

Woman: Now, just a moment.

Bill: I participated in it, yes, unwillingly.

Woman: And you feel guilty about it don't you.

Bill: You're god damn right I do.

Woman: All right. One, you still eat meat?

Bill: Yes.

Woman: Well.

Bill: Look, I can't (inaudible)

Woman: All right, this is what I'm saying. You start reading some of the books and you'll find. You'll read them over and over and you can, through meditation devote yourself to a certain type of reality, ah, but still remain very much in this level. A human being lives at many many levels and you know that and it's a frustration to you because you don't know the levels at which you're living.

Bill: That's beautiful. But, you talk about frustration. (inaudible)

Woman: All right, you did what you had to do. Sweetheart, would you just plain listen. You did what you were told and had to do.

Bill: In front of 20 million people.

Woman: All right.

Bill: I feel like (inaudible)

Woman: Don't feel, if you don't eliminate that guilt in some manner from your system . . .

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: No you have not.

Bill: I haven't said that I'm not going to do it.

Woman: But you did.

Bill: Yeah.

Woman: And that's why the lines in your face.

Bill: All right.

Woman: And you're still a young man.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: My darling you don't need to die from me.

Bill: Why not?

Woman: That's why I want you to do some reading.

All right, now we're going to shut this tape off and I want to show you some books.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: No, no, I'm not going to, oh hell. You can have your own guilt if you want to, good heavens. I have no guilt of, of anything.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: No, I could never kill anything. All right, so this is the difference of course. Just a moment. If you believe in reincarnation, I know that in a life

time, I was a man once, not a woman.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: You've got to over come this, honey, and you can't do this.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Listen anything I give to you is given willingly.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Oh no. Well, . . .

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Well, . . .

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: When you're deeply soggy then you know. That's right.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: I know that. Oh I know that. Don't you think I knew that, without even listening to your conversation. I felt your vibrations.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: That's right, I don't have to assume anything to anyone.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: No, not at all. Thank you.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Thank you.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Well, I'm going to cut the tape off right now.

I want to introduce you briefly to these books.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: And you know I'm very deeply in love with my husband.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: I want you to look at them, though. (inaudible)

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: And one day, that's nice.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Oh my goodness I wouldn't want any more.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: I want you to go home and, uh, make mad passionate love to your wife, my god.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Oh, don't say that.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: You don't know what my ideas are.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Most men, ah, do, find their achilles heel.

Bill: I respect you.

Woman: Do you know what my idea is?

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: It doesn't matter.

Bill: Because you've got proof, about 190 of them.

(inaudible)

Woman: I don't have to prove anything to anybody.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: You've got to use that wonderful mind of yours
and stop living the past.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Well, I am a woman too, but just in my husband's
hurry.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: No. Well, I'm going to shut this off for now.

Bill: Now, let's talk.

Woman: David, we're home now.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, WFO (44-703*)(C)

DATE 5/28/74

FROM : SAC KENNETH P. WILKEY

SUBJECT: ASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING;
CIVIL RIGHTS

On 5/28/74, at 2:45 p.m., DAVID J. GAINES, 6171 Leesburg Pike, Apt 532, Falls Church, Virginia, telephone number 534-5572, visited WFO and stated that he would like to remit the enclosed tape recording for consideration.

GAINES stated that the tape contains a conversation between his wife, SHIRLEY GAINES, and an individual who identifies himself as BILL (MNU) HARRIS. Both participants on the tape were in a semi-inebriated state when the recording was made. In the recording, HARRIS states that JAMES EARL RAY had nothing to do with the assassination, but that he and others connected with the United Auto Workers and the Teamsters Unions planned and paid for the assassination.

The recording was made while GAINES was on a job as a private court and conference recorder at a Public Hearing on Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Citizen Advisory Commission at Brunswick, Maryland, sometime in June of 1972. During the job, he and his wife were staying at the Hawaiian Hotel in Brunswick. HARRIS and several other men were staying in the room next to theirs.

SHIRLEY GAINES heard on the radio last week that several men were being investigated for their part in the assassination of Dr. KING. She then remembered the

2-WFO
KPW
(2)

44-703-794

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>mb</i>	FILED <i>mb</i>
MAY 29 1974	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

MC



5010-108

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

tape that she and HARRIS had made and wanted to bring it to the radio station. GAINES then listened to the tape and decided to bring it to the FBI. He stated that the tape is a copy and that he retains the original at his home in cassette form. GAINES stated that the FBI is welcome to it if it is needed and that he wishes to remain completely anonymous in the matter.

6/18/74

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703)

MURKIN
(OO:ME)

Enclosed for the Bureau and each office is a transcript of a conversation between SHIRLEY GAINES and BILL (MNU) HARRIS concerning matter.

