

U. S. Department of Justice

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-31-94 BY SP1 CLK/pj

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

44-38861

SEE NEXT SECTION

"DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE,
NATIONAL ARCHIVES"

See also Nos.

SEE VOL 1
FOR LITIGATION

2

X DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

SEE NEXT
SECTION
Hester
4-4-68

Investigations after Arrest
44-1987 Sub M

Volume Number
Serials

924-988

9

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM : SA DARRELL L. HAMAR

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 12/1/75

On 12/1/75 Mr. DENNIS BATES, U. S. Parole Officer, Nashville, contacted the writer and advised as follows:

ROY RICHARDSON, Belfast, Tennessee, is currently on Federal parole for bank robbery and is under his, BATES', supervision. At approximately 3:15 a.m., 11/28/75 RICHARDSON called Mr. BATES at home stating he needed to talk to him. BATES made arrangements to meet RICHARDSON at the Sheraton Inn South motel, I-65, Nashville, Room 119.

RICHARDSON advised BATES he had information he desired to trade for consideration in being removed from parole status. BATES advised RICHARDSON this was not possible and RICHARDSON then stated he would give the information anyway.

RICHARDSON is described by BATES as a white male approximately 50 years of age and who formerly operated Richardson's Body Shop, Lewisburg, Tennessee, until his health forced him to retire. According to BATES, RICHARDSON has lupus, a terminal blood disease, and is a patient of the Veterans Administration Hospital.

RICHARDSON advised Mr. BATES that several months prior to the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING in Memphis he flew to Memphis in an airplane he had rented. He checked into a motel, name unrecalled but probably could recall additional details at a later date. RICHARDSON stated the motel was either the Downtowner or a motel across the street from the Downtowner. He had made arrangements to be visited by a prostitute and while waiting on

DLH:sad
(2)



5010-108

44-1987-SUBM 924

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 1 1975	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Thomas

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

ME 44-1987

the prostitute he heard voices from an adjoining room. One male voice was heard by RICHARDSON to state something to the effect there was plenty of money and that money was no problem. This same male voice was also heard to say something about a female named JANICE, stating that "JANICE" would get her money in the same manner as RAY would. This same voice was also heard to mention \$50,000 or \$60,000 and also mention the name of KING. The same voice was also heard to state something about there was about one chance in six that someone would be caught.

RICHARDSON stated he then left his motel room, and as he left he observed a white male leaving the adjoining room. RICHARDSON went to the motel bar, as did the man from the adjoining room, and he noticed this man kept looking at him. He recognized this man as being JOHN J. HOOKER.

RICHARDSON later went to prison on bank robbery conviction and while in prison two attempts were made on his life. One of the convicts that had tried to kill him stated he had been paid to kill him.

RICHARDSON stated he was released from prison later and after his release he received a telephone call from a male, who told him to forget about Memphis and the assassination. He recognized this voice as being that of JOHN J. HOOKER.

Since his release from prison he has had numerous problems, one of which included the shooting of the plate glass window from his body shop in Lewisburg, which indicates to RICHARDSON that someone is trying to keep him from talking.

Mr. BATES advised that RICHARDSON indicated that he possibly could furnish additional details at a later time, after he had an opportunity to think about the occurrences that happened in Memphis. Mr. BATES advised that RICHARDSON did not appear to have been drinking or to have been using narcotics at the time of his contact with him.

ME 44-1987

LEAD:

MEMPHIS

AT BELFAST OR LEWISBURG, TENNESSEE.

It is suggested that ROY RICHARDSON, former operator of Richardson's Body Shop, Lewisburg, Tennessee, be interviewed for complete details of information he furnished to U. S. Parole Officer DENNIS BATES.

*done
1/5/76
ep*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Cincinnati, Ohio
December 2, 1975

Re: JAMES EARL RAY

On December 1, 1975, Grace Keller, Chief Deputy Clerk, United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio, advised an employee of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, (FBI), that the following additional entries were recorded on Docket Number 75-1795:

November 21, 1975	Motion of Appellee for delayed filing of brief (Granted)
November 21, 1975	Eight copies of Brief for Appellee, with proof of service
November 24, 1975	Eight copies of Appendix

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.

- 1* -

44-1987 Sub-m 925

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 8 1975	
FBI-MEMPHIS	



12/2/75

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI (157-1893) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re CI airtel and LHM to the Bureau, 11/4/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of an LHM captioned "JAMES EARL RAY". Enclosed for Memphis are two copies of the same LHM.

Information furnished in the enclosed LHM was obtained from records at the U. S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio, by SC DWIGHT H. VOGEL.

Cincinnati will maintain contact with the U. S. Court of Appeals in this matter.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6)
② - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) *mish*
2 - Cincinnati

DHV:rbh
(6)

44-1987 Sub M 926

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 8 1975	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

MB

F B I

Date: 12/9/75

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-3886)
FROM: SAC, BUFFALO (44-374) (C)
MURKIN

Re Buffalo nitel dated 11/28/75 relating to newspaper publicity, etc., at Toronto, Ontario, Canada concerning efforts to reopen investigation of Dr. KING's death in the United States. Re nitel reflected that one HAROLD KIRK of Toronto was to be interviewed by the Metropolitan Toronto Police Department (MTPD), Toronto since he reportedly had information relating to a former cellmate at Mimico Correctional Institute, identified as CLIFFORD H. ANDREWS, aka R. L. WARREN. As noted in referenced nitel ANDREWS, according to Toronto newspaper publicity reportedly could testify as to his participation in the plot to assassinate Dr. KING.

On 12/3/75, Staff Sgt. GERALD A. STEVENSON, Homicide Squad, MTPD, advised he had been responsible for an investigation in Toronto which led to HAROLD KIRK's subsequent incarceration at Mimico and that KIRK, probably because he remembered STEVENSON's name called the Homicide Squad at approximately 3:15 p.m. on 11/28/75 at which time he made reference to the KING newspaper publicity and asked to be interviewed.

Sgt. STEVENSON advised that he interviewed KIRK later on that afternoon at Mimico and that he apparently intended to impress STEVENSON with his importance due to his former association with CLIFFORD H. ANDREWS.

2 - Bureau (AM)
1 - Buffalo
WJC:cdm
(3)

44-1987 Sub M 927
my my
alt

Approved: _____

Sent _____

M _____

Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

* U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1969 O - 346-090 (11)

STEVENSON characterized KIRK as a prolific check passer in the past and a "con man". KIRK claimed that he first met ANDREWS while in the hospital ward at Mimico in July, 1975 at which time he made various statements, exact details unrecalled, relating to the KING assassination. It was not until KIRK read the newspaper publicity re ANDREWS on 11/28/75 that he felt that there might be some substance to ANDREWS claim to have some knowledge of the alleged plot to assassinate Dr. KING.

KIRK recalled that ANDREWS had told him he was in need of money to return to the United States and that he had also asked KIRK regarding the location of an individual in Toronto from whom he might obtain money. KIRK had no knowledge if ANDREWS had been successful in contacting this person in Toronto following ANDREWS release from Mimico.

Summing up the contact with KIRK, Staff Sgt. STEVENSON was of the opinion that he, KIRK, had nothing positive to furnish relating to an alleged assassination plot based on conversations he had with ANDREWS previously.

As previously reported in referenced nitel, ANDREWS reportedly was released from Mimico on 9/30/75. In this regard, Inspector GEORGE SELLAR (NA), Homicide Squad, MTPD, Toronto, advised 12/9/75 as follows:

The 12/5/75 edition of the "Toronto Star," a Toronto daily newspaper, contained an article captioned, "Cited in King Case, Jailed Canadian Says He Knows Nothing," and was datelined Calgary, Alberta. This article made reference to ANDREWS, identifying him as CLIFFORD HOLMES ANDREWS, formerly of the Southampt-on-Port Elgin area of Ontario, as presently being incarcerated for a three month period at the Calgary Correctional Institute, after being convicted of car theft. Reportedly, the institute's warden, identified as TERENCE DOWNIE, was quoted in the article as saying ANDREWS told him that he did not know anything about the assassination of Dr. KING and further that he did not wish to be interviewed by anyone concerning it.

BU 44-374

An additional article regarding this matter appeared in the 12/6/75 edition of the "Toronto Star," wherein the warden of Calgary said that ANDREWS actually was serving only one month in prison there and that it was expected he would be released around 12/10/75. This article, along with other things, pointed out that prison records, not further identified, revealed that ANDREWS was in jail in Sudbury, Ontario, on the day that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING was assassinated in April, 1968.

No further action being taken.

Copies of this communication, as well as referenced Buffalo nitel, being furnished to Memphis (office of origin) by routing slip for inclusion their file.

