

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 19, 1968

ANDREW DOBOS, 301 Fyche Lane, Teaneck, New Jersey,
furnished the following information:

He is the area representative for the Textile Marking Machine Company, Syracuse, New York. This company manufactures and sells to laundries a thermo-seal machine that produces laundry marks. He made available to the FBI a list of those laundries that he covers that use this machine. In addition he supplied the name of FRED WEBER, District Sales Manager, Textile Marking Machine Company, Syracuse, New York, who lives at 35 Skylark Lane, Stoneybrook, New York, as a person who may be able to supply the names of additional laundries located in the northeast United States who use this particular machine.

In addition he stated that WEBER may also be able to name the jobbers in this area that use a particular laundry tag.

ME 44-1987 SUB 1021

On 4/11/68 at Teaneck, New Jersey

File # Newark 44-854-182

by SA RICHARD L. BIGLER *RB* /maf

Date dictated 4/12/68

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STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
JEFFERSON CITY

GEORGE M. CAMP
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 13, 1976

Mr. Clarence M. Kelley, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

It is our understanding that the Attorney General has under consideration a review of the events that led up to the death of the late Dr. Martin Luther King. Either as part of that review, or as an independent review, we request that you initiate an investigation into the activities of James Earl Ray while he was an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary in the early and mid-1960's, including his escape from that institution in 1967.

Recently we reviewed the facts available to us and concluded that James Earl Ray's escape did not involve the complicity of Missouri prison officials and that he was not a "merchant" within the Penitentiary. However, the State of Missouri has neither the resources nor the legal authority to conduct an investigation that could lead to a review of facts and interviews outside the State of Missouri. As part of your investigation, we ask that you review the material in our possession. We, of course, do not have access to the material and information that your agency and the U. S. Attorney's Office developed in the course of the investigation and the prosecution of James Earl Ray, and therefore think that your office is in the best position to be absolutely sure that no stone has been left unturned.

We stand ready to assist and cooperate with you and look forward to hearing from you as soon as you have made a decision on the course of action you wish to take.

GMC:mac

cc: Governor Christopher S. Bond
Attorney General Edward H. Levi
Bill D. Williams, Regional
Director, FBI, Kansas City, Mo.
Reverend Emanuel Cleaver
Attorney General John Danforth

GEORGE M. CAMP
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

44-198750 B.M. - 1022

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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APR 14 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

George M. CAMP
Deputy Director

Hester
Lawrence L. Graham

LAWRENCE L. GRAHAM
Director

Airtel

4/26/76

To: SAC, Kansas City (Encs. 2)

From: Director, FBI

MURKIN

Enclosed are two copies of a letter dated 4/13/76, from the State of Missouri, Department of Social Services, Jefferson City, Missouri.

Kansas City, promptly contact George M. Camp, Deputy Director, and/or Lawrence L. Graham, Director, State of Missouri, Department of Social Services, acknowledge receipt of this letter, and interview them for full details regarding any information they may desire to furnish re captioned matter. Review the material referred to in this letter to determine if it is pertinent to captioned matter. Advise them all of the information they furnish will be furnished to the CRD, USDJ, for its consideration as to whether any additional Federal action is warranted. If they have any further questions, they may consider communicating directly with the CRD, USDJ, Washington, D. C. 20530.

Promptly submit results. Conduct no additional investigation at this time.

① SAC, Memphis (44-1987) (Info) (Enclosure) ^{with} (Enclosed is a copy of incoming.)

44-1987 SUBM/023

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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APR 28 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Handwritten signatures and initials are present over the stamp]



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Kansas City, Missouri

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

May 7, 1976

ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CIVIL RIGHTS

On April 29, 1976, Mr. George M. Camp, Deputy Director, Missouri Department of Social Services, Jefferson City, Missouri, was contacted and receipt of his letter of April 13, 1976 to FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley was acknowledged. This letter reads as follows:

"Dear Mr. Kelley:

"It is our understanding that the Attorney General has under consideration a review of the events that led up to the death of the late Dr. Martin Luther King. Either as part of that review, or as an independent review, we request that you initiate an investigation into the activities of James Earl Ray while he was an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary in the early and mid-1960's, including his escape from that institution in 1976.

"Recently we reviewed the facts available to us and concluded that James Earl Ray's escape did not involve the complicity of Missouri prison officials and that he was not a "merchant" within the Penitentiary. However, the State of Missouri has neither the resources nor the legal authority to conduct an investigation that could lead to a review of facts and interviews outside the State of Missouri. As part of your investigation, we ask that you review the material in our possession. We, of course, do not have access to the material and information that your agency and the U. S. Attorney's Office developed in the course of the investigation and the prosecution of James Earl Ray, and therefore think that your office is in the best position to be absolutely sure that no stone has been left ~~unturned~~.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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Supv. Brater

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44-1987 SUB M 1024

ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

"We stand ready to assist and cooperate with you and look forward to hearing from you as soon as you have made a decision on the course of action you wish to take.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE M. CAMP
Deputy Director"

Mr. Camp stated that he is in charge of the Division of Corrections of the Missouri Department of Social Services, and handling of the captioned matter insofar as his agency is concerned has been delegated to him by Mr. Lawrence L. Graham, Director of the Department of Social Services.

Mr. Camp advised that he and his staff reviewed files and conducted interviews of available appropriate personnel, and former personnel of the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), and some inmates of the MSP regarding James Earl Ray and his escape from the MSP, and regarding the murder of Dr. King.

Mr. Camp stated that after these inquiries and file reviews, it was the conclusion of Missouri officials that Ray's escape from the MSP was due to the laxity of some employees, and Ray took advantage of the laxity. He said he found no evidence of a conspiracy to aid Ray's escape involving MSP personnel.

Mr. Camp said that in regard to allegations that Ray was running rackets in the MSP, financing himself through illegal acts within the MSP, supposedly aided by unidentified guard personnel, it was the conclusion after the study that such activity was not indicated by facts available, and no evidence was found to support such allegations. He noted that Ray had only one misconduct report, other than write-ups regarding his escape attempts, and that was an incident involving Ray's apparent attempt to take contraband into the hospital at the MSP on a food cart. He further noted that a review of Ray's ledger account, which shows the activity of the money coming into and disbursed from his account at the MSP treasurer's office, revealed the total

**ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

amount of money that came into his account during the time he was at the MSP, 1960-67, was about \$900. He noted that some of Ray's earnings from working in prison jobs and money sent by family went back out to family, and the rest was spent in the MSP commissary and for reading material.

Mr. Camp noted that the MSP official who was deemed most knowledgeable regarding the inmate population at the MSP during the period of time of 1960-67, and who was in a position to know, and did know which inmates were involved in rackets as a merchant or dealer in contraband, and possessed of influence over inmate population in the MSP, was Major B. J. Poiry. He said information from Major Poiry was to the effect that Ray was a "nobody" and was distinguished by nothing except that "he wanted to escape from the MSP."

Mr. Camp advised that nothing was seen in all his investigation to relate Ray's escape to the murder of Martin L. King. He noted no information indicating that Ray was a racist.

Mr. Camp stated that the MSP staff should have been watching Ray more closely in view of his previous escape attempts at the MSP. He believes that the prison officials' decision to cancel a suggestion that the employees identified as lax in their duties, which probably led to Ray being able to escape, in addition to the letters of reprimand they did receive, was an insufficiency of management in not taking more severe administrative action against those employees. He noted, however, that at the time of the escape, it could not have been known that Ray later would kill King.

Mr. Camp said that the "Western Union Mailgram" received by Missouri Governor Christopher S. Bond at Jefferson City on February 6, 1976 from Reverend Emanuel Cleaver, Executive Director, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), referred to the January 26, 1976 issue of Time magazine and requested investigation regarding Ray's escape and activities in the MSP. He believes the SCLC hypothesized that the MSP staff helped Ray run rackets in the MSP to finance himself on his escape in a plot to kill King.

