

JN 62-544

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GLADDEN described WILSON as a white male, five feet eight, medium build, 155 to 170 pounds, graying hair, age 46, with a red ruddy complexion. WILSON is apparently partial to vodka and Coca-Cola.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8-21-78

LUKE JOSEPH BRODERICK, 1204 Hammer Smith Lane, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, telephone number 875-1404, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. BRODERICK stated that he is the manager of the Angle Inn Restaurant and Lounge, Highway 90, Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

BRODERICK, a white male, stated that he was born [REDACTED], and has completed three years of college.

BRODERICK stated that he is acquainted with BILL WILSON, who has been coming to the Angle Inn for approximately two months as a customer. BRODERICK stated that late on the night of August 16, 1978, he, BRODERICK, came to the Angle Inn and WILSON was sitting at the bar and had been drinking Draft Beer and was half drunk. BRODERICK stated he started talking to WILSON and WILSON said that he, WILSON, knew more about the MARTIN LUTHER KING assassination than people thought. WILSON started telling BRODERICK about how someone else had shot KING other than EARL RAY. WILSON was describing the other assassin in the third person. BRODERICK stated that after WILSON talked for a few minutes, he, BRODERICK, realized that WILSON was actually talking about himself shooting KING. When he questioned WILSON on this, WILSON stated "I definitely shot him. I was 50 feet away. I blew that nigger shit away". WILSON stated that he had flown to Memphis, Tennessee, in a private plane and he stated that he had shot KING from approximately 50 feet away while standing on the ground. WILSON told BRODERICK there were more people involved than himself and that firecrackers and other shots were going off at the time he shot KING. He stated that RAY was a scapegoat in this conspiracy.

WILSON stated that he was turning himself in to an old friend of his, GENE (last name unknown), who is the Sheriff of Shelby County. WILSON told

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by SA HARRY H. CARPENTER/kbn Date dictated 8-21-78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription August 21, 1978

DOROTHY RUTH WOODSIDE, 203 Morris Noble Road, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, telephone number 875-4721, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. WOODSIDE stated that she is a part-time bartender at the Angle Inn Restaurant and Lounge located on Highway 90 in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. She stated she works full time as an accountant at Ingalls Shipbuilding Division of Litton Industries, Pascagoula, Mississippi. WOODSIDE is a white female, born [redacted] and has a high school education plus graduating from business college.

WOODSIDE stated that she does know BILL WILSON, and she has talked to him numerous times at the Angle Inn. She stated that she dated WILSON one time and has seen him once or twice at his apartment.

WOODSIDE stated that at approximately 1:00 AM on August 18, 1978, WILSON came to the Angle Inn. WILSON talked to LUKE BRODERICK, the owner of the Angle Inn. While WILSON was conversing with BRODERICK, WOODSIDE joined the conversation. She stated that at the time WILSON was talking, he had had several beers but was not drunk, but the longer he talked and drank, the more inebriated he became. WOODSIDE stated that she heard WILSON say, "I'm the man that shot MARTIN LUTHER KING. I have had this on my conscience for ten years. I wanted to get it off my mind." She stated that WILSON stated that he had a green airplane he had flown in to Memphis, Tennessee, at the time he killed KING. She stated that the reason he was going to surrender himself to authorities was that he had just renewed his pilot's license and that he knew he would be caught as a result of his pilot's license. WILSON showed this pilot's license to BRODERICK. WOODSIDE stated that she remembers WILSON saying that he was looking through a window or over a windowsill at the time he shot KING. He stated that after he shot KING, there was a series of bangs or shots but WILSON stated that he was the one that actually shot KING. She stated that WILSON said he was going to turn himself in to the Sheriff of Shelby County, Tennessee, and that WILSON started crying at the end of the conversation. WOODSIDE stated that BRODERICK said that he believed WILSON was telling the truth, but WOODSIDE did not believe him.

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Sometime during the conversation, WILSON had stated that he had at one time been a pilot for Governor CLIFF FINCH, the Governor of Mississippi. He stated he had flown FINCH during FINCH's gubernatorial campaign. WILSON also stated that he had flown at one time with the original Flying Tigers.

WOODSIDE stated that WILSON has been dating a friend of hers, RITA HERRINGTON, who resides on Fountaine Lane in Biloxi, Mississippi, telephone number 374-5311. HERRINGTON is employed as a waitress at the Ramada Inn in Biloxi. HERRINGTON's son, HOWARD HERRINGTON, supposedly accompanied WILSON to New Orleans at one time.

WILSON also stated that he had been assigned to Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi, at one time, and she, WOODSIDE, had the impression that he was in the military at this time.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 8/24/78

Approximately 6:45 p.m., SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES observed a green Plymouth, bearing a Jackson County, Mississippi, license tag, stop in front of the Holiday Inn located on U. S. Highway 90, Gulfport, Mississippi. A white male was driving the vehicle and a white male was sitting on the passenger side of the vehicle. The individual on the passenger side got out of the vehicle and it was observed that he was wearing a blue shirt and checked trousers and he was approximately 45 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches in height, and weighed about 150 pounds. This individual entered the lobby of the motel. The driver of the vehicle parked the vehicle on the west end of the motel and walked to the front door of the motel.

SA GRAVES asked the driver of the vehicle if he were Father (NORL) FANNON and he acknowledged that he was. SA GRAVES identified himself to Father FANNON and advised him that GENE BARKSDALE, Sheriff of Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, was not going to meet MERCESS WILSON. He was advised that Agents of the FBI were in the motel and he was requested to tell WILSON that the Sheriff was not going to meet him; however, the FBI Agents were at the motel and desired to talk with him if he (WILSON) would agree to talk with the Agents. Father FANNON stated he would first like to talk with WILSON because Sheriff BARKSDALE had lied about his appearance in Gulfport.

Father FANNON thereafter entered the motel and talked with WILSON in the lobby.

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by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES /blc Date dictated 8/24/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 8/25/78

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., who was accompanied by Father NOEL FANNON, Pastor, St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, was contacted at the entrance of the Holiday Inn, U. S. Highway 90, Gulfport, Mississippi, approximately 6:50 p.m. WILSON was advised of the identity of SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES and he was asked if he were BURGESS AUDIE WILSON and he acknowledged that he was WILSON and further stated that he was a junior.

WILSON was advised that Sheriff GENE BARKSDALE of Memphis, Tennessee, was not at the motel to meet him; however, FBI Agents were there and desired to talk with him, particularly about his daughter's supposedly having driven a white Mustang from Kansas City, Missouri, to Memphis, Tennessee. He stated he had no information to furnish the FBI.

WILSON inquired as to whether or not he was under arrest and he was advised that he was not under arrest. WILSON commented he was not going to give anyone any trouble. He was asked if he had any weapons on him and he stated he did not and that SA GRAVES could search him if he so desired. WILSON was then "patted down" and no weapons were felt on his body.

WILSON commented that he and Father FANNON had been to the motel at 9:30 a.m. on August 18, 1978, and again at 6:30 p.m. on August 18, 1978, to see Sheriff BARKSDALE and the Sheriff had lied to them.