NR003 BU PLAIN

10:20PM NITEL NOV. 28, 1975 DMB

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM BUFFALO (44-374) (P)

MURKIN

NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA, NOV. 28, 1975
REFERRED TO RECENT ATTEMPT ON PART OF REV. RALPH ABERNATHY AND
OTHERS TO HAVE INVESTIGATION OF DR. KING'S DEATH REOPENED BASED
REPORTEDLY ON NEW EVIDENCE INCLUDING TESTIMONY OF PERSONS KNOW-
LEDGABLE OF AN ALLEGED PLOT. ARTICLES CONCENTRATED ON ONE OF
THESE PERSONS IDENTIFIED AS CLIFFORD H. ANDREWS AKA R. L. WARREN
INASMUCH AS HE REPORTEDLY WAS CONFINED AT MIMICO CORRECTIONAL
INSTITUTE AT TORONTO AND COULD TESTIFY AS TO HIS PARTICIPATION IN
THE PLOT.

PERSON CLAIMING TO BE DON GRANT, REPORTER FROM TORONTO MORN-
ING NEWSPAPER "GLOBE AND MAIL" TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED THEIR OFFICE
NOVEMBER 28, 1975 INDICATING INTEREST IN ANDREWS AND HE WAS TOLD
WE WOULD ACCEPT ANY INFORMATION HE WISHED TO FURNISH.

DURING LATE PM, NOVEMBER 28, 1975, INSPECTOR GEORGE SELLAR (NA),
END PAGE ONE

44-1987 Sub M 928
mup mup

9th

14

BU 44-374

PAGE TWO

HOMICIDE SQUAD, METROPOLITAN TORONTO POLICE DEPARTMENT, (MTPD) TORONTO, MAKING REFERENCE TO TORONTO PUBLICITY, ADVISED HIS SQUAD HAD RECEIVED CALL FROM ONE HAROLD KIRK, KNOWN TO MTPD AS "CON-MAN", WHO REQUESTED INTERVIEW BY MTPD CLAIMING HE WAS FORMER CELLMATE OF ANDREWS. SELLAR WAS TOLD BUFFALO HAD NO INVESTIGATIVE INTEREST IN ANDREWS AT THIS TIME BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION BELIEVED SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPED AS RESULT OF KIRK INTERVIEW.

SELLAR STATED INQUIRY AT MIMICO HAD DETERMINED ANDREWS RELEASED FROM THERE SEPTEMBER 30, 1975 AND PRESENT WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN; FURTHER THAT FBI REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MINISTER OF CORRECTIONS FOR ONTARIO PROVINCE RE THIS MATTER. INQUIRY VIA LEGAT, OTTAWA, NEGATIVE RE THIS.

BUFFALO WILL FOLLOW RESULTS OF KIRK INTERVIEW
ABOVE FOR INFORMATION.

BUREAU ADVISE LEGAT, OTTAWA.

END

MAH FBIHQ ACK FOR ONE

WA CLR

12/16/75

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) (RUC)
MURKIN - 44-1987*

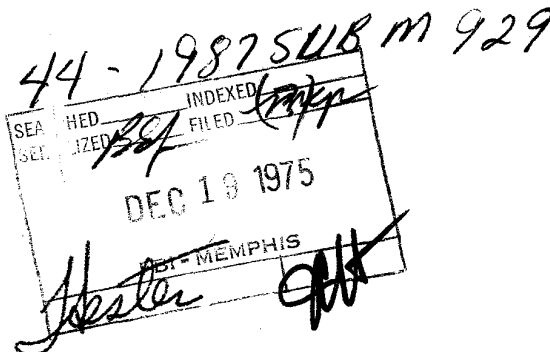
Re Birmingham airtel to the Bureau, 12/12/75.

For information of Memphis, referenced airtel and LHM furnished information from a Birmingham source, with whom insufficient information has been received to establish reliability, that indicated that MARTIN LUTHER KING's assassination was "lined up" by FRANK LABERTO (phonetic), an underworld figure in New Orleans.

FRANK LABERTO's connection in this matter was previously explored. Memphis airtel to New Orleans, 4/20/68, enclosed information received on 4/8/68, from JOHN MC FERREN, a Negro male, residing at Route 4, Box 133A, Somerville, Tennessee. On 4/4/68, MC FERREN picked up supplies for his grocery store at LL&L Produce Company, 814 Scott St., Memphis, Tennessee. While there, MC FERREN overheard a white male on the telephone say, "Kill the SOB on the balcony and get the job done. You will get your \$5,000." That person later said on the phone, "Don't come here. Go to New Orleans and get your money. You know my brother."

LL&L Produce Company was found to be operated by JAMES WILLIAM LATCH and FRANK CAMILLA LIBERTO. FRANK LIBERTO had a brother, TONY, in New Orleans.

2 - Bureau
2 - Birmingham (44-1740)
1 - Detroit (Info)
① - Memphis (Info)
1 - New Orleans
CHA:pd
(7)



NO 157-10673

CHA:pd

Both LATCH and FRANK LIBERTO were interviewed by Memphis on 4/19/68, wherein both emphatically denied any knowledge of the identify of the individual responsible for KING's death. They both failed to identify photograph of JAMES EARL RAY. Both denied receiving any telephone call on 4/4/68.

There is no Pontchartrain Restaurant in New Orleans. New Orleans telephone and city directories, New Orleans PD arrest records, and computerized drivers' licenses for the State of Louisiana operated by the Louisiana State Police, all failed to reflect the name FRANK LIBERTO.

New Orleans is not undertaking any further investigation in this matter, UACB.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Court Eyes TV Bid For King Evidence

From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Tenn., Bureau

JACKSON, Tenn. — A request from CBS, Inc. (Columbia Broadcasting System), for permission to test ballistics evidence in the James Earl Ray case was taken under advisement Monday by the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.

However, some of the appeals court judges expressed reservations over their authority to decide the issue and asked attorneys to submit briefs on whether the CBS request was filed in the proper court in the first place, and, whether the issue is properly under consideration by the court of criminal appeals.

CBS wants to examine and photograph the evidence for a television special on the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., which the network hopes to televise Jan. 6.

Ray pleaded guilty to murder charges stemming from King's death and is serving a 99-year sentence in the state penitentiary. However, he has since repudiated his confession of guilt. He said he is innocent but that he pleaded guilty under pressure from his lawyers.

Ray's appeal for a new trial is pending before the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

His attorneys did not attend Monday's hearing in the state's criminal appeals court, but submitted briefs opposing any scientific examination of the evidence by CBS.

CBS attorney Newton P. Allen of Memphis argued Monday that the network should be able to test the evidence — a window sill, a rifle, a bullet taken from King's body and unspent cartridges and bullets — because the items are public records.

He also said that a scientific analysis is the only "meaningful" examination that could be conducted of such evidence.

Allen also argued that the First Amendment right to freedom of the press extends to news-gathering functions as well as actual publication of information.

The appeals court judges — Presiding Judge Mark A. Walker, Joe Duncan and John A. Mitchell — expressed concern that if the evidence is opened to examination by CBS, there will be a stampede of other persons interested in doing the same thing.

"Every nut in the world would be here with his expert," Judge Duncan said.

William Haynes, an assistant attorney general, said in opposition to CBS' request that the state has a duty to protect the evidence from destruction or harm, especially in a case such as this where the material may be needed for a new trial.

"State courts have a real duty to protect evidence from a zealous press," Haynes said.

He said the network already has been allowed to view all the records in the case, including the ballistics evidence, and that its constitutional right to freedom of the press does not grant the right to scientifically examined evidence in a criminal trial.

Allen said the examination would be conducted by the same expert who tested evidence in the Robert Kennedy assassination case for CBS. He said the examination would involve no chemicals, but would consist of a microscopic examination and photographing.

Interest in the case has been intensified in recent weeks after disclosures that the Federal Bureau of Investigation sent fake letters to King urging that he commit suicide. King's widow, Mrs. Coretta King, has called for a new investigation of her husband's death because of the recent disclosures.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 15

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: Dec. 9, 1975

Edition:

Author:

Editor: MICHAEL GREHL

Title: MURKIN

44-1987SUBM930

Character:

or

44-1987-Sub

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

Orig fwd to
BUREAU 12-17-75AM

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

(AND RELATED INFORMATION)



IDENTIFICATION SERVICES
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
OTTAWA, CANADA

NAME(S) CLIFFORD HOLMES ANDREWS

SUMMARY OF POLICE

(NOT INTENDED FOR SENTENCE)

FPS No. 75538A

FPS No. 75538A

DATE AND PLACE OF SENTENCE	CHARGE	DISPOSITION	DATE, PLACE CHARGE AND DISPOSITION
1977 - AUG. 19 FINGERPRINTED BY PF PORT ELGIN, ONT.	<u>CURRENT OUTSTANDING CHARGE(S)</u> FALSE PRETENCES SEC.321 CC	No DISPOSITION	<div> <div>44-1987 SUB M 931</div> <div> <div>SEARCHED INDEXED</div> <div>SERIALIZED FILED</div> </div> <div>JAN 2 1976</div> <div>FBI MEMPHIS</div> </div>