He noted that the Time magazine article was arranged by the publicity agent for George McMillan, 12 Hilliard Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, to help promote his book on Ray,

**ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

and King's assassination. He said that it was his understanding that McMillian had stated that he had refused to give any assistance to the FBI when contacted for information he might have regarding the allegations mentioned above.

McMillian used as a source a former MSP inmate named Raymond Curtis according to Mr. Camp, who noted that Curtis had been gone from the MSP about one year before Ray escaped.

Mr. Camp further advised that he had received a letter dated January 28, 1976 from Lou Miller, former MSP inmate, who told Camp that he had been editor of the inmate newspaper at the MSP, the Jefftown Journal, when Ray was in the MSP. Miller stated that he knew Ray and "ran a card game with him" for a period of time not specified in the MSP. Miller is now residing at the Kirby Hotel, 233 North Main, Springfield, Missouri, according to Mr. Camp.

Mr. Camp pointed out that his investigation in this matter did not include interviews with Miller or Curtis, nor did he interview Fred Wilkinson, Director of the Department of Corrections in 1967, who now lives in North Carolina. He said that he believes that any further investigation in this matter should include interviews with the above-named persons, as well as the MSP personnel reprimanded in this matter at the time, Major Poiry, former MSP Warden H. R. Swenson and with James Earl Ray.

Mr. Camp furnished copies of the following items from his file on this matter, which are attached to this memorandum:

"Mailgram" to Governor Bond from Reverend Emanuel Cleaver, supra, February 5, 1976;

Letter dated January 28, 1976 to Ms. Heather Kilpatrick, Time-Life Building, New York City, New York, from Mr. Camp;

Letter dated February 26, 1976 to Reverend Cleaver, supra, from Mr. Camp;

Memorandum dated February 27, 1976 to James Earl Ray file from Mr. Camp.

ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The material utilized by Mr. Camp in his investigation, as outlined in his memorandum dated February 27, 1976, was reviewed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Mr. Camp's Office on April 29 and April 30, 1976 and May 3 and May 4, 1976. This review revealed no information pertinent to this investigation which has not already been available, or in variance with the conclusions reached by Mr. Camp, as outlined above.

5/7/76

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) -RUC-
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Kansas City, 4/26/76.

Enclosed are six copies of a self-explanatory LHM.
One copy of the LHM is enclosed for Memphis.

Mr. CAMP was advised on contact that all of the information he furnished would be furnished to the Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice (USDJ), for its consideration as to whether or not any additional Federal action is warranted. He was told that if he had any further questions, he might consider communicating directly with the CRD, USDJ, Washington, D. C.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6)
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 1) (Info)
1 - Kansas City
THW/jb
(4)

44-1987 SUBM 1025

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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[Handwritten signature]



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Kansas City, Missouri

May 10, 1976

ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CIVIL RIGHTS

Reference memorandum dated May 7, 1976.

Attached are the enclosures described on
page four of referenced memorandum.

44-1987506M1026

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MONSTLT HSH

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western union Mailgram



GOVERNOR CHRISTOPHER S BOND
STATE CAPITOL
JEFFERSON CITY MO 65101

FEB 6 1976

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

DEAR GOVERNOR BOND

IN ITS JANUARY 26 ADDITION, TIME MAGAZINE CARRIED SOME KEY EXCERPTS FROM GEORGE MCMILLIAN'S UPCOMING BOOK ON THE ASSASSINATION OF DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JUNIOR, THE FOUNDER OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN HIS BOOK, MCMILLIAN CHARGES THAT JAMES EARL RAY, DOCTOR KING'S ALLEGED ASSASSIN, PLOTTED AND FINANCED THE MURDER OF THE FAMED CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER BEHIND THE WALLS OF THE MISSOURI STATE PRISON. MCMILLIAN, WHO SPENT 7 YEARS RESEARCHING FOR HIS BOOK, GOES EVEN FURTHER BY SUGGESTING THAT SEVERAL PRISON GUARDS PROVIDED RAY WITH WHATEVER ASSISTANCE WAS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN A LUCRATIVE PRISON DRUG BUSINESS. MCMILLIAN CLAIMS THAT RAY HAD EARNED OVER 7 THOUSAND DOLLARS BY THE TIME OF HIS ESCAPE AND THAT HE USED THIS MONEY FOR ASSASSINATION PLANS.

WHETHER OR NOT MCMILLIAN'S BOOK IS COMPLETELY RELIABLE IS SECONDARY. THE FACT THAT TIME MAGAZINE, ONE OF THE NATION'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS AND WIDELY CIRCULATED PUBLICATIONS HAD ENOUGH CONFIDENCE IN MCMILLIAN TO PRINT THE STORY, IS IN ITSELF WORTHY OF OUR ATTENTION. SINCE THE REVELATION THAT J EDGAR HOOVER USED THE FBI IN A VICIOUS ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT DOCTOR KING, THE HARRIS POLL REPORTS THAT 60 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION BELIEVE THAT DOCTOR KING'S DEATH WAS THE RESULT OF A CONSPIRACY, THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, AS YOU WELL KNOW, HAS, WITH MUCH JUSTIFICATION, BECOME CYNICAL AND SUSPICIOUS. THE STORY IN TIME HAS FURTHERED THIS CYNICISM AND SUSPICION.

IF, AS MANY HAVE COME TO BELIEVE, DOCTOR KING'S ASSASSINATION WAS CONCEIVED IN JEFFERSON CITY AND CONSUMMATED IN MEMPHIS, A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF RAY'S ILLEGAL DEALINGS AS A PRISON MERCHANT AND HIS SEEMINGLY SMOOTH ESCAPE MIGHT SHED SOME BADLY NEEDED LIGHT ON THIS VERY EMOTIONAL ISSUE.

THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IS THEREFORE MAKING THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS:

1 THAT THE FINDINGS OF THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION OF JAMES EARL RAY'S ESCAPE FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY BE PRESENTED TO SCLC AND MADE PUBLIC.

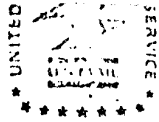
2 THAT THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE EXAMINE THE CHARGES MADE BY MCMILLIAN IN REGARD TO DRUG SALES IN THE PRISON AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT PRISON GUARDS MAY HAVE AIDED RAY IN HIS ESCAPE.

3 THAT THERE BE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ANY ACTIONS TAKEN BY PRISON OFFICIALS OR GOVERNOR WARREN HEARNES AFTER THEY LEARNED THAT DOCTOR KING'S ASSASSIN WAS A MISSOURI STATE PRISON ESCAPEE.

SCLC, NEEDLESS TO SAY IS HOPING FOR A POSITIVE AND PROMPT RESPONSE.

western union

Manigram



REVEREND EMANUEL CLEAVER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

00:46 EST

MGMSTLT HSB



STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Jefferson City

GEORGE M. CAMP
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

January 28, 1976

Ms. Heather Kilpatrick
Time-Life Building
Rockerfeller Center
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Ms. Kilpatrick:

As head of Missouri's prison system, I was disturbed to read the article on the assassination of Martin Luther King in the Time edition of January 26, 1976.

In one section of this article, you used excerpts from George McMillan's unpublished book to make both inaccurate and misleading implications and statements concerning Missouri's corrections system. Concerning James Earl Ray's confinement in the Missouri State Penitentiary, you stated that prison authorities were not helpful in documenting Ray's illegal dealings as a "Merchant." You also stated, "Just the opposite. They can no more admit that they have lost control of the prison, that the prisoners are running it, than they can fly to the moon."

Nothing could be further from the truth than these statements. First of all, Missouri's correctional system has a complete open door press policy allowing complete access to the press at any time except in emergency situations. And I feel that if you were to visit any of our correctional facilities in Missouri, you would learn that we most certainly have not lost control of our institutions. Secondly, the staff here have cooperated completely with Mr. McMillan in obtaining information and most, if not all, information on Ray's confinement in Missouri came from our officials. In addition to this, I was never contacted by Mr. McMillan concerning this situation. Lastly and most importantly, your article referred to conditions of the Missouri State Penitentiary in the early 1960's, but as seen from the above quote from Time, the reader would be led

Ms. Heather Kilpatrick

-2-

January 28, 1976

to believe that these same conditions exist today and they, of course, do not.

