

Baird - You know poplar is a real light but it is strong and it'll last forever.

Arlie - Poplar makes good weatherboard, good ceiling and good ---- a lot of people use it for shooting on your ----

Baird - Well poplar would be hard to find now anymore. I imagine it would be harder to find.

Arlie - Yeah ----- there's one stand up at home, I guess about 40 acres of it, and I don't know what become of it -----

Baird - You know we're talking about Eastern Kentucky. What they ought to do is plant trees all over the eastern part of the state. You know take place of those coal mines.

Arlie - -----

Baird - You know what they do? They're suppose to reseed this stuff and have been for years. They'll take a damn airplane and they'll fly over those, what are they, ah, excavated but cold you know, and they'll take a handfull of seed and throw it out -----

Arlie - They're as bad as those doggone drunk ----- you know it. There's no damn way your going to do it. You're going to have to go out there and plant them son-of-a-bitches. Damn, I set out about 5000 in one year up there. But now they should have been thinned out, my nephew went and thinned a bunch of them out ----- up there. I guess they were up around 20 to 20 some feet. But most ----- part of 1947 part of the 40's. These southern pine seedlings, the little rascals, are about this high. What happened, I went around and marked, set them out in rows four foot wide, four foot apart, but that's too close. What you do you set them out and you let them get up from 6 to 10 years old ----- wasn't around 6 years later. And you're suppose to go around and, of course, if they all grow, naturally, I mean it would be, you would take out half of them. You would take out every other one. In other words to ----- what the hell. By god, you son-of-a-bitch, the next time you come in drunk I'll whip your ass again. You've got to be real quiet she's liable to come over here and want to whip my ass. Move this damn junk out here.

Baird - I'm kind of tired tonight, for some reason I didn't do nothing, rode around all.

Arlie - How would like to have a big sandwich of some kind?

Baird - Oh I'm not even hungry.

Arlie - Corn beef ----- be sociable -----

Baird - I'm just not hungry.

Arlie - Ain't got nothing I want. That one boy of mine, the oldest of mine, got me kind of worried. Sick the last three days, can't go to school. My wife

Baird - Sore throat?

Arlie - No he's running a fever. Some of the neighbors say their kids been sick too. The doctor says there's a virus going around. Hear this shit all the time virus, virus. That means them damn son-of-a-bitches don't know what the hell it is causing it.

Baird - That's right they don't know, don't have any idea. They've got bacteria pretty well whipped. Virus might be two or three different things you know. What they call virus might be a half a dozen different diseases you know. Well Mr. Blair I guess I better.

Arlie - Head for the housy.

Baird - Head for the housy.

Arlie - ----- that and that -----

Baird - That's all right. -----

Arlie - ----- step on his tail -----  
There's a funny thing about them son-of-a-bitches. Power is in comparison to a crop job is lower.

Baird - Well it takes them a lot longer to

Arlie - ----- get the momentum huh?

Baird - Yeah, to build up it's momentum. After it gets up it's momentum it can go on faster.

Arlie - Oh shit go faster.

Baird - But a crop for immediate speed and immediate power he got it. Shoot when he gets the motor started why he's got full power there.

Arlie - ----- won't prove like hell cats. -----  
-----, hell cats, during Second World War, it's amazing. Damn, jets were too damn fast. What was you couldn't get those son-of-a-bitches down those doggone valleys. And them doggone hell cats, them son-of-a-bitches you could take those bastards down between roof tops and everything else, damn.

Baird - Those hell cats are very maneuverable. I imagine top speed is only about 350.

Arlie - ----- 400. I don't think it was on the first one but about 300. Fact is I believe it's 300 or listed at 320, that's about absolutely top. But that's the different type engine you got there.

Baird - Yeah, probably got a more powerful engine now.

Arlie - But still it's maneuverability to be able to slow down, to slow down about 90. Well hell 90 miles an hour.

Baird - I remember during the Korean War Dukes brought out this damn biplane at a top speed of probably 120 miles per hour.

Arlie - At the most.

Baird - And hell we had those saber jets and see them damn biplane machine gun troops with that little biplane and those damn saber jets all of them didn't fire under 500 miles an hour forward.

Arlie - They'd fire under 300.

Baird - It was tilted faster, they slide a little biplane up to about 300 miles an hour.

Arlie - ----- watch the cockpit and they come in on you like that and you turn around like that and say well ----- you turn around and you switch, you start to head off like a diagonally and as quick as he starts moving closer starts getting in gun range of you they ----- out and he's right back the opposite way. Well when you get back the opposite way you're going say 60 or 70 miles an hour and he's doing about 200 miles an hour why hell. Where's he at, oh, he's going yonder.

Baird - He's gone up.

Arlie - That's what it is. Yeah, and that was something else. I'd just as soon forget about it.

Baird - You have a rough night last night?

Arlie - It wouldn't have been so bad if, except setting around waiting for my bed four hours. That Davis and Stuart. They ----- running down there to the shoot. We're here now we ----- everybody died and they still ain't got theirs. Anyway this one son-of-a-bitch act the right real smarty. That son-of-a-bitch said there was a guy around ----- I thought it kind of funny. I seen the guy standing there ----- Now where he got the (obscene) rifle, I didn't bother and wait and ask my nephew. Duke, goddamn I don't know what's been wrong with him

for the last couple weeks. I been drunk. I know what's wrong with me, but he don't drink, so it can't be that. I've been pulling right by that son-of-a-bitch near that goddamned gate before he stops. I told him about that shit before. I said you're going to get us hurt one of these times like that and shit. And Davis and Stuart drove by and here came this loud mouth son-of-a-bitch been carrying on over there. So Davis walks up and takes his rifle to this guy. Well the guy didn't offer no resistance or nothing. Young guy I'd say somewhere in about 25's. We found out he was a county policeman which we didn't know that at the time.

Baird - Yeah, I heard something about that. I didn't know what happened.

Arlie - Well, here's how this son-of-a-bitch up there was going to whoop this guys ass. They were shuffling back, stood back by my desk and I grabbed the (obscene) by the shirt collar and then reached and grabbed him by the ass of the britches, that's exactly where it's at, and headed for the car with him. Took him on inside the car and padded him down and I said your ass ----- So I put him in the car in Davidson (phonetic) County, gonna take this guy and go talk to him well whether the rifle is his or whether he took the rifle away from one of them other punks or what I don't know but I done got me a piece of meat ----- had no idea what you did. I'd say 35.

Baird - What did you lock up a county policeman or

Arlie - No.

Baird - Another guy?

Arlie - ----- county policeman. Now he's one had rifle, county policeman had the rifle but boy he'd take me off one ----- Their car was sitting right out there, the parked car. Which he told Davidson County he was driving by when the shooting was going on, but he stopped and intervened. Now he crossing the main road, that's another thing. Like I told Davis that, I said ----- better get himself get blood off or get (obscene) up good. If you're off duty. If you drive along and there's a lot of hot lead flying around you better get your ass out of the (obscene) way and with the gun ----- he's the one that laid it there, cause he wouldn't have about that. ----- real highly.

Baird - Yeah, they sure as hell do.

Arllie - And he was all shook up. I said forget about it. Why would they want to take a bunch of ours. I said who for well this one guy. I said where did you find out. He said well you know where they found out, this guy that knew him see. I said how do you know he's the one that pushed him. Well we just know. I said you just know. I said you can't even tell me let alone to over there in court and hold up your little right hand and swear to the fact that this damn guy was up there doing the shooting. ----- we didn't see no gaddamned shooting.

