



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



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File No. 44-561-1A72

Date Received 8/18/78

From Robert Howerton

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

States Attorney Williamson Co.

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

Marion, Mo.

(CITY AND STATE)

James Rogers

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes

Receipt Given ☐ Yes

☒ No

☒ No

Description:

*Copy of statement of
Shirley & Eugene Cox*

About noon on the day after Martin Luther King was assassinated, we (Eugene Cox and Shirley Cox, 402 South Market Street, Marion, Illinois) left the Memphis International Airport on a multiple lane highway. At the intersection of routes 78 and 51, Eugene Cox slowed down to stop at a red light, the radio was on and we heard ^{the} police were looking for a white Mustang, we heard a car horn honking behind us. We both saw a white Mustang weaving in and out of traffic ^{about a block behind} the white Mustang occurred to our left and ran the red light as a National Guard truck approached this intersection from our right. Shirley Cox turned and watched the driver of the white Mustang come up behind us and pass by on our left. The white Mustang was driving fast probably about 60 miles an hour, went 3 or four blocks and made a right hand turn. The white Mustang was going so fast that he drove up through a filling station driveway to make the right hand turn. We do not recall what the name of the filling station was, only that it was a national brand gas station. We had tried to get the attention of the National Guardsmen in the Army vehicle, but to no avail.

Witnessed: Shirley Cox Eugene Cox
Ronald N. Lee

Between 4 and 6 PM that same day we stopped for dinner at the St. Petite New Orleans Club in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Eugene Cox telephoned to the Memphis Police Department and told them that we had seen a white Mustang being driven erratically while we were in Memphis. The police officer did not seem too interested. We returned to our home in Marion, Illinois that evening. The following day we saw the composite drawing of the suspect slayer of Martin Luther King in the St. Louis Globe Democrat. Shirley Cox stated that the composite drawing was that of the driver of the white Mustang in Memphis. Eugene Cox only had a sideview of the driver of the white Mustang as he passed by us. We want to make this statement because we have watched James Earl Ray on television and know that he has not truthfully accounted for his whereabouts on the day following Martin Luther King's assassination.

Witness: Robert Lee
Ronald H. Lee

Shirley
E. L. Cox
August 18, 1978