

ME 44-1987

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Mr. PARKER stated he stayed in his booth the entire time, and did not look out the window at any time until he left. He said he was not aware of what occurred out in the street, and in the immediate area until Mr. JOWERS asked him if he had heard the shooting. He stated he told JOWERS he had not heard any shooting, and was shortly thereafter advised that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot. He stated he definitely did not hear any shot fired while he was in Jim's Grill.

Mr. PARKER stated he did not notice any new faces in Jim's Grill while he was there, but commented the only individual he actually knew was GEORGE HARDING, who shared the booth with him. He said he knew there were a number of regular customers in Jim's Grill, and these were young men who are employed by the Tayloe Paper Company, but he is completely unfamiliar with their names.

Mr. PARKER stated the only car he can remember on the street in front of or in the immediate area of Jim's Grill when he entered Jim's Grill was Mr. JOWERS' white Cadillac. He stated he cannot recall any individual or individuals either walking or running in the immediate area of Jim's Grill when he entered to have his meal. He stated he can furnish no information whatsoever concerning the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING on April 4, 1968.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 15, 1968

Mr. JIMMIE RICHARD SANDERS, 1687 Childers Street (Frayser), Memphis, Tennessee, advised he is employed at Wood Parts, Inc., 1590 Texas Street, Memphis, Tennessee. Mr. SANDERS stated that on the evening of April 4, 1968, he left his place of business at Wood Parts, Inc. at approximately 4:00 p.m., and took a bus to the Arcade Restaurant, located at the corner of Calhoun Street and South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, which is approximately one long block from Jim's Grill, located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. Mr. SANDERS stated he walked from the intersection of South Main Street and Calhoun Street to Jim's Grill, and arrived at Jim's Grill at approximately 5:00 p.m. He stated he was alone, and entered Jim's Grill for his evening meal. He stated his reason for eating at Jim's Grill was because he had rented a room at 390 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street for three or four days, which is in the immediate area of Jim's Grill.

Mr. SANDERS stated he sat in a booth for a while and at the counter for a while, ordered his evening meal, and had several beers.

Mr. SANDERS advised that while he was eating his meal, he recalls that at approximately 6:00 p.m. a Deputy Sheriff came to the door of Jim's Grill and advised everyone in the Grill to remain there until advised they could leave. He said that at the time he had no idea as to why everyone was told to stay. He said sometime later everyone in Jim's Grill learned that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot that evening from somewhere in the immediate area of Jim's Grill. Mr. SANDERS stated he did not hear the shot that was fired that killed MARTIN LUTHER KING, and added he was not aware that KING was staying in the immediate area of Jim's Grill. Mr. SANDERS commented he did not go to the window to look out after the Deputy Sheriff instructed everyone to stay in the Grill.

Mr. SANDERS advised he was not aware of any cars or people on the street when he walked from the intersection of Calhoun Street and South Main to Jim's Grill. He stated he is

On 4/15/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987-~~36~~ Sub D-55
 by SAs HARLEY E. GYLFE / O. JAMES HOLBROOK / HEG:jms Date dictated 4/15/68

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certain there were many cars both parked and being driven on South Main Street, and that there were likely many people walking in this area, but added he was not aware of any particular individual or any particular car in this area. Mr. SANDERS stated he cannot furnish any information whatsoever concerning the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/16/68

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Lt. JUDSON EUGENE GHORMLEY, Deputy Sheriff, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, a white male, age 40, residing at 4124 Ronnie Avenue, telephone 386-6034, furnished the following information:

On April 4, 1968, he was assigned to Tactical Unit 10, which consisted of three vehicles and twelve officers, both Deputy Sheriffs and Memphis Police Officers. The Deputy Sheriffs, in addition to GHORMLEY assigned to Tactical Unit 10 were W. J. BERRY, R. N. BAKER, W. A. DU FOUR, V. V. DOLLAHITE, and R. W. MALEY. Memphis Police Officers assigned to Tactical Unit 10 were Officers DOUGLASS, GROSS, DUNN, LANDERS, WRIGHT and MORRIS.

At about 6:00 PM on April 4, 1968, Tactical Unit 10 had stopped at the Memphis Fire Department Engine House located at Main and Butler, about $\frac{1}{2}$ block southwest of the Lorraine Motel, and the unit was in that location when a Negro male detective ran into the fire station and stated that Doctor KING had been shot. Upon hearing this, the members of Tactical Unit 10, including GHORMLEY ran east on Butler to Mulberry and north on Mulberry toward the Lorraine Motel. While en route, GHORMLEY observed a number of Negro males and females standing on the balcony of the motel pointing towards a building west of the motel, the front of which was located on S. Main Street.

GHORMLEY saw Officer DU FOUR running up the stairs of the Lorraine Motel toward the balcony where Doctor KING's body was lying. DU FOUR was followed closely by Officer BAKER. DU FOUR and BAKER, in that order, would have been the first officers to reach KING.

GHORMLEY also saw Officer LANDERS scale a wall on the west side of Mulberry Street and enter a back yard, which he later determined to have been behind the buildings known as 418, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 424 S. Main Street.

On 4/16/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987- *Sub D-56*
 by SA THOMAS L. BUCKLEY /bbs Date dictated 4/16/68

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Seeing the people on the balcony pointing toward the building on Main Street, Officer GHORMLEY stopped and retraced his steps around the fire station and ran north on Main Street. As he approached the building at 424 S. Main, he noticed a suitcase, blue in color, a rifle box, which was partly open and what appeared to be a blanket lying in the doorway at 424 S. Main. He could see the barrel of a rifle in the rifle box. At this time, a white male whose name he later determined was Mr. CANIPE, came to the door of 424 S. Main and advised him that a white male, who CANIPE described as tall, a little on the heavy side, wearing a dark colored possibly black suit, a shirt and tie, having dark colored hair possibly black, moments before had deposited these articles in the doorway and had then run south on Main Street.

Using his walkie-talkie radio, GHORMLEY advised his dispatcher of the information provided by Mr. CANIPE. He also guarded the articles lying in the doorway so no one would disturb them. Upon talking further to Mr. CANIPE, he learned from CANIPE that shortly after the white male who left the above described articles in CANIPE's doorway, had run south on Main Street, that CANIPE had noticed a white Mustang automobile drive past that location at a high rate of speed headed north on Main. At this time, Officer GHORMLEY again used his radio to advise his dispatcher of this information.

The next officer to arrive at GHORMLEY's location was Officer DOUGLASS, who drove the station wagon assigned to Tactical Unit 10 from its location at the fire station to a location directly in front of 424 S. Main where Officer DOUGLASS double parked the station wagon and aided in guarding the evidence left by the above described white male.