Baird - That's right you didn't see him.

Arllie - I said that's the things with these young kids. I could fabricate something and leave it go. Down there within a time we can't call up a ----- you ----- yourself and do it. The son-of-a-bitch he's still on the muscle when you get there you get on the muscle ten times at home.

Baird - Yeah.

Arllie - But you pull up and leave that son-of-a-bitch see the police car coming, look at you coming up, and then if there's any guilty partner they're gone. If it's anything very serious the people that still live will know who it is, right.

Baird - Yeah.

Arllie - Therefore, if these people did their ----- action been taken who the hell would take the warrant. But if they like that son-of-a-bitch over there was shooting at my ----- come ----- his boy is involved in it see. They'd shoot his ass. Well that's just what I heard now. I mean something else ----- But that ----- he claims he don't know who's doing the shooting, and I recall real well when I was 13 years, no 14 years old a guy was carrying a gun for my use and I started carrying one for him. I knew who he was, of course, my mother and dad never did know that. But this punk, 53 years old, he's trying to come out and tell me that his 15 year old boy, which is bigger than I am, he don't know who started shooting his ass. Now if one of my boys comes in and tells me daddy someone out there tried to shoot me or did shoot at him I want to know who did it and if they say I don't know the next thing I'm going to do is to slap them back end quarter or someplace and ask them again. Because I remember that old repeat with going to school, running in and going out here and around and dating and all that, getting involved and that kind of shit. He's at least going to know a few nicknames or something.

Baird - Yes, that's right.

Arlie - If the bastard isn't strong enough he'll come around, your house, ----- two eggs. You'll know who he is if you're 15 or 16 years old.

Baird - Yeah, that's right.

Arlie - But you try tell some of these kids like Davis and Kenneth, or ah Stuart, Roger, oh, he's way out anyway. Well, I sure appreciate it sir.

Baird - Good luck Mr. Blair, and we'll see you later.

Arlie - That damn thing here is about ready to fall apart. ----- fall apart -----

Baird - -----

The following is an examination of this tape by the Technical Services Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation:

Because the HSCA tape was provided for only a brief period of time, only limited examination of the tape could be conducted. The following sets forth results of examination of the HSCA tape and technical analysis of the copy of the tape produced at FBI Headquarters:

Physical inspection of the HSCA tape revealed it to be standard 1/4-inch wide magnetic tape on a standard 5-inch diameter clear plastic reel. Into the plastic of the reel was scratched "BFB 1 4-5-77." The tape had the appearance of standard 1/2 mil (1 mil = .001 inch) thickness. A measured playback time of approximately 59.5 minutes at 3 3/4 inches per second supports the assumption that the tape is standard 1/2 mil thick. The tape backing was polyester plastic and no unusual visual characteristics or coloration of the oxide were noted.

In summary, the reel of tape furnished appeared to be commonly available standard tape and of a length within the expected tolerances of tape manufacturers. This type of tape would have been available in 1965.

Development of the magnetic patterns on the beginning of the HSCA tape revealed that it was recorded in a 1/2-track configuration, that is, the recorded information covers 1/2 the width of the tape. This is a standard tape recording configuration. For the purposes of convention, the recording of the pertinent conversation will be referred to as "side 1." There is present on the tape a second "side" (designated as "side 2") which is a second

track of recorded information. This information is recorded backwards relative to side 1, indicating the recorder used was probably 1/2 track monaural. This again is a standard recorder configuration and recorders of this type would have been common in or around 1965.

As indicated previously, the playback time of the tape at standard 3 3/4 inches per second speed was measured to be approximately 59.5 minutes. The recorded information on side 1 and 2 is, however, of substantially shorter duration. The recordings have the effect of continuously slowing down causing the voices to drop in pitch and requiring constant upward speed adjustment of the playback recorder to normalize the speech. The observed effect is however opposite to that which normally occurs when batteries grow weak on battery-operated recorders. There might be other explanations for this effect based upon mechanical considerations of the recorder transport mechanism but exact cause cannot be determined without specific knowledge of the type of recorder used. Speed-correction of the recording revealed that the side 1 recording was approximately 34 minutes duration. The conversation on side 1 ran off the end of the tape. The side 2 recording was measured at approximately 34 1/2 minutes duration and the conversation terminated prior to the end of the tape.

The following additional information is provided concerning specific items of interest:

1) Nothing unusual about the physical characteristics of the HSCA tape to indicate the age of the recording was observed. Some oxide was missing from the very end of the tape which usually indicates the tape has been used to a considerable extent. It is entirely possible that the tape could have been used to record a conversation in 1965.

2) There is no clear indication of whether the HSCA tape was an original or a copy. This kind of determination is dependent upon availability of the recorder used to make the recording as well as further detailed study of the HSCA tape.

3) The acoustic characteristics of the recording (reverberation, enhanced low frequency components to the voices, extraneous noises) indicate the recording could have been made in an automobile or other vehicle. If a remote microphone was used, it would not be necessary that the recorder itself be in the passenger compartment. At approximately 21 minutes 23 seconds into side 1, the recording indicates Blair to be returning to the vehicle. The sound

of the vehicle door slamming shut behind him is audible. Little other vehicular traffic is evident on side 1. At 5 minutes 4 seconds a passing vehicle is audible, at 5 minutes 55 seconds a sound similar to squealing tires is present and at 6 minutes 35 seconds a series of distant explosions is audible to which Baird comments "Backfires."

The side 2 recording was made in an environment similar to side 1. On side 2 considerable more extraneous noise is evident. At 1 minute 3 seconds, 2 minutes 48 seconds and at 5 minutes 13 seconds traffic is heard to pass. At 25 minutes 36 seconds and again at 28 minutes, 44 seconds jet aircraft are audible and quite pronounced, indicating the vehicle is parked relatively close to an airport. It should be kept in mind, however, that sides 1 and 2 are independent recordings and could have been made at substantially different times. There is, further, no technical indication of which side, side 1 or side 2, was recorded first.

4) It is very likely that the "introduction" did not occur in sequence with the remainder of the side 1 recording. For approximately 8 seconds prior to the "introduction" the recorder was activated. Although no voice is audible there are audible tones present on the recording. Frequency measurement of these tones indicate the tape was running slower than normal speed and was continuously decreasing in speed (discussed previously).

Beginning 8 seconds into the recording and continuing for another 50 seconds (the segment which includes the "introduction") the tones suddenly shift upward in frequency and the recording occurs at normal speed. Immediately following the "introduction", 58 seconds into the recording, the tones shift downward in frequency discontinuously to a point comparable to the first 8 seconds of the recording. The "introduction" begins with an apparent recorder start transient, a recorder stop transient is evident at the end of the introduction, but no similar start transient is apparent. The above suggests that the "introduction" may have been inserted over the existing recording but a more definitive conclusion on this point cannot be reached without developing and examining the magnetic patterns on the HSCA tape.

5-6) The recorder appears to have been activated manually. Bumping and handling of the microphone is audible prior to recorder turnoff during the conversations. This suggests that the remote switch which activates the recorder may be incorporated in the microphone housing. During the

conversation on side 1, the recorder was stopped and started on two occasions, at 14 minutes 40 seconds and again at 21 minutes 10 seconds. These stops do not occur during the pertinent conversations.

7) Indications are that the tape was manually turned over to obtain recordings on both sides. No auto-reverse markings or sensor tape was observed on the HSCA tape and there is no time relationship between the respective recordings on side 1 and 2 to indicate auto-reverse had occurred.

