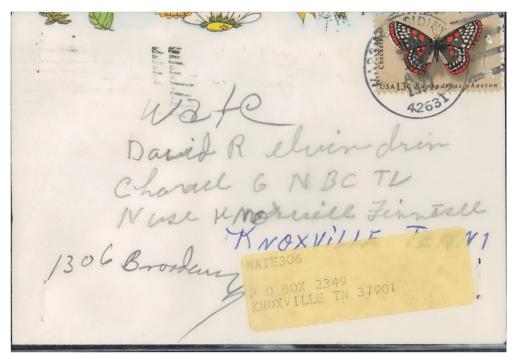
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Date: 6/21/77	1
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(Type in plaintext or code)	! !
Via AIRTEL (Precedence)	_! !
TO: SAC, LOUISVILLE	
FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696) (RUC)	
MURKIN	
Re Knoxville airtel to Louisville dated 6/16,	/77
Enclosed is envelope in which letter describe referenced airtel was enclosed. This is being supplied	
Louisville for their investigative assistance in this ma-	
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Division (R)	-
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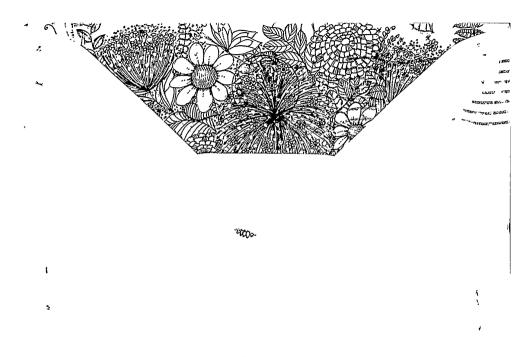
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RTK/wsw (3)

Approved:



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

6/21/77

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, LOUISVILLE

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

MURKIN

Re Knoxville airtel to Louisville dated 6/16/77.

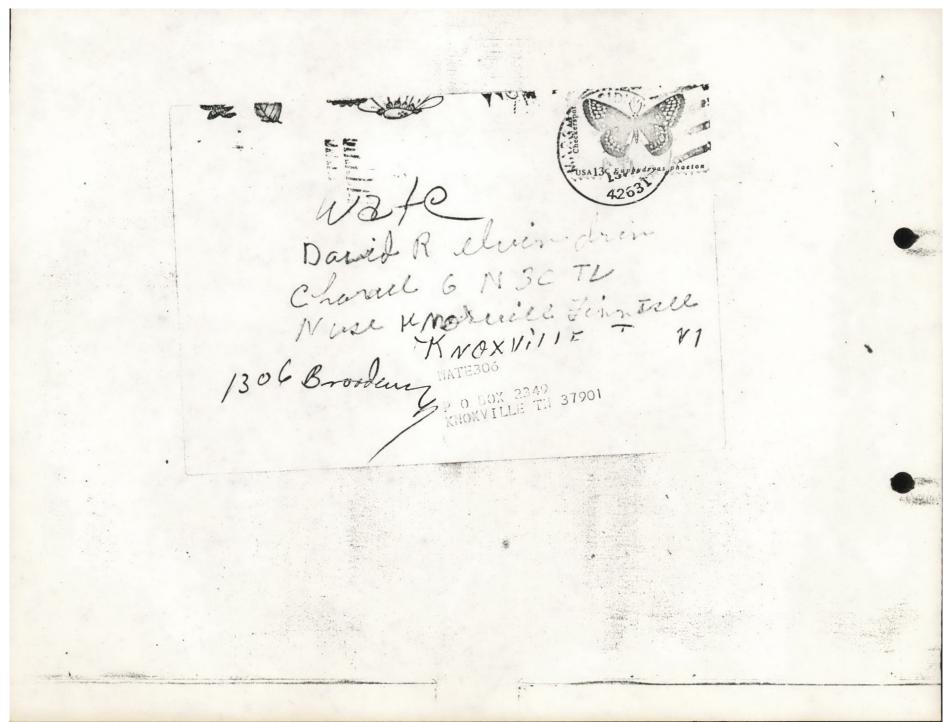
Enclosed is envelope in which letter described in referenced airtel was enclosed. This is being supplied to Louisville for their investigative assistance in this matter.

2 - Louisville (Enc. 1) 1 - Knoxville

RTK/wsw

(3)

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6/27/77

TO:

DIRECTOR, PBI (44-38861)

FROM:

SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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

6/21/77.

