



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee  
November 21, 1968

RE: JAMES EARL RAY, Aka.;  
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Mr. J. Harold Flannery of the U. S. Department of Justice, has prepared a memorandum reflecting interviews on June 12, 1968, and August 22, 1968, with Mr. Bill Sartor of Greenville, Mississippi, a contract writer for "Time" magazine. In this memorandum, Sartor alleges that John McFerren, a Negro civil rights activist from Somerville, Tennessee, had overheard part of a telephone conversation at the Scott Street Produce Market in which the speaker allegedly made reference to where an individual should be shot and as to where the individual doing the shooting should go to collect his money.

John McFerren was interviewed on two occasions by Special Agents of the Memphis FBI Division, and the results of these interviews are set out as follows:

*1cc given to Ted M. Canale, Jr.  
State Atty. Gen. Shelby Co., Memphis, Tenn.  
11/21/68 JH*

*44-1987-Sub-E-1096E*

4 BUREAU  
1 MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
RTB:BN  
(5) *[Signature]*

*[Handwritten initials]*

Re: James Earl Ray

As a result of the information furnished by McFerren, the following interviews were conducted by FBI Agents of the Memphis and New Orleans Divisions:

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/22/68

JAMES WILLIAM LATCH, home address 3137 Overbrook, Memphis, Tennessee, Vice-president, LL & L Produce Company, 814 Scott Street, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at his place of business at which time he furnished the following information:

On April 4, 1968, he arrived at work at approximately 5:30 a.m. and stayed on the job, with the exception of lunch and possibly going to see one of his business associates, until 6:00 p.m.

LATCH advised that in his capacity as vice president he is continually dealing with the public and business associates over the telephone and, therefore, does not have an exact recollection of just what transpired on that day. To the best of his knowledge, he does not remember discussing with anyone the possibility of shooting KING and emphatically denied having any knowledge of the activity of the person responsible for MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s death.

LATCH was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT, and failed to identify these photographs as being identical with any individual he knew.

LATCH advised it is not uncommon talk among co-workers in and around the produce company and other individuals in the Memphis area to discuss the comments of KING while he was in the Memphis, Tennessee, area. LATCH advised he may have made some general remarks regarding KING, especially since he felt the curfew in the Memphis area during KING's stay at Memphis, cost him approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000 in lost sales.

LATCH advised that he receives and makes numerous telephone calls and specifically denied any telephone call made mentioning the shooting of Dr. KING or of any reference to KING. He stated that he had no knowledge of the shooting of Dr. KING while at work at the produce company.

On 4/19/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK & SA ANDREW SLOAN:RF:cjs:bb Date dictated 4/22/68

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LATCH advised that he had been in New Orleans, Louisiana, just before Christmas, 1967. He advised it is not unusual for him to travel in his capacity as vice president of a produce company to obtain various produce in certain sections of the South. He left work at approximately 6:00 p.m., April 4, 1968, and feels certain he heard about the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., on his car radio although it is possible that if he stayed at work that day past 6:00 p.m. his sister or his wife may have telephonically contacted him as it is common for him to call these individuals just prior to leaving work. LATCH advised that he cannot be specific about his actions on April 4, 1968, inasmuch as he is continually on the go and is in constant contact with various individuals, many of whom are business people who are coming to him for the first time.

He reiterated he may have made disparaging remarks about KING, both prior to the shooting and after the shooting of KING, and stated he does not consider this to be uncommon.

The following description of LATCH was obtained through observation and interview:

Name:	JAMES WILLIAM LATCH
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
DOB:	
POB:	Alcorn, Mississippi
Height:	6'
Weight:	200
Hair:	Sandy brown
Eyes:	Bluish gray
Scars and marks:	Scar on right side of neck
Vehicle:	Drives a 1963 Cadillac, Tennessee plates; 1966 Chevrolet Pickup Truck Tennessee plates
Military service:	U. S. Army, US [REDACTED]
Weapons:	Owns Browning Shotgun, Italian Mauser, and .22 automatic pistol
Arrest record:	Arrested Memphis, Tennessee, on false pretenses, originating in Memphis.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/23/68

FRANK CAMILLA LIBERTO, whose address 3271 Powers Street, Raleigh, Memphis, Tennessee, employed as president of the LL & L Produce Company, 814 Scott, Memphis, was interviewed at his place of business and he furnished the following information:

To the best of his knowledge, he was at his place of business on April 4, 1968, and stated he did not recall exactly what time he arrived but remembered leaving at any time between 4:15 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. He called his wife at home just prior to leaving and she could probably verify the fact he arrived home sometime after 5:00 p.m.

LIBERTO emphatically denied having any knowledge of the identity of the person responsible for Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s death on April 4, 1968. He also emphatically denied ever discussing with anyone the possibility of shooting KING although he admitted he had made the usual derogatory remarks about KING's action in Memphis, Tennessee, and also about the fact KING was partly responsible for the curfew imposed on the city of Memphis resulting in loss of revenue by his business establishment in the Memphis area. He advised he may have made statements to the effect that KING should be killed although he does not recall any specific statements made by him to this effect. He stated that because of the curfew, he suffered approximately \$40,000 in lost sales at the produce company.

LIBERTO stated he frequently makes trips to New Orleans, Louisiana, to get strawberries and other produce and also because members of his family reside in the New Orleans area. He stated most of the co-workers, employees, and customers at his produce company know of his travels to New Orleans inasmuch as he frequently mentions his trips to New Orleans.

LIBERTO stated that regarding telephone calls allegedly made by him or telephone calls to him on April 4, 1968, he specifically denied receiving any call where mention was made of Dr. KING or of Dr. KING's shooting. LIBERTO stated most of his produce is purchased through telephone conversations and this

On 4/19/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK & SA ANDREW SLOAN: RE:cjs;bb Date dictated 4/22/68

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inevitably involves talking about large sums of money over the telephone. He advised he did not receive any telephone call on April 4, 1968, regarding KING and stated he would have remembered any conversation over the telephone or in person which allegedly took place on April 4, 1968, involving the death of KING. He further stated he would have no reason for being involved in any action of this sort.

LIBERTO advised he frequently taunts various individuals regarding racial matters and may have made disparaging remarks to some of his customers involving KING but reiterated he does not consider this uncommon among various co-workers at his place of employment.

LIBERTO advised he has had no individual employed recently in late fall or early winter at his produce company fitting the description of the unknown individual described as having long straight, coarse, black hair, "jungle rot" on his neck, slender build, drop shoulders, tan complexion, 5'10"-5'11", 160 pounds, and "not a day over 25" years of age. He always employs Negro males for help in the produce department and any unidentified white male seen in or around his produce company would most likely be a truck driver or an individual who had come to his establishment to purchase produce.

LIBERTO stated he left work between 4:15 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. and was not aware of KING's death until after his arrival at his home. He advised the first he heard of KING's death was from his wife or from the news media which reported it on television.

LIBERTO was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT and he stated he had never seen this individual before. He was furnished other aliases used by RAY and stated he had never heard any of these names used in his presence. He then made a search of his records but could locate no record on any individual by the name of JAMES EARL RAY, ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMEYER, or JOHN WILLARD as ever being employed at his establishment.

LIBERTO reiterated that he did not receive any telephone call on April 4, 1968, where mention was made of shooting KING or

any reference made to KING and stated he felt sure he would remember such a telephone conversation if it had, in fact, taken place.

LIBERTO advised he has family members residing in New Orleans, Louisiana, and identified these individuals as follows:

Mother	EMILY LIBERTO, 2219 Altomaster Street New Orleans, Louisiana
Brothers	TONY LIBERTO, resides two houses away from his mother; VINCENT LIBERTO, who works for Viking Truck Company as a dock foreman in New Orleans; SALVADORE LIBERTO, who works for West Brothers as a truck driver in New Orleans, Louisiana.

