

JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

On July 3, 1968, Sheriff G. T. Mauldin, Whitfield County, Georgia, advised that Curtis sent no letters or communications from the Whitfield County Jail which passed over the jailer's desk. He stated Curtis probably sent his mail out with visitors and jail trustees which would probably not have been observed by men of his department. Sheriff Mauldin stated that Curtis' attorney, Erwin Mitchell, former U. S. Congressman from the Seventh District of Georgia, is of the opinion that most of Curtis' comments concerning his knowledge of Ray's alleged assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. are pure fabrications on the part of Curtis or the result of something Curtis has read in the newspapers.

Approximately one hour following the conclusion of the interview with Curtis, he sent a note to Sheriff Mauldin requesting to again see an FBI Agent and stating that he wanted to tell the entire truth. Curtis was re-interviewed at the Whitfield County Jail.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 5, 1968

Date

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RAYMOND CURTIS was furnished a rights and waiver of rights form which he refused to sign. He then stated in connection with the previous interview that apparently in his letter to Ebony Magazine, he used the word "we" indicating that he and JAMES EARL RAY had planned the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and he realized now this would involve him in a conspiracy. For that reason in the previous interview he denied the statements he had made in his letter to Ebony Magazine. CURTIS then advised he had written a story which he intended to sell to some magazine for the purpose of obtaining money for his mother. He stated the story was still in his possession and had not yet been sent out to be typed. He permitted SA HENRY to read this 20-page handwritten story one page at a time and he declared this story was true. The first five or six pages of the story merely set out his early life in crime and the prison sentences he had served as a result of the crimes, starting at the age of 15. The remainder of the story is the same as he originally furnished in an interview in April, 1968, concerning his knowledge and association with JAMES EARL RAY. The story reflects that he first became associated with RAY in 1954 when they pulled a payroll robbery together in Quincy, Illinois, with a third individual. Shortly thereafter CURTIS lost contact with RAY when RAY and this third individual were apprehended in connection with a bank robbery at Southwest City, Missouri. After that CURTIS again became acquainted with RAY in prison and while in prison they both learned of the death of President JOHN F. KENNEDY. At this time RAY stated the murder of KENNEDY sounded like a big job and he was always on the inside of a prison when big jobs and big money were to be had.

Shortly after the death of JOHN F. KENNEDY, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. became prominent, and RAY stated on several occasions that somebody was going to kill KING. During this period an individual came into the Missouri State Penitentiary from Vicksburg, Mississippi. This individual upon learning of JAMES EARL RAY's feelings toward killing KING advised RAY of the KK Businessmen's Association of the South

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On 7/3/68 at Dalton, Georgia File # AT 44-2386

by SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR. :jlh Date dictated 7/5/68

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and stated that people in five states were putting up money for KING's assassination. The story further reflected that RAY informed this individual that he intended to have everything set when he killed KING. RAY followed KING's movements through maps so that he could later stalk KING to the point of assassination. RAY indicated during the time that he would leave a false gun and false trail immediately following the murder. RAY was supposed to go to Vicksburg, Mississippi, following the murder, contact the man from Vicksburg who had the houseboat, and this man was to take him either to New Orleans or Canada via the Mississippi River.

At the conclusion of the interview CURTIS stated he would not testify to any of the above information. He did advise that the name of the individual on the houseboat in Vicksburg, Mississippi, was (first name unknown) WILLETT, also known as "Mississippi," who served time in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

CURTIS refused to allow his story to be copied and stated he would not write it over again nor would he allow the pages to be removed from his prison cell. CURTIS then presented crude sketches of the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, and the Missouri State Penitentiary.

7/5/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Atlanta tel 7/2/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 18 copies of LHM suitable for dissemination. Two copies each are being submitted to Memphis and Jackson.

3 - Bureau (Encl. 18)
2 - Jackson (Encl. 2)
2 - Memphis (Encl. 2)
2 - Atlanta
CHM:jlb
(9)

44-1987-Sub-A-804

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - MEMPHIS	

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE CHICAGO	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 7-8-68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 4/25 - 7/3/68
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.- VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA RAMON W. STRATTON	TYPED BY CMS
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY UFAC - ROBBERY	

REFERENCE: Report of SA RENE J. DUMAINE at Chicago, 5/10/68.

-P-

LEADS

MEMPHIS

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. Review of Chicago files has revealed that Chicago is not in possession of all communications relating to possible conspirators, since Memphis is origin. Chicago files do not disclose whether information concerning suspect DONALD LAWRENCE STOUT, aka LAWRENCE DONALD STOUT, has been resolved and Memphis Division will determine from file review whether STOUT has been eliminated and if not, will set forth appropriate leads.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

- 3 - Bureau (44-38861)
- ② - Memphis (44-1987)
- 2 - Chicago (44-1114)

44-1987-Sub-A-805

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 9 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

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Dissemination Record of Attached Report					Notations
Agency	Request Recd.	Date Fwd.	How Fwd.	By	
1cc Fred W. Canale					att'y General Shelby B. [unclear] Encl. 10/1/68 rgi [unclear]

CG 44-1114

ADMINISTRATIVE

This report relates only to individuals who have reportedly made threats against MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

-B*-
(COVER PAGE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA RAMON W. STRATTON
Date: 7-8-68

Office: CHICAGO

Field Office File #: CG 44-1114

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIMCharacter: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY; UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID
CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis: This report relates to individuals who have made threats against victim KING. ROBERT CORNELL BUXTON, born [redacted] at Brockville, Ontario, Canada; THOMAS EUGENE CRAMER, born [redacted] at Lima, Ohio; JOSEPH JOHN GAFFNEY, born [redacted] at Chicago, Illinois and ORVILLE H. BRETTMAN, MSN [redacted]; Mrs. JESSIE KILGRAF (KILGRAS), Penfield, New York; JOHN C. MEDIZER, born [redacted] at Chicago, Illinois; ALFRED GEORGE SCHNEIDER, born [redacted] at Chicago, Illinois; and MORTON L. ZASLAVSKI, born [redacted] at Chicago, Illinois; all investigated and no indication any connected with JAMES EARL RAY or murder of KING developed. Investigation to determine whether TONY DEXTER, reported by NAACP to have offered a reward for murder of KING, actually exists was completely negative. Investigation set forth identifying DONALD LAWRENCE STOUT, aka Lawrence Donald Stout, born [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, FBI #4959380, as person who allegedly threatened to kill KING. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- P -

Details:

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On March 17, 1965 ROBERT C. BUXTON, white, male, 3102 South Wallace, Chicago, Illinois, telephonically contacted the Chicago FBI Office and stated "MARTIN LUTHER KING is a man to be watched." BUXTON stated "I'd kill him if he got in my way, yes, I am a threat to him." BUXTON gave the impression of being intoxicated and at times was incoherent.

