

AT 44-2386

him and his brother. In fact, upon recollection, the name of the bar was not even Pete's Place. At the time of the incident the name of the bar was Bill Bailey's.

To the best of his memory, both he and his brother were working for RAY COOLEY, an individual dry wall contractor at the time of the incident. COOLEY is now employed by Fisher Dry Wall in Atlanta, Georgia.

LEON advised that the corrected artist's conception dated January 23, 1976, is a good likeness of the individual he knows as RALPH (last name unknown).

He has talked with his brother CLAUDE various times since the original offer.

LEON is familiar with W. VENABLE, also known as "Yank" and BILL McGARITY. These two individuals owned the property and the building in which Pete's bar was located. Neither VENABLE or McGARITY are RALPH (last name unknown).

LEON advised the only male close associate of RAY GODFREY was a relative named LEE GODFREY.

LEON advised he would be willing to testify to everything that he has told the FBI.

LEON advised upon reflection and having to draw a diagram of the bar he is quite sure that he, his brother, and RALPH (last name unknown) went to one of the tables located in the back part of the bar rather than one of the booths as he originally stated.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/25/76

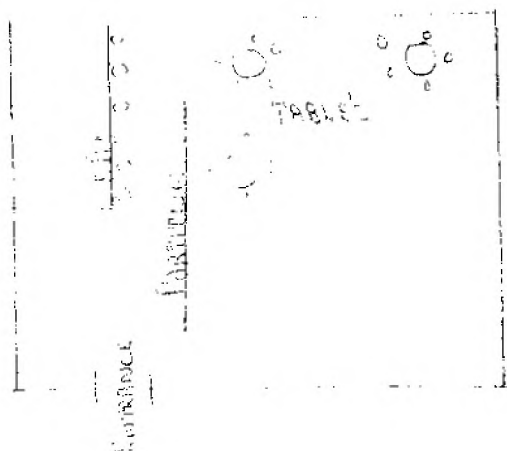
Attached hereto is a sketch of Pete's Place, the bar where RALPH (last name unknown) approached LEON POWELL and CLAUDE POWELL to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr., as described by LEON POWELL.

Interviewed on 2/11/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386

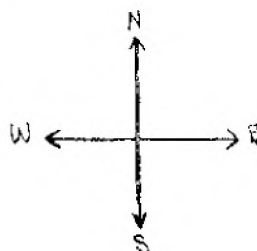
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/18/76

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☆ U.S. GPO: 1974-853-294



SKETCH of PRATE'S PLACE as described by
LEON POWERS



MORELAND AVE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

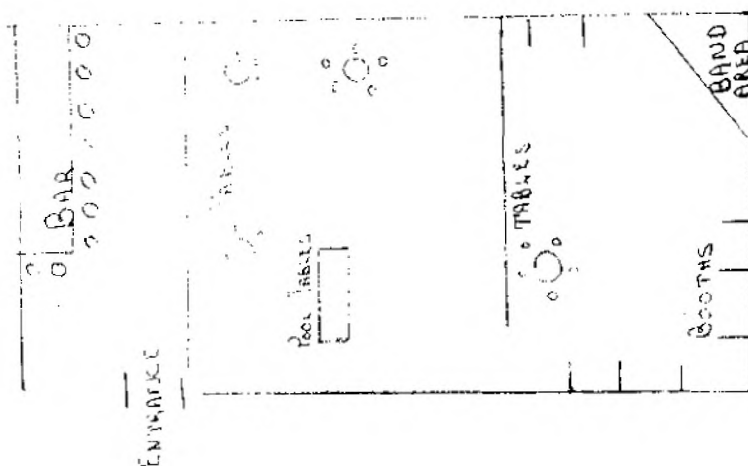
Date of transcription 2/25/76

Attached hereto is a sketch of Bill Bailey's
Lounge as described by L. W. CLARK.

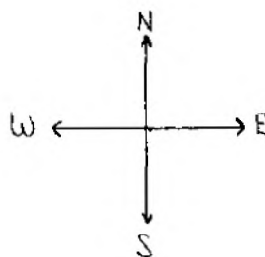
Interviewed on 2/17/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/24/76

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U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294



SKETCH of BILL BAILEY'S LOUNGE AS DESCRIBE by
 L.W. CLARK. (NOTE THE AREA OF BAR CONSTRUCTED by L.W. CLARK
 IN 1969 - AREA WITH BANDSTAND)



MORELAND AVE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/2/76

JACKIE POWELL, 4163 Camby Lane, Decatur, Georgia, was contacted and supplied the following information:

The only time that she heard about the incident involving the offer of money to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was when her husband mentioned it to her after KING had been assassinated. She was positive her husband had never mentioned it to her before the assassination. Her husband told her he had been offered a large sum of money to assassinate KING but had refused the contract.

She advised she had been married to CLAUDE POWELL for twenty years and knows him quite well. It is her opinion that the whole story is a fabrication made up by her husband and his brother, LEON. She considers LEON to be an alcoholic. She would not believe any of the stories that LEON and CLAUDE told her. She stated that she felt the Government was wasting its time on this allegation.