LIBERTO advised an individual who frequently is in and around his establishment is AMELIO GUASCO, 38 years of age, who was formerly a Shelby County Sheriff's Office deputy.

The following description of LIBERTO was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	FRANK CAMILLA LIBERTO
Race	White
Sex	Male
DOB	
POB	Memphis, Tennessee
Height:	5'10" - 5'11"
Weight	285
Eyes	Grayish blue
Hair	Brown
Vehicle	Drives a 1967 Chevrolet Station Wagon
Arrest record	Memphis, Tennessee, for embezzling peaches.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/22/68

TONY SANSONE, 814 Scott Street, Sansone Produce Company, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

The individuals operating LL & L Produce Company were identified as JAMES LATCH and FRANK LIBERTO. SANSONE described LATCH as follows:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	Approximately 35
Complexion:	Fair
Characteristics:	Pug nose, casual dresser
Eyes:	Blue
Height:	6'1"
Weight:	200

He described LIBERTO as follows:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Complexion:	Dark
Age:	Approximately 40
Build:	Heavy
Weight:	325-350
Height:	5'10"
Scars and marks:	Scar on neck
Remarks:	Neat dresser.

SANSONE advised that LIBERTO had closed his business early and was not available for interview and that LIBERTO was at that time in New Orleans, Louisiana, buying strawberries for the produce market.

SANSONE was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT and he failed to identify this individual as anyone being in and around his place of business.

On 4/18/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK & SA ANDREW SLOAN: RF:cjs;bb Date dictated 4/22/68

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Date 4/23/68

1

Mr. ANTHONY LIBERTO located and interviewed at his residence, 2211 Almonaster, New Orleans, Louisiana, and advised as follows:

He is currently retired and living alone at this address. He formerly worked for a 17 year period with Viking Truck Lines, but for medical reasons was forced to retire. He stated that he is a diabetic with a heart condition. For that reason he cannot do strenuous labor. He stated that he has not been in telephonic contact with his brother, FRANK in Memphis in several years and the only member of his immediate family residing in New Orleans who may have possibly been in touch with FRANK would have been is mother, Mrs. EMMA LIBERTO, who resides at 2219 Almonaster.

He viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY stating this individual looked familiar but he could not identify it.

He stated that his brother SALVATORE lives some where on the West Bank of the Mississippi River, exact address unknown; however, his telephone number is 367-3020. He stated that both his brother, SALVATORE and VINCENT are employed with trucking firms and have been so employed for many years. He stated no one in his immediate family is employed in the produce business in New Orleans. He knows that his brother FRANK occasionally makes trips to the Hammond, Louisiana, area to purchase particularly strawberries but has no knowledge of any other business contacts of his brother in New Orleans. He stated he would have no knowledge of any disparaging remarks made by his brother or any of his employees concerning KING or the Negro element.

The following is a description gained through observation and interview:

Name	ANTHONY LIBERTO
Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'8"
Weight	300
Hair	Brown, bald on top

On 4/22/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673  
by SAS THOMAS L. COLARELLI  
PATRICK J. COLLINS, JR. TLC:man Date dictated 4/23/68

18

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NO 157-10673

2

Eyes  
Birth data  
Occupation

Blue

Memphis  
Retired, formerly with Viking  
Truck Lines

4/23/68

Date

1

Mrs. EMMA LIBERTO, 2219 Almonaster, was interviewed in the home of her son, ANTHONY LIBERTO, 2211 Almonaster and advised as follows:

She is the widow of VINCENT LIBERTO, and her maiden name was MARDIN. She was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee, and is 71 years of age. She and her husband came to New Orleans about 39 years ago and she has seven living children, of which three sons and one daughter reside in New Orleans.

She stated she saw her son FRANK last Friday when he stopped in to see her after a trip to the Hammond, Louisiana, area for the purpose of purchasing strawberries for his produce business.

She occasionally contacts him by telephone and in fact called him a couple of days after the KING assassination purely out of concern for the family and to inquire as to the local situation.

She viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that it looked familiar; however, she could not identify it specifically. She advised she has no knowledge of the KING assassination, other than what she has read in the newspapers and seen on television.

On 4/22/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

SAS THOMAS L. COLARELLI TLC:mah 4/23/68  
by PATRICK J. COLLINS, JR. 20 Date dictated

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4/23/68

Date

1

Mr. VINCENT LIBERTO located in the vicinity of his employment, Viking Truck Lines, 6750 Gentilly Road, New Orleans, and interviewed. He voluntarily furnished the following information:

There is only one member of his immediate family that is in the produce business and that is his brother FRANK, in Memphis, Tennessee. He has not talked to FRANK by telephone in at least four years. He stated FRANK is the oldest of the brothers and there are two other brothers residing here in New Orleans, at present. One is ANTHONY who resides at 2211 Almonaster, who is a retired diabetic with a heart condition, having previously been employed by Viking for many years. The other brother is SALVATORE, who works for West Brothers Trucking Lines, and has for many years. SALVATORE lives in Terry Town, just across the Mississippi River Bridge, and he believes the address is on Matador Drive.

He stated he was born and raised in Memphis and his father was in the produce business for many years, but none of the brothers in New Orleans are in the produce business. He knows that FRANK occasionally travels to Hammond, Louisiana, to purchase strawberries but he knows of no other business contacts of FRANK in the produce line in New Orleans.

He examined a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, and advised he has seen this individual in the newspapers and television and has no knowledge of the KING assassination other than that gained from the news media.

He stated he resides at 705 North Upton and is mother, Mrs. EMMA LIBERTO, resides alone at 2219 Almonaster. He stated he would have no knowledge of any disparaging remarks made by his brother FRANK concerning KING or the Negro element.

The following is a description gained from observation and interview:

Name	VINCENT LIBERTO
Sex	Male
Race	White

On 4/22/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673  
by SAS THOMAS L. COLARELLI  
PATRICK J. COLLINS, JR. TIC: mah Date dictated 4/23/68

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NO 157-10673

2

Height  
Weight  
Birth data

Hair  
Eyes  
Occupation

Residence

5'8"  
185

[REDACTED] Memphis,  
Tennessee  
Black, graying  
Blue  
Truck driver-Viking Truck  
Lines, 6750 Gentilly Road,  
New Orleans  
705 North Upton

Date 4/23/681

SALVADOR ALBERT LIBERTO, 856 Matador, Gretna, Louisiana, telephone number 367-3020, advised that he was born [redacted] in New Orleans, Louisiana. On January 22, 1954, at New Orleans, he married PATRICIA KRELLER and has one son and three daughters. For the past thirteen (13) years, LIBERTO has been employed as a checker at the West Trucking Company, New Orleans.

LIBERTO stated that sometime just before the MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., assassination, exact date unrecalled, he telephonically spoke to his brother, FRANK LIBERTO, in Memphis, Tennessee. LIBERTO made this telephone call from his mother's residence. The purpose of this call was to borrow \$200 from his brother. LIBERTO did not make this call from his own residence, as he did not want his spouse to know about the loan. His brother, FRANK LIBERTO, wired him \$200 in care of his mother's residence in New Orleans.

While on the telephone with his brother FRANK, FRANK invited him to visit him in Memphis, or to meet him at Hot Springs, Arkansas. LIBERTO advised that his brother, FRANK, follows the race horses and likes to go to a race track at Hot Springs, Arkansas, and bet horses. FRANK LIBERTO discussed his winnings and loses on the telephone with SALVADOR LIBERTO. SALVADOR LIBERTO does not recall the exact amounts of money he discussed.