The next officer at this location was Deputy Sheriff V. V. DOLLAHITE, who approached the location from the north on Main Street after having apparently circled the block. About this time, Officers from the Memphis Homicide Squad arrived at the scene and took charge. GHORMLEY estimated the total time lapsed from the time he heard that

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KING had been shot until he discovered the suitcase, gun and blanket, was no more than 2 or 3 minutes. GHORMLEY does not recall seeing a white Mustang parked along the area of S. Main, which he covered during the time immediately following the shooting, neither does he recall seeing anyone running south on Main Street in this same area.

During the incident described above, GHORMLEY was dressed in a khaki colored long sleeve shirt bearing the insignia of the Shelby County Sheriff's Department, and dark green uniform trousers. He was not wearing a hat or helmet. GHORMLEY recalls that Officer LANDERS, whom he saw scaling the wall across from the Lorraine Motel, was dressed in the usual Memphis Police Department uniform consisting of a blue shirt and trousers. Officer LANDERS was not wearing a hat or helmet. GHORMLEY recalls that there were 2 Negro males in Canipe's Amusement Center at the time he was talking to CANIPE. He thinks these person may also have seen the above described white male deposit the gun, suitcase, and blanket in CANIPE's doorway and may also have seen the white Mustang speeding north on S. Main Street in front of CANIPE's store. He does not know the names of these Negroes.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 16, 1968

CHARLES ELVIN STONE, 584 Orchard Drive, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at the Number Two Engine House, Memphis Fire Department, 474 South Main Street. STONE advised that he is a member of the Memphis Fire Department, and has been in this employment for the past three years. He stated that he was on duty at the Firehouse on April 4, 1968, and was a witness to the shooting of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. He stated that at approximately 6:00 p.m. on that date, he was in the rear locker room of the Fire Department, and was looking out the back window across the street to the motel where DR. KING was staying. He advised that DR. KING was standing on the balcony outside of his hotel room, and was talking to another individual below the balcony. STONE stated that there was another man standing to the right of DR. KING, and a number of other individuals located in the courtyard directly below the hotel room of DR. KING.

STONE stated that as KING was talking to the individual below him, a shot rang out, and DR. KING fell over backwards. STONE stated that he was stunned for a few seconds, and after realizing what had happened, ran inside to the center of the firehouse, and told both the other firemen and the police officers that were in the firehouse at that time that DR. KING had been shot. At first the officers thought that STONE was joking, but one of the other firemen came rushing in saying the same thing. At that instance, all of the police officers rushed out of the firehouse in an attempt to cut off the area in which the shooting occurred. STONE stated that at approximately ten seconds later, he went out the side door of the Fire Department, and proceeded towards Mulberry Street, the street on which DR. KING's motel was located. STONE stated there was mass confusion at the hotel as people were running to see what had happened, and the only ones he saw on the street at that time were the police officers who were converging on the area. STONE stated that he did not notice any white man in the area immediately after the shooting nor did he notice any individual wearing a white hood. STONE stated that after a few minutes, he walked to the front of the Firehouse, but stated that he did not observe any white Mustang on Front Street or in that vicinity.

On 4/16/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987 - ^{Sub D-57}
by SAs EDWARD M. QUINN ^{EMQ}
SHIELDS W. SMITH ^{SHS} / EMQ:jms Date dictated 4/16/68

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STONE also advised that he did not notice a Mustang of that type near the Firehouse at any time during that day.

STONE stated that with him in the locker room at the time of the shooting were Lieutenant LOENNEKE and Fireman KING, both members of the Fire Department, and a Negro police officer, Officer RICHMOND. STONE stated that all of these individuals were watching the hotel room at the time DR. KING was shot, and all saw the actual shooting. STONE stated that from the sound of the shot, he thought it came from the parking lot located north of the Fire Department, but that it could have been slightly further north.

STONE advised that he was unable to furnish any positive information concerning the individual who fired the shot killing DR. KING.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 16, 1968

On April 16, 1968, a group of five photographs were shown to RALPH M. CARPENTER, an employee of York Arms, 162 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. The photographs that were shown to him are those of:

JOHN EDWARD THOMAS, Memphis Police Department No. 32206

THEODORE JOHN ADANK, FBI No. 3 871 080

CLINTON CABLE GIBSON, Memphis Police Department No. 91407

ERIC GALT

ROBERT PIERCE SMITH, also known as Richard Smith, 493 Howard Street, Whitehaven, Tennessee, USAF No. 14702464, date of birth .

On 4/16/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987 - *Sub D-58*
by SAC ROBERT G. JENSEN *RJ* :ME Date dictated 4/16/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/12/681

ELMER C. HOLDER, JR., 2096 Pendleton Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that on April 10, 1968, he photographed the area of South Main Street and the Lorraine Hotel and Motel, on Mulberry Street, from the air. He furnished the following information concerning these photographs:

The airplane was a Cessna 180. The pilot was J. R. BOWEN, and Mr. HOLDER used a Wild Number 228 Aerial Camera with lens, Serial Number NR 24. This camera has a focal length of 152.46mm. The weather at the time of the photography was clear. The altimeter at the start and at the finish of the run in which the photographs were taken read 1,500 feet. Mr. HOLDER stated that four runs were made over the area, each utilizing one strip of film.

Strip one consisted of exposures 15 through 19 and was flown from south to north at 10:45 a.m. Strip two consisted of photographs 20 through 24, and was flown from south to north at 10:48 a.m. Strip three consisted of photographs 26 and 27, and was flown from northwest to southeast at 10:55 a.m. Strip four consisted of exposures number 28 and 29, and was flown from east to west at 10:57 a.m.

Mr. HOLDER stated that he personally developed the negatives taken on this flight.

On 4/11/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987-Sub D-59
by SA HOWARD D. TETEN / jms Date dictated 4/12/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 8, 1968

On the evening of April 4, 1968, DR. JERRY T. FRANCISCO, Medical Examiner, University of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee, gave to Lieutenant J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, the bullet removed from the body of the deceased DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. Lieutenant HAMBY turned this bullet over to Inspector N. E. ZACHARY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, who, in turn, delivered it to Special Agent CYRIL F. BUSCH. Special Agent BUSCH hand carried this bullet to Special Agent In Charge ROBERT G. JENSEN, who, in turn, furnished same to Special Agent ROBERT FITZPATRICK, to be hand carried to Washington, D.C.

At 5:10 a.m., on the morning of April 5, 1968, Special Agent FITZPATRICK delivered this bullet to Special Agent ROBERT A. FRAZIER, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory, Washington, D.C.

On 4/4-5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987-Sub D-60
by SAs CYRIL F. BUSCH
ROBERT FITZPATRICK CFB:jms Date dictated 4/7/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 8, 1968

Reverend RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY, 690 La Verne Drive, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at the Memphis Police Department at 10:55 p.m., April 4, 1968. Reverend ABERNATHY was advised of the Agent's identity and of the nature of the matter under investigation.

