FBI

Date:

8/24/68

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

TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

ATTN: FBI LABORATORY

FROM:

SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

00: MEMPHIS 660826101

Enclosed for the Laboratory is page "13" of a rooming house ledger and Registration Card No. 8075 from a hotel.

Page "13" was obtained from a rooming house at 2731 Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois, and on line 24 bears the signature JOHN LARRY RAYMS, who it is believed is identical with the subject.

Registration Card No. 8075 obtained from the Lincoln Apartment Hotel, 1648 West Lunt, Chicago, Illinois, bears the signature of JOHN L. RAYNS and other inked handwriting, believed made by the subject.

The Laboratory is requested to compare the signature JOHN LARRY RAYMS appearing on line 24 of the enclosed page "13" and the signature JOHN L. RAYNS and other inked writing on the enclosed Registration Card No. 8075 with the known handwriting and signatures of the subject to determine if the subject in fact signed page "13" and the Registration Card.

The Laboratory is requested to return the enclosures to the Chicago Office upon completion of this examination.

- Bureau (Encl.1) 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info) 1 - Chicago JMB: pag

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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FD=36 (Rev. 5-22-64)			Mr. Yolson Mr. GeLoach Mr. Mohr Mr. Bishop Mr. Casper
	F B I	te: 8 -22-68	Mr. Callahan Mr. Conrad Mr. Felt
Fransmit the following in			Mr. Gale Mr. Rosen
	(Type in plai	intext or code)	Mr. Sullivan Mr. Tavel
Via AIRTEL	AM		Mr. Trotter
		(Priority)	Miss Holmes
FROM: SAC, MEMF	FBI (44-38861) HIS (44-1987) P	109	American control of the control of t
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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Key Witness In Ray Case Walks Free After Ruling

By CHARLES EDMUNDSON

Charles Q. Stephens, 57-year-old key witness in the coming trial of the man charged with killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., walked free from the Shelby County Jail yesterday after a Circuit Court judge ruled his imprisonment as a "material witness" was illegal.

Judge William W. O'Hearn held that Mr. Stephens' imprisonment for the past 30 days was without legal justification and ordered his instant release.

imprison a man because he is the victim of circumstances?" Judge O'Hearn asked. "Mr. Stephens promises to cooperate as a state witness. He has not violated the statutes. He cannot be imprisoned on conjectures as to what he might do."

Mr. Stephens is supposed to have seen a man identifiable as James Earl Ray, charged with Dr. King's murder, run from the second floor of a South Main Street rooming house from which the fatal shot was fired April 4.

Asst. Atty. Gen. James C. Beasley told the court the prosecution has no other witness who "can testify to the same material facts."

Mr. Beasley said Mr. Stephens was placed in jail "to keep him from being disposed of—to speak plainly." However, Police Chief Henry Lux said a three-shift bodyguard detailed to guard the witness in the Shelby County Jail would be discontinued. "We haven't the men to supply a b o d y g u a r d for Stephens," Chief Lux said.

Mr. Stephens was freed on a writ of habeas corpus. During the hearing Judge O'Hearn observed, "It would be naive not to consider that something could happen to him (if he is released)."

Atty. Gen. Phil M. Canale and the Memphis office of the FBI replied, "No comment," when asked if Mr. Stephens will be given a bodyguard, which he said he is willing to accept. He had a bodyguard outside the jail from July 5 to July 22.

On July 22, Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle, who will preside at Ray's trial, ordered Mr. Stephens held in default of a \$10,000 material witness bond. Until 3:30 p.m. yesterday he had been held in an air conditioned private room on the fifth floor of the Shelby County Jail.

Below)

It was the first of several pretrial orders issued by Judge Battle to be tested in another court.

Jay Fred Friedman, one of Mr. Stephens' attorneys, quoted his client as saying, "I'm going underground — out of circulation. Last time I opened my mouth they put me in jail. This time I'm going to keep my mouth shut."

Mr. Friedman said Mr. Stephens, a former heavy machinery operator drawing a partial disability pension of \$113 from the Veterans Administration, will remain in Shelby County as ordered by Judge O'Hearn and will be on hand to testify when the Ray trial opens Nov. 12.

Mr. Stephens testified he agreed to "take a room" at the jail upon being assured he could leave occasionally under

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
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- MEMPILIS, T NN.
Date: 8/22/62
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police protection and could have visitors. He said he had been allowed no visitors except his two attorneys.

