

F B I

Date:

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

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

**ME 44-1987**

**PAGE FOUR**

**ELIMINATED BY JACKSON AGENTS AS HIS WHEREABOUTS ACCOUNTED FOR  
DURING PERTINENT PERIOD.**

**LAUNDRY TAPE WHICH APPEARS ON T-SHIRT AND SHORTS OF  
SUBJECT INSTANT CASE HAS BEEN ELIMINATED FROM CONSIDERATION  
IN LAUNDRIES MEMPHIS AREA. BIRMINGHAM CONDUCTING INTENSIVE  
INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF LAUNDRY MARKS PERTINENT THAT  
CASE.**

**ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P.  
END.**

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

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI WASH DC

553AM URGENT 4/7/68 ELR

TO MEMPHIS (44-1987) NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) 1P  
FROM DIRECTOR

MURKIN; CIVIL RIGHTS.

REMEAIRTEL APRIL SIX LAST AND NOTEL APRIL SIX LAST.

TWO LATENT FINGERPRINTS ON LIFTS SUBMITTED BY MEMPHIS. THESE  
PRINTS NOT IDENTICAL WITH PREVIOUSLY REPORTED LATENT PRINTS.  
LATENT FINGERPRINTS THIS CASE NOT IDENTICAL FINGERPRINTS RONALD  
BARDIN SIMPSON, USAF NUMBER ONE FOUR SEVEN TWO THREE FOUR TWO SIX.

EXAMINATION CONTINUING. CONFIRMING.

END

DGB

FBI MEMPHIS

*Handwritten:*  
44-1987-103  
File

44-1987-103

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FBI MEMPHIS

II

FBI CHICAGO

957AM URGENT TAB 4-7-68

TO: DIRECTOR NEW HAVEN MEMPHIS

FROM: CHICAGO (44-NEW) (P)

MURKIN

*INDEX*

DAVE POTTER, DAILY DEFENDER, CHICAGO RECEIVED ANONYMOUS CALL FOUR SIX LAST REFLECTING "SPERLING OF UNITED MOTORS, SIX FIVE FIVE ONE W. BELMONT, HAS WHITE CAR AND MEETS GENERAL DESCRIPTION KING ASSASSIN." SPERLING IN MEMPHIS WHEN KING ASSASSINATED AND SAID "HE HAD TO GET OUT OF MEMPHIS BECAUSE HE MET DESCRIPTION OF KILLER."

FRANK M. SCHWAB, CG DISTRIBUTION MANAGER, U.S. ELECTRICAL MOTORS, SIX FIVE FIVE ONE W. BELMONT ADVISED FOUR SIX LAST NO EMPLOYEE NAMED SPERLING. ALFRED C. SPOERL, NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION MGR. OF COMPANY'S MILFORD, CONN. OFFICE, TELEPHONE TR FOUR DASH TWO FIVE FIVE ONE. SPOERL RESIDES TRUMBEE, CONN. SCHWAB BELIEVES SPOERL IN MEMPHIS FOUR TWO LAST AND DROVE TO PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI IN AVIS RENT A CAR. RETURNED MEMPHIS BY CAR AND THEREAFTER FLEW CHICAGO FOUR FIVE LAST.

SPOERL NOT CONSIDERED SUSPECT BY SCHWAB. SPOERL DESCRIBED WM, FORTY YEARS, SIX ONE, ONE NINETY- NINETY FIVE POUNDS, BLONDISH HAIR.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

NEW HAVEN CONDUCT SUFFICIENT INVESTIGATION TO ELIMINATE SPOERL IF THIS CAN BE DONE.

END

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FBI MEMPHIS

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*Lead  
New Haven  
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Hester*

44-1987-104

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FBI MEMPHIS

FBI SAN FRAN

1115AM URGENT 4/7/68 LFH

TO DIRECTOR, LOS ANGELES AND MEMPHIS  
FROM SAN FRANCISCO (173-65)(P) 1P

UNSUB; AKA JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM. CR  
OO: MEMPHIS

RAYMOND COOPER, FORTY TWO CREEK ROAD, SAN ANSELMO, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED HE HAD BEEN EMPLOYED AT SIZZLING PLATTER  
CAFE, RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA UNTIL ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO WHEN FIRED  
BY MANAGER, ED MARLOW (PHONETIC). SHORTLY LATER, MARLOW ABSCOUNDED  
WITH FIFTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS OF CAFE'S MONEY AND REPORTEDLY WENT TO  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE TO OPERATE POOL HALL. COOPER ADVISED MARLOW  
RESEMBLED NEWSPAPER SKETCH OF UNSUB, IS ABOUT TWENTYSIX TO TWENTY-  
SEVEN YEARS, AND HAS A "SILLY SMILE". MARLOW HAS RIFLE COLLECTION  
AND IS CONSIDERED A RACIST. MARLOW LEFT RIVERSIDE WITHOUT WIFE AND  
FOUR CHILDREN, BUT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MAN AND HIS WIFE, FELLOW  
BOWLERS.

