

PAGE TWO DALLAS 44-2649 UNCLAS E F T O

STEPHEN WILSON CONFIRMED SISTER OWNED 1965 MUSTANG AND FATHER DROVE IT ON OCCASION BUT DOES NOT RECALL HE EVER DROVE IT TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

DESCRIBES FATHER AS ALCOHOLIC WITH SERIOUS MENTAL PROBLEMS. SAID HE PLACED FATHER IN ALCOHOLIC REHABILITATION CLINIC AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS FOR 3 - 4 DAYS IN JANUARY 1976 TO DRY HIM OUT. FATHER LIVED WITH HIM FOR BRIEF TIME AFTERWARDS AND WOULD DRINK CONSTANTLY AND DO AND SAY CRAZY THINGS. SAYS NEVER HEARD FATHER EVER MAKE STATEMENT THAT HE KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING.

MARK ANTHONY WILSON INTERVIEWED 8/20/78 AND STATED FATHER BURGESS AUDIE WILSON IS A VERY SICK MAN AND POSSIBLY INSANE. SAYS HIS FATHER COULD NOT HAVE KILLED DR. KING SINCE TO THE BEST OF HIS RECOLLECTION BURGESS WILSON WAS AT HOME IN GRAND VIEW, MO. ON THAT DATE. THINKS MOTHER AND SISTER VISITING GRANDMOTHER AT MEMPHIS, TENN. AND FATHER WAS HOME WITH HIM AND BROTHER STEPHEN.

PAGE THREE DL 44-2649 UNCLAS E F T O

WILSON DESCRIBES FATHER AS HABITUAL LIAR AND ALCOHOLIC WHO "WOULD WALK AROUND THE TRUTH TO TELL A LIE." SAYS FATHER HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO BE SOMEONE IMPORTANT AND HAS EXPRESSED THE OPINION NUMEROUS TIMES THAT THE WHOLE WORLD IS CRAZY AND HE IS THE ONLY SANE PERSON IN IT. STATES FATHER WAS PRIVATE PILOT AT ONE TIME AND DID HAVE BONANZA AIRCRAFT WHILE THEY LIVED AT GRANDVIEW, MO. CONFIRMS SISTER HAS CREAM MUSTANG AND FATHER DROVE IT ON OCCASION BUT NEVER TOOK IT OUT OF TOWN.

HE SAYS HE LAST SAW HIS FATHER IN SAN MARCUS, TEXAS IN JANUARY 1978 WHEN STEPHEN AND HE HAD DINNER WITH THEIR FATHER. SAID HE SEEMED TO BE DOING OK AND NO INDICATION OF ANY PROBLEMS AT THAT TIME. SAYS HE NEVER HEARD HIS FATHER MAKE ALLEGATION THAT HE KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING.

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FM MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB M) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE *19532*

KANSAS CITY IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEM.

MURKIN

RE MEMPHIS TELEPHONE CALL TO KANSAS CITY AUG. 21, 1978.

FOR INFO OF KANSAS CITY, ON AUG. 18, 1978, GENE BARKSDALE, SHERIFF, SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., ADVISED THAT ON NIGHT OF AUG. 17, 1978, HE RECEIVED TWO TELEPHONE CALLS FROM PURCHASS AUDIE WILSON. WILSON, WHO WAS FORMERLY IN THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS, TENN., WITH BARKSDALE, INFORMED THE SHERIFF HE KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968 AT MEMPHIS AND HIS DAUGHTER DROVE A WHITE MUSTANG FROM KANSAS CITY, MO., TO MEMPHIS THREE DAYS PRIOR TO KING'S DEATH. HE WANTED TO MEET BARKSDALE AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISS., ON AUG. 18, 1978, AND SURRENDER. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR WILSON TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, WHERE HE WAS CONTACTED BY SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE JACKSON OFFICE.

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PAGE TWO ME 100-1227-SUB M NICOLAS E F T O

WILSON WAS BORN [REDACTED] FULTON, MISS. HE RESIDED WITH HIS FAMILY AT GOLDEN, MISS., UNTIL 1936 WHEN THEY MOVED TO HERRICK, ALA. HE RESIDED AT HERRICK UNTIL MAY 2, 1947, WHEN HE ENTERED THE U. S. AIR FORCE. HE WAS HONORABLY DISCHARGED FROM THE AIR FORCE IN FEB., 1950. HE AND HIS WIFE BETTY LOU MOVED TO MOBILE IN 1950. HE LEFT MOBILE, YEAR NOT FURNISHED, AND MOVED TO GRANVILLE, MO., WHERE HE BECAME A CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVE AND OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE. HE STAYED IN THE AIR FORCE UNTIL 1950. HE OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE IN THE KANSAS CITY AREA FROM 1950 UNTIL 1970. WHEN INTERVIEWED BY BUREAU AUG. 10, 1972, WILSON FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

IN THE COURSE OF HIS JEWELRY STORE BUSINESS, HE MET A WHITE MALE ITALIAN IN LATE 1950'S WHO OPERATED A JEWELRY TRADING SHOP ON WALNUT STREET IN KANSAS CITY. THIS MALE LATER INTRODUCED HIM TO ANOTHER ITALIAN BY THE NAME OF MITCH (LNU) WHO WAS APPROXIMATELY 5'10" TALL, 100 LBS., BLACK WAVY HAIR,

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Date _____

PAGE THREE ME 44-1987-SUB M UNCLAS E F T O

AND HAD SOME BUSINESS CONNECTION WITH A BONDING COMPANY. MITCH DELIVERED JEWELRY TO HIM FOR THE PURPOSE OF HAVING STONES REMOVED FROM THE FITTINGS. DUE TO THE VOLUME OF JEWELRY MITCH WAS BRINGING TO HIM, HE ASKED MITCH ABOUT IT AND MITCH TOLD HIM IT WAS STOLEN JEWELRY. MITCH INFORMED HIM THAT HE, WILSON, WAS AS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE HANDLING OF THE STOLEN JEWELRY AS HE, MITCH, WAS AND THIS RELATIONSHIP CONTINUED WITH MITCH UNTIL 1970. MITCH BROUGHT UP THE IDEA OF KILLING MARTIN LUTHER KING, INFORMING WILSON THERE WAS A \$50,000 CONTRACT FOR KING AND THAT HE COULD GET THE MONEY FOR WILSON IF HE KILLED KING. MITCH WAS WELL AWARE OF WILSON'S THOUGHTS REGARDING KING AND THE BLACK CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. APPROXIMATELY FIVE OR SIX MONTHS BEFORE KING'S DEATH, WILSON COMMENCED GATHERING INFO ON HIS MOVEMENTS UTILIZING A RED AND WHITE BOEING AIRPLANE, REGISTRY NO. 24L, AND A CESSNA 310. TWO ENGINES, BUREAU AND MITCH AIRCRAFT.

MITCH SUPPLIED WILSON A JAPANESE SUIPED RIFLE WHICH WILSON GAVE TO HIS OLDER SON, STEVEN WAYNE WILSON, IN 1975.

DURING THE TIME A GARAGE STRIKE WAS IN PROGRESS IN MEMPHIS, TENN., MITCH CALLED WILSON AT HIS STORE IN GRANDVIEW, MO., AND INFORMED HIM KING WAS COMING TO MEMPHIS FOR A RALLY AND

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PAGE FOUR ME 44-1987-SUB M UNCLAS E F T O

INSTRUCTED WILSON TO GO TO MEMPHIS WHERE HE WAS TO MEET TWO MEN AT THE WONDER BAR AT THE CORNER OF SUMNER AVENUE AND WHITE STATION ROAD. WILSON FLEW TO MEMPHIS IN THE ROMANZA AIRCRAFT AND LANDED AT AN AIRPORT JUST NORTH OF RALEIGH, TENN. HIS DAUGHTER, DEBRA, PICKED HIM UP AT THE AIRPORT IN HER 1965 WHITE MUSTANG WHICH WILSON HAD PREVIOUSLY BOUGHT FOR HER AND WHICH WAS REGISTERED IN HIS NAME IN MO. DEBRA WILSON AND HER MOTHER, BETTY LOU, WERE AT THE RESIDENCE OF WILSON'S FATHER-IN-LAW, 3095 RUSKIN ROAD, MEMPHIS, DUE TO A HEART ATTACK SUFFERED BY WILSON'S FATHER-IN-LAW.

WILSON WENT TO THE WONDER BAR WHERE HE WAS APPROACHED BY TWO WHITE MEN, ONE HAVING AN ACCENT SIMILAR TO PUERTO RICAN. THE TWO MEN FURNISHED HIM WITH FBI CREDENTIAL WHICH HAD A BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO OF WILSON ON IT AND TOOK HIM TO WHERE KING WAS TO HOLD A RALLY. THEY TOLD HIM HE WAS TO BE IN THE CROWD AT THE RALLY AND A DECOY SHOT WAS TO BE FIRED AND THEN HE WAS TO SHOOT. THEY TOLD HIM KING HAD A HABIT OF RAISING HIS ARMS OVER HIS HEAD WHEN HE WAS MAKING A SPEECH AND THE SECOND TIME HE DID SO THE SHOTS WERE TO BE FIRED.