WILSON then asked Father FANNON if he would drive him back to the place he had been picked up and Father FANNON agreed to do so.

WILSON was again advised that FBI Agents were at the motel and were still willing to talk with him and he reiterated that he had nothing to say to the FBI and, as he departed, commented that the FBI, in the past, had harassed his father without any explanation.

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by SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES /blc Date dictated 8/24/78

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WILSON and Father FANNON thereafter left the area of the Holiday Inn in Father FANNON's 1976 Plymouth bearing Jackson County, Mississippi, license JAH 637, and proceeded east on U. S. Highway 90.

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BFG/blc

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The following investigation was conducted by
SAs LEON ROSS GRABEN and BENJAMIN F. GRAVES approximately
6:50 p.m., August 18, 1978, at Gulfport, Mississippi:

The Harrison County Sheriff's Office, Gulfport, Mississippi, was requested to determine the identity of the individual to whom Jackson County, Mississippi, license tag JAH 637 was registered, and the Sheriff's Office determined this license tag was issued for use on a 1976 Plymouth, operated by Rev. NOEL FANNON, Post Office Box 979, Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/23/78

Detective KEVIN ALVES, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Police Department, accompanied by Ocean Springs Patrolman MICHAEL W. PITALO and Officer-Intern JOHN CHARLES THOMPSON arrested BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as "BILL", at 7:35 p.m., on August 18, 1978, while WILSON was a passenger in an automobile driven by Reverend NOEL FANNON, Rector of St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Ocean Springs, Mississippi. The arrest took place on U.S. Highway 90 at the east end of the Biloxi Bay Bridge. The arrest was effected without incident and was based on information obtained from a National Crime Information Center (NCIC) "hit" indicating that WILSON was wanted on a probation violation by the New Braunfels, Texas, Police Department.

Immediately after the arrest, WILSON was transported by the Ocean Springs Police to the Ocean Springs Police Department where he was processed for confinement in the Ocean Springs City Jail.

Detective ALVES advised that after WILSON was brought to the Ocean Springs Police Department, he voluntarily stated on three different occasions without being questioned that he was the man that shot MARTIN LUTHER KING. According to Detective ALVES, WILSON referred to the Shelby County, Tennessee, Sheriff saying that it had been arranged prior to this date that WILSON would give himself up to the sheriff. ALVES further advised that WILSON claimed he had been a colonel in the U.S. Air Force and had flown with the Shelby County Sheriff while in the service.

ALVES further advised that WILSON stated he wants to "deal with the FBI". WILSON told ALVES that he would talk to the FBI only if "we take him to Memphis to see the sheriff of Shelby County where he will talk in front of any FBI Agent". WILSON also voluntarily told Detective ALVES that the reason he shot MARTIN LUTHER KING was that KING was directly or indirectly the cause of the death of some member of WILSON's family.

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Detective ALVES advised that he had warned the subject of his rights and WILSON had signed a Waiver of Rights for Detective ALVES.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/22/78

Following the arrest by Ocean Springs, Mississippi, police of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as BILL, he was taken to the Ocean Springs City Jail for processing. The contents of WILSON's wallet were examined in the presence of WILSON and the following items were contained therein:

Current Texas driver's license [REDACTED] under the name of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., 113 Mill Street, San Marcos, Texas. License expires 1980 and indicates the date of birth of [REDACTED]

A slip of paper bearing the name MADLYN, 304 Beresford, no city listed, telephone 455-3765.

A slip of paper with the name WILL CAMPBELL, 875-4380.

A business card for DANIEL D. GUICE, JR., Field Supervisor, Mississippi Probation and Parole Office, Biloxi, Mississippi, telephone 632-2271.

On the reverse side of the business card was an inked notation 1005 Hickory Hill Lane, C-103, Hermitage, Tennessee 37076.

Business card for MAX D. MURRAY, Advertising Representative, Austin, Texas, American Statesman.

Business card for DAN LEARNER, telephone 388-9601, Craftsman Workshop, Edgewater Mall, Biloxi, Mississippi.

Business card for DENNIS SULLIVER, Chief Engineer, Red Fox Industries, Incorporation, New Iberia, Louisiana, telephone number 365-8131.

Business card for LOUIS P. HELM, Realtor, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, 875-2098 and 875-0016.

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An inked note bearing the name BARTON and CHASE, 740 Sanson Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19107.

Business card for TRAVIS GARNER, Building Officials, City of Ocean Springs, 875-4236.

An inked note "State Farm Claims Office, Gulfport, Mississippi, 896-6353".

An inked note bearing the name of KARL FASOLD, 863-4761.

A payroll check voucher for WILSON from Gulf South Construction Company, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, for the pay period ending July 5, 1978, and a second pay voucher for the pay period ending July 12, 1978.

Business card for Louisiana Off-shore Caterers, JIM FONTENOT, Personnel Director, Houma, Louisiana, 876-3642.

A note bearing the name BOB CAZDENT, 214-521-4195.

A bill of sale bearing the name of VERA M. NEVILL, Canyon Lake, Texas, Route 4, Box 6200.

A payroll voucher for WILSON from Gulf Coast Catering Company, New Iberia, Louisiana, for the period ending June 16, 1978.

A note bearing the name TAD MURRAY, Monroe, Louisiana, 323-7382, or 728-4060.

A credit bill for Beall's Department Store, Jacksonville, Texas, under the name of BURGESS A. WILSON, 067001572.

A Veteran's Administration patient data card under the name of BURGESS A. WILSON, Canyon Lake, Texas, card [REDACTED]

A business card for Eserman Off-shore Services, Incorporation, Golden Meadow, Louisiana, 693-8287.

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Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW) membership card #990998 for 1977 for VFW Post #8573 at Canyon Lake, Texas.

A Federal Communications Commission radio license #6H4659, issued to WILSON on September 26, 1960.

A business card for Ler-Son International Incorporated, Houma, Louisiana.

An inked note bearing the names of STAN BULLARD and Jones Builders of Long Beach, Mississippi.

A business card for BILL WILSON Builders, Solar Screens and Doors, Custom Homes, Canyon Lake, Texas, and 817 East Nueces, San Antonio, Texas.

A card bearing WILSON's Social Security [REDACTED]

A credit type card from the Security State Bank, Starkville, Mississippi, under the name of Colonel BURGESS A. WILSON, USAF, retired, [REDACTED]

Private pilot certificate number [REDACTED] issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, showing BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., of 13125 Herrick Avenue, Grandview, Missouri, 64030, is authorized to fly single and multi-engine land airplanes.

A Department of Transportation form for a bi-annual flight review dated July 18, 1978, giving instructor's name CARL FOWLER, and aircraft piper C-152, certificate #542727734, dated September 30, 1978, to expire July 31, 1980, showing that subject is authorized to fly private aircraft.