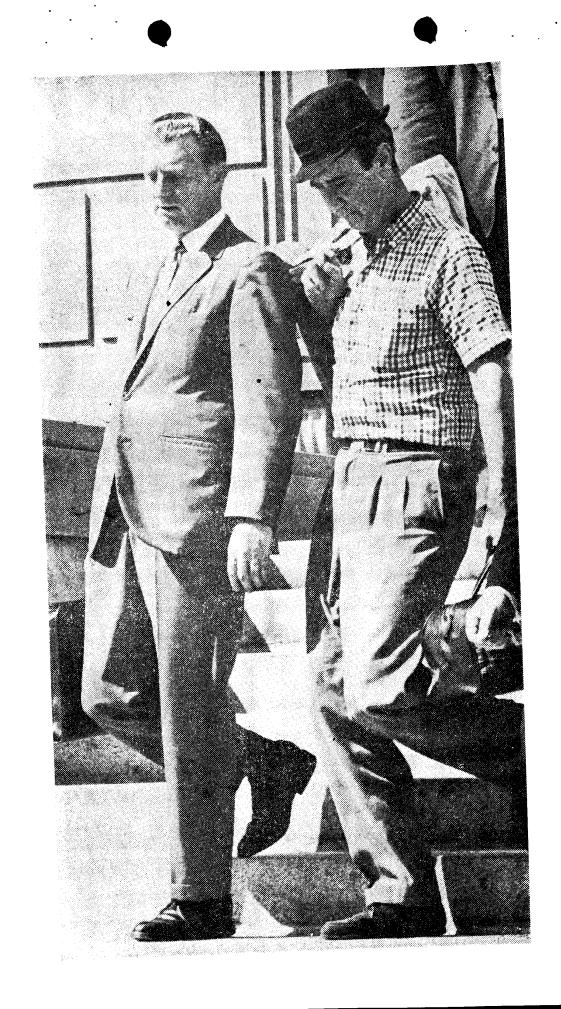
Harvey L. Gipson, co-counsel for Mr. Stephens, objected that his client had been allowed fewer visitors than accused criminals and convicts.

Mr. Stephens who has a drinking problem, appeared in excellent health. He appeared 10 to 20 pounds heavier than when he went on jail fare.

He wore a blue, grey and white-checked sport shirt, gray sslacks and soft - finished loafers.

Order Frees Key Witness

A confinement of 40 days that began voluntarily and ended with Charles Quitman Stephens (right) a prisoner was over yesterday when the man who has been identified as a key witness in the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. left the Shelby County Criminal Courts Building with Harvey L. Gipson, one of his attorneys. A writ of habeas corpus ordering the release was granted by Circuit Court Judge William O'Hearn.



'Lead' Claimed In King Slaying

Arthur J. Hanes, defense lawyer in the King murder trial, told The Press-Scimitar he received a letter this morning that is "one of the best leads yet in the case."

Hanes quoted the writer as saying: "I would have contacted you sooner, but I'm in public work. I can't stick my neck out too far."

Hanes said in Birmingham, his home, that he received the letter there yesterday, and it was postmarked Memphis.

"I want to develop the truth of this thing," Hanes said, though he confirmed that he believes the lead in favor of his client, James Earl Ray, who is held in the Shelby County jail on a charge of killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The writer was anonymous, but asked Hanes phone number and exact address — phone (205) 324-9536 at Room 617 Frank Nelson Bldg., Birmingham.

The lawyer declined to reveal the lead, saying the evidence must wait for the trial.

"It directly bears on the case," he said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)	
PAGE 33	
MEMPHIS PRESS SCIMITAR	
MEMPHIS, TENN.	
Date: 8-21-68 Edition: HOME Author: Editor: CHAS. H. SCHNEID	E
Character: or Classification: 44 /657 Submitting Office: 7767	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COMMUNICATION SECTION TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

235PM URGENT 8-22-68 DJM

TO: DIRÉCTOR. FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

O MURKIN

RE SI TEL TO BUREAU AUGUST TWENTYONE LAST.

SI ONE FIVE FIVE TWO- C, SI ONE SIX ONE FOUR- C. AND PCI HELEN GRABLE CONTACTED. INFORMATION DEVELOPED THAT A WILLIE LEE, BELIEVED A QUOTE WEAK LINK END QUOTE AMONG ASSOCIATES JOHN MC CLINTOCK, DICK COVINGTON, AND DELMAR GRINDSTAFF, HAS LEFT THE STATE BECAUSE SONEONE IS QUOTE OUT TO GET HIM END QUOTE.

MC CLINTOCK DUE FOR TRIAL MADISON COUNTY COURT ON BURGLARY CHARGE.

WHEREABOUTS OF COVINGTON AND GRINDSTAFF UNKNOWN TO

INFORMANTS OR ASSOCIATES.

38861-5103

Mr. Tolson.

Mr. Mohr__

Mr. Felt_

Mr. Gale_

MA Rosen

Mr. Tavel

Tele. Room_

Miss Holmes_ Miss Gandy_

Mr. Bishop___ Mr. Casper_.. Mr. Callahan. Mr. Conrad

Mr. DeLoach

MAIL COPIES SENT CHICAGO, MEMPHIS, AND ST. LOUIS.

END.