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

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

"Dear Sir:

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

2 - Bureau

1 - Knoxville (44-696)

2 - Memphis

2 - Louisville

EVA/SCS

(7)

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meyer M

LS 44-947

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

LEAD:

LOUISVILLE DIVISION:

AT MARSHES SIDING (MC CREARY COUNTY), KENTUCKY:

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

X AIRTEL

6/27/77

TOI

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

PROM:

SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) (P)

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2 - Bureau

1 - Knoxville (44-696)

2 - Memphis

2)- Louisville

EVA/scs

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LS 44-947

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LOUISVILLE DIVISION:

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X

7/14/77

TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM:

SAC. LOUISVILLE (44-947) (RUC)

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

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

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

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

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

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

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

to murder

By ED RYAN Courier-Journal Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — At least three Logisville policemen - two retired and one active — have been subpoenaed to testify before a congressional committee about an alleged plot to murder the late Martin Luther King Jr.

The Courier-Journal learned yesterday that those subpoensed to appear next Wednesday before the House Select Committee on Assassinations are:

Lt. Brent Hardin, an active member of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) who has been mentioned as a possible new police chief in mayor-elect William Stansbury's administration.

Lt. Col. Priest Fry, chief of detec-

Capt. Robert Gregory Jr., also a former chief of detectives. He was head of the department's traffic bureau when he retired in 1971.

There were reports that other policemen and former Louisville-area FBI agents have been subpoenaed by the committee, but the reports couldn't be confirmed.

spokesman for the congressional committee, which is probing the assassi-nations of President John F. Kennedy and King, wouldn't comment on the mat-ter. Most committee sessions have been closed to the public.

However, three other sources told The Courier-Journal that the Louisvillians had been ordered to testify.

Hardin, reached on duty in Louisville, confirmed he had been subpoenaed.

Hardin, a member of the Louisville police force for the past 29 years, vehemently denied that he knew or had heard anything about an alleged plot to kill King.

"This is the damndest thing d've heaid;" said Hardin, who now works at a police tow-in lot. "I never dreamed I'd even be involved in anything like this."

Hardin was a strong supporter of Stansbury for mayor and reportedly is involved in preparations for the new mayor's inauguration Dec. 1.

Fry and Gregory couldn't be reached for immediate comment.

Last March, Rep. Gene Snyder, R-4 h District, said he had turned over to tile House committee an allegation that FBI agents and local policemen plotted to kill King before the time the civil rights leader was shot to death in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

Snyder, on a television news show, said he had received a letter in February from a former policeman who claimed he was twice offered \$500,000 to kill

The congressman said the letter con-tained the names of three FBI agents and tives of the Louisville Police Department. several policemen who were allegedly infrom 1958 until 1970, when he retired. volved in the plot.

Snyder would not reveal the name of his informant, but new reports later iden-tified the policeman as Clifton E. Baird of Fern Creek, a Louisville patrolman who retired in 1975.

It couldn't be determined whether Baird has also been subpoenaed by the congressional committee. However, Snyder has said that his informant either appeared before the committee or was interrogated by the committee's staff.

Richard A. Sprague, the former chief counsel for the assassinations committee, confirmed last spring that the letter to Snyder had been referred to the committeesand was under investigation.

Sayder, reached in his Louisville office, yes erday, would only say, "I understand that hearings will be held next week that involve Louisville people."

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_Courier-Journal

Louisville, Ky.

Date: 11/23/77 Edition: Morning

Title: MURKIN

Bufile 44-38861 Classification: LS 44-947

Submitting Office: LS

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Louisville group quiet on probe of King death

By ED RYAN Courier-Journal Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Little public light was shed on an alleged plot involving Louisville law enforcement officers to kill the late Martin Luther King Jr., as the House Assassinations Committee ended a two-day hearing on the matter yesterday.

Fight past and present Louisville policemen and Louisville-area FBI agents testified at the closed-door sessions.

But they were requested by the committee not to talk to the press afterward, and they didn't.

Subpoenaed by the committee and testifying were:

✓ Clifton E. Baird, a retired Louisville Police Department patrolman who apparently wrote Rep. Gene Snyder, R-4th District, alleging he was offered \$500,000 on two occassions to kill King. (The civil rights leader was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968. James Earl Ray was convicted of the murder.)

Snyder sent Baird's letter to the committee, which is investigating both the King murder and President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

- Ollie Blair, a former Louisville policeman who worked with Baird.
- James Bibb, a former police lieulengint and 10th Ward Louisville alderimar. Baird and Blair are believed to have served under Bibb's command.
- Lt. Col. Priest Fry, a retired chief of detectives.

- Capt. Robert Gregory Jr., also a retired chief of detectives.
- Brent Hardin, who was just promoted to lieutenant colonel in the city police department.
- Charles Duncan, a former FBI agent in the Louisville office who is now assigned to St. Louis.
 ∴
- ✓ Bob Peters, a retired Louisville FBI agent who now works for a Louisville department store.

