

PAGE 6 JN 62-544 UNCLAS F F T O

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WILSON STATED THAT ON THE DAY OF THE MURDER HE WAS IN THE CROWD STANDING NEAR A WOOD FENCE APPROXIMATELY 60 FEET FROM WHERE KING WAS STANDING AND THAT WHEN KING RAISED HIS ARMS THE SECOND TIME HE SHOT HIM.

MR. WILSON ADVISED THAT HE HAD THE RIFLE WHICH HE USED STRAPPED TO HIS BELT UNDER A SUIT COAT AND ATTACHED TO HIS BELT ON A SWIVEL. HE STATED THAT THE BARREL PROTRUDED FROM BELOW HIS COAT BUT NO ONE QUESTIONED HIM CONCERNING IT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD PRACTICED A GREAT DEAL SWIVELING THE RIFLE AND FIRING IT.

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WILSON ADVISED THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK BEFORE THE MURDER, MITCH GAVE HIM \$25,000 IN \$20 BILLS, AND FOLLOWING THE MURDER, MITCH GAVE HIM ANOTHER \$25,000, AT WHICH TIME HE GAVE THE CREDENTIALS BACK TO MITCH.

WILSON ADVISED THAT HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF JAMES EARL RAY HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN THE CONSPIRACY.

THE ABOVE INFORMATION REFLECTS COMPLETE DETAILS OF INTERVIEW WITH WILSON.

WILSON HAS SIGNED EXTRADITION PAPERS, AND EXTRADITION IN PROGRESS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

APPROPRIATE RECIPIENTS REQUESTED TO REINTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE INCONSISTENCIES CONCERNING HIS APPEARANCE IN MEMPHIS ON APRIL 4, 1968.

CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ALLOWING TWO AGENTS FROM MEMPHIS DIVISION WHO ARE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE MURKIN MATTER TO REINTERVIEW WILSON CONCERNING HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING AND ALSO INTERVIEW

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BY POLYGRAPH OPERATOR FROM MEMPHIS DIVISION.

BT

FOR ANY CORRECTIONS PLEASE CONTACT JACKSON

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FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE ALL OFFICES VIA FBIHQ

MEMPHIS (44-1987 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

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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

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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 1970.

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

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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 HUNTSVILLE, 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

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BONANZA AIRCRAFT AND LANDED AT AN AIRPORT JUST NORTH OF RALEIGH, 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 RUSKIN 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



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CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ALLOWING TWO AGENTS FROM MEMPHIS DIVISION WHO ARE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE MURKIN MATTER TO REINTERVIEW WILSON CONCERNING HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING AND ALSO INTERVIEW

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BY POLYGRAPH OPERATOR FROM MEMPHIS DIVISION.

BT

FOR ANY CORRECTIONS PLESASE CONTACT JACKSON

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FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

////////ALL OFFICES VIA FBIHQ////////

HOUSTON IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS F F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 2988, JEH.

MURKIN: OO: MEMPHIS.

FOR INFORMATION OF HOUSTON, ON AUGUST 13, 1978, GENE BARKSDALE, SHERIFF, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, ADVISED THAT ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 17, 1978, HE RECEIVED TWO TELEPHONE CALLS FROM BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. WILSON, WHO WAS FORMERLY IN THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, WITH BARKSDALE, INFORMED THE SHERIFF THAT HE HAD KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968 AT

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BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AKA BILL WILSON, WAS ARRESTED BY OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, POLICE DEPARTMENT, 7:35 PM, AUGUST 18, 1978, BASED ON PROBATION VIOLATOR WARRANT DATED APRIL 13, 1978, ISSUED BY NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, POLICE DEPARTMENT. WILSON PRESENTLY INCARCERATED OCEAN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT. OCEAN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND THE LATTER DESIRES HIS RETURN TO TEXAS.

WILSON CONTACTED AM, AUGUST 19, 1978, BY FBI AND FURNISHED FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

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HE WAS BORN ON [REDACTED], AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, AND RESIDED WITH HIS FAMILY AT GOLDEN, MISSISSIPPI, UNTIL 1936, WHEN THEY MOVED TO ELDRIDGE, ALABAMA, WHERE HE WENT TO SCHOOL UNTIL THE EIGHTH GRADE AND THEN WENT TO CARBON HILL, ALABAMA, HIGH SCHOOL, UNTIL 1947.

ON MAY 2, 1947, HE ENTERED U. S. AIR FORCE AND WAS DISCHARGED 1950. AFTER BEING OUT OF THE AIR FORCE FOR APPROXIMATELY EIGHT MONTHS, HE WAS RECALLED INTO THE KOREAN WAR UNTIL HE WAS GIVEN AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE FEBRUARY, 1960.

