

Old Macon Road, Somerville, Tennessee. An individual, identified as ROBERT POWERS, and his wife, who approximately twelve years ago ran the Powers Store in Somerville, Tennessee, and thereafter left to live in New Orleans, Louisiana, or that vicinity. He stated this individual operates an all-night truck stop in Louisiana at the junction of Route 11 and Route 90. He further stated this individual has house trailers on the property.

He stated POWERS and his wife got out of the car to shake hands with MC FERRIN and stated they were "glad to see him". MC FERRIN stated they asked him questions concerning his itinerary for that day and he told them he was going to Memphis at approximately 4:00 p.m.

MC FERRIN stated that POWERS asked, "Are you putting on a lot of weight?" and then asked if the road behind the Powers Store Road still came out into Old Macon Road. MC FERRIN advised he "acted dumb" and after a while POWERS left. POWERS told MC FERRIN he was leaving tonight or tomorrow night (April 18 - 19, 1968). MC FERRIN advised that POWERS did not threaten him in any way and he was very suspicious and connected this incident with the telephone call at LL & L Produce Company because the "white man shook my hand". According to MC FERRIN, it is very uncommon for white men to shake black men's hands in his part of the country.

MC FERRIN stated he can tell when individuals are wearing guns and stated many times in the past he has seen people who appeared very suspicious to him and who, he thought, were a threat to him inasmuch as they stared at him and acted "funny". He advised he always looks at individuals to see whether or not they are wearing shoulder holsters or sidearms or "45's" in their back pockets. MC FERRIN pointed out that he always acted dumb so that people will not give him a hard time when in reality he is actually very smart.

MC FERRIN was shown six photographs, five of which were random photographs of individuals who have been arrested in various parts of the country in the past. These photographs are of NORMAN JAMES BURKERT, POLSE JOSEPH BERTAUT, JR., JOSEPH FRANK ARNONE, RONALD FRANCIS SCOTT, BURT VINCENT PATREN, and JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT. MC FERRIN immediately eliminated the photographs of RAY, PATREN, and SCOTT and looked closely at the three remaining photographs. He stated that the

photograph of BURHERT looked like the unknown individual he had seen in the Farmers Market in the late fall or early winter but stated he may be "too short".

MC FERREN did not desire to furnish a signed statement regarding this individual stating he "did not want to get him in trouble" if this should be the wrong person. MC FERREN noted certain similarities in this photograph, namely, the hair style was the same, he had the same "jungle rot" on his neck, and the profile was similar to that of the sketch by the Commercial Appeal artist in the newspaper. The individual picked out by MC FERREN was born [REDACTED] is 5'5" tall, weighs 152 pounds, medium build, brown hair, brown eyes, and was last known to be residing in New Orleans, Louisiana.

MC FERREN was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT, who was identified to MC FERREN as being the individual wanted by the FBI for the murder of Dr. KING. At this point, MC FERREN took the photograph of RAY and intimated this individual, too, resembled the man he saw at the Farmers Market in late fall or early winter, 1967. He stated, "Now let's be honest, the hair is combed the same way and there was some similarity in the individual he was attempting to describe". MC FERREN was reminded that he had positively eliminated RAY on three occasions and he thereafter stated he just "was not sure".

During the interview with MC FERREN, an individual who was known to be a "Times" Magazine reporter was taking photographs of Agents interviewing MC FERREN and during the interview it was felt that the distraction caused by this "Times" Magazine reporter necessitated moving MC FERREN to a more secluded spot so that an effective and penetrating interview with him could be accomplished.

The following description of JOHN MC FERREN was obtained through observation and interview:

Race	Negro
Sex	Male
DOB	[REDACTED]
POB	Somerville, Tennessee

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Height	5'9"
Weight	178
Hair	Black
Eyes	Gray
Complexion	Light brown
Social Security #	<input type="text"/>
Occupation	Proprietor of McFerren's Grocery Store, Somerville, Tennessee.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 2/11/69

Rev. JAMES M. LAWSON, JR., Pastor, Centenary Methodist Church, 584 East McLemore Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he has no actual evidence of a conspiracy in the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING; however, he feels that certain occurrences around the time of the murder may have some significance.

Rev. LAWSON said that on about April 2 or April 3, 1968, a Negro fireman, FLOYD E. NEWSUM, was transferred from the firestation near the Lorraine Motel to another station that was already fully manned. He also said that another Negro fireman, name unknown, was transferred from that same station to another station on either Tuesday or Wednesday night before KING was murdered on Thursday afternoon. He said this second fireman was transferred in the middle of his shift and was transferred "out of rotation".

Rev. LAWSON explained "out of rotation" as follows:

When a fireman is assigned to a piece of equipment he remains in that assignment until all the men already assigned to it have been transferred. In other words, the last man assigned is the last man transferred.

Rev. LAWSON stated also that a Negro police officer, Detective E. E. REDDITT, who had been assigned to the same fire station to provide protection for Dr. KING, had been removed from the station sometime prior to the murder.

Rev. LAWSON stated he has made no attempt to verify any of this information except for his interview with FLOYD NEWSUM.

On 2/11/69 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-Sub 20-237
by SA JOE C. HESTER & SA ROBERT F. BOYLE:JCH:cjs Date dictated 2/11/69

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