PAGE THREE BH 44-L740 UNCLAS E F T O

TO COMMIT A CRIME OF VIOLENCE INASMUCH AS HE ONLY WANTED TO

GET SOMETHING TO DRINK AND GET DRUNK.

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FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

ALL OFFICES VIA FBIHQ

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT

MURKIN; DO: MEMPHIS.

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., INMATE, OCEAN SPRINGS CITY JAIL, 6318X3

OCEAN SPRINGE, MISSISSIPPI, WAS INTERVIEWED BY FBI AGENTS, AUGUST

19, 1978, REGARDING HIS ALLEGED KNOWLEDGE AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING AFTER HAVING WAIVES HELD 25 1978

RIGHTS, AND HE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

WILSON ADVISED THAT THE TIME PRIOR TO THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, HE WAS LIVING IN GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, IN A HOUSE ON



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PAGE 2 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T 0

BYERS ROAD WITH HIS WIFE, BETTY LOU, AND HIS THREE CHILDREN,

DEBORAH, STEVE, AND MARK. HE WAS IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVE AND ALSO

OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE.

IN THE COURSE OF HIS JEWELRY BUSINESS, HE MET A WHITE MALE ITALIAN WHO WAS IN HIS LATE SIXTIES AND WAS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET 9 INCHES TALL, WEIGHED APPROXIMATELY 230 POUNDS, AND WHO OPERATED A JEWELRY TRADE SHOP ON WALNUT STREET. HE STATED THAT THIS WHITE MALE INTRODUCED HIM TO ANOTHER WHITE MALE ITALIAN BY THE NAME OF MITCH (LNU), WHO WAS IN HIS MID FIFTIES AND WAS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET 10 INCHES TALL, AND WEIGHED APPROXIMATELY 190 POUNDS, WHO HAD BLACK, WAVY HAIR AND HAD SOME CONNECTION WITH A BONDING COMPANY, AND ALSO MITCH'S BROTHER, NAME NOT RECALLED, WHO FIT THE SAME PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AS MITCH, BUT WHO HAD NUMEROUS CUT SCARS ON HIS FACE.

HE STATED THAT MITCH STARTED DELIVERING JEWELRY TO HIM FOR THE PURPOSE OF HAVING THE STONES REMOVED FROM THE FITTINGS. HE STATED MITCH USUALLY MET HIM AT A BAR ON WALNUT STREET WHICH WAS RUN BY A WHITE FEMALE AND IT ALSO APPEARED THAT MITCH MIGHT HAVE BEEN A PART OWNER OR HAD AN INTEREST IN THIS BAR. HE STATED THAT DUE TO THE VOLUME OF JEWELRY THAT MITCH WAS BRINGING TO HIM, HE

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ASKED MITCH ABOUT IT, AND MITCH ADVISED HIM THAT IT WAS STOLEN

JEWELRY. MITCH TOLD HIM, HOWEVER, THAT HE, WILSON, WAS IN AS DEEP

AS HE, MITCH, WAS AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH

MITCH. HE STATED THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH MITCH CONTINUED UNTIL

1970.

HE STATED THAT MITCH BROUGHT UP THE IDEA OF KILLING KING AND SAID THAT THERE WAS A \$50,000 CONTRACT ON HIM. HOWEVER, HE NEVER SAID WHO PUT OUT THE CONTRACT BUT SAID THAT HE COULD GET THE MONEY FOR WILSON IF HE KILLED KING.

WILSON STATED THAT MITCH WAS WELL AWARE OF HIS, WILSON'S,
THOUGHTS CONCERNING KING AND THE BLACK CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, IN
THAT HIS FATHER, WHO WAS A PASTOR OF THE CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH AT
GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI, DIED OF A HEART ATTACK WHICH HE, WILSON,
THOUGHT WAS CAUSED AS A RESULT OF RACIAL TENSIONS AT GRENADA
BROUGHT ON BY THE FORCEFUL INTEGRATION OF HIS FATHER'S CHURCH.

WILSON STATED THAT APPROXIMATELY FIVE OR SIX MONTHS BEFORE KING'S MURDER, HE STARTED GATHERING INFORMATION ON THE MOVEMENTS, HABITS, AND WHEREABOUTS OF KING.

WILSON ADVISED THAT HE HAD A RED AND WHITE BONANZA AIRPLANE,
REGISTER NUMBER 34L, AND A CESSNA 310 TWIN-ENGINE AIRCRAFT, WHICH

PAGE 4 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

WAS BLUE AND WHITE, WHICH PLANES HE USED TO FLY TO DIFFERENT PLACES

WHERE KING WAS SUPPOSED TO BE. HE STATED THAT HE RECALLS GOING TO

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA; TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI; JACKSON, TENNESSEE;

ATLANTA, GEORGIA; AND GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA. HE STATED THAT

WHILE AT TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI, HE STAYED IN THE RAMADA INN AND

BELIEVES THAT IN THE OTHER PLACES HE VISITED HE STAYED IN HOLIDAY

INNS.

