

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 4/7/68

WILLIAM CHARLES ANSCHUTZ, 422½ South Main, Apartment 4B, Memphis, advised that he is employed by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, 1054 Firestone Avenue, Memphis.

He returned home from work about 2:30 p.m., April 4, 1968. Miss JESSE LEDBETTER, a neighbor in Apartment 1B, came to his room to watch television. They watched television throughout the afternoon.

On two occasions during the afternoon, ANSCHUTZ tried to get into the bathroom at the end of the hall to pour out some water he had used to wash dishes. Each time someone was in the bathroom. The second time ANSCHUTZ went to the bathroom, another neighbor, CHARLIE STEVENS of Apartment 6B, told ANSCHUTZ that a new tenant who rented Apartment 5B was in the bathroom. ANSCHUTZ did not know the exact time of his attempts to get into the bathroom, but he indicated these attempts were only a few minutes apart. He does not know how long the new tenant was in the bathroom, but it seemed like a long time to him.

Later ANSCHUTZ heard a shot. He had been watching television for some time, but he did not have any idea what time it was. He got up and went to the door. As he opened it a man came down the hall. ANSCHUTZ thought the man came out of Apartment 5B, but he could not tell for sure.

The man was running and as he passed ANSCHUTZ's door, he held his hand and arm over his face so ANSCHUTZ could not get a good look at him. As the man passed ANSCHUTZ, ANSCHUTZ said, "I thought I heard a shot!" The man answered, "Yeh, it was a shot."

The man was carrying something under his arm. It appeared to be something long and was wrapped in what looked like a blanket. ANSCHUTZ thought it might be a gun.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987

SA JACK D. VAHRENWALD; SA EUGENE A. MEDORI,  
by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON; SA JOHN W. BAUER Date dictated 4/6/68

JDV:rah:jms  
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ANSCHUTZ knew that the shot had been fired nearby, but he could not tell if it came from the bathroom or from apartment 5B. He had never seen the man or talked to him until he saw the man running down the hall. He thinks the man went down the stairs to Main Street, but he did not follow him.

After the man had run down the hall, CHARLIE STEVENS came out of his apartment, and said he had also heard a shot. ANSCHUTZ went into the bathroom, and looked out the window. A police officer in the backyard yelled for him to get away from the window. ANSCHUTZ heard a girl say that the shot had come from the window.

After leaving the bathroom, ANSCHUTZ went to the other side of the roominghouse, and told the landlady, Mrs. BREWER, that he had heard a shot. Then he went back to his room to watch television. To the best of his knowledge, ANSCHUTZ cannot remember the man having any other luggage, etc., except the object that was wrapped up in the blanket.

ANSCHUTZ describes the man as follows:

Height:	6'
Build:	Slim
Age:	30's
Clothes:	Did not seem to be wearing a coat.

ANSCHUTZ did not see the man's face because the man covered it with his arm and hand. ANSCHUTZ does not think he could identify the man if he saw him again. ANSCHUTZ said he had not been drinking at all during the afternoon. He had to stop drinking for health reasons.

ANSCHUTZ advised that JESSE LEDBETTER is a deaf mute. She can read and write and can speak sign language. ANSCHUTZ does not know if she saw the man when he ran past the door.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 4/10/68

Mr. CHARLIE QUITMAN STEPHENS, Room 6-B, second floor, 422½ S. Main Street, furnished the following information to Lieutenant J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:

Mr. STEPHENS, who stated he is 46 years of age, and his wife occupy 2 rooms in the north wing of a rooming house, the address of which is 422½ S. Main Street. This rooming house actually covers the second floor of 2 separate buildings, Mr. STEPHENS' room being located in the north building in the southeast corner of the north building.

Sometime in the late afternoon of April 4, 1968, he and his wife were in their room. His wife, who has recently been in the hospital for an extended period of time, was in bed in their combination of living-bedroom. He was in the kitchen, which is east of the living-bedroom. He was repairing a radio on a table located at the north wall of the kitchen. Immediately north of him is a common bathroom which is located at the east end of an east-west hallway in the north building. While he was repairing the radio, he heard what he is certain was a shot, and he is certain that shot came from the bathroom from a point within just a few feet of where he was sitting. He has no way of knowing the time but can only estimate it was sometime between 5:00 and 6:00 PM.

Upon hearing this shot, he walked out of the kitchen through his living-bedroom and opened the door leading onto the hallway and observed a man running west down this hallway and this man was carrying a large bundle of some kind. He would estimate that this bundle or package was at least 3 or 4 feet long and 6 to 8 inches thick. Although he saw the man and the bundle only momentarily, he gained the impression that the bundle was wrapped in something, possibly a newspaper. This man continued running to the end of the hallway turning left (south) and apparently thereafter ran down the stairways onto the street, although he could not actually see the man going down the stairway.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987  
by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON /bbs Date dictated 4/9/68

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It immediately occurred to Mr. STEPHENS that this was the same man he had seen earlier in the afternoon, possibly around mid-afternoon, standing at the door to room 5-B which is located immediately west of Mr. STEPHENS's living-bedroom. He stated that around mid-afternoon he had seen a man with Mrs. BREWER standing in the hallway at the entrance to room 5-B looking into room 5-B. He saw the man's left side. The man had nothing in his hands at the time. He assumed this was some new guest looking at a room.

Mr. STEPHENS stated that he and his wife remained in their room the rest of the afternoon. He pointed out that he, Mr. STEPHENS, is a disabled veteran who has been treated for tuberculosis, and he spends most of his time in his rooms with his wife who is also ill and who at present is a bed patient.

Sometime after seeing this man with Mrs. BREWER, he heard someone in room 5-B and assumed the man he had seen had rented the room next door. He stated that he recalls on several different occasions hearing footsteps in this room and also leaving from this room past his (Mr. STEPHENS's) room and into the common bathroom at the east end of the hall. He was also very much aware that when the person went from room 5-B to the bathroom, that person remained in the bathroom for a considerable period of time. He pointed out that this is particularly noticeable since this is a common bathroom which must be used by a number of different tenants. He also specifically recalled that only on one occasion did he hear the commode being flushed and he was therefore curious as to why this person was spending so much time in the bathroom.

He stated that on the last occasion that someone went from number 5-B to the bathroom prior to the time he heard the shot, he would estimate that that person remained in the bathroom for at least 20 to 30 minutes. During this period he heard no noises coming from the bathroom. He also specifically recalls that during this same period, Mr. WILLIS ANCHUTZ (phonetic), who occupies room 4-B, immediately west of 5-B where the new tenant apparently was located,

had knocked on Mr. STEPHENS's door and somewhat angrily inquired as to who was staying in the bathroom so long.

It was at the end of this latter period of time that Mr. STEPHENS heard the above described shot which he was certain came from the bathroom. He stated that immediately after the shot was fired he heard some people located across the street, east of the building where he lives, screaming. Due to the excitement of the moment, the fact that people across the street in the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel were screaming, and the fact that his hearing is not the best, he did not hear any additional noises coming from the bathroom. He pointed out that he would expect to hear a "scuffle" coming from the bathroom if the man in the bathroom had fired the shot that killed MARTIN LUTHER KING, but he cannot recall hearing such a "scuffle." He stated that he simply has no way of knowing whether the man came out of the bathroom, went into room 5-B and then ran out of 5-B down the hall toward the front of the building, or whether the man in the bathroom ran directly from the bathroom down the hallway toward the front of the building. He stated he did hesitate a few moments after hearing the shot and hearing the screaming outside before he went to the door and looked down the hall to see the man running carrying something in his hand.

Mr. STEPHENS advised that the only people in the north building of this rooming house at the time of this incident were (1) Mr. STEPHENS, (2) Mr. STEPHENS's wife, who was in bed and who was never in a position to observe anything, (3) Mr. WILLIS ANCHUTZ (phonetic), above, in room 4-B, who came out of his room and was seen by Mr. STEPHENS at the same time Mr. STEPHENS saw the man running down the hall, (4) Mrs. JESSIE LEDBETTER, a deaf and dumb lady who resides in room 1-B toward the front (west) of the north wing or north building, and (5) the unknown man who had occupied room 5-B who was running down the hall as previously stated.

Mr. STEPHENS stated that Mr. ANCHUTZ made some remark to the unknown man who was running down the hallway and the unknown man apparently made some kind of reply.

Mr. STEPHENS advised that whereas he could hear footsteps in 5-B and could hear footsteps between 5-B and the bathroom, he had no time heard any conversation in 5-B, and he is certain that there was no conversation in 5-B from the time the new tenant checked in until the time he heard the shot. He stated he never heard any noise or footsteps which would indicate to him there was ever more than one person in room 5-B. He pointed out that whereas his hearing is not too good, it is very easy to hear noises in the adjoining rooms of this rooming house and he definitely can hear normal conversation coming from that room. Mr. STEPHENS stated that when he saw the new tenant with Mrs. BREWER standing in front of 5-B, he only saw the left side of the new tenant, and when he saw what he believes to be the same man running down the hallway carrying something, he only saw this person from the rear. He pointed out he never saw him directly in front, but based upon his observations he would describe this person as follows:

Name:	Unknown
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	"in his 30's."
Height:	5' 10-11"
Weight:	165 pounds
Build:	Average
Posture:	Man stood erectly
Hair:	Described as sandy, also described as "dark blond" or having the appearance of unwashed sand. Further described hairline as receding on left side (and presumably on both sides) making it appear he would have "peaks" on either side but with full thick hair toward the front center of his head between the peaks. Hair combed straight back. Normal or average haircut.

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Dress:	Bare headed, wearing dark suit
General Appearance:	Clean shaven, neat appearing individual.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/7/68

CHARLES STEPHENS, Apartment 6B, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, advised that on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, he was with his wife at the above address. He stated that at about 3:30 p.m., on the above date, he began working on a table model radio of his which was in need of repair. He said he took a radio to the kitchen and placed it on the table which was against the wall that was adjacent to the bathroom which was used by all tenants on his floor. As he was working on his radio he could hear the man in the next apartment to him, Apartment 5B, leave his room several times and go into the bathroom. Mr. STEPHENS stated that he knew it was the man who had just checked in to Apartment 5B that afternoon because he could hear the door of Apartment 5B open and then footsteps would go down the hall to the bathroom, the bathroom door would open and then close.

Mr. STEPHENS said that during these various trips that the individual in Apartment 5B made to the bathroom he failed to flush the toilet or to run any water with the exception of the last time he was in the bathroom. At this time he flushed the toilet. He stated that this individual seemed to be spending an undue length of time in this bathroom. At about 6:00 p.m., on April 4, 1968, Mr. STEPHENS heard a loud noise which he described as sounding like a gunshot come from the bathroom. Upon hearing this noise, Mr. STEPHENS ran from the kitchen where he was repairing his radio to his door that led to the hallway. He stated this is only a distance of about 10 to 12 feet. Upon opening the door he saw a man leave the bathroom carrying a package of about three feet long and wrapped in what appeared to be newspaper. He saw the man run down the hall and then turn left as if he were trying to leave the apartment building. As this was happening WILLIE ANSCHUTZ, who lived in Apartment 4B, came out of his apartment and went to the bathroom. ANSCHUTZ then told STEPHENS to look out of his window. STEPHENS said that he then looked out of his kitchen window which faced the Lorraine Hotel and saw a lot of policemen scurrying about and people running screaming in the vicinity of the hotel.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987

SA JOHN W. BAUER  
by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON JWB:raj Date dictated 4/5/68

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Mr. STEPHENS stated that the man who was in Apartment 5B had checked in about 3:00 or 3:30 p.m. on April 4, 1968. He stated he was sure of this because he had heard the landlady showing him the apartment at that time. He stated he glanced out of his door and got a fairly good look at the man who he described as being a white male; 5' 10-11"; weighing 165 pounds; slender build; ruddy complexion; sandy hair; had a long, sharp pointed nose; wearing what appeared to be a dark blue or black suit, white shirt and dark tie.

Mr. STEPHENS stated that the man who he saw running out of the bathroom closely resembled the man who had checked into Apartment 5B. He said he could only see the man who ran from the bathroom from behind, but his general build, hair coloring and clothes were the same as the individual in Apartment 5B.

Mr. STEPHENS described the individual he saw running out of the bathroom as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'10-11"
Weight	165
Build	Slender
Complexion	Ruddy
Hair	Sandy, slightly on dark side
Clothing	Wearing dark suit

Mr. STEPHENS added that he had never met the man who checked into Apartment 5B, talked to him, or knew his name.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/6/68

Mrs. GRACE HAYES STEPHENS, Apartment 6-B, 422½ Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

Mrs. STEPHENS said that she was in bed all day on April 4, 1968, as she has been ill for several months. She advised that she heard a noise, which sounded like a firecracker at 6 p.m., April 4, 1968. She said the noise sounded to her as if it came from the yard on the east side of her apartment. She said she did not think anything about the noise as it was common for trains to set off firecrackers on the tracks on the east side of her apartment. Mrs. STEPHENS said she heard soft footsteps coming from out of the bathroom, which is located adjacent to her apartment, and proceeding rapidly down the hallway toward the entrance to the apartment building.

Mrs. STEPHENS said she then heard screaming and yelling from the east side of her apartment near the Lorraine Hotel at 406 Mulberry Street. Mrs. STEPHENS said she did not get out of bed at any time on April 4, 1968, and did not see anyone leave the apartment bathroom and knows nothing else relating to the abovementioned noise.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SAs STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON  
and JOHN W. BAUER SMD:gmh Date dictated 4/5/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/10/68

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Mr. BERTIE L. REEVES, Room 3, wouth wing of rooming house located on second floor, 422½ S. Main Street, Memphis, furnished the following information to Lieutenant J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON. Mr. REEVES, who advised he is 74 years of age, retired, formerly a dragline operator, railroad fireman and hotel clerk, advised he has resided at this address for the past 8 years.

He stated that sometime in the late afternoon of April 4, 1968, exact time not recalled, he was in his room when he heard a shot. He immediately walked out into the large hallway at which time the landlady, Mrs. BESSIE BREWER, and her husband FRANK, who occupy room 2, next door to his room, also came out of their room. The 3 of them proceeded east down the large hallway or lobby of this wing of the rooming house to the east door. As they walked down the hallway they heard screams coming from across the street to the east of this building in the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel. Upon arriving at the rear (east) door, police officers in the area instructed them to get back inside and they did so.

Mr. REEVES advised he did not see anyone leave the building and does not know who fired the shot and has no way of knowing the exact location of the shot which he heard.

He advised that earlier in the afternoon of April 4, 1968, and perhaps around 3:00 P.M., he had returned to his room after going to Jim's Cafe located nearby. As he approached his room, he saw a strange man standing at the door of the landlady's room. This man thereafter left from the vicinity of the door to the landlady's room and walked north across a hallway to the north wing of this rooming house. He pointed out that the rooming house located on the second floor is actually located in two different buildings, but there is an enclosed walkway toward the front of these two buildings, connecting the two, so that persons on the

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second floor can walk from the north building to the south building. The rooms in the north building have a "B" number, such as 1-B, 2-B and so forth, whereas the rooms in the south building have no letter of the alphabet following the room numbers. This new tenant walked through this enclosed walkway from the south to the north building where the "B" rooms are located. He did not see him again. He pointed out that he only saw this man from the rear and right side as the man left the landlady's door and walked north to the north building.

Mr. REEVES furnished the following description of the man seen by him:

Name:	Unknown
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	25-30
Height:	5' 11" to 6'
Weight:	165-175 pounds
Build:	Average
Hair:	Dark, full head of hair
Dress:	Bare headed; in dark suit, did not see shirt or tie
General Appearance:	"Pretty neat"
Miscellaneous:	Mr. REEVES stated that this man definitely was not carrying anything when he saw him and the man did not say anything when he was in the man's presence.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/7/68

FRANK BREWER, 422½ South Main Street, Apartment 2, Memphis, advised that his wife, BESSIE BREWER, is the landlord of the roominghouse at 422½ South Main, Memphis, Tennessee.

BREWER works at Velsicol Chemical Corporation, 1199 Warford, Memphis, Tennessee. He arrived home from work about 5:30 p.m. on April 4, 1968. He immediately sat down to eat supper. His wife told him that she had rented apartment 5B that afternoon, but she did not mention anything about the person to whom she rented the room.

BREWER finished his supper and sat down to watch television. He figured the time to be just about 6:00 p.m. He heard a loud noise that sounded like a gun, but he thought it must be a firecracker. He got up and went to the door to see what had made the noise. He opened the door that leads into the hall. He heard people behind the roominghouse yelling, "Oh God, help me!" He also heard some firemen from the nearby fire station running toward the Lorraine Hotel, and one of them said, "Someone has been shot."

BREWER ran to the back door and went out on the back porch. It took him two or three seconds to unlock the door and get it open. BREWER figures that the time elapsed from when he heard the noise until he stepped onto the back porch was about 15 - 20 seconds.

As he stepped out on the porch, a uniformed officer, possibly from the Sheriff's Office, ran into the backyard of the roominghouse and yelled to BREWER, "Get back in the house and lock the door." BREWER thought he was from the Sheriff's Office because he was wearing dark green pants and a tan shirt. As BREWER started back inside, another officer yelled, "The shot came from there," and pointed toward the northeast corner of the roominghouse. BREWER thought the officer was pointing toward either the windows on the northeast corner or the roof.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987  
by SAs JACK D. VAHRENWALD  
EUGENE A. MEDORI / JDV:jms Date dictated 4/6/68

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BREWER came back into the apartment house and locked the door. He looked out the window and saw two policemen on the roof of the building that faces Mulberry Street, and is just northeast of the building at 422 South Main.

BREWER went back to his apartment and sat down. He did not hear anything until WILLIAM ANSCHUTZ, who lives in apartment 4B, came to BREWER's door and yelled, "The guy that rented the room ran down the steps, and had something wrapped up that looked like a gun." BREWER did not go out to look for the man.

The police came to the door within a minute or two, and officers were there the whole night.

BREWER and his wife have lived at 422½ South Main, Apartment 2, since March 12, 1968. BREWER never did see the man registered as JOHN WILLARD, and, thus, could offer nothing concerning WILLARD's appearance. BREWER examined the rent receipts dating back to January 27, 1968, and could find no record of a JOHN WILLARD living here before April 4, 1968.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/6/68

Mr. HOWARD BONNIE VANCE, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$  South Main Street, Apartment 4, South Wing, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

Mr. VANCE said he was "intoxicated" for the two days of April 3 and 4, 1968. He said he went to the bathroom twice on April 4, 1968, at 9 a.m. and at 3 p.m., and did not see anyone or hear anyone on those two occasions. VANCE said he lives alone in his room. He said he was completely unaware of any activity outside of his room for the two above-mentioned dates.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987  
by SAs STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON  
and JOHN W. BAUER SMD:gmh/wp Date dictated 4/5/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/681

Mr. J. L. MESSER, 422½ South Main Street, Apartment 5, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

Mr. MESSER, speaking in a very loud tone, stated that he was extremely hard of hearing and was almost deaf. He stated that he did not know anything had happened that was out of the ordinary on April 4, 1968, and that he was in his room the entire day. He stated he did not know anything had occurred until that morning, April 5, 1968, when Mrs. BREWER told him that someone had been killed. Mr. MESSER stated that he has been having trouble with his back and that he spends most of his time either in bed or sitting down in his room.

He stated he could furnish no information in this matter.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987  
by SA JACK D. VAHRENWALD and  
SA EUGENE A. MEDORI, JR. EAM/mnr Date dictated 4/10/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/7/681

FRANK M. MARLEY, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$  South Main Street, Apartment 7, advised that he was home all day on April 4, 1968. He heard a loud noise about 6:00 p.m. on April 4, 1968, but he had been drinking heavily all afternoon, and he did not get out of bed to see what was happening.

He did not see the man who rented Room 5B, and he did not hear anything unusual after he heard the loud noise.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987  
by SAs JACK D. VAHRENWALD  
EUGENE A. MEDORI / JDV:jms Date dictated 4/6/68

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ME 44-1987

FLJ/bbs

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On April 5, 1968, an effort was made by Lieutenant J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON to interview Mr. FRANK MILLARD MARLEY, white male, 81 years old, tenant in room 7 south wing of rooming house second floor, 422 1/2 S. Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. Extreme difficulty was experienced in an effort to interview Mr. MARLEY who stated he is 81 years of age. Mr. MARLEY stated he had heard a shot sometime late in the afternoon of April 4, 1968, at which time he stated he was standing on the back porch (located at the east end of a large hallway in the center of the south building or south wing of the rooming house at this address). He stated that he was on the back porch to hang out some clothing. He pointed out some items of clothing in water in a wash pan. It was noted these items of clothing had not been wrung out and were still in the wash water.

Mr. MARLEY related several different versions as to what he had seen and where he had been located, at one point stating there were 3 men involved in the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING and that he had seen one of them sliding down a bank east of the above mentioned back portion whereas the other 2 had run west out of the building. At this point, he stated that he was in the hallway when the 2 men ran west and one of them told him "get the hell out of the way." He also stated at one point that one of the men running west had a "yankee brogue" and at another point stated one of them looked like an Indian.

During efforts to interview Mr. MARLEY, Mr. FRANK BREWER, husband of the landlady of this building, Mrs. BESSIE BREWER, advised Lt. J. D. HAMBY and SA FRANK L. JOHNSON that Mr. MARLEY is a complete alcoholic, stays drunk all the time, and he personally knows that Mr. MARLEY was passed out in his room at the time Mr. BREWER, Mrs. BREWER, and another tenant Mr. BERTIE REEVES heard a shot around 6:00 PM, April 4, 1968.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/7/68

HAROLD CARTER, 422½ South Main, Apartment 9, advised that he arrived at home about 4:30 p.m., on April 4, 1968. He went to his room and he was still there when he heard a shot about 6:00 p.m. He stayed in his room until the police came inside about 10-15 minutes later.

CARTER did not see the man who rented Apartment 5B, and he did not notice anything unusual before or after he heard the shot. He does not feel he has anything that would help in the investigation of this case.

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by SA JACK D. VAHRENWALD  
SA EUGENE A. MEDORI JDV:raj Date dictated 4/6/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/7/681

ALFRED W. EATON, 422½ South Main Street, Apartment 10, advised that he had been in and out of the apartment most of the day on April 4, 1968. He had been drinking that afternoon, and was taking a nap when he was awakened by a loud noise and some commotion outside the boardinghouse. He got out of bed, and looked out the back window of the house. He saw someone covering up a body across the street.

EATON did not see the person who rented Apartment 5B in the roominghouse. He also heard nothing in the other wing of the building (where Apartment 5B is located) after the shot was fired.

EATON said he went back to bed shortly thereafter, and did not know what actually happened until the morning of April 5, 1968.

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by SAs JACK D. VAHRENWALD  
EUGENE E. MEDORI / JDV:jms Date dictated 4/6/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/681

Mrs. JESSIE LEO LEDBETTER, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$  South Main Street, Apartment 1-B, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed with the following results:

Mrs. LEDBETTER is a deaf mute and an attempt was made by Agents to communicate with her by writing questions on paper and using various hand and head motions. Mrs. LEDBETTER was unable to furnish any information of value in this matter.

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by SA JACK D. VAHRENWALD and  
SA EUGENE A. MEDORI, JR. EAM/mnr Date dictated 4/10/68

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ME 44-1987

LORRAINE MOTEL  
406 MULBERRY STREET  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

(This section of the report reflects interviews with employees and customers of the Lorraine Motel, as well as with persons who actually observed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. on the balcony at the Lorraine Motel.)

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 12, 1968

MARRELL MC CULLOUGH, residing 270 Gaston, Apartment 6, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone 947-4265, who is employed as a warehouseman by the Summerall Electric Company, 345 S. Parkway, Memphis, telephone WH8-4455, advised as follows:

MC CULLOUGH is a native of the state of Mississippi and has lived in Memphis, Tennessee, since approximately February 1967. He had been present at the Lorraine Hotel and Motel, 406 S. Mulberry Street, Memphis, from approximately 5:55 p.m. until approximately 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, 1968, and was present when Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), was shot.

He explained his presence as follows:

MC CULLOUGH, who is a Negro, had been a sympathetic supporter of the Memphis sanitation workers who had been on strike in Memphis beginning February 12, 1968.

Beginning around the early part of March 1968, MC-CULLOUGH, in his spare time, has engaged in various strike support activities sponsored by a group of Memphis Negro ministers who have adopted the name Community on the Move for Equality (COME). He has worked with this group and other supporters in the Memphis community engaging in sympathy marches and other strike support activity which is primarily centered in the headquarters of the Minimum Salary Division of the AME Church, 276 Hernando, Memphis, and at the Clayborn Temple AME Church at 280 Hernando.

Around March 18, 1968, the SCLC sent various of its staff to Memphis to assist the COME group in strike support activity, and in fact, Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. made a public speech in behalf of the sanitation workers at Mason Temple on the night of March 18, 1968. Dr. KING returned to Memphis on the morning of March 28, 1968, to lead a mass downtown Memphis strike support march, and after a major disturbance occurred in the Beale Street area of Memphis resulting in considerable

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On 4/11/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA HOWELL S. LOWE  
SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE WHL:LF Date dictated 4/12/68

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property damage by some of the marchers, the SCLC staff left various of its members in Memphis to further organize the strike support activity. Shortly after March 28, 1968, Mr. MC CULLOUGH became acquainted with two members of Dr. KING's staff; namely, Rev. JAMES ORANGE, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Rev. JAMES BEVEL, of Birmingham, Alabama, and Chicago, Illinois, and he has worked with them on various projects since that time.

On the afternoon of April 4, 1968, MC CULLOUGH, who has a blue 1967 Volkswagen, 1600 series, fastback, drove to the Lorraine Motel accompanied in his car by Rev. JAMES ORANGE and Rev. JAMES BEVEL, and he fixed their arrival at the motel in the car at about 5:55 p.m. He parked his Volkswagen in the motel parking lot which would be on the east side of Mulberry and just south of the old hotel portion of the Lorraine Hotel and Motel. His car had been followed by a white Pontiac Tempest, exact model number not recalled, driven by CLARA ESTER, a student at LeMoyne College and who he understands resides at 396 LaCade, Memphis, and another young lady, MARY HUNT, who lives on Baltimore Street in the Orange Mound area of Memphis and who he believes attends Memphis State University. These young ladies had also been working in some of the strike support activity sponsored by COME, and they had been with BEVEL, ORANGE and MC CULLOUGH at the Clayborn Temple prior to coming to the Lorraine Motel.

They parked their car behind the Volkswagen, and at that point, BEVEL, ORANGE and MC CULLOUGH and HUNT and ESTER got out of their cars and stood around the parking lot area. MC CULLOUGH recalled seeing numerous other people on the north end of the parking lot area which is directly in front of the new motel portion of the Lorraine and recalled seeing a Negro singing group managed by JAMES BEVEL known as the "Bread Basket Group." He did not know any of their specific identities.

MC CULLOUGH was first aware of the presence in the vicinity of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. when he got out of his car and observed Dr. KING standing on the second floor balcony of the motel almost directly in front of Room 306, which had been Dr. KING's room during his recent visit to Memphis. Dr. KING was leaning over the rail which runs in front of an outside walkway running the length of the second floor motel portion, and MC CULLOUGH noticed no one else on the balcony with him at the time.



At this point, which would probably have been close to 6:00 p.m., either shortly before or shortly thereafter, Mr. MC CULLOUGH walked back toward the car driven by CLARA ESTER and Rev. BEVEL and Rev. ORANGE walked north on the parking lot toward the group of people who were standing there.

Suddenly, MC CULLOUGH heard an explosive sound and recalled that he was standing and facing north when he first heard it. He was standing south of the position occupied by Dr. KING and noted that the rail on which Dr. KING had been leaning runs north and south, and that KING would have been facing Mulberry Street, or to the west with his back facing the doorway of the motel and to the east. MC CULLOUGH was unable to adequately describe the sound other than it was rather loud and had a seeming echo to it. He has served in the U. S. Army and would offer an opinion based on his Army experience and limited knowledge of firearms that the noise which he heard was a gunshot sound.

Immediately thereafter, someone in the crowd, identity not recalled, by MC CULLOUGH stated in essence, "Dr. KING has been shot." MC CULLOUGH pointed out that he had been facing north when he heard the sound, and upon hearing the person say something to the effect that Dr. KING had been shot, he looked easterly and upward toward the rail where Dr. KING had been standing and observed Dr. KING falling backward in a southeasterly direction. It appeared as though Dr. KING may have been grasping with one of his hands for his throat area, although MC CULLOUGH could not be positive as to the physical movement, if any, of Dr. KING's hands. Almost immediately, MC CULLOUGH turned his head in a westerly direction looking across Mulberry Street, which runs north and south, and saw no one either on the ground or in any of the buildings which face east toward the Lorraine Hotel and Motel. He saw no one in the area in the vicinity of the motel with a gun or a weapon of any sort.

He saw no one running from the area in any direction.

A few seconds later, he recalled seeing a group of what he felt were Memphis Fire Department employees running from the rear entrance of the fire station which faces Main Street and whose rear entrance faces Mulberry Street and which is located just south of the motel, noting that these firemen seemed to be running toward the vicinity of the motel.

When MC CULLOUGH looked upward again at the point where Dr. KING had fallen, he was first conscious of seeing Rev. JESSE JACKSON, an SCLC staff member from Chicago, looking out a doorway of a motel room just south of the room previously occupied by Dr. KING. JACKSON would have been looking in a westerly or actually a northwesterly direction, because he was looking toward KING's prone body.

Almost instinctively, MC CULLOUGH ran up the outdoor iron and cement stairway which leads to the balcony from the ground level and which is located about two or three motel doors south of where KING's body rested. He turned north on the balcony upon reaching the second floor level, running toward Dr. KING's body, and noticed that Dr. KING was lying prone in a crosswise position with his head pointing in a southeasterly direction and his feet pointing in a northwesterly direction, his feet being located adjacent to the protective railing.

Mr. MC CULLOUGH was the first person to reach the body of Dr. KING, and he knelt down to Dr. KING's prone body. Almost simultaneously, one of the Negroes at the motel, identity not recalled, handed MC CULLOUGH a towel which MC CULLOUGH used to apply pressure to the wounded area of Dr. KING's body, which he recalled was on the right side of his face in the immediate area of his cheekbone and running down into his upper neck area. The wound was recalled by him to be a large wound, not unlike a tear. The flesh on Dr. KING's face on the right side thereof appeared to be torn backward toward the rear of his head area, and the wound appeared to start around the middle of his cheekbone and continue downward into his upper neck area. He also recalled seeing splotches of blood, possibly pinhead in size, in the immediate vicinity of the large wounded area, and his first impression was that these may have been minute pellet wounds, although he now feels that they were probably mere blood splotches or spots.

MC CULLOUGH attempted to apply pressure to the wound in an effort to stop the bleeding, as the bleeding was quite profuse at this time, and as he knelt down and observed Dr. KING's body in its prone position with his back facing the concrete floor and the front side of his body facing upward, the wound would have had to have been caused by a bullet or projectile coming toward Dr. KING from a northwesterly direction since it entered the right side of his face and since KING

was last recalled being seen by him looking directly west as he stood against the hand rail. It was his definite impression at the time, and he still holds to this impression, that the shot would have come from one of the buildings to the northwest. There is a series of old buildings located just west of the motel whose fronts would face on S. Main Street, which is the next north-south street west of Mulberry.

From the second story position of Dr. KING when he was shot, coupled with the position of the wound beginning around his cheekbone area and dropping down toward his neck area, he believes the shot in all probability would have come from one of these buildings at an elevated level rather than from the ground area surrounding the buildings.

MC CULLOUGH also recalled that as he applied the pressure around Dr. KING's cheekbone and upper neck area with the towel, he was aware of an unusual odor which was similar to the odor which one smells when a firecracker is exploded.

Shortly thereafter, he was conscious of the fact that CLARA ESTER and MARY HUNT had come up onto the balcony and were standing near him. By this time, there was no doubt in MC CULLOUGH's mind that Dr. KING was dead. There was no movement in his body, and his eyes were immobile and he believes they were open, although he could not be certain of this. He estimated he applied the pressure for one to two minutes, and by this time, a number of Negroes had gathered around the body, and he recalled seeing Rev. RALPH B. ABERNATHY, Dr. KING's chief aide. ABERNATHY knelt down and began applying pressure with the towel which had originally been held by MC CULLOUGH.

At this point, Rev. ABERNATHY relieved MC CULLOUGH, as MC CULLOUGH noted that CLARA ESTER and MARY HUNT were crying and appeared to be shaken considerably at the sight of Dr. KING's body. He was afraid they would become hysterical and he thereafter walked with them away from the area. They walked down the outside motel stairs to the south of Dr. KING's body onto the parking lot area and stood around.

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By this time, it would probably have been a few minutes after 6:00 p.m., and he observed a large number of members of the Memphis Police Department and possibly the Shelby County Sheriff's Office in the immediate area. One of the officers, identity not recalled, asked all of the people in the immediate area to remain and not leave.

He estimated that he stood around the parking lot area in the immediate hotel and motel area until close to 8:00 p.m. and when no one had asked him specifically not to leave he left and returned to the Clayborn Temple.

He had been to the motel on Wednesday, April 3, 1968, with some of the SCLC people and representatives of the COME group, and at no time while around the Lorraine Motel did he recall seeing any individuals he could consider to be suspicious or who may have given the impression they were observing the area other than the fact that he had from time to time seen law enforcement officers in the area. He was unable to pinpoint the exact times when he had seen this.

MC CULLOUGH concluded that he knew of no suspects and had not recalled having heard any of his associates mention any suspects or any suspicious persons who may have been frequenting the area of the motel during the day or two prior to Dr. KING's death.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 8, 1968

Reverend RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY, 690 La Verne Drive, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at the Memphis Police Department at 10:55 p.m., April 4, 1968. Reverend ABERNATHY was advised of the Agent's identity and of the nature of the matter under investigation.

Reverend ABERNATHY, who described himself as Vice President at Large and Treasurer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, stated he was Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s closest associate and stated that he and Dr. KING always shared a room whenever they travelled together. He stated that at about 10:30 a.m. on April 3, 1968, he and Dr. KING registered at the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, Tennessee.

Reverend ABERNATHY stated that on April 4, 1968, he and Dr. KING did not leave the motel and spent most of the day in their room, #306, which is located on the second floor of the motel. He stated that he and Dr. KING had been gone from their room for approximately one hour or less when they returned to the room at about 5:30 p.m. He said they got dressed as they were going to dinner at the home of Reverend BILLY KYLE and that at almost exactly 6 p.m. they started to leave the room. Reverend ABERNATHY stopped for a moment and Dr. KING walked out onto the balcony just outside the door to his room. Reverend ABERNATHY was still inside the motel room but could hear Dr. KING discussing the dinner engagement with other associates who Reverend ABERNATHY believes were standing in the parking area of the motel underneath and to the front of the balcony on which Dr. KING was standing.

Reverend ABERNATHY stated he heard what sounded like a fire-cracker and then heard the screams of persons to whom Dr. KING had been talking. Reverend ABERNATHY went then to the balcony and discovered Dr. KING lying there wounded in the right side of the face and neck. He said he believed Dr. KING attempted to speak to him but was unable to do so. Reverend ABERNATHY said he instructed someone to call an ambulance and then accompanied Dr. KING in the ambulance to the hospital where Dr. KING subsequently died.

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On 4/4/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA JOE C. HESTER: bn Date dictated 4/8/68

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Reverend ABERNATHY stated that judging from the sound of the noise it appeared that the shot came from directly in front of the door and not from any great distance. He stated he did not observe anything that would indicate who fired the shot. Reverend ABERNATHY also stated that while they 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. Reverend ABERNATHY 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.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 8, 1968

Mr. CHAUNCEY ESKRIDGE, 123 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois, was interviewed at the Memphis Police Headquarters at 12:05 a.m., April 5, 1968. Mr. ESKRIDGE was advised of the interviewing Agent's identity and of the nature of the matter under investigation.

Mr. ESKRIDGE, who identified himself as General Counsel for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, advised that he arrived in Memphis, Tennessee, at approximately 11:30 a.m. on April 4, 1968. He stated he had been with Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. during a portion of the day on April 4, 1968, and at about 5:45 p.m. was standing in the parking area of the Lorraine Motel when Dr. KING walked out of his motel room onto the second floor balcony of the motel and leaned over and began to discuss his dinner engagement with other persons who were standing below the balcony.

Mr. ESKRIDGE stated he was standing with his back to Mulberry Street and was facing Dr. KING when he heard to his right rear a sound like a firecracker. He looked to his rear momentarily to see if someone were behind him and when he looked toward Dr. KING again he saw him lying on his back on the balcony. Mr. ESKRIDGE said he heard only one shot fired and he recalled that Dr. KING was standing in front of his motel room at the time he was struck. He stated he believed the shot came from the area of the houses overlooking Mulberry Street or from the high grass in the yards which were behind the houses overlooking Mulberry Street.

Mr. ESKRIDGE stated he had been standing in the parking area of the Lorraine Motel for approximately 5 to 10 minutes prior to the shot and he had not observed anyone in the area who he believes might have fired the shot. He said he did not know of anyone who wished to harm Dr. KING and he stated he had no other information which he felt might assist in identifying Dr. KING's killer.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA JOE C. HESTER: bn Date dictated 4/8/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/13/68

Mr. SOLOMON JONES, JR., 374 Vance Avenue, Memphis, who is employed as a funeral director for R. S. Lewis and Sons at the same address was interviewed at the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry, Memphis.

Mr. JONES advised that he had been serving as chauffeur for Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., on Dr. KING's last trip to Memphis. He believed that he had started driving for Dr. KING on April 1, 1968. He stated that Reverend JAMES LAWSON of Memphis had requested him to drive Dr. KING while he was in Memphis.

On Wednesday night, April 3, 1968, Dr. KING spoke at the Mason Temple in Memphis and after the speech returned to the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry, Memphis. Dr. KING told him to report back to the Lorraine Motel on Thursday morning, April 4, 1968, at 8:30 a.m., as Dr. KING was due to go to court in Memphis in regard to a restraining order.

Mr. JONES stated that on Thursday morning, April 4, 1968, he returned to the Lorraine Motel at about 8:30 a.m., which motel is located at 406 Mulberry. He stated this motel is located on the east side of Mulberry Street and is bordered on the north by Huling Avenue and on the south by East Butler.

He advised that he parked the car, which was used to drive Dr. KING and which car was a 1967 Cadillac and belonged to the R. S. Lewis and Sons Funeral Home, in the parking area of the Lorraine Motel. He parked this car in front of Room 207 which is on the ground level of the Lorraine Motel. The car was headed into the motel area which would have been in an easterly direction.

A short time after he arrived Reverend ANDREW YOUNG, an associate of Dr. KING, contacted JONES and stated that Dr. KING was not going to go to court on the morning of April 4, 1968, and YOUNG was going to go to court. Reverend YOUNG informed JONES that he was to remain at the motel as Dr. KING was to later that day address the sanitation workers.

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On 4/12/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987

by SA EUGENE G. DOUGLASS/raj Date dictated 4/13/68

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JONES advised that he remained at the Lorraine Motel and ate his lunch at the motel. At about 3:00 p.m., April 4, 1968, Reverend BILLY KIZER (phonetic), a minister in Memphis, informed JONES that Dr. KING and other members of his staff were going to have dinner at Reverend KIZER's home at about 5:00 p.m., April 4, 1968.

Mr. JONES stated that Dr. KING did not leave the motel area the entire day of April 4, 1968, and JONES stated that he stayed in this area the entire day.

He advised that Dr. KING and his group did not leave the motel at 5:00 p.m., as had been originally mentioned to him by Reverend KIZER. At approximately 6:00 p.m., April 4, 1968, JONES noticed Dr. KING come out of a room on the balcony level of the Lorraine Motel which room was north of Room 306 where Dr. KING was residing. Dr. KING proceeded to Room 306 and as he was about to enter the room Dr. KING told JONES to start the car as they were preparing to go to dinner. JONES stated he started the car and Dr. KING went into Room 306 where he was staying with Reverend ABERNATHY.

Dr. KING came out of Room 306 a short time later and was standing on the balcony area in front of Room 306. At this time Dr. KING was fully dressed. Dr. KING was looking from the balcony level down to JONES who was standing beside the car on the ground level. JONES advised the car was still parked in front of Room 207. Dr. KING was talking to JONES about the weather and JONES stated he told Dr. KING he should put on a topcoat as it was cool outside. He stated that he was looking up at Dr. KING during this conversation and Dr. KING was facing west and that he, JONES, was facing east. Dr. KING acknowledged JONES concerning obtaining his topcoat.

JONES stated while he was still looking at Dr. KING he heard a sound which he thought was a fire cracker. Dr. KING fell to the floor of the walkway in front of Room 306. At this point JONES could see blood coming from Dr. KING, and realized the sound was actually a shot rather than a fire cracker.

JONES stated that he started screaming and calling for help and repeatedly called several times "Dr. KING's been shot."

He advised that at the time of the shooting that JESSE JACKSON, a staff member of Dr. KING, was standing at Room 305. He also recalled that Dr. KING's lawyer by the name of ESKRIDGE of Chicago, Illinois, was standing near JONES on the ground level.

After seeing Dr. KING bleeding and realizing that he was shot, JONES stated that he and ESKRIDGE did not run to the side of Dr. KING as others were coming to Dr. KING's aid. However, he and ESKRIDGE turned west since that was the direction in which the shot had originated, and went toward Mulberry Street which street is located on the front portion of the motel. They ran about 50 feet and stopped opposite the office of the motel. JONES stated he and the lawyer both then looked around and saw nothing. JONES stated he ran about another ten feet west and stopped at the edge of the sidewalk in front of the motel and stood beside a brick wall. He stated ESKRIDGE also ran up to same area opposite him. He advised when he reached this point he looked opposite the point where he was standing which was also the driveway area. He looked opposite the driveway area toward the west side of Mulberry Street. This area has a large retaining wall. Immediately above the retaining wall is a grassy area with some small shrubs and bushes. This area is behind some buildings facing South Main Street. He got a quick glimpse of a person with his back toward Mulberry Street.

He estimated the person he glimpsed would have been approximately 60 feet from where he was standing. He pointed out it was dusk dark and he merely got a quick glimpse of someone in that area. He stated that it was the back of this individual and he could not tell whether the person was Negro or white. This person was moving rather fast and he recalls that he believed he was wearing some sort of light colored jacket with some sort of a hood or parka. He stated this person appeared to him to be about 5'11" or a little taller. He did not see him carrying anything in his hand and did not notice anything concerning his dress below his waist.

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He said he could not tell anything further about this individual and it could have been an officer, but he could not furnish any further details concerning this individual.

He related that he did not look to his left or south on Mulberry Street. After taking a quick glimpse he immediately ran back to the motel area where Dr. KING was located. He ran up the middle stairway of the motel which stairway was opposite Room 308. As he was running up the stairway he noticed a red ambulance had arrived and he believed this ambulance was a Memphis Fire Department ambulance.

At this point he stated he was in such a state of shock that someone put him in Room 308 and he had to lie down for a moment. While they were placing Dr. KING into the ambulance, LEE BERNARD, an aide of Dr. KING, came into Room 308 and told him to calm down and for him to drive the car and follow Dr. KING's ambulance. JONES stated he drove the car which had been used for Dr. KING and followed the ambulance to the hospital. In the car with him was Reverend ANDREW YOUNG and LEE BERNARD.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/68

1

Rev. BERNARD SCOTT LEE, 334 Auburn Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at the Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, in the presence of Lt. TOM MARSHALL, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department. Rev. LEE voluntarily furnished the following information:

Rev. LEE stated that he came to Memphis on April 3, 1968, with Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and had been staying at the Lorraine Motel since his arrival. He was registered in Room 205 and was alone in that room. He advised that Dr. KING was registered in Room 306 with Rev. ABERNATHY, and their room was immediately above his and one door south of his unit.

Rev. LEE stated that he and Dr. KING and all members of their party had been around the Lorraine Motel most of the day. He advised that he dressed for dinner and left his motel room at approximately 5:45 to 5:50 P.M. and went to the court yard of the Lorraine Motel where he joined other members of the staff of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and local community people. LEE stated at that time he was standing about three feet from the steps on the north end of the court yard which led to the second floor of the motel. He said he saw Dr. KING come out of his room at approximately 6:00 P.M. and Dr. KING walked out on the balcony in front of that room. Rev. LEE stated about that time his attention was directed to two female workers, names unknown, who were following one of the staff cars of SCLC as they drove into the Lorraine Motel. He said as he was looking at these individuals, he heard a shot and knows that the shot came from across the street in front of Dr. KING's room and which would be coming from the west. Rev. LEE said he immediately realized that this was not a fire-cracker and that it was a shot from a high caliber rifle. He said he based this on his experience in the U. S. Air Force and pointed out that he has fired the M-2 carbine as well as the .22 caliber rifle. He said he immediately knew that this was not a blast from a shotgun but from a high caliber rifle. Rev. LEE stated he immediately looked toward the

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On 4/4/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA ORVILLE V. JOHNSON:mnr Date dictated 4/10/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/68

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On 4/4/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA ORVILLE V. JOHNSON:mnr Date dictated 4/10/68

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buildings which were to the west of him but said he did not see anyone in any of the windows of these buildings who could have fired that shot. He said he only recalls seeing some white police officers who had shotguns but knew at the time that this shot was not from a shotgun but from a high caliber rifle. Rev. LEE said he turned and looked at Dr. KING and saw that he had fallen back and was lying on the floor of the balcony. He said he believed that he saw Dr. KING's hands leave the railing of the balcony and that this indicated to him that Dr. KING was leaning over the balcony rail at the time of the shooting. Rev. LEE said he saw Rev. YOUNG running up the steps which were on the north end of the motel leading up to the second floor, and he immediately started to where Dr. KING was, following behind Rev. YOUNG. He said when he reached Dr. KING, Dr. KING was lying on the balcony floor in a large pool of blood. He advised that he could tell that a bullet had torn out a section of the right side of Dr. KING's face between the high cheek bone and the lower bone of the jaw. Rev. LEE said he immediately asked one of the police officers who had rushed to Dr. KING to call an ambulance and he said an ambulance appeared on the scene shortly thereafter.

Rev. LEE pointed out that he only heard one shot and is of the positive opinion that this shot came from a high powered rifle and definitely not any type of a shotgun. He advised he did not see anyone fleeing the area around the motel who might have any connection with the person who shot Dr. KING and stated that at the time of the shooting he did not see anyone on the balcony of the motel with Dr. KING.

Rev. LEE continued by advising that the only individuals he can identify by name who were in the court yard of the Lorraine Motel at the time of the shooting were Rev. ANDREW YOUNG, Attorney CHAUNCEY ESKRIDGE, and Mr. SOLOMON JONES. Rev. LEE stated that there were other individuals at the motel at the time of the shooting but he cannot identify them by name. Rev. LEE stated that Rev. ABERNATHY was in Room 306 at the time of the shooting and was probably the first person to arrive at Dr. KING's side after the shooting. Rev. LEE stated that when he arrived at the place where Dr. KING was lying, Dr. KING was unconscious but did attempt to make some sounds which he could not understand.

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Rev. LEE advised that Dr. KING was put in an ambulance, and Rev. ABERNATHY accompanied him to the hospital.

Rev. LEE advised that he has no idea who is responsible for shooting Dr. KING and said he noticed nothing at the time of the shooting which might be of value to identify this individual. He reiterated that he was not looking at Dr. KING at the time he was shot but was looking in the area of the court yard around the Lorraine Motel. He stated these are all of the facts that he can recall at the present time regarding the shooting of Dr. KING and the events which happened immediately after the shooting.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/9/68

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Rev. ANDREW J. YOUNG, 1088 Veltre Circle, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia, home telephone 753-8320, business telephone 522-1420, was interviewed by Detective R. R. DAVIS, Homicide Bureau, Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department, and SA EUGENE G. DOUGLASS at the Memphis Police Department at approximately 11:00 P.M.

Rev. YOUNG advised that he is the Executive Vice President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). He stated that on April 4, 1968, at approximately 6:00 P.M. he was at the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry, Memphis.

He advised that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., occupied Room 306 of this motel, and Rev. YOUNG occupied Room 209. He stated that at approximately 6:00 P.M., April 4, 1968, they were preparing to go to dinner with other members of the SCLC staff. He advised that Dr. KING was standing on the second floor on the balcony portion of the motel and Rev. YOUNG was down in the court yard just below Dr. KING. He advised that Dr. KING came out onto the balcony in front of Room 306 of the motel and called down to Mr. SOLOMON JONES, JR., who was standing on the ground level and advised Mr. JONES to start the motor of the car. Rev. YOUNG stated that he overheard Mr. JONES say to Dr. KING, "I think you need a coat" and then Rev. YOUNG advised that a staff member drove up in a car on the driveway of the motel, and he turned away to look at this individual.

At this point he stated he heard a sound and thought it was a firecracker but then he looked up and observed Dr. KING lying on his back on the floor of the balcony of Room 306. Rev. YOUNG stated he ran up the stairs to Dr. KING and observed that Dr. KING was seriously wounded. He then looked across the street and observed police officers coming from the area where he thought the shot may have come from but stated he observed no one else.

Rev. YOUNG advised that the police officers then called for a Memphis Fire Department ambulance and he stated

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On 4/4/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA EUGENE G. DOUGLASS:mnr Date dictated 4/9/68

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he helped cover Dr. KING with a blanket and stated he observed that Dr. KING was losing blood rapidly. He stated that at this time he checked Dr. KING's pulse and noted it was very strong. He stated this was just prior to the arrival of the ambulance, but he noticed blood coming from the wound on the right side of Dr. KING's neck.

Rev. YOUNG stated that when he referred to the area from which he thought the shot had come, he was referring to a large clump of bushes which is located on the west side of Mulberry directly opposite from the area where Dr. KING's room was located. He pointed out that the motel is located on the east side of Mulberry. He stated he was standing on the ground level below Dr. KING talking to a staff member, whose name he could not recall, when he heard the sound which he later determined to be a gunshot. He stated that he would not have been able to observe a flash from a gun being fired on the west side of Mulberry as the swimming pool wall blocked his view from that area.

He pointed out that immediately after seeing Dr. KING fall he ran upstairs to assist Dr. KING and then looked across the street but did not see any cars leaving the scene in a hurry and saw no individuals who he felt could have been responsible for the shooting.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 15, 1968

CEOLAR SHAVERS, 610 F Brownmall, Clayborn Homes, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

She advised that she formerly was employed as a maid at the Lorraine Hotel and Motel, 406 Mulberry Street, Memphis, Tennessee, and that she was on duty on the 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. shift on April 3 and 4, 1968.

She also stated that sometime around 6:00 p.m. on April 4, 1968, pursuant to instructions from her employer, Mr. WALTER BAILEY, owner, Lorraine Hotel and Motel, she was proceeding along the second level of the motel on the balcony in a southerly direction to clean two rooms, which had not been taken care of by the maid assigned to these rooms. It was not normally her responsibility to clean these rooms, but the other maid left work at about 5:30 p.m. without attending to them.

She stated she had not as yet passed Room 306, but estimated that she was in front of Room 304 proceeding in the direction of Room 306 when she heard what she thought was a shot. She stated the sound was very loud, and caused her to drop some sheets, which she had been carrying, and that it frightened her quite a bit.

She stated that right after hearing the sound, she looked down into the courtyard parking lot area, and saw many people beginning to assemble. She advised that she then looked in a northwesterly direction toward some buildings where she believed the sound came from. She stated that she did not see anyone, and definitely did not see anyone in the bushes on the west side of Mulberry Street nor did she see anyone running away from these bushes.

She also stated that she had been employed at the Lorraine for about six weeks, and during that time cannot recall seeing or hearing anything suspicious nor anything which she would consider to be connected with the assassination of

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On 4/12/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987  
SAs STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON  
by EUGENE A. MEDORI, JR. /EAM:jms Date dictated 4/13/68

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DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

She further advised that after being startled by the loud noise, which sounded to her like a shot, she was very frightened and did not look at DR. KING. She did not see him get hit. She did look at him shortly thereafter, and saw him as he fell to the ground. She remembers looking at his feet as he fell.

She stated she then quickly went down the steps to the ground level, and recalls nothing else relating to the sound.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/12/68

WALTER LANE BAILEY, owner, Lorraine Motel and Hotel, 406 Mulberry Street, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

He has owned the Lorraine Motel and Hotel since 1945 and Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING had stayed there on approximately twelve occasions since 1958. To the best of his knowledge, Dr. KING had never received any threats on his life while staying at the hotel. To his knowledge, no one had been acting in a suspicious manner, such as asking questions about Dr. KING's whereabouts, nor had he heard of anyone walking or driving up Mulberry looking as if he were "casing" or "sizing up" the location during any of Dr. KING's visits.

He stated he did not know Dr. KING very well but believed he was acting very strangely on April 4, 1968. He said that Dr. KING normally was very businesslike in manner and never "joked around" but on that date at the motel he was very jovial and was "teasing and cutting up". He believed this type of behavior was out of character with Dr. KING's past activities and thought it strange but could attach no meaning or significance to it.

Mr. BAILEY said he heard what he thought was a shot at approximately 6:00 p.m., on April 4, 1968, while he was in the northern lower section of his hotel. He could feel the entire hotel shake when the shot went off. He ran outside and looked up and saw Dr. KING lying on the balcony in front of his room, which was #306. He said confusion was all around the hotel and he could not recall any details after looking up at Dr. KING.

He said he had absolutely no information or thoughts on the assassination of Dr. KING but would notify the FBI should he acquire any information of value.

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On 4/4/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987  
by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON &  
SA JOHN W. BAUER:SMD:cjs Date dictated 4/10/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/12/68

OLIVIA HAYES, maid, Lorraine Hotel and Motel, 406 Mulberry Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that she was on duty at that motel from 12:00 noon until 8:00 p.m., April 3 and 4, 1968.

She advised that she was "cleaning up" the rooms on April 3, 1968, and worked as a desk clerk on April 4, 1968.

She advised that she was not in a position to observe anyone on Mulberry Street on April 3, 1968, since she was cleaning up on the inside. She further advised that she could not observe Mulberry Street from her location behind the desk on April 4, 1968, and did not see anyone on Mulberry when she took her work breaks.

HAYES said that no one made inquiries concerning Dr. KING to her and no one acted suspiciously on either date, that she could recall.

She stated she could recall nothing relating to the assassination of Dr. KING and could furnish no information at all.

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On 4/4/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON &  
SA JOHN W. BAUER:SMD:cjs Date dictated 4/10/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/12/68

MARY ELLEN NORWOOD, Desk Clerk and cook, Lorraine Motel and Hotel, 406 Mulberry Street, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

She worked from 3:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m., April 3, and April 4, 1968, at the Lorraine Hotel in the kitchen cooking food. She heard a shot around 6:00 p.m. on April 4, 1968, and ran out of the kitchen, out the back door on the eastern side of the hotel, looked around, but saw nothing and re-entered the hotel and ran out of the main entrance on the east side of the hotel. She looked up and saw Dr. KING lying on the balcony in front of room 306, but at no time did she look in a westerly direction towards South Main Street. She said she has no other information concerning the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and would immediately notify the FBI should she recall or obtain any further information.

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On 4/11/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987  
by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON & SA JOHN W. BAUER:SMD:cjs Date dictated 4/11/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/12/68

EUNIS E. MILLER, cook and waitress, Lorraine Motel and Hotel, 406 Mulberry Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that she worked at the hotel from 7:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on April 3 and 4, 1968. She said she had absolutely no information regarding the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., as she worked inside the hotel both days and was not outside at all during her working hours.

She advised she would notify the FBI should she remember or obtain any information regarding the assassination.

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On 4/11/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987  
by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON & SA JOHN W. BAUER:SMD:cjs Date dictated 4/11/68

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**ME 44-1987**

**PERSONS AT CANIPE AMUSEMENT COMPANY,  
424 SOUTH MAIN STREET**



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 10, 1968

Mr. GUY WARREN CANIPE, JR., 1078 Brower Road, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone number 324-0344, owner of Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone number 525-0439, furnished the following information to Lt. J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and Special Agent FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:

He has been in business in the South Main Street area for the past twenty years. His store had been closed and unattended most of the day, April 4, 1968, he having been with Mr. EDWIN BODENHEIMER, 180 Clark Place, Memphis, one of his competitors and a close friend, during the day. He had left his store around 9:00 or 9:30 A.M. and did not return until after 5:00 P.M.

Soon after he returned, two Negro males came into his store and started looking at phonograph records on some shelves on the south side of the store near the front door. He had been playing records on a "jukebox" located toward the front of the store. He did not hear a shot or noise which he thought might be a shot anytime around 6:00 P.M. One of the Negro men was overheard by him subsequently to say that he, the customer, did hear a shot.

Sometime around 6:00 P.M. (although he has no way of fixing the time), he heard a "thud" in the vicinity of the front door of his store. He looked up to observe a bundle lying in front of the door to his store. He pointed out that the front door of his store is offset or located in a recess off the sidewalk. Almost simultaneously as he looked up after hearing this "thud," he saw a white man walking south on the sidewalk in front of his store.

After hesitating momentarily, Mr. CANIPE walked out onto the sidewalk, looking in both directions to see what happened to the man who obviously had dropped this bundle. As he did this, a white small car, possibly a compact, pulled away from the curb on the east side of Main Street at a point just south of his store. There was only one man in the car, namely the driver.

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On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:jap Date dictated 4/9/68

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When Mr. CANIPE looked north on Main Street he saw a Deputy Sheriff walking rapidly on the sidewalk on the east side of Main, approaching Mr. CANIPE, this Deputy having his revolver drawn. Mr. CANIPE, concluding that something unusual had just occurred, immediately stepped back into his store. This Deputy proceeded south on the sidewalk past his store, not stopping. A short time later after other officers had arrived, he saw this same Deputy and talked to him. He does not know his name.

After additional officers arrived, their attention was called to the bundle lying to the front of CANIPE's store.

As to the contents of the bundle or package which he observed, he pointed out that it appeared to be a rather large pasteboard box about the size he would expect a shotgun or rifle to be shipped in. The top of this box was ajar and he observed a portion of a gun barrel. There was some type cloth over the top of this bundle, which cloth was green in color and which impressed him as possibly being a curtain of some kind. In observing this bundle he noticed that the pasteboard box had the word "Browning" on it. He also saw some type of suitcase or brief case underneath the cloth.

As to the parking situation in front of his store, Mr. CANIPE furnished the following information:

In front of his store on the east side of Main there are three parking spaces between a fire plug and a driveway south of his store. He usually is able to park in one of these spaces. However, when he arrived at his store after 5:00 P.M., April 4, 1968, all three of these spaces were filled and he had to park his 1962 red station wagon at a point south of the above mentioned driveway. He does not recall noticing the make and model of the three cars parked in these spaces, but he is certain that there was a white smaller car, possibly a Valiant or Comet, parked in the parking space nearest his door (which will be referred to as parking space number one). He does not recall the cars parked in spaces two and three south of this white car.

He is certain in his own mind that the white small car he saw pull away from the curb as he looked out of his door, as outlined above, was parked in either number two parking space or number three parking space, but he does not know which of these spaces this car was parked in. He cannot