EXJ

FBI WASH DC

16 AUG 26 1968

AUG 22 3 39 PM 10

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

FROM A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: August 20, 1968

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. Long

1 - Mr. Bishop

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Tomas Reyes Lau, owner, International School of Bartending, Los Angeles, California, advised he has been approached by one Clay Blair, Jr., Potomac, Maryland, for information regarding the Murkin case. It is noted that subject as Eric S. Galt attended this school from January 19, 1968, to his graduation on March 2, 1968.

Blair identified himself as a writer for Bantam Books and he displayed a letter of identification signed by Mark C. Jaffe, the Senior Vice-President of Bantam Books, New York. Blair explained to Lau he was writing a book regarding James Earl Ray and he desired to obtain information from Lau regarding Ray's attendance at the International School of Bartending.

Lau stated he told Blair he had received a court order from Memphis in which he was forbidden to discuss any information he had regarding the King assassination until after the trial of Ray. Lau stated he had no intention of violating the court order and told Blair he would furnish him no information.

ACTION:

Memphis is being instructed to furnish the above information to Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennessee, who is handling the state's prosecution of Ray. Department being advised.

REL: jms (7)

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

August 21, 1968

Director, FBI (44-38861) 5/05

1 - Mr. Long

MURKIN

\$1.10

ReLAairtel to the Bureau dated 8-16-68.

You should advise Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennessee, of the contents of referenced communication in view of the fact that he is handling the state's prosecution.

REL: jms (4)

NOTE:

See Rosen to DeLoach memorandum dated 8-20-68, captioned, "Murkin."

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1 - Mr. Long

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See Rosen to DeLoach memorandum dated 8-20-68, captioned, "Murkin."

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Date: 8/16/68

	mit the following in	(Type in plaintext or code)	
Via	AIR MAIL		
		(Priority)	

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

Special Agent in Charge

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

TOMAS REYES LAU, owner, International School of Bartending, Los Angeles, California, advised on 8/16/68 that he had been approached by an individual named CLAY BLAIR, JR., 11901 Piney Glen Lane, Potomac, Maryland 20854, for information regarding the MURKIN case.

BLAIR identified himself as a writer for Bantam Books. BLAIR displayed to LAU a letter of identification signed by MARK C. JAFFE, Senior Vice-President, Bantam Books, New York.

BLAIR explained to LAU he was writing a book regarding JAMES EARL RAY and solicited information from LAU regarding LAU's knowledge of RAY and RAY's attendance at the International School of Bartending.

LAU stated he told BLAIR he had received a court order from Memphis in which he was forbidden to discuss any information he had regarding the MARTIN LUTHER KING assassination until after the trial of RAY. LAU stated he has no intention of violating this court order and told BLAIR he would furnish him no information.

3 - Bureau (AIR MAIL) 2 - Memphis (44-1987)(AI 1 - Baltimore (44-669)(I 1 - New York (Info.)(AIR 1 - Los Angeles TJA:CM (8)	R MAIL) REC 7 nfo.)(AIR MAIL) MAIL)	4444-38, 2 AUG TO 19	26/510 68
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DIRECTOR, FBL (M.-38461) 300:

SAC, DOS AMGELES (LL-1574)

SUBJECT:

the MUMMIN case. been approached by an individual named CLAY BLAIR, JR., 11901 Piney wien Lane, Potomac, Maryland 20854, for information regarding TOMAS REYES LAU, owner, International behoof of Dar-tending, Los Angeles, California, advised on 8/16/68 that he had

G. JARRE, Senior Vice-President, Bantam Books, New York. BLAIR identified himself as a writer for Bantam Books. Blair displayed to half a letter of identification signed by MARK

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Date: 8/23/68

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(Type in plaintext or code)

Via

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(Priority)

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DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114)

SUBJECT:

UNSUBS (2);

The Bank of Alton, Alton, Illinois

7/13/67

BR

OO: SPRINGFIELD

On 8/21/68, circulars regarding laundry and dry cleaning marks obtained at captioned bank robbery were furnished to all laundries in the Chicago Division through the Illinois Launders Association, mailing list and to all dry cleaners in the Chicago Division, through the National Dry Cleaning Institution mailing list furnished by the Baltimore Office.

C. C. & Bishop

3-Bureau (1-91-27494) 2-Springfield (44-561) (1-91-3699) 2-Chicago

(1-91-5375) JHW/mah

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REC-20

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Approved: Special Agent in Charge

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: August 21, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach

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1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Malley 1 - Mr. McGowan

SUBJECT: MURKIN

HSCA RES///78 REQUEST 1 - Mr. Long

involving the munder of

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Special Agent in Charge Robert Jensen of our Memphis Division received a subpoena duces tecum on August 20, 1968, requesting his appearance in court at Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee on August 21, 1968, and to bring with him documents pertaining to Charles Quitman Stephens. Stephens, a witness in this case, lived in a rooming house at which Ray stayed on April 4, 1968.

The matter in court relates to writ of habeas corpus in order that Stephens, who is being held by the state as a material witness, might be released from incarceration.

