

44-1740-2243

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>in</i>	FILED <i>in</i>
JAN 22 1977	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

Magnuson *1716*

2-15-77

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM

born [redacted] at Birmingham, Alabama, then
resided at 2640 Paden Place, Jefferson County,
Alabama, and maintained an office at 2154 Highland
Avenue South, Birmingham.

On April 6, 1968, John McFerren, Somerville,
Tennessee, furnished the following information:

On the afternoon of April 4, 1968, McFerren
traveled from Somerville, Tennessee, to Memphis, Tennessee,
to pick up supplies for his grocery store. While in
Memphis he went to the place where he normally bought his
produce which he said was possibly the L L & L Produce
Market, 814 Scott Street. According to McFerren, this
business was operated by a heavy set white man, who
weighed approximately 300 pounds, who appeared to be
possibly of Puerto Rican extraction. After McFerren
arrived at this company he walked up to the door of the
office and noticed that the heavy set man was sitting
at his desk with his back to the door and talking on the
telephone. McFerren stated he heard this heavy set man
say "kill the S.O.B. on the balcony and get the job done.
You will get your \$5,000."

McFerren reported that he went back to the
rear portion of this office and shortly thereafter heard
the telephone ring. The phone was answered by a white
man, thin in build, who had a scar on his right cheek.
McFerren could not hear what this man said when he
answered the phone, but after answering the phone, he
handed it to the heavy set man. McFerren heard the heavy
set man say "Don't come out here. Go to New Orleans and
get your money. You know my brother."

McFerren reported that approximately a week
prior to April 4, 1968, he was at the L L & L Produce
Market, at which time the heavy set man, the man with
the scar, and approximately three other white males were

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
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in a group talking. He heard the heavy set man say at this time, "they ought to shoot the S.O.B." Immediately after making this statement, the heavy set man walked over to McFerren and said "what do you think about King and his mess?" McFerren reported that he told the heavy set man that he tended to his own business.

On April 19, 1968, Frank Camilla Liberto, who resided at 3271 Powers Street, Memphis, Tennessee, and was employed as President of L L & L Produce Company, 814 Scott Street, Memphis, furnished the following information:

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

Liberto stated he frequently made trips to New Orleans, Louisiana, to purchase produce, and also because members of his family resided in the New Orleans area. Most of his co-workers, employees, and customers at the produce company, knew of his travels to New Orleans.

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Liberto specifically denied making or receiving any telephone calls on April 4, 1968, wherein there was conversation regarding Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. or the shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He pointed out that most of his business transactions are made through use of the telephone and that these conversations frequently result in talking about large sums of money. He stated that he would have no reason for becoming involved in any action directed at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He stated he frequently taunted various individuals regarding racial matters and may have made disparaging remarks to some of his customers involving King, but did not consider this uncommon among various co-workers at his place of business.

Liberto advised that the following members of his family reside in New Orleans, Louisiana:

- 1 - Emily Liberto, mother, 2219 Altomaster Street;
- 2 - Tony Liberto, brother, residing two houses down from his mother, specific address not known;
- 3 - Vincent Liberto, brother, who worked for the Viking Truck Company, New Orleans;
- 4 - Salvadore Liberto, brother, who worked as a truck driver for West Brothers in New Orleans.

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

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Memphis, Tennessee
Height	5'10-11"
Weight	285 pounds
Eyes	Grayish blue
Hair	Brown

On April 4, 1968, Reverend Ralph David Abernathy, 690 LaVerne Drive, Northwest, Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at the Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, and furnished the following information:

Reverend Abernathy described himself as Vice President at large and Treasurer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He stated he was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s closest associate and that he and Dr. King always shared a room whenever they traveled together.

At about 10:30 a.m. on April 3, 1968, Reverend Abernathy and Dr. King registered at the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, Tennessee. On April 4, 1968, he and Dr. King did not leave the motel and spent most of the day at their room, number 306, which was located on the second floor of the motel. Reverend Abernathy and Dr. King had been away from their room for approximately one hour or less when they returned to the room at 5:30 p.m. They dressed because they were going to dinner at the home of Reverend Billy Kyle and at almost exactly 6:00 p.m., started to leave the room. Reverend Abernathy stopped for a moment and Dr. King walked out onto the balcony just outside the door to their room. Reverend Abernathy stated he heard what sounded like a firecracker and heard the screams of persons to whom Dr. King had been talking. Reverend Abernathy went to the balcony and observed Dr. King lying there wounded in the right side of the face and neck. He instructed someone to call an ambulance and accompanied Dr. King in the ambulance to the hospital where Dr. King died.

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VICTIM

Reverend Abernathy reported that while he and Dr. King were in the motel room, Dr. King did not, to his knowledge, receive any telephone calls of a threatening nature or calls from persons who would not identify themselves. He said Dr. King had not feared that any particular persons might harm him and Reverend Abernathy was unable to suggest any suspects or to provide any other information which might assist in identifying Dr. King's killer.

On April 11, 1968, Miss Anna Christine Kelly, Manager, Rebel Motor Hotel, 3466 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information from records maintained by the Rebel Motor Hotel:

On April 3, 1968, Eric S. Galt, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, registered in room 34 and departed on April 4, 1968. He stated on his registration card that he was driving a Mustang bearing Alabama license plate 1-38993. Miss Kelly stated that she could not remember Eric S. Galt.

On April 5, 1968, Mrs. Bessie Brewer, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Apartment 2, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

She was the manager of the boarding house at 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Memphis. On Thursday, April 4, 1968, between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m., a white male individual knocked on the door of her apartment which also served as the office, and he inquired about renting a room. She subsequently rented him Apartment 5-B, which rented for \$8.50 per week, paid in advance. The individual identified himself as John Willard and paid her with a \$20 bill he took from his right front pants pocket and also gave her fifty cents in coin. She described John Willard as a white male, 30 to 35 years of age, six feet, weighing approximately 190 pounds.