Reverend ABERNATHY, who described himself as Vice President at Large and Treasurer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, stated he was Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s closest associate and stated that he and Dr. KING always shared a room whenever they travelled together. He stated that at about 10:30 a.m. on April 3, 1968, he and Dr. KING registered at the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, Tennessee.

Reverend ABERNATHY stated that on April 4, 1968, he and Dr. KING did not leave the motel and spent most of the day in their room, #306, which is located on the second floor of the motel. He stated that he and Dr. KING had been gone from their room for approximately one hour or less when they returned to the room at about 5:30 p.m. He said they got dressed as they were going to dinner at the home of Reverend BILLY KYLE and that at almost exactly 6 p.m. they started to leave the room. Reverend ABERNATHY stopped for a moment and Dr. KING walked out onto the balcony just outside the door to his room. Reverend ABERNATHY was still inside the motel room but could hear Dr. KING discussing the dinner engagement with other associates who Reverend ABERNATHY believes were standing in the parking area of the motel underneath and to the front of the balcony on which Dr. KING was standing.

Reverend ABERNATHY stated he heard what sounded like a fire-cracker and then heard the screams of persons to whom Dr. KING had been talking. Reverend ABERNATHY went then to the balcony and discovered Dr. KING lying there wounded in the right side of the face and neck. He said he believed Dr. KING attempted to speak to him but was unable to do so. Reverend ABERNATHY said he instructed someone to call an ambulance and then accompanied Dr. KING in the ambulance to the hospital where Dr. KING subsequently died.

On 4/4/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub D-61

by SA JOE C. HESTER: bn *CH* Date dictated 4/8/68

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Reverend ABERNATHY stated that judging from the sound of the noise it appeared that the shot came from directly in front of the door and not from any great distance. He stated he did not observe anything that would indicate who fired the shot. Reverend ABERNATHY also stated that while they were in the motel room Dr. KING did not, to his knowledge, receive any telephone calls of a threatening nature or calls from persons who would not identify themselves. Reverend ABERNATHY said Dr. KING had not feared that any particular persons might harm him and Reverend ABERNATHY was unable to suggest any suspects or to provide any other information which might assist in identifying Dr. KING's killer.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/9/68

1

Rev. ANDREW J. YOUNG, 1088 Veltre Circle, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia, home telephone 753-8320, business telephone 522-1420, was interviewed by Detective R. R. DAVIS, Homicide Bureau, Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department, and SA EUGENE G. DOUGLASS at the Memphis Police Department at approximately 11:00 P.M.

Rev. YOUNG advised that he is the Executive Vice President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). He stated that on April 4, 1968, at approximately 6:00 P.M. he was at the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry, Memphis.

He advised that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., occupied Room 306 of this motel, and Rev. YOUNG occupied Room 209. He stated that at approximately 6:00 P.M., April 4, 1968, they were preparing to go to dinner with other members of the SCLC staff. He advised that Dr. KING was standing on the second floor on the balcony portion of the motel and Rev. YOUNG was down in the court yard just below Dr. KING. He advised that Dr. KING came out onto the balcony in front of Room 306 of the motel and called down to Mr. SOLOMON JONES, JR., who was standing on the ground level and advised Mr. JONES to start the motor of the car. Rev. YOUNG stated that he overheard Mr. JONES say to Dr. KING, "I think you need a coat" and then Rev. YOUNG advised that a staff member drove up in a car on the driveway of the motel, and he turned away to look at this individual.

At this point he stated he heard a sound and thought it was a firecracker but then he looked up and observed Dr. KING lying on his back on the floor of the balcony of Room 306. Rev. YOUNG stated he ran up the stairs to Dr. KING and observed that Dr. KING was seriously wounded. He then looked across the street and observed police officers coming from the area where he thought the shot may have come from but stated he observed no one else.

Rev. YOUNG advised that the police officers then called for a Memphis Fire Department ambulance and he stated

On 4/4/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub D-62
by SA EUGENE G. DOUGLASS:mnr Date dictated 4/9/68

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he helped cover Dr. KING with a blanket and stated he observed that Dr. KING was losing blood rapidly. He stated that at this time he checked Dr. KING's pulse and noted it was very strong. He stated this was just prior to the arrival of the ambulance, but he noticed blood coming from the wound on the right side of Dr. KING's neck.

Rev. YOUNG stated that when he referred to the area from which he thought the shot had come, he was referring to a large clump of bushes which is located on the west side of Mulberry directly opposite from the area where Dr. KING's room was located. He pointed out that the motel is located on the east side of Mulberry. He stated he was standing on the ground level below Dr. KING talking to a staff member, whose name he could not recall, when he heard the sound which he later determined to be a gunshot. He stated that he would not have been able to observe a flash from a gun being fired on the west side of Mulberry as the swimming pool wall blocked his view from that area.

He pointed out that immediately after seeing Dr. KING fall he ran upstairs to assist Dr. KING and then looked across the street but did not see any cars leaving the scene in a hurry and saw no individuals who he felt could have been responsible for the shooting.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 6, 1968

On the evening of April 4, 1968, items listed below were given by Inspector N. E. ZACHARY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, to Special Agent In Charge ROBERT G. JENSEN, of the Memphis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Inspector ZACHARY personally recovered these items from the sidewalk in front of 424 South Main Street, Memphis. These items were then turned over by Mr. JENSEN to Special Agent ROBERT FITZPATRICK, who personally delivered these to Special Agent ROBERT A. FRAZIER, of the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D.C., at 5:10 a.m. on the morning of April 5, 1968. The items delivered are as follows:

- (1.) A black cardboard box which had originally contained a Browning Mauser rifle. At one end of this box appears a label bearing Number 130712.
- (2.) Remington Gamemaster rifle, Model 760, Serial Number 461476, on which is mounted a Redfield telescopic sight.
- (3.) An empty ammunition clip removed from this rifle by Special Agent In Charge ROBERT G. JENSEN and Special Agent ORVILLE V. JOHNSON.
- (4.) An empty shell casing removed from the chamber of this rifle by Mr. JENSEN and Special Agent JOHNSON.
- (5.) A box containing nine cartridges.
- (6.) A green and brown herringbone patterned bedspread.
- (7.) A blue plastic zippered suitcase approximately twenty by thirty inches, which contained the following items:
 - (8.) One magnetic tack hammer.
 - (9.) One pair of pliers bearing the label, "Rompage."
 - (10.) Standard Oil road map designated, "Georgia - Alabama."

On 4/4-5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987-Sub D-63
by SAC ROBERT G. JENSEN
SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK RGJ: jms Date dictated 4/6/68

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(11.) The first section of the April 4, 1968, issue of the "Commercial Appeal," a daily newspaper published at Memphis, Tennessee.

(12.) A Standard Oil map of the United States.

(13.) One roll of bathroom tissue.

(14.) Binoculars, trade name, Banner By Bushnell, Serial Number DQ 408664.

(15.) Leather or plastic binocular case.

(16.) Cardboard carton marked, "Bushnell."

