

ME 44-1987

of the case it would be better if THOMPSON were to turn this over to the Memphis FBI office which would be more conversant with the case.

THOMPSON stated that he had originally told ROY B. HAMILTON that the FBI knew everything that he knew both directly and indirectly concerning the KING killing, but because of his being so emphatic in his statement he wants to resolve this with the FBI.

He reiterated that the only talk he has thus far had with the FBI was the April 1968 interview wherein he furnished information to SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE and Inspector ZACHERY, mentioned above.

He stated that he is now privileged to give the name of the so-called "blond Latin". He gave the name TONY BENEVITIA (phonetic) stating that he was not sure of the spelling because he did not have his file with him at home. He said this was the one who had originally contacted him in April 1968. He had since learned from discussions with FRANK HOLLOMAN, Director, Fire and Police, Inspector ZACHERY, and with Shelby County Attorney General PHIL CANALE, that the same blond Latin had given his story to some ministers, that it had been checked out in detail, and that there had been nothing substantial developed to indicate that this so-called blond Latin had any knowledge concerning the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

He stated further that PHIL CANALE has told him that the information originally furnished by JOHN MC FERRIN concerning the so-called produce dealer has been checked out and found to have no basis in fact.

He stated that in talking to PHIL CANALE concerning the so-called Latin, he told CANALE that this Latin had claimed that he was going to Brownsville, Tennessee, to see the then head of the Ku Klux Klan in Tennessee (V. DOYL ELLINGTON). CANALE stated this had been checked out and no information had been developed to the Brownsville angle to tie in with the killing of KING.

THOMPSON stated that the only other information which he possessed was the fact that he had checked out various inconsistencies on the part of scheduled state witnesses who would have testified had the trial transpired.

ME 44-1987

THOMPSON stated that he would be in Marianna, Arkansas, in connection with a robbery trial on Monday and Tuesday, March 24 and 25, and would be back in his office March 26 and would be happy to go over with any representative or representatives of the FBI all of the information which he possesses in order to be absolutely sure that all information has been turned over to the FBI.

THOMPSON volunteered with regard to newspaper speculation that JAMES BEVEL, Southern Christian Leadership Conference representative from Philadelphia, might put on a mock trial concerning the JAMES EARL RAY case in Memphis; that He has received no information in connection with this, he volunteered that he is a member of the NAACP in Memphis, will attend the last general membership meeting of the month on March 30, 1969, and that if any information comes to his attention indicating that there will be any demonstrations or activity concerning the RAY case that he will immediately volunteer information to this office.

With regard to the information concerning TONY BENEVITA, THOMPSON stated that he had furnished this information to ARTHUR HANES, to the Memphis Police Department, to PHIL CANALE of the Shelby County Attorney General's Office, to RENFRO HAYES, a private investigator who did some work on the RAY case, and stated that he understands but cannot prove that HAYES has since furnished this information to either "Time" magazine or to "Life" magazine in a recent trip to New York.

He stated that also CHARLES EDMUNDSON, a veteran reported at Commercial Appeal newspaper has received this same information but thus far has not seen fit to publish it.

This memorandum is being submitted for information in order to clarify writer's conversation with RUSSELL X. THOMPSON.

3/24/69

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC OKLAHOMA CITY (44-686) (RUC)
MURKIN
OO Memphis

The 3/24/69 issue of "The Daily Oklahoman," a newspaper published in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, contained an article reflecting that ROY W. CLARK, age 45, from Houston, Texas, was arrested by the Oklahoma City Police Department on 3/23/69, and jailed on a drunkenness complaint. According to the article the police are investigating a notebook found on CLARK that included dates and information concerning the slaying of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. The article indicated the notations appeared to be in diary form and included the following dates and quotes:

"4-4-68--Martin Luther King shot in the face and neck"
"4-5-68--A visit from Ray."

On 3/24/69, Lt. WILLIAM MEAD, Robbery and Homicide Division, Oklahoma City Police Department, advised SA J. A. GRIMES that ROY W. CLARK, Negro, male, born [redacted] was arrested in Oklahoma City on the afternoon of 3/23/69 and charged with being drunk. He is being held also as a suspect in an armed robbery which occurred in Oklahoma City shortly prior to his arrest. Lt. MEAD advised that arresting officers found a small loose-leaf notebook in CLARK's automobile which contained about three pages of handwritten dates and notations in the general form of a diary. He made available the notebook and it was noted the first two items listed were as follows:

3 - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - Houston (Info)
1 - Oklahoma City
JAG:row
(7)

M

44-1987-Sub-M-467

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>lll</i>
SERIALIZED <i>lll</i>	FILED <i>lll</i>
MAR 26 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester *[initials]*

OC 44-686

"4-4-68 Martin L. King Shot face neck"

"4-5-68 3rd 5th quiet?? Visit by Van Rye"

Lt. MEAD advised that officers of the Oklahoma City PD interviewed CLARK regarding the notebook and he stated he kept this book to jot down items which he thought were of interest and which he wanted to remember at the time. He stated he wrote down the date of KING's murder since he wanted to remember the date of this event. When questioned about the entry on 4/5/68, he advised that this referred to a contact by FBI Agent VAN RAYE on 4/5/68, who at that time was contacting him periodically regarding racial and criminal matters in Houston. He stated he had originally been contacted by Agent VAN RAYE in regard to a relative who was a deserter from the Marine Corps and thereafter VAN RAYE contacted him periodically for a period of several months. He stated he has not been contacted by VAN RAYE for the last several months.

Lt. MEAD advised that the notebook maintained by CLARK contained no entries other than the above mentioned entries which would indicate CLARK had any interest or connection with the KING murder case.

On 3/24/69, SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY, Houston Division, telephonically advised that the files of that office reflect ROY W. CLARK, Negro male, born [redacted], was a PCI of the Houston Office during the period of KING's murder and was assigned to Special Agent OTTO VAN RY. He advised that a review of CLARK's file reflects CLARK was in fact contacted by SA VAN RY on 4/5/68, relative to racial matters.

In view of above circumstances, no further investigation being conducted.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
March 26, 1969

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING
APRIL 4, 1968, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

At approximately 10:15 a.m., March 26, 1969, RUSSELL X. THOMPSON, an Attorney, Memphis, Tennessee, telephonically contacted the Memphis Office of the FBI. Mr. THOMPSON advised that he had been in New York City, where he presented certain material in his possession to the NAACP Legal Defense. Mr. THOMPSON advised that while in New York City he had made contact with the New York Office of the FBI. He said that after discussing this matter with a representative of the FBI in New York, it was agreed that it would probably be more advantageous for him to discuss his findings in this case with a representative of the Memphis Office of the FBI.

Mr. THOMPSON subsequently apologized for a story which had appeared in a Memphis newspaper, which quoted him as saying that he had turned his entire confidential file on the JAMES EARL RAY case over to the FBI. Mr. THOMPSON said the newspaper reporter had misquoted him and what he had told the newspaper reporter was that he had had earlier contact with the FBI. Mr. THOMPSON's reference to talks with the FBI referred to an interview had with him shortly after the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING in April, 1968. Mr. THOMPSON said that frankly he doubted, and did not contend, there was any conspiracy in the JAMES EARL RAY case. He specifically advised that among the suspicions he had was the person who called on him shortly after the assassination. This was a person whom he gave the name TONY BENEVETTA. Mr. THOMPSON said this was a phonetic spelling and the person whom he interviewed by that name had told him this was an alias and not a true name. BENEVETTA is the person whom THOMPSON said furnished him information to the effect that the person who did assassinate Dr. KING had left the scene of the shooting on a motorcycle and not in a white Mustang.