A Department of Transportation medical certificate first class form signed by Dr. JAMES B. MARTIN, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, on August 9, 1978, giving the examining physician serial as [REDACTED]

A receipt from Dr. JAMES B. MARTIN, #14168, dated August 9, 1978, in the amount of \$25 for a flight physical.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 8/21/78

On August 19, 1978, Desk Sergeant LAURA MIZE, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Police Department, advised that one of the Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Police, Patrolman BOBBY RACHUBA had taken breakfast to inmate "BILL" WILSON at approximately 8:30 a.m., that date at which time Officer RACHUBA asked WILSON if he was ready to sign papers waiving extradition to the State of Texas on a probation violation. According to Desk Sergeant MIZE, WILSON replied that he was, but prior to signing any waiver of extradition he wanted to talk to the FBI.

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by SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR./gah Date dictated 8/21/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7Date of transcription 8/21/78

Officer BOBBY RACHUBA, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Police Department, advised that at about 8:30 a.m., on August 19, 1978, he was delivering breakfast to inmates of the Ocean Springs City Jail. At the direction of Police Desk Sergeant LAURA MIZE, he personally asked inmate "BILL" WILSON whether he was ready to sign a waiver of extradition to the State of Texas. According to Officer RACHUBA, WILSON replied, "Yes, on one condition, provided I can talk to the FBI first."

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as Bill, date of birth [redacted], Social Security Account Number [redacted], furnished the following information to SA ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT:

Mr. WILSON advised that he was born [redacted] at Fulton, Mississippi, and that he resided with his family at Golden, Mississippi, until 1936, at which time the family moved to Eldridge, Alabama, where he attended school until the eighth grade and then went to high school at Carbon Hill, Alabama, until 1947.

He advised on May 2, 1947, he entered the U. S. Air Force and was discharged in 1950. He stated that after being out of the Air Force for approximately eight months he was recalled for the Korean War and stayed in until February, 1960, at which time he was given an honorable discharge.

He and his wife, BETTY LOU WILSON, moved to Memphis, Tennessee, following his discharge, where he worked for Prudential Insurance Company for approximately one year. After leaving Prudential Insurance Company, he operated a laundry and cleaning business in Memphis. During this time, he was also in the Tennessee Air National Guard.

He left Memphis, Tennessee, went to Grandview, Missouri, where he became a civil service employee in the Air Force Reserve. He stayed employed in the Air Force Reserve until 1970. From 1966 until 1970, he also operated a jewelry store business.

In 1970, he and wife, BETTY WILSON, moved to Memphis, Tennessee, and opened a jewelry business in Bartlett, Tennessee. In addition to the jewelry business, he also built aluminum storage buildings. He stated that in June, 1970, a tornado hit his business and destroyed it.

He then went to San Antonio, Texas, and became employed by the Air Force Reserve as a flight engineer. He also operated a jewelry store in San Antonio until 1974, when he and his wife BETTY divorced.

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He then went to Mountain Home, Arkansas, and opened a jewelry store and married AVIS LEA HUNTER. He was married to HUNTER for approximately six months, and they divorced. HUNTER now resides at 1010 Hickory Hill Lane, Hermitage, Tennessee.

He then went to Columbus, Mississippi, where he worked in the gubernatorial campaign for Governor CLIFF FINCH. While in Columbus, he married PATRICIA SHINDALA of Starkville, Mississippi. He also advised that while in Columbus he sold fire extinguishers. He stated that during the gubernatorial campaign it was suggested that he tell people that he was a retired colonel and an ex-prisoner of war to campaign for FINCH. He stated that after the campaign was over, he was dropped by the FINCH people.

He left Columbus, Mississippi, in January, 1976, and went to Tyler, Texas, where he stayed with LARRY HUGHEY, a friend who had a farm. He went to Texas for the purpose of clearing up some "charges" against him at New Braunfels, Texas.

He advised that he went to Dallas, Texas, to see a friend, and while there, he called his son and asked him to come see him, and shortly thereafter the police arrived and arrested him on a charge of non-child support on a warrant issued for him at Cleveland, Texas. He was released to authorities from New Braunfels, where he pled guilty to a charge of theft by check and received a sentence of eight years probation.

He advised that he then stayed in the vicinity of New Braunfels where he did construction work. He had an altercation with another employee, and he was arrested for violation of his probation but was released a couple of weeks later. He continued working around New Braunfels and was again arrested for possession of stolen merchandise which actually was a dispute between himself and an associate over some property that he had stored for the associate, and the charges were subsequently dropped. He continued in the construction business and married JO ANN CHILDRESS, and they were divorced after three months.

In January of 1978, he went to Houma, Louisiana, and went to work for Louisiana Off-Shore Caterers and worked there until April, at which time he went to work for Gulf Coast

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Caterers of New Iberia, Louisiana, and worked there until the end of June of 1978, at which time he came to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, and opened a jewelry shop. He lived at the Twin Pines Apartments the first three weeks he was in Ocean Springs and then moved to Route 6, Box 387.

He furnished the following description of himself:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Name | BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. |
| Also known as | Bill |
| Date of birth | |
| Place of birth | Fulton, Mississippi |
| Height | 5 feet 11 inches |
| Weight | 170 pounds |
| Eyes | Brown |
| Hair | Gray |
| Social Security Number | |
| Education | High school graduate |
| Military service | U. S. Air Force 1947-1960 |
| Father | BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, SR. (deceased) Grenada, Mississippi |
| Mother | MITTIE DALE (deceased) |
| Stepmother | LILLIE MAE WILSON (deceased) Grenada, Mississippi |
| Brother | ALLISON TOWERS WILSON Reform, Alabama |
| Sister | LYDA MC GAHEY 2002 East Eighth Avenue North Columbus, Mississippi |
| Sister | CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE Fulton, Mississippi |
| Ex-wife | BETTY LOU WILSON WADE Burleson, Texas |
| Ex-wife | AVIS LEA HUNTER 1010 Hickory Hill Lane Hermitage, Tennessee |
| Ex-wife | PATRICIA SHINDALA Starkville, Mississippi (believed killed in car accident) |
| Ex-wife | JO ANN CHILDRESS 113 Mill Street San Marcos, Texas |

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Daughter

Son

Son

DEBORAH ANN JONES,
husband CHARLES,
Belvedere, Illinois
STEVEN WAYNE WILSON
Burleson, Texas
MARK ANTHONY WILSON
Burleson, Texas

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription August 19, 1978

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., an inmate of the Ocean Springs City Jail, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, furnished the following information to ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT and K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR., who he knows to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, after having been advised the purpose of the interview being his knowledge and involvement in the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING and after having been advised of his Constitutional rights which he waived as indicated by an Advice of Rights and Waiver of Rights Form which he signed:

Mr. WILSON advised that at the time prior to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, he was living in Grandview, Missouri, in a house on Byers Road with his wife, BETTY LOU, and his three children, DEBORAH, STEVE, and MARK. He was in the Air Force Reserve and also operated a jewelry store.

In the course of his jewelry business, he met a white male Italian who was in his late sixties and was approximately 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighed approximately 230 pounds, and who operated a jewelry trade shop on Walnut Street. He stated that this white male introduced him to another white male Italian by the name of MITCH (Last Name Unknown), who was in his mid fifties and was approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall, and weighed approximately 190 pounds, who had black, wavy hair and had some connection with a bonding company, and also MITCH's brother, name not recalled, who fit the same physical description as MITCH, but who had numerous cut scars on his face.