LIBERTO viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and WALTER TERRY RIFE and advised that he did not know either of these individuals and he did not believe that he had ever seen either of these individuals.

On 4/23/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

by SA PATRICK J. COLLINS, JR.:sja 4/23/68  
23 Date dictated

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RE: James Earl Ray

Investigation by both Memphis and New Orleans has failed to associate any of the LIBERTOS with the Mafia - La Cosa Nostra, or to Carlos Marcellos.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, Sartor states that Joe Cacameci (PH) and Larry Mann, Aka. Larry Manning and Larry Max, two professional killers, are also involved in this matter. Sartor claims that Joe Cacameci allegedly met James Earl Ray at a Lion Service Station in Memphis the day of or the night before the shooting and Larry Mann has been saying he works for Frank Leberto and is responsible for "getting" James Earl Ray. According to one of Sartor's New Orleans informants, James Earl Ray was seen at or stayed at the Pontotoc Hotel in Memphis approximately three days before the shooting.

Sartor also refers to an individual by the name Pat Lyons who was interviewed by both Flannery and Sartor and allegedly made a statement to the effect that according to one "Ernie," Ray met Joe Cacameci at a Lion Service Station on the night before or the day of the shooting.

In connection with the information contained in the foregoing paragraph, Robert Patrick Lyons, Aka. Pat, was interviewed on November 19, 1968. His comments are set forth as follows:

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/21/68

Robert Patrick Lyons, 3529 Marion Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, unlisted Telephone 324-1803, was interviewed at his place of employment, Cruzen Equipment Co., Inc., 160 West Mallory Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, Telephone 947-3146, and was apprised of the identities of interviewing Special Agents of the FBI. Lyons furnished the following information:

Lyons advised that he is familiar with an individual by the name Bill Sartor, whom he met through Marie Geisendorf, Aka. Marie Lyons, shortly after the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. Lyons stated he was introduced in August, 1968, to an individual known as Nick Flannery, who stated he was from the Justice Department, Washington, D. C. Lyons advised that originally Bill Sartor had asked Geisendorf to ascertain information from Negroes in the Memphis community concerning the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., but then asked Pat Lyons to obtain any information concerning the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., with the possibility that the "Mafia" was connected with King's death. Lyons advised that he made no attempt to ascertain any information concerning the Mafia and the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

He stated that when he met Flannery, he repeated to Flannery exactly what Sartor had previously told him, namely that Joe Cacameci met with James Earl Ray at a Lion Service Station on the day before the death of Martin Luther King. He stated that this information came from Sartor and was in no way information he developed on his own. He stated that Cacameci is known to him as a cosmetics salesman in the Memphis area and is known to drink frequently in Caesar's Lounge, which according to Lyons is owned by Ernie Barrasso. Lyons states Barrasso is a former schoolmate of his and a legitimate businessman in the Memphis community. Lyons states Barrasso is a nephew of Frank Liberto, whom Lyons described as a local Memphis businessman. He identified Larry Max, Aka. Larry Mann, as a worker on a tug boat on the Mississippi River. He stated neither Max nor Cacameci is known to him as a professional killer. Lyons states both Max and Cacameci are employed in the Memphis area and his only association with them has been

On 11/19/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK  
by SA TERRENCE P. NEIST RF:BN Date dictated 11/20/68

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44-1987

through the Club Caesar, which is owned by Ernie Barrasso.

Lyons advised that Sartor inquired about Claude Cockrell, who is known to Lyons as a possible segregationist in the Memphis area. Lyons stated Sartor is of the opinion that if a car was used to go to Millington, as described by the news media, then Cockrell was the logical person, although no reason was given by Sartor for this. Lyons said Sartor was of the opinion that if another white Mustang was used to assist the killer of King in escaping the Memphis area, as referred to by the news media concerning the CB radio broadcast, then he considered Cockrell to be the logical person to have a private airplane waiting at Millington.

Lyons further stated that Sartor is of the opinion that officers who were suspended for alleged police brutality within the past year are involved in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King. According to Lyons, Sartor does not give any basis for this.

Sartor told Lyons that he has contact with the Mafia in New Orleans, New York, and Philadelphia, although he named only one individual, one Solo or Sola, as his contact with the Mafia in New Orleans.

Lyons stated he has had numerous casual meetings with Sartor and during this period Lyons has volunteered certain information of his personal life to Sartor, including facts regarding the tragic death of Lyons' wife. While volunteering information to Sartor regarding his wife's illness, Lyons mentioned that his wife had become addicted to the use of narcotics during her illness and in this regard had cooperated with Federal Drug Administration Supervisor Don Voight. Sartor had asked Lyons to ascertain information regarding narcotics from Voight.

Lyons described Sartor as being unreliable and as attributing false information to Lyons, which information was actually rumored by Sartor. According to Lyons, Sartor, by originating these rumors in different areas in Memphis, is able to get a "play back" from various sources, which he uses as a means of lending credence to his stories.

Lyons advised he could furnish no information concerning any conspiracy in the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. He said he knows of no individuals involved with James Earl Ray in the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Re: James Earl Ray

With regard to the allegation that Ray resided at the Pontotoc Hotel in Memphis approximately three days prior to the killing of Martin Luther King, Jr., a complete review of the records of the Pontotoc Hotel, 69 West Pontotoc Street, Memphis, on 11/18/68 for the period March 23 through April 8, 1968, failed to reveal any information concerning Ray under his true name or known aliases. Mr. George Antipas, Manager, Pontotoc Hotel, advised he has 27 sleeping rooms at the Pontotoc Hotel, and that approximately 21 or 22 of these rooms are occupied by more or less permanent residents. He claims he himself resides at the hotel and he is positive that Ray never resided at this hotel during the past eleven years.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, Sartor claims that a Reverend Carl Basinger, 1617 E. Moreland, Memphis, was advised by a ranking officer in the Memphis Police Department (Captain or above) not to go near Dr. King because something was going to happen to him.

Reverend Carl Basinger, 1617 Eastmoreland, Memphis, was interviewed by Agents of the FBI on 11/18/68. Reverend Basinger claims that he has known Bill Sartor, a contract reporter for "Time" magazine, since approximately April, 1968, and has had frequent contact with him since that date. He claims that, in fact, Sartor at the present time maintains a room at Basinger's residence.

With regard to the information Sartor attributes to Basinger, Reverend Basinger stated that those are not the exact words he has used in discussions with Sartor, and the statement attributed to him by Sartor has been taken completely out of context and is inaccurate.

Basinger refused to state whether he had any discussion with any Memphis police officer concerning Martin Luther King, Jr.; however, he admitted that he has had many conversations with ranking police officers of the Memphis Police Department in the past six years. Basinger admitted

Re: James Earl Ray

that he currently does hold a grudge against the Memphis Police Department due to the fact that he is not satisfied with the manner in which certain officers of the Police Department have handled complaints he has made to the Department in the past.

Reverend Basinger describes Bill Sartor as being an alcoholic who is currently experiencing marital difficulties. By "alcoholic", Reverend Basinger stated he means that he has observed Bill Sartor commence drinking alcoholic beverages, namely wine and hard liquor, as early as 8 o'clock in the morning and to continue to consume these alcoholic beverages throughout the day and into the night.

According to the memorandum of Mr. Flannery, Sartor claims that shortly after the killing a bartender overheard some Memphis policemen say there had been a "slip up" and that the assassination was originally scheduled to take place after the march for which Dr. King had returned to Memphis.

