

Mr. Tolson  
no dissent  
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SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
UNION COUNTY - LAW DIVISION  
CRIMINAL

PRESENTMENT NO. P-2 M-67

MAY STATED SESSION  
1967 TERM

IN THE MATTER OF AN INVESTIGATION OF AN  
ACCIDENT INVOLVING PENN-CENTRAL COMPANY  
ON JUNE 8, 1968, AT ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY

TO: THE HONORABLE WALTER L. HETFIELD, III, ASSIGNMENT JUDGE,  
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY, UNION COUNTY

INTRODUCTION

This Grand Jury was held over to complete an investigation into the circumstances surrounding an accident involving the west-bound movement of a special train carrying the remains of the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy en route from New York City to Washington, D.C., and an east-bound passenger train #50, en route from Chicago to New York City, on June 8, 1968, at Elizabeth, New Jersey.

This accident involving the Penn-Central trains resulted in the death of two persons and injuries to five others.

The Grand Jury had six full day sessions, taking the testimony of a number of eye witnesses, Penn-Central Company personnel, members of the Elizabeth Police Department, and that of expert witnesses, as well as reviewing films and photographs taken at the scene of the accident.

After considering all of the evidence presented, the Grand Jury concludes that such evidence did not justify returning indictments but, nonetheless, desires to bring to the attention of the Community the poor judgment exercised by some of the parties involved.

Consequently, we submit this Presentment.

#### FINDINGS

On June 8, 1968, a chartered Penn-Central train, carrying the remains of the assassinated Senator Robert F. Kennedy, his family and public dignitaries was expected to pass through the Elizabeth, New Jersey, station at 12:30 P.M. at a speed of 45 miles per hour. Due to various delays the funeral train did not arrive at Elizabeth until 1:36 P.M.

Prior thereto the Penn-Central Company, on June 7, 1968, contacted all the municipalities along the right-of-way, including Elizabeth, requesting them to provide security for the train at vulnerable points. The following morning the Elizabeth Police Department assigned 25 patrolmen and detectives to the various bridges, underpasses and stations, including a sergeant and two patrolmen to the Elizabeth station platform where the number of spectators at that time was small. It should be noted, parenthetically, that neither the Penn-Central nor the Elizabeth Police anticipated the large crowds which were to eventually assemble along the right-of-way, drawn there by the charisma of the Kennedy family and the extensive news media coverage of the funeral train movement.

In the center of Elizabeth, on the railroad right-of-way, there exists a sharp S-curve with a manned signal tower at the West end and the Elizabeth station at the East end of the curve. ~~Even though this curve is of such a nature that the engineer of~~ a train has extremely limited vision of the station platform as he approaches it in an East bound direction (toward New York), nonetheless the Penn-Central permits a speed limit of 55 miles per hour at that point.



The funeral train was late in departing from New York and about 1:00 P.M. the crowd of spectators at the Elizabeth station began to grow. The police sergeant on duty then called for and received four additional patrolmen to assist him in controlling the large crowd on the West bound platform. The police also used a bull horn to warn the smaller crowd of spectators on the East bound platform to remain off the tracks.

The funeral train was being operated by a special duty engineman. On board the lead car was the Penn-Central's supervisor of passenger train operations, who was equipped with radio communication to enable him to act in the event of any emergency or unusual occurrence. The written funeral train orders called for a routine speed, except for reductions to 5 miles per hour through the Newark and Trenton stations.

As the funeral train was leaving Newark, a public relations man, not affiliated with the railroad, in the company of Secret Service men, told the train supervisor that they would direct the future speed of the train and ordered him to the last car. The funeral train approached North Elizabeth and the special duty engineman, seeing large crowds of spectators along the right-of-way, reduced his speed to 15 miles per hour as he continued on to the Elizabeth station.

While the funeral train was passing through the Elizabeth station, westbound, a number of spectators on the eastbound platform, motivated by curiosity or emotion, ventured out onto the tracks to get a closer view of the funeral train. It was at this point in time that train #50, a Chicago New York express, was proceeding through the S-curve on the local eastbound track, at a reduced speed of 30 miles per hour, ringing its bell and sounding its horn.

The special duty engineman attempted to warn train #50 via radio of the dangerous track condition ahead. The noise created by a number of low flying Secret Service and news media helicopters interfered with his communications and the ability of the spectators to hear the horn of the approaching train.

As train #50 came out of the S-curve into the station, its engineer saw the people on the tracks and applied the emergency braking system. However, there was insufficient time to stop and several spectators were struck, two of whom were killed.

#### CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of our findings, we draw the following conclusions:

1. The deaths and injuries resulted from a series of unanticipated circumstances and negligent incidents, none of which amounted to gross or culpable negligence.
2. Within certain segments of the general public there are those who will disregard common sense and warnings of police thereby placing their personal safety in jeopardy.
3. The Penn-Central Company right-of-way, in and around the Elizabeth station, presents an extremely hazardous condition to trains and pedestrains. The New Jersey Public Utility Commission should endeavor to establish proper rules and regulations to govern the future safe operation of trains in that area.
4. There should be developed a better line of communications between public utilities and the municipalities they service with a view toward anticipating mutual problems in times of public demonstrations.
5. This Grand Jury disapproves of the interference with the train supervisor in the fulfillment of his duties, but feels that the

incident did not contribute to the accident. However, this Grand Jury is of the opinion that the New Jersey Public Utility Commission should adopt rules and regulations so as not to allow a public utility to surrender operational control of its conveyances to those who may charter them.

6. The Secret Service and the news media should be made to realize that their activities in regard to events involving major public figures may jeopardize the safety of the public, and serious consideration should be given by them in the future to the protection of the public.

This Grand Jury recommends that a copy of this Presentment be forwarded to:

The President of the United States  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Secret Service  
President of the United States Senate  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The Family of Senator Robert F. Kennedy  
Senator Edward Kennedy  
The Governor of the State of New Jersey  
The Attorney General of the State of New Jersey  
The Administrative Director of the Courts  
The Mayor of the City of Elizabeth  
The Director of Police of the City of Elizabeth  
Penn-Central Company  
New Jersey Public Utility Commission  
The Prosecutors of the 21 Counties in the State of New Jersey  
The Press

For the May Stated Session, 1967 Term Grand Jury of Union County.

ATTEST:

JEANNE K. SCHER, Clerk of the Grand Jury

Dated: October 30, 1968



F B I

Date: OCT 31 1968

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (62-963) (C)

PERNELL EZZELL  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(OO: TP)

Re TP airtel to the Bureau, 10/14/68.

Attached are eleven copies of LHM dated and captioned as above.

One copy of above LHM enclosed for New Orleans for information.

Copies of LHM disseminated locally to Secret Service, Jacksonville, Fla., OSI, Robins AFB, Ga., MI, Orlando, Fla., and NISO, Charleston, S.C., because they have cognizance.

UNSTABLE INDIVIDUAL TO BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS AND HAVING SUICIDAL TENDENCIES.

ENCLOSURE

- 3 - Bureau (Encls. 11) (RM)  
 1 - New Orleans (173-994) (Encl. 1) (RM)  
 2 - Tampa (1 - 80-139)  
 GWT:ls  
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C. C. Bishop

1 cc LHM to CIA  
 2 cc LHM to Secret Service  
 1 cc LHM to OSI  
 1 cc LHM to 57th EX-104  
 1 cc LHM to HA 8/2  
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Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Tampa, Florida

OCT 31 1968

*Mrs*  
PERNELL EZZELL

Reference is made to prior communications in the captioned matter, the most recent one being dated October 14, 1968.

On October 15, 1968, Mrs. Fay Ezzell, 636 22nd Street, Orlando, Florida, advised that she is the wife of the-captioned individual and she furnished the following:

On October 8, 1968, she received a letter from her husband postmarked October 5, 1968, which was dated October 3, 1968, in New Orleans, Louisiana. She said that he did not give any return address. She said that she does not know where he is residing but the last information that she had indicated that he worked for JET TV in New Orleans, Louisiana. She said that in the letter he referred to the fact that she had told representatives of the credit department of the Goodyear Tire Company where he was working in New Orleans. He indicated they inquired about his making payment on some tires he had purchased on credit. Mrs. Ezzell said that her husband threatened her for giving out information concerning his whereabouts stating, "I'll shoot you for sure". She said he was apparently drinking again at that time. She said he also stated, "I die tonight". Mrs. Ezzell said that she had not heard from her husband since receiving the letter. She said she felt he may have made the suicide statement in order to drop out of sight and dodge his many creditors, wanting payments for debts that he had made while on drinking escapades. She said that she has re-mortgaged her home and furnishings in order to help him straighten out his financial affairs and debts made while on drinking escapades. She advised that he has not sent her any money to help re-pay her debts and she is "fed up" with him and cares very little, at this point, about his well being.

62-587-999  
ENCLOSURE

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Mrs. Ezzell stated that she intended to communicate with the New Orleans Police Department concerning the letter she received from her husband.