*Photo
to
Alabama
no answer
here*

RE: JAMES EARL RAY:
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VICTIM

On April 5, 1968, Charlie Quitman Stephens, Room 6-B, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

In the late afternoon of April 4, 1968, he and his wife were in their room at 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Memphis. He heard what he is certain was a shot, and was certain that the shot he heard came from the bathroom located a few feet from where he was sitting. He had no way of knowing, but estimated it was some time between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. Upon hearing this shot, he walked out of the bathroom, through his living-bedroom, and opened the door leading to the hallway and observed a man running west down this hallway, and this man was carrying a large bundle of some kind. The man continued to run to the end of the hallway, turned left and apparently thereafter ran down the stairway onto the street, although he could not actually see the man going down the stairway. It immediately occurred to Mr. Stephens that this was the same man he had observed earlier in the afternoon, possibly around mid afternoon, standing at the door to Room 5-B, which was located immediately west of Mr. Stephens' living-bedroom. He stated that around mid afternoon he had seen the man with Mrs. Brewer standing in the hallway at the entrance to Room 5-B looking into the room. He assumed that this was some new guest looking for a room. He later heard someone in Room 5-B and assumed that the man he observed with Mrs. Brewer had rented the room next door. He recalled that on several different occasions he heard footsteps in this room and also heard a person leaving the room and walking past his, Mr. Stephens' room, and entering

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VICTIM

a common bathroom at the end of the hall. He was aware that the person who went from room 5-B to the bathroom remained in the bathroom for a considerable period of time.

On April 24, 1968, photographs of James Earl Ray taken in 1955, 1960 and 1966 and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis on April 4, 1968, were shown to Charlie Quitman Stephens. Stephens said the 1955 and 1960 photographs of Ray were not familiar to him, but that the 1966 profile photograph of Ray appearing in wanted flier 442-1, dated April 19, 1968, and identification order 4182, dated April 20, 1968, looked like the man he saw in Apartment 5-B on April 4, 1968, talking to Mrs. Bessie Brewer. He said he had never seen the bedspread or any similar bedspread at the boarding house or anywhere else. ✓

Mr. Bernell Finley, 1468 Kyle, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information on April 5, 1968:

At approximately 5:20 p.m. on April 4, 1968, he and an acquaintance of his drove to the Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, Memphis. Around 6:00 p.m. Mr. Finley heard a noise that sounded like a shot. Shortly thereafter and certainly within a matter of just a minute or so, he heard a second noise near the front door of the Canipe Store. He and others immediately looked to the front door where they saw a box, package or bundle lying immediately in front of the store. He also observed a man walking rapidly south on the sidewalk on the east side of Main Street, and it was obvious that this was the person who had dropped or thrown the package in front of the store. Minutes later, Mr. Finley heard the "screech" of tires and looked up and saw a white Mustang speeding north on Main Street past Canipe Store. He explained that there was a car parked in front of the store and he did not get a full view of the car which had sped away, but he did see the rear portion of the roof line, as well as the trunk, and there is no question in his mind that this was a white car and there was no question in his mind that the car was a white Mustang.

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At the time Mr. Finley did not associate the speeding white Mustang with the man who had dropped the box or package in front of the Canipe Store, but after he had learned what had occurred and reflecting on the matter, he is of the opinion that the man who dropped the package and walked south on the sidewalk past the store was possibly the man who got into the white Mustang and sped away from the area.

On April 5, 1968, Mr. Julius L. Graham, Apartment 5, 805 North Fifth Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he accompanied Mr. Bernell Finley to the Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, Memphis, arriving there about 5:30 p.m. on April 4, 1968. He recalled that as they were looking for a parking space he observed two white cars parked in the vicinity of the Canipe Store, one of which was definitely a white Mustang. He later heard tires screech in the vicinity of the store and observed a white Mustang speed north on Main Street. He is positive that the car he observed speeding away from the area was a white Mustang and there was no question in his mind that it was the same white Mustang he had observed earlier when he and Mr. Finley arrived in the vicinity of the store.

In April, 1968, records of Jefferson County Department of Revenue, Birmingham, Alabama revealed 1968 Alabama license plate 1-38993 was issued to Eric S. Galt, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, for a 1966 Ford Mustang.

On April 11, 1968, a white Ford Mustang, subsequently determined to be a 1966 model, was observed in parking area nine of Capitol Homes, Atlanta, Georgia. This automobile bore 1968 Alabama license plate 1-38993.

3/21/77

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Birmingham airtel dated 3/3/77.

The following is for information:

The former Birmingham PCI of referenced communication was in telephonic contact with Birmingham on 3/21/77 and furnished the following information:

He continues to conduct his own inquiries regarding captioned matter and the FRANK LIBERTO previously mentioned by him, currently resides in Memphis, Tennessee, at an unknown address. At the time of the King murder, FRANK LIBERTO had an office in Memphis and is believed to still have the office at 327 South Main Street, Memphis, in the back of a whiskey store which he owns. He has additional businesses in Memphis, identity unknown to source.

Mr. EDDIE EVANS of the House of Representatives Committee (referenced airtel) first met personally with source on March 10 or 11, 1977, in Birmingham and is in touch with source on a daily basis. EVANS went to the Birmingham Police Department after he talked to source and obtained some records at that institution where he was

2 - Bureau
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)
① - New Orleans
PJM:jab ① - Birmingham
(5) *jab*

44-1740-2245
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
SAC *[Signature]*
Snyder *[Signature]*
(Info)

BH 44-1740

apparently in touch with Captain LEGRAND. EVANS told source that he had been riding around with the Birmingham Police and source complained to EVANS in this regard and expressed concern to EVANS that source's identity would be compromised. In the week of March 14, 1977, source saw and heard Captain LEGRAND on a local television station making a press release regarding this matter.

