

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

## Snyder says man revealed police plots to kill King

By BILL HENDRICK

Associated Press Writer

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

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

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

Asked why the man contacted him and let him listen to a copy of the tape recording, Snyder said "he may have just been looking for someone with nerve, a fighter."

Snyder read part of the letter and used the word "blank" where the man had used names.

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

"Involved in this conspiracy were agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, agents (blank), (blank) and (blank) and others that I did not know," Snyder said, continuing to read the letter. "Members of the (blank) police department, chief of detectives, captain

(blank), lieutenant (blank), officer (blank), lieutenant (blank) of the homicide bureau and president of the FOP sergeant (blank)."

FOB stands for Fraternal Order of Police, a collective bargaining organization for police officers.

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

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

Snyder said the man "indicates further in the letter that after he retired he contacted who he says is James Earl Ray's attorney..."

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

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

Richard A. Sprague, the Philadelphia attorney who is chief counsel for the assassinations committee, confirmed Snyder had turned over material containing the allegation.

"The matter you refer to has been referred to the committee and is under investigation," Sprague said.

Snyder said he would vote to continue funds for the committee's continued existence solely on the basis of the allegation brought to him.

"Sun-Democrat",  
daily newspaper of  
general circulation,  
Paducah, Kentucky  
March 20, 1977

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

## Rep. Snyder Claims Letter Ties FBI To King Assassination Try

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — U.S. Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., says he has referred to the House Assassination Committee a retired police officer who claims FBI agents propositioned him to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In statements broadcast Friday on WHAS-TV,

Snyder said the former officer, who he declined to name, has a tape recording of a purported conversation between himself and FBI agents in which an alleged suggestion was made to murder King.

According to Snyder, the former policeman "names three FBI officers (and)

three or four prominent people at that time in the police department (and) indicates that the offer was made on two occasions in his automobile where he had a tape recorder."

Snyder, who represents Kentucky's 4th District, declined to name dates and the city where the purported offers were made.

Snyder also declined to specify whether the former officer was from Kentucky. He said the man contacted him by letter recently and that he later met the man and listened to one tape recording.

Part of the tape was inaudible, Snyder said, but he was able to discern that the subject was King's assassination.

"I have talked to him and in my opinion he appears to be a responsible citizen and I think these kinds of leads need to be checked out," Snyder said.

Snyder said Assassinations Committee now has the tape recording and is investigating the matter.

King was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968. The Assassinations Committee recently said it had new information on King's murder, but has not produced any evidence of involvement by anyone other than the convicted killer, James Earl Ray.

"Messenger",  
daily newspaper of  
general circulation,  
Mayfield, Kentucky,  
March 21, 1977

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

# FBI-Police Plot To Kill Martin Luther King Is Revealed by Kentucky Congressman

By RICHARD L. WALKER

United Press International

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., says he understands the House Assassinations Committee has "some right substantial leads" in regard to the Martin Luther King Jr. murder case, besides the information he relayed to them on an alleged assassination plot among FBI agents and police.

Snyder disclosed during the weekend that a retired police officer wrote him last month outlining an alleged conspiracy involving three FBI agents and "three or four police officers" to kill the civil rights leader. Snyder said the retired policeman claimed he was offered \$500,000 to commit the murder.

The Kentucky congressman declined to name the officer or his city police force. But United Press International learned from a reliable source yesterday that the alleged plot involved some high-ranking policemen and FBI agents from Louisville during the mid-1960s.

Snyder, who originally opposed creation of the House Assassinations Committee, now says he intends to vote for the panel's continuation.

Snyder said his informant had turned over a tape recording of a conversation which he says contains details of the half-million dollar offer to kill King. He said the ex-officer, now involved in private security work, had been to Washington to tell his story to investigators for the assassinations committee, but had not formally testified.

"I did think that I was sitting on something that was explosive whether accurate or not accurate," Snyder said. "That's the reason why I think I must be very careful not to reveal either who the writer was or who he named in his allegations."

Richard Sprague, chief counsel for the assassinations committee, has confirmed that the alleged plot to which Snyder referred was under investigation and refused further comment.



GENE SNYDER  
Discloses Plot

"Lexington Herald",  
daily newspaper of general circulation,  
Lexington, Kentucky, March 21, 1977

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

# Ex-Louisville cop bares King plot

BY JIM EBERLE

Kentucky Post Washington Bureau

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

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

## ■ In danger?

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

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

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

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

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

"Kentucky Post",  
daily newspaper of  
general circulation,  
Covington, Kentucky  
March 21, 1977

# ASSASSINATION MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

It remains unclear whether the other men named in the letter were also Louisville policemen because none of the congressmen would say. Snyder, whose congressional district includes suburban Louisville, said only, "It wasn't too hard for me to check and find out if in fact they had been officers, and they were."

The offer about which the informant says he has personal knowledge allegedly took place two or three years before Dr. King was shot to death in Memphis in 1968, an informed source said.

"He said in his letter that he was offered \$500,000 and the offer was made in his car equipped with a tape recorder and he has a recording of the conversation," said Snyder.

"And then when I talked with him," the congressman continued, "he told me that actually there were two conversations but the one tape has been either misplaced or stolen."

"He has one tape and he's turned it over to the committee."

Snyder believes he never met the man before the letter arrived in his office on Feb. 28. He said Devine, a former FBI agent, had the man investigated and reported back to him "that the guy checked out good."

In a meeting with the man after he flew to Washington to be interviewed by the committee staff, Snyder said "he did not impress me as anybody who had any kind of mental problems."

Devine said he hadn't met the man, and he knows of no information "he was a psycho."

And Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, who is chairing the subcommittee dealing specifically with the King assassination, said he was told by Devine the man checked out as a "highly respected police officer reputed to be a reliable individual."

Stokes said he's taking the man's allegation "seriously."

Coming to Snyder was a last resort for the former policeman.

"In his letter he indicated that after he retired from the police department he made an attempt to get this to James Earl Ray's attorneys," said Snyder. Ray pleaded guilty to killing Dr. King in 1968 and is serving a 99-year prison sentence.

The man was referred by Ray's attorneys to a Frederick, Md., investigator, said Snyder, and called him.

Snyder said he'll now vote to keep the panel going because "I think the police man's story needs to be investigated...to find out what there is to it."

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**Ray's Attorney Says He  
Checked Kentucky Leads**

WASHINGTON (AP) — One of James Earl Ray's lawyers says that more than a year ago he looked into an allegation that Louisville police and FBI agents plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King and concluded "there wasn't much to it."

The lawyer, James H. Lesar, said yesterday that even if the allegation of a retired Louisville policeman is true, "it was remote from the assassination" because the man alleges there was only talk and not an attempt to kill the civil rights leader.

A House assassinations committee aide said investigators have talked to the retired policeman, who was not identified publicly, and are checking his story without presuming how much substance there is to it.

"Lexington Herald",  
daily newspaper of  
general circulation,  
Lexington, Kentucky,  
March 22, 1977



# Identify ex-cop in King plot

BY TOM SCHEFFEY

Kentucky Post Frankfort Bureau

LOUISVILLE—Clifton E. Baird, 50, is the ex-patrolman who has just revealed to the House Assassination Committee in Washington that other Louisville policemen and three FBI men offered him \$500,000 in 1966 to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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

Baird, now an undercover private investigator, was not at his small brick home at 7813 Edsel Ln., in suburban Fern Creek Monday night.

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

## ■ The secret.

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

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

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

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

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

## ■ Rigs up recorder.

"We haven't even told our children

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

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

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

## ■ Feared for job.

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

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

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

Baird has felt victimized since he left the force.

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

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

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

"You can live with something like

"Kentucky Post",  
daily newspaper of  
general circulation,  
Covington, Kentucky,  
March 22, 1977



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...this. You can live with it, but you're not peaceful."

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

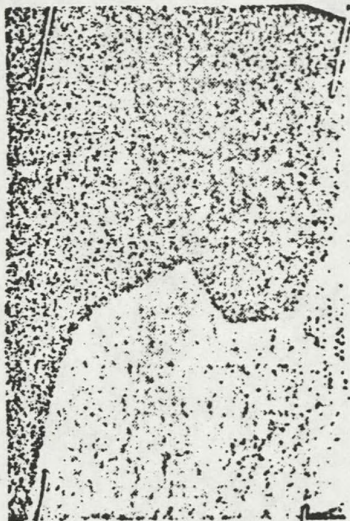
A. D. King was pastor of Louisville's Mt. Zion Baptist Church from 1965-69, and after moving to Atlanta, drowned in his home pool in 1970.

