# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date	April	29.	1968
Date		- J g.	<b>T</b>

The wanted flier on JAMES EARL RAY, Wanted Flier Number 442-A, was exhibited to BILL MC LAUGHLIN; his wife, Mrs. BILL MC LAUGHLIN; and his seventeen-year-old son, WILLIAM MC LAUGHLIN, JR.

All advised that RAY is totally unknown to them and that they do not recall that individual purchasing a six-pack of twelve-ounce pop-top Schlitz beer, while driving a white Mustang automobile with an Alabama license.

On	4/24/68 at _	Southaven,	Mississippi	_File # <b>J</b>	ackson 157-9586	5
by	SA JAMES W.	SAMMON	/blw	_Date dictate	ed 4/27/68	· . · · · ·

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

JN 157-9586

By communication dated April 17, 1968, the following items were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D.C., by the Jackson FBI Office:

One empty Schlitz beer can, 12-ounce size, from Southaven Minnow Shop, Southaven, Mississippi;

One brown paper bag from Southaven Minnow Shop, Southaven, Mississippi.

By communication dated April 24, 1968, the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D.C., furnished the following information:

Specimens received 4/19/68

K169 Empty Schlitz beer can, 12-ounce size, from Southaven Minnow Shop

K170 Brown paper bag from Southaven Minnow Shop

#### Results of examination:

Marks appearing in the number impressions on the bottoms of K169 and the previously submitted Q53 can of beer were identified as having been made by the same number dies. The marks on the Q52 can of beer were not identified with K169 or Q53, possibly because the marks were not so deeply or completely impressed in Q52.

The K170 paper bag was found to be similar in all observable characteristics to the Q55 paper bag which was previously submitted.

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760)

73

MURKIN OO Memphis Bufile 44-38861

Re Little Rock airtel to Memphis, 4/30/68.

The following investigation was conducted by SAS RICHARD L. ECKBERG and EUGENE W. BUIZ:

JIM AUSTIN, Litwin Corp., 520 E. William Street, Wichita, Kansas, advised 5/2/68, his records reflect WILLIAM G. SORRELLS, 1820 West Douglas Street, Wichita, was employed for this company 2/19/68 as design engineer and is presently employed. The records reflect he was born and has Social Security # The time sheet reflects he worked nine hours in Wichita from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm on 4/4/68. He stated he could locate no record for a BOB NELSON.

WILLIAM G. SORRELLS, 1820 West Douglas Street, Wichita, Ransas, advised 5/2/68, he was working in Wichita for Litwin Corp. on 4/4/68. He stated he is acquainted with ROBERT NELSON who works for Litwin Corp. but who is on the payroll of another company. He stated NELSON is from Birmingham and has worked in Little Rock and Atlanta, however, NELSON has never been in Memphis to his knowledge. SORRELLS stated he drives a white Chevrolet Corvair and it was noted this car had Oklahoma license ZD 5779.

BOB NELSON, Litwin Corp., 520 E. William Street, Wichita, advised 5/2/68, his full name is ROLFE BERNARD NELSON but he is known as ROBERT or BOB. He stated he resides at 2316 Wildwood, Wichita, and has worked at Litwin Corp. in Wichita since August 1967. He stated he drives a white Oldsmobile and he has not been in Memphis for a year or more. He stated he was working in Wichita the day KING was murdered

2 - Memphis

1 - Little Rock

l - New Orleans

D - Kansas City

EWR: USA

How 41-100-101

KC 44-760

and he and a friend by the name of SORRELLS, who is also from the South, made kidding remarks about the murder such as "You surely made a fast trip to Memphis and back". He stated that undoubtedly some of their kidding remarks were overheard as neither he nor SORRELLS made a trip to Memphis and had no knowledge of the murder.

JIM AUSTIN, Litwin Corp., 520 E. William Street, Wichita, advised 5/2/68, his office does not keep complete records on personnel who are employed for other companies and working at Litwin Corp. He did, however, had a time sheet which reflected ROLFE B. NELSON was a Senior Engineer and he worked nine hours during the day of 4/4/68.

FBI KAN CITY

FBI ATLANTA

801PM URGENT 5-6-68 LCS

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861, BIRMINGHAM, LOS ANGELES, KANSAS CITY,

AND MEMPHIS

FROM ATLANTA 44-1987

MURKIN

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION MAY SIX INSTANT.

EXPANDED AIRLINE CHECK CONTINUING, INCLUDING AIRPORT LIMOUSINE DRIVERS. NO PERTINENT INFORMATION RECEIVED TO DATE.

JIMMY GARNER REINTERVIEWED AND SHOWN PHOTO OF SUBJECT RECEIVED FROM U.S. POSTAL INSPECTOR. LOS ANGELES. GARNER STATES THIS PHOTO BEST LIKENESS OF SUBJECT HE HAS SEEN TO DATE.

EXPANDED SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX CHECK CONTINUING.

HIPPIE ROOMING HOUSES AND SOURCES IN NARCOTIC FIELD CONTACTED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

ELN

FBI KAN CITY

SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FBI — KANSAS CITY

#### FBI

Date:

5/6/68

Transmit the following in	PLAINTEXT	
	(Type in plaintext or code)	
<b>TELETYPE</b>	URGENT	
V10	(Priority)	

TO:

DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MEMPHIS

FROM:

KANSAS CITY (44-760)

MURKIN.

#### DAILY SUMMARY

SUSPECT LARRY C. SIMPSON, ONE FOUR FIVE ZERO FIVE EAST
THIRTYSEVENTH STREET, INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, HAS BEEN
CONTINUOUSLY EMPLOYED BY THE BENDIX CORP., KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI, SINCE MARCH SIXTYTHREE. HE WORKED THE FULL WEEK
DURING THE PERTINENT PERIOD IN THIS CASE. PHYSICAL OBSERVATION
OF THE SUSPECT REVEALS HE DOES NOT IN ANY WAY RESEMBLE SUBJECT
IN THIS MATTER.

GLEN JEFFERSON BUCKLER, CURRENTLY INCARCERATED JACKSON

COUNTY JAIL FOR BAD CHECKS BEING RELEASED THIS DATE. HE

INDICATED HE SERVED TIME WITH THE SUBJECT ANDHIS "BROTHER FROM

TOPEKA" IN THE MSP FROM JANUARY SIXTYFIVE UNTIL OCTOBER

SIXTYSEVEN. HE ADVISED THAT HE FELT SURE HE WOULD BE ABLE

TO LOCATE SUBJECT SHORTLY AFTER HIS RELEASE AND WOULD KEEP

THE FBI ADVISED. FACTS FURNISHED BY BUCKLER NOT SUBSTANTIATED.

RBH/RL

nnroved./

Special Agent in Charge

Sent 10 43/PM

144-160-110

#### F B I

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

KC 44-760

PAGE TWO

COMPLETE BACKGROUND INFORMATION HAS BEEN OBTAINED FROM
THE MSP WERE FORWARDED TO THE ST. LOUIS OFFICE REGARDING
JOHNNY VELANTI, WALTER E. NOLAN AND EARL HARRIS., ALL FORMER
INMATES SAME TIME AS SUBJECT.