On 5/28/74, DAVID J. GAINES, 6171 Leesburg Pike, Apartment 532, Falls Church, Virginia, telephone 534-5572, contacted WFO and stated he would like to make available a tape recording for the FBI's consideration concerning the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

GAINES stated that the tape contains a conversation between his wife, SHIRLEY GAINES, and an individual who identifies himself as BILL (MNU) HARRIS. According to GAINES, both participants on the tape were in a seminebriated condition when the recording was made. In the recording, HARRIS states that JAMES EARL RAY had nothing to do with the assassination of KING but that he and others connected with the United Auto Workers and the Teamsters Union planned and paid for the assassination.

The record reportedly was made while GAINES was on a job as a private court and conference reporter at a public hearing on Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Citizen Advisory Commission at Brunswick, Maryland, sometime in June of 1972. He stated that during this time he and his wife were staying at the Hawaiian Hotel in Brunswick, Maryland. HARRIS and several other men were staying in the room next to theirs.

GAINES stated that his wife, SHIRLEY, heard on the radio recently that several men were being investigated for their part in the assassination of KING. She then remembered the tape that she and HARRIS had made. GAINES stated that after listening to the tape he decided to bring it to the FBI.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc 1)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc 1)
- 1 - Alexandria (Info) (Enc 1)
- 1 - Baltimore (Info) (Enc 1)

1 - WFO

ABK:ctw
(7) *ctw*

44-703-795

JK

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Serialized	<i>JK</i>
Indexed	
Filed	<i>JK</i>

WFO 44-703

He stated that the tape is a copy and that he retains the original at his home, which the FBI may have if they desire to.

In view of the fact that WFO does not have available all the facts concerning the assassination of KING and since Memphis was office of origin, the Memphis Office should review the transcript to determine if any investigation need be conducted as a result of information contained in the transcript.

Information copies are being sent to Alexandria and Baltimore in the event additional investigation is requested by Memphis.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, WFO (44-703)

DATE: 6/21/74

FROM : SA O.M.Smasal, S-7

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY
CIVIL RIGHTS - ASSASSINATION MLK, JR.

On this date, Mr. DAVID J. DUBOIS, 250 - 12th St., SE, Wash., D.C., Tel. No. 546-9007, telephonically advised that during 1968, at a time when he was overseas, and his wife was in Washington, she was negotiating with an individual for rental of an apartment at 616 A St., NE in WDC. He applied for the apartment, paid for a month's rental of \$240. which turned out to be a bum check. It was dated 4/1/68 and signed by a G. M. NOVEL, drawn on the Citizens National Bank & Trust of Columbus, Ohio. This individual never did occupy the apt., since Mrs. DuBois learned that the check was no good before he had a chance to move in.

Mr. DuBois said that his wife feels ;that the man she was negotiating with for the rental was in fact captioned subject as he strongly resembled photographs of the subject which were prominently in the papers at that time.

Above for information.

1 - wfo
OMS
(1)

44-703-796

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUN 24 1974	
FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE	



5010-108

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

6/27/74

airtel

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
✓
MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS

Re WFO airtel to the Bureau, 6/18/74.

LEAD:

BALTIMORE DIVISION

AT BRUNSWICK, MARYLAND. Will, through registration records of the Hawaiian Hotel, attempt to identify BILL HARRIS and have him interviewed regarding statements made by him concerning the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING. In the event HARRIS is now an official of a labor union national headquarters or is a controversial figure in the labor movement, Bureau permission should be obtained before conducting this interview.

Memphis indices contain nothing identifiable with BILL HARRIS in connection with this case.

For the additional assistance of Agents conducting the interview with HARRIS, the following is set forth:

2 - Bureau
2 - Baltimore
① - WFO (Info)
2 - Memphis

JCH:cmc
(7)

44-703-797

SEARCHED <i>5/10</i>	INDEXED <i>5/10</i>
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JUL 1 1974	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

LDK

ME 44-1987

KING arrived in Memphis on the morning of 3/28/68, from Atlanta, Georgia. The sanitation workers at Memphis were then on strike in what had become a long, bitter dispute over wages, check-offs, etc. The sanitation workers were represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) of which one JERRY WORTH was President. WORTH had been in Memphis during part of this strike, but this office cannot say whether or not WORTH was here on any particular day. HENRY LOEB was then the Mayor of Memphis.

KING led a march through downtown Memphis shortly before noon on 3/28/68, but the march had barely gotten underway before the marchers began looting the stores along the route of the march. KING fled the scene, and the Memphis Police Department dispersed the mob and forced them out of the downtown area.