This matter has been discussed with the Department, and they advised they are sending to SAC Jensen a telegram to the effect that he is to appear in court as directed, he is not to take any documents with him, he is not to answer any questions concerning investigation conducted regarding the assassination of King, and if necessary advise the court he is under specific instructions of the Attorney General and cite Departmental Orders. The Department also advised a representative of the United States Attorney's Office in Memphis will be in court.

Memphis has been advised of the discussion with the Department.

ACTION:

For your information. You will be kept advised of pertinent developments. REC-57 4/4 3886/

REL: jms

(6)

PAN CLARA

22 AUG 23 1968

57 SEP 4 1968

COPY MADE FOR MR. TOLSON

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AUGZ 1 1968

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

351PM URGENT 8-21-68 DJM

TO: DIRECTOR. FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC. SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

MURKIN

RE SPRINGFIELD TEL TO BUREAU AUGUST TWENTY LAST.

SI ONE FIVE FIVE TWO DASH C. WHO FURNISHED ORIGINAL INFORMATION INDICATING JOHN MC CLINTOCK WAS ONE OF THOSE INVOLVED IN ROBBERY THE BANK OF ALTON. STATED TODAY HE KNOWS JAMES EARL RAY AND IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN RAY WAS NOT IN ALTON DURING JULY NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN: THAT INFORMATION REGARDING MC CLINTOCK'S COMPLICITY IN BANK ROBBERY ACCURATE AND THAT THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN MC CLINTOCK AND RAY. INFORMANT INTENSIFYING INQUIRY TO FURTHER ELABORATE ON INFORMATION.

M MAIL COPY TO CHICAGO. MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS.

END.

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FBI WASH DC

\$ AUG 301968

Mr. Tolson Mr. DeLoach Mr. Mohr Mr. Bishop. Mr. Casper Mr. Callahan Mr. Conrad . Mr. Felt Mr. Gale Mr. Rosen Mr. Sullivan . Mr. Tavel . Mr. Trotter Tele. Room Miss Holmes Miss Gandy .

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In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Birmingham, Alabama, 35203

August 13, 1968

Re: James Earl Ray;
Reverend Martin Luther King - Victim

Mr. Don Wood, Aeromarine Supply Company, Birmingham, Alabama, telephonically contacted Special Agent Neil P. Shanahan of the Birmingham office of the FBI and furnished the following information:

ENCLOSURE 44-38861-5109

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

_	~ /- ~	
Date	8/13	/63

Mr. DOW WOOD, Aeromarine Supply Company, Birmingham, telephonically contacted Special Agent NEIL P. SHANAHAN and furnished the following information:

WOOD stated that at approximately 5:15 or 5:30 p.m., on August 12, 1968, ARTHUR HARES, Attorney, appeared at the Aeromarine Supply Company and requested to speak with him. WOOD advised that he was busy and when he had completed his sale, he speke with Mr. HANES, who made small talk for a few minutes and them said "BON, my man is so shook up, he can't remember exactly what time he was in this store on that Friday and Saturday afternoon. Can you remember what time he was in here?" WOOD advised that he told HANES that "he was in here sometime in the afternoon."

WOOD stated that following this exchange, HARES thanked him very much and then left the store. At no time did HARES refer to his client, JARES KARL RAY or anyone else by name but left no doubt in his (WOOD's) mind that he was referring to his client, JARES RARL RAY.

WOOD stated also that HANES came in his store about two or three weeks ago and purchased two .38 saliber Colt Detective Specials from him, and stated at the time that he needed them for protection for both he and his son because of harassing telephone calls.

On_	8/12/68 of Birmingham, Alabama	File#_ 2E_44-1740
		NE 44-1987
L	SA NEIL P. SHANAHAN:rte	Date dictate \$/13/68

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.



In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Birmingham, Alabama, 35203

August 13, 1968

Re: James Earl Ray; Reverend Martin Luther King - Victim

Mr. Don Wood, Aeromarine Supply Company, Birmingham, Alabama, telephonically contacted Special Agent Neil P. Shanahan of the Birmingham office of the FBI and furnished the following information:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date_	8/13/68	
17018		

Mr. DCN WOOD, Aeromarine Supply Company, Birmingham, telephonically contacted Special Agent NEIL P. SHANAHAN and furnished the following information:

WOOD stated that at approximately 5:15 or 5:30 p.m., on August 12, 1968, ARTHUR HANES, Attorney, appeared at the Aeromarine Supply Company and requested to speak with him. WOOD advised that he was busy and when he had completed his sale, he spoke with Mr. HANES, who made small talk for a few minutes and then said "DON, my man is so shook up, he can't remember exactly what time he was in this store on that Friday and Saturday afternoon. Can you remember what time he was in here?" WOOD advised that he told HANES that "he was in here sometime in the afternoon."

WOOD stated that following this exchange, HANES thanked him very much and then left the store. At no time did HANES refer to his client, JANES EARL RAY or anyone else by name but left no doubt in his (WOOD's) mind that he was referring to his client, JANES EARL RAY.