HE AND HIS WIFE, BETTY LOU WILSON, MOVED TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, FOLLOWING HIS DISCHARGE AND WORKED FOR PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR. AFTER LEAVING PRUDENTIAL, HE OPERATED A LAUNDRY AND CLEANING BUSINESS IN MEMPHIS. DURING THIS TIME HE WAS ALSO IN THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD.

HE LEFT MEMPHIS, WENT TO GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, WHERE HE BECAME A CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVE AND REMAINED WITH THE RESERVE UNTIL 1970. ALSO, FROM 1966 UNTIL 1970, HE OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE BUSINESS.

IN 1970, HE AND WIFE BETTY WILSON MOVED TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND OPENED A JEWELRY BUSINESS IN BARTLETT, TENNESSEE. IN ADDITION

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TO JEWELRY BUSINESS, HE BUILT ALUMINUM STORAGE BUILDINGS, BUT IN JUNE, 1970, HIS BUSINESS WAS DESTROYED BY A TORNADO.

HE THEN WENT TO SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, AND BECAME EMPLOYED BY AIR FORCE RESERVE AS A FLIGHT ENGINEER. HE ALSO OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE IN SAN ANTONIO UNTIL 1974, AND AT THIS TIME HE AND HIS WIFE, BETTY, WERE DIVORCED. HE THEN MOVED TO MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS, OPENED A JEWELRY STORE, AND MARRIED AVIS LEA HUNTER. HE WAS MARRIED FOR APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS AND THEY WERE DIVORCED. SHE NOW RESIDES AT 1010 HICKORY HILL LANE, HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE. HE THEN WENT TO COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, WHERE HE WORKED IN THE GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN FOR GOVERNOR CLIFF FINCH. WHILE IN COLUMBUS, HE MARRIED PATRICIA SHINDALA OF STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI. DURING THE GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN IT WAS SUGGESTED HE TELL PEOPLE HE WAS A RETIRED COLONEL AND AN EX-PRISONER OF WAR. HE LEFT COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, JANUARY, 1976, WENT TO TYLER, TEXAS, AND STAYED WITH LARRY HUGHEY, A FRIEND. HE WENT TO TEXAS FOR PURPOSE OF CLEARING UP SOME CHARGES AGAINST HIM AT NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS. HE WENT TO DALLAS, TEXAS, TO SEE A FRIEND, AND WHILE THERE CALLED HIS SON, AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER POLICE ARRIVED AND ARRESTED HIM ON CHARGE OF NON CHILD SUPPORT ON A WARRANT ISSUED FOR HIM AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS. HE WAS RELEASED

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TO AUTHORITIES FROM NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, WHERE HE PLED GUILTY TO A CHARGE OF THEFT BY CHECK AND RECEIVED A SENTENCE OF EIGHT YEARS PROBATION. HE THEN STAYED IN VICINITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS WHERE HE WAS INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTION WORK. HE HAD AN ALTERCATION WITH AN EMPLOYEE AND WAS ARRESTED FOR VIOLATION OF HIS PROBATION BUT WAS RELEASED A COUPLE OF WEEKS LATER. HE CONTINUED WORKING AROUND NEW BRAUNFELS AND WAS AGAIN ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF STOLEN MERCHANDISE, BUT THE CHARGES WERE LATER DROPPED. HE CONTINUED IN CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS AND MARRIED JO ANN CHILDRESS AND WAS DIVORCED AFTER THREE MONTHS. IN JANUARY, 1976, HE DEPARTED FOR HOUMA, LOUISIANA, AND WORKED FOR LOUISIANA OFF-SHORE CATERERS UNTIL APRIL, 1976, WHEN HE WENT TO WORK FOR GULF COAST CATERERS OF NEW IBERIA, LOUISIANA, WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL THE END OF JUNE, 1976. HE CAME TO OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, AND OPENED A JEWELRY SHOP AND RESIDED AT TWIN PINES APARTMENTS IN OCEAN SPRINGS FOR THE FIRST THREE WEEKS THEN MOVED TO ROUTE 6, BOX 387.

WILSON IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AKA BILL; DOB [REDACTED]  
POB VULTON, MISSISSIPPI; 5 FEET 11 INCHES; 170 POUNDS; BROWN EYES;  
GRAY HAIR; SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED] HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;