KING spent the night of 3/28/68, in Memphis, leaving the next day to return to Atlanta. KING's prestige had suffered a serious blow in that he had been unable to control his followers and the "peaceful" march had turned into a riot. It has been speculated that KING's return to Memphis on 4/3/68 was done at the urging of his advisors, and his leading another march on 4/5/68, was to be done to rebuild his public image. As you are aware, KING was shot and killed at about 6:00 pm on 4/4/68, while standing on the balcony of his motel.

All of the evidence in this case points to the fact that JAMES EARL RAY, acting alone, was KING's murderer. There has been nothing to indicate that RAY ever received any large sum of money from anyone, and what we know of his living habits, both before and after the murder, would indicate he lived on a very limited amount of money. We do not know the source of even the small amount of money possessed by RAY, but since we know him to have robbed a bank in

ME 44-1987

England after fleeing to that country, it is a reasonable presumption that RAY committed robberies in the United States during the time he was a fugitive.

RAY entered a plea of guilty to the charge that he murdered KING and is now serving 99 years in the Tennessee State Prison. At the time of his guilty plea RAY was represented by PERCY FOREMAN of Houston, Texas. RAY now claims he was not adequately represented by FOREMAN, and he is attempting to have his guilty plea set aside in order to be granted a trial in state court.

RAY's current attorneys have made public statements to the effect that RAY bought the murder weapon and brought it to Memphis thinking he was part of a gun smuggling operation. They claim he did not know the gun was to be used to murder KING, and they claim that RAY did not pull the trigger.

8/28/74

A I R T E L

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (44-669) -RUC-
SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS

Re WFO airtel to the Bureau dated 6/18/74, Memphis airtel to the Bureau dated 6/27/74.

Enclosed for Alexandria is one copy of above referenced Memphis airtel dated 6/27/74.

For the information of the Alexandria Division, re WFO airtel and Memphis airtel contains necessary details pertaining to current investigation being conducted in this matter.

On 8/1/74, Mrs. BARBARA BITTNER, Manager, Hawaiian Motel, U.S. Route 340 and Maryland Route 17, near Brunswick, Maryland, made available to SA JOHN R. THURSTON all motel registration records for the Hawaiian Motel for the years 1972 and 1973 and a review of these records failed to reveal any registration record pertaining to BILL HARRIS and also failed to reveal any registration record pertaining to DAVID J. GAINES, or SHIRLEY GAINES. Mrs. BITTNER did advise that sometime during 1972, the motel changed hands and felt that because of this,

2 - Director
2 - Alexandria (Encl.1)
② - WFO (44-703)
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - Baltimore (44-669)
JRT:dew
(9)

44-703-798

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SEP 3 1974
FBI - WASH. F. O.
Sloan

the records pertaining to 1972 may not be complete. (It should also be noted that a high percentage of registration cards for 1972 were not dated and because of this, all 1972 and 1973 registration cards were reviewed). Mrs. BITTNER further advised that the cards that were reviewed would comprise all the registration cards for those years.

On 8/1/74, Mrs. BETTY FITEZ, Brunswick Police Department, Brunswick, Maryland, advised SA THURSTON that neither BILL HARRIS, DAVID J. GAINES, nor SHIRLEY GAINES are known to her and that none of them have any criminal arrest record with the Brunswick, Maryland, Police Department.

On 8/8/74, TERESA MAIN, Records Clerk, Maryland State Police, Frederick, Maryland, advised SA THURSTON that there is no criminal arrest record under the name of BILL or WILLIAM HARRIS with the State Police Barracks in Frederick, Maryland.

On 8/19/74, Mr. DONALD DARR, Town Clerk, Brunswick, Maryland, advised that he recalls that a Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Citizen Advisory Commission hearing was held at Brunswick during either June or July, 1972, but stated he could provide no information as to whether a SHIRLEY GAINES was employed as a private court and conference reporter at the Brunswick hearing.

On 8/26/74, Mr. JAMES SEWELL, Land Acquisition Officer, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historic Park, National Park Service, Fort Detrick, Frederick, Maryland, advised SA THURSTON that he recalls that during 1972, a series of meetings dealing with the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Advisory Commission were held between Washington, D.C., and Cumberland, Maryland, and recalls that one of these meetings was held in Brunswick during either June or July, 1972, although he stated he did not attend the Brunswick meeting. He also stated that a JOHN PARSONS, Chesapeake and Ohio Park Planner, 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C., (telephone number 202-426-7705), would have attended all of the meetings and could possibly provide information as to whether SHIRLEY GAINES was employed as a private court and conference reporter at the Brunswick hearing. He stated that SHIRLEY GAINES is not known to him.

