

File #:

62-JN-544

Serial Scope:

7 thru 9, 14 thru 16, 18, 22, 23, 25 thru 2nd NR 53,

54 thru 110

**DO NOT
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FOIPA# NA

VZCZCHQO 019

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DE HQ 0019 0732309

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R 141450Z MAR 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO FBI JACKSON ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

IN CONNECTION WITH INVESTIGATION BY THE HSCA INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., STAFF MEMBERS OF THE HSCA HAVE REQUESTED TO INTERVIEW JAMES W. SAMMON OF THE JACKSON OFFICE, CURRENTLY UNDER TRANSFER TO JACKSONVILLE. SAMMON IS SCHEDULED FOR INTERVIEW ON THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1978, AT 2 P.M. AT THE COMMITTEE'S OFFICES IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

SAMMON HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM HIS EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT AND IS AUTHORIZED TO PARTICIPATE IN HSCA INTERVIEW. HE SHOULD REPORT TO FBIHQ ON THE DAY PRIOR TO SCHEDULED INTERVIEW. REPORT TO ROOM 3658 OR 8988 FOR INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING INTERVIEW.

BT

0019

Sammon advised 3/14/78

62-544-7

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 14 1978	
FBI-JACKSON	
SAC	<i>[Signature]</i>
ASAC	<i>[Signature]</i>



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Jackson, Mississippi 39205
March 28, 1978

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

On March 16, 1978, from 2:12 p.m., to 3:54 p.m.; SA James W. Sammon, assigned Jackson, Mississippi, FBI Division, appeared before representatives of the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) at Washington, D.C.

SA Sammon was questioned by Mark A. Speiser, Peter G. Beeson, and Wendy S. Collins, all of whom identified themselves through the use of credentials, as being associated with aforementioned committee.

At the outset, SA Sammon was asked to furnish background information concerning his career with the FBI, the number of offices and dates assigned and classifications worked.

SA Sammon was asked to identify Special Agents in Charge (SACs) and Assistant Special Agents in Charge (ASACs) assigned to the Miami, Florida, FBI Office during the period of 1961-1964, when SA Sammon was so assigned to that office. The identity of these SACs was furnished as Wesley G. Grapp and Fred A. Frobrose (phonetic). It was explained that former SAC Frobrose is now deceased.

SA Sammon was asked to identify members of his squad while he was assigned to the Miami Office. SA Sammon advised that he would be unable to identify each and every Agent assigned to the Number 5 squad during the years of 1961 and 1964 inclusive, due to the length of time that had transpired since that period.

24

4-Bureau
①-Jackson (62-544)

JWS/bjw
(5) *[Handwritten initials]*

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.

Searched _____
Serialized _____
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62-544-8

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

SA Sammon was then asked if SAs Francis McCarron, Jack Dawson, Vincent Stacey, Leon Pryor, and Leonard C. Peterson. were assigned to the Number 5 squad in Miami from 1961 through 1964. SA Sammon replied that SAs McCarron, Dawson, and Peterson were assigned to that squad; however, it was not Sammon's recollection that either Stacey or Pryor were so assigned.

SA Sammon was then asked to give a breakdown by classifications as to the responsibilities of each of the six Miami squads from 1961 through 1964, which information was furnished to the committee representatives. SA Sammon was asked to elaborate on the assignment of responsibilities to the Number 5 squad of Miami during that period of time. Those classifications furnished of that squad were applicants, accounting matters, including Hoffa and teamster investigations; civil rights; racial matters; and fugitive matters. It was explained that these were the major classifications assigned the Number 5 squad.

SA Sammon was questioned regarding his transfer from Miami to the Jackson Division in July, 1964, his location and investigative responsibilities while assigned to Mississippi, which reply was to the effect that Sammon was assigned to the Clarksdale, Mississippi, Resident Agency from 1964-1969, and to the Jackson, Mississippi, Headquarters of the FBI from 1969 to the present time. SA Sammon advised that while assigned to the Clarksdale, Mississippi, Resident Agency, he worked any and all investigative matters under the jurisdiction of the FBI which pertained to the territory covered by that resident agency. In response to a direct question, SA Sammon advised that his transfer from Miami to Jackson, Mississippi, was a routine nature and not of a disciplinary nature.

