

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

FIELD OFFICE FILE  
FOIPA PROCESSED

# FEDERAL BUREAU

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED  
FOR HISTORICAL  
DECLASSIFICATION

of

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-31-81 BY SP/ace/fo

# INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 44-38861

DO NOT DESTROY  
HISTORICAL VALUE  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

See also Nos.

SEE VOL. 1  
FOR INVESTIGATION

**X** DO NOT DESTROY  
HISTORICAL VALUE  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

SEE ALSO  
SECTION

*Handwritten signature*  
4-4-82

*Handwritten:* 44-1987-Sub M  
Investigation of the Onset

*Handwritten:* 100-1091  
100-1091

*Handwritten:* 2

2/24/76

A I R T E L

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1365) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Atlanta teletype to the Bureau dated 1/7/76,  
and Charlotte teletypes to the Bureau dated 1/8/76, 1/9/76,  
and 1/14/76.

A review of Charlotte file reflects all  
investigation has been completed, and this matter is being  
considered RUC.

2 - Bureau  
2 - Memphis (44-1987)  
1 - Charlotte

GPC/kfb  
(5)

44-1987 SUBM 989  
REL REL



NR014 AT PLM

KM10:30 PM NITEL 2-27-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) ✓

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE AT TEL, FEB. 26, 1976.

BILL LOWERY OF LOWERY MUSIC, INC., ATLANTA, GA., INTERVIEWED THIS DATE AND ADVISED HE DOES NOT KNOW ANY OF RAY GODFREY'S FRIENDS OR ASSOCIATES. HE DEALT MAINLY WITH RAY GODFREY ON A PROFESSIONAL BASIS. HIS OPINION WAS THAT GODFREY WAS JUST A "GOOD OLE COUNTRY BOY" AND THAT HE COULD NOT BE IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE. LOWERY VIEWED A SPREAD OF PHOTOS, WHICH INCLUDED RALPH (LNU), AND WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS. WHEN SPECIFICALLY SHOWN THE PHOTO OF RALPH (LNU), LOWERY STATED HE HAD NEVER SEEN THAT INDIVIDUAL. LOWERY AGAIN STATED HE DID NOT KNOW ANY OF RAY GODFREY'S FRIENDS OR ASSOCIATES. GODFREY WOULD MERELY COME TO LOWERY MUSIC TO RECORD HIS MUSIC AND TO BE PAID.

ATLANTA AT BLUE RIDGE, GA. WILL RECONTACT LEE CARROLL TO DETERMINE IF, IN CONVERSATION WITH TOMMY CARROLL, HE MENTIONED  
END PAGE ONE

44-1987 SUBM 990

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 27 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

MS

PAGE TWO,

THE NAME RALPH SMITH OR RALPH SETZER. OBTAIN FROM LEE CARROLL  
ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE NAME, WHETHER IT BE RALPH SMITH  
OR RALPH SETZER, AND ANY OTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION.  
END.

JFH IN ME ACK FOR ONE TEL ME CL TO U

NR045 WA PLAIN

7:07PM URGENT 2-27-76 VLN

TO ATLANTA (44-2336)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987) ✓

FROM DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MURKIN

ON FEBRUARY 27, 1976, DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY ROBERT A. MURPHY, CHIEF OF CRIMINAL SECTION, CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION (CRD), U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED JACK V. DORSEY, ATTORNEY FOR ARNOLD RAY GODFREY IN ATLANTA, RELATIVE TO WHETHER GODFREY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW. DORSEY TOLD MURPHY HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH HIS CLIENT, GODFREY, AND, THEREAFTER, WOULD CONTACT MURPHY DIRECT RE DECISION AS TO WHETHER GODFREY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR ANY FURTHER INTERVIEW. ATLANTA WILL BE ADVISED OF RESULTS.

EL PASO REINTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL, JR., AND ASK HIM WHETHER PETE DAVIS WAS PRESENT DURING THE INITIAL MEETING AT THE BAR. ALSO DETERMINE WHEN AND HOW HE LATER LEARNED

44-1987 SUBM 991

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FEB 27 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Water*  
*destin*  
*cm*

PAGE TWO

GODFREY MADE AN INITIAL CONTACT WITH LEON OWEN POWELL  
APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS  
PROPOSITION TO MURDER KING AS SET FORTH IN YOUR  
TELETYPE FEBRUARY 6, 1976. EL PASO SUTEL SUMMARY  
RESULTS.

END

BFH IN ME ACK FOR FOUR TEL ME CL TO U AND TKS

NR017 AT PLAIN

7 8:37 PM NITEL 2-26-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

SAC, ST. LOUIS

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE AT NITEL, FEB. 25, 1976.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, DURING ORIGINAL INTERVIEW WITH LEON POWELL, POWELL ADVISED THAT WHEN HE FIRST MET RALPH (LNU), RALPH AND HE AND HIS BROTHER WENT TO BACK ROOM OF BAR AND SAT IN THE BOOTHS. HOWEVER, DURING SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW, WHEN POWELL WAS SKETCHING DIAGRAM OF BAR, POWELL ADVISED THAT HE, HIS BROTHER AND RALPH WENT TO ONE OF THE TABLES LOCATED IN THE BACK PART OF THE BAR. POWELL ADVISED HE COULD NOT REMEMBER WHICH SPECIFIC TABLE, HOWEVER, THOUGHT IT WAS ONE RIGHT BEHIND THE PARTITION WHICH SEPARATED THIS ROOM FROM THE BAR.

ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW BILL LOWERY OF LOWERY MUSIC COMPANY ON TODAY'S DATE WAS NEGATIVE. LOWERY'S SECRETARY ADVISED THAT HE WOULD NOT RETURN TO OFFICE UNTIL A.M. OF FEB. 27, 1976.