There was no indication yesterday that the congressional investigation concerning the Louisville allegations will continue

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Page B-2

Courier-Journal

__Louisville, Ky.

Date: 12/2/77
Edition: Morning

Title: MURKIN

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Former Alderman Bibl says he thinks King lave been

By BERL SCHWARTZ Louisville Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Former Louisville Allerman James Bibb said in an interview today that he thinks the alleged plot to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., which involved a number of former and present Louisville policemen, may have started as nothing more than a prank.

: Bibb, a retired Louisville police lieutenant, is one of eight witnesses subpoenaed to appear before the King subcommittee of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. The subcommittee is investigating the 1968 murder of King in Memphis, Tenn., for which James Earl Ray was convicted.

Bibb said that from piecing together information while he has waited to testify before the subcommittee, he has learned that "one or two people might have been involved in a prank" that led to the investigation.

The subcommittee began investigating after U.S. Rep. Gene Snyder, Kentucky Republican whose 4th District includes much of suburban Jefferson County, reportedly testified that a constituent, Clifton, E. Baird, had written him a letter alleging that Baird had been offered \$50,000 on two occasions to kill King. Baird is a retired Louisville police officer who served while Bibb was in office.

more than one or two of the eight witnesses called to testify know anything. about the alleged plot.

And he said that from what he lias gathered, he thinks all that the one or two witnesses know is that the whole affair began as some kind of prank, either on Baird or another officer in.

"One or two people might have been involved in a prank that involved giving some kind of an offer of \$500,000" to kill King, Bibb said.

"When you're a police officer, you hear that kind of stuff and you screen it out," he said.

As the hearing entered its second day today, officials and witnesses continued to keep a tight lid on the proceedings, with committee members declining comment and witnesses still under orders not to talk. Bibb said he expected to be told not to talk after he testified.

The subcommittee subpoenaed five former Louisville police officers, one activeduty officer and two former Louisville FBI agents. Only two witnesses, Baird and William Duncan, were called vesterday, even though the proceedings were scheduled to last just one day.

Duncan and Bob Peters were identified as the former Louisville FBI agents Bibb said he does not believe that called before the committee. Peters said he has retired from the FBI and works for Ayr-Way Stores in Louisville. He said Duncan is assigned to the FBI office in St.] Louis.

> The other witnesses were identified as Ollie Blair, a former Louisville police. officer who worked with Baird; Lt. Col. Priest Fry, the retired chief of detectives; Capt. Robert Gregory Jr., also a retired chief of detectives, and Lt. Brent Hardin.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) Page B-3 Louisville Times Louisville. Kv. 12/1/77 Date: Edition: Red Flash Title: MURKIN Character: Bufile 44-38861

Classification:LS 44-947

Submitting Office:

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COPY SENT BUREAU 12/2/77

Probe results in alleged King plot withheld

By BERL SCHWARTZ Louisville Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The House Select Committee on Assassinations will not reveal until next fall the results of the closed two-day hearing it just completed on an alleged plot to assassinate black leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., reportedly involving a number of past and present Louisville police officers.

G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel for the committee, declined to comment on any aspect of the hearing, which concluded yesterday.

Blakey said committee rules preclude any comment on either procedural or substantive aspects of the investigation.

Hakey said the results of this week's hearing will be part of a report on the committee's overall activities to be made public next September. The committee is required to report to the House by Jan. 3, 1979.

The committee was created this year to investigate the 1963 murder of President John E. Kennedy in Dallas and the 1968 assassination of King in Memphis, Tenn.

James Earl Ray has been convicted of King's murder.

Blakey specifically would not comment on a suggestion by two Louisville witnesses that the alleged plot may have been nothing more than a prank played on a Louisville police officer.

The committee's King subcommittee called the hearings after U.S. Rep. Gene Snyder, a Kentucky Republican whose this District includes much of suburban Jefferson County, reported that a police informant had told him of a plot involving FBI agents and Louisville police officers to kill King.

Snyder said he had received a letter

from a former policeman who named three FBI agents and several policemen alleged to be involved in the plot.

nyder's informant was later identified as Clifton E. Baird, a retired Louisylle policeman. Baird reportedly has alleged he was offered \$500,000 on two occasions to kill King.

Baird appeared before the subcommittee Wednesday. He said before his testimony that he would make a public statement afterward. But when he emerged, he was instructed in front of reporters not to discuss the proceedings because he might be called back. Baird left Washington without making a statement.