HE STATED THAT MITCH FURNISHED HIM A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE.

HE STATED THAT HE KEPT THE RIFLE AND THAT JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS OF 1975, HE HAD IT REWORKED AT A GUNSHOP IN COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, ON FOURTH STREET ACROSS FROM A BANK. HE STATED THAT THE LAST KNOW-LEDGE HE HAD OF THE RIFLE, HIS OLDER SON, STEVEN WAYNE WILSON, HAD THE RIFLE AND A SHOTGUN BUT HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD SOLD IT.

MR. WILSON ADVISED THAT THERE WAS A GARBAGE STRIKE IN PROGRESS AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND THAT MITCH CALLED HIM AT HIS STORE IN GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, AND TOLD HIM THAT KING WAS COMING TO MEMPHIS FOR A RALLY AND INSTRUCTED WILSON TO COME TO MEMPHIS WHERE HE WAS TO MEET TWO MEN AT THE WONDER BAR LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF SUMMER AVENUE AND WHITE STATION ROAD.

MR. WILSON ADVISED THAT HE FLEW TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, IN THE

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BONANZA AIRCRAFT AND LANDED AT AN AIRPORT JUST NORTH OF RALEIGH,
TENNESSEE. HE STATED THAT THE AIRPORT WAS OPERATED BY A LONG-TIME
ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS WHO HAD ATTENDED A CHURCH WHICH WAS PASTORED
BY WILSON'S FATHER IN THE PAST. WILSON STATED THAT HIS DAUGHTER,
DEBORAH, PICKED HIM UP AT THE AIRPORT IN HER 1965 WHITE MUSTANG,
WHICH WILSON HAD PREVIOUSLY BOUGHT FOR HER AND WHICH WAS REGISTERED
IN HIS NAME IN MISSOURI.

HE ADVISED THAT DEBORAH AND HER MOTHER, BETTY LOU, WERE STAYING AT THE RESIDENCE OF WILSON'S FATHER-IN-LAW, VERNON HOOTEN, 3095 RUSKIN ROAD, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. HE STATED THAT HOOTEN HAD HAD A HEART ATTACK AND THAT HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER WERE TEMPORARILY STAYING AT THE HOOTEN RESIDENCE.

WILSON ADVISED THAT HE WENT TO THE WONDER BAR AND WHILE HAVING A DRINK TWO WHITE MEN APPROACHED HIM, ONE HAVING AN ACCENT SIMILAR TO A PLENTO RICAN.

THE TWO WHITE MALES FURNISHED HIM WITH FBI CREDENTIALS, WHICH
HE STATED HAD A BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPH OF HIMSELF ON IT,
AND THEY TOOK HIM AND SHOWED HIM WHERE, KING WAS TO HOLD THE RALLY.
THEY THEN TOOK WILSON TO A HOTEL ON SOUTH MAIN STREET NEAR BEALE
STREET AND TOOK HIM TO A ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR. THEY TOLD HIM

PAGE 6 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

HE WAS TO BE IN THE CROWD AT THE RALLY AND THAT A DECOY SHOT WAS TO BE FIRED AND THAT HE WAS THEN TO SHOOT. THEY SAID THAT KING HAD A HABIT OF RAISING HIS ARMS OVER HIS HEAD WHEN HE WAS MAKING A SPEECH AND THAT THE SECOND TIME THAT HE DID SO. THE SHOTS WERE TO BE FIRED.

WILSON STATED THAT ON THE DAY OF THE MURDER HE WAS IN THE CROWD STANDING NEAR A WOOD FENCE APPROXIMATELY 60 FEET FROM WHERE KING WAS STANDING AND THAT WHEN KING RAISED HIS ARMS THE SECOND TIME HE SHOT HIM.

MR. WILSON ADVISED THAT HE HAD THE RIFLE WHICH HE USED STRAPPED TO HIS BELT UNDER A SUIT COAT AND ATTACHED TO HIS BELT ON A SWIVEL. HE STATED THAT THE BARREL PROTRUDED FROM BELOW HIS COAT BUT NO ONE QUESTIONED HIM CONCERNING IT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD PRACTICED A GREAT DEAL SWIVELING THE RIFLE AND FIRING IT.