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Joseph Miller Calvert  
F.B.I. No. [REDACTED]  
P.O. Box 1500,  
Federal Correctional Institution  
El Reno, Oklahoma 73036  
June 12, 1977

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Clarence M. Kelley, Director  
10th and Pennsylvania Aves., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Re: James Earl Ray

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that I was incarcerated in the Tennessee State Penitentiary from 1968-1970. On several occasions, I talked with James Earl Ray and shared ideas with him. On one occasion I overheard James and another wealthy and intelligent Nashville man who was an inmate at that time talking. James was in maximum security at that time and had come to the prison hospital where I worked as a clerk. James and this other inmate exchanged notes and I heard them speaking of a passport to another Country.

I feel that my information could be very significant to you and could lead you to James. I do know that James and this other inmate had made plans concerning if James ever had the chance to escape, that they would get together and arrange for James to leave the Country.

After you have reviewed the attached document, you will find that I worked with Federal A.T.F. Agents for approximately six (6) months concerning an escaped Federal Prisoner and my diligent assistance resulted in the safe and successful apprehension of the escapee. If you need any information concerning my assistance, you may feel free to contact Agent Edward P. Hemsath, area code: 305-350-4248. After speaking with Edward, you will find that I am in fact very good at assisting Agents to apprehend an escapee.

I feel that my information can be very helpful to you, and in the event it results to the apprehension of Ray, I am requesting that you support my parole this year.

Please contact me at 405-262-4875, extension 71. I have used the Washington F.T.S. Line 8-554-2050 while working with A.T.F. Agents and I am experienced at this type of thing. I will be happy to work with you on this matter. Thank you and I trust that you will contact me immediately upon receipt of this letter.

Enclosure:

Central Intelligence Agency  
Mr. Angus Thuermer  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Edward P. Hemsath  
8410 NW 53rd Terrace, Suite 217,  
Miami, Florida 33166

file ENCLOSURE

56 JUN 8 1977

Respectfully,

Joseph Miller Calvert  
Joseph Miller Calvert

JUN 21 1977

0-70 to AAG, Criminal Div. (1 ENC)

HNH/gw CRD & OPR 14503  
6/20/77

6-123 to Mr. Calvert  
HNH/gw  
6/20/77

CORRECTED

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 88-76222-1

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK  
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

[Several paragraphs of illegible teletype text]

[Illegible text at bottom of main body]

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

JUN 16 10 33 AM '77

RECEIVED  
CRIMINAL  
INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

JUN 15 1 06 PM 1977

REC'D-DOOR 2 TOURS

P.O. Box 374, Pineville, Ky. 40977  
January 31, 1977

5  
FCI  
32014-138

Parole Commission  
Greenbriar August Park, Suite 312  
3500 Greenbriar Pky., SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30331

RE: Joseph Miller Calvert, Terra Haute Inmate 32014-138

To whom it may concern:

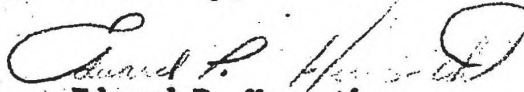
This letter is to inform the commission of the assistance rendered to our Bureau by Joseph Calvert in the apprehension of Tommy Allen Combs, an escaped federal prisoner from FCI Lexington, Kentucky.

Through the diligent efforts of Mr. Calvert we were able to make a successful and safe apprehension of Tommy Combs. Calvert has been assisting in this effort since May, 1976. I feel that this assistance could have brought about numerous hardships for a person who is incarcerated.

I can assure you that Combs may never have been captured without the efforts of Mr. Calvert and we are very appreciative for his assistance.

If you have any further questions about Calvert's assistance to us please feel free to call me at 606-337-6146.

Sincerely,

  
Edward P. Hemsath  
Resident Agent in Charge

Carbon Copy

44-38861-

ENCLOSURE

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date June 17, 1977

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
 FROM: SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (157-450) (RUC)  
 SUBJECT: MURKIN  
 OO: MEMPHIS

Enclosed for the Bureau, Memphis, and El Paso are two copies each of a letter located in the possession of DUDLEY WAYNE CULPEPPER, an FD-302 regarding interview of CULPEPPER, and an FD-302 regarding interview of Detective RICHARD HUDELLA.

For information, the Dakota County Sheriff's Office, Hastings, Minnesota, arrested CULPEPPER of El Paso, Texas, at Hastings on June 7, 1977, on a Texas state warrant for parole violation. CULPEPPER was in possession of a .32 caliber automatic pistol, two loaded clips, and a box of ammunition. After CULPEPPER was booked and during search of personal property, the enclosed letter was located in his wallet. The Dakota County Sheriff's Office was in receipt of information that CULPEPPER was potentially dangerous and had mental problems.

On June 8, 1977, CULPEPPER was interviewed by a Bureau Agent and it was determined that CULPEPPER was mentally unstable and had no specific information concerning captioned matter.

Additional information concerning CULPEPPER is as follows:

- ② - Bureau (Encs. 6)  
 2 - Memphis (Encs. 6) (INFO)  
 2 - El Paso (Encs. 6) (INFO)  
 1 - Minneapolis  
 DRK:jw  
 (7)

1- CIU, RM. 8988  
 0-70 AAG, Ccm. Div  
 HNH/gsw  
 6/21/77

REC-106

JUN 20 1977

SEE FILE COPY

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Time)

Per \_\_\_\_\_

97 JUN 24 1977

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-60

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription June 17, 1977

DUDLEY WAYNE CULPEPPER, 10008 Chezelle, El Paso, Texas, was interviewed while incarcerated at the Dakota County Sheriff's Office Jail, Hastings, Minnesota. CULPEPPER was very difficult to interview in that he could not remain with any certain subject and his mind appeared to ramble and jump from one topic to another. At the outset of the interview, CULPEPPER wanted to know if the interviewing Agent was a Catholic. It was noted throughout the interview that CULPEPPER was hostile to Catholics. CULPEPPER advised as follows:

CULPEPPER advised that when he was a small child he carved his name on a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and when he did it killed JOHN PAUL GETTY who was worth four billion dollars in gold.

He advised his ex-wife, SUSAN ELIZABETH NAISMITH, moved 1½ years ago to Hastings, Minnesota. He has two children by her, one a nine-year old boy who CULPEPPER thinks is Jesus Christ.

CULPEPPER repeatedly advised that he was 12 years old when he carved his name on the statue and he "figured it killed JOHN PAUL GETTY, worth four billion dollars in gold, richest man in the world."

CULPEPPER advised Mexicans and "they" are all screwing with him cutting his valve stems and stealing his tools. When asked who "they" were, he replied Catholics.

During his trial in El Paso, Texas, for manslaughter, where he killed a Mexican in self defense, his attorney, JOSEPH CALLMAI, and his brother-in-law who were both Catholics sold him out. He also advised that his father sold him out and he thinks he is a bastard. His wife is a Catholic and he is a bastard; therefore, his wife will be dead by the time she is 28 years of age.

---

Interviewed on June 8, 1977 at Hastings, Minnesota File # MP 157-450

by SA DAVID R. KELLER:jw Date dictated June 14, 1977

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MP 157-450

2

CULPEPPER rambled on concerning a race car built by a man in Minnesota and raced by LEE SHEPARD of Dallas, Texas, and he advised when he started asking questions about this car, SHEPARD totaled it.