WHEN USED IN COURT FOR SENTENCING PURPOSES, DETACH HERE

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C-480* (4/74)

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

(AND RELATED INFORMATION)



IDENTIFICATION SERVICES
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
OTTAWA, CANADA

SUMMARY OF POLICE

(NOT INTENDED FOR SENTENCE)

NAME(S) CLIFFORD HOLMES ANDREWS

FPS No. 75538A

FPS No. 75538A

DATE AND PLACE OF SENTENCE	CHARGE	DISPOSITION	DATE, PLACE CHARGE AND DISPOSITION
1965 - OCT. 1 TORONTO, ONT.	(1) FRAUD (2 CHGS.) (2) FRAUD (2 CHGS.)	(1) 2 YRS. ON EACH CHG. CONC. (2) 2 YRS. ON EACH CHG. CONC. BUT CONSEC. TO #1	1963 AUG 29 BRACEBRIDGE ONT OBTAINING FOOD & LODGING BY FRAUD- WITHDRAWN
1967 - MAR. 10		PAROLED	1965 OCT 1 TORONTO ONT FRAUD (3 CHGS.), ATT. FRAUD - AL DISMISSED
1967 - SEPT. 26 SUDBURY, ONT.	COMMON ASSAULT, SEC. 231 (1) CC (3 CHGS.)	FINED \$50. I/D 10 DAYS ON EACH CHG. CONSEC.	
1968 - MAR. 11 SUDBURY, ONT.	ASSAULT C.B.H., SEC. 231 (2) CC	30 DAYS	1970 NOV 6 TORONTO ONT FORGERY (2 CHGS.), POSS OF REVENUE PAPER, THEFT OVER \$50., POSS OF STOLEN PROPERTY OVER \$50. ALL DISMISSED
1968 - MAR. 11	PAROLE VIOLATOR	RECOMMITTED	
1970 - NOV. 6 TORONTO, ONT.	UTTERING (2 CHGS.)	9 MOS. ON EACH CHG. CONC.	1970 DEC 2 HAMILTON ONT ABSCOND BAIL, THEFT OVER \$50. - WITHDRAWN
1970 - DEC. 2 MILTON, ONT.	(1) FRAUD (4 CHGS.) (2) POSS. OF STOLEN PROPERTY UNDER \$50.	(1) 16 MOS. ON EACH CHG. CONC. (2) 3 MOS. CONC.	
1971 - MAY 28		PAROLED	
1974 - SEPT. 4 MILTON, ONT.	EXTORTION SEC.305(1) CC	1 YR.	
1974 - DEC. 16 OWEN SOUND, ONT.	(1) FRAUD BY ACCOMMODATION SEC. 322(1) CC (2) FALSE PRETENCES SEC.320(1) CC (5 CHGS.)	(1) 6 MOS. CONSEC. TO SENT. SERVING (2) 6 MOS. ON EACH CHG. CONC. & CONC. TO #1	

WHEN USED IN COURT FOR SENTENCING PURPOSES, DETACH HERE

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SUPPORTED BY FINGERPRINTS. DISTRIBUTION IS RESTRICTED TO AUTHORIZED AGENCIES.

C-480* (4/74)

12-12-75

Airtel

VIA COURIER

To: Director, FBI (44-38861)
From: Legat, Ottawa (44-4)(RUC)
Subject: MURKIN 44-1987

ReBUcanb dated 11-29-75.

Enclosed for the Bureau, Buffalo, and Memphis are copies of RCMP record for Clifford Holmes Andrews. Also enclosed for Memphis is one photograph of Andrews.

5 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
1 cc - Memphis (Enc. 2) *msb*
1 cc - Buffalo (Enc. 2)
1 cc - Foreign Liaison Unit (Enc. 1)

44-1982-SUB M 932

SEARCHED <i>20</i>	INDEXED <i>20</i>
SERIALIZED <i>21</i>	FILED <i>21</i>
JAN 2 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Signature] *[Initials]*

Mr. Church's Cover-Up

By William Safire

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19.—On Oct. 10, 1963, the then-Attorney General of the United States put his personal signature on a document that launched and legitimized one of the most horrendous abuses of Federal police power in this century.

In Senator Frank Church's subcommittee hearing room this week, the authorized wiretapping and subsequent unauthorized bugging and attempted blackmailing of Martin Luther King Jr. is being gingerly examined, with the "investigation" conducted in such a way as not to unduly embarrass officials of the Kennedy or Johnson Administrations.

With great care, the committee has focused on the F.B.I. Yesterday, when the committee counsel first set forth the result of shuffling through press clips, it seemed as if no Justice Department had existed in 1962; today, an F.B.I. witness pointed out that it was Robert Kennedy who authorized the wiretap of Dr. King, and that "the President of the United States and the Attorney General specifically discussed their concern of Communist influence with Dr. King."

But the Church committee showed no zest for getting further to the Kennedy root of this precedent to Watergate eavesdropping. If Senator Church were willing to let the chips fall where they may, he would call some knowledgeable witnesses into the glare of the camera lights and ask them some questions that have gone unasked for thirteen years.

For example, he could call Nicholas Katzenbach, Attorney General Kennedy's deputy and successor, and ask what he knows of the Kennedy decision to wiretap Dr. King. Who at Justice concurred in the recommendation? How does the F.B.I. know the President was consulted or informed?

After Mr. Katzenbach assumed office, and the wiretapping continued, he was told by angry newsmen that the F.B.I. was leaking scurrilous information about Dr. King. Why did he wait for four months, and for a thousand telephonic interceptions, to discontinue the officially approved tap?

Of course, this sort of testimony would erode Senator Church's political base. That is why we do not see former Assistant F.B.I. director Cartha (Deke) DeLoach, Lyndon Johnson's personal contact with the F.B.I. in the witness chair. What did President Johnson know about the character-assassination plot and when did he know it? What conversations took place between Mr. DeLoach and President Johnson on the tapping of Dr. King, or about the use of the F.B.I. in any other intrusions into the lives of political figures?

The committee is not asking embarrassing questions even when answers are readily available. A couple of weeks ago, at an open hearing, an F.B.I. man inadvertently started to blurt out an episode about newsmen who were wiretapping in 1962 with the apparent knowledge of Attorney General Kennedy. The too-willing witness was promptly shooshed into silence, and told that such information would be developed only in executive session. Nobody raised an eyebrow.

That pattern of containment by the Church committee is vividly shown by the handling of the buggings at the 1964 Republican and Democratic con-

ESSAY

ventions which were ordered by Lyndon Johnson. Such invasions of political headquarters were worse than the crime committed at Watergate, since they involved the use of the F.B.I., but the Church investigators seem to be determined not to probe too deeply.

If F.B.I. documents say that reports were made to specific Johnson aides, why are those men not given the same opportunity to publicly tell their story so avidly given the next President's men? If Lyndon Johnson committed this impeachable high crime of using the F.B.I. to spy on political opponents, who can be brought forward to tell us all about it?

But that would cause embarrassment to Democrats, and Senator Church wants to embarrass professional employees of investigatory agencies only. A new sense of Congressional decorum exists, far from the sense of outrage expressed in the Senate Watergate committee's hearing room. When it is revealed that the management of NBC News gave press credentials to L.B.J.'s spies at the 1964 convention, everybody blushes demurely—and nobody demands to know which network executive made what decision under what pressure.

I have been haranguing patient readers for years about the double standard applied to Democratic and Republican political crimes, and had hoped the day would come when the hardball precedents set by the Kennedy and Johnson men would be laid before the public in damning detail.

Obviously, Democrat Frank Church is not the man to do it. His jowl-shaking indignation is all too selective; the trail of high-level responsibility for the crimes committed against Dr. King and others is evidently going to be allowed to cool.

Pity. You'd think that after all the nation has been through in the past few years, our political leaders would have learned that the one thing that brings you down is the act of covering up.

CONFIDENTIAL
193-293

~~44-19805-11925~~

~~AB-AB~~

JCH

44-19875UBM933

THE NEW YORK TIMES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20th, 1975
PAGE C-41

729 sent, pls return to JPM 7
 Date: 1/5/76

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

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) *1097 LSP*
 FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)
 ATTENTION: GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION,
 CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION, ROOM 5136, JEH.

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TELECALL TO THE BUREAU, JANUARY 5, 1976.

ON JANUARY 4, 1976, LEON OWEN POWELL, WHITE MALE, CONTACTED ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI ADVISING HE HAD INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SUBJECT MATTER.

