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SERIALS 6177-6224

44-HQ-38861

SECTION 91

SECTION 91
SERIALS 6177 - 6224

SUBJECT - KING, ASSASSINATION
FILE # - MURKIN

WORK SHEET - XEROX REQUEST

395 Pages

ANALYST - *10/1/77*
EXT - 5566
TEAM - 0-2

b1, b7(c)(d)

Section 91

FILE #	SERIAL/ENC OR DATE	DESCRIPTION	XEROX INSTR.	# OF ACT.	PAGES REL.	EXEMPTIONS												REMARKS
						b1	2	5	7C	D	OTHER	k1	2	5	6	OTHER		
44-38861	6177	NEW ORLEANS AT		3	3													RELEASE
	6178	INTERNAL MEMO LETTER TO AAG-CRO		5	5													RELEASE RELEASE
	6179	MEMPHIS TIT		5	5													RELEASE
	6180	BIRMINGHAM TIT		2	2													
	Unrecorded Serial	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		8	8													RELEASE
	"	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		5	5													
	"	TIT TO WASHINGTON		3	3													
	6181	OTTAWA AT		3	2													EXEMPT
	Unrecorded Serial	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		22	22													RELEASE
	"	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		3	3													
	6182	LETTER FROM SHAWNEE		3	3													
	6183	LETTER TO AAG-CAN		3	3													
	6184	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		3	3													
	6185	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		1	1													RELEASE
	6186	MEMPHIS AT		3	3													
	6187	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		2	2													EXEMPT
	Unrecorded Serial	LETTER TO AAG-CAN		1	1													RELEASE

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XEROXED BY _____ DATE _____

REFILED BY _____ DATE _____

SUBJECT
FILE # *Marbin*

WORK SHEET - XEROX REQUEST

ANALYST - *Thorp*
EXT -
TEAM -

Section 91

FILE #	SERIAL/ENC OR DATE	DESCRIPTION	XEROX INSTR.	# OF ACT.	PAGES REL.	EXEMPTIONS										REMARKS	
						b1	2	5	7C	D	OTHER	k1	2	5	6		OTHER
94-38861	6188	LETTER FROM WUPOL	.	7	7				/								PULLING
	Unrecorded Serial	LETTER TO AAA-CON	.	2	2				/								EXCISE
	6189	ATRAVENHED AT		2	2				/								RELEASE-ORIGINAL MISSING
	6190	CHARLOTTE AT		3	3												
	Unrecorded Serial	LETTER TO AAA-CON		1	1												
	"	MEMO TO OTTAWA		1	1												
	"	MEADIE TIT		2	2												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6191	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		8	8												
	6192	NEW ORLEANS AT		3	3												
	6193	OTTAWA AT		1	1												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6194	PHOENIX TIT		2	2												
	Unrecorded Serial	LOUISVILLE TIT		7	7												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	"	LETTER TO AAA-CON		2	2												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6195	LOUISVILLE TIT		4	4												
	6196	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		2	2												
	6197	LOUISVILLE TIT		2	2												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6198	LOUISVILLE TIT		12	12												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE

REMOVED BY _____ DATE _____

XEROXED BY _____ DATE _____

REFILED BY _____ DATE _____

SUBJECT
FILE # *Amber*

WORK SHEET - XEROX REQUEST

ANALYST - *Hay*
EXT -
TEAM -

Section 91

FILE #	SERIAL/ENC OR DATE	DESCRIPTION	XEROX INSTR.	# OF ACT.	PAGES REL.	b1	2	5	7C	D	OTHER	k1	2	5	6	OTHER	REMARKS
44-38861	6199	BIRMINGHAM AT		2	2												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6200	LOUISVILLE TIT		2	2												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6201	LOUISVILLE AT		1	1												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	<i>Unrecorded Serial</i>	LETTER TO AAG-CD		1	1												ORIGINAL IN FILE
	6202	LOUISVILLE TIT		5	5												
	6203	LOUISVILLE TIT		3	3												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6204	CHARLOTTE AT		4	4												RELEASE
	6205	BIRMINGHAM AT		1	1												
	6206	LOUISVILLE AT		30	30												
	<i>Unrecorded</i>	memo		2	2												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6207	TIT TO LOUISVILLE		2	2												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	<i>Unrecorded</i>	memo		10	10												NO COPY IN FILE
	<i>Unrecorded Serial</i>	LETTER TO REVEN															EXCISE
	6208	MEMPHIS AT		1	1												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6209	MEMPHIS LETTER		2	2												
	<i>Unrecorded</i>	memo		7	7												
	6210	LOUISVILLE AT		7	7												
	<i>Unrecorded</i>	memo		13	13												
	6211	CHICAGO LETTER															
	6212	AT TO CHICAGO		1	1												
	<i>Unrecorded</i>	memo		2	2												
	6213	AT TO SEATTLE		1	1												

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XEROXED BY _____ DATE _____

APPROVED BY _____ DATE _____

SUBJECT
FILE #

Minkie

WORK SHEET - XEROX REQUEST

ANALYST - *Harp*
EXT -
TEAM -

Section 91

FILE #	SERIAL/ENC OR DATE	DESCRIPTION	XEROX INSTR.	# OF ACT.	PAGES REL.	b1	2	5	7C	D	OTHER	k1	2	5	6	OTHER	REMARKS
44-38861	6214	CHICAGO LETTER		2	2												
	6215	LETTER FROM MELCHER		8	8												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6216	LETTER TO MELCHER		2	2												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6217	CINCINNATI LETTER		3	3						✓						EXCISE
	<i>Unrecorded Serial</i>	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		2	2												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6218	ATLANTA AT		5	5												BOOK SENT TO PAGE 20115 BF
	6219	LETTER FROM MELCHER		1	1												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6220	LETTER TO MELCHER		2	2												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6221	SEATTLE AT		4	4												
	6222	LETTER FROM KEUCH		2	2												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6223	TIT TO SEATTLE		3	3						✓						EXCISE PG 2-11, 22, 23
	<i>Unrecorded Serial</i>	LETTER TO KEUCH		4	4						✓						ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6224	ARMENIA TIT		2	2												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
SEC 92	6225	BIRMINGHAM AT		1	1						✓						RELEASE
	<i>Unrecorded Serial</i>	LETTER TO KEUCH		6	6						✓						ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6226	SEATTLE AT		4	4												ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE
	6227	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		5	5						✓						ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE

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REFILED BY _____ DATE _____

FOUR COPIES OF SEC 92 # 6225-6237
WERE FOUND IN THE BACK OF THE ORIGINAL - SEC 92

WORK SHEET - XEROX REQUEST

ANALYST - 7 days
EXT -
TEAM 1 -

Section 9.

