

having possibly been attracted by the footsteps of a running man. He is not sure but he believes he heard the footsteps of a man running and therefore looked toward the front door. Almost simultaneously as he looked up and saw a man carrying a large package of some kind, this man, who was walking south on the sidewalk immediately in front of CANIPE's store, stepped to the left and dropped the bundle in the recess in front of CANIPE's store and continued south on Main Street. Mr. GRAHAM stated that in his opinion this man was running rather than walking fast.

Mr. GRAHAM advised that the attention of both Mr. CANIPE and Mr. FINLEY was attracted by what had occurred when the man dropped the package, and all three of them started looking toward the front of the store and at the items which had been dropped. Mr. CANIPE started out of the front door, and as he recalls, "leaned" out of the front door looking in either direction, following which Mr. CANIPE came back in the store and made some remark about some trouble outside. Immediately after this a Deputy Sheriff walked south on the east side of Main, immediately in front of CANIPE's store, this Deputy passing the store and not stopping. He saw no other persons in the vicinity until some additional officers arrived on foot. Mr. GRAHAM later saw the same Deputy Sheriff who had walked past the store in the area in front of the store, still with his gun drawn. Eventually Mr. CANIPE was able to get the attention of one of the officers outside and pointed out the items in front of the store and the circumstances surrounding the presence of these items. Mr. GRAHAM observed a part of a gun barrel inside a large pasteboard box and also observed what appeared to him to be some type of green matting or cloth which appeared to be wrapped around the box containing the gun.

Prior to the time the armed Deputy first ran south past CANIPE's doorway, Mr. GRAHAM heard tires "screech" and observed a white Mustang to speed north on Main. The other white car, which Mr. GRAHAM believed to be a white Rambler, which had originally been parked in front of CANIPE's store, was still parked there at this time, and therefore his view of the car speeding away was partially obscured; however, Mr. GRAHAM is positive that the car which sped away was a white Mustang and there is no question in his mind but what it was the same Mustang he had seen earlier when he and Mr. FINLEY arrived in the vicinity of CANIPE's store, as outlined above. He stated he did not observe whether there was one or more people in this speeding Mustang.

ME 44-1987

3

As to a description of the man seen by Mr. GRAHAM carrying a package and later dropping this package, running south on Main, Mr. GRAHAM pointed out that he saw this person primarily from this person's left side and saw him only momentarily, but he believes he might recognize him if he sees him again. He furnished the following description of that person:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	25 - 30
Height:	5'7" - 5'8"
Weight:	About 165 pounds
Build:	Average (Mr. GRAHAM heard Mr. CANIPE tell the Police that he thought the man had a "chunky" build, but Mr. GRAHAM got the definite impression of a man who was neither thin nor fat but who was average in build).
Hair:	Dark (either black or dark brown, normally cut).
Dress:	Dark clothing (either a dark suit or a dark dress-type jacket and slacks; no hat; did not notice shirt or tie.
General Appearance:	Neat and clean in appearance, created impression of a salesman or businessman.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 10, 1968

Mr. BERNELL FINLEY, 1468 Kyle, Memphis, Tennessee, home telephone number 275-6524, who stated that he is an offset pressman at the Church of God in Christ Publishing House, 930 Mason Street, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone number 526-1169, was interviewed at his home by Lt. J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and Special Agent FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON. He furnished the following information:

He got off work at approximately 5:20 P.M., April 4, 1968, and he and a fellow employee, JULIUS GRAHAM, drove in Mr. FINLEY's car, a 1964 white, four-door Rambler, directly to Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, where they wanted to look over some old phonograph records. As they proceeded north on South Main Street to the vicinity of this store, they observed that all of the parking spaces in the block in front of CANIPE's store on the east side of Main were filled with automobiles. They continued north on South Main to Huling Street, turning right and parking Mr. FINLEY's car near a driveway under construction in the first block east of Main Street. They walked directly to Canipe Amusement Company. He estimated they arrived there about 5:30 P.M. There were no customers in Canipe Amusement Company other than Mr. FINLEY and Mr. GRAHAM. The two of them proceeded to look at old records in shelves on the south side of the store near the front of the store. The owner, Mr. CANIPE, was playing the "jukebox."