(17.) Gray paper bag bearing an advertisement for York Arms Company, Memphis, Tennessee.

(18.) York Arms Company sales slip in the amount of \$41.55, dated April 4, 1968.

(19.) Clear plastic box containing a Gillette Safety Razor, Gillette razor blades, an aerosol can of Gillette shaving creme, a can of Gillette Right Guard deodorant, and a tube of Gillette Heads Up hair cream. A price sticker appears on this box bearing the legend, "Oliver Rexall, Whitehaven, phone 397-2301, \$1.89."

(20.) One white and yellow checked hand-towel.

(21.) One white handkerchief.

(22.) One tube of Colgate toothpaste.

(23.) One pair of long black socks.

(24.) One seven ounce can of Gillette Right Guard deodorant.

(25.) One six-transistor Channel Master pocket size radio.

(26.) One bottle of Bufferin tablets.

(27.) One gray cloth belt.

(28.) One tube of Brylcreem hair dressing.

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- (29.) One bottle of One-A-Day vitamin tablets.
- (30.) One small bar of Cashmere Bouquet soap, bearing on the wrapper an advertisement for Friendship Inns.
- (31.) One small size bar of Cashmere Bouquet soap.
- (32.) One small bar of Cameo soap.
- (33.) One bar of Dial soap.
- (34.) One hair brush.
- (35.) One tube of Head and Shoulders shampoo, stamped "Liggett Rexall Number 1678, \$1.10."
- (36.) One can of Kiwi brown shoe polish.
- (37.) One aerosol can of Palmolive Rapid Shave, stamped, "Liggett Rexall Number 3478, 79¢."
- (38.) A maroon button.
- (39.) One toothbrush.
- (40.) One safety razor, brand unknown.
- (41.) One plastic bottle of Mennen Afta Shaving lotion.
- (42.) Two bobby pins.
- (43.) Brown paper bag containing two unopened cans of Schlitz beer, bearing the legend, "Mississippi Tax Paid, 4 cents."

Also delivered to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory by Special Agent FITZPATRICK were the following three twenty dollar bills, which had been obtained from Mrs. BESSIE RUTH BREWER, it being believed that one of them had been given to her on April 4, 1968, by the unknown murderer who had rented a room in her rooming house:

Federal Reserve Note
Series 1963 A SN F14002844A

Federal Reserve Note
Series 1963 A SN H16164663A

Federal Reserve Note
Series 1963 SN F06445143A

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 5, 1968

Mr. RALPH MEREDITH CARPENTER, 4844 Durbin Street, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone 685-5618, advised that he is a salesman at the York Arms Company located at 162 South Main Street, Memphis.

Mr. CARPENTER recalls that yesterday, April 4, 1968, he was in the above mentioned store talking to one of the other salesmen in the store when an individual entered and subsequently bought from him a pair of Bushnell binoculars. This individual entered the store at about 4.00 in the afternoon. Mr. CARPENTER estimates this to be the correct time and, in part, bases his estimate on the fact that there were pickets parading in front of the store at that time. Mr. CARPENTER recalls that as this individual proceeded further into the store he turned to this individual and asked if he could be of assistance. The individual stated that he wished to purchase some binoculars, and Mr. CARPENTER told him that he was about out of binoculars and believed the only ones he had in stock were a pair selling for \$200 and another pair selling for ninety-some dollars. The individual stated that he believed these were too high priced for him, and then Mr. CARPENTER recalled that there might be a cheaper pair of binoculars in the window and advised the individual that he would find out. Mr. CARPENTER thereupon went to the display window in the front of the store and determined that there was on display a pair of Bushnell binoculars selling for \$39.95. He brought these binoculars back to the customer and explained that they were a Japanese import of better quality. The individual seemed to indicate that he either recognized the name or that he agreed that there were some good Japanese imports. The customer raised the binoculars to his eyes and in some manner, not now recalled by Mr. CARPENTER, indicated that these binoculars were acceptable.

Mr. CARPENTER recalls that the customer asked if instructions were in the box, and Mr. CARPENTER advised him that there were instructions in the box, but not much was needed to be known to operate the binoculars, other than to

On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub D-64
by SA ROBERT W. GOODWIN and
SA RALPH J. LIEWER RJL/acp Date dictated 4/5/68

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just place them to the eyes and adjust the eye pieces. Mr. CARPENTER recalls that he wrote on the box in which he placed the binoculars the price \$39.95 and the amount of tax which was \$1.60 and added the two figures for a total of \$41.55. He placed the sales slip and the box with the binoculars in it in a gray paper bag which bears the name of York Arms on its side. The binoculars were in a leather or similar type carrying case. The store does not record or maintain serial numbers for these binoculars and it is not known what, if any, serial number was on this particular pair of binoculars.

Mr. CARPENTER stated that the binoculars were Bushnell brand and were 7 by 35 size.

Mr. CARPENTER described the customer as follows:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	26 - 32 years
Height:	5 feet 11 inches
Weight:	160 pounds to 175 pounds
Hair:	Black or dark brown, neat, combed straight back and not parted. It was neither very long nor shaggy.
Eyes:	Color not recalled; no glasses worn
Complexion:	Ruddy
Build:	Medium
Scars and marks:	None recalled
Regional accent:	None noticed
Dress:	Dark suit, not known whether or not pants matched coat, but recalls pants did not contrast with coat; color of shoes not known but not in sharp contrast to other clothing; no hat worn; white shirt with noticeably wide space at the collar, neat looking; dark tie with light stripe which covered entire tie, which was tied in a long slender knot which did not fill the space between the collars; tie was noticeably pulled to one side, not in keeping with generally neat appearance of customer; no jewelry remembered.

Facial characteristics: Average fullness; nothing regarding the eyes, nose, ears or other features noticeable. Customer's hands were neat, though nothing outstanding was noticed about them.

Mr. CARPENTER recalls that the individual reached into his right front pants pocket to get the money with which to pay for the binoculars. The money was not in a billfold or a money clip. The customer withdrew two \$20 bills from a roll which contained several other bills, at least two of which Mr. CARPENTER believes were \$20 bills. The customer also took a \$1.00 bill from this roll and then reached into his other front pocket with his left hand and secured two quarters and a nickel, making a total of \$41.55 for the payment. After purchasing the binoculars, the customer walked from the store and Mr. CARPENTER told him to "hurry back" or some similar parting statement, and the customer's reply is not recalled, if any was made. Mr. CARPENTER does not know which direction the customer took after leaving the store.

Mr. CARPENTER does not recall ever having seen this individual before in the store or elsewhere, but feels relatively certain that if he sees him again he would be able to recognize him.

The customer, while in the store, did not ask to see any other merchandise such as rifles or guns or ammunition of any kind, and made no inquiry at all concerning any other merchandise.