Since Sartor was either unwilling or unable to identify the bartender, the Memphis Office of the FBI has been unable to conduct any investigation to determine the veracity of this allegation; however, a review of the records of the Memphis Police Department and the Memphis FBI Office has failed to reveal any information to indicate that such an incident was ever reported to these respective law enforcement agencies.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, Sartor refers to a civilian having been observed lying in the back of a police car immediately after the shooting and near Mulberry and Huling. He got out of the police car, into another car, and was driven away.

In this regard, the records of the Memphis Police Department reveal the following:

At 6:55 p.m. on 4/4/68, Manuel Marcus Levine, a white male, and Alex Joy Hurder, a white male, were both arrested at Second Street and Vance, by officers assigned to Police Tactical Units #14, inasmuch as they refused to give the due to the fact that these individuals refused to give the

Re: James Earl Ray

officers any reason for being in the area of the Lorraine Motel at the time of the shooting of Reverend King. According to the arresting officers, these two individuals were placed in a marked patrol car, questioned, and then transferred to an unmarked police car for transportation to Central Police Headquarters. According to Inspector Don H. Smith, Memphis Police Department, the handling of these prisoners was standard operating procedure and most persons arrested by tactical units during disturbances during this period were transported to Headquarters in unmarked cars, one arrestee to a car.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, Sartor claims that an unidentified Negro policeman was removed from his assignment at the Fire Station at about 5 p.m. on the day of the assassination. Sartor identifies this policeman as E. E. REDDITT.

Sartor also states that two Negro firemen were moved from the station a day or two before the shooting. One of them had reportedly told friends that two or three days before Dr. King was shot a telescope or binoculars had been set up on a tripod in the Fire Station and focused on the Lorraine Motel balcony. According to this memorandum, Sartor in August advised Flannery that one fireman left the Department or was suspended, shortly after the shooting, and that he had been unable to locate either of them.

In this regard, Inspector G. P. Tines, Intelligence Unit, Memphis Police Department, advised on 11/18/68, that on 4/3/68 he assigned Detective E. E. Redditt and Patrolman W. B. Richmond, Negro officers, both of whom are assigned to the Inspection Division of the Memphis Police Department, to a security detail at the Memphis Fire Station, Engine House #2, located at Butler and Main Streets. This location is approximately one block from the Lorraine Motel. The purpose of this assignment was to observe the activities of the "Invaders," local Black Power group at Memphis. A number of the "Invaders" were rooming at the Lorraine Motel at this time. These two officers were equipped with binoculars and were stationed in a room at the rear of the fire station, with a view that included

Re: James Earl Ray

the room later occupied by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

In connection with this assignment, and prior to the time Officers Redditt and Richmond physically proceeded to this assigned location, it was determined by the Intelligence Unit of the Memphis Police Department that a Negro fireman stationed at the Fire Station and named Floyd E. Newsum had taken an active part in demonstrations by the striking sanitation workers in February and March, 1968, and had been closely associated with black militants connected with the strike. In order to insure security for Officers Redditt and Richmond, and to insure that no information regarding the Memphis Police Department Intelligence Unit's efforts to keep abreast of the activities of the "Invaders" was leaked to the black militants in Memphis, the Chief of the Memphis Fire Department was requested to temporarily transfer Fireman Newsum to another fire station. This was done on 4/3/68.

In addition, on 4/4/68, Negro Fireman Norvell E. Wallace was routinely assigned from Fire Station #2 to Fire Station #31, due to a manpower shortage at Fire Station #31.

On 11/18/68, Fire Chief Hamilton advised that by letter dated 5/18/68, Fireman Newsum resigned from the Memphis Fire Department after thirteen years of service, giving as his reason for leaving "Personal Reasons." Chief Hamilton advised it is his understanding that Newsum has become an active worker with the NAACP at Memphis subsequent to his resignation from the Memphis Fire Department.

At approximately 4:15 p.m. on 4/4/68, Lt. E. H. Arkin of the Intelligence Unit of the Memphis Police Department, on instructions from Inspector Tines, proceeded to Fire Engine House #2 and removed Detective Redditt from this station, leaving Officer Richmond at this post. The reason for the removal of Officer Redditt was due to the receipt of a telephone call on the morning of 4/4/68 by Philip Manuel, Chief Investigator for Senator McClellan's Senate Investigating Committee, Washington, D. C., to the effect that information had been

Re: James Earl Ray

received by the Committee that a Negro detective on the Memphis Police Department was to be killed.

Due to Detective E. E. Redditt's activities in attending meetings of the striking sanitation workers in February and March 1968, Redditt had been threatened on several occasions. Inspector Tines therefore believed the telephone call received by the McClellan Committee was another threat directed against Redditt. He therefore ordered Redditt removed from his lookout post at Engine House #2 for Redditt's own protection. A police guard of two officers was assigned to Redditt and his family as a result of this threat.

A review of the tapes of the Memphis Police Department radio transmissions for April 4, 1968, failed to reflect any transmissions from Police Dispatcher ordering Redditt to move from his observation post and, in fact, it has been ascertained that no radio equipment was maintained by the Police officers at this observation post with which to receive radio transmissions.

According to this memorandum, Sartor mentions something to the effect that Chief of Detectives W. P. Huston of the Memphis Police Department telephonically contacted the Lorraine Motel regarding stationing detectives at the motel.

In this regard, Chief Huston has advised that he does not recall talking to any maid at the Lorraine Motel on 4/4/68; however, he stated he had been in telephonic contact on a number of occasions with Mr. Walter Bailey, Manager of the Motel, regarding the identity of certain individuals registered at the Motel.

It has been determined from the Memphis Police Department that on the morning of 4/3/68, Memphis Chief of Police J. C. Macdonald ordered Chief W. P. Huston of the Department to send a detail of men to the Memphis Metropolitan Airport to offer security to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and his party. Police records reflect that Inspector Don H. Smith offered the services of the police detail to Mrs.

Re: James Earl Ray

Thomas Mathews, who was acting as chauffeur for Dr. Martin Luther King. Mrs. Mathews advised Lt. George Kelly Davis, Memphis Police Department, who is an officer in this detail, that they had not asked for police to be assigned to protect Dr. King, and did not desire a police escort. In addition, members of King's party refused to tell the police detail where they planned to stay or their itinerary while in Memphis. Inspector Smith, while offering the services of the Memphis Police Department to Dr. King for security, escort, and protection purposes, was advised by the Reverend James Lawson, an associate of King, that no assistance was desired and that they had not fully made up their minds where they were going with Reverend KING after they left the Memphis Metropolitan Airport.

At approximately 1:30 a.m., on 4/5/68, Gerald Fanion, a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Strategy Committee, advised Sidney L. Cole of the Memphis Police Department that this SCLC Strategy Committee had considered asking for police protection for the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.; however, the Committee had decided against this.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, Sartor stated that a little Negro boy allegedly heard a shot and saw a man jump up from the bushes behind the rooming house (below the window area from which the shot is thought to have been fired) and run off. According to Sartor, the little boy has been identified and interviewed by Bureau Agents and the Memphis Police Department.

In this regard, a review of the records of the Memphis Police Department and the Memphis FBI Office has failed to reveal any information to indicate that any officers of these respective law enforcement agencies interviewed a young Negro boy who is allegedly the contributor of the above information by Sartor. In this regard, on 11/15/68, Source One and Source Two both advised that William Sartor, a "Time" magazine



Re: James Earl Ray

reporter, had gone throughout the Memphis area immediately following the King slaying, and was overheard asking leading questions of Negroes, namely, "You think it's possible that a police officer could have killed Martin Luther King, Jr.?" According to these sources, as a result of this, practically the entire Memphis Negro community has given vent to the rumor that a police officer had killed King. The sources claim this rumor has embittered a very large segment of the Negro community and has caused widespread distrust by Negroes against all law enforcement officers and has caused a serious community cleavage between the Police and the Negro community.