Source was contacted in the week of March 14, 1977, by Birmingham newspaper reporters, believed to be FNU BRAY and FNU KILPATRICK, and he told them to "go to hell" and he denied any knowledge of this matter or being a source of information.

Source advised further that Dr. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH, JR. (BH airtel 12/15/76) and FRANK LIBERTO were very big in the drug traffic in the Southeast and he has been and continues to furnish such information to DEA, Birmingham.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Police hand U.S. probers file on Ray

BY HAROLD KENNEDY
News staff writer

Birmingham's voluminous file on James Earl Ray—probably the most complete file anywhere on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s convicted assassin—was turned over to the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations by the city's Police Department last week.

The file was put together over a period of about a year by then-Sgt. Jack LeGrand, now a captain with the Birmingham Police Department, sources said.

LeGrand and Sgt. C.R. Jones traced Ray's movements from a time well before he came to Birmingham prior to the King shooting to a time after the civil rights leader was slain.

The Birmingham files include information on when Ray came to Birmingham, where and how long he stayed, his acquaintances, his movements in and out of the city (including a trip to California), and his possible connection with a right-wing group headquartered in West End.

The files contain such detailed information as where and how much Ray paid for the gun bought in Birmingham and used to gun down Dr. King, where and how much he paid for a car that was

found parked in an Atlanta housing project parking lot several days after King's death.

Two top agents of the Select Committee spent two days in Birmingham (Thursday and Friday) last week acquiring the files, which contained information on eight different people, Capt. LeGrand said Wednesday.

Two of the people, he said, are Canadians and six have lived or still live

in Birmingham. He would not release any of the names, but said they all are connected with the Ray investigation.

"This information was provided and any other information they request at future dates will be provided by this department," LeGrand said.

There was some indication that LeGrand may later be summoned before the Select Committee to give personal testimony, though no such request has yet been made, according to sources.

Ray lived in Birmingham for some time prior to King's assassination, using mainly the name Eric Starvo Galt. But he used a half dozen or more other aliases, too.

During most of his stay here, he lived in a Highland Avenue boarding house.

Ray also took and passed a drivers license test while in Birmingham, the files show, and there is

strong evidence he was still in Birmingham as late as two weeks prior to Dr. King's death.

Dr. King flew into Birmingham about that time, for one of a series of speeches he was making throughout the South to work up support for his planned Washington march. He made his talk at a Bessemer church.

"He was kept under close surveillance by the Birmingham Police Department from the time

his plane landed at Municipal Airport until he left the next day to assure that nothing happened to him while here," said Maurice H. House, retired Birmingham police captain who headed the detective division during LeGrand and Jones' investigation of Ray's Birmingham movements. "And after Dr. King was killed, LeGrand did about as complete an investigation as possible on Ray. It's all in the files."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

52

The Birmingham News
Birmingham, Ala.

Date: 3/17/77

Edition:

Author: Harold Kennedy
Editor: John W. Bloomer
Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1740

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Witness: FBI men urged King death

By Carl West and Tim Wyngard

Scripps-Howard News Service

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — An ex-police-man claims that local and federal law officers tried to blackmail him into assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1965.

Clifton E. Baird, 50, a former member of the Louisville Police Department, has told the House Assassination Committee that fellow Louisville police officers and FBI agents stationed here offered him \$500,000 to kill King.

Sources close to the assassination committee said Baird claims that at the time of the alleged conspiracy his police superiors thought he was involved in a dynamite ring operation in Western Kentucky and therefore would have to take part in the plot to kill King or face implication in the bombing case.

Baird, the sources said, has written the committee that he was at the time under "intense investigation" by the FBI and police officials in his home town of Owensboro, Ky., about 100 miles southwest of here. Ultimately, however, he was not implicated in the bombing conspiracy despite his claimed refusal to take part in the alleged plot against King.

The sources close to the committee said that Baird's claims of attempted blackmail would explain why a veteran, but low-ranking policeman would have been approached by the alleged King conspirators. Questions about Baird's possible motive for being involved in a plot against King were a stumbling block for early investigators checking his claims.

House assassination committee members are using Baird's charges to win support for continuing their controversial study. At this point there is no

apparent connection between the alleged 1965 plot and the 1968 Memphis murder — except for past claims that the FBI somehow was involved in King's death, or in covering up details of the 1968 slaying.

But backers of the House investigation into the murders of King and President Kennedy have used Baird's allegations — contained in a secret letter sent to Rep. M. Gene Snyder, R-Ky. — and the tape to turn around House leaders and win their support for continuation of the committee.

The committee, mired in staff and personality conflicts, had accomplished little until Baird approached it with his charges several weeks ago.

Stunned at a request for a \$13 million budget for a two year probe, House leaders were preparing to kill the committee at the end of this month. But

assassination committee leaders secretly briefed House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill, D-Mass., on Baird's allegations, and O'Neill has called for continuing the investigation for one year on a \$2.7 million budget.

The House is scheduled to vote on that Wednesday.

Veteran Louisville policemen say they are "stunned and puzzled" by Baird's charges and categorically deny them. Similar denials have been made by FBI agents assigned to Louisville in the mid-1960s. One senior police officer branded Baird's allegations as a "figment of his imagination."

Federal and local lawmen have checked Baird's background and privately describe him as "stable" and "credible." "He was a solid cop," said a federal source.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1

Birmingham Post-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Date: 3/28/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Duard Le Grand

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1740

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-2247

[Handwritten signature]
44B

3/30/77

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL - REGISTERED

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
OO: MEMPHIS

ReBHairtel, 3/21/77.