This same person also told Mr. THOMPSON that the rifle and the package of material which the Memphis Police

44-1987-Sub-M-468

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123

had recovered at the scene of the crime were not items of interest in the actual assassination but had been used as a decoy. BENEVETTA also told THOMPSON that the rifle which had been used to kill Dr. KING was a Savage rifle and it had already been melted down. THOMPSON described this person, BENEVETTA, as being a blond Latin. THOMPSON stated that at the time he originally discussed this information with BENEVETTA he was of the impression that there might have been some mental instability on the part of BENEVETTA.

THOMPSON also advised that during the initial stages of the JAMES EARL RAY case he did assist Attorney ARTHUR HANES, SR. of Birmingham, Alabama, and he did tell HANES about this blond Latin who had called on him. THOMPSON speculated that HANES had told RAY about this blond Latin and possibly on that basis RAY had come up with the RAOUL character. THOMPSON further said, of course, there was a possibility that HANES himself might have manufactured the character "RAOUL," based on the data he had furnished about a blond Latin.

Mr. THOMPSON said that to this date he has not seen or heard any more information from BENEVETTA. He said his information regarding BENEVETTA had been furnished to Attorney General PHIL CANALE, who in turn told him that the BENEVETTA person probably was identical with a person in town who had called on one or two preachers and had furnished a similar type story. THOMPSON said that Attorney General CANALE informed him that this matter had been definitely checked out and there was no involvement of any kind on the part of BENEVETTA.

THOMPSON also advised that another matter which raised some suspicion in his mind was the fact that in the event the State had put any of its witnesses on the stand there would have been some question as to their creditability. Specifically, he pointed out that it was a well known fact that CHARLES Q. STEPHENS, who would have been a State witness, was known to drink rather heavily. THOMPSON said in view of this he felt that the defense could have attacked the creditability of STEPHENS. He further said the original newspaper stories reporting comments from BESSIE BREWER, the landlady at the rooming house, indicated she could not identify

JAMES EARL RAY, and yet the State was going to use her as a witness. He felt that on this basis her creditability could be attacked. He further stated he knew that ARTHUR HANES, while acting as Attorney for JAMES EARL RAY, had hired a local investigator, RENFRO HAYS. HAYS, according to THOMPSON, had located a white male by the name HAROLD CARTER, who claimed to have been sitting on a box at the rear of the rooming house and to have seen someone fire from the wall facing the Lorraine Motel and CARTER reportedly saw this man jump down and run away from the scene. THOMPSON said that he knew that HUGH STANTON, a local attorney from the Public Defender's Office appointed in the JAMES EARL RAY case, had a representative of his office talk to HAROLD CARTER and their conclusion was that HAROLD CARTER was completely unreliable.

THOMPSON also said there was, of course, the possibility that RENFRO HAYS, the investigator for ARTHUR HANES, SR., had HAROLD CARTER tell the story that he did. THOMPSON said he, of course, did not know whether this was so or not, but it was pure conjecture on his part.

In addition, Mr. THOMPSON said another suspicious circumstance as far as he was concerned was that he had learned a man by the name JIM SANDERS was in Jim's Grill (located in area of the rooming house), had ordered sausage and eggs at approximately the time of the shooting of Dr. KING, and it was reported that SANDERS did not leave the counter as so many others in Jim's Grill did, but instead ordered a beer and continued to eat. THOMPSON thought this was most suspicious. SANDERS is, according to THOMPSON, a stranger in Jim's Grill, and he thought it unusual that a stranger would be in the Grill at about the time of the shooting.

THOMPSON also said that another matter that bothered him or made him feel suspicious was the fact that JAMES EARL RAY had registered at the Rebel Motel and left there and then re-registered at the rooming house on the same day, April 4. He said it just did not seem to make sense that a man would leave a motel and come to a rooming house such as that on South Main.

Mr. THOMPSON concluded by stating he had much in the way of material which dealt with various suppositions, theories, and suspicions of his, but he frankly did not have any material that could be considered evidentiary in any way whatever. He offered to make his voluminous material available, but repeated that all his material was nothing but pure speculation.

-4-

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.

-4-

3-26-69

AIRTEL

AM

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

Submitted herewith is LHM covering information furnished by RUSSELL X. THOMPSON, local Memphis attorney, concerning material which he has collected in connection with the JAMES EARL RAY case. It is to be noted that the material he presents is pure supposition on his part and he himself has indicated he has no evidence whatsoever. He did offer to make his voluminous files available; however, since he has stated that these files are filled with only suppositions on his part, the Memphis Division recommends that no further contact be had with RUSSELL THOMPSON. He was told that in the event he received any information which he felt might be evidentiary in nature this office would be interested in having an opportunity to review this material. He indicated that should he receive any information of this type he would notify the Memphis Office.

3 BUREAU (Enc. 4)
① MEMPHIS

RGJ:BN
(4)

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Hester

44-1987-Sub-M-469

3-26-69

AIRTEL

To: SACs, New Orleans (157-10673)
Memphis (44-1987)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

ReNOairtel to the Bureau dated 3-18-69.

Memphis should immediately contact Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, to determine if Mr. Kent Courtney, publisher of the Conservative Journal, contacted him concerning interview with Jerry Ray, brother of James Earl Ray, and if so, action taken by Mr. Canale. Furnish results to Bureau and New Orleans.

According to recent news releases, Jerry Ray is presently in Memphis, Tennessee. Memphis should, therefore, locate and interview Jerry Ray for any information he may have relative to a conspiracy. It is noted that in referenced communication Mr. Kent Courtney stated that when Jerry Ray contacted him by telephone, Jerry Ray indicated that a conspiracy existed.

In view of the background data concerning Mr. Kent Courtney, publisher of the Conservative Journal, New Orleans should not have any contact with Courtney. If any further information received from Courtney, immediately advise the Bureau. New Orleans should refer to its files concerning this background data.

44-1987-Sub-M-470

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 27 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

M

Hester

March 26, 1969

Airtel

TO: SAC, Philadelphia (44-1368)

FROM: Director, FBI

MURKIN

ReBuairtel dated 3/20/69 and Memphis airtel to Bureau dated 3/21/69.

Philadelphia should immediately interview Reverend James Bevel, an official of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, for all information in his possession regarding his statement in the "New York Times" on 3/18/69 that a letter was turned over to the Memphis Police on approximately April 3, 1968, which contained information that Martin Luther King was to be assassinated while in Memphis.

This matter must be thoroughly resolved and Philadelphia should set forth appropriate leads based upon interview with Bevel.

Keep the Bureau fully advised of all developments.

① - Memphis (44-1987) (info)

44-1987-Sub-M-471

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 27 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

M

Hester

see

TRUE COPY

3-19-69

Dear Director;

Last spring I was staying at a boarding house in Columbia.
Mrs. Rawls on Church St.

one Sunday about one week before Dr. King was killed. I was
sitting on the front porch talking to a retired Dentist. It was after dinner
on a Sunday.

He told me that They are going to kill Dr. King this next week.
A few days later he was killed!

If you think this meant any thing the doctors' name was Bush!
It sounded like he was in on the knowing about it ot me. I thought I would
pass this information on along to the Bureau. No one knows about this
but me I hope. There were one or two others on the porch at the time
we were but I don't know if they heard him tell me this or not. (Weather
they were listening to our conversation or not.) I would like to remain
unknown to them (The Dr. Bush) if you decide it is worth any thing.