I find this assessment most difficult to comprehend especially in view of the fact that to my knowledge neither Mr. McMillan nor the staff from Time Magazine ever came to Missouri since my arrival here in July of 1973 to personally review the situation.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE M. CAMP
Director of Correctional Services
State of Missouri

GMC:ljr

cc: George McMillan
Ned Bradford



STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
JEFFERSON CITY

GEORGE M. CAMP
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 26, 1976

Reverend Emanuel Cleaver
Executive Director
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
St. James Gregory United Methodist Church
3000 East Gregory
Kansas City, Missouri 64132

Dear Reverend Cleaver:

Governor Bond has asked me to respond to your Mailgram dated February 5 concerning the James Earl Ray article which appeared in the January 26 issue of Time Magazine. First of all, I have attached a copy of my letter of January 28 to Time Magazine, the contents of which are self-explanatory. You will note that I take exception to the conclusions drawn by Time Magazine as well as some of those attributed to Mr. McMillan.

In response to your particular questions, I have thoroughly reviewed the file of James Earl Ray when he was an inmate in the Missouri State Penitentiary in the early 1960's. I have also reviewed and studied all reports available to the Division of Corrections that might in any way relate to Ray's activities while an inmate and to the escape itself.

My findings are that there is nothing whatsoever to substantiate any conclusion that James Earl Ray financed either his escape or his activities after his escape through any means while he was an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary. During the six years that James Earl Ray was an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary, he kept primarily to himself and, other than for the fact that he attempted to escape on more than one occasion, he had only one conduct violation during that entire time and that was for the possession of three packages of cigarettes, a ball point pen and one pound of coffee.

During the entire time that he was an inmate, the total amount of money received or earned was \$903.39. The majority of these funds were spent in the Inmate Canteen during his years in the Penitentiary.

-2-


The inmate that Mr. McMillan quotes extensively - Mr. Curtis - was released from the Penitentiary approximately one year prior to James Earl Ray's escape and was later committed to the Georgia Department of Corrections in July of 1967 to serve 888 years for murder. He is still in their custody.

I have been informed that all of the material available to me at this time was made available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and I am sure that this material, along with probably much more material, was thoroughly studied at the time of James Earl Ray's trial.

In addition, you might be interested to know that prior to the Governor's receiving your Mailgram, I personally discussed the allegations and conclusions in the Time Magazine article with the author himself, Mr. George McMillan. In the course of our conversation, I pressed him for details regarding drug sales or any other illegal activities in which staff and/or inmates might have been involved. He was unable to give me any specifics but just responded that "it was common knowledge."

In conclusion, I find nothing whatsoever to substantiate the hatching of any conspiracy to kill Martin Luther King on the part of James Earl Ray while he was an inmate in the custody of the Missouri Department of Corrections. If I can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Very truly yours,



GEORGE M. CAMP
Deputy Director

GMC:mac

attachment

cc: Governor Christopher S. Bond



STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Jefferson City

GEORGE M. CAMP
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 27, 1976

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: JAMES EARL RAY FILE

FROM: *George M. Camp*
George M. Camp

RE: Investigation of the James Earl Ray escape
and financing of his activities

As well as reviewing James Earl Ray's file and the files of several other inmates and employees, which are listed below, I talked with former Warden Harold R. Swenson and former Senior Correctional Officer Bernard Poiry regarding any knowledge they might have of the activities of James Earl Ray.

On February 26, Mr. Swenson informed me that to his knowledge Ray was not a "merchant" and that he was not involved in any extensive illegal activities within the prison and in fact was a loner. He noted that the only significant point to James Earl Ray's record was his several attempts to escape from the institution.

On that same day, February 26, I had an extensive discussion with the former Chief Yard Officer, Major Bernard Poiry. In essence, he substantiated the conclusions made to me by Warden Swenson and in his opinion, James Earl Ray could not have earned monies while in the prison to support himself after his escape. He was a loner who attempted to escape on several occasions and apparently had little rapport with other inmates. Major Poiry felt that James Earl Ray was able to escape due to the laxity of employees and not due to any dealings between Ray and employees of the institution. The report written at the time of Ray's escape substantiates this conclusion. Major Poiry stated

that there were a great many employees in the institution who frequently were lax in their duties and that a handful of employees had to pick up the slack for the majority of the employees who did not pay enough attention to custodial security.

In my own mind, having reviewed all of the files listed and to the discussions of Warden Swenson and Major Poiry, it seems quite clear to me that we have no information that one could base the conclusion that James Earl Ray planned and executed his escape with the direct assistance of staff nor that he secreted through illegal means money to support himself after his escape while he was still an inmate at the Penitentiary.

Inmate files reviewed:

James Earl Ray 00416	Joseph Siebert 09111
Ronnie Westborg 71859	Robert Lynn Powell 16960
James Esson 73789	Carl Drake 00189
Gary Wayne Harkins 21231	Billy Mac Miles 07206
George Harold Jones 05516	Donald Ray Johnson 10987
Raymond Curtis 04849	

Personnel files reviewed:

Alfred Burkhardt	James F. Stone
Harold John Schaffer	Lafe O. Gove
Ezra Leroy Shelden	Johnnie Francis Petree
Raymond Harold Morgan	Bernard C. Peschang

GMC:mac

5/10/76

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) RUC
RE: MURKIN

Re Kansas City airtel and LHM, 5/7/76.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies and Memphis one copy of LHM, containing enclosures described on page four of referenced LHM, dated 5/7/76.

2-Bureau (Enc. 6)
①-Memphis (44-1987)(Enc. 1)(Info.)
1-Kansas City
JRG:aa
(4)

44-1987 SUBM 1027

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 12 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Supv. Koler



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Kansas City, Missouri

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

May 24, 1976

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CIVIL RIGHTS

Leslie Allen Achter, Missouri Division of Corrections #24045, was interviewed at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), Jefferson City, Missouri, on May 20, 1976, in response to a letter he directed to FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley at Washington, D.C., on May 11, 1976. Achter's letter reads as follows:

"Dear Director Kelley:

"Sir What I am Writing You about I Want You to Send A F.B.I. Agent To ***** Interview Me in Person About James Earl Ray and I do Not Want to see a Agent From this State I am Very Sure You Know What I am Talking about_

"Thank You

"I am Sincerely
"/s/ Leslie Allen Achter-W-24045
Inmate Attorney-At-Law."

Achter had previously volunteered information about James Earl Ray in an interview with the FBI in the matter captioned "WARDEN DONALD W. WYRICK, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri; LESLIE ALLEN ACHTER - VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS", as reported in memorandum dated May 14, 1976. In that interview, Achter advised that he was basing the information he offered on reading of reports in the news media on Ray's case, and he had no specific information to offer.

44-1987 SUB M 1028
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Supl. Hester
info

mtf

9/11

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

A review of Achter's file at the MSP on May 20, 1976 revealed the following information:

He has FBI #216 783 C and is a white male, born [redacted], and he is currently serving a 29-year sentence from Mississippi County, Missouri. He previously had committments to the MSP as follows:

<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Release</u>
March 30, 1956	Burglary & Larceny	June 21, 1957, paroled
October 2, 1957	Parole Violation	May 22, 1958, discharged
June 10, 1959	Assault With Intent to Kill	May 14, 1962, escaped
May 28, 1962	Returned from Escape	January 10, 1966, discharged
January 11, 1966	Began sentence for escape charge	June 28, 1966, paroled
January 13, 1967	Parole Violation	June 1, 1967, discharged
December 13, 1968	Manslaughter	September 10, 1971, discharged

Achter was taken out of the MSP on a court order to testify in U.S. District Court, Central Division, Western District of Missouri, on April 29, 1976, in civil actions #75CV2-C and 76CV36-C, captioned, "LESLIE ALLEN ACHTER, Plaintiff, vs. BILL ARMONTROUT, Associate Warden, MSP, et al, Defendants".