[illegible]

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DATE 6/13/77

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(See Bufile 62-117290; re HSCA request dated Basic Processing)

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SECTION 91

SERIALS 6177 through 6224

(except following serials
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44-38861-6198
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"TREAT AS ORIGINAL"

MAR 23 5 05 PM '77

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Date: 3/23/77

From: LOUISVILLE (100-4583)

Time Transmitted: _____

Subject: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ASSASSINATIONS (MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)

Initials: TA

☐ Fingerprint Photo ☐ Fingerprint Record ☐ Map ☒ Newspaper clippings ☐ Photograph
☐ Artists Conception ☐ Other _____

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44-38861-6198

MAR 31 1977

ENCLOSURE

44-38861

84 APR 5 1977

"TREAT AS ORIGINAL"

Mount Clipping in Space Below

Alleged Police Plot To Kill Dr. King Now Being Probed, Rep. Snyder Says

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Rep. M. Gene Snyder (R-Ky.) said Saturday the House Assassinations Committee is investigating an allegation from a "logical, rational" man who claims several members of a police department and FBI agents plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Snyder said he met the man "face to face" and that "he appeared to be rational, a logical kind of man."

Snyder said he received a letter from the man and listened to a tape recording the man said he made of the alleged assassination plot. He refused to say whether the man in the police department involved were in Kentucky.

"I RETIRED from (blank) police department in (blank) after serving (blank) years," the letter said. "While I was in the police department I was innocently involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King."

"Involved in this conspiracy were agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, agents (blank), (blank) and (blank) and others that I did not know," the letter said, as Snyder read it, citing but not naming several other officers.

Snyder said he could not divulge the names or the identity of the man who contacted him.

"What I'm saying," Snyder said, "is those blanks need to be protected if there's nothing to this. And if it is an untrue allegation that he's made, then the author of the letter needs to be protected. The committee is investigating it."

SNYDER SAID the man "indicates further in the letter that after he retired he contacted (a man) who, he says, is James Earl Ray's attorney..."

Ray is serving a life term in prison in connection with the assassination of the late civil rights worker who was slain in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

Snyder said the former policeman claimed he was offered \$500,000 on two occasions to kill King.

Richard A. Sprague, the Philadelphia lawyer who is chief counsel for the assassinations committee, confirmed Snyder had turned over material containing the allegation, and that it "is under investigation."

The former policeman, Snyder said, tried to turn over a tape recording of the alleged \$500,000 offer to Ray's lawyers, but one of their investigators finally asked "where he planned to hide if he tried to do anything with the tape."

SNYDER SAID he has discussed the allegation with Rep. Samuel L. Devine of Ohio, the ranking minority member of the committee. Devine, a former FBI agent, checked into the man's background and found him to be a "solid citizen," Snyder said.

Snyder said the man told him the offers for him to kill King were made in his automobile, where he had a tape recorder. Snyder quoted the man as saying he had two tapes, one of which was either stolen or lost. The other tape has been turned over to the committee, Snyder said.

"Most of it was inaudible to me," he said. "I could make out a little. I made out enough to believe and ascertain that a discussion was being had about King and money, but I didn't even listen to all of it."

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

Kentucky
Enquirer

Covington, Ky

Page 1

Date: 3/20/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Louisville

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE 44-35561-6198

SNYDER SAID he wants the allegation to be thoroughly investigated "and this guy ought to be protected from any problems. If it is inaccurate, then those people who he names need to be protected. He names three alleged FBI agents, four or five members, prominent members at the time of a police department."

The man has been interviewed by the committee's investigative staff, Snyder said.

Snyder said he received the letter from the man on Feb. 24.

"I don't know if it is valid," he said. "It is up to the committee to investigate it."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ex-cop is expected to name alleged King conspirators

By TIM WYNGAARD and CARL WEST
Scripps-Howard Staff Writers

WASHINGTON — A former Louisville, Ky., patrolman is expected to name under oath Louisville and federal lawmen he alleges conspired to kill Martin Luther King Jr. two years before the civil rights leader was assassinated.

Sources involved in the House investigation of the murders of King and President Kennedy said today that the Louisville allegation is the "top priority" in the King investigation but congressional probes also have uncovered the following leads:

• A Somerville, Tenn., businessman alleges that while he was in Memphis two days before King was murdered there in April, 1968, he overheard part of a telephone conversation involving shouting someone on a balcony. The businessman has told investigators for the House Assassination Committee that he heard someone named "Robert" tell another party "to kill the bastard even if you have to shoot him on the balcony."

• A female friend of Jack Ruby, killer of Lee Harvey Oswald, Kennedy's assassin, has told investigators that she has "got religion" and wants to testify about Ruby's activities prior to Kennedy's shooting in Dallas in 1963.

Committee investigators, led by chief counsel Richard A. Sprague, are in Tennessee today interviewing James Earl Ray, King's convicted killer. Ray and his brother Jerry are expected to be called before the committee to testify.

To complete the investigation of these and other leads that committee members say are promising, the panel is asking \$2.7 million for a 12-month probe, thus backing away from an earlier request for almost \$13 million to cover a period of two years. The controversy over that request almost killed the committee.