He stated that MITCH started delivering jewelry to him for the purpose of having the stones removed from the fittings. He stated MITCH usually met him at a bar on Walnut Street which was run by a white female and it also appeared that MITCH might have been a part owner or had an interest in this bar. He stated that due to the volume of jewelry that MITCH was bringing to him, he asked MITCH about it, and MITCH advised him that it was stolen jewelry. MITCH told him, however, that he, WILSON, was in as deep as he, MITCH, was and that he would have to continue working with MITCH. He stated this relationship with MITCH continued until 1970.

He stated that MITCH brought up the idea of killing KING and said that there was a \$50,000 contract on him. However, he

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never said who put out the contract but said that he could get the money for WILSON if he killed KING.

WILSON stated that MITCH was well aware of his, WILSON's, thoughts concerning KING and the black civil rights movement, in that his father, who was a pastor of the Central Baptist Church at Grenada, Mississippi, died of a heart attack which he, WILSON, thought was caused as a result of racial tensions at Grenada brought on by the forceful integration of his father's church.

WILSON stated that approximately five or six months before KING's murder, he started gathering information on the movements, habits, and whereabouts of KING.

WILSON advised that he had a red and white Bonanza airplane, Register Number 34L, and a Cessna 310 twin-engine aircraft, which was blue and white, which planes he used to fly to different places where KING was supposed to be. He stated that he recalls going to Huntsville, Alabama; Tupelo, Mississippi; Jackson, Tennessee; Atlanta, Georgia; and Greenville, South Carolina. He stated that while at Tupelo, Mississippi, he stayed in the Ramada Inn and believes that in the other places he visited he stayed in Holiday Inns.

He stated that MITCH furnished him a Japanese sniper rifle. He stated that he kept the rifle and that just before Christmas of 1975, he had it reworked at a gunshop in Columbus, Mississippi, on Fourth Street across from a bank. He stated that the last knowledge he had of the rifle, his older son, STEVEN WAYNE WILSON, had the rifle and a shotgun but had told him that he had sold it.

Mr. WILSON advised that there was a garbage strike in progress at Memphis, Tennessee, and that MITCH called him at his store in Grandview, Missouri, and told him that KING was coming to Memphis for a rally and instructed WILSON to come to Memphis where he was to meet two men at the Wonder Bar located at the corner of Summer Avenue and White Station Road.

Mr. WILSON advised that he flew to Memphis, Tennessee, in the Bonanza aircraft and landed at an airport just north of Raleigh, Tennessee. He stated that the airport was operated by a long-time acquaintance of his who had attended a church which was pastored by WILSON's father in the past. WILSON stated that his daughter, DEBORAH, 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 Missouri.

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He advised that DEBORAH and her mother, BETTY LOU, were staying at the residence of WILSON's father-in-law, VERNON HOOTEN, 3095 Ruskin Road, Memphis, Tennessee. He stated that HOOTEN had had a heart attack and that his wife and daughter were temporarily staying at the HOOTEN residence.

WILSON advised that he went to the Wonder Bar and while having a drink two white men approached him, one having an accent similar to a Puerto Rican.

The two white males furnished him with FBI credentials, which he stated had a black and white photograph of himself on it, and they took him and showed him where KING was to hold the rally. They then took WILSON to a hotel on South Main Street near Beale Street and took him to a room on the third floor. They told him he was to be in the crowd at the rally and that a decoy shot was to be fired and that he was then to shoot. They said that KING had a habit of raising his arms over his head when he was making a speech and that the second time that he did so, the shots were to be fired.

WILSON stated that on the day of the murder he was in the crowd standing near a wood fence approximately 60 feet from where KING was standing and that when KING raised his arms the second time he shot him.

Mr. WILSON advised that he had the rifle which he used strapped to his belt under a suit coat and attached to his belt on a swivel. He stated that the barrel protruded from below his coat but no one questioned him concerning it. He said that he had practiced a great deal swiveling the rifle and firing it.

He advised that after the shooting, he was stopped by the Memphis police, but he showed them the credentials, and they let him go, and he walked on down the street approximately two blocks to where he had left the Mustang parked. He advised that he got in the Mustang and drove back to the HOOTEN residence, and his daughter, DEBORAH, then took him to the airport, and he got his plane and flew back to Kansas City. He stated that the airport that he used was on the Kansas side on the highway to Olathe, Kansas. He stated the airport was run by (First Name Unknown) FISHER. He also stated that he had purchased the Bonanza aircraft from FISHER.

WILSON advised that approximately one week before the murder, MITCH gave him \$25,000 in \$20 bills, and following the murder, MITCH gave him another \$25,000, at which time he gave the credentials back to MITCH.

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WILSON advised that he has no knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY having been involved in the conspiracy.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 8/21/78

Photographs and major case fingerprints were taken of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as "BILL" at the Ocean Springs, Mississippi, City Jail.

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544
by SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR./gah Date dictated 8/21/78

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FBI/DOJ

JN 62-544
KPH/drw
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The following investigation was conducted by
SA KENNETH P. HUGHES:

On August 19, 1978, a review of the 1978 Grenada City Directory shows a listing for the Central Baptist Church with Reverend JOE BELL as pastor at 333 Second Street, Grenada, Mississippi, telephone 226-2715.

The directory shows JOE BELL and wife, MYRA N. BELL, residing at 235 South Mound Street, Grenada, Mississippi, home telephone 226-4133, and that JOE BELL is the pastor of the Central Baptist Church.

On August 19, 1978, FRED TILGEMAN, Chief of Police, Grenada, Mississippi, Police Department, Grenada, Mississippi, advised he could locate no arrest record or outstanding warrants for BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as BILL WILSON, date of birth, [REDACTED], place of birth, Fulton, Mississippi.

On August 19, 1978, JACK SIMMONS, Deputy Sheriff, Grenada County Sheriff's Office, Grenada, Mississippi, advised he could locate no arrest record or outstanding warrants on BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as BILL WILSON, white male, date of birth, [REDACTED], at Fulton, Mississippi.

On August 19, 1978, HUBERT SPEARS, United States Post Office, Grenada, Mississippi, advised they did have a B. A. WILSON, who was formerly the preacher at the Central Baptist Church, Grenada, Mississippi, approximately four or five years ago.

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SPEARS stated that B. A. WILSON died, and his wife, possibly named GLADYS, after B. A. WILSON's death, resided at 375 Levee Street, Grenada, Mississippi, which house is now vacant or in the process of being torn down. SPEARS further stated that B. A. WILSON and his wife lived in the parsonage behind Central Baptist Church, and SPEARS stated that if WILSON had any children, none lived in Grenada, or they were all grown when WILSON was the preacher at Central Baptist Church.