Lt. Golden of the MSP, reported on October 23, 1974 that Achter "is never satisfied unless he has something going on all the time...always agitating other inmates, and generally trying to cause havoc."

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

There is also correspondence in his file involving answers by the Division of Corrections of Missouri to Senator Thomas Eagleton of Missouri in response to inquiries prompted by letters Senator Eagleton received from Achter.

A Psychological Evaluation dated June 2, 1975 in Achter's file by James B. Gross, M.A., Clinical Psychologist III, includes the following information:

"...Achter admitted that he spends a great deal of time thinking about just how he would conduct the legal defense of James Earl Ray: 'I don't believe I would have any sweat whatsoever, easiest case I have ever seen.' Asked if this case might make him famous, inmate replied with great feeling: ' (obscene) ', yes, that would be THE publicity case of the world---that would be a big step in history; I've laid out a number of allegations, I've had the FBI here.'"

Gross noted in his report that Achter claims to be "legal-educated", but actually has had no formal legal training whatsoever, and his evaluation was: [REDACTED]

On Interview on May 20, 1976, Achter stated that he remains interested in the James Earl Ray case, and his interest has been stirred by recent news articles about Ray. He noted that Newsweek magazine had an article recently indicating that Ray was a "dope pusher" in the MSP while an inmate, and he asserted that he knew Ray and knew that he was not a "dope pusher" and never had any money as indicated by the article. He said he recalls Ray ran a few "parlay tickets" on a "penny-ante" scale. He asserted that one Joe Maloney, a newspaper reporter for a newspaper in Kansas City, Missouri, formerly an inmate in the MSP and editor of the inmate newspaper, was never associated with Ray and had no basis for any information he wrote in a recent article he had published in the newspaper on Ray. Achter volunteered that it is his theory that Ray, as a con, would never have pulled the trigger on Martin Luther King and then left the rifle where it would be found and his radio, bearing his inmate register number at the MSP, where it could be found, at the scene. He stated that he has no information as to what actually happened and no information that anyone employed at the MSP was involved in assisting Ray's escape at the MSP. He offered that a former inmate at the MSP named Joe Hedgewood,

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

who was an inmate in 1967, later was hired by the MSP as a guard, but is now back inside the MSP as a convict after another conviction, and he thought it strange that he would be hired as a guard. He theorized that maybe Hedgewood "had something on" the staff at the MSP, which led them to hire him, but he had no information that Hedgewood was connected with James Earl Ray or that Hedgewood had any information about Ray's escape.

5/24/76

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) RUC

MURKIN - 44-1987*

Re Bureau airtel to Kansas City, 5/14/76.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are four copies
of an LHM. Also, enclosed for Memphis are two copies of
an LHM.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 4)
2 - Memphis (Encs. 2) *find*
1 - Kansas City
THW:ed
(5)

44-1987-SUB M1029
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED
MAY 24 1976
FBI - KANSAS CITY
Super. Hester
info
CH

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

DATE: 6/3/76

FROM : SAC, WFO (44-703)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
(OO:ME)

ReButelcall, 6/1/76 to WFO.

Transmitted herewith to the Bureau are all sections of WFO file on captioned case. The WFO file number is 44-703 consisting of Sections 1 through 8 and Sub C Sections 1 - 5. The file is being delivered personally under the supervision of SA WILLIAM W. SLOAN to SA JOHN T. MEDLER III, Room 4677, JED.

It is understood the Bureau will assure the file is promptly returned to WFO when of no further assistance to the Bureau

2-Bureau (44-703)(13-encl)
2-Memphis (44-1987)(Info)
1-WFO (44-703)

WES:
(4)



5010-110

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

44-1987 SUB M 1030

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 5 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Cincinnati, Ohio
May 21, 1976

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

On May 11, 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:

May 10, 1976	Judgment of the District Court affirmed
May 10, 1976	Opinion Per Curiam

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 1031
my my
Fester
OK

5/21/76

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, CINCINNATI (157-1893) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re CI airtel and LHM to Bureau, 3/5/76.

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.

In view of information obtained, Cincinnati is placing this matter in RUC status.

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

LFF/lff
(5)

44-1987 Sub m 1032

my my
Aester *AK*

NR009 KX PLAIN

7:02 PM NITEL JULY 8, 1976 WEH

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
SAC, MEMPHIS (44-2366)
ADIC, NEW YORK (174-2366)

FROM: KNOXVILLE (149-114) (44-696) (RUC)

LAGBOM. EID. OO: NEW YORK *sub m* KX FILE 149-114.
MURKIN. *44-1987-~~memphis~~* OO: MEMPHIS. KX FILE 44-696.

FOR INFO BUREAU AND RECEIVING OFFICES, ANONYMOUS TELEPHONE CALLER ADVISED AT 2:45 P.M., JULY 8, 1976, THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WHO KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING AND WHO WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT BOMBINGS IN THE AIRPORTS IS ONE RICHARD OSBON (PHONETIC), JR.

THIS WAS ALL OF THE INFORMATION WHICH THE CALLER FURNISHED AND THE CALL WAS THEN TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY BY THE CALLER. NO RECORD IDENTIFIABLE, KNOXVILLE INDICES.

INFORMATION BEING FURNISHED RECEIVING OFFICES FOR EVALUATION AND POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE IN INVESTIGATION.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END.

JSD FBI MEMPHIS HOLD

44-1987-Sub m-1033

SEARCHED <i>8</i>	INDEXED <i>mm</i>
SERIALIZED <i>mm</i>	FILED <i>mm</i>
JUL 8 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester
MB
CH

Nashville Banner

1100 BROADWAY
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37202

WAYNE SARGENT
President & Publisher

PHONE: (615) 255-5401

July 7, 1976

Mr. Toy Fuson
Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Court House
Broadway
Nashville, Tennessee

*marked
out me*

Dear Toy:

Yesterday, July 6, about 2:00 p.m. my secretary, Mrs. Lynn Kemp, received a telephone call for me.

She could not tell whether it was long distance, but the voice identified himself as Samual Vogel of 67 Dayton Drive, Columbus, Ohio. He said his telephone number was (614) 223-1234. He told Mrs. Kemp: "I had something to do with the Martin Luther King murder, and I will give myself up to the publisher, Mr. Sargent, at 3:00 p.m. tomorrow. I am giving myself up to Mr. Sargent because James Earl Ray is being kept prisoner in the State of Tennessee. Please contact the warden."

No one showed up today at 3:00 p.m.

Because the telephone number sounds like the type that is usually handled by a newspaper or a semi-public agency, I asked the phone company to check it out. They informed me there is no such workable number.

I've made no attempt to check out 67 Dayton Drive in Columbus and don't know if there is such an address.

There are two Sam Vogel or S. Vogels in Columbus. Neither has a telephone number anywhere near the one that was left with us.

*Rec 7/11/76
Ack
by phone
7/11/76
J*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 12 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

44-1987 Sub M 1034

Mr. Toy Fuson
July 7, 1976
Page 2

The FBI probably has a file someplace on people who try to inject themselves into the MLK assassination story. Perhaps this is one of your regulars and you would like it for his file.

There are so many reports about reporters getting stuff out of your files and so many reports of those files being made up of improperly obtained material that I thought I would reverse the trend and volunteer this small piece of information, however worthless it may be.

Cordially

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne Sargent". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Cordially".