Mr. CARPENTER stated that when the customer entered the store CARPENTER was near the front of the store talking to Mr. VERNON YORK. Further back in the store he believes CHARLES GIBSON was near the cash register, and Mr. HUGH BADDLEY, a clerk, was also somewhere in the store. He believes also that possibly Mr. CORDRA YORK, JR., may have been in the store, but he does not know whether or not any of these individuals took notice of the customer.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 8, 1968

Mr. CHAUNCEY ESKRIDGE, 123 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois, was interviewed at the Memphis Police Headquarters at 12:05 a.m., April 5, 1968. Mr. ESKRIDGE was advised of the interviewing Agent's identity and of the nature of the matter under investigation.

Mr. ESKRIDGE, who identified himself as General Counsel for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, advised that he arrived in Memphis, Tennessee, at approximately 11:30 a.m. on April 4, 1968. He stated he had been with Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. during a portion of the day on April 4, 1968, and at about 5:45 p.m. was standing in the parking area of the Lorraine Motel when Dr. KING walked out of his motel room onto the second floor balcony of the motel and leaned over and began to discuss his dinner engagement with other persons who were standing below the balcony.

Mr. ESKRIDGE stated he was standing with his back to Mulberry Street and was facing Dr. KING when he heard to his right rear a sound like a firecracker. He looked to his rear momentarily to see if someone were behind him and when he looked toward Dr. KING again he saw him lying on his back on the balcony. Mr. ESKRIDGE said he heard only one shot fired and he recalled that Dr. KING was standing in front of his motel room at the time he was struck. He stated he believed the shot came from the area of the houses overlooking Mulberry Street or from the high grass in the yards which were behind the houses overlooking Mulberry Street.

Mr. ESKRIDGE stated he had been standing in the parking area of the Lorraine Motel for approximately 5 to 10 minutes prior to the shot and he had not observed anyone in the area who he believes might have fired the shot. He said he did not know of anyone who wished to harm Dr. KING and he stated he had no other information which he felt might assist in identifying Dr. KING's killer.

On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub D-65
by SA JOE C. HESTER: bn *JCH* Date dictated 4/8/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 10, 1968

Mr. JULIUS L. GRAHAM, Apartment 5, 804 North Fifth Street, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone number 527-3817, employed as general assistant at the Church of God in Christ Publishing House, 930 Mason Street, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone number 526-1169, furnished the following information to Lt. J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and Special Agent FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:

He accompanied Mr. BERNELL FINLEY from their place of employment to Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, Memphis, where they arrived about 5:30 P.M. on April 4, 1968. He recalls that as they approached the store, proceeding north on Main Street, there were no parking spaces on the east side of Main in the block in front of this store. He also recalls that as they were looking for a parking space there definitely were two white cars in the parking spaces in front of and to the south of Canipe Amusement Company. The second of these two white cars, or the one slightly south of the CANIPE store was definitely a white Mustang. He believes the other white car, the one in front of CANIPE's store, was probably a white Rambler. He cannot remember a third car being parked behind the Mustang. The Mustang he saw as they approached the store looking for a parking place was the ordinary variety of Mustang rather than the late model "Fastback" variety. He did not notice the license plates on this Mustang.

Mr. GRAHAM eventually parked Mr. GRAHAM's car on Huling Street, east of Main Street. Mr. GRAHAM and Mr. FINLEY thereafter walked to CANIPE's store and started looking at phonograph records in shelves on the south wall of this store near the front of the store. Mr. GRAHAM did not hear a shot or any other unusual noise while looking at records until he heard the noise caused by a man dropping a package on the sidewalk immediately in front of the front door of CANIPE's store. He stated, however, that he saw the man who dropped this package before he heard the noise. He happened to be looking toward the front door, his attention

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having possibly been attracted by the footsteps of a running man. He is not sure but he believes he heard the footsteps of a man running and therefore looked toward the front door. Almost simultaneously as he looked up and saw a man carrying a large package of some kind, this man, who was walking south on the sidewalk immediately in front of CANIPE's store, stepped to the left and dropped the bundle in the recess in front of CANIPE's store and continued south on Main Street. Mr. GRAHAM stated that in his opinion this man was running rather than walking fast.

Mr. GRAHAM advised that the attention of both Mr. CANIPE and Mr. FINLEY was attracted by what had occurred when the man dropped the package, and all three of them started looking toward the front of the store and at the items which had been dropped. Mr. CANIPE started out of the front door, and as he recalls, "leaned" out of the front door looking in either direction, following which Mr. CANIPE came back in the store and made some remark about some trouble outside. Immediately after this a Deputy Sheriff walked south on the east side of Main, immediately in front of CANIPE's store, this Deputy passing the store and not stopping. He saw no other persons in the vicinity until some additional officers arrived on foot. Mr. GRAHAM later saw the same Deputy Sheriff who had walked past the store in the area in front of the store, still with his gun drawn. Eventually Mr. CANIPE was able to get the attention of one of the officers outside and pointed out the items in front of the store and the circumstances surrounding the presence of these items. Mr. GRAHAM observed a part of a gun barrel inside a large pasteboard box and also observed what appeared to him to be some type of green matting or cloth which appeared to be wrapped around the box containing the gun.

Prior to the time the armed Deputy first ran south past CANIPE's doorway, Mr. GRAHAM heard tires "screech" and observed a white Mustang to speed north on Main. The other white car, which Mr. GRAHAM believed to be a white Rambler, which had originally been parked in front of CANIPE's store, was still parked there at this time, and therefore his view of the car speeding away was partially obscured; however, Mr. GRAHAM is positive that the car which sped away was a white Mustang and there is no question in his mind but what it was the same Mustang he had seen earlier when he and Mr. FINLEY arrived in the vicinity of CANIPE's store, as outlined above. He stated he did not observe whether there was one or more people in this speeding Mustang.

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As to a description of the man seen by Mr. GRAHAM carrying a package and later dropping this package, running south on Main, Mr. GRAHAM pointed out that he saw this person primarily from this person's left side and saw him only momentarily, but he believes he might recognize him if he sees him again. He furnished the following description of that person:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	25 - 30
Height:	5'7" - 5'8"
Weight:	About 165 pounds
Build:	Average (Mr. GRAHAM heard Mr. CANIPE tell the Police that he thought the man had a "chunky" build, but Mr. GRAHAM got the definite impression of a man who was neither thin nor fat but who was average in build).
Hair:	Dark (either black or dark brown, normally cut).
Dress:	Dark clothing (either a dark suit or a dark dress-type jacket and slacks; no hat; did not notice shirt or tie).
General Appearance:	Neat and clean in appearance, created impression of a salesman or businessman.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 10, 1968

Mr. BERNELL FINLEY, 1468 Kyle, Memphis, Tennessee, home telephone number 275-6524, who stated that he is an offset pressman at the Church of God in Christ Publishing House, 930 Mason Street, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone number 526-1169, was interviewed at his home by Lt. J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and Special Agent FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON. He furnished the following information:

He got off work at approximately 5:20 P.M., April 4, 1968, and he and a fellow employee, JULIUS GRAHAM, drove in Mr. FINLEY's car, a 1964 white, four-door Rambler, directly to Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, where they wanted to look over some old phonograph records. As they proceeded north on South Main Street to the vicinity of this store, they observed that all of the parking spaces in the block in front of CANIPE's store on the east side of Main were filled with automobiles. They continued north on South Main to Huling Street, turning right and parking Mr. FINLEY's car near a driveway under construction in the first block east of Main Street. They walked directly to Canipe Amusement Company. He estimated they arrived there about 5:30 P.M. There were no customers in Canipe Amusement Company other than Mr. FINLEY and Mr. GRAHAM. The two of them proceeded to look at old records in shelves on the south side of the store near the front of the store. The owner, Mr. CANIPE, was playing the "jukebox."