A review of the Grenada City Directory for the year 1978 shows a listing for Mrs. LILLY M. WILSON at 375 South Levee Street, Grenada, Mississippi, telephone number 226-4737.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/23/78

Reverend JOE BELL, Pastor, Central Baptist Church, Grenada, Mississippi, furnished the following information:

BELL stated that he knew B. A. WILSON, stating that WILSON was the former pastor at the Central Baptist Church, Grenada, Mississippi. BELL stated that B. A. WILSON died of a heart attack on January 7, 1967. BELL stated that WILSON was the pastor of the Central Baptist Church for approximately 13 years, or from 1954 to 1967.

BELL stated that prior to coming to Grenada, B. A. WILSON was at Camp Creek at Fulton, Mississippi, and prior to that was at Lynn Station, which is located north of Jasper, Alabama, and also at Eldridge, Alabama.

Concerning the WILSON family, BELL stated that B. A. WILSON's wife was known as LILLY WILSON. BELL stated that LILLY and B. A. WILSON lived in the church parsonage behind the church, and their children were all grown and married at that time.

BELL identified the WILSON children as follows:

1. Mrs. CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE (phonetic)
Fulton, Mississippi
2. BILL WILSON
Kansas City, Kansas
3. LIDA (Last Name Unknown)
Columbus, Mississippi
4. One other son, name not known.

BELL stated that LILLY WILSON was B. A. WILSON's second wife as B. A. WILSON's first wife died when the children were young.

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Oxford, Mississippi File # JN 62-544

by SA KENNETH P. HUGHES/drw Date dictated 8/20/78

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BELL stated that he, himself, came to Grenada, Mississippi, and was pastor at the Central Baptist Church beginning in March, 1967.

Concerning BILL WILSON, BELL stated that he was from Kansas City, Kansas, was a pilot, and flew freight or ferried planes from Kansas City, Kansas, to the Island of Guam.

BELL stated that BILL WILSON caused his father, B. A. WILSON, many problems with debts and money, and BELL stated he believed that BILL WILSON was arrested in California for embezzlement, city and state not known.

BELL stated that BILL WILSON flew into Memphis, Tennessee, on a Sunday after his father died on January 7, 1967, and BELL stated he believed that BILL WILSON was met by the family at the Memphis, Tennessee airport. BELL recalled that the funeral for B. A. WILSON was on the following Monday, and that he, BELL, left Grenada, Mississippi on the Tuesday after B. A. WILSON's funeral. BELL stated he did not know how long BILL WILSON stayed in Grenada, Mississippi after his father's funeral.

BELL described BILL WILSON as a white male, sandy hair, and stated that he did talk with BILL WILSON's second wife whom he described as a bleached blonde with heavy make-up. BELL stated he did not know if BILL WILSON had any children or not.

BELL stated that B. A. and LILLY WILSON did own a house on the corner of Levee and Fourth Streets in Grenada, Mississippi, and BELL stated that he knew of no other land that B. A. WILSON owned that BELL was aware of.

BELL stated that he had talked with LILLY WILSON after B. A. WILSON's death, and stated that LILLY WILSON was desperately afraid of BILL WILSON, and told BILL WILSON she never wanted to

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lay eyes on him again, or have him, BILL WILSON, set foot in her house. BELL further stated that LILLY WILSON did not want BILL WILSON to get any of his father's, B. A. WILSON's, inheritance, as he, BILL WILSON, had already received his share of the estate by his father, B. A. WILSON, paying off BILL WILSON's debts. BELL stated that he believed the amount of \$5,000 was the figure mentioned.

BELL stated that LILLY WILSON is now deceased, stating that she had left Grenada, Mississippi, and went to a nursing home at Fulton, Mississippi, where she died approximately one year ago.

BELL stated that he did hear that BILL WILSON did get his father's, B. A. WILSON, shotgun as part of the inheritance, stating that BILL WILSON and his brother, name not known, argued or disagreed over who would get this shotgun which BELL stated was worth approximately \$150 or \$200 at that time. BELL stated that he heard that the other WILSON brother walked out in disgust, and apparently left the shotgun with BILL WILSON.

BELL stated that CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE (phonetic) was the administrator of the estate, and an attorney by the name of FREDERICKS read the will.

BELL concluded by stating that the State Baptist Convention Headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi would have the full detail of B. A. WILSON's churches and their locations.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/22/78

LYDIA MC GAHEY, 2002 East 8th Avenue North, Columbus, Mississippi, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and of the nature of the inquiry. MC GAHEY thereafter provided the following information:

MC GAHEY stated that she is the sister of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., known to the family as "BILL" WILSON. She advised that WILSON has a very serious drinking problem that came to the surface shortly after the death of their father in 1967.

MC GAHEY advised that BILL WILSON had been very close to their father and became extremely upset and distressed after he passed away. MC GAHEY advised that WILSON may have had a drinking problem prior to the death of their father, but that she only noticed it after their father passed away in 1967.

MC GAHEY advised that on this past Thursday night at approximately 11:00 p.m. (August 17, 1978), she received a telephone call from her brother, BILL WILSON, and during that call he indicated to her that he had killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MC GAHEY stated that she did not take her brother seriously as he has a history of telling untruths and stated that she quickly asked him if he was "Rael". MC GAHEY advised that her brother indicated to her he did not know what she was talking about.

MC GAHEY advised that approximately one week later she received a similar telephone call from BILL WILSON and on this occasion, he told her that their brother, ALLYSON WILSON, Reform, Alabama, had suffered a heart attack. MC GAHEY stated that she immediately called her brother in Reform, Alabama, and found that he was in perfect health.

MC GAHEY stated that on another occasion, BILL WILSON had called her and told her that he had been involved

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Columbus, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544
by SA GWYNNE L. HUFFER/bjw 38 Date dictated 8/21/78

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in an airplane crash but that he had survived this crash. She stated that she later found out this was not true at all.

MC GAHEY stated that BILL WILSON has been married several times and has had numerous girl friends. She stated that several of his ex-wives and several of his girl friends have contacted her and asked her if it was true that BILL WILSON had been a prisoner of war. She stated that she assured all of them that this was not the case.

MC GAHEY advised that in 1968, to the best of her recollection, BILL WILSON was living in Grandview, Missouri, and was working at the Wilbur Jewelry Store, Belton, Missouri. She stated that WILSON told her that he owned this jewelry store, but she later found out that he just was an employee there. She stated that BILL WILSON never went to Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968, to the best of her knowledge.

MC GAHEY stated that BILL WILSON moved to Columbus, Mississippi, around the first of June, 1975, but left Columbus, Mississippi, around the last of August, 1975. She stated that when he left Columbus, Mississippi, he moved to Starkville, Mississippi, and stayed there until around January, 1976. She advised that while he was living in Starkville, Mississippi, he married PAT SHINBOLA, 103 Catherine Drive, Starkville, Mississippi, telephone number 323-6717. MC GAHEY indicated that after her brother left Starkville, Mississippi, (and left PAT SHINBOLA) he went to the State of Texas. She indicated that shortly after his arrival in Texas, he was placed in jail in San Antonio. She stated that she received numerous letters from BILL WILSON while he was incarcerated in San Antonio, Texas, and recalled that the jail was on "Mill Street".