Wayne Sargent

lk

cc: Ken Morrell

OFFICE OF THE PUBLISHER

Nashville  Banner

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37202

Mr. Toy Fuson
Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Court House
Broadway
Nashville, Tennessee

7/13/76

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, CINCINNATI

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

MURKIN

OO: MEMPHIS

WAYNE SARGENT, President and Publisher of the Nashville Banner, Nashville, Tennessee, contacted the Nashville Resident Agency and advised that on July 6, 1976, at about 2:00 P. M., his secretary received a call. She could not determine if this was a long-distance telephone call, but the voice identified himself as SAMUEL VOGEL, 67 Dayton Drive, Columbus, Ohio. He said his telephone number was (614) 223-1234. The caller stated, "I had something to do with the Martin Luther King murder, and I will give myself up to the publisher, Mr. Sargent, at 3:00 P. M. tomorrow. I am giving myself up to Mr. Sargent because James Earl Ray is being kept prisoner in the State of Tennessee. Please contact the warden."

SARGENT stated that no one showed up at the designated time of 3:00 P. M. on 7/7/76.

CINCINNATI DIVISION

AT COLUMBUS, OHIO

Will ascertain subscriber of telephone number (614) 223-1234, and if identified, interview concerning aforementioned telephone call.

2-Cincinnati
2-Memphis
TJF/sdp

(4)
pdp

44-1987 Sub M 1035
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED
JUL 14 1976
FBI - CINCINNATI
Hester
JMK

ME 87-16371

If the telephone number check is unproductive, determine who resides at 67 Dayton Drive and interview concerning any knowledge they have of this telephone call.

Check indices of your division and police department records re SAMUEL VOGEL, 67 Dayton Drive, Columbus, Ohio.

- 2* -

FBI

Date: 7/12/14/76

005

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE NITEL
(Precedence)TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
NEW YORK (174-2366)720 / SLR
GAB/45/Amo 7-15-76 JAB

FROM: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

LAGBOM; EID. OO NEW YORK.

MURKIN; OO MEMPHIS.

RE KNOXVILLE NITEL DATED JULY 8, 1976.

RICHARD OSBON (PHONETIC) DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE INDICES
OF THE MEMPHIS OFFICE AS HAVING ANY CONNECTION WITH THE
MARTIN LUTHER KING CASE. NO FURTHER ACTION BEING TAKEN
MEMPHIS.

END.

JCH:jap

(1) *jap*SEARCHED *mp*
SERIALIZED *mp*
INDEXED *mp*
FILED *mp*

44-1987 Sub M1036

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

SEE ABOVE

M

Per

JS

F B I

Date: 7/22/76

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

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, CINCINNATI (157-1893) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: ME

Re ME airtel to CI, 7/13/76.

Cincinnati Indices negative regarding SAMUEL VOGEL.

COLES address directory for Columbus, Ohio, does not have a listing for a Dayton Drive or SAMUEL VOGEL.

Inquiry at Ohio Bell Telephone Company reflects no telephone number in Columbus, Ohio, with 223 exchange or a listing for any SAMUEL VOGEL, or such an address as Dayton Drive.

Records of Columbus, Ohio, Police Department were checked on 7/20/76, and met with negative results regarding SAMUEL VOGEL.

2-Memphis
1-Cincinnati

HRL/cc
(3)

44-1987-Sub M1037

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>rgw</i>	FILED <i>[initials]</i>
JUL 23 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>Hester</i>	<i>[initials]</i>

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

NR0002 WA CODE SENT 3:55AM 7/30/76 RJ

PM NITEL 07/29/76 MDP

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

44-1987

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BUDED AUGUST 9, 1976

FOR INFORMATION OF RECIPIENTS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (AG) HAS ORDERED A REVIEW OF THE FBI'S INVESTIGATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. ASSIGNED TO CONDUCT THIS REVIEW IS A TASK FORCE WORKING UNDER DIRECTION OF THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS INDICATED THE REVIEW IS TO RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING FOUR QUESTIONS: (1) WAS THE FBI INVESTIGATION OF KING'S ASSASSINATION THOROUGH AND HONEST? (2) IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THE FBI WAS INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION? (3) IS THERE ANY NEW EVIDENCE WHICH HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION? (4) DOES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BUREAU AND KING CALL FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION?

THIS REVIEW IS A CONTINUATION OF A "PARTIAL REVIEW" RECENTLY

44-1987 Sub M 1038

SEARCHED *ase* INDEXED *ase*
SERIALIZED *mp* FILED *ase*
JUL 30 1976
FBI - MEMPHIS

Hester
J. Sklar
AK

PAGE TWO

CONDUCTED BY THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER DIRECTION OF ASSISTANT AG J. STANLEY POTTINGER. ALL PERSONNEL ON THE TASK FORCE ARE AUTHORIZED TOTAL ACCESS TO OUR FILES PERTAINING TO KING'S ASSASSINATION, OUR INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND ANY FILES RELATING TO BASIS FOR THESE INVESTIGATIONS. THIS WILL INCLUDE COVER PAGES OF COMMUNICATIONS CONTAINING IDENTITIES OF SOME FBI SOURCES AND INFORMANTS WHO WERE NOT AFFORDED SYMBOL NUMBERS AT THAT TIME AND INDIVIDUALS WHO EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED CONFIDENTIALITY.

TO DATE THE TASK FORCE HAS REVIEWED FBIHQ AND WFO FILES CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION OF KING CAPTIONED "MURKIN, BUREAU FILE 44-33861. TASK FORCE MEMBERS HAVE TRAVELED TO MEMPHIS, MILWAUKEE, KANSAS CITY, OMAHA, SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES AND REVIEWED MURKIN AND INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION FILES OF THOSE OFFICES. FUTURE TRAVEL BY THE TASK FORCE IS PLANNED FOR ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, CHARLOTTE, CHICAGO, NEW ORLEANS, NEW YORK, SPRINGFIELD AND ST. LOUIS.

AFTER ABOVE TRAVEL IS COMPLETED AND KING RELATED SECURITY FILES AT FBIHQ ARE REVIEWED, THE TASK FORCE WILL HAVE SEEN THE MAJORITY OF SERIALS IN OUR FILES RELATING TO THE KING INVESTIGATIONS. HOWEVER, SINCE IT IS THE GOAL OF THE TASK FORCE TO REVIEW KING RELATED FILES IN EVERY FIELD OFFICE, IT WILL BE

PAGE THREE

NECESSARY TO FORWARD XEROX COPIES OF FILES FROM THE REMAINING OFFICES TO FBIHQ FOR REVIEW.

THEREFORE, ALL RECIPIENTS WITH EXCEPTION OF THOSE OFFICES NAMED ABOVE, FURNISH FBIHQ ONE XEROX COPY OF EACH SERIAL CONTAINED IN YOUR KING ASSASSINATION FILE CAPTIONED "MURKIN." IT IS REQUESTED THIS MATERIAL BE PROCESSED AND MAILED TO REACH FBIHQ PRIOR TO AUGUST 9, 1976. THIS MATERIAL SHOULD BE SENT BY REGISTERED MAIL, ATTENTION DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR INGRAM, INTELLIGENCE DIVISION.

IF MURKIN FILES CONTAIN ANY PHOTOGRAPHS, EXHIBITS OR OTHER ITEMS WHICH CANNOT BE XEROXED A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH ITEM AND ITS LOCATION SHOULD BE SET FORTH IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTING THE DOCUMENTS TO FBIHQ.

SUBSEQUENT INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE ISSUED CONCERNING SUBMISSION OF COPIES OF OUR INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND RELATED SECURITY FILES. OFFICES TO BE VISITED IN THE FUTURE BY TASK FORCE PERSONNEL WILL ALSO BE FURNISHED APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS BY SEPARATE COMMUNICATION.

END

GAC-me-

NR0071 WA CODE

9:25PM NITEL 7-30-76 CMB

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; BUDED AUGUST 9, 1976.

REBUTEL TO ALL SACS JULY 28, 1976.

FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE HAS RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING CHANGE REGARDING REPRODUCTION OF FIELD OFFICE SERIALS IN THE MURKIN INVESTIGATION, AS OUTLINED IN REFERENCED TELETYPE.