TWENTYTWO PAGES OF HANDWRITING AND HANDPRINTING SPECIMENS OF SUBJECT'S WRITINGS OBTAINED FROM USP, LEAVENWORTH, AND ONE PAGE BEARING SIGNATURE OF JAMES EARL RAY OBTAINED FROM U. S. PROBATION OFFICER, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, ALL HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO FBI LABORATORY FOR COMPARISON.

MATS CONCERNING SUBJECT HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE BUREAU AND ARE BEING FORWARDED TO ALL NEWS MEDIA THIS AREA.

LOCAL LEADS BEING HANDLED IMMEDIATELY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

₽.

Approved:		SentM	Per
rippiovod.	Special Agent in Charge		1, 01

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date:

5/3/68

Transmit the following in	(Type in plaintext or code)	
Via AIRTEL	AIR MAIL (Priority)	; 

TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM:

SAC, HOUSTON (44-1509)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

CR

ReButel 4/25/68 to El Paso, Houston, San Antonio, advising that each office should determine from telephone company long distance calls placed at each public telephone on Interstate 10 over which subject and CHARLES STEIN allegedly traveled 12/15-17/67.

Set forth by field division are telephone calls made from the Houston Division, 12/15-17/67. Recipient offices will determine from the subscriber, or person receiving call, the identity of caller. If caller was JAMES EARL RAY, aka, obtain all available information.

- Bureau
- Memphis (44-1987)
- Indianapolis
- 🦫 Kansas City
- Little Rock
- Los Angeles
- Mobile
- Oklahoma City
- San Francisco
- 2 SamDDiego
- 2 Houston

JSW:yk (23)

Approved: \_ Special Agent in Charge

Sent

# нот44-1509

DATE	CALLING NUMBER	CALLED NUMBER	PLACE		
INDIANA POLIS:					
12/16/67	835-9040 (Beaumont, Texas)	317-872-4551	Mexico, Indiana		
KANSAS CITY	<u>:</u>				
12/17/67	835-9443 (Beaumont, Texas)	913-989-4468	Wathena, Kansas		
LITTLE ROCK	<u>.</u>				
12/17/67	673-9950 (Houston, Texas)	501-753-7404	Little Rock		
12/16/67	468-9864 (Houston, Texas)	501-247-4890	Pine Bluff, Ark.		
12/15/67	468-9818 (Houston, Texas)	501-623-2692	Hot Springs, Ark.		
12/15/67	682-9114 (Houston, Texas)	501-535-1373	Pine Bluff, Ark.		
12/15/67	682-9333 (Houston, Texas)	501-729-3283	Judsonia, Ark.		
LOS ANGELES	<u>•</u>				
12/16/67	892-9993 (Beaumont, Texas)	213-399-9676	Santa Monica, Calif.		
12/17/67	452-9133 (Houston, Texas)	213-830-0453	San Pedro, Calif.		
12/17/67	452-9133 (Houston, Texas)	213-830-0453	San Pedro, Calif.		
12/17/67	452-9133 (Houston, Texas)	213-830-0453	San Pedro, Calif.		
12/17/67	452-9133 (Houston, Texas) (Three calls same date	213-320-9921	Torrence, Calif.		
	MENUNCISCO CHORESTERNIC TO 2		Mogaziach, Chilina		

# но 44-1509

DATE	CALLING NUMBER	CALLED NUMBER	PLACE
12/17/68	452-9133 (Houston, Texas)	213-320-9921	Torrence, Calif.
12/17/67	452-9133 (Houston, Texas)	213-328-2380	Torrence, Calif.
12/17/67	673-9974 (Houston, Texas)	213-927-3989	Downey, Calif.
12/16/67	673-9395 (Houston, Texas)	213-927-3989	Downey, Calif.
12/16/67	468-9725 (Houston, Texas)	213-435-3662	Long Beach, Calif.
12/15/67	468-9725 (Houston, Texas)	213-421-4002	Long Beach, Calif.
12/17/67	468-9063 (Houston, Texas)	213-843-3747	Burbank, Calif.
12/16/67	468-9725 (Houston, Texas)	213-876-7897	Los Angeles
12/16/67	886-9976 (Orange, Texas)	805-256-2296	Rosamond, Calif.
12/16/67	682-9120 (Houston, Texas)	805-323-2660	Bakersfield, Calif.
12/16/67	682-9248 (Houston, Texas)	415-841-0501	Berkeley, Calif.
MOBILE:			
12/15/67	453-9577 (Houston, Texas)	205-479-7378	Mobile, Ala.
12/16/67	452-9133 (Houston, Texas)	205-479-8740	Mobile, Ala.

но 44-1509

DATE	CALLING NUMBER	CALLED NUMBER	PLACE
12/15/67	886-9976 (Orange, Texas)	205-459-2461	Butler, Ala.
12/17/67	682-9322 (Houston, Texas)	205-342-1435	Mobile, Ala.
OKLAHOMA CI	TY:		
12/15/67	453-9646 (Houston, Texas)	918-446-6041	Tulsa, Okla.
12/15/67	453-9646 (Houston, Texas)	918-446-6041	Tulsa, Okla.
12/16/67	452-9247 (Houston, Texas)	405-946-2137	Oklahoma City
12/17/67	452-9260 (Houston, Texas)	918-936-3644	Tulsa, Okla.
12/17/67	468-9150 (Houston, Texas)	405-842-5325	Britton, Okla.
12/17/68	673-9118 (Houston, Texas)	918-846-2996	Wynono, Okla.
12/17/67	673-9996 (Houston, Texas)	405-424-4153	Oklahoma City
12/17/67	673-9395 (Houston, Texas)	405-668-2423	Wilson, Okla.
12/17/67	468-9887 (Houston, Texas)	918-446-5042	Tulsa, Okla.
SAN FRANCIS	CO:		
12/16/67	835-9439 (Beaumont, Texas)	415-538-1726	Hayward, Calif.

# но 44-1509

DATE	CALLING NUMBER	CALLED NUMBER	PLACE
12/15/67	835-9324 (Beaumont, Texas)	415-345-1539	San Mateo, Calif.
12/16/67	673-9501 (Houston, Texas)	408-372-9730	Monterey, Calif.
SAN DEIGO:		·	
12/17/67	468-9844 (Houston, Texas)	714-469-6604	La Mesa, Calif.
12/17/67	468-9887 (Houston, Texas)	714-745-1548	Escondido, Calif.
12/17/67	769-9115 (Vidor, Texas)	714-279-1714	San Diego, Calif.
12/17/67	769-9104 (Vidor, Texas)	714-279-1714	San Diego, Calif.

# Memorandum

то

SAC

(44-760)

DATE: 5/7/68

FROM

SA GEORGE C. SCRUGGS, JR.

D

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

Re Kansas City airtel to Director, 5/1/68.

BEN F. WADE, Route 2, Waynesville, Missouri, advised that his son, HAROLD WADE continues to be confined at the Fulton State Hospital, Bulton, Missouri and indicates subject has not been out of confinement in the past three years.