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MILITARY SERVICE, U. S. AIR FORCE, 1947 - 1966; FATHER BURGESS  
AUDIE WILSON, SR. (DECEASED), GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI; MOTHER NITTIE  
DALE (DECEASED); STEPMOTHER LILLIE MAE WILSON (DECEASED), GRENADA,  
MISSISSIPPI; BROTHER ALLISON TOWERS WILSON, REFORM, ALABAMA;  
SISTER LYDA MC GANEY, 2402 EAST EIGHTH AVENUE NORTH, COLUMBUS,  
MISSISSIPPI; SISTER CHRISTINE GUNTHER, FULTON, MISSISSIPPI;  
EX-WIFE BETTY LOU WILSON WADE, BURLESON, TEXAS; EX-WIFE AVIS LEA  
HUNTER, 1018 HICKORY HILL LANE, HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE; EX-WIFE  
PATRICIA SHINDALA, STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI (BELIEVED KILLED IN  
CAR ACCIDENT); EX-WIFE JO ANN CHILDRESS, 113 MILL STREET, SAN  
MARCOS, TEXAS; DAUGHTER DEBORAH ANN JONES, HUSBAND CHARLES,  
BELVEDERE, ILLINOIS; SON STEVEN WAYNE WILSON, BURLESON, TEXAS;  
SON MARK ANTHONY WILSON, BURLESON, TEXAS.

BIRMINGHAM REQUESTED TO INTERVIEW ALLISON TOWERS WILSON,  
BROTHER, REFORM, ALABAMA.

DALLAS INTERVIEW BETTY LOU WILSON WADE, EX-WIFE, BURLESON,  
TEXAS, AND SONS STEVEN WAYNE WILSON AND MARK ANTHONY WILSON. IF  
NOT ALREADY DONE, ASCERTAIN WHEREABOUTS OF DEBORAH ANN JONES,  
DAUGHTER, FOR IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW, WHO IS REPORTEDLY RESIDING IN  
EITHER BELVEDERE OR BELLVIEW, ILLINOIS.

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HOUSTON REVIEW POLICE RECORDS AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS, FOR FULL DETAILS OF NON CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT ISSUED BY THAT DEPARTMENT AGAINST WILSON.

MEMPHIS INTERVIEW AVIS LEA HUNTER, EX- WIFE.

SAN ANTONIO INTERVIEW JO ANN CHILDRESS, EX-WIFE, AND ALSO REVIEW RECORDS AT THE AIR FORCE RESERVE CENTER.

ALL OFFICES INTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON FOR FULL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND VERACITY OF HIS ALLEGATION THAT HE KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. DETERMINE HIS WHEREABOUTS DURING THE CRITICAL PERIOD OF APRIL 4, 1968, AND IF WILSON MAY HAVE HAD A HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS. ALL LEADS SHOULD BE HANDLED IMMEDIATELY AND KEEP FBIHQ, MEMPHIS, AND JACKSON APPRISED.

INTERVIEW OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., CONTINUING AT OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, CONCERNING ASSASSINATION.

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FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE //

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MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

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HE WAS BORN ON [REDACTED] AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, AND RESIDED WITH HIS FAMILY AT GOLDEN, MISSISSIPPI, UNTIL 1936, WHEN THEY MOVED TO ELDRIDGE, ALABAMA, WHERE HE WENT TO SCHOOL UNTIL THE EIGHTH GRADE AND THEN WENT TO CARBON HILL, ALABAMA, HIGH SCHOOL, UNTIL 1947.

ON MAY 2, 1947, HE ENTERED U. S. AIR FORCE AND WAS DISCHARGED 1950. AFTER BEING OUT OF THE AIR FORCE FOR APPROXIMATELY EIGHT MONTHS, HE WAS RECALLED INTO THE KOREAN WAR UNTIL HE WAS GIVEN AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE FEBRUARY, 1960.

HE AND HIS WIFE, BETTY LOU WILSON, MOVED TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, FOLLOWING HIS DISCHARGE AND WORKED FOR PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR. AFTER LEAVING PRUDENTIAL, HE OPERATED A LAUNDRY AND CLEANING BUSINESS IN MEMPHIS. DURING THIS TIME HE WAS ALSO IN THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD.

HE LEFT MEMPHIS, WENT TO GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, WHERE HE BECAME A CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVE AND REMAINED WITH THE RESERVE UNTIL 1970. ALSO, FROM 1966 UNTIL 1970, HE OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE BUSINESS.

IN 1970, HE AND WIFE BETTY WILSON MOVED TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND OPENED A JEWELRY BUSINESS IN BARTLETT, TENNESSEE. IN ADDITION

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TO JEWELRY BUSINESS, HE BUILT ALUMINUM STORAGE BUILDINGS, BUT IN JUNE, 1970, HIS BUSINESS WAS DESTROYED BY A TORNADO.

