

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

9/7/78

Date of transcription _____

After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, JOHN CAMPBELL, Chief of Police, Grandview, Missouri, Police Department, provided the following information:

CAMPBELL said he is aware that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON owned a jewelry store, but cannot remember the name or location. CAMPBELL said that before WILSON left Grandview, he does not remember the date, that WILSON got very paranoid about something. WILSON hired off duty policeman to guard inventory of WILSON's jewelry store. Subsequently WILSON auctioned off all his inventory. The auctioneer was a TOMMY COMPTON, telephone 761-2277.

CAMPBELL heard that before WILSON came to Grandview he was in some type of business with LOU CREWS of Crews Jewelry Store, but does not remember the name of the business. When WILSON came to Grandview, he split with CREWS and leased a counter from Katz Drug Store, Truman Corners Shopping Center, Grandview, Missouri. When WILSON split CREWS was real mad because he, CREWS, got cheated out of several thousand dollars, and made the comment "If I get a chance I'm going to bump the son-of-a-bitch off." Subsequently WILSON moved from KATZ and opened a new store, location and name unknown. CAMPBELL indicated that on January 6, 1969, WILSON filed for candidate for Mayor of Grandview, Missouri. He said WILSON was defeated by a large margin in April 1969.

CAMPBELL was asked if WILSON was capable of killing someone, and he replied that WILSON was very capable because of his type of character. CAMPBELL said that LOU CREWS died on August 22, 1978 of cancer and that a SAM KAPPERA (phonetic), officer, Grandview Police Department, a real close friend of CREWS's might be able to provide more information on the relationship between CREWS and WILSON.

CAMPBELL said that WILSON was a con man and also that he was a heavy drinker.

8/24/78

Kansas City, Misosuri

KC 44-760

Investigation on _____

at _____

File # _____

SA DANIEL BELLICH - dk

8/30/78

by _____

Date dictated _____

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 9/7/78

After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, BOB HADEL of Hadel Jewelers, 12th and Walnut Building, Kansas City, Missouri, telephone number 421-9606, provided the following information:

HADEL indicated that he has never heard of a BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. He also indicated that he has not heard of Wilburs Jewelry Store.

HADEL was asked if he had heard of a person named MITCH (LNU) who was associated with the jewelry store on Walnut Street in Kansas City, Missouri, and also had some association with the Bonding Company. HADEL indicated that the only MITCH that he is aware of that had any association with the jewelry store and the bonding company was MITCH ZAMMAR. He indicated that ZAMMAR had married a DORIS AUSTIN of Doris Bonding Company, telephone number 621-5858. HADEL indicated that ZAMMAR, in the past, use to hang out at Fechter Jeweler, 12th and Walnut, Kansas City, Missouri. He said that a few years back BOB SCEREDICH purchased the jewelry store from THURMAN FECHTER.

Interviewed on 8/25/78 at Kansas City, Mo. File # KC 44-760

by SA DANIEL BELLICH (ofj) Date dictated 9/1/78

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1(Date of transcription) 8/31/78

After being advised of the identity of the Interviewing Agent, MITCH ZAMMAR, Doris Bonding Company, 731 Ann Street, Kansas City, Kansas, telephone 621-5858, provided the following information.

ZAMMAR indicated that he is familiar with the name of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. He said that THURMAN FECHTER, now deceased, former owner of Fechter Jewelers, introduced him to WILSON at Fechter Jewelry Store.

ZAMMAR said that he purchased a ring from FECHTER and subsequently sold it to WILSON for approximately \$300 to \$400. ZAMMAR said that this is the only dealing he had with WILSON. He said he visited WILSON at Wilsons Jewelry Store twice in order to pick up the payment for the ring that WILSON purchased from him.

ZAMMAR described WILSON as being a likable guy, however, he said WILSON was very nervous.

FECHTER subsequently sold his jewelry store to a JOHN SEREDICH, father of ROBERT JOSEPH SEREDICH.

ZAMMAR indicated that he never gave or sold WILSON a Japanese sniper rifle or any other weapon. ZAMMAR also indicated that he has never owned a Japanese sniper rifle.

Interviewed on 8/28/78 at Kansas City, Kansas File # KC 44-760

by SA DANIEL BELLICH - cjc Date dictated 8/28/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 9/7/78

After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, MITCH ZAMMAR of Doris Bonding Company, Kansas City, Kansas, furnished the following information:

ZAMMAR was asked if any of his brothers had any scars on their face. ZAMMAR indicated that his brother JAMES did have a scar on his face. He said he had a scar on his right cheek as a result of a fall out of a baby buggy when he was an infant.