DURING PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH POWELL, HE ADVISED THAT DURING LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER, 1967, DATE UNKNOWN, DURING THE LATER AFTERNOON HOURS, HE AND HIS BROTHER, CLAUDE POWELL, JR., AKA "SHOTGUN POWELL", A WHITE MALE, WERE HAVING A DRINK IN PATE'S BAR AT MORELAND AND CONFEDERATE AVENUES, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, WHEN THEY WERE APPROACHED BY MUTUAL FRIEND RAY GODFREY, A WHITE MALE, APPROXIMATELY FORTY YEARS OF AGE, SIX FEET ONE INCH, TWO HUNDRED TWENTY POUNDS, COUNTRY AND WESTERN SINGER, EMPLOYEE OF THE ATLANTA SANITATION DEPARTMENT, WHO ASKED IF THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MAKING \$50,000. DURING THE POWELL BROTHERS CON-
 44-1987 SUBM 934
 44-2386-234
 1097 LSP
 RAB

END PAGE ONE.

1 - Atlanta
 AND:far

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PAGE TWO (44-2386)

THEM IN CONTACT WITH AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WOULD PAY THEM TO MURDER MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. POWELL BROTHERS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE CONTRACT TO MURDER KING AND THE CONVERSATION WAS TERMINATED WITH GODREY.

APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK AFTER THE MEETING WITH GODREY, THE POWELL BROTHERS WERE AGAIN DRINKING IN PETE'S BAR, EXACT DATE UNKNOWN, AT APPROXIMATELY FOUR OR FIVE PM, WHEN THEY WERE APPROACHED BY AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED RALPH (LNU), WHITE MALE, HEAVY-BUILT, SIX FOOT ONE INCH TO TWO INCH, NO ACCENT, WELL-GROOMED, LATE FORTIES, WELL-SPOKEN, DESCRIBED AS "LAWYER-TYPE", WHO WAS IN POSSESSION OF A BRIEFCASE. RALPH (LNU) APPROACHED THE POWELL BROTHERS, PUT HIS BRIEFCASE ON THE TABLE AND SAID, "I GUESS YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE". THE POWELL BROTHERS NODDED IN ASSENT, AT WHICH TIME RALPH (LNU) OPENED HIS BRIEFCASE, DISPLAYING WHAT HE SAID WAS TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND THEN SAID, "IF YOU DECIDE TO TAKE THE JOB, THERE'S FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS MORE WHEN IT'S COMPLETED". "SHOTGUN" POWELL REPLIED TO RALPH THAT HE AND HIS BROTHER NEEDED TIME TO THINK IT OVER, AT WHICH TIME RALPH (LNU) STATED, "IF YOUR MIND IS NOT MADE UP NOW, I CAN'T DO BUSINESS WITH YOU". NOTHING ELSE WAS SAID AND RALPH

END PAGE TWO.

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Special Agent in Charge

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PAGE THREE (44-2386)

CLOSED HIS BRIEFCASE AND LEFT. POWELL ADVISED THAT RALPH NEVER ACTUALLY SAID THAT THE MONEY BEING OFFERED TO THEM WAS TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING.

NEITHER HE NOR HIS BROTHERS OBSERVED HOW RALPH (LNU) CAME OR LEFT THE BAR. THEY HAVE NOT SEEN RALPH (LNU) SINCE THAT DATE.

HE HAS NOT BEEN IN CONTACT WITH RAY GODFREY IN APPROXIMATELY SEVEN YEARS AND DOES NOT KNOW GODFREY'S LOCATION. THE ONLY OTHER INDIVIDUALS AWARE OF HE AND HIS BROTHER'S MEETING WITH RALPH (LNU) ARE HIS FORMER WIFE, ANNIE LOIS COMPOS, WHITE FEMALE OF ATLANTA AND PETE DAVIS, WHITE MALE, OWNER OF THE BAR WHERE HE AND HIS BROTHER TALKED WITH RALPH (LNU).

HIS WIFE HAS NO FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER, SHE IS AWARE OF THE FACTS AS HE DESCRIBED THEM TO HER.

PETE DAVIS ACTUALLY OBSERVED RALPH (LNU) ENTER AND EXIT HIS BAR, BUT NEVER ENTERED THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN RALPH (LNU) AND THEMSELVES.

NEITHER HE NOR HIS BROTHER WERE INVOLVED IN THE KILLING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BECAUSE THE WHOLE SITUATION, AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, "SCARED US". HE IS WILLING TO TAKE A POLYGRAPH IN THIS

END PAGE THREE.

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PAGE FOUR (44-2386)

MATTER.

HE HAS WAITED NINE YEARS TO CONTACT THE FBI IN THIS MATTER BECAUSE HE RECENTLY OBSERVED A DOCUMENTARY ON TELEVISION WHICH DISTURBED HIS CONSCIENCE AND HE FELT THAT HE HAD TO FURNISH THIS INFORMATION TO THE FBI.

POWELL STATED THAT THE REASON HE BELIEVES HE AND HIS BROTHER WERE CONTACTED BY GODFREY IS BECAUSE HIS BROTHER, "SHOTGUN" POWELL SERVED FIVE YEARS FOR ARMED ROBBERY AND, AT THAT TIME, 1967, HIS BROTHER HAD A REPUTATION FOR BEING AN EXPERT WITH A SHOTGUN. POWELL STATED HIS BROTHER, AT THAT TIME, CONSTANTLY CARRIED A SHOTGUN BECAUSE, "HE HAS AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX".

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU. CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE IF ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS DESIRED AT THIS TIME.

END.

NR006 CE PLAIN

10:10PM NITEL JANUARY 8, 1976 JDC

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

EL PASO

MEMPHIS

FROM: CHARLOTTE (44-1365)

MURKIN. ✓ 44-1987

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO THE DIRECTOR, DATED JANUARY 7, 1976.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., AND MECKLENBURG COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT RECORDS REFLECT CLAUDE DOWELL, JR., BELMONT, N. C., WAS SENTENCED MAY 16, 1949, FOR ARMED ROBBERY TO FIVE TO TEN YEARS IN THE N. C. STATE PENITENTIARY, RALEIGH, N. C. ON MAY 22, 1953, POWELL ARRESTED LOCALLY FOR FAILURE TO STOP AT INTERSECTION.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY CLERK OF COURT RECORDS REFLECT WENDELL SUTTON POWELL BORN [REDACTED], ARRESTED AND SENTENCED AT SAME TIME TO SAME TERM AS CLAUDE POWELL ON ARMED ROBBERY CHARGE. WENDELL SUTTON POWELL, POSSIBLY A BROTHER OF CLAUDE, HAS SEVERAL OTHER ARRESTS FOR OPERATING A VEHICLE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE AND PUBLIC DRUNK, LAST BEING ARRESTED MARCH 17, 1974, FOR PUBLIC DRUNK. WENDELL SUTTON POWELL RESIDED 218 EWING DRIVE, BELMONT, N. C., AT THAT TIME.

44-1987 Sub M935

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PAGE TWO CE 44-1365

NO RECORD LOCATED RE BROTHER LEON OWEN POWELL.

ABOVE BEING SET FORTH FOR EL PASO FOR INFORMATION AS
EL PASO HAS LEAD TO INTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

CHARLOTTE, AT BELMONT, N. C., WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW
WENDELL POWELL TO DETERMINE WENDELL POWELL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH
CLAUDE AND LEON POWELL AND IF HE IS ACQUAINTED WITH ALLEGED
MURDER PLOT.

END.

JMB FBI ME CLR

DE ME GAGA

NR001 EP PLAINTEXT

9:42AM URGENT JANUARY 9, 1975 OXM

TO: DIRECTOR (44-388681)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

MEMPHIS

FROM: EL PASO (44-920) (P) ///5P///

MURKIN. *44-1987 Sub M*

RE ATLANTA TELS TO EL PASO DATED JANUARY 8, 1976.

ALTHOUGH MOTEL PERSONNEL AND RECORDS FAILED TO LOCATE
REGISTRATION FOR CLAUDE POWELL, JR., INVESTIGATION MIDLAND, TEXAS,
JANUARY 8, 1976, DETERMINED SEVERAL CONSTRUCTION WORKERS FROM
GEORGIA RESIDING VARIOUS ROOMS SCOTTISH INN MOTEL. INQUIRY WITH
FORMEN AND MEMBERS OF CONSTRUCTION CREW UPON THEIR RETURN TO
MOTEL LATE EVENING JANUARY 8, 1976, DETERMINED POWELL RESIDING
ROOM 211 SINCE JANUARY 4, 1976 WITH THREE OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS.

no murkin
CLAUDE POWELL, JR. INTERVIEWED EVENING JANUARY 8, 1976.