Former Louisville Alderman James Bibb, a retired Louisville police lieutenant under whom Baird had served, said in an interview before his testimony that he had gathered from listening to other witnesses that the alleged plot may have been nothing other than a bad joke on a Louisville police officer.

Another witness, Bob Pefers, a retired FBI agent who had been assigned to the foursville office, said he was asked directly the hearing if he knew anything about the possibility that the alleged plot was a pank.

He said he testified he knew nothing at all about it. "If it was said (as a joke,) it was sick humor," he said he told the subcommittee.

Lt. Col. Brent Hardin declined to comment on his appearance except to say, "The only thing I can tell you is I didn't have anything to do with any plot. I have (had) nothing to do with the assassination of anyone."

The subcommittee heard from Baird and William Duncan, an FBI agent formerly assigned to Louisville, on Wednesday. It spent all yesterday morning with Oille Blair, identified as a former Louisville policeman who served with Baird. Duncan and Blair would not comment.

Yesterday afternoon, it heard the remaining Louisville witnesses, retired Licel. Priest Fry and retired Capt. Robert Glegory Jr., both former Louisville police chiefs of detectives.

A committee aide said today it was undetermined whether further hearings would be conducted.

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Date: 12/2/77 Edition: Red Flash	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A
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5 1977 - LOUISVILL

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Will accusation haunt him the rest of his life?



WASHINGTON - What's it like when an ordinary citizen gets caught up in hn extraordinary national event?

"It's embarrassing, really," says James W. Bibb.

Bibb, a former Louisville alderman and retired Louisville police officer, apparently was among a gaggle of former FBI agents and Louisville policemen ranging in rank from chief of detectives to patrolman - named in a tale about an alleged plot to murder the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Louisville a decade

"Apparently" and "alleged plot" - in a situation where few facts are available don't seem strong enough disclaimers for this story.

Here's what's been reported: A retired Louisville policeman named Clifton E. Baird sent U.S. Rep. Gene Snyder, Republican whose 4th District includes much of suburban Jefferson County, a letter last winter. In it, Baird charged he was offered \$500,000 to kill King, whose brother lived in Louisville. Baird reportedly said others were involved in the alleged plot.

Snyder turned the letter over to the ranking Republican on the House Select Committee on Assassinations. The committee was created in 1976 to look into the murder of President Kennedy. Almost as an afterthought, the committee decided it would look into the 1968 killing of King in Memphis, Tenn., for which Jumes Earl Ray has been convicted and is, imprisoned.

Committee investigators went to Louis-

vine and interviewed at least 21 periple last winter. Bibb was one of them. Eight of them won a free trip to Washington last week to testify before the committee's King subcommittee.

At first, Bibb didn't want to talk about what was going on. He'd seen his name in the paper enough, at least in connection with the alleged plot. Besides, he and the other witnesses were under some vague instructions not to talk to reporters.

Then Bibb decided perhaps he should tell his story. So far nobody else had bothered to give his version - that he was just an innocent bystander.

Bibb's concern was understandable. The hearing was closed to the public. Committee officials were saying nothing but "no comment" to reporters. News accounts said there was an alleged flot and Bibb was a witness, and readers were left to draw their own conclusions. Bibb didn't like the idea that somebody might conclude he wanted to kill King.

"It came out of the blue," Bibb said about how he got involved in the investigation. The first he knew he was involved in it was when a reporter from Scripps-Howard newspapers' Washington bureau paid him a visit in Louisville last winter and began asking questions.

Bibb doesn't know how the reporter got his name. He guesses someone on the committee leaked it. Next, committee. investigators were in Louisville asking him and others questions.

Bibb said he told the investigators he didn't know anything more than that Baird, who was reportedly charging the alleged plot, had served under him for a short time. "I tried to be cooperative," he said. "Most of the old-time policeman are. They're trained to help out all government agencies.'

As Bibb related sketchy details about the investigations, he talked a good bit about himself. He talked about how small his police disability pension is, how he'd suffered a number of injuries on the lob, how little money he's making selling rea

Page A-17
Louisville Times
Louisville, Ky.
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FBI - LOUISVILLE

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estate and insurance; how he struggled financially during his four years as an alterman. "That was a loss," he said. "There was no money to make in that, at the bad publicity has hurt his chances. least for me."

In short, he portrayed himself as a 61year-old man facing old age without financial security, as a man who's still fighting to make ends meet. And in the middle of his life comes a plot to kill Martin Luther King.

"I didn't know what they were doing to whom." he said about the investigation. "It's an unknown quantity you're dealing accused and which ones aren't. I'd search my brain but I didn't know anything. All they'd tell us is they were investigating to see if there was anything to turn over to the committee."

