONTACT THE FBI OFFICE WHEN HE LOCATED THESE RECORDS.

KNOXVILLE AT COPPER HILL. WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE REFERENCES FOR ARNOLD RAY GODFREY AND ALSO ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY RELATIVES OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, HAS REQUESTED THAT GODFREY'S RELATIVES, ASSOCIATES BE IDENTIFIED AND INTERVIEWED CONCERNING ANY ASSOCIATE OF GODFREY NAMED RALPH.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW LEON POWELL.

END.

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

GPO : 1975 O - 590-992



NR001 AT PLAIN

8:21 PM URGENT 2-6-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-363)

MEMPHIS (44-1937)

KNOXVILLE

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL TO THE DIRECTOR, FEBRUARY 5, 1976. FOR THE INFORMATION OF KNOXVILLE, LEON POWELL, A RESIDENT OF ATLANTA, CONTACTED THE ATLANTA OFFICE ON JANUARY 4, 1976 AND ADVISED HE AND HIS BROTHER, CLAUDE POWELL, JR. WERE APPROACHED BY AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED ARNOLD RAY GODFREY IN LATE NOVEMBER, 1967 WITH AN OFFER TO ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FOR A SUM OF MONEY. GODFREY ALLEGEDLY PUT THEM IN CONTACT WITH A RALPH (LNU) WHO OFFERED THE POWELL'S \$75,000 TO ASSASSINATE KING. THE POWELLS REFUSED THE OFFER. LEON AND CLAUDE POWELL HAVE BEEN POLYGRAPHED. LEON'S POLYGRAPH WAS INCONCLUSIVE, HOWEVER, EXAMINER FOR CLAUDE POWELL WAS OF OPINION POWELL TELLING TRUTH. ARNOLD RAY GODFREY DENIES INVOLVEMENT, HOWEVER, REFUSED POLYGRAPH AND HAS SINCE HIRED ATTORNEY AND REFUSED TO ANSWER FURTHER QUESTION. GODFREY IS A WHITE MALE, BORN [REDACTED] AT COPPER HILL, TENNESSEE.

END PAGE ONE.

44-2386-2399

ONE-SEVEN

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

*pls call me  
EXPEDITE  
C.P. 2*

*POE*

*Serial # 2394*

*C/A w. l. row*

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

EFFORTS TO LOCATE LEON POWELL ON THIS DATE STILL NEGATIVE. POWELL'S DAUGHTER-IN-LAW CONTACTED AND ADVISED SHE HAS "NOT SEEN" HER FATHER-IN-LAW SINCE HE LEFT HER RESIDENCE. SHE WOULD ATTEMPT TO LOCATE HIM AND ADVISE HIM TO CONTACT THE ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI.

MRS. L. W. PENNINGTON, DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, CITY OF ATLANTA, REVIEWED HER RECORDS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. THE RECORDS SHOW THAT GODFREY HAS A WIFE NAMED WILLIE. NO OTHER RELATIVES ARE LISTED ON THE EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION. EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION WAS FILED IN 1949 AND THE FOLLOWING REFERENCES WERE NOTED: FRANK WALDON, ROUTE 1, COPPER HILL, TENNESSEE; WALTER STYNNIS, ROUTE 1, COPPER HILL; CLAUDE CRAWFORD, ROUTE 1, COPPER HILL. RECORDS FURTHER REFLECT THAT GODFREY WENT THROUGH THE FIFTH GRADE AT COPPER HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

CLINTON STANFORD, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, ENVIRONMENT AND STREET SERVICES, CITY OF ATLANTA, WAS CONTACTED AND ADVISED ALL RECORDS CONCERNING THE EXACT DAYS WORKED BY ANY CITY EMPLOYEES ARE CURRENTLY STORED IN A VAULT AT CITY HALL. HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO LOCATE THESE RECORDS AND VERIFY THE WHEREABOUTS OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY DURING THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER  
OCTOBER,  
1  
call city  
END PAGE TWO.