HE ADVISED THAT AFTER THE SHOOTING, HE WAS STOPPED BY THE MEMPHIS POLICE, BUT HE SHOWED THEM THE CREDENTIALS, AND THEY LET HIM GO, AND HE WALKED ON DOWN THE STREET APPROXIMATELY TWO BLOCKS TO WHERE HE HAD LEFT THE MUSTANG PARKED. HE ADVISED THAT HE GOT IN THE MUSTANG AND DROVE BACK TO THE HOOTEN RESIDENCE, AND HIS DAUGHTER, DEBORAH, THEN TOOK HIM TO THE AIRPORT, AND HE GOT HIS PLANE AND FLEW BACK TO KANSAS CITY. HE STATED THAT THE AIRPORT

PAGE 7 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

THAT HE USED WAS ON THE KANSAS SIDE ON THE HIGHWAY TO OLATHE,

KANSAS. HE STATED THE AIRPORT WAS RUN BY (FNU) FISHER. HE ALSO

STATED THAT HE HAD PURCHASED THE BONANZA AIRCRAFT FROM FISHER.

WILSON ADVISED THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK BEFORE THE MURDER, MITCH GAVE HIM \$25,000 IN \$20 BILLS, AND FOLLOWING THE MURDER, MITCH GAVE HIM ANOTHER \$25,000, AT WHICH TIME HE GAVE THE CREDENTIALS BACK TO MITCH.

WILSON ADVISED THAT HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF JAMES EARL RAY HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN THE CONSPIRACY.

THE ABOVE INFORMATION REFLECTS COMPLETE DETAILS OF INTERVIEW WITH WILSON.

WILSON HAS SIGNED EXTRADITION PAPERS, AND EXTRADITION IN PROGRESS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

APPROPRIATE RECIPIENTS REQUESTED TO REINTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE INCONSISTENCIES CONCERNING HIS APPEARANCE IN MEMPHIS ON APRIL 4, 1968.

CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ALLOWING TWO AGENTS FROM MEMPHIS DIVISION WHO ARE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE MURKIN MATTER TO REINTERVIEW WILSON CONCERNING HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING AND ALSO INTERVIEW

PAGE 8 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

BY POLYGRAPH OPERATOR FROM MEMPHIS DIVISION.

BT

FOR ANY CORRECTIONS PLESASE CONTACT JACKSON

SA0: 9 OO HQ ME JN Dep. AD Adm. Dep. AD Inv. Asst. Dir.: 19 Aug 78 01 08-DE SA Adm. Serv Crim. Inv. MXXX ident. 0 180103ZAUG 78 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Intell. Laboratory (44-12460) MUNDCATIONS SECTION > FM SAN ANTONIO Legal Coun. Plan, & Insp. Rec. Mgnt. TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE Tech. Servs. Training Public Affs. Off. MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE Telephone Rm. Directoris Sec'y JACKSON IMMEDIATE ZI UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH BUILDING.

QURKIN.

RECORDS, IDENTIFICATION BUREAU, BEXAR COUNTY JAIL, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, ON AUGUST 18, 1978, INDICATE BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., WHITE MALE,

PΙΙ

5 FT, 11 INCHES, BLACK HAIR, BROWN EYES, BOOKED INTO BEXAR COUNTY JAIL JUNE 19, 1972 ON CONTEMPT OF COURT OUT OF STATE DISTRICT COURT 57 (CASE NUMBER F 248-084). WILSON SERVED

TWELVE DAYS AND WAS RELEASED CENTRAL RECORDS, BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT COURT, WILL

NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW UNTIL AUGUST 21, 1978.

ADMINISTRATIVE: ME MEMPHIS TEL, AUGUST 18, 1978. 5 SEP 25 1978 SAN ANTONIO INDICES AND FILES REVEAL BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., WHITE MALE, BORN 8/28/31, TEXAS DRIVERS LICENSE (TDL)

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REC'D-O'V RIGHTS

Aug 21 1 07 P7 19740 08 PH '78

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PAGE TWO SA #4-1242 FFTO

NUMBER 7911315 EXPIRING 8/20/80, PREVIOUS ADDRESS,

113 MILLS STREET, SAN MARCOS, TEXAS IS SUBJECT OF SAN ANTONIO

FILE 29-2620 CAPTIONED "BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.: BF&E";

OO: SAN ANTONIO. WILSON ALLEDGEDLY DEFAULTED ON A \$1,000

NOTE AT KYLE STATE BANK, KYLE, TEXAS AND IN A

SECURITY AGREEMENT AND FINANCING STATEMENT FILED WITH THE

HAYES COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE, WILSON INDICATED THAT

THE \$1,000 NOTE WAS OBTAINED TO PURCHASE CATTLE.