In response to a direct question, SA Sammon advised that he was the "backup Agent" assigned to Bill Somerset, an FBI informant, while SA Sammon was assigned to the Miami Division during the period of 1961-1964.

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SA Sammon was asked to identify Intelligence Division Officers of the Miami, Florida, Police Department, which SA Sammon was unable to do, nor was Sammon in a position to advise whether or not any information furnished by Somerset was disseminated to that intelligence unit during the period of 1961-1964.

SA Sammon was then queried at length regarding Ku Klux Klan activity in Mississippi beginning in 1964, in particular, information regarding United Klans of America (UKA), White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (WKKKK); and the "Silver Dollar Group" of the WKKKK Mississippi. SA Sammon furnished a lengthy dissertation regarding Klan activities in Mississippi since his arrival in 1964.

SA Sammon was then asked if he had conducted any investigation regarding "Merkin". SA Sammon replied that immediately after the shooting death of Dr. Martin Luther King, SA Sammon was assigned the responsibility of traveling through North Mississippi with photographs of the evidence left by King's assailant, exhibiting those photographs at motels, service stations, in North Mississippi to determine if any of the photographs could be identified.

SA Sammon was asked if he was aware of Somerset's attempt to assassinate King in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1958 through poisoning his food. SA Sammon advised the committee that he was not aware of any such attempts.

SA Sammon was then queried regarding Bureau regulations regarding amounts of money paid informants and policy of the Bureau to overseeing those payments. SA Sammon explained to the committee that such amounts are normally determined by the Agent contacting the informant and are paid on a COD basis based on the value of the information furnished by the informant. SA Sammon advised that the Bureau oversees these payments only in an auditing or accounting of the particular informant's payment fund.

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SA Sammon was then questioned regarding the Bureau policy in discontinuing informants and if the informants are advised that they are being so discontinued. SA Sammon advised that the informant is so advised when he is discontinued, usually determined when the informant has furnished a lack of positive information, or when he has exposed himself as an informant, and of course upon his death.

SA Sammon was then questioned regarding Somerset's personal involvement in violence; Somerset's personal bigotry toward minority races; his bigotry regarding union membership; his carrying of weapons; and Somerset's knowledge of explosive devices; and information furnished by Somerset regarding Thomas Albert "Tommy" Tarrants.

To these questions, SA Sammon advised that he did not have any personal information of acts of violence performed by Somerset; and that the only personal bigotry exhibited by Somerset was Somerset's apparent dislike for SA Sammon, as Somerset felt that SA Sammon was of Jewish descent. SA Sammon advised that he had no knowledge of any acts of bigotry in union membership as indicated by Somerset, nor was SA Sammon aware of Somerset ever carrying a weapon or Somerset's knowledge of any explosive devices. SA Sammon advised the committee that he did not recall Somerset ever furnishing any information regarding Thomas Albert "Tommy" Tarrants; however, SA Sammon was acquainted with Tarrants, having been involved in a firearms shootout confrontation with Tarrants in 1969. The committee pressed for further details concerning this shootout and the committee was advised that in August, 1969, Tarrants and two other inmates of the Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP), Parchman, Mississippi, escaped from that penitentiary and were thereafter subjects of an unlawful flight to avoid confinement investigation, and were considered by the FBI to be Federal fugitives. The committee was advised that in August, 1969, information was received by the Jackson, Mississippi, Office that the three escapees were hiding in a heavily wooded dense area near Jackson, Mississippi. Thereafter, SA Sammon and many other Jackson, Mississippi, Agents attempted to locate and apprehend Tarrants and the two other inmates, which attempts resulted in a gun battle, causing one of the inmates, name unrecalled, to be killed by

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

law enforcement officers, consisting of FBI Agents, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol (MHSP) officers, and those of the Rankin County Sheriff's Office. The committee was advised that this was SA Sammon's first and last contact with Tarrants. SA Sammon in answer to specific questions, advised that he had no personal knowledge of the acts of Tarrants performed on a residence of a Jewish businessman in Meridian, Mississippi.