On 3/30/77, Major EMMETT DIXON, Alabama Highway Patrol (AHP), Montgomery, Alabama, advised that an AHP trooper had an informant who had been in contact with a MORRIS DAVIS, Birmingham, Alabama. DAVIS related information to the informant concerning a conspiracy to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING which involved FRANK LIBERTO and DR. GUS PROSCH. DAVIS indicated to the trooper's informant that the information had been related to the FBI, but apparently no action was taken.

Major DIXON was advised that the Birmingham Office had been in contact with MORRIS DAVIS on several occasions, had taken all information in the possession of DAVIS, and had furnished this information to FBIHQ and interested offices. DIXON was advised that Birmingham is positive that the FBIHQ had furnished DAVIS' information to interested congressional committees, as DAVIS had stated that a representative of the House of Representatives Committee had been in contact with him.

The above is set forth for information of FBIHQ and Mobile. As Birmingham has had numerous contacts with DAVIS, he will not be contacted at this time; however, Birmingham will continue to disseminate any pertinent information volunteered by DAVIS.

2 - Bureau
1 - Mobile (Info)
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)
1 - New Orleans (Info)
① - Birmingham
ALB:hss
(6)

APB

Morgan
(mp)
44-1740-2248
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

DATE: 5/18/77

FROM : SUPV. A. LEWIS BARNETT

SUBJECT: MURKIN

*922-
7490*

REBUCAL to Birmingham, 5/18/77.

FBIHQ Supervisor HAL HELTERHOFF, Extension 3685, advised that the House Assassination Committee (HAC) had requested information in Bufiles regarding several individuals including MORRIS DAVIS.

HELTERHOFF noted that DAVIS had furnished information concerning an alleged plot to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, and this information had been made available to the HAC without identifying DAVIS as the source.

Inasmuch as the HAC has apparently been in touch with DAVIS through a Mr. EVANS, HELTERHOFF desires that DAVIS be contacted to clarify his present desires. DAVIS should be asked if he can be identified to the HAC as the source of information previously furnished regarding LIBERTO, et al.

HELTERHOFF advised DAVIS' desires will be honored; however, it would simplify matters greatly if DAVIS is willing for his identity to be divulged.

After contact with DAVIS, HELTERHOFF should be telephonically advised of DAVIS' desires followed by a brief confirming teletype.

*A. D. unavailable
5/18-19-20
23-24*

ALB:hss

(2) *2/22*

*5/24 L. Hahn says
"out of touch"
5/31-47.*

44-1740-1110

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

McGowan



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

5/18/77

SUPV. A. LEWIS BARNETT

MURKIN

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ALB:hss

(2) *hss*

44-1740-2249

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

F B I

Date: 5/31/77

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

FM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (RUC)
TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY
BT
CLEAR
MURKIN

REBUCAL TO BIRMINGHAM MAY 18, 1977, REQUESTING CONTACT
WITH FORMER BH 1079-PCI, TO DETERMINE IF HE CAN BE IDENTIFIED
TO THE HOUSE ASSASSINATION COMMITTEE (HAC) AS THE SOURCE OF
INFORMATION REGARDING LIBERTO, ET AL.

SOURCE WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR CONTACT MAY 18-30, 1977. ON
MAY 31, 1977, HE ADVISED SA PATRICK J. MOYNIHAN THAT HE CAN
BE IDENTIFIED TO THE HAC AS THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION HE
FURNISHED. HE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION GRATUITOUSLY:

HE IS DISENCHANTED WITH THE HAC AND BELIEVES IT IS TOO
POLITICAL. HE HAS NOT TALKED TO THEM (MR. EDDIE EVANS) IN
ABOUT THREE WEEKS. EVANS DESIRES SOURCE TO BE IN TOUCH TELE-
PHONICALLY AT LEAST TWICE A WEEK BUT IS NEVER AVAILABLE WHEN
SOURCE PUTS HIMSELF OUT TO MAKE THESE CONTACTS.

1 - ~~Memphis~~ (44-1987) (AM)
1 - New Orleans
① - Birmingham
PJM:ds
(3) *JK*

44-1740-2252
Op Ja

Approved: *K/ AOB*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *12/2* M Per *[Signature]*

* U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1969 O - 346-090 (11)

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO BH 44-1740

SOURCE DISAPPROVES OF ALL THE TV PUBLICITY THE HAC RECEIVED IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, AND MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, A FEW WEEKS AGO, AND AGAIN BELIEVES THEY ARE "TOO POLITICAL."

THROUGH THE HAC, HE HAS MET MARK LANE. SOURCE HAS NO USE FOR LANE AND ARGUED WITH HIM ON THE OCCASION WHEN THEY MET.

SOURCE HAS CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION HIMSELF IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, RECENTLY. JAMES EARL RAY LEFT BIRMINGHAM MARCH 30, 1968, AND WENT DIRECTLY TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, ON MARCH 30, 1968. HE STAYED AT MRS. DEATON'S ROOMING HOUSE ON PEABODY STREET IN MEMPHIS, AND SOURCE INTERVIEWED HER APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS AGO.

SOURCE DEVELOPED A "LIBERTO MAN" WHO SHOWED SOURCE THE ABOVE ROOMING HOUSE. SOURCE HAS NOT FURNISHED THIS INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEATON ROOMING HOUSE TO HAC SINCE THEY HAVE NOT BEEN IN RECENT CONTACT WITH HIM.

INFORMATION FURNISHED BY THIS SOURCE IN THE FUTURE WILL BE RECORDED AT BIRMINGHAM AND FORWARDED IF APPROPRIATE.

AIRMAIL COPIES BEING FURNISHED MEMPHIS AND NEW ORLEANS.