NCIC INQUIRY REVEALED BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.,

BORN 8/28/31 IN MISSISSIPPI, SSAN TDL

77911315 WANTED BY NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT AS

PROBATION VIOLATOR, DATE OF WARRANT 4/18/78.

SAW ANTONIO AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, WILL REVIEW BEXAR
COUNTY DISTRICT COURT RECORDS RE IDENTITY OF CHILDREN OF BURGESS
AUDIE WILSON, JR. IN EFFORT TO LOCATE FORMER WIFE FOR INTERVIEW.

AT NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, WILL CAUSE A REVIEW OF RECORDS OF LOGICAL POLICE AGENCIES REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.,

AT SAN MARCOS, TEXAS, WILL CONDUCT DISCREET INQUIRY TO
DETERMINE IF RESIDENCE OF FORMER WIFE AND FAMILY FOR INTERVIEW.
BT

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VFM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

VD ALLAS PRIORITY

JACKSON PRIORITY

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ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH.

MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPES TO BUREAU AUGUST 18, 1978, NO COPIES TO BIRMINGHAM OR DALLAS.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF BIRMINGHAM AND DALLAS, ON AUGUST 18, 1978, GENE BARASDALE, SHERIFF, SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., ADVISED THAT THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 17, 1978, HE RECEIVED 2 TELEPHONE CALLS FROM BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. WILSON, WHO WAS FORMERLY IN THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS, TENN., WITH BARK SDALE, INFORMED THE SHERIFF THAT HE HAD KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968 AT MEMPHIS; THAT HE HAD KILLED DR. MARTIN MUSTANG FROM KANSAS CITY MISSOURI, TO MEMPHIS 3 DAYS PRIOR TO KING'S DEATH AND WISHED TO SURRENDER TO REC-20 44-388 6/-6318

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PAGE TWO (ME 44-1987 SIB M) UNCLASE FT O
BARKSDALE AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISS. ARR EMENTS WERE
MADE FOR WILSON AND COMPANION REV. NOEL FANNON, PASTOR, ST.
ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISS., TO APPEAR
AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISS., AT 6:30 PM ON AUGUST 18,
1978, AT WHICH TIME THEY WERE TO BE CONTACTED BY SPECIAL
AGENTS OF THE JACKSON OFFICE. WILSON WAS CONTACTED BY SPECIAL
AGENTS OF THE JACKSON OFFICE; HOWEVER, HE DECLINED TO DISCUSS
INFORMATION REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING
WITH THEM.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, VERNON AND OPAL HOOTEN, 3095 RUSKIN RD., BARTLETT, TENN., THE FORMER FATHER-IN-LAW AND MOTHER-IN-LAW OF WILSON. FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

WILSON AND THEIR DAUGHTER BETTY LOU, AGE 47, WHO NOW RESIDES WITH HER PRESENT HUSBAND KEITH WADE AT 233 SMITH ST., BURLESON, TEXAS, WERE MARRIED IN THE 1940'S AND THE MARRIAGE WAS TERMINATED BY DIVORCE IN ABOUT 1972 OR 1973. THE WILSONS HAD 3 CHILDREN, DEBORAH ANN, AGE 28, WHO NOW RESIDES WITH HER HUSBAND CHARLIE JONES IN BELLEVIEW, ILL., SPECIFIC ADDRESS NOT KNOWN; STEVEN, AGE 26, AND MARK ANTHONY, AGE 21, BOTH OF

PAGE THREE (ME 44-1987 SUB M) UNCLASE F T O
WHOM RESIDE IN BURLESON, TEXAS, SPECIFIC ADDRESSES KNOWN.
WILSON HAS ONE BROTHER AL WILSON, WHO RESIDES IN REFORM, ALA.,
AND 2 SISTERS, LYDA MC GAHA, WHO RESIDES IN REFORM, ALA.,
AND CHRISTINE WILSON, MARRIED NAME NOT KNOWN, WHO RESIDES IN
FULTON, MISS. HIS PARENTS ARE DECEASED.

BURGESS AND BETTY LOU WILSON RESIDED IN MEMPHIS, TENN.,

AT VARIOUS TIMES, SPECIFIC PERIODS OF TIME NOT RECALLED, AT

KANSAS CITY, MO., AND CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. THEY MOVED TO

KANSAS CITY, MO., IN 1963 FROM MEMPHIS WHERE THEY OPERATED A

JEWELRY STORE. BETTY LOU WILSON LEFT BURGESS AT KANSAS CITY

AFTER THEY HAD RESIDED THERE 2 OR 3 YEARS AND RETURNED TO MEMPHIS.