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

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

Sources involved in the House committee probe of the assassinations of King and President John F. Kennedy said Baird is expected to testify under oath to the identities of the FBI agents and Louisville policemen in the alleged conspiracy.

Committee sources told Scripps-Howard reporters the Louisville allegation are considered "hot." One commented "They are placing it at the top."



CLIFTON E. BAIRD

... key figure in King probe.



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



ASSASSINATION OF  
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## Ray lawyer dismisses story of plot in Louisville to kill King

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One of James Earl Ray's lawyers says that more than a year ago he looked into an allegation that Louisville police and FBI agents plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He said he concluded "there wasn't much to it."

The lawyer, James H. Lesar, said yesterday that even if the allegation by a retired Louisville policeman is true, "it was remote from the assassination" because the man says there was only talk and not an attempt to kill the civil rights leader.

A House assassinations committee aide said investigators have talked to the retired policeman, who was not identified publicly, and are checking his story.

Lesar said the retired policeman told him in a letter that other Louisville policemen and FBI agents tried to hire him to kill King.

Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., disclosed last week that the policeman also wrote him a letter containing the allegation. Snyder said he turned it over to the assassinations committee.

(Snyder refused last night to confirm or deny that the policeman was retired from the Louisville department. "I think I've said enough," he said. "I just don't think I ought to nail it down.")

On a related matter, the House aide said two committee members will interview Ray today.

"Courier-Journal",  
daily newspaper of general circulation,  
Louisville, Kentucky, March 22, 1977

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

## Assassination clue identified

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The wife of a former Louisville policeman has told newsmen her husband, Clifton Baird, is the source of the allegation that FBI agents and some members of the Louisville police department plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King.

But Baird, 50, now employed by a private security agency, was out of town and unavailable for comment.

He is reported to have been a patrolman on the Louisville police force from 1949 to 1975.

Baird's wife, Mary, 44, was quoted by WHAS-TV and The Courier Journal as confirming her husband was the source of allegations that he was offered \$500,000 to kill the civil rights leader, who was assassinated in 1968. James Earl Ray was imprisoned in Tennessee on a murder charge stemming from the assassination.

WHAS also quoted a spokesman for the House Select Committee on Assassinations as confirming Baird was the source of the allegations.

Attempts Tuesday night to reach Mrs. Baird about the media reports were unsuccessful.

Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., disclosed last week that he talked with a retired police officer who claimed he was offered money to kill King. Snyder did not name the officer or the city

in which the alleged plot occurred, but said he referred the man to the House assassinations committee.

Contacted at home Tuesday night about whether Baird was the man, Snyder refused to comment.

Earlier, Snyder quoted from a letter he said the man had written which said, "While I was in the police department I was innocently involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King."

The congressman said of the man making the allegation: "I don't think that he's a kook, I'm not in a position to say whether he's telling the truth or not, but he does not appear to me to be a person other than totally rational."

Snyder said he listened to a tape recording, now in the hands of House investigators, which purports to contain conversations relating to the alleged conspiracy.

A committee spokesman said the allegations are being investigated. If the House votes next week to extend the committee's charter, committee investigators may meet with the man in Louisville next month, the spokesman said.

Louisville Police Chief John Nevin said the department has not received any official communications from the assassinations committee.

"Sun-Democrat",  
daily newspaper of  
general circulation,  
Paducah, Kentucky,  
March 23, 1977

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

By JOHN FILIATREAU  
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

The ex-policeman who recently told U.S. Rep. M. Gene Snyder about an abortive conspiracy to murder Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been identified as Clifton E. Baird, 50, who retired as a patrolman from the Louisville Police Department in 1975 and now lives in Fern Creek.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The last reference apparently is to Tom Denton, who retired earlier this year as president of FOP Lodge 6. Denton, who has said he is considering running for Jefferson County sheriff, said yesterday, "I swear I don't know anything about it . . . I was quite surprised that it was in Louisville."

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

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

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

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

"Courier-Journal",  
daily newspaper  
of general  
circulation,  
Louisville,  
Kentucky,  
March 23, 1977



ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

## Retired Policeman's Wife Says Husband Told Of King Plot

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—The wife of a retired policeman confirmed Wednesday it was her husband who told Rep. Gene Snyder (R-Ky.) of an alleged plot by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents and Louisville police officers to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mary Baird, 44, said her husband, Clifton E. Baird, a former Louisville police officer, told Snyder of the alleged plot.

SNYDER QUOTED Baird as saying the offer was made in a car by members of several members of the Louisville Police Department and several FBI agents.

Mrs. Baird said her husband retired from the Louisville Police Department several years ago after 27 years service.

"He told me about this when I first married him, seven years ago," Mrs. Baird said in an interview. "I think he thought he wasn't going to be believed."

Snyder said the man told him he was offered \$500,000 on two occasions to kill King.

Mrs. Baird said she believes one reason her husband came forward with the allegation was because "he wants to know why someone asked him" to kill King, who was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

"It sure has been on his mind," Mrs. Baird said. "He said it just got to bothering him and that's why he contacted Mr. Snyder."

Her husband, before contacting Snyder, told one of James Earl Ray's attorneys of the alleged plot, she said. Mrs. Baird said her husband was "discouraged" after talking with the attorney. Ray is serving 99 years in prison for the slaying of King.

SNYDER, WHO disclosed last week that he had heard from a man who claimed knowledge of a plot to kill King, refused to divulge the man's name.

Baird told his wife "he was offered \$500,000 to kill" King and "he didn't appreciate it," Mrs. Baird said.

"Kentucky Enquirer",  
daily newspaper of  
general circulation,  
Covington, Kentucky,  
March 24, 1977

## ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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FOB stands for Fraternal Order of Police, a collective bargaining organization for police officers.

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

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

Snyder said the man "indicates further in the letter that after he retired he contacted who he says is James Earl Ray's attorney...."

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

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

Richard A. Sprague, the Philadelphia attorney who is chief counsel for the assassinations committee, confirmed Snyder had turned over material containing the allegation.

"The matter you refer to has been referred to the committee and is under investigation," Sprague said.

Snyder said he would vote to continue funds for the committee's continued existence solely on the basis of the allegation brought to him.

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

Snyder said he has discussed the allegation with Rep. Samuel L. Devine of Ohio, the ranking minority member

of the committee. Devine, a former FBI agent, checked into the man's background and found him to be a "solid citizen," Snyder said.

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

# Government told of King murder story

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — U. S. Atty. George Long says he has told the Justice Department about an allegation that Louisville police and FBI agents conspired to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Long said Friday that the Justice Department hasn't decided yet whether it will investigate the allegations disclosed last week by Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky.

Snyder said he was contacted by a man who told him of a conspiracy to kill the late civil rights leader. The man alleged, Snyder said, that six members of the Louisville Police Department and several FBI agents were involved.

Snyder has refused to divulge the man's name. However, The Kentucky Post reported that Clinton Baird, 50, a retired Louisville policeman, made the allegations, and his wife Mary, 44, confirmed it.

Baird has not been available for comment since his wife confirmed he told Snyder of the alleged plot.

Snyder, who still refuses to identify the person who contacted him, said he talked with the man "face to face." The congressman quoted the man as saying he was offered \$500,000 to kill King, assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968. James Earl Ray is serving 99 years in prison for the murder of King.

Mrs. Baird said her husband is a security guard, that he retired from the police department after 27 years service and that he is out of town on an assignment. She has refused to elaborate.

She said her husband told her of the alleged plot seven years ago, when they were married. He told Snyder, she said, because he wanted "to know why someone asked him" to kill King. It had been "bothering him," she said.

Snyder said the man told him he had contacted one of Ray's attorneys, who dismissed the allegation as untrue. Snyder, however, said his impression of the man led him to believe the charge at least should be investigated. Snyder said the man was "rational" and that the FBI considered him a "solid citizen type."

The man told Snyder that he tape-recorded the alleged offer which he said was made in a car, the congressman said. Snyder also said the tape has been turned over to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, along with a letter from the man in which names of policemen and FBI agents allegedly involved were listed.

Snyder said he listened to a copy of the tape but that most of it was inaudible. However, he said he heard enough to establish it had something to do with King and money.