In view of the fact that numerous allegations have been made, either by Bill Sartor or his alleged sources, stating involvement of Memphis police officers in the assassination of Dr. King, Frank Holloman, Director of Fire & Police, was contacted. Holloman advised that shortly after the assassination of Dr. King he received information that a representative of "Time" magazine was circulating in the Negro community and asking questions of the Negro residents. His sources informed him that the general tenor of the questions being asked was to the effect that it was conceivable that the Memphis Police Department was involved in the assassination of Dr. King. Director Holloman advised that later he learned the reported "Time" representative was an individual by the name of Sartor. He subsequently had an appointment with Sartor.

Director Holloman said at this time he informed Sartor that he had received certain information indicating that Sartor had, by his questions, created the inference in the Negro community that it was possible the Memphis Police Department was involved in the assassination of Dr. King. Director Holloman advised that he told Sartor that if Sartor wrote a story based on rumors and misstatements of facts such as he was collecting regarding the involvement of the Memphis Police Department, Director Holloman would institute a civil suit against him and do everything in his power to insure that Sartor wrote only the truth and did not print such falsifications regarding the Memphis Police Department.

Re: James Earl Ray

Director Holloman stated that after his discussion with Sartor, Sartor has not again called at his office for any information, nor has any story appeared.

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APPENDIX

1

BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP),  
Also known as Black Organizing Power,  
Afro-American Brotherhood,  
Black Student Association,  
Invaders,  
LeMoyne Intercollegiate Chapter of the  
National Association for the Advancement  
of Colored People (NAACP),  
City Organizers

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On April 18, 1968, a third source advised that a black power group in Memphis which has been in existence for several months has until recently been known as Black Organizing Power. It is now known as Black Organizing Project (BOP), also known as Black Organizing Power, with five cells or parts, known as (1) Afro-American Brotherhood (AAB), primarily consisting of Owen College students; (2) Black Student Association (BSA), primarily consisting of Memphis State University (MSU) Negro students; (3) LeMoyne Intercollegiate Chapter of the NAACP, consisting of LeMoyne College students; (4) the Invaders, consisting mostly of high school dropouts; and (5) the City Organizers, comprised of young adults.

AAB has about 12 members; BSA has about 20 members; the Invaders has about 15 members; the LeMoyne group has about 20 members; and the City Organizers has about 20 members.

Source three advised that the BOP attempts to create pride in black identity, attempts to teach and promote the teaching of Negro history, and to promote black culture and obtain more employment for young Negroes.

The Executive Secretary of BOP is Charles Laverne Cabbage.

On February 16, 1968, Charles Laverne Cabbage personally acknowledge being leader of BOP, claiming he is the impetus of black power in Memphis, Tennessee, and that BOP's purpose is to stimulate in the young Negroes a sense of black identity, black pride, and black consciousness. He said his group follows the teachings of Student Nonviolent

APPENDIX

Coordinating Committee (SNCC) leaders H. Rap Brown and Stokely Carmichael but that BOP did not necessarily exist as a formal SNCC unit. CABBAGE further admitted he had made statements such as "Memphis should be burned" and "Memphis should have a good race riot," but claimed he did not mean these statements literally, merely endeavoring to shock the community into doing something to help the black race.

On February 27, 1968, a fourth source advised that at a public meeting on February 26, 1968, the BOP Chairman John Burrell Smith told a Negro audience, "We've got to do some fighting," and "You'd better get some guns, You're going to need them before this is over. You can't pray your way out."

On June 6, 1968, the fourth source advised that BOP primarily consists of about 30 to 35 young college and high school students and school dropouts, unemployed and not looking for work, who continually preach hatred of the white race and capitalistic economic system and advocating and predicting violence by blacks. The over-all plan of BOP, according to source four, is to scare the Memphis community leaders, both black and white, into fearing black militancy. The BOP leaders then hope to convince the community to fund them as a form of subtle blackmail whereby BOP can prevent racial violence. Source four said that BOP is more interested in publicity and money than in direct action, but is nevertheless preaching violence in an effort to scare the community.



*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Memphis, Tennessee  
November 21, 1968

Title        James Earl Ray, Aka.;  
              Dr. Martin Luther King, Victim

Character    Civil Rights - Conspiracy

Reference    Memorandum dated November 21, 1968,  
              and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

11-21-68

AIRTEL

AM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P  
MURKIN

Re Memphis Airtel to Bureau 11/5/68.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are four copies of LHM regarding information furnished by one BILL SARTOR to Departmental Attorney J. HAROLD FLANNERY regarding a possible conspiracy in this matter.

For the information of the Bureau, the following is a brief resume of activity that occurred in Memphis, Tennessee, which resulted in Martin Luther King's appearances in Memphis during March and April 1968.

On 11/4/68, ME 338-R, a well known Memphis Negro who has been most active in support of the Negro civil rights movement in Memphis in recent years, advised that a strike of the Memphis sanitation workers, most of whom are of the Negro race, commenced in Memphis 2/12/68. The strike was initiated by Local 1733, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). It started as a legitimate labor dispute, but soon developed into a political power struggle in the city of Memphis.

This informant explained that WILLIAM B. INGRAM, former Mayor of Memphis until January 1968, had been defeated in the November 1967 city election when he ran for re-election for Mayor against the present Mayor, HENRY LOEB. This had been a bitterly fought election in which INGRAM had the support of approximately 90% of the Negro electorate, who had categorized LOEB as a symbol of segregation. Beginning in late February,

3 BUREAU (Enc. 4) (RM)  
2 MEMPHIS  
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ME 44-1987

1968, and continuing until the settlement of the strike in Mid-April, 1968, the political supporters of INGRAM joined the Union in support of the strike and in opposition to LOEB. This support stemmed from diverse Negro groups led by CORNELIA CRENSHAW, Mrs. TARLESE MATHEWS, a barber, O. W. PICKETT, Negro realtor, and a group of Negro ministers. The ministers developed an organization for this purpose known as Community on the Move for Equality (COME). Included in the group were such leaders as Reverend EZEKIEL BELL, Pastor, Parkway Gardens Presbyterian Church, Reverend JAMES MORRIS LAWSON, JR., SAMUEL B. KYLES, Pastor, Monumental Baptist Church, and Memphis Convener of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Reverend H. RALPH JACKSON, AME Church, who is Director, Minimum Salary Office, and Reverend MALCOLM D. BLACKBURN, Pastor of the Claiborne Temple, AME Church, 280 Hernando. All sanitation strike marches supporting the strike originated from Claiborne Temple, located at 280 Hernando, Memphis. All the above-mentioned individuals, with the exception of BLACKBURN, are Negroes and all had strongly opposed LOEB and had supported INGRAM in the November, 1967, city election. Reverend LAWSON, who had been Director of the non-violent tactics for SCLC, and Reverend KYLES were later influential in bringing MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., Head of SCLC, to Memphis on March 28, 1968, and again on 4/3-4/68.

This source advised that as the strike developed, it became more and more apparent that the strike was a combined political and racial issue, nurtured, stimulated, and organized by political opponents of Memphis Mayor HENRY LOEB and supporters of former Mayor WILLIAM B. INGRAM. This was the group which so deeply involved SCLC in the strike, culminating in the 4/4/68 fatal shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Source #1 is KAY PITTMAN BLACK, "Press-Scimitar" reporter, and Source #2 is ANGUS McEACHRAN, "Commercial Appeal" reporter, both Memphis daily newspapers, who were contacted by SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE.