MC GAHEY advised that BILL WILSON was married to BETTY WADE, 233 Smith Street, Burlason, Texas, for several years. She stated that to the best of her recollection, her brother was married to BETTY WADE in 1968. She stated that he received a divorce from her on one occasion and that they later remarried. MC GAHEY

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advised that her brother and BETTY WADE had three children, one daughter and two sons.

MC GAHEY advised that their daughter is DEBBIE JONES, 2628 Newburg Road, Trailer #106, Belvidere, Illinois, telephone number 815-543-9734.

MC GAHEY advised that BILL WILSON's oldest son, STEVE WILSON, resides at 3117 Livingston, Fort Worth, Texas. She stated that WILSON's youngest son, MARK WILSON, has been recently married and she is not certain where he is presently living.

MC GAHEY advised that BILL WILSON's former mother and father-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. VERNON HOTTEN, reside at 3095 Ruskin Road, Bartlett, Tennessee, and subscribes to telephone number 901-386-4628.

MC GAHEY stated that BILL WILSON married an individual in San Marcos, Texas, whose first name was JOANN and whose last name she did not know. She stated that this individual resides at 113 Mill Street, San Marcos, Texas, and subscribes to telephone number 512-392-4025. MC GAHEY stated that JOANN indicated to her in a telephone conversation on one occasion that she planned to divorce BILL WILSON and during the same conversation she asked MC GAHEY whether or not WILSON had, in fact, been a prisoner of war. MC GAHEY stated that she told JOANN that he had never been a prisoner of war.

MC GAHEY stated that she, as the oldest child in the family, has always felt an obligation to look out for the interest of her brothers and sisters. She stated that she has been quite concerned for the past several years with the behavior pattern of her brother, BILL WILSON. She stated that on more than one occasion she has discussed the possibility of admitting him to an institution for alcoholics with her brother, ALLYSON WILSON, who lives in Reform, Alabama. She stated that both she and ALLYSON WILSON feel that their brother, BILL WILSON, desperately needs some type of help.

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MC GAHEY stated that BILL WILSON married an individual in San Marcos, Texas, whose first name was JOANN and whose last name she did not know. She stated that this individual resides at 113 Hill Street, San Marcos, Texas, and subscribes to telephone number 512-392-4025. MC GAHEY stated that JOANN indicated to her in a telephone conversation on one occasion that she planned to divorce BILL WILSON and during the same conversation she asked MC GAHEY whether or not WILSON had, in fact, been a prisoner of war. MC GAHEY stated that she told JOANN that he had never been a prisoner of war.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/23/78

Mrs. CHRISTINE (LEON) GUNTARP was telephonically contacted at Fulton, Mississippi, telephone number 862-9355. Mrs. GUNTARP advised that she is the sister of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., and resides at Route 1, Box 36, Fulton, Mississippi.

Mrs. GUNTARP advised that her brother BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., is commonly known as "Bill". Mrs. GUNTARP stated that she has another brother, ALLISON WILSON, age 50, who resides in Reform, Alabama. Her sister LYDIA MC CAHEY resides at 2008 East 8th Avenue North, Columbus, Mississippi, telephone number 327-1141.

Mrs. GUNTARP stated that she has had extremely limited contact with "Bill" during the last 11 years since her father's death. Mrs. GUNTARP related that her father B. A. WILSON, SR., was a Baptist minister in Grenada, Mississippi, and died in 1967. Mrs. GUNTARP stated that it was agreed prior to her father's death that she, CHRISTINE, would be named executrix of the will which would leave all of B. A. WILSON's personal property to his wife LILLY who was his second wife and stepmother to each of the children. Mrs. GUNTARP stated that her stepmother LILLY WILSON remained alive until 1976 and during her life span from 1967 until 1976 she was extremely dependant upon others for assistance. Mrs. GUNTARP stated that she and her sister LYDIA were the only children to show any concern for LILLY WILSON's needs. GUNTARP stated that she therefore handled the disbursement of the WILSON estate in accordance with the interest of each of the brothers and sisters. She stated that this created hard feelings with the brothers since they did not feel as though they were receiving an equitable share of the estate. She advised that "Bill" seemed to be extremely upset over this matter and, in fact, called the GUNTARP residence on one occasion several weeks ago stating that CHRISTINE had "killed" her brother referring to ALLISON who resides in Reform, Alabama. Mrs. GUNTARP stated that she understood her brother "Bill" to mean that her handling of the estate was responsible for her brother ALLISON's death. Mrs. GUNTARP stated that ALLISON is alive and healthy and this statement by "Bill" was totally incorrect. Mrs. GUNTARP advised that her deceased

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Tupelo, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544
by SA DONALD H. GREENE/njb Date dictated 8/21/78

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father tried to get help for "Bill" on a number of occasions concerning "Bill's" alcoholic and mental problem. Mrs. GUNTARP stated that her brother is a heavy drinker and tends to fabricate stories when under the influence of alcohol. Mrs. GUNTARP stated that "Bill" will fabricate various types of stories to gain attention. She recalled an incident whereupon she was contacted by "Bill" just prior to entering the hospital whereupon "Bill" told her that he was going to the penitentiary. Mrs. GUNTARP stated that this was totally untrue.

Mrs. GUNTARP explained that "Bill" entered the United States Air Force by forging his father's signature at age 14 or 15 and remained in the Air Force for almost 20 years. She advised that he served one tour in England for approximately three years and resigned prior to completing his 20-year tour. She described her brother as being a very intelligent individual who was capable of piloting planes and conducting a jewelry and watch repair business. She advised that he had been involved in insurance sales in the past.

Mrs. GUNTARP advised that her brother has been married five times and she has learned through family conversations that her brother "Bill" told one of his wives that he had been a prisoner of war in the past. Mrs. GUNTARP stated this is also untrue.

Mrs. GUNTARP advised that her brother had threatened her husband LEON in the past over the will settlement and she and her husband have very little to do with him in view of his erratic behavior.

Mrs. GUNTARP stated that she recalls her brother "Bill" living in or near Kansas City, Missouri, in the past where he was involved in some type of air freight service. She stated that her brother has lived in Memphis, Tennessee, in the past when he was married to BETTY LOU (Last Name Unknown). She stated that "Bill" has a high school education and completed a portion of college through the United States Air Force. She advised he has one daughter DEBORAH ANNE who resides in Bellview, Illinois, and two sons STEVE and MARK ANTHONY.

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HHC/kbn

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The following investigation was conducted at Ocean Springs, Mississippi by SA HARRY H. CARPENTER on August 19, 1978:

LOUIS P. HELMS, Helms Realty, U. S. Highway 90, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, home telephone number 875-2098, office telephone number 875-0016, advised that he does not know a BILL WILSON. HELMS was shown a photograph of WILSON and he still stated that he did not know WILSON and did not know how WILSON had his name.

MAUDIE ODOM, Bartender, Angle Inn Restaurant and Lounge, Highway 90, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, advised that BILL WILSON had been coming to the Angle Inn for approximately two months and appeared to be a normal customer, causing no trouble. She stated that one of WILSON's close friends, is CARL FORTNA, telephone number 875-0220.