LEAD:

KANSAS CITY

AT FULTON, MISSOURI

Will verify subject's confinement and interview if deemed advisable.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

GCS: WSA
(2) Ure



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

5/4/68

TELETYPE

HRGENT

TO:

SAC, PHILADELPHIA

FROM:

SAC, INDIANAPOLIS (44-503)

MURKIN

RE DL TEL TO PH, MAY ONE, LAST, & TH TEL TO IP, MAY TUREE, LAST.

MRS. THOMAS (MORA) WILLIAMS, HOME ADDRESS HOUKINSON HOUSE, APT. ONE SEVEN ZERO TWO., WASHINGTON SQUARE SOUTH, MILLADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, MAS CONTACTED BY S.A. LARRY L. CUGGISBERG AT FOUR FOUR PIVE MORTH PENNSYLVANIA, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA., OH MAY FOUR, INSTANT. SHE ADVISED THE TICKET FOR AMERICAN AIRLINE PLIGHT THREE THREE EIGHT ON APRIL SIX, LAST, WAS NEVER MICKED UP BY HAR. MRS. WILLIAMS CANCELLED ON THE ABOVE PLIGHT & DROVE TO HOUSTON, TEXAS, WHERE SHE THEN PLEW ROM HOUSTON TO PHILADELPHIA. NO FURTHER ACTION BE NO TAKEN AT INDIANAPOLIS.

DALLAS, KANSAS CITY, NEMPHIS, AND NEW YORK FURNISHED AN COPIES.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

1 - Kansas City (AM) (RM)

I - Dallas (AM) (RM) L - Memphis (AM) (RM)

1 - New York (AM) (RM)

1 - Indianapolis

(5)

SEARCHED TNDEXED SERIALIZED AFILED WAY 7 1968
FIRST KANSAS CITY

# FEDERAL UREAU OF INVESTIGATION

S MEMPHIS		4/17/68	April 4-16,	1968
		REPORT MADE BY		DDS,
		SA JOE C.	HESTER	jms, raj
Lowmeyer,		CHARACTER OF CA	ASE	
RTIN LUTHER KING	, JR		CIVIL RIGHTS	
	aka tarvo Galt, Lowmeyer, illard; RTIN LUTHER KING	aka tarvo Galt, Lowmeyer, illard; RTIN LUTHER KING, JR	aka tarvo Galt, Lowmeyer, illard; RTIN LUTHER KING, JR	aka tarvo Galt, Lowmeyer, illard; RTIN LUTHER KING, JR

SYNOPSIS:

- P -

#### ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:

In view of the large volume of correspondence in this case, no attempt has been made to reference any particular communication.

Because of the urgency of this matter, leads for other offices are being set out by telephone or teletype, and it would serve no purpose to set out leads for other offices in this report.

The information included in this report has been carefully reviewed, and negative interviews have been eliminated wherever it was believed possible to do so without giving the appearance that less than a complete and thorough investigation was conducted.

A copy of this report has not been designated for

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the USA, Western District of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee, but extra copies are being maintained in the Memphis Office and will be made available to the USA when so directed by the Bureau.

LEAD:

#### THE MEMPHIS OFFICE:

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE:

Will continue efforts to identify the Unknown Subject.

- B\* COVER PAGE

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Office:

MEMPHIS

Copy to:

Report of:

SA JOE C. HESTER

Date:

4/17/68

File Number:

ME 44-1987

Title:

UNKNOWN SUBJECT, also known as Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmeyer,

John Willard:

ELEXXXX

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis:

At about 6:00 PM on 4/4/68, while standing on second floor balcony outside room 306 of the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry Street, Memphis, Tennessee, victim was struck in right side of face by a single bullet. Autopsy report indicated that "the severing of the spinal cord at this level and to this extent was a wound that was fatal very shortly after its occurrence." This investigation, predicated upon a specific request from the Attorney General of the U.S., disclosed fatal shot was fired from the bathroom of a rooming house located at  $422\frac{1}{2}$  S. Main Street. Memphis. which bathroom was located at the rear of the rooming house, and which had a window overlooking the Lorraine Motel. (Crime scene diagram included in details.) On afternoon of 4/4/68, Unknown Subject rented room 5-B at 4223 S. Main Street and paid one weeks rent. After hearing rifle shot at about 6:00 PM on 4/4/68, other tenants in rooming house observed Unknown Subject flee from rooming house carrying a large package which was subsequently abandoned by him on sidewalk in front of Canipe Amusement Company, 424 S. Main Street, from which place he was observed to flee in a white Mustang. Found abandoned in front of 424 S. Main Street was 30-06 Remington model 760 rifle, serial number 461476, a small plastic suitcase containing numerous articles. undershorts, a tee shirt, binoculars, and a brown and green bedspread in which all of these items were partially wrapped. Investigation at motels in the vicinity of Memphis, Tennessee, to locate an individual driving a white Mustang, disclosed

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FBI, and is a loan to your agency, it and/or its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

MS 44-1987

that ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, had spent the night of 4/3/68, at the Rebel Motel, 3466 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, and was driving a Mustang with Alabama license 1-38993. Investigation disclosed binoculars abandoned by Unknown Subject were purchased afternoon of 4/4/68, from RALPH M. CARPENTER, salesman, York Arms Company, Memphis. Gillette shaving kit abandoned by Unknown Subject determined to have been purchased Oliver Rexall Drug Store, Whitehaven, Tennessee. Autopsy findings set out. IN VIEW OF THE CRIME FOR WHICH UNSUB BEING SOUGHT, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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#### DETAILS:

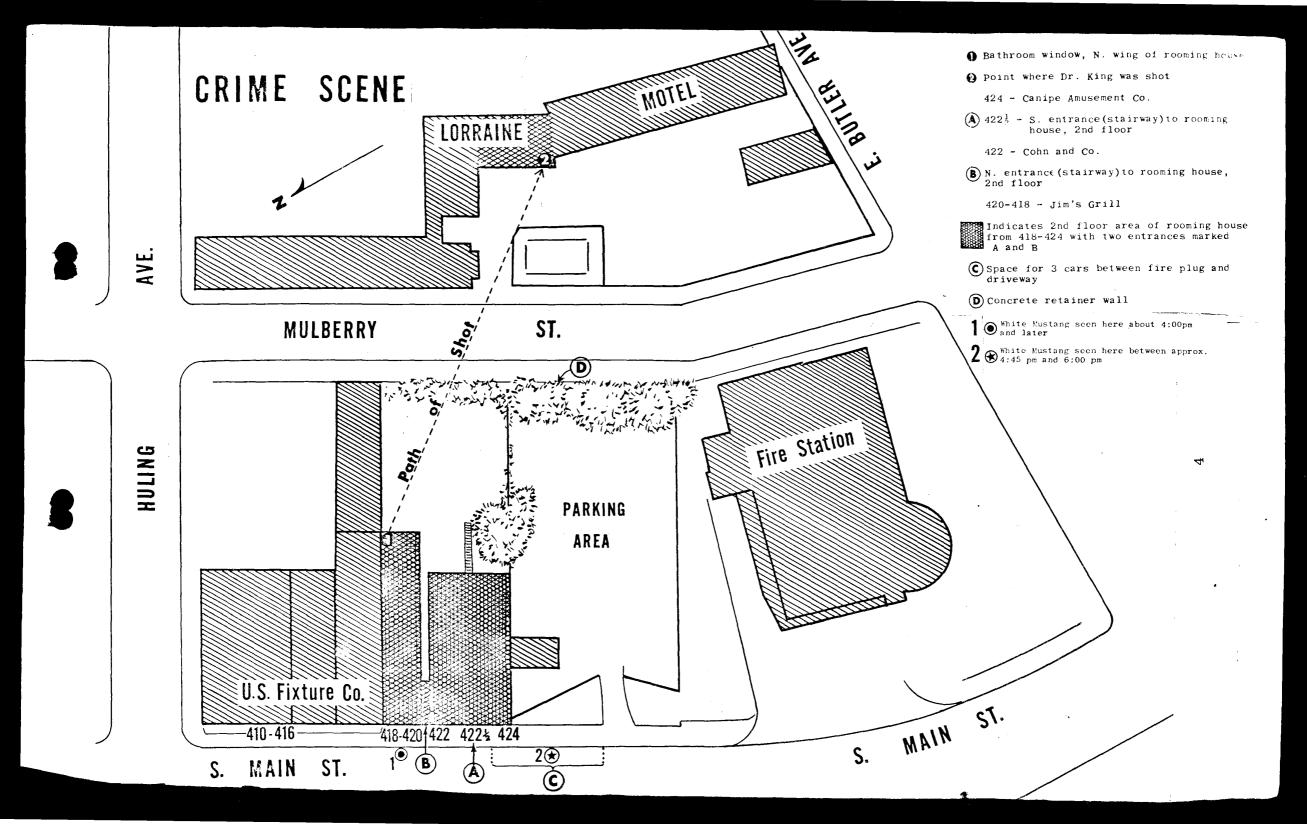
This investigation was predicated upon receipt of a specific request from the Attorney General of the United States on the night of April 4, 1968, that the Federal Bureau of Investigation conduct an investigation into the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., at Memphis, Tennessee, on that date.

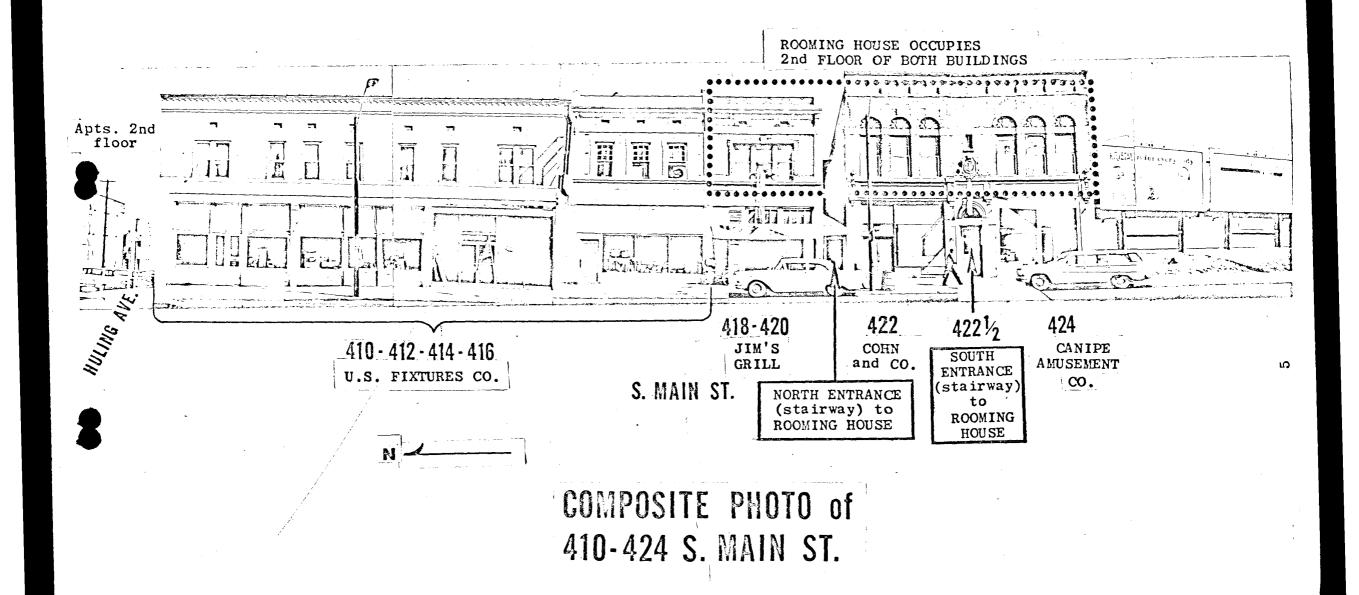
ME 44-1987 FLJ:wp

#### INVESTIGATION AT CRIME SCENE AND VICINITY

Set forth on the four pages which follow is illustrative material which relates to the general area of the crime scene and particularly to the rooming house at  $422\frac{1}{2}$  South Main Street (where the Unknown Subject occupied Room 5-B and from which rooming house the shot was fired) and Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street (in front of which numerous items were found and which were reportedly dropped or thrown down by the Unknown Subject as he ran south on the east side of Main Street). The illustrative material is as follows:

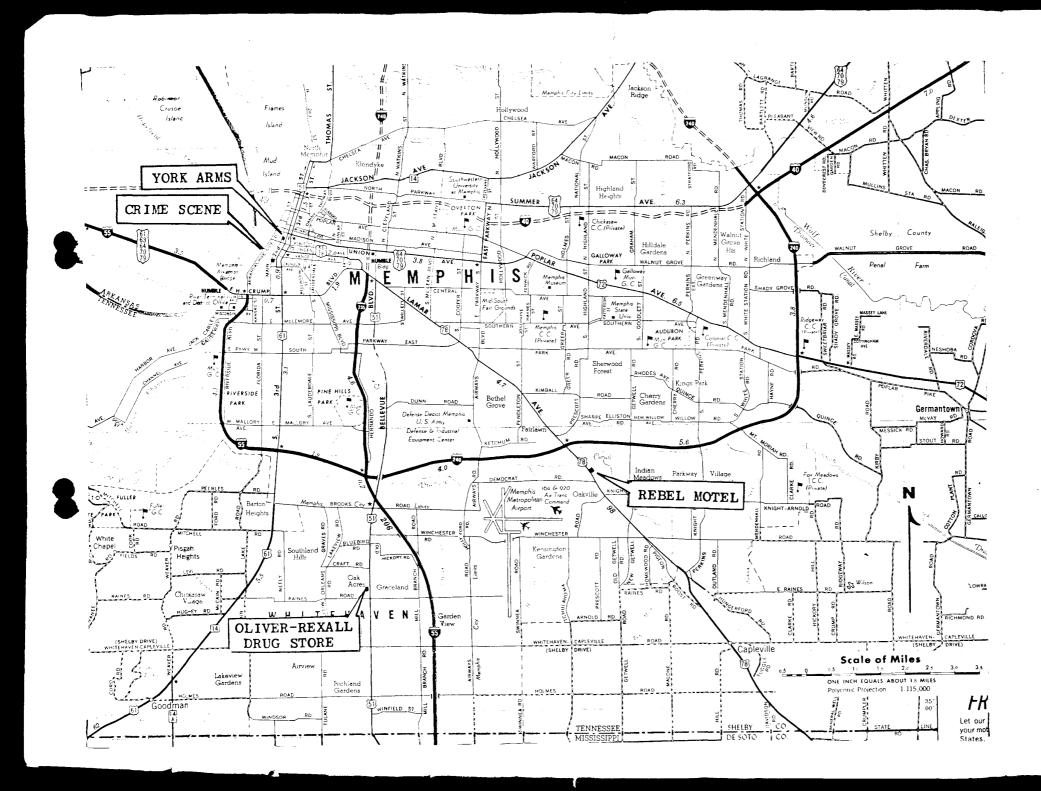
- 1) A plan view diagram of the crime scene area
- 2) A composite photographic front view of the east side of 410-424 South Main Street
- 3) A floor plan diagram of a rooming house located on the second floor of two separate buildings over 418-424 South Main Street, the address of this rooming house being 422½ South Main Street
- 4) A map of part of the city of Memphis, Tennessee, showing the relationship to the crime scene of York Arms Company, where Unknown Subject purchased binoculars which were later recovered; Oliver Rexall Drug Store, where the Unknown Subject had purchased a shaving kit which was later recovered; and the Rebel Motel, where the Unknown Subject was registered on the night of April 3, 1968, under the name ERIC S. GALT.