Baltimore indices were negative pertaining to BILL HARRIS, DAVID J. GAINES, SHIRLEY GAINES, and JERRY WORTH.

BA 44-669

LEADS:

ALEXANDRIA DIVISION

AT 6171 LEESBURG PIKE, FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA

Will locate and interview DAVID J. GAINES and SHIRLEY GAINES for any further information they may have concerning BILL HARRIS and will attempt to develop further information concerning him and where he could possibly be located.

WFO

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

Will contact JOHN PARSONS, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Park Planner, 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C., telephone number 202-426-7705, for any information he may have concerning SHIRLEY GAINES' attendance at a Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Advisory Commission hearing held at Brunswick, Maryland, in June, 1972.

118-67750
426-7750

9/10/74

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703) (RUC)

MURKIN
(OO:ME)

ReWFOairtel, 6/1/74, and BAAirtel, 8/28/74.

Mr. JOHN G. PARSONS, Chief, Department of Urban Project Coordination, U. S. National Park Service, on 9/6/74, advised he conducted a hearing at Brunswick, Maryland on 6/7/72, of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Advisory Commission. Mr. PARSONS advised the hearings were recorded by a court reporter whose identity he does not recall but which can be determined through Hoover Reporting Company. He recalls the reporter, a male, was driven back to his motel after the meeting by PARSONS. The motel was located next to the Hawaiian Restaurant in Brunswick. This reporter, who performs considerable work for the National Park Service, relies heavily upon tape recorders in his work.

Mrs. DORIS HOOVER, Hoover Reporting Company, 320 Massachusetts Avenue, Northeast, on 9/9/74, acknowledged the reporting of the hearing of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Advisory Commission held 6/7/72, was performed by DAVID GAINES, an employee of her company. She stated SHIRLEY GAINES, wife to DAVID GAINES, is not an employee of the company and, to her knowledge, does not perform court reporting work for any other company.

- 2 - Bureau
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 1 - Alexandria
- 1 - WFO (44-703)

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(6)

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44-703-799

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

6/3/76

SAC, WFO (44-703)

MURKIN
(OO:ME)

ReButelcall, 6/1/76 to WFO.

Transmitted herewith to the Bureau are all sections of WFO file on captioned case. The WFO file number is 44-703 consisting of Sections 1 through 8 and Sub C Sections 1 - 5. The file is being delivered personally under the supervision of SA WILLIAM B. SLOAN to SA JOHN T. ALDHIZER III, Room 4077, JED.

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

2-Bureau (44-703)(13-enc1)
1-Memphis (44-1987)(Info)
1-WFO (44-703)

WBS:
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returned 6/15/76
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Ray Appeals Conviction in King Murder

Associated Press

James Earl Ray, convicted killer of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., asked the Supreme Court yesterday to review his case, claiming he was "set up to take the rap for a crime he didn't commit."

Ray's appeal said he was "framed by the FBI and local police, and then coerced by his own attorney to plead guilty against his will."

James H. Lesar, the Washington attorney representing Ray, wrote in asking the court to review Ray's conviction: "The charge is that those who did kill Dr. King are still at large, protected in part by the unwillingness of the courts to face these unpleasant facts."

The petition did not mention an investigation recently begun by the House into the assassinations of King and President Kennedy.

King was killed by a rifle blast as he stood on a motel balcony in Memphis in 1968.

Ray was arrested in London and brought back to the United States to stand trial. He pleaded guilty.

In his petition, Ray, now an inmate serving a life term in the Tennessee state penitentiary, said a thorough review of his conviction is needed because potential conflicts of interest between two of his attorneys denied him "effective assistance of counsel." Ray was represented originally by attorneys Arthur Hanes and Percy Foreman.

The Washington Post A-2
Washington Star-News _____
Daily News (New York) _____
The New York Times _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
The Los Angeles Times _____

Date 10/9/76

44-703-781

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FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Hoffman

FBI

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9-5Transmit in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____

Airtel

(Precedence)

11/12/76

(Date)

✓ To: SAC, WFO

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Enclosed is a copy of a "Washington Star News" article dated 10/9/76, reflecting that James Earl Ray has appealed his conviction to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Washington Field Office promptly determine status of Ray's appeal reportedly before the U. S. Supreme Court. Promptly advise results.

Enclosure *fy*

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FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE*Hoffman*
At Sxc

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

12/7/76

SAC, WFO (44-703) (P#)

MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to WFO dated 11/12/76.

Docket of U. S. Supreme Court showed:

Case Number: 76-5508

Title of Case: JAMES EARL RAY vs. Warden
J. H. ROSE

Petition filed on 10/7/76.