On August 19, 1978, Mrs. MARGARET ALLEN, Assistant Manager, Twin Oaks Motel, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, telephone number 875-5881, stated that BILL WILSON stayed at the Twin Oaks Motel for approximately one month and was an ideal tenant. She stated he caused no problems and she knows of no close associates of WILSON.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription August 21, 1978

CARL D. FORTNA, Route 6, Box 387, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, telephone number 875-0220, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. FORTNA, a white male, born [redacted], in Great Bend, Kansas, advised that he completed the tenth grade of high school, and he could read and write.

FORTNA 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 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, Missouri, driving a new Ford Thunderbird. WILSON told FORTNA that CRUZ

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544

by SA HARRY H. CARPENTER/mae

Date dictated 8/19/78

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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 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.

JN 62-544
GLH/bjw
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The following investigation was conducted by
SA GWYNNE L. HUPFER at Columbus, Mississippi, on
August 19, 1978:

A physical observation of 401 5th Street South,
Columbus, Mississippi, revealed that this is the address
of the Candlewood Apartments.

JAMES LANCASTER, 810 Holland Avenue, advised
that he is the owner of the Candlewood Apartments.
LANCASTER stated that he does not recall anyone by the
name BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., or BILL WILSON, renting
an apartment from him. LANCASTER advised, however, that
he has had a great deal of turnovers in these apartments
over the past several years and he could not possibly
recall all his tenants by name. LANCASTER advised
that his daughter, RITA BROWNLEE, was the resident
manager of the Candlewood Apartments for him for several
years. He stated that she might recall this individual.

RITA BROWNLEE, 3504 Camilia Circle, advised that
she was the resident manager of Candlewood Apartments
during portions of 1974 and all of 1975 and 1976. BROWNLEE
advised that she does not recall anyone named BURGESS
AUDIE WILSON, JR., or BILL WILSON renting an apartment
from her. She stated, however, that she located a payment
from a BILL WILSON, dated July 16, 1975, for apartment #9
at the Candlewood Apartments. She advised that this is
the only record she could find of this individual and
stated that he must have paid his rent payments in cash.

DONALD BEARD, Columbus Police Department,
advised that their records indicate BURGESS A. WILSON
was the complainant and victim of a strong-arm robbery
on August 7, 1975. BEARD advised that is the only record
they have of a BURGESS A. WILSON in their files.

BEARD stated that they have a record of a BILL
WILSON, Apartment #9, Candlewood Apartments, as being
the subject of a disturbance call on August 7, 1975, and
again on August 13, 1975. BEARD advised that a review of
his records indicates that on both of these occasions another

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tenant at the Candlewood Apartments had called the police to complain of excessive noise at the apartment of BILL WILSON. Both of these incidents were handled by officers of their department with no arrests being made and no charges being filed.

BARBARA HENSON, Dispatcher, Lowndes County Sheriff's Office, advised that their records are negative concerning BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., or BILL WILSON.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8-21-78

WILLIAM HENRY CAMPBELL, 1706 Kensington Drive, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. CAMPBELL stated that he is the general superintendent of Gulf South Construction Company, Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

CAMPBELL stated that he does know BILL WILSON and that BILL WILSON had worked for him at Gulf South Construction Company as a carpenter for approximately two weeks in July. He stated that WILSON worked directly under him, CAMPBELL, but that WILSON quit after two weeks because he wanted more money and CAMPBELL was not able to pay him more.

He stated that WILSON was a relatively quiet person who did not brag or talk about anything concerning violence or notoriety and did not appear to have any racial problems.

CAMPBELL made available the following application for employment concerning BILL WILSON:

Interviewed on 8-19-78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544

by SA HARRY H. CARPENTER/kbn Date dictated 8-21-78

JN 62-544

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6.4

Application for employment

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date 7-5-78 Social Security Number

Name Wilson Bill Audie Age 46 Sex M
Last First Middle

Present Address Twil Pines Apt F9 Oceans Spring MS 39564
Street City State Zip

Permanent Address
Street City State Zip

Phone Number 875-0220 Own Home ☐ Rent ☒ Board ☐

Date of Birth Height 5' 11" Weight 170 Color of Hair Black Color of Eyes Brown

Married ☐ Single ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced ☒ Separated ☐

Number of Children 3 Dependents Other Than Wife or Children 1 Citizen of U. S. A. Yes ☐ No ☐

If Related to Anyone in Our Employ, State Name and Department NO Referred By PAPER

EMPLOYMENT DESIRED

Position CARPENTER Date You Can Start 7-6-78 Salary Desired 7.00 HR

Are You Employed Now? NO If So May We Inquire of Your Present Employer

Ever Applied to this Company Before? NO Where When

| EDUCATION | Name and Location of School | Years Attended | Date Graduated | Subjects Studied |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Grammar School | <u>ITANKSIA High</u> | | | |
| | <u>FULTON, MISS.</u> | <u>12</u> | <u>MAY 47</u> | <u>GEN</u> |
| High School | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| College | | | | |
| Trade, Business or Correspondence School | | | | |

Subjects of Special Study or Research Work

What Foreign Languages Do You Speak Fluently? NONE Read ☐ Write ☐

U. S. Military or Naval Service USAF Rank 17/50T Present Membership In National Guard or Reserves NO

Activities Other Than Religious (Civic, Athletic, Fraternal, etc.) MASSONIC LODGE

EXCLUDE ORGANIZATIONS, THE NAME OR CHARACTER OF WHICH INDICATES THE RACE, CREED, COLOR OR NATIONAL ORIGIN OF ITS MEMBERS.

FORMER EMPLOYERS (List Below Last Four Employers, Starting With Last One First)

| Date Month and Year | Name and Address of Employer | Salary | Position | Reason for Leaving |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------|----------|--------------------|
| From JAN 78 | LA. OFFSHORE | | | Tired working |
| To JUN 78 | HOUMA, LA. | 4.05 HR | STEWARD | OFFSHORE |
| From FEB 75 | CONTRACTOR | | SELF | NO WORK |
| To MAY 77 | COLUMBUS, MISS. | 200.00 WK | EMPLOYED | AVAILABLE |
| From MAY 67 | US AIR FORCE | | | |
| To FEB 75 | KEESLER AFB, MS | 1100.00 HR | MAJ/SGT | RETIRED |
| From | | | | |
| To | | | | |

REFERENCES: Give Below the Names of Three Persons Not Related To You, Whom You Have Known At Least One Year.

| Name | Address | Business | Years Acquainted |
|-------------------|---|---------------|---------------------|
| 1 CARL FORTNA | OCEAN SPRINGS DRIVE OCEAN SPRINGS, MISS. | RETIRED US AR | 12 |
| 2 LARRY MCGOWEN | 207 BAYVIEW TRAIL HOUSTON, TX | ENGINEER | 15 |
| 3 MARTIN BRADSHAW | P.O. BOX 40 BRUSSARD, LA. | LA. OFFSHORE | 3 |

PHYSICAL RECORD:

List Any Physical Defects NoneWere You Ever Injured? No Give DetailsHave You Any Defects In Hearing? No In Vision? No In Speech? NoIn Case of
Emergency Notify MRS Russell McGowen 2002 E. X-DOWN N. COLUMBUS MISS 601-327-1141
Name Address Phone No.