END PAGE ONE

44-1987-SUBM 992

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 26 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials are present over the stamp and in the margin.]*

PAGE TWO, AT 44-2386

FOR INFORMATION OF ST. LOUIS, ON JAN. 12, 1976, LEON POWELL TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI AND ADVISED THAT HE AND HIS BROTHER CLAUDE POWELL, JR., HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY AN INDIVIDUAL AND ASKED IF THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ASSASSINATING MARTIN LUTHER KING. THIS INDIVIDUAL THEN PUT THEM IN CONTACT WITH A THIRD INDIVIDUAL, KNOWN ONLY TO THE POWELLS AS RALPH (LNU), WHO OFFERED THE POWELLS APPROXIMATELY \$75,000 TO DO THIS ASSASSINATION. THE POWELLS CLAIMED THEY NEVER TOOK THE CONTRACT AND DISMISSED THIS UNTIL THE RECENT DAN RATHER SPECIAL ON THE ASSASSINATION OF KING THE RELATIVES OF THE POWELLS HAVE BEEN CONTACTED AND ADVISED THAT THEY ARE NOT SURE THAT THIS INCIDENT AS RELATED BY THE POWELL BROTHERS ACTUALLY HAPPENED IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT BOTH LEON AND CLAUDE, JR., HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO DRINK QUITE HEAVILY. HOWEVER, BOTH LEON AND CLAUDE, JR., AFFORDED POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS BY POLYGRAPH EXAMINERS OF THE FBI AND CLAUDE POWELL, JR.'S EXAMINATION INDICATED THAT HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH. BUREAU HAS REQUESTED THAT THE MILITARY HISTORY ON BOTH CLAUDE AND LEON POWELL BE RESEARCHED TO NOTE WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS ANY INDICATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OR ANY OTHER

END PAGE TWO



PAGE THREE, AT 44-2386

PSYCHOLOGICAL DETAILS ON EITHER LEON OR CLAUDE POWELL.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS A BACKGROUND OF LEON OWEN POWELL:

W/M, DOB [REDACTED] STEVENS COUNTY, GA., SERVED IN ARMY FROM 1952-55, WITH REGULAR ARMY NO. RA 14478523.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FOR CLAUDE POWELL, JR.:

W/M, DOB [REDACTED] STEVENS COUNTY, GA., THERE IS NO RECORD IN THE FILE THAT CLAUDE POWELL, JR. EVER SERVED IN ANY ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

ST. LOUIS AT ST. LOUIS. WILL AT FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER, ST. LOUIS, ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING MILITARY HISTORY OF BOTH CLAUDE AND LEON POWELL, NOTING PARTICULARLY ANY REFERENCES TO ANY MEDICAL PROBLEMS OR PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF EITHER OR BOTH OF THEM.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT BILL LOWERY AND ASCERTAIN FROM HIM IF HE KNOWS ANY RALPH (LNU).  
END.

RJH

ME IS CLR FOR TWO AND TKS

NR001 EP PLAIN

9:50AM URGENT MARCH 1, 1976 SXF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: EL PASO (44-920) (P) ///1///

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO ATLANTA, FEBRUARY 27, 1976.

ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE CLAUDE POWELL, JR., AT MIDLAND, TEXAS, DETERMINED HE IS CURRENTLY IN ATLANTA AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN TO MIDLAND UNTIL MARCH 4 OR 5, 1976.

ATLANTA IS REQUESTED TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL, JR., AND DETERMINE INFORMATION REQUESTED BY BUREAU IN REFERENCED TELETYPE.

END.

OK FBI ME JWB CLTB

44-1987 SUBM 993

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*RAH*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1-4

IDENTIFICATION 1471Jg 9-29-75

The following FBI record, NUMBER 1 955 198, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Indpls Ind	William Cummings #37106	2-12-39	vag	2-14-39 dism
St Hwy Pat Springfield Mo	Jene Dodson #D-1790	3-3-40	not given	rel to Ft Wayne Ind PD
PD Ft Wayne Ind	Freddie Gene Dobson #10556	3-7-40	VT	3-24-40 ret'd to Boys Sch Plainfield Ind fr which subj escaped
USM Memphis Tenn	Freddie Jene Dobson #--	4-25-41	Dyer Act	6-17-41 sent 3 yrs on ea of 2 cts to Fed Ref at Chillicothe Ohio
Fed Ref Chillicothe Ohio	Freddie Jene Dobson #19613	6-23-41	NMFTA	3 yrs 9-22-43 cond rel extra good time 9-22-43 viol date 3-1 & 3-22-44 (robb auto theft & association with person of bad reputation ) warr iss 5-17-44
PD Indpls Ind	Freddie Jene Dobson #37106	3-22-44	vag	3-28-44 noll'd
SRef Pendleton Ind	Freddie Jene Dobson #31447	5-15-44	GL	1-10 yrs
USP Terre Haute Ind	Freddie Jene Dobson #4844-TH	5-16-47	CRV (NMFTA)	268 das 2-6-48 disch exp
PD Indpls Ind	Freddie Jene Dobson #CD-2997	city taxi lic 3-15-48		
Ind SP Mich City Ind	Freddie Dobson #25363	1-16-50	2nd deg burg	2-5 yrs
Ind Ref Pendleton Ind	Freddie Dobson #35876	12-4-50	2nd deg burg	2-5 yrs
PD Indpls Ind	Freddie Jene Dobson #37106	8-22-52 parolee reg		
PD Kokomo Ind	Freddie Jene Dobson #X1200	10-9-53	armed robb	
St Hwy Pat Poplar Bluff Mo	Freddie Gene Dobson #E-10096	12-1-54	car T (parole violat in	

44-1987 SUB M-994

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 1 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Notations indicated by \* ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

16-70582-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1-4

IDENTI 147JJK 9-29-75

2 The following FBI record, NUMBER 1 955 198, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Indpls Ind	William Cummings #37106	10-8-53	fugitive	10-9-53, fugitive - Nolled
SP Jefferson City Mo	Freddie Eugene Dobson #69585	3-23-55	GL of auto	15 yrs disch under commutation c sent by Gov
SF Greencastle Ind	Fred Jene Dobson #16615-1	1-13-65	Viol oapa	6 mos \$1 Fine \$20.35 Cost
PD Indpls Ind	William Cummings #37106	9-30-66	1) 35 Firearms Act 2) NOL 3) fail stop 4 way sign	1) nolle 2) nolle 3) nolle
PD Indpls IN	William Cummings 37106	3-20-64	OAPA (larc) 2nd burg	6 mos ISF \$1 & C
SO Riverside CA	Freddie Gene Dobson C 42803/269971	3-23-75	burg commercial	

Notations indicated by \* ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

16-70692-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1 -BU

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

1471jc 9-29-75

The following FBI record, NUMBER 1 955 198, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.  
Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. WHERE  
DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHANGE OR DISPOSITION IS DESIRED,  
COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	FLASH BY BUREAU: Any info or inq rec notify FBI Las Vegas file #137-2071 inf rec 9-24-75			
THIS PAGE SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE FBI.				

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 2/24/76

FROM : SAC, LAS VEGAS (157-133) (C)

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM  
CR - CONSPIRACY

Enclosed for Memphis is a copy of identification record re FRED JENE DOBSON.