Your Friend,

/s/ Harry Pope ✓

m

44-1987-Sub-M-472

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 27 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

3/24/69

Airtel

TO: SAC, Jackson

FROM: Director, FBI

MURKIN

Enclosed for Jackson are two true copies and for Memphis one true copy of a letter received at the Bureau from Harry Pope, Route 4, Box 762, Columbia, Mississippi.

Jackson immediately locate and interview Pope regarding his conversation with a dentist relative to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Conduct appropriate investigation to thoroughly resolve this matter.

Jackson review its files for background data concerning Pope.

Enclosures (2)

① - Memphis (Enclosure)

M

44-1987-Sub-M-473

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 27 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

3/27/69

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel 3/26/69, a xerox copy of which is enclosed for St. Louis.

JERRY RAY visited the subject 3/22/69 at the Tennessee State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn., and indicated to prison officials that his residence is now in St. Louis, Mo. No street address was given.

For the Bureau's information, Tennessee State Attorney General PHIL M. CANALE has not been contacted by Mr. KENT COURTNEY, publisher of the Conservative Journal.

LEAD

ST. LOUIS

AT ST. LOUIS, MO.

Through subject's sister, CAROL PEPPER, attempt to locate and interview JERRY RAY.

3 - Bureau
2 - St. Louis (Enc 1)
2 - Memphis

JCH:LF

(7)

44-1987-Sub-M-4724
SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI PHILA

1125PM 3-27-69 URGENT JLK

TO DIRECTOR, ATLANTA, MEMPHIS, AND WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE
FROM PHILADELPHIA 44-1368

MURKIN

RE BUAIRTEL THREE TWENTYSIX SIXTYNINE.

RETEL INSTRUCTED PHILA TO IMMEDIATELY INTERVIEW REVEREND JAMES
BEVEL SCLC OFFICIAL CONCERNING HIS STATEMENT IN "NEW YORK TIMES" THAT
LETTER WAS TURNED OVER TO MEMPHIS PD APPROXIMATELY FOUR THREE SIXTY
EIGHT CONTAINING INFORMATION THAT MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS TO BE
ASSASSINATED WHILE IN MEMPHIS.

MEMPHIS PD KNOWS NOTHING OF LETTER.

BEVERLY STERNER, GIRL FRIEND OF BEVEL TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THIS
DATE BEVEL WAS OUT OF TOWN AT A MEETING FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK.
SHE STATED SHE WOULD ATTEMPT TO CALL BEVEL AND HAVE HIM CALL PHILA.
SHE WAS TOLD FBI WOULD TALK TO HIM WHEREVER HE WAS LOCATED.

ATLANTA, MEMPHIS, AND WFO CONTACT SOURCES TO DETERMINE BEVEL'S
LOCATION AND IF THERE IS ANY SCLC CONFERENCES.

END

ME...EDC

FBI MEMPHIS

CLRP

44-1987-Sub-A

SEARCHED <i>ll</i>	INDEXED <i>ll</i>
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MAR 27 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

M

3/26/69

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Springfield airtel to Bureau 12/6/68.

On 3/25/69, DAVE BAIRD, Reporter for the newspaper "Commercial News", Danville, Illinois, advised that on 3/24/69, he was telephonically contacted by ROBERT H. STRADER, 1220 East Fairchild Street, Apartment 7, Danville, Illinois, and STRADER related that he had vital information concerning the assassination of Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING. STRADER told BAIRD that prior to KING's death he was in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he was approached by unknown individuals and these individuals attempted to hire STRADER to murder Doctor KING. STRADER said he refused the offer and related that since that date he had been followed and several attempts have been made on his life. STRADER told BAIRD that if the "Commercial News" newspaper was interested in his story that arrangements could be made through STRADER's attorney, DONALD FOLEY, Indianapolis, Indiana, for payment for this story. STRADER requested BAIRD to meet him in the near future, however, BAIRD said he felt that STRADER was a "nut" and he doubted if any action would be taken by this newspaper.

As noted in referenced communication, as well as other communications to the Bureau, STRADER has alleged he had information concerning the assassination of KING. In view of past information concerning STRADER, no action is recommended regarding contact with STRADER or his wife, MARGARET CARMICHAEL STRADER.

- 3 - Bureau (44-38861)
- ① - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)
- 1 - Indianapolis (44-563) (Info)
- 1 - Chicago (44-1114) (Info)
- 1 - Springfield (44-561)

JAC/ssj

(7)

44-1987-Sub-M-476

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 28 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

glt

(M)

F B I

Date: 3-28-69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

URGENT 3-28-69 BN
 TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), WFO, ATLANTA, AND MOBILE
 FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987) 1 P
 MURKIN.

RE PHILADELPHIA TEL TO BUREAU MARCH TWENTYSEVEN LAST.
 FOR MOBILE'S INFORMATION, BUREAU HAS INSTRUCTED THAT
 REV. JAMES BEVEL, SCLC OFFICIAL, BE LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED CON-
 CERNING HIS STATEMENT IN NEW YORK TIMES THAT LETTER WAS TURNED
 OVER TO MEMPHIS PD APPROXIMATELY APRIL THREE, SIXTYEIGHT,
 CONTAINING INFORMATION THAT MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS TO BE KILLED
 WHILE IN MEMPHIS. MEMPHIS PD HAS NO KNOWLEDGE THIS LETTER.

BEVEL IS NOT NOW IN MEMPHIS BUT INFO AVAILABLE TO
 MEMPHIS INDICATES ABERNATHY OF SCLC IS TO BE IN ATLANTA MARCH
 TWENTYNINE NEXT AND ALSO THAT NUMEROUS SCLC OFFICIALS ARE TO
 MEET AT MONTGOMERY, ALA. ON APRIL FOUR NEXT.

ATLANTA AND MOBILE ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW
 BEVEL. P.

END

JCH:BN
(2)

CC - 1 - PHILADELPHIA (AM)

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

44-1987-Sub-M-477

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Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

MO 5143
AT 5143
WFO 5147

P M

Per

llh

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI WASH DC

828PM URGENT 3/28/69 CAB
TO DIRECTOR ATALNTA MEMPHIS PHILADELPHIA
FROM WASHINGTON FIELD 44-703 1P

MURKIN

RE PHILADELPHIA TEL MARCH TWENTY-SEVEN, LAST.

LEONARD E. DOYLE, R (PROB), (PROTECT) ADVISED MARCH
TWENTY-EIGHT INSTANT THAT BEVEL NOT IN WDC. ACCORDING TO
SOURCE BEVEL BELIEVED TO BE IN ATLANTA ATTENDING AN SCLC
STAFF MEETING.

END

DND

FBI MEMPHIS

P

44-1987-Sub-M-478

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 28 1969	
FBI — MEMPHIS	

qk

TRUE COPY

Dear Sir:

I would like to inform you that I drove a 1965 model Mustang from Memphis, Tenn. to Atlanta, Ga. on April 4th, 1968. If this date reminds you of anything that happen in Memphis, last April 4th at 9:45 p.m.

Sincerely,

Roy Erwin

M

44-1987-Sub-M-449

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 29 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

9/1A

3-28-69

AIRTEL

To: SAC, Savannah (44-1768)
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)
MURKIN

Enclosed for Savannah are two true copies and one true copy for Memphis of a letter received at the Bureau from Roy Erwin, who is incarcerated by the Georgia Board of Corrections at Reidsville, Georgia.