I authorize investigation of all statements contained in this application. I understand that misrepresentation or omission of facts called for is cause for dismissal. Further, I understand and agree that my employment is for no definite period and may, regardless of the date of payment of my wages and salary, be terminated at any time without any previous notice.

Date 7-5-78Signature Bill McGowen

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Interviewed By

Date

REMARKS:

| | | | |
|-------------|--|-----------|--|
| Neatness | | Character | |
| Personality | | Ability | |

| Hired | For Dept. | Position | Will Report | Salary Wages |
|--------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Approved: 1. | 2. | 3. | | |
| Employment Manager | Dept. Head | General Manager | | |

JN 62-544

/blc

1

AT VETERANS ADMINISTRATION CENTER, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

On August 21, 1978, Mrs. INGRID SAMPSON, Medical Administration Division, Veterans Administration Center, Gulfport, Mississippi, advised SC(S) BETTY LOU CLARK she could locate no record indicating that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., had ever received treatment at the Gulfport or Biloxi, Mississippi, Veterans Administration Centers.

AT KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

On August 21, 1978, Airman First Class SUSAN DRENNON, Clerk, Registrar's Office, Keesler Medical Center, Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi, advised SA EDGAR L. O'NEILL, JR. that there was no record in the in-patient records or out-patient records that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. had ever received treatment there.

She stated that if a patient is treated for routine physical examination and is not again seen for a period of two years, all medical records are thereafter transmitted to U. S. Air Force Medical Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri.

JN 62-544

BWW/lrm

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA
BRENT W. WARBERG at Columbus, Mississippi:

PARKER W. NEELY, 1814 Short Main Street, Columbus, Mississippi, advised he did business until 1976 as the Box 4-N Gun Shop. His business concerned gunsmithing. NEELY's records reflect on July 17, 1975, B. A. WILSON, JR., Starkville, Mississippi, brought in an Arisaka 25 caliber rifle, which rifle was a Japanese military type with the serial number obliterated. The rifle was a long barrel model. NEELY redid the stock and action. The gun was in working order when he got it. The gun was picked up on December 9, 1975. NEELY advised all other records regarding the gun were destroyed; however, he does recall the subject as he sold the subject a Colt Diamondback 38 revolver, two inch barrel, for which the subject still owes him. NEELY stated he determined later the subject was arrested somewhere in west Texas and this revolver was confiscated. NEELY could provide no other information regarding the subject or his activities. NEELY did recall the subject stated he obtained the rifle from some individual in Tupelo, Mississippi, name unrecalled.

JN 62-544

The following investigation was conducted by
SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR., of the Jackson Office of the
FBI:

On August 23, 1978, Sergeant LAURA MIZE, Desk
Sergeant, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Police Department,
advised that Deputy (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) REYUN, of the Comal
County, Texas, Sheriff's Department had arrived at the
Ocean Springs Police Department early that morning to pick
up prisoner BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. Desk Sergeant MIZE
advised that Deputy REYUN departed Ocean Springs at
approximately 10:00 AM, that date, with WILSON en route to
New Braunfels, Texas.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| REPORTING OFFICE PITTSBURGH | OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS | DATE 9/14/78 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 9/11/78 |
| TITLE OF CASE MURKIN | | REPORT MADE BY SA THOMAS F. BURGOYNE | TYPED BY jem |
| | | CHARACTER OF CASE CR | |

REFERENCES: Memphis teletype to Bureau dated 9/1/78.

-RUC-

| ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> NONE | ACQUIT- TALS | CASE HAS BEEN: PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
|---|-----------------------|------|-------|---------|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| CONVIC. | PRETRIAL DIVERSION | FUG. | FINES | SAVINGS | RECOVERIES | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| APPROVED | | | | | | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW |
| COPIES MADE: | | | | | | | | |
| 4-Bureau (44-38861) | | | | | | | | |
| 2-Memphis (44-1987 Sub M) | | | | | | | | |
| 1-Pittsburgh (44-1572) | | | | | | | | |
| Dissemination Record of Attached Report | | | | | | Notations | | |
| Agency | | | | | | 44-1987 Sub M-125-9 | | |
| Request Recd. | | | | | | SEP 19 1978 | | |
| Date Fwd. | | | | | | B. Johnson | | |
| How Fwd. | | | | | | | | |
| By | | | | | | | | |

COVER PAGE

643-10-83180-1 GPO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: THOMAS F. BURGOYNE
Date: 9/14/78

Office: PITTSBURGH, PA.

Field Office File #: 44-1572

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: MURKIN

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis:

On 9/11/78, RONALD N. KARAS, Weirton, W.Va., advised he purchased a 1956 Beechcraft Bonanza Aircraft, Model G-35, Registration No. N4434L, on or about 10/24/77. A review of aircraft log records disclosed no identifiable information concerning the names BURGESS AUDIE WILSON or LOU CREWS. Further, no entries were observed in aircraft logs which would indicate the aircraft's specific location in April, 1968.

-RUC-

PG 44-1572

DETAILS:

The following investigation was conducted by SA THOMAS F. BURGOYNE on September 11, 1978:

RONALD N. KARAS, 120 Paige Court, Weirton, W.Va., advised that he purchased a 1956 Beechcraft Bonanza Aircraft, Model G-35, Registration No. N4434L, on or about October 24, 1977, from the Simpson Aircraft Sales Company, located in the State of Iowa. KARAS indicated that the aircraft was currently hangered at the Ohio County Airport, Wheeling, W.Va. KARAS stated that he did have some documents in his possession pertaining to the aircraft and these documents were reviewed with negative results regarding the names BURGESS AUDIE WILSON or LOU CREWS. The records in KARAS' possession also failed to disclose any information which might indicate the location of the aircraft during the month of April, 1968. KARAS noted that the aircraft's logs were currently in the aircraft at the Ohio County Airport, and he subsequently called LEROY HARRIS, Director of Aircraft Maintenance, and advised HARRIS to obtain these logs and make them available to the FBI.

LEROY HARRIS, Director of Aircraft Maintenance, made available three aircraft logs pertaining to a 1956 Beechcraft Aircraft, Model G-35, Registration No. N4434L, and a complete review of these logs failed to disclose the names BURGESS AUDIE WILSON or LOU CREWS. A review of the logs indicated the aircraft received an annual inspection on February 28, 1968, which inspection was signed by an individual whose last name appeared to be FRANKENFIELD, whose inspection authorization number was A11136526. No further identifiable data was noted concerning where this inspection was performed. The next inspection date for the aircraft was July 19, 1968, which inspection was also signed by FRANKENFIELD.

PG 44-1572

On October 12, 1968, the aircraft's engine received maintenance attention, at which time the maintenance work was signed by FLOYD OLSON, Air Frame and Power Plant Number 1724046, with no further identifiable information noted regarding the location of this inspection.

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