Sometime around 6:00 P.M., Mr. FINLEY heard a noise that sounded like a shot. He does not know whether Mr. GRAHAM or Mr. CANIPE heard this noise, as they said nothing and he said nothing. He attached no particular significance to hearing this noise at the time, but continued to look at records. Shortly thereafter and certainly within a matter of just a minute or so, he heard a second noise near the front door of CANIPE's store. He, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. CANIPE all immediately looked to the front door where they saw a box or package or bundle lying immediately in front of the door of this store. As his attention was attracted

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

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

to this box or package, he also saw a man walking rapidly south on the sidewalk on the east side of Main, it being obvious that this was the person who had dropped or thrown the package in front of CANIPE's store, there being no one else around in that area and the box or package not having been there earlier.

Mr. FINLEY recalls that Mr. CANIPE walked up to the door and Mr. FINLEY followed him. Mr. CANIPE opened the door and started outside but immediately backed up and said, "Get back, there's some kind of trouble out here and I don't want no part of it." Immediately thereafter, Mr. FINLEY saw a Deputy Sheriff walking rapidly on the sidewalk south on Main, with his gun drawn, this Deputy not stopping but continuing south on Main in the same direction in which the above mentioned unknown man had walked. A few minutes thereafter he saw this same Deputy in front of CANIPE's store with his gun still drawn looking up as though he were trying to observe the upper stories of the buildings in the vicinity. A number of other officers arrived immediately thereafter, all of them being on foot.

Just about the time that Mr. CANIPE started out of the front door of the store, Mr. FINLEY heard the "screech" of tires and looked up to see a white Mustang speeding north on Main past CANIPE's store.

Mr. FINLEY explained that there was a car parked in front of CANIPE's store and therefore he did not get a full view of the car which had sped away, but he did see the rear portion of the roofline, as well as the trunk of the speeding car, and there is no question in his mind that this was a white car and there has been no question in his mind but what the car was a Mustang.

At the time this car sped away, Mr. FINLEY stated that he did not associate the speeding white Mustang with the man who had dropped the box or package, but after he learned what had occurred and after reflecting on the matter, he is now of the opinion that the man who dropped the package and walked south on the sidewalk past CANIPE's store was probably the man who got into the white Mustang and sped away from the area, going north on Main. As nearly as he can recall the sequence of the events, this white Mustang sped away from the curb moments before the Deputy Sheriff walked south past CANIPE's store.

As to the cars in the parking spaces in front of and to the south of CANIPE's store on the east side of Main, Mr. FINLEY advised that the car in the first position (that is, the car in front of CANIPE's store) was there when he first arrived at CANIPE's store and was there when he eventually left the area. He stated that after he had been questioned by Police and left CANIPE's store, there were no other vehicles immediately behind the car in front of CANIPE's store. He stated he was not in position to tell whether the speeding white Mustang pulled away from a parking space immediately behind the car which remained parked in front of CANIPE's store, or whether possibly it pulled away from a parking space farther south of this point.

Mr. FINLEY stated that he simply did not observe whether there was one or more occupants in the speeding Mustang, and he did not observe the license plates on this Mustang. He stated that the Mustang was one of the standard varieties and not the "Fastback" variety of Mustang.

Mr. FINLEY stated that the first person he saw in the area after his attention was first attracted by the dropping of the box was the above mentioned Deputy Sheriff with a revolver in his hand, and he knows of no one other than himself, Mr. CANIPE, and Mr. GRAHAM who saw the man in question and who saw the white Mustang speed away from the area, going north on Main.

As to the box or package dropped on thrown down by the unknown man, Mr. FINLEY stated that he observed a pasteboard box about 4 feet x 6 or 8 inches x 3 or 4 inches, having a tag of some kind on it, the top to this box being partially off to the point where he could see from one foot to 18 inches of the barrel of a gun. Eventually he observed that this gun was a rifle with a scope on it. There was some type of luggage, approximately 2 feet x 1½ feet x 6 or 8 inches, larger than an attache case, and some type of cloth folded over both of these items.

Mr. FINLEY stated that after the above mentioned armed Deputy Sheriff walked past CANIPE's store and after some other officers had arrived and were in front of CANIPE's store, Mr. CANIPE motioned to the officers from inside CANIPE's store, attracting the attention of one of them and pointing out the items left in front of the store and explaining to them what had occurred.