# SECOND FLOOR PLAN BATHROOM WINDOW of ROOMING HOUSE FROM WHERE SHOT WAS FIRED STAIRWAY TO SECOND FLOOR OFFICE PACKAGE DROPPED IN DOORWAY PROBABLE EXIT ROUTE 418-420 424 $422\frac{1}{2}$ SOUTH ENTRANCE NORTH ENTRANCE (stairway) (stairway) TO ROOMING HOUSE TO ROOMING HOUSE

S. MAIN ST.





PERSONS AT ROOMING HOUSE,  $422\frac{1}{2}$  SOUTH MAIN STREET

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

COR.	

Date April 8, 1968

Mrs. BESSIE RUTH BREWER, Resident Manager, rooming house located at  $422\frac{1}{2}$  South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at Central Police Headquarters, Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department, at which time she furnished the following information:

Between 3:00 P.M. and 3:30 P.M. on April 4, 1968, a white male knocked on the door of the second floor of the rooming house and asked Mrs. BREWER if she had a room. replied yes, and this individual then asked if he could see it. Mrs. BREWER showed him Room No. 8, which is located in the southwest part of the building, and the individual put his head into the doorway and after looking, stated that this would not be satisfactory as he did not need a stove and refrigerator but only wanted a sleeping room. Mrs. BREWER then showed this individual Room 5-B, and he put his head in the doorway of this room and said it would be fine. At this point the individual asked where the bathroom facilities were located, and she pointed to the bathroom located in the northeast portion of the hallway which is located in the same hallway as Room 5-B. She and this individual then returned to her office. The individual stated that his name was JOHN WILLARD and that he wanted a sleeping room for one week.

WILLARD then asked her how much the room rent would be for one week, and Mrs. BREWER replied \$8.50. WILLARD then put his hand into his right trouser pocket and withdrew a twenty dollar bill and two quarters and handed the money to her. She gave him change in denominations of one ten dollar bill and two one dollar bills. When WILLARD arrived at the rooming house, Mrs. BREWER did not notice any luggage in his possession, nor during the brief conversation with WILLARD did he volunteer any information concerning his home residence, line of business, or mode of transportation. WILLARD was not required to sign any type of register, and the only written record maintained of the transaction was a receipt for the \$8,50, which was made out in the handwriting of Mrs. BREWER.

Mrs. BREWER was unable to state if WILLARD returned

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Onat	Memphis,	Tennessee File	# <u>Memphis</u> 44-1987
bySA ROBERT F.	BOYLE: jap	Date	e dictated

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to Room 5-B or if he left the building at any time after renting Room 5-B. Mrs. BREWER did not again observe WILLARD after he rented the room.

Mrs. BREWER's husband returned home from work at 5:25 P.M. on April 4, 1968, and at that time Mr. and Mrs. BREWER commenced their dinner. After dinner Mr. BREWER then turned on the television set and was watching the "Rawhide" television program, and Mrs. BREWER did the dinner dishes. Shortly after completing the dinner dishes, Mrs. BREWER also sat down to watch the "Rawhide" television program. Within a matter of a couple of minutes, Mrs. BREWER heard what she thought to be a gun shot coming from the back of her rooming house. Mrs. BREWER believed that this must have been around 6:00 P.M. on April 4, 1968. She advised her husband that she thought it was a gun shot. Her husband took time to put on his slippers and both of them then proceeded to the southeast exit of the building. arriving at this point, Mr. BREWER attempted to go out the back door; however, a law enforcement officer was in the back of the building and instructed both Mr. and Mrs. BREWER to close the door and return to their apartment. Mrs. BREWER did not hear any noise such as someone running through her building after hearing the gun shot, and the only noise she could recall hearing was a lot of hollering and screaming near the back of her building toward the Lorraine Motel.

Mrs. BREWER examined cash that she had on hand and determined that she had three \$20.00 bills in her possession. She was unable to specifically pinpoint which \$20.00 bill was furnished to her by WILLARD for payment of his room rent. Mrs. BREWER made available the following described twenty dollar Federal Reserve Notes:

- (1) Series 1963-A, Serial No. F14002844A
- (2) Series 1963-A, Serial No. H16164663A
- (3) Series 1963, Serial No. F06445143A

Mrs. BREWER furnished the following description of WILLARD:

Race: White Sex: Male

Age: Approximately 35 years

Height: Weight: Build: Appearance:

5'11" to 6'
180 pounds
Medium (carried weight well)
Real neat looking, clean
shaven.

Mrs. BREWER stated that WILLARD appeared to have a smile or a sneer on his face during their entire conversation; did not appear as though he was the outdoors type; was wearing a dark sport jacket or short jacket, as he did not have to pull the jacket back when he reached his right hand into his pocket for his money; did not notice any rings or watches; paid no attention to his shoes, pants, shirt, or whether he had on a tie, but was quite positive that he did not have a hat; did not give the appearance of needing a haircut, nor was he wearing a mustache or any long sideburns; paid no particular attention to his teeth while he was talking and did not particularly notice about any part of his face, including nose, mouth, ears, chin, or eyebrows.

Mrs. BREWER claims that she did not particularly look at this individual as she did not like the smile or sneer that he had on his face.

Mrs. BREWER did recall that when she pointed out the bathroom facilities to WILLARD, she told him that everyone in the area of his room was usually quiet but that the guy next to him usually drinks a little bit. Mrs. BREWER claimed that WILLARD then stated, "I take a beer once in awhile myself." Mrs. BREWER claimed that she told him that was all right as long as he stayed in his room and kept quiet.

Mrs. BREWER was unable to state whether any of the other roomers at her rooming house had an opportunity to either observe or have any contact with WILLARD, nor was she able to furnish any additional information concerning WILLARD's activities during the brief period that he resided at her rooming house. She claims that she does not believe that she would recognize this individual again from a photograph or if she had an opportunity to see him in person, but qualified this by stating that she probably would be able to recognize him from the smile or sneer that he had on his face if she were able to observe that in the future.

She claimed that WILLARD did not volunteer any information concerning his personal background or volunteer any information concerning his reason for being in Memphis. She claimed that WILLARD's speech was "just like the rest of us around here," and that his vocabulary and accent were not out of place in her rooming house. Mrs. BREWER recalled that when WILLARD first looked in Room 8, he remarked that he only wanted a sleeping room as he would not be in the room in the daytime, just at night.

### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date	4/13/68	
Luc		

Mrs. FRANK (BESSIE) BREWER, Room 2,  $422\frac{1}{2}$  South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, who manages the rooming house at this address and who has been interviewed previously by Agents of the FBI, telephonically contacted the FBI Office on April 10, 1968, at which time she requested to be contacted by an FBI Agent.

Mrs. Brewer was contacted by SA Franklin L. Johnson and Lieutenant W. S. SCHULTZ, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, at which time she advised that she was beginning to receive mail from individuals unknown to her. She displayed an envelope postmarked April 7, 1968, at Niagara Falls, New York, bearing the return address, Mrs. ZUCCO, 518 Ferry Avenue, Niagara Falls, New York, in which was located a one-page hand-written letter, which letter referred to newspaper publicity identifying Mrs. Brewer as operating a "flop house," the writer of the letter referring to the fact that Mrs. Brewer should "buy some paint" and ending by stating, "I'll bet you even have cockroaches!"

A second envelope was postmarked April 7, 1968, at Des Moines, Iowa, which contained a printed religious tract and neither the envelope nor the tract identified the sender.

On the occasion of this contact with Mrs. BREWER, she furnished the following information:

She stated she wanted to point out that she has previously forgotten to advise officers of the Police Department and FBI Agents that at the time she rented Room 5-B to a stranger using the name of JOHN WILLARD on April 4, 1968, there was a small, cheap chest of drawers, blond in color, in front of the east window on the south wall of Room 5-B, whereas after the shooting of Dr. KING and when she next saw Room 5-B, that chest of drawers was sitting against the west wall of that room and there was a chair sitting in front of

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On 4/10/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON: WP Date dictated 4/12/68

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that window. She stated she was pointing this out since this would indicate that the occupant of the room definitely handled this chest of drawers.

Mrs. BREWER stated that since interviewed previously, she had been trying to think of anything else which might assist in identifying the guest who used the name of JOHN WILLARD. She stated as she has discussed the matter with her husband and thought more about it, the one thing which impressed her most about the appearance of this individual was the fact that when she first cracked open the door to her room after this man knocked, she observed that he was standing at the door with an unusual smile on his face. She went on to state that she would describe the smile as a "sneer" or a "smirk." She stated that she cannot be more specific other than to state that she was impressed by this expression on this man's face, as though he were trying to smile for no reason. She stated that she did not interpret the smile as an effort to be flirtatious.

She also stated that her initial impression of this man was that he did not "fit in" with other tenants in this rooming house. She pointed out that this rooming house is located in a poorer section of town where most of the tenants are older people or others with limited income, a number of whom are alcoholics, and this man was clean and neatly dressed, giving the impression that he could obtain lodging in nicer surroundings.

Mrs. BREWER at this time attempted to recall the words used by this person. As she recalls, when she went to the door and cracked open the door, leaving the chain fastened, the man's first words were, "Do you have a room for rent?" She answered in the affirmative and asked him whether he wanted a room by the week or by the month. He replied, as nearly as she can recall, by stating simply, "By the week." At this point she unfastened the chain which secured the partially opened door and walked directly to Room 8 located in the south wing of this rooming house. She stated that the man followed her to the room and looked inside the room but never actually entered the room, at which time his words,

as nearly as she can recall, were, "Well, I don't need the stove and refrigerator since I won't be doing any cooking. I was thinking more of a sleeping room."

At this point Mrs. BREWER explained that the only vacant "sleeping room" (or room with no stove and refrigerator) which she had in either wing of the rooming house was Room 5-B in the north wing. She therefore immediately walked from Room 8 in the south wing across the enclosed walkway which connects the south wing to the north wing of the rooming house, and thereafter to Room 5-B. Again she walked in front of the man. As soon as she opened the door to Room 5-B, the man immediately stated that he would take that room. She then walked to her room in the south wing of the building, followed by the unknown man, who paid her \$8.50, as outlined previously by her, for the rent of Room 5-B for one week in advance.

Mrs. BREWER stated that most of the rooms in this rooming house can be secured only with the use of a padlock, and after showing this individual Room 5-B, she removed the padlock from the door and took the padlock with her to her room. She stated it is necessary that tenants put up a deposit if they secure the padlock, but this tenant did not inquire as to how he could lock the door and did not request the padlock and a key. She also added that she did not explain to him the method of locking the door or that it was necessary that he put up a deposit in order to obtain the padlock.

She stated at this point that she had been somewhat unnerved when she first looked at this man, at which time he had the unusual smile on his face, or appeared to be "sneering" at her, and thereafter she made a point of having as little to do with him as possible, always walking in front of him and avoiding all unnecessary conversation or dealings with him.

Mrs. BREWER was asked whether she now feels that she could identify this man if she sees him again. She stated that she thought she might be able to identify this man if she sees him again. She stated the man used no slang or unusual expressions and she could not associate his accent with any particular area, adding he had no particular accent.

· Josef Johnson

She also stated that she is positive she has never seen this man before. She pointed out that she has only been handling the rental of the rooms at this rooming house since March 12, 1968, however, and she would have no way of knowing whether he stayed at this rooming house prior to that time.

She stated that at the time she became the landlady at this rooming house, Room 5-B was occupied by an elderly man by the name of COMMODORE STEWART. This man was ill as of March 12, 1968, and she believed that it was on March 12, 1968, that he was taken to a Memphis hospital. A couple of days later, probably on either March 13 or 14, 1968, this man died. The room had not been rented from that time until the time the stranger using the name of JOHN WILLARD rented this room.

She understands that a number of different persons have acted in the capacity of rental agent for this rooming house in recent months, including Mr. WYATT MADDOX, who is now a clerk at the Tri-State Hotel located nearby, Mr. MADDOX never having lived in this rooming house, however, and apparently having acted as rental agent for only a short period of time. Another individual who handled the rental of rooms in this rooming house was H. R. THOMPSON, an old drunk, according to other tenants, who never lived in the rooming house. One other rental agent at this rooming house prior to the time Mrs. BREWER assumed these duties was W. V. SAMMONS, who she understands is now at the Madison Hotel in Memphis. She is sure that Mr. SAMMONS was the rental agent in January 1968, based on copies of receipts in her receipt book. She recalled that Mr. SAMMONS stabbed his wife while he was rental agent at this rooming house and the matter received publicity.