Snyder said, additionally, that he changed his mind about extending funding for the committee on the basis of his conversation with the man.

Louisville Police Chief John Nevin said his department would not know where to begin an investigation but that he would like to be supplied with any information the House committee has on the alleged involvement by Louisville police.

"I would very much like to have the information furnished to us so we can ask some serious questions," Nevin said. "Right now, it is really most difficult to deal with the situation, but I certainly think before it's over we're going to have to look into it, no question about it."

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general circulation,  
Paducah, Kentucky,  
March 27, 1977



ASSASSINATION OF  
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# Deny they were part of King plot

By TIM WYNGAARD and CARL  
WEST

Scripps-Howard Staff Writers

LOUISVILLE, KY.—They are almost all in their 60s now, graying and potbelled, leisurely working part-time retirement jobs after lifelong police careers.

And until last week, they must have felt that their glory days, and the excitement of police work, were behind them.

Now they have been named as part of a 1965 plot to kill the late Martin Luther King Jr.

They maintain they know nothing of the charges leveled against them by another former Louisville cop. They wonder why a man they recall fondly would secretly accuse them to investigators for the House Assassinations Committee.

But slowly they are finding out that the charges of retired Louisville patrolman Clifton E. Baird—that they offered him \$500,000 to kill King—have caught them in the rapidly closing vise of congressional politics.

BAIRD'S ACCUSATIONS, contained in a still-secret letter to the House committee, are being used by members of the beleaguered panel as a lever to pry approval for another year's continuation from a reluctant House.

Approval of a new budget of \$2.7 million is expected tomorrow, following committee leaks outlining Baird's charges and a 14-page preliminary committee report claiming new leads in the murders of King in 1968 and President Kennedy in 1963.

Scripps-Howard News Service has identified and interviewed four of the six Louisville policemen named in Baird's letter—and they categorically deny his charges.

One of Baird's former commanding officers recalled Baird warmly, and then exploded when a reporter told him the contents of the secret letter.

"IT'S PREPOSTEROUS," he said of Baird's claim that six local lawmen and three FBI agents planned to kill King during a period of open-housing tension here.

"It's so preposterous that it's ridiculous. I just can't believe it... He's wrong," he said.

A second called Baird's charges "silly and stupid," and offered to take a lie detector test.

He added, "If he's accusing me, he's an out-and-out liar."

A third, the only one of the four still on the Louisville police force, also offered to take a lie test and said he intends to deny the charges under oath to the House committee.

Another retired lawman—a ranking officer attached to the same district as Baird and the rest of the policemen named in the letter—took a more soft-spoken approach to his denials.

"It's kind of weird to me," he said. "But I really can't help you. All I know about it is what I have read in the newspapers."

Individually, they all raised the same private questions about Baird's charges.

WHY, THEY ASK, did Baird remain silent about the alleged murder plan for almost 12 years—and for two years following his retirement after an unblemished 27-year career as a policeman?

Where would they—even with the connivance of the FBI—have come up with \$500,000 to pay a gunman?

And, they ask, if the FBI was involved—with all the sophisticated equipment at its disposal—why would they have settled on an insignificant patrolman, not highly regarded as a marksman, as the triggerman?

Baird, now a Pinkerton's security guard here, has disappeared since making the charges. Reporters have been unable to find him and committee sources refuse to say whether he is being held under protective custody.

Ray cooperating—James Earl Ray gave staff members of the House

Assassinations Committee information yesterday which his lawyer said could identify the shadowy "Raoul" in the Martin Luther King Jr. assassination.

Chief counsel Richard Sprague and three other committee investigators spent six hours with Ray, King's convicted assassin, at Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee.

Sprague refused comment on what Ray told the investigators.

Among the information Ray provided the committee or made available through his previous lawyers, his attorney said, were travel dates and motel lodging records documenting his own movements as well as telephone numbers Ray claimed to have used to contact Raoul, a mysterious figure Ray has blamed for the King murder.

Ray, serving a 99-year prison sentence for the King assassination, is hoping to gain a new trial by cooperating with the committee.

"Kentucky Post",  
daily newspaper of  
general circulation,  
Covington, Kentucky  
March 29, 1977

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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On March 25, 1977, Robert L. Keuch, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., who has been appointed Special Counsel for the Department of Justice in matters concerning the HSCA, advised that the Attorney General had authorized Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) interview of Clifton E. Baird, previously identified in newspaper articles contained herein, in the presence of an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA), Louisville, Kentucky, concerning all details of Baird's recent reported allegation that he had received an offer from FBI Agents and police officers to assassinate Martin Luther King, Jr. for \$500,000.00.

On March 26, 1977, an attempt was made to interview Clifton E. Baird, 7813 Edsel Lane, Louisville, Kentucky, concerning all details of recent reported allegation. Inquiry at the Baird residence by Special Agents of the FBI, accompanied by AUSA Alexander T. Taft, Jr., on March 26, 1977, revealed that Clifton E. Baird was out of town at an undisclosed location in Kentucky where, according to Baird's wife, Mary Baird, the former was on special assignment in connection with his employment with Pinkerton, Inc. Detective Agency, 510 West Broadway, Louisville, Kentucky. Mary Baird declined to furnish information concerning Baird's specific location since Baird was working on special assignment involving twelve hour shifts and interview of Baird while so employed could possibly jeopardize his job and cause him embarrassment inasmuch as his co-worker on that assignment had no knowledge of Baird's recent allegation. Mary Baird indicated that her husband would not return to Louisville, Kentucky, until the morning of March 29, 1977, at which time she would ask Baird to contact the FBI Louisville Office or United States Attorney's Office, Louisville, Kentucky.

Mary Baird advised that she had no personal knowledge of the reported offer which apparently occurred sometime in 1966 and that her husband had not revealed any pertinent facts of the allegation to her. Identities of the FBI Agents and Louisville Police Department officers reportedly named in her husband's letter to Representative M. G. (Gene) Snyder were unknown to Mary Baird.

**ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

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According to Mary Baird, her husband, Clifton E. Baird, was interviewed by the HSCA in Washington, D. C. "several weeks ago", at which time a tape recording of the alleged offer to kill Martin Luther King, Jr. and all other pertinent data were provided committee members. Mary Baird did not believe that a copy of the tape recording existed and had no knowledge of any copy of the letter written by her husband to Snyder which may have been retained by the former.

Mary Baird was of the opinion that Snyder publicized receipt of the allegation in order to insure continued funding of HSCA scheduled to expire March 31, 1977. Mary Baird had no knowledge of how her husband's identity was "leaked" to the news media, noting that she has been harassed by the news media both at home and her employment, Stockyards Bank, Louisville, Kentucky, in an apparent effort to obtain additional information regarding the allegation and arrange an interview of her husband. As of March 26, 1977, no known interview of Baird had been conducted by the news media.

Mary Baird assured Special Agents of the FBI and AUSA Alexander T. Taft, Jr. that she would have her husband, Clifton E. Baird, contact the FBI or the United States Attorney's Office immediately upon his return to Louisville, Kentucky. The necessity for immediate interview of Clifton E. Baird was reiterated to Mary Baird and suitable arrangements for same on or about March 29, 1977, were made.

On March 26, 1977, the above information was furnished to United States Attorney George J. Long, Jr., Western District of Kentucky, Louisville, Kentucky.

On March 29, 1977, the second attempt was made to contact Clifton E. Baird, 7813 Edsel Lane, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of arranging a suitable interview with Special Agents of the FBI in the presence of AUSA Alexander T. Taft, Jr. Included herein as follows is a summary of that contact:



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

3/30/77

Date of transcription

On March 29, 1977, at approximately 7:28 PM, Special Agents EDMUND V. ARMENTO and CHRIS R. HOEHLE arrived at the residence of CLIFTON E. BAIRD, 7813 Edsel Lane, Louisville, Kentucky, for the specific purpose of contacting BAIRD in an effort to arrange a suitable interview of BAIRD with Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the presence of Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) ALEXANDER T. TAFT, JR. in connection with an allegation of an offer reportedly made to BAIRD by unnamed FBI Agents during 1966 to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Contact was made inasmuch as BAIRD had failed to initiate contact with the FBI or the United States Attorney's Office on March 29, 1977, as had been requested of his wife, MARY BAIRD, during previous contact on March 26, 1977.