On 2/23/76, FRED JENE DOBSON, former PCI of the Las Vegas Office related the following information to SA WALTER J. SLAUGHTER:

DOBSON alleges that he served time with RAY in the Missouri State Prison, exact dates unrecalled. He said that RAY approached him as he, DOBSON, was considered a leader in the section of the prison where RAY was incarcerated. RAY told DOBSON he had a big job to do when he got out and needed some help. He solicited DOBSON's help but would not disclose the nature of the job but said it was "big." RAY told DOBSON he had influential friends and that there was a lot of money involved. RAY did not mention the amount but said it was in the thousands. RAY said he would talk to "his people" about getting DOBSON released early but later told DOBSON that his sources told him it could not be arranged.

Above being merely furnished to Memphis inasmuch as DOBSON has made this a matter of record.

*Ident record does  
not indicate time at  
MO State Pen -  
WJS*

(2) - Memphis (Enc. 1)  
1 - Las Vegas  
WJS:arw  
(3)



5010-110

44-1987 SUBM-995

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 1 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Nester*

*WJS*

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



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
February 24, 1976

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

On February 23, 1976, Betty Tibbles, 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:

February 20, 1976

Appellee filed in this court on January 19, 1976, "Motion to strike exhibits from Appellant's Appendix." (Granted)

February 20, 1976

Appellant filed in this court on January 30, 1976, "Motion to correct errors and omissions in transcript."

February 20, 1976

It is ordered and adjudged that Appellant's motion of January 30, 1976, for correction of errors be and the same is hereby sustained with respect to those errors to which the appellee has indicated his agreement. Except to the extent herein indicated, the appellant's motion of January 30, 1976, is hereby denied.

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.

44-1987 SUBM 996

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 1 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester*

- 1\* -



2/24/76

AIRTEL

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

Re CI airtel and LHM to Bureau, 2/10/76.

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 LINDA F. FERGUSON.

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

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

LFF:bf  
(6)

44-1987-SUBM 997

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>ABL</i>	FILED <i>ABL</i>
MAR 1 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester*

*WJ*



NR214 SL PLAIN

724 PM NITEL 3-2-76 WRF

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)  
ATLANTA (44-2386)  
MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775) (P)  
MURKIN

REFERENCE ATLANTA NITEL TO BUREAU, FEBRUARY 26, 1976; BUREAU  
TELEPHONE CALL TO ST. LOUIS, MARCH 1, 1976.

RECORDS NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER, MILITARY BRANCH, ST.  
LOUIS, MISSOURI, DISCLOSED LEON POWELL, ARMY SERVICE NUMBER  
RA14473523, SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER (SSAN) [REDACTED], BORN  
[REDACTED] TOCCOA, GEORGIA, ENLISTED UNITED STATES ARMY AT  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA, AND SERVED ACTIVE, SEPTEMBER, 1952, TO DECEMBER 21,  
1955. HE WAS HONORABLY RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY AS A PRIVATE (LIGHT  
WEAPONS INFANTRY MAN) AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA, AND TRANSFERRED TO  
UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE (USAR). HE WAS HONORABLY DISCHARGED FROM  
USAR ON DECEMBER 23, 1960, BY REASON OF EXPIRATION TERM OF SERVICE.

LEON'S REPORT OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION DATED DECEMBER 19, 1955,  
DISCLOSED "MULTIPLE PSYCHOSOMATIC COMPLAINTS. DISQUALIFYING. EM  
(ENLISTED MAN). DID NOT KEEP APPOINTMENT WITH NP CLINIC. DOES NOT  
DESIRE TO REMAIN IN SERVICE FOR FURTHER TREATMENT AND/OR MEDICAL

44-1987 Subm 998

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAR 2 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials are present over the stamp and below it.]*

PAGE TWO SL 44-775

DISPOSITION."

LEON WAS TRIED AND CONVICTED BY SUMMARY COURT MARTIAL, JANUARY 23, 1953. FOR ABSENCE WITHOUT OFFICIAL LEAVE (AWOL), JANUARY 3 THROUGH 14, 1953, SENTENCED 45 DAYS HARD LABOR AND FORFEITURE \$52.00; SPECIAL COURT MARTIAL ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1954, FOR BREAKING RESTRICTION, SENTENCE 45 DAYS HARD LABOR AND FORFEITURE \$55.00; AND BY SPECIAL COURT MARTIAL ON AUGUST 26, 1955, FOR AWOL AUGUST 15, THROUGH 21, 1955, SENTENCE SIX MONTHS CONFINEMENT HARD LABOR AND FORFEITURE \$234.00.

LEON OWEN POWELL UNDER SSAN [REDACTED], HAD VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) CLAIM WITH VA DATED OCTOBER 14, 1959.

MILITARY SERVICE RECORD WAS NOT LOCATED FOR CLAUDE POWELL.

ST. LOUIS WILL REVIEW LEON POWELL'S VA CLAIM FILE AT VA RECORD PROCESSING CENTER, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, WHEN MADE AVAILABLE AND FURNISH NITEL RESULTS TO BUREAU, ATLANTA, AND MEMPHIS.

END

RJH

MD

ME IS CLR FOR ONE

NR023 AT PLAIN

12:40 PM NITEL 3-2-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-928)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE AT NITEL, FEB. 27, 1976.

ON MARCH 2, 1976, LEE CARROLL GODFREY WAS RECONTACTED AND ADVISED HE DID NOT KNOW A RALPH SETZER OR A RALPH SELIZER AND DID NOT MENTION EITHER NAME TO HIS BROTHER, TOM. LEE GODFREY TRAVELED TO ATLANTA ON WEEKEND OF FEB. 28, 1976, AND TALKED TO HIS BROTHER, ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. ARNOLD GODFREY RELATED HE DID NOT KNOW A RALPH SMITH AND WHEN LEE DESCRIBED THE INDIVIDUAL HE KNEW AS RALPH SMITH, ARNOLD SAID HE THOUGHT THE MAN'S NAME WAS JIM SMITH. HE DID NOT KNOW SMITH'S CURRENT WHEREABOUTS. ARNOLD SAID HE KNEW LEON AND CLAUDE POWELL ON SIGHT BUT DID NOT ASSOCIATE WITH EITHER ONE. HE DESCRIBED THEM AS DRUNKS. LEE SAID POWELL IS AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN AFRAID OF THE LAW WHICH IS THE REASON WHY HE IS NOT COOPERATING WITH THE FBI. LEE SAID ARNOLD DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE ALLEGED

END PAGE ONE

44-1987-Sub M 999

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 2 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester*  
*10/15*  
*phister*  
*CH*

PAGE TWO, AT 44-2386

CONTRACT FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. OR ANYTHING RELATED TO THE BUREAU'S INVESTIGATION.