WOOD stated also that HARES came in his store about two or three weeks ago and purchased two .38 caliber Colt Detective Specials from him, and stated at the time that he needed them for protection for both he and his son because of harassing telephone calls.

On	8/	12/68		g Birmingham,	Alabama	File# BH 44-1740	
						WE 44-1987	
	SA	MEIL	P.	SHAHAHAN:rto		8/13/68	
bv						Date dictated	_

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.



In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Birmingham, Alabama, 35203

August 13, 1968

Re: James Barl Ray; Reverend Martin Luther King - Victim

Mr. Don Wood, Aeromarine Supply Company, Birmingham, Alabama, telephonically contacted Special Agent Neil P. Shanahan of the Birmingham office of the FBI and furnished the following information:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

2-302-(Re-4-15-64)

0-1-	8/13/68	
Date	6/ 13/00	

Mr. DON WOOD, Aeromarine Supply Company, Birmingham, telephonically contacted Special Agent NEIL P. SHANAHAN and furnished the following information:

WOOD stated that at approximately 5:15 or 5:30 p.m., on August 12, 1968, ARTHUR HANES, Attorney, appeared at the Aeromarine Supply Company and requested to speak with him. WOOD advised that he was busy and when he had completed his sale, he spoke with Mr. HANES, who made small talk for a few minutes and then said "DON, my man is so shook up, he can't remember exactly what time he was in this store on that Friday and Saturday afternoon. Can you remember what time he was in here?" WOOD advised that he told HANES that "he was in here sometime in the afternoon."

WOOD stated that following this exchange, HANES thanked him very much and then left the store. At no time did HANES refer to his client, JAMES EARL RAY or anyone else by name but left no doubt in his (WOOD's) mind that he was referring to his client, JAMES EARL RAY.

WOOD stated also that HANES came in his store about two in three weeks ago and purchased two .38 caliber Colt Detective Specials from him, and stated at the time that he needed them for protection for both he and his son because of harassing telephone calls.

On	8/12/68	at	Birmingham,	Alabama	File# BH	44-1740	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					ME	44-1987	
bv	SA NEIL P	. SI	IANAHAN:rte		Date dictat	8/13/68 ed	

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.

FBI

Date: August 13, 1968

ransmi	t the following in	(Type in plaintext or code)
	AIRTEL	AIRMAIL
a	AIIIIII	(Priority)
	TO: DIRECTO	OR, FBI (44-38861)
	FROM: SAC.	BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)
	MURKIN;	
	OO:ME	
	1968.	Birmingham telephone call to Bureau August 13,
	letterhead	closed for the Bureau are five copies of a memorandum suitable for dissemination, setting rmation received from Mr. DON WOOD, witness,
	memorandum	e copy of the above-mentioned letterhead is being designated for the Memphis Division ation purposes.
	3-Bureau (E	Enc. 5) (AM)
1	1-Memphis(4	44-1987)(Info.)(AM) (Enc.1)
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U.S. DEPT. OF AUSTICE

8-19-68

1 - Mr. Long

Airtel

To: SAC, Birmingham (44-1740)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861) - 5/09

MURKIN

REC 36

ST-106

Re Birmingham airtel dated 8-13-68.

LAT

If not already done, you should advise appropriate Birmingham officials of the fact that Arthur Hanes, attorney for James Earl Ray, purchased two .38 caliber Colt Detective Specials from Aeromarine Supply Company, Birmingham, Alabama, and stated that he needed them for protection for both himand his son because of harassing telephone calls.

REL:erg

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NOTE:

Donald Wood, Aeromarine Supply Company, Birmingham, who sold the rifle found at the scene of the assassionation of Martin Luther King, Jr., advised that Arthur Hanes, the attorney for James Earl Ray, came into his store and stated "Don, my man is so shook up, he can't remember exactly what time he was in this store on that Friday and Saturday afternoon. Can you remember what time he was in here?" Wood replied "He was in here sometime in the afternoon."

Wood stated that Hanes came in his store about two or three weeks ago and purchased two .38 caliber Colt Detective Specials from him and stated that he needed them for protection for both he and his son because of harassing telephone calls.

Bureau officials and the Department have been advised of the conversation between Wood and Hanes. Birmingham being instructed, if not already done, to advise appropriate authorities in Birmingham re purchase of two pistols by Hanes.

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SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 5,20 PM
DATE 8-19-68
BY BLA

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FBI

Date: 8/16/68

TO: FROM: MURKIN

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

LEGAT, LONDON (88-72) (P)

ReBucab 8/8/68.

The Barclays Bank slip, copy of which was received from Memphis, has been reexamined by Chief Inspector KEN THOMPSON and Sgt. PETER ELLIOTT, New Scotland Yard. Both officers state they remember the slip being in subject's property at the time of his arrest.