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

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

Interviewed on 3/29/77 at Louisville, Kentucky File # LS 44-947

by SA CHRIS R. HOEHLE  
SA EDMUND V. ARMENTO/EVA/scs Date dictated 3/30/77

25

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.

LS 44-947

2

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

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

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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On March 29, 1977, AUSA Alexander T. Taft, Jr. was advised of the results of the contact with Clifton E. Baird by Special Agents of the FBI on the evening of March 29, 1977.



FBI

Date: 3/30/77

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

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

Re Louisville teletype to Bureau dated 3/20/77,  
 Bureau teletype to Louisville dated 3/26/77, Louisville  
 teletype to Bureau dated 3/27/77, Louisville teletype to Bureau  
 dated 3/29/77 and Bureau telephone call to Louisville, 3/30/77.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are ten (10) copies  
 of self-explanatory LHM setting forth details concerning  
 recent reported allegation by CLIFTON E. BAIRD, 7813 Edsel Lane,  
Louisville, Kentucky, that he had received offer from FBI  
 Agents and police officers to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING,  
 JR., inclusive of local newspaper articles relating to same  
 and unsuccessful attempt to interview CLIFTON E. BAIRD.

Enclosed for Memphis are two (2) copies of above  
 described LHM, which contains summary of all information  
 developed to date concerning instant aspect of captioned matter.

It is noted that Louisville Division indices contain  
 only single reference to "CLIFTON EUGENE BAIRD, Officer,  
Louisville Police Department" (LS 44-474), which file was  
 destroyed on 2/28/77. No information is contained in  
 Louisville Division files substantiating BAIRD's allegation on  
 3/29/77 that he has received numerous threats from the FBI  
 over the last ten years.

Copy of enclosed LHM being disseminated locally to  
 U. S. Attorney, Louisville, Kentucky.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 10)  
 2 - Memphis (Enc. 2)  
 ② - Louisville  
 EVA/scs  
 (6)

INDEX: YES ☒ NO ☐

SAC *So*  
 ASAC *4*

44-947-410

Searched ☒  
 Serialized ☒  
 Indexed ☒  
 Filed ☒  
 Hoehn *Exp*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge

FBI

Date: 3/30/77

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

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

Re Louisville teletype to Bureau dated 3/20/77, Bureau teletype to Louisville dated 3/26/77, Louisville teletype to Bureau dated 3/27/77, Louisville teletype to Bureau dated 3/29/77 and Bureau telephone call to Louisville, 3/30/77.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are ten (10) copies of self-explanatory LHM setting forth details concerning recent reported allegation by CLIFTON E. BAIRD, 7813 Edsel Lane, Louisville, Kentucky, that he had received offer from FBI Agents and police officers to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., inclusive of local newspaper articles relating to same and unsuccessful attempt to interview CLIFTON E. BAIRD.

Enclosed for Memphis are two (2) copies of above described LHM, which contains summary of all information developed to date concerning instant aspect of captioned matter.

It is noted that Louisville Division indices contain only single reference to "CLIFTON EUGENE BAIRD, Officer, Louisville Police Department" (LS 44-474), which file was destroyed on 2/28/77. No information is contained in Louisville Division files substantiating BAIRD's allegation on 3/29/77 that he has received numerous threats from the FBI over the last ten years.

Copy of enclosed LHM being disseminated locally to U. S. Attorney, Louisville, Kentucky.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 10)  
2 - Memphis (Enc. 2)  
② - Louisville  
EVA/scs  
(6)

INDEXED (ES) NO

44-947-410  
Searched  
Serialized  
Indexed  
Filed

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

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

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# House Panel Questions Ray In Prison About King Slaying

PIETROS, Tenn. (AP) — An attorney for convicted murderer James Earl Ray said Ray answered all questions put to him by House assassinations committee attorneys Tuesday concerning the 1968 murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray met for more than two hours at Brushy Mountain State Prison here with the

House attorneys to give a preliminary deposition on his role in King's murder in Memphis. Ray is serving a 99-year sentence at the prison for the killing of King.

Jack Kershaw, Ray's newest attorney, said afterward that Ray was not under oath, but that he answered all questions put to him by Richard Sprague, the committee's chief counsel, and Robert Lelner, who is handling the King portion of the committee's probe.

Kershaw also said his client has not reached any decision on whether he will take a lie detector test concerning the King murder.

"I don't see any great surprise information coming out until later," the attorney said. "If there are any surprises, they will not be the result of Ray's direct information."

Kershaw said Ray, who claims innocence in the King assassination despite his earlier plea of guilty to the murder, talked only about his own actions or actions of which he had direct knowledge.

"He really does not know what anybody else did," Kershaw said. "We hope

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

PAGE 9

KY NEW ERA

HOPKINSVILLE, KY

Date: 3/23/77  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor: KEN LITCHFIELD  
Title:

Character: BU #  
or

Classification:  
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

44-947-411

See 1371

Hoehle Cox

their investigation to corroborate what he said will satisfy their goals and ours. As far as Ray is concerned, this is directed solely toward getting his day in court."

Sprague emerged from the session smiling, but told reporters as he entered his car that he would have no comment on the meeting. He said he would attend committee meeting today in Washington.

The Tuesday session included Sprague, Kershaw and three other committee staff members. After Sprague and his staff left, Kershaw remained behind the walls for a brief period conferring with his client.

Earlier, Kershaw had told reporters Ray may be willing to take a lie detector test in connection with the assassination. But he said after meeting with Ray that no decision had been reached on the question.

Kershaw said reports that a mysterious Latin man named "Raoul" was Ray's brother are incorrect. Ray has said that he was in Memphis in connection with a supposed gun-running scheme with Raoul when King was assassinated.

"Raoul is a breathing and talking human being," Kershaw said. "The committee is trying to find him now and so am I."

Kershaw added that he believes Raoul is in the United States or Canada and that searches for him are being conducted in Florida, Alabama and Kentucky.

He said Ray met Raoul in Montreal while Ray was still a fugitive after escaping from prison.

"Ray is simply an unwitting tool and instrument in the assassination," Kershaw said. "Now only for the first time ever is there a climate of opinion that gives him a forum," he added, explaining Ray's willingness to talk to the committee officials.

Ray pleaded guilty to the King assassination, but three days later attempted to withdraw the plea, claiming he was forced by his original attorney, Percy Foreman, into making the plea.

Since then, Ray said he was having a tire changed when King was shot and was not in the boarding house from which officials said the bullets were fired.

"There is real doubt in my mind that the bullet was fired from the boarding house," Kershaw said. "It may have been fired from the bushes outside the hotel," he added.

Kershaw said Ray was willing to tell the committee staffers everything he knows Tuesday in hopes of possibly getting a new trial. The U.S. Supreme Court turned down Ray's appeal for a new trial in December.

"I think he has grounds for another trial," Kershaw said. "There's no question that his Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Sixth amendment rights were violated."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Retired Louisville Policeman Tells Of Offer To Kill King

By BILL HENDRICK

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The wife of a retired Louisville police officer confirmed today that her husband is the man who told Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., he was offered \$500,000 on two occasions to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mary Baird, 44, said her 50-year-old husband, Clifton E. Baird, who is out of town and unavailable for comment, told Snyder of the alleged offer he said was made in a car by members of the Louisville police department and several FBI agents.

She said her husband retired from the Louisville police department several years ago after 27 years service.

"He told me about this when I first married him, seven years ago," Mrs. Baird said. "I think he thought he wasn't going to be believed."

She said she believes one reason he came forward a second time with the allegation was because "he wants to know why someone asked him" to kill the civil rights leader, who was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

"It sure has been on his mind," Mrs. Baird said. "He said it just got to bothering him and that's why he contacted Mr. Snyder."

She said her husband, before contacting Snyder, told one of James Earl Ray's attorneys of the alleged plot. She said her husband was "discouraged" after he told the attorney.

Ray is serving 99 years in prison for the slaying of King.

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

PAGE 8

KY NEW ERA

HOPKINSVILLE, KY

Date: 3/23/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor: KEN LITCHFIELD

Title:

Character: BU #

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: LS

☐ Being Investigated



Snyder, who disclosed last week that he had heard from a man who claimed knowledge of a plot to kill King, refused to divulge the man's name.

Mrs. Baird said her husband told her "he was offered \$500,000 to kill" King and that "he didn't appreciate it."

"I can't say anymore, but he's just not that type of person," she said.

Asked why her husband thought he was asked, Mrs. Baird responded: "That's the \$64 question, he wants to know why someone asked him."