Sometime around 6:00 P.M., Mr. FINLEY heard a noise that sounded like a shot. He does not know whether Mr. GRAHAM or Mr. CANIPE heard this noise, as they said nothing and he said nothing. He attached no particular significance to hearing this noise at the time, but continued to look at records. Shortly thereafter and certainly within a matter of just a minute or so, he heard a second noise near the front door of CANIPE's store. He, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. CANIPE all immediately looked to the front door where they saw a box or package or bundle lying immediately in front of the door of this store. As his attention was attracted

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to this box or package, he also saw a man walking rapidly south on the sidewalk on the east side of Main, it being obvious that this was the person who had dropped or thrown the package in front of CANIPE's store, there being no one else around in that area and the box or package not having been there earlier.

Mr. FINLEY recalls that Mr. CANIPE walked up to the door and Mr. FINLEY followed him. Mr. CANIPE opened the door and started outside but immediately backed up and said, "Get back, there's some kind of trouble out here and I don't want no part of it." Immediately thereafter, Mr. FINLEY saw a Deputy Sheriff walking rapidly on the sidewalk south on Main, with his gun drawn, this Deputy not stopping but continuing south on Main in the same direction in which the above mentioned unknown man had walked. A few minutes thereafter he saw this same Deputy in front of CANIPE's store with his gun still drawn looking up as though he were trying to observe the upper stories of the buildings in the vicinity. A number of other officers arrived immediately thereafter, all of them being on foot.

Just about the time that Mr. CANIPE started out of the front door of the store, Mr. FINLEY heard the "screech" of tires and looked up to see a white Mustang speeding north on Main past CANIPE's store.

Mr. FINLEY explained that there was a car parked in front of CANIPE's store and therefore he did not get a full view of the car which had sped away, but he did see the rear portion of the roofline, as well as the trunk of the speeding car, and there is no question in his mind that this was a white car and there has been no question in his mind but what the car was a Mustang.

At the time this car sped away, Mr. FINLEY stated that he did not associate the speeding white Mustang with the man who had dropped the box or package, but after he learned what had occurred and after reflecting on the matter, he is now of the opinion that the man who dropped the package and walked south on the sidewalk past CANIPE's store was probably the man who got into the white Mustang and sped away from the area, going north on Main. As nearly as he can recall the sequence of the events, this white Mustang sped away from the curb moments before the Deputy Sheriff walked south past CANIPE's store.

As to the cars in the parking spaces in front of and to the south of CANIPE's store on the east side of Main, Mr. FINLEY advised that the car in the first position (that is, the car in front of CANIPE's store) was there when he first arrived at CANIPE's store and was there when he eventually left the area. He stated that after he had been questioned by Police and left CANIPE's store, there were no other vehicles immediately behind the car in front of CANIPE's store. He stated he was not in position to tell whether the speeding white Mustang pulled away from a parking space immediately behind the car which remained parked in front of CANIPE's store, or whether possibly it pulled away from a parking space farther south of this point.

Mr. FINLEY stated that he simply did not observe whether there was one or more occupants in the speeding Mustang, and he did not observe the license plates on this Mustang. He stated that the Mustang was one of the standard varieties and not the "Fastback" variety of Mustang.

Mr. FINLEY stated that the first person he saw in the area after his attention was first attracted by the dropping of the box was the above mentioned Deputy Sheriff with a revolver in his hand, and he knows of no one other than himself, Mr. CANIPE, and Mr. GRAHAM who saw the man in question and who saw the white Mustang speed away from the area, going north on Main.

As to the box or package dropped or thrown down by the unknown man, Mr. FINLEY stated that he observed a pasteboard box about 4 feet x 6 or 8 inches x 3 or 4 inches, having a tag of some kind on it, the top to this box being partially off to the point where he could see from one foot to 18 inches of the barrel of a gun. Eventually he observed that this gun was a rifle with a scope on it. There was some type of luggage, approximately 2 feet x 1½ feet x 6 or 8 inches, larger than an attache case, and some type of cloth folded over both of these items.

Mr. FINLEY stated that after the above mentioned armed Deputy Sheriff walked past CANIPE's store and after some other officers had arrived and were in front of CANIPE's store, Mr. CANIPE motioned to the officers from inside CANIPE's store, attracting the attention of one of them and pointing out the items left in front of the store and explaining to them what had occurred.

As to a description of the unknown man who dropped or threw down the package, Mr. FINLEY pointed out that he saw this man only momentarily, the man not taking over one or two steps while still in Mr. FINLEY's view. He stated that he "only got a glimpse of the man," not seeing his face except enough of the left side of the man's face to tell that he was a white man. He furnished the following description of this man:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	Simply not in a position to judge other than to state that man was not an old man (based upon the manner in which he walked).
Height:	5'8" to 5'10" (Mr. FINLEY at first placed the height at 5'6" to 5'8", stating that his final estimate was a little better than a guess).
Weight:	Around 160 pounds (stating that his estimate as to weight would vary depending on the man's height, that the man was not skinny and not fat but had an average build).
Build:	Average
Hair:	Simply cannot recall observing area of man's head; does not recall whether wearing hat; does not recall observing hair.
Dress:	Wearing dark suit

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 10, 1968

Mr. GUY WARREN CANIPE, JR., 1078 Brower Road, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone number 324-0344, owner of Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone number 525-0439, furnished the following information to Lt. J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and Special Agent FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:

He has been in business in the South Main Street area for the past twenty years. His store had been closed and unattended most of the day, April 4, 1968, he having been with Mr. EDWIN BODENHEIMER, 180 Clark Place, Memphis, one of his competitors and a close friend, during the day. He had left his store around 9:00 or 9:30 A.M. and did not return until after 5:00 P.M.

Soon after he returned, two Negro males came into his store and started looking at phonograph records on some shelves on the south side of the store near the front door. He had been playing records on a "jukebox" located toward the front of the store. He did not hear a shot or noise which he thought might be a shot anytime around 6:00 P.M. One of the Negro men was overheard by him subsequently to say that he, the customer, did hear a shot.

