

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 4/13/68

Patrolman VERNON VERNARD DOLLAHITE, Patrol Division, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, residence 3330 Dawn Drive, Apartment 12, home telephone 358-8067, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed by Lieutenant W. S. SCHULTZ, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON, at which time he re-enacted his movements on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, after he learned that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot at the Lorraine Motel. He furnished the following information:

On Thursday, April 4, 1968, he was assigned to Tactical Unit No. 10, consisting of 12 men, half of whom were Deputy Sheriffs and half of whom were police officers, which unit was located at the fire station at Main and Butler around 6:00 p.m., when he learned that Dr. KING had been shot.

Around 6:00 p.m., he and other officers were inside the fire station when he heard someone yell that Dr. KING had been shot. He immediately ran out of the door on the north side of the fire station, then ran east toward the Lorraine Motel, jumping over a fence, and then dropping down about a 10-foot concrete retaining wall which runs along the west side of Mulberry Street. He then ran to the driveway on Mulberry Street, which leads into the Lorraine Motel, to a point beneath the balcony where Dr. KING's body was lying. He stated that he heard an unknown Negro male at the scene say, "The dirty n----- f----- police shot him."

As he ran into the driveway, he dropped his firearm and had to stop momentarily and pick up the firearm, checking it briefly, and then continuing. After going to the scene near where the body was lying and determining that other officers were converging on the area, he immediately ran out of the driveway, running north on Mulberry Street to Huling and west on Huling Street to Main Street, then south on Main Street. As he

On 4/11/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub D-75

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

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ran out of the driveway at the Lorraine Motel, he was joined by an officer named MALEY, who ran along with him to a driveway on the south side of Huling Street between Mulberry and South Main Street. Officer MALEY stopped at that point to observe, and DOLLAHITE kept running toward Main.

Upon reaching Main Street and turning south on Main Street, he saw no pedestrian traffic whatever. He continued running south on Main Street until he came to Jim's Grill, a restaurant at 418 South Main Street. The door was standing open. He stepped inside, looked around briefly, seeing customers sitting around eating and drinking, and he announced to all present that no one should leave that restaurant until the police had arrived and approved their leaving the premises. He then pulled the door to the restaurant shut and continued running south on Main Street.

As he came out of Jim's Grill and started running south again, he observed some items lying in the doorway to Canipe Amusement Company at 424 South Main. At the time, he had no idea as to the significance of these items lying in that doorway. He did not stop but kept running south on Main past Canipe's, going a distance of some 20 to 30 feet before stopping. His purpose in running past Canipe's was in order to look east around the corner of the building in which Canipe's is located to see if he could observe anyone running or any other suspicious activity, DOLLAHITE stating that at this time he, of course, did not know the point from which the gun had been fired resulting in the killing of Dr. KING.

Upon running 20 or 30 feet south of Canipe's, he observed that there was no area at that location where anyone could run or conceal himself, there being some large outdoor signs and a fence located just south of Canipe's. In addition, he observed other officers running north on Main on the east side of the sidewalk, coming from the direction of the fire station, so that these officers would have been in a position to see anyone running or any other suspicious activity in the general area in which DOLLAHITE was proceeding. He then turned around and walked north on the east side of Main to the

vicinity of the doorway to Canipe Amusement Company. About this time other officers arrived on the scene and took up a position around the items lying in front of the doorway to Canipe Amusement Company. Patrolman DOLLAHITE then walked west across Main Street in front of Canipe Amusement Company and stationed himself near a blue Camaro parked on the west side of Main opposite Canipe Amusement Company.

Patrolman DOLLAHITE advised that he is positive that after he arrived on Main Street, and until the officers had given their approval, no person left the area on foot. He is equally positive that no vehicle sped away from the area around Canipe Amusement Company after he arrived on Main Street. He stated that the only time he was not in a position to observe the activity in the 400 block of South Main after he first arrived there was during the time that he stepped into Jim's Grill. He stated, however, that he was in this grill only momentarily and he is certain in his own mind that he was not in Jim's Grill long enough for anyone to have run from either of the exits to a rooming house at 422½ South Main and thereafter run to an automobile and leave the scene without his having seen such activity.

With regard to the owner of Canipe Amusement Company, a white man, and two customers inside Canipe Amusement Company, two Negro males, he stated that he saw all three of these persons and was with a group of officers who were talking to these individuals. He stated, however, that as he ran south on Main before leaving Canipe Amusement Company, he did not see the white male, Mr. CANIPE, step out onto the sidewalk. He stated that since he was alone and one of the first officers to arrive in this area, his essential purpose was first to attempt to observe and locate any suspicious person who might be attempting to leave the area, and secondly, wherever he saw any people in business houses or otherwise, he instructed them to remain where they were so that officers later checking the area would have an opportunity to interview everyone who was in the area as soon as possible.

Patrolman DOLLAHITE advised that after other officers had arrived in front of Canipe Amusement Company, and after he had learned during the conversation that

one or more of the three persons inside Canipe Amusement Company reported hearing the "squealing" of tires as a white Mustang sped away from the area, he observed what he regarded to be skid marks at a point approximately one car length south of the doorway to Canipe Amusement Company. In pointing out the general area where he observed these skid marks, Patrolman DOLLAHITE observed that there is space for three automobiles to park between the first driveway south of Canipe Amusement Company (on the east side of Main) and a no parking zone around a fire plug just to the north of this driveway. He stated that he would estimate that the skid marks which he observed were made by an automobile parked in the center parking area, assuming all three parking spaces were filled at the time.

As to automobiles parked on the east side of Main in the area in front of Canipe Amusement Company at the time he arrived on the scene, he stated he cannot now recall a description of the vehicles which he did see. However, he does recall observing about a 1962 red Chevrolet station wagon which he believes was parked in the first space south of the above-mentioned driveway. He advised that he was also under the impression he had seen this station wagon at another point just north of this driveway and possibly the owner had moved the car later on during the evening. He stated that there was an automobile parked directly in front of Canipe Amusement Company, but no automobile parked in the space immediately behind the car in front of Canipe Amusement Company. It was in this blank space, or the number two position south of Canipe Amusement Company, that he saw what he thought to be skid marks and which appeared to have been made as a car pulled away from that position going north on Main Street.

Patrolman DOLLAHITE advised that he had his firearm in his hand at all times when he was in the 400 block of Main Street, and if the witnesses in Canipe Amusement Company reported seeing a Deputy running south on Main carrying a firearm, then undoubtedly these witnesses were referring to him, Patrolman DOLLAHITE.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 4/13/68

Mr. SOLOMON JONES, JR., 374 Vance Avenue, Memphis, who is employed as a funeral director for R. S. Lewis and Sons at the same address was interviewed at the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry, Memphis.

Mr. JONES advised that he had been serving as chauffeur for Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., on Dr. KING's last trip to Memphis. He believed that he had started driving for Dr. KING on April 1, 1968. He stated that Reverend JAMES LAWSON of Memphis had requested him to drive Dr. KING while he was in Memphis.

On Wednesday night, April 3, 1968, Dr. KING spoke at the Mason Temple in Memphis and after the speech returned to the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry, Memphis. Dr. KING told him to report back to the Lorraine Motel on Thursday morning, April 4, 1968, at 8:30 a.m., as Dr. KING was due to go to court in Memphis in regard to a restraining order.

Mr. JONES stated that on Thursday morning, April 4, 1968, he returned to the Lorraine Motel at about 8:30 a.m., which motel is located at 406 Mulberry. He stated this motel is located on the east side of Mulberry Street and is bordered on the north by Huling Avenue and on the south by East Butler.

He advised that he parked the car, which was used to drive Dr. KING and which car was a 1967 Cadillac and belonged to the R. S. Lewis and Sons Funeral Home, in the parking area of the Lorraine Motel. He parked this car in front of Room 207 which is on the ground level of the Lorraine Motel. The car was headed into the motel area which would have been in an easterly direction.

A short time after he arrived Reverend ANDREW YOUNG, an associate of Dr. KING, contacted JONES and stated that Dr. KING was not going to go to court on the morning of April 4, 1968, and YOUNG was going to go to court. Reverend YOUNG informed JONES that he was to remain at the motel as Dr. KING was to later that day address the sanitation workers.

On 4/12/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987-Sub D-76

by SA EUGENE G. DOUGLASS/raj Date dictated 4/13/68

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JONES advised that he remained at the Lorraine Motel and ate his lunch at the motel. At about 3:00 p.m., April 4, 1968, Reverend BILLY KIZER (phonetic), a minister in Memphis, informed JONES that Dr. KING and other members of his staff were going to have dinner at Reverend KIZER's home at about 5:00 p.m., April 4, 1968.

Mr. JONES stated that Dr. KING did not leave the motel area the entire day of April 4, 1968, and JONES stated that he stayed in this area the entire day.

He advised that Dr. KING and his group did not leave the motel at 5:00 p.m., as had been originally mentioned to him by Reverend KIZER. At approximately 6:00 p.m., April 4, 1968, JONES noticed Dr. KING come out of a room on the balcony level of the Lorraine Motel which room was north of Room 306 where Dr. KING was residing. Dr. KING proceeded to Room 306 and as he was about to enter the room Dr. KING told JONES to start the car as they were preparing to go to dinner. JONES stated he started the car and Dr. KING went into Room 306 where he was staying with Reverend ABERNATHY.

Dr. KING came out of Room 306 a short time later and was standing on the balcony area in front of Room 306. At this time Dr. KING was fully dressed. Dr. KING was looking from the balcony level down to JONES who was standing beside the car on the ground level. JONES advised the car was still parked in front of Room 207. Dr. KING was talking to JONES about the weather and JONES stated he told Dr. KING he should put on a topcoat as it was cool outside. He stated that he was looking up at Dr. KING during this conversation and Dr. KING was facing west and that he, JONES, was facing east. Dr. KING acknowledged JONES concerning obtaining his topcoat.

JONES stated while he was still looking at Dr. KING he heard a sound which he thought was a fire cracker. Dr. KING fell to the floor of the walkway in front of Room 306. At this point JONES could see blood coming from Dr. KING, and realized the sound was actually a shot rather than a fire cracker.



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JONES stated that he started screaming and calling for help and repeatedly called several times "Dr. KING's been shot."

He advised that at the time of the shooting that JESSE JACKSON, a staff member of Dr. KING, was standing at Room 305. He also recalled that Dr. KING's lawyer by the name of ESKRIDGE of Chicago, Illinois, was standing near JONES on the ground level.

After seeing Dr. KING bleeding and realizing that he was shot, JONES stated that he and ESKRIDGE did not run to the side of Dr. KING as others were coming to Dr. KING's aid. However, he and ESKRIDGE turned west since that was the direction in which the shot had originated, and went toward Mulberry Street which street is located on the front portion of the motel. They ran about 50 feet and stopped opposite the office of the motel. JONES stated he and the lawyer both then looked around and saw nothing. JONES stated he ran about another ten feet west and stopped at the edge of the sidewalk in front of the motel and stood beside a brick wall. He stated ESKRIDGE also ran up to same area opposite him. He advised when he reached this point he looked opposite the point where he was standing which was also the driveway area. He looked opposite the driveway area toward the west side of Mulberry Street. This area has a large retaining wall. Immediately above the retaining wall is a grassy area with some small shrubs and bushes. This area is behind some buildings facing South Main Street. He got a quick glimpse of a person with his back toward Mulberry Street.

He estimated the person he glimpsed would have been approximately 60 feet from where he was standing. He pointed out it was dusk dark and he merely got a quick glimpse of someone in that area. He stated that it was the back of this individual and he could not tell whether the person was Negro or white. This person was moving rather fast and he recalls that he believed he was wearing some sort of light colored jacket with some sort of a hood or parka. He stated this person appeared to him to be about 5'11" or a little taller. He did not see him carrying anything in his hand and did not notice anything concerning his dress below his waist.

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He said he could not tell anything further about this individual and it could have been an officer, but he could not furnish any further details concerning this individual.

He related that he did not look to his left or south on Mulberry Street. After taking a quick glimpse he immediately ran back to the motel area where Dr. KING was located. He ran up the middle stairway of the motel which stairway was opposite Room 308. As he was running up the stairway he noticed a red ambulance had arrived and he believed this ambulance was a Memphis Fire Department ambulance.

At this point he stated he was in such a state of shock that someone put him in Room 308 and he had to lie down for a moment. While they were placing Dr. KING into the ambulance, LEE BERNARD, an aide of Dr. KING, came into Room 308 and told him to calm down and for him to drive the car and follow Dr. KING's ambulance. JONES stated he drove the car which had been used for Dr. KING and followed the ambulance to the hospital. In the car with him was Reverend ANDREW YOUNG and LEE BERNARD.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/15/68

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TORRENCE N. LANDERS, Patrolman, Memphis Police Department, furnished the following information:

On the afternoon of April 4, 1968, he was a member of Mobile Tactical Unit Ten which consisted of 3 vehicles. Shortly prior to 6:00 PM, the unit stopped at the fire station located in the 400 block of S. Main Street at E. Butler Avenue. Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was staying at the Lorraine Motel at the time, and the motel was located approximately one block from the fire station. At approximately 5:50 PM on April 4, he heard a sharp sound which resembled a firearm being discharged, however, no one else paid any attention to the noise and he paid no further attention to it, however, a few moments later someone in the fire station announced that Doctor KING had been shot. He immediately left the fire station by the door on the northwest corner, ran along side the station to a retaining wall in back of the station which is also Mulberry Avenue. He and another officer jumped down onto Mulberry Street and ran to the Lorraine Motel where a group of Negroes were gathered on the walk beneath the balcony. There was a great deal of turmoil, and he asked one of the men present, from what direction the shot was fired. This individual pointed to the second floor windows of a rooming house on S. Main Street and said, "from over there."

Officer FLANDERS immediately left the motel on foot, ran across Mulberry Street, and leaping on an empty 55 gallon drum which was on the sidewalk, he boosted himself up onto the top of a retaining wall. He then searched the ground in back of the rooming house for footprints, however, he found none with the exception of 2 footprints near a cellar door. It had rained the previous day and the ground was soft and any footprints would have been easily noted. Just a few minutes later, he was joined in the search by a deputy sheriff, who was wearing a light colored helmet. LANDERS stated that he, himself, had no hat and he was wearing a light blue shirt, no tie, and dark blue trousers.

On 4/13/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987-Sub-D-77  
 by SA MELVIN E. DE GRAW *mf*  
SA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS *KAW* /bbs Date dictated 4/13/68

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The ground level premises in the area were immediately searched, however, nothing was revealed or noted connected to this investigation. He also advised that in a matter of a few minutes the area was swarming with officers who sealed off the area in a effort to apprehend the individual responsible for shooting Doctor KING. He reiterated that he is positive if anyone had been across the street from the Lorraine Motel in the area behind the rooming house in the 400 block of S. Main Street, he would have been able to observe the individual's footprints, however, none were noted,

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 4/16/68

SAC ROBERT G. JENSEN and SA RALPH J. LIEWER contacted RALPH M. CARPENTER, an employee of York Arms Company, 162 South Main Street, Memphis. Mr. CARPENTER was informed of the identity of SAC JENSEN and he has previously been interviewed by SA LIEWER. He was told we had an additional group of photographs we would like him to view. He was told that no significance should be attached to the sequence or arrangement the photographs might be in when he saw them. These photographs were laid out, one after another, on the second floor away from bystanders and other employees in the York Arms Company.

CARPENTER spent at least twenty minutes reviewing carefully each of the photographs. He expressed some hesitation for a time between a photograph of one RICHARD SMITH and the photograph of ERIC S. GALT. No names and no identifying data of any kind were furnished to CARPENTER in connection with his study of these photographs. He did state in connection with a photograph of SMITH that he thought this was a local Memphis boy whom he might have seen. He turned this photograph over and did reject the photograph as not being identical to the one to whom he sold the binoculars.

He studied carefully for approximately five minutes the photograph of ERIC S. GALT and made comments concerning the appearance of GALT. He stated the hair was generally similar to the customer but thought it might be just a little bit longer than when the customer had been in the store on April 4. He also said that he recalled the customer he waited on did not have heavy, bushy eyebrows but they were more like the eyebrows in the photograph of GALT. He also stated he had no recollection of seeing GALT's teeth and thought he had a smile when he waited on him. CARPENTER also said he had no independent recollection of GALT's ears appearing as they did in the photograph, but he then said he did not notice them particularly. He did furnish the following statement regarding his identification of the photograph of ERIC S. GALT:

On 4/16/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub D-78

by SAC ROBERT G. JENSEN and  
SA RALPH J. LIEWER : bn Date dictated 4/16/68

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ME #44-1987

"April 16, 1968

"On April 16, 1968, I, Ralph M Carpenter was shown a group of 5 photographs by Special Agent in Charge Robert G Jensen and Special Agent Ralph J Liewer. After careful study of each of these pictures I placed my name on the back of the picture which I feel most resembled the man who bought a set of binoculars from me on April 4, 1968 at York Arms, 162 So. Main St., Memphis, Tennessee. I was not furnished any names or any descriptive data regarding any of the photographs shown. I was also told that no significance should be attached to any sequence or arrangement that the photographs were shown to me. I did turn one photograph over as I thought I recognized this to be a local Memphis boy. I did not however recognize him as the person to whom I sold the binoculars.

"In choosing the photograph I was guided by my best recollection. I remember that the man who bought the binoculars did not have heavy eyebrows and were about medium like the ones in the photograph selected by me. I did not sell any other binoculars on April 4, 1968

"My signature attests that I am in agreement with the information set forth on page one and page two of this statement.

/s/ Ralph M. Carpenter

/s/ Robert G Jensen  
SAC, FBI, Memphis  
April 16, 1968

/s/ Ralph J. Liewer  
Special Agent FBI  
April 16, 1968"

It should be noted that the name "ERIC S. GALT" was not furnished to CARPENTER, nor was he in a position to read the name when he signed the back of the photograph. His concluding remarks, which were made at approximately 11:20 a.m., 4/16/68, were to the effect that, "I don't own a suit. I suppose I will have to buy a suit so that I can go to court."

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 5, 1968

Det. E. S. BERKLEY, Homicide Bureau, Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at the Homicide Bureau, at which time he furnished the following information:

At the instructions of Assistant Chief ROUTT of the Memphis Police Department, he went to St. Joseph's Hospital at approximately 7:45 p.m. this evening. While at the hospital, he obtained the personal clothing from the body of MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. At this time, KING's body was located in a consultation room on the main floor of St. Joseph's Hospital adjacent to the emergency ward.

He then brought the clothing belonging to Dr. KING to the Homicide Bureau of the Memphis Police Department.

At this point, Det. BERKLEY made available for examination the following items belonging to Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING:

- 1) White long sleeve Arrow shirt, wash-and-wear style, showing a composition made up of dacron and polyester. This shirt was blood stained and there was a large hole on the right side in the area of the collar.
- 2) One black suit coat and pants bearing the label Petrocelli and the name Zimmerman, Atlanta, on the inside label of the coat. The coat was blood stained and torn.
- 3) One pair black 100 percent nylon shorts, size 34, bearing the name Shorewood.
- 4) One tie, brand D and H, bearing the name Apparel Shop.
- 5) One pair men's black socks.
- 6) One white T-shirt bearing the name Lewis, medium size, which was blood stained.
- 7) One pair black Bannister shoes.

On 4/4/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub D-79

by SA ANDREW SLOAN:LF Date dictated 4/5/68

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Det. BERKLEY advised that he also obtained from Dr. KING's body two \$10 bills, one \$5 bill and three \$1 bills, as well as 45 cents in change. He also obtained a key to Room 307 for the Lorraine Motel and Hotel. He also obtained one silver pen, numerous business cards and a black address book bearing the year 1968 on the cover.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 5, 1968

Lt. GLYNN KING, Homicide Bureau, Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department, was interviewed at the Homicide Bureau, at which time he furnished the following information:

At approximately 7:15 p.m. this evening, he was at Apartment 5B, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$  South Main Street, Memphis, and conducted a search of this apartment with several other law enforcement officers. The search was conducted after it was believed that the slayer of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. had stayed in this room. During the course of the search, he obtained a red, white and blue stick pin which appeared to be a Disabled Veterans pin. The stick pin was located in the top drawer on the left hand side of the dresser adjacent to the east wall of Apartment 5B. This stick pin was taken to the Homicide Bureau to be retained as possible evidence.

On 4/4/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub D-8D  
by SA ANDREW SLOAN:LF Date dictated 4/5/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis on April 4, 1968, were shown to Mr. CHARLIE QUITMAN STEPHENS, Apartment 6B, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. STEPHENS said the 1955 and 1960 photographs of RAY were not familiar to him, but he advised the 1966 profile photograph of RAY appearing in Wanted Flyer 442-A, April 19, 1968, and Identification Order 4182 dated April 20, 1968, looked like the man he saw in Apartment 5B on April 4, 1968, talking to Mrs. BESSIE BREWER. STEPHENS said he only saw the man's profile in the boarding house and as a result could only say the profile photograph of RAY in 1966 looked very much like the above mentioned man in Room 5B.

STEPHENS said he had never seen the bedspread or any similar bedspread either at the rooming house or anywhere else.

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On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub-D-81  
by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON:jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis, Tennessee, April 4, 1968, were shown to Mr. WILLIAM CHARLES ANSCHUTZ, Apartment 4B, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. He advised none of the men in the photographs were familiar to him and that he would not be able to identify the man he saw running down the hall on April 4, 1968, in the late afternoon after hearing the noise which he thought was a shot, as the man was covering his face with his arm as he ran down the hall.

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On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub-D-82  
by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON: <sup>SM</sup>jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis, April 4, 1968, were shown to Mrs. BESSIE RUTH BREWER, Room No. 2, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. She said she had looked at the bedspread on April 4, 1968, when it was displayed to her after being recovered by the Memphis Police. She said the bedspread did not come from her rooming house and in fact she had never seen one like it before in her life. Mrs. BREWER said none of the men in the photographs shown her were familiar to her. She further advised that she did not believe she would recognize the man using the name JOHN WILLARD if he were to "walk up and say hello to me right now." She said she did not look at the man called WILLARD "squarely in the face" and as a result, does not think she will be able to identify him.

On April 24, 1968 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub-D-83  
by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON: <sup>SM</sup>jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis, Tennessee, April 4, 1968, were shown to Mr. BERTIE L. REEVES, Apartment 3, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. He advised none of the men in the photographs were familiar to him and that he had never seen the bedspread or any bedspread similar to it.

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On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub D-84

by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON:jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Mr. FRANK BREWER, Room No. 2, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$  South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised he never saw the man registered as JOHN WILLARD at the boarding house.

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis on April 4, 1968, were shown to Mr. BREWER, and he advised none of the men in the photographs were familiar to him. He also stated he had never seen the bedspread or any bedspread similar to it.

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On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987 *Sub-D-85*  
by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON:jap *SM* Date dictated 4/25/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Mrs. CHARLIE STEPHENS, Apartment 6B, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised she never saw the man registered into Room 5B on April 4, 1968, as she was sick in bed that entire week.

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis on April 4, 1968, were shown to Mrs. STEPHENS, and she advised none of the men in the photographs were familiar to her. She also stated she had never seen the bedspread or any bedspread similar to it before.

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On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub G-86  
by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON:jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 23, 1968

Mrs. HENRIETTA HAGEMASTER, Desk Clerk, Rebel Motor Hotel, 3466 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, was shown various photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and advised that none of these photographs looked familiar to her. She added that she still felt that she would be unable to recognize the individual who registered at the motel as ERIC S. GALT even if she had a face-to-face confrontation with him.

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On 4/22/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub D-87

by SA JOHN W. BAUER:tjm *WJ* Date dictated 4/22/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/19/68

Mrs. PEGGY BROWN, 4810 Richland, was interviewed at her place of employment, Oliver Rexall Drugstore, Highway 51 South, White Haven, Tennessee, at which time she viewed the photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT wherein GALT is depicted with his eyes closed and she furnished the following information:

She stated that this photograph generally depicts the individual who was in the drugstore on April 3, 1968. She advised that the individual in the store was generally of the same age as GALT, had the same color hair, and similar type complexion. Photograph of GALT appeared to resemble the individual in the manner of build in a general way. She advised that she is unable to say if this is the same person who was in the store. She could not say whether the facial characteristics depicted in the photograph are similar to the man who made the purchase. She advised she does not have a good recollection of the person and may be able to identify this individual if she were to see him in person. She could not comment regarding the eyes, nose, and other facial characteristics depicted in the photograph as she does not know if they are similar to the customer who purchased the Gillette razor kit.

On 4/19/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987-Sub-D-88

by SA ANDREW SLOAN/raj Date dictated 4/19/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Mr. RALPH MEREDITH CARPENTER, 4844 Durbin Street, Memphis, Tennessee, a salesman at the York Arms Company, 162 South Main Street, Memphis, was shown a group of pictures taken on different dates of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI No. 405 942 G. Mr. CARPENTER said of the picture of RAY taken March 28, 1955, that he could not eliminate this as being a picture of the individual to whom he had sold a pair of Bushnell binoculars on April 4, 1968. He said that the purchaser of the binoculars did not have any beard or mustache but his facial features resembled those in the March 28, 1955, photograph of RAY. CARPENTER said the 1968 picture of JAMES EARL RAY, as shown on the current Wanted Flyer, Number 442-A, looks more like the binocular purchaser than any picture he has seen to date. CARPENTER mentioned that he does not recall a protruding left ear of the customer and did not note any scar on his face. He said he could not positively identify this 1968 picture of JAMES EARL RAY as being a picture of the binocular purchaser above mentioned, but he believes that it is.

On 4/22/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub-D-89  
by SA RALPH J. LIEWER:jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/17/68

1

WALTER LANE BAILEY, Owner, Lorraine Hotel-Motel,  
406 Mulberry Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that a check  
of his records reflected the following named persons as  
having been registered into his motel on either April 3 or  
April 4, 1968, or both dates:

- 1) GERALD HARRELL  
Room No. 10  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 5427 Urguhart Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2) JAMES LEWIS  
Room No. 11  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 78 West Trigg Avenue  
Memphis, Tennessee
- 3) M. JACKSON  
Room No. 12  
on April 3, 1968  
no address given
- 4) R. ROGERS  
Room No. 200  
on April 3, 1968  
no address given
- 5) WILLIE WILLIAM  
Room No. 201  
on April 3, 1968  
address: 810 Parson Street  
Atlanta, Georgia
- 6) R. B. COTTONREADER  
Room No. 202  
on April 3, 1968  
address: 408 Third Street  
Marks, Mississippi

On 4/11/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub-D-90  
by SA EUGENE A. MEDORI, JR. and SMD/mnr Date dictated 4/17/68

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- 7) TOBIE WYNN  
Room No. 204  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 3204 St.  
Columbus, Georgia
- 8) BERNARD LEE  
Room No. 206 (on April 3, 1968)  
Room No. 205 (on April 4, 1968)  
address: 334 Auburn Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia
- 9) TRACY WRIGHT  
Room No. 208  
on April 3-4, 1968  
no address given
- 10) ANDREW YOUNG  
Room No. 209  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 334 Auburn Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia
- 11) JOHN WILLIAM  
Room No. 210  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 334 Auburn Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia
- 12) WARREN LARDSON  
Room No. 211  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 1076 Walton Avenue  
Dayton, Ohio
- 13) EUGENE COURTNEY  
Room No. 212  
on April 3-4, 1968  
no address given
- 14) WILLIAM MALONEY  
Room No. 301  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 334 Auburn Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia



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- 15) P. A. RANCE  
Room No. 303 (on April 3, 1968)  
Room No. 200 (on April 4, 1968)  
no address given
  
- 16) JAMES ORANGE  
Room No. 304  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 334 Auburn Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia
  
- 17) JESSIE JACKSON  
Room No. 305  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 366 East 47th Street  
Chicago, Illinois
  
- 18) MARTIN KING  
Room No. 306  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 334 Auburn Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia
  
- 19) RALPH ABERNATHY  
Room No. 306  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 334 Auburn Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia
  
- 20) DOROTHY COTTON  
Room No. 307  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 334 Auburn Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia
  
- 21) JAMES LOVE  
Room No. 308  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 8231 Chancery Court  
Alexandria, Virginia
  
- 22) JOSEPH LOUW  
Room No. 309  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 45 Tiemann Place  
New York, New York

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- 23) CHARLES BALLARD  
Room No. 310  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 506 Kansas Street  
Atlanta, Georgia
- 24) STERLING TUCKER  
Room No. 311  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 626 Third Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C.
- 25) Reverend SAMUEL KYLES  
Room No. 312  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 704 South Parkway East  
Memphis, Tennessee
- 26) JEAN SMITH  
Room No. 314  
on April 3-4, 1968  
no address given
- 27) MABELLE HENDRICKS  
Room No. 315  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 767 Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, Georgia
- 28) JAMES WELDON  
Room No. 316  
on April 3-4, 1968  
address: 111 Hunter Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia
- 29) A. D. KING  
Room No. 201  
on April 4, 1968  
address: Louisville, Kentucky
- 30) OFFELIN RUTHERFORD  
Room No. 202  
on April 4, 1968  
address: 334 Auburn Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia

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- 31) J. B. WILLIAMS  
Room No. 203  
on April 4, 1968  
address: 2510 Jackson Avenue  
Forrest City, Arkansas
  
- 32) HENRY ANTHONY  
Room No. 206  
on April 4, 1968  
address: 334 Auburn Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia
  
- 33) BERNARD LAFAYETTE  
Room No. 206  
on April 4, 1968  
address: 334 Auburn Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia
  
- 34) C. A. DAVIS  
Room 207  
on April 4, 1968  
address: Louisville, Kentucky
  
- 35) L. B. WARD  
Room No. 207  
on April 4, 1968  
address: Louisville, Kentucky
  
- 36) HERMAN SWEAT  
Room No. 214  
on April 4, 1968  
no address given
  
- 37) EARL CALDWELL  
Room No. 215  
on April 4, 1968  
no address given
  
- 38) JOHN HALL  
Room No. 1  
on April 4, 1968  
no address given
  
- 39) S. MC COLLOUGH  
Room No. 12  
on April 4, 1968  
address: 6618 South Woodlawn Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

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- 40) ----- HILL (first name not given)  
Room No. 13  
on April 4, 1968  
no address given
- 41) JIMER GUEMOOR  
Room No. 14  
on April 4, 1968  
address: 750 Pearl Street  
Grenada, Mississippi
- 42) Reverend H. VERNER  
Room No. 202  
on April 4, 1968  
address: 5320 South Drexel Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois
- 43) Reverend W. BENNETT  
Room No. 202  
on April 4, 1968  
address: 5320 South Drexel Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois
- 44) GARY MASSONI  
Room No. 214  
on April 4, 1968  
address: 366 East 47th Street  
Chicago, Illinois
- 45) JAMES BEVEL  
unknown room number  
on April 4, 1968  
address: 8407 South Ribash Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 26, 1968

Reverend SAMUEL B. KYLES, minister of the Monumental Baptist Church, 704 South Parkway East, who resides at 2215 South Parkway East, Memphis, Tennessee, on interview advised as follows:

Reverend KYLES, who has lived in Memphis for approximately the past eight years, is on the Executive Board of the Memphis, Tennessee, Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and is also a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the national headquarters of which is Atlanta, Georgia, and the President of which, up until April 4, 1968, was Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reverend KYLES advised that a sanitation workers' strike began in Memphis, Tennessee, February 12, 1968, and that shortly after its start a group of Negro ministers in Memphis, including himself, banded together to form a group which adopted the name of Community on the Move for Equality (COME), raising funds for the sanitation strikers and assisting them in daily marches and other strike-support activity. He stated that as early as March 18, 1968, he, along with some of the other COME leaders, induced Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., to come to Memphis where, on the night of March 18, 1968, he gave an inspiring talk at Mason Temple to approximately 10,000 to 12,000 people, urging the Negro community of Memphis to unite behind the sanitation workers.

KYLES and some of the other COME leaders also induced Dr. KING to return to Memphis on the morning of March 28, 1968, to lead a massive downtown march in support of the sanitation workers.

Considerable breaking of downtown windows and looting resulted during this march, as a result of which KYLES stated the sanitation strike received nationwide publicity, and Dr. KING agreed to return to Memphis, along with other SCLC staff members, in early April, 1968, to continue support on behalf of the sanitation workers.

On 4/23/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub-D-91  
by SAs HOWELL S. LOWE *HT*  
and WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE *WHL:gmh* Date dictated 4/25/68

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Reverend KYLES recalled that Dr. KING actually returned to Memphis on Wednesday morning, April 3, 1968, with several of his staff associates including the Vice President of SCLC, Reverend RALPH D. ABERNATHY, and his administrative assistant BERNARD LEE. They all checked into the Lorraine Hotel and Motel, 406 Mulberry Street, Memphis, and actually KYLES had rented rooms for some of the SCLC staff members under his name. He pointed out that actually he was registered in Room 312 of the Lorraine Motel as of April 3, 1968, although he did not physically occupy this room and did not now recall the exact SCLC individual who occupied Room 312. He recalled that Dr. KING occupied Room 306, as did Reverend RALPH D. ABERNATHY.

He recalled that Dr. KING and his staff remained in Memphis on the night of April 3, 1968, and also remained in Memphis on April 4, 1968. In addition, he pointed out that there had been widespread publicity in not only the Memphis news media, including the two daily white newspapers, but also on virtually all of the radio and television stations concerning the presence of Dr. KING and his staff in Memphis and of the fact that they were staying at the Lorraine Motel. He stated he could not recall the specific radio broadcast but there was at least one broadcast, possibly more, which even gave the room number, namely Room 306, in which Dr. KING was staying in Memphis, and that this information was readily available to anyone who tended to read the newspaper or took the time to listen to the radio news broadcasts. In other words, he said it was no secret as to where Dr. KING was staying.

Reverend KYLES recalled that he personally went to the Lorraine Motel at approximately 3:30 p.m. on April 4, 1968, and recalled that the Operation Breadbasket band, a singing group of the SCLC, was rehearsing in one of the rooms in the motel, this group being led by BEN BRANCH, a former music teacher of Memphis, Tennessee. KYLES joined this group and they all sang various hymns and SCLC songs until approximately 5 p.m. At this point, Reverend KYLES went to Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel to visit with Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and Reverend RALPH D. ABERNATHY. He pointed out that he had earlier invited Dr. KING and Reverend ABERNATHY to his home at 2215 South Parkway East for a "soul dinner" on the evening of April 4, 1968, pointing out



that Dr. KING and Reverend ABERNATHY both savored "soul food," which would normally consist of neck bones, chitterlings, turnip greens and black-eyed peas, and that his wife had consented to cook such a dinner for Dr. KING and his group. He pointed out that both KING and ABERNATHY had been reminded by him earlier that dinner was to be at approximately 6 p.m.

He recalled that during the approximate period from 5:30 p.m. to 5:55 p.m., April 4, 1968, that Dr. KING, Reverend ABERNATHY and Reverend KYLES sat and talked in Room 306 as Dr. KING and ABERNATHY dressed in preparation for the dinner appointment. At a time estimated by KYLES as being 5:55 p.m., or thereabouts, Dr. KING walked out of Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel, the door of which faces west and overlooks a swimming pool and parking area onto Mulberry Street, which is a narrow north-south street in Memphis. Dr. KING's room, 306, was on the second floor and as one walks out of the room there is a balcony and walkway area, the balcony having an iron rail approximately three feet high to keep one from falling off the balcony. Dr. KING, KYLES recalled, stood on the balcony and was speaking with various people standing in the parking area of the motel directly beneath him. One of the persons with whom Dr. KING was speaking was Reverend JESSE JACKSON, an SCLC staff member from Chicago, Illinois. KYLES recalled leaving Room 306 and going out and talking with Dr. KING, telling him not to bring too many people to his house or there would not be enough food to satisfy all of them. KYLES also recalled that SOLOMON JONES, a local Negro who works for one of the funeral homes, had been Dr. KING's chauffeur while in Memphis and that KING may have made some comment to JONES about getting the car ready for their trip to the KYLES residence.

Reverend KYLES also recalled that at about this period of time Reverend ABERNATHY had applied shaving cream to his face preparing to take a quick shave before departing to dinner and that KYLES and KING were standing side by side on the balcony and he also recalled that KING spoke to CHAUNCEY ESKRIDGE who is an attorney for SCLC and who was in Memphis with the SCLC staff.

Others recalled by KYLES being on the ground level within viewing and listening distance of Dr. KING were Reverend JAMES L. BEVEL, also of the SCLC staff and who has recently been living in Chicago, and several young Negroes, names not recalled, who had been hanging around and supporting the sanitation workers strike. He pointed out that he would put these folks in the category of "hero worshipers" who liked to be around KING and other important personages.

At this point, KYLES estimated the time as being approximately 6 o'clock p.m., and stated that he, KYLES, started to walk north on the balcony walkway toward the old Lorraine Hotel portion of the establishment for the purpose of getting his car, which was parked on the parking lot. He recalled looking down and saying something to CHAUNCEY ESKRIDGE who was standing on the ground and estimated that he had walked approximately four door lengths north of Room 306 when he, KYLES, heard a loud but possibly muffled sound. At first he thought it was a noise from the immediate area possibly caused by the backfiring of an automobile or possibly even a loud firecracker which had exploded in the immediate vicinity.

He was next conscious of seeing Reverend JAMES L. BEVEL who had been standing on the ground north of Room 306 running to the motel area ostensibly for cover and recalled some unknown individual yelling in a loud voice, "They've shot MARTIN." At this point he turned around and looked back south toward the entrance of Room 306 and was next conscious of seeing Dr. KING's prone body. KING was resting on the balcony floor with his back to the floor, his face facing upward, his feet partially protruding through the grill work of the iron railway, and his head headed in a south-easterly direction toward the passageway just south of Room 306.

KYLES continued that he took a quick glance at KING's prone body after reaching same and saw a gaping hole in what he recalled to be the right side of KING's face in the area of his cheek bone and protruding downward into his neck area. He stated that he was not familiar with guns or gun wounds but he subconsciously realized that the

noise which he had heard had undoubtedly been that of a gunshot which had wounded Dr. KING. He pointed out that KING's eyes appeared to be open and that he personally felt KING may still have been alive. He was not conscious of anyone else near KING's body at this time and pointed out that he went into a state of shock and ran rather hysterically into Room 306 where he attempted to use a telephone for the purpose of calling an ambulance. In the meantime, ABERNATHY had run out of Room 306 with shaving cream still on his face in an effort to see what had happened to Dr. KING. KYLES pointed out that in his confusion he was unable to pick up the phone properly to call the motel switchboard to ask for an ambulance and recalled ABERNATHY running back into the room and telling him to settle down and gain his composure as everything would be all right,

KYLES came back out of the room to the vicinity of KING's body and was next conscious of seeing several uniformed Memphis Police officers running on foot toward the vicinity of KING's body and recalled some of them yelling, "What happened?" He stated that he recalled yelling at some of the police officers to call an ambulance. He was next conscious of Reverend ABERNATHY leaning over KING's prone body attempting to talk with KING or to get some response from him and could recall hearing ABERNATHY say, "MARTIN, can you hear me?"

Reverend KYLES recalled running into Room 306 and grabbing up a bedspread off one of the beds which he brought out to use to cover KING's body. He recalled that a white male employee of the United States Justice Department, name not recalled, who had been staying at the motel brought a towel which someone held over the large gaping wound on the right side of KING's face.

Within a few moments an ambulance arrived to take KING's body to a hospital and he recalled that a JOSEPH LOUW, an African who is a photographer and who was staying at the motel, took some pictures in the immediate vicinity and that many of the people who by this time had come to the balcony seemed to point toward the west side of Mulberry where there is a thicket of bushes and empty land bordered further on the west by the back side of some old two-story brick buildings which face on Main Street and indicated in

their pointing and comments that the shot probably came from that general direction. In other words, the shot came from the west toward the east.

Thereafter, according to Reverend KYLES, an ambulance crew took Dr. KING's body to the St. Joseph Hospital.

Reverend KYLES looked at a series of photographs which appeared in "Life Magazine," issue of April 12, 1968, some of which were taken immediately after the shooting of Dr. KING and prior to the arrival of the ambulance and which depict Dr. KING's prone body lying face up on the concrete walkway on the second floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel and taken by Photographer JOSEPH LOUW. He stated that the only people that he could identify by name in the early photographs prior to the arrival of the ambulance were Reverend ANDREW YOUNG of the SCLC staff and some local unidentified Negroes who were apparently assisting in an effort to render immediate first aid to Dr. KING. Reverend KYLES pointed out that these photographs must have been taken almost immediately following the shooting of Dr. KING because they do not show the bedspread over KING's body.

He stated that very few people actually were cognizant of the fact that Dr. KING was to be a dinner guest at his home on the evening of April 4, 1968; that among the guests who had been invited to his recollection were Dr. KING, his brother, Reverend A. D. WILLIAMS KING, and two of the latter's companions, Mrs. LUKIE WARD and Mrs. GEORGIA M. DAVIS, both of Louisville, Kentucky; and that Reverend ABERNATHY was to have been there, as was CHAUNCEY ESKRIDGE. He stated that Reverend ANDREW YOUNG and HOSEA WILLIAMS, both of the SCLC staff, were also to be his dinner guests on that evening.

He stated that to his recollection there had been no publicity concerning the fact that KING and his small party were to be his dinner guests and that it appeared to be a mere coincidence that Dr. KING walked out in front of the doorway of Room 306 and stood there some four to five minutes prior to the time that he was shot.

Reverend KYLES stated that he had searched his memory during the intervening time subsequent to Dr. KING's being shot and that at no time could he recall seeing anyone to the west or northwest from which direction he is now convinced the shot came. He saw no one looking out any of the windows in the buildings facing Main Street, the rear entrances of which would have faced the Motel; and he saw no one on the ground below.

He stated that he talked with CHAUNCEY ESKRIDGE shortly after the shooting and that ESKRIDGE who was on the ground level in the parking area in front of the Motel stated that after the shot he, ESKRIDGE, had run west from the Motel to the middle of Mulberry Street but that he did not see anyone with any firearm either on the ground or in any of the buildings. Reverend KYLES recalled that SOLOMON JONES has been reported to have stated that he saw someone possibly with a white headpiece in the ground area just west of the west side of Mulberry Street behind the bushes and possibly saw someone drop something in that area.

Reverend KYLES stated that in fairness to JONES, JONES could not have seen the ground area which he had originally described because of the fact that there is a brick retaining wall which surrounds the swimming pool and that JONES would have been behind this wall when KING was shot and could not have seen behind the bushes on the west side of Mulberry Street as this wall is about eight feet tall.

Reverend KYLES concluded that none of his acquaintances in the SCLC or other acquaintances in Memphis who have been close to the Negro movement can recall anything concerning any suspicious movements in the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel immediately preceding or during the time that Dr. KING was shot.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/7/68

LOYD JOWERS, owner, Jim's Grill, 418 South Main Street, advised that at approximately 3:55 p.m. on April 4, 1968, he arrived at the Grill, and parked directly in back of a white Mustang that was parked on the street directly in front of his Grill. He stated that he believed that the car had Mississippi license plates on it because they were of an orange or orangish-yellow color. He stated that upon parking the car he went into the Grill where he saw a stranger sitting at the bar having a meal. He stated that it was unusual for him to get any strange customers in the Grill since most of his customers were local people of a steady nature. Mr. JOWERS described the stranger as follows:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Height:	5'8" to 5'9"
Weight:	160 pounds
Build:	Heavy
Age:	27 to 30
Hair:	Sandy
Complexion:	Ruddy
Dress:	Wearing a dark suit.

He stated that the man finished his meal and left the Grill, and he could not notice in which direction he walked, but he did not get into the white Mustang, which was parked in front of the Grill.

Mr. JOWERS stated that this same individual returned to the Grill at about 8:00 p.m. on April 5, 1968, and ordered breakfast. Mr. JOWERS stated that in his estimation, this individual acted strangely because he seemed very calm when everyone else at the Grill and in the area was excited over the shooting. In view of the fact that he felt the individual was acting strange and also because he was a stranger in the area, Mr. JOWERS called the Police, and told them that he had a man of a suspicious nature at the Grill. He said that when the stranger

On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987-Sub D-92  
by SAs JOHN W. BAUER STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON / JWB:jms Date dictated 4/5/68

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finished his breakfast, he left the Grill and was arrested on the sidewalk in front of the Grill by the Memphis Police Department.

Lieutenant JIM HARRISON, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, later identified this arrested individual as GENE PEARSON CRAWFORD, 32-B Westwood Gardens, Jackson, Tennessee, who was determined to have had no part in the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/15/68

Mr. GILBERT STEPHEN (STEVE) CUPPLES, 935 Parkhaven Drive, Memphis, Tennessee, advised he is employed as a clerk in the Fine Paper Department of Tayloe Paper Company, 425 South Front Street, Memphis.

Mr. CUPPLES stated he left work at approximately 5:03 p.m., drove his 1959 white Chevrolet Impala, and parked it immediately across the street from Jim's Grill located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. He said he parked the car heading south and immediately behind in the next available parking space to KENNY FOSTER's Camero. He said when he parked his car he recalls seeing several cars parked across the street in the vicinity of the entrance to Jim's Grill. He said he recalls seeing JIMMY WALKER's white Fairlane Ford parked directly south of the fire hydrant located near the entrance of Jim's Grill and recalls seeing JOWERS' Cadillac located in the first parking space north of the fire hydrant. He said JOWERS operates Jim's Grill. CUPPLES stated he recalls seeing a white Mustang that could have been a 1967 or possibly 1968 model parked directly in front of JOWERS' Cadillac. He said this Mustang had black wall tires and believes it had large hubcaps. He said when he entered Jim's Grill he walked behind JOWERS' Cadillac and, therefore, did not notice very many details of the Mustang. He said he does not recall the color of the interior of the Mustang and did not notice what license was on the Mustang. He said he got the impression the Mustang was dirty or not freshly washed.

Mr. CUPPLES stated he was playing the pinball machine and the shuffleboard machine and that a great deal of noise was caused by these machines and the jukebox and, therefore, he did not hear what activity was occurring outside the grill. He stated sometime later he learned, at approximately 6:05 p.m., a deputy sheriff came to the door of the grill and instructed everyone to stay inside the grill until further notice. He stated shortly thereafter he and others in the grill looked out the front window and he recalls that the Mustang he had seen parked in front of JOWERS' Cadillac was gone. Mr. CUPPLES stated he did not see anyone enter the Mustang or drive it away.

On 4/12/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987-Sub-D-93  
 by SA O. JAMES HOLBROOK  
SA HARLEY E. GYLFE HEG:raj Date dictated 4/13/68

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Mr. CUPPLES advised that after the deputy sheriff had told them to stay in the grill he believes it was a police officer that entered and told them all to write their names and addresses on a piece of paper. He said it was not until then that he and others learned that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot. He stated he did not hear a shot that was fired.

Mr. CUPPLES advised he cannot furnish any additional information concerning activity in this area.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/15/68

Mr. DAVID M. WOOD, 3639 Towns, Memphis, advised he is employed with Tayloe Paper Company, 420 South Front Street, Memphis, Tennessee, as a city desk clerk.

Mr. WOOD advised he left work at approximately 5:00 p.m., on April 4, 1968, and walked alone to Jim's Grill, located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis. He said he walked down Huling Street to South Main and crossed South Main diagonally toward Jim's Grill. He said he would estimate it was approximately 5:05 p.m., when he walked in front of a Mustang automobile which was parked close to Jim's Grill. He explained there is a fire plug on the east side of South Main Street very close to the entrance of Jim's Grill. He stated immediately to the north of the fire plug was parked a white Cadillac that is owned by the owner of Jim's Grill. He said immediately in front of this Cadillac, which would be the second space north of the fire plug, was parked a Mustang. He stated he is familiar with Mustangs and knows this was a Mustang automobile. He said he felt that this was a white car that appeared to be dirty and not recently washed. He said this car did not have hubcaps, had black tires, but he did not notice the interior of the car. He said he did not look at the license, but glanced down and there was no front license plate. He said also he noticed in the window there was no city of Memphis sticker in this window. He said he does not recall that anything else was hanging from hangers or the rear view mirror of this car.

Mr. WOOD stated he entered Jim's Grill and began playing shuffle board and pinball machine located inside the grill. WOOD explained the shuffle board is located in the northwest corner of this building and that it is close to the front window of Jim's Grill. He stated, however, he was interested in playing shuffle board and the pinball machine and did not look out the window while he was playing either machine. He added, however, it is possible he may have looked out the window, but stated he does not recall seeing any activity in the street nor did he see anyone in the Mustang or drive away in the Mustang.

On 4/12/68 at Memphis, Tennessee

File # ME 44-1987-Sub D-94

SA O. JAMES HOLBROOK  
SA HARLEY E. GYLFE HEG:raj

4/13/68

by HEG Date dictated \_\_\_\_\_

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WOOD advised he was not aware of the activity outside on the street or that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot until a deputy sheriff came into the grill with a gun in his hand advising everyone to stay in the grill until they were notified they could leave. He said almost immediately Mr. JOWERS, owner of Jim's Grill, locked the door to keep everyone in the place and to prevent anyone else from entering. WOOD stated that after the door was locked they ceased playing pinball and shuffle board and looked out the window. He said this was shortly after 6:00 p.m., and he noticed at that time the white Mustang that had been parked in front of the grill was gone. He added he recalls that a ~~Mustang~~ owned by JIMMY WALKER was parked just south of the fire plug and that just north of the Mustang was parked a white Lincoln Continental automobile. He said in front of the Lincoln was parked a white Rambler and added there were no cars parked in front of the Rambler to the corner of the intersection of Huling and South Main. He said he also recalls that STEVE CUPPLES' 1959 Chevrolet was parked across the street headed south and that KENNETH FOSTER's Camero was parked directly across the street from Jim's Grill. He stated he cannot recall any other cars parked on this street.

Mr. WOOD stated he recalls that when JIMMY WALKER entered Jim's Grill which was shortly after 5:00 p.m., that WALKER made a remark that the Mustang took his parking place. He said he knows therefore that there was a Mustang parked in front of Jim's Grill.

Mr. WOOD stated he did not see anyone enter and drive away in the Mustang and he does not recall seeing anyone running or carrying a package in the immediate vicinity of Jim's Grill during the time he was in Jim's Grill.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 4/15/68

Mr. KENNETH W. FOSTER, 3072 New Willow Road, Apartment 9, Memphis, Tennessee, advised he is employed as a city desk clerk for Tayloe Paper Company, 420 South Front Street, Memphis.

Mr. FOSTER advised he left work at approximately 5:00 p.m., with BILLY HOARD, picked up his car and drove to a parking space immediately across the street from Jim's Grill, located 418 South Main Street, Memphis. He said he would estimate it was approximately 5:05 p.m., when he entered Jim's Grill with BILLY HOARD. He stated he recalls specifically that he walked between a white Mustang and a white Cadillac that were parked near the entrance to Jim's Grill. He said he noticed the Mustang had black tires, but does not recall if it had hubcaps. He added he does not recall looking to determine if the Mustang had stickers on the window or it had a local license. He said he noticed specifically that the white Mustang was parked in this area because this is the usual parking place that JIMMY WALKER generally takes when he parks in this area. Mr. FOSTER explained that JIMMY WALKER parked his white Ford Fairlane just south of the fire hydrant located very close to the entrance of Jim's Grill. He said immediately north of the hydrant was parked JOWERS' white Cadillac and immediately in front of the white Cadillac to the north was parked a white Mustang. He said he recalls that BARRY TUBBS parked his white Lincoln Continental immediately in front of the white Mustang and that there was a white Rambler parked immediately in front of the Continental. He said he does not know who owns the Rambler.