WHILE RESIDING IN KANSAS CITY, MO., BURGESS PURCHASED A WHITE

MUSTANG AUTOMOBILE FOR HIS DAUGHTER DEBORAH. THE HOOTENS ARE

OF THE OPINION THAT THIS WHITE MUSTANG AUTOMOBILE WAS NEVER

TRANSPORTED TO MEMPHIS, TENN. AFTER BETTY LOU AND THE CHILDREN

LEFT KANSAS CITY AND RETURNED TO MEMPHIS, BURGESS FOLLOWED

AND THE FAMILY RESIDED IN MEMPHIS AS A FAMILY UNIT FOR A YEAR

OR 2 BEFORE MOVING TO CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. THE MARRIAGE WAS

TERMINATED IN CANYON LAKE, TEXAS, BY DIVORCE IN ABOUT 1972 OR

PAGE FOUR (ME 44-1987 B M) UNCLAS E F T O

1973. BURGESS WILSON WAS SELDOM GAINFULLY EMPLOYED BUT DID

FROM TIME TO TIME ATTEMPT TO OPERATE JEWELRY STORES AND WATCH

REPAIR SHOPS.)

ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 17, 1978, VERNON HOOTEN RECEIVED A
TELEPHONE CALL FROM BURGESS AUDIE WILSON AT APPROXIMATELY
8:00 PM. WILSON ASKED GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HEALTH AND
WELFARE OF THE HOOTENS AND REMARKED THAT HE RESIDED IN NEW
ORLEANS, LA. WILSON FURNISHED NO OTHER PERSONAL DATA REGARDING
HIMSELF AND THE PHONE CALL WAS TERMINATED AFTER THE LAPSE OF A
FEW MINUTES. ON AUGUST 18, 1978, VERNON HOOTEN TALKED WITH HIS
SON JAMES HOOTEN, WHO RESIDES AT 2081 ST. ELMO, MEMPHIS, AND HIS
SON INFORMED HIM THAT BURGESS WILSON HAD ALSO CALLED HIM ON
THE EVENING OF AUGUST 17, 1978. WHILE WILSON WAS TALKING WITH
EITHER JAMES HOOTEN OR HIS WIFE MARIE, HE REMARKED THAT HE HAD
KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968. JAMES AND MARIE HOOTEN
ARE OF THE OPINION THAT WILSON WAS EXAGGERATING AND DO NOT BELIEVE
THAT HE IN FACT PARTICIPATED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING.

THE HOOTENS DESCRIBED WILSON AS A VERY HEAVY DRINKER;
HOWEVER, THEY POINTED OUT THAT WHEN DRINKING HE TALKS COHERENTLY

PAGE FIVE (ME 44-1987 3 M) UNCLAS E F T O AND HIS MOVEMENTS DO NOT GIVE EVIDENCE THAT HE IS INTOXICATED. HE IS A BOASTFUL TALKER AND OFTEN MAKES EXAGGERATED STATEMENTS IN AN EFFORT TO IMPRESS PEOPLE WHO ARE LISTENING TO HIM. HE HAS IN THE PAST BEEN PHYSICALLY ABUSIVE TOWARD HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AND ON ONE OCCASION HELD HIS FORMER WIFE'S HEAD UNDER WATER IN THE BATHTUB FOR A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME. HAS MADE THREATS TO KILL VERNON HOOTEN AND HIS FORMER WIFE BETTY LOU WILSON. ON ONE OCCASION HE CHECKED IN THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) HOSPITAL AT MEMPHIS. TENN.. DATE NOT RECALLED, AND COMPLAINED OF A HEART ATTACK; HOWEVER, MEDICAL EXAMINATION REVEALED NO HEART PROBLEM. ON ANOTHER OCCASION HE CHECKED IN AT THE VA HOSPITAL AND COMPLAINED OF A CRIPPLED LEG AND AGAIN MEDICAL EXAMINATION REVEALED NOTHING WAS WRONG WITH VERNON HOOTEN BELIEVES THAT WILSON WOULD FALSELY CONFESS TO A CRIME IN ORDER TO HAVE A PLACE TO SLEEP AND EAT IF HE WAS IN NEED OF FOOD AND SHELTER. IN THE OPINION OF THE HOOTENS. WILSON IS A COMPULSIVE LIAR AND BOTH ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE HAD NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. THEY CANNOT RECALL SPECIFICALLY WHERE HE