Mrs. BREWER advised that most of the occupants of rooms in this rooming house are more or less permanent tenants, although she does occasionally rent a vacant room to transients for only one night.

Mrs. BREWER advised that there are 10 separate apartments or rooms in the south wing of this rooming house and six separate apartments or rooms in the north wing. The six rooms in the north wing are referred to as 1-B, 2-B, etc., whereas the rooms in the south wing have

no letter of the alphabet following the room number. She furnished the following information concerning the status of these rooms as of April 4, 1968, when the man using the name JOHN WILLARD checked into Room 5-B:

## SOUTH WING:

(Rooms are numbered in a counter-clockwise order, starting with Room No. 1 in the southwest corner of this wing of the rooming house.)

- Room 1 Vacant
- Room 2 Occupied by Mr. and Mrs. BREWER and referred to as the "office."
- Room 3 occupied by Mr. BERTIE L. REEVES, an elderly man who is retired and who appears to be reasonably responsible. She stated that Mr. REEVES came out of his room about the same time as Mr. and Mrs. BREWER after all heard what they believed to be a shot about 6:00 p.m., April 4, 1968.
- Room 4 Occupied by HOWARD VANCE, an older man, chronic alcoholic, who works as a handyman at Jim's Grill located nearby, but who as of April 4, 1968, was known by Mrs. BREWER to have been drunk for two days. Mrs. BREWER stated she knew that VANCE was in his room as of 6:00 p.m., April 4, 1968, but she also knew that he had been on a two-day drunk and that he did not come out of his room.
- Room 5 Occupied by T. L. MESSER, a man 75 to 80
  years of age, who has been ill recently,
  whose hearing is very defective, and who
  was in his room as of the time of the
  shooting. Mrs. BREWER added, however,
  that due to Mr. MESSER's age and his
  physical and mental condition, Mr. MESSER
  still does not understand what actually
  occurred and continues to ask what all the
  excitement was about when police officers
  and FBI Agents questioned occupants of the
  building.

- Room 6 Vacant. Man by the name of SAMUEL WILSON, who she understands had been a tenant for several months, vacated this room on April 3, 1968.
- Room 7 Occupied by FRANK M. MARLEY, an elderly man who is a chronic alcoholic, who was also drunk and in his room as of the time of the shooting. She stated that MARLEY did not come out of his room around the time of the shooting.
- Room 8 Vacant. (This is the room which Mrs.

  BREWER first showed to the man using the name JOHN WILLARD.)
- Room 9 Occupied by HAROLD CARTER, a man 55 to 60 years of age, unemployed, who receives welfare checks and who has a physical affliction. (She stated one of his hands is deformed or "drawn up.") She stated this man also drinks considerably. She does not believe he was home at the time of the shooting.
- Room 10 Occupied by LEONARD EATON, age 60 to 65, who she understands to be a long-time resident at this rooming house, who reportedly formerly worked on a river boat. She stated it is her impression that he was in his room as leep at the time of the shooting and that he too had been drinking.

# NORTH WING:

(Rooms on north wing are numbered 1-B through 6-B, reading from west to east. Those doors having numbers have numerals only on them, but all of the tenants understand that the designation of "B" refers to the rooms in the north wing.)

Room 1-B - (located west of a north-south hallway which connects to an enclosed walkway connecting the two wings of the rooming house) Occupied by Mrs. JESSIE L. LEDBETTER, a widow who she understands has resided at this address for some 8 to 10 years. Mrs. LEDBETTER is a deaf mute.

Room 2-B - Vacant.

Room 3-B - Vacant.

- Room 4-B Occupied by WILLIS ANCHUTZ, employed at Duvall Transfer Company. Mrs. BREWER later learned that Mr. ANCHUTZ reportedly saw the man running down the hall following the shooting and had some conversation with him.
- Room 5-B Room occupied by the man using name
  JOHN WILLARD and which room had not
  been rented since former tenant,
  COMMODORE STEWART, died about March 13
  or 14, 1968.
- Room 6-B Occupied by Mr. and Mrs. CHARLIE STEPHENS. Mr. STEPHENS is an unemployed tuberculosis patient and his wife is presently confined to her bed.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date	4/7/68	

WILLIAM CHARLES ANSCHUTZ, 422½ South Main. Apartment 4B, Memphis, advised that he is employed by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, 1054 Firestone Avenue, Memphis.

He returned home from work about 2:30 p.m., April 4, 1968. Miss JESSE LEDBETTER, a neighbor in Apartment 1B, came to his room to watch television. They watched television throughout the afternoon.

On two occasions during the afternoon, ANSCHUTZ tried to get into the bathroom at the end of the hall to pour out some water he had used to wash dishes. Each time someone was in the bathroom. The second time ANSCHUTZ went to the bathroom, another neighbor, CHARLIE STEVENS of Apartment 6B, told ANSCHUTZ that a new tenant who rented Apartment 5B was in the bathroom. ANSCHUTZ did not know the exact time of his attempts to get into the bathroom, but he indicated these attempts were only a few minutes apart. He does not know how long the new tenant was in the bathroom, but it seemed like a long time to him.

Later ANSCHUTZ heard a shot. He had been watching television for some time, but he did not have any idea what time it was. He got up and went to the door. As he opened it a man came down the hall. ANSCHUTZ thought the man came out of Apartment 5B, but he could not tell for sure.

The man was running and as he passed ANSCHUTZ's door, he held his hand and arm over his face so ANSCHUTZ could not get a good look at him. As the man passed ANSCHUTZ, ANSCHUTZ said, "I thought I heard a shot!" The man answered, "Yeh, it was a shot."

The man was carrying something under his arm. It appeared to be something long and was wrapped in what looked like a blanket. ANSCHUTZ thought it might be a gun.

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<u>at Memphis, Tennessee</u>

File # **ME**: 44-1987

SA JACK D. VAHRENWALD; SA EUGENE A. MEDORI, by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON; SA JOHN W. BAUE pate dictated 4/6/68

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ANSCHUTZ knew that the shot had been fired nearby. but he could not tell if it came from the bathroom or from He had never seen the man or talked to him until he saw the man running down the hall. He thinks the man went down the stairs to Main Street, but he did not follow him.

After the man had run down the hall, CHARLIE STEVENS came out of his apartment, and said he had also heard a shot. ANSCHUTZ went into the bathroom, and looked out the window. A police officer in the backyard yelled for him to get away from the window. ANSCHUTZ heard a girl say that the shot had come from the window.

After leaving the bathroom, ANSCHUTZ went to the other side of the roominghouse, and told the landlady. Mrs. BREWER, that he had heard a shot. Then he went back to his room to watch television. To the best of his knowledge, ANSCHUTZ cannot remember the man having any other luggage, etc., except the object that was wrapped up in the blanket.

#### ANSCHUTZ describes the man as follows:

Height: 6' Build: Slim 30 °s Age:

Did not seem to be wearing a Clothes:

coat.

ANSCHUTZ did not see the man's face because the man covered it with his arm and hand. ANSCHUTZ does not think he could identify the man if he saw him again. ANSCHUTZ said he had not been drinking at all during the afternoon. He had to stop drinking for health reasons.