AT OUTSET OF INTERVIEW POWELL DENIED HAVING CONTACT WITH ANY
MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY OR IN PARTICULAR HIS BROTHER LEON POWELL SINCE
DEPARTING FROM ATLANTA, GEORGIA, DECEMBER 31, 1975&. WHEN

END PAGE ONE

44-1987 Sub M 936

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EP 44-920 PAGE TWO

QUESTIONED IF HE HAD EVER BEEN OFFER A LARGE SUM OF MONEY TO COMMIT A MURDER HE IMMEDIATELY VOLUNTEERED THAT HE HAD IN FACT BEEN OFFERED \$25,000 SHORTLY BEFORE THE ACTUAL ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. TO MURDER MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.. HE RELATED THE FOLLOWING:

THREE OR FOUR WEEKS ^{POWELL} PRIOR TO THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING HE AND HIS BROTHER LEON WERE SEATED IN A BOOTH IN PETE'S BAR ON MORELAND AVENUE, IN ATLANTA. HE RECALLED THAT A FRIEND OF HIS BROTHER, RAY GODFREY, A MUSICIAN AND AN ATLANTA CITY EMPLOYEE JOINED THEM IN THEIR BOOTH AND ENGAGED IN CONVERSATION WITH LEON. HE PAID NO PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT. GODFREY LEFT THE BOOTH AND, IN APPROXIMATELY TEN TO FIFTEEN MINUTES, AN INDIVIDUAL PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN TO HIM CAME TO THEIR BOOTH AND SEATED HIMSELF OPPOSITE FROM HE AND LEON. HE RECALLED THIS INDIVIDUAL AS BEING A WHITE MALE, APPROXIMATELY 5'8" IN HEIGHT, MEDIUM BUILD, APPROXIMATELY 150 POUNDS, EARLY 30'S, WELL DRESSED, CALM AND COLD IN MANNER AND VERY CLEAN CUT. AS THE PERSON SET DOWN HE PLACED AN EXPENSIVE LOOKING BLACK BRIEFCASE ON THE TABLE. THIS INDIVIDUAL APPEARED TO BE OUT OF PLACE IN SUCH AN ESTABLISHMENT

END PAGE TWO

EP 44-920

PAGE THREE

IN VIEW OF HIS DRESS AND HE IMPRESSED POWELL AS BEING A WELL EDUCATED PERSON WHO APPEAR TO BE A PROFESSIONAL TYPE, SUCH AS A LAWYER. HE MAY HAVE INTRODUCED HIMSELF BUT HE DOES NOT REMEMBER A NAME.

THE UNKNOWN PERSON ASKED HE AND LEON IF THEY WANTED TO PULL A JOB. HE DOES NOT REMEMBER THE EXACT CONVERSATION BUT HE QUESTIONED THE UNKNOWN PERSON CONCERNING THE NATURE OF THE JOB AND HOW MUCH MONEY IT PAID. THE UNKNOWN PERSON TOLD THEM THAT HE WANTED THEM TO DO AWAY WITH SOMEONE AND WHEN QUESTIONED FURTHER SAID IT WAS SOMEONE IMPORTANT. THE UNKNOWN PERSON THEN TOLD THEM HE WANTED THEM TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING AND WOULD PAY \$25,000 NOW AND \$25,000 WHEN THE JOB WAS DONE. THE UNKNOWN PERSON THEN OPENED HIS BRIEFCASE WHICH WAS FULL OF WRAPPED CURRENCY, SOME OF WHICH WERE IN \$100 DENOMINATION. HE STATED THAT HE WAS SHOCKED AND INITIALLY ASSUMED THAT IT WAS SOME SORT OF JOKE OR POSSIBLY A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TRYING TO

END PAGE THREE

EP 44-920 PAGE FOUR

TRICK HIM. AFTER THE UNKNOWN PERSON MADE THE OFFER HE IGNORED ANY FURTHER CONVERSATION WHERE UPON THE UNKNOWN PERSON CLOSED HIS BRIEFCASE AND DEPARTED.

HE HAS NEVER HAD ANY FURTHER CONTACT NOR DID HE EVER ASCERTAIN THE IDENTITY OF THE UNKNOWN PERSON OR MEANS OR REASON FOR THE OFFERED PAYMENT TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING. HE RELATED THAT HE HAD GAINED A REPUTATION AS BEING A HOODLUM BECAUSE OF HIS PAST PRISON RECORD, PARTICIPATION IN SEVERAL FIGHTS, AND HIS HABIT OF CARRYING A SHOTGUN IN HIS VEHICLE. HE SAID HE FREQUENTLY LOANED HIS SHOTGUN TO THE BARTENDER AT PETE'S WHEN TROUBLE OCCURRED AT THE BAR. HE DENIED EVER RECEIVING SUCH AN OFFER PRIOR TO THIS INCIDENT AND FURTHER DENIED ANY AFFILIATION WITH A WHITE HATE GROUP. HE ADMITTED THAT HE HAD MADE STATEMENTS, WHILE DRUNK, TO THE EFFECT THAT HE HAD NO AVERSION TO KILLING BLACKS ALTHOUGH HE HAD NEVER SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED DOING SO.

HE MENTIONED THAT HE WAS SHOCKED AND DISMAYED TO LEARN APPROXIMATELY THREE TO FOUR WEEKS LATER THAT MARTIN LUTHER KING HAD BEEN MURDERED. HE SAID HE DID NOT GO TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND TELL THEM OF HIS CONTACT WITH THE UNKNOWN PERSON BECAUSE HE FELT HE MIGHT BECOME A SUSPECT IN THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

END PAGE FOUR

EP 44-920 PAGE FIVE

POWELL STATED HIS CONTACT WITH THE UNKNOWN PERSON WAS APPROXIMATELY FIVE MINUTES IN DURATION AND THAT HE WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE HIM IF HE WAS BOUGHT INTO HIS MOTEL ROOM AT THAT MOMENT. A FACIAL IDENTIFICATION CATALOG WAS PRESENTED TO POWELL AND THOROUGHLY EXPLAINED. POWELL OBSERVED ALL ITEMS IN THE CATALOG AND STATED HE COULD NOT RECALL THE UNKNOWN PERSON'S FACIAL FEATURES AND WOULD BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE AN ARTIST CONCEPTION.

POWELL IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: WHITE MALE, 6'2", 170 LBS., DOB [REDACTED], POB STEPHENS COUNTY, GEORGIA; MOTHER, HEPSIE POWELL, ROUTE 3, TOCCA, GEORGIA; FATHER DECEASED; SISTER, FLOIS BRYSON, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA; BROTHERS, LEON POWELL, ATLANTA, GEORGIA; HUBERT POWELL, ROUTE 3, TOCCA, GEORGIA; WENDALL POWELL, BELMONT, NORTH CAROLINA, ADDRESS UNKNOWN; EDWARD POWELL, SHANDON, GEORGIA; WIFE, JACKIE POWELL, 4163 CANBY LANE, DECATER, GEORGIA, NO TELEPHONE. EDUCATION FINISHED FOURTH GRADE. EMPLOYMENT - SELFEMPLOYED. OCCUPATION - DRY WALL CARPENTER.

EL PASO AT MIDLAND, TEXAS: WILL SUBMIT FD-302.

END

MCP FBI MEMPHIS CLR

Q

NR012 CE PLAIN

9:15PM NITEL JANUARY 9, 1976 JDC

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

EL PASO

MEMPHIS

FROM: CHARLOTTE (44-1365) (P)

MURKIN.

44-1987

RE CHARLOTTE TELETYPE DATED JANUARY 8, 1976.

WENDELL SUTTON POWELL, FOREMAN, PHARR YARNS, INTERVIEWED AT HIS HOME, 218 EWING DRIVE, BELMONT, N. C., ADVISED HIS CORRESPONDENCE WITH HIS BROTHER CLAUDE POWELL, JR., IS VERY POOR WITH ONLY AN OCCASIONAL TELEPHONE CALL. HE LAST SAW CLAUDE THREE YEARS AGO WHEN THEIR MOTHER, HEPSIE POWELL, WAS VERY ILL IN TOCCOA, GEORGIA. WENDELL RELATED HE HAD NOT HEARD OF ANYONE CONTACTING HIS BROTHERS CLAUDE AND LEON AND OFFERING THEM MONEY TO ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, AND ADVISED IF CLAUDE HAD SEEN \$25,000 IN ONE LUMP SUM, CLAUDE WOULD HAVE TOLD OTHERS ABOUT IT. HE SAID CLAUDE USED TO DRINK A LOT AND TALK GLIBLY WHEN IN A DRUNKEN CONDITION UNTIL A DOCTOR TOLD HIM TO RESTRICT HIS INTAKE OF ALCOHOL FOLLOWING AN ACCIDENT.

POWELL SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE CLAUDE AND LEON HAD THE

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ck all names through indices advise if positive

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44-1987 Sub M 931

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PAGE TWO CE 44-1365

CAPACITY TO ASSASSINATE KING. CLAUDE GOT NICKNAME "SHOTGUN" SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHEN A SHOTGUN WAS TAKEN FROM HIM BY A POLICEMAN AFTER CLAUDE WAS STOPPED FOR DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED. WENDELL SAID NEITHER HE NOR MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY LIKED KING. WENDELL SAID KING STIRRED UP TROUBLE WHEREVER HE WENT AND HE AND MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY DID NOT BELIEVE IN TROUBLE. WENDELL BELIEVED KING BECAME A MARTYR TO HIS PEOPLE BY BEING ASSASSINATED WHICH MIGHT NOT HAVE OCCURRED HAD HE LIVED. WENDELL STATED IN ADDITION TO BEING INCARCERATED BY THE N. C. PRISON AUTHORITIES, HE HAD SERVED TIME AS A JUVENILE AT BOYS TOWN OF GEORGIA LOCATED BETWEEN ATHENS AND MACON, GA. WENDELL SAID NEITHER HE NOR MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT JAMES EARL RAY OTHER THAN WHAT THEY HAVE READ IN NEWSPAPERS, TO HIS KNOWLEDGE. NO MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY ARE KNOWN TO BE PRESENT OR FORMER MEMBERS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OR OTHER EXTREMIST ORGANIZATIONS.