ZAMMAR was asked the names of his brothers as well as the years that his brothers died in. ZAMMAR replied that he feels the year that his brothers died in is irrelevant and something that he did not have to answer. ZAMMAR did, however, furnish the names of his brothers. He named the following as being his brothers in the order from the oldest to the youngest:

FERRIS, FRED, MITCHELL, JOE, CHARLIE, and JAMES.

Interviewed on 8/31/78 at Kansas City, Mo. File # KC 44-760

by SA DANIEL BELLICH (ofj) Date dictated 9/1/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 8/31/78

After being advised of the identity of the Interviewing Agent, ROBERT JOSEPH SEREDICH, Fechter Jewelers, 12th and Walnut, Kansas City, Missouri, provided the following information.

SEREDICH indicated that he has never heard of a BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. He also stated that he has never heard of a Wilbur Jewelers or a LOU CREWS.

SEREDICH indicated that he has known the majority of the jewelers in the Greater Kansas City area in the past 10 years, however, he has never heard of WILSON.

SEREDICH indicated that he purchased Fechter Jewelers a few years ago.

Interviewed on 8/28/78 at Kansas City, Missouri File # KC 44-760

by SA DANIEL BELlich - cjc Date dictated 8/28/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 9/7/78

After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, DON FISHER, Fisher Sales and Services, State Line Airport, Leawood, Kansas, telephone number 681-2496, provided the following information:

FISHER was asked if BURGESS AUDIE WILSON would have had access to the Bonanza Airplane that WILSON purchased from him prior to the time of the actual purchase which was June 6, 1968. FISHER replied that yes he would have had access to that particular plane because he rented it on several occasions prior to the purchase. FISHER said that WILSON rented other plans that he had for rent such as Cessna 150s, 172s, and Skyline. FISHER said WILSON did a lot of renting because WILSON was on the GI program and under this program they paid ninety percent of WILSON's training. FISHER thinks that WILSON was training for his commercial license.

FISHER was asked if WILSON could have had access to the plane while the original owner C.C. MILLER owned the plane. FISHER said that MILLER never rented the plane out. The first time the plane was ever rented out was when he purchased the plane from MILLER. WILSON said that WILSON and others used the Bonanza because it was a faster plane than any of the others single engine type planes he had for rent.

FISHER said in order for him to get paid for WILSON's rentals, he would prepare a report for the Veterans Administration stating the number of days and hours WILSON used an aircraft. WILSON signed a slip which was an authorization slip and that

Interviewed on 8/31/78 at Kansas City, Mo. File # KC 44-760

by SA DANIEL BELLICH (ofj) Date dictated 9/1/78

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KC 44-760

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would be sent together with the monthly useage to the Veterans Administration in Wichita, Kansas. The Veterans Administration would then send the check to FISHER and FISHER would then have WILSON sign the check.

FISHER was asked if he recalled the type of car that WILSON drove back and forth to the airport. FISHER said that he did not remember the type of car, however, when he was asked if it was a Thunderbird, he said yes that was the type of car he was driving. FISHER was then asked if he was driving a Thunderbird to the airport prior to the time that WILSON purchased a 1968 Thunderbird from Paul Ford Sales on October 9, 1968. FISHER said he thinks that WILSON drove a Thunderbird to the airport before the time he purchased the plane which was June 6, 1968. FISHER said that LOU CREWS also had a Thunderbird and that maybe WILSON was using CREWS's Thunderbird.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 9/8/78

After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent, CORNIE MILLER, 9618 Sagamore, Leawood, Kansas, provided the following information:

MILLER indicated that he never rented or leased the plane to anyone while he owned the Bonanza plane. MILLER said he didn't even allow anyone to fly the plane. MILLER also said that he was sure that nobody flew it without his knowing about it because of a recording tachometer off of which he logged his flight hours. MILLER said that if somebody did fly it, he would have known about it because the distance from Kansas City to Memphis and back is far enough that he would have noticed a discrepancy in his log book when he recorded the flight hours off the tachometer.

MILLER said that when he sold the plane, DON FISCHER, Fischer's Sales and Services, acted as a selling Agent for him. MILLER said that the man that was buying the plane through FISCHER owned a jewelry store; however, he could not remember the name of the person who owned the store.