Savannah should immediately interview Erwin for all information he possesses concerning the contents of his letter and set forth necessary leads to thoroughly resolve issues. It is to be noted that James Earl Ray owned a 1966 Mustang which was abandoned in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 5, 1968. It is also to be noted that Martin Luther King, Jr., was shot at 6:01 p.m. (Memphis time) on April 4, 1968, at Memphis, Tennessee.

Bufiles indicate that one Roy Erwin admitted stealing a 1963 Ford Fairlane in Dalton, Georgia, on 8-16-65, and abandoned same in Columbia, South Carolina. In this matter the Assistant United States Attorney in Columbia declined prosecution as subject juvenile and had been charged by local authorities for theft of same vehicle.

Bufiles further indicate that under FBI number 402 591 F one Roy Irwin, white male, born 6-5-48, was fingerprinted by the State Board of Corrections at Atlanta, Georgia, (number A-71338-57075) on 6-20-68, in connection with charges of forgery and received a sentence of two years and seven months.

Enclosures (2)

① - Memphis (44-1987) (for info) (Enc. 1)

44-1987-Sub-M-480

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 29 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

m

Airtel to SAC, Savannah
RE: MURKIN

Under this same FBI number one Richard Erwin was fingerprinted by Georgia Industrial Institution (number A-61871/7616) at Alto, Georgia, on 10-8-65, in connection with charges of larceny of an automobile and received a sentence of two years. It is not known if this entire sentence or portion thereof was served.

F B I

Date: 3-31-69

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

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN

JIM BEASLEY, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, ONE OF THE ATTORNEYS WHO HANDLED THE JAMES EARL RAY CASE, ENTERED JUDGE W. PRESTON BATTLE'S CHAMBERS AT APPROXIMATELY FIVE THIRTYFIVE P. M. THIS DATE AND FOUND JUDGE BATTLE SLUMPED OVER HIS DESK. BEASLEY IMMEDIATELY CALLED AN AMBULANCE WHICH TOOK JUDGE BATTLE TO METHODIST HOSPITAL WHERE HE WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD ON ARRIVAL.

ACCORDING TO THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT THERE IS NO INDICATION OF FOUL PLAY. INDICATIONS ARE THAT JUDGE BATTLE DIED FROM NATURAL CAUSES.

BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED OF ANY ADDITIONAL PERTINENT DETAILS.

END

RGJ/RJT
(2)

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED llhINDEXED llhFILED llh44-1987-Sub-M-481M

Approved: SAC, Telephonically Sent 7:54 M Per LJI
Special Agent in Charge



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Jackson, Mississippi
March 26, 1969

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

The following letter was received at FBI
Headquarters dated March 19, 1969:

"3/19/69

"Dear Director;

"Last spring I was staying at a boarding
house in Columbia. Mrs. Rawls on Church St.

"one Sunday about one week before Dr. King
was killed. I was sitting on the front porch talk-
ing to a retired Dentist. It was after dinner on
a Sunday.

"He told me that They were going to kill
Dr. King this next week. A few days later he
was killed!

"If you think this meant any thing the doctor's
name was Bush! It sounded like he was in on the
knowing about it ot me. I thought I would pass
this information on along to the Bureau. No
one knows about this but me I hope. There were
one or two others on the porch at the time
we were but I don't know if they heard him tell
me this or not. (Weather they were listening to
our conversation or not.) I would like to remain
unknown to them (The Dr. Bush) if you decide it
is worth any thing.

44-1987-Sub-M-482
Your Friend,

"/S/ Harry Pope" *llh*
llh
qll

F B I

Date: 3/26/69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586) (P)

MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Jackson, 3/24/69 and
Bureau letter to HARRY POPE, Route 4, Box 762, Columbia, Miss.,
9/9/68 with copy to Jackson.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eleven copies
of an LHM dated and captioned as above. One copy of
above LHM being designated for Memphis.

Referenced Bureau letter of 9/9/68 addressed to
HARRY POPE, Route 4, Box 762, Columbia, Miss., forwarded
to Jackson copy of a letter which Mr. POPE had written
to the Director, wherein he alleged that certain people
at Columbia, Miss., were conspiring with the Mafia in an
effort to kill him.

On 9/12/68 the contents of Mr. POPE's letter
were furnished to TOM RAINEY, Chief of Police, Columbia,
Miss., who advised that POPE was well known to the Columbia,
Miss., PD and the Marion County, Miss., SO. Chief RAINEY
advised that POPE is mentally ill and makes complaints
to both the SO and PD. POPE was interviewed on 3/26/69
concerning his letter to the Director on 3/19/69 wherein he
alleged that one Dr. BUSH might have information concerning
the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

3 - Bureau (Encs. 11) (RM)
① - Memphis (Enc. 1) (RM) (Info.)
2 - Jackson
JLM/bkh
(6)

m

44-1987-Sub-M-483

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 1 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

QJH

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

JN 157-9586

Jackson indices negative re DR. RUSSELL BUSH

Investigation set out in enclosed LHM was
handled by SA J. L. MARTIN.

PM URGENT 3/28/69 LWG

TO DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON FIELD, PHILADELPHIA
FROM ATLANTA (44-2386)

MURKIN

RE PHILADELPHIA TEL MARCH TWENTYSEVEN LAST.

ATLANTA SOURCES CONTACTED THIS DATE AND ADVISED BEVEL
IS NOT IN ATLANTA AND WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN TO THEM, ALTHOUGH
SUPPOSED TO BE IN PHILADELPHIA WHERE HE RESIDES.

CONTACT BEING MAINTAINED WITH SOURCES AND IF LOCATED IN ATLANTA,
WILL BE INTERVIEWED.

AM COPY TO MEMPHIS.

END

44-1987-Sub-M-484

SEARCHED... INDEXED...
FILED...
APR 1 1969
FBI - MEMPHIS

M

qth

4/1/69

AIRTEL

AM

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

On 4/1/69, Executive Assistant District Attorney ROBERT K. DWYER, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that the death of Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE may have some influence on RAY's efforts to obtain a new trial. Mr. DWYER explained that RAY has written two letters to Judge BATTLE in which he has indicated that his new attorney is one RICHARD RYAN, a Memphis attorney, and he has requested of Judge BATTLE a "hearing" on his recent sentencing. Mr. DWYER explained that when a Judge dies suddenly all motions then pending before him are granted automatically. He said that RAY's request for a "hearing" may very well be construed as constituting a motion filed by RAY, and in this case RAY will be granted a hearing. Mr. DWYER said it is too early to tell whether this will be considered as a request for a hearing for a new trial, or possibly a habeas corpus hearing. He said he expects that RAY's new attorney will file a motion for a new trial, this being entirely proper under Tennessee law.

Memphis indices contain nothing identifiable with RICHARD RYAN. RYAN is a little known lawyer with no particular reputation as either a criminal or civil lawyer. He is not commonly known as a racist and members of the legal profession are at a loss to explain why RAY has retained him.

The Bureau will be kept advised of any motions filed by RYAN on RAY's behalf.

3 BUREAU (AM)
① MEMPHIS
RGJ:BN
(4)

44-1987-Sub-M-425

M

4/1/69

AIRTEL

AM

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

Mr. DON OWENS, a local attorney who has been acting as an adviser to the late Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE, advised on 4/1/69 that in view of Judge BATTLE's sudden death it is unlikely that Senior Fingerprint Examiner GEORGE BONEBRAKE will be required to appear in court at Memphis on 4/11/69, as previously scheduled. Mr. OWENS stated this is not an official notification, but he feels certain that the matter regarding BONEBRAKE will be considered closed.