WENDELL POWELL SAID HE HAS THREE BROTHERS, CLAUDE JR., LEON, AND EDWARD, WHO RESIDED IN ATLANTA, GA., HE BELIEVED, PLACE NOT KNOWN, AND ONE SISTER, FLOYCE BRYSON (WIFE OF JOHN

PAGE THREE *no murkin* CE 44-1365

BRYSON), FRANKLIN, N. C., AND A MOTHER HEPSIE AND A BROTHER HUBERT, WHO LIVE SIDE BY SIDE IN TACCOA, GA.

ATLANTA WILL, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW EDWARD POWELL, ATLANTA, AND HEPSIE AND HUBERT POWELL, TOCCOA, GA.

CHARLOTTE WILL CONTACT FLOYCE BRYSON, SISTER, FRANKLIN, N. C.

TELETYPE BEING FURNISHED EL PASO FOR INFORMATION SINCE EL PASO CONDUCTING ACTIVE INVESTIGATION IN THIS MATTER.
END.

JMB FBI ME CLR

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Date: JANUARY 7, 1976

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(Precedence)

TO: BUREAU (44-38861)
EL PASO
CHARLOTTE
MEMPHIS

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO ATLANTA DATED JANUARY 6, 1976.

AND CHARLOTTE
FOR INFORMATION OF EL PASO, ON JANUARY 4, 1976, LEON OWEN
POWELL, WHITE MALE, ADVISED ATLANTA OFFICE THAT DURING LATE
OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER, 1967, HE AND HIS BROTHER CLAUDE
POWELL, JR., AKA, "SHOTGUN" POWELL, WHITE MALE, WERE IN PETE'S
BAR, ON MORELAND AVENUE, IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, WHEN APPROACHED
BY MUTUAL FRIEND, NAMED RAY GODFREY, WHITE MALE, APPROXIMATELY
FORTY YEARS OF AGE, WHO ASKED IF THEY, THE POWELL BROTHERS,
WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MAKING \$50,000.00. THE GODFREY WOULD
GET
~~GET~~ THEM IN CONTACT WITH ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL WHO WOULD PAY THEM
TO MURDER MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK LATER,
A WHITE MALE, CAME INTO THE BAR AND ASKED FOR THE POWELL BROTHERS.

END PAGE ONE.

3-ATLANTA
1-MEMPHIS (AIRMAIL)

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Approved: _____

[Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

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Per *[Signature]*

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Date:

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AT 44-2386. PAGE TWO.

THIS WHITE MALE PUT HIS BRIEFCASE ON THE TABLE AND SAID, "I GUESS YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE". THE WHITE MALE INTRODUCED HIMSELF ^{only} AS RALPH. HE THEN OPENED THE BRIEFCASE AND DISPLAYED WHAT HE SAID WAS \$25,000.00, AND SAID, "IF YOU DECIDE TO TAKE THE JOB, THERE IS \$50,000.00 MORE WHEN IT'S COMPLETED." CLAUDE POWELL TOLD RALPH THAT HE AND HIS BROTHER NEEDED TIME TO THINK IT OVER, AT WHICH TIME RALPH STATED, "IF YOUR MIND IS NOT MADE UP NOW, I CAN'T DO BUSINESS WITH YOU". NOTHING ELSE WAS SAID. RALPH CLOSED THE BRIEFCASE AND LEFT. POWELL ADVISED THAT RALPH NEVER ACTUALLY STATED THAT THE MONEY BEING OFFERED TO HIM WAS TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING. LEON POWELL ADVISED HIS BROTHER IS NOW LIVING AT THE SCOTTISH INN IN MIDLAND, TEXAS. POWELL DENIED THAT HE OR HIS BROTHER WERE INVOLVED IN THE KILLING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AFTER SEEING THE ASSASSINATION DOCUMENTARY ON TELEVISION, HE DECIDED TO COME FORWARD AND FURNISH THIS INFORMATION. POWELL STATED THE REASON HE BELIEVES HE AND HIS BROTHER WERE CONTACTED IS BECAUSE HIS BROTHER, CLAUDE, SERVED FIVE YEARS FOR ARMED ROBBERY AND AT THAT TIME IN 1967

END PAGE TWO.

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Special Agent in Charge

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AT 44-2386. PAGE THREE.

HIS BROTHER HAD A REPUTATION FOR BEING AN EXPERT WITH A SHOTGUN. POWELL STATED HIS BROTHER, AT THAT TIME CONSTANTLY CARRIED A SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN. LEON POWELL ALLEGED THAT PETE DAVIS, OWNER OF THE BAR, NOTICED RALPH (LNU) COME INTO THE BAR AND WOULD BE ABLE TO VERIFY THAT PART OF THE STORY. FURTHERMORE, LEON POWELL TOLD HIS WIFE, ANNIE LOIS COMPOS, OF THE MEETING WITH RALPH.

ON JANUARY 7, 1976, ATLANTA CITY DIRECTORY, HAINES CITY DIRECTORY, AND GREATER ATLANTA SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY FOR THE YEARS 1967-1968, WERE REVIEWED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS REGARDING ANY ESTABLISHMENT ON MORELAND AVENUE NAMED PETE'S PLACE OR ANY SIMILAR NAME. SHIRLEY LANE, BARTENDER, DRIFTWOOD LOUNGE, 1575 MORELAND AVENUE, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ADVISED APPROXIMATELY SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS AGO, AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED PETE DAVIS DID, IN FACT, OWN AND OPERATE A BAR IN THE NEXT BLOCK OF MORELAND AVENUE. SHE HAD HEARD THAT PETE DAVIS HAS SINCE PASSED AWAY. MS. LANE ADVISED PETE'S WIFE, DOROTHY DAVIS, COULD PROBABLY BE CONTACTED AT TELEPHONE 957-2626.

END PAGE THREE

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

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AT 44-2386. PAGE FOUR.

DOROTHY DAVIS ADVISED HER HUSBAND DID OWN AND OPERATE BAR ON MORELAND AVENUE, AND AT ONE TIME WAS KNOWN AS PETE'S PLACE. HUSBAND DIED MAY, 1975. SHE IS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE NAMES **RAIPH (LNU)** LEON AND CLAUDE POWELL. SHE REMEMBERS HER HUSBAND TALKING ABOUT RAY GODFREY, HOWEVER, HAS NO IDEA HOW HE COULD BE LOCATED.

NUMEROUS ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE ANNIE LOIS COMPOS AT HER RESIDENCE, 4120 GLENWOOD ROAD DURING JANUARY 7, 1976, PROVED NEGATIVE. ●

ON JANUARY 7, 1976, MRS. E. S. PENNINGTON, DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, CITY OF ATLANTA, ADVISED SHE HAS REVIEWED CITY PERSONNEL RECORDS AND COULD FIND NO RECORD OF RAY GODFREY OR RAYMOND GODFREY EMPLOYED OR HAVING EVER BEEN EMPLOYED BY THE CITY OF ATLANTA. C. L. SNEED, SECRETARY, MUSCIANS NUMBER 148, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ADVISED HE REVIEWED UNION'S RECORDS AND COULD NFIND NO REFERENCE TO RAY GODFREY. RECORDS OF ATLANTA PD NEGATIVE REGARDING RAY GODFREY.

END PAGE FOUR.

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

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AT 44-2386. PAGE FIVE.

RECORDS OF ATLANTA PD REVEALED CLAUDE POWELL, JR., HAD BEEN ARRESTED ON MAY 10, 1949, FOR ARMED ROBBERY BY MECKLENBURG, COUNTY POLICE, CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, AND SENTENCED TO SERVE BETWEEN FIVE AND TEN YEARS IN STATE PENN; ARRESTED JUNE 28, 1965 FOR ALLOWING INTOXICATED PERSON TO DRIVE, BY ATLANTA PD, AND SENTENCED TO SERVE EIGHT MONTHS IN ATLANTA CITY FARM; ARRESTED AUGUST 25, 1973 FOR INDECENT EXPOSURE AND DRUNK BY ATLANTA PD, AND SENTENCED THIRTEEN DAYS OR \$25.00. MECKLENBURG COUNTY PD ARREST NUMBER IS 4822. DESCRIPTION OF CLAUDE POWELL, JR., IS WHITE MALE, DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED] SIX FEET TWO INCHES, 171 POUNDS, FBI NUMBER 212 946 A.