INQUIRY AT VICINITY FORTY TWO CREEK ROAD, SAN ANSELMO REVEALS  
FORTY TWO NONEXISTANT AND NEIGHBORHOOD INQUIRY DISCLOSED COOPER  
UNKNOWN.

EFFORTS BEING MADE TO LOCATE COOPER FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

LOS ANGELES CONDUCT INQUIRY AT RIVERSIDE RE MARLOW AND SUTEL  
PERTINENT DATA TO MEMPHIS.

END,

DND

FBI MEMPHIS

*Leads  
at LA*

44-1987-105

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FBI MEMPHIS

FBI RICHMOND

1213PM URGENT 4/7/68 ECS

TO MEMPHIS KNOXVILLE

FROM RICHMOND

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CIVIL RIGHTS.

ON FOUR SEVEN SIXTYEIGHT, ANONYMOUS CALLER ADVISED WILLIAM V. WILBURN, FORMER PROFESSOR SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND, RECALLED AS RADICAL REGARDING RACIAL MATTERS AND CLAIMED GRANDMOTHER RAPED BY NEGROES. WILBURN HAS PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS SIMILAR TO UNSUB THIS CASE. CALLER SAID WILBURN LAST KNOWN TO ATTEND GRADUATE SCHOOL UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE, TENN. IN NINETEEN SIXTYSIX.

KNOXVILLE DETERMINE CURRENT ADDRESS OF WILBURN AND ADVISE MEMPHIS.

END.

BSD

FBI MEMPHIS

*Teletype  
sent to Knoxville  
4/7/68  
RW*

44-1987-106

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Date: 4/7/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO: KNOXVILLE  
FROM: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN

RE RICHMOND TEL APRIL SEVEN, INSTANT, TWELVE EIGHTEEN P.M.,  
CAPTIONED, "ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,  
CIVIL RIGHTS."

RICHMOND AND KNOXVILLE PLEASE NOTE CODE NAME WHICH IS  
USED TO FURNISH INFO. PERTAINING TO THE MURDER OF DR. KING.

FOR INFO. AND ASSISTANCE OF KNOXVILLE, THE PERIOD OF  
INTEREST IS APPROXIMATELY SIX P.M., APRIL FOUR, PAST. IF  
WHEREABOUTS OF WILLIAM V. WILBURN CAN BE ESTABLISHED AT THAT  
TIME, THIS WOULD APPEAR TO ELIMINATE HIM AS SUSPECT. IF ANY  
DOUBT REMAINS, KNOXVILLE SHOULD MAKE EFFORTS TO SECURE THROUGH  
SUITABLE SOURCES FINGERPRINT RECORD OF WILBURN AND SUBMIT SAME  
TO BUREAU FOR ELIMINATION PURPOSES. AM CC. RICHMOND.  
END.

1 - Richmond (AM)

RGJ:jms  
(2)

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44-1987-107

Approved: R. Jensen  
Special Agent in ChargeSent KX 12:52 p MPer JS

Jell

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Date: 4/7/68

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO BUREAU AND NEW HAVEN

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987) 1P

MURKIN.

RE CHICAGO TELETYPE NINE FIFTY SEVEN AM, APRIL SEVEN INSTANT.

FOR ASSISTANCE OF NEW HAVEN IN CONDUCTING ADDITIONAL  
INVESTIGATION, TIME OF INTEREST IS APPROXIMATELY SIX PM ON  
APRIL FOUR, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT. IF WHEREABOUTS OF ALFRED C.  
SPOERL CAN BE ESTABLISHED AT THAT TIME, THIS WOULD APPEAR TO  
ELIMINATE HIM. IF NEW HAVEN UNABLE TO DO SO, IT SHOULD SECURE  
PRINTS OF SPOERL AND SUBMIT SAME TO BUREAU FOR ELIMINATION  
PURPOSES. P.