3 BUREAU (AM)
① MEMPHIS

JCH:BN
(4)

44-1987-Sub-M-486

~~44-1987-Sub-M~~

① M

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-1067)

DATE: 3/26/69

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP), aka
Invaders
RM

On 3/19/69 Detective JERRY C. DAVIS, Intelligence Unit, Memphis Police Department, furnished to writer copy of PD memo dated 3/17/69 captioned "Black Organizing Project," a report from PD undercover agent 501, code name DONALD DUCK, reliable, for activities on 3/14,15,16/69, including information regarding the 3/15/69 appearance of Chicago Negro comedian DICK GREGORY in Memphis. A Xerox copy of same is attached to each copy of this memo.

1-157-1067 - BOP
1-157-1423 - BUF
1-157-1230 - MELVIN SMITH
1-157-1647 - DONALD PIGFORD
1-157-1626 - JOHN CHARLES SMITH
1-157-1806 - GWINDOLYN WHITE
1-157-1613 - MARRELL McCOLLOUGH
1-157-1750 - MARLENE HERRON
1-157-1638 - O. W. PICKETT
1-157-1662 - CORNELIA CRENSHAW
1-157-1629 - MICHAEL JEROME STARKS
1-157-1563 - CACHEATUH UNDRE SMITH
1-157-1587 - ANITA LYNN CUSTARD
1-157-1671 - JAMES EARL GAYLORD
1-44-1987 - MURKIN
1-157-1312 - Black Knights
1-157-1553 - ROY LEE TURKS
1-157-1516 - American Federation of State, County, & Municipal Employees
1-157-1838 - Commemoration MARTIN L. KING Assassination 4/4/69
1-157-1746 - TOM DAVIS
1-100-5014 - DARRY OLSON
1-100-4861 - California Grape Boycott

WHL:wp
(22)

44-1987-Sub-M-487

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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APR 1 1969	
FBI — MEMPHIS	

M

INSP. DON H. SMITH

LT. E. H. ARKIN

BLACK ORGANIZING
PROJECT;

March 17, 1969

The following is a report from Agent 501
for March 14, 15, and 16, 1969.

On Friday March 14, 1969 at 8pm there was
no one at 271 Vance.

At 271 Hernando at Walkers Lounge (Formerly
the Outer Limits) those present were MELVIN SMITH,
DONALD PIGFORD and JOHN C. SMITH. Nothing was going on.

On Saturday March 15, 1969 the Invaders sold
Tri-State Defenders from 271 Vance. GWINDOLYN WHITE
went to Kansas and South Parkway area. MARRELL MC COLLOUGH,
MELVIN SMITH, JOHN C. SMITH, MERLINE HERRON and DONALD
PIGFORD went to the Hollywood and Chelsea area. This
group broke up at about 3:30pm.

DONALD PIGFORD went to the Airport and met
DICK GREGORY. Others present were O. W. PICKETT, CORNELIA
CRENSHAW, MICHAEL STARKS and ALVIN KING. There were about
40 people on hand to greet GREGORY.

DONALD PIGFORD WAS OBSERVED TO LEAVE AIRPORT
AT 5:00PM.

On the night of Saturday March 15, 1969 DICK
GREGORY spoke at the GOLDENLEAF BAPTIST CHURCH at
Hollywood and Chelsea. Some of those present were:

O.W. PICKETT	MERLINE HERRON
CORNELIA CRENSHAW	MICHAEL STARKS
J.O. PATTERSON	MARRELL MC COLLOUGH
ALVIN KING	ANITA CUSTARD
JOHN C. SMITH	JAMES GAYLORD
CACHEATUH SMITH	DONALD PIGFORD

Approximately 150 to 200 people were present.

CORNELIA CRENSHAW introduced DICK GREGORY.
In his speech GREGORY stated why he came to Memphis to
support O.W. PICKETT. His whole speech had comical
overtones to it. During his speech he stated he would
be back to Memphis on March 22, 1969. He denounced the
Ray trial as a "trick trial".

EHA/

The meeting lasted until 11:00pm. Most people left with exception of JOHN C. SMITH, DONALD PIGFORD and some of the BLACK KNIGHTS. They stayed until 12:45am while DICK GREGORY talked to BISHOP JOHNSON of the Memphis World and other News Media men.

ROY TURKS came to the church and stated JULIAN BOND was in Memphis at 4100 Raleigh-Millington Rd. TURKS, PIGFORD went up that way, got lost and came back to Memphis. Pigford then took TURKS home. Pigford then took CLYDE BENNETT to Marks, Miss.

On Sunday March 16, 1969 at 4:15pm at Clayborn Temple there was a closed meeting of City Hospital workers. Leaflets passed out in regards to the Grape Boycott and gave LPN and RN figures pertaining to the proposed pay raise. It stated pay raise comes to about 18 cents per hour instead of 50cents per hour that the Federal Government suggested.

All were advised not to accept the 18 cent raise. LPN's and RN's and other Hospital Workers will march on April 4, 1969. People are to be bussed to Memphis for the march. Cleveland, Ohio is to send about 15 buses of AFL-CIO members. MRS. KING and a prominent Senator will also be here. Nationwide news coverage will be in Memphis. The march is to start at 12noon on Good Friday from Clayborn Temple and go to City Hall. All schools and colleges will be asked to participate.

LPN's and RN's are happy with the proposed raised, but want more. They want all City Hospital workers to get a raise. They will give Mayor Loeb and the City Council until June or July to negotiate. If no progress is made, all workers with Public Works will go on strike, including Park Commission, Zoo, Sanitation and Hospital workers and other local groups.

In the future Teachers are to get together to decide on one Union. This is to be discussed at a later date.

At 11pm at 271 Vance three people from California were there. They were two M/W's and one F/W and DONALD PIGFORD and ROY TURKS and TOM DAVIS. The two M/W's and F/W wanted to talk about the Grape Boycott. They wanted to get the Invaders to tell local merchants to get rid of their grapes.

This group is staying on Edwards Street just south of Chelsea.

*Following is Gregory's Speech at
Golden Leaf.*

The following is from a speech made by Dick Gregory at the Goldenleaf Baptist Church at Hollywood and Chelsea on night of March 15, 1969.

I came to Memphis because I know Brother Pickett and we have a chance for the first time in history to send a black man from Tennessee to the halls of Congress. When I was campaigning for the Presidency, I spent \$100,000.00 out of my pocket. I was not in co-hoots with any crooks or gangsters, the type of people who say we will do this for you to get you elected. But when you get in office you do this for u. Brother Pickett is a statesman and thats what we need, more statesmen. It doesn't matter to me what color he is as long as he is a statesman and is interested in saving the Republic. We don't need people who are bound by the Democratic or Republican Partirs because they must remain loyal to the party and do what the gangsters tell them to do. That white boy Dick Nixon can never be a statesman because he is surrounded by forty million dollars and he must remain faithful to the party that put him in office. In Chicago I was offered money by companies there, but I refused to accept it because I would have had to do what they wanted me to do. A meat compay offered me \$500,000 if I would tell the public that I wasn't a vegetarian. I told them to keep their money and I would keep my freedom and campaign the way a good, clean, moral ethical man should. One Brother in Chicago looked for me all day to give me \$500 for my campaign. I told him I didn't want the money if it was coming from some Company or corrupt group. He told me that no strings were attached and he wanted me to have the money because it was coming from his heart which he believed to be clean and truthful. I accepted the money and tonight I happen to have \$500 in my pocket, good clean, moral, ethical money and I am going to give it to the same type man, Brother Pickett. No strings are attached, so it is yours for any purpose you want to use it for. (Gregory then handed Pickett \$500.) I found out a long time ago you can't beat money. I got mad at a half dollar once and tried to beat it down to a smaller size and couldn't. However you can rub money down. I took a quarter and rubbed it down to the size of a penny. People tell us this nation is not sick. I can't see why it isn't with all the hunger we have in America. I am going to fight the system until everyone has