IT WILL BE NECESSARY ONLY TO XEROX THE FIRST PAGE OF ANY DOCUMENT IN YOUR MURKIN FILE IF A COPY OF THAT DOCUMENT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ. THIS WILL INCLUDE BOTH DOCUMENTS ORIGINATING IN YOUR OFFICE AND THOSE RECEIVED FROM OTHER FIELD DIVISIONS. ANY DOCUMENTS IN YOUR MURKIN FILE, COPIES OF WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ MUST BE REPRODUCED IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND FORWARDED TO FBIHQ.

IT IS NOTED THAT THIS FIRST PAGE SHOULD CONTAIN THE FIELD OFFICE SERIAL NUMBER IN ORDER THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN MAKE A COMPLETE CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNTING OF EACH FIELD OFFICE SERIAL.

END

44-1987 SUB M 1039

SEARCHED *602* INDEXED *602*
SERIALIZED *602* FILED *602*
JUL 30 1976
FBI - MEMPHIS
J. Hester

8/4/76

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)
INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
ATTENTION: DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR INGRAM

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

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
BUDED: 8/9/76

Re Bureau teletypes to all SAC's dated 7/30/76,
captioned as above.

Enclosed for the Bureau are ten separate binders
(one enclosure) containing Xerox copy of each serial in the
Jackson File entitled "MURKIN". These binders include
Subfile #1 newspaper clippings and Subfile #2 original
FD-302's Xeroxed.

The enclosure also contains a Xerox copy of each
1-A envelope which indicates the contents and the disposition
of same.

The enclosed accounts for each and every serial
on file in the Jackson Division regarding this matter.

3 - Bureau (RM)
(1- Package copy)
① - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - Jackson (157-9586)
JLP/val
(5)

44-1987-SubM-1040

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1976	
MEMPHIS	

[Handwritten signature]

File—Serial Charge Out
FD-5 (Rev. 6-17-70)

osb-16-83475-1 GPO

File 44-1987 Sub M Date _____
Class. Case No. Last Serial

☐ Pending

☐ Closed

Serial No. Description of Serial Date Charged

Serials 1041 and 1042

transferred to 100-41105.

Employee

RECHARGE

Date _____

To _____ From _____

Initials of Clerk {

Date {

Employee

Date Charged

Location

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM : *VBS* SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: Memphis

DATE: 9/18/76

All of the Springfield Division's files in the caption matter are being retained by the Springfield Division in the absence of a specific request from the Memphis Division.

2 - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - Springfield (44-561)

HAW/bbs
(3)

44-1987-Sub M-1043

CCM CCM

[Signature]



5010-110

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

Washington Post
September 18, 1976

House Votes 280-65 to Probe Kennedy, King Assassinations

By Mary Russell
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House created a select committee yesterday to investigate the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The 12-member committee, established on a 280-to-65 vote, will be headed by Rep. Thomas Downing (D-Va.) for the remainder of this Congress. Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla.) said. Downing, however, is retiring, and Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.), with Downing a prime sponsor of the committee, is expected to become chairman in the new session next January.

Downing said he would ask for \$250,000 to get the committee started and hire staff, but Rep. Frank Thompson (D-N.J.), chairman of the House Administration Committee which must authorize the funds, indicated yesterday he might be reluctant to approve that amount.

Because the select committee expires at the end of this year and will have to be re-established by the House next year, it should wait until then for funding, Thompson said.

Downing said the committee would not hold public hearings before the Nov. 2 elections, to avoid charges of capitalizing politically on the investigation, but he said it might hold some closed hearings "in order to preserve testimony."

Reasons for looking again at the 1963 Kennedy assassination, he said,

are revelations by the congressional intelligence committees that information about CIA attempts to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro was withheld from the Warren commission, "the murder of two Mafia members enlisted by the CIA to help assassinate Castro, and the destruction of notes on Kennedy's autopsy and a note by assassin Lee Harvey Oswald to a member of the FBI.

The commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren investigated the assassination of Kennedy in Dallas and concluded that Oswald acted alone.

But Downing said yesterday, "I am convinced there was a conspiracy involved. I do not know the identity of the conspirators or their motives. That should be investigated in depth."

Downing promised "to engage in no witch-hunts" and "not blame those who may have made mistakes in the original investigation."

Rep. B. F. Sisk (D-Calif.) called the planned investigation a waste of taxpayers' money to satisfy "the melodramatic desire of the morbid to create an incident."

Though Downing and Gonzalez set out more than a year ago to create the committee, they were going nowhere until they received a push from members of the Congressional Black Caucus, who felt they had received "new information" in the 1968 killing of Martin Luther King Jr. that called for a congressional investigation.

D.C. Del. Walter Fauntroy and Rep. Yvonne Burke (D-Calif.) confirmed that the information came from writer and TV producer Abby Mann, who is working on a documentary on King's death, and from writer Mark Lane, one of the first to doubt the Warren Commission conclusions.

Reportedly the information has been known since 1968 but never investigated by the FBI.

It deals with the removal of King's black security chief from his side shortly before he was killed in Memphis, and the sudden transfer of two black firemen from the firehouse across the street from the motel where King was staying and was shot.

Edward Redditt, in charge of security for King, was ordered to go home about 4 p.m. on the day of King's death, because of a reported attempt on the life of Redditt's family.

The order was attributed to Memphis Fire and Police Director Frank C. Holloman, who had worked for the FBI for 25 years, part of the time in the office of the late Director J. Edgar Hoover, who had tapped King's phone and ordered surveillance of the civil rights leader.

Floyd Newsum, one of the black firemen abruptly transferred from the fire station across from the motel, said he had attended a King rally in Memphis and, though he publicly told of the transfer at the time, says he was never interviewed by the FBI.

44-1987 SUBM 1044
BCL BCL

9/18

Washington Post
September 18, 1976

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By Mary Russell

Washington Post Staff Writer

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Downing said he would ask for \$230,000 to get the committee started and hire staff, but Rep. Frank Thompson (D-N.J.), chairman of the House Administration Committee which must authorize the funds, indicated yesterday he might be reluctant to approve that amount.

Because the select committee expires at the end of this year and will have to be re-established by the House next year, it should wait until then for funding, Thompson said.

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Floyd Newsum, one of the black firemen abruptly transferred from the fire station across from the motel, said he had attended a King rally in Memphis and, though he publicly told of the transfer at the time, says he was never interviewed by the FBI.

44-1987 SUBM 1045
H4 BR

Hester ght

Cop Was Removed Before King Slaying

By Les Payne

Copyright 1968, Newsday Inc.

Hours before the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed in Memphis in 1968, the city's top law-enforcement official, in the presence of men he identified as federal agents, removed one of two detectives assigned to watch the civil rights leader from his post. Authorities said the removal was part of an emergency plan to protect the detective's life.

Ed Redditt, the detective who was removed from his post, had prepared a contingency plan to enable the police department to apprehend an assassin should an attempt be made on King's life while he was at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. The plan, which was never implemented, involved the sealing off of a four-block area around the motel.

Police did not assign a replacement for Redditt. But they did leave the detective's partner on duty.

From interviews and published stories, Newsday has learned that Redditt and his partner, both members of the Memphis police intelligence unit, watched King and his staffers at the Lorraine through binoculars from the fire station across the street. The two-man unit earlier had provided security for King and his party, and they continued to keep the police department informed of their movements and their visitors. Redditt and his partner, W. B. Richmond, who are both black, had withdrawn from what would have been their normal position with the King party because their presence, following recent riots in Memphis, had angered young local blacks.

The police were particularly concerned about a violence-prone black group called the Invaders, who, though they were friendly with the nonviolent King and his associates, had led an outbreak of violence and looting a week earlier. Newsday recently disclosed that some of the leaders of the Invaders were FBI informants and had touched off the violence that was directly responsible for King's return to Memphis the day before his assassination.