LEE CARROLL GODFREY SAID THAT WHILE INCARCERATED IN PEIDSVILLE, GA., PENITENTIARY, DATE UNRECALLED, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., WAS ARRESTED FOR PARTICIPATING IN A DEMONSTRATION AND WAS PLACED IN A CELL ADJACENT TO GODFREY. LEE SAID HE TALKED TO KING FOR TWO DAYS PRIOR TO HIS RELEASE. ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE CLAUDE POWELL, JR. ON MARCH 2, 1976, WERE NEGATIVE.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL, JR. AT HIS RESIDENCE.

END.

H

RJH

ME IS CLP FOR ONE

NR018 AT PLAIN

7:29 PM NITEL MARCH 3, 1976 LAP

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-922)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RETNITEL, MARCH 2, 1976.

ON MARCH 3, 1976, JACKIE POWELL, CANDY LANE, DECATUR, GA., WAS CONTACTED AND ADVISED HER HUSBAND, CLAUDE POWELL, JR., IS RESIDING AT THAT RESIDENCE, HOWEVER HE IS NOT AT HOME AT PRESENT TIME. CLAUDE POWELL DOES NOT THINK HE WILL RETURN TO MIDLAND, TEX., AREA. CLAUDE POWELL HAS OBTAINED A JOB IN THE ATLANTA, GA., AREA, HOWEVER, SHE DOES NOT KNOW WHERE HE IS WORKING. JACKIE POWELL ADVISED SHE WOULD HAVE HER HUSBAND CONTACT THE FBI UPON HIS RETURN OR EARLY IN THE MORNING OF MARCH 4, 1976.

ATLANTA, AT ATLANTA, WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

END

RJH

ACK FOR TWO AND CLR

44-1987 Subm 1000

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 3 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Reister*  
*AKB*  
*AK*

NR016 -5 0)-8,

9:00 PM NITEL 3-4-76 MLE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE AT NITEL, MARCH 3, 1976.

ON INSTANT DATE, CLAUDE POWELL, JR. HAS NOT CONTACTED THE ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI AS HIS WIFE INDICATED HE WOULD ON MARCH 3, 1976. ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE EITHER CLAUDE POWELL OR JACKIE POWELL AT CANDY LANE, DECATUR, GA., ON THIS DATE WERE NEGATIVE. MESSAGES WERE LEFT AT THE RESIDENCES.

IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT THE POWELL RESIDENCE ON CANDY LANE DOES NOT HAVE A TELEPHONE.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

END.

PJH

WE IS CLR FOR ONE

44-1987 Sub A 1001

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 4 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

NR015 AT PLAIN

9:35 PM NITEL 3-5-76 HLFW

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE AT. NITEL, MARCH 4, 1976.

REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT CLAUDE POWELL, JR.,  
AT HIS ADDRESS CANDY LANE, DECATUR, GA., ON THIS DATE  
WERE NEGATIVE. MESSAGES WERE LEFT REPEATED TIMES AT  
THAT RESIDENCE. THERE HAS BEEN NO PHONE CALL RECEIVED  
BY THE ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI FROM CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

ATLANTA. WILL MAKE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW  
CLAUDE POWELL, JR. ON MARCH 6, 1976.

END.

RJH

ACK FOR WO A TWO AND HOLD

44-1987 Sub M 1002

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>CB</i>	FILED <i>AK</i>
MAR 5 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester* *AK*

*CH*

NR013 SL PLAIN

10:44 PM NITEL 3/5/76 KCP

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775) (RUC)

MURKIN

RE ATLANTA NITEL TO BUREAU FEBRUARY 26, 1976, BUTELCALL TO ST. LOUIS, MARCH 1, 1976; ST. LOUIS TEL TO BU, MARCH 2, 1976.

REVIEW MARCH 5, 1976, RECORDS MAINTAINED VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION RECORDS PROCESSING CENTER (VARPC), ST. LOUIS, MO., INDICATED LEON POWELL, SERIAL NUMBER 14 478 523, SSAN 260 46 4181, FILED VA CLAIM JUNE 17, 1958, UNDER NUMBER C19 894 619, FOR OUTPATIENT DENTAL TREATMENT, ATLANTA, GA. CLAIM DENIED JULY 23, 1959, DUE TO APPLICATION NOT FILED PRIOR TO ONE YEAR OF SEPARATION FROM ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE.

VA CLAIM FILED OCTOBER 14, 1969, UNDER SSAN 260 46 4181, WAS MADE BY VARPC AS A REQUEST TO NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER (MILITARY BRANCH), ST. LOUIS, MO., FOR SERVICE NUMBER VERIFICATION OF POWELL. NO OTHER VA CLAIMS WERE LOCATED IN THE RECORDS.

MEDICAL RECORDS CONTAINED NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN REFERENCE TO PSYCHIATRIC COMPLAINTS.

HIS DPOB SHOWN AS APRIL 27, 1935, TAGCOA, GEORGIA.

END

RJH

ME IS CLR FOR ONE AND TU

44-1987 Sub M 1003

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>WB</i>	FILED <i>C</i>
MAR 5 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*RBH* *Heater* *Alt* *0*



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

3/3/76

Date of transcription

The following photographs were displayed to CLAUDE POWELL, JR., who was located at his place of employment where he was working as a carpenter:

1. TRAVIS MERLE PHILLIPS, Odessa Police Department (OPD), Number 7174.
2. BILLY GENE SHAPPER, OPD Number 16969
3. OPD Number 19806
4. BOBBY JOE SMITH
5. Composite photograph bearing Bureau File Number 44-38861, Atlanta File 44-2386.

After viewing the above photographs, POWELL stated he would be unable to identify any one of these as being the individual who approached him and his brother, LEON POWELL, at Pete's Bar in Atlanta, Georgia, with the proposition of murdering MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., POWELL again stated that he would be unable to recognize the individual should he ever meet him again.