what is rightfull, his, a full stomach. At house we don't worry about food because when we go to the store we buy whatever amount we feel like carrying back home. My wife called me in New York today and told me I have to surrender in Chicago on March 25 and start serving a 5 months jail sentence. I have been on water for the past 10 days and I am going to stay on water while I am in jail to protest the unjustices and hunger Black people receive in this nation and throughout the world. And to go even further in protesting hunger at my house we eat food three times a week and drink water four days a week. By doing that we live on water 208 days per year and that way we get hungry enough to relate to hungry people. I can't relate to hungry people if I am never hungry. The country is getting reading to spend billions on the ABM system and they don't even know if it is going to be sucessful & or not. But they continue to ignore the hunger they know ixists. Black people don't care about rockets, they want food. That iswhy we have a job to do, put Brother Pickett in office.

When Black people try to get in lilly white colleges they don't only ask you if two plus two is four but they ask you about the Eiffel Tower in their trick tests. Well Black people can't tell them about something they don't have enough money to go and see, but we can tell them about rats. They ask you if Lincoln's nother was Betty Jones or Mary Brown. We don't care who Lincolns mammy was. I would bet that they would not ask Bull Connors who Sitting Bull's mammy was. A cracker down in Alabama asked me to discuss sepratism. I told him before I could talk about sepratism he had to go and get the Indian off the reservation. Beacause it wouldn't be just to discuss sepratism without the presence of the seperated. Black people in America are responsicle just like the white man for Indians being on the reservation. The USA is the only country that lies about everything and pretends to be something it is not. That white boy named Columbus came over here and said he duscovered America which is a big fat lie. How are you going to discover something that is already occupied. That's like me and my wife walking out that door and seeing a new car parked ooutside with two people in it and she says "that sure is a pretty car but we can't afford one like it". So I say OK lets discover it.

MOA TSCE TUNG does not deny he is a Communist, nor does Russia. The South Africans don't deny they are racist. Even Hitler, as crazy as he was told the world that the Nazi were superior to all people and caused the largest war in history because of his beliefs.

Brother Pickett is a statesman and cannot get news coverage for his campaign. If he started talking about how many crackers he was going to kill when he got in office, he would get national news coverage. If Castro had to depend on Batista for news coverage he would still be hiding in the hills of Cuba today. When Brother Pickett gets in office he is going to liberate Niggers up north. Chicago has one Nigger in the Halls of Congress but he is afraid and not free because the criminals (Mafia) put him in office and they tell him what to do. To show you how rotten, degenerate, and low down this system is, the Police shoot little black kids in the ghetto for stealing TV's when there are riots. But those low down dirty Italians, the number one boss criminals of crime since Julius Ceasar, in America extort, steal, murder and rob people of billions of dollars every year and the Police claim they can't catch them. My father was killed in 1942 in Germany when I was 10 years old. I am almost 37, not that means I have been without a father for 27 years. I don't resent the fact that my father was killed in the war. The system is what I am against. That some German who killed my father can come to America tomorrow and move into any neighborhood he wants to and have all the rights a citizen is supposed to have. I have been here all of my life and I have to try to get laws passed so I can live where I want to. It took three white boys three weeks to burn three draft cards and they passed a law against burning draft cards. We have been trying for over a hundred years to get them to pass an anti-lynching law.

As you know they had a trick trial for Ray. If Ray killed King, me and my mother killed him. The CIA and FBI killed King. They killed King and Kennedy to confuse the country. The CIA is going to overthrow the Government anyway.

The crackers don't think we have the right to defend ourselves against the Police. When the British were the Police in America and they started moving

against the people that white boy, Paul Revere got on his horse and went from town to town letting everybody know the Police were coming. What did they do? They got their guns and defended their homes and property, there wasn't any waiting to see what the Cops were going to do. If you ask niggers and crackers who said "Give me liberty or give me death" today they will tell you Rap Brown said it. Everybody knows who the Black Panthers are but nobody knows who the White Panthers are. It is written in the Constitution that we have the right to rebel. we are only doing what the white man said do. But, when we start boycotting they always sent the Police in on us just because we are exercising our rights. But as long as you know you are right don't worry about law and legality.

The white man says we are dirty and stink. Don't worry about that, let him do his own research. How many black armpits do you see on TV commercials? Also check the billions of dollars they spend on deodorant and you will find out who stinks. They say our illegitimacy rate is 20% and theirs is .02%. That's OK. We have had fun in the ghetto. If we owned that white boys abortion credit card ours would be down to zero. The white man's morals aren't any better than yours, his money is just longer. Whitey complains about welfare. The only thing I see wrong with it is there isn't enough of it.

People we have a job to do and that is put this Black Brother in the Halls of Congress. Pass out literature for him, campaign for him as if it were your last chance. Tell the guys selling dope to pass out some literature when they pass out dope. We are not telling them to stop their thing just help us do ours. Tell the prostitutes to pass out some Pickett literature while they are on their backs. Tell everybody you know and don't know to do his job and get Brother Pickett in the Halls of Congress. I'll be back on the 22nd of March and we are going to campaign hard for the entire day.

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF • SHELBY COUNTY • TENNESSEE

WILLIAM N. MORRIS, JR., SHERIFF

April 1, 1969

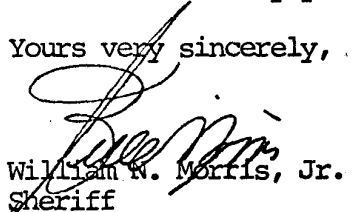
Mr. Robert G. Jensen
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Office Building
167 North Main Street
Memphis, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Jensen:

On behalf of all the law enforcement agencies in this community and the people of Shelby County, we wish to extend to you and your entire staff, as well as others from your department throughout the country, our warmest thanks and appreciation for your support in helping us in the case of James Earl Ray, accused assassin of Martin Luther King.

Mr. Jensen, I know that so many people in your department helped on this case, and it would be impossible to name each of them individually. I hope that in some way you can communicate with those that you know best of our great appreciation. If we can ever serve you in any way, please give us the opportunity, for until that time we remain in your debt and sincerely your friend.

Yours very sincerely,


William N. Morris, Jr.
Sheriff

WMM:lh

44-1987-Sub-M-488

llh

llh

4/3/69

AIRTEL

AM

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

For the information of the Bureau, there is enclosed a most commendatory letter received this date from Sheriff WILLIAM N. MORRIS, JR., Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, regarding captioned matter.

3 BUREAU (Enc. 1) (AM)
1 MEMPHIS

RGJ:BN
(4)

44-1987-Sub-M-489

M/ llh

llh

4/3/69

AIRTEL

AM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
ATTN: IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

On 4/3/69, Mr. DON OWENS, Memphis attorney who has been serving as an adviser to the late Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE, advised SA JOE C. HESTER that local newspapers have indicated that contempt hearings in this case will be held 4-11-69 before Judge ARTHUR FAQUIN, Division II, Criminal Courts.