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☐ CONFIDENTIAL
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☐ CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE FIVE ME 44-1987-SUB M INCLAS E F T O

ON THE DAY KING WAS KILLED, WILSON WAS IN THE CROWD STANDING NEAR A WOOD FENCE APPROXIMATELY SIXTY FEET FROM WHERE KING WAS STANDING. WHEN KING RAISED HIS ARMS THE SECOND TIME HE SHOT HIM.

WILSON HAD THE RIFLE STRAPPED TO HIS BELT UNDER A SUIT COAT AND ATTACHED TO HIS BELT ON A SWIVEL. THE BARREL PROTRUDED FROM BELOW HIS COAT BUT NO ONE QUESTIONED HIM CONCERNING IT. AFTER THE SHOOTING, HE WAS STOPPED BY THE MEMPHIS POLICE. UPON SHOWING THEM THE CREDENTIAL THEY LET HIM GO. HE WALKED ON DOWN THE STREET APPROXIMATELY TWO BLOCKS WHERE HE HAD LEFT THE MUSTANG AND PROCEEDED TO HIS FATHER-IN-LAW'S RESIDENCE. HIS DAUGHTER, DEBRA, THEN TOOK HIM TO THE AIRPORT AND HE FLEW BACK TO KANSAS CITY, LANDING AT AN AIRPORT ON THE KANSAS SIDE ON THE ROAD TO OLATHE, KANSAS. THIS AIRPORT WAS OPERATED BY (FNU) FISHER, FROM WHOM WILSON HAD PURCHASED THE BONANZA AIRCRAFT.

MITCH GAVE WILSON \$25,000 IN \$20 BILLS ABOUT ONE WEEK BEFORE KING WAS KILLED AND GAVE HIM ANOTHER \$25,000 AFTER THE KILLING AT WHICH TIME WILSON RETURNED THE CREDENTIAL TO MITCH.

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PAGE SIX ME 44-1987-SUB M NICHOLAS F. T. O.
 ITEMS FOUND IN WILSON'S WALLET INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:
 PRIVATE PILOT'S LICENSE NO. 3100770 UNDER NAME BURGESS
 ANDER WILSON, 13125 HERRICK AVE., GRANDVIEW, MO., GIVING HIM
 AUTHORIZATION TO FLY SINGLE AND MULTI ENGINE AIRCRAFT ISSUED
 BY THE FAA, OKLAHOMA CITY.

RELATIVES OF WILSON DESCRIBE HIM AS A COMPULSIVE LIAR
 WHO IS UNABLE TO DIFFERENTIATE FACTS FROM FANTASY.
 HE IS REPORTED TO BE AN EXTREMELY HEAVY DRINKER AND HIS
 RELATIVES FEEL HE IS IN NEED OF PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT.

KANSAS CITY, WILL ATTEMPT TO RESEARCH WILSON'S EMPLOYMENT
 ON AIR FORCE'S RESERVE AND DUTY STATUS IN 1968, NOTING DR.
 MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS KILLED IN MEMPHIS ON APRIL 4, 1968.
 WILL ATTEMPT THROUGH FORMER NEIGHBORS AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATES,
 NOTING WILSON NORMALLY RESIDING 13125 HERRICK AVE., GRANDVIEW,
 MO., AND ON EVETS STREET, GRANDVIEW, AND OPERATED A JEWELRY
 BUSINESS IN KNOX DRUG STORE, KANSAS CITY, SPECIFIC ADDRESS
 NOT KNOWN, AND AT BELTON, MO., IN SMALL SHOPPING CENTER UNDER
 NAME WILSON'S JEWELRY, ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH HIS WHEREABOUTS
 DURING CRITICAL PERIOD, APRIL, 1968. WILL IDENTIFY AND LOCATE
 (FNU) FISHER, WHO REPORTEDLY SOLD WILSON A PLANE AND ALLEGEDLY
 OPERATED AIRPORT WHERE WILSON LANDED FOLLOWING KILLING OF DR. KING.

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☐ CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE SEVEN 158 MM-1027-SUB M ENCLAS E F T O

ATTEMPT TO LOCATE EXISTENCE OF JEWELRY TRADE SHOP ON
WALNUT STREET TO ESTABLISH OR REPUDIATE EXISTENCE OF INDIVIDUAL
AS DESCRIBED BY WILSON.

ALL PERSONS INTERVIEWED WHO HAVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF
WILSON SHOULD BE QUESTIONED RE VERACITY OF WILSON'S ALLEGATIONS
AND PRESENCE IN MEMPHIS DURING THE CRITICAL PERIOD, APRIL 4, 1968.
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FM DALLAS (44-2649) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) (SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE MEMPHIS TELCALL TO DALLAS, AUGUST 21, 1978.

BY REFERENCE, MEMPHIS REQUESTED STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON
BE RECONTACTED RE HIS KNOWLEDGE OF JAPANESE SNIPER
RIFLE WHICH HIS FATHER, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, ALLEGED TO
HAVE OBTAINED FROM A MITCH, NO DATE INDICATED.

STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON, 3117 LIVINGSTON, FORT WORTH,
TEXAS, CONTACTED ON AUGUST 21, 1978, AND ADVISED AS
FOLLOWS:

THE WILSONS WERE CLOSELY-KNIT FAMILY, AND WERE VERY

44-1987-Sub M-1192

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 21 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

UNCLAS DL 44-2649 PAGE TWO

CONSCIOUS OF EACH OTHER'S ACTIVITIES. HE IS POSITIVE HIS FATHER OBTAINED THE JAPANESE RIFLE FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE AFTER HE WAS IN THE MILITARY SERVICE, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN AFTER 1970. RECALLED HIS DAD SHOWING IT TO HIM WHEN HE CAME HOME ON MILITARY LEAVE. STEVEN NEVER FIRED THE WEAPON BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID THAT IT WOULD NOT FUNCTION PROPERLY, AND SECONDLY, BECAUSE THEY NEVER HAD ANY AMMUNITION FOR THE RIFLE. HE PERSONALLY NEVER KNEW OF HIS DAD USING THE WEAPON. HIS DAD HAD THE STOCK OF THE WEAPON WORKED ON BY A FRIEND WHO WAS A FURNITURE REFINISHER IN CANYON LAKE, TEXAS, BUT THAT WAS THE ONLY WORK EVER DONE ON THE RIFLE. THE GUN WAS OF JAPANESE MANUFACTURER, AS IT HAD JAPANESE PRINTING ON ITS VARIOUS PARTS.

WILSON'S DAD GAVE THE GUN TO HIM WHILE HE WAS IN THE SERVICE, AND HE HOCKED THE RIFLE AT A PAWN SHOP IN SAN ANTONIO SOMETIME IN THE EARLY 1970'S, DATE UNRECALLED. HE HAS NO RECEIPT OR BILL OF LADING FOR THE RIFLE.

MARK WILSON, 514 SOUTHEAST GARDENS, BURLESON, TEXAS, CONTACTED AUGUST 21, 1978, AND ADVISED THE FOLLOWING:

UNCLAS DL 44-2649 PAGE THREE

HE PERSONALLY HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIS FATHER'S WEAPONS, AS HE HAS NO INTEREST IN THEM. HIS DAD WAS DEFINITELY AT HOME IN GRANDVIEW, TEXAS, TAKING CARE OF HIMSELF AND HIS BROTHER AT THE TIME DR. KING WAS KILLED IN MEMPHIS. HIS DAD FLEW HIS PLANE, A BONANZA BEECH-CRAFT, USUALLY ON WEEKENDS, FROM A SMALL AIRFIELD NEAR TOWN. HE BELIEVED HIS DAD OWNED THE PLANE, HOWEVER, HE IS NOT POSITIVE. WILSON STATED HIS DAD WAS NOT AWAY FROM THE HOUSE ON THE DAY DR. KING WAS KILLED, AS HE WAS TAKING CARE OF HIS BROTHER AND HIMSELF AT THE TIME, WHILE HIS MOTHER AND SISTER FLEW TO MEMPHIS TO SEE THEIR GRANDPARENTS.

MRS. BETTY LOU WADE, 233 SMITH ROAD, BURLESON, TEXAS, RECONTACTED ON AUGUST 21, 1978, AND ADVISED THAT SHE HAD NO RECOLLECTION OF HER FORMER HUSBAND HAVING A JAPANESE RIFLE. SHE STATED SHE SEPARATED FROM BURGESS WILSON IN 1974, WHICH WOULD MEAN HE MOST PROBABLY OBTAINED THE RIFLE AFTER THAT PERIOD. SHE IS SURE SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE GUN, IF HE HAD BOUGHT IT

UNCLAS DL 44-2649 PAGE FOUR

WHILE THEY WERE LIVING TOGETHER.

ADMINISTRATIVE

DALLAS IS NOT COVERING LEAD AT CLEBURNE, TEXAS,
REGARDING NON-CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT FOR WILSON, AS IT
HAS NO BEARING ON PERTINENT FACTS OF CASE, UACB.