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WMO:jap

1.

Re: ROBERT BUXTON

The following investigation was conducted by SA WILLIAM M. O'BRIEN and SA MICHAEL A. GARRETT III at Chicago, Illinois, on April 25, 1968:

Mrs. NORMA LOFTIS, Clerk, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 219 South Dearborn, advised that a check of their files revealed no record on ROBERT C. BUXTON.

A check of the records of the Bureau of Records and Communications, Chicago Police Department, reflected a ROBERT C. BUXTON, born [redacted] or [redacted], at Ontario, Canada, Social Security Number [redacted]. Records revealed that BUXTON was arrested in September, 1962, for sleeping on the sidewalk and had arrests in October, 1965, and December, 1965, for disorderly conduct. Records revealed BUXTON had an address of 3102 South Wallace, Chicago, in 1965, and an address of 468 West 28th Street, Chicago, in 1962.

A check of the files at the Chicago Credit Bureau revealed a record on ROBERT BUXTON, 3102 South Wallace, Chicago. Records revealed an inquiry was received on March 11, 1968, regarding BUXTON, wife DOROTHY, from Mercantile Discount, showing his employment as Paidor Fixtures.

A check of the telephone directory for the City of Chicago was negative for BUXTON; however, the directory showed an EMIL J. PAIDAR Company, barbers' fixtures, 1120 North Wells, Chicago, Illinois.

PAUL BRESTIN, Personnel Manager, Emil J. Paidar Company, 1120 North Wells, advised that ROBERT CORNELL BUXTON, Social Security Number [redacted] has been employed with their company as a stockman since July 25, 1966. He described BUXTON as a white male, born [redacted] 6'4" tall, 200 pounds, red hair, brown eyes, residence 3102 South Wallace, Chicago, Illinois. BUXTON's records show he is married, claims two exemptions, and was in United States Army from 1941 through 1946. BUXTON's records show previous employment with United

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WMO:jap

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Exposition, Hilton Hotel, from September, 1963, to May, 1966; Satalite Lounge, 87th and Rockwell, May, 1962, to September, 1963, as a cook; Cal-Mar Restaurant, 72nd and Ashland, as a cook; Como-Inn, Milwaukee near Grand, as a cook. BUXTON's records reflect he was working at this company on March 29 and April 4, 1968, from 7:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. BUXTON had not worked on March 30, 1968, as this was a Saturday. BUXTON's records reflect no derogatory information and Mr. BRESTIN advised that he was a good worker.

Mr. AUGUST BURDA, BUXTON's immediate supervisor, Emil J. Paidar Company, 1120 North Wells, advised that he has known ROBERT BUXTON during his employment with Paidar Company and stated that he knew nothing of a derogatory nature concerning his activities or associates. BURDA stated that he knew of no participation by BUXTON in hate-type groups or subversive organizations and he stated that although BUXTON has a hot temper on occasion, he does not feel that this characteristic is inordinate. BURDA stated that BUXTON to his knowledge is amiable towards his fellow employees who are of various races and has never displayed or expressed any racist tendencies. BURDA stated that BUXTON has no credit difficulties and has presented no disciplinary problems other than missing several days work, probably because of excessive use of intoxicants.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 5/1/68

ROBERT CORNELL BUXTON, 3102 South Wallace, Chicago, Illinois, telephone number 842-4577, was advised of the identity of the interviewing agents as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was advised of his rights by Special Agent MICHAEL A. GARRETT III, as shown on an Advice of Rights Form which he read and signed. BUXTON was advised that he was being interviewed regarding a telephone call that he had made on March 17, 1968, St. Patrick's Day, to the Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Chicago, Illinois, threatening to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING.

BUXTON stated that he could not remember making the call in question. He stated that it was probably he that made the call and that he must have been drunk at the time since it was St. Patrick's Day. He stated that he does crazy things sometimes when he gets a few drinks in him and is capable of saying anything when he is drunk.

BUXTON stated that he knows nothing about the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and has no idea who might have been connected with this crime. BUXTON was exhibited a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, Identification Order Number 4182, and he stated that this individual was totally unfamiliar to him.

BUXTON explained that he has never been in Birmingham, Alabama, or Memphis, Tennessee, and has not been out of the Chicago area in the last two months. BUXTON stated that he does not own an automobile and has no credit problems. He stated, however, that he has no bank account and has trouble keeping himself in beer money.

BUXTON stated that his whereabouts during the last two months could be verified by checking with the bartender named BABE at Babe's Tavern on the corner of 31st and Wallace Streets in Chicago.

The following is a description of BUXTON as taken from observation and interview:

On 4/25/68 at Chicago, Illinois File # CG 44-1114
by SAs WILLIAM M. O'BRIEN and
MICHAEL A. GARRETT III/WMO/bjo Date dictated 4/30/68

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Name:	ROBERT CORNELL BUXTON
Residence:	3102 South Wallace, Chicago, Illinois
Date of Birth:	[REDACTED]
Place of Birth:	Brockville, Ontario, Canada
Height:	6'4"
Weight:	249 pounds
Hair:	Red
Eyes:	Brown
Sex:	Male
Race:	White
Citizenship:	Naturalized U.S. Citizen
Social Security #:	[REDACTED]
Army Serial Number:	[REDACTED]
Employment:	EMIL J. PALIDAR Company, 1120 North Wells, Chicago
Occupation:	Stock Clerk
Scars and Marks:	Scar on left wrist
Marital Status:	Married, Wife, DOROTHY, Same Address
Daughter:	ROBERTA ATKINS, 30's and Albany, Basement Apartment, Chicago, Illinois.
Military Service:	U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945
Previous Residences:	468 West 28th Street, Bridgeport, Illinois 6607 South Stewart, Chicago, Illinois 6239 South Kimbark, Chicago, Illinois

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On September 6, 1966 THOMAS ~~CRAMER~~ or CRAMER,
1909 School Street, Chicago, Illinois, telephonically
advised the Chicago FBI Office that he had joined the
"Nazis" and he was to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING when
KING returned to Chicago.

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RLZ:mew

1

Re: THOMAS EUGENE CRAMER

The following investigation was conducted by SAS
JAMES A. POND and ROBERT L. ZIMMERMANN:

A review of the records of the Chicago Police Department conducted on April 25, 1968, disclosed no arrest record for THOMAS E. CREAMER and no additional arrest record for THOMAS E. CRAMER to that already set forth. The records of the Chicago Police Department do reflect that on September 20, 1966, THOMAS E. CRAMER, 1901 School Street, Chicago, Illinois, was the victim of an auto theft.

A review of the indices of the Chicago Division under the names THOMAS E. CREAMER and THOMAS E. CRAMER on April 25, 1968, disclosed no additional references under these names.