PAGE SIX (ME 44-198 SUB M) UNCLAS E F T O

RESIDED IN 1968 BUT ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE DID NOT MAINTAIN
A RESIDENCE IN MEMPHIS AT THAT TIME. THEY DO NOT KNOW WHETHER
HE EVER OWNED OR POSSESSED A GUN OR OTHER WEAPON BUT ARE OF THE
OPINION THAT HE DID NOT.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, JAMES HOOTEN, 2081 ST. ELMO, MEMPHIS, TENN., FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

ABOUT 9:30 PM ON AUGUST 17, 1978, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, COMMONLY KNOWN AS BILL WILSON, CALLED JAMES HOOTEN STATING HE WAS CALLING FROM CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. HE MADE GENERAL INQUIRIES REGARDING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF JAMES HOOTEN AND HIS WIFE MARIE, AND THEN HE REQUESTED HOOTEN TO CALL SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., SHERIFF GENE BARKSDALE FOR HIM. HOOTEN QUESTIONED HIM REGARDING THE NATURE OF HIS REQUEST, AND WILSON TOLD HIM HE HAD TELEPHONED BARKSDALE ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 17, 1978, AND HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM ON AUGUST 20, 1978, PLACE NOT STATED. HE INFORMED HOOTEN HE HAD CALLED BARKSDALE AND WAS MEETING WITH HIM TO SURRENDER HIMSELF BECAUSE HE SHOT AND KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968. HE WANTED HOOTEN TO CALL SHERIFF BARKSDALE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFIRMING HIS, WILSON'S, IDENTITY

PAGE SEVEN (ME 44-1987 SUB M) UNCLAS E F T O

AND THE APPOINTMENT. HOOTEN REFUSED TO HONOR WILSON'S REQUEST

AND QUESTIONED HIS SINCERITY REGARDING HIS CLAIM FOR BOTH THE

KILLING AND THE APPOINTMENT WITH THE SHERIFF. WILSON INSISTED

HE HAD KILLED KING AND STATED HE HAD MET WITH SHERIFF BARKSDALE

PERSONALLY ABOUT 2 WEEKS PREVIOUSLY. HE TERMINATED THE CALL

WHEN HE REALIZED HOOTEN WOULD NOT CALL THE SHERIFF AS HE

REQUESTED.

ACCORDING TO HOOTEN, WILSON IS AN EXTREMELY HEAVY DRINKER.)

HE FEELS THAT WILSON WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL WHEN

CALLED AND THAT HIS HEAVY CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL HAS HAD AN

ADVERSE EFFECT ON HIS MIND. WILSON WAS AT ONE TIME PLACED IN AN

UNKNOWN HOSPITAL IN TEXAS BY HIS SON, STEVEN, TO HAVE HIM

TREATED FOR ALCOHOLISM. HOOTEN IS OF THE OPINION THAT WILSON

HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING BUT DUE

TO THE MENTAL DETERIORATION OF HIS MIND MAY BELIEVE HE DID.

HOOTEN IS NOT CERTAIN BUT BELIEVES WILSON WAS NOT IN THE

MEMPHIS AREA AT THE TIME DR. KING WAS KILLED.

DALLAS WILL CONTACT BETTY LOU WADE AT 233 SMITH ST.,
BURLESON. TEXAS. AND OBTAIN ALL PERTINENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PAGE EIGHT (ME 44- 37 SUB MD UNCLAS E F T O
REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON AS WELL AS THE ADDRESSES OF WILSON'S
CHILDREN DEBORAH ANN, STEVEN, AND MARK ANTHONY. STEVEN AND
MARK ANTHONY WILSON SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED FOR INFORMATION
AVAIP BLE TO THEM REGARDING BURGESS WILSON AND APPROPRIATE
LEADS SHOULD BE SET FORTH REQUESTING INTERVIEW OF DEBORAH ANN
WILSON JONES, BELLEVIEW, ILL.

THE BIRMINGHAM OFFICE WILL INTERVIEW LYDA MC GAHA AND AL WILSON AT REFORM, ALA., AND OBTAIN ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION RE BURGESS WILSON FROM HIS BROTHER AND SISTER.

JACKSON WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW CHRISTINE WILSON, MARRIED NAME NOT KNOWN, AT FULTON, MISS., AND DEVELOP ALL PERTINENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION RE BURGESS WILSON.

ALL OFFICES INTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON RE VERACITY
OF HIS ALLEGATIONS AND PRESENCE IN MEMPHIS DURING THE
CRITICAL PERIOD (APRIL 4, 1968) AND IF WILSON HAS HISTORY
OF PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS.

ALL OFFICES NOTE THESE LEADS SHOULD BE GIVEN EXPEDITE ATTENTION.