Mrs. Ezzell furnished the following, additional background information concerning the captioned individual:

Pernell Ezzell's brother, Wendell Ezzell, called her from Fayetteville, North Carolina, attempting to contact Pernell Ezzell to tell him that their father was deceased. She said that their father was named Matt Fryer (Phonetic) and that he was said to be the father of Pernell Ezzell and his two brothers and sister, but that their father and mother had never been wed. She said that she told her husband's brother about her husband's suicide note, and he was quite upset over the death of their father but he made no reply about her husband's suicidal threat.

Mrs. Ezzell said that she had never had the opportunity to meet any of Pernell Ezzell's relatives with the exception of one brother, Ozzell Ezzell, who visited with her and her husband in Orlando, Florida, last year. She said this brother was last known to be in Canada but she did not know his exact whereabouts from comments made by her husband. She said he is also a drinker. *N.C.*

She said that her husband had revealed the following information, concerning his background, to her.

PERNELL EZZELL *LA FIA*  
He had been in the United States Air Force and served in Korea. He was born on either April 26, 1932 or April 26, 1933 in North Carolina. She believes he may have been born at Clinton, North Carolina, as his mother has apparently always resided in that location. He was born to Acrie Ezzell, who was never wed to his father, Matt Fryer (Phonetic), who was also believed to be from Clinton, North Carolina. She said that Matt Fryer was apparently married and he never divorced his wife in order to marry Acrie Ezzell. She said her husband's brother, Wendell Ezzell, was last known to reside at 4405 North Main Street, Box 7, High Point, North Carolina, but she feels certain that he has since moved to Fayetteville, North Carolina, as he called her from there. She said *deceased N.C. - 1968*

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her husband's brother, Ozzell Ezzell, is also from Clinton, North Carolina, but was last said to be in Canada. She said that their sister is ~~Dianne McMillan nee Ezzell~~, and she was last known to be residing at ~~719 Athens Avenue in Fayetteville, North Carolina~~. She said that Acrie Ezzell's ~~father is said to be deceased~~, but she believed that her mother is still living and residing near her in Clinton, North Carolina. She said that ~~Acrie Ezzell~~ resides at Route 4, Box 236, at Clinton, North Carolina, and she has telephone - Area Code ~~919, 592-6873~~. She said that her husband's father, Matt Fryer (phonetic) was last said to have worked as a bail bondsman in Clinton, North Carolina. She said that she believed that he died in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She said that Dianne McMillan, her husband's sister, had telephone number 485-3914. She advised that Wendell Ezzell supposedly worked for an unknown finance company and he lives in a trailer park.

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On October 8, 1968, she received a letter from her husband postmarked October 5, 1968, which was dated October 3, 1968, in New Orleans, Louisiana. She said that he did not give any return address. She said that she does not know where he is residing but the last information that she had indicated that he worked for JET TV in New Orleans, Louisiana. She said that in the letter he referred to the fact that she had told representatives of the credit department of the Goodyear Tire Company where he was working in New Orleans. He indicated they inquired about his making payment on some tires he had purchased on credit. Mrs. Ezzell said that her husband threatened her for giving out information concerning his whereabouts stating, "I'll shoot you for sure". She said he was apparently drinking again at that time. She said he also stated, "I die tonight". Mrs. Ezzell said that she had not heard from her husband since receiving the letter. She said she felt he may have made the suicide statement in order to drop out of sight and dodge his many creditors, wanting payments for debts that he had made while on drinking escapades. She said that she has re-mortgaged her home and furnishings in order to help him straighten out his financial affairs and debts made while on drinking escapades. She advised that he has not sent her any money to help re-pay her debts and she is "fed up" with him and cares very little, at this point, about his well being.

PERNELL EZZELL

Mrs. Ezzell stated that she intended to communicate with the New Orleans Police Department concerning the letter she received from her husband.

Mrs. Ezzell furnished the following, additional background information concerning the captioned individual:

Pernell Ezzell's brother, Wendell Ezzell, called her from Fayetteville, North Carolina, attempting to contact Pernell Ezzell to tell him that their father was deceased. She said that their father was named Matt Fryer (Phonetic) and that he was said to be the father of Pernell Ezzell and his two brothers and sister, but that their father and mother had never been wed. She said that she told her husband's brother about her husband's suicide note, and he was quite upset over the death of their father but he made no reply about her husband's suicidal threat.