On April 25, 1968, JOSEPHINE ZERBIAN, Proprietress, of the Five Step Inn, 1801 West School Street, advised she recalled a THOMAS CRAMER, a white male, about 25 years old, who lived in the next block, west on School Street. She stated that she had not seen him in almost two years. She stated that she recalled he was from Ohio and she had heard he had returned to Ohio.

On April 25, 1968, Mrs. RUSSO, daughter of the landlord at the building, 1909 West School Street, advised that a review of rent receipts disclosed that THOMAS CRAMER moved from that address in early December, 1966. She advised that his wife was named GLINDA and she was a beautician. Mrs. RUSSO advised that THOMAS CRAMER was employed at Stewart-Warner Corporation, Department 75. Mrs. RUSSO advised that they had no forwarding address for the CRAMERS, however, she thought they were going to Ohio when they left Chicago in December, 1966.

On April 26, 1968, Miss JACKIE MOHR, Personnel Clerk, Stewart-Warner Corporation, made available the employment record of THOMAS E. CRAMER, born [redacted] at Lima, Ohio, Social Security Number [redacted]. The record disclosed that CRAMER was hired originally on May 29, 1963, and worked to April 6, 1965. He was rehired June 15, 1965, and worked to September 19, 1966. He was rehired April 18, 1967, and was terminated April 28, 1967, when he failed to report for work.

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RLZ:mew

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The record disclosed his address at time of employment in April, 1967, was reflected as 3840 Sheridan Road.

The records disclose his wife is GLINDA and describe CRAMER as a white male, 5' 10", 137 pounds, brown hair, and green eyes.

The records further disclose that when CRAMER left Stewart-Warner in 1965, he left a forwarding address of 234 Prospect Street, Freemont, Ohio.

On April 26, 1968, it was determined that there is no such address as 3840 North Sheridan Road, however, there is a 3840 North Sheffield, and Sheffield changes to Sheridan Road at 3900 North.

Inquiry at 3840 North Sheffield, and a review of the rent receipts for that address, disclose no record of THOMAS CRAMER as a resident.

On April 30, 1968, WILLIAM BUCHANAN was contacted at the Stewart-Warner Corporation, 1826 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois. He advised that he was a friend of THOMAS CRAMER and had heard CRAMER was in Oregon a couple of weeks ago. He advised that he received this information through CRAMER's half brother, ALFRED ROBERT SHANAHAN, who in turn, got it from CRAMER's wife, GLINDA. He advised that GLINDA lives on Palmer Street, exact address unknown.

On April 30, 1968, inquiry at House of Style by Salli, Incorporated, 3617 North Broadway, disclosed GLINDA CRAMER was not working that day and her residence address was unknown as she reportedly had just recently moved.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/7/68

1

Mrs. GLINDA CRAMER, 3322 West Palmer, telephone 772-4691, was interviewed at her place of employment, House of Style by Salli, Incorporated, 3617 North Broadway, telephone WE 5-3510, where she is employed as a beautician. Mrs. CRAMER advised that she is the wife of THOMAS EUGENE CRAMER, however, they are currently separated. She stated that in September, 1966, prior to separation from her husband, they resided at 1909 School Street, Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. CRAMER advised that the correct spelling of her family name is CRAMER and that she has never known it to be spelled CREAMER.

Mrs. CRAMER advised that she had been contacted by her in-laws in Ohio, who notified her that they had been contacted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation relative to locating her husband. She stated that she had received a telephone call from her husband on Wednesday, April 24, 1968, from Seattle, Washington. Her husband had been living at 621 North Jackson, Seattle, Washington, which is the Bush Hotel, however, when he called her, he had indicated he was possibly going to move from the hotel to a local YMCA. She stated that after being contacted by her in-laws, she called the Bush Hotel in an effort to locate her husband, however, was advised that he had moved without leaving a forwarding address. She stated that her husband was working in Seattle at a sporting goods store the name of which she did not recall.

Mrs. CRAMER advised that in the event her husband had left Seattle, he would, in all probability, go to San Jose, California, where he would stay at the residence of DAVE SHAW, 1967 Stoney Road, Apartment 3, San Jose, California.

Mrs. CRAMER advised that the last time she actually saw her husband was the Thursday after Valentine's Day, 1968. She stated that on that date, he left Chicago and she understands he went to Lima, Ohio, from there to Denver, Colorado, and from there to Seattle, Washington. She stated that she does not have any idea what his activities were during that period.

Regarding a telephone call made by him to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in September, 1966, relative to his being

On 5/1/68 at Chicago, Illinois File # CG 44-1114

by SA ROBERT L. ZIMMERMANN/mew Date dictated 5/3/68

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contacted to kill Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, she stated she did not have any personal knowledge in regard to this call made by her husband, however, she did receive a telephone call about that time from a police agency, the identity of which she does not recall, wherein she was questioned concerning the call allegedly made by her husband. She stated she informed the inquiring police agency that she knew nothing about it, however, if they want to question her further, they should come out to see her personally. She stated that she was not further contacted.

Mrs. CRAMER advised that her husband does drink alot and that he does some odd things when he is drinking, however, she has never known him to do anything, even when drinking, which would cause her to believe he might deliberately plot to kill someone.

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RWS:CMS

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The Cleveland Division reported on April 27, 1968, that DONALD L. CRAMER and his wife, ELAINE, were interviewed on April 27, 1968, at 234 North Prospect Street, Freemont, Ohio. They said that DONALD CRAMER's brother, THOMAS E. CRAMER, left the Freemont area two to three years ago and has not been in contact with them. DONALD was of the opinion that THOMAS was separated from his wife, GLENDA, who is called "DINK," and that GLENDA could be located as a beautician at the House of Sally, 3400 Broadway, Chicago. GLENDA's mother is INNA WADDLE, 1934 North Drake, Chicago, telephone: 384-8553. THOMAS has a half brother, ROBERT SHANAHAN, employed at the Stewart-Warner Company, Chicago.

DONALD telephonically contacted his mother at Findlay, Ohio, and she said that THOMAS had left his wife and that she believed him to be in the Chicago area.

DONALD said that THOMAS is an alcoholic who regularly left his family. DONALD recalled hearing in the past that two or three years ago THOMAS CRAMER telephoned the FBI in Chicago and as a joke said he was going to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. DONALD said that THOMAS actually had done this because he was angry at some Negroes at the Stewart-Warner Company.

DONALD said that THOMAS telephonically contacted him several years ago from Chicago and said he had strangled his wife, that she was lying dead in bed in their home and that he had called the police. DONALD then telephoned the police in Chicago, who said that GLENDA was not injured and that THOMAS was drunk. DONALD said that his brother has a long history of making up such stories.

The Cleveland Division advised as follows on May 3, 1968:

The following investigation was conducted on May 2, 1968, by Special Agent HOMER K. MILLER at Lima, Ohio and Special Agent STEPHEN FUNDERBURK and Special Agent MILLER at Findlay, Ohio:

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Mrs. ESTHER MOTTER, Clerk, Health Department, Allen County, Lima, Ohio, advised birth certificate reflects THOMAS EUGENE CRAMER born [redacted] at Lima, Ohio; father, DONALD CRAMER, mother, MARY RYPKENA CRAMER; birth record was registered on February 16, 1939.

AT LIMA, OHIO.

WAYNE ETHEL (NA), Chief of Police, Findlay, Ohio, Police Department, advised THOMAS EUGENE CRAMER, born [redacted] had the following arrests:

March 19, 1960	Leaving scene of accident - \$25 fine
September 10, 1960	Operating under suspension \$9 costs, 2 days in County Jail
February 17, 1961	1. Entry in Night Season \$300 fine. 2. Committing Personal Violence 3 days County Jail.
February 12, 1961	Intoxication --\$10 fine \$7.50 costs.
May 2, 1961	Non-support Released
July 31, 1964	Public Intoxication \$10 Fine

WILLIAM BELL, Sheriff of Hancock County, advised THOMAS EUGENE CRAMER originally was in jail for a few days in 1961, for Non-Support, and in February, 1961, for B & E, then again on July 31, 1964, for Non-Support, and released August 3, 1964. On the arrest of July 31, 1964, which was non-support, his address was indicated as 1943 Henderson, Chicago, Illinois. His description was white, male, born [redacted] 5'9", 135 pounds, brown hair, blue eyes, slim build.

Mrs. ELINOR LAIRD, Credit Reporter, Credit Bureau of Findlay, Ohio, advised THOMAS EUGENE CRAMER had been known to her files since 1961 and there was a notation that he had been divorced from a BETTY JYWISE in November, 1961; no other information.

Mrs. BETTY J. CRAMER, 342 Trenton, advised she divorced THOMAS EUGENE CRAMER in 1961 and had only seen him about once a year since when he had come to see their child. She stated he re-married and she believed he left a second wife. She stated the last she knew he was driving an old Lincoln Continental. She stated that on no occasion had she ever heard him mention the Nazi Party, attending any special meetings of any kind, nor had she ever heard him mention Dr. KING. She had no idea as to the whereabouts of subject, but advised his mother, MARY KENNEDY and a sister, FRANCES, lived in Findlay.

Mrs. MARY KENNEDY, 1209 Concord Street, advised that she talked to her son's wife, GLENDA, in Chicago, by telephone, and that GLENDA, who is also known as "DINK", lives at 3322 West Palmer Street, Chicago, telephone 312 772-4691. She stated GLENDA is employed at Sally's Beauty Shop, Broadway and Addison Streets, Chicago, telephone 312 WE 5-3510. She advised when talking to GLENDA, GLENDA told her THOMAS had left and gone to Seattle, Washington, where he lived in some motel, but that he reportedly had checked out of his hotel; also that she believed he had been working at some sporting goods store. Mrs. KENNEDY had no idea as to the present whereabouts of her son, THOMAS EUGENE CRAMER, and advised that the person he would get in touch with would be his wife, GLENDA. She advised that her son had left the Findlay area a year ago and she had not seen him in four or five months. She advised that her son did at one time go with a young man named DAVE SHAW, but she did not know the whereabouts of this DAVE SHAW. She said that in her opinion, her son needed psychiatric treatment, and has been known to tell tall stories when he has been drinking. Further, she stated she recalled hearing that her son had at one time telephoned the FBI in Chicago, within the last few years, but she thought it had something to do with Communism. She advised that her son does have two or three weapons; that he liked to hunt and fish; but,

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RWS:CMS

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she has never known him to carry a weapon on his person. She stated that at no time had she ever heard her son mention Nazism or talk about Dr. KING. She stated it was her belief that at the time he may have called the FBI in Chicago, he may have been drinking at some bar in Chicago with some friends. She advised that although he was not mentally unbalanced, he did frequently during his marriages just take up and leave when he felt like it.

She stated she would immediately contact the FBI if she receives any information as to his whereabouts.

FRANCES CRAMER, subject's sister, who resides with her mother, could furnish no additional information.

Mrs. MARY KENNEDY, his mother said that he had a brother, DONALD, in Freemont, Ohio, and a stepbrother, BOB SHANAHAN in Chicago. She said she believed this BOB SHANAHAN, his half-brother, lived on George Street, back of the Stewart-Warner Factory.

The Seattle Division advised on May 21, 1968, that THOMAS EUGENE CRAMER was located and interviewed at Seattle, Washington, on May 2, 1968. He claimed to have been in Seattle, Washington continuously since early March, 1968, which claim was forwarded by hotel and employment records and interview of his roommate.

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On March 25, 1967, Military Intelligence, Evanston, Illinois, reported that one JOSEPH JOHN GAFFNEY of Elmhurst, Illinois, had recruited Private First Class STEPHEN LANE to serve as a member of a two man team with him to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING on KING's visit to Chicago in 1967. On April 7, 1967 GAFFNEY was interviewed by military authorities and denied any knowledge of an planned acts of violence against anyone.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1.

Date 5/3/68

JOSEPH JOHN GAFFNEY, 285 Elm Park Avenue, advised that he lives at home with his parents and is presently a student attending the Elmhurst College. He pointed out the Elmhurst College is located in the immediate area of his home and that he enrolled in that college on February 6, 1967, now majoring in English.

GAFFNEY stated he is also a member of the 86th U.S. Army Reserve Command, G-2 Section (Administrative), 1819 West Pershing Road, Chicago, and that his group meets on Sunday and Thursday nights.

GAFFNEY stated he has not made any trips from the Chicago area during the last couple months except during the Easter Vacation period from school during which time he traveled to Pella, Iowa. He explained that he left for Pella, Iowa, about April 11, 1968, and returned on April 14, 1968. He said the purpose of the trip was to visit MARY KAY BRADOF, Central College, Pella, Iowa, and that he was accompanied by ROBERT PINDERSKI, a fellow student at Elmhurst College and his girl friend, RUTH BRADOF, who is a sister of MARY KAY BRADOF. GAFFNEY stated that he and PINDERSKI stayed at the Motel Dutch Mill, Pella, Iowa.

GAFFNEY stated he has been at school since his time of enrollment except for the time he went to Iowa during the Easter Vacation and about two days during which time he was home with the flu about the middle part of March, 1968.

GAFFNEY said that he has known ORVILLE BRETTMAN since childhood days and that BRETTMAN is now in the U.S. Marines and is presently in Viet Nam. He said BRETTMAN has been stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, and was home in the Chicago area from approximately December 10-27, 1967. He said he believes BRETTMAN, referred to as "ORV", left for Viet Nam about the middle of March, 1968.