SA Sammon was then questioned regarding the availability of FBI informants to other Federal or local law enforcement agencies, and the Bureau policy as pertaining to that availability. SA Sammon advised the committee that it is the practice of the FBI, as well as other law enforcement agencies, not to reveal the identity of Bureau informants to those agencies, even though the information furnished by those informants may be disseminated to those agencies.

The committee at this point took exception with SA Sammon indicating it was their feeling that the FBI "receives all information but does not share information" with other law enforcement agencies, Federal, state, and local. The committee at this point was unequivocally advised that this has not and is not the case of the FBI, and that information obtained by the FBI which is of an interest to those agencies, is disseminated to them, even though the identity of the informant furnishing such information is not revealed to those agencies.

SA Sammon was again asked for his knowledge as to the availability of Bill Somerset to the Intelligence Unit of the Miami, Florida, Police Department, to which SA Sammon again advised that he was not aware of such availability during the years of 1961-1964, the only period that SA Sammon was acquainted with Somerset.

SA Sammon was asked as to the degree of confidence and reliability regarding the information furnished by Somerset while an FBI informant. SA Sammon advised from 1961-1964, it was his opinion that the information furnished by Somerset was reliable, and that SA Sammon had confidence in that information.

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At one point during the questioning, when SA Sammon was being questioned as to squad assignment classifications, and identities of Agents of the Miami, Florida, FBI Office from 1961-1964, SA Sammon advised the committee that as that period of time was from 14-17 years in the past, SA Sammon would try to be as accurate as possible as to months and years involved; however, the committee was reminded SA Sammon's recollection of the events may be six months to perhaps a year off. Mark Speiser advised SA Sammon that the committee would only allow a four month leeway. This comment may have been misunderstood by SA Sammon and may have been in jest by Speiser; however, in any regard, Speiser was advised that SA Sammon stood on his previous statement that events occurring 14-17 years ago would be timed as accurately as SA Sammon possibly could; however, there would be no "four month allowance" imposed on SA Sammon, unless the committee intended to furnish him documentary verification. There was no such documentary verification furnished SA Sammon during his interrogation, with the exception of SA Sammon being furnished a lengthy article from what appeared to be the "Parade" or pictorial section of the Miami, Florida, Herald, Sunday Supplement Newspaper, which article appeared to be regarding Bill Somerset. This article was furnished SA Sammon briefly in an effort to identify Somerset by photograph as it appeared in the article. SA Sammon was unable to positively identify Somerset, due to the length of time involved, and the fact that the photograph was not a good likeness, or Xerox copy, as the photograph of Somerset, made him appear older and thinner in appearance. SA Sammon advised the committee that the poor photograph did resemble Somerset; however, if the committee had not advised Sammon that it was of Somerset, SA Sammon would be unable to identify him. SA Sammon was not furnished the article to read.

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ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

SA Sammon was furnished a name of an individual in Miami, Florida, which name SA Sammon failed to record, and therefore the identity of that individual is not recalled by SA Sammon. SA Sammon was asked by the committee if he was acquainted with this individual. SA Sammon advised the individual was unknown to him.

SA Sammon was then advised that this individual was a house painter in Miami, and SA Sammon was asked if Bill Somerset was acquainted with this individual.

SA Sammon advised that he then recalled that this individual may be identical to a person who was at the scene of the James Meredith integration disorder at the University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi, which SA Sammon believed to be in 1963. The committee was advised that the incident arose over Meredith, a Negro, attempting to register to attend the University of Mississippi.

SA Sammon recalled that a lead was received at the Miami Office to identify and interview this Miami house painter as his vehicle had been observed at the University of Mississippi campus during the disorder involving the registration of Meredith at that university.