Mrs. Ezzell said that she had never had the opportunity to meet any of Pernell Ezzell's relatives with the exception of one brother, Ozzell Ezzell, who visited with her and her husband in Orlando, Florida, last year. She said this brother was last known to be in Canada but she did not know his exact whereabouts from comments made by her husband. She said he is also a drinker.

She said that her husband had revealed the following information, concerning his background, to her.

He had been in the United States Air Force and served in Korea. He was born on either April 26, 1932 or April 26, 1933 in North Carolina. She believes he may have been born at Clinton, North Carolina, as his mother has apparently always resided in that location. He was born to Acrie Ezzell, who was never wed to his father, Matt Fryer (Phonetic), who was also believed to be from Clinton, North Carolina. She said that Matt Fryer was apparently married and he never divorced his wife in order to marry Acrie Ezzell. She said her husband's brother, Wendell Ezzell, was last known to reside at 4405 North Main Street, Box 7, High Point, North Carolina, but she feels certain that he has since moved to Fayetteville, North Carolina, as he called her from there. She said

PERNELL EZZELL

her husband's brother, Ozzell Ezzell, is also from Clinton, North Carolina, but was last said to be in Canada. She said that their sister is Dianne McMillan nee Ezzell, and she was last known to be residing at 719 Athens Avenue in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She said that Acrie Ezzell's father is said to be deceased, but she believed that her mother is still living and residing near her in Clinton, North Carolina. She said that Acrie Ezzell resides at Route 4, Box 236, at Clinton, North Carolina, and she has telephone - Area Code 919, 592-6873. She said that her husband's father, Matt Fryer (phonetic) was last said to have worked as a bail bondsman in Clinton, North Carolina. She said that she believed that he died in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She said that Dianne McMillan, her husband's sister, had telephone number 485-3914. She advised that Wendell Ezzell supposedly worked for an unknown finance company and he lives in a trailer park.

EZZELL IS CONSIDERED TO BE AN UNSTABLE  
INDIVIDUAL WHO IS CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS AND  
WHO HAS SUICIDAL TENDENCIES.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Tampa, Florida

OCT 31 1968

PERNELL EZZELL

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PERNELL EZZELL

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PERNELL EZZELL

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EZZELL IS CONSIDERED TO BE AN UNSTABLE  
INDIVIDUAL WHO IS CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS AND  
WHO HAS SUICIDAL TENDENCIES.

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FBI

Date: 10/14/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)  
FROM: SAC, TAMPA (62-963) (C)

PERNELL EZZELL  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(OO:TP)  
(TP File 62-963)

KENSALT  
(OO:LA)  
(TP File 44-729)

MURKIN  
(OO:ME)  
(TP File 157-3231)

Re Bureau airtel to Tampa, Los Angeles and Memphis, dated August 7, 1968, and captioned "KENSALT" and "MURKIN"; and New Orleans letter to Bureau, captioned as above, dated 10/4/68.

The referenced New Orleans letter to Bureau revealed that the instructions contained in the Bureau's airtel of August 7, 1968, have been complied with. Accordingly, the Tampa Division is placing its files pertaining to KENSALT and MURKIN in a closed status at this time.

Attached are 11 copies of an LHM captioned "PERNELL EZZELL", and dated as above, for the Bureau. The Bureau may wish to disseminate a copy of the LHM to CIA as the attached LHM contains an interview with EZZELL, at which time he denied ever stating that he was on the CIA payroll.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 11) (RM)  
1 - New Orleans (Info) (173-994)  
4 - Tampa (62-963, EZZELL)  
    (1 - 157-3231, MURKIN)  
    (1 - 44-729, KENSALT)  
    (1 - 80-139)

GWT:lp

(8)

Approved: *[Signature]*

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

44-38861-  
62-587-1000  
OCT 17 1968  
11-6-68

TP 62-963

Copies of the LHM were disseminated locally to Secret Service, Jacksonville, Fla.; OSI, Robins AFB, Ga.; MI, Orlando, Fla.; and NISO, Charleston, S. C., because they have cognizance.

The Tampa file 62-963, pertaining to PERNELL EZZELL is in a closed status.

A copy of this airtel is being furnished to the New Orleans Division for its information concerning the final disposition of this matter by the Tampa Division. No LHM is being enclosed for New Orleans, Los Angeles, or Memphis because it only contains the interview of EZZELL by the New Orleans Division, who has previously furnished results to Los Angeles and Memphis.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

Tampa, Florida  
October 14, 1968

PERNELL EZZELL

Reference is made to prior communications in captioned matter, the most recent one being dated August 13, 1968.