Interviewed on 2/17/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386
by SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, Jr.
SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/24/76

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AT 44-2386

TJW:cw

1

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

On February 6, 1976, CLINTON STANFORD, Administrative Assistant, Environment and Street Services, City of Atlanta, advised all records concerning the exact days worked by any city employees are currently stored in a vault at City Hall. He stated he would attempt to locate any records to see if ARNOLD RAY GODFREY was working for the city during the months of October, November, and December, 1967, and March and April, 1968.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/6/76

Mrs. L. N. PENNINGTON, Director, of Personnel, City of Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia, advised a review of her records for ARNOLD RAY GODFREY reflect that GODFREY applied for employment in the City in 1949, listing his address as 569 Gresham Road, Atlanta. GODFREY also listed that he was married to a woman named BILLIE. There were no other relatives listed. GODFREY listed the following references:

Tennessee;

**MEMORANDUM
OF CALL**

Previous editions usable

TO:

Cheryl

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY—

☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization)

☐ PLEASE PHONE ► (Enter area code,
if necessary)

☐ DSN

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN

☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL

☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*Delores in PCH
called*

*She has info ready
For you to pick up*

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

NSN 7540-00-634-4018
50363-112

OPTIONAL FORM 363 (Rev. 7-94)
General Services Administration

★ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955-385-890

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 3/2/76

CLINTON STANFORD, assistant to the Commissioner Environment and Street Service, City of Atlanta, advised that a review of his records shows that ARNOLD RAY GODFREY did not take leave during October and November, 1967. This would show that GODFREY was on duty every day during those two months. However, for the two-week pay period beginning April 3, 1968, through April 17, 1968, GODFREY was charged with three vacation days. For the two-week pay period beginning April 17, 1968 through May 1, 1968, GODFREY was charged with two vacation days. The records do not show the exact date of these vacation days. The records STANFORD checked are the combination of departmental records and merely shows totals. The departmental records which would show the background are purged every three years thus the records have been destroyed for 1967 and 1968.

Interviewed on 2/18/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386

by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/24/76

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3-5-761

HARRY H. NEELY, Personnel Records, Georgia National Guard, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

All of the records concerning individuals who had been in the National Guard during the 1950's have been reduced to microfilm. This microfilm data would only show background information such as date of birth, place of birth, employment, enlistment date, discharge date, military occupations and day of tour duty. The information contained on the microfilm would be very sketchy and would not contain any medical history.

After review of the records, the following information was obtained from the National Guard:

Records showed that ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, born on [redacted], at Copperhill, Tennessee, enlisted on January 9, 1951, in a medical company attached with the 122nd Infantry. This unit was then located in Atlanta, Georgia. GODFREY was discharged on January 8, 1954 after he completed his reserve obligation for three years. The reason for discharge was expiration of term of service. GODFREY was discharged honorably as a corporal. GODFREY served three tours of 15 days encampment. The days of these tours of duty are July 8-28, 1951, July 27 to August 10, 1952, and July 3-19, 1953. His occupation during service was a light truck operator. The addresses GODFREY listed as his residence were 73 Cleveland Street, and 74 Atlanta Avenue.

Interviewed on 2-26-76at Atlanta, GeorgiaFile # Atlanta 44-2386by SA THOMAS J. WILSON:ddDate dictated 3-3-76

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AT 44-2386

AT COPPERHILL, TENNESSEE:

LOIS WALDON GODFREY and ROBERT K. GODFREY, Route One, Grassy Creek Road, Copperhill, Tennessee, were contacted on February 7, 1976, and advised most of the GODFREY family moved to the Atlanta, Georgia area in the late 1940s. She and her husband are the only members of the family currently residing in Tennessee.

MARY GODFREY, ARNOLD RAY GODFREY's mother, resides with her daughter, SHIRLEY BULLOCH, address unknown, however, BULLOCH is employed directing traffic at school crossings in the Marietta, Georgia area. ARNOLD's sister, Mrs. R. L. (EDNA) ENSLEY and Mrs. IRA (DENA) SMITH, reside on Route One, Blue Ridge, Georgia. A brother, JAMES T. GODFREY, also resides at Route One, Blue Ridge, Georgia. Another brother, LEE CARROLL GODFREY, has in the past been involved in criminal activities and has used the name ARNOLD RAY GODFREY in the past.

During Christmas, 1974, LEE CARROLL GODFREY was incarcerated at the Blue Ridge County Jail, Blue Ridge, Georgia. LEE CARROLL GODFREY's whereabouts are not known, however, it is rumored that he is residing in Ellijay, Georgia.

Another brother, RAY S. GODFREY, died in November, 1975. Neither LOIS nor ROBERT GODFREY are acquainted with a RALPH (LNU) and stated ARNOLD RAY GODFREY has not resided in the Copperhill, Tennessee area in 27 years and has no associates in the area.

ARNOLD RAY GODFREY married a girl named MILLIE CAMERON after moving to Atlanta. References FRANK WALTON, WALTER STYMUS and CLAUDE CRANFORD were neighbors of the GODFREY family in Copperhill, prior to the family moving to Atlanta. LOIS GODFREY advised ARNOLD RAY GODFREY has not been in any contact with these individuals since moving to Atlanta.

AT 44-2386

TJW:cw

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA THOMAS J. WILSON at Fannin County, Georgia, on February 11,
1976.

PAUL HIGDON, Sheriff, Fannin County, Georgia
Sheriff's Office, advised LEE CARROLL GODFREY is a white male,
date of birth [REDACTED] GODFREY has served time in the
Georgia State Prison for armed robbery and murder. LEE GODFREY
was arrested on December 23, 1973, for theft by receiving by
Fannin County. LEE GODFREY made bond, however, failed to show
for trial and his whereabouts now are unknown.

AT 44-2366

HJP:pjg

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA HAROLD J. POE at Blue Ridge, Georgia:

On February 12, 1976, files of the Fannin County Sheriff's Department revealed LEE CARROLL GODFREY, also known as LEE RAY GODFREY, had been arrested on December 23, 1974, on the charge of theft by receiving stolen property. He was released on bond on December 27, 1974, and failed to appear for arraignment after which a bench warrant was issued for his arrest. The warrant is still outstanding. He gave his date of birth as [redacted] Social Security Number [redacted]. A photograph of GODFREY was obtained from the file.

On February 18, 1976, Mrs. R.L. (EDNA) EASLEY, Highway Number 5, sister of LEE CARROLL GODFREY, and MARIE GODFREY, mother of EDNA and LEE, advised they had no knowledge of LEE's whereabouts. They had no knowledge of LEON or CLAUDE POWELL, anyone named DUKE or any relationship or interest either LEE or RAY GODFREY in MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., or JAMES EARL RAY. They knew no one named RALPH who associated with either LEE or RAY.

On February 18, 1976, Mrs. IRA (DENA) SMITH, Epworth Community, advised she is a sister to LEE CARROLL GODFREY and reiterated the information as furnished by her mother and sister.

On February 18, 1976, JAMES T. GODFREY, brother of LEE and RAY GODFREY, residing Sugar Creek Road, advised he had no idea of where LEE was residing at the present time. He did not know anyone named LEON or CLAUDE POWELL, anyone named DUKE or any interest LEE or RAY GODFREY had with MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., or JAMES EARL RAY. JAMES said a man named RALPH (SETZER) (Phonetic) used to play a guitar with LEE and RAY at a bar in Atlanta. RALPH was not further described.

AT 44-2386

2

On February 18, 1976, LEE CARROLL GODFREY was located on Boardtown Road in Northern Gilmer County. He advised he did not know anyone named LEON or CLAUDE POWELL or anyone named DUKE. He further said he had never heard his brother RAY mention anything about MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., or JAMES EARL RAY. Concerning an individual named RALPH, LEE said a man named RALPH SMITH used to make music with RAY and LEE at the office, a bar on Flat Shoals Avenue in Atlanta. LEE was not positive about RALPH's last name and described him as 45 years old, 5'10", 105 pounds, short hair. LEE had not seen RALPH for over two years. LEE also said he uses his brother's RAY's, name on occasion. He concluded by stating it was ludicrous to connect his brother or him with MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and, in fact, LEE said he was in prison in Reidsville, Georgia, when KING was killed.

44-1110

On February 23, 1976, a composite photograph of an individual known as RALPH (Last Name Unknown) was shown to TOMMY GODFREY residing on Sugar Creek Road, Wilcox County, Georgia. TOMMY is a brother to both LEE CARROLL and ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. TOMMY advised that he did not know the individual depicted in the composite and furthermore did not know anyone named RALPH SMITH or RALPH SETZER. He mentioned the name RALPH SETZER during the prior interview only because LEE CARROLL GODFREY related to him about his contact with the FBI and their interest in a RALPH. TOMMY stated LEE told him the man's name was RALPH SETZER.

On February 23, 1976, LEE CARROLL GODFREY, Boardtown Road, Wilcox County, Georgia, was shown a composite photograph of RALPH (Last Name Unknown) and advised it was quite dissimilar to the man he recognized as RALPH SMITH, a former associate of his and his brother ARNOLD. When he last saw RALPH SMITH three and a half years ago, RALPH had a duck haircut full on the sides and flat on the top. He was also approximately 45 years old at that time. The only individual LEE CARROLL could remember who knew RALPH was a divorcee named LAVENE COOK (phonetic), who resided in Marietta, Georgia. COOK used to date RALPH and both of them frequented the lounge known as The Office.

A review of the Greater Atlanta Southern Bell Telephone Directory failed to reflect any listings for a LAVENE or a LAVERNE COOK. A review of the Cobb County and City of Marietta Directory also failed to reflect any listing for a LAVENE or a LAVERNE COOK.

AT 44-2386

TAM:ds

1

At Wilmer County, Georgia, on March 2, 1976, LEE CARROLL GODFREY was recontacted and advised he did not know RALPH SELTZER or SELTZER and did not mention either name to his brother TOM.

LEE GODFREY traveled to Atlanta on the weekend of February 28, 1976, and talked to his brother ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. ARNOLD related that he did know a RALPH SMITH, however, when LEE described the individual he knew as RALPH SMITH, ARNOLD said he thought the man's name was JIM SMITH. Neither knew of SMITH's current whereabouts. ARNOLD stated he knew LEON and CLAUDE POWELL by sight but did not associate with either. ARNOLD described the POWELLS as drunks. LEE advised ARNOLD is and always had been afraid of the law which is the reason he is not cooperating with the FBI. LEE stated that ARNOLD denied any knowledge of the alleged contract to assassinate Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. or anything related to the Bureau investigation.

LEE CARROLL GODFREY advised that while incarcerated in the Milledgeville, Georgia, State Penitentiary, date unrecalled, Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was arrested for participating in a demonstration and placed in a cell adjacent to LEE CARROLL GODFREY. LEE CARROLL GODFREY stated that he talked to KING for two days prior to his release.

AT 44-2386

TJW:cw

1

The following investigation was conducted at Atlanta, Georgia, by SA THOMAS J. WILSON, on February 12, 1976:

Captain LONG, Cobb County Police Department, Marietta, Georgia, advised a review of his records of the school division, showed that Cobb County does have employed a school crossing guard named SHIRLEY BULLOCH. BULLOCH, however, has recently moved and does not show a new address. BULLOCH can be located at Wheeler High School, Marietta, Georgia, any morning between 8:00 and 9:00 AM.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/23/76

MARY GODFREY, Bell Meade Apartments, Kennesaw, Georgia, advised she is the mother of ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. She does not know any of her son RAY's friends. RAY has never been in any trouble and she considers him to be a very outstanding individual.

She was unable to pick out from a spread of photographs the pictures of CLAUDE or LEON POWELL, or RALPH (LNU). She stated she did not know any of the individuals.

Interviewed on 2/13/76 at Kennesaw, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON, and
SA ALAN L. BROWN TJW:CW Date dictated 2/17/76

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* U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/23/76

SHIRLEY BULLOCH, Belle Meade Apartments, Kennesaw, Georgia, advised she is the sister of ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. She stated she does not know any of RAY's friends. RAY does not contact his mother very often and thus, neither she nor her mother knows any of RAY's friends.

She has no knowledge of any lounge called "Pete's Place" or "Bill Bailey's". She does not know of any time when her brother was in any sort of trouble. She and her brother do not get along, however, she stated she thinks that her brother is a law abiding citizen.

Interviewed on 2/13/76 at Kennesaw, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON, and
SA ALAN L. BROWN TJB: CW Date dictated 2/17/76

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★ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

AT 44-2386

TJW:cw

1

The following investigation was conducted at Atlanta, Georgia, by SA THOMAS J. WILSON on the dates indicated:

Captain WORTHY, Permit Section, Atlanta Police Department (PD), advised a review of Atlanta PD Records for a beer and wine license for the business located at 1455 Moreland Avenue, Atlanta, showed the following information:

HOWARD MALCOLM CABE, SR., 363 El Mira Place, held the liquor license from December, 1962, through September, 1964;

WILLIAM POPE DAVIS held the license from October, 1964, through November, 1965;

C. H. HARRISON held the license from November, 1965, through September, 1966;

ROY T. BAILEY held the license from September, 1966, through January, 1968;

LEWIS W. CLARK held the license from January, 1968, through December, 1974;

BARBARA and DEWEY GILBERT held the license from December, 1974, through September, 1975;

WILLIAM JORDAN MESIMER held the license from September, 1975, through the present time.

The records show in February and October, 1967, the business located at 1455 Moreland Avenue, was named "Bill Bailey's". In February and October, 1967, the Permit Section sent notices of violations to the lounge known as Bill Bailey's, at 1455 Moreland Avenue. Captain WORTHY advised PETE DAVIS, also known as WILLIAM POPE DAVIS, could have run and managed the bar in 1967 and 1968. The records of the Permit Section only reflect the official holder of the beer and wine license. Sometimes, some of the licenses are held by one person and another person is the actual manager of the lounge.

On February 10, 1976, the FBI Identification Division, Washington, D. C., provided the attached Identification Record for LEE CARROLL GODFREY, date of birth place of birth Polk County, Georgia.

MASTER
1-4a (Rev. 7-2-74)

MASTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

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

48 536 D

Description and Related Data

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 70"

Weight: 160

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Blue

Date and Place of Birth:

Folk Co GA.

Scars and Marks: None Listed

Address: Rt. #2 Smyrna, GA.

Occupation: Painter

Social Security Number: None Listed

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

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

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

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

Atlanta Ga	Lee Carol Godfrey #174514	6-13-56	O.A.I & speeding	\$150 & 12 mo on chg of speeding
Jacksonville Fla	Lee Dudley Godfrey #118-219 B	12-13-58	vag/ & inv.	12-16-58 dism on chg of vag
Atlanta Ga	Lee Carroll Godfrey #174514	3-10-59	DC worthless chks	12 mo prob on chg of DC chks 5-24-59
Atlanta Ga	Lee Carol Godfrey #174514	5-23-59	L of A	3-4 yrs conv w/sent now serving 7-9-59
Id of Corr Atlanta Ga	Lee Godfrey #A43582/36816	7-20-59	rape (3) armed rob (3) obt money on fictitious name fraud chk uttering fraudulent chks (5) malicious mischief	Total 10-20 yrs Arrested 10-20-60 on chg of rape (3) Armed rob (3) obt goods by Pick Exam Fraud Chk Misd (6) L of Auto Misd (2) 9-26-66 conditional release
Asheville NC	Lee Carol Godfrey #A 14 396 947	4-17-51 Atlanta Ga	inv escapes from St of Ga	654 present
	Lee Carol Godfrey #52137	2-5-63		

46-225-2403

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - ATLANTA	

W/Boys 1/11

Notations indicated by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data formerly furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/6/76

DOROTHY DAVIS, Locust Grove, Georgia, was telephonically contacted and advised she has no knowledge or possession of any records in reference to her husband's former place of business known as "Pete's Bar", on Moreland Avenue. She is sure all of these records have been destroyed.

She stated she does not know the name of any accounting firm or law firm which handled the tax or account matters of her husband's place of business. There is no one in the family who would have this information.

Interviewed on 2/5/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :CW Date dictated 2/5/76

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★ U.S. GPO: 1974-585-294

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/17/76

DOROTHY DAVIS, Locust Grove, Georgia, was contacted at her residence and advised that she has searched and has been unable to locate any records regarding her husband's former place of business "Pete's Bar" in Atlanta, Georgia.

She advised her husband never told her about the operation of the bar or any incidents which happened at the bar. She has never heard her husband discuss anything about the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. She was not sure of the exact dates her husband owned the bar, but thought he sold it in 1966, however, that could have been 1965 or 1967. Her husband sold the bar and went to work for an oil company in Saudi Arabia. He worked there for about nine months and returned to the United States. She does not recall any of the names of any of the employees.

Interviewed on 2/9/76 at Locust Grove, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON and
SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR. TJW:cw Date dictated 2/13/76

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★ U.S. GPO: 1974-888-294

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/2/76

DIANE BRADY, 1140 Moreland Drive, SE, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

She is the owner and operator of The Office Bar located at Moreland and Flat Shoals Road, Atlanta, Georgia. She has never employed any band at her place of business. Every once in a while RAY GODFREY does come into the bar and does play his guitar, however, she could not recall any other individuals ever playing with him. At that she telephonically contacted her day bartender and asked him if GODFREY had ever played at the bar during the day with anyone else. The day bartender advised he had never seen RAY GODFREY play at the bar with any other individuals. BRADY was unable to pick out the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown). When specifically shown this photograph, she advised she had never seen this individual. She is positive that the person whose likeness is represented by the artist's conception is not the person whom she knows as "DUKE".

After PETE DAVIS sold the bar to "BUCK" BAILEY, she went to work for the Driftwood Lounge which is located one block south of Pete's Bar on Moreland Avenue. She never worked at Bill Bailey's and was never employed by LEWIS CLARK.

It was her understanding that after PETE DAVIS sold the bar he went to work in Saudi Arabia for one year. She is unable to supply any of the names or addresses of any of the old-time customers of Pete's Bar. Every once in a while some of them drop in at her bar, but not on a regular basis.