44-1987 SUB M 1004  
AL BBL

2/26/76 Midland, Texas

Interviewed on

at

EP 44-920

ME 44-1987

SA FRANZ W. MENZEL:mg

3/1/76

by

Date dictated

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.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 1/15/76

1

CLAUDE POWELL, JR., was located at the Scottish Inn Motel, Interstate Highway 20 at Holiday Hill Road, Room 211. POWELL was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and at the outset of the interview, was asked if he had been in contact with any member of his family or in particular, his brother, LEON POWELL. POWELL denied being in contact with any member of his family, including LEON POWELL, since his departure from Atlanta, Georgia, on December 31, 1975. He was then interviewed as follows:

POWELL was asked if he had ever been offered a large sum of money to commit a murder, and he immediately volunteered that he had been offered \$25,000 shortly before the actual assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING. He recalled the circumstances of that offer as follows:

Approximately three to four weeks prior to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, he and his brother, LEON POWELL, were seated in a booth in Pete's Bar on Moreland Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia. A friend of his brother, RAY GODFREY, a musician and Atlanta City employee, joined them at their booth and engaged in conversation with LEON. He paid no particular attention to what LEON and RAY were talking about. GODFREY left the booth, and, in approximately 10 to 15 minutes, an individual previously unknown to him, came to their booth and seated himself opposite from LEON and him.

As this unknown person sat down, he placed an expensive-looking black brief case on the table. He described the unknown person as being a white male, approximately 5'8" in height, medium build, approximately 150 pounds, approximately 30 years of age. POWELL explained that the unknown person appeared to him to be out of place in such an establishment as Pete's Bar, in view of his dress, which did not fit into the crowd that frequented Pete's Bar.

---

On 1/8/76 at Midland, Texas File # EP 44-920  
by SA GERALD D. GALBREATH  
SA FRANZ W. NENZEL FWN:pm Date dictated 1/14/76

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.

44-1987-SUB M 1004A

The unknown person impressed him as being a well educated person, who appeared to be a professional type such as a lawyer. He said the unknown person was clean cut, and very calm and cool in his manner. He stated the unknown person may have introduced himself, but he does not recall any names. The unknown person asked LEON and him if they wanted to pull a job. He does not know the exact wording, but he questioned the unknown person concerning the nature of the job, and how much money it paid. The unknown person told him and LEON that he wanted them to do away with someone and when POWELL questioned the unknown person further, he was told that it was someone important. The unknown person then told him and LEON that he wanted them to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, and would pay them \$25,000 now and \$25,000 when the job was done. The unknown person then opened his brief case which was full of wrapped currency; some of the bills he noticed were in \$100 denominations. He stated that he was shocked by the statements of the unknown person, and initially assumed that it was some sort of prank or possibly a law enforcement officer trying to trick him. After the unknown person made the offer, he ignored any further conversation, whereupon the unknown person closed his brief case 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 the bad reputation of being a hoodlum because of his past prison record, participation in several fights, and habit of carrying a shotgun in his vehicle, which he frequently loaned to the bartender at Pete's Bar whenever trouble occurred. He denied ever receiving such an offer prior to this incident, and further denied affiliation with any group which advocated racial hatred. 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.

POWELL stated he was shocked and dismayed to learn, approximately three to four weeks later, that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been murdered. He advised that he did not

go to any law enforcement officers, and tell them of the above contact with the unknown person, because he felt he might become a suspect in the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

POWELL was then requested to assist the FBI by providing an artist conception of the unknown person who contacted him at Pete's Bar by the use of a facial identification catalogue. It was explained to POWELL that a sketch would be made from a combination of features that he selected from photographs displayed in the catalogue. Each category in the catalogue was thoroughly explained and photographs in these categories were shown to POWELL. POWELL then stated that he would be unable to assist in this regard because he had only talked with the unknown person for approximately five minutes, and that he would not recognize him even if he was brought into his motel room at that moment.

The following descriptive data was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	CLAUDE POWELL, JR.
Alias	Junior Powell Shotgun Powell
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Stephens County, Georgia
Height	6'2
Weight	170
Hair	Gray-Black
Eyes	Blue
Education	Finished 4th grade
Employment	Self employed
Occupation	Carpenter and dry wall finisher
Parent	HEPSIE POWELL, Route 3, Toccoa, Georgia
Brothers	LEON POWELL, Atlanta, Georgia HUBERT POWELL Route 3, Toccoa, Georgia WENDELL POWELL, Belmont, North Carolina (address unknown) EDWARD POWELL, Shamdon, Georgia

3/3/76

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, EL PASO (44-929) (P)  
MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies of an FD-302 reflecting display of photographs to CLAUDE POWELL, JR., at Midland, Texas. Enclosed for Atlanta and Memphis is one copy each of the above FD-302.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 2)  
2 - Atlanta (44-2386) (Enc. 1) *ey*  
② - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 1)  
2 - El Paso

FWH:mg  
(8)

44-1987 SUB M 1005

*RR RR*

*Heater* *AK*



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Cincinnati, Ohio

March 5, 1976

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

On March 4, 1976, Betty Tibbles, Deputy Clerk,  
U. S. 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 #75-1795:

March 3, 1976

Order denying the Community  
Government Association leave  
to intervene.

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 1006

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 3 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

9.01

3/5/76

AIRTEL

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

Re CI airtel and LHM to Bureau, 2/24/76.

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 LINDA F. FERGUSON.

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

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

LFF/csf  
(6)

44-1987 SUB M 1007

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 3 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*1200*

NR017 AT PLAIN

7:55 PM NITEL 3-8-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
SAC, EL PASO (44-920)  
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)  
MURKIN.

RE AT NITEL, MARCH 5, 1976.

ON MARCH 8, 1976, CLAUDE POWELL, JR. CONTACTED AND ADVISED HE WAS UNSURE WHETHER OR NOT PETE DAVIS PRESENT DURING INITIAL MEETING AT BAR. HE ADVISED INCIDENT HAPPENED QUITE A WHILE AGO AND UNABLE TO REMEMBER OR BE POSITIVE IF DAVIS PRESENT, HOWEVER, THINKS DAVIS WAS PRESENT AND ALSO THINKS THAT DAVIS OWNED BAR DURING MEETING. POWELL FURTHER ADVISED THAT HIS BROTHER, LEON, TOLD HIM ABOUT INITIAL CONTACT BETWEEN LEON POWELL AND RAY GODFREY IN REFERENCE TO ACTUAL CONTACT ABOUT ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. HE LEARNED OF THIS INITIAL CONTACT FROM LEON SHORTLY AFTER THE TIME THAT RALPH CAME AND APPROACHED BOTH HE AND LEON.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT ALL INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED IN THE ATLANTA DIVISION, ATLANTA NOT SENDING DAILY NITELS. ATLANTA WILL SUBMIT REPORT.  
END.

RJH

ME AKC FOR TWO

44-1987 SUB M 1008

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 8 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester*  
*AKC*  
*AKC*  
*AKC*



3/11/76

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, EL PASO (44-920) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re AT nitel to Bureau, 3/9/76.

In view of the fact that CLAUDE POWELL, JR. has returned to Atlanta, and all investigation has been completed by the El Paso Division, this matter is being RUC'd.

2 - Bureau  
2 - Atlanta (44-2386)  
2 - Memphis (44-1987)  
1 - El Paso  
FWM:pmg  
(7)

44-1987 Sub M/1009  
Bd BV

Hoiter alt

Airtel

4/6/76

To: SAC, Atlanta (44-2386)  
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)  
MURKIN

A conference was held with the Civil Rights Division, (CRD) United States Department of Justice on 4/2/76, relative to the allegation made by Leon Owen Powell and Claude Powell, Jr. The CRD requested no additional investigation concerning the Powell allegation and stated it would advise if a determination is made to present the Powell allegation to a Federal Grand Jury.

① - SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

44-1987-SUBM 1010

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 8 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Proter



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Atlanta, Georgia

April 8, 1976

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

MURKIN



BUR 44-38861 AT 44-2386  
1-23-76

Artist's Conception of Ralph (Last Name Unknown) as  
described by Leon Powell.

44-1987 SUB M 1011

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.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 14 1976	
FBI MEMPHIS	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*



4/8/76

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) *(me)*

MURKIN.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and three copies of an LHM, prepared at Atlanta, dated and captioned as above.

Enclosed for Memphis are two copies of the above LHM.

LHM contains photograph of corrected artist's conception of RALPH (LNU) as described by LEON POWELL

2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)  
② - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) *cmh*  
2 - Atlanta  
TJW:cw  
(6)

44-1987 SUBM-1012

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 12 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester*

RUSSELL COX, DICKERSON & CARTIN, P.C.

RUSSELL RUSSO  
THOMAS G. COX  
VERNON F. DICKERSON  
JEROLD A. CARTIN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
4545 EAST 5TH STREET  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85711

TELEPHONE 795-8200  
AREA CODE 602

J. JAMES MURPHY  
WILLIAM F. McDONALD  
ROBERT G. CLARK  
THOMAS P. SYLVESTER

April 5, 1976

Duncan M. Dew, Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
P. O. Box 2910  
Tucson, Arizona 85702

Re: Gladys Minnitt

Dear Agent Dew:

Pursuant to our recent telephone conversation the following is a synopsis of Mrs. Minnitt's claim to a reward offered for information in James Earl Ray and the assassination of Martin Luther King. I would appreciate it if you would make a determination as to whether or not there is any reward money and, if so, what amount Mrs. Minnitt is entitled to receive. Please make any further communications with Mrs. Minnitt through my office regarding this matter.

Mrs. Minnitt contacted the F.B.I. in Washington, D.C. approximately 2 weeks after the death of Martin Luther King. Mrs. Minnitt first noticed Mr. Ray in Tucson a few weeks prior to the assassination of Dr. King. Apparently, Mr. Ray attended various church services and posed as a missionary. As you know, Mrs. Minnitt is an ordained Minister in the Pentecostal Church. Mrs. Minnitt had a newspaper clipping of James Earl Ray after the assassination. Mrs. Minnitt compared the newspaper clipping with the individual who reappeared at Church after the assassination and concluded that James Earl Ray was the individual attending the church services. Apparently, in the newspaper clipping Mr. Ray's hair was long and dark but was sandy and crewcut while in Tucson. As you know, the F.B.I. contacted Mrs. Minnitt approximately 24 hours after her telephone conversation with Washington. Mrs. Minnitt mentioned to F.B.I. agents that she was not sure whether she was interested in any reward for her services. I might add that Mrs. Minnitt mentioned that the first time, prior to the assassination, Mr. Ray looked in poor condition but after the assassination when he reappeared in Tucson he was dressed very nice and looked in good condition.

44-1987 SUBM 1013

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

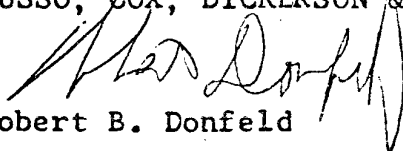
*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

-2-

I believe that the above is an accurate summation of my conversation with Mrs. Minnitt regarding the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. If there are any questions which you have regarding this matter or if you wish to discuss the assassination with Mrs. Minnitt I will be most happy to convene an interview at your convenience. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

RUSSO, COX, DICKERSON & CARTIN, P.C.

  
Robert B. Donfeld

RBD/dp

April 20, 1976

Mr. Robert B. Donfeld  
Attorney at Law  
4545 East 5th Street  
Tucson, Arizona 85711

Dear Mr. Donfeld:

Reference is made to your letter to the FBI, Tucson, Arizona, dated April 5, 1976, pertaining to Mrs. Gladys Minnitt, a copy of which has been forwarded to FBI Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

For your information, the FBI has no "reward money" to pay Mrs. Minnitt for information she furnished allegedly concerning James Earl Ray.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to the Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice, and if you have any further questions about the information Mrs. Minnitt furnished, it is suggested that you communicate directly with the CRD, Washington, D. C. 20530.

You may also desire to communicate directly with the State of Tennessee authorities where James Earl Ray was ultimately prosecuted in connection with the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sincerely yours,

*Clarence M. Kelley*  
Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

- 1 - Assistant Attorney General (Enclosure) (Enclosed is a copy of Civil Rights Division incoming.)
- 1 - SAC, Phoenix (44-371) (Info) (Enclosure) (Enclosed is a copy of incoming.)
- ① - SAC, Memphis (44-1987) (Info) (Enclosure) (Enclosed is a copy of incoming.) *ugh*

SEARCHED *Ad*  
SERIALIZED *Ad*  
APR 22 1976  
FBI - MEMPHIS  
*W*

44-1987-SUB M 1014

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 22, 1968

The following information should not be made public in any other manner except in the usual proceedings following the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum.

GEORGE DURYEA, Director, Locksmithing Institute, 1500 Cardinal Drive, Little Falls, New Jersey, provided the following information:

ERIC S. GALT, 2589 Rue Notre Dame Est, Montreal, Canada, Quebec, according to his records enrolled at the Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey, in July, 1967. Mr. DURYEA made available an enrollment form date stamped July 31, 1967, with the heading Locksmithing Institute-Little Falls, New Jersey 07424. The enrollment form was a pre-printed blank containing the following information:

"Please enroll me for the complete course in professional locksmithing (subject to your liberal money back agreement). I agree to follow your plan of teaching and to submit at least one lesson and/or payment each month. I will pay tuition or payment each month. I will pay the tuition fee according to the payment plan below:

"Plan A

"I enclose \$10 enrollment fee. I will pay \$7.50 with each completed lesson (not less than \$7.50 per month) until I have paid \$229.50. I may proceed as rapidly as I wish.

