

NR012 AT PLAIN

6:53 PM URGENT 2-17-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL FEBRUARY 13, 1976.

WILLIAM SANFORD VENABLE CONTACTED THIS DATE AND ADVISED THAT HE AND ROBERT MC GARTY, PREVIOUSLY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1455 MORELAND AVENUE. AT THIS RESIDENCE WAS A LOUNGE KNOWN BY VARIOUS NAMES, INCLUDING PETE'S PLACE AND BILL BAILEY'S. IN 1966 BUCK BAILEY TOOK OVER THIS LOUNGE AND NAMED IT BILL BAILEY'S. AT APPROXIMATELY JANUARY, 1968, LEWIS W. CLARK HAD THE LIQUOR LICENSE CHANGED TO HIS NAME. PRIOR TO THIS TIME LEWIS CLARK HAD MANAGED AND RUN THE LOUNGE KNOWN AS BILL BAILEY'S FOR BUCK BAILEY. BUCK BAILEY NEVER PARTICIPATED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE LOUNGE.

VENABLE DOES NOT KNOW ANYBODY BY THE NAME OF POWELL, DOES NOT KNOW ANY "DUKE". HE KNOWS RAY GODFREY BY NAME, HOWEVER, HAS NEVER PERSONALLY MET THE INDIVIDUAL. HE DOES NOT KNOW ANY OF GODFREY'S PERSONAL ASSOCIATES.

END PAGE ONE.

OUT-GONE

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

Wilson *HW*

44-2386-2412

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

LEWIS W. CLARK CONTACTED AND ADVISED HE MANAGED BILL BAILEY'S LOUNGE, LOCATED AT 1455 MORELAND AVENUE FROM SEPTEMBER, 1966 THROUGH 1973. HE PERSONALLY ACTED AS BARTENDER AT THE LOUNGE NUMEROUS TIMES. AFTER BEING SHOWN A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS, HE PICKED OUT RAY GODFREY AND CLAUDE POWELL AS BEING PERSONS WHO FREQUENTED THE BAR. HE DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE PICTURE OF LEON POWELL. HE STATED CLAUDE POWELL IS A VERY QUIET INDIVIDUAL AND NEVER KNEW HIM TO BE IN ANY TROUBLE. RAY GODFREY WAS AN EXTREMELY EXTROVERTED INDIVIDUAL, ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY THE GUITAR IN THE BAR. HE WAS SHOWN A SPREAD, INCLUDING THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH AND WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANYONE. HE HAD NEVER SEEN ANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS IN THE BAR. CLARK ADVISED THAT JUNE HALL WAS THE DAY BARTENDER AT BAILEY'S AND SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SUPPLY FURTHER INFORMATION. HE COULD NOT RECALL ANY OTHER EMPLOYEES WHO WORKED AT BILL BAILEY'S. DIANE BRADY NEVER EMPLOYED AT BILL BAILEY'S.

JUNE HALL CONTACTED AND SHOWN SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS. SHE PICKED OUT CLAUDE POWELL, RAY GODFREY AS PERSONS WHO FREQUENTED THE BAR. SHE STATED CLAUDE POWELL VERY QUIET INDIVIDUAL WHEN
END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

SOBER, HOWEVER, COULD BE VERY UNRULY WHEN DRINKING. GODFREY VERY LIKEABLE INDIVIDUAL AND SHE DID NOT THINK HE COULD BE IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE.

HALL WAS SHOWN A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS, INCLUDING ARTIST'S CONCEPTION AND ADVISED SHE HAS NEVER SEEN ANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS. WHEN SPECIFICALLY SHOWN THE COMPOSITE OF RALPH, SHE WAS SURE SHE HAD NEVER SEEN THIS INDIVIDUAL AND FELT BECAUSE OF HIS GOOD LOOKS, WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED HIM IF HE CAME IN THE BAR.