Sometime around 6:00 P.M. (although he has no way of fixing the time), he heard a "thud" in the vicinity of the front door of his store. He looked up to observe a bundle lying in front of the door to his store. He pointed out that the front door of his store is offset or located in a recess off the sidewalk. Almost simultaneously as he looked up after hearing this "thud," he saw a white man walking south on the sidewalk in front of his store.

After hesitating momentarily, Mr. CANIPE walked out onto the sidewalk, looking in both directions to see what happened to the man who obviously had dropped this bundle. As he did this, a white small car, possibly a compact, pulled away from the curb on the east side of Main Street at a point just south of his store. There was only one man in the car, namely the driver.

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by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:jap Date dictated 4/9/68

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When Mr. CANIPE looked north on Main Street he saw a Deputy Sheriff walking rapidly on the sidewalk on the east side of Main, approaching Mr. CANIPE, this Deputy having his revolver drawn. Mr. CANIPE, concluding that something unusual had just occurred, immediately stepped back into his store. This Deputy proceeded south on the sidewalk past his store, not stopping. A short time later after other officers had arrived, he saw this same Deputy and talked to him. He does not know his name.

After additional officers arrived, their attention was called to the bundle lying to the front of CANIPE's store.

As to the contents of the bundle or package which he observed, he pointed out that it appeared to be a rather large pasteboard box about the size he would expect a shotgun or rifle to be shipped in. The top of this box was ajar and he observed a portion of a gun barrel. There was some type cloth over the top of this bundle, which cloth was green in color and which impressed him as possibly being a curtain of some kind. In observing this bundle he noticed that the pasteboard box had the word "Browning" on it. He also saw some type of suitcase or brief case underneath the cloth.

As to the parking situation in front of his store, Mr. CANIPE furnished the following information:

In front of his store on the east side of Main there are three parking spaces between a fire plug and a driveway south of his store. He usually is able to park in one of these spaces. However, when he arrived at his store after 5:00 P.M., April 4, 1968, all three of these spaces were filled and he had to park his 1962 red station wagon at a point south of the above mentioned driveway. He does not recall noticing the make and model of the three cars parked in these spaces, but he is certain that there was a white smaller car, possibly a Valiant or Comet, parked in the parking space nearest his door (which will be referred to as parking space number one). He does not recall the cars parked in spaces two and three south of this white car.

He is certain in his own mind that the white small car he saw pull away from the curb as he looked out of his door, as outlined above, was parked in either number two parking space or number three parking space, but he does not know which of these spaces this car was parked in. He cannot

further describe the car that pulled away, but he heard one of the Negro male customers tell the Police that this car that pulled away was a Mustang. He definitely knows the car was white and was sure that the car was a smaller car, possibly a compact car, rather than a full-size average American car such as a standard model Ford or Chevrolet. He stated that it would be his judgment that the car was at least a 1965 or later model. He did not observe the license plates at all.

Based upon the period of time which elapsed from the time he heard the "thud" near his front door until the time he walked out of his front door and saw the white small car pulling away, coupled with the fact that he did not see a man proceeding south on the sidewalk as he looked south, Mr. CANIPE feels that the man who had dropped or thrown the bundle in front of his store was the man driving the white small car away from the curb, as outlined above. He only knows that this man in the small white car drove north on Main past his front door. He does not know whether the car turned off Main Street at the next block or whether it continued to proceed north on Main Street. He does not think that the car was traveling unusually fast and he did not hear the tires "screech" as the car left.

As to a description of the man who dropped the bundle and walked south on Main past his store, Mr. CANIPE stated that he only had the opportunity to view this man momentarily, seeing the back of this man. He stated he saw the man's back and the man's left side only. He stated he did not see the man's face unless possibly he got a fleeting glance at the left side of the man's face. Mr. CANIPE furnished the following description of this man:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	25 - 30, possibly older
Height:	5'10" - 6'
	(at first placed height at 6 feet but on reflection stated man might be shorter and in no event could he be certain as to approximate height)

Weight:	175 - 200 pounds (at first estimated weight at 170 - 185, stating if man is as tall as 6 feet then he might weigh as much as 200, as he gained impression man was "chunky")
Build:	"Chunky"
Hair:	Dark, cut normally (definitely bareheaded)
Dress:	Gained impression man wearing dark colored suit
Over-all Impression:	Very clean, neat in appearance, clean cut.

Mr. CANIPE advised that no one was in his store at the time of the above related incident other than the two Negro males, one of whom has been purchasing records from him in the past, the other not being recalled as a former customer. He stated that he cannot recall any other persons in the immediate vicinity at the time, and the next person he saw after seeing the unknown man who dropped or threw down the bundle was the above mentioned Deputy Sheriff who was walking rapidly on the east side of Main Street toward CANIPE's store, having his gun drawn, when Mr. CANIPE looked out the door as outlined above. He described this Deputy as a white male, age twenty to thirty, bareheaded, 5'10", 165 pounds, wearing a Sheriff's Office uniform and definitely having the Shelby County Sheriff's Office insignia on his arm.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/10/68

1

Mr. BERTIE L. REEVES, Room 3, wouth wing of rooming house located on second floor, 422½ S. Main Street, Memphis, furnished the following information to Lieutenant J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON. Mr. REEVES, who advised he is 74 years of age, retired, formerly a dragline operator, railroad fireman and hotel clerk, advised he has resided at this address for the past 8 years.

He stated that sometime in the late afternoon of April 4, 1968, exact time not recalled, he was in his room when he heard a shot. He immediately walked out into the large hallway at which time the landlady, Mrs. BESSIE BREWER, and her husband FRANK, who occupy room 2, next door to his room, also came out of their room. The 3 of them proceeded east down the large hallway or lobby of this wing of the rooming house to the east door. As they walked down the hallway they heard screams coming from across the street to the east of this building in the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel. Upon arriving at the rear (east) door, police officers in the area instructed them to get back inside and they did so.

Mr. REEVES advised he did not see anyone leave the building and does not know who fired the shot and has no way of knowing the exact location of the shot which he heard.

He advised that earlier in the afternoon of April 4, 1968, and perhaps around 3:00 P.M., he had returned to his room after going to Jim's Cafe located nearby. As he approached his room, he saw a strange man standing at the door of the landlady's room. This man thereafter left from the vicinity of the door to the landlady's room and walked north across a hallway to the north wing of this rooming house. He pointed out that the rooming house located on the second floor is actually located in two different buildings, but there is an enclosed walkway toward the front of these two buildings, connecting the two, so that persons on the

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second floor can walk from the north building to the south building. The rooms in the north building have a "B" number, such as 1-B, 2-B and so forth, whereas the rooms in the south building have no letter of the alphabet following the room numbers. This new tenant walked through this enclosed walkway from the south to the north building where the "B" rooms are located. He did not see him again. He pointed out that he only saw this man from the rear and right side as the man left the landlady's door and walked north to the north building.