Brief for respondent in opposition filed 11/22/76.
Distributed 11/26/76.

The petition contained no serious allegations
against the FBI.

2- Bureau
②- WFO
(1-66-5413)

DFH:emc em
✓

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DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

12/17/76

SAC, WFO (44-703) (RUC)

MURKIN

Remylet, dated 12/7/76.

Docket of U.S. Supreme Court showed:

Case Number: 76-5508

Title of Case: JAMES EARL RAY vs.
WARDEN J. H. ROSE

Petition denied on 12/13/76.

The petition contained no serious allegations
against the FBI.

2-Bureau
②-WFO
(1-66-5413)
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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Birmingham, Alabama 35203
July 23, 1982

JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING-VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS-CONSPIRACY

Captain E. Robins, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Fairfield, Alabama, advised Paul Bernard Marler had telephonically contacted the Sheriff's Office in Bessemer, Alabama, and stated James Earl Ray did not kill Martin Luther King. Captain Robins advised this conversation was taped and he will make a copy of the tape available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

44-703-785

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
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AUG 4 1982	
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription July 23, 1982

CAPT. E. ROBINS, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, made available a tape of a telephone conversation on July 11, 1982, by PAUL BERNARD MARLER, the transcripts of which is attached.

Investigation on 7/15/82 at Fairfield, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
by SA PETER JOHN BODKIN: mjl Date dictated 7/19/82

2

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FBI/DOJ

Testing 1, 2, 3. Testing 1, 2, 3.

Unknown Female Sheriff's Office
(UF)

MARLER Sheriff's Office in Jefferson County?

UF Yes sir.

MARLER (unintelligible)

UF Okay.

MARLER My name is PAUL, P A U L BERNARD MARLER.

UF What is it? Is it PAUL or POL?

MARLER PAUL, P A U L.

UF Okay.

MARLER BERNARD MARLER, M A R L E R.

UF M A R L E R?

MARLER Yes ma'am.

UF Okay.

MARLER U'm up in Calhoun County.

UF Calhoun?

MARLER Calhoun County.

UF Okay.

MARLER I'm a white male. I's born [REDACTED] I'm sorry

[REDACTED] I'm calling in reference to JAMES EARL
RAY.

UF JAMES EARL RAY?

MARLER Right.

UF Okay. What, what about JAMES EARL RAY?

MARLER He didn't kill MARTIN LUTHER KING.

UF He didn't kill MARTIN LUTHER KING?

MARLER No ma'am we did it.

UF You did. Who, who was you besides....

MARLER LEO DENHAM.

UF LEO DUNHAM?

MARLER L E O...DNH...D E N H A M.

UF D U N H...

MARLER DN....DUN....

UF D U N...

MARLERH A M. D E N H A M

UF ...HAM. D E N H A M.

MARLER Right. LEO fired the shot. JAMES RAY was a punk.
He never shot anybody. He ain't never been that brave.

UF Okay...have you, have you called the police department
to investigate?

MARLER I've called the "Washington Post." I had called, I have
talked with the warden in Tennessee...Warden DAVIS and
you can call that okay and verify it.

UF Did they tell you to call us or....

MARLER No, no.
I just don't think I'm gon be here that long. I just
want, I just don't want JAMES RAY to die for something
that he didn't do. Now he might be, they might lock
him up forever I don't know. That's up to JAMES you
know. JAMES was, he was, uh, he was, he was a nitty,
he was a punk anyway. But JAMES didn't kill that
nigger. I didn't mean to say that. JAMES RAY didn't
kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. We did.

UF You, you and this LEO D E N H A M.

MARLER LEO killed him. I didn't kill him, but I was there;
and that makes me a part of it. Right?

UF Yes sir. What, what, you live in Calhoun County?

MARLER I just gave you that.

UF What's your, uh, what's your address?

MARLER 716 East 10th Street and I'm at 238...seventeen, seventy-seven.

UF 238....seventeen, seventy-seven?

MARLER Yes ma'am.

UF And your address was seven sixteen?

MARLER I whatn't involved in it. I saw it.

UF Do you know where he is now?

MARLER Yes I do.

UF Where is he?

MARLER I'll talk to you about that later.

UF Okay.

MARLER I had nothing to do with it, uh, well maybe I did. Maybe I had something to do with it because I didn't come forth earlier you know....

UF Yeah.

MARLERto say what I had to say. But I saw the man, I wasn't involved in it. I didn't shoot at anybody, but I saw the man that shot MARTIN LUTHER KING.

UF And you've already....

MARLER Yes I did.

UF You've already called the police department and investigated him.

MARLER I've already called "Washington Post."

UF And what did they tell you?

MARLER I don't know what they told me.