HE THEN WENT TO SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, AND BECAME EMPLOYED BY AIR FORCE RESERVE AS A FLIGHT ENGINEER. HE ALSO OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE IN SAN ANTONIO UNTIL 1974, AND AT THIS TIME HE AND HIS WIFE, BETTY, WERE DIVORCED. HE THEN MOVED TO MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS, OPENED A JEWELRY STORE, AND MARRIED AVIS LEA HUNTER. HE WAS MARRIED FOR APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS AND THEY WERE DIVORCED. SHE NOW RESIDES AT 1010 HICKORY HILL LANE, HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE. HE THEN WENT TO COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, WHERE HE WORKED IN THE GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN FOR GOVERNOR CLIFF FINCH. WHILE IN COLUMBUS, HE MARRIED PATRICIA SHINDALA OF STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI. DURING THE GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN IT WAS SUGGESTED HE TELL PEOPLE HE WAS A RETIRED COLONEL AND AN EX-PRISONER OF WAR. HE LEFT COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, JANUARY, 1976, WENT TO TYLER, TEXAS, AND STAYED WITH LARRY RUGHEY, A FRIEND. HE WENT TO TEXAS FOR PURPOSE OF CLEARING UP SOME CHARGES AGAINST HIM AT NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS. HE WENT TO DALLAS, TEXAS, TO SEE A FRIEND, AND WHILE THERE CALLED HIS SON, AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER POLICE ARRIVED AND ARRESTED HIM ON CHARGE OF NON CHILD SUPPORT ON A WARRANT ISSUED FOR HIM AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS. HE WAS RELEASED

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TO AUTHORITIES FROM NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, WHERE HE PLED GUILTY TO A CHARGE OF THEFT BY CHECK AND RECEIVED A SENTENCE OF EIGHT YEARS PROBATION. HE THEN STAYED IN VICINITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS WHERE HE WAS INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTION WORK. HE HAD AN ALTERCATION WITH AN EMPLOYEE AND WAS ARRESTED FOR VIOLATION OF HIS PROBATION BUT WAS RELEASED A COUPLE OF WEEKS LATER. HE CONTINUED WORKING AROUND NEW BRAUNFELS AND WAS AGAIN ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF STOLEN MERCHANDISE, BUT THE CHARGES WERE LATER DROPPED. HE CONTINUED IN CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS AND MARRIED JO ANN CHILDRESS AND WAS DIVORCED AFTER THREE MONTHS. IN JANUARY, 1978, HE DEPARTED FOR HOUMA, LOUISIANA, AND WORKED FOR LOUISIANA OFF-SHORE CATERERS UNTIL APRIL, 1978, WHEN HE WENT TO WORK FOR GULF COAST CATERERS OF NEW IBERIA, LOUISIANA, WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL THE END OF JUNE, 1978. HE CAME TO OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, AND OPENED A JEWELRY SHOP AND RESIDED AT TWIN PINES APARTMENTS IN OCEAN SPRINGS FOR THE FIRST THREE WEEKS THEN MOVED TO ROUTE 6, BOX 387.

WILSON IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AKA BILL; DOB [REDACTED];  
POB FULTON, MISSISSIPPI; 5 FEET 11 INCHES; 170 POUNDS; BROWN EYES;  
GRAY HAIR; SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED]; HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;

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MILITARY SERVICE, U. S. AIR FORCE, 1947 - 1960; FATHER BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, SR. (DECEASED), GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI; MOTHER MITTIE DALE (DECEASED); STEPMOTHER LILLIE MAE WILSON (DECEASED), GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI; BROTHER ALLISON TOWERS WILSON, REFORM, ALABAMA; SISTER LYDA MC GAHEY, 2002 EAST EIGHTH AVENUE NORTH, COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI; SISTER CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE, FULTON, MISSISSIPPI; EX-WIFE BETTY LOU WILSON WADE, BURLESON, TEXAS; EX-WIFE AVIS LEA WINTER, 1010 HICKORY HILL LANE, HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE; EX-WIFE ATRICIA SHINDALA, STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI (BELIEVED KILLED IN CAR ACCIDENT); EX-WIFE JO ANN CHILDRESS, 113 MILL STREET, SAN MARCOS, TEXAS; DAUGHTER DEBORAH ANN JONES, HUSBAND CHARLES, BELVEDERE, ILLINOIS; SON STEVEN WAYNE WILSON, BURLESON, TEXAS; SON MARK ANTHONY WILSON, BURLESON, TEXAS.

BIRMINGHAM REQUESTED TO INTERVIEW ALLISON TOWERS WILSON, BROTHER, REFORM, ALABAMA.

DALLAS INTERVIEW BETTY LOU WILSON WADE, EX-WIFE, BURLESON, TEXAS, AND SONS STEVEN WAYNE WILSON AND MARK ANTHONY WILSON. IF NOT ALREADY DONE, ASCERTAIN WHEREABOUTS OF DEBORAH ANN JONES, DAUGHTER, FOR IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW, WHO IS REPORTEDLY RESIDING IN EITHER BELVEDERE OR BELLVIEW, ILLINOIS.



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HOUSTON REVIEW VOLICE RECORDS AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS, FOR FULL  
DETAILS OF NON CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT ISSUED BY THAT DEPARTMENT  
AGAINST WILSON.

MEMPHIS INTERVIEW AVIS LEA HUNTER, EX- WIFE.

SAN ANTONIO INTERVIEW JO ANN CHILDRESS, EX-WIFE, AND ALSO  
VIEW RECORDS AT THE AIR FORCE RESERVE CENTER.

ALL OFFICES INTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON FOR FULL BACKGROUND  
INFORMATION AND VERACITY OF HIS ALLEGATION THAT HE KILLED DR.  
MARTIN LUTHER KING. DETERMINE HIS WHEREABOUTS DURING THE CRITICAL  
PERIOD OF APRIL 4, 1968, AND IF WILSON MAY HAVE HAD A HISTORY OF  
PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS. ALL LEADS SHOULD BE HANDLED IMMEDIATELY  
AND KEEP FBIHQ, MEMPHIS, AND JACKSON APPRISED.

INTERVIEW OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., CONTINUING AT  
MOBILE SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, CONCERNING ASSASSINATION.

BT

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

TO FBI BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

FBI CHICAGO PRIORITY

FBI DALLAS PRIORITY

FBI HOUSTON PRIORITY

FBI JACKSON PRIORITY

FBI KANSAS CITY PRIORITY

FBI MEMPHIS PRIORITY

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY PRIORITY

FBI SAN ANTONIO PRIORITY

FBI ST. LOUIS PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

MURKIN

EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION HAS ALREADY BEEN CONDUCTED TO  
RESOLVE THE ALLEGATION BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON THAT HE  
ASSASSINATED MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND TO DETERMINE

44-1740-2257  
MD  
E.665  
WM

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

WILSON'S WHEREABOUTS ON APRIL 4, 1968, THE DAY KING WAS ASSASSINATED. IN ADDITION, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, THE FOLLOWING OFFICES SHOULD CONDUCT THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION:

SAN ANTONIO:

WILSON ALLEGED ON AN UNSPECIFIED DATE MITCH (LNU) FURNISHED HIM A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY USED TO SHOOT KING. DEBRA JONES, DAUGHTER, ADVISED HE WAS ARRESTED ABOUT FOUR AND ONE HALF YEARS AGO AT BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, WHILE INTOXICATED AFTER HAVING MADE THREATS TO KILL HIS WIFE, AND THE POLICE FOUND A RIFLE IN HIS CAR.

SAN ANTONIO AT BROWNSVILLE, OBTAIN DETAILS OF THIS ARREST, AND OBTAIN ANY DESCRIPTION OF RIFLE REPORTEDLY LOCATED BY POLICE.

JACKSON:

APPARENTLY REFERRING TO A SKETCH OF KING'S KILLER, WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS (WORKING ASSOCIATES IN OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI) THAT IT WAS ALMOST AN EXACT LIKENESS OF HIM AND BECAUSE IT WAS RECENTLY SHOWN ON TV, HE DECIDED TO TURN HIMSELF IN. WILSON SAID HE HAS A SISTER IN FULTON, MISSISSIPPI,

PAGE THREE DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

WHO TELEPHONED HIM IN OCEAN SPRINGS TO SAY THAT THE SKETCH LOOKED JUST LIKE HIM.

JACKSON, IN YOUR ATTEMPT TO LOCATE CHRISTINE WILSON, SISTER, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, ALSO INTERVIEW HER RE ALLEGED CALL RE SKETCH DESCRIBED ABOVE.

MEMPHIS:

WILSON ADVISED THE TWO WHITE MALES IN MEMPHIS TOOK HIM TO A HOTEL ON SOUTH MAIN STREET NEAR BEALE STREET AND TOOK HIM TO A ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR. MEMPHIS ADVISE PROXIMITY OF THIS ADDRESS TO ACTUAL KING ASSASSINATION LOCATION.

OPAL HOOTEN, MOTHER OF BETTY LOU WADE, WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH SPECIFIC DATES OF VISITS OF BETTY AND DEBRA, HOWEVER, WOULD CHECK FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS. DEBRA ALSO STATED WHILE HER MOTHER BETTY AND HER WERE IN MEMPHIS VISITING HOOTENS AT TIME KING WAS ASSASSINATED, BETTY CALLED WILSON IN KANSAS CITY AT LEAST TWO TIMES.

MEMPHIS FOLLOW STATUS OF HOOTEN LOCATING FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS, AND DETERMINE WHETHER SHE HAS ANY TELEPHONE RECORDS, OR IF SAME ARE AVAILABLE AT TELEPHONE COMPANY, SHOWING ANY CALLS TO KANSAS CITY, OR GRANDVIEW AREA, DURING PERIOD OF

PAGE FOUR DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

APRIL, 1968.

ALL RECIPIENT OFFICES:

SUTEL SUMMARY RESULTS OF ANY INVESTIGATION STILL  
OUTSTANDING, AND PROMPTLY SUBMIT REPORTS REPORTING ALL  
INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED RE WILSON'S ALLEGATION, DESIGNATING  
4 COPIES TO BUREAU, AND 3 TO MEMPHIS, WITH COPY DESIGNATED  
FOR USA MEMPHIS.

BT

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PP BH CG DL HO JN KC ME OC SL SA

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

TO FBI BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

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FBI MEMPHIS PRIORITY

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY PRIORITY

FBI SAN ANTONIO PRIORITY

FBI ST. LOUIS PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

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MB MB  
Gibbs AEB

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

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PAGE THREE DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

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BT

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE BIRMINGHAM	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 8/29/78	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/19/78
TITLE OF CASE  JAMES EARL RAY, aka Eric Starvo Galt; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM (DECEASED)		REPORT MADE BY  SA THOMAS MAC GIBBS	TYPED BY  bkc
		CHARACTER OF CASE  CR - CONSPIRACY	

REFERENCE: Memphis teletype, 8/19/78.

Bureau teletype, 8/22/78.

-RUC -

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
								PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
								PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE:						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
4 - Bureau (44-38861)						44	1740	3258
3 - Memphis (1 - USA, Memphis)						<i>[Signature]</i>		
1 - Birmingham (44-1740) <i>[Signature]</i>								
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency								
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.								
How Fwd.								
By								

A\*

COVER PAGE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - U. S. Attorney, Memphis, Tennessee

Report of: SA THOMAS MAC GIBBS  
Date: 8/29/78

Office: BIRMINGHAM

Field Office File #: 44-1740

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -  
VICTIM (DECEASED)

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis: Mr. ALLISON T. WILSON, aka Al Wilson, P. O. Box 23, Reform, Ala., advised that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON is his brother and to his knowledge, his brother has been a confirmed liar and alcoholic for the past 20 years. Mr. WILSON stated that his brother on numerous occasions has admitted to crimes that he has not committed when he has been on an extended drunk. Mr. WILSON stated that his brother admits these crimes in order to get locked up so he will be able to sober up. Mr. WILSON stated his brother has told him several untruths knowing that he knew that he was lying at the time. Mr. WILSON stated that he and other members of his family have learned to "turn his brother off" when he starts telling known untruths.

-RUC-

## DETAILS:

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/28/78

Mr. ALLISON T. WILSON, also known as Al Wilson, P. O. Box 23 (Highway 17 South), Reform, Alabama, after having been advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the inquiry, volunteered the following information:

Mr. WILSON stated that his only brother, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, has, for the past 20 years, been a confirmed liar and alcoholic. Mr. WILSON stated his brother has been unable to adjust to normal society after his discharge from the U. S. Air Force, after spending 14 years therein. Mr. WILSON stated that his brother, for two years, upon being discharged from the Air Force, became an ordained minister. He practiced this profession for approximately two years and thereafter engaged in various occupations, including running a jewelry store in Grandview, Missouri and was so employed on April 4, 1968. Mr. WILSON stated his brother was married to BETTY WADE at this time. He stated Mrs. WADE lives with her husband, W. K. WADE, at 233 Smith Street, Burleson, Texas. Mr. WILSON stated his brother's son, STEVE WILSON, resides at 117 Livingston, Ft. Worth, Texas, and his daughter, Mrs. CHARLES (DEBBIE) JONES, resides at 2628 Newburg Road, Trailer 106, Belvidere, Illinois. Each of these three individuals would most likely have knowledge of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON's exact location on April 4, 1968.

Mr. WILSON stated that as an example of his brother's propensity to tell untruths, this past week, his brother called his sister, LYDIA McGAHA, in Columbus, Mississippi. He told her that he (ALLISON T. WILSON) had had a severe heart attack and was about to die. Mr. WILSON stated his sister called him and was very upset. He told

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Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Reform, Alabama File # BH 44-1740  
by SA THOMAS MAC GIBBS:bkc Date dictated 8/23/78

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BH 44-1740

her he had not had a heart attack, and she should have known better than to pay any attention to information furnished by BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. Mr. WILSON stated his brother had, on one occasion, confessed to a crime he did not commit in New Brownsville, Texas. Mr. WILSON stated he could not recall the date and crime charged against his brother; however, he knows he was in jail.

Mr. WILSON stated his brother tells everyone he is a retired colonel from the military and is a Vietnam veteran. Mr. WILSON further stated the family had recently sold their father's house and divided the proceeds. BURGESS AUDIE WILSON received a check for \$2,075 and ALLISON T. WILSON feels that his brother, at the present time, is on an extended "toot".

Mr. WILSON stated that his brother, until approximately one year ago, was operating a jewelry store in Mississippi. He closed this store, and no one heard from him for approximately three or four weeks. Mr. WILSON stated that this is the general pattern of his brother's actions over the past 20 years. When things are not going well, he just walks off, leaves them and goes on an extended drunk. He recalls that on one occasion, he received a telephone call from his brother who told him he had just been elected mayor of Grandview, Missouri. Mr. WILSON stated his brother is quite persuasive in these matters. He recalls on this occasion, he had his wife, BETTY, come on the telephone to confirm the fact that he had been elected mayor of Grandview. Mr. WILSON stated his brother, in his opinion, is not capable of committing a crime of violence. He recalled that when they were in school, his brother would get into an argument with one of their friends. His brother would then come to him and tell him that this individual had made uncomplimentary remarks concerning him in order for him, ALLISON T. WILSON, to engage in a fist fight. By doing this, his brother would accomplish his purpose without having to engage the individual in any physical contact.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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by SA THOMAS MAC GIBBS:bkc Date dictated 8/23/78

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BH 44-1740

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*Gibbs*

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Reform, Alabama File # BH 44-1740 - 2259  
by SA THOMAS MAC GIBBS:bkc Date dictated 8/23/78



BH 44-1740

her he had not had a heart attack, and she should have known better than to pay any attention to information furnished by BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. Mr. WILSON stated his brother had, on one occasion, confessed to a crime he did not commit in New Brownsville, Texas. Mr. WILSON stated he could not recall the date and crime charged against his brother; however, he knows he was in jail.

Mr. WILSON stated his brother tells everyone he is a retired colonel from the military and is a Vietnam veteran. Mr. WILSON further stated the family had recently sold their father's house and divided the proceeds. BURGESS AUDIE WILSON received a check for \$2,075 and ALLISON T. WILSON feels that his brother, at the present time, is on an extended "toot".

Mr. WILSON stated that his brother, until approximately one year ago, was operating a jewelry store in Mississippi. He closed this store, and no one heard from him for approximately three or four weeks. Mr. WILSON stated that this is the general pattern of his brother's actions over the past 20 years. When things are not going well, he just walks off, leaves them and goes on an extended drunk. He recalls that on one occasion, he received a telephone call from his brother who told him he had just been elected mayor of Grandview, Missouri. Mr. WILSON stated his brother is quite persuasive in these matters. He recalls on this occasion, he had his wife, BETTY, come on the telephone to confirm the fact that he had been elected mayor of Grandview. Mr. WILSON stated his brother, in his opinion, is not capable of committing a crime of violence. He recalled that when they were in school, his brother would get into an argument with one of their friends. His brother would then come to him and tell him that this individual had made uncomplimentary remarks concerning him in order for him, ALLISON T. WILSON, to engage in a fist fight. By doing this, his brother would accomplish his purpose without having to engage the individual in any physical contact.

## RECORD OF INFORMATION FURNISHED OTHER AGENCIES

Orally 4/5/78 By Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Written Communication \_\_\_\_\_  
date date date

Information concerning:

*photo of Jerry William Ray*

Information furnished from File, Serial, and Page Number:

*44-1740 1A 71*

Information furnished was obtained:

- ☒ during course of Bureau investigation  
☐ from informants  
☐ from complainants or other sources

Information furnished to:

*Sgt Ernest Cantrell Bham*  
 Number of items disseminated: 1 *also Police Dept.*  
 Remarks:

*A. Beary*  
 Special Agent

*① 44-1740*  
*1-62-1947-SF4*

*44-1740-2260*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

*9/23*

TRANSMIT VIA: AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASSIFICATION: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: 10/2/78

To: SACs, Birmingham (44-1740)  
Chicago (44-1114)  
Dallas (44-2649)  
Houston (44-1509)  
Jackson (62-544)  
Kansas City (44-760)  
Memphis (44-1987 sub M)  
Oklahoma City (44-686)  
Pittsburgh (44-1572)  
San Antonio (44-1242)  
St. Louis (44-775)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

RE: ALLEGATION BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON

Copies of all reports from recipient offices have been received and have been forwarded to the Department.

Based on the extensive investigation conducted re this Burgess Audie Wilson allegation including the fact investigation determined he did not have access to the airplane in April of 1968, nor to a vehicle in Missouri as he claimed, the Department requested no further investigation re the Wilson allegation.

Promptly report any additional information to FBIHQ volunteered re the Wilson allegation; however, conduct no active investigation unless instructed by FBIHQ as directed by the Department.

(Do not type below this line.)

44-1740-2261

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OCT 4 1978	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	
Bibbs	

(Info)

FBI/DOJ

**AIRTEL**

10/2/78

**To:** SACs, Birmingham (44-1740)  
Chicago (44-1114)  
Dallas (44-7649)  
Houston (44-1509)  
Jackson (62-544)  
Kansas City (44-740)  
Memphis (44-1987 sub M)  
Oklahoma City (44-586)  
Pittsburgh (44-1573)  
San Antonio (44-1242)  
St. Louis (44-775)

**From:** Director, FBI (44-19861)

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44-1740-2261

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 4 1978	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## FBI Not "Guilty?"

The House assassinations committee has come up with a yes-but verdict on the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding accusations made against the agency in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King. The committee says the FBI had no direct part in the slaying.

But the verdict has been softened somewhat to mollify those in the black community who have unequivocally accused the FBI of having a part in the assassination.

Now the committee wants to know the answers to three other questions:

• Did the FBI's effort to discredit King result in his being in Memphis at the time he was assassinated?

• Did the FBI, through other black activists, foment the violence which made a second King appearance there necessary?

• Did the FBI have foreknowledge of the assassination on which it did not act?

"It is obvious that if the answer to any one of these questions is found to be yes, then the FBI is guilty, guilty of something — bad judgment, imperfect perception, etc. — but guilty.

But Americans, if they had any doubts, can now put them to rest. No, the FBI did not have a contract on Dr. King, did not pay activists to disrupt the King-led demonstrations, did not lure him back to Memphis so that he could be murdered and did not, at the time, know who did.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
Editorial Page  
The Birmingham News  
Birmingham, Ala.

Date: 11-24-78  
Edition:

Title: MURKIN

Character:  
or BH 44-1740  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: BH

44-1740-2262

*original sent  
to Bur. 11/28/78*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 28 1978	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype☐ Facsimile☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☒ Priority☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ UNCLAS E F T O☒ UNCLASDate 3/14/80

FM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) (PRIORITY)

BT

UNCLAS

MURKIN

RE BIRMINGHAM TEL, MAY 31, 1977.

ON MARCH 13, 1980, DEPUTY REID SMITH, SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, COLUMBIANA, ALABAMA, ADVISED THAT MORRIS O. DAVIS (FORMER BIRMINGHAM 1079-PCI) WAS ARRESTED ON MARCH 12, 1980, FOR DRUG POSSESSION AND IS INCARCERATED IN THE SHELBY COUNTY JAIL.

AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST DAVIS HAD IN HIS POSSESSION HUNDREDS OF PAGES OF HANDWRITTEN NOTES DISCUSSING THE FBI, CIA, DEA, THE KING ASSASSINATION AND OTHER MATTERS. MUCH OF THE INFORMATION IS CRITICAL OF FEDERAL AGENCIES AND DISCUSSES DAVIS' THEORY CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

1- BH  
ALB:dgs  
(1) *ap*

44-1740-2263  
SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED *DK* FILED *DK*

*Watson* *aw*

*w/ file (Info)*

Approved: *[Signature]*

Transmitted

001

(Number)

3:pm

(Time)

Per

83

FBI/DOJ

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype☐ Facsimile☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☐ Priority☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE TWO      BH 44-1740      UNCLAS

DAVIS' THEORY HAS BEEN FURNISHED PREVIOUSLY TO FBIHQ, THE LAST BEING BIRMINGHAM AIRTEL AND LHM DATED DECEMBER 15, 1976, ENTITLED, "ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; CIVIL RIGHTS". ALSO, DAVIS WAS INTERVIEWED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HOUSE ASSASSINATION COMMITTEE DURING 1977.

BIRMINGHAM IS TAKING NO FURTHER ACTION REGARDING THIS MATTER AND THE ABOVE IS FURNISHED FOR INFORMATION IN THE EVENT PRESS INQUIRIES ARE RECEIVED CONCERNING THE DOCUMENTS WHICH APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY DAVIS.

BT

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) (Time) Per \_\_\_\_\_

FBI/DOJ

PH0001 0740050

PP HQ

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P 140056Z MAR 78

FM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) (PRIORITY)

BT

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44-1740-2263

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED FILED DC



PAGE TWO PH 44-1740 UNCLAS

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WHICH APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY DAVIS.

BT

# Memorandum



To : DIRECTOR, FBI

From : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

Subject : JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING-VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS-CONSPIRACY  
OO: MEMPHIS

Date July 23, 1982

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and three copies of a letterhead memorandum containing investigation by the Birmingham Office. Enclosed for the information of the Atlanta, Memphis, Mobile and WFO Offices are two copies of an LHM containing results of investigation by the Birmingham Office.

## ADMINISTRATIVE:

The Birmingham Office is not interviewing PAUL BERNARD MARLER in connection with this matter due to his mental incompetency and he is an alcoholic.

2-Bureau (44-38861) (Enc. 4)  
2-Atlanta (44-2386) (Enc. 2)  
2-Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)  
2-Mobile (157-2627) (Enc. 2)  
2-WFO (Enc. 2)  
①-Birmingham  
PJB/acm  
(11) *ACW*  
*PQB*

*[Handwritten signature]*

*SAC*  
*(Info.)*

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44-1740-22644  
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