Interviewed on 9/7/78 at Kansas City, Missouri File # KC KC 44-760

by SA DANIEL BELLICH (jmm) Date dictated 9/8/78

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KC 44-760

DB:ikc

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA DANIEL BELLICH at Kansas City, Missouri, on August 21,
1978:

Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base was contacted
and they indicated that all records of former reservists
or Civil Service employees are maintained at the Military
Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri, telephone 314/268-7243.

In indices, computer criminal history and local
checks on the name of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON proved negative.

A review of the 1969 Cole's Directory, Kansas
City, disclosed that WILSON was the subscriber to telephone
number SO 1-6526 at 13125 Herrick, Grandview, Missouri.

Review of current directories and inquiries of
information for Belton, Missouri; Grandview, Missouri;
Raymore, Missouri; and Peculiar, Missouri, for WILBUR
JEWELERS proved negative. All possible spellings for
WILBUR JEWELERS were searched.

The following investigation was conducted by
SA TONY E. TRIPLETT at Kansas City, Missouri, on August 21,
1978:

The Southwestern Bell Telephone Company was
contacted regarding any information relating to BURGESS
WILSON. SA TRIPLETT indicated that the Telephone Company
has destroyed all records for that period.

KC 44-760

DB:1kc

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA DANIEL BELLICH at Kansas City, Missouri, on August 22,
1978:

The following places were contacted and asked
if they had available a criss-cross directory for the years
1968 or 1969 to help determine the employer of BURGESS AUDIE
WILSON during 1968:

Both Grandview, Missouri, libraries were contacted
at 763-0550 and 252-0950;

Grandview City Hall, 763-3900;

R and L Pokk Publishers, Kansas City, Missouri,
telephone 756-0425.

All the above indicated they did not have any
criss-cross directories or any other information relating
to the employment of WILSON.

The Grandview Chamber of Commerce, 761-6505,
indicated they might be able to provide some information
relating to the employment of WILSON, however, said they
would recontact the FBI after making their research.

KC 44-760

DB:ksu

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The following investigation was conducted by SA DANIEL BELLICH at Kansas City, Missouri, on August 24, 1978:

A credit check was made at the Credit Bureau of Greater Kansas City, 906 Grand, Kansas City, Missouri, and they indicated they had no record of any credit for BURGESS AUDIE WILSON.

Credit Bureau indicated that if there are no transactions for the past three or four years, all records of a particular person are destroyed.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
CRIMINAL DIVISION

FROM : Director, FBI

DATE: 9/18/78

ATTN: MR. ROBERT L. KEUCH

RE: ALLEGATION BY
BURGESS AUDIE WILSON

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference is made to my memorandum dated 9/15/78
(your file).

There ~~is~~ ^{are} ~~one copy~~ ^{2 copies} enclosed of the report of Special Agent ~~Daniel Bellich~~
dated 9/13/78 ~~xxxxxx~~ at Kansas City.

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. 2

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

1 - Civil Rights Division

FILE
COPY
6/11

FBI/DOJ

NOTE: Reference is made to a telephone conversation between H. N. Helterhoff and Deputy Assistant Attorney General Robert L. Keuch on 9/18/78. Mr. Keuch was advised of the information contained herein relative to Wilson not having access to the aircraft in April of 1968, and that the Ford Thunderbird was not purchased until October of 1968. Mr. Keuch advised that no further investigation was necessary regarding this Wilson allegation. Copies of additional reports from our field offices reporting the results of this investigation re the Wilson allegation will be furnished upon receipt.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

REFERENCE: Memphis teletype, 8/19/78.

Bureau teletype, 8/22/78.

-RUC-

3 EX-124

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		

APPROVED <i>KIAB</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:		44-38861-6290 16 SEP 22 1978 EX-124	
4 - Bureau (44-38861) 3 - Memphis (1 - USA, Memphis) 1 - Birmingham (44-1740)			

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				Notations
Agency	Request Recd.	Date Fwd.	How Fwd.	
<i>2-Crim Div. 1-Civil Right Div.</i>		<i>9/5/78</i>	<i>676(B)</i>	<i>W. H. H. H.</i> <i>Sub 4</i>
By				

66 OCT 17 1978

COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

Report of: SA THOMAS MAC GIBBS

Office: BIRMINGHAM

Date: 8/29/78

Field Office File #: 44-1740

Bureau File #: 44-38861

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

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

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

-RUC-

DETAILS:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/28/78

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

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

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

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

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X-2-

BH 44-1740

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

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

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