COMMITTEE STAFFERS have

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

Page 1

Cincinnati Post

Cincinnati, Ohio

Date: 3/22/77

Edition: Late News

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

Classification:

Submitting Office: Louisville

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-6098

Already interviewed the Louisville policeman about his allegations that three local federal agents and three or four city policemen conspired in the mid 1960s to kill King. The patrolman said he twice was offered \$500,000 to kill King and claims he tape recorded one of the offers.

Rep. M. Cose Snyder, R-Ky., who passed the former patrolman's information along to the assassination committee, said he heard a reproduction of the tape but much of it was inaudible. However, the committee's staff is believed to have the technological capability to improve the quality of the recording.

Sources said the alleged Louisville King conspiracy preceded by several months what became an open and bitter controversy in the Kentucky city over "open housing," an issue which created deep hatred between the police and the black community. King's brother, the

Rev. A.D. Williams King, was living in Louisville at the time, was active in civil rights and was pastor of a local church.

However, the sources say there is "no doubt" that Martin Luther King and not his brother who died in 1969 was the target of the alleged murder conspiracy. Informed sources said the committee regards the Louisville allegations as "hot." "They are placing it at the top," one commented.

THE SOURCES also said the committee intends to call "Roberto" as a witness, indicating the committee has determined his full identity.

Assassination committee leaders met with the House Rules Committee yesterday to outline the new leads in an effort to win approval for continuation of the committee, now scheduled to end its work March 31.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Man who gave information on plot against King is ex-Louisville officer

JOHN PILIATREAU

Cincinnati Journal Staff Writer

A Cincinnati man who recently told U.S. Sen. Mc Ghee Snyder about an abortive conspiracy to murder Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been identified as William E. Baird, 50, who retired as a patrolman from the Louisville Police Department in 1975 and now lives in Fern Creek.

Baird was identified as Snyder's informant in yesterday's edition of The Kentucky Post, which called him "a 27-year veteran of the Louisville force, now in the private security business."

In a brief interview at her home last night, Baird's wife Mary, 44, confirmed that it was her husband who told Snyder, R-4th District, about the alleged plot to kill King, the civil rights activist, in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

Mrs. Baird declined to comment further except to say that her husband is in town and unavailable to newsmen.

Baird reportedly claimed he was offered \$500,000 to kill King, and said the conspiracy involved FBI agents and other Louisville policemen. According to Snyder, the offer to Baird was made in Baird's car, which was equipped with a

tape recorder, and Baird is in possession of a tape that supports his allegations.

According to Snyder, Baird wrote, "While I was in the Louisville Police Department I was innocently involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Martin Luther King."

Baird reportedly identified several members of the alleged conspiracy, including at least three FBI agents, the city's chief of detectives, a captain, two lieutenants, a patrolman and a sergeant who was president of the local lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).

The last reference apparently is to Tom Denton, who retired earlier this year as president of FOP Lodge 4. Denton, who has said he is considering running for Jefferson County sheriff, said yesterday, "I swear I don't know anything about it. . . . I was quite surprised that it was in Louisville."

Former Chief of Detectives Priest Fry, another of those apparently referred to in Baird's letter, said last night that he "knew of" Baird, but never heard anything about the alleged plot to assassinate King.

Current Louisville Police Chief John Nevin said the department has not received any official communications from the congressional committee investigating King's assassination.

Nevin said he may have known Baird, but he "didn't know him very well. Of course we were from different generations. . . . My first reaction to the thing was that it was preposterous."

G. J. Hyde, a longtime Louisville policeman who became chief in 1968, said he remembers Baird as "a very fine police officer. . . . He was a tall, heavyset fellow who wasn't afraid of man or beast. If I was going on a job and expected trouble, I'd want him with me."

Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.

Page B 1

Courier-Journal

Louisville, Ky.

Date: 3/23/77

Edition: Morning

Author:

Editor: Barry Bingham

Title:

Character:

Hq. 100-106670

Classification: 100-458

Submitting Office: Louisville

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-6198

"I don't think he ever wanted to be promoted; he just went along and did his job," Hyde said. "It wasn't that he was lax on his job; some of them just never wanted to be promoted . . . It's a surprise to me that he even talked. He never had anything bad to say about anybody."

Hyde said he knows nothing about the alleged conspiracy to murder King. "I don't even know of any rumors within our department," he said. "I hope there isn't anything to that . . . Whenever Dr. King came to Louisville, we did everything possible to see that he would be safe. I always thought even an attempt on his life would be bad for our city."

The \$500,000 offer allegedly was made two or three years before King was shot to death in April 1968, according to an "informed source" quoted by The Post.

Snyder forwarded Baird's letter and tape recording to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, which is investigating the civil rights leader's murder. Snyder, whose congressional district includes suburban Louisville, did not identify Baird or specify that his allegations involved the Louisville police force.

Snyder, reached last night by telephone in Washington, refused to confirm or deny that Baird is the officer who gave him the material.

Without naming Baird, Snyder had said earlier, "I don't think that he's a hook. I'm not in a position to say whether he's telling the truth or not, but he does not appear to me to be a person other than totally rational."

According to Snyder, Rep. Samuel Devine, R-Ohio, the committee's ranking Republican and the man to whom Snyder first took Baird's letter, conducted an investigation into Baird's background. He said Devine, a former FBI agent, told him "that the guy checked out good."

Snyder said Baird indicated that after he retired from the police department he made an attempt to get this to James Earl Ray's attorneys. Ray pleaded guilty to killing King and is now serving a 99-year sentence in a Tennessee prison.

During the years before his death, King was a frequent visitor to Louisville. His brother, the Rev. A. D. Williams King, lived here and was active in open housing and other civil rights movements during the 1960s.



Mary Baird, 44, has known for seven years the secret her husband, Clifton, is sharing with the House Assassinations Committee.