MARLER

I've called you. I've called Mobile. I've called Atlanta. I've called Memphis. I've called and talked to this judge, uh....I've talked to, uh, Warden DAVIS at the penitentiary in Tennessee. I've done already talked to him.

UF

Well okay. Well I....

MARLER

Lady, I'm blind and I don't know how long I'm gon live. But I'm gon tell you...that man did not kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. They've got the wrong man. Well okay. I got the situation and I'll, (unintelligible). I'll pass it on.

MARLER

I appreciate it.

UF

Okay.

MARLER

Wait...are you in Bessemer?

UF

Yes sir.

MARLER

Well that's where it came from. Now let me tell you something else.

UF

Where what came from?

MARLER

Where information came from.

UF

Are you in Bessemer?

MARLER

That's where it all came from in Bessemer, Homewood right? Now and do you know the man...are you still on?

UF

Yes I'm (unintelligible)

MARLER

Okay you know they said the man, the gun that killed KING came from Homewood whatever right. That Woods boy. I hope you're getting all this down. There was WOODS boy that sold him my gun. You see lady....

UF

Uh huh.

MARLER

I'm the man that brought the gun.

UF You bought the gun?

MARLER Now then...

UF What kind of gun was it?

MARLER That wasn't the only...now wait a minute. That's, that's where everybody got screwed up. How many guns were there was bought? You don't know that do you?

UF No sir, (unintelligible)

MARLER The law don't even know it.

UF I'm not up on, on, uh, the killing.

MARLER Okay, yeah...well but it was, uh, it was, uh, it was a tragic thing right. But you got the wrong man. There was more guns bought that day than what the law knows about. Okay.... Will you have him to call me if you don't mind.

UF Who do you want to call you?

MARLER The police.

UF You want a sergeant to talk to you?

MARLER Yeah.

UF Okay. Hold on just a second.

MARLER Now wait....

? Hello.

UF Sir....

? Hello.

UF Sir didn't you want to talk to a sergeant?

Sir...Mr. MARLER....Hello....I guess he's hung up.

Birmingham, Alabama
December 5, 1979

Re: RICK TOWNSLEY;
TERRY WALTERS;
RALPH TURNER;
JERRY CARROLL
OFFICERS, ANNISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT;
CECIL BLOSTER, FIREMAN,
ANNISTON FIRE DEPARTMENT,
ANNISTON, ALABAMA;
PAUL BERNARD MARLER - VICTIM
"DUKE" MARLER - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

On November 19, 1979, Paul Bernard Marler, 716 East 10th Street, Anniston, Alabama, telephonically contacted the Washington, D.C. office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at which time he related the following:

In September or October 1970, he and his brother were arrested at the VFW Hall in Anniston, Alabama, following a fight resulting from drinks. His brother, when put in jail, was beaten by the officers. This is not a racial matter as the police officers and his brother were white.

On June 15, 1979, Paul Bernard Marler appeared at the Anniston, Alabama, Resident Agency, obviously under the influence of either alcohol or narcotics. Throughout the interview, Marler would doze off or begin crying unexplainably. Marler complained that in 1970 he and his brother, "Duke", had gone to the VFW Club in Anniston to pay their dues. While there, they began to drink and trouble broke out between them and some of the patrons or bartenders at the club. Marler stated that seeing his brother in a fight with several other individuals, he then broke a bottle and came to his brother's assistance. Marler stated

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RICK TOWNSLEY;
ET AL

that unquestionably, he had "assaulted them", but stated that he felt this was the only reasonable action to protect his brother. Following the fight, Marler and his brother went to the parking lot of the VFW where they encountered Anniston Police Officers Rick Townsley, Terry Walters, Ralph Turner and Jerry Carroll. Marler stated that he was then handcuffed without cause and taken to the Anniston Police Department. During the drive to the Police Department, Marler stated that he had addressed Officer Carroll as "son" and Carroll had advised him that he was not his son and did not appreciate being called son by Marler. Marler further advised he then told Carroll that his family would not forget Carroll's family and that also, he, Marler, would not forget Carroll's family. Throughout the interview, Marler rambled incoherently, stating that he had spent \$37,000 to find out what he is now telling the FBI and that he wanted a warrant sworn out for the officers immediately and that he was also suing the Police Department for one million dollars. It was pointed out to Marler that this would be impossible, but if he had a complaint, it could be brought to the attention of the FBI.

After a great deal of difficulty keeping Marler on matters relevant to his complaint, Marler continued that he was then put in a cell and after being locked up in a "drunk tank" he was then visited by unknown officers who kicked him, splitting his forehead open and then "hammered" his teeth out.