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FM HOUSTON (44-1509) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) (SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

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UNCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, EJH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE JACKSON TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AUGUST 19, 1978;
HOUSTON TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AUGUST 20, 1978.

ON AUGUST 21, 1978, THE FOLLOWING PERSONS AT THEIR
RESPECTIVE AGENCIES WERE CONTACTED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS
CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF A NON-CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT OR ANY
TYPE OF CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROCESS CONCERNING A BURGESS
AUDIE WILSON, JR.:

44-1987-Sub M-1193

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 21 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

PAGE TWO NO 44-1500 UNCLAS

1. GLENN JONES, CITY JUDGE, CLEVELAND, TEXAS;
2. LOUIS ROUSH, SECRETARY FOR JACK MANTILL,
COUNTY ATTORNEY, LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS;
3. LUCIAN MORRIS, CLERK, LIBERTY COUNTY DISTRICT
COURT, LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS,
4. BILL WHITTINGTON, IDENTIFICATION DIVISION,
LIBERTY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, LIBERTY, TEXAS.

FOR INFORMATION, THE SUSPECT MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO
CLEBURNE, TEXAS, RATHER THAN CLEVELAND, TEXAS, INASMUCH AS
CLEBURNE IS RELATIVELY CLOSE TO DALLAS WHERE SUBJECT WAS
ARRESTED ON THE NON-CRIMINAL SUPPORT WARRANT.

LEADS. DALLAS AT CLEBURNE, TEXAS. WILL COVER LEAD AS SET
OUT FOR ROSSON AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS, IN ABOVE REFERENCED
JACKSON TELETYPE TO DIVISION, AUGUST 18, 1978.

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Date 8/21/78

FM MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB M) (P)
 TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE 2050Z
 HOUSTON (44-1500) IMMEDIATE 2220

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, ROOM 3832, JEN
 MURKIN

RE JACKSON TELETYPE TO BUREAU AUG. 19, 1978, AND HOUSTON
 TELETYPE TO BUREAU AUG. 21, 1978.

WHEN INTERVIEWED BY BUREAU AGENTS ON AUG. 19, 1978, AT
 OCEAN SPRINGS, MISS., BURGESS AUDIE WILSON FURNISHED THE
 FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

ON AN UNSPECIFIED DATE, MITCH (LNU), WITH WHOM WILSON HAD
 BEEN IN PREVIOUS CONTACT RE THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN
 LUTHER KING, FURNISHED WILSON A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE. HE
 THEREAFTER INSTRUCTED WILSON TO PROCEED TO MEMPHIS AND MEET TWO
 MEN AT THE MONTGOMERY BAR AS KING WAS TO BE AT A RALLY RELATING TO
 A CARRIAGE STRIKE. WILSON FLEW TO MEMPHIS, TENN., IN A RED AND
 WHITE BOEING AIRPLANE, REGISTERED NO. 30L, AND LANDED AT AN
 AIRPORT JUST NORTH OF BALDWIN, TENN. THE AIRPORT WAS OPERATED

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Date _____

PAGE TWO ME 44-1937-SUB M UNCLAS E F T O

BY A LONG-TIME ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS WHO ATTENDED CHURCH WHICH WAS PASTORED BY WILSON'S FATHER IN THE PAST. WILSON WAS PICKED UP AT THE AIRPORT BY HIS DAUGHTER, DEBRA, IN HER 1965 WHITE MUSTANG, WHICH WILSON HAD PREVIOUSLY BOUGHT FOR HER. AFTER WILSON ALLEGEDLY SHOT DR. KING, HE WAS RETURNED TO THE AIRPORT BY DEBRA, AROUND APPROXIMATELY 10, AND HE FLEW THE ROMANZA BACK TO KANSAS CITY, LANDING AT AN AIRPORT LOCATED IN KANSAS ON THE HIGHWAY TO OLATHE, KANSAS. THIS AIRPORT WAS OPERATED BY (FNU) FISHER FROM WHOM WILSON HAD PURCHASED THE ROMANZA AIRCRAFT.

ON AUG. 31, 1972, NENA SOBELL, WHO IS EMPLOYED AT THE BAPTIST HOSPITAL, MEMPHIS, ADVISED HER FORMER HUSBAND WAS FORMERLY ASSISTANT MANAGER OF THE CHARLES BAKER AIRPORT, MEMPHIS, AND ATTENDED CHURCH IN MEMPHIS PASTORED BY BURGESS WILSON, SR., AND IS ACQUAINTED WITH BURGESS ANDIE WILSON, JR. BOB SOBELL IS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED BY SWISS CHEMICALS, P. O. BOX 2175, BEAUMONT, TEXAS. HE RESIDES AT KILLEEN, TEXAS, IN A TRAILER PARK. HIS CURRENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS IS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE.

HOUSTON WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW BOB SOBELL FOR BACKGROUND INFO REGARDING BURGESS ANDIE WILSON, JR. ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH WHETHER WILSON DID FLY TO MEMPHIS FROM KANSAS CITY ON OR ABOUT

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Date _____

PAGE THREE ME 44-1987-SUB M UNCLAS E F T O
APRIL 4, 1968, THE DATE DR. KING WAS KILLED, AND WAS PICKED
UP AND RETURNED TO THE CHARLES BAKER AIRPORT IN A 1965 WHITE
MUSTANG BY HIS DAUGHTER, DEBRA. ALSO ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE
IDENTITY OF (FNU) FISHER FROM WHOM WILSON ALLEGEDLY PURCHASED
THE RED AND WHITE BONANZA AIRCRAFT AND LOCATION OF AIRPORT
IN KANSAS CITY AREA UTILIZED BY WILSON ON RETURN FLIGHT TO
KANSAS CITY. PROMPTLY FURNISH KANSAS CITY OFFICE ANY
PERTINENT INFORMATION DEVELOPED INVOLVING WILSON IN THAT AREA.
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CINCINNATI ROUTINE

MEMPHIS ROUTINE

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UNCLAS

POSSIBLE INFORMATION RELATING TO THE ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, THE NYO WAS CONTACTED BY JIM
EYER, 16 RUGBY ROAD, CEDAR GROVE, NEW JERSEY, TELEPHONE
(201) 857-2465, WHO ADVISED BEING EMPLOYED IN THE NEWS
OFFICE OF WNBC RADIO, 30 ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK,
NEW YORK, TELEPHONE 664-4315, AND FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING
INFO:

EYER ADVISED THAT WHILE WORKING IN THE NEWS OFFICE OF
WNBC, AT APPROXIMATELY 3:30 A.M., ON AUGUST 18, 1978, HE
RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS CALL FROM A YOUNG MALE WHO ADVISED HIM

44-1987-Sub M-1195

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 21 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

B. Johnson

PAGE TWO UNCLAS

THAT HE THOUGHT HE KNEW SOMEONE WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. THE CALLER ADVISED EYER THAT IN 1966 IN BLANCHESTER, OHIO, WHILE WORKING IN A POOL HALL, AN INDIVIDUAL KNOWN TO HIM AS LYVILLE SMITH, NOW APPROXIMATELY 52 YEARS OLD, WHO WAS THEN AND IS REPORTEDLY STILL LEADER OF THE KLU KLUX KLAN GROUP OPERATING IN LEBANON, OHIO, WAS OVERHEARD TO SAY "THAT NIGGER LOVER KENNEDY GOT HIS AND MARTIN LUTHER KING IS NEXT". ACCORDING TO THE CALLER, SMITH WAS SOMETIME THEREAFTER STOPPED BY THE BLANCHESTER, OHIO POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR RUNNING GUNS AND AMMUNITION FROM TENNESSEE, AND THAT HE ALLEGEDLY SHOWED SOME TYPE OF IDENTIFICATION AND WAS THEREAFTER RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGES.

EYER QUESTIONED THE CALLER AS TO WHY HE WAITED SO LONG TO REPORT THIS, TO WHICH THE CALLER ADVISED THAT HE WAS FEARFUL OF REPRISAL. HOWEVER, AFTER WATCHING TESTIMONY GIVEN BY JAMES EARL RAY ON TELEVISION, HE BELIEVED THAT HE WAS INNOCENT. SMITH REPORTEDLY HAS NO KNOWN SOURCE OF INCOME BUT ALWAYS HAS A WALLET FULL OF MONEY AND ESPOUSES COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA. EYER ADVISED CALLER DID NOT ELABORATE NOR IDENTIFY

PAGE THREE UNCLAS

THE SOURCE OF HIS INFO RELATING TO THE BLANCHESTER, OHIO
POLICE DEPARTMENT STOP OF SMITH FOR GUNRUNNING.

EYER STATED THE CALLER WAS TO CALL HIM IN THE EARY
MORNING OF AUGUST 19, 1978, AND FURNISH HIM WITH THE ADDRESS
AND ADDITIONAL INFO ON SMITH. EYER ADVISED HE WOULD CONTACT
THE NYO AND ADVISE THEM UPON RECEIPT OF THIS INFO WHEN AND
SHOULD THE CALLER CONTACT HIM.

ON AUGUST 21, 1978, EYER ADVISED THE NYO THAT THE
UNKNOWN CALLER DID NOT RECONTACT HIM AT THE STATION AS WAS
PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED. HOWEVER, HE HAS LEFT INSTRUCTIONS AT
THE OFFICE THAT SHOULD HE CALL, EYER IS TO BE NOTIFIED, WHO
IN TURN, WOULD INFORM THE NYO OF THE FBI.

ADMINISTRATIVE

NYO INDICES NEGATIVE.

CINCINNATI, AT BLANCHESTER, OHIO. WILL CONDUCT INDICES
AND CRIMINAL CHECKS ON SMITH IN AN EFFORT TO DETERMINE IF HE IS
KNOWN TO THE CINCINNATI OFFICE.

BT

KC0017 2340209Z

OO HQ ME OC SL

DE KC

O 212330Z AUG 78

FM KANSAS CITY (44-760) P

TO DIRECTOR (44-3886L) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB M) IMMEDIATE

OKLAHOMA CITY (IMMEDIATE)

ST. LOUIS (IMMEDIATE)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND KANSAS CITY,
AUGUST 21, 1978, AND ME TELCAL TO KC SAME DATE.

FOR INFO OF OKLAHOMA CITY AND ST. LOUIS, A SYNOPSIS
OF REFERENCED TELETYPE IS AS FOLLOWS:

ON AUGUST 19, 1978, ONE BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, BORN
AUGUST 28, 193L, AT MISSISSIPPI, 5'11", BROWN EYES, BROWN
HAIR, FBI NO. 879 421 E, WAS INTERVIEWED BY AGENTS OF THE
JACKSON OFFICE AT GULF PORT, MISSISSIPPI. WILSON TOLD

44-1987-Sub M-1196

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 21 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

D. Johnson

PAGE TWO, KC 44-760, UNCLAS EFTO

INTERVIEWING AGENTS THAT HE HAD SHOT AND KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. AMONG OTHER INFORMATION WHICH WILSON FURNISHED TO THE INTERVIEWING AGENTS, WILSON ADVISED THAT DURING THE PERIOD IN WHICH HE SHOT AND KILLED KING HE RESIDED AT 13125 HERRICK AVENUE, GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, AND THAT HE WAS AT THAT TIME IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVES, RICHARDS GEBEUR AFB, EMPLOYED AS A CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE.

WILSON ALSO STATED THAT AT THE TIME OF KING'S DEATH, HE HAD OWNED A RED AND WHITE BONANZA AIRPLANE, REGISTRY NUMBER 34L, AND A CESSNA 310 TWIN-ENGINE BLUE AND WHITE AIRCRAFT. WILSON PROVIDED THE IDENTITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL FROM WHOM HE HAD PURCHASED ONE OF THESE PLANES, THE BONANZA, AS BEING (FNU) FISHER.

INVESTIGATION AT KANSAS CITY DIVISION REGARDING THESE PERTINENT BITS OF INFORMATION FURNISHED BY WILSON HAS YIELDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

IN REVIEW OF THE 1969 COLE'S DIRECTORY, KANSAS CITY, DISCLOSED THAT WILSON WAS SUBSCRIBER TO PHONE NUMBER SO1-6526 AT 13125 HERRICK AVENUE, GRADVIEW, MISSOURI.

PAGE THREE, KC 44-760, UNCLAS EFTO

INDICES, COMPUTER CRIMINAL HISTORY, AND THE LOCAL CRIMINAL HISTORY WERE CHECKED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. FURTHER INVESTIGATION WITH THE GRANDVIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT INDICATED THAT THE ONLY RECORD, CRIMINAL, TRAFFIC, OR MISCELLANEOUS, THAT WILSON HAD WAS A VIOLATION ON 8/9/69 FOR NOT DISPLAYING A CITY STICKER. WILSON PAID THE FINE ON 8/26/69.

DON FISHER, FISHER SALES AND SERVICES, LEAWOOD, KANSAS, WAS CONTACTED AND INDICATED HE BOUGHT THE STATE LINE AIRPORT, LEAWOOD, KANSAS, IN 1964. FISHER REMEMBERS THE SALE OF A MODEL G, NUMBER 56 BONANZA TO WILSON. HE SAID HE DOES NOT REMEMBER THE PARTICULAR DATE. HE SAID HE REMEMBERS THE SALE BECAUSE HE PURCHASED THE PLANE FROM A C.C. MILLER, A RETIRED EXECUTIVE WITH WESTERN AUTO PARTS. HE SAID MILLER BASED THE PLANE AT STATE LINE AIRPORT UNTIL HE BOUGHT THE PLANE FROM MILLER. HE SAID HE THEN SOLD THE PLANE TO WILSON. FISHER SAID ALL THE RECORDS PERTAINING TO THIS PURCHASE WERE DESTROYED IN A FIRE LAST YEAR. FISHER THINKS THAT WILSON

PAGE FOUR, KC 44-760, UNCLAS EFTO
FINANCED THE PLANE AT JOHNSON COUNTY BANK, AND BELIEVES
THAT WILSON HAD A PARTNER. FISHER RECALLS THE NAME OF LOU
CREWS, WHO OWNS LOU CREWS JEWELERS, GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI.
FISHER INDICATED THAT THE AIRPORT KEEPS NO RECORDS OF
LANDINGS OR TAKE-OFFS OF AIRCRAFTS. FISHER ALSO BELIEVES
THAT WILSON WAS A SHRINER AND THAT HE DRANK A LOT.

REVIEW OF CURRENT DIRECTORIES, AN INQUIRY OF INFORMATION
FOR BELTON, MISSOURI, GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, RAYMORE, MISSOURI,
AND PECULIAR, MISSOURI, FOR A WILBUR JEWELERS PROVED NEGATIVE,
ALL POSSIBLE SPELLINGS FOR WILBUR WERE SEARCHED.

RICHARDS-GEBAUR AIR BASE WAS CONTACTED AND INDICATED
THAT ALL RECORDS OF PAST EMPLOYEES ARE STORED AT THE RECORDS
CENTER, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, TELEPHONE 314-268-7243.

KANSAS CITY PHONE COMPANY INDICATED THAT RECORDS FOR
THE PERIOD IN QUESTION HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

ST. LOUIS AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, WILL CHECK RECORDS AT
MILITARY RECORDS CENTER FOR ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION REGARDING
WILSONS EMPLOYMENT AT RICHARDS-GEBAUR AIR BASE DURING APRIL
1968. PARTICULARLY PAYING ATTENTION IF WILSON WAS EMPLOYED

PAGE FIVE, KC 44-760, UNCLAS EFTO
AND PRESENT ON APRIL 4, 1968.

OKLAHOMA CITY AT OKLAHOMA CITY, WILL CONTACT FAA RECORDS CENTER AND WILL PERFORM A COMPLETE TITLE SEARCH FOR BONANZA PLANE, REGISTRY NUMBER 34L. ADDITIONALLY, WILL DETERMINE CURRENT OWNER AND WILL SET OUT LEADS TO APPROPRIATE FIELD OFFICE TO CONTACT OWNER FOR REVIEW OF PLANE LOG BOOK WHICH SHOULD REVEAL DISPOSITION OF PLANE DURING PERIOD IN QUESTION.

MEMPHIS AT MEMPHIS, CONSIDER OBTAINING PILOTS LOG BOOK OF WILSON WHICH COULD REVEAL FLIGHT ACTIVITY OF WILSON DURING PERIOD IN QUESTION.

KANSAS CITY AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, WILL CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AT JOHNSON COUNTY BANK AND OBTAIN ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION REGARDING THE FINANCING OF THE BONANZA PLANE. (2) WILL PERFORM CREDIT CHECK AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI TO DETERMINE PAST EMPLOYMENT OF WILSON.

AT GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, WILL ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN WILSON'S CONNECTION WITH KATZ DEPARTMENT STORE OF GRANDVIEW. (2) CONTACT LOU CREWS AND ASCERTAIN CREWS' RELATIONSHIP WITH

PAGE SIX, KC 44-760, UNCLAS EFTO

WILSON. (3) WILL ATTEMPT THROUGH FORMER NEIGHBORS AND ASSOCIATES, TO ESTABLISH WILSONS WHEREABOUTS DURING CRITICAL PERIOD, APRIL 1968. (4) WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE EXISTANCE OF JULIE TRADE SHOP ON WALNUT STREET TO ESTABLISH EXISTANCE OF INDIVIDUAL AS DESCRIBED BY WILSON IN RE TEL.

BT

ME ACK ONE

FBI Role In Slaying Will Be Ford Target

By JOHN BENNETT

From The Commercial Appeal
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Rep. Harold Ford (D-Tenn.), scheduled to ask the first questions of Dr. Ralph Abernathy at Monday's public hearing into the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said Friday the FBI will eventually have "a lot of explaining to do" about King's death.

"I think as the public hearing gets underway, the American public will be feeling the same way," Ford said on the eve of televised House select subcommittee hearings.

The Memphis lawmaker was briefed Friday by House investigators about the format and specifics of his questions of Abernathy, the subcommittee's first witness.

Ford is to spend from 10 to 15 minutes questioning Abernathy about events surrounding and leading up to King's death on the night of April 4, 1968, at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis.

King died in Abernathy's arms.

Like Abernathy, Ford also holds to the conspiracy theory and believes the FBI helped create a climate leading to the murder of the civil rights leader.

In an interview this week, Abernathy told The Commercial Appeal he believes the FBI and Memphis police helped "conspirators" get James Earl Ray out of Memphis following King's murder.

"I think it will be shown, if there was a conspiracy, that he (Ray) was a part of the conspiracy," Ford said in an interview at his Capitol office Friday. "All evidence to this point leads me to believe Ray pulled the trigger to kill Dr. King."

"There's also evidence that leads me to believe others played a part," he said. "I think the FBI has a lot of explaining to do."

Abernathy said Ray wrote him a letter from Brushy Mountain Prison in Tennessee last week saying he will identify the source of money he used to flee the United States following King's murder — if he can get a new trial.

Neither Ford nor other subcommittee members have indicated Ray might be prepared to identify names of conspirators when he testifies next week. A third witness, not identified, will also testify next week. Additional King hearings are scheduled for November.

Investigators took painstaking care Friday to prepare Ford for his line of questioning when hearings open Monday morning.

The hearing will actually begin with opening statements by Rep. Louis Stokes

(D-Ohio), chairman of the full House assassinations committee, and by Rep. Walter Fauntroy, the delegate to the House from the District of Columbia, chairman of the subcommittee probing King's death. Another subcommittee investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy will hold hearings next month.

Ford will begin his questions following the introduction of Abernathy of Atlanta as the first witness.

Ford said his questioning will not only probe Abernathy's recall of events leading to King's death, but also what he remembers about the FBI's interest in King's presence in Memphis before his murder.

FBI "attitudes" about the slain civil rights leader will also be probed at the hearing.

"I want to know, did King fear the FBI at all times," Ford said in the private interview. "Did he receive threatening phone calls?"

For example, he explained, King would never have stayed at the Black-owned Lorraine Motel where he was killed had it not been for the FBI.

Ford said it was the FBI that circulated statements that King would be a "hypocrite" to stay in the Rivermont in Memphis, thereby causing King to check in at the Lorraine.

In a Scripps-Howard News Service story Friday, two unnamed committee members said evidence collected by investigators during the 15-month probe, including 28 hours of intensive, taped interviews with Ray, "leave no doubt" as to Ray's guilt.

Ray, scheduled to appear before the committee Wednesday, now claims he was an innocent "fall guy" of a conspiracy to carry out the assassination, despite originally pleading guilty to the crime and avoiding a possible death sentence.

Ray's role in the killing is to be explored next week and the allegations about the FBI are to be the subject of public hearings in November.

Meanwhile, in Knoxville, Ray's brother Jerry said reports that James Earl Ray was actively planning another attempt to escape from Brushy Mountain Penitentiary are false.

Jerry Ray told a Knoxville television station that investigators for the House Assassinations Committee leaked the report in an effort to get his brother transferred to a federal prison.

KRC News reported Thursday that a committee informant had stolen and sent photocopies of letters written by James Earl Ray outlining the plot to the House panel's staff.

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

PAGE 3

COMMERCIAL
APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: Aug. 12, 1978
Edition:

Title:

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

77-1197

orig. sent to
Bureau 8/15/78
port

B. Johnson

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Repeats Claim Of FBI Conspiracy

By JOHN BENNETT

From The Commercial Appeal
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — James Earl Ray told the House Assassinations Committee Wednesday he did not murder Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and claimed he was "maneuvered" into prison in 1969 by a conspiracy involving the FBI.

But Ray told nothing new about how he got the money to travel for two months following King's murder on April 4, 1968, or to identity of the mystery man — "Raoul" — around whom Ray and many of those who accept a conspiracy theory, build their claims.

Ray's first public testimony in the 10-year-old case ended abruptly in midafternoon when he and his lawyer, Mark Lane, complained Ray had had no sleep or food in 48 hours. He will resume testimony this morning.

Lane claimed Ray was "beaten" by federal prison officials at Petersburg, Va., where he had been kept Tuesday night.

Ray was joined by Memphis lawyer Duncan Ragsdale Wednesday in asking the federal court in the District of Columbia to investigate the claims.

Rep. Harold Ford (D-Tenn.), a member of the assassinations panel, said he thinks

Ray and Lane were merely stalling for time to "regroup" from Wednesday's testimony when they complained Ray was tired and unable to respond clearly as the panel began questioning him following his opening remarks.

Ray began his sworn testimony by saying Lane had just examined three FBI documents which showed "further evidence of possible FBI and Memphis police complicity in the conspiracy to murder Dr. King."

One document, dated April 13, 1968, to former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover from the Memphis FBI office, identified Marrell McCollough, a black male and former undercover Memphis police officer, as the first man to reach Dr. King after he was shot on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel.

Lane, sitting with Ray at the witness table, said that sort of information is startling and new and should be investigated.

Lane said it had previously never been known an undercover Memphis police officer could testify where the death shot came from.

The 1968 FBI memorandum said McCollough "feels" the shot came from the vicinity of the rear or near the boarding house

(Continued on Page 3)

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

PAGE 1

COMMERCIAL
APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: Aug. 17, 1978
Edition:

Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character:
or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

11-1178

Orig. fwd. to
Bureau 8/17/78 aw

B. Johnson

FBI/DOJ

Ray Repeats To Panel FBI Conspiracy Claim

(Continued from Page 1)

at 422½ South Main, and not from ground level.

Dr. Michael Baden, chief medical examiner for New York City, has testified King's autopsy, combined with other information, placed the shot in the area of the rooming house across from the Lorraine Motel or the grassy area behind it.

"While your expert witness, Dr. Baden, testified yesterday that all the available evidence could not fix the origin of the shot, the FBI more than 10 years ago established McCollough as the expert who could," Ray told the committee.

He cited another FBI memorandum from the Memphis FBI to Hoover, dated Aug. 26, 1969, as saying McCollough was on the board of directors of the Invaders, a black militant group in Memphis in the late '60s.

The FBI memo said McCollough was actually a Memphis Police Department patrolman from February, 1968, to March 31, 1969, who by August of 1969 was assigned to the department's intelligence unit.

Ray said another FBI document to Hoover from Memphis on April 10, 1968, spelling McCollough's name "Merril McCollough," showed him to actually be a "special agent" of the FBI who participated in the March 28, 1968, march led by Dr. King and Rev. James M. Lawson in support of striking sanitation workers.

"Therefore, FBI documents prove that the first person to reach Dr. King after he was shot, the person to establish the point of origin of the shot and the most militant of the Invaders was a Memphis undercover police officer," Ray told the committee.

"McCollough was one of the Invaders who, as Reverend Abernathy (Rev. Ralph Abernathy) testified on Monday, turned the nonviolent march into a riot," Ray said. "Dr. Abernathy was correct in stating that they were posing as Invaders, but even he did not know that the most active of the right-wing radical activists, the man who reached Dr. King before he did, was a police spy."

In Memphis Henry Lux, who was chief of police at the time of King's death, said once again that McCollough was, in fact, a city patrolman who had been placed in undercover work to help police keep tabs on the racial situation in Memphis at the time.

He said, however, McCollough was not a member of the Invaders, and that the officer's presence within the Southern Christian Leadership Conference movement was necessary to help keep a check on times and locations of marches.

He was, however, on the balcony at the time King was shot.

He apparently left the Memphis police force in 1972 or 1973. Efforts to locate him Wednesday were unsuccessful.

Ray said his testimony Wednesday was "essentially the same" as he would have given a trial court in Memphis in 1969 "if that court would have had the fortitude to order a public trial into the murder . . . rather than making an in-chambers deal with the attorney . . ."

He said the attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston, had capitulated to the wishes of commercial publishing companies and their special relationships with the intelligence communities.

"In essence, I would have told the trial court and jury that I did not shoot Martin Luther King Jr. just as I am now telling this committee," Ray said in the 39 page text he read to the committee. "And, if I would have had a lawyer to represent me, I could have offered conclusive proof in support of the denial."

"I know several large publishing houses working with the FBI have offered up varied motivational allegations — which are referred to below — to support the government's case against me, but it was not I who posted Martin Luther King notes suggesting he kill himself," Ray said. "Rather, it was the FBI."

Ray said that whatever the committee ultimately finds, he will have performed a valuable service in "unmasking" the U.S. judicial system's operation, which he said is in league with "dominant publishing companies" to railroad innocent defendants in controversial criminal cases into prison.

Ray supplied no new information on how he financed travels around the U.S., Mexico, Canada, Great Britain and Portugal in the two months before he was captured.

Committee Chairman Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) told Ray that for the first time Ray has a chance to "tell the American people your side of the story and what, indeed, happened."

Within minutes Ray was telling Stokes that in the past he had lied in some popular publications about the King investigation.

Stokes then reminded Ray that on eight occasions the panel staff had spent 49 hours taking 1,760 pages of testimony from

Ray at Brushy Mountain State Prison in Petros, Tenn.

Stokes asked Ray if he would say that testimony was truthful.

"He made a point nothing I said would be under oath," Ray replied about the panel's staff investigator who took the testimony at the prison. "I know I made several inadvertent errors testifying before these hearings."

Stokes then asked if committee members could assume what Ray said Wednesday in his printed statement is true.

"Yes," he replied.

Much of the questioning dwelled on Ray's mystery accomplice, "Raoul," who he claims to have met in a Montreal tavern in 1967 following his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

It was this mysterious "Raoul" who was to help Ray escape the U.S. in exchange for Ray's help in moving contraband through U.S. customs from Montreal.

He described Raoul to the committee Wednesday as about 35 to 40 years old, 5-foot-9, with red-tinted dark hair, who spoke with a slight Spanish accent.

Stokes reminded Ray that on other occasions he had described the mystery man differently.

Ray said his agreement in April of 1968 was to help Raoul smuggle rifles out of the country.

He told how he had bought one of the rifles in Birmingham, Ala., which he took to Memphis on April 3, 1968, the day before King was killed.

Q — Did you handle it physically?

A — Yes, I handled it fairly extensively when he was letting me look at it (the store owner).

Q — Did Raoul (handle it)?

A — No . . .

Ray told the committee he had no recollection of the room he stayed in at the boarding house across from the Lorraine Motel.

Asked if he could have been in the bathroom where the shot was believed to have been fired, he replied, "That's right, I could have been."

Ray recounted checking into the boarding home with "Raoul" on April 4, 1968, and being asked by the mystery man to purchase binoculars and an infrared attachment to see by night.

Ray said that after he had unsuccessfully tried to purchase the infrared device at a local sporting goods store, he drove his 1966 white Mustang to a bar and restaurant on Main Street.

He said when he later returned to the boarding home he saw people running and a police car at the scene.

"I then veered off to the left toward South Memphis, traveling through what appeared to be a predominantly black community," he said. "I eventually ended up in Mississippi traveling toward New Orleans, La. It was my intention to phone a New Orleans number in my possession and have the party on the other end attempt to find out what, if anything, had happened."

Ray said after he entered Mississippi he heard on the car radio that King had been shot. He said about 15 minutes later another news bulletin announced police were looking for a white Mustang and a white male suspect. He said he then drove all night toward Atlanta.

His testimony never explained why he did not return to the scene.

Ray said he arrived in Toronto, on April 6. In early May, 1968, with a passport in the name of Ramon George Sneyd, he said he left Canada for London. He later traveled to Lisbon and returned to London. Ray was arrested June 8, 1968, as he attempted to depart for Brussels.

Stokes reminded Ray that he and "Raoul" had actually seen each other over a period of 9 months in 3 countries and 10 cities.

"Did you ever wonder why he wouldn't give you his full name?" Stokes asked Ray.

"I assume he was a crook," Ray replied. "I never made no effort to know him too well."

"This was a man you were in business with, though, wasn't it?" he was asked.

"Yeah, but it wasn't a legitimate business."

Ford said the only part of testimony that surprised him was that Ray was "tired" and needed rest before he continues today.

"I think they want to regroup and have this time for the news media to print his side of it," Ford said in the hallway outside the committee room. "I think Mr. Lane is trying to write a book and we're not trying to write a book."

Ford said Ray's testimony Wednesday had "contradicted" what he had said in the past.

Asked whether he felt Ray would be able to shuffle the various contradictions into a single story, Ford replied:

"That's a good question. I wouldn't try to answer that."

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FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) PRIORITY

KANSAS CITY IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

CARL D. FORTNA, ROUTE 6, BOX 387, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, STATED THAT HE MET BILL WILSON IN BELTON, MISSOURI, IN 1966 OR 1967. FORTNA WAS IN THE AIR FORCE AT THIS TIME STATIONED AT RICHARDS-GEBAUER AIR FORCE BASE IN BELTON, MISSOURI. FORTNA STATED THAT WILSON AND WILSON'S WIFE OWNED A JEWELRY STORE IN BELTON, MISSOURI, AND THAT WILSON WAS A MEMBER OF THE 442ND AIR FORCE RESERVE UNIT STATIONED AT RICHARDS-GEBAUER AIR FORCE BASE. FORTNA STATED HE KNEW WILSON THROUGH THEIR ASSOCIATION IN THE VFW IN BELTON, MISSOURI. FORTNA STATED THAT HE, FORTNA, RETIRED FROM THE AIR FORCE IN 1969

44-1987-Sub-M-1199

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 22 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

B. Johnson

VB

PAGE 2 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

AND DID NOT SEE WILSON AGAIN EXCEPT FOR ONE BRIEF MOMENT IN 1972 UNTIL APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS AGO. WILSON CAME TO OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, FROM LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA, ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO AND LIVED IN THE TWIN PINES MOTEL ON HIGHWAY 90, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI. ON JULY 23, 1978, WILSON MOVED INTO A HOUSE OWNED BY FORTNA LOCATED NEXT DOOR TO FORTNA'S PRESENT RESIDENCE.

AT APPROXIMATELY 4:15 PM ON AUGUST 18, 1978, WILSON ASKED FORTNA TO COME INTO WILSON'S HOUSE, THAT HE HAD SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT TO TELL HIM. WILSON TOLD FORTNA, "I KILLED THAT BLACK SON-OF-A-BITCH." FORTNA ASKED WILSON WHO HE WAS TALKING ABOUT, AND WILSON REPLIED MARTIN LUTHER KING. FORTNA STATED THAT HE TOLD WILSON HE DID NOT BELIEVE HIM, AND WILSON SAID, "I AM TELLING YOU THE TRUTH. I ACTUALLY KILLED HIM. I'VE BEEN LIVING WITH IT FOR TEN YEARS, AND I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE." WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR WILSON'S FATHER'S DEATH. WILSON DID NOT ELABORATE FURTHER ON THIS. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT THIS KILLING WAS "ENGINEERED" BY LOU CRUZ (PHONETIC). FORTNA STATED THAT HE KNOWS LOU CRUZ AND THAT LOU CRUZ OWNED OR STILL OWNS LOU CRUZ JEWELRY, 1505 MAIN STREET, GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT HE DROVE TO THE STATE LINE AIRPORT IN KANSAS CITY,

PAGE 3 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

MISSOURI, DRIVING A NEW FORD THUNDERBIRD. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT CRUZ ALSO OWNED AN IDENTICAL FORD THUNDERBIRD. WILSON LEFT HIS THUNDERBIRD AT THE AIRPORT AND FLEW TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. CRUZ CAME TO THE AIRPORT AND PICKED UP WILSON'S THUNDERBIRD AND TOOK IT FROM THE AIRPORT SO IT WOULD NOT BE NOTICED. WHEN WILSON ARRIVED IN MEMPHIS, HE BORROWED A WHITE FORD MUSTANG THAT HE HAD PURCHASED FOR HIS DAUGHTER, DEBORAH. DEBORAH HAD DRIVEN FROM KANSAS CITY TO MEMPHIS IN THE MUSTANG. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT HE WENT TO THE MOTEL WHERE MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS STAYING AND THAT HE USED A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE AND SHOT KING HOLDING THE RIFLE ON HIS HIP. HE STATED THAT THIS RIFLE IS NOW IN THE POSSESSION OF WILSON'S SON, STEVE. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT HE WAS DRIVING AWAY FROM THE SCENE IN THE MUSTANG, AND HE WAS STOPPED BY THE MEMPHIS POLICE, BUT HE TALKED HIMSELF OUT OF A TICKET, AND THE CAR WAS NOT SEARCHED. HE STATED THAT THE RIFLE WAS IN THE TRUNK OF THE CAR AT THIS TIME. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT HE THEN FLEW HIS AIRPLANE BACK TO KANSAS CITY, AND CRUZ PICKED HIM UP AT THE AIRPORT AND TOOK HIM HOME.

FORTNA STATED THAT WHEN WILSON TOLD HIM THE ABOVE INFORMATION, HE, FORTNA, BELIEVED THAT WILSON THOUGHT HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH AND THAT HE SWORE ON HIS MOTHER'S GRAVE IN FRONT OF A PRIEST THAT IT

PAGE 4 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

WAS THE TRUTH. FORTNA STATED THAT WILSON HAD NEVER MENTIONED THIS SUBJECT PRIOR TO THIS INSTANCE. FORTNA STATED THAT WILSON HAS BEEN DRINKING HEAVILY FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS AND HAS LIED TO HIM SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS. WILSON, ON OCCASION, WOULD TELL FORTNA THAT HE HAD BEEN MARRIED THREE OR FOUR TIMES SINCE DIVORCING HIS FIRST WIFE AND THEN COME BACK AT A LATER DATE AND SAY THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN MARRIED AFTER DIVORCING HIS FIRST WIFE.

FORTNA STATED THAT WILSON IS AN EXCELLENT PILOT, THAT HE, FORTNA, HAS FLOWN WITH WILSON THROUGH BAD WEATHER, AND WILSON HAD NO PROBLEMS FLYING THE AIRCRAFT.

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AKA BILL, WAS BORN AUGUST 28, 1931, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, 5 FEET 11 INCHES, 170 POUNDS, BROWN EYES, GRAY HAIR, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 422-34-4275, MILITARY SERVICE U. S. AIR FORCE 1947-1960.

KANSAS CITY AT GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI. WILL LOCATE LOU CRUZ (PHONETIC), 1505 MAIN STREET, RE KNOWLEDGE OF WILSON AND FACT HE "ENGINEERED" ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING.

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI. WILL CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION AND CHECK FLIGHT PLANS IF POSSIBLE AT STATE LINE AIRPORT IN AN EFFORT TO DETERMINE IF WILSON FLEW FROM THIS AIRPORT TO MEMPHIS,

PAGE 5 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

TENNESSEE, ON OR ABOUT APRIL 4, 1968.

FOR INFORMATION OF KANSAS CITY, IN A PRIOR INTERVIEW OF WILSON, HE STATED HE HAD A RED AND WHITE BONANZA AIRPLANE, REGISTER NUMBER 34L, AND A CESSNA 310 TWIN-ENGINE BLUE AND WHITE AIRCRAFT.

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FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

ON AUGUST 22, 1978, JACKSON SPECIAL AGENT VISITED OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, POLICE DEPARTMENT IN ORDER TO DETERMINE STATUS OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. JACKSON SPECIAL AGENT ADVISED BY CHIEF OF POLICE MATT COX THAT A TELETYPE HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, ADVISING THEY WOULD ARRIVE IN OCEAN SPRINGS DURING MORNING OF AUGUST 23, 1978, IN ORDER TO TAKE WILSON BACK TO TEXAS.

CHIEF OF POLICE COX ADVISED HE HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, AND LOCAL OCEAN SPRINGS NEWS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES PRESSING HIM FOR A STATEMENT CONCERNING WILSON'S ALLEGED REMARKS

Note If any press inquiries
are received see attached
response:

44-1987-Sub M 1200

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
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AUG 22 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Signature]

PAGE 2 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

REGARDING KING ASSASSINATION. CHIEF COX ADVISED HAS GIVEN NO PRESS STATEMENT TO DATE; HOWEVER, HE ADVISED THAT MISSISSIPPI STATE REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS GOLLOTTE, ALONG WITH REVEREND NOEL FANNON, ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, WERE APPARENTLY IN CONTACT WITH LOCAL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNING THIS MATTER. CHIEF COX FURTHER ADVISED HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY JACKSON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CLINTON LOCKARD, WHO HAS BECOME AWARE OF THIS MATTER AND HAS INSTRUCTED CHIEF COX TO BRING INMATE WILSON TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IN ORDER THAT HIS STATEMENT CAN BE TAPE RECORDED. CHIEF COX FURTHER ADVISED THAT WILSON APPARENTLY HAS MADE REMARKS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FBI INTENDS TO "COVER UP" INFORMATION HE HAS FURNISHED.

FOREGOING SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION OF FBIHQ AND MEMPHIS IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE PRESS INQUIRIES FORTHCOMING.

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FM HOUSTON (44-1509) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.
MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU, AUGUST 21, 1978.

ON AUGUST 22, 1978, BOB SORRELL, ROUTE ONE, BOX 260,
(BEAUMONT COLONY), KOUNTZE, TEXAS, TELEPHONE 246-2705,
(UNLISTED), WAS CONTACTED AT HIS RESIDENCE WHERE THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED. SORRELL BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH
BILL WILSON THROUGH HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST
CHURCH IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, WHICH WAS PASTORED BY BROTHER
WILSON. SORRELL HAD NO OTHER ASSOCIATION WITH BILL WILSON

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44-1987 Sub m-1200

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 22 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

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PAGE TWO HO 44-1509 UNCLAS

EXCEPT THROUGH CONTACT AT CHURCH. SORRELL ATTENDED THAT CHURCH AS A YOUNGSTER AND CONTINUED UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 1958, WHEN HIS FAMILY MOVED FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND ATTENDANCE STOPPED.

HE, SORRELL, HAD NO OTHER CONTACT WITH BILL WILSON UNTIL AFTER 1967, WHEN SORRELL EMPLOYED AT HAGLER AERO SERVICE, CHARLES W. BAKER AIRPORT, MILLINGTON, TENNESSEE, TELEPHONE 872-2261. SORRELL WAS PART-TIME EMPLOYEE AT HAGLER UNTIL OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER OF 1967, WHEN HE BECAME FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE AS A LINEMAN.

SORRELL RECALLED THAT SOMETIME AFTER BECOMING A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE BILL FLEW INTO THE AIRPORT, EXACT DATE UNRECALLED, IN A TWIN BEACHCRAFT (D-18) BELIEVED RED AND WHITE IN COLOR WITH POSSIBLY A BLUE STRIPE. SORRELL RECALLED THAT HE REFUELED THIS AIRPLANE, BUT THE TIME OF DAY OF ARRIVAL WAS UNKNOWN. AS RECALLED WILSON WAS WEARING CIVILIAN CLOTHING AND PAID CASH FOR THE FUEL PURCHASE. SORRELL AND WILSON HAD LITTLE CONVERSATION OTHER THAN GREETING. AS BEST RECALLED BY SORRELL, WILSON STAYED OVERNIGHT AND LEFT THE FOLLOWING DAY, TIME UNKNOWN. SORRELL DOES NOT KNOW HOW WILSON WAS

PAGE THREE HO 44-1509 UNCLAS

TRANSPORTED FROM AND TO THE AIRPORT.

WITHIN TWO OR THREE MONTHS WILSON MADE A SECOND VISIT TO HAGLER IN THE SAME AIRCRAFT WHERE HE RECEIVED GAS, PAID CASH AND LAID OVER FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS. AGAIN, SORRELL HAS NO IDEA AS TO HIS TRANSPORTATION FROM AND BACK TO THE AIRPORT. SORRELL HAS NO INFORMATION AS TO WHERE HE CAME IN FROM OR HIS DESTINATION UPON DEPARTURE FROM THE AIRPORT. SORRELL COULD SUPPLY NO INFORMATION ABOUT A 1965, WHITE MUSTANG AND DID NOT KNOW THAT WILSON HAD A DAUGHTER NAMED DEBORAH.

SORRELL HAS NOT SEEN NOR HEARD FROM WILSON SINCE THE LAST VISIT TO HAGLER.

SORRELL TERMINATED HIS EMPLOYMENT AT HAGLER IN OCTOBER OF 1976. HE CANNOT RECALL THE EXACT TIME OF ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE BUT DOES BELIEVE BOTH VISITS OCCURRED IN EITHER 1968 OR 1969. SORRELL ADVISED FUEL RECEIPTS BROKEN DOWN BY SINGLE ENGINE OR MUTLI-ENGINE AIRCRAFTS ARE MAINTAINED ON A MONTHLY BASIS. SORRELL ADVISED THAT MR. GLENN MITCHELL, MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR, HAGLER AERO SERVICES, COULD ASSIST WITH REVIEW OF GAS RECEIPTS TO DETERMINE EXACT DATE OF ARRIVAL. *phell*

PAGE FOUR HO 44-1509 UNCLAS

SORRELL HAD NO INFORMATION HOW WILSON CAME INTO POSSESSION OF AIRCRAFT AND DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WAS LEASED OR OWNED BY HIM. IN RECALLING THE TWO VISITS BY WILSON, SORRELL HAS A GUT FEELING THAT SOMEONE MAY HAVE BEEN WITH HIM ON EACH OCCASION, BUT THIS IS JUST A FEELING ON HIS PART AND HE CAN SUPPLY NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THIS FEELING. SORRELL HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT AN AIRPORT IN OLATHA, KANSAS, WHERE WILSON ALLEGEDLY LANDED AFTER DEPARTURE FROM MEMPHIS.

AS FURTHER BACKGROUND, SORRELL RECALLED THAT DURING ATTENDANCE AT THE HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH HE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT WILSON WAS IN AND OUT OF TROUBLE, ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT KNOW THE TYPE. HE MAY HAVE RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION FROM ONE OF WILSON'S SISTERS, NAMES UNRECALLED. THROUGH CONTACT WITH WILSON AT CHURCH, WILSON IMPRESSED SORRELL AS THE TYPE OF GUY WHO ALWAYS HAD A "BIG DEAL", "KIND OF A CONMAN PERSONALITY". AGAIN, AND IT MAY HAVE BEEN ONE OF WILSON'S SISTERS WHO MENTIONED IT, SORRELL GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT WILSON HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND RECEIVED TIME FOR AN UNKNOWN OFFENSE. SORRELL ADVISED THAT CONTACT WITH WILSON'S SISTERS WAS AT CHURCH. HE AGAIN STATED THAT HE HAS A GUT

PAGE FIVE HO 44-1509 UNCLAS

FEELING THAT ONE OF THEM MAY HAVE BEEN AT THE AIRPORT ON ONE OF THE ABOVE OCCASIONS.