She refused to divulge the name of the private security agency for which her husband works but said he was out of town on business unrelated to his allegation of the plot.

"I cannot reveal the name (of the security agency)," she said. "That would reveal everything."

The Kentucky Post first named Baird as the man who reported the alleged plot to Snyder.

Mrs. Baird said she had no idea how her husband was identified as the man who made the allegation but that she was glad it is out in the open now.

"I'm not upset," she said. "It had to come out sooner or later. Somebody leaked it out."

She said her husband "has definitely told me he was the one" who made the statements about the alleged plot.

Snyder said earlier this week he had met the man "face to face" and was convinced he was a "rational" man. In fact, Snyder said he changed his mind about voting to extend financing for the House Select Committee on Assassinations solely because of his conversation with the man.

Snyder said that before he talked with the man, he had voted against continued funding for the committee.

Louisville Police Chief John Nevin said his department has not received any official communications from the congressional committee investigating King's assassination. He said he didn't know Baird very well and that his first reaction was "that it was preposterous."

C. J. Hyde, longtime Louisville police chief now retired, said he remembers Baird as a "very fine police officer... who wasn't afraid of man or beast."

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

Hyde said he knows nothing about the alleged conspiracy.

"I hope there isn't anything to that..." Hyde said. "Whenever Dr. King came to Louisville we did everything possible to see that he would be safe. I always thought even an attempt on his life would be bad for our city."

The \$500,000 offer allegedly was made two or three years before King was

killed, according to the "informed source" quoted by The Post.

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

Snyder, who still refuses to confirm that Baird is the man who told him of the alleged plot, said he received a letter about the allegation late in February.

According to Snyder, Baird said in the letter that while he was still a policeman he was "innocently involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Martin Luther King."

Earlier this week, Snyder disclosed he had talked with a former policeman, that the policeman had a tape recording of the alleged offer to kill King, and that the officer named names. Snyder refused to disclose the names, or even what city the allegations involved.

He read the letter, using the word "blank" to disguise identities.

Snyder said he had listened to the tape. that it was almost inaudible, but that he heard enough to decide that the allegation should be investigated by the House committee.

"I don't think that he's a kook," Snyder said. "I'm not in a position to say whether he's telling the truth or not, but he does not appear to me to be a person other than totally rational."

Snyder said the committee has the tape and that its investigators have talked with the former policeman.

Snyder also quoted the former policeman as saying he tried to turn over a tape recording of the alleged conspiracy conversation to Ray's attorneys but was asked by one investigator "where he planned to hide if he tried to do anything with the tape."

# Deny they were part of King plot

By TIM WYNGAARD and CARL WEST

Scripps-Howard Staff Writers

LOUISVILLE, KY.—They are almost all in their 60s now, graying and potbellied, leisurely working part-time retirement jobs after lifelong police careers.

And until last week, they must have felt that their glory days, and the excitement of police work, were behind them.

Now they have been named as part of a 1965 plot to kill the late Martin Luther King Jr.

They maintain they know nothing of the charges leveled against them by another former Louisville cop. They wonder why a man they recall fondly would secretly accuse them to investigators for the House Assassinations Committee.

But slowly they are finding out that the charges of retired Louisville patrolman Clifton E. Baird—that they offered him \$500,000 to kill King—have caught them in the rapidly closing vise of congressional politics.

BAIRD'S ACCUSATIONS, contained in a still-secret letter to the House committee, are being used by members of the beleaguered panel as a lever to pry approval for another year's continuation from a reluctant House.

Approval of a new budget of \$2.7 million is expected tomorrow, following committee leaks outlining Baird's charges and a 14-page preliminary committee report claiming new leads in the murders of King in 1968 and President Kennedy in 1963.

Scripps-Howard News Service has identified and interviewed four of the six Louisville policemen named in Baird's letter—and they categorically deny his charges.

One of Baird's former commanding officers recalled Baird warmly, and then exploded when a reporter told him the contents of the secret letter.

"IT'S PREPOSTEROUS," he said of Baird's claim that six local lawmen and three FBI agents planned to kill King during a period of open-housing tension here.

"It's so preposterous that it's ridiculous. I just can't believe it . . . He's wrong," he said.

A second called Baird's charges "silly and stupid," and offered to take a lie detector test.

He added, "If he's accusing me, he's an out-and-out liar."

A third, the only one of the four still on the Louisville police force, also offered to take a lie test and said he intends to deny the charges under oath to the House committee.

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

PAGE 9

KY POST

COVINGTON, KY

Date: 3/29/77  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title:

Character: 44-947  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office:  
☐ Being Investigated

44-942-413  
SERIALIZED FILED  
APR 1 1977  
FBI - LOUISVILLE  
Hochle

# Ex-cop tells of FBI threats

BY JIM EBERLE  
Kentucky Post Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON: Clifton E. Baird, the retired Louisville policeman who claims he was asked to kill Dr. Martin Luther King jr. in the mid-1960s, says he was threatened by FBI agents and others he did not know.

His charge is contained in a letter to Rep. M. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., who read Baird's account of the alleged conspiracy on the House floor, Wednesday.

The letter Snyder read from had 18 blank spaces, including the identity of Baird, the police department he once worked for, the names of three FBI agents and six Louisville policeman and information relating to an investigation of Baird in Owensboro, his hometown.

The House later voted 230 to 181, with Snyder's support, to permit the House Assassination Committee to continue its investigation of the assassinations of King and former President John F. Kennedy.

Snyder said several members credited his reading of the letter with helping the committee remain in existence. Snyder himself had voted against the committee in February, before he received the letter from Baird.

There was scattered applause for Snyder when he finished his statement by saying if the allegations were true they should be investigated and if they're not true the FBI and other law enforcement agencies accused should be exonerated.

Delegate Walter Fauntroy, D-D.C., a member of the committee, characterized the letter as one of "several leads were

we're pursuing that suggest there was a plot or plots to assassinate Martin Luther King prior to April 1968."

Baird said in the letter he was "threatened" on three different occasions by FBI agents and a month before the King killing "I was threatened seven or eight times by people I did not know."

Baird's letter also suggests there were more than three FBI agents allegedly involved in the \$500,000 offer to Baird to kill the civil rights leader.

Baird listed three FBI agents by name but he said there were "others that I did not know." He also identified six members of the Louisville police department, the force he served on for 27 years.

Snyder did not identify the policemen but he did read Baird's description of the rank or position they held in the department: chief of detectives, captain, lieutenant, officer, lieutenant in the homicide bureau and the president of the Fraternal Order of Police.

Four of the six policemen contacted by Scripps-Howard Newspapers denied any knowledge of a plot to kill King.

Baird said the offer, which he recorded on tape, came at a time when he was under "intense investigation" by police and the FBI. Scripps-Howard Newspapers quoted sources close to the committee as saying the alleged conspirators were trying to blackmail Baird into participating because he was suspected of being involved in a dynamite ring in Owensboro, his hometown.

Baird said in the letter that when he

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411-474

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

PAGE 6

KY POST

COVINGTON, KY

Date: 3/31/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

143  
APR - 5 1977  
FBI - LOUISVILLE  
1234

44-947-414

left the force he went to see a reporter for United Press International. He said the reporter did not keep the appointment and he had the tapes. He said he next contacted James Earl Ray's attorneys, who referred him to their investigator in Frederick, Md. Ray pleaded guilty to killing King and is serving a 99-year prison sentence.

The investigator, Baird said, wanted to know "what business it was of mine and where I was going to hide if I tried to do anything with the tapes."

Snyder told his colleagues on the floor he normally doesn't discuss his mail with anyone. But he said he met with the letter writer and got his approval to use the letter with the deletions.

"I was not and am not an admirer of Dr. Martin Luther King's tactics or philosophy," said Snyder. But he said the allegations should be investigated.

Prior to the final vote, the House defeated an amendment that would have taken the body into secret session to hear in detail what the committee had come up with.

Snyder voted for the secret session but said he would not have "filled in" the blanks in the letter even in secret sessions. He said that would be up to the committee, which has a copy of the letter without blanks, to decide.

The committee also has Baird's tape. And Snyder said he understood the age of the tape had been verified as being made in about 1965 when the conversation allegedly occurred.



Another retired lawman—a ranking officer attached to the same district as Baird and the rest of the police named in the letter—took a more soft-spoken approach to his denials.