Bibb is convinced there never was an assassination plot. "You can go into any barroom in the country and pick up been in Washington I think I've put this thing all together. In my opinion, it was nothing but a prank. Cruel, but a prank."

Bibb feels wronged. "If we had any court in the land that operated like that committee. . . ." he said, trailing off. "I never could have operated in the Police Department like this."

Referring to the witnesses, he said, "Several of us were brought up here (to Washington) on something we know nothing about. We sat up there for eight hours without a break, except for lunch, and then they didn't provide anything. All they ever told us was to come back tolnorrow.

"I had to close up my office and come up here and keep some deals pending that I'll probably lose that I needed to keep my head above water," he said.

But Bibb is worried about more than . that. He was hoping for a place in the new City Hall administration; he is afraid He'thinks that if he ever runs again for alderman, black voters will distrust him because he was linked with the alleged plot, however bogus it turns out to be. And he's worried about the crank calls he expects he'll get in the middle of the night.

Bibb is in a defenseless position. He cannot defend himself because he has not been accused of any crime. He is a with. You read about it in the paper, but victim of a story about an alleged plot you don't know which ones are being that nobody is saying much about in public.

> The committee's chief counsel won't say if there's anything to this "plot." The committee's rules preclude public statemonts until a full report is issued, next fall.

Until then, Bibb will have to live with it. He'll have to live with the frustration stories like these," he said. "While I've of being an unwilling participant in a sordid little sidebar to history.

And when the report comes out next fall - and it probably will clear Bibb of any wrongdoing - you can be sure that there still will be people who'll say, when James W. Bibb's name comes up, "Oh, hir1? Wasn't he the guy who was mixed up in that plot to kill Martin Luther King?"

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ouse assassinatio

WASHINGTON — House investigators In March 1977, Baird first told his story in a letter to his congressman, kep. M. Gere Snyder, R-4th District.

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

Baird reportedly claimed that the \$500,000 offer to kill King was made in Baird's car, which was equipped with a tape recorder. Baird was said to have Mept a tape that supported his charges.

Snyder turned the matter over to Rep. Sam Devine, R-Ohio, rankii g Republican on the select committee

In pril 1977, two committee staff members spent a week in Louisville, interviewing Baird and at least 20 others. And, in November of that year, Beird and seven others were brought to Washington to testify at closed-door committee hearings.

The Louisville witnesses have obeyed committee instructions not to discuss their stestimony. And the committee is still withholding all testimony given behind closed doors.

Lanisville witnesses who talked to the press denied having anything to do with

King's death or with any plot to kill him.

Besides Baird, those who came to Washington to testify were:

William Bibb, a former alderman and former Louisville police lieutenant.

Priest Fry, a retired Louisville police listenant colonel and a former chief of detectives.

Prent Hardin, a Louisville police heutenant colonel.

Ollie Blair, a former Louisville police officer.

Robert Gregory Jr., a retired Luisville police captain and former chief of detectives

pparently have concluded that talk of plot to kill Martin Luther King Jr in ouisville in the mid-1960s had nothing to do with his murder in Memphis, Cenn., in 1968.

Former Louisville police officer Clifton E. Baird reportedly has said he was offered \$500,000 to kill King in a plot involving PHI agents and other Louisville police.

But, after taking reams of testimony last year in Louisville and in Washington, the House Select Committee on Assassinations has dropped further study of Baird's claims.

Only the most credible theories on Ring's death are being aired at the committee's public hearings this week, spokesman Dawne Miller said.

And, with the hearings scheduled to end today, Ms. Miller said, there won't be any review of Baird's story.

"It's safe to conclude that we hidn't any cause to pursue it further with respect to King's death," she said. But Miller said that portions of the testimony "very likely will be" included in

Le committee's final report, which is

Burd, who lives in Fern Creek re-tired from the Louisville police in 1175. He could not be reached for comment

King, the nation's leading black civil rights advocate at the time of his death, was shot in April 1968 at a Mamphis miotel.

James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to being King's lone assailant and is serving a 99-year sentence in a Tennessee prison. But Ray has since recanted his confession, giving added currency to a ver ety of alternative theories on who killed King - and why.

In September 1976, the House set up the select committee to investigate the cir umstances surrounding the shooting of King and former President Jum F. Kennedy. JOURNAL

OUISVILLE. KY.

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Date: -2-1-8 Edition:

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who had been stationed in Louisville.

William Duncan an FBI ag nt forerly stationed in Louisville who now
runs a one-man FBI office in Mexico.

In the years before his death, King visited Louisville often. His brother, Rev. A. D. Williams King, used to live in Lyaisville and was active in civil rights