She again stated that she does not know any friends of RAY GODFREY named RALPH. She does not know anyone named RALPH SMITH or RALPH SETZER. She also does not know anyone named LEE GODFREY.

Interviewed on 2/19/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386

by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/24/76

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She stated that she thought she knew RAY GODFREY fairly well and that she finds it hard to believe that RAY GODFREY could be in any sort of trouble. She also knows the POWELL brothers and considers them to be harmless hard drinkers. She stated all of these individuals are very friendly and could not do anything wrong. RAY GODFREY is a very friendly, amiable individual and has no violent tendencies. Even though there has been periodic fights at both Pete's Bar and The Office Bar, she has never seen RAY GODFREY enter into any of these problems.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/23/76

LEWIS W. CLARK, 2950 Catherine Valley Drive, Decatur, Georgia, was contacted and advised that he managed Bill Bailey's Lounge located at 1455 Moreland Avenue, from September, 1966, through 1973. He personally acted as the bartender there numerous times. He advised that JUNE HALL was the day bartender at Bill Bailey's and that she might be able to furnish information regarding individuals who frequented Bailey's. He could not recall any other employees who worked at the lounge on a fulltime or regular basis. DIANE BRADY was never employed at Bill Bailey's.

CLARK picked out from a spread of photographs the pictures of RAY GODFREY and CLAUDE POWELL, as being individuals who frequented the bar. He did not recognize the picture of LEON POWELL. He advised that CLAUDE POWELL was a very quiet individual and never knew him to be in any sort of trouble. GODFREY was an extremely extroverted individual and always wanted to play the guitar in the bar. GODFREY was a country and western singer who had had some records recorded by Columbia Records. GODFREY was always playing these records on the juke box.

Back in 1966 and 1967 and 1968, the mood in the bar was probably anti-Negro, however, as far as he knows, there was never any discussion about the harming of any blacks.

He was unable to pick from a spread of photographs the artist's conception of RALPH (LNU). He advised that none of the individuals in the spread had ever been in the bar when he was there.

Interviewed on 2/17/76 at Decatur, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON, and
SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR. TJW:cw Date dictated 2/17/76

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/23/76

JUNE HALL, Killian Road, Atlanta, Georgia, advised that in 1967 and 1968, she was employed as the day bartender at the lounge known as Bill Bailey's. She picked from a spread of photographs the photograph of CLAUDE POWELL and RAY GODFREY as individuals who frequented the lounge. HALL advised that CLAUDE was a very quiet individual when sober, however, would be very unruly when drinking.

RAY GODFREY was a very likable individual and she would be quite surprised if he were in any trouble. HALL was unable to pick from a spread of photographs the artists' conception of RALPH (LNU). When specifically shown the composite of RALPH (LNU), she was positive she had never seen the individual. She advised that she would have remembered the individual if he had ever been in the bar because of his good looks.

Interviewed on 2/17/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

by SA THOMAS J. WILSON, and
SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR. TJW:cw Date dictated 2/23/76

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U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 3/2/76

HAZEL EVANS, 788 Moreland Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

She worked as a bartender at Bill Bailey's Lounge from 1966 to 1969. She worked the night shift and generally came on duty at 6:00 P.M. and worked until 2:00 A.M. The day bartender was JUNE HALL. A couple of times her niece, PAT BOOZER, worked in the bar, however, she was not a regular employee. "BUCK" BAILEY owned the bar in 1966, however, LEWIS CLARK managed the business the whole time that BAILEY owned it. Sometime in 1967 or 1968 LEWIS CLARK bought out "BUCK" BAILEY and owned it himself. BAILEY had very little to do with the bar and it was very seldom that he would come out to the location.

She picked out the photograph of ARNOLD RAY GODFREY from a spread of photographs and advised she had known him since he moved to Atlanta from Copperhill, Tennessee. She advised he was a very quiet individual and could not believe he could be in any trouble. GODFREY was a very likeable individual and almost everybody seemed to be friends with him. She also picked out the picture of CLAUDE POWELL as being a frequent customer of the bar known as Bill Bailey's Lounge. She was unable to pick from a spread of photographs the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown) as being a customer of the bar or a friend of RAY GODFREY. When specifically shown the artist's conception, she stated she did not remember any individual looking like that as being at the bar. She advised GODFREY never worked as a bartender at Bill Bailey's Lounge. She knows of no other individual who frequented the bar named RALPH. She advised she does not know where any of the former patrons of Bill Bailey's Lounge can be located. She stated that the whole neighborhood where Bill Bailey's Lounge was located has changed racially and that all of the former patrons have moved to different parts of the city.

Interviewed on 2/18/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386

by SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, Jr.
SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/24/76

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 3/2/76

PATSY BOOZER, 1202 Fleetwood Drive, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

She advised that approximately seven years ago, she had worked for a LEWIS CLARK at Bill Bailey's Lounge. She stated she was a bartender at this lounge. From the spread of photographs shown to her, she picked out the photograph of ARNOLD RAY GODFREY as a frequent customer at Bill Bailey's Lounge. As far as she knew, GODFREY had a good reputation and was not known to be a trouble-maker with the police department. She did not know of any of RAY GODFREY's friends. She was not familiar with the photograph of CLAUDE and LEON POWELL. She was unable to select a composite of RALPH (last name unknown). When specifically shown an artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown) she advised she had never seen this individual.

Interviewed on 2/18/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386

by SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR.
SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/24/76

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

2/23/76

Date of transcription

WILLIAM SANFORD VENABLE advised he and ROBERT McGARITY previously owned the property located at 1455 Moreland Avenue. He was sure that the bar located at that address had been in the past named both "Pete's Place", and "Bill Bailey's". Back in 1966, BUCK BAILEY took over the lounge and named it "Bill Bailey's". Sometime later, LEWIS CLARK obtained the liquor license and ownership of the bar. However, prior to that LEWIS CLARK had managed the bar for BUCK BAILEY.

VENABLE does not know anyone by the name of POWELL nor does he know anyone with the name of "DUKE". He was unable to pick from a spread of photographs the photograph of CLAUDE or LEON POWELL. VENABLE advised that he had been in the bar a couple of times possibly during the period of 1967 or 1968.

The name RAY GODFREY is familiar to him, however, he has never personally met GODFREY. The only reason he knows the name is that GODFREY was supposed to be a country and western singer and was "fairly well known", at Bill Bailey's. He does not know any of GODFREY's associates.

He does not know any individual named RALPH (LNU) who is connected with the bar known as "Pete's Place" or "Bill Bailey's".

VENABLE stated he is not related to JAMES VENABLE, the founder of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Interviewed on 2/17/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON, and
SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR. T.JW:cw Date dictated 2/17/76

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U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3-5-76

WILLIAM LOWERY was contacted at his place of employment, Lowery Music Incorporated, and furnished the following information:

In 1966, he handled a professional country and western singer named RAY GODFREY. His records show that GODFREY's real name was R. A. GODFREY. He did not have any personal contacts with GODFREY but mainly dealt with him on a professional basis.

His opinion of GODFREY was that GODFREY was just a "good ole country boy" and that GODFREY could not be in any sort of trouble.

LOWERY viewed a spread of photographs which included RALPH (Last Name Unknown) and was unable to identify any of the individuals. When specifically shown the photograph of RALPH (Last Name Unknown), LOWERY advised that he had not seen this individual.

LOWERY again stated he did not know any of RAY GODFREY's friends or associates. GODFREY would merely come to Lowery Music to record his songs and be paid.

LOWERY was not familiar with any musician with RALPH SMITH or RALPH SETZER.

Interviewed on 2-27-76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON:dd Date dictated 3-3-76

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 3/2/76

RAYMOND GODFREY, 5228 Kingswood Circle, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

He is familiar with an individual named ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. ARNOLD RAY GODFREY was known to everyone as RAY GODFREY and he is known to everyone as RAYMOND GODFREY. Both he and RAY GODFREY frequented a bar on Moreland Avenue known as Pete's Place. He picked from a spread of photographs the pictures of CLAUDE POWELL and RAY GODFREY as frequent patrons of Pete's Place. He stated that CLAUDE POWELL had a reputation around the bar as having a boastful manner while he was drunk, however, being a very friendly fellow while sober. He never knew CLAUDE POWELL to be in any sort of trouble or to be vicious in any way.

He was quite friendly with RAY GODFREY, however, is not related to him in any way. He described RAY GODFREY as being a "good old boy" who would not be in any trouble. RAY GODFREY is a very friendly individual and he never saw RAY GODFREY cause any trouble in the bar. He was unable to identify from a spread of photographs the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown). When specifically shown this photograph, he advised he had never seen this individual. He advised that he was in Pete's Place or Bill Bailey's Lounge almost every night from 1966 to 1967. RAYMOND GODFREY advised that through his association with RAY GODFREY, he knew that GODFREY had no use for Blacks, but would not harm anyone. GODFREY was not unique in his dislike for Blacks among the patrons of the bar, however, RAY GODFREY was an individual who would not resort to violence.

Interviewed on 2/19/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386

by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/24/76

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AT 44-2386

TJW:cw

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA THOMAS J. WILSON at Atlanta, Georgia, on the dates
indicated:

CLARENCE FISHER, Owner, of Fisher Wall, 326
Patterson Road, Scottdale, Georgia, advised he does have an
employee named RAY COOLEY, however, COOLEY was out on a job
at the time and he would have COOLEY call on his return.

RAY COOLEY advised he is familiar with CLAUDE
and LEON POWELL. He was running his own business in 1967 or
1968 and at the time he did have employed CLAUDE and LEON
POWELL as dry wall installers. His records, however, are kept
at home. He would attempt to review them and see if there
would be some paperwork showing that CLAUDE and LEON POWELL
were working for him in October or November, 1967.

On February 13, 1976, MARJORIE COOLEY, wife of
RAY COOLEY advised she kept the records for her husband when
he was in business for himself. She has been unable to find
any records going back to 1967 or 1968, regarding any indi-
viduals employed for her husband. Her husband at that time was
self-employed and did have a couple of individuals working for
him. She specifically remembers that she moved into her own
house in November 1967. Her husband installed the dry wall
in her home. The individuals actually installing the dry wall
were CLAUDE and LEON POWELL. Therefore, she is positive that
CLAUDE and LEON POWELL worked for her husband in late October,
or early November, 1967.

She feels quite certain that CLAUDE and LEON
POWELL worked for her husband from 1966 until 1969.

AT 44-2386

TJW:wy

1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON at Atlanta, Georgia on February 23, 1976:

Lieutenant STRICKLAND, Permit Section, Atlanta Police Department, Atlanta, Georgia, advised DIANE BRAND also known as Diane Brady took over the management of the bar named "The Office" on August 28, 1974. The previous owner was THOMAS M. HYATT, 2131 Flat Shoals Road, Atlanta, Georgia. HYATT owned the bar from February, 1972 until 1974. JAMES MAYNARD LIVINGSTONE, 622 Farrar Court, Decatur, Georgia, previously owned the bar from 1969 until 1972. The bar originally opened up in 1969.

PATRICIA BLUE, manager, apartments located at 4131 Flat Shoals Road advised THOMAS M. HYATT has not lived at that address for the last two years. She has been the manager of that complex for that period of time. She was unable to find any material in her file regarding THOMAS M. HYATT.

Records of the United States Post Office, East Atlanta Branch, Metropolitan Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia, were reviewed with negative results regarding any forwarding address for THOMAS M. HYATT. The carrier for that route advised THOMAS HYATT has been gone from 4131 Flat Shoals Road for approximately three years.

A review of the Atlanta City Directory and the Atlanta suburban directory reflects approximately 104 RALPH or R. SMITHs. The Greater Atlanta Southern Bell telephone directory lists in excess of 104 RALPH or R. SMITHs. Neither the city directory nor the telephone book shows any listing for R. SETZER.

On February 24, 1975, BARBARA WAGER, Department of Motor Vehicles, State of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and requested to review the state tax records for any automobile owned by ARNOLD RAY GODFREY from 1967 to 1968.

AT 44-2386

2

On February 25, 1976, BARBARA WAGER, Department of Motor Vehicles, Atlanta, Georgia, advised her records reflect that in 1968 A. R. GODFREY of 569 Gresham Road, Atlanta, Georgia, had license in the State of Georgia for a 1960 Chevrolet Impala, Georgia license 2J40393. Ms. WAGER advised that there are no other cars registered to A. R. GODFREY.

On February 24, 1976, JOE WALLACE, Security Office, Delta Air Lines, Atlanta, Georgia, advised that the air lines do not keep the names of individuals who fly on their air lines longer than 90 days. According to the Civil Aeronautics Board, the actual tickets are maintained for 90 days. A computer run showing the history of the ticket is maintained in the air lines files for 30 days, therefore, after 90 days the air lines would not be able to supply any passenger information.

AT 44-2386

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON on February 26, 1976, at Atlanta, Georgia.

A review of the Greater Atlanta Southern Bell Telephone Directory failed to reflect any listing for a LAVERN COOK or LAVENE COOK. A review of the Cobb County and City of Marietta Directory also failed to reflect any listing for a LAVERN COOK or LAVENE COOK.

Attached hereto is a xerox copy of a portion of an Atlanta city map showing:

- (1) location of hotel RAY GODFREY stayed
- (2) where RAY GODFREY's car was recovered
- (3) location of Pete's Bar.



ATLANTA STREET MAP

- Legend:
- Local Access Divided Highways
 - Other Divided Highways
 - National Interstate Highways (75, 79)
 - US Highways (95)
 - State Routes (60)
 - City Limits
 - Water
 - NATIONAL INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS (75, 79)
(These numbers are the signs erected. Not all cities have these numbers.)
 - Pending defects to the present has been made to illustrate segments of proposed future sections of the new system
 - Completed (Open to traffic)
 - Under Construction (in office)

Scale: 0 5 10 15 miles

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A

B

C

GULF BLDG.

STANLEY HALL

STANLEY HALL

46

AT 44-23

A review of the records at the Federal Records Center, Military Branch, St. Louis, Missouri, disclosed LEON POWELL had army serial service number [REDACTED] Social Security Account Number [REDACTED] date of birth [REDACTED] at Toccoa, Georgia and enlisted in the U. S. Army at Atlanta, Georgia. He served active duty from September, 1952, to December 21, 1955. He was honorably released from active duty as a private (high weapons infantry) at Fort Benning, Georgia, and transferred to U. S. Army Reserve. He was honorably discharged from the U. S. Army Reserve on December 23, 1960 by reason of expiration of service.

LEON's report of medical examination dated December 19, 1955, disclosed "multiple psychosomatic complaints". LEON did not keep his appointment and did not desire to remain in service for further treatment.

LEON was tried and convicted by summary court marshal January 23, 1953 for Absence Without Leave and sentenced to 45 days hard labor. He had a special court marshal on September 14, 1954 for breaking restriction and by a special court marshal on August 26, 1955 for Absence Without Leave. No other medical records were found for POWELL other than dental claim.

No military service record was located for CLAUDE POWELL.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/27/76

In addition to information furnished by ARNOLD RAY GODFREY of 1105 Lakeshore Drive, Jonesboro, Georgia, on interview transcribed January 14, 1976, that to the best of his recollection, he was in Nashville, Tennessee, "shacked up" on the day MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was killed. GODFREY thought he could verify this through some personal records.

Interviewed on 1/13/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386
by SA BERNARD R. BERRY
SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 1/20/76

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☆ U.S. GPO: 1974-585-294

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE ATLANTA	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 3/23/76	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 2/6/76 - 3/8/76
TITLE OF CASE MURKIN		REPORT MADE BY SA THOMAS J. WILSON	TYPED BY wy
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

REFERENCE: Bureau nitel to Atlanta, 2/3/76.

RUC

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

2 - Bureau (44-38861)

2 - Memphis (44-1987)

2 - Atlanta (44-2386)

OUT-GOING

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				Notations 44-2386-2475
Agency				
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Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

A*
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Atlanta, Georgia

1-USA, Memphis

Report of: SA THOMAS J. WILSON

Office: ATLANTA

Date: FEBRUARY 23, 1976

Field Office File #: 44-2386

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: MURKIN

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis:

CLAUDE POWELL, JR., reinterviewed 2/6/76 and advised that any discrepancies between his statement of the facts and his brother, LEON's, statement of the facts was a result of a long period of time since the incident. CLAUDE POWELL advised he would stand by his original statement. CLAUDE POWELL was unable to identify the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown) dated 1/23/76. LEON POWELL JR., reinterviewed 2/11/76 and advised his original statement was essentially correct, however, does not recall seeing RAY GODFREY in Pete's Bar the day he was approached by RALPH (last name unknown). LEON POWELL also advised the name of the bar where the incident occurred was probably not Pete's Place since PETE had sold it and another owner taken over. He and his brother have talked about the incident at various times since 1968. LEON advised the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown) dated 1/23/76 is a good likeness of an individual who approached he and his brother to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Wife of CLAUDE POWELL, advised she has been married to CLAUDE for 20 years and in her opinion the whole story is a fabrication made up by her husband and his brother, LEON. Relatives of ARNOLD RAY GODFREY advised they did not know any relationship or interest between RAY GODFREY, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., or JAMES EARL RAY. Relatives were unable to name an individual named RALPH who associated with RAY GODFREY. Employees

AT 44-2386

of the bar located at 1455 Moreland Avenue who were employed in 1967-1968 were interviewed and advised they were familiar with both CLAUDE POWELL and RAY GODFREY. Employees characterized CLAUDE POWELL as a quiet individual, however, quite a heavy drinker. Employees characterized RAY GODFREY as a very likeable individual whom they thought would never be in trouble. None of the employees could recognize the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown) as any individual who had been in the bar.