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RECEIVED FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

P 191947Z AUG 78FM DALLAS

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987) PRIORITY

JACKSON (INFO)

SAN ANTONIO (INFO)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPES TO BUREAU 8/18/78 AND SAN ANTONIO TELETYPE TO BUREAU 8/18/78.

ON 8/19/78 BETTY LOU WADE, 233 SMITH RD. BURLESON, TEXAS WHO
IS FORMER WIFE OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, STATES SHE WAS MARRIED TO
WILSON ON 4/4/68 AND CAN POSITIVELY STATE WILSON WAS AT GRANDVIEW,
MISSOURI, THAT DATE AND COULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN MEMPHIS, TENN.,
AS HE IS CLAIMING. SHE SAID THEY RESIDED AT AN UNRECALLED
ADDRESS ON HERRICK ST. AND WILSON HAD A JEWELRY BUSINESS AT
THE KATZ DRUG STORE IN GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI. WADE SAID MR. KATZ
SUBSQUENTLY SOLD THE DRUG STORE AND THE BUSTNESS WAS MOVED TO/
ELTON, MISSOURI, WHERE IS WAS ESTABLISHED IN A SMALL SHOPPING
CENTER UNDER THE NAME OF WILBUR'S JEWELRY. EX.72

61 OCT 25 1978

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

MURKIN.

July 1

REC'D-ON SIGHTS

Aug 21 1 07 Ph 1978

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U.S. GERARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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PAGE TWO DALLAS UNCLAS E F T O

WADE SAID WILSON NEVER OWNED OR HAD ACCESS TO A WHITE MUSTANG VEHICLE AND HER DAUGHTER DEBRA ANN JONES NEE WILSON NEVER DROVE ANY VEHICLE FROM KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, TO MEMPHIS, TENN.. ON OR ABOUT 4/4/68.

WADE ADVISED SHE HAS BEEN DIVORCED FROM WILSON FOR OVER
5 YEARS. SHE SAID WILSON HAS EXPERIENCED MENTAL PROBLEMS FOR
YEARS AND SHE DESCRIBED HIM AS A "LIAR AND CON ARTIST WHO CAN'T
D IFFERENTIATE BETWEEN TRUTH AND FANTASY". SHE SAID HE DEFINITELY
NEEDS MEDICAL HELP.

WADE SAID SHE HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS THREATENING AND HARASSING TELEPHONE CALLS FROM WILSON OVER THE PREVIOUS 5 YEARS AND HAD HIM ARRESTED AT CELBURN, TEXAS IN 1976 FOR NON-CHILD SUPPORT AND HARASSMENT. SHE SAID WILSON WAS COMMITTED TO A HOSPITAL AT NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS IN 1974-1975 FOR HIS UNSTABLE MENTAL CONDITION. WADE STATES WILSON ALWAYS CARRIES A 38 CAL. PISTOL AND SHE WOULD CONSIDER HIM DANGEROUS.

SHE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING LIST OF WILSON'S RELATIVES WHO CAN SUBSTANTIATE HIS MENTAL CONDITION: SISTERS, LYDA MCGAHEY, 2002 EAST 8TH AVE. NORTH. COLUMBUS. MISSISSIPPI. TELEPHONE NUMBER 327-

PAGE THREE DALLAS UNCLAS E F T O

1141, CHRISTINE GUNTHORP, ROUTE 1 BOX 36, FULTON, MISSISSIPPI;

BROTHER, ALL ISON WILSON, REFORM, ALABAMA; CHILDREN, STEPHEN

WAYNE WILSON, 3117 LIVINGSOON, FORT WORTH, TEXAS, TELEPHONE

NUMBER 923-9414, MARK ANTHONY WILSON, 514 SOUTHEAST GARDENS, APT.

132, BURLESON, TEXAS, TELEPHONE NUMBER 295-2854, DEBRA ANN JONES,

2628 NEWBURG RD. LOT NUMBER 106 AT BELVDERE, ILLINOIS, TELEPHONE

NUMBER 543-9734.

DALLAS INDICES SEARCH NEGATIVE RE WILSON.

FURTHER LEADS BEING LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF MEMPHIS.