SORRELL DID NOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT WILSON SERVED IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE, BUT RECALLED THAT WILSON WORE A UNIFORM AT CHURCH ON OCCASION. SORRELL WAS NOT AWARE THAT WILSON WAS EMPLOYED AT PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY BUT DOES RECALL HIS MARRIAGE TO BETTY LOU, MAIDEN NAME UNKNOWN, BECAUSE BETTY LIVED IN THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD. SORRELL HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT WILSON'S CLEANING BUSINESS OR TIME SPENT IN THE TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD OR THAT WILSON HAD EVER LIVED IN THE MEMPHIS AREA.

SINCE NO INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED FROM SORRELL CONCERNING THE AIRPORT IN KANSAS AND DID NOT KNOW (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) FISHER, FROM WHOM WILSON ALLEGEDLY PURCHASED THE AIRCRAFT, ANY LEADS FOR KANSAS WILL BE LEFT UP TO THE DISCRETION OF MEMPHIS. LEADS. MEMPHIS AT MILLINGTON, TENNESSEE. CONTACT GLENN MITCHELL AND ATTEMPT TO REVIEW LOGICAL GAS RECEIPTS TO DETERMINE EXACT DATE OF WILSON'S REFUELING AT HAGLER AERO SERVICE.

PAGE SIX HO 44-1509 UNCLAS

HOUSTON AT HOUSTON. WILL SUBMIT REPORT.

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

TO FBI BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

FBI CHICAGO PRIORITY

FBI DALLAS PRIORITY

FBI HOUSTON PRIORITY

FBI JACKSON PRIORITY

FBI KANSAS CITY PRIORITY

FBI MEMPHIS PRIORITY

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY PRIORITY

FBI SAN ANTONIO PRIORITY

FBI ST. LOUIS PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

MURKIN

EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION HAS ALREADY BEEN CONDUCTED TO
RESOLVE THE ALLEGATION BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON THAT HE
ASSASSINATED MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND TO DETERMINE

44-1987 Sub M-1202

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 22 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Handwritten signatures and initials are present over the stamp.

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

WILSON'S WHEREABOUTS ON APRIL 4, 1968, THE DAY KING WAS ASSASSINATED. IN ADDITION, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, THE FOLLOWING OFFICES SHOULD CONDUCT THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION:

SAN ANTONIO:

WILSON ALLEGED ON AN UNSPECIFIED DATE MITCH (LNU) FURNISHED HIM A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY USED TO SHOOT KING. DEBRA JONES, DAUGHTER, ADVISED HE WAS ARRESTED ABOUT FOUR AND ONE HALF YEARS AGO AT BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, WHILE INTOXICATED AFTER HAVING MADE THREATS TO KILL HIS WIFE, AND THE POLICE FOUND A RIFLE IN HIS CAR.

SAN ANTONIO AT BROWNSVILLE, OBTAIN DETAILS OF THIS ARREST, AND OBTAIN ANY DESCRIPTION OF RIFLE REPORTEDLY LOCATED BY POLICE.

JACKSON:

APPARENTLY REFERRING TO A SKETCH OF KING'S KILLER, WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS (WORKING ASSOCIATES IN OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI) THAT IT WAS ALMOST AN EXACT LIKENESS OF HIM AND BECAUSE IT WAS RECENTLY SHOWN ON TV, HE DECIDED TO TURN HIMSELF IN. WILSON SAID HE HAS A SISTER IN FULTON, MISSISSIPPI,

PAGE THREE DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

WHO TELEPHONED HIM IN OCEAN SPRINGS TO SAY THAT THE SKETCH LOOKED JUST LIKE HIM.

JACKSON, IN YOUR ATTEMPT TO LOCATE CHRISTINE WILSON, SISTER, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, ALSO INTERVIEW HER RE ALLEGED CALL RE SKETCH DESCRIBED ABOVE.

MEMPHIS:

WILSON ADVISED THE TWO WHITE MALES IN MEMPHIS TOOK HIM TO A HOTEL ON SOUTH MAIN STREET NEAR BEALE STREET AND TOOK HIM TO A ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR. MEMPHIS ADVISE PROXIMITY OF THIS ADDRESS TO ACTUAL KING ASSASSINATION LOCATION.

OPAL HOOTEN, MOTHER OF BETTY LOU WADE, WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH SPECIFIC DATES OF VISITS OF BETTY AND DEBRA, HOWEVER, WOULD CHECK FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS. DEBRA ALSO STATED WHILE HER MOTHER BETTY AND HER WERE IN MEMPHIS VISITING HOOTENS AT TIME KING WAS ASSASSINATED, BETTY CALLED WILSON IN KANSAS CITY AT LEAST TWO TIMES.

MEMPHIS FOLLOW STATUS OF HOOTEN LOCATING FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS, AND DETERMINE WHETHER SHE HAS ANY TELEPHONE RECORDS, OR IF SAME ARE AVAILABLE AT TELEPHONE COMPANY, SHOWING ANY CALLS TO KANSAS CITY, OR GRANDVIEW AREA, DURING PERIOD OF

*W would know
nothing. get
telephone records.*

PAGE FOUR DE HQ 00 UNCLAS

APRIL, 1968.

ALL RECIPIENT OFFICES:

SUTEL SUMMARY RESULTS OF ANY INVESTIGATION STILL
OUTSTANDING, AND PROMPTLY SUBMIT REPORTS REPORTING ALL
INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED RE WILSON'S ALLEGATION, DESIGNATING
4 COPIES TO BUREAU, AND 3 TO MEMPHIS, WITH COPY DESIGNATED
FOR USA MEMPHIS.

BT

0083

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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8/21/78

Date of transcription

Mrs. AVIS LEA HUNTER, nee PRUETT, Apartment C-103, Ravenwood Apartments, 1005 Hickory Hill Lane, Nashville, phone 839-4495 (unlisted), employed as a hairdresser at the Castner-Knott Department Store, Donelson Shopping Center, Nashville, advised as follows:

She married BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, also known as Bill, on December 31, 1974, at Mountain Home, Arkansas, and divorced him in June of 1975 at Huntsville, Alabama, after leaving him in May of 1975. At the time they were married, WILSON told her that he was 42 years of age, although she suspects he is older. She only knew him five weeks before they were married. WILSON worked as a jeweler and had jewelry stores at both Mountain Home, Arkansas, and Huntsville, Alabama.

During their marriage, WILSON would drink alcoholic beverages frequently and after drinking, would become "crazy", rambling, and silly. However, he never became violent nor vicious and never harmed her. During their marriage, he told her numerous wild and untrue stories about himself, including that he was mixed up in the Mafia. He told her these stories to gain attention and it was impossible for her to give him as much attention as he required. To her knowledge, he has never been institutionalized for any mental problems. WILSON frequently "rambled from drinking". She and WILSON moved from Mountain Home, Arkansas, to Huntsville, Alabama, on about April 1, 1975.

She left WILSON because of all of his crazy and wild stories and also because he was getting diamonds at his jewelry store that he did not appear to be paying for. These diamonds were brought there by SIMON CLINE of Cline Brothers Jewelers, Atlanta, Georgia, phone 404-521-1075. After she left WILSON he told her once that he had been jailed in New Brownsville, Texas, later in 1975 and this charge supposedly had something to do with diamonds. She does not know, however, whether or not WILSON was actually in jail there. She has had very little personal contact with WILSON since their divorce. She does not know if he has ever been actually in prison. She also left WILSON because he was always acting crazy and was not stable.

Investigation on 8/19/78 at Nashville, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987-1265
by SA ALLEN H. QUIMBY:sle Date dictated 8/21/78

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ME 44-1987

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Since their divorce, WILSON has called her frequently, approximately once a week. On this past Thursday night, August 17, 1978, WILSON phoned at about 10:00 to 10:30 pm Nashville time, and her fourteen year old son [REDACTED] answered the phone. She told [REDACTED] that if the caller was WILSON to tell WILSON that she was not there because she did not want to talk to him. However, she listened in on an extension as WILSON was talking to [REDACTED]. WILSON was very drunk and told [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] would soon see him on television as he had killed MARTIN LUTHER KING. WILSON referred to KING over the phone as a "black bastard". WILSON further told [REDACTED] that the FBI would be coming soon to pick him up and then he hung up. This was the first time that WILSON ever mentioned MARTIN LUTHER KING during the time she has known him. He also has never mentioned JAMES EARL RAY to her. She does not know any associate of WILSON's by the name of MITCH, and does not know any of his associates. She has no idea where WILSON was in April of 1968, as she did not know him until very late 1974. WILSON has a son named MARK, age about 20, who lives somewhere in Texas. In addition he has some member of his family, possibly a sister, who in the past has lived at Memphis, Tennessee.

Mrs. HUNTER advised that WILSON's story about killing MARTIN LUTHER KING is not true and is just another one of his wild stories that he is telling to get attention.