ANSCHUTZ advised that JESSE LEDBETTER is a deaf mute. She can read and write and can speak sign language. ANSCHUTZ does not know if she saw the man when he ran past the door.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

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#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

	4 /30 /00	The second second
Date	4/10/68	
Dutt		<del></del>

Mr. CHARLIE QUITMAN STEPHENS, Room 6-B, second floor, 4222 S. Main Street, furnished the following information to Lieutenant J. D. HAMBY. Homicide Bureau. Memphis Police

Department, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:

Mr. STEPHENS, who stated he is 46 years of age, and his wife occupy 2 rooms in the north wing of a rooming house, the address of which is  $422\frac{1}{2}$  S. Main Street. This rooming house actually covers the second floor of 2 separate buildings, Mr. STEPHENS' room being located in the north building in the southeast corner of the north building.

Sometime in the late afternoon of April 4, 1968, he and his wife were in their room. His wife, who has recently been in the hospital for an extended period of time, was in bed in their combination of living-bedroom. He was in the kitchen, which is east of the living-bedroom. He was repairing a radio on a table located at the north wall of the kitchen. Immediately north of him is a common bathroom which is located at the east end of an east-west hallway in the north building. While he was repairing the radio, he heard what he is certain was a shot, and he is certain that shot came from the bathroom from a point within just a few feet of where he was sitting. He has no way of knowing the time but can only estimate it was sometime between 5:00 and 6:00 PM.

Upon hearing this shot, he walked out of the kitchen through his living-bedroom and opened the door leading onto the hallway and observed a man running west down this hallway and this man was carrying a large bundle of some kind. He would estimate that this bundle or package was at least 3 or 4 feet long and 6 to 8 inches thick. Although he saw the man and the bundle only momentarily, he gained the impression that the bundle was wrapped in something, possibly a newspaper. This man continued running to the end of the hallway turning left (south) and apparently thereafter ran down the stairways onto the street, although he could not actually see the man going down the stairway.

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On	4/5/68	_at	emphis,	Tennessee	_File # <b>ME</b> _	44-1987	
by	SA FRANKI	in L.	JOHNSON	/bbs	_Date dictated	4/9/68	

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It immediately occurred to Mr. STEPHENS that this was the same man he had seen earlier in the afternoon, possibly around mid-afternoon, standing at the door to room 5-B which is located immediately west of Mr. STEPHENS's living-bedroom. He stated that around mid-afternoon he had seen a man with Mrs. BREWER standing in the hallway at the entrance to room 5-B looking into room 5-B. He saw the man's left side. The man had nothing in his hands at the time. He assumed this was some new guest looking at a room.

Mr. STEPHENS stated that he and his wife remained in their room the rest of the afternoon. He pointed out that he, Mr. STEPHENS, is a disabled veteran who has been treated for tuberculosis, and he spends most of his time in his rooms with his wife who is also ill and who at present is a bed patient.

Sometime after seeing thisman with Mrs. BREWER, he heard someone in room 5-B and assumed the man hehad seen had rented the room next door. He stated that he recalls on several different occasions hearing footsteps in this room and also leaving from this room past his (Mr. STEPHENS's) room and into the common bathroom at the east end of the hall. He was also very much aware that when the person went from room 5-B to the bathroom, that person remained in the bathroom for a considerable period of time. He pointed out that this is particularly noticeable since this is a common bathroom which must be used by a number of different tenants. He also specifically recalled that only on one occasion did he hear the commode being flushed and he was therefore curious as to why this person was spending so much time in the bathroom.

He stated that on the last occasion that someone went from number 5-B to the bathroom prior to the time he heard the shot, he would estimate that that person remained in the bathroom for at least 20 to 30 minutes. During this period he heard no noises coming from the bathroom. He also specifically recalls that during this same period, Mr. WILLIS ANCHUATZ (phonetic), who occupies room 4-B, immediately west of 5-B where the new tenant apparently was located.

had knocked on Mr. STEPHENS's door and somewhat angrily inquired as to who was staying in the bathroom so long.

It was at the end of this latter period of time that Mr. STEPHENS heard the above described shot which he was certain came from the bathroom. He stated that immediately after the shot was fired he heard some people located across the street, east of the building where he lives, screaming. Due to the excitement of the moment, the fact that people across the street in the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel were screaming, and the fact that his hearing is not the best, he did not hear any additional noises coming from the bathroom. He pointed out that he would expect to hear a "scuffle" coming from the bathroom if the man in the bathroom had fired the shot that killed MARTIN LUTHER KING, but he cannot recall hearing such a "scuffle." He stated that he simply has no way of knowing whether the man came out of the bathroom, went into room 5-B and then ran out of 5-B down the hall toward the front of the building, or whether the man in the bathroom ran directly from the bathroom down the hallway toward the front of the building. He stated he did hesitate a few moments after hearing the shot and hearing the screaming outside before he went to the door and looked down the hall to see the man running carrying something in his hand.

Mr. STEPHENS advised that the only people in the north building of this rooming house at the time of this incident were (1) Mr. STEPHENS, (2) Mr. STEPHENS's wife, who was in bed and who was never in a position to observe anything, (3) Mr. WILLIS ANCHUTZ (phonetic), above, in room 4-B, who came out of his room and was seen by Mr. STEPHENS at the same time Mr. STEPHENS saw the man running down the hall, (4) Mrs. JESSIE LEDBETTER, a deaf and dumb lady who resides in room 1-B toward the front (west) of the morth wing or north building, and (5) the unknown man who had occupied room 5-B who was running down the hall as previously stated.

Mr. STEPHENS stated that Mr. ANCHULTZ made some remark to the unknown man who was running down the hallway and the unknown man apparently made some kind of reply.

Mr. STEPHENS advised that whereas he could hear footsteps in 5-B and could hear footsteps between 5-B and the bathroom, he at no time heard any conversation in 5-B. and he is certain that there was no conversation in 5-B from the time the new tenant checked in until the time he heard the shot. He stated he never heard any noise or footsteps which would indicate to him there was ever more than one person in room 5-B. He pointed out that whereas his hearing is not too good, it is very easy to hear noises in the adjoining rooms of this rooming house and he definitely can hear normal conversation coming from that room. Mr. STEPHENS stated that when he saw the new tenant with Mrs. BREWER standing in front of 5-B, he only saw the left side of the new tenant, and when he saw what he believes to be the same man running down the hallway carrying something, he only saw this person from the rear. He pointed out he never saw him directly in front, but based upon his observations he would describe this person as follows:

Unknown

Name:
Race:
Sex:
Age:
Height:
Weight:
Build:
Posture:
Hair:

White Male "in his 30's." 5' 10-11" 165 pounds Average Man stood erectly Described as sandy, also described as "dark blond" or having the appearance of unwashed sand. Further described barline as receding on left side (and presumably on both sides) making it appear he would have "peaks" on either side but with full thick hair toward the front center of his head between the peaks. Hair combed straight back. Normal or average haircut.

Dress:

Bare headed, wearing dark

suit

General Appearance:

Clean shaven, neat appearing

individual.