SA Sammon advised that he and SA Leonard C. Peterson contacted Bill Somerset for background information on this individual and that Somerset was acquainted with house painter and furnished SA Peterson background information concerning this individual, to the best of SA Sammon's recollection involving the house painter being a member of National States Rights Party (NSRP).

Thereafter, SA Sammon assisted SA Peterson in the interview of this individual in Miami in either the summer of 1963 or 1964. SA Sammon recalled that the individual was painting a house at the time of the

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ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

interview, was very hostile towards the interviewing Agents; however, at the persistence of SA Peterson he was interviewed regarding his appearance at the University of Mississippi.

A short time thereafter, an article appeared in the newspaper of the NSRP on the front page which was submitted by this house painter. This article referred to his interview with SA Peterson and SA Sammon, and referred to Peterson as "a blond haired Swede" and to SA Sammon as "a Jew bastard" or words to that effect.

SA Sammon was asked if he was acquainted with Joseph A. Milteer, or if Somerset ever furnished any information regarding Milteer and his activities. SA Sammon advised he was not acquainted with Milteer and did not recall Somerset furnishing any information regarding him.

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- E F T O
- CLEAR

Date 3/28/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290)

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (62-544) (C)

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

Enclosed for the Bureau are original and three copies of an LHM reflecting results of interview of SA JAMES W. SAMMON by representatives of aforementioned committee 3/16/78, at Washington, D.C.

(Y)

2-Bureau (Enc. 4)
① Jackson
JWS/bjw
(3)
bjw

Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

62-544-9

Approved: *JWS* Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

VZCZCHQ0135

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DE HQ 0135 1380140

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R 172149Z MAY 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI JACKSON ROUTINE

FBI KNOXVILLE ROUTINE

FBI MEMPHIS ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

Confidential
157-2030
100-411
157-4326-107

HSCA, BY LETTER DATED MAY 3, 1978, REQUESTED ALL INFORMATION IN THE FILES OF THE JACKSON, KNOXVILLE AND MEMPHIS FIELD OFFICES CONCERNING BUFORD WALLACE POSEY, DATE OF BIRTH AUGUST 28, 1925. HSCA OBTAINED WAIVER FROM POSEY ALLOWING FOR RELEASE OF ALL INFORMATION HELD BY THE FBI TO THE COMMITTEE.

EACH RECEIVING OFFICE SHOULD SEARCH INDICES FOR ABOVE-NAMED INDIVIDUAL AND DUPLICATE ANY FILES AND REFERENCES FOUND IDENTICAL WITH POSEY. THIS MATERIAL SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO FBI HEADQUARTERS, ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS MAY 26, 1978.

BT

0135

*See attached
FD-160, 5/18/78
AW*

*T- 5/26/78
OO: FBIHQ
#4*

*Re
a
HQB*

62-544-14

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SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MAY 17 1978	
FBI-JACKSON	
<i>Wants</i>	<i>1</i>

Please check index

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R 172149Z MAY 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI JACKSON ROUTINE

FBI KNOXVILLE ROUTINE

FBI MEMPHIS ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

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62-544-14

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 17 1978	

JJS

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- E F T O
- CLEAR

Date

5/23/78

DL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290)
ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (62-544)

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATION (HSCA)

Re Bureau teletype 5/17/78, captioned as above.

Enclosed herewith are as follows:

1. Serial 109 from Jackson 157-9326 (2 pages)
2. Serials 1 - 23 from Jackson 157-2083, including 2 letters from 1A (57 pages)
3. Serials 1 - 46 from Jackson 100-491, including 1A1 (180 pages)

(X)

The above enclosures are concerning BUFORD WALLACE POSEY, born 8/28/25.

It should be noted, as related to item three above, 100-491 does not contain a serial numbered as eleven and there is no indication as to why. The only explanation is an error in serializing where said number was skipped.

2 - Bureau (69)
① - Jackson
AJW/dgf
(3)

RVC

(4)

DD 11/23/78

62-544-15

Watts JW

Approved: *ZAB*

Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time)

Per _____

VZCZCHQ0106

RR JN

DE HQ 0106 1440055

ZNR UUUUU

R 242119Z MAY 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI JACKSON ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

REFERENCE JACKSON TELETYPE TO BUREAU APRIL 24, 1968, CAPTIONED "MURKIN."