ENCLOSURE

62-587-1000

Date 8/27/68

PERNELL EZZELL was interviewed at the Shreveport, Louisiana, Resident Agency. At the outset of the interview EZZELL was advised of his rights but declined to sign a waiver of same. EZZELL declined to furnish a signed statement but voluntarily furnished the following information:

EZZELL denied that he had received or was ever in possession of a great amount of money as a result of his participation in the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING and the assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. He further denied stating to anyone he was on the payroll of the OSI and CIA.

EZZELL said he definately did not participate in any manner, nor did he have any knowledge of or information concerning the murders of MARTIN LUTHER KING and Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

EZZELL admitted that he was glad KING was dead as he felt KING was a troublemaker, but emphasized that he did not have anything to do with killing him.

EZZELL said he could not remember making any statements to anyone regarding any of the above. He admitted that he may have made them when he was in a drunken condition, but could not recall making any such statements. He said he often has black-out periods which occur when he is drinking and he has been known to appear sober even when he is in a drunken state.

EZZELL said FRANK WETZEL is the Shop Foreman for his former employer at Perdue Radio and Television Company, Orlando, Florida. He and Wetzel have been out drinking together on a few occasions, usually after closing shop or on a payday night. WETZEL has been trying to get him into trouble with his wife. EZZELL said WETZEL thinks he is a ladies man and has in the past tried to take his wife out. His wife has told him that WETZEL has called her several times and in addition to trying to make a date would tell her of his running around with other women. EZZELL believed WETZEL tells his (EZZELL's) wife what he tells WETZEL in confidence. He was sure WETZEL told her about

On 8/24/68 at Shreveport, Louisiana File # NO

by SA RONALD W. BEINNER /bab Date dictated

NO 173-994

his being responsible for another girl's pregnancy at the time he married his wife.

EZZELL stated he has never confronted WETZEL with any of the above, but WETZEL has told him that he called him one night when he was drunk and cursed him out. EZZELL said he could not remember this call.

EZZELL advised that he has a serious drinking problem, but he did not consider himself an alcoholic. He said he was treated in the Veterans Administration Hospital, Fayetteville, North Carolina, for drunkenness shortly after his release from the Air Force in 1953. He further advised he had been a patient at Cherry Hospital, Goldsboro, North Carolina, for about 2 months during the past year. While at this hospital he underwent a number of psychiatric tests. He did not know the results of the tests.

EZZELL stated that he has had this serious drinking problem since his marriage in November 1967. He indicated he was forced to marry his wife as a result of her pregnancy prior to their wedding. He said, since his marriage he has been under constant pressure from his wife and in addition has serious financial problems.

EZZELL advised that because of his heavy drinking and the resulting "black-outs" he is not able to fix exactly his whereabouts on specific dates during the past year. However, he remembered the night of MARTIN LUTHER KING's death and said he was drunk at the time. He was registered at the Motel South, Orlando, Florida. With him at the time was a girl friend, whom he identified as VIOLET ALLRED, a nurse, who operates the Clear Lake Manor Nursing Home, Orlando, Florida. He said she is about 38 years of age. He recalled hearing of KING's death on the T.V. on the night it happened.

EZZELL said he did not remember where he was the night Senator KENNEDY was shot.

EZZELL could not account for his whereabouts on the night of June 5, 1968 and said he could not recall where he was at all during the month of June as he again was on a drunk.

EZZELL remembers flying from Orlando, Florida,

NO 173-994

to Los Angeles twice in recent months. The last was about August 4, 1968 when he flew via Delta Airlines. He stayed in Los Angeles four days and left driving a rented car after an unsuccessful effort in finding a job. On his way to Shreveport he stopped briefly at Phoenix, Albuquerque, and Hope, Arkansas. He claimed he pawned his 357 magnum revolver with a police officer in Hope, Arkansas, for \$45 on August 23, 1968. The gun was purchased for his second job as a security guard with Associated Security Company, Orlando, Florida. He claims he has never used the gun in commission of a crime.

EZZELL believed the previous trip to Los Angeles was made in June 1968 when he flew via Delta Airlines from Orlando, Florida. He was looking for a job on the occasion also. He stayed only two days and remembers returning from California via an unrecalled airline and that he stopped at Las Vegas, Denver, New Orleans and Miami. He does not remember if he stayed in any of these cities for any length of time. After reaching Miami he rented a car and drove to Orlando.

EZZELL claims he had no employment other than his jobs in Orlando and that he financed his trips with the money earned from working these two jobs, along with using his credit cards.