"It's kind of weird to me," he said. "But I really can't help you. All I know about it is what I have read in the newspapers."

Individually, they all raised the same private questions about Baird's charges.

**WHY, THEY ASK**, did Baird remain silent about the alleged murder plan for almost 12 years—and for two years following his retirement after an unblemished 27-year career as a policeman?

Where would they—even with the connivance of the FBI—have come up with \$500,000 to pay a gunman?

And, they ask, if the FBI was involved—with all the sophisticated equipment at its disposal—why would they have settled on an insignificant patrolman, not highly regarded as a marksman, as the triggerman?

Baird, now a Pinkerton's security guard here, has disappeared since making the charges. Reporters have been unable to find him and committee sources refuse to say whether he is being held under protective custody.

**Ray cooperating**—James Earl Ray gave staff members of the House Assassinations Committee information yesterday which his lawyer said could identify the shadowy "Raoul" in the Martin Luther King Jr. assassination.

Chief counsel Richard Sprague and three other committee investigators spent six hours with Ray, King's convicted assassin, at Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee.

Sprague refused comment on what Ray told the investigators.

Among the information Ray provided the committee or made available through his previous lawyers, his attorney said, were travel dates and motel lodging records documenting his own movements as well as telephone numbers Ray claimed to have used to contact Raoul, a mysterious figure Ray has blamed for the King murder.

Ray, serving a 99-year prison sentence for the King assassination, is hoping to gain a new trial by cooperating with the committee.

X AIR - TEL

4/8/77

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Louisville airtel to the Bureau dated 3/30/77.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are two newspaper articles from "The Kentucky Messenger" dated 3/30/77, published at Mayfield, Kentucky, and "The Kentucky Post" dated 3/31/77, published at Covington, Kentucky, setting forth details concerning recent reported allegation by CLIFTON E. BAIRD, 7813 Edsel Lane, Louisville, Kentucky, that he had received offer from FBI Agents and police officers to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

It is noted no information is contained in the files of the Louisville Division substantiating allegations reported in the above newspapers.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 2)  
(2) - Louisville

CRH:lmf  
(4)

INDEX: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO ☒

Additional Information  
Contained in 66-2612

HORHLA *Cup*

44-947-415

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\_\_\_\_\_ *J*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *SP*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *D*

NB 4/8/77

AIR - TEL

4/8/77

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

Re Louisville airtel to the Bureau dated 3/30/77.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are two newspaper articles from "The Kentucky Messenger" dated 3/30/77, published at Mayfield, Kentucky, and "The Kentucky Post" dated 3/31/77, published at Covington, Kentucky, setting forth details concerning recent reported allegation by CLIFTON E. BAIRD, 7813 Edsel Lane, Louisville, Kentucky, that he had received offer from FBI Agents and police officers to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

It is noted no information is contained in the files of the Louisville Division substantiating allegations reported in the above newspapers.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 2)  
② - Louisville

CRH:lm  
(4)

INDEX: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

4/8/77

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) (P)

DATE: 4/14/77

FROM : SUPV. EDMUND V. ARMENTO

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4/14/77, D. MICHAEL GRIFFIN, Special Productions Unit, External Affairs Division, FBIHQ, advised that all local press inquiries received re recent allegation by CLIFTON E. BAIRD that FBI Agents offered BAIRD \$500,000 to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., should be answered with following statement:

"House Select Committee on Assassinations is in receipt of all available information concerning this matter. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is making no comment at this time."

- ② 44-947  
1- SA HINO  
1- SAC  
1- ASAC  
1- Supv. ARMENTO

EVA:gch

(6) *gch*

44-947-416

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 14 1977	
FBI - LOUISVILLE	

*Hoehle*



5010-110

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

SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) (P)

4/14/77

SUPV. EDMUND V. ARMENTO

MURKIN

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- ② 44-947
- 1- SA HINO
- 1- SAC
- 1- ASAC
- 1- Supv. ARMENTO

EVA:gch  
(6) *gch*

44-947-416

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 14 1977	
FBI - LOUISVILLE	



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Discount tale of King plot

BY JIM EBERLE  
Kentucky Post, Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON: A retired policeman's story that FBI agents and Louisville police were conspiring to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1965 isn't believable and never was a "hot lead" of the House Assassinations Committee.

That's what Richard Sprague, one time chief counsel and staff director of the committee, told The Kentucky Post after a news conference Monday at which he explained why he resigned and evaluated the information in the killings of King and former President John F. Kennedy.

Clifton E. Baird had told the committee that while he was a Louisville policeman he was offered \$500,000 to kill the civil rights leader. He named three FBI agents and six Louisville policemen in the alleged plot and supplied a tape recording of what he said was the offer being made.

Sprague said, however, "I don't think it's believable. We later developed inconsistencies in his story," he said, declining to name them.

According to Sprague, Baird's story was never more than a "minor lead" in the committee's attempt to determine whether James Earl Ray actually assassinated King.

"It was not a hot lead," said Sprague,

adding that some committee members used Baird's story to titillate the public and keep the panel from being disbanded.

About 10 days before the House was scheduled to vote on whether to keep the assassinations committee in business, Rep. M. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., publicized the middleman role he played in directing a letter from Baird — who he has never identified — to the committee.

And the day of the vote, Snyder read the letter on the House floor, deleting all names, and said it raised enough unanswered questions that he would support the committee. He had voted against it in the past.

At no time did Snyder say whether he believed Baird's story.

Despite denials from the FBI and Louisville police, Baird's story got nationwide attention and was credited with other "hot leads" in tipping the balance in a skeptical House to keep the probes alive.

Sprague said Monday enough new information has come to light to mandate a thorough investigation but he said it should be taken out of the hands of Congress and given to a special prosecutor appointed by the President.

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

PAGE 1

KY POST

COVINGTON, KY

Date: 4/12/77  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor: VANCE H. TRIMB  
Title:

Character: BU #  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office:  
☐ Being Investigated LS

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SERIAL FILED  
APR 14 1977  
FBI - LOUISVILLE  
Hochle Cyp

44-947-417

He called the House of Representatives a "political animal" and said most committee members were "constantly pushing for public hearings, something for the media, something to titillate the public."

He said such pressure "totally impedes the search for the truth. You have to be left alone to do a proper job of investigating crime," he said, "and Congress is not the proper agency, the proper branch of government to conduct an

investigation of any crime much less these crimes of murder."

Sprague resigned March 29, the night before the House vote on the panel. He had been engaged in a battle with Rep. Henry Gonzalez, D-Tex., who resigned after the rest of the committee would not back up his firing of Sprague.

Sprague said the most promising information into the King murder is coming from Ray, who has been interviewed twice in prison near Memphis, where he is serving a 99 year term.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# House panel may probe city link to King's slaying

By BOB HILL

Louisville Times Staff Writer

There still is a Louisville connection in the investigation of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but the extent of the city's involvement hasn't been determined.

The connection became national news recently after U. S. Rep. Gene Snyder revealed that a former Louisville policeman had told him that unidentified police officers and FBI agents had offered him \$500,000 to kill King.

Snyder, whose district includes suburban Jefferson County, informed the congressional committee that has been investigating the slayings of King and President John F. Kennedy.

The committee, whose time authorization was extended by the House last week, apparently will study the Louisville angle in King's death and determine whether it deserves a full-scale investigation. A spokesman said it is possible that some members of the committee will come to Louisville.

Louisville Police Chief John Nevin said he has not begun a local investigation because "we don't intend to do anything to cross paths on a federal investigation."

"If we get some official information we will go (investigate)," Nevin said. "Now the feds are on it, and we will leave it up to them."

A spokesman for the FBI office in Louisville said, "We know of no basis" for the allegations that the FBI was involved in a conspiracy.

The spokesman said the FBI has not talked with Clifton Baird, 50, the former Louisville policeman who told Snyder in February of being offered money to kill King in the late 1960s. (King was shot to death in Memphis in 1968.)

Snyder has not admitted that Baird was the man he talked with, but Baird's wife, Mary, has confirmed the conversation. The Bairds have been unavailable for comment since then and apparently are trying to avoid any contact with local and national news media.

U. S. Atty. George Long said he has told the U. S. Justice Department about the allegations. No decision has been made about a department investigation of the Louisville episode.

The House voted last week, 230-181, to extend the authorization for the assassinations committee two years. At one time there were indications that the House might terminate the committee and drop the investigations.