BT.

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

★ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1969 O - 346-090 (11)

BH0152

PP HQ

DE BH

P 312115Z MAY 77

FM BIRMINGHAM (44-1742) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

MURKIN

REBUCAL TO BIRMINGHAM MAY 18, 1977, REQUESTING CONTACT WITH FORMER BH 1079-PCI, TO DETERMINE IF HE CAN BE IDENTIFIED TO THE HOUSE ASSASSINATION COMMITTEE (HAC) AS THE SOURCE OF INFORMATION REGARDING LIBERTO, ET AL.

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HE IS DISENCHANTED WITH THE HAC AND BELIEVES IT IS TOO POLITICAL. HE HAS NOT TALKED TO THEM (MR. EDDIE EVANS) IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS. EVANS DESIRES SOURCE TO BE IN TOUCH TELEPHONICALLY AT LEAST TWICE A WEEK BUT IS NEVER AVAILABLE WHEN SOURCE PUTS HIMSELF OUT TO MAKE THESE CONTACTS.

44-1740-2250
JG

PAGE TWO BH 44-1740

SOURCE DISAPPROVES OF ALL THE TV PUBLICITY THE HAC RECEIVED IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, AND MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, A FEW WEEKS AGO, AND AGAIN BELIEVES THEY ARE "TOO POLITICAL."

THROUGH THE HAC, HE HAS MET MARK LANE. SOURCE HAS NO USE FOR LANE AND ARGUED WITH HIM ON THE OCCASION WHEN THEY MET.

SOURCE HAS CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION HIMSELF IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, RECENTLY. JAMES EARL RAY LEFT BIRMINGHAM MARCH 30, 1968, AND WENT DIRECTLY TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, ON MARCH 30, 1968. HE STAYED AT MRS. DEATON'S ROOMING HOUSE ON PEABODY STREET IN MEMPHIS, AND SOURCE INTERVIEWED HER APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS AGO.

SOURCE DEVELOPED A "LIBERTO MAN" WHO SHOWED SOURCE THE ABOVE ROOMING HOUSE. SOURCE HAS NOT FURNISHED THIS INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEATON ROOMING HOUSE TO HAC SINCE THEY HAVE NOT BEEN IN RECENT CONTACT WITH HIM.

INFORMATION FURNISHED BY THIS SOURCE IN THE FUTURE WILL BE RECORDED AT BIRMINGHAM AND FORWARDED IF APPROPRIATE.

AIRMAIL COPIES BEING FURNISHED MEMPHIS AND NEW ORLEANS.

BT.

6/1/77

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Birmingham teletype, 5/31/77.

Source referred to in retel is MORRIS DAVIS,
DOB [redacted] address - 2029 Valleydale Road, Birmingham,
Alabama, 35244.

2 - Bureau
① - Birmingham
ALB:hss
(3) *[Signature]*

[Signature]

44-1740-2251
[Signature]

Routing Slip
FD-4 (Rev. 1-73)

Date 12/9/76

To: ☒ Director

Att.: FOIA Section, Room 5439

RALPH HARP

Title MURKING

☐ SAC

☐ ASAC

☐ Supv.

☐ Agent

☐ SE

☐ SC

☐ CC

☐ Steno

☐ Clerk

RE: BU tel call, 12/7/76

☐ Rotor #: _____

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign _____ Reassign _____

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline _____

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Discontinue

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ For information

☐ Handle

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken

☐ Open Case

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Serial # _____

☐ Post ☐ Recharge ☐ Return

☐ Send to _____

☐ Submit new charge out

☐ Submit report by _____

☐ Type

SEARCHED _____

INDEXED _____

SERIALIZED _____

FILED _____

Enclosed are photographs of 3 different artist sketches of suspect which were located in 1A Section of BH 44-1740.

1 - Bureau (Enc. 3)

1 - Birmingham

ALB:crt

(2)

See reverse side

SAC

L. R. KIRKPATRICK

Office

BIRMINGHAM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)(C)

DATE: 8/4/77

FROM : SC Mildred H. Gipson

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 8/3/77, at approximately 11:30 AM, Mr. F. M. BATTLE, General Steel Tank Co., Birmingham, Ala., phone #595-0551, telephonically contacted the Birmingham FBI Office. Mr. BATTLE stated he is the father of DIANNE BATTLE (44-1740-1018) whom the FBI interviewed regarding the MARTIN LUTHER KING case.

Mr. BATTLE stated his daughter had been contacted by a SHELIA JACKSON LEE and W. ISRAEL who were staying at the Hyatt House in Birmingham. He advised these two individuals wanted to interview DIANNE today at her place of employment, Birmingham Water Works, at approximately 12:45 PM. He stated these two individuals were doing an investigation on the MARTIN LUTHER KING-KENNEDY cases. Mr. BATTLE's call to the FBI was to know if FBI had any knowledge of these two individuals. He said they had informed DIANNE they were doing some type of congressional investigation.

Mr. BATTLE was informed FBI Birmingham would have no knowledge of a congressional committee being in Birmingham, but advised him to be sure they had proper identification.

At approximately 3:30 PM, 8/3/77, Mr. BATTLE telephonically^{advised} he had gone with DIANNE when she was interviewed by Ms. LEE, an attorney from DC, and Mr. ISRAEL, a former NY policeman. He stated ~~these~~ two individuals had identification and they were on a Special Congressional Committee from DC. He said they ask very simple questions regarding DIANNE's employment at BTNB in connection with the MARTIN LUTHER KING murder. He said they informed him the FBI would have no knowledge of their being in Birmingham.

44-1740-2252

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 5 1977	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

INFO#10 231053Z 1135ZZ

PP HQ BM DL JM

P 190530Z AUG 73

FM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB H) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

DALLAS PRIORITY

JACKSON PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS F F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8000 JTH.