Sgt. ELLIOTT checked with Barclays Bank at London Airport on 8/15/68 and the following information is known:

The bank is located in the terminal building opposite the exit for passengers arriving in the country after they have cleared Immigration and Customs.

The primary function of this branch of the bank is to change foreign currency into English currency for travelers arriving in England.

The date stamp on the slip indicates the date of the transaction, which in this case is 5/17/68, the day RAY arrived in England from Lisbon. The word "Europa" on the stamp indicates in which terminal at London Airport the bank is located, Europa being the departure and arrival building for European flights.

3 - Bureau 1 - Liaison (direct)	EC 36 44	3886/-5110
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The bank personnel state that the slips are always written in long hand and usually they don't bother with name and address except where there is a large amount of money involved. In this instance £84-15-8 is \$213.48, at \$2.40 to the £. Bank personnel state thousands of transactions are conducted daily and they would not be able to recall any particular person or transaction.

I KENDY COPY JUNEN TO OPP 9-17-76.

FBI

Date: 8/24/68

Transmit the following in _ (Type in plaintext or code)

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM:

SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) -P-

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Since May, 1968, daily intensive investigation has been conducted concerning the robbery of the Bank of Alton on 7/13/67 with a view to determining if JAMES EARL RAY was a participant and used his share of the loot to finance his subsequent travel and activity.

A summary of investigation conducted is as follows:

- 1. Clothing recovered after the robbery of the Bank of Alton as well as hair samples were compared at the FBI Laboratory with evidence recovered in the MURKIN case. The laboratory reported that the hair samples in the two matters were not identical.
- Canvass of rooming houses, apartments, hotels, and motels including display of photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and associates was conducted without effecting an identification.
- Photographs of RAY and his associates were displayed to witnesses at the Bank of Alton without effecting identification.
- 4. Neighborhood investigation in the vicinity of the Bank of Alton and on 4th Street in the

- Bureau (44-38861) - Springfield (2:44-561) (1:91-3699)RCH/jac

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C. C. Bishop

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SI 44-561 vicinity where clothing and the shotgun were recovered was intensified and photographs displayed. No identification was made as the result of this investigation. Laundry and dry cleaning establishments in the Greater Alton area were canvassed. Laundry and dry cleaning symbols not positively identified and photos of RAY and his associates were unfamiliar to persons contacted. 6. Informants, particularly SI 1814-C and SI 1892-C, have been given definite assignments in connection with this matter. Information developed by them has tended to indicate carlier suspects JOHN MC CLINTOCK, HAROLD RICHARD COVINGTON, and DELMAR GRINDSTAFF were involved in the bank robbery and that RAY was definitely not involved. SI 1552-C stated he personally knows RAY and believes he would have known if RAY had been in the Alton area subsequent to April, 1967. Area police departments have contacted informants and have been unable to come up with any information to indicate either that RAY took part in the bank robbery or was in the Alton area subsequent to April, 1967. Parole officers MARION VAN FOSSEN and HOWARD SHELTON contacted parolees and probationers assigned to them and were unable to develop any information suggesting that RAY had been in the Alton area subsequent to April, 1967. 9. PAUL COUSLEY, Editor, Alton Evening Telegraph, was confidentially contacted on several occasions during the course of this investigation and he advised that sources of the newspaper and public call-ins have been monitored since the MURKIN case broke, however, because of the great deal of publicity attached to JAMES EARL RAY and the Alton area, additional emphasis was placed on -2-2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

SI 44-561

developing information concerning RAY. COUSLEY stated that sources of the paper and public call-ins developed no information to indicate that RAY had returned to Alton after his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

10. Review of public records in Alton and at the county seat of Madison County in Edwardsville, Illinois, were made against the name JAMES EARL RAY and all known aliases without developing any positive information.

UACE, since investigation has failed to date to link JAMES EARL RAY with the robbery of the Bank of Alton, Spring-field will discontinue submission of the daily teletype. In its stead, weekly summary airtels will be submitted and continued emphasis will be placed on this matter.

airtel

To: SAC, Memphis - Enc.

From: Director, FBI 44-38861-

DONALD JAMES NISSEN PAROLE VIOLATOR

MURKIN

Enclosed for Memphis is one copy of investigative insert reflecting interview of subject by Agents of the St. Louis Office on 8/5/68. It is noted that Nissen claims that he absconded and therefore violated his parole because he possesses information concerning the Martin Luther King, Jr., assassination and therefore fears for his life. Nissen has apparently made this claim to his probation officer who in turn has furnished same to the U.S. Board of Parole.

Memphis is requested to prepare letterhead memorandum for dissemination to the U. S. Board of Parole outlining the results of the interview of Nissen by St. Louis Agents on 8/5/63. Also include in the letterhead memorandum other information bearing on Nissen's claim. In this regard if investigation has not substantiated the alleged contact by individual allegedly representing Leroy McMenaman, same should be clearly set out in the letterhead memorandum. Randle promptly and furnish to Bureau by airtel.