JACKIE POWELL, WIFE OF CLAUDE POWELL, JR. INTERVIEWED AT HER RESIDENCE AND ADVISED THAT ONLY TIME SHE HEARD ABOUT INCIDENT INVOLVING OFFER OF MONEY TO ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WAS WHEN HER HUSBAND MENTIONED IT TO HER AFTER KING HAD BEEN ASSASSINATED. HER HUSBAND TOLD HER HE HAD BEEN OFFERED A SUM OF MONEY TO ASSASSINATE KING, BUT REFUSED CONTRACT. SHE STATED SHE HAS BEEN MARRIED TO CLAUDE FOR TWENTY YEARS AND THAT THE WHOLE STORY, IN HER MIND, IS A FABRICATION BY HER HUSBAND AND HIS ALCOHOLIC BROTHER, LEON. SHE WOULD NOT BELIEVE ANY OF THIS STORY; HOWEVER HAD NO FACTS TO BACK UP HER OPINION. SHE STATED AGAIN THAT SHE FELT GOVERNMENT WAS WASTING THEIR TIME AND SHE

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR (44-2386)

WAS SURE THAT WHOLE STORE IS A FABRICATION.

MRS. POWELL ADVISED HER HUSBAND, CLAUDE, HAD BEEN IN ATLANTA OVER THE PAST WEEKEND, HOWEVER, WAS RETURNING TO MIDLAND, TEXAS.

EL PASO AT MIDLAND. UPON RECEIPT OF CORRECTED COMPOSITE, WILL EXHIBIT TO CLAUDE POWELL. CORRECTED COMPOSIT BEING FORWARDED DIRECTLY TO MIDLAND RA VIA REGISTERED MAIL.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. ATTEMPT TO FURTHER IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW FORMER CUSTOMERS PETE'S PLACE.

END.

PLS HOLD

T28,29

Reg. pls rtr, Mag recut,

FBI

Date:

2/17/76

PLAINTEXT

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

012

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) *6:22P/jjt*
 EL PASO (44-920) *6:20P/sjc*
 MEMPHIS (44-1987) *6:53P/jjt*
 FROM: ATLANTA ((44-2386)) (P)
 MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL FEBRUARY 13, 1976.

WILLIAM SANFORD VENABLE CONTACTED THIS DATE AND ADVISED THAT HE AND ROBERT MC GARITY, PREVIOUSLY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1455 MORELAND AVENUE. AT THIS RESIDENCE WAS A LOUNGE KNOWN BY VARIOUS NAMES, INCLUDING PETE'S PLACE AND BILL BAILEY'S. IN 1966 BUCK BAILEY TOOK OVER THIS LOUNGE AND NAMED IT BILL BAILEY'S. AT APPROXIMATELY JANUARY, 1968, LEWIS W. CLARK HAD THE LIQUOR LICENSE CHANGED TO HIS NAME. PRIOR TO THIS TIME LEWIS CLARK HAD MANAGED AND RUN THE LOUNGE KNOWN AS BILL BAILEY'S FOR BUCK BAILEY. BUCK BAILEY NEVER PARTICIPATED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE LOUNGE. VENABLE DOES NOT KNOW ANYBODY BY THE NAME OF POWELL, DOES NOT KNOW ANY "DUKE". HE KNOWS RAY GODFREY BY NAME, HOWEVER, HAS NEVER PERSONALLY MET THE INDIVIDUAL. HE DOES NOT KNOW ANY OF GODFREY'S PERSONAL ASSOCIATES.

END PAGE ONE.