BT

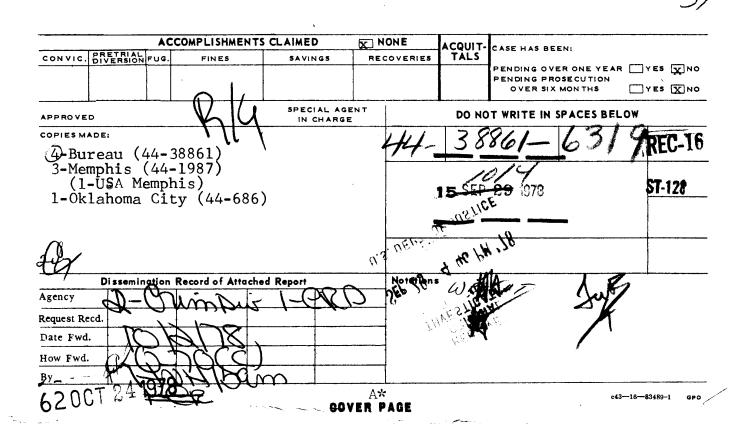
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD		
OKLAHOMA CITY	MEMPHIS	9/26/78	8/22 - 9/1/78		
TITLE OF CASE MURKIN		REPORT MADE BY		TYPED BY	
		GEORGE R. ZEIGLER		rs	
		CHARACTER OF CASE			
		CIVIL RIGHTS			

REFERENCE:

Kansas City teletype to Bureau 8/21/78; Oklahoma City teletype to Bureau 8/23/78; Dallas teletype to Bureau 8/23/78; Kansas City teletype to Bureau 9/1/78; Oklahoma City teletype to Bureau 9/1/78; Oklahoma City teletype to Kansas City 9/6/78.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

1-USA, Memphis

Report of:

GEORGE R. ZEIGLER

Office: Oklahoma City

Date:

9/26/78

Field Office File #:

44-686

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title:

MURKIN

Character:

Civil Rights

Synopsis:

Records of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Aeronautical Center, on September 1, 1978, identified registration number N4434L as being assigned to a 1956 Model G-35 Beechcraft aircraft, serial number D-4600. History of aircraft ownership set forth with a current owner identified as RONALD N. KARAS, 120 Paige Court, Weinton, West Virginia.

-RUC-

DETAILS:

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA.

On August 22, 1978, records of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Aeronautical Center, Will Rogers World Airport, identified FAA registration number 34L as a deregistered number as of 1962. The number was previously assigned to a Beech E-18-5 (twin engine), serial number BA-73. All records in storage at the Federal Record Center, Fort Worth, Texas, under accession number 63-H-496, location 200,340, box 1.

Records of the FAA, Aeronautical Center, Will Rogers World Airport, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, were again checked on September 1, 1978 with reference to FAA registration number N4434L. Those records identified the number as being assigned to a 1956 Model G-35 Beechcraft aircraft, serial number D-4600. That aircraft was initially sold by Beechcraft on April 20, 1956 to Gopher Aviation, Inc., Rochester, Minnesota who sold the aircraft on May 3, 1956 to Franklin Manufacturing Company, 65

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1970 O - 406-840

22nd Avenue, N. E., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Franklin Manufacturing Company sold the aircraft on March 17, 1960 to Mid State Aviation Corp., Sky Harbor Airport, Northbrook, Illinois. That aviation corporation sold the aircraft on April 18, 1960 to CONNIE C. MILLER, 9618 Sagamore, Kansas City, Missouri.

MILLER sold the aircraft on May 27, 1968 to Fisher Sales and Service, Inc., Box 6516, Leawood, Kansas, and that sales and service company sold the aircraft on June 6, 1968 to BURGES WILSON and LOU CREWS, 553 N. Scott, Belton, Missouri. On June 12, 1969, the aircraft was sold by WILSON and CREWS to GARY W. WILSON, 1302 N. Hocker, Independence, Missouri.

GARY WILSON sold the aircraft, date not known, but document received at FAA on February 16, 1970, to George T. Ward Builders, Inc., 1401 Plaza Center, Blue Springs, Missouri. The aircraft was sold on September 27, 1973 by Builders, Inc. to JERALD L. FISHER, 1204 S. 19th Street, Blue Springs, Missouri. FISHER sold the aircraft to GEORGE R. KEELING, Prairie Village, Kansas (date unknown), who sold the aircraft to RONALD J. MAGGARD, 2218 E. 110th Street, Kansas City, Missouri. The date of that sale is unknown, but the Bill of Sale received at FAA on August 16, 1974.

MAGGARD sold the aircraft on October 15, 1974 to CHARLES W. VAN HOFWEGEN, Highway 10, Orange City, Iowa. VAN HOFWEGEN sold the aircraft on December 10, 1975 to MICHAEL NEFF, 525 Hickory, Nevada, Iowa. NEFF sold the aircraft on October 19, 1977 to Gene Simpson Aircraft Sales, Inc., Onawa, Iowa. That sales company sold the aircraft on October 24, 1977 to RONALD N. KARAS, 120 Paige Court, Weinton, West Virginia. The aircraft is currently owned by KARAS and properly registered with the FAA as of October 28, 1977.