CULPEPPER repeatedly stated that he constantly hears things over the radio that he has been thinking about and figures that it is some sort of E. S. P.

CULPEPPER repeatedly mentioned four billion dollars in gold in various ways, one of which was when he referred to four billion dollars in gold buried in a church that he saw once in a movie.

CULPEPPER furnished the following background information concerning himself:

Name	DUDLEY WAYNE CULPEPPER
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Height	6' 1"
Weight	155 pounds
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Auburn
Father	OLIVER ELLIS CULPEPPER (died in 1967)
Mother	HELEN JEWELL CULPEPPER 210 East Third Street Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Brother	RALPH LAMAR CULPEPPER Cranshaw Street El Paso, Texas
Sisters	MARTIE (BOB) MC LAUGHLIN 97 (?) Heather El Paso, Texas; MARIE (RANDY) RANELS Clarksville, Tennessee
Occupation	Owner, D. W. Culpepper Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling, El Paso, Texas

MP 157-450

3\*

CULPEPPER repeatedly advised that words he hears in movies and songs are words that he says. He made reference to the movie "Mr. Billion" and he repeatedly made the comment "gonna bust some heads."

At this point in the interview, CULPEPPER was displayed a letter which implicated his father as possibly knowing something about the MARTIN LUTHER KING assassination. CULPEPPER advised his father hated KING and used to show him pictures of KING. He advised President CARTER even talks back to him, four billion goes to charity. He advised that he is certain KING left two billion to each son and he heard this on the radio. He knew of no specific information concerning the KING assassination. He felt his brother, RALPH CULPEPPER, is involved in the assassination in that he has been acting real funny. According to DUDLEY CULPEPPER, his brother started acting funny when Attorney General GRIFFIN BELL talked about the KING assassination being a toss up. He also felt his brother was plotting against him and he felt his father left a will and was worth a lot of money, possibly four billion dollars in gold.

CULPEPPER advised he has received psychiatric treatment and repeatedly asked the interviewing Agent if the Agent thought he was crazy.

CULPEPPER advised that the people at the Dakota County jail were putting speed in his meals; therefore, he has quit eating.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1\*

Date of transcription June 17, 1977

Detective RICHARD HUDELLA, Dakota County Sheriff's Office, Hastings, Minnesota, made available an original letter located in the wallet of DUDLEY WAYNE CULPEPPER.

Interviewed on June 8, 1977 at Hastings, Minnesota File # MP 157-450

by SA DAVID R. KELLER:jw Date dictated June 14, 1977

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.

I Ralph Lamar Culpepper of sound mind  
agree to sign all or any Four Billion  
in cash or gold to D.W. Culpepper.

and understand O.E. Culpepper my father  
Had to do with or murdered Rev.  
Martin Luther King, whether he was  
good or bad for this country.

and understand there is no notary  
seal, but understand it is valid.

and agree I have threatened  
D.W. Culpepper over this matter.

I Ralph Lamar Culpepper agree  
to drop all law suits, which have  
anything to do with any said  
Four Billion dollars

With sound mind  
and agree it is valid

and agree to 150,000.00 per year Hereafter.

Rec'd  
6-8-77  
ok  
6/17/77

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

*File Copy*

TO : Assistant Attorney General

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

DATE: June 21, 1977

Criminal Division

FROM : *CT* Director, FBI  
Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference is made to \_\_\_\_\_ memorandum dated \_\_\_\_\_  
(your file \_\_\_\_\_).

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent \_\_\_\_\_  
dated \_\_\_\_\_ 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. (2)

1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division (Enclosures 2)

1 - Office of Professional Responsibility, USDJ (Enclosures 2)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO . . .

97 JUN 24 1977

FBI/DOJ

Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division  
Attention: Mr. Robert L. Keuch

NOTE: Enclosed is a copy of a FD-302 interview of Dudley Wayne Culpepper on 6/8/77, and a FD-302 interview of Detective Richard Hudella on 6/8/77 wherein he furnished a copy of a letter.

For information, the Dakota County Sheriff's Office Hastings, Minnesota, arrested Culpepper of El Paso, Texas, at Hastings on 6/7/77 on a Texas state warrant for parole violation. Culpepper was in possession of a .32 caliber automatic pistol, two loaded clips, and a box of ammunition. After Culpepper was booked and during search of personal property, the enclosed letter was located in his wallet. The Dakota County Sheriff's Office was in receipt of information that Culpepper was potentially dangerous and had mental problems.

F B I

Date: 6/3/77

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Precedence)

To: Director, FBI (44-38861)

ATTENTION:

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

From: SAC, MOBILE (157-2627) (C)

Subject: MURKIN

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

Summary of Complaint:

JAMES P. DALTON, white male, 30 to 35 years old, voluntarily reported 5/31/77 that information developed by him as an investigatory reporter in Huntsville, Alabama during 1971, suggested MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. may have been killed because of his involvement in the labor dispute of the sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee during 1968. He could furnish no specific information concerning this matter, and stated it was based on his personal conjecture.

INDICES: ☒ Negative ☐ See Summary

ACTION: UACB

☒ No further action being taken and☒ LHM enclosed☐ FD-376 (Enc. to LHM)☐ LHM being submitted☐ Report being submitted☐ Preliminary investigation instituted☐ Limited investigation instituted☐ Investigation continuing

② - Bureau (Enc. 4)

2 - Memphis  
(44-1987)  
(Enc. 2)

1 - Mobile

DOS, ddm

(5)

Approved: 1977

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED  
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

JUN 13 1977

JUN 17 1977

JUN 9 11 47 AM 1977

FBI  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

1. "СВЕТЛО" ил. ерлерге те тен уенген бу. бу. "СВЕТЛО"  
 2. "СВЕТЛО" ил. ерлерге те тен уенген бу. бу. "СВЕТЛО"  
 3. "СВЕТЛО" ил. ерлерге те тен уенген бу. бу. "СВЕТЛО"  
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 8. "СВЕТЛО" ил. ерлерге те тен уенген бу. бу. "СВЕТЛО"  
 9. "СВЕТЛО" ил. ерлерге те тен уенген бу. бу. "СВЕТЛО"  
 10. "СВЕТЛО" ил. ерлерге те тен уенген бу. бу. "СВЕТЛО"

CONFIDENTIAL (S) (C)

(96-5045)

1997



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

Mobile, Alabama

June 3, 1977

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

Set forth hereinafter is an interview form reflecting information furnished by James P. Dalton at Montgomery, Alabama, concerning captioned matter.

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-

ENCLOSURE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 3, 1977

1

JAMES P. DALTON, Field Investigator, Alabama Department of Pensions and Securities, telephone number 832-5953, voluntarily appeared at the Montgomery Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and advised as follows:

He had been employed as an investigatory reporter by Station WAAY-TV, Huntsville, Alabama, from June, 1970 to November, 1971. At that time his name was JAMES DALTON CULPEPPER, but he had his name legally changed during 1975 to the one currently being used. He was also employed as an investigatory reporter by Station WKAB-TV, Montgomery, Alabama, from July, 1974 until July, 1975.

During his employment with WAAY-TV, Huntsville, he developed information which later led him to believe was the possible motive behind the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. at Memphis, Tennessee during 1968. He had no personal knowledge concerning this matter, and it was strictly conjecture on his part, but he wanted to furnish it to the appropriate authorities for consideration and possible investigation if deemed necessary.