On 11/20/68, RUBY MARIE GEISENDORFF, Aka, MARIE LYONS, furnished the following confidential information:

She stated that she has cohabited with BILL SARTOR for approximately 1½ months in the recent past, and that during this period SARTOR has been conducting an independent investigation concerning the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., in an effort to substantiate his theories that possibly the Mafia and the Memphis Police Department are involved.

Re: James Earl Ray

She stated SARTOR claimed he is divorced from his wife; however, he has been unable to display a divorce decree to her. She asserted that on the night of 11/19/68, she was in telephonic contact with SARTOR and during the conversation with him SARTOR indicated he still had the .25 caliber pistol belonging to GEISENDORFF and that he intended to commit suicide with this weapon. She stated that although she has been acquainted with SARTOR for a period of time she was unable to state whether SARTOR made the remark concerning suicide in jest or whether he was serious.

The information furnished by Mrs. GEISENDORFF should not be disseminated to the U. S. Department of Justice, due to the fact that Mrs. GEISENDORFF furnished this information in confidence and in the event the Department releases any information to SARTOR concerning the remarks about suicide SARTOR would be in a position to immediately ascertain the source of the information.

If the information furnished by ROBERT PATRICK LYONS, as contained in the enclosed LHM, is accurate, it is obvious, since J. HAROLD FLANNERY was present during the interview of LYONS by SARTOR, that FLANNERY was in a position to know that the information concerning CACAMECI and MANN originated with SARTOR and not with LYONS. In view of this, it is believed that the memorandum prepared by FLANNERY was not an accurate resume of information he had gathered from SARTOR and the information he gathered in the presence of SARTOR from other individuals, and this has resulted in considerable wasted effort on the part of the Bureau to ascertain the veracity of information furnished by SARTOR.

No further investigation is being conducted by the Memphis Division in regard to the information furnished by BILL SARTOR to Departmental Attorney J. HAROLD FLANNERY.

Source #3 in the enclosed LHM is CHARLES S. BALLARD, who, as of 4/18/68, was a self-admitted Black Organizing Project (BOP) leader in Memphis, who volunteered information to SAs WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE and HOWELL S. LOWE.



Re: James Earl Ray

Source #4 in the enclosed LHM is ME 338-R, who  
furnished information to SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/68

1

Mr. JOHN MC FERREN, Somerville, Tennessee, was interviewed at the Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee, in the presence of Inspector N. E. ZACHARY, Mr. BAXTON BRYANT of the Tennessee Council on Human Relations, and Attorney DAVID E. CAYWOOD. Mr. MC FERREN stated that he had some information he wished to furnish concerning the shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. MC FERREN advised that on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, he traveled from Somerville, Tennessee, to Memphis, Tennessee, to pick up his supplies for his grocery store. He advised that he departed from the Fineburg Meat Company, 2875 Starling Road, Memphis, at approximately 4:20 P.M. He said he traveled directly to the Farmers Market located on Scott Street and after arriving purchased a sack of potatoes from a Negro man, name unknown, at the market. He then went to the place where he normally buys his produce and stated he does not know the name of this particular firm but said it was possibly the LL&L Produce, 814 Scott Street. He said this business is operated by a large, heavy set white man, who weighs approximately 300 pounds and is of possible Puerto Rican extraction and who can be identified because his teeth are set apart from each other. MC FERREN stated after arriving at this company he walked up to the door to the office and noticed that the heavy set man was sitting at his desk with his back to the door and talking on the telephone.

MC FERREN stated that the heavy set man did not see him at that time. He stated he heard the heavy set man say, "Kill the S.O.B. on the balcony and get the job done. You will get your \$5,000." According to MC FERREN, a white man who is thin in build and who has a scar on his right cheek, saw him about that time and asked him what he wanted. MC FERREN replied that he was there to pick up some produce and this man told him to go on to the back and help himself.

MC FERREN said he went back to the rear portion of this office and shortly thereafter heard the telephone ring. The phone was answered by the man with the scar, and MC FERREN

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On 4/8/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-

by SA ORVILLE V. JOHNSON:mnr Date dictated 4/9/68

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MC FERREN also advised that the person who he thinks might be identical to the person who shot KING weighs 140 pounds, has a slender build, and is approximately 25 years old. He could furnish no further description regarding this person or any further information of value to identify him.

JOHN MC FERREN stated that he discussed what he had heard on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, with his wife and also discussed with his wife the possibility that he knows the identity of the person who shot KING. He said he was afraid to tell any person other than his wife and did not mention it to anyone except Mr. BASTON BRYANT, whom he advised at approximately 7:00 P.M. on April 7, 1968.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/22/68

JOHN MC FERREN, Route 4, Box 133 A, Somerville, Tennessee, was interviewed at his place of business, Somerville, at which time he furnished the following information concerning the shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR:

On the morning of April 4, 1968, at 8:00 a.m., he traveled to Memphis, Tennessee, from Somerville to pick up his supplies for his grocery store in Somerville. Before obtaining these supplies he went to his brother's house regarding income tax returns to be filled out by his brother, ROBERT MC FERREN. He called his wife at home at approximately 2:30 p.m. and sometime thereafter, at approximately 3:00 p.m., he departed his brother's place of business to go to a "chicken place" near the Greyhound Station on Front Street to purchase some meat. He arrived at the "chicken place" a little before 3:15 p.m. and thereafter departed to go to Fineberg Meat Company, 2875 Starling Road, Memphis, Tennessee, arriving there at approximately 3:45 p.m. He bought \$72 worth of meat at this place and a white female waited on him. He left Fineberg Meat Company at approximately 4:15 p.m. enroute to the Farmers Market located on Scott Street and arrived there at approximately 4:25 to 4:30 p.m. Upon arriving at the Farmers Market, he went to the east shed to purchase a sack of potatoes from a Negro male, name unknown. He put these potatoes in the bed of his truck and then proceeded to LL & L Produce Company, 814 Scott Street, Memphis. He described this produce market as a large warehouse type building with a garage type door.

He stated that as he passed this door he heard a white male yell, "Kill the son-of-a-bitch on the balcony" and, "I don't care how you get the job done, just get it done." At the time he heard this remark he did not know just what it meant.

He stated the LL & L Produce Company is operated by a large heavy-set white male who weighs approximately 250-300 pounds, has straight hair, is approximately 6' tall, has gapped teeth, was wearing a red sport shirt and sitting in an office in

On 4/18/68 at Somerville, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987  
 by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK & ANDREW SLOAN:RF: cjs;bb Date dictated 4/22/68

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an office at this warehouse-type building at a desk with a telephone and was facing into the produce department area. He stated this individual had dark skin and was possibly of Puerto Rican or some "foreign" extraction. MC FERREN stated he walked up to the door of this office and noticed the heavy set man was sitting at the desk with his back to the door talking on the telephone. This man did not notice him, MC FERREN, at the time.

At this time another individual, whom he described as a white male, clear skin, over 6' tall, 200 pounds, with a hat on, wearing casual clothes, and a scar on the right side of his throat, known by MC FERREN to be another boss at the LL & L Produce Company, approached him and asked him what he wanted. According to MC FERREN, this man said, "Go ahead and wait on yourself." MC FERREN advised that he then went back to the rear portion of the warehouse and purchased \$16 worth of produce.