EZZELL recalled after driving from Miami he did not go home, but to a motel with Miss ALLRED. The following day he drove back to Miami and then returned to Orlando by bus. He thinks he rented the car at Miami from either Hertz or Avis-Rent-A-Car.

EZZELL stated he has not worked any where since August 4, 1968, and that he presently had in his possession \$36.00 which was left over from the sale of his gun.

EZZELL claimed he pawned a .38 Colt "Cobra" in Los Angeles on the last trip at an unrecalled pawn shop and that he presently has no weapon.

EZZELL could not recall any other details concerning his first trip to Los Angeles, he said he was drinking heavy on these trips and could not remember anything much about them. He could not remember the names of motels where he stayed. He claimed he has no friends in Los Angeles and



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that he made none while there on these trips.

EZZELL stated he is not now and never has been a member of any "hate" type organization such as the Ku Klux Klan.

EZZELL stated he would be leaving Shreveport, Louisiana, this evening by bus and could be reached through his mother Mrs. ACRIE EZZELL, Route 4, Clinton, North Carolina.

The following description was obtained from interview and observation:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Name             | PERNELL EZZELL alias "Easy"  |
| Race             | White  |
| Sex              | Male   |
| Date of Birth    | April 26, 1932   |
| Place of Birth   | Fayetteville, North Carolina   |
| Height           | 6'1"   |
| Weight           | 175  |
| Hair             | Brown  |
| Eyes             | Blue   |
| Scars and Marks  | None   |
| Marital Status   | Married to FAYE MARIE EZZELL<br>636 22nd Street,<br>Orlando, Florida   |
| Children         | ██████████ - 11 months   |
| Parents          | Father - deceased<br>Mother - ACRIE EZZELL<br>Route 4, Clinton, North Carolina                                       |
| Brothers         | THOMAS OZELLE EZZELLE, age 33, L<br>Simco, Ontario, Canada<br>WENDELL EZZELLE, age 25, High<br>Point, North Carolina |
| Sister           | DIANE McMILLIAN, age 19, N.C.<br>Fayetteville, North Carolina<br>employed Ft. Bragg, North<br>Carolina               |
| Residence        | 636 22nd Street, Orlando, FL<br>Florida  |
| Military Service | US Air Force 1951-1953, Honorable<br>discharge<br>Serial # AP14408130  |

*Loc. Dec 5th  
244-38-4247  
N.C.  
Ft. Bragg  
M.C.  
C.C.*

NO 173-994

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|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Arrest Record       | Numerous drunk arrests -<br>no felony arrests   |
| Social Security #   | [REDACTED]  |
| Occupation          | T.V. repairman and security<br>guard  |
| Previous employment | Perdue Radio and T.V. - Orlando,<br>Florida;<br>Associates Security, Orlando,<br>Florida;<br>Electronic Service, Inc., Patco<br>Division, Newport News, Virginia;<br>American District Telegraph -<br>Winston Salem, North Carolina<br>American District Telegraph -<br>Indianapolis, Indiana |
| Previous Residences | Raleigh, North Carolina,<br>Fayetteville, North Carolina,<br>Ashville, North Carolina,<br>Newport News, Virginia,<br>Indianapolis, Indiana,<br>Orlando, Florida   |
| Friends             | CHRISTINE TENDELL,<br>Clinton, North Carolina<br>VIOLET ALLRED,<br>Orlando, Florida   |

PERNELL EZZELL

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

Tampa, Florida  
October 14, 1968

PERNELL EZZELL

Reference is made to prior communications in captioned matter, the most recent one being dated August 13, 1968.



Date 8/27/68

PERNELL EZZELL was interviewed at the Shreveport, Louisiana, Resident Agency. At the outset of the interview EZZELL was advised of his rights but declined to sign a waiver of same. EZZELL declined to furnish a signed statement but voluntarily furnished the following information:

EZZELL denied that he had received or was ever in possession of a great amount of money as a result of his participation in the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING and the assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. He further denied stating to anyone he was on the payroll of the OSI and CIA.

EZZELL said he definately did not participate in any manner, nor did he have any knowledge of or information concerning the murders of MARTIN LUTHER KING and Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

EZZELL admitted that he was glad KING was dead as he felt KING was a troublemaker, but emphasized that he did not have anything to do with killing him.