During 1971, the sanitation workers of the city of Huntsville became involved in a strike to obtain an hourly wage increase. Approximately two days after the strike started, JOE DAVIS, Mayor of Huntsville, negotiated contract with American Disposal, Inc., a local company headed by GEORGE MC WHIRTER, to handle the garbage pickup and disposal on a temporary basis in Huntsville during the period of the strike. MC WHIRTER was reported to have been formerly connected with McWhirter Materials Handling, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, and this company had merged with another company located in Dallas or Houston, Texas, which was also in the garbage disposal business.

The strike at Huntsville lasted about three months with numerous acts of violence committed during the period by

Interviewed on 5/31/77 at MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA File # MO 157-2627

by SA DAN O. STEPHENS, ddm Date dictated 6/1/77

2

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.

2

individuals sympathetic with or opposed to the strike. Information was developed by DALTON indicating the strike was prolonged at the instigation of MC WHIRTER with the knowledge of Mayor DAVIS, in order to maintain the lucrative contract with the city, and that some of the acts of violence and vandalism were actually encouraged by MC WHIRTER as a means of prolonging the strike. Information was also developed indicating that Mayor DAVIS had possibly received a pay-off from MC WHIRTER and his associates for the contract. Due to MC WHIRTER's out-of-State connections, it was believed by DALTON that he possibly had some involvement with organized crime.

DALTON was unable to expose his findings because his employer feared some type of repercussion might result and is reporting all this information was suppressed.

He was unable to develop any positive information concerning MC WHIRTER's possible connection with any known organized crime figures.

Since a similar situation existed in Memphis, Tennessee during 1968, which resulted in the appearance of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. there on behalf of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to promote non-violence and effect a peaceful settlement of the strike, thus winning increased support of the black sanitation workers, the possibility existed that he was killed for or by individuals supporting some private concern that was handling the city garbage disposal at the time, or attempting to obtain a private contract for this service, and would therefore benefit from a prolonged violence ridden strike.

DALTON had no information of a specific nature concerning this matter. He did not know if any private garbage removal firm was handling the garbage pickup in Memphis during the strike, nor did he know of any concern which was attempting to negotiate with the city of Memphis for this business. He had developed no information indicating that MC WHIRTER or any of his associates were operating in Memphis during this period, and he could furnish no other information which would support his theory in this regard.

3

He displayed an article, however, which he claimed appeared in the "National Inquirer", dated May 31, 1977, which reported that WILLIAM SOMMERSETT, Miami, Florida Union organizer, had claimed that he had overheard a conversation between unidentified members of the Sanitation Workers Union and the Longshoremens Union in Washington, D. C. on April 1, 1968, wherein a statement was made by one of the individuals when discussing the labor situation in Memphis during that time, that if Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING returned to Memphis "we don't have any alternative but to kill him" because his activities in Memphis at the time were harming labor's cause. Article further stated that SOMMERSETT had reported this information to the Miami Police Department authorities and that it had been referred by that agency to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Article further stated that SOMMERSETT claimed he had overheard this conversation while in Washington attending a meeting of the National Labor Relations Board on April 1, 1968.

DALTON could furnish no additional information concerning this matter, nor could he furnish anymore information supporting his belief that Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING was possibly killed for individuals having an interest in prolonging the labor strike of the sanitation workers at Memphis, Tennessee during that period. He stated he had maintained a file on the information developed by him through his investigation concerning MC WHIRTER's involvement with Mayor JOE DAVIS during the strike of the sanitation workers in Huntsville, Alabama during 1971, and would make it available for further review if needed.

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Cochran *epm*

FROM : W. D. Campbell *WDC*

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 6/7/77

1 Mr. Feh1  
 1 - Mr. Helterhoff  
 1 - Mr. Lawn  
 1 - Mr. Peelman  
 1 - Mr. Cochran  
 1 - Mr. Campbell  
 1 - Mr. Killion

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

Reference memo J. S. Peelman to Mr. Feh1  
 May 4, 1977.

PURPOSE:

To set forth results of examination of a magnetic tape furnished the Bureau by Mr. James Chenowich, House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA).

SYNOPSIS:

A technical evaluation of a Bureau produced copy of a tape recording furnished by the HSCA in connection with the Martin Luther King, Jr., assassination was conducted. Analyzed characteristics of the copy and inspection of the HSCA tape indicate the tape and recording method are consistent with those known to have been employed in 1965. It is possible the tape could have been made at that time as alleged, however, no specific indication of a recording date is apparent. Other details of the examination are set forth.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information only.

4 JUN 17 1977

APPROVED: *WDC*

Director _____	Adm. Serv. _____	Legal Coun. _____
Assoc. Dir. _____	Crim. Inv. _____	Plan. & Insp. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____	Fin. & Pers. _____	Rec. Mgmt. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____	Ident. _____	Spec. Inv. _____
	Intell. _____	Tech. Servs. _____
	Laboratory _____	Training _____
		Public Affs. _____

(CONTINUED-OVER)

SAK:dc\*  
 (8)



JUN 30 1977

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

FBI/DOJ

Memorandum W. D. Campbell to Mr. Cochran  
RE: MURKIN

DETAILS:

On 4/29/77 Mr. James Chenowich, HSCA furnished a reel of magnetic tape for reproduction by the FBI. A direct copy of this tape was made the same day in the presence of Mr. Chenowich and SA John C. Lawn. Leader tape was attached to both ends of the HSCA recording to ensure reproduction of the entire tape. Upon completion of the reproduction, the leader tape was removed and the tape was returned to Mr. Chenowich in its original condition.

Because the HSCA tape was provided for only a brief period of time, only limited examination of the tape could be conducted. The following sets forth results of examination of the HSCA tape and technical analysis of the copy of the tape produced at FBIHQ:

Physical inspection of the HSCA tape revealed it to be standard 1/4-inch wide magnetic tape on a standard 5-inch diameter clear plastic reel. Into the plastic of the reel was scratched "BFB 1 4-5-77." The tape had the appearance of standard 1/2 mil (1 mil = .001 inch) thickness. A measured playback time of approximately 59.5 minutes at 3 3/4 inches per second supports the assumption that the tape is standard 1/2 mil thick. The tape backing was polyester plastic and no unusual visual characteristics or coloration of the oxide were noted.

In summary, the reel of tape furnished appeared to be commonly available standard tape and of a length within the expected tolerances of tape manufacturers. This type of tape would have been available in 1965.

Development of the magnetic patterns on the beginning of the HSCA tape revealed that it was recorded in a 1/2-track configuration, that is, the recorded information covers 1/2 the width of the tape. This is a standard tape recording configuration. For the purposes of convention, the recording of the pertinent conversation will be referred to as "side 1." There is present on the tape a second "side" (designated as "side 2") which is a second track of recorded information. This information is recorded backwards relative to side 1, indicating the recorder used was probably 1/2 track monaural. This again is a standard recorder configuration and recorders of this type would have been common in or around 1965.

Memorandum W. D. Campbell to Mr. Cochran  
RE: MURKIN

As indicated previously, the playback time of the tape at standard 3 3/4 inches per second speed was measured to be approximately 59.5 minutes. The recorded information on side 1 and 2 is, however, of substantially shorter duration. The recordings have the effect of continuously slowing down causing the voices to drop in pitch and requiring constant upward speed adjustment of the playback recorder to normalize the speech. The observed effect is however opposite to that which normally occurs when batteries grow weak on battery-operated recorders. There might be other explanations for this effect based upon mechanical considerations of the recorder transport mechanism but exact cause cannot be determined without specific knowledge of the type of recorder used. Speed-correction of the recording revealed that the side 1 recording was approximately 34 minutes duration. The conversation on side 1 ran off the end of the tape. The side 2 recording was measured at approximately 35 1/2 minutes duration and the conversation terminated prior to the end of the tape.