MURKIN. — 44-1740X

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPES TO BUREAU AUGUST 18, 1973, NO COPIES
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TO KING'S DEATH AND WISHED TO SURRENDER TO

8/19/78
#4 advised
telephonically
Notified
Gibbs
Notified telephonically

44-1740-2253

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 19 1973	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

Gibbs

PAGE TWO (ME 44-1987 SUB M) UNCLAS E F T O

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ABOUT 9:30 PM ON AUGUST 17, 1973, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, COMMONLY KNOWN AS BILL WILSON, CALLED JAMES HOOTEN STATING HE WAS CALLING FROM CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. HE MADE GENERAL INQUIRIES REGARDING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF JAMES HOOTEN AND HIS WIFE MARIE, AND THEN HE REQUESTED HOOTEN TO CALL SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., SHERIFF GENE BARKSDALE FOR HIM. HOOTEN QUESTIONED HIM REGARDING THE NATURE OF HIS REQUEST, AND WILSON TOLD HIM HE HAD TELEPHONED BARKSDALE ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 17, 1973, AND HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM ON AUGUST 20, 1973, PLACE NOT STATED. HE INFORMED HOOTEN HE HAD CALLED BARKSDALE AND WAS MEETING WITH HIM TO SURRENDER HIMSELF BECAUSE HE SHOT AND KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968. HE WANTED HOOTEN TO CALL SHERIFF BARKSDALE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFIRMING HIS, WILSON'S, IDENTITY

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THE BIRMINGHAM OFFICE WILL INTERVIEW LYDA MC GAWA AND AL WILSON AT DEFORM, ALA., AND OBTAIN ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION RE BURGESS WILSON FROM HIS BROTHER AND SISTER. //

JACKSON WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW CHRISTINE WILSON, MARRIED NAME NOT KNOWN, AT FULTON, MISS., AND DEVELOP ALL PERTINENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION RE BURGESS WILSON.

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ALL OFFICES NOTE THESE LEADS SHOULD BE GIVEN EXPEDITE ATTENTION. //

BT

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PP HQ BH DL JN

P 190530Z AUG 78

FM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

DALLAS PRIORITY

JACKSON PRIORITY

BT

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ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JFH.

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44-1740-2253

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CRITICAL PERIOD (APRIL 4, 1968) AND IF WILSON HAS HISTORY
OF PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS.

ALL OFFICES NOTE THESE LEADS SHOULD BE GIVEN EXPEDITE
ATTENTION.

BT

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☒ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date 8/19/78

FM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)
 TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) (PRIORITY)
 MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) (PRIORITY)
JACKSON (62-544) (PRIORITY)
 BT

UNCLAS *EFTO*

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH.

MURKIN

✓
 RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND OTHER OFFICES,
 AUG. 19, 1978.

ON AUG. 19, 1978, MR. ALLISON T. WILSON, P. O. BOX 23,
 (HIGHWAY 17 SOUTH), REFORM, ALA., ADVISED THAT BURGESS AUDIE
 WILSON IS HIS BROTHER AND HAS FOR MANY YEARS BEEN AN ALCOHOLIC
 AND IS A CONFIRMED LIAR AND THINKS OF HIMSELF AS A RETIRED
 COLONEL AND POSES AS A VIET NAM VETERAN WHEN HE IS DRUNK. HE
 STATED THAT HIS BROTHER HAS OFTEN CONFESSED TO VARIOUS CRIMES
 IN ORDER TO BE LOCKED UP SO HE WILL BE ABLE TO GET SOBER. MR.
 WILSON STATED HE CAN THINK OF ONLY ONE SPECIFIC TIME THAT HIS

① - BIRMINGHAM
 TMG:bkc
[Signature]
 (1)

44-1740-2254
SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

Approved: *[Signature]*

Transmitted

JN - 363 - 578
 Dic - 362 - 511
 ME - 361 - 356 pm

(Number)

(Time)

Per *[Signature]*

F B I

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE TWO BH 44-1740 UNCLAS ~~EFTO~~

BROTHER CONFESSED TO A CRIME AND WAS LOCKED UP IN NEW BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS. HE COULD NOT RECALL THE DATE OR THE SPECIFIC CRIME.

MR. WILSON STATED THAT THE FAMILY HAD RECENTLY SOLD HIS FATHER'S HOME AND HIS BROTHER WAS SENT HIS SHARE WHICH WAS \$2,075. HE FEELS THAT HIS BROTHER AT THE PRESENT TIME IS ON A "TOOT". MR. WILSON STATED THAT HIS BROTHER HAD RECENTLY CALLED THEIR SISTER, MRS. LYDA MC GAHA, COLUMBUS, MISS., AND TOLD HER THAT HE, ALLISON T. WILSON, HAD HAD A HEARD ATTACK AND WAS ALMOST DEAD. MR. WILSON STATED THAT HE RECALLS ON ONE OCCASION, HIS BROTHER CALLED HIM AND TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD BEEN ELECTED MAYOR OF GRANDVIEW, MO., AND HE KNOWS THAT HIS BROTHER WAS LIVING AT GRANDVIEW, MO. AND OPERATING A JEWELRY STORE ON APRIL 4, 1968. HE STATED AT THIS TIME HIS BROTHER WAS MARRIED TO BETTY WADE, WHO PRESENTLY RESIDES 233 SMITH STREET, BURLESON, TEXAS. HE STATED THAT HIS BROTHER'S SON, STEVE WILSON, 117 LIVINGSTON, FT. WORTH, TEXAS, AND HIS DAUGHTER, MRS. CHARLES (DEBBIE) JONES, 2628 NEWBURG ROAD, TRAILER 106, BELVIDERE, ILL., WAS LIVING AT HOME AT THIS TIME, AND THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO CONFIRM THIS ALSO. MR. WILSON CONCLUDED BY STATING HIS BROTHER WOULD NOT BE ABLE

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____
(Number) (Time)

Per _____

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- ☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE THREE

BH 44-1740

UNCLAS

EFTO

TO COMMIT A CRIME OF VIOLENCE INASMUCH AS HE ONLY WANTED TO
GET SOMETHING TO DRINK AND GET DRUNK.

BT

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____

(Number)

(Time)

Per _____

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

PH0362 2312211

PP HQ MT JN

DE RH

P 182211Z AUG 78

FM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) (PRIORITY)

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) (PRIORITY)

JACKSON (62-544) (PRIORITY)

BT

UNCLAS F F T O

ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 3986 JFW.

MURKIN

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND OTHER OFFICES,
AUG. 19, 1978.

ON AUG. 19, 1978, MR. ALLISON T. WILSON, P. O. BOX 23,
(HIGHWAY 17 SOUTH), REFORM, ALA., ADVISED THAT BURGESS AUDIE
WILSON IS HIS BROTHER AND HAS FOR MANY YEARS BEEN AN ALCOHOLIC
AND IS A CONFIDENT LIAR AND THINKS OF HIMSELF AS A RETIRED
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44-1740-2254
SEARCHED

SERIAL

PAGE TWO BN 44-1740 UNCLAS FF T O

BROTHER CONFESSED TO A CRIME AND WAS LOCKED UP IN NEW BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS. HE COULD NOT RECALL THE DATE OF THE SPECIFIC CRIME.

MR. WILSON STATED THAT THE FAMILY HAD RECENTLY SOLD HIS FATHER'S HOME AND HIS BROTHER WAS SENT HIS SHARE WHICH WAS \$2,875. HE FEELS THAT HIS BROTHER AT THE PRESENT TIME IS ON A "TOOT". MR. WILSON STATED THAT HIS BROTHER HAD RECENTLY CALLED THEIR SISTER, MRS. LYDA MC GAWA, COLUMBUS, MISS., AND TOLD HER THAT HE, ALLISON T. WILSON, HAD HAD A HEART ATTACK AND WAS ALMOST DEAD. MR. WILSON STATED THAT HE RECALLS ON ONE OCCASION, HIS BROTHER CALLED HIM AND TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD BEEN ELECTED MAYOR OF GRANDVIEW, MO., AND HE KNOWS THAT HIS BROTHER WAS LIVING AT GRANDVIEW, MO. AND OPERATING A JEWELRY STORE ON APRIL 4, 1967. HE STATED AT THIS TIME HIS BROTHER WAS MARRIED TO BETTY WADE, WHO PRESENTLY RESIDES 233 SMITH STREET, BURLESON, TEXAS.

HE STATED THAT HIS BROTHER'S SON, STEVE WILSON, 117 LIVINGSTON, FT. WORTH, TEXAS, AND HIS DAUGHTER, MRS. CHARLES (DEBBIE) JONES, 2623 NEWBURG ROAD, TRAILER 166, BELVIDERE, ILL., WAS LIVING AT HOME AT THIS TIME, AND THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO CONFIRM THIS ALSO. MR. WILSON CONCLUDED BY STATING HIS BROTHER WOULD NOT BE ABLE

PAGE THREE RM 44-L746 UNCLAS E F T O

TO COMMIT A CRIME OF VIOLENCE INASMUCH AS HE ONLY WANTED TO
GET SOMETHING TO DRINK AND GET DRUNK.

BT

VZCZCH00049 2312325

OO HQ BH DL WF SA

DE JN

I 19 2242Z AUG 78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE. ALL OFFICES VIA FBIHQ

MEMPHIS (44-1937 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., INMATE, OCEAN SPRINGS CITY JAIL, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, WAS INTERVIEWED BY FBI AGENTS, AUGUST 19, 1978, REGARDING HIS ALLEGED KNOWLEDGE AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING AFTER HAVING WAIVED HIS RIGHTS, AND HE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

WILSON ADVISED THAT THE TIME PRIOR TO THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, HE WAS LIVING IN GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, IN A HOUSE ON

8/19
Supv. Barnett
advised of
teletype.
J

make
I see no need
for further action
unless additional
leads received.
HBB

44-1740-2255

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FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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PAGE 2 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

BYERS ROAD WITH HIS WIFE, BETTY LOU, AND HIS THREE CHILDREN, DEBORAH, STEVE, AND MARK. HE WAS IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVE AND ALSO OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE.

IN THE COURSE OF HIS JEWELRY BUSINESS, HE MET A WHITE MALE ITALIAN WHO WAS IN HIS LATE SIXTIES AND WAS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET 9 INCHES TALL, WEIGHED APPROXIMATELY 230 POUNDS, AND WHO OPERATED A JEWELRY TRADE SHOP ON WALNUT STREET. HE STATED THAT THIS WHITE MALE INTRODUCED HIM TO ANOTHER WHITE MALE ITALIAN BY THE NAME OF MITCH (LNU), WHO WAS IN HIS MID FIFTIES AND WAS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET 10 INCHES TALL, AND WEIGHED APPROXIMATELY 190 POUNDS, WHO HAD BLACK, WAVY HAIR AND HAD SOME CONNECTION WITH A BONDING COMPANY, AND ALSO MITCH'S BROTHER, NAME NOT RECALLED, WHO FIT THE SAME PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AS MITCH, BUT WHO HAD NUMEROUS CUT SCARS ON HIS FACE.