1 - St. Louis 1 - Phoenix

NOTE: This has been coordinated with General Investigative Div.

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Trotter
Tele, Room
Holmes
Ganti

TELETYPE UNIT

8-12-68
AIRTEL AIR MAIL

TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI (76-30305)

FROM:

SAC, ST. LOUIS (76-3733)

RE:

DONALD JAMES NISSEN PAROLE VIOLATOR

MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to St. Louis, 8/6/68, captioned DONALD JAMES NISSEN, Parole Violator.

Enclosed herewith is an investigative insert reflecting the interview of DONALD JAMES NISSEN, FBI #607320A, by Agents of the St. Louis Office on 8/5/68.

3 - Bureau (Encs. 1) 2 - St. Louis (1 - 76-3733) (1 - 44-775)

JJB/jtc (5)

44-38861-

FILED

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A THICLIOSURE

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SL 44-775 CBB/leh

DONALD JAMES NISSEN, FBI Number 607 320 A, was a parole violator in case in which Phoenix was origin. He had previously made telephonic contact with SA G. WAYNE MACK of the Phoenix Office and made arrangements to surrender himself to agent MACK at St. Louis on August 5, 1968.

On the morning of August 5, 1968, NISSEN called the St. Louis Office from the Municipal Airport at St. Louis stating he had just arrived by plane from Tampa, Florida, and desired to surrender to the FBI. He was subsequently taken in custody by SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL and SA G. WAYNE MACK and upon interview furnished the following information:

NISSEN has remarried and his wife, who is pregnant, is living and working in Tampa, Florida. NISSEN has been working as a salesman for a book company which he declined to name and stated he has been doing very well financially. Until around the first of December NISSEN was living and working in the Atlanta, Georgia, area. Around the first or second of December, 1967, as he was leaving the Federal Building in Atlanta after having made his regular contact with his probation officer, he was hailed on the steps of the Federal Building by an individual, unknown to him. This person asked if he was DON NISSEN and when he replied in the affirmative, this individual stated he had a message for him from MAC. NESSEN understood MAC to be LERCY MC MENAMAN, who had advised him while they were fellow inmates at Leavenworth Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, that \$100,000 had been offered by the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi to be paid to anyone who would kill MARTIN LUTHER KING.

The person accosting NISSEN on the steps of the Atlanta Federal Building then stated that apparently somebody had done some tolking and NISSEN assumed he made reference to information that he had furnished to the FBI in Sherman, Texas, in Appell, 1987. Before any more conversation transpired, the individual who had transported NISSEN to the Federal Building called to him from across the street and the unknown individual immediately walked away from him. It was NISSEN's assumption that this person thought the individual calling him might be an FBI agent or police officer and did not desire that his identity be learned.

ENGOTTE.

SL 44-775

NISSEN described the individual accosting him as a white male, age 30-35, 5'10", 165-170 pounds, blond hair, cut medium short, and slightly wavy. He stated he was extremely well dressed in obviously expensive clothes.

NISSEN went on to state the more he thought about this incident, the more alarmed he became and left the vicinity of Atlanta shortly thereafter and obtained other employment. The only other incident which served to arouse his suspicion were telephone calls made for him to his place of employment in which the individual calling declined to reveal his identity. NISSEN stated he considered relating above facts to his parole officer at Atlanta but resolved against it since he did not trust his parole officer too much and was afraid his parole might be revoked automatically. He also considered contacting the FBI Office in Atlanta but decided against this also. According to NISSEN he felt uncomfortable and worried in the Atlanta area in view of the information he had furnished in connection with the bounty on MARTIN LUTHER KING and the fact that the Ku Klum Klan was reportedly strong in that area. He stated it was his understanding that the Deputy United States Marshal, name unknown to him, who went to work about the time he started reporting to his parole officer at Atlanta was supposed to be a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

With reference to information furnished him by LEROY MC MENAMAN while at Leavenworth Penitentiary, NIESEN stated that in one conversation, MC MENAMAN told him that if, after his arrival at Atlanta, he could find out MARTIN LUTHER MING's travel route and itinerary, he could earn \$100,000 for himself.

August 20, 1968 - GENERAL INVESTIGA VE DIVISION

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The attached relates to a Subpoena Duces Tecum received by SAC Jensen of our Memphis Office requesting his appearance in Shelby County Tennessee Court on 8-21-68. The matter in court relates to Writ of Habeas Corpus in order that Charles Quitman Stephens, who is being held by the state as a material witness, might be released from incarceration.

This matter will be discussed with the Department and Memphis will be accordingly advised.

REL: jms

J.M.

FBI WASH DC

FBI MEMPHIS

143 PM URGENT 8-20-68 MCP

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COMMUNICATION SECTION

AUG 2 0 1968

TELETYPE

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861
FROM MEMPHIS 44-1987 3 P

Mr. Garan
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Garan
Mr. Felt
Mr. Garan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

MURKIN.