"Plan B - Double Quick Plan

"I enclose \$25 enrollment fee. I will pay \$15 with each completed lesson (not less than \$15 per month) until I have paid \$219.50. I may proceed as rapidly as I wish. I save \$10.

"Plan C

"I enclose \$199.50 in full payment. I may proceed as rapidly as I wish and save \$30.

*ME 44-1987 SUBM 1015*

On 4/12/68 at Little Falls, New Jersey File # Newark 44-854-484  
by SA JOHN R. LYONS & SA DON G. OWENS (A) DGO:BP Date dictated 4/16/68

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.



NK 44-854

"Name	ERIC S. GALT
Street	2589 Rue Notre Dame Est.
City	Montreal, Canada
State	Quebec

"LESSON INCLUDES TOOLS AND SUPPLIES AT NO EXTRA CHARGE."

The above is all hand printed except the middle initial "S" which is written.

The student ledger card in the name of Mr. ERIC S. GALT, 113 14th Street, Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia, disclosed the following information.

In the top right hand corner it shows student number as 3-1-15189, with a date at the top of March 30, 1968.

Mr. DURYEA advised that the Locksmithing Institute had received a change of address for GALT to the aforementioned address on March 30, 1968.

The first payment for the course was recorded on July 31, 1967, and the last payment of \$7.50 was recorded on April 8, 1968.

Mr. DURYEA advised that he could provide no information regarding GALT's enrollment.

The following is a confidential information form used by Locksmithing Institute when students enroll for the locksmithing course:

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION  
for Locksmithing Institute

Your credentials as a registered Locksmithing Student justify your possession of tools and equipment necessary to pick locks and to perform other work of a highly restricted and confidential nature.

This form is your application to receive such credentials, the tools of your trade, instruction in lock-picking, and in the other secrets of the locksmithing profession. Answer each question completely and return this form promptly.

1. YOUR NAME ERIC S. GALT  
Student Number 30-15189 Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_
2. Age 36 Married \_\_\_\_\_ Single x Dependents NONE
3. Name of Employer AM TAKING COURSE AT AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULT-  
Nature of your work ANTS. 16010 CRENSHAW, LONG BEACH, CALIF.
4. Have you any specialized training? BACK PAGE
5. Education: Public School \_\_\_\_\_ High X College \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_
6. How do you plan to capitalize on your training?  
Spare-time earnings? \_\_\_\_\_ Open Your Own Shop? \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Plans? X
7. Have you any physical defects? NO
8. List two character references:  
1) Name MRS RITA STEEN 2) Name MRS MARIE DENINNO  
Address 5666 FRANKLIN L.A. Address 5533 HOLLYWOOD, L.A.  
Occupation HOUSEWIFE Occupation WAITRESS

List any other information which you feel we should have in order to help you, on the reverse side of this form.

I, the undersigned, do hereby swear and affirm that I have never been convicted of the crimes of burglary, or breaking and entry, robbery, or grand or petty larceny,

FURTHER, I solemnly swear that I will keep in strict confidence and to myself all of the information that I will receive from the Locksmithing Institute in regard to picking locks; that I will use this information only in the discharge of my duties as a locksmith; that I will never use my knowledge of this subject to aid or abet in the commission of a crime.

Name Eric S. Galt City Los Angeles  
(write)  
Address 1535-N-Serrano State Calif Zip Code 90027

I HAD TRAINING IN THE MILITARY IN ORDINANCE  
AND SINCE THERE IS A SIMILARITY <sup>between</sup> THE TWO  
I COULD COMBIND THEM IN ONE BUSINESS.

NK 44-854

According to Mr. DURYEA, this document is an affidavit filed by the student when he returns his first lesson to the Locksmithing Institute. He has no way of determining when this document might have been received, however, he would assume that it was submitted with the first lesson or else there would be a notation made on the back that his institute had submitted a follow up letter to the student.

In addition to the above documents, he made available two addresses which are as follows:

Mr. ERIC S. GALT  
1535 North Serrano  
Los Angeles, California 90027

Mr. ERIC S. GALT  
2608 Highland Avenue  
Birmingham, Alabama 35205

Dr. DURYEA further informed that the order of addresses would have been as follows: the Montreal, Canada, address, the first address that his institute received. The Los Angeles, California, address, the second received. The Birmingham, Alabama, address, the third address and the address on the student ledger card in Atlanta, Georgia, the most recent address which was March 30, 1968.

A search was made of the subscriptions for the Locksmith Ledger which is housed in the same building as the Locksmithing Institute and no subscription could be located under the name ERIC S. GALT.

Mr. DURYEA advised that everything, including lessons, payments, letters or any correspondence of any nature, received by the Locksmithing Institute or Locksmith Ledger would be immediately maintained by him and given to the Federal Bureau of Investigation as soon as possible after it is received.

In the event the above information is to be made public, a subpoena duces tecum should be directed to Mr. GEORGE DURYEA, Director, Locksmithing Institute, 1500 Cardinal Drive, Little Falls, New Jersey, 07424.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 1, 1968

The following information should not be made public in any other manner than the normal proceeding following the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum.

GEORGE DURYEA, Director, Locksmithing Institute, 1500 Cardinal Drive, Little Falls, New Jersey, made available the following items to SA JAMES R. LAUGHLIN and SA DON G. OWENS:

1. Coupon to locksmith ledger, Little Falls, New Jersey, requesting the padlock handbook bearing the typewritten name and address of ERIC S. GALT, 1535-N-SERRANO, Los Angeles, California.
2. Four (4) green payment coupons to Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey, showing payment for lessons six through nine. Coupons six through eight bore the handprinted address of 1535-N-SERRANO, Los Angeles, California, and the handprinted name of ERIC S. GALT. Coupon for lesson number nine bore the handprinted address of 113-14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia.
3. Envelope postmarked April 9, 1968, Little Falls, New Jersey, from 1500 Cardinal Drive, Little Falls, New Jersey, and marked "Moved, left no address." The envelope contained a white examination certificate bearing the address of GALT in the upper left hand corner and the letter grade of B plus in the upper right hand corner. This examination certificate was for lesson number eight.
4. Envelope postmarked April 10, 1968, Little Falls, New Jersey, from 1500 Cardinal Drive, Little Falls, New Jersey, and marked "Moved, left no address." The envelope contained a white examination certificate bearing the address of GALT in the upper left hand corner and the letter grade of A in the upper right hand corner. This examination certificate was for lesson number nine.
5. Five (5) fingerprint cards of key personnel who might have handled the above material. These cards are

*ME 44-1987 SUBM 1016*

On 4/19/68 at Little Falls, New Jersey File # Newark 44-854-483  
by SA DON G. OWENS and  
SA JAMES R. LAUGHLIN *[Signature]* DGO/jz Date dictated 4/25/68

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.