THE HSCA IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATIONS OF JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND HAS REVIEWED VOLUMINOUS EXCISED DOCUMENTS REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION CASES AND RELATED INVESTIGATIONS. UPON REVIEW OF REFERENCED COMMUNICATION, THE HSCA DESIRES TO INTERVIEW INFORMANTS WHO SUPPLIED INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN. BY REQUEST DATED MAY 13, 1978, THE COMMITTEE REQUESTED THE FBI CONTACT THESE INFORMANTS TO DETERMINE IF THEY WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO INTERVIEW BY THE HSCA. THE HSCA HOPES INTERVIEW CAN BE CONDUCTED PRIOR TO JUNE 2, 1978.

62-544-16

T: 5/31/78
OO: Bureau
#4

Re
a
BBS

SEARCHED <i>OVs</i>	INDEXED <i>OVs</i>
SERIALIZED <i>OVs</i>	FILED <i>8</i>
MAY 24 1978	
FBI-JACKSON	
<i>Rypley</i>	<i>g</i>

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0106 UNCLAS

INFORMATION IN REFERENCED COMMUNICATION WAS PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING FORMER INFORMANTS:

1. JN 340-R, BUREAU FILE 170-1565, JACKSON FILE 173-459, OPERATED BETWEEN AUGUST, 1967 - APRIL, 1973.

2. JACKSON 337-R, BUREAU FILE 170-1518, JACKSON FILE 170-457, OPERATED BETWEEN JULY, 1967 - NOVEMBER, 1973.

JACKSON ATTEMPT TO CONTACT INFORMANTS AND ADVISE EACH THAT THE HSCA DESIRES TO INTERVIEW THEM CONCERNING INFORMATION THEY PROVIDED IN REFERENCED COMMUNICATION. THEY SHOULD BE TOLD THAT TO THE FBI'S KNOWLEDGE, THE HSCA IS NOT AWARE OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FBI OR THEIR IDENTITIES. DETERMINE IF THE INFORMANTS HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO BEING INTERVIEWED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HSCA. IF THERE ARE NO OBJECTIONS TO INTERVIEW, INFORMANTS SHOULD BE FURNISHED THE IDENTITIES AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE FOLLOWING HSCA PERSONNEL IN ORDER THAT INFORMANTS CAN TELEPHONICALLY CONTACT THE HSCA AND MAKE THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERVIEW. INFORMANTS CAN THEREFORE PERSONALLY NEGOTIATE THE SCOPE OF INTERVIEW AND THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION THEY MAY PROVIDE THE COMMITTEE.

INFORMANTS SHOULD BE GIVEN THE NAMES OF MARK SPEISER AND

PAGE THREE DE HQ 0106 UNCLAS

PETER BEESON, BOTH HSCA STAFF ATTORNEYS, WHO CAN BE CONTACTED COLLECT AT 202-225-2353. UPON CALLING, INFORMANTS SHOULD FURNISH THEIR IDENTITIES AND ADVISE THEY WERE THE INDIVIDUALS WHO PROVIDED THE JACKSON OFFICE OF THE FBI INFORMATION CONCERNING ACTIVITIES AT JOHN'S CAFE, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI, IN APRIL, 1968.

SUTEL RESULTS OF CONTACT WITH INFORMANTS TO FBIHQ, ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION. EXPEDITE IN VIEW OF COMMITTEE'S DESIRE TO INTERVIEW INFORMANTS, IF AGREEABLE, PRIOR TO JUNE 2, 1978.

BT

0106

VZCZ 160106

RR JN

DE HQ 0106 1440055

ZNR UUUUU

R 242119Z MAY 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI JACKSON ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

REFERENCE JACKSON TELETYPE TO BUREAU APRIL 24, 1968, CAPTIONED "MURKIN."

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62-544-16

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 24 1978	
FBI-JACKSON	

D.B.