On 4/29/68 at Elmhurst, Illinois File # CG 44-1114
by SAs PAUL M. RUSH and THOMAS H. NOONAN/THN/mmg Date dictated 5/2/68

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2.
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GAFFNEY said that he had previously had some discussions with BRETTMAN regarding the "Minutemen" as well as many other subjects through the years. GAFFNEY said he has not in the past nor is he now a member of "Minutemen" and has no interest in the organization. He said BRETTMAN had some knowledge of the organization and although he is of the impression BRETTMAN might have been a member he is not absolutely certain.

GAFFNEY stated that he has never mentioned any conspiracy to assassinate anyone and volunteered that the loss of KING is a loss to everyone because he stood for non-violence. GAFFNEY said he is against violence and the loss of KING "is the worst thing that could have happened." He said he is against all this recent violence including the riots and burning.

GAFFNEY concluded by stating he assumed he was interviewed previously regarding the "Minutemen" and again this time because someone probably put his name on a membership or mailing list. He said if this has happened he wants it to be known he is not a member and is against violence such as killing, rioting, and burning. He added he is not anti-Negro and has not taken part in any demonstrations or other activity.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1.Date 5/3/68

Mrs. JANE LOVELL, Records Office, Elmhurst College, advised that JOSEPH JOHN GAFFNEY is presently enrolled in the college. However, it was determined by additional questions that there is no requirement that the students actually attend classes. She added she has no records of attendance by students and that the keeping of attendance records is not required at the school or by the individual teachers.

LOVELL stated GAFFNEY takes the following courses:

Geography, teacher - JOHN BOHNERT; English, teacher - Miss ALICE HADDIX; Philosophy, teacher - DEAN CLARK; Art, teacher - Miss LATHAM BASKERVILLE.

On 4/30/68 at Elmhurst, Illinois File # CG 44-1114
by SAs PAUL M. RUSH and Date dictated 5/2/68
THOMAS H. NOONAN/THN/mmg

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1.Date 5/6/68

JOHN BOHNERT advised that JOSEPH GAFFNEY is enrolled in his Geography class and added that even though he is not required to keep student attendance records, he can state with certainty that GAFFNEY is in fairly good attendance. He said GAFFNEY attends about three of the four weekly classes of his and that GAFFNEY has been turning in regularly his weekly test papers. BOHNERT said he also had GAFFNEY in his class last semester, therefore, knows him well by sight.

BOHNERT added that he has talked with GAFFNEY outside regular class periods and has gained the impression that GAFFNEY brags and is always trying to impress others with his importance. He said the times he has talked with GAFFNEY outside of class he can hardly get away from him once he begins bragging of his exploits, accomplishments and wealth or wealthy acquaintances.

BOHNERT said that GAFFNEY is failing in his class.

On 4/30/68 at Elmhurst, Illinois File # CG 44-1114

by SAs PAUL M. RUSH and
THOMAS H. NOONAN/TNN/mmg Date dictated 5/2/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1.Date 5/3/68

Miss ALICE HADDIX advised that JOSEPH GAFFNEY is enrolled in her English class, however, he has not been to class. She said it is possible that he may have been to the first class at the beginning of the semester, but since that time she is sure he has not been to her class. She added that no attendance records are maintained but she is sure of the above statement.

She concluded that since GAFFNEY has not been to class, he will not receive a passing grade from her class.

On 4/30/68 at Elmhurst, Illinois File # CG 44-1114

by SAs PAUL M. RUSH and
THOMAS H. NOONAN/THN/mmg Date dictated 5/2/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1.Date 5/3/68

Dr. ROBERT J. CLARK advised he is the Dean of School and that he teaches the Philosophy class in which JOSEPH GAFFNEY is enrolled.

Dr. CLARK said that GAFFNEY is a very poor class attender and has not been to his class for quite some time. He said he wrote a note to GAFFNEY to see him on April 3, 1968, but has not heard from GAFFNEY. He said the note was written because GAFFNEY had not been to his class for probably a week or two before that date and it may have been longer.

He added the school does not keep attendance records of the students and that GAFFNEY will not receive a passing grade from his class.

Dr. CLARK said that he lives on the other side of the street from the GAFFNEY family residence but has no personal knowledge of the family.

On 4/30/68 at Elmhurst, Illinois File # CG 44-1114

by SAs PAUL M. RUSH and
THOMAS N. NOONAN/THN/mmg Date dictated 5/2/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

L.Date 5/3/68

Miss LATHAM BASKERVILLE advised that JOSEPH GAFFNEY is enrolled in her Art class. She said she has a very poor memory for faces and gets the students mixed up. She looked through several piles of papers and finally said she had located a paper, which according to her, GAFFNEY turned in on April 25, 1968.

Miss BASKERVILLE added she is not required to keep attendance records but believes GAFFNEY is a regular attender even through she does get the students mixed up.

On 4/30/68 at Elmhurst, Illinois File # CG 44-1114
by SAs PAUL M. RUSH and
THOMAS H. NOONAN/THN/mmg Date dictated 5/2/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1.

Date 5/3/68

JOSEPH J. GAFFNEY, 285 Elm Park Avenue, advised that he has enrolled at the Elmhurst College only to please his parents. He stated he does not want to go to school and was of the impression that the agents would only check to see if he was enrolled at the school. He said that he did not expect that his daily attendance in the classes would be checked and then admitted that he does not attend classes regularly. He said that his mother gets him up in the morning and that he leaves for the campus, but usually does not go to his classes.

GAFFNEY stated that he has not taken any trips from the area, as stated before, even though he has not been attending classes.

GAFFNEY explained that when he does not go to classes, he goes to the room of his friend, JOHN PALM, Room 204, Niebur Hall, Elmhurst College, to rest or listen to records. He said PALM would not know when he has been there because PALM is at his classes during that time.

He said that other times he walks around the campus or goes to the Elmhurst Camera Shop, located on Addison Street, Elmhurst, Illinois, and talks to his friends, JERRY MOLLER or TROCK (LNU), who operate the camera shop. GAFFNEY said he has an interest in photography and considers cameras his hobby.

GAFFNEY then located the last address for BRETTMAN which he stated is as follows:

Cpl. ORVILLE H. BRETTMAN,
Number [REDACTED]
H&S Company,
5th Recon. Batt.,
5th Marine Division, FMF(REIN) M.C.B.,
Camp Pendleton, California.

On 4/30/68, Elmhurst, Illinois File # CG 44-1114

SAs PAUL M. RUSH and

by

THOMAS H. NOONAN/THN/mmgDate dictated 5/2/68

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GAFFNEY advised that he expects to fail in school and since he now realizes that it is known that he does not attend most of his classes regularly his whereabouts can be verified through his parents. He maintained that at least one of his parents sees him each day and that both parents usually see him each day.