Marler continued to cry and doze off as he related the above facts and when asked why he had not come to the FBI earlier, he explained that he did not wish to make a complaint at that time because it would disgrace his family.

Marler, in conversation, admitted being an alcoholic and under the influence of drugs for which he has a doctor's prescription. In addition, he currently is an outpatient in the Veteran's Administration Hospital for mental incompetency.

RICK TOWNSLEY;
ET AL

It was pointed out to Harler that because of his condition, at this time, it would be impossible for any statement to be taken by the FBI, but if he desired, he could return when he was obviously not under the influence of alcohol and narcotics and a statement would be taken. Harler gave no indication as to whether he planned to return.

No investigative action is being taken by the FBI.



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Birmingham, Alabama 35203
July 23, 1982

JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING-VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS-CONSPIRACY

Captain E. Robins, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Fairfield, Alabama, advised Paul Bernard Marler had telephonically contacted the Sheriff's Office in Bessemer, Alabama, and stated James Earl Ray did not kill Martin Luther King. Captain Robins advised this conversation was taped and he will make a copy of the tape available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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44-703-785

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FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription July 23, 1982

CAPT. E. ROBINS, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, made available a tape of a telephone conversation on July 11, 1982, by PAUL BERNARD MARLER, the transcripts of which is attached.

Investigation on 7/15/82 at Fairfield, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
by SA PETER JOHN BODKIN:mjl Date dictated 7/19/82

2

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FBI/DOJ

Testing 1, 2, 3. Testing 1, 2, 3.

Unknown Female Sheriff's Office
(UF)

MARLER Sheriff's Office in Jefferson County?

UF Yes sir.

MARLER (unintelligible)

UF Okay.

MARLER My name is PAUL, P A U L BERNARD MARLER.

UF What is it? Is it PAUL or POL?

MARLER PAUL, P A U L.

UF Okay.

MARLER BERNARD MARLER, M A R L E R.

UF M A R L E R?

MARLER Yes ma'am.

UF Okay.

MARLER U'm up in Calhoun County.

UF Calhoun?

MARLER Calhoun County.

UF Okay.

MARLER I'm a white male. I's born [REDACTED] I'm sorry

[REDACTED] I'm calling in reference to JAMES EARL
RAY.

UF JAMES EARL RAY?

MARLER Right.

UF Okay. What, what about JAMES EARL RAY?

MARLER He didn't kill MARTIN LUTHER KING.

UF He didn't kill MARTIN LUTHER KING?

MARLER No ma'am we did it.

UF You did. Who, who was you besides....

MARLER LEO DENHAM.

UF LEO DUNHAM?

MARLER L E O...DNH...D E N H A M.

UF D U N H...

MARLER DN....DUN....

UF D U N...

MARLERH A M. D E N H A M

UF ...HAM. D E N H A M.

MARLER Right. LEO fired the shot. JAMES RAY was a punk.
He never shot anybody. He ain't never been that brave.

UF Okay...have you, have you called the police department
to investigate?

MARLER I've called the "Washington Post." I had called, I have
talked with the warden in Tennessee...Warden DAVIS and
you can call that okay and verify it.

UF Did they tell you to call us or....

MARLER No, no.

I just don't think I'm gon be here that long. I just
want, I just don't want JAMES RAY to die for something
that he didn't do. Now he might be, they might lock
him up forever I don't know. That's up to JAMES you
know. JAMES was, he was, uh, he was, he was a nitty,
he was a punk anyway. But JAMES didn't kill that
nigger. I didn't mean to say that. JAMES RAY didn't
kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. We did.

UF You, you and this LEO D E N H A M.

MARLER LEO killed him. I didn't kill him, but I was there;
and that makes me a part of it. Right?

UF Yes sir. What, what, you live in Calhoun County?

MARLER I just gave you that.

UF What's your, uh, what's your address?

MARLER 716 East 10th Street and I'm at 238...seventeen, seventy-seven.

UF 238....seventeen, seventy-seven?

MARLER Yes ma'am.

UF And your address was seven sixteen?

MARLER I whatn't involved in it. I saw it.

UF Do you know where he is now?

MARLER Yes I do.

UF Where is he?

MARLER I'll talk to you about that later.

UF Okay.

MARLER I had nothing to do with it, uh, well maybe I did. Maybe I had something to do with it because I didn't come forth earlier you know....

UF Yeah.

MARLERto say what I had to say. But I saw the man, I wasn't involved in it. I didn't shoot at anybody, but I saw the man that shot MARTIN LUTHER KING.

UF And you've already....

MARLER Yes I did.

UF You've already called the police department and investigated him.

MARLER I've already called "Washington Post."

UF And what did they tell you?

MARLER I don't know what they told me.