When he was coming out of this warehouse-type building, he heard the telephone ring which was answered by the man with the scar on his throat and he heard this individual mumble something to the heavy set man but he could not hear what this man had said. The man with the scar then handed the telephone to the heavy set man and he heard the heavy set man say, "Go to New Orleans and get your \$5,000 and don't bring your ass near my place and don't call me any more-you know my brother in New Orleans." MC FERREN advised that he had already purchased \$16 worth of produce but decided he wanted to purchase approximately two bushels of apples. He had seen the apples at the LL & L Produce Company but stated the heavy set man and the man with the scar on his face acted very nervous and told MC FERREN "to go next door and get your apples." MC FERREN stated that he was in the warehouse for approximately 30 minutes and to the best of his knowledge the telephone call took place about 5:15 p.m. MC FERREN advised that he bought two cases of apples from a Jewish fellow on the west side of the Farmers Market and then left to return to his home in Somerville, Tennessee.

MC FERREN advised he arrived back at his store in Somerville at 6:15 p.m. and learned from WILLIAM C. ANDERSON, a friend of his, who telephonically advised him that Dr. KING had been shot. He stated that late that night, after talking with his wife and discussing the description of the person who

possibly shot KING, he figured the conversation he had heard may have had something to do with the murder of Dr. KING.

MC FERREN stated that on the following day he saw a sketch appearing in The Commercial Appeal which was supposed to be a likeness of the unknown individual who shot KING and he compared the description furnished by his wife from the paper and the sketch which appeared in the newspaper and thought this to be a person who was employed at the LL & L Produce Company sometime in the late fall or early winter of 1967. He stated this man, described as a light tanned or Puerto Rican type individual with long straight, coarse black hair, "jungle rot" on his neck, slender build, drop shoulders, white male, 5'10" - 5'11", 160 pounds, not a day over 25, as being identical with the individual who shot KING. He stated this individual was a cross between an Indian, Cuban, and Mexican and he could possibly identify this individual again. MC FERREN stated he saw this individual for approximately one to two days at the LL & L Produce Company in the late fall or early winter and has not seen him since that time at the produce company.

MC FERREN advised another reason for his suspicions is that on a Thursday, a week before April 4, 1968, he was at the LL & L Produce Company at which time the heavy set man, the man with the scar, said to him, "What do you think about your buddy?" MC FERREN said he replied, "Who are you talking about?" The heavy set man then said, "MARTIN LUTHER KING", to which MC FERREN replied, "I tend to my own business." MC FERREN stated the heavy set man then said, "Somebody ought to shoot the son -of-a-bitch." MC FERREN stated he again replied, getting into his truck, "I tend to my own business" and drove off. MC FERREN stated this was the first time the heavy set man had ever spoken to him regarding a racial matter.

MC FERREN advised that he had discussed what he had heard on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, with his wife and had also discussed with his wife the possibility he knew the identity of the individual who shot KING.

MC FERREN stated that on the morning of April 18, 1968, between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m., a beige, late model 1966 or 1967 Cadillac with a golden emblem on the front license plate, license plate not noticed, drove into his driveway at Route 4, Box 133 A,

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 FERREN and stated they were "glad to see him." MC FERREN 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 FERREN 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 FERREN advised he "acted dumb" and after a while POWERS left. POWERS told MC FERREN he was leaving tonight or tomorrow night. (April 18-19, 1968). MC FERREN 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 FERREN, it is very uncommon for white men to shake black men's hands in his part of the country.

MC FERREN 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 FERREN 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 FERREN 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 BURHERT, FOLSE JOSEPH BERTAUF, JR., JOSEPH FRANK ARNONE, RONALD FRANCIS SCOTT, BERT VINCENT PATREM, and JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT. MC FERREN immediately eliminated the photographs of RAY PATREM, and SCOTT and looked closely at the three remaining photographs. He stated that the

photograph of BURHEIT 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



ME 44-1987

6

Height:	5'9"
Weight:	178
Hair:	Black
Eyes:	Gray
Complexion:	Light brown
Social Security #:	<div></div>
Occupation:	Proprietor of Mc Ferren's Grocery Store, Somerville, Tennessee.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Norfolk, Virginia

November 6, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

ASSASSINATION OF  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

On October 17, 1968, PAUL C. BOLIN, Navy Serial Number [REDACTED], assigned to the USS ORION, telephonically advised that approximately six weeks prior to that date his wife, MARY PATRICIA BOLIN, from whom he is separated, made several statements to him indicating that she and another individual, with whom she was living in a common-law status, had stolen a rented car from Florida and were wanted in several states for armed robbery and other crimes. He stated that although his wife had tried to commit suicide on several occasions, he felt that she was mentally unstable and armed with several weapons. He further stated that his wife told him that she had knowledge of the person's identity who killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., that this individual received \$500,000.00 for the assassination, and was hiding out in the State of Florida.

On October 30, 1968, MARY PATRICIA BOLIN was interviewed at the Norfolk Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at which time she admitted being separated from her husband and further admitted that she had told her husband that she and the individual, with whom she was living in a common-law status, had committed several armed robberies and also that she had information regarding the individual who assassinated Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. She admitted that she had made the statement to her husband that this individual had received \$500,000.00 and was hiding out in the State of Florida, but further admitted that these statements were all lies that she had fabricated and that she only told them to her husband inasmuch as he had lied to her on previous occasions about his activities. She admitted that she had told these things to her husband in order to obtain sympathy from him, but stated that she did not, in fact, have any information whatsoever regarding the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mrs. BOLIN further admitted that she is presently out on bond for insufficient funds checks being cashed at Norfolk and further stated that she did not, in fact, try to commit suicide in 1967, while residing in Florida.

44-1987-Sub-E-1091

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ASSASSINATION OF  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

11/6/68

SAC, NORFOLK (44-268)

MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau are eleven copies of an LHM entitled "ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR." which are being submitted for possible dissemination at the Bureau. Enclosed for Memphis are two copies of this LHM.

Inasmuch as the statements made by Mrs. MARY PATRICIA BOLIN were admittedly made in an effort to obtain sympathy of her estranged husband, the Norfolk Division does not contemplate any further action regarding this matter.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 11)  
② - Memphis (Enc. 2)  
2 - Norfolk (44-268)  
(26-9228)

RLM:aaa  
(7)

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44-1987-Sub-E-1091A

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llh  
Hester gph

F B I

Date: November 8, 1968

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
 FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (173-65)

MURKIN OO: MEMPHIS

RE SAN FRANCISCO TELEPHONE CALL TO MEMPHIS INSTANT DATE.

SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT, OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT AND BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT ADVISED THIS DATE THEY HAD RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM AN INDIVIDUAL WHO CLAIMED HE WAS CALLING FROM LONDON, ENGLAND, AND WHO USED THE NAMES WILLIAM PAYTON CAAN AND WILLIAM JAMESON, AND WHO STATED THAT HE RESIDED AT TOBEKA CAMP END ROAD, ST. GEORGE'S HILL, WAYBRIDGE SURREY, ENGLAND, TELEPHONE NUMBER COBHAM FOUR EIGHT ONE FIVE. HE ALSO CLAIMED HE WAS MAKING THESE CALLS FROM THE SWISS EMBASSY, TELEPHONE NUMBER ZERO ONE SEVEN - TWO THREE ZERO - SEVEN ZERO ONE.

CAAN SAID THAT HIS BROTHER, MICHAEL NOWLIN CAAN, A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY AND WHO RESIDES AT TWO SEVEN ZERO ONE HEARST STREET, BERKELEY, WAS,

1 - San Francisco  
 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)  
 AGH/sif  
 (2)

44-1987-Sub-E-1092

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

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO

"A MATERIAL WITNESS IN THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JUNIOR, SLAYING AND THAT HE, (MICHAEL CAAN) WAS ABOUT TO BE KILLED BECAUSE OF INFORMATION HE POSSESSED." IN HIS TELEPHONE CALL TO THE DIFFERENT POLICE DEPARTMENTS, CAAN REQUESTED THAT HIS BROTHER BE AFFORDED PROTECTION IN ORDER THAT THIS MURDER WOULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT.