On April 4, the day King was shot, four armed members of the Invaders, who had been providing se-

curity for King and his staff in the Lorraine Motel, were seen leaving the motel—for unexplained reasons—just before 6 PM, minutes before King was shot. Although King himself never agreed to have the Invaders stand guard, some of his aides had agreed to their presence. One of the Invaders standing guard was an undercover Memphis police detective who provided information for the police and the FBI.

After Redditt was removed from duty, he was told at a meeting in police headquarters that the U.S. Secret Service had learned of a "contract" on his life. Redditt protested, saying that he wanted to return to his post, but the city's then-public safety director, Frank Holloman, insisted on the officer's removal. En route home with a police guard, Redditt heard on the car radio that King had been shot by an assassin.

Three days later, the round-the-clock guard watching Redditt was removed and he was allowed to return to work. The police department never offered any further explanation of the "contract" on his life. About a week before King was killed, sources said, FBI informers had told the Memphis Police Department that Redditt had shown some sympathy for King's cause by encouraging striking garbage workers—who were being supported by King's nonviolent marches—to stay away from work. Redditt's partner on the King surveillance team was considered more loyal to the department, sources said. The partner remained at his post and reportedly was looking at King through binoculars when the civil rights leader was shot.

The entire Redditt affair is another in a chain of curious circumstances surrounding King in the days and hours prior to his assassination.

Recent disclosures that the FBI conducted extensive surveillance of King have prompted several governmental inquiries. The Senate Intelligence Committee said its investigation uncovered no evidence that implicated the FBI in King's murder or a cover-up. However, the committee chairman, Frank Church (D-Idaho), has called for a federal special prosecutor to

—Continued on Page 13



An aerial view of the assassination scene

AP Photo

Cop Was Removed Before King Death

—Continued from Page 7

Investigate the assassination to resolve "many unanswered questions," including whether a bureau "vendetta" against King was related to his murder. The Department of Justice is reviewing the FBI's file on King and will soon make recommendations to Attorney General Edward Levi.

Redditt and the officials identified by Newsday's sources as having been present at the April 4 meeting at which Redditt was told of the "contract" on his life have refused to discuss the meeting.

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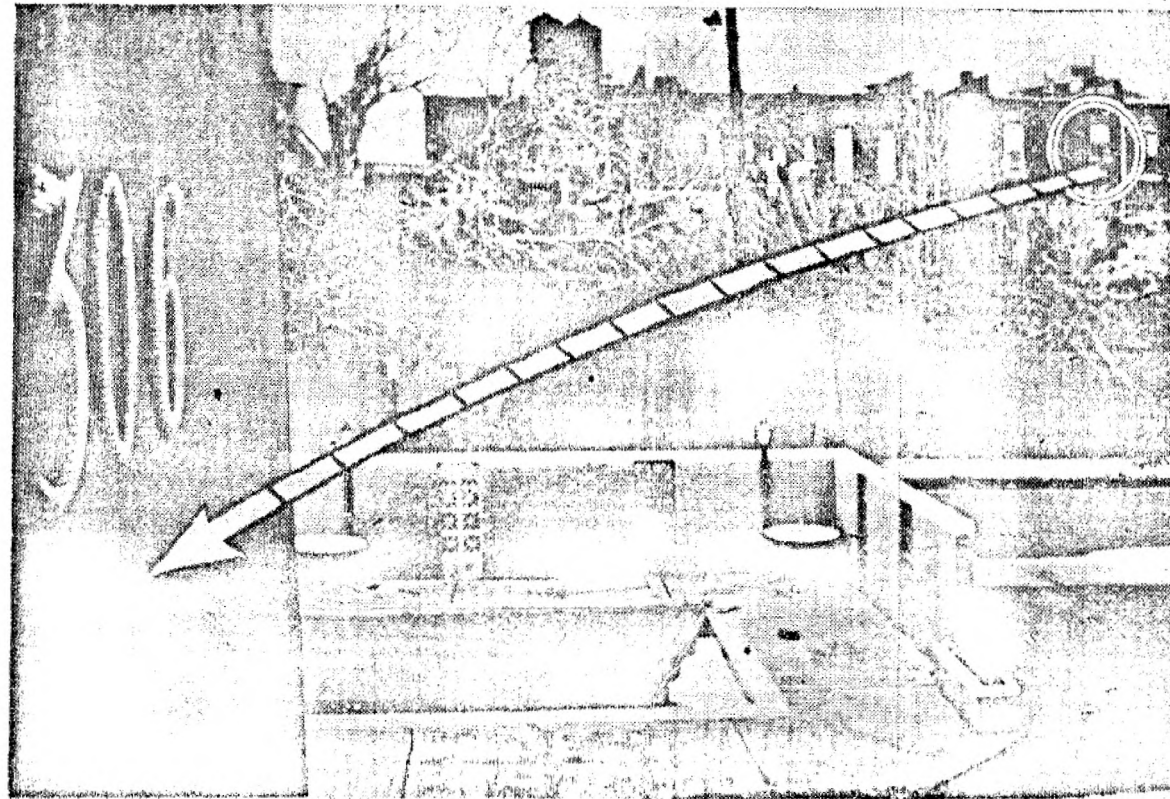
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An official of the U.S. Secret Service said he checked the agency's records and found no indication that an agent had been sent to Memphis at that time.

At the police headquarters meeting, Holloman, according to sources, introduced Redditt to a "Secret Service agent down from Washington, D.C.," a man about six feet tall and weighing about 220 pounds. A Mississippi highway patrolman, Holloman said, had overheard someone threatening to go to Memphis to kill Redditt. The threat allegedly had been relayed to the U.S. Secret Service and the agent had flown down to deliver the message to the Memphis police and Redditt.

The man identified as the Secret Service agent verified Holloman's account, sources said. Also present, according to sources, were the Memphis police chief, an FBI liaison agent, two military intelligence officers, an official from the sheriff's office, a National Guard official and a representative of the Tennessee state highway patrol.

The Memphis police chief at the time, James C. MacDonald, now the chief administrator of the city's Juvenile Court, could not be reached by telephone despite numerous attempts. In reply to a letter requesting information about the Redditt affair, MacDonald wrote: "I have been out of law enforcement for seven years. I have no comment to make about your letter ..."



A view from the hotel balcony on which King was standing when he was struck by a shot, apparently fired from circled window.

Redditt protested that he wanted to return to his post, the sources said, but he was ordered not to do so. Holloman told him he would be provided with 24-hour protection at a local hotel under an assumed name. Redditt refused the hotel offer because his mother-in-law, who was living in his home, was ill and could not be moved. Holloman insisted that a 24-hour police guard be posted at Redditt's home.

For the two days following the assassination, Redditt asked to return to work. Each request was denied.

On the third day, a Sunday, he returned to work without further explanation.

Redditt's assassination contingency plan according to sources, called for the entire four-block area around King's motel to be sealed off by patrol cars if someone tried to kill King. All streets were to be closely watched in case of an assassination attempt. Redditt is known to believe that if his plan had been in effect it would have been impossible for a lone assassin, suspected of shooting from the flophouse across the street, to have escaped.

NEWSDAY, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1976

Cop Was Removed Before King Slaying

By Les Payne

Copyright 1976, Newsday Inc.

Hours before the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed in Memphis in 1968, the city's top law-enforcement official, in the presence of men he identified as federal agents, removed one of two detectives assigned to watch the civil rights leader from his post. Authorities said the removal was part of an emergency plan to protect the detective's life.

Ed Redditt, the detective who was removed from his post, had prepared a contingency plan to enable the police department to apprehend an assassin should an attempt be made on King's life while he was at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. The plan, which was never implemented, involved the sealing off of a four-block area around the motel.

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The police were particularly concerned about a violence-prone black group called the Invaders, who, though they were friendly with the nonviolent King and his associates, had led an outbreak of violence and looting a week earlier. Newsday recently disclosed that some of the leaders of the Invaders were FBI informants and had touched off the violence that was directly responsible for King's return to Memphis the day before his assassination.