END

RGJ:ME

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44-1987-108

Approved: RGJ/mau  
Special Agent in Charge

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4/12/68  
NH-12:33

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FBI MEMPHIS

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FBI NEW YORK

1:27 4-7-68 DEFERRED JED

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS PLAINTEXT  
FROM NEW YORK PGS 5

MURKIN 00: MEMPHIS.

ON APRIL SIX NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, PORT AUTHORITY  
POLICE, LA GUARDIA AIRPORT, QUEENS, NEW YORK, ADVISED THEY  
HAD SUSPECT IN ASSASSINATION OF DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING  
IN CUSTODY AT AIRPORT. PORT AUTHORITY POLICE ADVISED SUSPECT  
RESEMBLED ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF KILLER WHICH APPEARED  
IN APRIL SIX NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT ISSUE OF "DAILY  
NEWS" AS WELL AS PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION. SUSPECT INTERVIEWED  
BY SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE NEW YORK OFFICE AT AIRPORT AND  
IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS JACK CUSTAR HAM, ONE FIVE FOUR ONE ONE  
EAST FORTY FIRST STREET, INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI. HAM  
ADVISED HE ARRIVED AT AIRPORT, NEW YORK ONE PM, APRIL SIX  
NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT FROM WASHINGTON, DC. HAM WAS OBSERVED  
END PAGE ONE

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*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten circled mark]*



TO BE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF LIQUOR AND ADMITTED HE HAD BEEN DRINKING PRIOR TO BOARDING THE PLANE IN DC.

HAM VOLUNTEERED TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED BY PORT AUTHORITY POLICE. HE CONSENTED TO ACCOMPANY SPECIAL OF THE NEW YORK OFFICE WHERE HE ALSO CONSENTED TO BE FINGERPRINTED AND PHOTOGRAPHED. HAM VOLUNTARILY STATED THAT HE HAD MARITAL PROBLEMS AND HE HAD BEEN DRINKING HEAVILY DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL FIRST. HE STATED HE LEFT HIS WIFE IN MISSOURI ON APPROXIMATELY MARCH EIGHTEEN LAST AND WENT TO DALLAS, TEXAS TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT. HE RETURNED TO MISSOURI ON APRIL FIRST NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, WHERE HE WAS SERVED WITH DIVORCE PAPERS. ON APRIL FIRST LAST, HE BOARDED A PLANE FOR DES MOINES, IOWA, WHERE HE STAYED AT THE SAVERY HOTEL ON APRIL FIRST AND SECOND LAST, HAM ADMITTED HE WAS DRINKING HEAVILY AT THIS POINT. ON THE EVENING OF APRIL SECOND LAST, ACCORDING TO HAM, HE BOARDED A FLIGHT FROM DES MOINES TO RETURN TO DALLAS TEXAS.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

HE STATED THAT BECAUSE OF HEAVY DRINKING, HE HAD NO RECOLLECTION OF STOP-OVERS ENROUTE TO DALLAS, BUT THAT HE MIGHT HAVE STOPPED IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, BECAUSE HE RECALLED A "JACK DANIELS" SIGN AT AIRPORT. HE FURTHER RECALLED THAT HE ARRIVED IN DALLAS ON APRIL THIRD LAST WHERE HE TOOK A FLIGHT TO LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. HAM PRODUCED A RECEIPT FROM THE HOTEL HACIENDA, LOS ANGELES, WHICH DISCLOSED HE DEPARTED THIS HOTEL ON APRIL THIRD NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT AT FOUR PM. WHILE IN LOS ANGELES, ACCORDING TO HAM, HE MADE APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH AMERICAN AIRLINES AND VISITED A DOCTOR FOR AN EXAMINATION. NAME AND ADDRESS OF DOCTOR NOT RECALLED BY HAM. HE RETURNED TO DALLAS ON APRIL THIRD LAST.