GAFFNEY said his parents were on a trip during part of February and early March, 1968, and at least one of them has been home from that time until April 29, 1968. He said that at the present time both of his parents are out of town but that his father is expected to be back in the area the following day.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1.

Date 5/3/68

JOSEPH W. GAFFNEY advised that he is employed as the General Purchasing Agent and heads the purchasing for all Sears Roebuck and Company stores located nationally. He advised that his son, JOSEPH J. GAFFNEY, is an only child and was adopted.

GAFFNEY said that he can personally vouch for the whereabouts of his son in this area since he sees the son each day or if he does not, the mother sees the son and is sure he gets off to school.

GAFFNEY said his son left the area only for a few days during the Easter vacation when he went to Pella, Iowa, and was accompanied by a school friend, ROBERT PINDERSKI, and his girl friend.

GAFFNEY said the only time one of the parents was not home was when they were both away on trips during part of February and early March, 1968.

GAFFNEY said his son has been more or less forced by his parents to go to school and he knows that the son does not want to continue. He maintained that in spite of his son's irregular attendance in classes, he can without reservation vouch that he has been in this area and at home each day since his wife and he returned to the house early March, 1968.

GAFFNEY said that his son's "weakness" is that he talks too much and in a very immature way is always trying to impress people. He said that on many occasions his son has been talking or exaggerating and in one way or another it has caused him trouble. GAFFNEY said he has many times cautioned his son about trying to impress people by talking too much but he thinks it is probably something his son has to grow out of or become more mature.

On 5/1/68 Chicago, Illinois File # CG 44-1114

by SAs PAUL M. RUSH and
THOMAS H. NOONAN/THN/mmg Date dictated 5/2/68

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GAFFNEY said he has talked at length with his son in view of the previous interview regarding the "Minutemen" and the interview of the day before and still does not understand why his son is being interviewed. He said that if his son's name has been placed on a membership or mailing list of some organization without his son's knowledge, he would like to have the matter resolved once and for all now because he does not want his son to be interviewed everytime something happens.

GAFFNEY said that he assumes that his son's name probably was turned into the "Minutemen" organization by a childhood friend, ORVILLE BRETTMAN. GAFFNEY said that he has forbidden his son to write or associate with BRETTMAN.

GAFFNEY added that his son has taken no part in school demonstrations or protests of any kind and has expressed no strong feeling for or against Negroes or their causes or any other political or social movements.

GAFFNEY advised that he very much appreciated the courteous manner in which he and his son were interviewed and the lack of embarrassment caused him or his family because of the interviews. He added that he would like to take some steps if he knew what steps to take to insure that his son's name would be taken off the organization list or the matter resolved.

He concluded by repeating that his son's "weakness" is attempting to impress people by immature talk and added that he can vouch for his son's whereabouts in this area during the periods previously stated.

CG 44-1114

RWS:CMS

1

The San Diego Division reported on May 1, 1968, that MARY CARTER, Clerk, Base Locator, Camp Pendleton, California, advised that her records reflect ORVILLE H. BRETTMAN, Marine Serial Number [REDACTED] is currently serving overseas with F Company, 2nd Bn., 13th Marines, having departed during early February, 1968, from the continental United States.

CG 44-1114

RWS:CMS

1

JESSIE KILGRAF (KILGRAS)

Mrs. JESSIE KILGRAF, 752 Liberty Street, Apartment 7, Penfield, New York, on November 13, 1967, sent a telegram to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), stating "Please find Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING and warn him his life is in danger. Go easy on speeches for a while."

The Buffalo Division reported on April 26, 1968, JESSIE KILGRAF, a white female, age 59, apartment 7, 752 Liberty Street, Penfield, New York, advised on April 26, 1968, that the above mentioned telegram was sent to the NAACP in Chicago on November 14, 1967, as a result of a dream.

She said that she had read of a speech by Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING made in Buffalo, New York and the next night dreamed that Dr. KING's life was in danger. She said she attempted to contact a member of the NAACP in Rochester, New York, without success. She then called the Chicago Police Department, who suggested that she send the telegram.

Mrs. KILGRAF volunteered that she has been under psychiatric care for four years, part of which time was spent in a local hospital for mental treatment.

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On March 23, 1968 VINCENT BURNELL, Roto Print Company, Chicago, advised that JOHN MEDIZER, born on [redacted] was one of his shop employees. BURNELL related that for several months MEDIZER has been bragging to his co-workers about his activities in the Nazi Party in the United States and has also mentioned in vague terms threats against MARTIN LUTHER KING, and plans to "take care of him."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 5/2/68

On April 26, 1968, VINCENT BURNELL, Forman, Chicago Rotoprint Company, 4601 West Belmont, was contacted. BURNELL reiterated information previously furnished concerning JOHN MEDIZER, a former employee of Rotoprint.

MEDIZER, born [redacted] in Chicago, according to records, has Social Security Number [redacted] and resided at 3208 North Sheffield, Chicago.

MEDIZER left his employment at Rotoprint on March 29, 1968, after picking up his last paycheck. MEDIZER worked in the shop of this printing concern. For several months, MEDIZER had been bragging to his co-workers about his activities in the American Nazi Party, and had displayed pictures of himself and women who he purported to be the daughters of HIMMLER and EICHMANN, both of whom had been high party functionaries in the Third Reich.

MEDIZER had told BURNELL that he was quitting his job to work for the Nazis in Argentina; reportedly with the use of a "forged passport." He advised he would first be going to Dallas, Texas, where he had friends, and had read letters from someone in Dallas telling him to come down because they were having "a ball" down there.

BURNELL advised that during his "bragging" to other employees MEDIZER mentioned in vague terms threats against MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. and plans "to take care of him."

On the day he picked up his paycheck, MEDIZER mentioned other plans including a possible trip to St. Louis, Missouri, then a trip to the Washington, D.C. area where he would be in touch with MATT KOEHL at Arlington, Virginia. MEDIZER stated he would discuss his plans with Major KOEHL and do what ever "The Major" wanted him to do. He indicated his plans may not include a trip to Argentina.

On 4/26/68 at Chicago, Illinois File # CG 44-1114

by SA PAUL R. ELOFSON:bab Date dictated 5/1/68

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Subsequently BURNELL also stated that a former employment listed on his application indicated Texas Monoplate, 2000 South Ervov, Dallas. Records indicate MEDIZER to be originally from West Frankfort, Illinois, where he attended grammar and high school. MEDIZER told him he had studied for the priesthood.

CG 44-1114

RWS:CMS

1

The files of the FBI, Chicago, revealed that JOHN C. MEDIZER, a white male, born [redacted] 5'11", 145 pounds, black hair, blue eyes, was active in the Chicago Unit of the National Socialist White Peoples Party (NSWPP), during the summer and fall of 1967.