NK 44-854

for the following persons:

BOYD HENRY GILLEN

ANNIE DELORES JAMES

TRUDY ROBERTA DE FINIS

LYN CASHNELLI MENZIES

GEORGE FLOYD DURYEA

The above material has been submitted to the  
FBI Laboratory for appropriate examination.

If the above information is to be made  
public, a subpoena should be directed to GEORGE DURYEA,  
Director, Locksmithing Institute, 1500 Cardinal Drive,  
Little Falls, New Jersey.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 25, 1968

The following information should not be made public in any other manner than the usual proceedings following the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum.

GEORGE DURYEA, Director, Locksmithing Institute, 1500 Cardinal Drive, Little Falls, New Jersey, made available a white envelope postmarked Montreal, Canada, with the Roman numeral VII, 1967. The envelope bore a return address of ERIC S. GALT, 2589 Rue Notre Dame, followed by the abbreviation, E.S.T., Montreal, Canada, Quebec. The envelope was mailed to Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey, USA 07424. The address on envelope was hand-printed and has been submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Laboratory, and Identification Division, for examination.

In the event the above information is to be made public, a subpoena duces tecum should be directed to GEORGE DURYEA, Director, Locksmithing Institute, 1500 Cardinal Drive, Little Falls, New Jersey.

On 4/15/68 at Little Falls, NJFile # Newark 44-854-482by SA DON G. OWENS /cg4/19/68

Date dictated

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.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 29, 1968

Records of the Fidelity Union Trust Company, 765 Broad Street, contain the following items which were received in regular deposits on the dates indicated from the Bank of Bloomfield, 554 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, New Jersey, a corresponding bank:

Deposit dated July 31, 1967

Canadian Postal Money Order #C31600868, in the sum of \$17.50, signed ERIC GALT.

Deposit dated March 11, 1968

U.S. Postal Money Order #1916211078, dated stamped March 8, 1968, in the sum of \$15.00, payable to Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey, and signed ERIC S. GALT.

Deposit dated April 8, 1968

U.S. Postal Money Order #5615657923, date stamped March 28, 1968, in the sum of \$7.50, payable to Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey, and signed ERIC S. GALT.

The above information is not to be made public except in a usual proceeding following the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum. In the event this information is necessary for court purposes, a subpoena should be directed to any officer of the Fidelity Union Trust Company.

*ME 44-1987 SUBM 1018*

On 4/19 & 4/22/68 at Newark, New Jersey File # Newark 44-854 - 378  
by SAA CLAUDE M. DUNCAN, JR. /lgd Date dictated 4/26/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 22, 1968

EDWIN LEAFHILL, Cashier, Bank of Bloomfield, 554 Bloomfield Avenue, made available Recordak film which photographically recorded a film record of all the checks and other negotiable instruments handled by the above bank during the following pertinent periods:

7/28 - 8/3/67  
 8/3 - 8/10/67  
 1/8 - 1/12/68  
 1/31 - 2/6/68  
 3/11 - 3/12/68  
 4/8 - 4/10/68

The above-described Recordak film records were visually reviewed on a Recordak 310 Film Reader and the following information was developed:

Recordak Film Pack Dated January 8 - 12, 1968

Bank of America Money Order #0799 18 037, in the amount of \$15, purchased at the Hollywood-Western Branch, Hollywood, California, and payable through the National Trust and Savings Association, Hollywood, California, issued on January 8, 1968, payable to Locksmithing Institute, purchaser ERIC S. GALT, date of deposit January 10, 1968, account number listed on the bottom of the right-hand corner of the check [REDACTED] and account number listed on the left-hand corner bottom of the check [REDACTED].

Recordak Film Pack Including Date of March 6, 1968

Bank of America Money Order #0799 19 701, in the amount of \$7.50, purchased at the Hollywood-Western Branch, Hollywood, California, drawn on the National Trust and Savings Association, Hollywood, California, payable to Locksmithing Institute, dated February 26, 1968, purchaser's name listed as ERIC S. GALT, account number on right-hand bottom of check listed as [REDACTED] and account number listed on left-hand bottom of check [REDACTED] deposited on March 6, 1968.

On 4/15/68 at Bloomfield, New Jersey File # Newark 44-854 - 377  
 by SAs UDO H. SPECHT  
and CHARLES E. KHRZ UHS/jtm Date dictated 4/16/68

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.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/17/68

AL THATCHER, 39 Briarcliff Road, Mountain Lakes, New Jersey, furnished the following information:

At approximately 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3, 1968, THATCHER was at the Municipal Airport in Detroit, Michigan, awaiting his home bound flight when he chanced to meet FRANCIS ERDMAN, a college classmate. Since both had time to wait before their respective flights, THATCHER and ERDMAN went to the airport bar where they sat at a table near the entrance doorway to the bar. Immediately after entering the bar, THATCHER's attention was drawn to a young man in military uniform who was seated at the far end of the bar. Although THATCHER could not overhear any of the conversation between the young man and bartender, it was obvious that the young man was engaged in excited conversation with the bartender because of the manner in which he was gesticulating.

As the young man prepared to leave the bar, approximately 20 minutes after THATCHER and his friend had entered the bar, the young man stopped at the THATCHER table and spoke with THATCHER and his friend for approximately two minutes. The gist of the this conversation by the young man according to THATCHER's recollection, was that he was enroute to Memphis, Tennessee, and that he was going to "- get even" with Reverend KING because three Negro men had raped his redheaded girl friend. Although the young man did not seem to have a southern accent, THATCHER was left with the impression that Memphis was the home of the young man and that he was just returning from Vietnam.

According to THATCHER's recollection, the young man was a white male, in his mid twenties, 5'10" to 6' tall, approximately 180 pounds with sandy hair cut short, possibly crew cut, wearing a khaki uniform, either U.S. Army or Marine with chevrons indicating his rate to be that of corporal or sergeant. THATCHER stated that he was not positive but believed that the young man may have had a scar under his right eye.

*ME 44-1987 SUBM 1020*

On 4/7/68 at Mountain Lakes, New Jersey File # Newark 44-854-259  
by SA ANDREW R. BABYAK / rmc Date dictated 4/11/68

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