RECORDS OF ATLANTA PD REVEALED LEON POWELL ARRESTED AUGUST 26, 1955, BY PROVOST MARSHAL, FORT BENNING, GEORGIA, CHARGED ~~W~~ WITH ARTICLE 86. NO DISPOSITION AVAILABLE. ARRESTED JUNE 28, 1962, FOR WIFE BEATING AND ABANDONMENT, CHARGE WITHDRAWN JULY 6, 1962. LEON OWEN POWELL DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED] FBI NUMBER 220 012 E.

END PAGE FIVE.

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

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AT 44-2386. PAGE SIX.

BRENDA POWELL, DAUGHTER-IN-LAW OF LEON POWELL, ADVISED LEON POWELL WORKING AT UNKNOWN LOCATION IN ROCKDALE COUNTY AND WOULD NOT RETURN TO ATLANTA UNTIL LATE PM OF JANUARY 7, 1976.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION (CRD), U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, REQUESTS THE FOLLOWING IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION TO RESOLVE ALLEGATION MADE BY LEON OWEN POWELL:

EL PASO DIVISION AT MIDLAND, TEXAS. WILL INTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL, AT SCOTTISH INN FOR ANY INFORMATION HE HAS RE LEON OWEN POWELL'S ALLEGATION. OBTAIN ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) FROM CLAUDE POWELL. HANDLE THROUGH FACIAL IDENTIFICATION CATALOG AS SET FORTH IN FBI HANDBOOK, PART I, PAGE 21. IMMEDIATELY FACSIMILE RESULTS DIRECTLY TO EXHIBITS SECTION, FBIHQ, AND TELEPHONICALLY DISCUSS ANY PROBLEMS RE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION DIRECTLY WITH EXHIBITS SECTION.

CHARLOTTE AT CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA. DETERMINE ALL PLACES WHERE CLAUDE POWELL REPORTEDLY INCARCERATED TO DETERMINE IF EVER INCARCERATED WITH JAMES EARL RAY.

END PAGE SIX.

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

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Date:

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(Precedence)

AT 44-2386. PAGE SEVEN.

ATLANTA DIVISION AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA. OBTAIN ARTIST'S
CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) FROM LEON OWEN POWELL. CONTINUE
EFFORTS TO LOCATE RAY GODFREY AND ANNIE LOIS COMPOS.

All offices HANDLE ANY ADDITIONAL OBVIOUS AND LOGICAL LEADS DEVELOPED
SUCH AS INTERVIEW OF ANY ADDITIONAL WITNESSES DEVELOPED DURING
INTERVIEW. IF ANY QUESTION ARISES RE COVERING ANY ADDITIONAL
LEAD, PROMPTLY CONTACT FBIHQ.

IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT THIS INVESTIGATION AND SUTEL SUMMARY
ON DAILY BASIS UNTIL INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED. HANDLE ANY
LEADS OUT OF YOUR DIVISION BY TELETYPE. HANDLE PURSUANT TO
SECTION 27, VOLUME II, MANUAL OF INSTRUCTIONS. ALSO FURNISH
ALL INFORMATION TO MEMPHIS, OFFICE OF ORIGIN *AND ATLANTA*.

COPY MAILED MEMPHIS.

END.

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

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO ATLANTA (44-2386)

1/6/76

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

✓ 44-1987 Sub M
REATTTEL JANUARY 5, 1976.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION (CRD), U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, REQUESTS THE FOLLOWING IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION TO RESOLVE ALLEGATION MADE BY LEON OWEN POWELL AS SET FORTH IN RETEL.

INTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL, COMPOS AND DAVIS FOR ANY INFORMATION THEY HAVE RE LEON OWEN POWELL'S ALLEGATION.

OBTAIN ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LAST NAME UNKNOWN) FROM LEON OWEN POWELL. HANDLE THROUGH FACIAL IDENTIFICATION CATALOG AS SET FORTH IN FBI HANDBOOK, PART I, PAGE 21. IMMEDIATELY FACSIMILE RESULTS DIRECTLY TO EXHIBITS SECTION, FBIHQ, AND TELEPHONICALLY DISCUSS ANY PROBLEMS RE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION DIRECTLY WITH EXHIBITS SECTION.

DETERMINE PRESENT WHEREABOUTS INCLUDING RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT OF RAY GODFREY. CRD STATED GODFREY SHOULD NOT BE INTERVIEWED AT THIS TIME.

①- SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

44-1987 Sub M 939

SEARCHED <i>mp</i>	INDEXED <i>mp</i>
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Hester

PAGE TWO (44-38861)

DETERMINE ALL PLACES WHERE CLAUDE POWELL REPORTEDLY INCARCERATED TO DETERMINE IF EVER INCARCERATED WITH JAMES EARL RAY.

HANDLE ANY ADDITIONAL OBVIOUS AND LOGICAL LEADS DEVELOPED SUCH AS THE INTERVIEW OF ANY ADDITIONAL WITNESSES DEVELOPED DURING INTERVIEW. IF ANY QUESTION ARISES RE COVERING ANY ADDITIONAL LEAD, PROMPTLY CONTACT FBIHQ.

CRD WILL MAKE A DETERMINATION RE PROVIDING LEON OWEN POWELL WITH POLYGRAPH UPON COMPLETION OF ABOVE INVESTIGATION.

IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT THIS INVESTIGATION AND SUTEL SUMMARY ON A DAILY BASIS UNTIL THIS INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED. HANDLE ANY LEADS OUT OF YOUR DIVISION BY TELETYPE. HANDLE PURSUANT TO SECTION 27, VOLUME II, MANUAL OF INSTRUCTIONS. ALSO FURNISH ALL INFORMATION TO MEMPHIS, THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

COPY MAILED MEMPHIS.

NR012 AT PLAIN

5:11 PM URGENT 1-12-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MEMPHIS

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

44-1987

RE BUREAU TEL JANUARY 9, 1976.

ATTEMPTS TO RECONTACT LEON POWELL REGARDING IDENTIFICATION
OF ARTIST'S CONCEPTION ON TODAY'S DATE NEGATIVE.

INTERVIEW WITH RAY GODFREY ARRANGED WITH GODFREY'S EMPLOYER
FOR MORNING OF JANUARY 13, 1976.

ATLANTA. WILL INTERVIEW RAY GODFREY. LOCATE AND SHOW
ARTIST'S CONCEPTION TO LEON POWELL.

POWELL BROTHERS, LEON AND CLAUDE, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS.

END.

RJH

ME IS CLR FOR ONE

44-1987 SUBM 240

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[Signature]

1/8/76

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
EL PASO
MEMPHIS (AM)
FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)
MURKIN.- 44-1987*

RE EL PASO TEL TO BUREAU, JANUARY 7, 1976; ATLANTA TEL TO DIRECTOR, JANUARY 7, 1976; AND BUREAU TEL CALL TO ATLANTA, JANUARY 8, 1976.

ON JANUARY 7, 1976, LEON OWEN POWELL RECONTACTED AND ADVISED HE WOULD "STICK BY HIS STORY". ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) OBTAINED FROM LEON POWELL AND SENT TO EXHIBITS SECTION, VIA SEPARATE COMMUNICATION. POWELL ADVISED HIS BROTHER LOCATED IN ROOM 210 OF SCOTTISH INN, MIDLAND, TEXAS AND EMPLOYED THERE BY UNIDENTIFIED HOME BUILDER DOING EITHER CARPENTRY OR DRYWALL WORK.

ON JANUARY 7, 1976, ANNIE LOIS CAMPOS, WHITE FEMALE, DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED] WAS CONTACTED AND ADVISED SHE HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY MARRIED TO LEON OWEN POWELL FROM 1955 UNTIL 1975. AFTER SOME PROMPTING, SHE REMEMBERED THE INCIDENT WHEREBY HER EX-HUSBAND, LEON POWELL, RELATED TO HER AN INDIVIDUAL HAD CONTACTED

END PAGE ONE.

1 - Atlanta
① - Memphis (AM)
TJW:far
(2)

Ch. in div. 1/4

44-1987 SUBM 941

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PAGE TWO (44-2386)

HIS BROTHER AND HIM REGARDING MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. POWELL TOLD HER THAT MAN HAD A SUITCASE FULL OF MONEY AND WANTED HE AND HIS BROTHER, CLAUDE, TO MURDER KING. POWELL WAS VERY INTOXICATED WHEN RELATING THIS STORY TO HER. SHE SPECIFICALLY REMEMBERS HE RELATED THIS TO HER AFTER THE KING ASSASSINATION. HER EX-HUSBAND WAS CONSTANTLY GETTING DRUNK AND SPENDING ALL HIS PAY CHECK ON BOOZE. NUMEROUS TIMES SHE HAD TO PULL HIM OUT OF A BAR BEFORE HE SPENT ALL HIS MONEY SO THERE WOULD BE ENOUGH LEFT TO BUY GROCERIES. NUMEROUS TIMES, WHILE HE WAS DRUNK, HER EX-HUSBAND WOULD TALK ABOUT VARIOUS KILINGS AND KILLERS. SHE THOUGHT THIS WAS MOSTLY THE LIQUOR TALKING; HOWEVER, IF HE STUCK BY HIS STORY WHEN HE WAS SOBER, SHE WOULD ATTRIBUTE SOME VALIDITY TO HIS TALE. SHE COULD NOT SUPPLY ANY FURTHER INFORMATION.