SHORTLY BEFORE NOON THIS DATE, SAC, MEMPHIS RECEIVED

SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM. SUBPOENA ADDRESSED TO AGENT JENSEN OF THE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, FEDERAL BUILDING, MEMPHIS,

TENNESSEE, REQUESTING HIS APPEARANCE ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST

TWENTYONE, SIXTYEIGHT, AT TEN A.M., BEFORE JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT,

SHELBY COUNTY DIVISION EIGHT, COURT SITTING IN CRIMINAL COURT

BUILDING, DIVISION THREE, CITY OF MEMPHIS. SAC REQUESTED IN

SUBPOENA TO BRING WITH HIM ANY AND ALL WRITTEN STATEMENTS, ORAL

STATEMENTS REDUCED TO WRITING, TAPED STATEMENTS REDUCED TO

WRITING, OR ANY PAPER WRITINGS OF OR PERTAINING TO CHARLES

STEPHENS, AS BUREAU IS AWARE, IS WITNESS IN MURKIN CASE WHO
LIVED IN ROOMING HOUSE AT WHICH SUBJECT STAYED ON APRIL FOUR,

SIXTYEIGHT. STEPHENS HAS BEEN HELD IN CUSTODY AS MATERIAL

17 AUG 28 1968
WITNESS. WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS HAS BEEN PREPARED IN ORDER THAT

STEPHENS WILL APPEAR IN COURT AND MIGHT POSSIBLY BE RELEASED AS
MATERIAL WITNESS. ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENA TO SAC WAS DISCUSSED WITH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL PHIL M. CANALE AND ASSISTANT ATTORNEY
END PAGE ONE

BEC 85

57 SEP 4 1968

QUITMAN STEPHENS.

Aug 20 58 PM 168

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FBI

W. C. SULLIVAN AUG 271963

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

PAGE TWO

GENERAL JAMES BEASLEY. DISTRICT AG CANALE ADVISED SAC NOT TO RESPOND TO SUBPOENA. CANALE STATED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED COMPARABLE SUBPOENA AND THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO APPEAR IN COURT HIMSELF NOR DID HE INTEND TO PERMIT ANY DOCUMENTS OF ANY SORT TO BE INTRODUCED. CANALE SAID IN EVENT ANY INFORMATION NEEDED HE WAS OF OPINION THAT STEPHENS COULD SO TESTIFY HIMSELF. CANALE ALSO SAID IN EVENT COURT INTERESTED IN ANY STATEMENT OF STEPHENS COURT WOULD BE ADVISED THAT AFFIDAVIT HAD BEEN FURNISHED BY STEPHENS PERTAINING TO HIS KNOWLEDGE IN THIS CASE AND THAT SUCH AN AFFIDAVIT HAD BEEN INTRODUCED IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXTRADITION HEARINGS HELD IN LONDON. CANALE SAID HE WAS OF OPINION THIS WAS PUBLIC RECORD AND THEREFORE NO

AAG BEASLEY STATED WITH CANALE'S PERMISSION HE WOULD
REQUEST COURT QUASH ALL SUBPOENAS IN INSTANT CASE, SINCE
REQUEST FOR WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL
NOT MATERIAL TO ISSUE. HE STATED ISSUE IN INSTANT CASE IS
WHETHER OR NOT STATE COULD HOLD STEPHENS AS MATERIAL WITNESS
AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION IRRELEVANT. BEASLEY ALSO STATED
END PAGE TWO

NEED FOR SAC TO RESPOND TO SUBPOENA.

PAGE THREE

THAT SHOULD THERE BE ANY CHANGE IN MATTER HE WOULD SO ADVISE THIS OFFICE. BEASLEY OF OPINION JUDGE BEFORE WHOM CASE WOULD BE HEARD WOULD BE FAVORABLE TO QUASHING SUBPOENAES.

BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED OF ANY ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTS.

P.

EN]

SLB

FBI WASH DC

AUG 20 2 52 PM 166

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August 22, 1968

Airtel

44-38861

1 - Mr. Schutz 1 - Mr. Long

To: SAC, Seattle (26-26371)

From: Director, FBI

HOWARD PHILLIP ETHRIDGE

OJ: BUTTE

Re Seattle airtel 2/16/68 and letterhead memorandum attached thereto, a copy of which is being forwarded to the Los Angeles and Memphis Offices.

To view of the allegations contained therein Dutte should expedite its interview of Ethridge and submit results of same by FD-302 under appropriate caption to both Los Angeles and Fourthis.

Scattle immediately resubmit information contained in letterhead memorandum on appropriate FD-302. All offices should insure that in the future appropriate communications Lautilized in setting forth results of investigation dealing with either Kensalt or Murkin.

I - Butte

1 - Memphis - Enclosure (Murkin)

1 - Los Angeles - Enclosure (Kensalt)

HAS:jls
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Golfen
Gonrad
Contrad
Gosen
Juliyon
Julyon

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