MEDIZER lived for a time at the NSWPP headquarters and was at the Diplomat Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. He worked at the Roto Print Company, Chicago, until March 29, 1968, when he quit his job. On March 20, 1968, MEDIZER advised his foreman he was quitting his job to "work for the Nazis in Argentina", reportedly on a "forged transport." He indicated that he would first visit friends in Dallas, Texas. MEDIZER frequently bragged to co-workers about his Nazi party activities and displayed literature and other Nazi party items.

He was reportedly originally from West Frankford, Illinois, and has previously worked as a drummer in quiet spots in the Dallas, Texas area.

While active in the NSWPP affairs, MEDIZER participated in demonstrations, including demonstrations against anti-Vietnam peace demonstrators, in Washington, D. C., on October 20 - 21, 1967.

MEDIZER picked up his paycheck on March 29, 1968, at the Roto Print Company in Chicago and stated that his present plans included a visit to St. Louis, Missouri, then a trip to Washington, D. C., where he would discuss his plans with Major MATT KOEHL of the NSWPP in Arlington, Virginia.

The Richmond Division reported on April 25, 1968, that MATT KOEHL, NSWPP leader at Arlington, Virginia, advised that MEDIZER has not been in Arlington and is still receiving mail at Post Office Box 6168, Chicago.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/2/681

FRED CATALANO, Leader, Chicago Unit, National Socialist White Peoples Party (NSWPP), 624 North May Street, Chicago, advised he knows JOHN MEDIZER, and MEDIZER is a member of the NSWPP, who resided at the headquarters of the NSWPP when it was located at 1314 West Ohio Street during the summer and fall of 1967. CATALANO has not seen MEDIZER in about one month. MEDIZER indicated to CATALANO he was leaving Chicago to spend some time in Dallas, Texas, then travel to the NSWPP National Headquarters in Arlington, Virginia.

CATALANO stated that MEDIZER would probably get in touch with persons associated with the Dallas Unit of the NSWPP, and would probably also visit friends there. CATALANO mentioned the Target Lounge on the outskirts of Dallas as a place MEDIZER may have worked in the past. MEDIZER has spent time in Dallas in the past and was believed to have worked in various nightclubs as a drummer. CHRIS VIDNJEVICH, NSWPP officer, also knows MEDIZER, and may possibly have additional information. VIDNJEVICH is now located at NSWPP headquarters, Arlington. MEDIZER had indicated no plans to CATALANO other than travel plans.

On 4/26/68 at Chicago, Illinois File # CG 44-1114

by SA PAUL R. ELOFSON:bab Date dictated 5/1/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 5/2/68

Mrs. MORRIS, Diplomat Hotel, 3208 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois, advised on April 26, 1968, that JOHN MEDIZER stayed at this hotel a number of times in the past year. He stayed in Room 324. During the latter part of March he left the hotel stating he was going to Australia. He left no forwarding address.

MEDIZER discussed his Nazi beliefs with whom ever would listen to him, but Mrs. MORRIS could furnish no additional information concerning MEDIZER's plans.

On 4/26/68 at Chicago, Illinois File # CG 44-1114

by SA PAUL R. ELOFSON:bab Date dictated 5/1/68

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CG 44-1114

RWS:CMS

I

The Dallas Division advised on May 7, 1968, as follows:

On May 6, 1968, JOHN C. MEDIZER was located at his place of employment, the Texas Nameplate Company, 1900 South Ervay Street, Dallas. Records of that company as furnished by Mrs. MARGARET ROSE, Personnel Department, reflected that MEDIZER had been employed by that company as a printer since April 18, 1968, and his residence was shown at 5506 East R. L. Thornton Expressway, Dallas. Personnel records of the above company reflected that MEDIZER sustained an injury while on duty on April 22, 1968, and at that time he gave the above address.

On May 6, 1968, MEDIZER was interviewed at the Texas Nameplate Company and stated that he left Chicago, Illinois on March 31, 1968, by way of Greyhound Bus, directly to Dallas, Texas with an approximate two hour layover at St. Louis, Missouri, on the same date. He stated that he arrived Dallas early on the morning of April 1, 1968, and immediately contacted a friend of his by the name of EDDIE CRANFIELD, who lives at 5506 East R. L. Thornton Freeway. MEDIZER stated that before leaving Chicago he lived at 4601 Belmont and worked for the Roto-Print Company. He stated that while in Chicago he was a member of the American Nazi Party (ANP) and plans to continue his membership with the ANP by paying his dues to the ANP headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. MEDIZER further stated that he does not plan to contact any of the ANP members in Dallas, Texas, since he is becoming inactive in the ANP inasmuch as he is getting married shortly to a Dallas girl by the name of CHARLENE HARRIS, who works at the Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Dallas, Texas.

MEDIZER then stated that on April 1, 1968, he obtained a construction job through his friend, EDDIE CRANFIELD, with the Leroy Roberts Construction Company, 4031 Mission Street, Dallas, Texas. He stated that he worked continuously at this construction company with EDDIE CRANFIELD until approximately April 12, 1968, and has been so employed to the present date.

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RWS:CMS

2

MEDIZER then stated that in regard to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. he does not recall ever making any threats against the life of KING, however, since he is a member of the ANP, he does not agree at all with the policies followed by KING or his successors. He stated, however, that as a member of the ANP he does not believe in violence and the present policy of the ANP is against physical violence.

MEDIZER is described as white male, born [redacted] at Chicago, Illinois, 5'10", 146 pounds, Selective Service Number [redacted] (Classified 1A with Benton, Illinois Selective Service Board), blue eyes, blond hair.

MEDIZER stated that since he is getting married in the near future, he plans to stay in the Dallas area and purchase a home and become inactive in the ANP.

He further stated that Mr. LEROY ROBERTS or his foreman, BILL DAVIDSON, could vouch for his whereabouts from April 1 to 12, 1968.

On May 6, 1968, Mr. BILL DAVIDSON, Foreman with the Leroy Roberts Construction Company (supra), advised Special Agent JAMES W. ANDERTON that his payroll records reflect that JOHN C. MEDIZER was employed by that company as a fork lift operator (assistant) from April 1, 1968, through April 12, 1968. Mr. DAVIDSON stated that in addition to his payroll records he recalls MEDIZER working during that period with his friend, EDDIE CRANFIELD.

CG 44-1114

On August 13, 1966, ALFRED G. SCHNEIDER, white, male, 5054 North Leavitt, Chicago, Illinois, contacted the Chicago Police Department, stating he would kill MARTIN LUTHER KING if KING goes to Winnemac Park, Chicago.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/25/68

1

ALFRED GEORGE SCHNEIDER, 5054 North Leavitt Street, Chicago, was interviewed by SA MICHAEL V. KOGUT and SA ROBERT LEE ALEXANDER. At the time of this interview, SA KOGUT advised SCHNEIDER that he had the right to remain silent, that anything he said could be used against him in a court of law, that he had the right to engage counsel, and that if he were indigent, counsel would be appointed for him by the court. SA KOGUT further advised SCHNEIDER that he had the right to have a lawyer present during the interview and if he decided to answer questions without the advice of his attorney, he had the right to terminate the interview at any point. SCHNEIDER stated that he did not wish to consult a lawyer and would answer any questions directed to him.