ON APRIL FOUR LAST, HAM BOARDED A FLIGHT FROM DALLAS TO WASHINGTON, DC, VIA AMERICAN AIRLINES. HE STATED WHEN HE ARRIVED IN DC, IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE HEARD OR READ ABOUT THE KILLING OF DOCTOR KING. HE ADDED, THAT BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF FUNDS HE STAYED AT THE AIRPORT

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

IN DC, WHERE HE SENT A WIRE TO A RELATIVE FOR TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS. UPON RECEIVING THE TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS, HAM REGISTERED AT THE STATLER HILTON HOTEL, DC, ON APRIL FIVE LAST, WHERE HE STAYED AT THE HOTEL UNTIL HE BOARDED SHUTTLE FLIGHT TO NEW YORK ON APRIL SIX LAST VIA EASTERN AIRLINES. HAM STATED HE CAME TO NEW YORK TO OBSERVE AIRPORT OPERATIONS INASMUCH AS HE DESIRED TO OBTAIN AIRPORT EMPLOYMENT WITH AIRLINES COMPANY. SUSPECT COOPERATIVE DURING ENTIRE INTERVIEW. UPON COMPLETION OF INTERVIEW HAM STATED HE WOULD RETURN TO HIS HOME IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI TO ATTEMPT TO PATCH UP MARITAL DIFFICULTIES. SUSPECT RETURNED TO LA GUARDIA AIRPORT, NEW YORK. INDICES OF THE NEW YORK OFFICE NEGATIVE. NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER NEGATIVE. BUREAU IDENTIFICATION DIVISION ADVISED PRINTS NEGATIVE.

HAM DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: JACK CUSTAR HAMM, ALSO KNOWN AS JACK C. HAM, WHITE MALE, SEVENTY THREE INCHES  
END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

TALL, ONE HUNDRED SEVENDY POUNDS, SLIM BUILD, BLUE EYES,  
HAIR LIGHT BROWN, RECEDING AT TEMPLES, BRUSHED BACK IN  
CENTER, SPARCE ON TOP, POINTED NOSE, FAIR COMPLEXION, FOUR  
INCH SCAR INSIDE LEFT FOREARM, MOLE ON RIGHT SIDE OF CHEEK  
NEAR MOUTH, MOLE ON RIGHT SIDE OF NECK. SOURCE, LULUBELLE  
CHESTER, ONE FIVE FOUR ONE ONE EAST FORTY FIRST STREET,  
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI. SOCILA SECURITY NUMBER FOR SUSPECT

[REDACTED] LAST

EMPLOYMENT, SALESMAN, HYPHEN EDUCATIONAL COUNSELLOR, AIRLINE  
TRAINING CENTER, INCORPORATION, THREE NINE FOUR ZERO  
BROADWAY, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.

END

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FBI MEMPHIS

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FBI MEMPHIS

F B I SEATTLE

208 PM URGENT 4-7-68 KNY  
TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS  
FROM SEATTLE

MURKIN

HERBERT A. FORRESTER, THREE ONE ONE ZERO C, PORTAGE BAY EAST, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, A FORMER ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, ADVISED THAT HE OBSERVED A PICTURE OF THE SUSPECTED KILLER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DRAWN BY BILL HARRINGTON, MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL STAFF ARTIST, WHICH APPEARED IN APRIL SIXTH EDITION OF SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER. FORRESTER STATES PICTURE BEARS MARKED RESEMBLANCE TO JOHN FORBES NASH WITH WHOM HE DID GRADUATE STUDY AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY NINETEEN FIFTY TO NINETEEN FIFTYFOUR, AND NASH HAD "A SILLY SMILE" AS NOTED BY LANDLADY OF THE KILLER. STATES NASH WAS ONE OF COUNTRY'S LEADING MATHEMATICIANS UNTIL HE WAS INSTITUTIONALIZED FOR MENTAL ILLNESS IN NINETEEN FIFTYEIGHT. ACCORDING TO FORRESTER HE RECEIVED POSTCARD FROM NASH APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS AGO POST-MARKED ROANOKE, VIRGINIA, HOWEVER DOES NOT KNOW NASH'S PRESENT

END PAGE ONE

*Rec'd  
for later  
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PAGE TWO

WHEREABOUTS OR EMPLOYMENT BUT BELIEVES INFORMATION ON NASH'S BACKGROUND CAN BE OBTAINED FROM PRINCETON UNIVERSITY OR THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY AT PRINCETON WHICH SUBSIDIZED NASH'S RESEARCH. SEATTLE INDICIES NEGATIVE AS TO FORRESTER AND NASH.

IF A DEFINITE SUSPECT HAS NOT BEEN DEVELOPED IT IS SUGGESTED THAT JOHN FORBES NASH BE CONSIDERED.

END

CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

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