ME 44-1987

4

As to a description of the unknown man who dropped or threw down the package, Mr. FINLEY pointed out that he saw this man only momentarily, the man not taking over one or two steps while still in Mr. FINLEY's view. He stated that he "only got a glimpse of the man," not seeing his face except enough of the left side of the man's face to tell that he was a white man. He furnished the following description of this man:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	Simply not in a position to judge other than to state that man was not an old man (based upon the manner in which he walked).
Height:	5'8" to 5'10" (Mr. FINLEY at first placed the height at 5'6" to 5'8", stating that his final estimate was a little better than a guess).
Weight:	Around 160 pounds (stating that his estimate as to weight would vary depending on the man's height, that the man was not skinny and not fat but had an average build).
Build:	Average
Hair:	Simply cannot recall observing area of man's head; does not recall whether wearing hat; does not recall observing hair.
Dress:	Wearing dark suit

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 6, 1968

On the evening of April 4, 1968, items listed below were given by Inspector N. E. ZACHARY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, to Special Agent In Charge ROBERT G. JENSEN, of the Memphis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Inspector ZACHARY personally recovered these items from the sidewalk in front of 424 South Main Street, Memphis. These items were then turned over by Mr. JENSEN to Special Agent ROBERT FITZPATRICK, who personally delivered these to Special Agent ROBERT A. FRAZIER, of the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D.C., at 5:10 a.m. on the morning of April 5, 1968. The items delivered are as follows:

- (1.) A black cardboard box which had originally contained a Browning Mauser rifle. At one end of this box appears a label bearing Number 130712.
- (2.) Remington Gamemaster rifle, Model 760, Serial Number 461476, on which is mounted a Redfield telescopic sight.
- (3.) An empty ammunition clip removed from this rifle by Special Agent In Charge ROBERT G. JENSEN and Special Agent ORVILLE V. JOHNSON.
- (4.) An empty shell casing removed from the chamber of this rifle by Mr. JENSEN and Special Agent JOHNSON.
- (5.) A box containing nine cartridges.
- (6.) A green and brown herringbone patterned bedspread.
- (7.) A blue plastic zippered suitcase approximately twenty by thirty inches, which contained the following items:
- (8.) One magnetic tack hammer.
- (9.) One pair of pliers bearing the label, "Rompage."
- (10.) Standard Oil road map designated, "Georgia - Alabama."

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

by SAC ROBERT G. JENSEN
SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK **RGJ:** jms Date dictated 4/6/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Alabama."

(11.) The first section of the April 4, 1968, issue of the "Commercial Appeal," a daily newspaper published at Memphis, Tennessee.

(12.) A Standard Oil map of the United States.

(13.) One roll of bathroom tissue.

(14.) Binoculars, trade name, Banner By Bushnell, Serial Number DQ 408664.

(15.) Leather or plastic binocular case.

(16.) Cardboard carton marked, "Bushnell."

(17.) Gray paper bag bearing an advertisement for York Arms Company, Memphis, Tennessee.

(18.) York Arms Company sales slip in the amount of \$41.55, dated April 4, 1968.

(19.) Clear plastic box containing a Gillette Safety Razor, Gillette razor blades, an aerosol can of Gillette shaving creme, a can of Gillette Right Guard deodorant, and a tube of Gillette Heads Up hair cream. A price sticker appears on this box bearing the legend, "Oliver Rexall, Whitehaven, phone 397-2301, \$1.89."

(20.) One white and yellow checked hand-towel.

(21.) One white handkerchief.

(22.) One tube of Colgate toothpaste.

(23.) One pair of long black socks.

(24.) One seven ounce can of Gillette Right Guard deodorant.

(25.) One six-transistor Channel Master pocket size radio.

(26.) One bottle of Bufferin tablets.

(27.) One gray cloth belt.

(28.) One tube of Brylcreem hair dressing.

- (29.) One bottle of One-A-Day vitamin tablets.
- (30.) One small bar of Cashmere Bouquet soap, bearing on the wrapper an advertisement for Friendship Inns.
- (31.) One small size bar of Cashmere Bouquet soap.
- (32.) One small bar of Cameo soap.
- (33.) One bar of Dial soap.
- (34.) One hair brush.
- (35.) One tube of Head and Shoulders shampoo, stamped "Liggett Rexall Number 1678, \$1.10."
- (36.) One can of Kiwi brown shoe polish.
- (37.) One aerosol can of Palmolive Rapid Shave, stamped, "Liggett Rexall Number 3478, 79¢."
- (38.) A maroon button.
- (39.) One toothbrush.
- (40.) One safety razor, brand unknown.
- (41.) One plastic bottle of Mennen Afta Shaving lotion.
- (42.) Two bobby pins.
- (43.) Brown paper bag containing two unopened cans of Schlitz beer, bearing the legend, "Mississippi Tax Paid, 4 cents."

Also delivered to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory by Special Agent FITZPATRICK were the following three twenty dollar bills, which had been obtained from Mrs. BESSIE RUTH BREWER, it being believed that one of them had been given to her on April 4, 1968, by the unknown murderer who had rented a room in her rooming house:

Federal Reserve Note
Series 1963 A SN F14002844A

Federal Reserve Note
Series 1963 A SN H16164663A

Federal Reserve Note
Series 1963 SN F06445143A

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 8, 1968

On the evening of April 4, 1968, DR. JERRY T. FRANCISCO, Medical Examiner, University of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee, gave to Lieutenant J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, the bullet removed from the body of the deceased DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. Lieutenant HAMBY turned this bullet over to Inspector N. E. ZACHARY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, who, in turn, delivered it to Special Agent CYRIL F. BUSCH. Special Agent BUSCH hand carried this bullet to Special Agent In Charge ROBERT G. JENSEN, who, in turn, furnished same to Special Agent ROBERT FITZPATRICK, to be hand carried to Washington, D.C.

At 5:10 a.m., on the morning of April 5, 1968, Special Agent FITZPATRICK delivered this bullet to Special Agent ROBERT A. FRAZIER, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory, Washington, D.C.

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

SAs CYRIL F. BUSCH
by ROBERT FITZPATRICK CFB:jms Date dictated 4/7/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/11/68

The following items were received by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK from SAC ROBERT G. JENSEN at the FBI Office, 841 Federal Building, Memphis, Tennessee:

- 1) One pair of men's shorts (waist band in unstretched condition, one side measures approximately 11-3/4 inches, which would be waist band of approximately 23-1/2 inches)
- 2) T-shirt, size 42-44, designated "Jockey Power Knit." T-shirt large size. It appears on visual examination that the lower portion of the T-shirt has been cut.
- 3) One board which is part of a window sill in the window of a bathroom at 422 1/2 South Main Street, Memphis.

These items were personally taken by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK to the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D. C.

SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK left the Memphis FBI Office at 6:15 p.m., April 6, 1968, en route Metropolitan Airport, Memphis, Tennessee. SA FITZPATRICK arrived at the Airport at 6:40 p.m., boarded American Airlines Flight #132 en route Washington, D. C., at Washington National Airport.

SA FITZPATRICK arrived at Washington National Airport, Washington, D. C., at 9:45 p.m., and personally delivered the aforementioned evidence to SA JAMES CADIGAN of the Document Section, FBI, Washington, D. C., at 9:55 p.m.

SA FITZPATRICK had these items of evidence in his possession at all times until they were personally delivered by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK to Washington, D. C., and ultimately released to SA JAMES CADIGAN of the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D.C.

On 4/6/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987
by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK:gmh Date dictated 4/10/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ME 44-1987

RJL/acp

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA RALPH J. LIEWER and SA ROBERT W. GOODWIN at Memphis, Tennessee, on April 5, 1968:

Mr. CORDRA YORK, JR., 1374 East Crestwood, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he is one of the owners of the York Arms Company at 162 South Main Street, Memphis, and he does not recall seeing an individual come into the store in the afternoon of April 4, 1968, and purchase a pair of binoculars from Mr. RALPH CARPENTER, one of the salesmen at the store.

Mr. YORK stated that any money taken from such a customer would by this time have been transferred to the banking institution used by the store.

Mr. YORK stated that the York Arms Company does not handle the Remington Game Master model 760 rifle at this time and has not handled it for the past two or three years. He stated that the store has two other branches in the city and he is certain that neither of these stores has handled this particular model of Remington rifle in the past several years; however, to make sure he would contact these stores and in the event they had handled this gun recently would immediately contact the FBI.

Mr. YORK advised that Mr. CHARLES GIBSON, a salesman for the store, is now out of the store and unavailable for interview. He stated Mr. VERNON YORK has left for an extended fishing trip in Florida.

Mr. HUGH BADDLEY, 1537 North Parkway, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he is a clerk in the York Arms Company, 162 South Main Street. He advised that he recalls that sometime on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, salesman RALPH CARPENTER went to the store's display window and brought back a pair of binoculars which Mr. BADDLEY believes CARPENTER eventually sold to a customer at that time. Mr. BADDLEY stated that he does not recall the customer and cannot describe him.

*One York
still left*

*York
m*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 5, 1968

Mr. RALPH MEREDITH, CARPENTER, 4844 Durbin Street, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone 685-5618, advised that he is a salesman at the York Arms Company located at 162 South Main Street, Memphis.

Mr. CARPENTER recalls that yesterday, April 4, 1968, he was in the above mentioned store talking to one of the other salesmen in the store when an individual entered and subsequently bought from him a pair of Bushnell binoculars. This individual entered the store at about 4:00 in the afternoon. Mr. CARPENTER estimates this to be the correct time and, in part, bases his estimate on the fact that there were pickets parading in front of the store at that time. Mr. CARPENTER recalls that as this individual proceeded further into the store he turned to this individual and asked if he could be of assistance. The individual stated that he wished to purchase some binoculars, and Mr. CARPENTER told him that he was about out of binoculars and believed the only ones he had in stock were a pair selling for \$200 and another pair selling for ninety-some dollars. The individual stated that he believed these were too high priced for him, and then Mr. CARPENTER recalled that there might be a cheaper pair of binoculars in the window and advised the individual that he would find out. Mr. CARPENTER thereupon went to the display window in the front of the store and determined that there was on display a pair of Bushnell binoculars selling for \$39.95. He brought these binoculars back to the customer and explained that they were a Japanese import of better quality. The individual seemed to indicate that he either recognized the name or that he agreed that there were some good Japanese imports. The customer raised the binoculars to his eyes and in some manner, not now recalled by Mr. CARPENTER, indicated that these binoculars were acceptable.

Mr. CARPENTER recalls that the customer asked if instructions were in the box, and Mr. CARPENTER advised him that there were instructions in the box, but not much was needed to be known to operate the binoculars, other than to

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

by SA ROBERT W. GOODWIN and
SA RALPH J. LIEWER RJL/acp Date dictated 4/5/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

*Leads
the York*

*York Arms
company*

just place them to the eyes and adjust the eye pieces. Mr. CARPENTER recalls that he wrote on the box in which he placed the binoculars the price \$39.95 and the amount of tax which was \$1.60 and added the two figures for a total of \$41.55. He placed the sales slip and the box with the binoculars in it in a gray paper bag which bears the name of York Arms on its side. The binoculars were in a leather or similar type carrying case. The store does not record or maintain serial numbers for these binoculars and it is not known what, if any, serial number was on this particular pair of binoculars.

Mr. CARPENTER stated that the binoculars were Bushnell brand and were 7 by 35 size.

Mr. CARPENTER described the customer as follows:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	26 - 32 years
Height:	5 feet 11 inches
Weight:	160 pounds to 175 pounds
Hair:	Black or dark brown, neat, combed straight back and not parted. It was neither very long nor shaggy.
Eyes:	Color not recalled; no glasses worn
Complexion:	Ruddy
Build:	Medium
Scars and marks:	None recalled
Regional accent:	None noticed
Dress:	Dark suit, not known whether or not pants matched coat, but recalls pants did not contrast with coat; color of shoes not known but not in sharp contrast to other clothing; no hat worn; white shirt with noticeably wide space at the collar, neat looking; dark tie with light stripe which covered entire tie, which was tied in a long slender knot which did not fill the space between the collars; tie was noticeably pulled to one side, not in keeping with generally neat appearance of customer; no jewelry remembered.

Facial characteristics: Average fullness; nothing regarding the eyes, nose, ears or other features noticeable. Customer's hands were neat, though nothing outstanding was noticed about them.

Mr. CARPENTER recalls that the individual reached into his right front pants pocket to get the money with which to pay for the binoculars. The money was not in a billfold or a money clip. The customer withdrew two \$20 bills from a roll which contained several other bills, at least two of which Mr. CARPENTER believes were \$20 bills. The customer also took a \$1.00 bill from this roll and then reached into his other front pocket with his left hand and secured two quarters and a nickel, making a total of \$41.55 for the payment. After purchasing the binoculars, the customer walked from the store and Mr. CARPENTER told him to "hurry back" or some similar parting statement, and the customer's reply is not recalled, if any was made. Mr. CARPENTER does not know which direction the customer took after leaving the store.

Mr. CARPENTER does not recall ever having seen this individual before in the store or elsewhere, but feels relatively certain that if he sees him again he would be able to recognize him.

The customer, while in the store, did not ask to see any other merchandise such as rifles or guns or ammunition of any kind, and made no inquiry at all concerning any other merchandise.

Mr. CARPENTER stated that when the customer entered the store CARPENTER was near the front of the store talking to Mr. VERNON YORK. Further back in the store he believes CHARLES GIBSON was near the cash register, and Mr. HUGH BADDLEY, a clerk, was also somewhere in the store. He believes also that possibly Mr. CORDRA YORK, JR., may have been in the store, but he does not know whether or not any of these individuals took notice of the customer.