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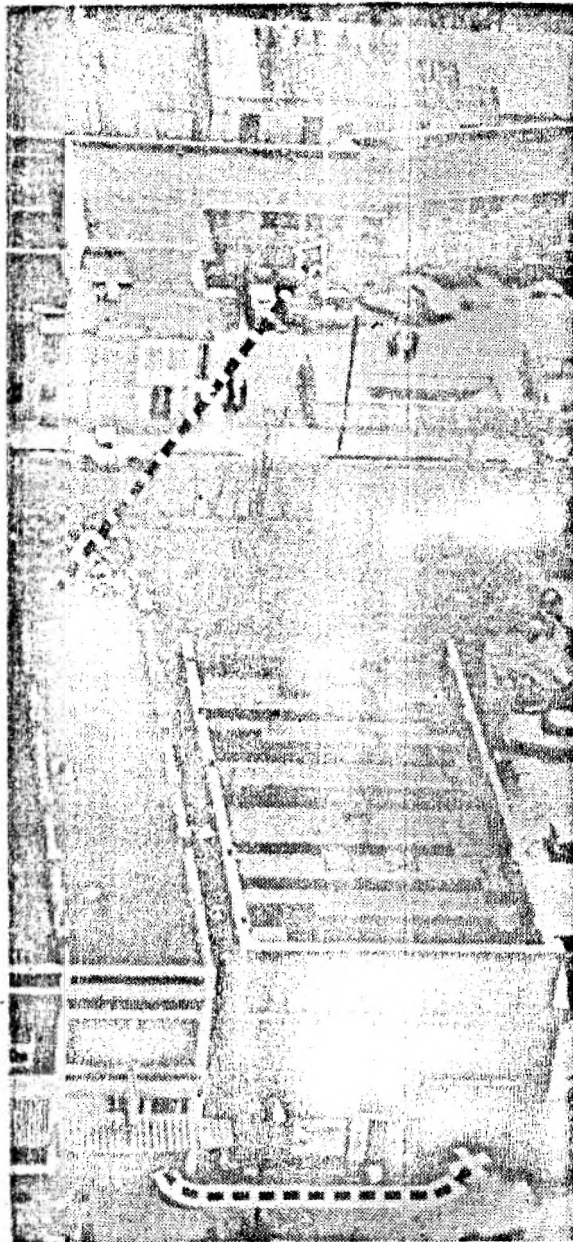
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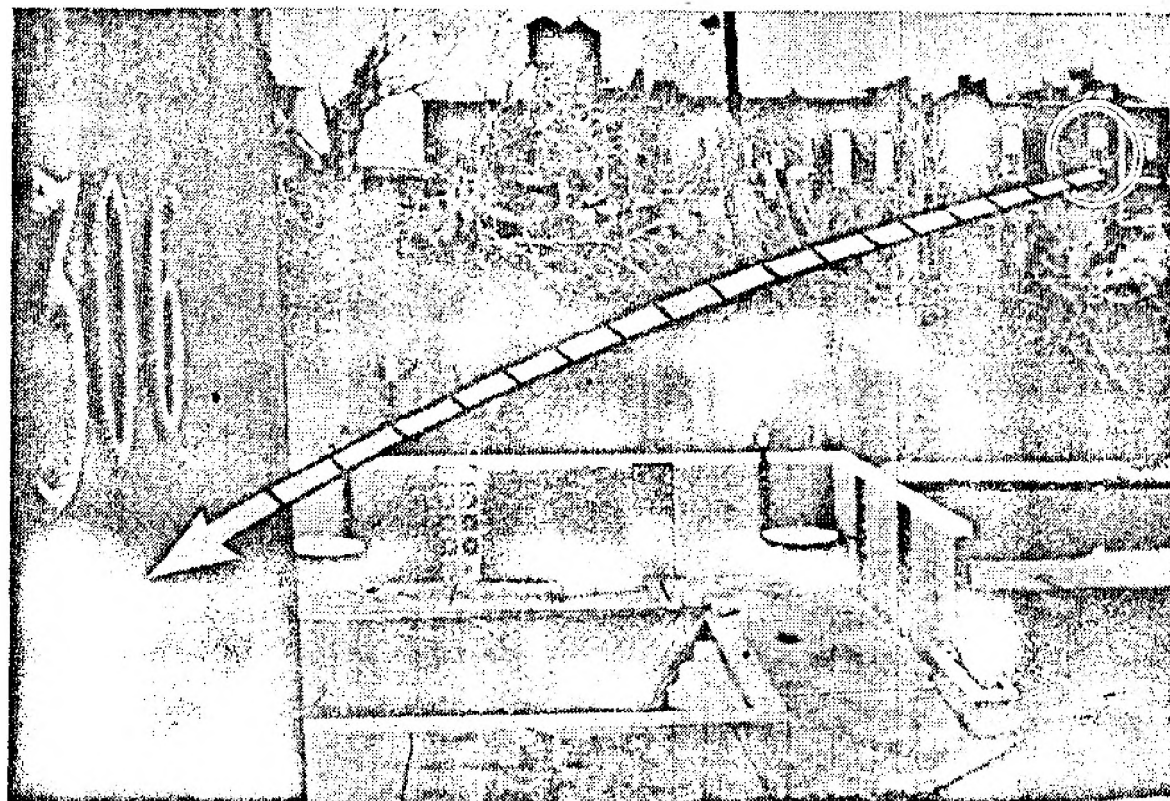
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NEWSDAY, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1976

(UPI Photo)

F B I

Transmit in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____

Airtel

(Precedence)

9/20/76

(Date)

To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Enclosed are two copies of a "Newsday" article dated 2/15/76, and two copies of a "Washington Post" article dated 9/18/76.

Memphis review the enclosed articles and promptly advise from a review of your indices and files, what, if any, information is contained therein concerning Edward Redditt, W. B. Richmond, and Floyd Newsum, including what dissemination made of any such information. Also advise if any information is contained in your files concerning this reported threat against Redditt and the reported information that "informers" had told the Memphis Police Department that Redditt had shown some sympathy for King's cause, etc.

Sulhm results.

Enclosures - 4

Redditt - 44-1987 Sub E-1090, p. 6
44-1987 Sub E-1090E, p. 30

Richmond - 44-1987 Sub E-1090E, p. 30

Newsum - 44-1987-Sub E-1090E, p. 31

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44-1987 SUB M 1048

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

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9/29/76

AIRTEL

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

Re Bureau airtel to Memphis, 9/20/76.

A review of the indices and files of the Memphis Office revealed that Memphis files contained the following information concerning EDWARD REDDITT:

Memphis serial 157-1868-5 is a memorandum dated 5/19/69 captioned "MEMPHIS COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING, INC.; RM." Attached to this memorandum is a letter written by Lt. R. J. TURNER, Memphis PD, to Inspector G. H. PROCTOR, Community Relations Bureau, Memphis PD, dated 3/18/69 captioned "MEMPHIS COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR AT PARIS, TENN., 3/16/69." According to this letter, approximately 52 persons representing various organizations in the Memphis area participated in the seminar at which the principal topic discussed was racial affairs and methods to improve race relations in the city of Memphis. Det. ED REDDITT of the Memphis PD participated in this seminar. An LHM prepared by the Memphis Office captioned "MANPOWER EDUCATIONAL AND MANAGERIAL TRAINING CORPORATION, MEMPHIS, TENN.; RM," dated 8/1/69 referred to this seminar; however, Det. REDDITT's name was not mentioned in this LHM. The Bureau was furnished 11 copies of this LHM, and copies were disseminated to the U. S. Attorney, Memphis, U. S. Secret Service, Memphis, and regional offices of military intelligence.

2 - Bureau
① - Memphis
BFJ:mrp
(3) *mrp*

44-1987 SUB M 1049

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED *BFJ*
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