The following additional information is provided concerning specific items of interest.

1) Nothing unusual about the physical characteristics of the HSCA tape to indicate the age of the recording was observed. Some oxide was missing from the very end of the tape which usually indicates the tape has been used to a considerable extent. It is entirely possible that the tape could have been used to record a conversation in 1965.

2) There is no clear indication of whether the HSCA tape was an original or a copy. This kind of determination is dependent upon availability of the recorder used to make the recording as well as further detailed study of the HSCA tape.

3) The acoustic characteristics of the recording (reverberation, enhanced low frequency components to the voices, extraneous noises) indicate the recording could have

Memorandum W.D. Impbell to Mr. Cochran  
RE: MURKIN

been made in an automobile or other vehicle. If a remote microphone was used, it would not be necessary that the recorder itself be in the passenger compartment. At approximately 21 minutes 23 seconds into side 1, the recording indicates Blair to be returning to the vehicle. The sound of the vehicle door slamming shut behind him is audible. Little other vehicular traffic is evident on side 1. At 5 minutes 4 seconds a passing vehicle is audible, at 5 minutes 55 seconds a sound similar to squealing tires is present and at 6 minutes 35 seconds a series of distant explosions is audible to which Baird comments "Backfires."

The side 2 recording was made in an environment similar to side 1. On side 2 considerably more extraneous noise is evident. At 1 minute 3 seconds, 2 minute 48 seconds and at 5 minutes 13 seconds traffic is heard to pass. At 25 minutes 36 seconds and again at 28 minutes, 44 seconds jet aircraft are audible and quite pronounced, indicating the vehicle is parked relatively close to an airport. It should be kept in mind, however, that sides 1 and 2 are independent recordings and could have been made at substantially different times. There is, further, no technical indication of which side, side 1 or side 2, was recorded first.

4) It is very likely that the "introduction" did not occur in sequence with the remainder of the side 1 recording. For approximately 8 seconds prior to the "introduction" the recorder was activated. Although no voice is audible there are audible tones present on the recording. Frequency measurement of these tones indicate the tape was running slower than normal speed and was continuously decreasing in speed (discussed previously).

Memorandum W. D. Campbell to Mr. Cochran  
RE: MURKIN

Beginning 8 seconds into the recording and continuing for another 50 seconds (the segment which includes the "introduction") the tones suddenly shift upward in frequency and the recording occurs at normal speed. Immediately following the "introduction", 58 seconds into the recording, the tones shift downward in frequency discontinuously to a point comparable to the first 8 seconds of the recording. The "introduction" begins with an apparent recorder start transient, a recorder stop transient is evident at the end of the introduction, but no similar start transient is apparent. The above suggests that the "introduction" may have been inserted over the existing recording but a more definitive conclusion on this point cannot be reached without developing and examining the magnetic patterns on the HSCA tape.

5-6) The recorder appears to have been activated manually. Bumping and handling of the microphone is audible prior to recorder turnoff during the conversations. This suggests that the remote switch which activates the recorder may be incorporated in the microphone housing. During the conversation on side 1, the recorder was stopped and started on two occasions, at 14 minutes 40 seconds and again at 21 minutes 10 seconds. These stops do not occur during the pertinent conversations.

7) Indications are that the tape was manually turned over to obtain recordings on both sides. No auto-reverse markings or sensor tape was observed on the HSCA tape and there is no time relationship between the respective recordings on side 1 and 2 to indicate auto-reverse had occurred.

44-38861-6235

**CHANGED TO**

62-117290-257X4

JUL 20 1978

CMK/NK

HCI294 1682300 SA0376 1682300

PP HQ KX

DE SA

P 172255Z JUN 77

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Serv.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Fin. & Pers.	_____
Ident.	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Insp.	_____
Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

FM SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) RUC  
TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY  
KNOXVILLE PRIORITY

BT

E F T O  
MURKIN

*Peelman*  
*cc: [signature]*

ON JUNE 17, 1977, MARGARET PARR, 162 NORTH LIBERTY, NEW  
BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, VOLUNTARILY APPEARED AT SAN ANTONIO OFFICE  
OF FBI AND ADVISED THAT SHE HAD BEEN A CLOSE FRIEND OF WELDON  
GRIMSLEY, EDITOR OF THE MANCHESTER TIMES, A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER  
IN MANCHESTER, TENNESSEE, AND FORMERLY NEWS BUREAU CHIEF AT  
FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA, FOR THE PENSACOLA NEWS-JOURNAL.  
GRIMSLEY REPORTEDLY DIED ON JUNE 12, 1977 AT MANCHESTER,  
TENNESSEE.

REC-106

44-38861-

DURING VISIT WITH PARR ON MAY 8, 1977 AT FORT WALTON BEACH,  
FLORIDA, GRIMSLEY STATED THAT HE HAD COVERED IN DETAIL FOR A  
NEWSPAPER THE TRIAL OF JAMES EARL RAY AND HAD INTERVIEWED RAY

JUN 29 1977

10-70 TO AAG/CD  
6-27-77  
HWH:das  
1-AAG CRD  
1-OPR, ASD  
1-CIU

SEE FILE COPY

97 JUN 30 1977

*[signature]*

PAGE TWO SA 44-1242 CLEAR

ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS. RAY ALLEGEDLY MADE AVAILABLE TO GRIMSLEY NUMEROUS PHOTOGRAPHS INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHS OF "RAUL" WHO ALLEGEDLY RESIDED IN HOUSTON AND CONTINUES TO RESIDE IN HOUSTON. PARR WAS UNAWARE IF "RAUL" IS CUBAN OR MEXICAN-AMERICAN. GRIMSLEY ALLEGEDLY COPIED THESE PHOTOGRAPHS PRIOR TO RETURNING THE ORIGINALS TO RAY AND PARR FEELS THAT THESE PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE LOCATED IN GRIMSLEY'S APARTMENT IN MANCHESTER, TENNESSEE. GRIMSLEY HAS A 14 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER AND 20 OR 21 YEAR OLD SON WHO MAY BE IN THE PROCESS OF DISPOSING OF GRIMSLEY'S PERSONAL PROPERTY.

GRIMSLEY INDICATED TO PARR THAT HE WAS RETURNING TO TENNESSEE TO PURSUE HIS REPORTING ON THE JAMES EARL RAY CASE INDICATING THAT HE FELT THAT RAY MAY HAVE BEEN INNOCENT AND THAT RAY WAS IN FEAR FOR HIS LIFE, BOTH IN PRISON AND OUT. GRIMSLEY DEPARTED FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA MAY 19, 1977 ENROUTE TO MANCHESTER, TENNESSEE.

PARR INDICATED THAT A LIFE-LONG ACQUAINTANCE OF GRIMSLEY IS PAT MIZE WHO CURRENTLY RESIDES IN BERNIE, MISSOURI AND SHE FEELS THAT GRIMSLEY MAY HAVE FURNISHED SIMILAR INFORMATION TO

PAGE THREE SA 44-1242 CLEAR

HER.

KNOXVILLE AT MANCHESTER, WILL ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY AND  
INTERVIEW SURVIVORS OF GRIMSLEY AND ATTEMPT TO LOCATE  
ALLEGED PHOTOGRAPHS OF "RAUL".