Mr. REEVES furnished the following description of the man seen by him:

Name:	Unknown
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	25-30
Height:	5' 11" to 6'
Weight:	165-175 pounds
Build:	Average
Hair:	Dark, full head of hair
Dress:	Bare headed, in dark suit, did not see shirt or tie
General Appearance:	"Pretty neat"
Miscellaneous:	Mr. REEVES stated that this man definitely was not carrying anything when he saw him and the man did not say anything when he was in the man's presence.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/10/68

Mr. CHARLIE QUITMAN STEPHENS, Room 6-B, second floor, 422½ S. Main Street, furnished the following information to Lieutenant J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:

Mr. STEPHENS, who stated he is 46 years of age, and his wife occupy 2 rooms in the north wing of a rooming house, the address of which is 422½ S. Main Street. This rooming house actually covers the second floor of 2 separate buildings, Mr. STEPHENS' room being located in the north building in the southeast corner of the north building.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Dress :

Bare headed, wearing dark
suit

General Appearance :

Clean shaven, neat appearing
individual.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/681

Lt. J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON after observing what appeared to be a recently made indentation in the window sill of a window of the bathroom located at the east end of a hallway in the north wing, second floor of a rooming house, 422½ S. Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, removed a substantial portion of that window sill. Lt. HAMBY and SA JOHNSON identified this window sill and retained it as possible evidence.

By way of further explanation, the rooming house in question occupies a part of the second of two separate buildings there being an enclosed walkway connecting the two buildings. Mr. FRANK BREWER, husband of the landlady of this rooming house, advised that all tenants in the rooming house use the address of 422½ S. Main Street, although the north wing of this rooming house is not actually located over the entrance designated as 422½ S. Main Street. The bathroom window from which this sill was removed faces east and from this window there is a clear view of the west side of the Lorraine Motel which is located east of the rooming house in question.

On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987-Sub D-71
by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON /bbs Date dictated 4/9/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/12/68

Mr. EDWIN BODENHEIMER, 180 Clark Place, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone number 275-9844, who stated that he operates Shelby Amusement Company, 975 James, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street by Lieutenant J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON. He furnished the following information:

On April 4, 1968, he spent a good part of the day with Mr. G. W. CANIPE, a competitor and personal friend, and he (Mr. BODENHEIMER) was not at the Canipe Amusement Company at any time on the afternoon or evening of April 4, 1968.

He stated that as an aid in helping Mr. CANIPE to estimate what time Mr. CANIPE returned to Canipe Amusement Company on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, he recalled that it was 5:20 p.m. when Mr. CANIPE telephoned Mr. BODENHEIMER, and he would estimate that Mr. CANIPE could have only been at CANIPE's place of business a few minutes at this time. Mr. BODENHEIMER stated he could furnish no information which would be of assistance in the investigation of the shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub D-72
by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:wp Date dictated 4/11/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/12/68

Mr. FRANK BREWER, husband of the landlady at a rooming house, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, permitted Captain NICK CARIMI, Identification Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON entry into Room 5-B of this rooming house on the evening of April 10, 1968, following which a small blond chest of drawers, located at that time against the west wall of this room, was completely processed for latent fingerprints, and no latents of value were obtained.

This chest was processed for latent prints after Mr. BREWER's wife had on April 10, 1968, called attention to the fact that this chest had originally been placed against the east window in the south wall of this room when she rented the room on April 4, 1968, to a man using the name of JOHN WILLARD, but later when she checked this room, she found that this chest had been moved to the west wall of the room and a chair placed next to that window.

On 4/10/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub D-73
by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:wp Date dictated 4/12/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 4/13/68

Mrs. FRANK (BESSIE) BREWER, Room 2, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, who manages the rooming house at this address and who has been interviewed previously by Agents of the FBI, telephonically contacted the FBI Office on April 10, 1968, at which time she requested to be contacted by an FBI Agent.

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

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

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

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

On 4/10/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub D-74
by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:wp Date dictated 4/12/68

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUTH WING:

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

Room 1 - Vacant

Room 2 - Occupied by Mr. and Mrs. BREWER and referred to as the "office."

Room 3 - Occupied by Mr. BERTIE L. REEVES, an elderly man who is retired and who appears to be reasonably responsible. She stated that Mr. REEVES came out of his room about the same time as Mr. and Mrs. BREWER after all heard what they believed to be a shot about 6:00 p.m., April 4, 1968.

Room 4 - Occupied by HOWARD VANCE, an older man, chronic alcoholic, who works as a handyman at Jim's Grill located nearby, but who as of April 4, 1968, was known by Mrs. BREWER to have been drunk for two days. Mrs. BREWER stated she knew that VANCE was in his room as of 6:00 p.m., April 4, 1968, but she also knew that he had been on a two-day drunk and that he did not come out of his room.

Room 5 - Occupied by T. L. MESSER, a man 75 to 80 years of age, who has been ill recently, whose hearing is very defective, and who was in his room as of the time of the shooting. Mrs. BREWER added, however, that due to Mr. MESSER's age and his physical and mental condition, Mr. MESSER still does not understand what actually occurred and continues to ask what all the excitement was about when police officers and FBI Agents questioned occupants of the building.

Room 6 - Vacant. Man by the name of SAMUEL WILSON, who she understands had been a tenant for several months, vacated this room on April 3, 1968.

Room 7 - Occupied by FRANK M. MARLEY, an elderly man who is a chronic alcoholic, who was also drunk and in his room as of the time of the shooting. She stated that MARLEY did not come out of his room around the time of the shooting.

Room 8 - Vacant. (This is the room which Mrs. BREWER first showed to the man using the name JOHN WILLARD.)

Room 9 - Occupied by HAROLD CARTER, a man 55 to 60 years of age, unemployed, who receives welfare checks and who has a physical affliction. (She stated one of his hands is deformed or "drawn up.") She stated this man also drinks considerably. She does not believe he was home at the time of the shooting.

Room 10 - Occupied by LEONARD EATON, age 60 to 65, who she understands to be a long-time resident at this rooming house, who reportedly formerly worked on a river boat. She stated it is her impression that he was in his room asleep at the time of the shooting and that he too had been drinking.

NORTH WING:

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

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

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Room 2-B - Vacant.

Room 3-B - Vacant.

Room 4-B - Occupied by WILLIS ANCHUTZ, employed at Duvall Transfer Company. Mrs. BREWER later learned that Mr. ANCHUTZ reportedly saw the man running down the hall following the shooting and had some conversation with him.

Room 5-B - Room occupied by the man using name JOHN WILLARD and which room had not been rented since former tenant, COMMODORE STEWART, died about March 13 or 14, 1968.

Room 6-B - Occupied by Mr. and Mrs. CHARLIE STEPHENS. Mr. STEPHENS is an unemployed tuberculosis patient and his wife is presently confined to her bed.