HE STATED THAT MITCH STARTED DELIVERING JEWELRY TO HIM FOR THE PURPOSE OF HAVING THE STONES REMOVED FROM THE FITTINGS. HE STATED MITCH USUALLY MET HIM AT A BAR ON WALNUT STREET WHICH WAS RUN BY A WHITE FEMALE AND IT ALSO APPEARED THAT MITCH MIGHT HAVE BEEN A PART OWNER OR HAD AN INTEREST IN THIS BAR. HE STATED THAT DUE TO THE VOLUME OF JEWELRY THAT MITCH WAS BRINGING TO HIM, HE

PAGE 3 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

ASKED MITCH ABOUT IT, AND MITCH ADVISED HIM THAT IT WAS STOLEN JEWELRY. MITCH TOLD HIM, HOWEVER, THAT HE, WILSON, WAS IN AS DEEP AS HE, MITCH, WAS AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH MITCH. HE STATED THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH MITCH CONTINUED UNTIL 1976.

HE STATED THAT MITCH BROUGHT UP THE IDEA OF KILLING KING AND SAID THAT THERE WAS A \$50,000 CONTRACT ON HIM. HOWEVER, HE NEVER SAID WHO PUT OUT THE CONTRACT BUT SAID THAT HE COULD GET THE MONEY FOR WILSON IF HE KILLED KING.

WILSON STATED THAT MITCH WAS WELL AWARE OF HIS, WILSON'S, THOUGHTS CONCERNING KING AND THE BLACK CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, IN THAT HIS FATHER, WHO WAS A PASTOR OF THE CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH AT GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI, DIED OF A HEART ATTACK WHICH HE, WILSON, THOUGHT WAS CAUSED AS A RESULT OF RACIAL TENSIONS AT GRENADA BROUGHT ON BY THE FORCEFUL INTEGRATION OF HIS FATHER'S CHURCH.

WILSON STATED THAT APPROXIMATELY FIVE OR SIX MONTHS BEFORE KING'S MURDER, HE STARTED GATHERING INFORMATION ON THE MOVEMENTS, HABITS, AND WHEREABOUTS OF KING.

WILSON ADVISED THAT HE HAD A RED AND WHITE BONANZA AIRPLANE, REGISTER NUMBER 34L, AND A CESSNA 310 TWIN-ENGINE AIRCRAFT, WHICH

PAGE 4 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

WAS BLUE AND WHITE, WHICH PLANES HE USED TO FLY TO DIFFERENT PLACES WHERE KING WAS SUPPOSED TO BE. HE STATED THAT HE RECALLS GOING TO MONTSVILLE, ALABAMA; TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI; JACKSON, TENNESSEE; ATLANTA, GEORGIA; AND GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA. HE STATED THAT WHILE AT TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI, HE STAYED IN THE RAMADA INN AND BELIEVES THAT IN THE OTHER PLACES HE VISITED HE STAYED IN HOLIDAY INNS.

HE STATED THAT MITCH FURNISHED HIM A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE. HE STATED THAT HE KEPT THE RIFLE AND THAT JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS OF 1975, HE HAD IT REWORKED AT A GUNSHOP IN COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, ON FOURTH STREET ACROSS FROM A BANK. HE STATED THAT THE LAST KNOWLEDGE HE HAD OF THE RIFLE, HIS OLDER SON, STEVEN WAYNE WILSON, HAD THE RIFLE AND A SHOTGUN BUT HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD SOLD IT.

MR. WILSON ADVISED THAT THERE WAS A GARBAGE STRIKE IN PROGRESS AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND THAT MITCH CALLED HIM AT HIS STORE IN GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, AND TOLD HIM THAT KING WAS COMING TO MEMPHIS FOR A RALLY AND INSTRUCTED WILSON TO COME TO MEMPHIS WHERE HE WAS TO MEET TWO MEN AT THE WONDER BAR LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF SUMMER AVENUE AND WHITE STATION ROAD.

MR. WILSON ADVISED THAT HE FLEW TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, IN THE

PAGE 5 JN 32-544 UNCLAS E F T O

BOUENZA AIRCRAFT AND LANDED AT AN AIRPORT JUST NORTH OF DALEIGH, TENNESSEE. HE STATED THAT THE AIRPORT WAS OPERATED BY A LONG-TIME ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS WHO HAD ATTENDED A CHURCH WHICH WAS PASTORED BY WILSON'S FATHER IN THE PAST. WILSON STATED THAT HIS DAUGHTER, DEBORAH, PICKED HIM UP AT THE AIRPORT IN HER 1965 WHITE MUSTANG, WHICH WILSON HAD PREVIOUSLY BOUGHT FOR HER AND WHICH WAS REGISTERED IN HIS NAME IN MISSOURI.

HE ADVISED THAT DEBORAH AND HER MOTHER, BETTY LOU, WERE STAYING AT THE RESIDENCE OF WILSON'S FATHER-IN-LAW, VERNON HOOTEN, 3095 BUCKLE ROAD, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. HE STATED THAT HOOTEN HAD HAD A HEART ATTACK AND THAT HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER WERE TEMPORARILY STAYING AT THE HOOTEN RESIDENCE.

WILSON ADVISED THAT HE WENT TO THE WONDER BAR AND WHILE HAVING A DRINK TWO WHITE MEN APPROACHED HIM, ONE HAVING AN ACCENT SIMILAR TO A PUERTO RICAN.

THE TWO WHITE MALES FURNISHED HIM WITH FBI CREDENTIALS, WHICH HE STATED HAD A BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPH OF HIMSELF ON IT, AND THEY TOOK HIM AND SHOWED HIM WHERE KING WAS TO HOLD THE RALLY. THEY THEN TOOK WILSON TO A HOTEL ON SOUTH MAIN STREET NEAR BEALE STREET AND TOOK HIM TO A ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR. THEY TOLD HIM