BT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division  
Attn: Mr. Robert L. Keuch

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

DATE: June 27, 1977

Reference is made to \_\_\_\_\_ memorandum dated \_\_\_\_\_  
(your file \_\_\_\_\_).

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent \_\_\_\_\_  
dated \_\_\_\_\_ 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 - Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

1 - Office of Professional Responsibility  
U. S. Department of Justice

HNH:sas

97 JUN 30 1977

FBI/DOJ

Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division  
Attn: Mr. Robert L. Keuch

NOTE: Enclosed is a copy of a San Antonio teletype dated 6/17/77, and a copy of a Knoxville teletype dated 6/24/77.

For your information our Memphis Office is attempting to interview Gregory Grimsly and Mrs. Lou Grimsly in an attempt to locate photograph or develop positive information re "Raul."

KX0004 1751835Z

PP HQ ME

DE KX

P 241835Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (44-696) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS PRIORITY

BT

E F T O

MURKIN.

RE SAN ANTONIO TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND KNOXVILLE,

JUNE 17, 1977.

COPY OF RE TELETYPE BEING FORWARDED MEMPHIS VIA  
TELECOPIER.

WELDON PAYNE, PUBLISHER, "MANCHESTER TIMES,"  
MANCHESTER, TENNESSEE, ADVISED JUNE 22 LAST, WELDON  
GRIMSLY'S SON, GREGORY, RESIDES AT 614-A CLARIDGE  
DRIVE, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, TELEPHONE 889-0266,  
(UNLISTED), AND DAUGHTER RESIDES WITH EX-WIFE, MRS.  
LOU GRIMSLY, 3104 LAUREL FOREST DRIVE, NASHVILLE. <sup>REC-106</sup> 44-38861-

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Serv.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Fin. & Pers.	_____
Ident.	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Insp.	_____
Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

0-70 TO AAG/CD

6/27/77

HMH: SAS

1- AAG, CRD

1- OPR, NISOT

1- CIB

SIC FILE COPY

97 JUN 30 1977

PAGE TWO KNOXVILLE 44-696 E F T O

GREGORY CAME TO MANCHESTER AFTER FATHER'S DEATH AND GOT ALL OF HIS PERSONAL POSSESSIONS FROM RESIDENCE. ALSO, POSSIBLY HIS EX-WIFE HAS SOME OF HIS PERSONAL BELONGINGS.

GRIMSLY WAS EMPLOYED, MAY 23, 1977, AS THE EDITOR OF THE "MANCHESTER TIMES." PRIOR TO THIS EMPLOYMENT, HE WORKED AS THE STATE EDITOR FOR THE "NASHVILLE BANNER" AND WAS NEWS BUREAU CHIEF FOR THE "PENSACOLA JOURNAL," FT. WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA. GRIMSLY COVERED THE TRIAL OF JAMES EARL RAY AND HAD INTERVIEWED HIM IN THE PAST AND APPARENTLY HAD AN IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW WITH RAY AND WAS ABLE TO ESTABLISH A GOOD RAPPORT WITH RAY.

PAYNE CONSIDERED HIMSELF A PERSONAL FRIEND OF GRIMSLY AND FELT HAD GRIMSLY HAD POSITIVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS MATTER, HE WOULD HAVE TOLD HIM SO.

PAYNE NOT FAMILIAR WITH MARGARET PARR, NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS.

PAYNE FELT LIKE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS MAY BE

PAGE THREE KNOXVILLE 44-696 E F T O

ABLE TO FURNISH INFORMATION RE THIS MATTER:

JEANIE SUMRELL, DISPATCHER FOR THE SANTA ROSA, FLORIDA, SO, HOME PHONE 904/623-4539, SO NUMBER 623-3691, WHO WAS DATING GRIMSLY ON A REGULAR BASIS.

GENE BAKER, APARTMENT H-243, 4640 DELON STREET, FT. MEYERS, FLORIDA, WHO IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN GRIMSLY'S BEST FRIEND.

MEMPHIS AT NASHVILLE. INTERVIEW GREGORY GRIMSLY AND MRS. LOU GRIMSLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO LOCATE PHOTOGRAPH OR DEVELOP POSITIVE INFORMATION RE "RAUL."

LEADS TO HAVE JEANIE SUMRELL AND GENE BAKER INTERVIEWED BEING LEFT TO DISCRETION OF MEMPHIS PENDING RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION AT NASHVILLE.

BT

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ Airtel **AIRTEL**

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date **6/27/77**

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
 FROM: SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) (P)  
 SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Knoxville airtels to Louisville dated 6/16/77 and 6/21/77.

For information of Bureau and Memphis, referenced communications reflect that on 6/15/77, SANDY WEBB, Assignment Editor, WATE-TV (NBC), Knoxville, Tennessee, received a letter, contents of which are hereinafter set forth verbatim, addressed to "WATE, DAVID R. ELVINDRIN, Channel 6, NBC TV, Knoxville, Tennessee." Said letter is postmarked "Marshes Siding 42631" on June 13, 1977. DAVID R. ELVINDRIN is unknown at WATE-TV, Knoxville, Tennessee, and Louisville indices regarding ELVINDRIN negative.

Following is verbatim transcript of above described letter which was unsigned:

"Dear Sir:

"Just a few lines to say I am sorry but Mr Ray did not kill Dr. King. I was down at Knoxville and overheard a Kubin (Cuban) say he did kill Dr. King. He was drink and tell a woman the story and said he hope King was kill so he could not tell anyone the truth. He want to go back to Kubie and get away from thir so I don't believe Ray did kill anyone. If you had listen at Ray you would know the truth and take all to heart and see. I am a black man and hope you leason (listen) to the fact. So long think you very much."

- ② - Bureau  
 1 - Knoxville (44-696)  
 2 - Memphis  
 2 - Louisville

EVA/scs  
 (7)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_

(Number)

(Time)

Per \_\_\_\_\_

**REC-124**  
**44-38861-6238**  
**2-12**  
**7 JUN 29 1977**  
**NKIE**

79 JUL 25 1977

(11-17-77) (11-17-77)

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FBI

JUN 30 9 34 AM 1977

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION  
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LS 44-947

Although above described letter is ambiguous and lacking in specifics, Louisville believes some effort should be made to identify the writer and thereafter interview him concerning any specific information he might possess, UACB.

LEAD:

LOUISVILLE DIVISION:

AT MARSHES SIDING (MC CREARY COUNTY), KENTUCKY:

Attempt to identify author of above anonymous letter, noting author claims to be "black man", thereafter interviewing him to ascertain specifics of allegation.

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ Airtel     **AIRTEL**

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date **7/14/77**

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fin. & Pers. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spec. Inv. **10/24**  
 Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
 FROM: SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) (RUC)  
 SUBJECT: **MURKIN**

Re Louisville airtel to Bureau dated 6/27/77.

On 6/30/77, HURSTLE SLAVEN, Postmaster, Marshes Siding, McCreary County, Kentucky, stated that there are no Black families residing in Marshes Siding. He was displayed the writing on the envelope which was sent to WATE-TV, Knoxville, Tennessee and advised he is not familiar with that handwriting.

On 6/30/77, RAYMOND STRUNK, owner, Strunk's Grocery, Marshes Siding, Kentucky, stated that there are no Black families living in Marshes Siding and he has no Black customers. It should be noted that Strunk's Grocery is adjacent to the Marshes Siding Post Office.