Mr. OWENS said that Judge FAQUIN will hereafter handle the RAY case, but the newspapers are in error in stating that contempt hearings will be held 4/11/69. He said that Senior Fingerprint Examiner GEORGE BONEBRAKE should not appear at Memphis unless otherwise advised.

For additional information of the Bureau, there is enclosed newspaper clipping reflecting Attorney RICHARD J. RYAN has been retained as counsel by JAMES EARL RAY. Memphis indices disclose no derogatory information re RICHARD JOSEPH RYAN, SR. Memphis files do reflect that on 6-12-68 RICHARD JOSEPH RYAN, SR., Attorney-at-Law, Falls Building, Memphis, requested interview concerning his son RICHARD JOSEPH RYAN, JR. RYAN, SR. at that time advised that he has four children, two daughters and two sons, the oldest of which is RICHARD JOSEPH RYAN, JR. RYAN, JR. had been a parttime student at Memphis State University. RYAN, SR. said that his son did fairly well in college but had gone through what he thought was a mental degenerative process in the past year and has virtually become a hippie and refuses to work. RYAN, JR., according to his father, in April 1968 lived in an apartment which was extremely filthy, having all sorts of wierd literature therein. Mr. RYAN also said that his son had become active in a group which was conceived to help poor Negroes

3 BUREAU (Enc. 2)

1 MEMPHIS

JCH/BGJ:BN

(4)

*enc. made
Serial 10 - Sub-C-369*

M

llh

llh

44-1987-Sub-M-490

ME #44-1987

and that his son had associated with another white male and an unknown Negro girl. Mr. RYAN at the time of furnishing this information indicated he was not at all sympathetic to his son's views and was at a loss to understand how his son, who had been reared as a Catholic, would not now go to church.

FBI MEMPHIS

5:55 PM URGENT 4/3/69 VSC

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861, CHICAGO, MEMPHIS, MOBILE, PHILADELPHIA AND
NEW YORK
FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

MURKIN

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU, MARCH TWENTYEIGHT, 'SIXTYNINE.
ON APR. TWO, 'SIXTYNINE, A T THIRTEEN EIGHTYSEVEN DASH R
ADVISED DURING PRESENT WEEK THERE WAS RUMORED AMONG MEMBERS SOUTHERN
CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE STAFF THAT JAMES BEVEL, DIRECTOR,
NON-VIOLENT EDUCATION, SCLC, HAD RECENTLY COMMITTED HIMSELF TO A
HOSPITAL IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A REST AND SEEK WHATEVER MEDICAL ATTEN-
TION MAY BE NECESSARY. SOURCE UNABLE TO SUBSTANTIATE THIS INFO
OR PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS; HOWEVER, POINTED OUT MEMBERS OF SCLC
STAFF FROM TIME TO TIME IN PAST HAVE EXPRESSED OPINION BEVEL'S ACTIONS
SUGGEST HE IS IN NEED OF MEDICAL TREATMENT.

SOURCE HAS NO INFO BEVEL IS OR HAS RECENTLY BEEN IN ATLANTA.
WILL REMAIN ALERT TO INFO INDICATING WHEREABOUTS.

IN VIEW OF FOREGOING INFO, IT IS SUGGESTED CHICAGO, NEW YORK
AND PHILADELPHIA CONTACT SOURCES FOR INFO BEVEL MAY BE HOSPITALIZED
IN ONE OF THOSE CITIES.

END

SDC

FBI MEMPHIS

44-1987-Sub-M-1

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

Low

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

FROM : R. J. THERIAULT, SPC

SUBJECT: MURKIN;
MEMORIAL CEREMONIES AT
CITY HALL, 4/4/69

DATE: 4/4/69

At 2:00 A. M. this date an individual who refused to disclose his name phoned this office and stated that on Thursday, 4/3/69, while he was in the vicinity of The Federal Office Building, he overheard a conversation among three men in which one stated, "Tomorrow I'll have my .30 - .30 in my office in the Federal Building and it will be loaded."

The individual who called described the three men as follows: all three were well dressed, between twenty and twenty - five years old, white, and clean - cut. The caller could not give a more precise description, he said, because he was afraid the men would see him staring at them, so he did not look directly at them.

The caller, who sounded to be a Negro male, noted the ease with which an individual in the Federal Building could "pick off" Ralph Abernathy as he is speaking in front of City Hall tomorrow. He stated that based on what he overheard that is their intention.

RJT



5010-108-01

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

44-1987-Sub-M-498B

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 4 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Lowe

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI CHICAGO

249PM DEFERRED 4-4-69 BCK

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, MOBILE, PHILADELPHIA,
NEW YORK AND ATLANTA (44-2386)

FROM CHICAGO (44-1114) 1P

MURKIN

RE ATLANTA TEL APRIL THREE LAST.

CONTACT WITH AVAILABLE SOURCES IN CHICAGO AREA FAILED
TO REFLECT JAMES BEVEL PRESENTLY IN CHICAGO. INVESTIGATION
CONTINUES.

END

SDC

FBI MEMPHIS

M

44-1987-Sub-M-491

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 4 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 4/1/69

FROM : SAC, BUTTE (173-2) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
OO: Memphis

On 3/25/69, MORRIS R. McCARVER (protect identity), who has furnished insufficient information to determine his reliability, contacted the Butte Division and indicated he had some information concerning JAMES EARL RAY, which he wanted to furnish. McCARVER was contacted personally in Blackfoot, Idaho, and interviewed. He stated at the outset of the interview that he had been drinking considerably, but that it was only after several drinks that he could build enough courage to contact the FBI. He stated he was furnishing this information for whatever it was worth to the FBI and pointed out that if the information was traced back to him, his life would not be "worth a plugged nickel."

McCARVER advised that in 1951, he spent six months in the Arkansas State Prison for involuntary manslaughter.

In 1951, Mr. CHERRY was Governor of the State of Arkansas and ORVAL FAUBAUS was his Lt. Governor. Later, FAUBAUS became Governor and actually ALBERT TALMAGE and GEORGE WALLACE financed FAUBAUS in his political aspirations. An appointee of FAUBAUS to the State Alcohol Tax Department was ROLO FITCH (phonetic).

McCARVER stated that (FNU) FULMER was a State Representative from Eureka Springs, Arkansas, area. In 1953, GERDON WHITNER (phonetic), a cousin of McCARVER's and a "political hack" in northwest Arkansas, who at that time was working as a guard on the dam project on the White River below Gateway, Missouri, approached McCARVER and offered

2 - Memphis (Reg.)
2 - Little Rock (Reg.)
2 - Kansas City (Reg.)
2 - Butte
BSP/sdj
(8)



5010-108-01

44-1987-Sub-M-492

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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APR 7 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

BT #173-2

McCARVER a considerable amount of money to eliminate ORVAL FAUBAUS. McCARVER turned this down, but at the time was of the understanding that the offer was made as a result of interest from Representative FULMER.

McCARVER stated that in 12/67, he was back in the Eureka Springs, Arkansas, area visiting. In about 2/68, he was on a drinking spree with GERDON WHITNER (phonetic). WHITNER told him that he was aware of McCARVER's background and also asked McCARVER what it would take to get McCARVER to eliminate MARTIN LUTHER KING. McCARVER told WHITNER he would not get involved in this type of a deal. WHITNER stated, "Well KING will die." McCARVER pointed out that WHITNER has a strong dislike for Negroes and talked in terms of doing the community a service by eliminating KING.

McCARVER stated that after this drinking spree he traveled to the State Hospital, Topeka, Kansas, where he admitted himself and was under the care of Dr. SHAKER for three months. He stated that about a week after he entered this hospital KING was killed.