Snyder had voted against an extension of the committee's budget last year, but voted in favor of extending the committee in last week's vote.

Bill Tanner, a Snyder aide, said Friday that Snyder had changed his vote primarily because of the information the former policeman had disclosed.

According to the Associated Press, the assassinations committee has interviewed Baird twice. However, Burt

Chardak, public-relations spokesman for the committee, said Friday he did not think that the information supplied by Snyder and Baird was a major reason for the voting to extend the life of the committee.

While not naming Baird, Snyder has said the former policeman who approached him "was not a kook" and that the policeman was "a legitimate-type citizen."

Snyder said the man claimed that at least six police officers and several FBI agents were involved in the plot. Snyder said he listened to a copy of the tape recording the man said he had made of the offer. Snyder said that while much of the tape was inaudible, he heard some talk about money and King. Snyder said he then decided the man's story should be investigated by the congressional committee.

Snyder said the tape has been turned

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

PAGE B 7

COURIER JOURNAL

LOUISVILLE, KY

Date: 4/4/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor: BARRY BINGHAM

Title: JR

Character: BU # 44-3886  
or

Classification:

Submitting Office: LS 44-94

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Hoehle	
44-947-418	

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4/13/77

over to the assassinations committee, along with a letter in which the names of the policemen and FBI agents allegedly involved were listed.

In an interview with The Kentucky Post, Mrs. Baird confirmed that her husband told Snyder of the plot because he wanted to know why someone had asked him to kill King. She said the alleged offer had been bothering him.

A spokesman for Snyder's office said Baird had to wait almost 10 years to tell his story "because no one would listen to him." Snyder had said that one of King's attorneys was told of the story years ago but dismissed it as untrue.

Baird retired from the Louisville Police in 1975 after 27 years of service. His wife said he now works for a private security firm.

James Earl Ray, who is serving a 99-year sentence for slaying King, recently said that he believed King's murder was part of a conspiracy, but he did not know who was involved.

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

Aubrey Williams, president of the Louisville branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), said Friday that while he could not comment on the Snyder-Baird story, many blacks always have felt King's death was part of a conspiracy.

Williams said he felt the assassinations committee could best handle the investigation because it had the finances to do it right.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Snyder Not Talking To FBI Agents

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The FBI has tried to interview Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., and the former policeman who told the congressman about an alleged plot to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

But Snyder says he declined to talk to the federal agents, as did Clifton Baird, 50, the man identified as the informant who told Snyder of the alleged plot.

Snyder disclosed several weeks ago that a retired policeman had told him of a plot to kill King that allegedly involved several FBI agents and six police officers.

Snyder has refused to identify the informant. But a Louisville woman, Mary Baird, 44, confirmed published reports that the informant was her husband. Neither has been available for comment for two weeks.

The Justice Department said the man refused to be interviewed, and Snyder said he didn't blame him.

Snyder said the man told him he was offered \$500,000 to assassinate the late civil rights leader. King was killed in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968 and James Earl Ray is serving 99 years in prison for the slaying.

Snyder said Monday he has "no idea what they wanted to talk" to Baird about but that "I suspect they want to know who he put the finger on."

Snyder said the informant, in a letter mailed to the congressman in February, named several alleged FBI agents and at least six "prominent" members of a police department. Baird retired from the Louisville Police Department after 27 years service and currently, according to his wife, is working as a security guard.

Snyder said he had nothing to say to the FBI because the letter to him from the informant, along with a tape recording of

an alleged conversation in which the alleged conspiracy was mentioned, had been turned over to the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Snyder said he thinks the FBI wants him to turn over the names listed in the letter by Baird.

"He names names that are supposed to be FBI agents, and I cannot see where this would serve the proper purpose at this point in time..." Snyder said. "I told the people (in his office) to tell the FBI they could go talk to the committee. I don't have any

information the committee doesn't have, so why talk to me?"

Burt Chardak, press officer for the assassinations committee, said in a telephone interview that the charges made by Snyder's informant are "being taken seriously...and they will be investigated."

He said the committee disregards many frivolous leads but that the allegations of the former police officer don't fall into that category.

"We investigate all serious leads," Chardak said.

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

PAGE 14

DANVILLE ADVOCATE

MESSENGER

DANVILLE, KY

Date: 4/7/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

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FBI - LOUISVILLE	
Hoehle	

44-947-419

COPY SENT  
BUREAU  
4/13/77

# Man Claiming Knowledge Of King Plot Questioned

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., says the House assassinations committee has "interrogated" for a second time a man who claims knowledge of an alleged plot by Louisville police and FBI agents to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Committee investigators questioned the man "in the past day or two" for nearly three hours, the congressman said Tuesday. Snyder said he was told by committee investigators that the man "didn't break down" during the interrogation and "they are taking the report seriously — that's what they tell me."

Since he first disclosed two weeks ago that he had been approached by the retired police officer, Snyder has refused to identify him.

However, Mary Baird, 44, of Louisville, confirmed that it was her husband, Clifton Baird, 50, who told Snyder of the alleged plot. She confirmed it was her husband after The Kentucky Post, quoting unnamed sources, identified him.

Mrs. Baird has refused to talk to reporters for a week. Baird himself has been unavailable for comment.

Snyder has refused to confirm the Louisville police department was the one named by Baird. However, Snyder quoted a letter from the man as saying the allegations involved a police department from which he retired several years ago. Baird retired from the Louisville Police Department in 1975 after 27 years service.

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

PAGE 14

KY MESSENGER

MAYFIELD, KY

Date: 3/30/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor: WENDELL GIVENS

Title:

Character: BU #  
or

Classification: LS 100

Submitting Office: LS

☐ Being Investigated

44-947-420

APR 1 1977

FBI - LOUISVILLE

Hochee Cox



Snyder said "several prominent members" of the police department implicated by Baird were named in the allegation.

"I determined in my mind that he was not a kook and that he was a legitimate type citizen," Snyder said. "I have talked to some members of the committee and some of the staff people who have talked to him in the past day or two."

He said he has no idea where Baird is or whether he has been told not to talk with reporters.

U. S. Atty. George Long has told the Justice Department about the allegations, but no federal investigation has been ordered.

Snyder said he was contacted in late February by a man who claimed that at least six police officers and several FBI agents were involved in the alleged plot. Snyder said he listened to a copy of a tape recording the man said he made when he allegedly was offered \$500,000 while sitting in a car to kill the late Dr. King.

King was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968, and James Earl Ray is serving 99 years in prison for the murder.

Snyder said a letter from the man along with the tape recording are in the hands of the committee.

"It was pretty much inaudible," Snyder said of the copy of the tape he heard. "I heard some talk about King and money, enough to make me think that it needs to be looked into, that's all."

Snyder was against extending financing for the House Select Committee on Assassinations before the man told him of the alleged plot. But the congressman says he has changed his mind and wants the committee funded for two more years.

Mrs. Baird told The Associated Press last week that her husband told Snyder of the alleged plot because he "wanted to know why someone asked him" to kill the civil rights leader. She said it had been "bothering him."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI Unable To Interview Snyder On Assassinations

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The FBI has tried to interview Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., and the former policeman who told the congressman about an alleged plot to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

But Snyder says he declined to talk to the federal agents, as did Clifton Baird, 50, the man identified as the informant who told Snyder of the alleged plot.

Snyder disclosed several weeks ago that a retired policeman had told him of a plot to kill King that allegedly involved several FBI agents and six police officers.

Snyder has refused to identify the informant. But a Louisville woman, Mary Baird, 44, confirmed published reports that the informant was her husband. Neither has been available for comment for two weeks.

The Justice Department said the man refused to be interviewed, and Snyder said he didn't blame him.

Snyder said the man told

him he was offered \$500,000 to assassinate the late civil rights leader. King was killed in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968 and James Earl Ray is serving 99 years in prison for the slaying.

Snyder said Monday he has "no idea what they wanted to talk" to Baird about but that "I suspect they want to know who he put the finger on."

Snyder said the informant, in a letter mailed to the congressman in February, named several alleged FBI agents and at least six "prominent" members of a police department. Baird retired from the Louisville Police Department after 27 years service and currently, according to his wife, is working as a security guard.

Snyder said he had nothing to say to the FBI because the letter to him from the informant, along with a tape recording of an alleged conversation in which the alleged conspiracy was mentioned, had been turned over to the House Select

Committee on Assassinations.