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-6198



CLIFTON E. BAIRD
175 North 1st Street

8

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Identify ex-cop in King plot

BY TOM SCHEFFY

Kentucky Post Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Clifton E. Baird, 50, is the ex-mayor who has just revealed to the House Assassination Committee in Washington that other Louisville policemen and three FBI men offered him \$25,000 in 1966 to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Four or five Louisville police officers and three Louisville FBI agents plotted to kill the civil rights leader two years before he was actually assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968, the committee has been told.

Baird, an ex-mayor private investigator, was not at his small brick home at 7013 Edsel Ln., in suburban Fern Creek Monday night.

His wife Mary, 44, told The Kentucky Post in an exclusive interview why their secret is coming out now, and what it has been like living with it.

The secret

Anonymous phone calls—some in the dead of the night—have plagued the Bairds through the seven years they have been married. "It frightens you to death, even if nobody says anything," said Mary Baird. The last call came a month ago.

"It didn't seem like it was ever going to stop," she said.

"I'm sure our phone has been tapped hundreds of times. It has an off sound, clicking little sounds while you're talking. My husband has spent many a sleepless night—he'll lie there and toss and turn, then get up and read the paper. He kept up with every report (of the assassination's aftermath) and he always reads all the articles on these deals," she said.

"Having peace of mind would mean a hell of a lot to everybody."

Clifton Baird didn't tell his wife the secret until after their marriage, the second for both of them.

Flips up recorder

"We haven't even told our children

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

Page 1

Kentucky Post

Covington, Ky.

Date: 3/22/77

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor: Vance H. Trimble

Title:

Character:

Classification:

Submitting Office: Louisville

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-6198

about this, and he's kept a lot of it to himself, and hasn't even told me," she said.

But she knows the general story. "He had been driving this fellow (another Louisville policeman) home from work—the man's car had broken down or something. And he started asking a lot of questions, then he asked whether he'd kill King for half a million dollars. I think this got him pretty upset, and panicked, so he rigged up the tape recorder (under the front car seat). The guy made the same offer to him the next time they drove home," she said.

"He told him he didn't want any part of it. He didn't have anything against black people. That's why it was so hard for him to understand. 'Why me?' you know?"

Prpared for job

Baird was not known among police as a marksman. "I guess he is a good enough shot, but he doesn't do target practice or anything," Mrs. Baird said.

After high school in Bowling Green, Baird enlisted in the Marines, and served in Korea, she said. "I think he was a sergeant."

One reason Baird did not speak up earlier was fear for his police job, from which he retired after 27 years in November, 1975. "Before now, he was so close to retiring, he was afraid they might kick him out," Mrs. Baird said.

He has felt victimized since he left

"Somebody's got to have something (negative) in his records—why hasn't he been able to get a decent job since?" his wife wondered.

"He went to meatcutters school in Indiana, and tested out 98 per cent. And he went to three or four places that were desperate for a meatcutter and couldn't get a job."

"It's been like that all the time—and his only job reference is the police force. Things like that just don't add up," Mrs. Baird said.

"You can live with something like

this. You can live with it, but you're peaceful."

Mrs. Baird was not sure whether the offer came in 1966 or 1967. Riots gripped Louisville in 1967, sparked by an open housing drive led by Rev. D. King, brother of Martin Luther King Jr.

A. D. King was pastor of Louisville's Mt. Zion Baptist Church from 1963-69, after moving to Atlanta, where he died in a home pool in 1970.

Baird is working on an undercover investigative job, and could not be reached for several days, his wife said.

As for the identities of alleged conspirators, "I've heard names, but I couldn't tell you—if my life depended on it, I couldn't tell you," said Mary Baird.

Sources involved in the House committee probe of the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. are expected to testify under oath. Identities of the FBI agents and Louisville policemen in the alleged conspiracy are being kept secret.

Committee sources told Senate and reporters the Louisville allegations are considered "hot." One committee source said, "They are placing it at the top."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ex-Louisville cop bares King plot

BY JIM EBERLE

Kentucky Post-Intelligencer Bureau

WASHINGTON—A retired Louisville policeman described by knowledgeable congressional sources as highly respected and reliable claims he was offered \$500,000 to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The man contacted U.S. Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., with the information and a tape recording to back up his claim.

Snyder says he turned over to the House Assassination Committee early this month a letter he received from the informant. Snyder describes the man as a 27-year veteran of the Louisville force, now in the private security business, but would not reveal his identity.

Is danger?

Snyder said he was not identifying the man for several reasons: "If he's accurate and really interpreted everything properly that there was something going on then I don't think I ought to put him in jeopardy, people trying to get to him for one reason or another."

"I think they could even try to get him to keep him from talking any further."

"Or if he's not accurate I don't think the people he mentioned ought to have their good names smeared."

Snyder also declined to name the three FBI agents and four or five police officers the information said were involved in the alleged plot or to identify the police department they were connected with.

However, Rep. Samuel Devine, R-Ohio, the ranking minority member of the assassination panel and the colleague to whom Snyder first took the letter, said Sunday the man was a former Louisville policeman, although he said he was not sure what the man's status was at the time of the offer.

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

Page 1

Kentucky Post

Covington, Ky.

Date: 3/21/77

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor: Vance H. Trim

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Louisville

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-6198

44-38861-6199

CHANGED TO

62-117290-197X1

JUL 20 1978

CMK/NK

This document is a copy from the FOIA file. The original document was not in the file.

FBI

Date: 3/21/77

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Precedence)

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

Re Birmingham airtel dated 3/3/77.

The following is for information:

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

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

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

2 - Bureau
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)
1 - New Orleans
P M: jab (1 - Birmingham)
(3)

REC-71

ST-107

44-38861-6199

6199

23 MAR 24 1977

The Confidential source is [redacted] who advised on 5/31/77 that he can be identified to the HSCA as the source of the information he furnished.

R/PO BH Teletype 5/31/77 and BH Airtel 6/1/77 M Per [redacted]
Special Agent in Charge

Approved:

84 APR 5 1977

GPO : 1975 O - 288-908

BH 44-1740

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

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

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

44-38861-6200
CHANGED TO
62-117290-454X5

JUL 13 1978

Conk / JH

C

This document is a copy from the FOIA file. The original document was not in the file.

Transmit attached by Facsimile - PLAINTEXT

Priority *Immediate*

MAR 20 4 01 PM '77

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. Asst. Dir.
Dep. Asst. Dir.
Dep. Asst. Dir.

To: BUREAU
From: LS (100-4543)

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Date: 3/20/77

Time: Transmitted -

Subject: House Select Committee
ON ASSASSINATIONS (MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)

Initials -

☐ Fingerprint Photo ☐ Fingerprint Record ☐ Map ☒ Newspaper clipping ☐ Photograph
☐ Artists Conception ☐ Other

Special handling instructions:

HAND CARRY TO DIV. 6 DUTY AGENT ROOM # 5027

Approved: *SSC/ev/DA*

REC-7

ST-101

6200

-6200

MAR 31 1977

1A
ENCLOSURE

84 APR 5 1977

44-38861

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Snyder gives panel allegation of plot to assassinate King

By JIM ADAMS

Courier-Journal Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Cass Snyder, R-1st District, is yesterday that he has turned over the House Assassination Committee allegation that FBI agents and police officers plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King.

Snyder said that in late February, he received a letter from a former policeman, who claims he was twice offered \$500,000 to kill King.

Snyder made his comments yesterday while taping a WHASTV News Conference program, which will be broadcast at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow on WHAS television and radio.

Snyder would not reveal the name of the former policeman making the charge, or the names of three FBI agents and several policemen who allegedly were involved in the plot. Snyder has declined to name the police force in which the man worked on for more than 10 years.

Snyder made no connection between the offer allegedly made to the policeman and the actual killing of King.

"I have always had confidence in the color law enforcement agencies of this country, and I had to assume that what they determined (about the slaying) was accurate," Snyder said. "Now I think there is something that needs to be investigated."

Richard A. Sprague, the Philadelphia attorney who is chief counsel for the investigation committee, last night confirmed that Snyder had turned over material concerning the allegation, but refused to answer questions about it.

"The matter was referred to has been referred to the committee and is under investigation," he said by telephone from Philadelphia.

King was slain in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968, and James Earl Ray was convicted of killing him. The House committee last fall began investigating the assassination of King, and President John F. Kennedy's committee's findings are being reviewed.

Snyder, who voted against the committee initially, told The Courier-Journal in an interview last night that he will not be conducting further investigation and will not be on the case of the allegation brought to him.

Snyder said he had no explanation for why the policeman brought the charges to him. Snyder said he directly to the committee. The policeman asked Snyder to put him in touch with the committee, the congressman said.

He said the former policeman had attempted to turn a tape recording of the \$500,000 offer over to Ray's attorney, but finally was asked by one of the attorney's investigators "where he planned to hide it he tried to do anything with the tape."

Asked if he believed the man's allegation, Snyder said, "I don't know. But I think charges such as this need to be investigated."

Snyder said he has discussed the charges with U.S. Rep. Samuel L. Devine of Ohio, the ranking authority member on the committee. He said Devine, a former FBI agent, checked into the man's background and found him to be a "solid citizen." Devine could not be reached last night.

Snyder told WHAS, "I have talked to him (the policeman) personally and in my opinion he appears to be a responsible citizen."

He told the television station, "He (the former officer) was approached to assassinate Martin Luther King. He names three FBI officers, he names three or four prominent people at that time in the police department. He indicated that the offer was made on two occasions, in his automobile where he had a tape recorder, that he taped those items. One of them (the tapes) was stolen, the other he still has."

Snyder said the man went to Washington and either appeared before the committee or was interviewed by its staff. Snyder said the committee has the tape. Asked if he has a copy of the tape, Snyder said he has a copy of the tape.

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

Section B,
Page 1,
"Courier-Journal",
Louisville,
Kentucky

Date: 3/19/77
Edition: Morning
Author: JIM ADAMS
Editor: BARRY BINGHAM
Title: "SNYDER GIVES
PANEL ALLEGATION OF
PLOT TO ASSASSINATE
Character:
or
Classification: LS 100-4583
Submitting Office: LS
☒ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-6201
CHANGED TO
62-117290-454X10

JUL 13 1978
cmk / JNB

C

This document is a copy from the FOIA file. The original document was not in the file.

FBI

3/21/77

Date:

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, LOUISVILLE (100-4583)

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
- ASSASSINATIONS (MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)

Re Louisville teletype to the Bureau dated 3/20/77.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau is one (1) tape cassette recording of pertinent portions of WHAS-TV "News Conference" which was taped on 3/18/77 at Louisville, Kentucky and broadcast on Channel 11 (WHAS-TV) at 12:30 PM on 3/20/77, wherein M. G. "GENE" SNYDER, U. S. Representative, 4th Congressional District, Kentucky, reveals allegation against three (3) unnamed "FBI Officers" and others involving purported "offer" to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., details of which previously furnished Bureau by referenced communication.

Also enclosed for Bureau are two (2) copies of "Courier-Journal" news article captioned "SNYDER GIVES PANEL ALLEGATION OF PLOT TO ASSASSINATE KING", which was furnished to Bureau by telecopier facsimile on 3/20/77.

② - Bureau (Enc. 3)
2 - Louisville (1 - 100-4583) (1 - 44-947)

EVA:cam

(4)

REVIEWED
TAPED
INFO
NOF IN
FILE
3/24/77
NOTED
LS
SYN
MAY
3/20/77
grd

ENCLOSURE
ST-101

7 MAR 23 1977

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

4 APR 5 1977

This document is a copy from the FOIA file. The original document was not in the file.

This refers to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tennessee, in April, 1968.

Congressman M. G. Snyder, Kentucky, recently revealed he had received letter from an unnamed police officer who made allegation he had received offer from FBI Agents and police officers to kill King. The unnamed police officer reportedly made tapes of offer, one of which was lost or stolen, and the other turned over to the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA). Subsequent newspaper accounts identified unnamed officer as Clifton E. Baird. On 3/25/77, the Attorney General authorized the FBI to interview Baird in the presence of an Assistant Attorney.

Attached Louisville teletype advises attempt to interview Baird, supra, evening 3/29/77, was unsuccessful. Bureau Agents contacted Baird at his residence but Baird refused interview stating "I have no statement to make. Just leave." Baird appeared visibly upset. As Agents were leaving, Baird made comment "I have received numerous threats from FBI over last ten years," and "I have nothing to say." Baird terminated contact by stating "I'll say it all to the House Committee." This was in obvious reference to the HSCA. Agents characterized Baird as hostile, contemptuous, and apparently distraught. Department being advised.

- 1 - Mr. Held
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - External Affairs

HNH:JBL:erg

-6202

6202

APPROVED: _____	Adm. Serv. _____	Legal Coun. _____
Director _____	Ext. Affairs _____	Plan. & Insp. _____
Assoc. Dir. _____	Fin. & Pers. _____	Rec. Mgt. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____	Gen. Inv. _____	S. & T. Serv. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____	Ident. _____	Spec. Inv. _____
	Intell. _____	Training _____

LS00007 0890410

OO HI

DE LS

030041Z MAR 77

FM LOUISVILLE (44-497)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

BT

EFTO

MURKIN

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Serv.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Gen. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Intell.	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Insp.	_____
Rec. Mgmt.	_____
S. & T. Serv.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

AT 7:28 P.M. ON MARCH 29, 1977, SECOND ATTEMPT TO CONTACT CLIFTON E. BAIRD, 7813 EDSSEL LANE, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, WAS MADE BY BUREAU AGENTS IN EFFORT TO ARRANGE INTERVIEW IN PRESENCE OF ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY (AUSA) ALEXANDER T. TAFT, JR., IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGATION OF OFFER MADE BAIRD BY UNNAMED FBI AGENTS DURING 1966 TO ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPT TO INTERVIEW BAIRD MADE MARCH 26, 1977, AT WHICH TIME ARRANGEMENTS MADE WITH MARY BAIRD, WIFE OF CLIFTON E. BAIRD, FOR LATTER TO NOTIFY AUSA TAFT OR BUREAU AGENTS UPON APR 4 1977 RETURN TO LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, FROM UNDISCLOSED LOCATION WITHIN COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY ON MARCH 29, 1977. BAIRD DID NOT

- 1 - CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
 - 1 - CRIMINAL DIVISION
 - 1 - OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
 - 1 - CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT
- 0-70 (6) 3/30/77

34 APR 7

19TH NH

see file copy

PAGE TWO LS 44-497 E F T O

INITIATE CONTACT AS REQUESTED, HENCE SECOND ATTEMPT TO CONTACT BAIRD MADE BY BUREAU AGENTS EVENING OF MARCH 29, 1977, TO ARRANGE INTERVIEW.

UPON ARRIVAL AT RESIDENCE, MARY BAIRD ANSWERED DOORBELL AT WHICH TIME BUREAU AGENTS IMMEDIATELY IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES. MARY BAIRD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SHE RECOGNIZED BUREAU AGENTS FROM PREVIOUS CONTACT ON MARCH 26, 1977, HOWEVER, REQUESTED THAT BUREAU AGENTS SPEAK WITH HER OUTSIDE RESIDENCE. BUREAU AGENTS REQUESTED ENTRANCE FOR PRIVACY REASONS AND WERE GRANTED SAME. UPON ENTERING RESIDENCE, MARY BAIRD WAS ASKED IF SHE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH HUSBAND, TO WHICH SHE REPLIED THAT HUSBAND WAS PRESENT AT RESIDENCE.

CLIFTON E. BAIRD ENTERED LIVING ROOM AT WHICH TIME BUREAU AGENTS ATTEMPTED TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES WITH CREDENTIALS, IN PRESENCE OF WIFE MARY BAIRD, AND EXPLAIN PURPOSE OF CONTACT.

CLIFTON E. BAIRD EXCLAIMED THAT HE KNEW WHO BUREAU AGENTS WERE AND REFUSED TO LOOK AT CREDENTIALS. BAIRD WAS ADVISED BY BUREAU AGENT THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES HAD SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BAIRD BE INTERVIEWED CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS RECENTLY REVEALED BY BAIRD TO U. S. REPRESENTATIVE M. G. (GENE) SNYDER,

PAGE THREE LS 44-497 E F T O

4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, KENTUCKY. BAIRD STATED, "I HAVE NO STATEMENT TO MAKE. JUST LEAVE."

BAIRD BECAME VISIBLY UPSET AND EYES APPEARED GLASSY AND MOIST, SPEAKING ABRUPTLY AND NOT ALLOWING BUREAU AGENTS TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES. WHILE LEAVING RESIDENCE AT SPECIFIC DIRECTION OF BAIRD, BUREAU AGENTS AGAIN ADVISED BAIRD THAT SOLE PURPOSE OF CONTACT WAS TO ARRANGE INTERVIEW OF BAIRD WITH BUREAU AGENTS IN PRESENCE OF UNITED STATES ATTORNEY (USA) REPRESENTATIVE. BAIRD INQUIRED AS TO IDENTITY OF USA AND WHEN INFORMED LOCAL USA WAS GEROGE J. LONG, JR., BAIRD EXCLAIMED, "DON'T BRING THAT MAN OUT HERE, I HAVE NO USE FOR HIM." BAIRD FURTHER EXCLAIMED, "I HAVE RECEIVED NUMEROUS THREATS FROM FBI OVER LAST TEN YEARS." AND "I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY". BAIRD TERMINATED CONTACT BY STATING, "I'LL SAY IT ALL TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE." IN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA). IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO TERMINATION OF INTERVIEW, BAIRD WAS ADVISED THAT IF HE POSSESSED ANY EVIDENCE OF MISCONDUCT ON THE PART OF ANY FBI AGENT, HE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY BRING SAME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES. CONTACT WAS TERMINATED AT 7:32 P.M.

PAGE FOUR LS 44-497 E F T O

SA ALEXANDER T. TAFT, JR., ADVISED ON ABOVE ON MARCH 29, 1977, AND COPY OF INSTANT COMMUNICATION BEING DISSEMINATED LOCALLY TO USA, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.

ADMINISTRATIVE :

RE LOUISVILLE TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU DATED MARCH 26, 1977.

BUREAU AGENTS ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE INTERVIEW OF BAIRD ON MARCH 29, 1977, IDENTIFIED AS SUPERVISOR EDMUND V. ARMENTO AND SA CHRIS R. HOEHLE, WHO HANDLED THEMSELVES IN BUSINESSLIKE, CORDIAL MANNER, EXHIBITING GREAT RESTRAINT WHILE DEALING WITH OBVIOUSLY HOSTILE, CONTEMPTUOUS, AND APPARENTLY DISTRAUGHT INDIVIDUAL.

INASMUCH AS COMPLETE RESULTS OF INTERVIEW ARE SET FORTH HEREIN, LHM NOT BEING SUBMITTED UACB.

BT

0890413 HQ 1

This document is a copy from the FOIA file. The original document was not in the file.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

*FILE
Copy*

TO : Assistant Attorney General
CRIMINAL DIVISION

DATE: 3/30/77
ATTN: MR. ROBERT L. KEUCH

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN L. KING, JR.
CIVIL RIGHTS

Reference is made to _____ memorandum dated _____
(your file _____).

There is enclosed one copy of the ~~report of Special Agent~~ **a Louisville teletype to Director**
dated **3/30/77** ~~at~~ _____.

A. ☐ This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. ☐ The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. ☐ The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. ☐ Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. ☐ Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. ☐ This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. ☒ This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H. ☐ This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

Enc. (1)

- 1 - Civil Rights Division (encl. 1)
- 1 - Office of Professional Responsibility, U.S.D.J. (encl. 1)

NOTE: Enclosed orally furnished to office of MR. KEUCH, 3/30/77

44-38861-6202 **CHANGED TO** 62-117290-209X2
6203 209X3

JUL 20 1978

CMK/INK

This document is a copy from the FOIA file. The original document was not in the file.

Transmit attached by Facsimile - PL TEXT

To: Director, FBI (44-38861) 3/31/77 3/31/77

From: SAC, Louisville (44-947)
Subject: MURKIN

FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION Initials -

Dep. AD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv.
Ext. Affairs
Fin. & Pers.
Gen. Inv.
Ident.
Intell.
Lab.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgmt.
S. & T. Serv.
Spec. Inv.
Training
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y
Photograph

☐ Fingerprint Photo ☐ Fingerprint Record ☐ Map ☐ Newspaper clipping ☐ Photograph
☐ Artists Conception ☒ Other FD 302 re Clifton R. Baird

Special handling instructions:

It is noted, Louisville indices contain only one reference to a Clifton Eugene Baird, Officer, Louisville Police Dept., in LS 44-474, which file, however, was destroyed on 2/28/77. There are no other references to Baird and Louisville has no information concerning threats by the FBI to Baird.

Approved: *[Signature]*

ST-106

REC-60

6203

7 APR 4 1977

6203

"TREAT AS ORIGINAL"

84 APR 6 1977

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

3/30/77

Date of transcription

On March 29, 1977, at approximately 7:28 PM, Special Agents EDMUND V. ARMENTO and CHRIS R. HOEHLE arrived at the residence of CLIFTON E. BAIRD, 7813 Edsall Lane, Louisville, Kentucky, for the specific purpose of contacting BAIRD in an effort to arrange a suitable interview of BAIRD with Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the presence of Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) ALEXANDER T. TAFT, JR. in connection with an allegation of an offer reportedly made to BAIRD by unnamed FBI Agents during 1968 to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Contact was made inasmuch as BAIRD had failed to initiate contact with the FBI or the United States Attorney's Office on March 29, 1977, as had been requested of his wife, MARY BAIRD, during previous contact on March 26, 1977.

Upon arrival at the BAIRD residence, MARY BAIRD answered the doorbell, at which time Special Agents immediately identified themselves and displayed their credentials. MARY BAIRD acknowledged that she recognized both Special Agents from previous contact with same on March 26, 1977, however requested that Special Agents speak with her outside her residence. Interviewing Agents requested entrance into her residence for privacy reasons inasmuch as neighbors were sitting on front porches in close proximity to BAIRD residence and would be able to overhear all conversation. Entrance into residence was granted by MARY BAIRD following the above request. Upon entering the residence, MARY BAIRD was asked if she had been in contact with her husband, CLIFTON E. BAIRD, to which she replied that her husband was in fact present at the residence.

CLIFTON E. BAIRD entered the living room of the BAIRD residence, at which time Special Agents attempted to identify themselves with credentials in the presence of BAIRD's wife and explain the purpose of the contact. CLIFTON E. BAIRD exclaimed that he knew who the Special Agents were, refused to shake hands or look at the credentials. BAIRD stated, "I know who you are.", not giving the interviewing Agents opportunity to explain the reason for instant contact. BAIRD was immediately advised that the Attorney General of the United States had specifically requested he be interviewed

3/29/77

Louisville, Kentucky

LS 44-947

by SA CHRIS R. HOEHLE

SA EDMUND V. ARMENTO/EVA/scs

3/30/77

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.

ENCLOSURE 44-38861-

LS 44-947

concerning allegations recently revealed by BAIRD to United States Representative M. G. (GENE) SNYDER. BAIRD blurted, "I have no statement to make. Just leave." not allowing interviewing Agents to complete statement.