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2

On 8/24/68 at Shreveport, Louisiana File # NO 1  
by SA RONALD W. BEINNER /bab Date dictated

NO 173-994

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NO 173-994

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| Sex              | Male   |
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| Marital Status   | Married to FAYE MARIE EZZELL<br>636 22nd Street,<br>Orlando, Florida   |
| Children         | ██████████ - 11 months   |
| Parents          | Father - deceased<br>Mother - ACRIE EZZELL<br>Route 4, Clinton, North Carolina                                     |
| Brothers         | THOMAS OZELLE EZZELLE, age 33,<br>Simco, Ontario, Canada<br>WENDELL EZZELLE, age 25. High<br>Point, North Carolina |
| Sister           | DIANE McMILLIAN, age 19,<br>Fayetteville, North Carolina<br>employed Ft. Bragg, North<br>Carolina                  |
| Residence        | 636 22nd Street, Orlando,<br>Florida   |
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NO 173-994

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Arrest Record       | Numerous drunk arrests -<br>no felony arrests   |
| Social Security #   | [REDACTED]  |
| Occupation          | T.V. repairman and security<br>guard  |
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| Previous Residences | Raleigh, North Carolina,<br>Fayetteville, North Carolina,<br>Ashville, North Carolina,<br>Newport News, Virginia,<br>Indianapolis, Indiana,<br>Orlando, Florida   |
| Friends             | CHRISTINE TENDELL,<br>Clinton, North Carolina<br>VIOLET ALLRED,<br>Orlando, Florida   |



PERNELL EZZELL

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

Tampa, Florida  
October 14, 1968

PERNELL EZZELL

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PERNELL EZZELL was interviewed at the Shreveport, Louisiana, Resident Agency. At the outset of the interview EZZELL was advised of his rights but declined to sign a waiver of same. EZZELL declined to furnish a signed statement but voluntarily furnished the following information:

EZZELL denied that he had received or was ever in possession of a great amount of money as a result of his participation in the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING and the assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. He further denied stating to anyone he was on the payroll of the OSI and CIA.

EZZELL said he definitely did not participate in any manner, nor did he have any knowledge of or information concerning the murders of MARTIN LUTHER KING and Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

EZZELL admitted that he was glad KING was dead as he felt KING was a troublemaker, but emphasized that he did not have anything to do with killing him.

EZZELL said he could not remember making any statements to anyone regarding any of the above. He admitted that he may have made them when he was in a drunken condition, but could not recall making any such statements. He said he often has black-out periods which occur when he is drinking and he has been known to appear sober even when he is in a drunken state.

EZZELL said FRANK WETZEL is the Shop Foreman for his former employer at Perdue Radio and Television Company, Orlando, Florida. He and Wetzel have been out drinking together on a few occasions, usually after closing shop or on a payday night. WETZEL has been trying to get him into trouble with his wife. EZZELL said WETZEL thinks he is a ladies man and has in the past tried to take his wife out. His wife has told him that WETZEL has called her several times and in addition to trying to make a date would tell her of his running around with other women. EZZELL believed WETZEL tells his (EZZELL's) wife what he tells WETZEL in confidence. He was sure WETZEL told her about

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by SA RONALD W. BEINNER /bab Date dictated

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his being responsible for another girl's pregnancy at the time he married his wife.

EZZELL stated he has never confronted WETZEL with any of the above, but WETZEL has told him that he called him one night when he was drunk and cursed him out. EZZELL said he could not remember this call.

EZZELL advised that he has a serious drinking problem, but he did not consider himself an alcoholic. He said he was treated in the Veterans Administration Hospital, Fayetteville, North Carolina, for drunkenness shortly after his release from the Air Force in 1953. He further advised he had been a patient at Cherry Hospital, Goldsboro, North Carolina, for about 2 months during the past year. While at this hospital he underwent a number of psychiatric tests. He did not know the results of the tests.

EZZELL stated that he has had this serious drinking problem since his marriage in November 1967. He indicated he was forced to marry his wife as a result of her pregnancy prior to their wedding. He said, since his marriage he has been under constant pressure from his wife and in addition has serious financial problems.

EZZELL advised that because of his heavy drinking and the resulting "black-outs" he is not able to fix exactly his whereabouts on specific dates during the past year. However, he remembered the night of MARTIN LUTHER KING's death and said he was drunk at the time. He was registered at the Motel South, Orlando, Florida. With him at the time was a girl friend, whom he identified as VIOLET ALLRED, a nurse, who operates the Clear Lake Manor Nursing Home, Orlando, Florida. He said she is about 38 years of age. He recalled hearing of KING's death on the T.V. on the night it happened.

EZZELL said he did not remember where he was the night Senator KENNEDY was shot.