On 6/30/77, Captain J. W. STRUNK, McCreary County Police, Whitley City, Kentucky, was contacted and stated there are no Black families residing in McCreary County, Kentucky, or Marshes Siding, Kentucky.

Since investigation has failed to disclose any Black man or family residing in Marshes Siding, McCreary County, Kentucky, no further investigation will be conducted by Louisville.

② - Bureau  
 1 - Knoxville (44-696)  
 1 - Memphis  
 1 - Louisville  
 RWM/scs  
 (5)

0-70 to AAG, Crim. Div (Attn: Robert Keuch)  
 1-AAG, Civil Rights Div (C)  
 1-Office of Profess. Responsibility, USDI

HMM 13/12  
 7/14/77

REC-131

SEE FILE COPY

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted: \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) (Time) **JUL 28 1977**

**79 AUG 05 1977**

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-441100) (P)  
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000) (P)  
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

[Several paragraphs of illegible teletype text follow]

RECEIVED  
JUL 16 10 45 PM '77  
FBI  
U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS  
FBI  
JUL 10 7 25 AM 1977

*7/16/77*

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date 7/18/77

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
 FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)  
 SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Springfield airtel to the Bureau dated 6/23/77,  
 captioned "JAMES EARL RAY, Aka, ET AL, UFAC - ESCAPE".

Enclosed herewith for is the original and four  
 copies of an LHM in captioned matter.

Enclosed for Chicago are two copies of LHM. Chicago  
 should disseminate information to Immigration and Naturalization  
 Service locally.

REC-131

44-38861-6240

JUL 20 1977

- 2 - Bureau (44-38861) (Encls. 5)  
 2 - Chicago (Encls. 2)  
 1 - Springfield (44-561)

EAS/bbs  
 (5)

ENCLOSURE

0-70 to  
 HUN: 200  
 7-21-77

AAG/CD attn. Mr. Robert  
 1-AAG/CRD L. Kersch  
 1-OPR  
 1-INS  
 1-CHA  
 1-ESU

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_

(Number)

(Time)

Per \_\_\_\_\_

79 AUG 05 1977



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Springfield, Illinois  
July 18, 1977

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

On June 21, 1977, Kent Collins, Newscaster, KHQA TV, Quincy, Illinois, advised that on night of June 20, 1977, Jerry Ray, the brother of James Earl Ray, contacted KHQA - TV and wanted to be interviewed concerning James Earl Ray.

Jerry Ray advised that he has been employed as a greens keeper at a country club in suburban Chicago, Illinois area. However, Jerry Ray has lost his jobs due to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) pressure after Jerry Ray stated that the country club also employs a number of illegal aliens and the country club did not want Federal authorities messing around the country club.

Jerry Ray stated James Earl Ray does not want to go to a Federal prison because Justice Department people will see that James Earl Ray is never heard of again.

✓ Jerry Ray stated that Jerry Ray has been in contact with members of the House Committee on assassinations and that during the past few days he has talked to Walter Fanteroy. This has been since James Earl Ray's escape and recapture.

James Ray claimed that a business card was found in the car James Earl Ray drove in Memphis at the time of the assassination of King. This card belongs to an individual who also had the use of the car and it has been established

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-  
ENCLOSURE

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR.

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that this person was connected with Central Intelligence Agency. Jerry Ray claimed his brother, James Earl Ray, was set up concerning King's assassination and that there is a witness who was four blocks away at the time of King's death who can verify Ray could not have killed King.

Jerry Ray saw James Earl Ray a few days before the escape and at that time James Earl Ray was very despondent so Jerry Ray was not surprised at the escape attempt.

Jerry Ray stated that definitely James Earl Ray does not want to go to the Federal Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois. He stated that at one time before, Federal authorities attempted to place James Earl Ray in the Federal hospital at Springfield, Missouri, in attempt to keep James Earl Ray from talking.

The Quincy Herald-Whig, Quincy, Illinois, dated June 21, 1977, contained the following article concerning an interview by Jerry Ray:

## Brother says Ray saw escape as last hope

By PAUL COLGAN

James Earl Ray was despondent over reports the House Assassination Committee was to be disbanded when he tried to escape from a Tennessee prison earlier this month, his younger brother, Jerry, said in Quincy Monday.

Jerry, 41, who lost his job as a nightwatchman at a country club near Chicago last week because of the attention his brother's escape brought, was in Quincy to visit his sister at a nursing home.

Both Rays lived in Quincy for a time in their youth.

Jerry talked about his brother in a two-hour interview. The following is a portion of that interview.

Jerry Ray said his brother considered the Congressional investigation his last hope to be exonerated in connection with the 1967 Martin Luther King slaying.

Jerry Ray maintained that his brother was innocent of the killing and was "set-up" by others to take the blame.

"He was depressed because he knew they had a thing underway to discredit the assassination committee and try to abolish it," Jerry Ray explained.

Jerry had talked with James on the Sunday before June 10 when James and six fellow prisoners scaled the wall of the Brushy Mountain State Prison in Petros, Tenn.

"He told me 'that's the only hope I've got left,'" Jerry Ray explained. "He said 'if they abolish the committee, I'll just have to get out some other way.'"

"At the time it didn't hit me, what he meant," Jerry said. A New York Times article about trouble in the committee and

moves to abolish it published a couple of weeks before his escape was the cause of James' depression, according to Jerry Ray.

"The New York Times article set him off," Jerry Ray said.

James Earl Ray has exhausted nearly every legal avenue he had, including a review by the U. S. Supreme Court, in attempts to have his case retried. Ray had pleaded guilty to the killing in return for a life sentence instead of death in 1968 for the King killing.

Later, after he was sentenced, Ray began to talk of a conspiracy and that he had not acted alone in the killing.

Now his brother Jerry maintains that James had nothing to do with the killing but rather was used as a "set-up guy" to take the blame for the killing.

"He has witnesses to prove he was at a service station four blocks away," at the time of the assassination, Jerry claimed.

"The only evidence they could use against him was that he had his fingerprints on the rifle," Jerry Ray said. He claimed James bought the rifle but didn't shoot it.

A rifle found after the King shooting in Memphis, which is believed to be the murder weapon, had James Earl Ray's fingerprints on it.

Because he believes his brother innocent, Jerry said he feared for his brother during the escape, thinking that other involved in the conspiracy might have arranged the escape to kill him. "There was something strange about it," Jerry said.

"A lot of people would like to see him dead," Jerry added.

"I don't know if he was tricked out or if it was a legal escape," Jerry Ray explained. "The reason I thought he might have been tricked out was because so many guys went and he never did operate that way before. Before every time he escaped it was by himself. And this time they had seven of them that took off so I figured there might have been some trickery going on."

Jerry Ray said he didn't believe his brother planned the escape.

"The guys he hung around with, they didn't escape with him."

Jerry said he has not talked with his brother since the escape because James is being held in solitary confinement for 30 days after the escape.

But prison officials contradict Jerry's version, saying it was a well-planned escape complete with a diversion to draw attention away from the secluded section of the walled prison where James Ray and his comrades used a pipe ladder to climb a wall and escape.

Ray was captured four days later hiding under a pile of leaves in the wooded mountains surrounding the prison.

Brushy Mountain was considered escape proof but Ray had always contended he could escape from any prison. He had been on the run from an escape from Jefferson City prison in Missouri when he became involved in the King assassination.

Also, Jerry Ray claims that the federal officials did not want a Congressional investigation into the King assassination and that the FBI and CIA were trying to stop Ray from talking.

Jerry claimed the name of a