Snyder said he thinks the FBI wants him to turn over the names listed in the letter by Baird.

"He names names that are supposed to be FBI agents, and I cannot see where this would serve the proper purpose at this point in time. . . " Snyder said. "I told the people (in his office) to tell the FBI they could go talk to the committee. I don't have any information the committee doesn't have, so why talk to me?"

Burt Chardak, press officer for the assassinations committee, said in a telephone interview that the charges made by Snyder's informant are "being taken seriously. . . and they will be investigated."

He said the committee disregards many frivolous leads but that the allegations of the former police officer don't fall into that category.

"We investigate all serious leads," Chardak said.

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

PAGE 6

GLASGOW DAILY NEWS

GLASGOW, KY

Date: 4/7/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor: CARROLL KNICELY

Title:

Character: BU #

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

LS

☐ Being Investigated

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APR 19 1977	
FBI - LOUISVILLE	
Hoehle Cif	
44-947421	

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# Snyder, policeman won't talk to FBI

By BILL HENDRICK  
Associated Press Writer  
LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) —  
The FBI has tried to interview  
Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., and  
the former policeman who told  
the congressman about an  
alleged plot to assassinate Dr.  
Martin Luther King Jr.

But Snyder says he declined  
to talk to the federal agents, as  
did Clifton Baird, 50, the man  
identified as the informant who  
told Snyder of the alleged plot.

Snyder disclosed several  
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to kill King that allegedly in-  
volved several FBI agents and  
six police officers.

Snyder has refused to identify  
the informant. But a Louisville  
woman, Mary Baird, 44, con-  
firmed published reports that  
the informant was her husband.

Neither has been available for  
comment for two weeks.

The Justice Department said  
the man refused to be inter-  
viewed, and Snyder said he  
didn't blame him.

Snyder said the man told him  
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suspect they want to know who  
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gressman in February, named  
several alleged FBI agents and  
at least six "prominent"  
members of a police depart-  
ment. Baird retired from the

Louisville Police Department  
after 27 years service and cur-  
rently, according to his wife, is  
working as a security guard.

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ter to him from the informant,  
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which the alleged conspiracy  
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"I told the people (in his office)  
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Snyder's informant are "being  
taken seriously... and they  
will be investigated."

He said the committee  
disregards many frivolous  
leads but that the allegations of  
the former police officer don't  
fall into that category.

"We investigate all serious  
leads," Chardak said.

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

PAGE B 8

SUN-DEMOCRAT

PADUCAH, KY

Date: 4/7/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character: BU #

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: LS

☐ Being Investigated

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FBI - LOUISVILLE	

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44-947-422

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to  
Vision  
5/12/77

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Policeman Refuses To Talk On King Matter

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The retired Louisville policeman who told a Kentucky congressman about an alleged conspiracy to assassinate Martin Luther King Jr., refuses to talk to newsmen about the matter "until this investigation is over."

"I have no more comment," Mary Baird, wife of Clifton Baird, said Wednesday. "He's not going to talk to reporters. . until this investigation is over."

She has confirmed it was her husband who told Rep. Gehe Snyder, R Ky., of the alleged plot.

Snyder said he was approached by a retired policeman who claimed to have been offered \$500,000 by several fellow officers and FBI agents to kill the late civil rights leader.

King was shot to death in Memphis, Tenn. James Earl Ray is serving 99 years in

prison for the murder.

Snyder, a conservative who had opposed continued life for the House assassinations committee before being contacted by Baird, changed his mind after receiving a letter and listening to a tape made by the retired policeman.

The tape allegedly made references to "King and money," Snyder said, and supposedly was hidden in Baird's car when he claimed an offer was made. The tape and a letter from Baird to Snyder that the congressman said listed names of about six Louisville policemen and several FBI agents has been turned over to the House committee.

Snyder said he met his informant and concluded he was a "rational individual — 'not a kook.'" C. J. Hyde, who was police chief before Baird retired, said recently he knew nothing of the allegations.

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

Page 16

Ledger & Times

Murray, Ky.

Date: 5/12/77  
Edition: daily  
Author:  
Editor: B  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office:  
☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED <i>10/3</i>	INDEXED <i>10/3</i>
SERIALIZED <i>10/3</i>	FILED <i>10/3</i>
MAY 20 1977	
FBI - LOUISVILLE	

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*WBL 5/20/77*

44-947-423 <sup>FBI/DOJ</sup>

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Policeman who revealed King plot will not talk

By BILL HENDRICK  
Associated Press Writer  
LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) —  
The retired Louisville  
policeman who told a Kentucky  
congressman about an alleged  
conspiracy to assassinate Mar-  
tin Luther King Jr., refuses to  
talk to newsmen about the mat-  
ter "until this investigation is  
over."

"I have no more comment,"  
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She has confirmed it was her  
husband who told Rep. Gene  
Snyder, R Ky., of the alleged  
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claimed to have been offered  
\$500,000 by several fellow of-  
ficers and FBI agents to kill the  
late civil rights leader.

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Memphis, Tenn., in 1968. James  
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by Baird, changed his mind  
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was made. The tape and a letter  
from Baird to Snyder that the  
congressman said listed names  
of about six Louisville  
policemen and several FBI  
agents has been turned over to  
the House committee.

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

—Page B 8

—Sun Democrat

—Paducah, Ky.

Date: 5/12/77

Edition: daily

Author:

Editor: Edwin J. Paxton

Title: Jr.

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED <i>NS</i>	INDEXED <i>NS</i>
SERIALIZED <i>NS</i>	FILED <i>NS</i>
MAY 20 1977	
FBI - LOUISVILLE	
<i>Vivian</i>	

44-947-424 FBI/DOJ

*RUC*  
*Admin*  
*5/27/77*  
*Vivian*  
*Submit*  
*5/24/77*  
*32479*

Snyder said he met his informant and concluded he was a rational individual — "not a kook." C. J. Hyde, who was police chief before Baird retired, said recently he knew nothing of the allegations. But he described Baird as a hard-working, rational, good police officer and said he was not the type to make false statements and not a "publicity hound."

Bert Chardak, spokesman for the House committee, said in a telephone interview from Washington Wednesday that the allegation by Baird is being taken seriously by the committee.

Twenty-one persons were interviewed here last month by investigators for the committee, including Hyde and current Police Chief John Nevin.

"I understand the dates (mentioned by Baird) do not coincide with the assassination by some two years," Chardak said. "What we're talking about transpired about two years before the assassination."

He said the investigators have compiled a report on Baird's allegations and that it has "been completed and given to the deputy chief counsel" in charge of the King assassination.

"We're considering this investigation the same type as if the assassination happened two weeks ago, and we're trying not to disclose who we're talking to or what they said to us," Chardak said. "That would include any reports."

FBI

Date: 6/16/77

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Precedence)

TO: SAC, LOUISVILLE

FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696) *RUC*

MURKIN

Enclosed to Louisville is original and one copy of self-explanatory letter received 6/15/77 by SANDY WEBB, Assignment Editor, WATE, Channel 6 TV, NBC, Knoxville, Tenn.

*42631*  
WEBB indicated this letter was mailed from Marshes Siding which is located in McCreary County, Ky., west of Williamsburg, Ky. He further stated the name DAVID R. ELVINDRIN is unknown at Channel 6.

Above submitted to Louisville for any action they may desire.

*Addressed  
to "David R. Elvindrini"  
Channel 6  
TV  
per ASAC KX  
6/21/77*

*Envelope to be  
forwarded to  
LS*

(2) - Louisville (Enc. 2) *JP*  
2 - Knoxville

HAM/kjj  
(4)

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

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

*44-696-425*  
*meyer*  
*Wilcox*  
*Per*

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 over heard a Kubier say he did  
kill DR King he was drunk  
and tell a woman the story and  
said he hope King was kill so he  
could not tell any one the truth  
he went to go back to Kubier  
and get a way from this so I  
don't believe Ray did kill any one  
if you had listen at Ray you  
would know the truth and take  
all races to heart and see how  
a Black man and how you listen  
to the fact so long thank you  
very much



FBI

Date: 6/16/77

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Precedence)

TO: SAC, LOUISVILLE

FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696) *RUC*

MURKIN

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Above submitted to Louisville for any action they may desire.

(2 - Louisville (Enc. 2) *uj*  
2 - Knoxville

HAM/kjj  
(4)

*44-947-425*  
*Don Low*  
*U*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge