

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 4/8/68

MICHAEL STEVEN SLOAN, Private First Class, U. S. Marine Corps, Marine Air Detachment, Millington, Tennessee, was interviewed in a private office at the headquarters of the Marine Air Detachment, and he furnished the following signed statement:

"Millington, Tenn.
April 6, 1968

"I, Michael Steven Sloan, PFC, U. S. Marine Corps, serial #2398770, make the following voluntary statement to Cyril F. Busch and Ralph J. Liewer who have identified themselves as Special Agents of the FBI.

"I was born [redacted] at Kokomo, Indiana, am married, live at Barracks South 18, Marine Air Detachment, Millington, Tenn., and am a student in the AD School here.

"I have known PFC W. F. Tatroe, Jr., as a fellow student at this school since about Feb. 27, 1968, and I consider him a friend.

"On a Tuesday morning, about Mar. 18, 1967, at about 6:30 A.M., just before formation, I had a conversation with Tatroe. We were standing around waiting for formation outside my barracks. He said he wanted to tell us something. He then said that last night (Monday night) he had gotten a call from a distant cousin. (He did not mention the cousin's name nor had he ever mentioned a cousin before). He said the cousin was asking him 'if he had a good shot' and was telling him that he had a job for a man like this and that the job was worth \$20,000.00. He said the cousin told him (Tatroe) that if he (Tatroe) wanted to come along the cousin would pick him up at 10:00 that night (Monday). Tatroe said he asked when he would be back, and the cousin said he would be back in time to go to school in the morning (Tuesday at 6:45 AM). Tatroe said he was supposed to meet the cousin at 10:00 PM Monday but at about 10:00 PM he received a telephone call from the cousin saying that his plane had

On 4/6/68 at Millington, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub C-144
by SA RALPH J. LIEWER and
SA CYRIL F. BUSCH CFB/peh Date dictated 4/8/68

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developed engine trouble in Mississippi and he couldn't meet Tatroe. The cousin tried to get Tatroe to meet him at 6:00 AM that Tuesday morning but Tatroe said he told the cousin he could not do it because he had to be on the Marine base at 6:00 AM.

"During that same conversation I had with Tatroe that Tuesday morning he said that his cousin had mentioned to him 'the professional assassination business.' The cousin had once said that he was interested in going into this business, pointing out that an assassin could kill Castro in Cuba and if he got back to the States nothing would be done to him. The cousin also said that an assassin could shoot someone in the United States, flee to a foreign country and not be harmed, and that a person could be well paid for this.

"During the same conversation we talked about Tatroe's wife having a baby due in the next few days. The whole conversation took less than 15 minutes. Nothing more was said about this matter.

"On or about Wednesday, Apr. 3, 1968, at about 4:45 PM (a day or two before Rev. Martin Luther King came to Memphis), PFC Tatroe showed me a \$100.00 handwritten check made payable to himself. This was before payday and I asked where he had gotten it. Without mentioning the cousin I asked if he had gotten it from the cousin and Tatroe nodded his head in the affirmative. In a joking manner, I said 'I guess he's going to pay you the \$20,000.00 anyway.' In a joking manner Tatroe said 'Yeah, I guess so.' I don't know where this check came from.

"On Friday morning just before the 7:00 AM formation, I said to Tatroe, 'It looks like your cousin got to King.' (This was the first time Rev. King was mentioned between us). Tatroe laughed and said something like, 'Yeah, I guess so.'

"About that time a white Mustang was driven by us. Tatroe motioned to this car and said, 'My cousin has a white Mustang just like that.' (Both of us had heard that the man who killed King was driving a white Mustang, according to newspapers reports). He then said that his cousin is

an ex-Marine and has a '30.06.' He had a surprised look on his face at this time, as if he was wondering at the coincidences between his cousin and the person who shot Rev. King. We were all talking about the shooting of Rev. King and Tatroe then said that his cousin had once said 'if he ever saw that black bastard he would shoot him.'

"I recall seeing Tatroe leave our school building at the Base at about 5:00 PM as usual in his 1965 or 1966 dark green Chevelle Malibu. He lives near the Base with his wife. He arrived Friday morning as usual at about 6:00 AM.

"I tried to contact Tatroe at his home but I don't believe that he has a telephone. I don't see how his cousin could have contacted him, Tatroe, at his home if he has no phone.

"I have read this 6 page statement and to the best of my knowledge all of the above said is true.

"Michael Steven Sloan

"Witnesses:

"Cyril F. Busch, Special Agent, FBI, Memphis, 4/6/68.

"Ralph J. Liewer, Special Agent, FBI, Memphis, 4/6/68."

He also advised that the initial remarks made by PFC TATROE regarding his cousin talking about being a professional assassin were made in the presence of a Marine named LARRY STOKES, who is also stationed at Millington.

He furnished the following descriptive data concerning himself:

Name	MICHAEL STEVEN SLOAN
Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	20
Date of birth	
Place of birth	Kokomo, Indiana

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Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Complexion

5'7½"
145
Brown
Blue
Florid.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/8/68

1

WILLIAM FREDERICK TATROE, JR., Private First Class, U. S. Marine Corps, Marine Air Detachment, Millington, Tennessee, was interviewed in a private office at the headquarters of the Marine Air Detachment, and he furnished the following signed statement:

"Millington, Tenn.
Apr. 6, 1968

"I, William Frederick Tatroe, Jr., make the following voluntary statement to Cyril F. Busch and Franklin L. Johnson who have identified themselves as Special Agents of the FBI.

"I was born [redacted] at Lansing, Mich., am married, am presently a PFC in the USMC at Millington, Tenn., and live at 7126 Millington-Arlington Rd., Millington, Tenn.

"I have a cousin named Gary McMillon, age 19, who lives on Brady or Bradley St., Hazlet, Michigan, with his wife 'Candy' and small baby and claims to be employed as a private detective. I was arrested with him once about six years ago at Lansing, Mich., in a stolen car. He has told me that he had psychiatric treatment in the Marine Corps, that the doctor put needles all over his head. He has also told me several years ago that an uncle had bought him a 30.06 rifle. He has also told me that while he was in the USMC he and seven other people had flown a stolen jet airplane. His parents are Betty and Arthur (or Wendell) McMillon, Lansing, Mich., and his father works at 'The Motor Wheel,' a factory.

"I last saw him two to three weeks ago when Gary came to Millington alone driving a 1964 medium blue Plymouth. He said he was on his way to Florida on a case as a private detective, and he stayed at my home for about a week. He had a briefcase with a .45 automatic pistol. He said that he would like to be a 'professional assassin.'

On 4/6/68 at Millington, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub-D-115
by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON and
SA CYRIL F. BUSCH CFB/peh Date dictated 4/8/68

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that he heard there was good money in it. He mentioned no names and nothing specific.

"One day while driving to Memphis with Gary and a Marine named Tom Clark (who has since been transferred) in Gary's 1964 Plymouth, Reverend Martin Luther King was mentioned on the radio and Gary said, 'I'd like to shoot that son-of-a-bitch.' He then went on talking about a drag race or something.

"After Gary left Millington on a Friday (probably March 15th) he telephoned me at the residence of my duplex neighbor Bruce Sweeney, 7128 Millington-Arlington Rd., telephone #872-3281. (Sweeney was transferred to El Toro, Cal. and left 3/22/68). This call came at about 5:15 PM about Wednesday 3/20/68. Gary asked me if I wanted to come to Florida for a couple of hours. He said he had a 'job lined up for about \$20,000. I did not ask what the job was. I asked him to hold on while I checked with my wife. I went around to my apartment and asked my wife if I could fly to Florida with Gary for a couple of hours and she said 'OK' if I would be back by 6:15 AM the next morning. I went back to the phone and told Gary I would go. He said he was flying a single-engine plane and would meet me at the airport in Memphis at about midnite.

"After he hung up I talked it over with my wife, told her about the \$20,000 job and that I did not know what the job was. I decided not to go and went to bed.

"At about 10:00 PM the same night Gary called back at the same number, said his plane had gone down at Atlanta, Ga. and he would be a little late. I did not let him finish. I told him my wife (who had a baby on 4/6/68) was having labor pains and I could not go. I told him to call back Friday (knowing that Sweeney was leaving and the phone would be disconnected by then).

"I told several people about the call and the \$20,000 job.

"While Gary was here he offered to lend me \$100.00 and he wrote me a \$100.00 check drawn on some bank in Hazlet,

Michigan. I kept this check until about Wed. 4/3/68 and then gave it to my attorney, Mr. (FNU) Martin, Millington, Tenn.

"On the morning after Reverend Martin Luther King was shot in Memphis, at the morning formation at about 6:15 AM Friday, I told several people, 'I wouldn't put it past my cousin. He might have shot him. He's got a 30.06.' I also told these fellows that the white Mustang (reportedly used by the killer) does not fit in because Gary has a 1964 Plymouth.

"I did then believe that it was possible that Gary shot him because I was recalling Gary's talk about wanting to be a professional assassin; I believed that Gary once owned a 30.06 rifle; and Gary generally fits the description of the killer in that he is a young white male with dark hair. I heard that description of the killer over the radio.

"I have read this six page statement and it is true.

"William Frederick Tatroe, Jr.

"Witness:

"Cyril F. Busch, Spec. Agt., FBI, Memphis, 4/6/68.

"Franklin L. Johnson, SA, FBI, Memphis, 4/6/68."

He also advised that he had not heard from his cousin, GARY MC MILLON, for two or three years until this recent visit from MC MILLON in the middle of March, 1968.

He stated that MC MILLON had little money when he arrived at Millington because after a day or two here he started to cash checks, and he cashed approximately three checks, each in the amount of \$10.00, at various business establishments. TATROE endorsed these checks, and none of them has been returned unpaid as yet. He stated that his cousin had no luggage except for the clothing which was hung in his car but he was neat and clean and reasonably well dressed.

One other rather unusual thing happened while MC MILLON was visiting with TATROE, he said. Just three or four days after MC MILLON arrived at Millington, he requested that TATROE drive him to the Metropolitan Airport, Memphis, one evening at 6 P.M. On arrival at the airport, MC MILLON purchased a ticket on the Delta Airlines flight going to Lansing, Michigan, leaving Memphis at about 8:45 P.M. TATROE did not see the ticket but he relied on MC MILLON's statement regarding this. MC MILLON also told TATROE that he was going back to Lansing to visit his wife. TATROE said that this did not make sense to him because MC MILLON had told him that he had just left Lansing on his way to Florida.

After carefully considering the events that happened before and after MC MILLON's visit, TATROE said that he feels certain that MC MILLON was in Millington for just about one week ending Friday, March 15, 1968.

He also stated that he now believes that most of the statements made by his cousin were pure fabrication. He stated he would not have allowed MC MILLON to remain in his house with his wife during the day while he was at school if he actually believed the things MC MILLON told him.

He furnished the following description of his cousin:

Name	GARY JOE MC MILLON (Phonetic)
Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	19
Height	5'8"
Weight	155.
Hair	Black
Military service	Claims to have spent several weeks in the U. S. Marine Corps, two or three years ago. discharged after

Scars and marks

Tattoo of either a rabbit or roadrunner (bird) on his stomach near navel

Employment

Stated that he previously worked Motor Wheel, a factory at Lansing, Michigan; stated presently employed by a detective agency as a private detective.

The following description was obtained through observation and questioning:

Name	WILLIAM FREDERICK TATROE, JR.
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of birth	
Place of birth	Lansing, Michigan
Height	5'10"
Weight	165
Hair	Black, short crewcut
Tattoos	Numerous tattoos including Marine Corps emblem and "Semper Fideles" on left inner forearm
Education	Completed eleven years at public schools in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Military service	Presently in Marine Corps, Private First Class, Marine serial #2381873
Arrest record	1. Arrested at Marine Corps, Millington, about February 15, 1968, for being Absent Without Leave (AWOL), charge dismissed; 2. Arrested in September or October, 1966, by Port Washington, Wisconsin, Police Department, for breaking windows, fined \$103.00 and sentenced to serve 60 days in jail;

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Marital status
Wife
Daughter

3, Arrested in 1962 by
Racine, Wisconsin, Police
Department in stolen car,
placed on probation for
30 days;

4. Was arrested several
additional times on minor
charges.

Married

JANE ALICE TATROE, nee MYSSE

born [REDACTED].

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On 4/6/68 at Millington, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-SUP-D-115

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Marital status
Wife
Daughter

3. Arrested in 1962 by
Racine, Wisconsin, Police
Department in stolen car,
placed on probation for
30 days;

4. Was arrested several
additional times on minor
charges.

Married

JANE ALICE TATROE, nee MYSSE

born [REDACTED]