SCHNEIDER stated that he was born [redacted] in Chicago, Illinois, and for the last 25 years, he has been employed as an underwriter by the Kemper Insurance Company at Foster Avenue and Sheridan Road, Chicago. For the past 16 years he has resided in Apartment 2 at 5054 North Leavitt Street, Chicago.

SCHNEIDER related that sometime in August, 1966, there was talk circulating in the neighborhood that MARTIN LUTHER KING planned to make a speech in Winnemac Park, which is located across from his residence on North Leavitt Street. He further advised that one night during this time, he was having a few drinks in Foster Liquors, a tavern in the vicinity of Foster Avenue and Leavitt Street, and customers in the bar were discussing the speech of Doctor KING which rumor had it was planned to be held in Winnemac Park. He stated that he had been drinking rather heavily that night but did not consider himself to be inebriated. He further advised that from the tenor of the conversation at the tavern, it appeared that feelings were very strongly against MARTIN LUTHER KING's proposed rally at Winnemac Park. He advised that during the course of the discussion, a few of the other patrons in the bar after learning that he, SCHNEIDER, was also

On 4/24/68 at Chicago, Illinois File # Chicago 44-1114

by SA MICHAEL V. KOGUT &
SA ROBERT LEE ALEXANDER/jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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opposed to MARTIN LUTHER KING's proposed rally, issued a dare to him. He explained that they had dared him to call the police department and make public his feelings about MARTIN LUTHER KING. He left the bar and went to his residence where at approximately 8:30 p.m. that night he used his residence telephone to call the local police district on Foster Avenue. He told a police officer that if MARTIN LUTHER KING appeared in Winnemac Park, he would be killed. He stated he never said or implied that he himself intended to do harm to KING. He explained that by using those words, he meant to express that the feelings in the community were very much against Doctor KING and as a result, he, SCHNEIDER, thought that Doctor KING would be harmed if he did appear at the park. He added that the proposed rally never did take place.

SCHNEIDER stated that he has not traveled out of the State of Illinois during the past five years. He advised that the only traveling he had engaged in recently was a Christmas trip to visit relatives in Springfield, Illinois. He stated he has never been arrested nor has he ever been involved in any violence or fighting. He advised that he does not own a firearm and is not familiar with the use of firearms.

SCHNEIDER advised that he did not know JAMES EARL RAY nor does he know anything relating to the slaying of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

The following description was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	ALFRED GEORGE SCHNEIDER
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Chicago, Illinois
Residence	Apartment 2 5054 North Leavitt Street Chicago, Illinois
Telephone	SU 4-0568 (moving to 2211 West Foster Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, same telephone)

3
CG 44-1114

Height
Weight
Build
Eyes
Hair
Complexion
Wife
Children
 Son
 Daughter
Military Service
Occupation

5'7" tall
145 pounds
Medium
Blue
Blond, crewcut
Light
VIRGINIA SCHNEIDER

DALE SCHNEIDER, Age 26
CHRISTINE SCHNEIDER, Age 12
None
Underwriter
Kemper Insurance Company
Foster Avenue at Sheridan Road
Chicago, Illinois
Telephone LO 1-8000, Ext. 1209
None

Arrests

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/25/681

VIRGINIA SCHNEIDER, 5054 North Leavitt Street, Chicago, provided the following information to SA MICHAEL V. KOGUT and SA ROBERT LEE ALEXANDER:

She advised that she and her husband, ALFRED, have been residents of 5054 North Leavitt for the past 16 years and were soon planning to move to the new address, 2211 West Foster. She advised that her husband was currently employed at the Kemper Insurance Company and has been associated with this company for approximately 25 years.

Mrs. SCHNEIDER stated that she did recall that sometime during the summer months of 1966, her husband had told her that Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING planned to stage a rally in Winnemac Park. Mrs. SCHNEIDER further advised that she recalled that at the time that her husband had told her this, he had just returned from one of the local taverns and appeared to have quite a bit to drink. She stated that her husband did have one fault and this was that on occasion he did drink to excess. She stated that shortly after her husband returned home, he called the local police station and told them that it was his opinion that MARTIN LUTHER KING should not appear in Winnemac Park. She stated that other than this reference to MARTIN LUTHER KING, she did not recall any of her husband's verbatim conversation over the telephone.

Mrs. SCHNEIDER stated that to her knowledge, her husband had never been arrested for any violation of the law and had never been involved in any violence or fighting. She stated that her husband enjoyed a good reputation in the community. She stated that she had no further information to offer concerning this incident but was positive that her husband had made this call because of the fact that he was under the influence of alcohol. She stated that he was not the type of man to react violently to any situation and certainly was not the type of man who would threaten another's life.

On 4/24/68 at Chicago, Illinois File # Chicago 44-1114

by SA MICHAEL V. KOGUT &
SA ROBERT LEE ALEXANDER/jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/25/681

PETER FIEL, Janitor, 5054 North Leavitt Street, Chicago, Illinois, advised that he has been acquainted with ALFRED SCHNEIDER for the past 16 years. He stated that the SCHNEIDER family had occupied Apartment 2 at this address for the last 16 years and were planning to move within the very near future to a new address approximately one block away. He stated that Mr. SCHNEIDER was employed by an insurance company and worked only a short distance away from his home. He advised that Mr. SCHNEIDER and his family were ideal tenants who caused no trouble whatsoever. He added that the SCHNEIDERS enjoyed a good reputation in the community.

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Date 4/25/681

Captain JAMES J. CONNOLLY, Commander, 20th Police District, Chicago Police Department, advised that he could locate no record identifiable with ALFRED G. SCHNEIDER, 5054 North Leavitt Street, Chicago, Illinois. He stated that he had also checked the Bureau of Records and Communications of the Chicago Police Department. These records indicate that an individual by the name of ALFRED SCHNEIDER, who gave his residence as 5054 North Leavitt, Chicago, Illinois, had made a complaint to the police department during July, 1966, to the effect that his automobile had been vandalized. The files contain no other information identifiable with SCHNEIDER. Captain CONNOLLY further advised that after checking with his personnel, he could identify no police officer who was involved in investigating a threat made by SCHNEIDER against the life of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

On 4/24/68 at Chicago, Illinois File # Chicago 44-1114
by SA MICHAEL V. KOGUT & SA ROBERT LEE ALEXANDER/jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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