Mr. FOSTER advised he was in the grill playing pinball machine and shuffle board machine. He said he was not aware of any activity taking place in the immediate area and did not hear a shot and was not aware of the shooting until some time after a deputy sheriff came to the door and told everyone to stay in the grill until advised to leave. He said after the deputy sheriff left he and others went to the window and looked out. He said he noticed at that time that the white Mustang which had been parked in front of JOWERS' white Cadillac was gone. He said he did not see anyone in this Mustang and did not see anyone

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 by SA O. JAMES HOLBROOK  
SA HARLEY E. GYLFE HEG:raj Date dictated 4/13/68

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drive this Mustang away. He stated he has no idea when the car left. He said this Mustang was a late model car, but does not know the exact year. He said it was not dirty and yet it was not very recently washed. He said the interior of the car was dark, possibly red, black or blue. He said he does not recall seeing anything hanging from the rearview mirror or from a hanger in the car.

FOSTER advised he cannot recall any additional information concerning the Mustang or any individuals in the area.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/15/68

Mr. PAUL SANDER GARGAS, JR., 2521 Thompson Street, West Memphis, Arkansas, advised he is employed as an inside salesman by Tayloe Paper Company, 420 South Front Street, Memphis.

Mr. GARGAS stated he left work at approximately 5:00 p.m., on April 4, 1968, and shortly thereafter walked with STEVE CUPPLES, FRANKLIN RAY, and JIMMY WALKER to Jim's Grill located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis. He said they walked down Huling Street toward South Main Street and when they reached that intersection they walked diagonally across toward Jim's Grill. He said he recalls walking between some cars possibly in front of JOWERS' white Cadillac that is usually parked in front of the grill. He said he recalls seeing five or six cars parked in the immediate vicinity in front of the grill on both sides of the street. He does not recall any specific car other than JIMMY WALKER's white Ford Fairlane parked just south of the entrance of Jim's Grill. He said he was playing pinball machine and shuffleboard machine and left Jim's Grill approximately 5:40 to 5:45 p.m. He said he left alone and walked across the street to his car that was parked in Fred P. Gattas Company parking lot. He said he recalls there were several people in Jim's Grill when he left, but does not recall any individuals in the immediate vicinity of the entrance to Jim's Grill at the time he left. He said he does not recall looking out the window at any time at Jim's Grill, but may have. He said he does not recall any cars driving past or in the immediate vicinity of Jim's Grill other than those mentioned previously. He said he has a feeling there was a car parked in front of JOWERS' Cadillac when he entered, but does not recall if the car was there when he left. Mr. GARGAS advised he cannot furnish any additional information concerning individuals or cars in the immediate vicinity of Jim's Grill during the time he entered and left Jim's Grill.

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by SA O. JAMES HOLBROOK  
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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/15/68

Mr. BARRY ELWOOD TUBBS, 315 Dias Street, Trumann, Arkansas, advised he is employed as a sales representative for Tayloe Paper Company, 425 Front Street, Memphis.

Mr. TUBBS stated he left work at approximately 5:00 p.m., April 4, 1968, picked up his car, a 1961 four-door, white Lincoln Continental, and drove to a parking place in the vicinity of Jim's Grill located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis. Mr. TUBBS advised he recalls that he had to park near the intersection of Huling Street and South Main because there were two other cars parked near the entrance to Jim's Grill. He said there were usually a few cars in the street when he goes there, but this time most of the parking places were filled on the east side of Main near Jim's Grill.

He said he was one of the first, if not the first, from Tayloe Paper Company who went to Jim's Grill. He said he played shuffleboard and the pinball machines and drank three or four beers before a deputy sheriff came to the door and advised everyone to stay in the grill. Mr. TUBBS stated as soon as the deputy sheriff left he and others went to the window and looked out. He said he recalls seeing JIMMY WALKER's white Fairlane parked just south of the fire hydrant near the entrance of Jim's Grill. He said he recalls seeing STEVE CUPPLES' car parked across the street and recalls seeing JOWERS' white Cadillac parked just north of the fire hydrant mentioned above.

Mr. TUBBS stated he does not recall specifically what car was parked in front of JOWERS' Cadillac, but does recall there was a car there. Mr. TUBBS stated he was not aware of any activity taking place in the immediate area and was not aware of the reason that the deputy sheriff told them to stay there. He stated it was sometime later that an individual he believed to be with the Memphis Police Department asked them to all write their names and addresses on a sheet of paper. He said it was then they learned MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot. He stated he did not know KING was in the area and he did not hear the shot because of the noise

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SA O. JAMES HOLBROOK *OH*  
by SA HARLEY E. GYLFE *HEG* HEG:raj Date dictated 4/13/68

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in the grill because of the shuffleboard and pinball machines and the jukebox.

Mr. TUBBS stated he does not have any information concerning the activity that took place in the immediate vicinity of Jim's Grill and cannot furnish any information concerning cars in the immediate area and the individuals in the immediate area.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/15/68

Mr. BILLY RAY HOARD, 1592 South Highland, Memphis, advised he is employed as a city desk clerk, Tayloe Paper Company, 420 South Front Street, Memphis.

Mr. HOARD advised he left work at Tayloe Paper Company at about 4:55 p.m., April 4, 1968, and walked with KENNY FOSTER to FOSTER's car and then drove to a parking place directly across the street from Jim's Grill which is located at 418 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. He stated that FOSTER drove a 1967 blue Camero car with black vinyl top. He stated he and FOSTER entered Jim's Grill at approximately 5:00 p.m., and he and FOSTER and others in the grill immediately began to play the pinball machine and shuffle board machine.

Mr. HOARD stated that when he walked toward Jim's Grill he recalls seeing a line of white cars parked immediately in front of the grill. He said he would estimate there were four or five cars in that vicinity and recalls seeing JIMMY WALKER's car parked behind and just south of the fire hydrant near the corner. He also recalls seeing Mr. JOWERS' car, a white Cadillac, parked immediately in front of the grill. He said other than that he cannot recall seeing any specific cars in that area.

Mr. HOARD stated that after they had been playing these machines for a while, and he was not cognizant of the exact time, he recalls a deputy sheriff came to the door with a gun drawn and told everyone to stay in the grill. He stated sometime later he came back and told them to all write their names and addresses down on a sheet of paper. Mr. HOARD stated that after the deputy sheriff came in and after Mr. JOWERS locked the door he recalls going to the window and looking out. He said he seems to recall then the only cars he specifically recalls were JOWERS' Cadillac and WALKER's Ford Fairlane.

Mr. HOARD stated he did not hear a shot or any noise similar to the noise of a shot at approximately 6:00 p. m., on April 4, 1968, but added there was a great deal of noise in the grill and, therefore, he could not hear the shot. He said

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he does not know the names of any other individuals that were in the grill at that time other than several employees from Tayloe Paper Company.

Mr. HOARD stated he did not see any activity in the street just prior to and immediately after the shot and does not recall seeing anyone running or driving away from that immediate area. He said he cannot furnish any information as to the identity of the individual who shot MARTIN LUTHER KING.