BAIRD became visibly upset and his eyes appeared glassy and moist, speaking abruptly and not allowing interviewing Agents to express themselves fully. While leaving residence at the specific direction of BAIRD, Special Agents again advised BAIRD that the sole purpose of the contact was to arrange an interview of BAIRD with Special Agents of the FBI in the presence of a representative of the United States Attorney. BAIRD immediately inquired as to the identity of the United States Attorney and when informed that the local United States Attorney was GEORGE J. LONG, JR., BAIRD exclaimed, "Don't bring that man out here, I have no use for him." BAIRD further exclaimed, "I have received numerous threats from the FBI over the last ten years." and "I have nothing to say." BAIRD terminated the contact by stating, "I'll say it all to the House Committee." Immediately prior to termination of contact, BAIRD was advised that if he possessed any evidence of misconduct on the part of any FBI Agent, he should immediately bring same to the attention of the Attorney General of the United States. Contact was terminated at 7:32 PM and Special Agents immediately departed the area of the residence.

F B I

Date: 3/22/77

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

To: Director, FBI (44-38861)

ATTENTION:

☒ GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
☒ CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION
☐ CRIMINAL SECTION
☐ INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

From: SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1365)(RUC)Subject: MURKIN

☒ CR ☐ EL ☐ DIH ☐ CRA-64
☐ PA ☐ PE ☐ PF ☐ E
☐ DAMV ☐ DAMV-FR ☐ CAA
☐ AP ☐ IWFC ☐ CWAA ☐ FI
☐ EID ☐ Bomb Threats ☐ Extremist Matters
☐ White Hate ☐ Black

Summary of Complaint:

Re Charlotte teletype to Bureau, 1/28/77.

OTIS MOORE, Lomas Verdes Number 40, San Juan, Puerto Rico, has been in telephonic contact with Dr. EUGENE V. GRACE at Durham, North Carolina, operator of the Moore Publishing Company, to sell a manuscript to GRACE by MOORE in which MOORE states he identified assassin of MARTIN LUTHER KING and implied this assassin had first sought to hire MOORE for the assassination.

INDICES: ☐ Negative ☐ See SummaryACTION: UACB

- ③-Bureau (Encs. 5) ☒ No further action being taken and
 2-Memphis (44-1987) ☒ LHM enclosed
 (Encs. 2) ☐ FD-376 (Enc. to LHM)
 1-San Juan (Info.) ☐ LHM being submitted
 (Enc. 1) ☐ Report being submitted
 1-Charlotte ☐ Preliminary investigation instituted
 CSM:lct ☐ Limited investigation instituted
 (7) ☐ Investigation continuing

☐ Copy to: ☐ USA
☐ Secret Service
☐ ATF

1- CRD
 1- CONGRESSIONAL
 INQUIRY UNIT
 0-70 (6) 3/30/77
 HNTF/dly

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

84 APR 14 1977

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAR 22 1964

611

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-447777)
FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-447777)
SUBJECT: [REDACTED]
RE: [REDACTED]

100-447777-100

NY 100-447777

(100-447777)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date _____

CE 44-1365

ADMINISTRATIVE:

By teletype to the Bureau, dated 1/28/77, Memphis advised the OTIS MOORE referred to appears to be identical with OTIS HUMPHREY MOORE, born [redacted] at Elaine, Arkansas, a white male, Army serial number [redacted] SSAN [redacted] who on 5/15/76, in part related that in 1965, while drinking in a bar in Temple, Texas, MOORE was engaged in conversation by two unknown males who offered MOORE \$50,000.00 to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. One of those present was identified by MOORE as "a multi-millionaire lawyer from Dallas".

2*

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____
(Number) (Time)

Per _____



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Charlotte, North Carolina

March 22, 1977

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

On January 28, 1977, Dr. EUGENE V. GRACE, Eye Surgeon, 911 North Broad Street, Durham, North Carolina, who also operates Moore Publishing Company, 907 North Broad Street, reported receipt of a telephone contact on January 27, 1977, from OTIS MOORE, Lomas Verdes Number 40, San Juan, Puerto Rico, telephone number 780-4533, offering GRACE an opportunity to publish a book by MOORE. MOORE identified himself as a retired United States Army Master Sergeant. He stated in his book, he identified the assassin of MARTIN LUTHER KING and implied this assassin had first sought to hire MOORE for the assassination. MOORE, during his telephone call, claimed to have previously reported this information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and said KELLEY had assigned him a file number. MOORE stated he was in contact with other prospective publishers. He also claimed correspondence with United States Senators FRANK CHURCH and EDWARD KENNEDY. *file* During his call, MOORE said he felt his life was in danger. *DC*

GRACE indicated there was a possibility he would be back in contact with OTIS MOORE about January 30, 1977, concerning publication of the book referred to by MOORE.

On March 17, 1977, Dr. GRACE advised he had not had any contact with OTIS MOORE during the latter part of January or early February, as previously proposed. However, since GRACE had returned to Durham, North Carolina, in mid-February, 1977, MOORE had contacted GRACE's residence at Durham, North Carolina, on two occasions. During one of these calls during the latter part of February, 1977, MOORE told GRACE's wife he was staying in Alexandria, Virginia, and was trying to arrange for an appearance before the United States House Committee conducting investigation into the death of ✓

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.

44-38861-6204

ENCLOSURE



JAMES EARL RAY,

MARTIN LUTHER KING. He indicated his intention to stay in the Washington area until someone heard his story. He left a telephone number for GRACE to reach him in Alexandria, but later when GRACE called this number, he determined that the number was to a pay telephone and that MOORE was not available there. During the other telephone contact at about the same time, MOORE stated that he was currently preparing the manuscript for his book. GRACE indicated a desire to see this manuscript when it was completed. Since that call, GRACE has written to MOORE in Puerto Rico to indicate again an interest in seeing the completed manuscript. MOORE, in his conversations, again indicated he had corresponded with Senator FRANK CHURCH and Senator EDWARD KENNEDY. GRACE stated since that time he has had no additional contact with MOORE, and noted that he had never had any personal contact with MOORE, nor had MOORE indicated any intention of visiting GRACE in Durham, North Carolina.

Dr. GRACE did not know if MOORE appeared before the House Committee in 1977.

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