EZZELL could not account for his whereabouts on the night of June 5, 1968 and said he could not recall where he was at all during the month of June as he again was on a drunk.

EZZELL remembers flying from Orlando, Florida,

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to Los Angeles twice in recent months. The last was about August 4, 1968 when he flew via Delta Airlines. He stayed in Los Angeles four days and left driving a rented car after an unsuccessful effort in finding a job. On his way to Shreveport he stopped briefly at Phoenix, Albuquerque, and Hope, Arkansas. He claimed he pawned his 357 magnum revolver with a police officer in Hope, Arkansas, for \$45 on August 23, 1968. The gun was purchased for his second job as a security guard with Associated Security Company, Orlando, Florida. He claims he has never used the gun in commission of a crime.

EZZELL believed the previous trip to Los Angeles was made in June 1968 when he flew via Delta Airlines from Orlando, Florida. He was looking for a job on the occasion also. He stayed only two days and remembers returning from California via an unrecalled airline and that he stopped at Las Vegas, Denver, New Orleans and Miami. He does not remember if he stayed in any of these cities for any length of time. After reaching Miami he rented a car and drove to Orlando.

EZZELL claims he had no employment other than his jobs in Orlando and that he financed his trips with the money earned from working these two jobs, along with using his credit cards.

EZZELL recalled after driving from Miami he did not go home, but to a motel with Miss ALLRED. The following day he drove back to Miami and then returned to Orlando by bus. He thinks he rented the car at Miami from either Hertz or Avis-Rent-A-Car.

EZZELL stated he has not worked any where since August 4, 1968, and that he presently had in his possession \$36.00 which was left over from the sale of his gun.

EZZELL claimed he pawned a .38 Colt "Cobra" in Los Angeles on the last trip at an unrecalled pawn shop and that he presently has no weapon.

EZZELL could not recall any other details concerning his first trip to Los Angeles, he said he was drinking heavy on these trips and could not remember anything much about them. He could not remember the names of motels where he stayed. He claimed he has no friends in Los Angeles and



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that he made none while there on these trips.

EZZELL stated he is not now and never has been a member of any "hate" type organization such as the Ku Klux Klan.

EZZELL stated he would be leaving Shreveport, Louisiana, this evening by bus and could be reached through his mother Mrs. ACRIE EZZELL, Route 4, Clinton, North Carolina.

The following description was obtained from interview and observation:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Name             | PERNELL EZZELL alias "Easy"  |
| Race             | White  |
| Sex              | Male   |
| Date of Birth    | April 26, 1932   |
| Place of Birth   | Fayetteville, North Carolina   |
| Height           | 6'1"   |
| Weight           | 175  |
| Hair             | Brown  |
| Eyes             | Blue   |
| Scars and Marks  | None   |
| Marital Status   | Married to FAYE MARIE EZZELL<br>636 22nd Street,<br>Orlando, Florida   |
| Children         | ██████████ - 11 months   |
| Parents          | Father - deceased<br>Mother - ACRIE EZZELL<br>Route 4, Clinton, North Carolina                                     |
| Brothers         | THOMAS OZELLE EZZELLE, age 33,<br>Simco, Ontario, Canada<br>WENDELL EZZELLE, age 25, High<br>Point, North Carolina |
| Sister           | DIANE McMILLIAN, age 19,<br>Fayetteville, North Carolina<br>employed Ft. Bragg, North<br>Carolina                  |
| Residence        | 636 22nd Street, Orlando,<br>Florida   |
| Military Service | US Air Force 1951-1953, Honorable<br>discharge<br>Serial # AF14408130  |

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Arrest Record

Numerous drunk arrests -  
no felony arrests

Social Security #

Occupation

T.V. repairman and security  
guard

Previous employment

Perdue Radio and T.V. - Orlando,  
Florida;  
Associates Security, Orlando,  
Florida;  
Electronic Service, Inc., Patco  
Division, Newport News, Virginia;  
American District Telegraph -  
Winston Salem, North Carolina  
American District Telegraph -  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Previous Residences

Raleigh, North Carolina,  
Fayetteville, North Carolina,  
Ashville, North Carolina,  
Newport News, Virginia,  
Indianapolis, Indiana,  
Orlando, Florida

Friends

CHRISTINE TENDELL,  
Clinton, North Carolina  
VIOLET ALLRED,  
Orlando, Florida

**PERNELL EZZELL**

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

Tampa, Florida  
October 14, 1968

PERNELL EZZELL

Reference is made to prior communications in captioned matter, the most recent one being dated August 13, 1968.