1 - Atlanta

TJW:far

(1)

OUT-GOING

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

44-2386-2412

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

JTD/B *see at*

M

Per

luf

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

LEWIS W. CLARK CONTACTED AND ADVISED HE MANAGED BILL BAILEY'S LOUNGE, LOCATED AT 1455 MORELAND AVENUE FROM SEPTEMBER, 1966 THROUGH 1973. HE PERSONALLY ACTED AS BARTENDER AT THE LOUNGE NUMEROUS TIMES. AFTER BEING SHOWN A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS, HE PICKED OUT RAY GODFREY AND CLAUDE POWELL AS BEING PERSONS WHO FREQUENTED THE BAR. HE DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE PICTURE OF LEON POWELL. HE STATED CLAUDE POWELL IS A VERY QUIET INDIVIDUAL AND NEVER KNEW HIM TO BE IN ANY TROUBLE. RAY GODFREY WAS AN EXTREMELY EXTROVERTED INDIVIDUAL, ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY THE GUITAR IN THE BAR. HE WAS SHOWN A SPREAD, INCLUDING THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH AND WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANYONE. HE HAD NEVER SEEN ANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS IN THE BAR. CLARK ADVISED THAT JUNE HALL WAS THE DAY BARTENDER AT BAILEY'S AND SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SUPPLY FURTHER INFORMATION. HE COULD NOT RECALL ANY OTHER EMPLOYEES WHO WORKED AT BILL BAILEY'S. DIANE BRADY NEVER EMPLOYED AT BILL BAILEY'S.

JUNE HALL CONTACTED AND SHOWN SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS. SHE PICKED OUT CLAUDE POWELL, RAY GODFREY AS PERSONS WHO FREQUENTED THE BAR. SHE STATED CLAUDE POWELL VERY QUIET INDIVIDUAL WHEN
END PAGE TWO.

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

GPO : 1975 O - 590-992

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

SOBER, HOWEVER, COULD BE VERY UNRULY WHEN DRINKING. GODFREY VERY LIKEABLE INDIVIDUAL AND SHE DID NOT THINK HE COULD BE IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE.

HALL WAS SHOWN A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS, INCLUDING ARTIST'S CONCEPTION AND ADVISED SHE HAS NEVER SEEN ANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS. WHEN SPECIFICALLY SHOWN THE COMPOSITE OF RALPH, SHE WAS SURE SHE HAD NEVER SEEN THIS INDIVIDUAL AND FELT BECAUSE OF HIS GOOD LOOKS, WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED HIM IF HE CAME IN THE BAR.

JACKIE POWELL, WIFE OF CLAUDE POWELL, JR. INTERVIEWED AT HER RESIDENCE AND ADVISED THAT ONLY TIME SHE HEARD ABOUT INCIDENT INVOLVING OFFER OF MONEY TO ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WAS WHEN HER HUSBAND MENTIONED IT TO HER AFTER KING HAD BEEN ASSASSINATED. HER HUSBAND TOLD HER HE HAD BEEN OFFERED A SUM OF MONEY OT ASSASSINATE KING, BUT REFUSED CONTRACT. SHE STATED SHE HAS BEEN MARRIED TO CLAUDE FOR TWENTY YEARS AND THAT THE WHOLE STORY, IN HER MIND, IS A FABRICATION BY HER HUSBAND AND HIS ALCOHOLIC BROTHER, LEON. SHE WOULD NOT BELIEVE ANY OF THIS STORY; HOWEVER HAD NO FACTS TO BACK UP HER OPINION. SHE STATED AGAIN THAT SHE FELT GOVERNMENT WAS WASTING THEIR TIME AND SHE

END PAGE THREE

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

GPO : 1975 O - 590-992

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE FOUR (44-2386)

WAS SURE THAT WHOLE STORY ~~Y~~ IS A FABRICATION.

MRS. POWELL ADVISED HER HUSBAND, CLAUDE, HAD BEEN IN ATLANTA OVER THE PAST WEEKEND, HOWEVER, WAS RETURNING TO MIDLAND, TEXAS.

EL PASO AT MIDLAND. UPON RECEIPT OF CORRECTED COMPOSITE, WILL EXHIBIT TO CLAUDE POWELL. CORRECTED COMPOSIT BEING FORWARDED DIRECTLY TO MIDLAND RA VIA REGISTERED MAIL.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. ATTEMPT TO FURTHER IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW FORMER CUSTOMERS PETE'S PLACE.

END.

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

GPO : 1975 O - 590-992