McCARVER advised that in his opinion WHITNER could shed light on this matter, as well as others involved in KING's murder. McCARVER stated he does not feel RAY did this act alone or of his own volition. McCARVER is of the opinion that GEORGE WALLACE and the Independent Party are actually behind the entire affair, but is of the opinion that it would be impossible to ever associate WALLACE with the actual deed.

McCARVER also stated that he had heard something to the effect that there was a Black Beret in existence in the South, and it was his understanding that this was some type of government organization. He stated that also he heard that WALLACE and FAUBAUS were connected with the Black Beret. He pointed out it is his understanding that the Black Beret was organized to get rid of undesirables by permanent elimination.

BT #173-2

McCARVER stated that he would be available to answer additional questions if necessary,

McCARVER furnished the following background information concerning himself:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
Date of birth	
Place of birth	Collinsville, Oklahoma
Height	6'1"
Weight	170#
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Dark
Social Security #	
Occupation	Truck driver for IDAHO POTATO GROWERS, Idaho Falls, Idaho
Residence	490½ D Street, Idaho Falls
Marital status	Married
Wife	MERNA McCARVER

The foregoing investigation was conducted by SA BRYCE S. PLESNER.

No lead is being set out to have GERDON WHITNER (phonetic) interviewed, as the Butte Division is not familiar with previous investigation conducted in this regard, and this type interview is being left to the discretion of the OO.

LEADS

MEMPHIS DIVISION

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Advise Butte if need exists to recontact McCARVER and forward specific matters desired to have discussed with McCARVER.

BT #173-2

LITTLE ROCK DIVISION

AT ARKANSAS STATE PRISON

Check records for McCARVER and furnish information concerning him to Butte and Memphis Divisions.

KANSAS CITY DIVISION

AT TOPEKA, KANSAS

Check records at State Hospital concerning McCARVER and furnish any information reflecting McCARVER's reason for being admitted to that hospital to Butte and Memphis.

BUTTE DIVISION

AT IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

Will await information from Memphis relative to recontact of McCARVER.

4-4-69

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) RUC
RE: MURKIN

Re Memphis airtel to Bureau, 3-27-69.

CAROL PEPPER advised SA HAROLD R. DOBSON, 4-3-69, JERRY RAY had left St. Louis and that his destination was unknown to her. She claimed not to have been aware of the exact address of his former residence in St. Louis, but knew generally it was in the southern part of the city. He had no telephone, but usually contacted her daily, personally or by telephone.

3 - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - St. Louis
HND:wma
(6)

44-1987-Sub-M-493
lll
lll
Hester
JH

SAC (157-1168)

4/7/69

SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

RACIAL SITUATION IN TENNESSEE
RM

On 3/18/69 ME 338-R advised SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE as follows:

DICK GREGORY, Chicago, Ill., Negro comedian, will be back in Memphis the weekend of 3/22-23/69 on behalf of the political candidacy of O. W. PICKETT. He will speak at Siena College and at Christian Brothers College. He has been asked to set up a Black Student Union at Siena.

ROY LEE TURKS and Invaders want an audience with GREGORY.

TURKS and MAURICE LEWIS went to an interracial "rap" session at Paris Landing State Park, Paris, Tenn., over the weekend of 3/15/69 and got a ride back to Memphis on 3/15/69 with a Public Relations man from Continental Bakers in order to see DICK GREGORY at the Golden Leaf Baptist Church, North Hollywood, when he spoke for PICKETT.

TURKS said COBY V. SMITH of Invaders was at the Paris Landing meeting, which costs \$35 each. ERNA LEE LAWS, Negro female schoolteacher and society editor for Tri-State Defender attended. COBY SMITH's father, EMETT SMITH, attended. LOUIS "LOCK" WELCH of Invaders wanted to go.

Informant added that on 3/18/69 MELVIN SMITH of the Invaders commented that some black powerites, the Black Egyptians of East St. Louis, Ill., were in Memphis and had established contact with the Invaders.

- 1 - 157-1168
- 1 - 170-70-Sub, ME 338-R
- 1 - 157-1067, INVADERS
- 1 - 157-1230, MELVIN SMITH
- 1 - 157-1553, ROY LEE TURKS
- 1 - 157-1351, MAURICE LEWIS
- 1 - 100-4394, COBY VERNON SMITH
- 1 - 157-1638, O. W. PICKETT
- 1 - 44-1987, MURKIN

WHL:LF
(9)

44-1987-Sub-M-494

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

ME 157-1168

Informant advised that he saw MELVIN SMITH and ROY LEE TURKS, Invaders, the morning of 3/18/69. SMITH is working as a welder's helper at Pioneer Sheet Metal Co. on Dunn Ave., east of Airways, from 3:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

TURKS said he is scheduled for induction into the U. S. Army but may refuse induction. He is not sure what he will do.

DICK GREGORY purportedly gave O. W. PICKETT \$5000 for his Congressional campaign for the 3/25/69 election to name a successor to deceased U. S. Representative ROBERT A. EVERETT, 8th Congressional District.

After GREGORY's 3/15/69 speech at Golden Leaf Church he went to a reception at the home of Stag Records President JAMES STEWART in Raleigh. Georgia State Legislator JULIAN BOND was present.

GREGORY made some vicious remarks about the FBI and its director, J. EDGAR HOOVER, and said few people know what is going on in this country. He said that the assassinations of JOHN F. KENNEDY, ROBERT F. KENNEDY and MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. were conspiracies engaged in by the FBI and/or the CIA and that no country can long exist without such leadership. He said that JAMES EARL RAY holds the key to the conspiracy regarding the KING assassination.

GREGORY described J. EDGAR HOOVER as a willing stooge of all presidents under whom he has served. He attacked HOOVER's personal views, and attacked him for having never married, saying that he therefore must be a homosexual. All of this was taped by Channel 3, WREO-TV, for an Atlanta, Ga., TV station, which is doing a documentary on Memphis by Negro female Mrs. ED CLAYTON.

ME 338-R made available photographs taken at STEWART's depicting Mrs. ED CLAYTON, DICK GREGORY and JULIAN BOND.

4/7/69

Airtel

To: SACs, Birmingham (44-1740)
Jackson (157-9586)
Memphis (44-1987)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

William Bradford Huie has written a third article for "Look" magazine. The article appears in the issue dated April 15, 1969, but this issue was circulated on April 1, 1969. A review of the article reveals that James Earl Ray allegedly registered at the Travelodge Motel, Five Points, Birmingham, Alabama, on March 29, 1968; at a motel near Florence, Alabama, on April 1, 1968; and at a motel near Corinth, Mississippi, on April 2, 1968. It is to be noted that Ray, using the name Harvey Lowmyer, negotiated the purchase of a rifle at the Aeromarine Supply Company, Birmingham, Alabama, on March 29 and 30, 1968. On April 3, 1968, he was registered at the Rebel Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.

In an effort to establish whether or not Ray was in contact with any individuals immediately prior to the assassination, appropriate investigation should be conducted by the Birmingham and Jackson Offices. It should be understood that there is to be no indication made whatsoever that the following investigation has any connection whatsoever with the case involving James Earl Ray.

Birmingham and Jackson Offices should make inquiries of the motels in or near the cities indicated above to determine the identities of individuals registered during the period March 29 to April 3, 1968. Efforts should be made to identify all individuals listed, as well as

M

*Note well
last PP
on pg 2*

44-1987-Sub-M-495

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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APR 8 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
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