MARLER. I've called you. I've called Mobile. I've called Atlanta. I've called Memphis. I've called and talked to this judge, uh....I've talked to, uh, Warden DAVIS at the penitentiary in Tennessee. I've done already talked to him.

UF Well okay. Well I....

MARLER Lady, I'm blind and I don't know how long I'm gon live. But I'm gon tell you...that man did not kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. They've got the wrong man. Well okay. I got the situation and I'll, (unintelligible). I'll pass it on.

MARLER I appreciate it.

UF Okay.

MARLER Wait...are you in Bessemer?

UF Yes sir.

MARLER Well that's where it came from. Now let me tell you something else.

UF Where what came from?

MARLER Where information came from.

UF Are you in Bessemer?

MARLER That's where it all came from in Bessemer, Homewood right? Now and do you know the man...are you still on?

UF Yes I'm (unintelligible)

MARLER Okay you know they said the man, the gun that killed KING came from Homewood whatever right. That Woods boy. I hope you're getting all this down. There was WOODS boy that sold him my gun. You see lady....

UF Uh huh.

MARLER I'm the man that brought the gun.

UF You bought the gun?
MARLER Now then...
UF What kind of gun was it?
MARLER That wasn't the only...now wait a minute. That's,
that's where everybody got screwed up. How many guns
were there was bought? You don't know that do you?
UF No sir, (unintelligible)
MARLER The law don't even know it.
UF I'm not up on, on, uh, the killing.
MARLER Okay, yeah...well but it was, uh, it was, uh, it was
a tragic thing right. But you got the wrong man.
There was more guns bought that day than what the law
knows about. Okay.... Will you have him to
call me if you don't mind.
UF Who do you want to call you?
MARLER The police.
UF You want a sergeant to talk to you?
MARLER Yeah.
UF Okay. Hold on just a second.
MARLER Now wait....
? Hello.
UF Sir....
? Hello.
UF Sir didn't you want to talk to a sergeant?
Sir...Mr. MARLER....Hello....I guess he's hung up.

Birmingham, Alabama
December 5, 1979

Re: RICK TOWNSLEY;
TERRY WALTERS;
RALPH TURNER;
JERRY CARROLL
OFFICERS, ANNISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT;
CECIL BLOSTER, FIREMAN,
ANNISTON FIRE DEPARTMENT,
ANNISTON, ALABAMA;
PAUL BERNARD MARLER - VICTIM
"DUKE" MARLER - VICTIM
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RICK TOWNSLEY;
ET AL

that unquestionably, he had "assaulted them", but stated that he felt this was the only reasonable action to protect his brother. Following the fight, Marler and his brother went to the parking lot of the VFW where they encountered Anniston Police Officers Rick Townsley, Terry Walters, Ralph Turner and Jerry Carroll. Marler stated that he was then handcuffed without cause and taken to the Anniston Police Department. During the drive to the Police Department, Marler stated that he had addressed Officer Carroll as "son" and Carroll had advised him that he was not his son and did not appreciate being called son by Marler. Marler further advised he then told Carroll that his family would not forget Carroll's family and that also, he, Marler, would not forget Carroll's family. Throughout the interview, Marler rambled incoherently, stating that he had spent \$37,000 to find out what he is now telling the FBI and that he wanted a warrant sworn out for the officers immediately and that he was also suing the Police Department for one million dollars. It was pointed out to Marler that this would be impossible, but if he had a complaint, it could be brought to the attention of the FBI.

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RICK TOWNSLEY;
ET AL.

It was pointed out to Marler that because of his condition, at this time, it would be impossible for any statement to be taken by the FBI, but if he desired, he could return when he was obviously not under the influence of alcohol and narcotics and a statement would be taken. Marler gave no indication as to whether he planned to return.

No investigative action is being taken by the FBI.

Memorandum



CC-8

To : DIRECTOR, FBI

Date July 23, 1982

From : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

Subject : JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING-VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS-CONSPIRACY
OO: MEMPHIS

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and three copies of a letterhead memorandum containing investigation by the Birmingham Office. Enclosed for the information of the Atlanta, Memphis, Mobile and WFO Offices are two copies of an LHM containing results of investigation by the Birmingham Office.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

The Birmingham Office is not interviewing PAUL BERNARD MARLER in connection with this matter due to his mental incompetency and he is an alcoholic.

2-Bureau (44-38861) (Enc. 4)
2-Atlanta (44-2386) (Enc. 2)
2-Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
2-Mobile (157-2627) (Enc. 2)
②-WFO (Enc. 2) *amg*
1-Birmingham
PJB/acm
(11)

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44-703-786

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[Signature]

Memorandum



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