ON JANUARY 8, 1976, BOBBY JOHNSON, RADIO STATION, WPLO COUNTRY AND WESTERN MUSIC STATION, ADVISED THERE HAD BEEN A COUNTRY AND WESTERN SINGER BY THE NAME OF RAY GODFREY IN 1967 OR 1968. THIS SINGER WAS HANDLED LOCALLY BY LOWERY MUSIC COMPANY, ATLANTA, GEORGIA. ON JANUARY 8, 1975, MARY TALLENT, END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT, LOWERY MUSIC COMPANY, ADVISED IN 1967 HER FIRM HANDLED COUNTRY AND WESTERN SINGER BY NAME OF RAY GODFREY. GODFREY WOULD, AT THIS TIME, BE APPROXIMATELY FORTY-FIVE TO FIFTY YEARS OF AGE AND IS A WHITE MALE. SHE DESCRIBED GODFREY AS REAL "COUNTY" FELLOW. SHE REFUSED TO BELIEVE GODFREY COULD BE IN ANY TROUBLE WHATSOEVER. NATURE OF ATLANTA'S INQUIRY NOT RELATED TO HER. SHE STATED GODFREY WORKED FOR ATLANTA WATER DEPARTMENT WITH TELEPHONE NUMBER 622-1481 AS WORK PHONE. SHE ALSO ADVISED RECORDS REFLECT GODFREY HAD SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER SHE ALSO FURNISHED NEGATIVE OF PHOTOGRAPH OF RAY GODFREY.

TELEPHONE NUMBER 622-1481 IS LISTED TO ATLANTA CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND STREETS. MRS. L. S. PENNINGTON, DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, CITY OF ATLANTA, RECONTACTED AND ADVISED THAT PAT SOJKA, SUPERVISOR, SEWER REPAIR DIVISION, WOULD BE PERSON TO CONTACT RE ANYONE EMPLOYED AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 622-1481.

PAT SOJKA ADVISED CITY OF ATLANTA DOES HAVE AN EMPLOYEE NAMED RAY GODFREY, EMPLOYED AS A SEWER SERVICE FOREMAN. GODFREY IS KNOWN TO BE A COUNTRY AND WESTERN SINGER. RAY GODFREY IS NOT
END PAGE THREE.

PAGE FOUR (44-2386)

HIS COMPLETE NAME, HOWEVER. CURRENT RECORDS OF SEWER DEPARTMENT REFLECT TRUE NAME AS A. R. GODFREY, LIVING AT 1105 LAKESHORE DRIVE, JONESBORO, GEORGIA, TELEPHONE 477-5036.

IN ORDER TO CLARIFY INFO RE PETE DAVIS IN ATLANTA TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, JANUARY 7, 1976, IT IS TO BE NOTED DOROTHY DAVIS ADVISED HER HUSBAND, PETE DAVIS, OWNED AND OPERATED BAR KNOWN AS "PETE'S PLACE" ON MORELAND AVENUE JUST SOUTH OF INTERSECTION OF CONFEDERATE AND MORELAND AND THAT HER HUSBAND DIED IN MAY, 1975 OF NATURAL CAUSES, NAMELY CANCER.

ON JANUARY 8, 1976, AT 3370-CI ADVISED TELEPHONE NUMBER 477-5036 SUBSCRIBED TO BY ARNOLD GODFREY, ORIGINALLY CONNECTED APRIL, 1961 AND TRANSFERRED TO ABOVE ADDRESS OCTOBER, 1974. UP TO 1970, EMPLOYED BY CITY OF ATLANTA CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, NO UP-DATE AVAILABLE FOR EMPLOYMENT SINCE. IT WOULD APPEAR GODFREY'S NAME IS ARNOLD RAY OR RAYMOND GODFREY.

ATLANTA CONDUCTED ALL INVESTIGATION REQUESTED BY CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT, HOWEVER, IS KEEPING CASE IN PENDING STATUS IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT CHARLOTTE AND EL PASO HAVE OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATION.

END PAGE FOUR.

CM

PAGE FIVE (44-2386)

POWELL BROTHERS, LEON AND CLAUDE, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS.

END.

c

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO ATLANTA (44-2386)

1/9/76

EL PASO (44-920)

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-3886))

MURKIN

REEPTEL JANUARY 9, 1976.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION REQUESTS FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL
INVESTIGATION:

ATLANTA, INTERVIEW RAY GODFREY. ADVISE HIM OF HIS
RIGHTS AND DETERMINE IF HE WILL SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH
EXAMINATION.

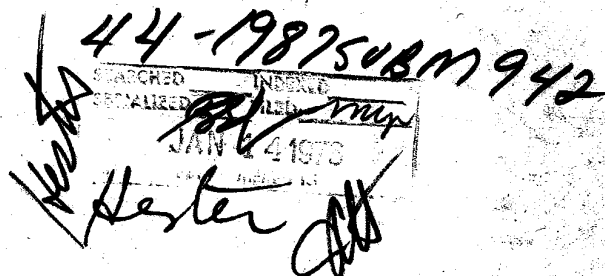
EL PASO, RECONTACT CLAUDE POWELL AND DETERMINE IF HE WILL
SUBMIT TO POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION. ALSO ASCERTAIN IF SCOTTISH
INN MOTEL MAINTAINS ANY RECORDS RECORDING INCOMING AND
OUTGOING TELEPHONE CALLS FOR CLAUDE POWELL, PARTICULARLY TO
DETERMINE IF HE HAS BEEN IN TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH LEON
OWEN POWELL.

DO NOT CONDUCT ANY POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION UNTIL FURTHER
APPROVAL FROM FBIHQ. SUTEL SUMMARY RESULTS.

COPY MAILED MEMPHIS.

①- MEMPHIS (44-1987)

END



NR017 CE CODE

9:53PM NITEL JANUARY 14, 1976 JDC

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

EL PASO

MEMPHIS

FROM: CHARLOTTE (44-1365)

MURKIN. 44-1987

RE CHARLOTTE TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, DATED JANUARY 8, 1976.

FLOYCE POWELL BRYSON, ROUTE NUMBER FIVE, BOX 180,
FRANKLIN, N. C., INTERVIEWED ON JANUARY 14, 1976, AND ADVISED
AS FOLLOWS:

LEON AND CLAUDE POWELL ARE BRYSON'S BROTHERS AND ALTHOUGH
THEY ARE BOTH MORALLY GOOD MEN THEY EACH HAVE A DRINKING
PROBLEM. NEITHER LEON NOR CLAUDE HAS EVER BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH
THE KU KLUX KLAN OR ANY BLACK HATE ORGANIZATIONS. LIKEWISE,
NEITHER HAS EVER SPOKEN AGAINST MARTIN LUTHER KING.

BRYSON'S BROTHERS HAVE NEVER MENTIONED TO HER THE ALLEGED
OFFER TO KILL KING AND BRYSON QUITE FRANKLY DOES NOT BELIEVE
THE EVENT EVER OCCURRED. ALSO, NEITHER POSSESSES THE CAPABILITY
TO KILL KING.

LEON POWELL WAS A KOREAN WAR VETERAN AND WHENEVER HE

44-1987 SUBM-943

Nester

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PAGE TWO CE 44-1365

DRINKS TO EXCESS HE BECOMES DEPRESSED AND OFTEN CALLS MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT FOR CONSOLATION. LEON OFTEN STATES HE WISHES HE WERE DEAD LIKE THE REST OF THE BOYS IN HIS UNIT WHO WERE KILLED IN KOREA. BRYSON BELIEVES LEON'S EXPERIENCES IN KOREA HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED HIS MIND. LAST CALL WAS MADE BY LEON TO BRYSON SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

LEON LAST SEEN BY BRYSON DURING CHRISTMAS, 1975, AND ALL APPEARED WELL.

BRYSON PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING LIST OF HER BROTHERS:

WENDELL POWELL, BELMONT, N. C.

CLAUDE POWELL, JR., CHAMBE LANE, DEKATUR, GA.

EDWARD POWELL, SHALLOWFORD, CHAMBLEE, GA.

HUBERT POWELL, ROUTE THREE, TACOA, GA.

LEON POWELL.

ATLANTA, HANDLE INTERVIEWS OF FAMILY.

TELETYPE FURNISHED EL PASO AND MEMPHIS PER REQUEST.

END.

RJH

ME IS CLR FOR ONE