MICHAEL CAAN, TWO SEVEN ZERO ONE HEARST STREET, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, ADVISED BERKELEY POLICE OFFICER, MICHAEL S. REPPAS, THAT HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING SLAYING, HAS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, IS IN NO DANGER, AND THAT HIS BROTHER IS A MENTAL PATIENT IN A REST HOME NEAR LONDON, ENGLAND.

OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT ADVISED MR. ROBERT DWYER OF THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, THIS DATE OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION AND MR. DWYER INFORMED OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT THEY HAVE NO INFORMATION REGARDING CAAN INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER.

SAN FRANCISCO FILES REFLECT ONE WILLIAM PAYTON CAAN CALLED SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE IN APRIL, LAST, AND STATED THAT

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

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE THREE

HIS BROTHER, MICHAEL CAAN, WAS A SUSPECT IN THE MURKIN CASE BECAUSE OF STRIKING PHYSICAL RESEMBLANCE TO JAMES EARL RAY, HOWEVER, BASED ON PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION MADE AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME BY CAAN HIS BROTHER WAS ELIMINATED AS SUSPECT.

THE BUREAU MAY DESIRE TO HAVE THE LEGAT LONDON DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT WILLIAM CAAN, ALSO KNOWN AS WILLIAM JAMESON, IS CONFINED TO A MENTAL INSTITUTION IN ENGLAND.

AIR MAIL COPY SENT TO MEMPHIS.

END

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

November 9, 1968

CODE

CABLEGRAM

URGENT

TO: LEGAT LONDON

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38816)

MURKIN, OO: MEMPHIS

THE FOLLOWING WAS RECEIVED FROM FBI MEMPHIS:

SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT, OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT AND BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT ADVISED THIS DATE THEY HAD RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM AN INDIVIDUAL WHO CLAIMED HE WAS CALLING FROM LONDON, ENGLAND, AND WHO USED THE NAMES WILLIAM PAYTON CANN AND WILLIAM JAMESON, AND WHO STATED THAT HE RESIDED AT TOBEKA CAMP END ROAD, ST. GEORGE'S HILL, WAYBRIDGE SURREY, ENGLAND, TELEPHONE NUMBER CORHAM FOUR EIGHT ONE FIVE. HE ALSO CLAIMED HE WAS MAKING THESE CALLS FROM THE SWISS EMBASSY, TELEPHONE NUMBER ZERO ONE SEVEN TWO THREE ZERO - SEVEN ZERO ONE.

CANN SAID THAT HIS BROTHER, MICHAEL NOWLIN CANN, A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY AND WHO RESIDES AT TWO SEVEN ZERO ONE HEARST STREET, BERKELEY, WAS, "A MATERIAL WITNESS IN THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JUNIOR, SLAYING AND THAT HE, (MICHAEL CANN) WAS ABOUT TO BE KILLED BECAUSE OF INFORMATION HE POSSESSED." IN HIS TELEPHONE CALL TO THE DIFFERENT POLICE DEPARTMENTS, CANN REQUESTED THAT

1 - Foreign Liaison (Cleared with SA Graham Day)

① - Memphis (Airmail)

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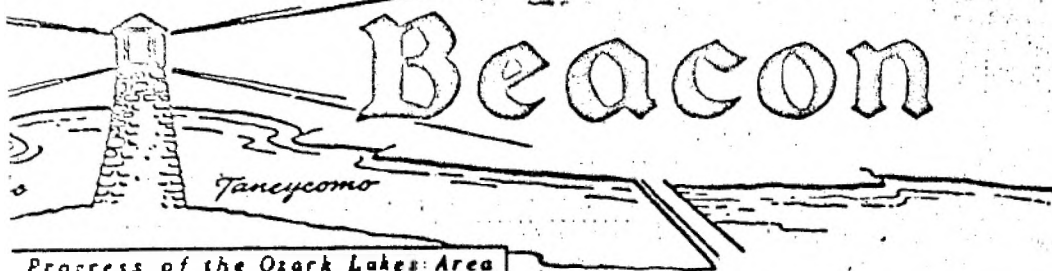
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LEGAT LONDON SHOULD DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT WILLIAM CAAN, ALSO KNOWN AS WILLIAM JAMESON, IS CONFINED TO A MENTAL INSTITUTION IN ENGLAND AND ANY AVAILABLE BACKGROUND DATA.



Progress of the Ozark Lakes Area

Bull Shoals Lake

BRANSON, MISSOURI 65616

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1968

# Aged Man Murdered, Search Continuing

## Coody's Billfold Found Tuesday Near Spokane

The late John W. Coody's billfold was found along the highway near Spokane Tuesday morning by Gene Gilmore, a resident there, who was walking to the store.

Sheriff Lyman Cardwell said that he and State Patrol Sergeant Wayne Ferguson went to Spokane Tuesday morning to take a look at the scene and pick up the billfold. It contained identification papers, but no money.

An intensive investigation has been underway since Feb. 12 to try to find the killer of John Coody who was found dead with three bullet wounds in the chest shortly after noon that date.

Coody, 70, lived at Gretna. He was working at the dump for another employee when he was gunned down.

The Sheriff and his deputies, the State Patrol officers and the Prosecuting Attorney have worked every day and many nights since the crime, questioning and checking out several suspects. Cardwell said that this process is continuing.

Several leads have been systematically investigated by law officers of the county since Monday noon when John William Coody 70, of Gretna was murdered at the Branson city dump.

At presstime Wednesday the 24-hour a-day investigation was continuing without an arrest in sight.

Coody was found dead but still bleeding at 12:30 Monday by Perry Shepherd and Mur-

vin Kindell, employees of Sunday Sanitation Co., who were taking a load of trash to the large sanitary fill. He had been shot three times in the chest with a .22 caliber weapon from about 15 feet and was lying at the rear of his 1959 Dodge automobile.

Sheriff Lyman Cardwell said Coody was filling in for another employee at the dump and apparently his slayer surprised him as he worked. There was no sign of a struggle at the scene.

Coody's billfold, believed to have contained several dollars was missing.

A bulletin went out shortly after the crime describing a youngish man wearing glasses and driving a yellowish-white 1965 Chevrolet. This description came from persons who were near the dump shortly before and shortly after the shooting occurred. Several leads were received as a result of the bulletin, but as yet none has checked out conclusively.

Involved in the investigation are all officers of the Taney County sheriff's department, State Highway Patrol, Branson Police department and the Prosecuting attorney. Due to some evidence found at the death scene, officers have speculated that robbery may not be a clear-cut motive for the crime.

Funeral services for the victim have been set for Saturday with the time remaining open pending the arrival of two of Coody's sons who live in California. Another son lives in Texas.

## Billfold of Murder Victim Found on Road.

FORSYTH (Special) — The billfold of murder victim John W. Coody, 70, Gretna, turned up along a highway near Spokane recently, providing a clue in the Feb. 12 shooting.

The billfold, found by Gene Gilmore, Spokane, as he was walking to a nearby store, is being studied by Taney County Sheriff Lyman Cardwell.

A part-time employee at the Branson city dump, Coody was found dead at the dump with three bullet wounds in the chest.

We wish to thank all the friends and neighbors for their kindness, sympathy and their many floral offerings after the recent death of our father.  
The John W. Coody family.  
22/21p

More File For

FBI - MEMPHIS  
Heater

44-1987-Sub-E-1093