RUC

DETAILS:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/10/76

1

CLAUDE POWELL, JR., Room 211 Scottish Inn, was interviewed in his motel room during the late evening of February 5, 1976.

Discrepancies in his version of an alleged meeting with an unknown white male at Pete's Bar Atlanta, Georgia, as compared with LEON POWELL's were discussed. CLAUDE stated that any discrepancies are a result of a long passage of time since the incident and his statement is accurate in his recollection. He clarified his relationship with RAY GODFREY stating that GODFREY was a friend whom he has known for many years but GODFREY was more closely associated and a better friend of LEON's. CLAUDE also commented that he later learned GODFREY made an initial contact with LEON approximately one week prior to the unknown white male's proposition to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING but he did not know anything about the meeting at Pete's Bar until the unknown white male seated himself and made the offer. nor did he have prior knowledge of what transpired between 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 the offer of a substantial amount of money by an unknown white male to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING.

In addition, CLAUDE stated he and LEON talked about the alleged meeting with the unknown white male frequently after its occurrence but as time passed, they talked about it less and less. He said that he and LEON worked together on the same job at the time of the alleged meeting and continued to do so until approximately three months ago. He knows of no one who could verify that they were in Atlanta, Georgia, at the time of the alleged meeting but stated that both, he and LEON, were residing in Decatur, Georgia, during this time. CLAUDE described

Interviewed on 2/6/76 at Midland, Texas File # FP 44-920
ME 44-1987
by SA FRANZ W. NENZEL /nm Date dictated 2/9/76

the interior of Pete's Bar, including the booth where each participant of the alleged meeting was seated and a sketch was made by Special Agent FRANZ W. NENZEL. CLAUDE was questioned specifically concerning his polygraph examination in response to the question "Do you know who asked you and LEON to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING?", and he denied having any prior knowledge of the unidentified person who offered he and LEON \$25,000 to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING.

CLAUDE stated that he telephonically contacted his brother, LEON POWELL, at telephone number 404-289-1545, Decatur, Georgia (telephone number is for DAVID POWELL, CLAUDE's nephew) after initial interview by FBI Agents at Midland, Texas. CLAUDE stated that he and LEON discussed the interview.

In addition, CLAUDE stated he had discussed the alleged meeting with the unknown person at Pete's Bar with WILLIAM DEAN WOODCOCK, his partner in business and roommate at the Scottish Inn. WOODCOCK is the only fellow employee whom he told of the alleged meeting.

CLAUDE stated that the unknown person who offered them the money to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING did not have any type of an accent. He repeated that all aspects of his statement including description, time reference and conversation between the unknown person who made the offer to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING were true and accurate to the best of his recollection.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

3/3/76

Date of transcription

The following photographs were displayed to CLAUDE POWELL, JR., who was located at his place of employment where he was working as a carpenter:

1. TRAVIS MERLE PHILLIPS, Odessa Police Department (OPD), Number 7174.
2. BILLY GENE SHAFFER, OPD Number 16969
3. OPD Number 19806
4. BOBBY JOE SMITH
5. Composite photograph bearing Bureau File Number 44-38861, Atlanta File 44-2386.

After viewing the above photographs, POWELL stated he would be unable to identify any one of these as being the individual who approached him and his brother, LEON POWELL, at Pete's Bar in Atlanta, Georgia, with the proposition of murdering MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.. POWELL again stated that he would be unable to recognize the individual should he ever meet him again.

Interviewed on 2/26/76 at Midland, Texas EP 44-920
by SA FRAZ W. NENZEL:mg ME# 44-1987
Date dictated 3/1/76

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/22/76

CLAUDE POWELL, Jr., was contacted at his residence 4163 Camby Lane, Decatur, Georgia, and advised that he was not sure whether or not PETE DAVIS was present during the initial meeting at the bar. The incident happened so long ago, some of the details are quite mixed up in his mind. He thinks that his brother, LEON, was the only one present during the initial contact with RAY GODFREY. He does not remember being present during the conversation between RAY GODFREY and his brother, LEON.

Interviewed on 3/8/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 3/15/76

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☆ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/25/76

LEON OWEN POWELL was contacted at his residence and advised of the identity of the interviewing agent. POWELL was advised of his rights by Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON, however, declined to sign anything. POWELL declined to furnish a signed statement, however, voluntarily furnished the following information:

He has thought about the incident when he was approached by RALPH (last name unknown) in the bar which he knew as Pete's Place on Moreland Avenue and requested to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. He is quite sure the original contact with RAY GODFREY was approximately one week before RALPH (last name unknown) came into the bar. He is sure the meeting took place in November, 1967. He does not remember seeing RAY GODFREY in Pete's Bar the day RALPH (last name unknown) came into the bar and offered the money. He does not remember any specific denominations of the money in the brief case, however, the brief case was full of money. RALPH (last name unknown) upon offering the brief case told him "here's 25". RALPH (last name unknown) told him and his brother, CLAUDE, they would get "25 now and 50 when he's in the grave" or something to that effect. To the best of his memory, he never mentioned MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s name.

During the original conversation with RAY GODFREY, he (RAY GODFREY) never made mention of the exact amount of money he and his brother would be paid to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING. GODFREY merely stated "big money". GODFREY is a friend of both he and his brother, however, GODFREY is probably friendlier with CLAUDE than he is with himself. LEON POWELL has not had any contact with RAY GODFREY when the assassination of KING was discussed when CLAUDE was not present.

He could not specifically recall seeing PETE DAVIS in the bar when RALPH (last name unknown) approached

Interviewed on 2/11/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/18/76

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